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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017

Blooming Prairie, Minnesota



Victor Mrotz sells some Hope Butter to customers from Eden Prairie, Bonnie and Tom Davis. They make special trips to Hope to pick up the butter as Christmas gifts.

STAFF PHOTOS: HOWARD LESTRUD

Hope Butter churns big business

Santa spotted loading sleigh at Hope Creamery

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

FLASH! BULLETIN!

That jolly, old Santa Claus was spotted the other day at the Hope Creamery, loading his sleigh with Hope Butter.

Yes, it's true, Hope Butter was on the gift list of the many people Santa will be visiting this Christmas.

What is Hope Butter? It's a dairy product that has its history dating back to the early 1920s. The butter has become a popular staple for many Minnesotans and others around the world.

"I think we ship to every state in the union," says proud owner Victor Mrotz. For many

years the Hope Creamery has been part of this Steele County community of Hope located just off Interstate 35, on County Road 4, between Owatonna and Ellendale.

"Hey, wait a minute, are you Santa Claus?" No, this white-haired, bearded man is none other than Victor Mrotz, a native of Ellendale, who saved the Hope Creamery from closure in 2001 and has developed the business into one of the most lucrative small businesses in the state of Minnesota.

When Mrotz was considering buying the Hope Creamery, the establishment was making about 30,000 pounds a year. Now, Mrotz says the local creamery produces 300,000 pounds a year.

Mrotz said he has been mistaken for Santa but in reality, the beard is something he just recently chose to grow. He says his wife Kellie, a key component of the business, has been trying to convince him to erase the beard.

Another reason Mrotz is mistaken for Santa Claus is his community benevolence.

Go to any local fundraiser and it is likely that one of the

SEE BUTTER, A3

Burglars target popular restaurant

Cash, computers taken during break-in at Lansing Corners

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The Mower County Sheriff's Department is investigating a break-in late Wednesday or early Thursday at the Lansing Corners Supper Club, located south of Blooming Prairie.

A small amount of cash was taken plus two computers containing the business records of Lansing Corners were taken.

Owners Ward and Tammy Jenos said someone gained entrance to the supper club by breaking a side window. Tammy discovered the broken window when opening the restaurant early Thursday. She checked the building thoroughly after noticing the restaurant being very cold.

Already, some citizens are offering reward money for anyone who might help get the computers returned. Check Facebook for more information on a reward.

The Jenos have been operating the Lansing Corners Supper Club for the past year-and-a-half.

"We wanted to bring back the good old days when we purchased the restaurant in 2016," said Ward Jenos, a native of Medford. The restaurant was started in 1939 in combination with a gasoline service station.

The Jenos entered the restaurant business in Minnesota after spending the previous five years in Ventura, California on Peaceful Beach.

Trouble speaking to 911? Now texting is available for help

Direct line available for hearing impaired

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Recognizing that not everyone is in a position to speak during the time of an emergency, 911 centers across the state will now accept text messages to get help rolling in the right direction.

Minnesota began Text-to-911 as an alternative to calling in an emergency when it may be unsafe for someone to speak last week.

All text emergency text messages sent in Steele County, as well as other counties throughout southeastern Minnesota, will be funneled into the Olmsted County/Rochester 911 Center, according to Jill Bondhus, director the Rice-Steele 911 Center. She said seven centers across

Minnesota are accepting the 911 text messages.

"[Rochester 911 center] will triage the text as they would any other call and contact the appropriate agency, who will then send appropriate response for the emergency," Bondhus explained.

In Rice-Steele center's case, the 911 technology does not allow text messages at this time, Bondhus said. She expects the technology to be available locally starting in 2019. The local 911 center upgrades its technology every seven years, and it's due again in 2019.

Text-to-911 will be a direct line to help for those with hearing loss. Twenty percent of Minnesotans have some form hearing

SEE 911, A3

Dodge County hog feedlot likely to slide by on technicality

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Despite strong opposition citing environmental and safety concerns, a large hog feedlot operation appears to be headed for Ripley Township because officials failed to act on the application in a timely manner.

It's known as the "60-day Rule," which was enacted by the Minnesota Legislature in 1995. The law provides that when a governmental agency fails to act on items like zoning requests within 60 days, it creates automatic approval of the request.

In the case of Ripley Township, Tim Langdon made a request July 5 to build a feedlot on their 5-acre farm. The township didn't act on the request until calling for a public hearing last Wednesday night, nearly 150 days after the original request.

During the public hearing, which attracted a packed room of 35 people at the small township hall, attorney Donald Savelkoul of Albert Lea notified the township

SEE FEEDLOT, A3

No place like home for the holidays

Owatonna family secures new home just in time for the holidays

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Everybody needs a home. Unfortunately there are still many Americans who are without one this holiday season, but not the Chambers family, whose new home was officially dedicated in a ceremony by the Steele-Waseca chapter of Habitat for Humanity on Saturday.

A ceremonial key was given along with a donations check, and presents were handed out to the family, who now get to spend the holidays in their new home.

Construction of the home began in June when they broke ground on the property. Habitat for Humanity worked



Calvin and Dessa Chambers, along with their four children, are grateful for their new home in Owatonna. The family officially received the home from Habitat for Humanity Saturday morning.

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\$1.00 | Volume 126, No. 20



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OUR VIEW

Senator Franken made right choice for all of us

Over the past weeks, Minnesotans have had the emotional rollercoaster of watching allegation after allegation of sexual misconduct come out against Sen. Al Franken that ended in his resignation last Thursday.

Once a rising star in the U.S. Senate, Franken found himself on a growing list of prominent men in media, entertainment and politics facing accusations of sexual harassment.

As the news plastered the faces of these men like movie producer Harvey Weinstein or Today Show host Matt Lauer, it was common sense for them to lose their jobs. If they can't respect women, they don't deserve to have their jobs.

But then a cloud of confusion dropped down on the state of Minnesota on Nov. 16 when Los Angeles radio anchor Leeann Tweeden made the first allegation of sexual harassment against Franken. Seven other women came out with similar allegations in the following weeks.

We were faced with the dilemma of seeing a man we have embraced and supported as our Senator be accused of sexual misconduct. Franken had become somewhat of a local celebrity in Minnesota. From his days on Saturday Night Live to the 2008 recall election where he beat out his predecessor Norm Coleman by a mere 300 some votes, Franken had the approval of many Minnesotans.

He had become a strong advocate, or as some might say a bulldog, in the U.S. Senate for issues like benefits for veterans, net neutrality and ironically, women's rights. He was a Senator we could be proud to say represented Minnesota.

While Today Show Host Savannah Guthrie announced the firing of Matt Lauer, she said, "We are grappling with a dilemma that so many people have faced these past few weeks: How do you reconcile your love for someone with the revelation that they have behaved badly? And I don't know the answer to that."

Many Minnesotans can say the same for Franken. It was easier to watch the allegations against men who we didn't have a strong or local connection to in our lives.

Some tried to reconcile the allegations by saying the ones against Franken were not as bad as other allegations like rape that other men were facing or that his work in the Senate outweighed his past actions. Others called for his outright resignation.

No matter what our personal feelings may be towards Franken, his resignation needed to happen. We need to hold our elected officials to the highest standard, as we rely on them to represent our needs in government.

We need to keep fighting to change our society so that women don't have to feel violated with any level of sexual harassment. It's time to clean out the old boy's club mentality that seems to still linger in the U.S.



One of state's oldest farmers keeps on harvesting

As the sun has set on another harvest season in Minnesota, perhaps one of the state's oldest farmers reaped another bountiful crop, though not a record one.

Within the past couple weeks, Lowell Trom of rural Blooming Prairie completed yet another harvest. The 88-year-old maneuvered his pride and joy—a John Deere combine with an eight-row head—around the fields of southern Dodge County once again this fall harvesting soybeans and corn.

He's been working the fields for three-quarters of a century. Trom began helping his father pick corn by hand when he was 12 years old. He has never strayed much beyond his 750 acres in Westfield Township. In fact, he lives in the house that has been in his family for more than a century.

He started out with a farm that was nothing more than swamp land back in 1947 at \$48.25 per acre.

During the harvest earlier this fall, I hopped in the combine with Trom to get a better idea of what makes this farmer tick. His family affectionately refers to him as the Energizer Bunny who won't give up.

Over the years, Trom has undergone at least 20 different surgeries. "Everything has been replaced. You name it, I've had it," he says. He rattled off a long list, including nose, eyers, ears, fingers, toes, knees and open heart surgery. He has joked with his nurses that they are bound and determined to keep him alive forever.

Trom scoffs about taking a break from the harsh Minnesota winters and heading south. "Nope, I go to Rochester (Mayo Clinic) to get tuned up for next spring," he said.

Though he gets a little confused with the



Farming has been in Lowell Trom's blood for more than three-quarters of a century. The 88-year-old started out picking corn by hand as a teenager, and he continues farming 750 acres today in Westfield Township northeast of Blooming Prairie.

computer controls operating his combine, I found he isn't really missing a beat at all. His love and compassion for farming and tending to the fields are unprecedented.

Asked if he ever thought he would be harvesting this long, Trom quipped, "Longer." He quickly added, "It's just getting interesting now."

One day this fall Trom found himself burning the candle at both ends as he combined soybeans for 18 hours straight until 3 a.m. "When it's fit to go, you've got to go," he said.

But, he pointed out, that's nothing compared to his younger years. "When I was younger, I would go 40 hours without a stop," Trom said, adding he did at a time before tractors and combines came with enclosed cabs.

Trom will be the first to admit he's not normal—at least when it comes to working. "Everybody else lives a normal life. I don't," he said. "I never get sick of it. It just gets better every

SEE PURSUIT, A3



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

Guess who turned 50?

Guess who turned 50 on Tuesday, Dec. 12? It was none other than Steele County Times publisher Rick Bussler.

Family and friends put on a surprise party for Bussler's 50th birthday by getting together for a fun afternoon on Sunday. The party was arranged by Rick's children, Kyrie, Caleb and Cailyn as well as his parents Cliff and June Bussler.

Bussler was treated to some happy time with family and friends and also roasted a bit during a special program.

Daughter Cailyn stole the show by telling about a joke about how good her father was at being a good dad, a good cook and a good newspaper man. She was reading from prepared notes and then said, "Dad, I can't read your writing."

Others praised Bussler for his community involvement and for his award winning newspapers, the Steele County Times and the Dodge County

Independent.

In addition to Bussler being born in 1967, what are some other memorable moments from that year?

- The Andy Griffith Show was the most popular TV show.
- The Monkees had the No. 1 musical hit, "Daydream Believer."
- Rolling Stone Magazine was founded.
- Communist China announces the H Bomb.
- Dr. Christian Barnard performs the first heart transplant.
- Boxer Muhammad Ali refuses military service.
- The first Boeing 737 makes its maiden flight.
- Elvis Presley and Priscilla Beaulieu are married in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Reflections ... and how
HOWARD LESTRUD

recognition of another milestone.

The biggest birthday present I ever received was noted on my 50th birthday because Tammi was home after spending 16 days in the University of Minnesota Hospital following a liver transplant. I reflect often on my 50th because I recall Tammi looking like a million bucks after her surgery.

What milestone birthdays do you recall? Think about them. They are treasures to remember.



STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

Steele County Times publisher Rick Bussler was feted with a surprise birthday party on Sunday, Dec. 10 at Brackett's Crossing in Lakeville. The party was put on by his children, Kyrie, Cailyn and Caleb and by his parents, Cliff and June Bussler.

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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BUTTER: *Santa spotted at Hope Creamery*

FROM PAGE A1

prizes will be Hope Butter. The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group last month held a Turkey Bingo event and Bingo winners had the opportunity to select Hope Butter, a turkey breast or a whole turkey. Most chose the Hope Butter in the early going and it wasn't long before the Hope Butter was gone. "I know how much work goes into arranging these fundraisers, so this is the least we can do, donate some Hope Butter," Mrotz says.

He lets the butter judge itself. "I've thought about giving out hats but giving a pound of butter makes more sense and is more effective in promoting the product," Mrotz says. Hope Butter can be purchased in many super markets around southern Minnesota and also in the Twin Cities. It can also be found on the dinner table of many restaurants in Minnesota.

Mrotz says Hope Butter has become world renowned because of its creamy texture and fuller taste. He said that when he and his wife Kellie were contemplating purchasing the creamery business, they performed a taste test by melting many different kinds of butter.

Victor and Kellie learned quickly that Hope Butter was cleaner than others, meaning that it did not have granules floating at the bottom or near the top.

Victor admits that his product is expensive but does not apologize for that. He says the intense process of making the butter ensures quality. Many larger producers of butter utilize the latest in technology and can make it quicker but not necessarily better, he says.

The Hope Creamery still uses the age-old process of vat pasteurization and small batch quantities churned fresh every day.

Mrotz said FRESH is the key word to describe the Hope Butter products. It is never frozen.

The Hope Creamery business model is very simple, according to Mrotz. "We make butter, we sell butter and then we make more butter," he laughs.

The recipe for success of Hope Butter goes back to the source, the cows and to the Plainview Creamery that supplies the main ingredient for the butter. "All of our products are growth hormone free," says Mrotz. Many customers of Victor and Kellie Mrotz say the Hope Creamery makes butter the old fashioned way and "you can tell the difference," the customers believe.

Hope Butter comes in one-pound packages, salted, unsalted or high fat, unsalted 85 percent.

The Mrotz team includes Victor, Kellie and their two children, Hudson, 21, a student at Metro State University in the Twin Cities and Sophia, 17-year-old senior at NRHEG (New Richland Hartland Ellendale Geneva) High School.

Victor grew up in the Ellendale area, graduating from Ellendale-Geneva High School in 1980. He then attended the Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis, studying machine design and drafting.

EARLY BEGINNINGS

He worked 10 years as a draftsman and two years as a salesman in the Twin Cities. He met his wife Kellie in 1990 and they married in 1993. They moved to Ellendale in 1997. Mrotz then focused on farming with his parents, Dale and Barbara Mrotz, just south of Beaver Lake near

Ellendale. "It was tough to make a living with just farming so I began looking for something else to do," Mrotz relates.

A newspaper article on the Hope Creamery caught Mrotz' eyes in 1999, saying that the creamery cooperative board was thinking about selling the creamery, feed store, fuel oil business and maintenance shop altogether.

Mrotz visited a couple of local banks, saying he was interested in buying the creamery and associated businesses. He admitted that the creamery building dating back to 1921 was the most unique part of the package. The banks would not go for Mrotz' plans to purchase the businesses.

The taste test came next and Victor and Kellie were convinced that buying the creamery on a contract for deed was the way to go.

The creamery had an outstanding reputation for its Hope Butter under the direction of Gene Kruckeberg, who started as a butter maker in Hope in 1964 and later became general manager of the co-op.

Kruckeberg was called a master of his trade by Mrotz. He died at age 78 last July 25.

Jay Logan is now the plant manager and learned his trade from Kruckeberg. He also worked at the Union Creamery in Blooming Prairie before joining the Hope Creamery. Logan knows Kruckeberg's formula. Mrotz also makes butter, does deliveries, says he works with orders and manages the overall operation.

Victor says every batch of butter made in Hope is different. "It's kind of like making wine," he added. The creamery has a 600-gallon vat and an 800-gallon vat.

Production is very busy at this time of year with butter being made every week rather than the customary every other week.

Kellie Mrotz handles the marketing and ordering for the business with help in the office coming from Katie Winzenberg.

Others who work with production include Cody Blouin and Lori Allard. Paid drivers are Brian Nelson, Carl Anderson, Curt Johnson and Dan Mrotz.

LOCAL DISTRIBUTION KEY

The Hope Creamery does its own distribution and that has also been a key part of the business success, Mrotz claims. Tristan Simon works closely with loading and unloading of products.

Soon after buying the Hope Creamery, Mrotz utilized his sales skills to court future customers, many in the Twin Cities. His first large quantity customer was Lucia's Restaurants.

Mrotz said his contact person at Lucia's said they would buy the product but wanted it salt free because of restaurant recipes. "I was totally deflated but realized that we could do that," Mrotz said.

"We delivered our product in my wife's Volvo station wagon," Mrotz recalls.

By word of mouth, the demand became greater for Hope Butter with Wedge Co-op, Kowalski's and Lunds & Byerlys becoming some large customers. Falgathers of Northwood, Iowa, also became a regular Hope customer.

Mrotz said the Hope Creamery has over 100 retail spots in the Twin Cities and also sells the products locally in Hope at Krause's Feed and in Ellendale, Blooming Prairie, Albert

Lea, Austin, Faribault, Rochester and Mankato. Hope Butter can be found in coffee and donut shops throughout the state.

Marketing led by Kellie also sends Hope Butter to Alaska, California, the Carolinas and Chicago. Victor's brother lives in the Virgin Island and usually takes one to two cases of Hope Butter back with him.

Hope Butter can be found on many grocery shelves at prices ranging from \$6 to \$8.90.

BUTTER AS GIFTS

On a recent December morning, Mrotz was at the creamery meeting with a media type. As he answered a throng of questions, a knock was heard on his office door.

"We would like to buy some butter," said a female voice on the other side of the door. The voice belonged to Bonnie Davis, who with her husband Tom from Eden Prairie, had made a special trip to Hope to buy some Hope butter to give as Christmas gifts.

Bonnie said she was buying for herself but also for her kids as gifts. She bought 16 pounds, mostly salted. She uses the unsalted for baking.

The Davis couple first became acquainted with Hope Butter while visiting the Steele County Fair in Owatonna about 12 years ago. They tried some Hope Butter on some snack crackers at a fair stand and they have been Hope Butter fans ever since. "It's creamier and has a better flavor than other butter," Bonnie believes.

"There are only two kinds of butter— Hope Butter and everyone else's," commented Tom Davis. He said Mrotz told him once that he was not just an owner but a caretaker for the business for the next generation.

While filling and order for Bonnie and Tom Davis, Mrotz took a call from Phoenix, Arizona, a prospective customer from a restaurant there.

Making a cash payment for her butter, Bonnie Davis exclaimed: "It's worth it." She said she was going to buy some sausage for Christmas gifts, too. Mrotz referred the Davis couple to Steve's Meats in Ellendale. "Let's go," Tom replied.

Following the Davis departure, another customer entered. "Larry Kuchenbecker comes in every other week," Mrotz said. "Hope Butter is the best in the world," Larry said.

Asked if he plans to expand his Hope Butter operations, Mrotz quickly replied, "As our markets expand, we will just make more butter."

Mrotz said the Hope Creamery relies on its current butter making equipment and occasionally buys used equipment that is new to the Hope Creamery.

"Putting my engineer hat on," Mrotz said, "I told Gene once that we could get some new equipment but his response was, 'I wonder if that will change how the butter tastes.'"

The Hope Creamery has no surplus or overstock, Mrotz reiterates. "We make it, sell it and make more butter."

Mrotz admits that other companies have asked the Hope Creamery to teach them how to make our butter. The recipe stays in Hope. "We go by the regulations and don't want to change how our butter tastes," Mrotz emphasized.

Mrotz and family farm 400 acres near Ellendale, raising about 60 Hereford beef cattle.

If driving on Interstate 35 between Ellendale and Owatonna, turn at the Hope exit and go west to Hope. Stop by Krause's or the creamery and try that Hope Butter. Santa Claus endorses it.

sick."

The Toquams' son, Isaiah, lives closest to the proposed feedlot. He related that he has never had any people or animals get sick from the hog odors in the area.

The concerns over the feedlots in Dodge County are stirring interest from folks around the state. Wendy Pilot of St. Paul drove to the public forum on her birthday to address the township board.

"We don't need another big giant farm filled with pigs that is going to ruin the environment," Pilot said. "It's going to ruin the air and we're not going to be able to breath," she added.

Vicki Morris of Rochester told board members the decision they make is important to surrounding counties. She pointed out one of the area's key watersheds, the Zumbro River, flows into Rochester.

"Our drinking water is at risk," Morris said. "Stick to your guns and enforce it. Don't compromise," she said, referring to Ripley's current ordinance. Langdon's original application requested a variance to handle the proposal.

Douglas Eayrs urged the board to find ways to bring in young families to Ripley Township instead of a "non-resident hog operator." Langdon lives near Cannon Falls, but said he would be at the operation every day.

Trom Eayrs said no matter what happens with the project, it's likely legal action will take place, though she didn't know on what grounds at this point.

FROM PAGE A2

year," he said with a chuckle. "It keeps me out of mischief."

Bring up the notion of retirement to Trom and you'll quickly get a cross-eyed look from him. "What the hell... there is nothing else to do," Trom said sternly. "I missed that day. I'm just an old fart."

When I inquired if farming ever gets old for him, Trom replied: "Hell no. Every year is a challenge."

Trom's quick wit and sense of humor keep him from getting too down about farming that offers sagging commodity prices. "It's horse shit," he said of the current farm economy.

He finds himself getting lonely at times as his wife, Evelyn, continues to fight advanced stages of Parkinson's disease at a local care center.

HOLIDAYS: *No place like home*

FROM PAGE A1

closely with the Catholic Daughters of America on this project, which also saw a bevy of volunteers from the community.

Lori Mickelson, from the Catholic Daughters, says that "every family deserves a beautiful home to live in, especially during the holiday season," a time when tradition and memories are important for a young family.

The Catholic Daughters helped raise money for the project by giving away Gummy Bears in exchange for donations from the public, which poured in at a high rate and were gifted to Habitat for Humanity. Mickelson says that the community "has been awesome."

Mickelson explained that "people stepped up, not only in Owatonna but also Medford, Waseca, and even a few volunteers from Faribault." According to Mickelson, the community was very welcoming and helpful, volunteering their time and energy as well as food and other amenities if they were unable to aid in the actual building process. Proud of their accomplishment, she said, "It's important for a family, especially one with young children, to have a safe and welcoming home."

Pat Heydon, executive director of the Steele-Waseca area Habitat for Humanity, said that they are one of 30 affiliates in the state of Minnesota. Although the Steele- Waseca chapter usually is only able to help roughly one family a year, overall the program has impacted around 300 families statewide. They aid with both the building of homes as well as repair and assistance. The number internationally is somewhere around 1.2 million families impacted, according to Heydon.

As the director, Heydon feels that it is vitally important for a family to have a home, and that all Americans deserve a safe and affordable place to live. She is grateful for the help from volunteers as well as organizations like the Catholic

Trom figures he better keep farming just to pay the hefty nursing home bill each month. "I don't have any choice," he said.

Though he's quickly approaching 90, Trom isn't ready to give up. When asked how many more harvests he has left in him, he replied: "Forever."

Trom says he gets excited every spring after planting crops. "We no more get done in the spring and we're already figuring out how we're going to do it differently next year," he said. "I'm always working to make it better."

There's obviously no taking this man out of the farm. He's already planning ahead to next spring when he'll be in hot pursuit of producing yet another bountiful crop.

Daughters, who she said were "phenomenal" in the process.

"It takes a community to build a home, and that's the part that's so exciting," Heydon said.

The home owners, Calvin and Dessa Chambers, and their four kids, are also grateful. Dessa says that it will feel good to be settled and have a home. She also admits that she is excited "to cook and have space" and is looking forward to decorating for the holidays now that they have a new home in which to put their tree, and hang their lights.

Dessa said that it was a two year process, but that they didn't experience any difficulty along the way. According to Dessa, her and Calvin "had our ducks in a row" and were already looking for a home when they found Habitat for Humanity willing to help in this process.

Calvin appreciates all the hard work and effort from volunteers. He says that the volunteers did "an excellent job" and that they "take pride in their work and what they're doing."

Just like his wife, Calvin is excited to celebrate the holidays in a new home. He said he finally feels as if his family is settled and agrees with Heydon, reiterating that "everyone should have somewhere to call their own."

A 2015 survey done by the Minnesota Homeless Study along with Wilder Research, found that there are roughly 9,312 homeless adults, children or youth in Minnesota, a number which has actually gone down 9 percent from the previous study, done in 2012. This holiday season is a great opportunity for Americans to give back, and to help other members of the community.

Habitat for Humanity, along with the Catholic Daughters, and the many volunteers from around the community, have done their best in ensuring that the Chambers family always has a place here and feels welcome.

And now they have a warm home to spend the holiday season.

FEEDLOT: *Slides by on technicality*

FROM PAGE A1

board that it appeared to be in violation of a "60-Day Rule" regarding Langdon's attempt to construct the hog operation.

"Technically, we have a proposal already," Savelkoul said. "We're way beyond the 60 day rule. If the proposal isn't granted, we'll take other action."

However, Savelkoul said Langdon would be willing to work with township officials on the project in order to address any concerns they may have prior to construction. "He wants to run a good business. He's a family person," Savelkoul told the board.

Peter Thiede, attorney for Ripley Township, acknowledged that the "60-Day Rule" is a real concern for the township. Despite the apparent validity of the statute, Thiede took his own jab at the rule. "It's a rotten piece of legislation," he said. "It creates automatic approval."

The township did not take any formal action on the request at last week's hearing as it continued to sort out options on moving forward.

As of Monday afternoon, Savelkoul said he is still talking to township officials to get the project pushed along. He expects another board meeting within the next couple weeks to finalize the project.

"It's going forward, and there is no question it will be taking place," Savelkoul told the Times.

At last week's public hearing,

Sonja Trom Eayrs of Dodge County Concerned Citizens voiced strong opposition about the proposed feedlot that would be located one mile north of her parents' farm. She said this feedlot would become the 12th such operation within a 3-mile radius.

"We are counting on the Ripley Township Board to deny the request," Trom Eayrs said prior to hearing about the 60-Day Rule. "You are required to protect the overall welfare and safety of the county."

Trom Eayrs said feedlots create a "horrifying stench" that is dangerous to people living in the area. She shared a story about her father, Lowell Trom, harvesting this fall and how he had to step off the combine to vomit because of what she believes was hydrogen sulfite poisoning from manure spread on nearby fields.

Trom Eayrs proposed to Langdon and the township board that DCCC would assist in establishing a gofundme campaign to raise \$25,000 to purchase the land and to possibly turn it into a community garden.

"We could show the community how to do things humanely," Trom Eayrs said.

Rhonda Toquam, who serves as a county commissioner and whose husband, Roger Toquam, sits on the township board, addressed Trom Eayrs' concern about the stench in the area. She said they had a wedding in their yard 450 feet away from the hog barns this past year. "There was no horrifying stench, and it all went beautifully," she said. "Nobody got

911: *Texting available for help*

FROM PAGE A1

loss. "The communication barriers they experience are frightening when seconds matter most in an emergency," said Marie Koehler, regional manager with the Minnesota Department of Human Services Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services division. "Text-to-911 offers a solution to that overwhelming problem."

In the past, hearing-impaired callers were connected to an interpreter through Minnesota Relay, Bondhus said. The interpreter, in turn, would call 911, and the three would be linked together to go back and forth with the emergency information.

"This will be a direct communication to 911 by taking out the third person," Bondhus said of the new system.

The 911 texting service will also serve an alternative when the reporting party must remain quiet to stay safe.

"Imagine having to hide from an intruder in your bedroom closest or witnessing a domestic violence situation," said Jackie Mines, director with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. "Text-to-911 is a

lifeline for people who would put themselves in harm's way if they called 911."

Bondhus does not expect a high usage of the Text-to-911 service. "People still prefer to call," she said.

Even with the new system, Bondhus said the most efficient and best way to communicate with 911 is to call via phone. "Call if you can, text if you can't," she said.

If there is an emergency and you cannot call 911, take these steps:

- Enter the numbers 911 in the "to" field
- Text your exact address and type of emergency
- Send the message
- Use simple words, but do not include abbreviations, emoji's, pictures or slang
- Promptly answer questions and follow instructions.

Text-to-911 comes with some challenges. For instance, emergency response may be lengthened due to the time it takes for a text to 911 to be typed and sent. Delivery of texts and speed of delivery are also not guaranteed.

Nearly 3 million 911 calls are made in Minnesota each year.

BLOTTER
SPOTLIGHT

Suspicion: On Dec. 3 at 4:30 p.m., a Blooming Prairie resident reported hearing three gunshots in the 75600 block of 135th Ave., and no one had asked her to be hunting on her property.

Think about sacrifices by public safety during holidays

While you and your family celebrate the holidays together at home, we are patrolling your neighborhoods – checking your property, your yard, your streets, looking for anything or anyone out of place. We are the ones that venture into the dark, not knowing what if anything awaits us, often to protect many of you we have never even met.

You spend the evening with your family warm and safe indoors, many enjoying a few drinks in front of a warm fireplace. We're outside trying to stay warm, dealing with the winter elements – freezing rain, snow, sometimes dangerous road conditions, or maybe even a blizzard. We're out there waiting for our 911 Dispatchers to advise us when someone else in the county needs our help.

You've got your kids with you, maybe grandkids, also grandparents, aunts and uncles, etc. The whole family is together for this joyous occasion. Our families are spending another holiday without us. This was our year to work. Hopefully we make the rotation next year so we can take time off for them. They understand we make these sacrifices to help keep our communities safe, to help people in need, and to do our little part to make our communities a better place for them to live in. They understand our sacrifices are also their sacrifices.

Your Christmas Eve dinner is ready, a feast the whole family has pitched in to help with. The smell of turkey, ham, and warm pie fill the air, those smells that make us think of Christmases past. The house also smells of fresh pine from the real Christmas tree in the living room.

We've been busy tonight so we haven't had a chance to get much for a meal – chips and a pop at the local gas station, maybe a piece of pizza or pre-made sandwich. Later we'll stop in to check on our gas station attendants who are also sacrificing on Christmas. We'll refill our coffee cups and continue our patrols thru the night.

You've finally got the kids to settle down for the night, all excited about presents and that visit from Santa overnight. Everyone's tucked in for

a warm night's sleep. If we are lucky enough to live in the zone we work in, we'll try and stop by to say goodnight to the kids. If we're too busy, we'll just have to call when we can. We'll wish them Merry Christmas over the phone and say goodnight to the kids. Hopefully we can call before they go to bed.

Your kids are in bed and now its adult time – you sit and play cards, games, and visit with family and loved ones reminiscing about the highlights from your evening and all the great



Behind the Badge
SCOTT ROSE

memories of past Christmas celebrations in your home. While patrolling your neighborhoods, we all have those homes that stir up old memories as well. The crash we worked a few months ago where we pulled a child from the wreckage who didn't make it. It's hard to forget the reaction we got when we walked into that home to tell those parents that their child was gone – or the emotional feeling of just wanting to go home and hug our kids and tell them that we love them. We worry about those parents tonight. We think about that incident every time we drive by that house – a memory we'd love to forget – but can't. We hope and pray we don't get another crash like that tonight on Christmas.

Your kids waked you up early, all excited about opening Santa's presents and celebrating Christmas Day. You're rested and ready to share this amazing day with your family. We've been asleep for an hour or two before our kids are waking us up excited about opening Santa's presents and celebrating Christmas Day.

We finally finished our shift a few hours earlier after a busy evening and quietly sneaked into our homes around 5 a.m. We took off our uniform, grabbed a quick snack from last night's

big meal, and headed to bed trying not to wake up the kids or our spouse. We'll go downstairs now and see the kids open their gifts, while trying not to think about some of the things that we saw last night. Then it's back to bed for a better part of Christmas Day. We'll go back to work at 6 p.m. and do it all over again.

Inspite all of the sacrifices many of us will make this Christmas, and some of the anti-law enforcement rhetoric we endure from the mainstream media and other radical groups, we remain very proud of this profession that we love. We're proud of our uniform, we're proud of our badge, and we're extremely proud of our flag. We couldn't imagine doing anything else. Helping you is our calling, it's our passion, and it's truly what motivates us.

The intent of this column is not to make you feel sorry for law enforcement and public safety, it's simply to remind you of some of the many sacrifices these men and women make for our communities – especially during the holidays.

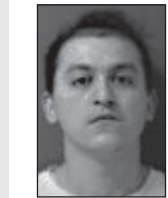
It's also important to think about the sacrifices made by all our public safety partners serving our communities over the holidays – our 911 dispatchers working to keep everyone safe, our local ambulance and fire department members (many who are volunteers) working side by side with us on emergency calls, and the medical professionals saving lives at our area hospitals. Don't forget our local tow companies who are also out there helping us day and night. How about the convenience store attendants around the county who are also there to make sure you and Public Safety has everything we need during the holiday – fuel, hot coffee, snacks, etc.

This Christmas, if you see your local law enforcement or public safety professionals out working the streets, take a minute to thank them for their service and sacrifice. Your "thank you" means a lot to all of them, especially during the holidays.

Scott Rose has been the sheriff of Dodge County since 2015. His column appears monthly in this newspaper.

CRIME BRIEFS

Trespassing leads to multiple felonies



Laroque A man who had been previously trespassed from a residence found himself facing multiple felony counts for allegedly stalking a woman. Dustin Laroque has been charged with first-degree burglary, three counts of stalking, domestic assault and criminal damage to property in connection with an incident on Dec. 4. Owatonna Police responded to Cedar Green Townhomes on 22nd Street SE for a trespass complaint. Officers found Laroque walking in the area and issued him a

citation. A short time later police found Laroque allegedly committed multiple crimes. He is accused of threatening to break a woman's window and calling her at least 81 times in a short period of time. Officers discovered a splintered and cracked apartment door and damaged dead bolt. The victim reported she stayed at a friend's apartment in the same complex because she was frightened by Laroque. According to police, Laroque allegedly broke a window and opened the door of the friend's apartment looking for the victim. He found the victim sleeping on the couch and began shaking her, police said.

Hit and Run: At 2:03 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred at Prospect St. E. and Harriet Ave. SE. **Compliance:** Officer issued a citation for a compliance check failure in the 300 block of 18th St. SE at 4:01 p.m. **Restraining Order:** Police arrested a subject for violating a restraining order in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 6:28 p.m. **Assault:** Officers responded to an assault in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 8:20 p.m. **Steele County Sheriff**

Nov. 30 **Burglary:** Deputies began a burglary investigation in the 93000 block of 37th Ave. SW in Somerset Township at 6:39 a.m. **Crash:** At 6:15 p.m., deputies received information regarding a motor vehicle accident with injuries at County Road 45 N. and 36th St. NW in Clinton Falls Township.

Dec. 1 **Death:** Deputies began a death investigation in the 12000 block of 58th St. SE in Somerset Township at 4:07 p.m.

Dec. 4 **Warrant:** Deputies made warrant arrests in the 100 block of Main St. E. in Owatonna at 10 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. **Crash:** Deputies assisted the State Patrol with a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage on Interstate 35 in Somerset Township at 9:57 p.m.

Dec. 5 **Crash:** At 12:01 a.m., a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage occurred at Interstate 35 northbound and 26th St. NW in Clinton Falls Township.

Dec. 6 **Domestic:** Deputies received a report of a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of 6th Ave. W. in Ellendale at 4:32 p.m. However, they were unable to locate it upon arrival. **Crash:** At 8:11 p.m., a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage occurred on Interstate 35 southbound in Owatonna Township.

ARREST
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE **Joshua Douglas Johnson**, 31, arrested at 6:02 p.m. Dec. 4, warrant arrest, \$10,000 bail. **Paul Allen Treganza**, 55, arrested at 6:14 a.m. Dec. 4, order for protection violation and warrant arrest, held for court. **Dustin Lee Laroque**, 24, arrested Dec. 4, felony trespassing, damage to property and burglary, held for court. **Benjamin Joseph Dugan**, 28, arrested at 8:50 p.m. Dec. 6, order for protection violation, held for court. **Vanessa Rodriguez**, 30, arrested at 9:25 a.m. Dec. 7, no insurance and revoked license, held for court. **Trennette Lashawn Myles**, 36, arrested at 10:38 p.m. Dec. 7, DWI-test refusal, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF **Vincent Johnny**, 27, arrested at 4:14 p.m. Dec. 2, warrant arrest, held for court. **Terrance Edwards**, 33, arrested at 1:10 p.m. Dec. 3,

warrant arrest, \$600 bail. **Trereias Dishawn Harris**, 34, arrested at 1 p.m. Dec. 7, warrant arrest, body only. **Justin Lee Johnson**, 28, arrested at 4:33 a.m. Dec. 8, theft warrant arrest, \$10,000 bail.

MN STATE PATROL **Cody John Johnson**, 33, arrested at 10:27 a.m. Dec. 6, felony possession of narcotics, held for court. **Juan Ramirez Jr.**, 34, arrested at 1:08 p.m. Dec. 6, felony controlled substance crime, held for court. **Levi Ellis Doig**, 22, arrested at 1:04 p.m. Dec. 7, extradition hearing to Colorado for failure to register, held for court. **Katrina Pearson Doig**, 21, arrested at 1:04 p.m. Dec. 7, extradition hearing to Colorado for controlled substance, held for court.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Nov. 27 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding: **Jessica R. Heise**, 35, Claremont, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault and gross misdemeanor interfere with 911 call. She was sentenced to \$806.80, 4 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Nov. 27 – Dec. 4:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE **Jessica L. Baldwin**, 26, Austin, domestic assault, stay of adjudication, \$200, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; **Wayne C. Banks**, 59, Rochester, cancelled license, stay of adjudication, \$200 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; **Brady R. Dahl**, 19, Hayfield, speeding, \$120; **Cayla J. Davidson**, 27, North St. Paul, revoked license, \$280; **Travis W. Jackson**, 38, Rochester, revoked license, \$280; **Brett A. Kuehl**, 28, Rochester, possession of marijuana, no insurance and revoked license, 194 days in county jail; **David T. Lammers**, 31, Austin, possession of paraphernalia, \$130; **Kayla N. Melhouse**, 17, Cannon Falls, speeding, \$220; **Jacob S. Paukner**, 20, Austin, suspended license, no insurance and speeding, \$540; **Christopher S. Rollo**, 47, Kasson, speeding, \$220; **Amanda M. Southwick**, 36, Hayfield, suspended license and unlawful passing, \$330; **Archie Tart**, 47, Kasson, speeding, \$140; **Chad M. Wiesner**, 46, Owatonna, speeding, \$140.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT **Ashley N. Goossen**, 25, Madeira, revoked license, \$280; **Richard J. Morrison Jr.**, 20, Rochester, minor consumption, \$180; **Halie R. Schettl**, 21, Rochester, failure to stop for traffic control signal, \$130; **Joshua J. Taylor**, 29, La Farge, WI, texting while driving, \$130.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Nov. 27 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding: **Matthew R. Hanson**, 30, Stillwater Correctional Facility, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault – substantial bodily harm. He was sentenced to \$131 and 29 months in St. Cloud State Prison. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Nov. 27 - Dec. 1:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT **Christopher S. Casey**, 44, Blooming Prairie, revoked license, \$281; **Joshua D. Hein**, 18, Blooming Prairie, careless driving, \$181; **Lyna A. Tschann**, 38, Austin, suspended license, \$281.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER **Michael J. Anderson**, 50, Owatonna, speeding, \$281; **Shawn S. Barker**, 33, Poinsett, AR, speeding, \$131; **John S. Davis**, 59, Chanhassen, speeding, \$121; **Killian K. Doran**, 21, Eagle, ID, speeding, \$121; **Francisco G. Estrada**, 54, Charles City, IA, taillights violation, \$121; **Beth C. Etler-Thornton**, 44, Sioux Falls, SD, speeding, \$131; **Joseph L. Glover IV**, 23, Forest City, IA, speeding, \$141; **Leah N. Jaworski**, 21, Mankato, speeding, \$121; **Justin M. Kemp**, 31, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; **Jerome E. Loew**, 86, Blooming Prairie, failure to stop on red light, \$131; **Joshua J. Mattison**, 20, Rochester, speeding, \$121; **Tristan A. Nelson**, 19, Kasson, speeding, \$121; **Eric J. Pierson**, 36, Minneapolis, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$281; **Isaiah L. Pitchford**, 21, Mankato, speeding, \$121; **David O. Putz**, 60, Coon Rapids, speeding, \$141; **Tyler F. Ring**, 27, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; **Charlissa R. Robbins**, 32, Waseca, speeding, \$221; **Amparo J. Ruiz**, 37, Humble, TX, seat belt, \$106; **Charles R. Skluzacek**, 33, Elko New Market, speeding, \$121; **Benjamin G. Slater**, 26, Victoria, speeding, \$121; **Thomas J. Wessling**, 28, Overland Park, KS, seat belt, \$106; **Bryce T. Williamson**, 27, Ruthven, IA, speeding, \$121.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT **David W. Brockmiller**, 56, Mankato, obstructing legal process, \$381 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; **Jeffrey J. Dircks**, 37, Faribault, tamper with motor vehicle, \$1,106, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation; **Rhonda L. Edel**, 49, Morristown, school bus stop sign, \$431; **Nynique K. Fair**, 41, Waseca, theft, \$166.08 and 1 year of supervised probation; **Richard D. Frazier**, 35, St. Paul, disorderly conduct, \$131, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; **Vincent R. Garr**, 35, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; **Amelia M. Harthan**, 37, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$121; **Jessica M. Hogan**, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; **Gina M. Horn**, 47, Owatonna, failure to signal for turn, \$311; **Jacob N. Kerska**, 27, Austin, theft, \$131, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of supervised probation; **Yulsamar Lopez**, 27, Owatonna, no child passenger restraint system, \$131; **Andrea J. Morse**, 34, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; **Mohamed M. Muhumed**, 33, Faribault, speeding, \$141; **Patrick W. Pexa**, 35, Northfield, disorderly conduct, \$131 and 7 days in county jail; **Jacob P. Pilgrim**, 36, Waseca, seat belt, \$106; **Bryce C. Robbins**, 25, Clear Lake, IA, speeding, \$141; **Alicia M. Stewart**, 35, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$131; **Kelly M. TeKautz**, 48, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; **Ashley M. Thostenson**, 27, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; **James M. Verlautz**, 29, Arden Hills, speeding, \$131; **Kevin Webster**, 28, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; **Gene P. Wells**, 24, Owatonna, no child passenger restraint system and revoked license, \$431.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE **Sheila A. Arndt**, 38, New Richland, speeding, \$121; **Mark A. Burciaga**, 29, Dundas, suspended license, \$281; **Jessica N. Eischens**, 33, West Concord, speeding, \$121; **John C. Eppel**, 50, Owatonna, revoked license and stop sign, \$331; **Jose H. Gutierrez**, 43, Faribault, suspended license and speeding, \$421; **Stephanie R. Hanson**, 41, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; **Christine M. Hoffmann**, 36, Ellendale, speeding, \$121; **Jane D. Johnson**, 56, Ellendale, speeding, \$131; **Andrew R. Kath**, 41, Waseca, speeding, \$121; **Melinda K. Kline**, 48, Faribault, speeding, \$121;

Stephanie M. Landsteiner, 25, New Richland, speeding, \$121; **Bobbi J. Nesseth**, 31, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; **Mitchell G. Olson**, 25, Trimont, speeding, \$121; **Castro Quirino**, 18, Dowagiac, MI, no license and speeding, \$381; **Kayla A. Schlueter**, 20, Waseca, speeding, \$121; **Samuel J. Stenerson**, 25, Detroit Lakes, failure to drive in single lane, \$131; **Luis A. Torres-Diaz**, 25, Faribault, no license, \$181; **Jacob A. Wendling**, 36, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; **Chad J. Wheelock**, 35, Waseca, speeding, \$121; **Joseph L. Zak**, 54, Ellendale, speeding, \$121.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE **Dec. 2** **Suspicion:** Police responded to suspicious activity at 2nd St. SE and 1st Ave. SE at 5:34 p.m.

Dec. 5 **Crash:** At 5:07 a.m., a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage occurred at Hwy. 218 and 94th Ave. SE in Blooming Prairie Township.

Dec. 6 **Mental Health:** Officers responded to a mental health incident in the 300 block of 3rd St. SE at 10:17 p.m.

OWATONNA POLICE **Nov. 30** **Suspicion:** At 1:18 a.m., officers responded to suspicious activity at Maple Ave. NE and Vine St. E. They issued a citation. **Drugs:** Drug activity was reported in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 9:38 a.m. **Juvenile:** Police received a juvenile complaint from the 300 block of School St. E. at 3:09 p.m. **Crash:** Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at Main St. W. and Oak Ave. S. at 4:09 p.m. They issued a citation to one of the drivers. **Burglary:** At 6:39 p.m., police began a burglary investigation in the 1000 block of Grandview Ave. SW. **Drunken Driving:** Officer made a DWI arrest in the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW at 11:21 p.m.

Dec. 1 **Vandalism:** Property damage was reported in the 600 block of Glendale St. NW at 8:52 a.m. and at Broadway St. W. and Oak Ave. N. at 10:33 p.m.

Warrant: Officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 500 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 12 p.m. **Mental Health:** Officers responded to a mental health incident in the 500 block of 15th St. NE at 2:06 p.m. **Trespassing:** Police arrested a subject for trespassing in the 100 block of Bridge St. W. at 11:41 p.m.

Dec. 2 **Threats:** At 9:47 a.m., police responded to a subject making threats in the 100 block of Cedar Ave. N. They issued a citation. **Vandalism:** Property damage was reported in the 1200 block of Bellflower Lane NE at 2 p.m. **Theft:** Officer took a theft report in the 900 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 4 p.m.

Dec. 3 **DWI:** Officer arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW at 12:13 a.m. **Warrant:** Police made a warrant arrest in the 200 block of Bridge St. W. at 11:41 a.m. **Arrest:** At 7:34 p.m., officer arrested a motorist during a traffic stop in the 200 block of Mill St. E.

Dec. 4 **Trespassing:** Police arrested a subject for trespassing in the 300 block of 22nd St. SE at 4:18 a.m. **Warrant:** Police made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW at 5:41 a.m. **Restraining Order:** Officers responded to restraining order violations in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 9:11 a.m. and the 2600 block of 7th Ave. NE at 3:25 p.m. **Theft:** Officer took a theft report in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 2:52 p.m. **Drugs:** Drug activity was reported in the 1900 block of Greenwood Dr. NE at 5:32 p.m.

Dec. 5 **Vandalism:** Property damage was reported in the 300 block of School St. E. at 9:14 a.m. **Compliance Checks:** Police conducted compliance checks at 2:46 p.m. **Theft:** At 4:05 p.m., police received a theft report from the 400 block of Sylvan St. NW.

Dec. 6 **Theft:** A theft occurred in the 900 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 5:55 a.m. **Fraud:** At 8:15 a.m., officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 2400 block of Bridge St. W.

PUBLIC SAFETY CONTINUED FROM A4

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER
Bonnie A. Anding, 53, West Concord, speeding, \$120; Anthony J. Chiarini, 19, Claremont, speeding, \$130; Ryan C. Davis, 24, Shakopee, speeding, \$120; Brian J. Haugen, 40, Pine Island, speeding, \$140; Drew C. Holloway, 25, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Hazim A. Ismail, 33, Rochester, speeding and permit violation, \$190; Troy A. Joyce, 41, Austin, seat belt, \$105; Jessica R. Quimby, 36, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120; Billy J. Sackett, 39, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120; Joleen M. Tempel, 69, Hayfield, speeding, \$130; Adam A. Thomas, 32, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Brett S. Wacek, 22, Owatonna, window tint violation, \$130; Jacob A. Zietlow, 23, Thiensville, WI, speeding, \$130.

POLICE BLOTTER
Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 317 complaints during the week of Nov. 29 – Dec. 5. Some of them include:

Nov. 29
Burglary: Deputies responded to a burglary in the 300 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 1:13 a.m.
Burglary: At 7:57 a.m., a Hayfield citizen reported his shed had been gone through in

the 500 block of Center Ave. S.
Harassment: Deputy responded to a harassment incident at Triton High School at 11:30 a.m.
Larceny: Deputy took a report of a bad check in the 700 block of 2nd Ave. SE in Dodge Center at 11:45 a.m.

Nov. 30
Fire: Deputies responded to a fire at U.S. Hwy. 14 and 100th Ave. in Claremont at 4:51 p.m.

Dec. 1
Noise: Deputies received a noise complaint from the 100 block of Front St. W. in Claremont at 12:58 a.m.
Fire: At 6:19 a.m., something exploded in the back of a garbage truck catching a tire on fire in the 57000 block of 145th Ave. in West Concord.

Dec. 2
Suspicion: At 6:13 a.m., a Claremont citizen called deputies to report someone breaking into his house in the 200 block of Oak St. N.
Civil: At 3:58 p.m., a Dodge Center resident reported there was garbage in dumpsters from a subject who was not authorized to use them on Main St. W.
Harassment: Deputies responded to a harassment incident in the 12000 block of 720th St. in Blooming Prairie at 6:44 p.m.
Juvenile: Deputies received a

juvenile complaint from Triton High School at 8:22 p.m.
Suspicion: Deputies responded to suspicious activity at Casey's in Hayfield at 10:40 p.m.

Dec. 3
Fire: Deputies responded to a cornfield on fire in the 16900 block of 650th St. in Dodge Center at 10:59 a.m.
Suspicion: A Dodge Center woman called deputies when she found a suspicious text on her 9-year-old's phone at 5:39 p.m.

Dec. 4
Cows: At 6:24 a.m., deputies received a report of 50 cows on the roadway at County Road 9 and State Hwy. 30 in Hayfield.
Fire: Deputies responded to a vehicle fire at County Hwy. 34 and State Hwy. 56 N. in Dodge Center at 7:58 a.m.
Threats: A subject was making threats in the 100 block of 9th Ave. NE in Dodge Center at 7:39 a.m.
Civil: Deputy assisted with a civil matter regarding a vehicle in the 200 block of Front St. W. in Claremont at 9:21 a.m.
Larceny: A Hayfield resident reported his vehicle had been broken into and items stolen in the 100 block of 9th St. SE at 10:05 a.m.
Disturbance: Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of East St. N. in Claremont at 8:13 p.m.

Dec. 5
Civil: A Dodge Center resident reported damage to his house in the 21000 block of 601st St. in Dodge Center at 6:58 a.m.
Harassment: Deputies responded to a harassment incident at Triton High School at 10:46 a.m.
Harassment: Deputy took a report of harassment on 220th Ave. in Hayfield at 1:07 p.m.

OWATONNA FIRE

Dec. 1
Extrication: Fire rescue extricated a victim from machinery in the 1200 block of 58th St. SE at 4:42 p.m.

Dec. 2
Gas Leak: At 6:32 a.m., a gas leak occurred in the 400 block of 18th St. SW.

Dec. 5
Electrical: Firefighters responded to an electrical wiring or equipment problem in the 4400 block of Crane Creek Road at 8:43 a.m.
Medical: Fire rescue assisted with a medical emergency in the 300 block of Cedardale Dr. SE at 7:50 p.m.

Dec. 7
Gas Leak: At 10:04 p.m., a gas leak occurred in the 300 block of 16th St. SW.

History from the
News Archives

10 Years Ago
Dec. 11, 2007

Dan Evans, Publisher
After 28 years of business, White's Pharmacy will be closing its doors. The Whites have chosen Sterling Drug, part of Astrup Drug, Inc., a reputable pharmacy with a history of quality service, to continue business with the respected customers of White's Pharmacy. Mike White will be going to work for Sterling Drug.
At the BPHS football annual awards program, Brendan McCabe and Elliot Herdina were named the co-MVPs for the 2007 football season. Austin Moe was named the Most Outstanding Athlete

20 Years Ago
Dec. 9, 1997

Elsie Slinger, Publisher
Designed to protect citizens and defray administrative costs, the BP City Council increased tobacco permit fees to businesses and will look into ways to increase licensing/ vaccination of local pets. The ordinance passed was the minimum state law would allow. Now, permits will be \$50 compared to the current fee of \$10.

50 Years Ago
Dec. 14, 1967

Victor, Vernon & Vryle Krejci, Publishers
Stockholders' of the Blooming Prairie Co-operative Creamery Association approved a resolution authorizing the dissolution of the 75-year-old dairy plant at a special meeting, held last Friday afternoon Dec. 8 in the Community Building. Over 100 persons were in attendance at the meeting, however, only 92 were eligible to ballot on the resolution. The resolution was adopted by a 68-22 vote.
Seven members of the Blooming Prairie Future Farmers of America Chapter captured first place honors over all entries in the FFA division of the National Duroc Picture Judging Contest, it was announced this week. Team members from BP included Jerry Ingvalson, Dean Ulland, Kenneth Penkava, Richard Ryks, Steve Prihoda, Richard Mullenbach and David Wachlin.
The Blooming Prairie Shrine Club held its annual dinner meeting at the Old Mill, north of Austin, last Saturday evening, Dec. 9. Noble Al Jorgensen, rural Blooming Prairie, was elected president of the Shrine Club for the year 1968 and Noble Keith Lorenzen was elected secretary-treasurer. Noble Art Magnusson is the retiring president of the organization.

75 Years Ago
Dec. 10, 1942

Frank Krejci, Publisher
By a vote of 193 to 183, Blooming Prairie voters placed their stamp of approval on the present Light, Power, Water & Building Commission. The proposal to abolish the commission did not only fail to carry by a majority, but also the required 62 2/10 percent as required by law. Tuesday's election was hotly contested by both factions and brought out one of the heaviest votes ever recorded in a village election in Blooming Prairie. By the mandate handed down by the voters, the issue should be settled for all time to come.
For 20 minutes, from 10:00 to 10:20 o'clock, Dec. 14, Blooming Prairie will experience its first test blackout. Minnesota is one of the nine states in the middle west, taking part in this war precaution. Rural folks are also expected to cooperate in making the blackout 100 percent successful. States included in the civilian defense region comprise, Minnesota, Colorado, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, North and South Dakota and Wyoming.
Hats off to the Victory Aides of Blooming Prairie! This splendidly organized group of patriotic ladies have willingly donated their time and effort in making every war drive here a success. When sugar rationing orders came, Victory Aides, under the capable leadership of Captain Mrs. Mark Brainerd did their part in coupon registration. It was the same with the tedious fuel oil questionnaires. USO drive was another achievement to their credit; an outstanding war bond sales last summer in BP must also be accredited to the Victory Aides.



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Recognizing and Treating
Depression in Retirement

Dear Savvy Senior:
Since retiring a few years ago, my husband has become increasingly irritable and apathetic. I'm concerned that he's depressed, even though he may not admit it. Where can we turn to get help with this, and what, if anything, does Medicare pay for?
Concerned Spouse

Dear Concerned,
Depression is unfortunately a widespread problem among older Americans, affecting approximately 15 percent of the 65-and-older population. Here's what you should know, along with some tips and resources for screening and treatments, and how Medicare covers it.

IDENTIFYING DEPRESSION
Everyone feels sad or gets the blues now and then, but when these feelings linger more than a few weeks, it may be depression. Depression is a real illness that affects mood, feelings, behavior and physical health, and contrary to what many people believe, it's not a normal part of aging or a personal weakness, but it is very treatable.
It's also important to know that depression is not just sadness. In many seniors it can manifest as apathy, irritability, or problems with memory or concentration without the depressed mood.
To help you get a handle on the seriousness of your husband's problem, a good first step is for him to take an online depression-screening test.
He can do this for free at Mental Health America, a national nonprofit organization that offers a variety of online mental health screening tools at MentalHealthAmerica.net – click on “Take a Screen” in the menu bar. Or at HelpYourselfHelpOthers.org, which is offered by Screening for Mental Health, Inc.
Both of these tests are anonymous and confidential, they take less than 10 minutes to complete, and they can help you determine the severity of your husband's problem.

GET HELP
If you find that he is suffering from depressive symptoms, he needs to see his doctor for a medical evaluation to rule out possible medical causes. Some medications, for example, can

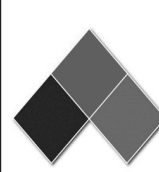
produce side effects that mimic depressive symptoms – pain and sleeping meds are common culprits. It's also important to distinguish between depression and dementia, which can share some of the same symptoms.
If he's diagnosed with depression, there are a variety of treatment options including talk therapy, antidepressant medications or a combination of both.
Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) is a particularly effective type of talk therapy, which helps patients recognize and change destructive thinking patterns that leads to negative feelings.
For help finding a therapist who's trained in CBT, ask your doctor for a referral, check your local yellow pages under “counseling” or “psychologists,” or check with the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (FindCBT.org), or the Academy of Cognitive Therapy (AcademyofCT.org).

MEDICARE COVERAGE
You'll be happy to know that original Medicare currently covers 100 percent for annual depression screenings that are done in a doctor's office or other primary care clinic. They also pay 80 percent of its approved amount for outpatient mental health services like counseling and therapy services, and will cover almost all medications used to treat depression under the Part D prescription drug benefit.
If you and your husband get your Medicare benefits through a private Medicare Advantage plan, they too must cover the same services as original Medicare but they will likely require him to see an in-network provider. You'll need to contact your plan directly for the details.

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.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

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OBITUARIES

Cecil Luverne Friesner, 82, Blooming Prairie



Cecil Luverne Friesner, 82, passed away Dec. 7, 2017 at St. Mary's Hospital. Cecil was born to Floyd and Ethel Friesner in Manson, IA on Oct. 15, 1935. He and his family moved to Williams, MN in 1940. He attended elementary and high school in Williams where he met and married Lois Nordine on Oct. 30, 1954. He and his family moved to Blooming Prairie in 1961 where he remained until his death. Cecil worked as a mechanic for several years, as well as at the Milwaukee Railroad in Austin. The last 22 years until his retirement, he was employed at the Cenex Station. After his retirement, Cecil continued to work part-time for Napa Auto Parts and delivered meals on wheels with SEMCAC. He had a great sense of humor, and loved a good joke and visiting with everyone he met. Cecil is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Lois; daughters, LuAnn (Alan) Fairbairn of Blooming Prairie and Sherri (Patrick) Broshar of Meridian, ID; grandchildren Gregory, Robert (Stacy), Josh (Heidi), Aaron (Samanthie), Nathan, Amber (Varun) and Dustin; 19 great-grandchildren; and brother Harold of Artesia, NM. He was preceded in death by his parents; son Luverne; sister Viola; and brother Elmer. Cecil will be greatly missed in our lives. A memorial service will be held at a later date at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie.



Cecil is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Lois; daughters, LuAnn (Alan) Fairbairn of Blooming Prairie and Sherri (Patrick) Broshar of Meridian, ID; grandchildren Gregory, Robert (Stacy), Josh (Heidi), Aaron (Samanthie), Nathan, Amber (Varun) and Dustin; 19 great-grandchildren; and brother Harold of Artesia, NM. He was preceded in death by his parents; son Luverne; sister Viola; and brother Elmer. Cecil will be greatly missed in our lives. A memorial service will be held at a later date at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie.

Bernice Arlyne Schlinger, 95, Blooming Prairie



Bernice Arlyne Schlinger passed away Oct. 8, 2017 in her 95th year in Edmonds, Washington. She was born in Blooming Prairie on June 19, 1922, but lived most of her adult life in Austin. Bernice was a gifted seamstress, her one true passion. Victor and she made many road travels across the entire nation covering all 50 states except Hawaii. Bernice was preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Victor Schlinger, as well as her parents and seven siblings. Survivors include son, Richard (Dick) Schlinger; daughter, Shannon Schlinger; sister, Patricia Seavoy with many nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family including four grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and five great, great grandchildren from son, Richard Schlinger.

LIBRARY BOOK NOOK

Santa makes early deliveries at library



The Last Knight, Baby Driver, Logan, Gifted, Rough Night, and many others. I always wonder if the book or the movie adapted from the book is better. Come in, check out both, and decide for yourself with The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks or The Glass Castle. We also have the new Ken Burns series on the Vietnam War. Santa didn't forget the kids either! He included PJ Masks, PAW Patrol, Daniel Tiger, Peppa Pig, and Monster High in his sack. Give us a call at 507-583-7750 to reserve any of these and many more items. You can also go online at www.owatonna.info to log in to your library account for other options. See you at the library!

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Patricia F. Wickler, 86, Blooming Prairie



Patricia F. Wickler, 86, of Blooming Prairie, passed away Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017 at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie. Memorial services will be held at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 14 at the Prairie Manor Care Center Chapel in Blooming Prairie. No visitation is scheduled. You may greet the family at the Servicemen's Club in Blooming Prairie after the service. Patricia was born April 18, 1931 in Blooming Prairie to Grover and Sara (Shope) Rysavy. She graduated with the Class of 1949 from Blooming Prairie High School and went on to attend secretarial school in the Twin Cities. Over her career as a secretary Patricia worked for various organizations including Hormel Foods, First National Bank, Cram Insurance Agency, and Walmart in Owatonna. She enjoyed gardening and tending to her flowers, and loved living on the farm. She treasured time spent with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Patricia is survived by her daughters Laurie Wickler of Plymouth and Vickie (Dwight) Smith of Austin; four grandchildren: Daryl, Beth, Patricia and Elizabeth and six great grandchildren; her brother Richard Rysavy of Bullhead City, Nev.; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. In lieu of flowers memorials are preferred to the Wickler Family. Services prearranged and performed by Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

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BIRTHDAYS		Dec. 18
Dec. 12 Kristine Smith Joshua Jones John Fouarge James Konz	Isaiah Toquam Gregg Fristedt Leader Dog Summit	Stephen Brandt Kaylin Wolf Scott Carlson Erin Naatz Amy Doerhoefer Layla Coleman Henry Post
Dec. 13 Bob Arett Tony Schiller Erica Toquam Chloe Weber	Dec. 16 Laverne Johnson Brennen Toquam Keith Holman Dwayne Paulson Devin Zilm Wally Wilke Norma Henefeld	ANNIVERSARIES Dec. 12 Tom & Barbie Johnson Gwen & Gale Klinger
Dec. 14 Harvey R. Farr Joan McDonald Katie Jo Alderete Jake Ressler Nikki Ryks	Dec. 17 Mariesa Rossow Hannah Vogt Jessica Alwes Jean Peterson Tim PirkI Matthew Hansen Dorothy Peterson Violet Lane Lauren Doyle Holly Vogt	Dec. 15 Todd & Erica Nelson
Dec. 15 Rick Hocking Ian-Thomas Campbell Darrell Erickson		Dec. 17 Wayne & Donna Gullickson

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Thursday, Dec. 14
Chicken Chow Mein, Over Rice, Chow Mein Noodles, Parslied Carrots, Fruited Coleslaw, Pumpkin Raisin Bar

Friday, Dec. 15
Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Creamy Califlower/Peas, Dinner Roll, Yogurt Fruit Cup

Monday, Dec. 18
Goulash, Herbed Green Beans, Wheat Dinner Roll, Pickle Spear, Blushing Pears

Tuesday, Dec. 19
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PASTOR'S CORNER

Our Vikings and the Christian Faith



PASTOR PAUL HAUSCHILD
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, HAYFIELD

How 'bout those Vikings, huh? As a pastor I'm always excited to get up Sunday mornings to preach God's Word. But when 11:30 a.m. rolls around another kind of excitement hits me! It has since I was a little kid... sitting in front of my TV to watch the big game! My excitement gets even higher during a good season like this one.

If you think about it, football and faith kind of go together. There are some key aspects of the game that relate well with

what we do as the church. And so put on the purple jersey and hold on to that cross! Here we go with the similarities:

1. The Play Book – Each week football coaches are designing plays to fit the system of their team so that the goal of victory and be attained. The players memorize the plays and the coaches refer to their notes during the game. As people of Faith, our play book is God's Word, the Bible. We memorize it, we take notes on it, we carry the "plays" with us in our hearts and minds so that victory, courage

and joy can be experienced.

2. The Huddle – The team circles up often to get on the same page and to inspire each other for the next play. This is exactly what church worship does. It's about community and getting everyone involved in the action. We then have strength in numbers for what comes next in life. If you're missing in the huddle, you will feel it.

3. The Opponent – The football team gets on the field to win; to overcome the foe. The Christian wakes up every day

to another kind of foe... the devil, evil, hopelessness, what have you. We need to remind each other that we are Easter people who live by hope each day. We can withstand the temptations to give up.

Other similarities: 4. The Touchdown – our goal of heaven. 5. The slap on the butt – Christian encouragement! 6. The Long-Snapper – Everyone in church is needed. 7. The Uniforms – They will know we are Christians by our Love! God bless and cheer on the team!

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696
Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 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. Jeff Sandgren,
Interim Pastor
Rev. Heidi Heimgartner,
Associate Pastor
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
507-251-5568
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)

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Rev. Dean Smith,
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Sunday School:
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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.

CATHOLIC

CHRIST THE KING
203 Second Ave. NW., Medford
507-451-6353
Father Kevin Connolly
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.
Monday Mass: 9 a.m.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 SW First St., New Richland
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Fr. Adam McMillan,
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Fr. Jose Morales, Weekend
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www.litomysl.webs.com
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1st & 3rd Sundays
Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Children's Church for
Preschool – 1st Grade
began Sept. 24
Faith Formation for
Kindergarten
– Confirmation: 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays
Adult Study: 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St., Hayfield
Father Thomas Niehaus
507-477-2256
Mass: 8 a.m. Sun.
& 8:30 a.m. Thursday
Reconciliation: 7:30 a.m. Sun.

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
Father John Sauer
Fr. Jose Morales, Parochial
Vicar
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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.
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507-451-1032
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Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.

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Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
507-363-2240
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.;
6:30 p.m. Wednesday

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST
43089 180th St., Medford
(Seven miles west of
Medford on CR 23)
Pastors JJ & Stefanie Morgan
507-835-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
200 Sixth St. NW., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirksema
507-684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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 morning service
at 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School/Adult Classes:
10 a.m.
Wednesday night
service at 6:30 p.m.

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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.

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United Church of Christ
800 Havana Road, Owatonna
507-451-1546
www.associatedchurch.org
office@associatedchurch.org
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.
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and Adult Discussions follow)
Wednesday Activities: Sept –
May (see website for schedule)

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109 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Kirk Johnston
507-477-2631
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
2373 Seventh Ave. NE,
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Pastor Bob Brauer
507-340-7143
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sat.
Bible Study: 11 a.m. Sat.

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211 S. Main St., Medford
Pastor Louise Bender
507-451-4596
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

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Pastor Patrick Stitt
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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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FAMILY OF COMPANIES



Owatonna receiver provides big play as South tops North in all-star game

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Owatonna wide receiver Noah Budach was on the receiving end of some good ole razzle dazzle that helped the South defeat the North, 28-14, in the 45th annual Minnesota Football Coaches Association Tackle Cancer All-Star Football Game at U.S. Bank Stadium on Sunday.

The South scored the first touchdown of the game when Budach caught a 40-yard double pass.

“Everyone there was the best of the best. It really taught me a lot about football to be out there with the top 100 players in Minnesota.”

Noah Budach
Owatonna All-Star

and make one guy miss and it was open green from there.”

The showcase featured more than 90 of the top high school seniors from across the state of Minnesota.

Budach said it was a great honor to be selected for the game.

“It was really humbling and I was surprised when I got the letter in the mail,” he said. “Everyone there was the best of the best. It really taught me a lot about football to be out there with the top 100 players in Minnesota, and learn from them and some great coaches.”

Huskies’ head coach Jeff Williams said coaching staff could tell by Budach’s sophomore season that he was going to be a special player.

“He continued to elevate his junior year,” Williams said. “We could see his great hands and great athleticism, but he really coupled that with toughness this year. I was so pleased with the kind of season that he had.”

Budach leaves Owatonna as the school’s all-time leader in receiving yards and tied for the most receiving touchdowns in a career.

“It was a great experience,” Budach said. “To be able to play my last three games at U.S. Bank Stadium and end all three of them with a win is incredible.”

In addition to Budach, the game featured Owatonna linebacker Zach Mensink and Blooming Prairie defensive lineman Mitchell Oswald.

It was Mensink’s third straight win at U.S. Bank Stadium as well.

He said the experience was unbelievable and he was thankful for the opportunity for one more chance to play there.

“Representing southern Minnesota and Owatonna meant a lot to me,” Mensink said. “I was glad we could pull out the win.”

Mensink said he gains a lot of new perspective from interacting with all of the different players and coaches from around the state.

“Going out and playing a game after having to learn a whole new defense in three days was tough,” he said. “But I think it help me a lot in the future.”

Williams said Mensink had a phenomenal season for the Huskies’ this season.

“He’s not only one of our captains, but he was also the leader of our defense,” Williams said. “It was really neat to see him selected for the all-star game because he played through the injuries and some adversity. But he never wavered in his ability to fly around and go after people.”

With the win, the South improved to 14-10-1 under the current format.

Budach said the most beneficial part of the experience was the friendships he made and some of the off-the-field activities the teams took part in, like visiting a children’s hospital.

“It was nice to be able to branch out of your comfort zone,” he said. “It really was a life changing experience. Overall, it was great experience. I got to meet a lot of good guys and some great coaches. Yeah and it made it even better to end up with win.”



PHOTO COURTESY: CORY MENSINK

Owatonna’s Noah Budach and Zach Mensink stand for a photo after helping guide the South to a 28-14 victory over the North in the 2017 Minnesota Football Showcase at U.S. Bank Stadium on Sunday.

HOCKEY

Meier’s return lifts Owatonna to first win of season

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR



Owatonna senior Braeden Meier’s return to the ice was an impactful one as he scored two goals in the Huskies’ 5-1 victory over Albert Lea on Thursday at the Four Seasons Centre.

“It certainly feels good,” Meier said. “[Albert Lea] is one of the best teams in Class A and it’s good to get one in the win column. It just came down to our grit and determination.”

Meier returned to lineup for the first time this season after breaking his scaphoid bone (wrist).

SEE HOCKEY, B4

BASKETBALL

Huskies finish week strong with conference victory

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna girls’ basketball team used a strong offensive effort and menacing defense to improve its record to 3-2 over the past week.

The Huskies started the week of by defeating Mankato West 88-69 on Tuesday, Dec. 5.

Coach Lindsey Hugstad-Vaa said she was very impressed with the way the Huskies play against Mankato West.

“We pushed the ball, our offense flowed really well and we attacked them,” she said. “I thought that was our best game of week.”

Standout Sydney Schultz led the Huskies with 26 points, Jenna



SEE BASKETBALL, B4

WRESTLING



A Westfield Razorback wrestler attempt to win an opponent during the Westfield field on Tuesday, Dec. 5 st Booming Prairie High School.

Razorbacks open season by splitting matches

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Westfield wrestling saw its first action of the season, when it hosted a four-team invitational on the Blooming Prairie mat Tuesday, Dec. 5. The team came away with one win against two losses for the night, as they defeated, St. Clair, but lost to Mankato East and dropped a close tough 39-33 contest to Maple River in the middle match of the night.

In the final match of the invitational, the Razorbacks took a 30-6 lead after six bouts and then finished the match with three straight wins from the upper weights for a 63-17 win. Morgan Moreno, Dylan Nirk, and Mitchell Oswald won all three of their bouts for the night.

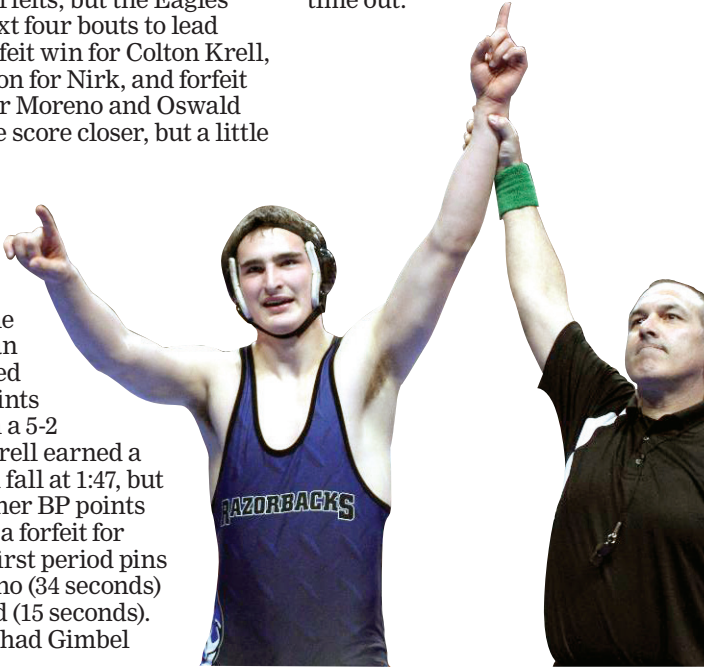
Three forfeits and pins from Riley Schultz and Joe Pirkel opened the match. Schultz used an early takedown and a near fall to set up a pin at 2:37 of the first period, and Pirkel took just 1:30 to record his fall. Nirk won a 3-1 decision at 195, and Moreno and Oswald took home the final points for Westfield by

forfeits.

In the middle match against Maple River, the Eagles took a 16-0 lead to open the contest, which included a decision, a major decision, a 13-11 verdict over Ethan Arett at 120, and a first period pin. Schultz and Pirkel closed the gap with two forfeits, but the Eagles won the next four bouts to lead 39-12. A forfeit win for Colton Krell, a 4-0 decision for Nirk, and forfeit victories for Moreno and Oswald brought the score closer, but a little short.

Against Mankato East in the opening match of the night, Ethan Arett earned the first points for BP with a 5-2 decision. Krell earned a first period fall at 1:47, but the only other BP points came from a forfeit for Nirk, and first period pins from Moreno (34 seconds) and Oswald (15 seconds). Coach Chad Gimbel

was a little disappointed in the action. “We didn’t wrestle very well, I thought,” remarked Gimbel, “although the competition was very tough at certain weights. Arett, for example, ran into two good wrestlers at the weight he wrestled. We will be better next time out.”



SCOREBOOK

BIG 9 CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Boys' Basketball

	Conf.	Overall
Rochester John Marshall	2-0	2-0
Austin	1-0	2-0
Mankato East	1-0	2-0
Mankato West	1-0	2-0
Rochester John Marshall	1-0	2-0
Owatonna	1-0	1-0
Red Wing	1-0	2-0
Faribault	0-1	1-1
Rochester Mayo	0-1	1-1
Rochester Century	0-2	0-3
Winona	0-2	0-2
Albert Lea	0-3	0-3
Friday, Dec. 8		
Owatonna 85, Albert Lea 44		
Tuesday, Dec. 12		
Northfield at Owatonna, 7:30 p.m.		
Friday, Dec. 15		
Owatonna at Winona, 7:30 p.m.		
Thursday, Dec. 21		
Apple Valley at Owatonna, 7:30 p.m.		

Girls' Basketball

	Conf.	Overall
Northfield	3-0	3-0
Owatonna	3-0	3-2
Austin	1-0	2-1
Rochester John Marshall	3-1	3-1
Red Wing	2-1	4-1
Faribault	2-1	3-1
Mankato East	2-2	2-3
Mankato West	1-2	2-2
Winona	0-2	0-2
Tuesday, Nov. 28		
Farmington 71, Owatonna 59		
Saturday, Dec. 2		
Owatonna 80, Mankato East 43		
Tuesday, Dec. 5		
Owatonna 88, Mankato West 69		
Thursday, Dec. 7		
Lakeville South, 58, Owatonna 43		
Friday, Dec. 8		
Owatonna 72, Albert Lea 52		
Tuesday, Dec. 12		
Owatonna at Northfield, 7:30 p.m.		
Friday, Dec. 15		
Winona at Owatonna, 7:30 p.m.		

Boys' Hockey

	Conf.	Overall	Pts.
Northfield	3-2-0	3-1-0	8
Mankato East	2-0-0	3-3-0	8
Rochester Mayo	2-1-0	2-2-0	8
Rochester Century	2-0-0	3-1-0	6
Albert Lea	2-1-0	2-1-0	4
Owatonna	1-0-0	2-1-0	4
Mankato West	1-2-0	2-3-0	4
Red Wing	1-1-0	1-6-0	2
Winona	0-1-0	1-1-0	0
Rochester John Marshall	0-1-0	1-3-0	0
Austin	0-2-0	1-3-0	0
Faribault	0-4-0	1-5-0	0
Friday, Dec. 1			
Apple Valley 6, Owatonna 1			
Thursday, Dec. 7			
Owatonna 5, Albert Lea 1			
Saturday, Dec. 9			
Owatonna 3, Saint Francis 1			
Thursday, Dec. 14			
Owatonna at Austin, 7:15 p.m.			
Saturday, Dec. 16			
Owatonna at Chanhassen, 3 p.m.			

Girls' Hockey

	Conf.	Overall	Pts.
Northfield	5-0-0	7-3-1	16
Rochester Mayo	5-2-0	6-2-0	12
Faribault	4-2-0	5-4-0	10
Austin	3-1-0	4-1-0	6
Owatonna	2-1-0	4-2-0	6
Rochester John Marshall	2-2-0	2-6-0	6
Mankato West	2-3-0	5-4-0	6
Red Wing	2-1-0	8-2-0	4
Mankato East	2-4-0	4-4-0	4
Albert Lela	0-4-0	2-5-0	0
Rochester Century	0-5-0	1-6-0	0

Owatonna Schedule

Tuesday, Nov. 28
Farmington 7, Owatonna 1
Saturday, Dec. 2
Faribault 2, Owatonna 0
Tuesday, Dec. 5
Owatonna 2, Apple Valley 1
Thursday, Dec. 7
Owatonna 7, Albert Lea 0
Tuesday, Dec. 12
Owatonna at Mankato East, 5 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 14
Austin at Owatonna, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16
Owatonna at Mankato West, 1 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21
Owatonna at Rochester John Marshall

Wrestling

	Conf.	Overall
Faribault	2-0	4-1
Albert Lea	1-0	8-0
Northfield	1-0	1-0
Winona	1-1	1-1
Mankato East	0-0	0-0
Owatonna	0-0	0-0
Rochester Mayo	0-0	0-0
Mankato West	0-0	0-0
Austin	0-1	0-1
Rochester John Marshall	0-1	0-1
Rochester Century	0-2	0-2
Thursday, Dec. 14		
Owatonna at Northfield, 5 p.m.		
Thursday, Dec. 21		
Owatonna at Rochester Century, 7 p.m.		



Owatonna's all-district players stand for a photo after receiving their awards at the team's banquet on Sunday at the Owatonna Eagles Club.

Memorable season includes rewrite of record book

State champion Huskies replace nearly all previous records

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

In addition to winning the 2017 Minnesota Class 5A State Championship, the Owatonna Huskies football team set 43 new team records this season.

"It's unprecedented," Owatonna head coach Jeff Williams said. "I've never seen this big of a rewrite of record book in a single season."

As a team the Huskies set new records for points (656), average points per game (50.5), first downs (264), margin of victory (34.6) total offense in a game (694 versus Austin) and total offense in a season (6,461).

"It helps to have 13 games," he said. "But we had 13 games a couple of times and didn't rack up these kinds of stats."

Williams said the coaching staff kept a copy of pre-2017 records because they don't want all of those previous players' accomplishments forgotten.

"Those guys were stars for us years ago," Williams said. "Now their names have virtually been erased from the record books. We want to still be able to look back and remember all of those awesome performances."

Individually, Jason Williamson, Abe Havelka and Noah Budach become the Huskies all-time leading rusher, passer and receiver.

Williams attributed much of the Huskies' offensive success to the fact the team had some many players had started for multiple seasons.

"We had a lot of kids who were already very experienced and then went through a war throughout the course of the regular season," Williams said. "By time they got to the playoffs, most of these kids had 23 or 24 games under their belts. That's a lot of football and a lot of experience these kids brought to the table."

Williamson set new rushing records for a game (343, versus Rochester Century), season (2,323) and career (4,000). He also set the record for the most touchdowns in a game (7, versus Mahtomedi),

season (44) and career (63).

"We've never really had anybody like [Williamson] before and likely won't again," Williams said. "He's a phenomenal running back who's elusive and graceful, but tough and can break tackles. He cuts on dime and is threat to catch the ball out of the backfield. He's just so versatile in what he brings to the table. He can be a power back or a speed back and he's actually really good in pass protection too."

Havelka finished his career with virtually every Owatonna passing record. He holds the record for the most passing yards in a game (453, versus Brainerd), season (3,157) and career (4,471), as well as touchdowns in a game (7, versus Brainerd), season 40 and career (56). He also has the most attempts and completion in a season (179-for-291) and career (264-for-460), and the most consecutive games throwing a touchdown pass (10).

Williams said Havelka's decision making made the Huskies offense undefendable.

"We gave him the keys to the car," he said. "By the end of the year he had the offense humming like a fine turned machine."

Budach set a number of Owatonna receiving records. He set single game record in touchdowns (4, versus Austin); season records in yards (1,041) and touchdowns (16) and career records in receptions (135) and yards (1,929). He finished tied with Drew Lundberg as the Huskies' career leader in receiving touchdown with 23.

"Noah Budach was a playmaker and game-breaker, but would also fight for tough yardage underneath," Williams said. "He was fearless going across the middle and I just can't say enough about him as a wide receiver."

Defensively, Williamson tied the record for interception in game (3, versus Rochester Century) and Ben Zappa tied the record for forced fumbled in a game (2, versus Rochester John Marshall).

Williams said as neat as all the records are, they aren't what he will remember most about this team.

"The thing I will remember most is the fun and how much enjoyment we got out of spending time together," he said. "Obviously, we will remember how athletic these kids were and there are a few plays that still resonate."

"But the individual plays will eventually fade away like they always do," Williams continued. "In the end its about the camaraderie you built with a group of kids going after a worthy goal, and when you achieve it, it kind of cements you together forever."

Champion Huskies honored at football banquet

Williamson named Gatorade Player of Year

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna football team had plenty to celebrate on Sunday when the Huskies hosted their end-of-season banquet recognizing a number of players for various awards at the Eagles Club.

Players dressed in suits and ties surrounded by their families, and of course, the Huskies coaches celebrated a historical season that will be remembered for generations to come in Owatonna.

The highlights of the event were when Jason Williamson was named the team's most valuable player and Joseph Stransky, Joe Edel and Williamson were named the team's 2018 captains.

"He's a very special player," head coach Jeff Williams said of Williamson. "There has been a lot of really good players have won Owatonna MVP, but you would be hard-pressed to say any of them had a better season."

He said Williamson was selected as a captain by his teammates because he's a humble player and a good teammate who treats everybody with respect and kindness.

"He's pretty athletically special too," Williams added. "Sometimes you get some votes for that too."

It was announced on Monday morning Williamson was named the Minnesota's 2017-18 Gatorade Player of Year.

Williams said Stransky was likely



The 2018 Owatonna football captains Jason Williamson, Joseph Stransky and Joe Edel pose for photo after the team's banquet on Sunday at the Owatonna Eagles Club.

selected because he is one of the team's hardest working players.

"He's faced some adversity and injury problems," he said. "He really evaluated his play on the defensive line and become a guy we rely on. He's just about the nicest kid you would ever want to meet. He's eminently popular with the other kids. I think they just really enjoy him and find him to be a good leader and I think that's why they voted for him."

Williams said many of the same attributes can be said about Edel.

"He's a real happy-go-lucky kid who's friends with everybody," he said. "He's a workhouse for us on the offensive and defensive line. He's a little bit smaller, so I

think kids root for him a little bit because he has to play bigger than he is."

Others awards included: special teams player of year Parker Westphal; offensive player of the year Abe Havelka; co-defensive player of the year Zach Mensink and Mitch Wiese; champion of the year Spencer Steckelberg and lineman of the year Dylan Meier.

Williams also recognized all players who received their varsity letter this season, all-district players and the team for its academic accomplishments.

He closed the ceremony by thanking the player's parents and families for the all the time he was able to spend this special group of young men.

BASKETBALL

Win follows tough loss for BP basketball team

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

After a very disheartening loss to Goodhue the night before, the Awesome Blossom boys bounced back to take a 70-57 victory over Medford on the home court Friday, Dec. 8.

BP jumped out to a 37-28 lead in the first half and maintained that advantage for most of the game.

“I think many of the boys got some good feelings back after this game,” remarked Coach Nate Piller, “and it also looked like they had a lot of fun doing it. We have faced a lot of adversity early this year, and the boys have responded as well as expected.”

Karson Vigeland counted 13 of his game-high 23 points in the first half, including three of three from the free throw line to help the Blossoms take the nine-point margin at the break. Two late treys from Kaden Thomas also helped out. Vigeland also earned his first double double of the season with 14 rebounds to go along with his 23 points. Vigeland led four Blossoms in double figures, as Thomas had 14 points, and



Blooming Prairie's Jake Ressler pulls down a rebound for the Awesome Blossoms this past season.

Trent Swenson and Jake Ressler added 12 and 10 points.

Cole Volkman counted 14 points for the Tigers, and Bryce McCarty and Alex Gehgler added 13 and 12. The win evened the season record for the Blossoms at 2-2, with games this week entertaining United South Central tonight (Tuesday) and then visiting Bethlehem Academy Friday.

Boys fall to Goodhue
The defense kept the score down, but a miserable night shooting allowed the slow-down offense of visiting Goodhue to eke out a 39-34 victory over BP on Thursday, Dec. 7.

The Blossoms led 13-9 in the low-scoring first half, but too many missed shots and the deliberate offense of the Wildcats turned the

tide after the break.

Though the slow pace contributed to the low score, Coach Nate Piller was less-than-pleased with his team's inability to score points. “We had way too many turnovers and missed opportunities,” commented Piller. “We have got to be much netter offensively.” The Blossoms counted less than 35 points for just the third time in the last two-plus seasons.

Kory Raffdal and Karson Vigeland each counted 8 points for BP. Trent Swenson had 6 points, and Max Romeo added 5.

The Blossoms played their third straight game without All-Conference forward Gabe Hagen.

BP girls notch bounceback win

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Although it wasn't easy, the Awesome Blossom girls climbed back into the win column with a close 45-43 victory at Medford Friday, Dec. 8.

An improved Tiger team gave the Blossoms all they could handle, after the girls had dropped a game at PEM the night before.

Emma Kniefel triggered a 9-0 Medford run with four minutes to go in the first half to give the home team a 19-13 lead, but BP went on a 9-2 run of its own, capped by a layup and free throw from Sam Wurst, which gave the winners a one-point edge at the break.

The second half see-sawed back and forth, and the Tigers had chances, but the Blossoms managed to hang on for the victory. Wurst led the winners with 14 points, but Julia Worke added 13, and Megan Oswald chipped in 9. Kniefel led all scorers with 22 points.

The JV team lost a 30-28 verdict to Medford, when the Tigers used a more aggressive floor game and had too many second and third chances to score. BP led 13-12 at the halftime break. The Blossoms evened their season record to 2-2 with the loss.

BP got a balanced scoring attack, as eight players counted at least 2 points. Maggie Bruns had 6 points and Riauna Bishop 5 to lead the locals, but Bobbie Bruns and Baylee Sorenson both added 4 points.

BIG RUN OUSTS BP GIRLS

A 22-3 run to close out the first half propelled Plainview-Elgin-Millville to a 49-38 victory over the BP girls at Plainview Thursday, Dec. 7. The Blossoms outscored PEM in the second half, but the big run before the half dug the locals into too big a hole to overcome.

“We started the game pretty even,” remarked Coach John Bruns, “but that 22-3 streak to end the first half did us in. We came out and played pretty well n the second half and gave the Bulldogs a scare, but we had dug ourselves too big a hole.”

PEM shot 40 percent for the game on 20 of 50 attempts, while the Blossoms shot only 23 percent on 15 of 65 tries. Rebounds were pretty even, and the Bulldogs had more turnovers. Four Blossoms each scored 9 points for all but 2 of the total output. Sam Wurst, McKenna Hein, Julia Worke, and Megan Oswald all tallied that number. Wurst pulled down 11 rebounds in the contest, and McKenna added 6 boards.

“We held PEM to just 13 second half points,” concluded Bruns, “and I have to give the girls a lot of credit for coming back in the second half. We just had too big a hole to come back from.”

BP's JV team lost its first game of the season to PEM 28-17. The Bulldogs took a 15-8 lead at the half. BP played a solid defense, but the girls just couldn't put the ball in the basket in this one. Bobbie Bruns led the scoring with 8 points, and Maren Forystek added 4.

A mixed bag for BP sports teams

Westfield wrestlers were the last winter athletes to begin competition, and they did it in an invitational at home last week. The team defeated St. Clair, but lost to two strong teams in Maple River and Mankato East.

Four local matmen won all three of their bouts in the invitational, and the team will hopefully get back in the win column soon. The loss to the Eagles could have gone either way, as it was very close at the end. Four Westfield wrestlers earned perfect 3-0 records after the invitational.

Colton Krell, Morgan Moreno, Dylan Nirk, and Mitchell Oswald all went unbeaten. For Oswald, it was a break from his training for the All-Star football game on Sunday, Dec. 10. He played on the line for the South team at U.S. Bank Stadium.

The basketball teams had kind of a mixed week. The girls first lost to a PEM team that outscored the Blossoms 22-3 going into the halftime break. That was too much of a hole, although the girls played much better in the second half and outscored the Bulldogs. The girls did rebound to defeat Medford on its court Friday, Dec. 8, and ended the week with an overall 3-1 record.

The boys also split a pair of games last week. They lost a disheartening contest to Goodhue by five points, but they also bounced back for a satisfying win over Medford at home. Both teams will be busy again this week with a pair of games.

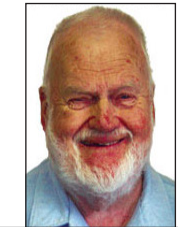
Area athletes honored
The Austin Daily Herald announced its All-Area football team last week, and several BP players made the offensive and defensive teams. On the defensive side, Mitchell Oswald Brad Staska, Payton Simon, and Karson Vigeland all made the team—Oswald and Staska on the line, Simon as a linebacker, and Vigeland as a defensive back. Two Austin players and four from Grand Meadow rounded out the team.
Gabe Hagen and Oswald were named to the offense, Oswald on the line and Hagen

as a receiver. Four Austin players, three Grand Meadow Super Larks, and one each from Hayfield and Southland made up that unit.

Quarterback Seth Peterson, Max Romeo, and Lucas Noble all made the Honorable Mention list, with Romeo a running back, and Noble a wide receiver. Five Austin players and two Southland Rebels completed that list.

A 76TH ANNIVERSARY

Last Thursday, Dec. 7, marked 76 years since the attack on Pearl Harbor that catapulted the United States into World War II.



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

until suddenly a news bulletin came through the speaker. Japanese warplanes had launched an attack on Pearl Harbor, and things changed immediately.

Everyone got quiet, and we all decided to go home and listen to later broadcasts. Events happened quickly, and it didn't take long for President Franklin Roosevelt to make our declaration of war. Although I was only 9 at the time, I remember the occasion vividly, and it provoked a major change in all of our lives.

P.S.
One last hurrah is probably in order for this year's Holliday Dazzle event. For a change, the weather couldn't have been better, the activities were well attended, Santa Claus entertained a long line of kids,

and the wagon rides continued all the way to 7 p.m. because of the continuous line waiting for a ride. And didn't Aaron Ressler make a fine Scrooge? Over \$200 was collected for the Christmas light fund.

After the countless times when the temperatures have been has been so uncooperative, the town deserved one year of good weather, and this one was great. A little snow maybe would have made the occasion a little more like a holiday, but I will trade dry streets for snow anyway. All in all, this year's festival pleased everyone involved, and it can be labeled an unqualified success.

OUT AND ABOUT

The BP choir groups held their annual Christmas concert last night, and again, it was remarkable to see and hear the talent that our school is able to put on display. Although the groups may be a little smaller this year, the quality of music remains high, and the concert provided an excellent opening of the Christmas season. A tip of the hat and a well done goes to Choral Director Kari Bottin and the high school musicians.

Next Thursday the BP cancer group is sponsoring another Bingo night at the Pizza Cellar's party room, and Jingle Bingo begins at 7 p.m. This informal event is always well attended, and I am sure Thursday will be no different. Add the various school and church programs, and it won't be difficult to get everyone involved and appreciative of the Christmas season.

What I like best of all the things surrounding this season is the opportunity once again at some point over the next few weeks to get together with family. I mention it frequently, but as each year passes, I become more and more grateful and blessed for family and the support it gives. I would hope that everyone has a family and can gather together at this very special time.

Enjoy this season, Go Blossoms, and we'll talk again.

SCOREBOOK

GOPHER CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Boys' Basketball

	Conf.	Overall
United South Central	1-0	1-1
New Richland-H-E-G	1-0	2-0
Blooming Prairie	1-0	2-2
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	0-1	1-2
Medford	0-1	0-2
Maple River	0-1	1-3
Bethlehem Academy	0-0	4-1
Friday, Dec. 1		
Blooming Prairie 63, Kenyon-Wanamingo 41		
New Richland-H-E-G 47, Saint Clair 38		
Saturday, Dec. 2		
Schaeffer Academy 54, Blooming Prairie 46		
Tuesday, Dec. 5		
Mankato Loyola 78, Medford 62		
New Richland-H-E-G 77, Maple River 63		
Thursday, Dec. 7		
Goodhue 39, Blooming Prairie 34		
Friday, Dec. 8		
Blooming Prairie 70, Medford 57		
Tuesday, Dec. 12		
United South Central at Blooming Prairie, 7:15 p.m.		
New Richland-H-E-G at Medford, 7:15 p.m.		
Friday, Dec. 15		
Blooming Prairie at Bethlehem Academy, 7:15 p.m.		
United South Central at Medford, 7:15 p.m.		
Janesville-Waldorf-Morristown at New Richland-H-E-G, 7:15 p.m.		
Tuesday, Dec. 19		
Blooming Prairie at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, 7:15 p.m.		
New Richland-H-E-G at Triton, 7:15 p.m.		
Thursday, Dec. 21		
Kenyon-Manamingo at Medford, 7:15 p.m.		
Friday, Dec. 22		
New Richland-H-E-G at Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, 7:15 p.m.		
Maple River at Blooming Prairie		

Girls' Basketball

	Conf.	Overall
Blooming Prairie	2-0	4-1
Maple River	2-0	4-0
New Richland-H-E-G	1-1	2-1
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	1-1	2-2
Bethlehem Academy	0-1	0-5
United South Central	0-1	0-2
Medford	0-2	1-3
Tuesday, Nov. 28		
Tri-City United 69, Medford 61		
Blooming Prairie 62, Triton 45		
Friday, Dec. 1		
New Richland-H-E-G 73, Bethlehem Academy 27		
Maple River 58, Medford 51		
Blooming Prairie 50, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown 41		
Monday, Dec. 4		
New Richland-H-E-G 47, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 30		
Tuesday, Dec. 5		
Medford 60, Mabel-Canton 46		
Thursday, Dec. 7		
Medford 61, Cannon Falls 56, OT		
Plainview-Elgin-Millville 49, Blooming Prairie 38		
Friday, Dec. 8		
Maple River 53, New Richland-H-E-G 48		
Blooming Prairie 45, Medford 43		
Tuesday, Dec. 12		
Medford at New Richland-H-E-G, 7:15 p.m.		
Blooming Prairie at United South Central, 7:15 p.m.		
Friday, Dec. 15		
Medford at United South Central, 7:15 p.m.		
Monday, Dec. 18		
Tri-City United at New Richland-H-E-G, 7:15 p.m.		
Medford at Dover-Eyota, 7:30 p.m.		
Bethlehem Academy at Blooming Prairie, 7:15 p.m.		
Tuesday, Dec. 19		
Triton at New Richland-H-E-G, 7:15 p.m.		
Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton at Blooming Prairie, 7:15 p.m.		
Friday, Dec. 22		
Blooming Prairie at Maple River, 7:15 p.m.		

Wrestling

	Conf.	Overall
Maple River	4-1	4-1
United South Central	2-2	2-2
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	1-1	1-1
Medford	0-0	2-0
Westfield Razorbacks	0-0	1-2
New Richland-H-E-G	0-2	0-2
Thursday, Nov. 30		
Pine Island 50, New Richland-H-E-G 21		
Saturday, Dec. 2		
Medford 57, Saint Agnes 12		
Medford 45, Cretin Durham Hall 36		
Tuesday, Dec. 5		
Mankato East 50, Westfield 27		
Westfield 63, Saint Clair/Mankato Loyola 17		
Maple River 39, Westfield 33		
Thursday, Dec. 7		
United South Central 47, New Richland-H-E-G 27		
Saturday, Dec. 9		
Mounds View 46, Westfield 22		
New Richland-H-E-G finished ninth at the Jackson County Central		
Thursday, Dec. 14		
Medford at Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial Area, 6:30 p.m.		
Friday, Dec. 15		
New Richland-H-E-G in Redwood Riot at Redwood Valley H.S., 4 p.m.		
Saturday, Dec. 16		
New Richland-H-E-G in Redwood Riot at Redwood Valley H.S., 9 a.m.		
Medford at Kenyon-Wanamingo, 10 a.m.		
Thursday, Dec. 21		
New Richland-H-E-G at Triton, 7 p.m.		
Friday, Dec. 22		
Westfield vs. Albert Lea Area at Austin, 6:30 p.m.		

HOCKEY

HOCKEY: *First win of season*

FROM PAGE B1

“I’ve been dealing with that for the better part of this year actually,” Meier said. “I had it reinjured a couple of times. It’s definitely good to get back out on the ice and start the way I did.”

Owatonna coach Josh Storm said the return of Meier was huge for his team.

“[Meier’s] intensity out there is so high that it actually brings the whole team’s intensity up,” he said. “He flies around the ice and he works as hard as I want all of our guys to work. He’s a great example as senior captain.”

Storm said he was happy to see Meier return because not only did he worked hard rehabbing and conditioning to get to where he once was, but because he isn’t afraid to do the team’s “dirty work.”

“He does all the hard stuff,” Storm said. “He block shots, kill penalties and he does the stuff that not fun and he does it well. That makes a huge difference for this team.”

Albert Lea scored the first goal of the game six minutes and 33 seconds in when Cole Wentzel was assisted by Bergan Lundak and Michael Savekoul.

However, goals by brothers Nate and Nick Smith gave the Huskies a 2-1 advantage at the end of the first period. Nate’s goal was assisted by Luke Kubicek, while Nick’s goal was unassisted on a power play.

Storm said he was pleased with how his team reacted after Albert Lea took an early 1-0 lead.

“I thought it was awesome,” he said. “Never too high, never too low and we came back and scored right away and popped another before the end of the first period.”

Neither team scored in the second period, but Nate Smith scored his second goal of the game 3:21 into the third period. He was assisted by Collin Pederson and Jacob Stoykovich.

“They took it to us in the second period and we were kind of lucky to hold on,” Storm said. “It was really important that we scored that goal near the start of the third period. It really change the tide back in our favor.”

Meier scored the final two goals for Owatonna, each of which was empty net goals. The first goal was assisted by Walker Nelson and the second by Ryan Johnson.

“On the first one, I knew that the goalie was pulled and I was just trying to get open,” Meier said. “Walker [Nelson] was kind of getting beat up and he threw me a nice pass right to the

middle and it was an easy tap in.

“On the second one, I just kind of shot it down,” he continued, “I wasn’t really shooting for anything, I was trying to ice the puck and it just found a way into the net.”

Storm said the goalie Ryan Johnson was fantastic. He finished with 32 saves on 33 shots at the goal.

“He was smothering everything,” he said. “He got really comfortable in the second and third period and you could tell. Nothing was going to get past him.”

Johnson said the entire team battled hard for the win.

“The defense played great in front of me and made my job a lot easier,” he said. “They stayed in good defensive position and didn’t give up odd man rushes.

“It’s nice to get the first one out of the way,” Johnson continued. “It makes me a lot more confident going into the next game knowing my team is going to play well in front of me.”

Storm said in addition to the great goaltending from Johnson, the team’s defense took a huge step forward against Albert Lea.

“We had a lot of inexperienced defensemen out there,” he said. “But they played were sensational tonight, especially Mitch Wiese and Mason Oland.”

Storm said Wiese brought the intensity on the back end that Meier brought on the front end.

“That’s why those two guys are wearing a ‘C’ on their jerseys,” Storm added.

Storm said he was proud of his win for picking up the big conference win.

“Our guys competed and played hard,” he said. “We started pressuring the puck well right from the beginning. It caused a lot of turnovers and got us some opportunities to score pretty early. I just thought we defended, took care of the puck in our zone and we really transitioned well. It was a good overall team win.”

Owatonna also defeated the Saint Francis Fighting Saints, 3-1, on Saturday to improve its record to 2-1.

Luke Kubicek and Nate and Nick Smith scored goals for the Huskies and Meier (2) Tyler Wencil, Pederson and Nick Smith dished out assists. Johnson recorded 19 saves on 20 shots on goal.

Owatonna has two road games this week, which are Thursday at Austin and Saturday at Chanhassen.



Owatonna's Braeden Meier celebrates with teammates Thursday at the Four Seasons Centre after scoring his first goal since he returned from injury

BASKETBALL



Owatonna's Alexa Sommers lines up to shoot a free throw on Friday in the Huskies' home game against Albert Lea.

BASKETBALL: *Conference victory*

FROM PAGE B1

Zeman added 22, Stephanie Liebl and Hannah Gebur each contributed 10, Ahnna Stelter had nine, Bria Wochowiak scored five, Tierney Carter had four and Alexa Summers scored two.

“Once we get in the flow of offense, we get really high percentage shots,” Zeman said. “That’s what happen against Mankato West and we have to keep doing that.”

Owatonna lost at Lakeville South 58-43 on Thursday.

Hugstad-Vaa said the Huskies played much better in the second half after a slow start against Lakeville South.

“The game against Lakeville didn’t turn out the way we wanted it,” Wachowiak said. “But getting two wins this week is pretty good.”

Wachowiak said she definitely thinks Owatonna could defeat Lakeville South if the teams were to meet again.

“We didn’t come out as confident as we should’ve,” Wacowiak said. “That took a tole on how we played throughout the game.”

Schultz led the Huskies in scoring for the second straight game with 21 points, Stelter added 11, Zeman contributed with nine and Liebl scored two.

Owatonna finished the

week by defeating Albert Lea 72-52 at home on Friday. The Huskies were without their leading scorer Schultz, who was resting a sore shoulder.

Hugstad-Vaa said she was pleased with the way some of the other members of team stepped up in Schultz’s absence.

“It was nice to see,” she said. “They kind of improved on their roles and got a chance to work on some things they needed to work on.

“More girls looked for their shots,” she continued. “We had to work on defensive harder in the post, but we have 10 girls that we can play. The other nine did a good job of stepping up.”

Hugstad-Vaa said despite the 20-point victory, the Huskies still have some areas of their game that needs improvement.

“We need to rebound better,” she said. “We need to box out on every single shot and even if we are playing someone that is a little less athletic than us, we still need to be physically strong the entire game and not let up and play to a different level. I think we did that a little bit tonight which was disappointing.”

Lexi Falken made four 3-pointers and led Owatonna with 16 points; Zeman added 13; Stelter scored nine; Julia

Haarstad had eight; Gebur, Liebl contributed seven; Sommers and Sara Anderson scored six and Wachowiak had one.

Zeman said she was impressed by the way her teammates stepped into bigger roles with Schultz out.

“It was a good conference win for us,” Zeman said.

“They give us a good physical game every time we play them.

“We came out a little slow,” she continued. “Our legs where a little dead with this being our third game of the week, but a win is a win and we’ll take.”

Crossword solution

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Rally falls short for NRHEG girls

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

NRHEG completed a three-game week by dropping a conference game to Maple River Friday 53-48. The Panthers rallied in the second half, after falling behind big at the break, but the comeback fell short.

As Coach Onika Peterson commented, “We put ourselves in a big hole, and it was just too big to crawl out of. The second half the girls really rallied back, but we ended up short. With being such a new squad, we are still really figuring out what works and what doesn’t.”

Betsy Schoenrock and Hannah Budach each had 10 points to lead the scoring, and Kelly Harden and Schoenrock had 11 and 10 rebounds. The team record fell to 2-1 with a home game against Medford on tap tonight (Tuesday).

PANTHERS DOWN JWP

A plethora of turnovers didn’t hinder NRHEG from gaining its second win of the season. The Panthers defeated JWP at

Janesville 47-30 on Tuesday, Dec. 5, after leading 27-15 at the halftime break.

“We had way too many turnovers in this game,” commented Coach Peterson, “and we forced too many passes that weren’t there. We had 16 turnovers in the first half alone.”

Betsy Schoenrock counted 12 points, while Sophie Stork had 10 points, and Kelly Harden and Olivia Christopherson both added 7 points. Harden pulled down 15 rebounds and Gabby Muri contributed six.

PANTHERS OPEN WITH WIN

The Panthers opened the season at Bethlehem Academy and came away with an easy 73-27 win over the Cardinals. Ten players scored points for the winners and everyone earned plenty of playing time in the victory.

NRHEG scored with ease, and the Panthers had a wide edge in rebounding and put back baskets. Schoenrock led the scoring brigade with 16 points, but Stork and Olivia Christopherson added 12 and 11 points. Seven other girls counted at least 2 points. Schoenrock also led the rebounders with 10 boards.

★ STARS OF STEELE ★



BOYS

Blooming Prairie senior wrestler Mitchell Oswald won three of his bouts this past week while competing for the Westfield Razorbacks. Oswald is currently ranked No. 3 at the 285-pound weight class in Class A. He also competed Saturday in the 2017 Minnesota Football Showcase at U.S. Bank Stadium.



GIRLS

Medford sophomore basketball player Emma Kniefel scored 21 points in a victory over Mabel-Canton on Tuesday, Dec. 5. She tallied 16 points in the Tigers' 61-56 overtime win over Cannon Falls on Thursday. Kniefel followed that up by scoring 22 points against Blooming Prairie on Friday. Kniefel was selected as captain for this year's team after leading Medford in scoring the past two seasons.

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Farm Living Plus

Agricultural leadership

Leadership is more than just an attitude

■ By DAVID KOHL
Corn & Soybean Digest

Jim Caldwell, the CEO of a Farm Credit Association, has provided the following brief and powerful comments concerning leadership and his own story. Jim started his career 36 years ago and was mentored early on by a long-term Farm Credit veteran, who provided a perspective that set Jim on the right path. The points he presents can inspire discussions on the qualities needed in today's agricultural leaders.

Pay attention to details

In most any endeavor, successful leaders pay close attention to detail. And if they are not naturally detail-oriented, they delegate or surround themselves with those that handle detail well. As an illustration of this point, Jim used the example of the Disney Parks that bare virtually no sign of trash. As each Disney employee is tasked with keeping the park clean, there is clearly a teamwork type of culture being promoted. In

other words, there is no attitude of "that's not my job" which extends from the CEO to the ticket salesperson behind the counter. This work culture is extraordinary because it is also too rare.

As an interesting parallel to Jim's example, I watched a YouTube video film on the 1972 undefeated season of the Miami Dolphins. In their program, all the players and each coach cited "attention to detail" as the reason behind their successful record. Of course, they are the only team in NFL history that finished their season undefeated and untied, and then, delivered a Super Bowl win, too.

Relationships

In today's high-tech world, the amount of time spent in face-to-face connection and relation is decreasing, and sometimes discounted. Another of Jim's points was to remember to thank those that helped you get where you are. In his case, he is grateful for his mentor. He also gave a quote I found particularly applicable, "Work with the best and forget the rest." That is,

surround yourself with a strong network of people because each will take you to a higher level.

Expand your views

Leadership sometimes means stepping out of your comfort zone and expanding your views to connect the dots. In his remarks, Jim pointed out that today it is too easy to get swept along in all the world noise and uncertainty, and lose focus on that which can be controlled. Leaders recognize and value those factors they can alter and manage.

The bottom line

In order to be a good leader, one must bring a positive energy to the situation. This energy tends to feed-off and spin from others, which in turn will elevate the performance levels of individuals and the organization.

Agricultural leadership comes from every sector in the industry. And regardless of demographic, enterprise, or farm background, many of those leaders will exhibit the attributes of which Jim spoke: detail, relations, openness and attitude.



DNR solicits 2018 park and trail grant applications



The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Parks and Trails Division is accepting applications for the following grant programs: outdoor recreation, natural and scenic areas, regional trails, local trail connections and federal recreational trails.

These grants help local governments throughout the state create partnerships with the DNR to fund projects such as local parks, regional trails and trail connections.

The application due dates are Wednesday, Feb. 28, for the Federal Recreational Trail Grant Program and Friday, March 30,

for the other programs. The DNR anticipates that both federal and state funding will be available during 2018 for these programs.

For information about eligible projects and how to apply for a grant, visit the recreation grants page of the DNR website at www.mndnr.gov.

For more information:

Contact the grants staff listed online.

Contact the DNR Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us or 888-646-6367 (8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday).

December weed of the month: amur maple

■ Emilie Justen, Minnesota Department of Agriculture



December's Weed of the Month is a small tree called Amur maple (*Acer ginnala*). It is native to China and Japan and was introduced to North America in the 1800s as an ornamental plant. Though valued for its brilliant fall color, it has become invasive throughout the eastern and Midwestern states, including Minnesota.

Amur maple is a deciduous large shrub or small tree that grows to 20 feet. The leaves are 3-lobed with toothed margins and turn a vibrant red in the fall. It produces abundant double-winged samaras typical of maple trees. The bark is smooth and grayish brown. The plants grow in single stem or multi-stemmed clusters and is found in open woodlots, forest edges, disturbed areas, roadsides, and ornamental

landscapes. Amur maple can grow in a wide range of soil types and will tolerate shade.

Amur maple spreads by seed in addition to ornamental plantings. Seed can be carried long distances by wind and water. Amur maple plants can alter habitats, invading prairies, grasslands, or open woodlands where it can add a shrub layer. Because of its prolific seed production, it can displace native shrubs, understory trees, and native herbaceous plants.

Amur maple is a Specially Regulated Noxious Weed in Minnesota and should only be planted in landscapes where the seedlings will be controlled by mowing or other means, and should be planted at least 100 yards from natural areas. Although landowners are ultimately not required to control or eradicate Amur maple on their properties, they are encouraged to manage Amur maple appropriately to prevent future spread of this species and degradation of native habitats.

Several management tactics are available for Amur maple. For all options, infestation sites will need to be monitored and treated repeatedly until the seedbanks are depleted.



Submitted

Amur maple has distinctive red fall color. Courtesy: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Stumps and sprouts that appear to have died can resprout after several years.

- Should you decide to plant Amur maple on your property, please follow the label instructions by not planting Amur maple within 100 yards of any natural areas where seedlings would not be controlled.

- There are a variety of native species that can be substituted for Amur maple that are not invasive and provide many ecological benefits to Minnesota landscapes. You can find these recommendations on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website.

- Small infestations can be controlled manually by digging

and removing the root crowns. Saplings are easily pulled by hand or controlled by mowing.

- Prescribed burning can be an effective method of control on established populations. Make sure to contact the Minnesota DNR to learn more about control burning practices and regulations.

- Infestations can be controlled by cutting and treating the stumps with herbicide or basal bark spray treatments. For specific herbicide recommendations, check with the University of Minnesota Extension, a local co-op, or certified landscape care expert.

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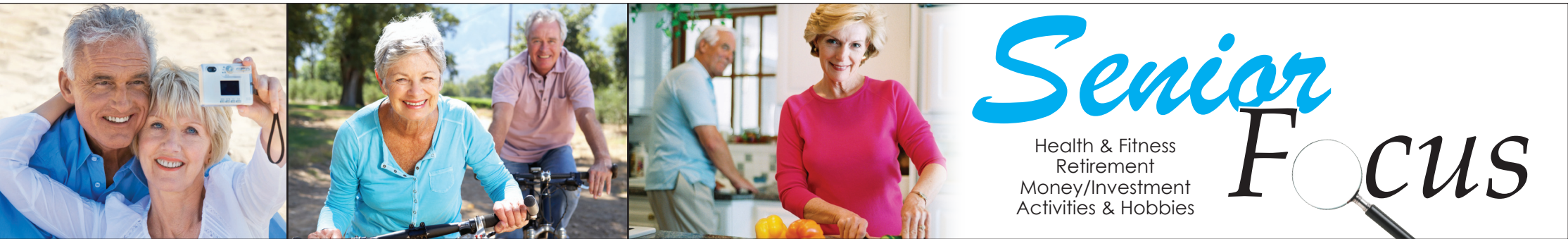
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Some benefits of growing older

Many people are quick to think of growing older in a negative light. Although there certainly are some side effects of aging that one may wish to avoid, people may find that the benefits of growing older outweigh the negatives.

Seniors are a rapidly growing segment of the population. In the United States, the Administration on Aging states that the older population — persons 65 years or older — numbered 46.2 million in 2014 (the latest year for which data is available). Statistics Canada reports that, in July 2015, estimates indicated that there were more persons aged 65 years and older in Canada than children aged 0 to 14 years for the first time in the country’s history. Nearly one in six Canadians (16.1%) was at least 65 years old.

With so many people living longer, it’s time to celebrate the perks of getting older rather than the drawbacks. Here are some great benefits to growing old.

- Higher self-esteem: The



insecurities of youth give way as one ages, and older people have less negativity and higher self-esteem. A University of Basel study of people ranging in ages from 18 to 89 found that regardless of demographic and social status, the older one gets the higher self-esteem climbs. Qualities like self-control and altruism can contribute to happiness.

- Financial perks: Seniors are entitled to discounts on meals, museum entry fees, movies, and other entertainment if they’re willing to disclose their ages. Discounts are available through an array of venues if one speaks up. Seniors also can enjoy travel perks, with slashed prices on resorts, plane tickets and more. The U.S. National Park Service offers citizens age 62 and older lifetime passes to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites for just \$10 in person (\$20 online or via mail).
- Reasoning and problem-solving skills: Brain scans reveal that older adults are more likely to use both hemispheres of their brains simultaneously — something called lateralization. This can sharpen reasoning skills. For example, in a University of Illinois study, older air traffic controllers excelled at their cognitively taxing jobs, despite some losses in short-term memory and visual spatial processing. Older controllers proved to be experts at navigating, juggling multiple aircrafts simultaneously and avoiding collisions.
- Less stress: As people grow older, they are able to differentiate their needs from wants and focus on more important goals. This can alleviate worry over things that are beyond one’s control. Seniors may realize how little the opinions of others truly mean in the larger picture, thereby feeling less stress about what others think of them.

Growing older may involve gray hair or wrinkling skin, but there are many positive things associated with aging.

Medication mismanagement can be prevented

Medication management is an important issue for seniors and their families. Failure to properly manage medications can threaten the lives of seniors, highlighting the emphasis families must place on ensuring seniors take their medications in strict adherence to their physicians’ instructions.

Polypharmacy, or the taking of multiple medications for different conditions, can be a potential health hazard for the thousands of seniors who must manage health conditions with prescription drugs. Harmful drug interactions are a result of the confusion that can arise when seniors take multiple medications at the same time. The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists estimates that more than 34 percent of senior citizens are prescribed medications by more than one physician, and 72 percent use medications they were prescribed more than six months prior

Medication confusion is one risk, but older adults also metabolize medications differently than young people. As a result, they may be more susceptible to overdose or other ill effects. Families looking to help seniors effectively manage their medications should consider the following tips.

- Keep a running list of medications. Maintain a list of all medications being taken, noting both prescription and over-the-counter medications and any supplements and herbs. Provide a copy to any new doctors you visit and any new pharmacies you patronize.
- Use pill sorters. Medication sorters can keep medications organized



medications.

- Understand why each medication is being prescribed. Ask your pharmacist and doctor to explain why each medication is prescribed. This information should be printed on the prescription label. Some drugs designed for one symptom may actually be used to treat other issues as well.
- Ask for help. Some seniors may benefit from friendly reminders from a loved one regarding when to take certain medications, especially if they need to take multiple doses throughout the day. Cognitively impaired seniors may require the services of a visiting nurse or another caregiver.
- Recognize that not all medications are right for seniors. The American Geriatrics Society maintains a list of medications that older adults should avoid or take with extreme caution. Some drugs pose a high risk of side effects or interactions, while others are less effective. Discuss alternatives with your physician if you are prescribed one of these medications.
- Keep a medication diary. Record any side effects that occur and how the medications make you feel. Always bring up issues promptly with a doctor.

Proper medication management can help seniors avoid drug-related accidents or worse.



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Safety measures for winter drivers

Winter weather causes many people to retreat indoors until the spring thaw. However, for those who embrace the cooler temperatures or find that life must go on despite snow and ice, taking inventory of their vehicles is a must before the first snowflakes start to fall.

Tire care is an especially important area of vehicle maintenance. The tire experts at Michelin say that regular tires may be ineffective for winter driving. Summer tires are made from materials that are optimized for warm conditions. When the mercury drops, these same materials can harden, reducing their ability to grip the road. That lack of traction can be compounded by the presence of snow or ice. Even all-season tires, which are designed to be driven year-round, can be insufficient in severe weather conditions. Winter tires can help drivers safely navigate winter roadways.

Bridgestone Tires says that having the right snow tires matters when driving in winter weather conditions. It's important to look for tires that can disperse water suffi-

ciently and also grip the road. Snow tires are designed to remain softer and more flexible to conform to the road better in cold conditions. Some winter tires are even studded to provide better traction.

Unfortunately, even the best winter tires cannot provide perfect traction on slippery roadways. That is why it is essential — in conjunction with the use of winter tires or snow chains — to modify driving techniques to navigate safely.

- Drive slowly. Slow down on winter roads. Allow a greater distance for stopping than for dry conditions. Slippery conditions can make it more challenging to stop, and excessive speeds can make the situation worse.
- Shift into low gear. On hills, rely on low gears to maximize traction to travel up and down hills. This can minimize skids or sliding.
- Get the vehicle a tuneup. In addition to tires, be sure the braking system, battery and other major components of the vehicle are in good working order.
- Replace windshield wipers. Reduced vis-

ibility can compromise the safety of drivers and their passengers. Replace windshield wiper blades before winter arrives. Consider purchasing winter-rated windshield blades.

- Know how to recover from a skid. When skids occur on black ice or slush, drivers should take their feet off of the pedals and steer gently in the direction they want to go. As the vehicle regains traction, only then should the brakes or accelerator be applied.

Winter weather requires making some vehicle modifications, and drivers may want to alter the way they drive to be more safe on the road.

Before you do anything else, read your owner's manual and follow the manufacturer's recommended service schedules.

Get engine performance and driveability problems — hard starts, rough idling, stalling, diminished power, etc. — corrected at a reputable repair shop that employs ASE-certified repair professionals. Cold weather makes existing problems worse.

Replace dirty filters, such as air, fuel, and PCV. A poorly running engine is less efficient

and burns more gasoline.

As the temperature drops below freezing, add a bottle of fuel deicer in your tank once a month to help keep moisture from freezing in the fuel line. Keeping the gas tank filled also helps prevent moisture from forming.

Change your oil and oil filter as specified in your manual — more often if your driving is mostly stop-and-go or consists of frequent short trips. A poll of ASE Master Auto Technicians revealed that regular oil and filter changes is one of the most frequently neglected services, yet one that is essential to protect your engine.

The heater and defroster must be in good working condition for passenger comfort and driver visibility.

Always carry an emergency kit with you: extra gloves, boots and blankets; flares; a small shovel and sand or kitty litter; tire chains; a flashlight and extra batteries; and a cell phone and extra car charger. Put a few "high-energy" snacks in your glove box.

Winter Car Kit



KEEP THESE IN YOUR CAR IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY!

BAG OF SALT OR COARSE MATERIAL

(sand or non-clumping cat litter) to help with traction



FLASHLIGHT WITH BATTERIES



CLOTH OR PAPER TOWELS



BLANKETS & EXTRA WINTER CLOTHING

(scarf, gloves, hat, boots)



SNOW BRUSH & ICE SCRAPER



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SMALL SNOW SHOVEL



TOP 6



Ways To Get Your Car Ready For Winter

- 1 Change your oil and oil filter.
- 2 Have your batteries checked and charged.
- 3 Check your tires and consider winter tires.
- 4 Inspect all the lights.
- 5 Replace dirty air filters.
- 6 Always carry an emergency kit.



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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 conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: March 24, 2006
 MORTGAGOR: Robert D. Hagen and Erin L. Hagen, husband and wife.

MORTGAGEE: J P - Morgan Chase Bank, N.A..
 DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Filed March 31, 2006, Steele County Registrar of Titles, Document No. T000059768 on Certificate of Title No. 16861.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association successor by merger to Chase Home Finance, LLC. Dated February 20, 2009 Filed March 2, 2009 , as Document No. T000064051. Said Mortgage being upon Registered Land.

TRANSACTION AGENT: NONE
 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: NONE
 LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
 MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 523 15th Street Northeast, Owatonna, MN 55060
 TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 172020115
 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Fifteen (15), Northern Height's Addition to the City of Owatonna.

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$160,548.00
 AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$171,397.34

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; 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: January 12, 2018 at 10:00 AM
 PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN

to pay the debt then 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 six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.

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 July 12, 2018, unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

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

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

Dated: November 20, 2017

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
 Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.
 Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
 4500 Park Glen Road #300
 Minneapolis, MN 55416
 (952) 925-6888
 30 - 17-007151 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

11/21, 11/28, 12/5
 12/12, 12/19, 12/26

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 conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: September 9, 2013
 MORTGAGOR: John J. Devoe and Skye R. Devoe, husband and wife.

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
 DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded September 10, 2013 Steele County Recorder, Document No. A000393391.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association. Dated July 16, 2014 Recorded July 29, 2014, as Document No. A000398052.

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 1002489-0000006886-5
 LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Rescue Mortgage Inc., dba Mortgage Depot

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
 MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 5248 Kenyon Road, Owatonna, MN 55060
 TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 100191201
 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: EXHIBIT "A"

Commencing at a point in the center of the Public Highway, Forty-two (42) rods North of the quarter section stake between Sections Nineteen and Twenty (19&20), in Township One Hundred Eight (108) North, of Range Nineteen (19) West, running thence West Fifteen (15) rods; thence North Sixteen (16) rods; thence East Fifteen (15) rods to the center of said Highway; thence South along the center of said Highway Sixteen (16) rods to point of beginning.

(Being in the SE 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Section 19-108-19).
 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$146,938.00

AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$157,747.38

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; 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: January 19, 2018 at 10:00 AM
 PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN

to pay the debt then 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 six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.

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 July 19, 2018, unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE:None
 "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: November 14, 2017

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
 Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.
 Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
 4500 Park Glen Road #300
 Minneapolis, MN 55416
 (952) 925-6888
 30 - 17-006084 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

11/28, 12/5, 12/12
 12/19, 12/26, 1/2

FORECLOSURE

17-108146

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: June 9, 2000
 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$99,250.00
 MORTGAGOR(S): Aaron M. Lindekugel and Cathy A. Lindekugel husband and wife
 MORTGAGEE: Timberland Mortgage Services, Inc.
 LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Timberland Mortgage Services, Inc.

SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
 DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed June 12, 2000, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number 282930

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.
 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The East Half of Lots 1 and 2, in Block 3, in Dartt's Addition to the City of Owatonna
 PROPERTY ADDRESS: 510 Vine St E, Owatonna, MN 55060
 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-122-0301
 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$76,559.85

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: January 18, 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 July 18, 2018, or the next business day if July 18, 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: November 21, 2017

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Successor by Merger to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. 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

11/28, 12/5, 12/12
 12/19, 12/26, 1/2

FORECLOSURE

13-093719

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 7, 2007
 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$109,200.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Sharon L. Van Esch, a single woman
 MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
 MIN#: 100103210000209774
 LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Prime Mortgage Corporation

SERVICER: Seterus, Inc.
 DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed August 13, 2007, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000351664,

Thereafter modified by Loan Modification Agreement recorded on August 24, 2009 as Document Number A000366198
 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Citi-Mortgage, Inc.; Thereafter assigned to Federal National Mortgage Association.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lots 3 and 4 in Block 23 in Johnson and Company's Addition to the Village of Medford

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 410 1st Ave SW, Medford, MN 55049

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 16.101.2303
 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
 THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$122,127.03

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: January 25, 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 disburse-

ments, 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 July 25, 2018, or the next business day if July 25, 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: November 27, 2017

Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae") 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

12/5, 12/12, 12/19
 12/26, 1/2, 1/9

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 31, 2013
 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$111,935.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Joshua L. Devore, a married man

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation, as nominee for American Mortgage & Equity Consultants, Inc., a Minnesota corporation

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on February 4, 2013 and memorialized upon Certificate of Title No. 18287 as Document Number T000069878; as modified of record by document recorded on July 11, 2017 as Document Number T000075064 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on February 12, 2015 as Document Number T000072247 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Four in Block Three in Naefke Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota.

REGISTERED PROPERTY STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 749 SOUTH STREET, OWATONNA, MN 55060
 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$99,750.80
 TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: American Mortgage & Equity Consultants, Inc., a Minnesota corporation

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER:

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
 TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-188-0304
 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100867100522686755
 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: January 16, 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 January 16, 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: November 21, 2017

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
 N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.

Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
 Corbin C. Smith, Esq.
 Attorneys for Mortgagee
 The Academy
 Professional Building
 25 Dale Street North
 St. Paul, MN 55102
 (651) 209-9760
 (17-1219-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

11/28, 12/5, 12/12
 12/19, 12/26, 1/2

BP CITY

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
 BLOOMING PRAIRIE,
 MINNESOTA
 October 12, 2017

A regular school board work session was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 12, 2017, in the Board Room at the High School.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kelly Braaten

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools

DISCUSSION ITEMS: General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the September 18, 2017, regular school board meeting.

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

12/12

FORECLOSURE

17-107550

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: July 15, 2008

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$80,300.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Jacqueline J. Robinson, a single person

MORTGAGEE: Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation

SERVICER: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed July 16, 2008, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000358537

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.; Therefore assigned to Carrington Mortgages Services, LLC.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

Lots 15 to 26, both inclusive in Block 3, Clarke's Addition to the Village (now City) of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

That part of the South Half of 7th Street NE (Pope Street) which lies S of Lot 1, Block 4, Clarke's Addition, North of Lot 20, Block 3, Clarke's Addition East of the East line of Center Avenue (Pine Street) and West of the Westerly right of way line of State Highways 218 and 30 in the village (now City) of Blooming Prairie (now Vacated)

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 801 Center Ave N, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-109-0315

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$75,131.83

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: January 18, 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 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on July 18, 2018, or the next business day if July 18, 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: November 21, 2017

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

11/28, 12/5, 12/12
12/19, 12/26, 1/2

FORECLOSURE

17-106617

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 22, 2010

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$131,400.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Ronald G. Dagit and Shirley A. Pichner, husband and wife and their Successors, as Trustees of the Pichner/Dagit Family Trust, the same bring dated 10/17/2005

MORTGAGEE: Bank of America, N.A.

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Bank of America, N.A.

SERVICER: Bank of America, N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 19, 2011, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T000067268

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

Lot 9, Block 1, La Casa Estates

REGISTERED PROPERTY

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 2025 La Casa Lane SE, Owatonna, MN 55060

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-436-0109 COT# 16750

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$132,166.69

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: January 25, 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 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on July 25, 2018, or the next business day if July 25, 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: November 27, 2017

BANK OF AMERICA,
N.A. 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

12/5, 12/12, 12/19
12/26, 1/2, 1/9

POSTPONEMENT

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 22, 2010

MORTGAGOR: Ronald G. Dagit and Shirley A. Pichner as trustees of the Pichner/Dagit Family Trust Dated 10-17-2005.

MORTGAGEE: Bank of America, N.A..

DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded December 7, 2010 Steele County Recorder, Document No. A000375225.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: NONE

TRANSACTION AGENT: NONE

MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: NONE

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Bank of America, N.A.

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Bank of America, N.A.

MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 315 Academy Street, Owatonna, MN 55060

TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 17-010-3217

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

The East Four (4) rods of Sub-Lot Ten (10) in the SE 1/4 of SW 1/4 on Section 10, Township 107, Range 20 West

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$48,000.00

AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$45,812.20

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; 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: September 15, 2017 at 10:00 AM

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

to pay the debt then 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 six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.

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 March 15, 2018 unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

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

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA

STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: July 12, 2017

Bank of America, N.A.
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.

Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416

(952) 925-6888
18 - 17-004264 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 580.07, the foregoing foreclosure sale is postponed until October 20, 2017 at 10:00 AM at the Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN, in said county and state.

Dated: September 20, 2017.

Bank of America, N.A.
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.

Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416

(952) 925-6888
18 - 17-004264 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 580.07, the foregoing foreclosure sale is postponed until December 1, 2017 at 10:00 AM at the Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN, in said county and state.

Dated: October 23, 2017.

Bank of America, N.A.
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.

Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416

(952) 925-6888
18 - 17-004264 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 580.07, the foregoing foreclosure sale is postponed until January 12, 2018 at 10:00 AM at the Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN, in said county and state.

Dated: December 5, 2017.

Bank of America, N.A.
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.

Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416

(952) 925-6888
18 - 17-004264 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

12/12

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 conditions

of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 3, 2008

MORTGAGOR: Mary Jean Paterson, single woman.

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Advisors Mortgage, LLC its successors and assigns.

DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Filed October 9, 2008, Steele County Registrar of Titles, Document No. T000063549 on Certificate of Title No. 15636.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: U.S. Bank National Association. Dated September 19, 2017 Filed September 25, 2017 , as Document No. T000075332.

Said Mortgage being upon Registered Land.

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 100199600000155495

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

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: U.S. Bank National Association

MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 455 Kriesel Place Northeast, Owatonna, MN 55060

TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 173360112

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

Lot 12, Block 1, Heers Addition No. 4, Owatonna, Minnesota

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$144,281.00

AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$125,640.08

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; 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: February 2, 2018 at 10:00 AM

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

to pay the debt then 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 six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.

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 August 2, 2018 unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

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

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

Dated: November 28, 2017

U.S. Bank National Association
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.

Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416

(952) 925-6888
19 - 17-007504 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

12/12, 12/19, 12/26,
1/2, 1/9, 1/16

BP SCHOOL

**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
October 16, 2017**

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

OPEN FORUM – No comments.

I. CALL TO ORDER –CHAIRPER-

SON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL - CLERK

Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille

ALSO PRESENT:

Superintendent of Schools, Elementary School Principal
High School Principal, Associate Principal, Member of the Press

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve the agenda as presented with updated payroll costs. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Reports given by Mr. Staloch, Mr. Worke, and Ms. Mach.

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

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

Motion by Michelle Vigeland seconded by Steve Ille to approve the minutes, bills, treasurer's report, and donations. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

B. Employment

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve the employment of Mary Wencil as a playground monitor; placement on step 5 of the noncertified paraprofessional grid. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

C. BPTA Master Contract

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Kelly Braaten to approve the BPTA Master Contract settlement with an overall increase of 6.44% over two years along with minor language changes. Roll Call Vote. Motion carried. (5 Aye: Braaten, Hameister, Thurnau, Sunde, Ille/ 0 Nay/2 Abstention: Krell, Vigeland)

The BPTA voted to also approve the contract on September 28, 2017, with a vote of 40 to 7.

D. Election Canvassing Date

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve canvassing the November 7, 2

Overtime victory



Medford's Emma Kniefel drive to the basket in the Tigers' 61-56 overtime victory over Cannon Falls on Thursday. Kniefel paced Medford with 16 points, Kiley Nihart score 15, Bailey Purrier added 12, Jenna Berg contributed nine and Izzy Reuvers and Kinsey Cronin scored seven each.

Tweet, tweet, tweet

Bird count to take place in Owatonna area Saturday

The 2017 Christmas Bird Count will be taking place Saturday in Steele County. This will be the 46th annual count sponsored by the National Audubon Society. The local area covers a 15-mile diameter circle with Havana as its center point. The City of Owatonna is included in the count area so anyone within the city limits is eligible to count birds at their home feeders. The count area also includes Claremont, Clinton Falls and Steele Center. Observers only have to count birds during the one day count. "You don't have to be an expert bird watcher to be part of this annual event, but you should know most of the common birds at your feeders," says Darryl Hill, coordinator of the local count. "We have some experienced observers who would be happy to help you if you count birds in the field," he added. Hill describes the bird count as fun, interesting and helpful to the scientific bird community.

These counts, Hill said, are useful in determining the extent of great movement of birds, the changes in the wintering ranges of birds, and the expansion of newly introduced species. He added the counts also document overall population increases and decreases of the various species. People from all over North, Central and South America will also be conducting bird counts. Audubon is hoping to get more people to help count birds at their home feeders. Last year the Owatonna area counted 4,025 individual birds in horrible weather conditions. The average count is usually 4,521 birds. Observers recorded 44 different species last year. There were 11 first-time counters last year. Anyone with questions about the count can contact Hill at 507-451-5073. Hill wishes happy birding to those who take part.

The Great Christmas GIVEAWAY 2017



These businesses will be giving away \$10 BP Bucks for the next two weeks. All you have to do is register at the locations listed below! The two drawings will take place each Friday. Winners can pick up their prizes at the Steele County Times office. There will also be a drawing with all the entries from the last two weeks for one lucky reader to win the GRAND PRIZE of two tickets to Chanhassen Dinner Theatre!

The more you shop, the more chances you have to win!

Vandal's
FAMILY MARKET

Gift Baskets, Stocking Stuffers including Dollar Items, Christmas Candies, and Locally Made in BP Inzane Fishing Lures and Goatsmilk Soap! And of course, all your favorite holiday foods including VALLEY MAID HAMS, hand-made, local Lefse! Only at Vandal's! Merry Christmas and Thank You for choosing local!

507-583-6671 • 237 Hwy Ave S, Blooming Prairie

Register at Vandal's Family Market

Name

Address

Phone

Main Street Dental Clinics
comfortable dentistry

507-583-2141
405 E. Main Street, Blooming Prairie

Register at Main Street Dental

Name

Address

Phone

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Name

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Register at US Bank

Name

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Phone

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Name

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Phone

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Santa drops in for cocoa at area art center



Santa and Mrs. Claus delighted children of all ages with holiday cheer, including cocoa, at the Owatonna Art Center. Mrs. Claus even performed on the piano while Santa greeted all the children to learn what they want for Christmas.

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

The sound of Christmas music stirred the air, the tree was decorated, and the lights were all there, the bells were jingling and Santa, in his best red coat, was a seat in his chair.

The Owatonna Art Center held its annual Cocoa with Santa event on Saturday. It is an event, which brings together holiday cheer and a little bit of extra magic for all the children attending.

The Art Center has been hosting this event for 15 years, and Santa and Mrs. Claus have been there, ready to share Christmas stories and sip cocoa with the children and their families. Mrs. Claus plays the piano, while Santa greets and meets the children, who sang him happy birthday and together recited variations on classic Christmas songs.

When asked what his favorite song is, Santa explained that he loves singing those that the children enjoy the most, namely “Jingle Bells” and “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.”

Mrs. Claus attested to the fact that Santa is indeed a good singer, and when asked what her favorite holiday song is, she replied with a fitting choice: “Santa Claus is coming to Town.”

They met years ago when Mrs. Claus was celebrating her birthday, and Santa, then the cook at her birthday celebration, made such a striking figure with his tall stature and white whiskers, that she wondered if he might don that famous red suit and become Kris Kringle himself for the season.

Santa explains that when he puts the outfit on, complete with glasses and hat, and then picks up his bag – he is Santa, at least until he takes the outfit, and its accoutrements, off for the season. Mrs. Claus believes that, “there are the whiskers and there is the magic.”

But Santa and Mrs. Claus weren’t the only ones in attendance. The Art Center also hosted many children and their families, as well as volunteer elves.

One of these elves, a particularly young volunteer, Kayla Klinkenberg, says it’s her

second year volunteering for the event, and that her favorite part is seeing the kids’ faces as they light up upon catching a glimpse of Santa. She has previously raised money for local canines through PayPal and helps with the decorating and activates at the event.

When asked who is her favorite, Santa or Mrs. Claus, she affirms that “its unfair to ask an elf to pick favorites,” a sentiment she repeated when asked which reindeer she likes the most. She also says that she plans on volunteering again next year, and that the event can be “busy, but is also a lot of fun.” Her favorite thing to do on Christmas is to bake and make candy.

The event is a great chance for families to get their holiday celebrations started early, as well as a good opportunity to celebrate the coming holiday with members of the community. Santa described how he has had many toy requests over the years, and this year is no different. A few of the more common requests he gets are for electronics, and cell phones, as well as popular toys such as “Hatchables.”

But not all requests can be so easily filled. Mrs. Claus jokingly admits that Santa has to be able to “soft shoe some of the big requests” but that he doesn’t ever want to disappoint the children. He uses a “magical” timepiece in order to calm down some of the more nervous children and Mrs. Claus says that when Santa puts on the outfit his family grows. A family as large as the community.

One of the children in attendance, Marlo Marks, asked Santa for a blanket this year. She is 4 years old and her favorite Christmas song is “Jingle Bells.” Asked who she likes better, Santa or Mrs. Claus, she had no qualms about picking a favorite, saying that Santa was her number one choice. But she also likes Mrs. Claus as well. She said that she looked forward to seeing Santa and that she enjoyed the reading of Polar Express.

Mary Kay Feltes, who also volunteers, gave this year’s reading of Polar Express, a book she has been reading to the children at the Art Center since 1985. Prior to 1985, she used to read an assortment of other holiday themed stories but says that she loves the Polar Express, and also enjoys seeing how the children react to the story. She says that their awed reactions to the bell she rings at the end of the reading is her favorite part.

The event sprang from an idea of Silvan Durben’s many years ago, and continues to this day. Durben is the creative director at the Art Center, and explains that the event is just as much fun for the parents as it is for their kids.

Durben says that the holidays represent the season of friendship and hope, which are themes shared during the event. Santa and Mrs. Claus undoubtedly looked the part, although Santa admits that sometimes children will ask him if he is indeed the real Santa, to which he always responds with “What do you think?”

It seems this year many are willing to believe.



Christmas in the Country

STAFF PHOTOS: HOWARD LESTRUD

Top left: Santa Claus made a visit to Whispering Oaks in Ellendale on Saturday, Dec. 9. Here, Santa asks Aidyn Groth, 6, of Ellendale what he wants for Christmas. Santa’s visit was sponsored by the Ellendale Commercial Club and celebrated Christmas in the Country.

Top right: It was a special Bingo party for the kids at Whispering Oaks Apartments in Ellendale on Saturday. The Ellendale Commercial Club sponsored Bingo with prizes going to all winners. One of the players was Alliah Rosacker, 3, of Ellendale.

Right: Santa’s little helper (penned on his outfit) is Collin Hullopeter, 8 weeks of Blooming Prairie. He was with his mother at a Bingo party sponsored by the Ellendale Commercial Club at Whispering Oaks Apartments in Ellendale on Saturday.



Overcoming the holiday blues

For many people, the holidays can be the most stressful time of year, filled with emotional highs and lows.

This time of year also can bring about feelings of, loneliness, melancholy and intense grief related to the loss of loved ones and feelings of inadequacy for not having the “It’s a Wonderful Life” kind of holiday. These holiday blues can trigger a more serious depression or a relapse for those recovering from drug or alcohol addiction. Fortunately, with some planning, many of these emotions can be kept in check, and those with addiction can prevent relapse.

But with some practical tips, you can minimize the stress that accompanies the holidays. You may even end up enjoying the holidays more than you thought you would.

When stress is at its peak, it’s hard to stop and regroup. Try to prevent stress and depression in the first place, especially if the holidays have taken an emotional toll on you in the past.

The holidays should be about making good memories, not about making things perfect. Some ideas for getting through the seasonal stress follow:

Do think about what’s important. Happiness and fulfillment lie in the balance between self-care and caring for others.

Do socialize. If you’re feeling lonely, find a church or community center where you can be with other people.

Do practice meditation and mindfulness techniques. These can be simple to learn and can be practiced throughout the day. The

web is full of great resources to get started.

Do exercise every day. That’s especially important when you’re eating more. It’s hard to be sad if you’re physically fit.

Don’t watch TV. Most programs are not designed to make you a better person, or even feel better.

Don’t spend so much. You don’t have to buy electronic entertainment equipment that far exceeds the human sensory capability to detect the difference.

Do set aside differences. Try to accept family members and friends as they are, even if they don’t live up to all of your expectations. Set aside grievances until a more appropriate time for discussion. And be understanding if others get upset or distressed when something goes awry. Chances are they’re feeling the effects of holiday stress and depression, too.

Do learn to say no. Saying yes when you should say no can leave you feeling resentful and overwhelmed. Friends and colleagues will understand if you can’t participate in every project or activity. If it’s not possible to say no when your boss asks you to work overtime, try to remove something else from your agenda to make up for the lost time.



Steele Talkin'
CAROLYN
WHEELER

SEE STEELE, C3

Owatonna holds first annual photo contest

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

A town may be worth a thousand pictures. And the City of Owatonna is hoping to find some of the best.

Owatonna is holding its first photo contest through the city’s Parks and Recreation Department and in conjunction with the Owatonna Public Library, which will host the winners and participants and feature a rotating gallery of the winning photos.

The contest will pull submitted photos from January 2017 to March 2018, and ask a panel of judges to decide on the winners. It is open to all ages. The photo competition is a great way for participants to show off their amateur skill as photographers,

as well as their love for their hometown. The contest hopes to choose 6 winners at a minimum, with that number possibly increasing depending on the amount of photos submitted.

In prior years, Parks and Recreation held a calendar photo contest, which followed a similar formula. However, this year’s contest will see the Parks and Recreation combine its efforts with the Owatonna Public Library in order to showcase the beauty and importance of the town in the eyes of participants.

Mark Bando, director at the Owatonna Library, says that they’re primarily seeking photos which people feel can “best sum up what they love about Owatonna” and says that when people look at the photos they should “get a feeling of home and place” and hopes for entries which speak to the beauty and uniqueness of the town.

The Calendar contest, which has been held for the past two years, saw around 75 photo entries. This photo contest expects a similar number of participants.

Jessica Abrahams, administrative assistant for Parks and Recreation, explains that the contest actually had its origin in



PHOTO COURTESY DEBBIE MCNINCH

Owatonna officials are putting out a call for photographs that capture life in Owatonna similar to this one taken by Debbie McNinch in Kaplan’s Woods in 2016. Owatonna Library and the Parks and Recreation Department are sponsoring a contest to feature photos showcasing the best Owatonna has to offer.

SEE CONTEST, C3

PHOTO CONTEST AT GLANCE

- Photos taken of Owatonna between Jan. 2017-March 2018
- Submit photos to cassie@owatonna.info
- Winners will be featured at Owatonna Library



Submitted Photo
The I-35 Straight River Rest Area south of Owatonna has received an architectural award. The new rest area opened earlier this year after being shut down for a couple years for construction.

I-35 Straight River Rest Area recognized with architectural award

The Minnesota Department of Transportation’s northbound Interstate 35 Straight River Rest Area is among 13 honorees for American Institute of Architects-Minnesota 2017 Honor Awards. The new facility about seven miles south of Owatonna features LED lighting, prairie restoration plantings, increased truck parking, a leash-free fenced in pet walking area, an observation deck, family restroom facilities, a new playground and picnic facilities. “We’re gratified that a site to serve motorists as a place to rest and refresh is honored for its aesthetics as well as how the design aids the public, who use this facility,” said Rob Williams,

MnDOT’s safety rest area program manager. “Minnesotans should be proud of this new rest area that not only serves them but also visitors from out of state.” Other winners include the Minnesota State Capitol restoration and the Walker Art Center expansion. The \$4.98 million project was completed by prime contractor The Joseph Company, Inc. from Austin. MnDOT urges motorists to stop, rest and refresh with the first sign of drowsiness when driving. Rest areas serve as an effective and convenient countermeasure to drowsy driving.

MAKE AN IMPACT, CHANGE A LIFE!

Kids of Christmas Campaign through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota.



Gabriella is an active and quirky third grader. She wants to go to college one day to become a dentist. Some of her strengths are singing, dancing, and acting. Gabriella wants her future Big to know that she doesn’t really like vegetables, but she likes being outside, going bowling, doing crafts, and watching movies.



Grace is a 9-year-old girl who wants to be a teacher when she grows up. She loves reading and swimming, but sometimes she worries about spiders—she doesn’t like them. She is looking forward to having a Big one day who can go to the library or a park with her. The best Big for Grace would help her try fun, new things to get her out of her shell.

For additional information on how to be a mentor to one of these kids or any others, contact Megan Horton at 507-451-5922. More info can also be found at www.bbbsofsouthernmn.org.

Bridge traffic restrictions remain over I-35

Traffic barrels remain on the Steele County Road 18 south of Owatonna to direct traffic away from a beam damaged earlier this year, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The barrels guide traffic toward the center of the bridge as a precaution for heavy vehicles. The bridge remains open, but will close in spring 2018 for crews to replace beams and the deck of the bridge. At that time, traffic will be detoured until the work is completed. Lunda

Construction Company is the prime contractor. The bridge was damaged in the spring by an oversized vehicle. Equipment being hauled on a trailer struck and damaged the bridge and also damaged another I-35 bridge at Steele County Road 31. Earlier this year, crews could replace the beams and bridge deck on Steele County Road 31 bridge over I-35. The work has been added to a project south of Owatonna where 10 bridges are being replaced over two years on I-35 (six

bridges) and Hwy 14 (four bridges). Motorists interested in more information about the project, may visit the MnDOT project website at www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/stelecty-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.



STEELE COUNTY
Times

NRHEG
Panther of the Week

ABRIANNA GOETTE

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NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

This week’s Panther of the Week is Abrianna Goette. Abrianna resides in Ellendale with her parents Maria and Brandt Goette. She is in Ms. Freeman’s 2nd grade class.

Abrianna is kind to all her classmates each and everyday. She has a positive attitude and is always eager to learn. Abrianna is a role model to her peers for showing consistent panther pride. We are so lucky to have her here at NRHEG! Abrianna’s favorite movie is Pocahontas, her favorite book is Junie B. Jones and the Stupid, Smelly Bus, and her favorite food is salad.

She loves reading and playing with her friends. Keep up the great work Abrianna!

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Lincoln students collect more than 170 pounds of Halloween candy

Congratulations to Lincoln Elementary School students who collected 171.1 pounds of candy during the recent Halloween Candy Collection event, Nov. 1-2. They won a HealthPowered Kids prize pack and cash prize of \$250 from Allina Health.

“This was a great way to engage our local schools in an event that promotes healthy living and candy in moderation,” said Natalie Ginter, director of Community Engagement and Development. “Plus, the generosity of each child did not go unnoticed...the troops definitely appreciate this.”

During the two-day event, students were asked

to bring their Halloween candy to school. For each pound collected, Allina Health donated \$1 to local food shelves and the candy was donated to programs, through Operation Gratitude in California, that send gift boxes to troops overseas.

In total, 262 pounds of Halloween candy was collected in Owatonna: Washington Elementary School brought in 70 pounds of candy and Wilson Elementary School collected 20 pounds, in addition to Lincoln Elementary School’s more than 170 pounds. Owatonna Hospital will make a \$262 donation to the Steele County Food Shelf to



Thank you to the members of the Lincoln Elementary School Student Council, who organized the candy collection event on Nov. 1-2.

match the pounds of candy collected. Across Allina Health, more than 4,200 pounds of Halloween candy were collected and donated to non-profit organizations.

CONTEST: First annual

FROM PAGE C1

Edina, where a Parks and Recreation employee encountered a similar photo contest. Edina’s contest showcased its winners in a hockey arena, while Owatonna will present its winning photos at the Library, where they will be printed out in 2 foot by 2 foot sections and suspended from the Library’s ceiling. Abrahams says that, although Edina has done something similar, Owatonna saw how they organized and followed through with the contest and decided to adopt it locally, and make it their own.

She approached Bando, who was a new addition at the Library, and who had already expressed his desire to form partnerships with different organizations within the community. Bando feels that the contest is a good way to promote the Library, as well as the city’s Parks and Recreation, saying “absolutely,” and comments that “both organizations do great work.” He added the contest

offers “a great opportunity for both.” Bando expects that this is something they will continue in future years. He says that this is just a “first step” in their partnership and that they may get more specific or expand the contest beyond the city of Owatonna in the future.

The photos need to be entered before March 1 and should include the participant’s name and information. They will be judged by a panel of judges, the number and composition of which is still being determined. When asked if he could throw his hat in the ring as a judge, Bando joked that he might, although he would rather have someone “with a bigger eye for photography.” Nevertheless, he is excited to see the submitted photos. As someone who is relatively new to Owatonna he explains that he is anxious to see how people decide to capture the town.

The number of winning photos, which will be featured at and suspended from the library’s ceiling, will depend on how many photos are submitted, but the panel will

choose a minimum of six winners. The winning photos will be rotated and featured for around three to six months before being swapped.

Abrahams says that participants can submit any photo as long as it’s taken in Owatonna and within the contest’s timeframe of January 2017 through March 2018. She hopes many of the photos are able to “showcase Owatonna and all it has to offer.”

After the March 1 deadline, they hope to announce the winners by the middle of March, and feature their photos at the Library by the end of March or the beginning of April. It offers citizens of Owatonna a good chance to explore their interest in photography as well as the opportunity to showcase their favorite aspects of the town.

Photos should be submitted by email to Cassie@owatonna.info, photographers should include their name, age (if under 18), phone number, and the title of the photo. For more information please visit the Owatonna Public Library’s website at <http://ci.owatonna.mn.us/library>.

STEELE: Talkin’

TALKIN’ FROM PAGE C1

Gift yourself and carry this habit into the New Year.

What if you experience a series of symptoms that involve changes in sleep, energy, concentration, appetite? One does not need to have a reason to develop a depression, though if there is a particular event that may have precipitated it (e.g., a loss, a separation), that may be a factor in vulnerability to depression. Not everybody who has a loss or stressful event occur develops a depression, so the thinking is that someone either is or isn’t biologically vulnerable to developing depression.

Depression is very real and is an illness that impacts us mentally and physically. Our brain activity is different when we are depressed. Shown below are scans (PET scans) of the brain showing different activity levels in a person with depression, compared to a person without depression.

Depression is different from normal grief or sadness. Grief or sadness related to an event does not involve disruptions of sleep and appetite or thoughts of suicide. In fact, normal grief can become complicated by a depression, which in turn can interfere with the resolution of the grief; so, in other words, depression is a syndrome involving many components, and whatever causes it (we don’t really know), it should get treated. When the syndrome involves strong physical symptoms (sleep, energy, concentration, not functioning, thoughts of suicide), medicines are especially likely to be helpful.

If you or a loved one needs help, South Central Human Relations Center, located in Owatonna, Waseca and Kasson can help. Established more than 50 years ago, SCHRC is a non-profit agency that specializes in the treatment of mental health and substance use disorders. SCHRC offers many comprehensive programs and services to address, prevent

and overcome the devastating effects of mental illness and substance use disorders and, ultimately, provides hope, builds recovery and fosters wellness within its communities. For more information, visit schrc.com or call 507-451-2630.

If you or a loved one are experiencing a mental health emergency, you can receive immediate assistance with a call to 844-272-7472 or (844) Crisis2, Crisis Response for Southeast Minnesota.

When a call comes to (844) Crisis2 call center, trained staff will gather information and determine what steps to recommend. The call center is nationally certified by the American Association of Suicidology. Recommendations may include going to the ER, encouraging next day appointments with current providers, accessing non-crisis services through health plans, EAPs or other local providers, calling 911, dispatching our mobile Crisis Response teams, phone counseling and a next day follow up. If a mobile Crisis Response team is dispatched for assist an adult, child or family, there would be a face to face, short-term intensive mental health service. The service may help cope with immediate stressors, identify and use available resources and personal strengths, develop action plans, avoid unnecessary hospitalizations and loss of independent living, and to help people return to their baseline of functioning. Mobile teams are made up of two mental health practitioners who will be supported by a mental health professional on the phone. For more information, visit www.crisis2southwestmn.com.

Carolyn Wheeler is a licensed independent clinical social worker and executive director of South Central Human Relations Center in Owatonna. Steele Talkin’ is a regular column written by various writers representing groups and organizations throughout Steele County.

A SPECIAL SALUTE TO THE MEDFORD HONOR ROLL

HIGH HONOR ROLL

- Grade 7:** Joshua Bluhm; Andrea Bock; Samantha Buecksler; Casey Chambers; Rian Cloutier; Jacob Esch; Abigail Fitzgerald; Dylan Heiderscheidt; Alex Helgeson; Tate Hermes; Josephine Homeier; Connor Jones; Grace Keller; Jack Meyer; Riley Norland; Payton Ristau; Martina Smith; Tyler Steffen; Cohen Stursa; Reagan Sutherland; Shara Ungs; Mackenzie Zacharias.
- Grade 8:** Jacob Andrews; Jake Barten; Logan Buecksler; Jordan Capello; Emma Corbin; Reed Cumberland; Isabel DeLeon; Henry Grayson; MacKenzie Kellen; Megan Klein; Clara Kniefel; Samantha Miller; Julia Niles; Jack Paulson; Elizabeth Peterson; Nicole Schrot; Hannah Schull; Anna Sobrak; Jayme Stransky; Amelia Thompson; Rosie Tobar; Ava Jae Westbrook; Jeancarlo Zuniga.
- Grade 9:** Jenna Berg; Kinsey Cronin; Garrett Fitzgerald; Johanna Grant; Brock Merritt; Brooke Purrier; Lily Roehrick; Isabella Steffen; Tyler Stursa; Haley VonRuden; Hanna VonRuden.
- Grade 10:** Sviatlana Danilyuk; Jordan Edel; Taylor Fette; Zachary Finholdt; Kaylin Hanson; Hailee Homeier; Madison Klein; Emma Kniefel; Morgan Langeslag; Kiley Nihart; Brendan Rahn; Jordyn Stadler; Zachary Wetmore; Michael Winslett.
- Grade 11:** Andria Archibald; Camisha Chavis; Bailey DuChene; Meredith Gillis; Brett Johnson; Taylore Keppers; Jade Pekarek; Noah Pirk; Bailey Purrier; Madison Schletty; Austin VonRuden; Kelsey Walock.

- Grade 12:** Isabel Brady; Ian Gillis; Amanda Honsey; David Klapperich; Alexcia Mechura; Skylar Meyer; Katla Michaelson; Logan Rogotzke; Cole Volkmann.

REGULAR HONOR ROLL

- Grade 7:** Cayden Brase; Hanna Chadbourn; Landon Driscoll; Kylie Dusek; MaKenna Enzenauer; Kiley Frelove; Noah Gilman; Nicolas Hill; Garron Hoffman; Weston Janke; Morgan Jones; Bailey Kircher; Joseph Kneee; Destiny Kostka; Lydia Krenske; Beau LaCroix; Shad Lambert; Adalia List; Dylan Luckey; Carter Luebbe; Alexys Lustig; Myrka Mendoza; Kael Neumann; Cohen O’Connor; Hunter Peterson; Mia Rangel; Jaidyn Rubio; Jeremiah Schlund; Makinley Smith; Charles Spitzack; Paige Stadler; Annabelle Troester; Justin Voegel; Parker Vogt; Keaton Walock; Josephine Witter; Anahi Zuniga.
- Grade 8:** Tyler Buck; Caydon Budde; Jessica Campos; Jonae Carlson; Payton Caron; Jalene Chavis; Paul Cole; Paige Davis; Jazmyne Duncan; Jacob Ernste; Cheyenne Fedder; Dawson Gasner; Bryce Grayson; Nicole Harfmann; Jackson Hemann; Noah Honsey; Isabelle Huizel; Nathan Johnson; Jacob Kucera; Lynn Larson; Bridgette Lemke; George McCarthy; Journey Palluck; Justin Ristau; Nicholas Roberts; Scott Scholljegerdes; Brielle Smith; Malachi Sutcliffe; Daniel Wall; Jared Zuniga.

- Grade 9:** Braden Barbeau; Brayden Beede; Kaden Dolney; Isaac Enzenauer; Lizbeth Gutierrez; Kaelan Hermanstorfer; Gavin Hermes; Brennon Hoffman; Mikayla Janke; Madison Jaster; Malia Kircher; Shea Lambert; Ernesto Lazaro; Angela Lippert; Jarrett Lisowski; Mason Nagel; Markessa Niner; Alexander Oatway; Luz Peralta; Peyton Seiler; Salvador Valdespino; Alex Vandereide; Bryan Vazquez; Miya Weber; Jeffrey Westergaard; Gunner White.
- Grade 10:** Wyatt Brewer; Nately Buck; William Chester; Boden Devoe; Juan Gamez; Shelby Ganske; Veronica Gonzalez; Riley Hill; Shawn Johnson; Reilly List; Isabel Reuvers; Kevin Robles; Jeremiah Sutcliffe; William VonRuden; Lanaya Wacek.
- Grade 11:** Journey Anderst; Zackariah Andrews; Tanner Barbeau; Mary Braasch-Turi; Isaiah Chavis; Connor Davis; Jason Domstrand; Warren Garza; Savanna Harris; Ryan Hermanstorfer; Cody Kosel; Rachael Luebbe; McKinley Schneider; Bryan Scholljegerdes; Joseph Schull.
- Grade 12:** Courtney Aldrich; Mitchell Borwege; McKenzie Disher; Jason Gedick; Alex Gengler; Thomas Gramse; Brynn Hable; Beth Ann Hanson; Colton Havelka; Malachi Holmgren; Cael Kavitz; Nathaniel Keller; Brandon Kern; Kaylee Kern; Tristen Kern; Timothy Knutson; Josephine Kubat; Gregory Larson; Benedetta Mandara; Bryce McCarty; Nathan McCarty; Kayla McGivney; Gisela Mendoza Lopez; Jonathon Meyer; Madelyn Neuhaus; Cole Olson; Richard Olson; Dakota Panos; Nicholas Prusha; Ailee Romnes; Dylan Schmit; Benjamyn Sutcliffe; Javis VonRuden; Dakota Wiersma.

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The BP Medallion hunt continues

Another clue has been revealed in the quest for finding the hidden BP Medallion.

This year's annual holiday medallion hunt got underway two weeks ago. Since then outdoor enthusiasts have been feverishly looking for the medallion hidden somewhere in town.

The lucky winner will receive \$50 in BP bucks.

The third clue:

*Another week is flying by
Search the ground and the sky
Look from 7-8
It's not too late*

The first clue was another year has come around; there is a medallion to be found; walk around town; look up and down while the second clue was this is your chance; don't throw it away; medallion hunting is a fun game to play.

Be sure to watch next week's edition of the Times for another club unless, of course, someone claims the prize with the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber.



A Christmas Tea



STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

Holiday celebrations are going on all over around the area. On Dec. 5, the annual Ladies Christmas Tea took place at First Baptist Church in Blooming Prairie. It proved to be a real treat for the women as the men of the church served the guests.



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A World Of Christmas
Songs of Advent & Christmas in
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featuring the debut of the
Spanish Choir "Coro de Adultos"

Sunday, December 17, 2017
3:00PM
St. Joseph Parish, Owatonna, MN

Picture taken from Microsoft clip art collection.

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★ Gift Certificates to give to family and friends – in any amounts, we can mail them for you too!
A gift certificate from Steve's says it all!!

★ Order your "specialty" meats for your holiday entertaining – Perfect Prime Rib Roasts (fresh cut, never frozen), Crown Pork Roasts, Hickory Smoked Turkeys and Hams, Spiral Sliced Hickory Smoked Hams, Honey Glazed Hickory Smoked Spiral Sliced Hams (available only at Steve's). We have the recipes to go with too! Many other meats to choose from, just stop in or call us with your order.

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Plus many more all really Great Gift Ideas.

Your Christmas tradition for 44+ years. We are a true family owned Minnesota business since 1973 and darn proud of it! We will be closed on Monday, December 25 and again on Monday, January 1 so that we and our employees can enjoy these holidays with our families.

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

- DEC. 13**
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
4:30 p.m. – Economic Development Authority Meeting
5 p.m. – 7 p.m. – F&M Bank Business After Hours

DEC. 14
4 p.m. – Police Commission Meeting
7 p.m. – BP Cancer Group's Jingle Bingo, Pizza Cellar Party Room
- DEC. 19**
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
Dec. 22
1 p.m. – 7 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, City Center

DEC. 30
6:30 p.m. - New Year's Eve EVE, Servicemen's Club



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ELLENDALE/GENEVA/HOPE

- DEC. 13**
3:30 p.m. – Com Ed (Mini Canvas Ornaments) Class, Ellendale Cafeteria
6 p.m. – After Prom Meeting, Ellendale Media Center

DEC. 14
1:30 p.m. – NRHEG High School Choir Concert, New Richland Care Center
5:30 p.m. – Random Acts of Kindness, Ellendale Cafeteria
7 p.m. – Ellendale Truth & Taxation Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. – Ellendale City Council Meeting

DEC. 17
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Just for Kix Dance Recital, NR High School Gym

DEC. 18
6 p.m. – Band Boosters Meeting

DEC. 19
6:30 p.m. – Karate, Ellendale Elementary Gym North



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OWATONNA/MEDFORD

- DEC. 13**
3 p.m. – Pictures and Cookies with Santa, Cedar Chiropractic

DEC. 14
10 a.m. – History Uncovered, A Genealogy Series, History Center
Noon – 1 p.m. – Business Boot Camp, Owatonna Library
2 p.m. & 7 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library
5 p.m. – Airport Commission Meeting, Airport Lounge
6:30 p.m. – Family Fun Night, Owatonna Library

DEC. 18
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, Family Video
6 p.m. – Sons of Norway Christmas Party, Owatonna Elks Lodge
- DEC. 19**
4:30 p.m. – Library Board Meeting, Owatonna Library
5 p.m. – Steele County Commissioners Board Meeting, County Admin Building
6 p.m. – Tech Tuesdays, Owatonna Library
6 p.m. – Study Session – Vacant Property Registration Ordinance, City Admin Building
7 p.m. – Owatonna City Council Meeting, City Admin Building
7 p.m. – Public Hearing for 2017 Street & Utility Project, City Admin Building

DEC. 22
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, Owatonna Hospital
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, Lowe's
Noon – 6 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, Trinity Lutheran in Medford

NEWS BRIEFS

KIDS SKI FREE AT MOUNT KATO THIS WEEK
With great snowmaking weather returning to Minnesota, Mount Kato in Mankato is celebrating its 40th anniversary by offering FREE lift tickets to kids 12 years of age and younger Monday, Dec. 11 through Sunday, Dec. 17 to give children the opportunity to experience one of Minnesota's favorite winter activities.
Half-price equipment rental for skiers (ages 6-12) and snowboarders (ages 7-12) will be provided. For children who have not skied or snowboarded before, half -price group lessons will be offered weekdays at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Children can sign up for a lesson at the Mount Kato learning center, or by calling 507-625-3363.
During this week, guests are encouraged to check out Mount Kato's learning center, located inside the ski shop where guests can ask questions and talk to professionals in detail. Over the last 40 years, Mount

Kato's passionate instructors have taught thousands of first time skiers and snowboarders the skills they need to take on the slopes.
Mount Kato is open Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 10 p.m. Mount Kato is closed on Wednesdays, excluding Wednesday, Dec. 27.

THINK OUTSIDE THE GIFT BOX: DONATE BLOOD AND GIVE MORE LIFE
The best gifts can't be bought in a store. The American Red Cross urges eligible donors to give more life by giving blood this December.
In December, donations decline but the needs of patients remain steady. During the holiday season, set aside an hour to give the most important gift – give blood and give more life. To encourage donations, all those who come to give blood or platelets Dec. 21, 2017, through Jan. 7, 2018, will receive a long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.
Make an appointment to give blood by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).
There are several upcoming blood donation opportunities around the area:
Albert Lea – 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. Dec. 20, Albert Lea Vineyard Church
Albert Lea – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Dec. 26, Ramada
Albert Lea – 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Dec. 29, Mayo Clinic Health System
Albert Lea – 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Dec. 29, North Bridge Mall
Austin – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Dec. 18, Primrose Retirement Communities
Austin – Noon – 6 p.m. Dec. 19, St. John's Lutheran Church
Austin – 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Dec. 26, St. Edward's Catholic Church
Austin – 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Dec. 28, Mayo Clinic Health System
Blooming Prairie – 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. Dec. 22, City Center
Medford – Noon – 6 p.m. Dec. 22, Trinity Lutheran Church
Owatonna – 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Dec. 18, Family Video
Owatonna – 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Dec. 22, Owatonna Hospital
Owatonna – 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Dec. 22, Lowe's
Owatonna – 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Dec. 26, Baymont
Owatonna – 12:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Dec. 26, SeniorPlace
Owatonna – 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. Dec. 27, United Methodist Church
Owatonna – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Dec. 28, Famous Dave's
Owatonna – 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Dec. 29, St. John Lutheran Church

MARION ROSS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER HOSTING BROADCAST OF 'ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD'
The Marion Ross Performing Arts Center will host a high-definition broadcast performance of the play "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead" by National Theatre Live on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m.
National Theatre Live is the National Theatre's groundbreaking project to broadcast the best of British theatre live from the London stage to cinemas around the world.
Actors Daniel Radcliffe (Harry Potter), Joshua McGuire (The Hour), and David Haig (Four Weddings and a Funeral) star in Tom Stoppard's brilliantly funny situation comedy, broadcast live from The Old Vic Theatre in London. David Leveaux's new production marks the 50th anniversary of the play that made a young Tom Stoppard's name overnight.
Against the backdrop of Hamlet, two hapless minor characters, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, take center stage. As the young double act stumble their way in and out of the action of Shakespeare's iconic drama, they become increasingly out of their depth as their version of the story unfolds.
Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$12 for students. Tickets may be purchased in advance by phone at 1-877-730-3144 (toll-free); online at actonbroadway.com; or at the box office at 147 North Broadway in Albert Lea.

SONS OF NORWAY'S CHRISTMAS PARTY THIS MONDAY
The Nortonna Lodge 1-638 of the Sons of Norway will meet on Monday, Dec. 18, for the annual Christmas party. Supper will be served at 6 p.m. for a cost of \$7 at the Owatonna Elks Lodge, 126 East Vine St.
Nortonna Lodge member Joanne Sorenson will share about the successful lutefisk dinners served at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie, and we will sing Christmas carols (in English and Norwegian!).
If you would like more information on the Nortonna Lodge of the Sons of Norway, contact Nina Zak at 507-213-1919 or Cindy Hokanson at 507-451-9301.

ASSOCIATED CHURCH HOSTS BLUE ADVENT WORSHIP
Associated Church will host its second annual Blue Advent Worship Service on Thursday, Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel at the church, 800 Havana Road in Owatonna.
The Blue Advent Worship Service is a service recognizing that in the midst of the lights, family gatherings and celebration, there are those who grieve

and those who are alone. A time of prayer and healing will be offered. All are welcome to attend this prayerful, intimate service.
Associated Church is a Community of Faith of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ. Associated Church is a warm and welcoming place to meet God! Get to know us at www.associatedchurch.org or by visiting us for our 9 a.m. Sunday Worship at 800 Havana Road, Owatonna.

SEARCH KICKS OFF FOR MISS TEEN STEELE COUNTY
If you are female, single, never been married between the ages of 13 to 18 years, applications are being accepted for the title of 2018 Miss Teen Steele County.
Miss Teen Steele County will represent her county at the Miss Teen Minnesota pageant, which will be held at the Wellstone Center, April 28, 2018 in St. Paul.
The young lady chosen as Miss Teen Steele County will become an ambassador from the Steele County area and will receive an official title and sash.
The young lady chosen as Miss Teen Minnesota will receive a prize package and College scholarship totaling \$30,000 and the chance to represent Minnesota at the 2018 Miss Teen International pageant in Charleston, W. Va. in July. The American Heart Association's Go for Red for Women is the official Charity of the Miss Teen Minnesota Pageant.
Teens will compete in personal interview, fitness wear, fun fashion wear and evening gown. There is no talent or swimsuit competition. Young teen ladies living in Steele County interested in applying should write for bio-form to: Miss Teen Minnesota International Pageant, P. O. Box 240537, Apple Valley, MN, 55124-0537. Information can also be obtained by calling 952-432-6758 or email at pagunltd@frontiernet.net.
The current reigning 2017 Miss Teen Minnesota is Devika Narayan of Plymouth. As Miss Teen Minnesota, Devika speaks out on "Hope in Memories: Alzheimer's Find Hope & Find a Cure!"
Entry deadline is Dec. 31.



● BAR BINGO: Monday, 6:30 p.m.
● BLOOMIN' GRAPEVINE WINE CLUB: Tuesday, 7-8:30 p.m.
Jan. 30, Feb. 20, Mar. 20, Apr. 17, May 8: Season Finalé

HOLIDAY EVENTS!
● HARVEY'S HOLIDAY CHEER: Dec. 16, 3-7 p.m. Drink specials, munchies and meat raffles
● VIKINGS VS. PACKERS: Dec. 23, 7-10 p.m. Munchies and meat raffles
● EUCHRE: January 13, 1 p.m.

PLAN AHEAD FOR YOUR HOLIDAY REFRESHMENTS
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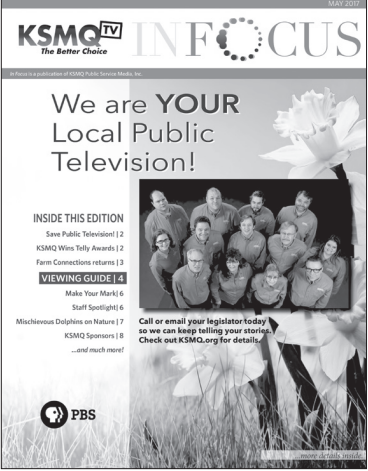
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'Tis the season... for decorating



STAFF PHOTOS: HOWARD LESTRUD

Top: With the unseasonable warm temperatures over the past couple weeks, many people have taken advantage of the weather by decorating outdoors. Carl Barber of Blooming Prairie added some new characters to his Christmas lighting display. Check out the rooftop, too. And, Snoopy is there with some presents for his Peanuts friends.



Bottom: Blooming Prairie residents have really gotten into the Christmas spirit this holiday season. Here is a beautiful nativity scene located on the south part of the city.

STEELE COUNTY PUBLIC RECORDS

BIRTHS

June 2017

Cruz Daniel Cooke, Parents: Tasheena and Jared, June 1. Charlotte May Anderson, Parents: Beth and Patrick, June 2. Jaxon Michael Nystrom, Parents: Danielle and Robert, June 5. Aspen Grace Johnson, Parents: Carissa and Jared, June 5. Hattie Mae Stolp, Parents: Stephanie and Jordan, June 6. Elyse Noelle Winkels, Parents: Whitney and Andrew, June 7. Halle May Kinniry, Parents: Ashley and Garrett, June 8. Thomas Ray Jorgensen, Parents: Megan and Jimmy, June 8. Saelac Glen Meger, Parents: Destinee and Michael, June 9. Addison Marie Feist, Parents: Kristen and Jesse, June 9. Marshall Darrell Abrego, Parents: Rachel Long and Trevor Abrego, June 10. Kara Grace Maxon, Parents: Anna and Colin, June 11. Kyler Steven Hodgman, Parents: Ashley and Matthew, June 14. Hunter Joseph Robb, Parents: Heather Benoit and Daniel

Robb, June 14. Daniel Felipe Zetino, Parents: Narda Ruiz Garza and Antonio Zetino, June 15. Najdah Mohamed Abdullah, Parents: Nasrah Hussein and Mohamed Ali, June 15. Liam Richard Mullenbach, Parents: Amber Brooks and Richard Mullenbach, June 15. Milo Lee Bjorkquist, Parents: Lindsay and Brett, June 16. Conrad Edwin Tarpenning, Parents: Kimberly and Daren, June 17. Coltyn Morgan Wacek, Parents: Kristin and Brandon, June 18. Charles Milton Peterson, Parents: Sarah and Brent, June 20. Owen Richie Laue, Parents: Breanna and Ryan, June 21. Thea Rose Wobbrock, Parents: Elizabeth and Adam Hammon, June 22. Fadma Osman Sokorow, Parents: Mariam Mohammed and Osman Mungani, June 24. Branch Levi Cooley, Parents: Heidi and Gregory, June 25. Preston Lee Kelley, Parents: Amanda and Ross, June 25. Cole Kent Joecks, Parents: Samantha and Kent, June 26. Amyiah May Davis, Parent: Shaniah Villafan, June 27. Elliott Dean Petty, Parents: Lyd-

ia and Clayton, June 28. Eloise Naomi Will, Parents: Amber and Aaron, June 29. Vincent Leo Clark, Parents: Jolene and Alexander, June 29. Beau Harvey Rigge, Parents: Honey and Corey, June 29. Cora Jane Cox, Parents: Lindsay and James, June 30. Paul August Cattadoris, Parents: Ellen and Barry, June 30. Madison James Johnson, Parents: Melissa and Robert, June 30.

DEATHS

June 2017

Beryl Lee Stockwell, 77, Owatonna, June 1. Daniel Patrick Filzen, 53, Owatonna, June 3. George William James, 67,

Owatonna, June 3. Larry Francis Athey, 51, West Concord, June 3. William Milton Krenske, 71, Faribault, June 3. Hazel Margaret Conklin, 98, Owatonna, June 6. Betty Ann Arett, 89, Austin, June 7. Maxine Leora Ronglien, 82, Owatonna, June 8. Barbara Mae Stoltz, 82, Owatonna, June 8. Mae Belle Hillestad, 87, Owatonna, June 9. Dallas Oren Berry, 72, Owatonna, June 11. Timothy John Regentz, 72, Owatonna, June 12. Sharon K. Mays, 77, Faribault, June 13. Darrell Reuben Ebeling, 89, Owatonna, June 13. Alice Helen Resler, 95, Owatonna, June 14.

Rodney Sanford Kylo, 73, Owatonna, June 16. Judith Anne McDermott, 69, Austin, June 17. Danny Howard Schember, 66, Ellendale, June 18. Lois Jean Peters, 83, Medford, June 19. Carol Ann Raetz, 78, Owatonna, June 20. Jeremy Lee Burkett, 37, Owatonna, June 21. Daniel Jewell Larsen, 68, Rochester, June 21. Doris Ordella Swanson, 91, Owatonna, June 21. Lynn Frederick Klages, 77, Owatonna, June 21. Ingval Martin Hove, 95, Blooming Prairie, June 22. Mary Ann Petersen, 89, Owatonna, June 23. Steven Dale Vogelsang, 63, Owatonna, June 24. Carol Lea Kath, 79, Owatonna, June 26. Carole Magdalena Ditrach, 83, Owatonna, June 28. V. Henry Peterson, 89, Berlin Township, June 28. Betty Lou Kinney, 89, Owatonna, June 29. Lorna Marie Schmeling, 73, Rochester, June 30.

MARRIAGES

June 2017

Clayton James Lenk and Samantha Jo Kniefel, June 3. Krista Elizabeth Holder and Cole Michael Orlowski, June 3. Noel Garcia Soto and Ana Laura Peralta Bartolo, June 3. Nolan Patrick McGowan and Katelyn Anne Johnston, June 3. Jesse Darwin Hernandez and Krista Marie Young, June 3. Schuyler Drew Caron and Jade

Frances Froehlich, June 6. Sonia Kay Kocher and Jason Jacob Holder, June 9. Christopher Douglas Harkema and Sara Beth Born, June 9. Dustin Lee Hale and Heather Jo Loken, June 10. Page Marie Conway and Lucas Steven Cole, June 10. Karen Allyson Rysavy and Tyler Ryan Patten, June 10. Andrew Joseph Hogen and Katherine Jean Gasner, June 12. Evan Taylor Linde and Britta Leigh Peterson, June 14. Shadunna Tijuana Davis and Tre'y Tavaros Foreist, June 15. Nathan Terrence Chesney and Amber Marie Boettcher, June 16. Amber Rose Colby and Michael Todd McHenry Jr., June 17. Matthew John Shipman and Lauren Victoria Koch, June 17. Steven Paul Jensen and Barbara Jeanette Wilkerson, June 17. Juan Antonio Serrano-Angui-ano and Kelsey Elizabeth Deml, June 17. Jesse Bryan Dick and Shannon Lynn Hrtanek, June 17. Brian David Degen and Holly Kristina Kathleen Weise, June 17. James Rashi Williams and Jessica Marie Williams, June 23. Marty Wayne Rethemeier and Debra Jo Peterson, June 24. Cole David Racek and Whitney Marie Bartsh, June 24. Krista Lynn Schulenberg and Dylan Lee Stahl, June 24. Joseph Allen Svoboda and Amy Elizabeth Anderson, June 24. Lindsey Christine Owen and David Darnell Sauter, June 24. Jordan Phillip Madsen and Kasha-ylay Dawn Hovey, June 29. Thomas James Haberman and Jessica Anne Esse, June 30.

DIVORCES

June 2017

Shawwna Lynn McClurg and Dan Michael McClurg. Jessica Marie Williams and James Rashi Williams. James Arnold and Christine Marie Ann Arnold. Natalie Ann Hames and Jason Paul Hames. Melissa Marie Tellijohn and Daniel Neil Tellijohn. James Lawrence Kaplan and Diane Marie Kaplan. Amy Ann Gutha and Lee Edward Ernest Gutha. Amador S. Ramirez and Juliana Arreola Borges Ramirez.

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By LaFaye Farrow

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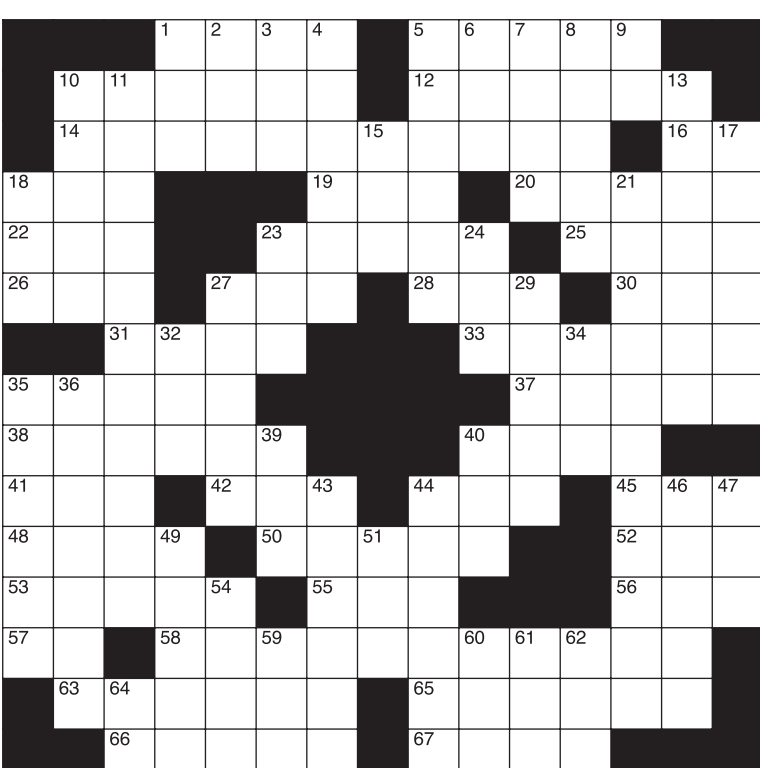
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CLUES ACROSS

- Large jug
- Anwar __, Egyptian statesman
- Punjab province capital
- Evoke
- Data
- Exists
- Supervises flying
- Having eight
- Right-handed page
- NHL great Bobby
- German municipality
- Negotiate
- Keyboard key
- Youngster
- Medical decision (abbr.)
- Ribonucleic acid
- One-time Levi's chairman Walter
- Cold region
- Type of plywood
- A way to unfreeze
- Winter melon
- Dispute
- An expression of imagination
- Human gene
- Touch lightly
- Computer giant
- Garlands
- Franz van __, German diplomat
- Vineyard
- Elk or moose
- Moved quickly
- Swiss river

WEEKLY CROSSWORD



8. Blemished

9. Atlanta-based rapper

10. Deceivers

11. One who supports disorder

13. Colossal

15. A team's best pitcher

17. Comfort in a time of sadness

18. Opponent

21. Professionals might need one

23. Captures geographical data (abbr.)

24. Senior officer

27. Sacred Islamic site

29. Egyptian unit of capacity

32. Comedienne Gasteyer

34. Performer __ Lo Green

35. Having only magnitude, not direction

36. Cleft lip

39. Payroll company

40. Prohibit

43. Stroke

44. Does not acknowledge

46. Hillsides

47. Austrian river

49. Passover feast and ceremony

51. Golf score

54. Hair-like structure

59. Check

60. Extract metal from this

61. Tell on

62. Powdery residue

64. A part of the mind

57. Rhode Island

58. Fall into disrepair

63. Ancient Roman virtue

65. Removes

66. Slovenly women

67. Comedian Rogen

- Extremely high frequency
- Court
- Make a mistake
- Change the appearance of
- Long-haired dog
- The Greatest of All Time
- Designer Christian

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KASSON, 1 BR apt, laundry on-site, off street parking, heat included, must be 62+ or handicapped/disabled, rent based on income, equal housing opportunity, call 507-634-4188. 42tfc
For Rent Hayfield. 3 bedroom apartment includes; all utilities, laundry on site, available immediately. Call Great Western Apartments (507)796-0152 or (701)330-9788. 51,52c;1nc
For rent avail. Jan. 1, 2018. Beautiful country home in Mantorville on 5 acres, backed up to river. \$900 month plus deposit & utilities, huge pole barn on property also for rent, addl. \$500/month. Background and references. Call Monica at 507-319-2569. 51,52c;1nc
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Kasson 2BR lower level duplex, \$575/month, 1st and last months rent, plus security deposit upon move in. Washer, dryer in apt. Available Dec. 31st. Call 250-3378 for application. 52tfc

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Winchester 12 gauge 'Black Shadow' model #1300. Asking \$300. Call 507-634-7097. 52c
For Sale: 2000 Ford F150. Low rust, good running condition. \$4000.00 If interested call 507-838-5448. 52,1,2p
2007 Cadillac DTS, Northstar engine, dark blue, tan leather interior, seat heater and coolers in the front, AC, PB, cruise, chrome wheels, 135,000 miles? \$6500. George at 507-269-9870. 52,1c;2nc



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GARAGE SALES

Dano's Consignment Store 32 E Main Street Dodge Center. Sat 11am to 4pm. **HUGE \$5.00 winter coat sale PLUS 50% off all Christmas Decorations!** Open Tue.-Fri. 1-5 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. 52p

MISCELLANEOUS

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (SEMMCHRA) will be held at the SEMMCHRA Main Office, 134 East Second Street, Wabasha, MN 55981 on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. The public is welcome to attend. 52c



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Submitted Photo
Maj. Harry Coleman of Kasson, is pictured second from left during the Civil Air Patrol Change of Minnesota Wing Group IV Command in Rochester. From left to right, former Group IV Commander Lt. Col. Matt Wiskow; Coleman; District 25 State Sen. Dave Senjem (R-Rochester), and CAP Minnesota Wing Commander Lt. Col. James Garlough.

BY RICHARD JOHNSON
OF THE TIMES STAFF

Harry Coleman of Kasson assumed command of Civil Air Patrol's Minnesota Wing Group IV, which covers most of southern

Minnesota, in a ceremony Nov. 30 at the North Central States Regional Training Center in Rochester.
Coleman, a Major with the CAP, accepted command of the Southeast Minnesota Composite Squadron from Lt. Col. Matthew Wiskow of St. Charles.
Wing Group IV includes more than 240

New leader for area Civil Air Patrol group serving southern Minnesota

members from squadrons in Owatonna, Rochester, Mankato, Stanton, Red Wing, Pipestone, and Worthington.
The Civil Air Patrol is a volunteer, non-profit U.S. Air Force auxiliary dating to World War II. Members promote aerospace education, train young people to contribute to society, and offer emergency services during natural disasters, according to semncompsq.com.
"It was an awesome ceremony," said Coleman, who retired from the Air Force in 2003 after 20 years of service. "It's an important job that needs to be done, and it's an honor to have the job."
Squadron IV members look for downed aircraft and missing persons, and act as "third responders," providing support for law enforcement personnel and emergency medical technicians.
They also work with youths ages 12 to 20 through the CAP's Cadet program, which is based on Air Force rank structure, and teach first aid.
Coleman, 54, has volunteered with the CAP since May 2010. He was Rochester Squadron Commander for three years, and will serve a 4-year term as Unit IV Group Commander. His job is to ensure squadron commanders are able to do training and fill requirements needed to do their jobs.
He said he especially enjoys being part of the Cadet program.
"The cadets are the kids who are generally achievers. They're driven," he said. "So this is something else that's presented so they can learn how to lead properly. It's awesome to watch these guys come in at 12 and 13, and see the maturity level development. They come in and they're timid. They're kind of watching what goes on, and then they do their learning. Then they start to lead their peers."
Coleman understands people and knows how to motivate and get the best from them, said Maj. Othelmo DaSilva, the new Southeast Minnesota Composite Squadron Commander.
"He's an incredible mentor," DaSilva said. "He's a 'people person.' He likes to be everywhere. He's been very visible around the group. He comes in with energy and enthusiasm. You wouldn't know that he's the commander, because he comes in to motivate. He comes alongside. He's not one to order."

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A big thank you regarding Holiday Dazzle

The last couple of weeks have been a crazy time in the community with events! Thank you to all the businesses that had specials, drawings and crafts on Holiday Dazzle Dec. 1. There was a big crowd in Bloomington Prairie that day and it is because of all the fun you had to offer. And, of course, the beautiful weather helped!

We gave away more Christmas bags for the kids than ever before, the wagon rides went to 7:30 because of the constant line of people waiting to get on, and people stayed until 7:00 pm for the last of the fun. I hope that you saw some new faces walk into your businesses. That is our intent to get people to see what Bloomington Prairie has to offer. They had a chance all day to explore the business community and see what you have to offer. Thank you! You did a great job once again!

Becky Noble
Chamber Director

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Safety measures for winter drivers

Winter weather causes many people to retreat indoors until the spring thaw. However, for those who embrace the cooler temperatures or find that life must go on despite snow and ice, taking inventory of their vehicles is a must before the first snowflakes start to fall.
Tire care is an especially important area of vehicle maintenance. The tire experts at Michelin say that regular tires may be ineffective for winter driving. Summer tires are made from materials that are optimized for warm conditions. When the mercury drops, these same materials can harden, reducing their ability to grip the road. That lack of traction can be compounded by the presence of snow or ice. Even all-season tires, which are designed to be driven year-round, can be insufficient in severe weather conditions. Winter tires can help drivers safely navigate winter roadways.
Bridgestone Tires says that having the right snow tires matters when driving in winter weather conditions. It's important to look for tires that can disperse water sufficiently and also grip the road. Snow tires are designed to remain softer and more flexible to conform to the road better in cold conditions. Some winter tires are even studded to provide better traction.
Unfortunately, even the best winter tires cannot provide perfect traction on slippery roadways. That is why it is essential — in conjunction with the use of winter tires or snow chains — to modify driving techniques to navigate safely.
• Drive slowly. Slow down on winter roads. Allow a greater distance for stopping than for dry conditions. Slippery conditions can make

it more challenging to stop, and excessive speeds can make the situation worse.
• Shift into low gear. On hills, rely on low gears to maximize traction to travel up and down hills. This can minimize skids or sliding.
• Get the vehicle a tuneup. In addition to tires, be sure the braking system, battery and other major components of the vehicle are in good working order.
• Replace windshield wipers. Reduced visibility can compromise the safety of drivers and their passengers. Replace windshield wiper blades before winter arrives.

Consider purchasing winter-rated windshield blades.
• Know how to recover from a skid. When skids occur on black ice or slush, drivers should take their feet off of the pedals and steer gently in the direction they want to go. As the vehicle regains traction, only then should the brakes or accelerator be applied.
Winter weather requires making some vehicle modifications, and drivers may want to alter the way they drive to be more safe on the road.

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Date	Time	Opponent	Location
Jan. 9	5 p.m.	GML/OS	Grand Meadows H.S.
Jan. 11	5 p.m.	Tri-City United Tri	Tri-City United H.S.
Jan. 18	5 p.m.	N.R.H.E.G	New Richland-Hartland-Elendale-Geneva H.S.
Jan. 20	10 a.m.	Dave Erickson Hall of Fame Tournament	Hayfield H.S.
Jan. 25	7 p.m.	Byron	Hayfield H.S.
Jan. 27	10 a.m.	Lake City	Lake City H.S.
Feb. 1	7 p.m.	WEM/JMP	Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton H.S.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE AWESOME BLOSSOMS BOYS BASKETBALL

Date	Time	Opponent	Location
Dec. 12	7:15 p.m.	United South Central	Bloomington Prairie H.S.
Dec. 15	7:15 p.m.	Bethlehem Academy	Bethlehem Academy
Dec. 19	7:15 p.m.	Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton	Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton H.S.
Dec. 22	6:30 p.m.	Maple River	Bloomington Prairie H.S.
Jan. 5	7:30 p.m.	Southland	Southland H.S.
Jan. 8	7:15 p.m.	Mankato Loyola	Mankato Loyola H.S.
Jan. 9	7:15 p.m.	N.R.H.E.G	Bloomington Prairie H.S.
Jan. 12	7:15 p.m.	LeRoy-Ostlander	Bloomington Prairie H.S.
Jan. 19	7:15 p.m.	Waterville-Elysian-Morrisstown	Bloomington Prairie H.S.
Jan. 20	6:30 p.m.	Tri-City United	Bloomington Prairie H.S.
Jan. 23	7:15 p.m.	Medford	Medford H.S.
Jan. 26	7:15 p.m.	United South Central	United South Central H.S.
Jan. 27	6:30 p.m.	Alden-Conger	Alden-Conger H.S.
Feb. 1	7:15 p.m.	Saint Clair	Bloomington Prairie H.S.
Feb. 2	7:15 p.m.	Bethlehem Academy	Bloomington Prairie H.S.

BASKETBALL	
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Bloomington Prairie Girls	4
Medford Boys	7
Medford Girls	8
NRHEG Boys	11
NRHEG Girls	12
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Bloomington Prairie	5

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Owatonna	17

HOCKEY	
Owatonna Boys	18
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Bloomington Prairie	2
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Feb. 5	7:15 p.m.	Maple River	Maple River H.S.
Feb. 9	7:15 p.m.	N.R.H.E.G	New Richland-Hartland-Elendale-Geneva H.S.
Feb. 12	7:15 p.m.	Hayfield	Bloomington Prairie H.S.
Feb. 19	7:15 p.m.	Grand Meadow	Grand Meadow H.S.
Feb. 23	7:15 p.m.	Waterville-Elysian-Morrisstown	Waterville-Elysian-Morrisstown H.S.



BLOOMING PRAIRIE AWESOME BLOSSOMS GIRLS BASKETBALL

Date	Time	Opponent	Location
Dec. 15	7:15 p.m.	Bethlehem Academy	Bloomington Prairie H.S.
Dec. 19	7:15 p.m.	Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton	Bloomington Prairie H.S.
Dec. 22	7:15 p.m.	Maple River	Maple River H.S.
Jan. 5	7:15 p.m.	Southland	Bloomington Prairie H.S.
Jan. 9	7:15 p.m.	N.R.H.E.G	New Richland-Hartland-Elendale-Geneva H.S.
Jan. 11	7:15 p.m.	Kingsland	Bloomington Prairie H.S.
Jan. 16	7:15 p.m.	Cleveland	Bloomington Prairie H.S.
Jan. 19	7:15 p.m.	Waterville-Elysian-Morrisstown	Waterville-Elysian-Morrisstown H.S.
Jan. 20	5 p.m.	Tri-City United	Bloomington Prairie H.S.
Jan. 23	7:15 p.m.	Medford	Bloomington Prairie H.S.
Jan. 26	7:15 p.m.	United South Central	Bloomington Prairie H.S.
Jan. 27	5 p.m.	Alden-Conger	Alden-Conger H.S.
Jan. 30	7:15 p.m.	Grand Meadow	Bloomington Prairie H.S.
Feb. 2	7:15 p.m.	Bethlehem Academy	Bethlehem Academy
Feb. 5	7:15 p.m.	Maple River	Bloomington Prairie H.S.
Feb. 9	7:15 p.m.	N.R.H.E.G	Bloomington Prairie H.S.
Feb. 12	7:15 p.m.	Hayfield	Hayfield H.S.
Feb. 13	7:15 p.m.	Randolph	Randolph H.S.

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MIX OF EXPERIENCE, YOUTH LEADING OWATONNA GIRLS HOCKEY

BY DENNIS MARSHALL

SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna girls hockey team plans to play a fast-paced style of offensive that take advantage of the team's speed and athleticism.

"We run a pretty aggressive forecheck with some pinching defensemen to try to keep the puck in the zone," first-year coach Dan Paur said. "When we have played well our team's speed has been a big reason for it. We have a lot of girls who are excellent skaters and they are very dangerous when they get out into space."

The return a number of starters and contributor from this past season's squad that finished 15-8-2, but are still a young team with many sophomores, freshmen and even some eighth-graders playing pivotal roles.

The Huskies are led by senior captains Margo Achterkirch, Jamie Davison and Rilee Schmidt. Achterkirch, an All-Big 9 Conference selection, led the Huskies with 29 goals and 16 assists during the 2016-17 season.

Achterkirch is a strong skater with a high hockey IQ, who also has good hands and a nice shot.

"She's been playing [varsity] hockey since she was in eighth grade," Paur said. "She knows what it's like win and lose big games. The mental toughness and experience she brings is awesome."

"She does a lot for us, not only on the ice but in the locker room," he continued. "She is real good at working with our younger group of girls to make sure they feel included. All those things that a captain is suppose to do, she is a great at."

Davison was also an All-Big 9 selection this past season after she tallied eight goals and seven assists.

Davison is a tough, strong and gritty player, who also has a very high hockey IQ.

Schmidt was selected as All-Big 9 honorable mention after scoring one goal and dishing out five assists.

"[Schmidt] is a good player too," Paur said. "She's not the biggest or fastest, but she make smart decisions out there and doesn't turn the puck over."

Davison and Schmidt are the Huskies strongest defenders and are primarily used in that role.

"They control our blue line," Paur said. "They're our last line defense and we rely on them heavily to get pucks out of defensive zone, to run the break out and take control of our defense and make sure we don't get scored on."

Senior goalie Laura Ebeling returns after over 1,000 minutes in the net for the Huskies this past season.

"[Ebeling] going to have an outstanding season for us," Paur said. "She takes it seriously and she is always rock solid for us in net."

Paur said he expect Achterkirch, junior Maylynn Prokopc and sophomore Chice Schmidt to be the Huskies' leading contributors on offense, and junior Kiley Friedrichs and sophomore Grace Wolfe to play valuable roles for the team on defense.

"We are all just starting to come together," Paur said. "We're really starting to develop some chemistry and put some pressure on other teams. It's been fun to watch them mature."

Freshman Sydney Hunst is expected to have an increased role as the season goes along after showing great potential.

"[Hunst] gets better everyday," Paur said. "She's going to have had a big season for us by time things are said and done. She's strong and she worked hard in the offseason. She asks the right questions and she wants to get better. When it's game-time, she's all business and just wants to win."

Paur said sisters Anna (freshman) and Olivia (eighth grade) Herzog are a good combination that join Hunst on a line.

"They know where each other is on the ice and make good passes," he said. "I expect good thing from that group too."

Another freshman who could see significant playing time is Calbey Poden.

"She's been real good for us," Paur said. "She's a hard worker and she's going to be a real good player for us down the road."

Paur said he is also very confident in the ability of the Huskies' backup goalie, sophomore Asia Burska.

"We want to compete for the Big 9 Conference Championship and I think we can," Paur said. "It will be tough and the road definitely goes through Northfield and Red Wing, but we can play right there with them if we play to our potential."

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Front – (left to right): Ashleigh Alves, Marti Snider, Riauna Bishop, Maya Lembke, Baylee Sorenson, Allison Krohnberg, Bobbie Bruns; Back row— Mariah Miller, Megan Oswald, Julia Worke, McKenna Hein, Sam Wurst, Ayren Ingvalson, Jillian Wigham, Anna Kittelson, Maggie Bruns.

BP GIRLS SEARCH FOR OFFENSE

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS WRITER

With two of the top four point-getters, including the No. 1 scorer, graduated, Coach John Bruns is cognizant of the fact that offense will be high on the list of objectives for the 2017-18 season.

Six letter winners return for the Blossoms, and their leadership will be most important for any success the team may have in the coming season.

Marissa Larson led the team in scoring and rebounding last season, and her size underneath will be greatly missed. Point guard Kylie Forystek was the top assist player and had a great season going until illness caused her to miss the last 8 games of the season. Jasmine Anderson played in 11 games last season and provided valuable leadership on the court.

"There are a lot of question marks as we begin the season," remarked Coach Bruns, "and a lack of depth and limited experience will be an issue early in the season. As the team gains that experience and some confidence, however, we should be competitive."

Three seniors, two sophomores, and a freshman all earned letters last season and will be counted on for any success the team can achieve. Senior McKenna Hein is a long athletic player who can play

multiple positions. She was a 25-game starter and gained valuable experience. She averaged almost seven points per game and led the team in efficiency rating and can make an impact on the perimeter as well as on the inside.

Sam Wurst is another athletic senior who can score in many ways. Wurst earned a spot on the Gopher All-Conference team and averaged over 12 points a game. She also pulled down a team second best 7.9 rebounds per game. Ayren Ingvalson is the third returning senior. She is a quick athletic guard who started every game last year and is an excellent passer. Last season she was second on the team in efficiency rating and averaged over three rebounds a game.

Sophomores Julia Worke and Maya Lembke will be counted on for many minutes and an aid in the leadership of the team. Worke started nine games as a freshman, is a very good shooter, and is poised to have a breakout season. Lembke played in every game as a reserve, is an aggressive player, and rebounds well for her size. Freshman Megan Oswald worked her way up through JV ball into the varsity rotation, by the end of the season. She scored nine points in a playoff loss to Grand Meadow.

"As I commented, there are a lot of questions," Bruns continued. "Our early practices have been

great, and our first scrimmages against some of the best teams in the area were encouraging. To begin the season we are focusing on building a cohesive system that will allow all the girls to contribute in many ways. We are a little short in numbers, but the girls we do have are committed to getting better every day. We hope to be playing our best at playoff time."

Four sophomores, including Jillian Wigham, Marti Snider, Riauna Bishop, and Baylee Sorenson, will be competing for varsity playing time, as will ninth graders Maggie Bruns, Maren Forystek, and Allison Krohnberg, and eighth grader Bobbie Bruns, while also playing JV games.

Coach Bruns begins his third season as the varsity coach, with Cory Hendrickson again assisting in the program. The team compiled a 10-16 overall record and a 5-7 mark in the conference. Maple River has been tabbed the favorite in the conference, with WEM also expected to be tough.

The section will be most difficult, with Class A state champion Goodhue the odds-on favorite. New section team Hayfield is always strong, and Lytle-Pacelli and Grand Meadow are both riding season winning streaks.



HUSKIES RELOAD IN HOPES OF ANOTHER STATE TOURNAMENT RUN

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

After a fifth place finish at the Class 3A state tournament this past season, the No. 8 ranked Owatonna Huskies wrestling team is hungry to return the state meet in 2018.

Owatonna coach Scott Seykora said the Huskies have the potential.

"It's going to take a lot of work and it's a tough road ahead," he said. "We have some very talented teams in our section, but we believe that we can compete with them and get back to state if our kids really buy in."

"We will be young and we won't have many seniors, but we have a lot of young talent," Seykora continued. "It's comes down to us coaches developing that talent in our wrestling room, but I'll tell you this, as a coaching staff we are really excited about what we are going to put out on the mat this season."

The Huskies coaching staff emphasis attack-style wrestling to their athletes.

"We want our wrestler to be aggressive on their feet," Seykora said. "We want all of our kids attacking for six minutes and scoring points. Regardless of the situation, we are out there looking for bonus points."

"It's something that our kids really buy into and you can see that out on the mat," he continued. "We get a lot of major [decisions], technical falls and pins."

Seykora said the Huskies biggest strength is their desire to outwork their opponents.

"It's been very apparent in this first two weeks of practice that these kids want to get better," he said. "Every day they're coming to practice looking to improve. It makes coaching 10 times easier when you're coaching a group that wants to put the work in to get better."

The Huskies boast two wrestlers who are ranked No. 1 in their respective weight class in senior Peyton Robb and junior Cade King.

In addition to being rated as the top 160-pounder in the state of Minnesota, Robb is consistently ranked inside the top 5 nationally in the 160-pound weight class by multiple national wrestling website.

"Peyton Robb loves the sports wrestling," Seykora said. "He's a student of the game and he tries to learn all he can, including new and different techniques."

"He's probably one of the most technically sound wrestlers out there," he continued. "You will rarely catch he is bad position or being heavy on a foot. It makes it near impossible to score against him."

Robb, a two-time Minnesota state champion, is committed to wrestle at South Dakota State next season. He won the title his sophomore year in the 120-pound weight class and his freshman year in the 106-pound weight class. Robb finished second this past season to Shakopee's Alex Crowe in the 145-pound weight class.

"He's starting to get some international experience as well," Seykora said.

This past summer Robb won gold medals in Greco-Roman and freestyle wrestling at the 2017 Cadet Pan American Championships in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He won all six of his matches by technical fall.

Robb also spent two weeks earlier this school year training in Denmark and Sweden.

On the other hand, King brings a lot of power, physicality and brute strength to the Huskies' team. King is currently ranked No. 1 at the 182-pound weight class in Class 3A.

Seykora said King never stops moving on the mat and his hand fighting is some of the best in the state of Minnesota.

"He gets a lot of other wrestlers out of their game

plans with it," he said. "He's always snapping, pushing or pulling. He just always has his hands on guys."

King moves up to the 182-pound weight class after finishing second at state in the 152-pound weight class a season ago.

Seykora said King will actually start the season off wrestling in the 195-pound weight class.

"He just really grew over the summer and he really just filled out," he said. "I know he hit the weight room hard and he was lifting all season and it really shows. He's a big strong kid now."

Seykora added that King has exceptional quickness for his size.

"He's not going to beat you a 40-yard dash," he said. "But he is a quick guy, where he can quickly reach down a snatch your leg before you even realize it. He's looking to build onto his success from last year."

Furthermore, freshman Blake West (106-pound) and eighth grader Landen Johnson (126-pound) are each ranked No. 9 in Class 3A in their respective weight classes.

"We have some very talented individual," Seykora said. "They bring great work ethics and a lot of intensity to our practices. It's just wonderful having kids of that caliber in your [wrestling] room because they make everyone on the time better."

"We had a very good team this past season that was led by some very talented seniors, who have since graduated," he continued. "But we are really excited about this new group we have coming in and we are hoping to be just as competitive this year."

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Date	Time	Opponent	Location
Dec. 12	7:15 p.m.	New Richland	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Dec. 15	7:15 p.m.	United South Central	United South Central H.S.
Dec. 18	7:30 p.m.	Dover-Eyota	Dover-Eyota H.S.
Jan. 4	7:30 p.m.	Randolph	Randolph H.S.
Jan. 9	7:15 p.m.	Bethlehem Academy	Bethlehem H.S.
Jan. 12	7:15 p.m.	Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	Waterville-Elysian-Morristown H.S.
Jan. 15	7:30 p.m.	Le Sueur-Henderson	Medford H.S.
Jan. 19	7:15 p.m.	Maple River	Medford H.S.
Jan. 22	7:15 p.m.	Schaeffer Academy	Medford H.S.
Jan. 23	7:15 p.m.	Blooming Prairie	Blooming Prairie H.S.
Jan. 26	7:15 p.m.	New Richland	Medford H.S.
Jan. 29	7:30 p.m.	Blue Earth Area	Medford H.S.
Jan. 30	7:30 p.m.	Cleveland	Cleveland H.S.
Feb. 2	7:15 p.m.	United South Central	Medford H.S.
Feb. 5	7:30 p.m.	Fairmont	Fairmont H.S.
Feb. 9	7:15 p.m.	Bethlehem Academy	Bethlehem H.S.
Feb. 12	7:15 p.m.	Jordan	Medford H.S.
Feb. 16	7:15 p.m.	Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	Medford H.S.
Feb. 19	7:15 p.m.	Janesville-Maldorf-Pemberton	Medford H.S.

MEDFORD TIGERS GIRLS BASKETBALL



Date	Time	Opponent	Location
Dec. 14	6:30 p.m.	Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial	Medford H.S.
Dec. 16	10 a.m.	Kenyon-Wanamingo	Kenyon-Wanamingo H.S.
Jan. 11	7 p.m.	United South Central	Medford H.S.
Jan. 18	7 p.m.	Maple River	Medford H.S.
Jan. 20	10 a.m.	Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial	Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial H.S.
Jan. 27	10 a.m.	Lake City	Lake City H.S.
Jan. 30	5 p.m.	Medford Duals	Medford H.S.
Feb. 1	7 p.m.	New Richland	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Feb. 2	7 p.m.	Madelia/Truman/Martin Luther Jayhawks	Madelia H.S.
Feb. 8	7 p.m.	WEM/JWP	Medford H.S.

MEDFORD TIGERS WRESTLING

HUSKIES EXPECT TO COMPETE FOR BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Expectations are high for the Owatonna boys' basketball team that returns five players who started at some point on this past season's team that went 21 -9 and finished third in the Big 9 Conference.

Owatonna coach Josh Williams said the Huskies want to get up and down the floor and push the tempo of the game with their athletes.

"We're not a team that is going to take a minute off the clock every position," he said. "We are going to try to play a higher possession game, but we have to figure out what is a good shot and what is a bad shot. We have to understand you can run in transition and still be patience at times when the other teams defend well."

The Huskies return approximately 80 percent of their scoring from this past season.

"We return most of our scoring and rebounding," Williams said. "We also return a lot of parts in terms of what we did defensively too."

Dalton Kubista returns for his senior campaign after leading the Huskies in scoring this past season with 19 points per game.

Kubista, an All-Big 9 Conference selection, is a pure scorer, who can create and make shots from anywhere.

"[Kubista] can score a lot of different ways," he said. "He's a great shooter with good range, and he can put it on the floor and can get to the basket."

Williams said Kubista has one of the best mid-range jump shots that he has ever coached

"He just elevates so high that it makes it tough to guard and virtually impossible to block," he said. "He brings a threat on the offense end that is going to demand other teams to put their top defender on him most nights, which will hopefully create some

opportunities for other guys to step up."

While Kubista is a very skilled player on the offensive end of the floor, he needs to become more consistent on the defensive side.

"He's a very intelligent kid," Williams said. "He knows what he needs to do because he understands the game very well."

Senior Nolan Malo provides the Huskies with another college-level talent.

"There are a lot of Division III and even some Division II [schools] that are interested in him," Williams said. "He's a 6-foot-6-inch shooting guard who can guard anyone from the point guard to the 5-man. He's a kid who can play a lot of different positions and have success at both ends of the court."

Williams said Malo has exceptional long-range shooting ability, but needs to improve his ball handling.

Another senior that Owatonna will rely heavily on this season is Andrew Jackson.

Jackson was the Huskies third leading scorer and an All-Big 9 Conference honorable mention selection a year ago.

"I fully expect him to be there again," Williams said. "[Jackson] has made a lot of progress over the past year. Basketball is his sport and he has put a lot of time in."

Jackson has the range to step out and hit a 3-pointer, but he is more of the prototypical power forward or center.

"He puts it on the floor well and is capable of scoring in the post," Williams said. "[Jackson] has the ability to play college basketball too."

"I'm hoping and expecting that Kubista, Malo and Jackson will all play at the collegiate level," he continued. "But right now, we need those three guys to be leaders for us this year."

Senior Alex Raichle and junior Jason Williamson

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Swenson Photography

TIGER GIRLS STILL A WORK IN PROGRESS

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

With just two upperclassmen and a handful of freshmen and sophomores expected to contribute, the Medford Tigers girls' basketball team might feature the youngest roster in the area.

Coach Mark Kubat said despite the team's youth, this is the best group he has had during his tenure as the Tigers' coach.

One of the ways the Tigers look up improve this season is by playing with more tempo.

"We're going to try to get out in the open court a little bit more to make up for our lack of size," Kubat said. "We will probably get out after people a little bit more, but we are going to pick and choose our times to do it."

Kubat said he anticipates the Tigers using a 12-player rotation this season. In total, the Medford returns three starters and eight letterwinners from this past season's squad.

"We have a lot of options," he said. "Not only is this the best group, but it's also the most even group I have had."

The Tigers will be led by sophomore Emma Kniefel. "I was talking to a college coach and the biggest

thing with [Kniefel] is that she gets it," Kubat said. "She understands the game and she knows what she has to do to get better."

Kniefel has led the Medford in scoring for the past two season, averaging 15 points per game this past year.

"She's work very hard at her game and is a well-rounded player," Kubat said. "She spends a lot of time in the weight room and understands everything that goes into becoming a better player. She listens to everything you tell her and is really easy to coach."

Kubat said the time Kniefel spends playing AAU ball in the offseason has also helped to further develop her skills.

"She works well with her teammates," he said. "She just gets it."

Kubat looks for senior Kristina Niner and junior Bailey Purrier to provide some veteran leadership to the young but talented team.

"Kristina Niner has done a great job of leading by example," he said. "She gives us a little bit of offense and a little bit of defense."

Purrier on the other hand provides the Tigers with grit as well as being a lockdown defender.

Returning to run the point will be sophomore Kiley Nihart.

Kubat said Nihart is probably the smallest starter in southern Minnesota.

"She's small but she is fearless," he said. "She has had a great summer getting ready for the season. I really look for her to do some fantastic things for us."

Rounded out the starting lineup is sophomore guard Izzy Reuvers.

Kubat said Reuvers is a strong, durable player.

"[Reuvers] is a just a tough kid," he said. "She pretty good on both ends of the floor and we are going to need her on both ends."

Freshman center Kinsey Cronin is expected to be the Tigers first player off the bench.

Kubat said "[Cronin] has done some really nice things for us this summer and the first couple weeks of practice."

The Tigers will look to improve from a 6-19 campaign from a year ago.

"We are definitely going to be better," Kubat said. "This the most athletic group we have had. We have some kids that can jump and really get up and down the court. We just don't have a lot of height. So, we are still trying to calculate what types of advantages we can create for ourselves. It's still work in progress."



REBUILDING ON MINDS OF NRHEG WRESTLERS

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS WRITER

After compiling the poorest record in many

seasons, the NRHEG wrestling team continues a rebuilding process that began in that losing season.

Coach Shawn Larson, in his fifth year at the helm, is optimistic that the team will show much improvement.

The Panthers won only two matches last year,

while losing 16, but the team graduated only one senior and return 17 letter winners, including Gopher All-Conference selection Tyler Jacobson and Honorable Mention choice Cole Staloch.

The team finished second in Section 2A competition just two years ago, but lost to Kenyon-Wanamingo in quarterfinal action last season. Larson will have excellent assistance this season, with Nate Jensen starting his 21st season in the wrestling program. Austin Hill graduated after a sixth place finish in the section a year ago.

Among the returning letter winners, four seniors lead the way. Chad Erickson, Brett Kubiatowicz, Staloch, and Brendon Strand will give guidance to the younger athletes and strive to return the Pan-

thers into the top three teams in the conference.

Those seniors, plus some juniors who have been wrestling varsity for a few years, provide the cornerstone for the squad.

"We are hoping to learn from our setbacks last year," remarked Coach Larson, "and we believe we can have a winning season. We had nine wrestlers attend the Iron Sharpens Iron camp in Dubuque, Iowa, and we also had a few wrestlers participate in freestyle and Greco-Roman competitions."

Besides the returning seniors, five juniors with experience, including Jacobson come back. Alex Buckmeier, Quinton Arndt, Carter Hagen, and Mason Oakland also have some varsity experience and will be relied on for leadership help.

Three sophomores — Andrew Bailey, Andrew Reich, and Agro Gushwa — are back. Freshmen Thor Routh and Nick Staloch return, and eighth graders Clay Stenzel, Ralph Roester, and Nikolas

Petsinger round out the squad.

"Our team strength," concluded Larson, "comes from the senior and junior leadership. Although we had a difficult season last year, we are optimistic that we can come back strong this year, because we brought almost everyone back. We are a bit older and more experienced and ready for competition. Our biggest issue of concern will be in maintaining a full lineup, as we have several athletes in the same weight range."

Larson expects Westfield to be a strong favorite in the conference, and Blue Earth Area and Maple River will join Westfield as strong squads in the section.

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NEW RICHLAND PANTHERS GIRLS BASKETBALL

Date	Time	Opponent	Location
Dec. 12	7:15 p.m.	Medford	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Dec. 14	7:15 p.m.	Keynon-Wannamingo	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Dec. 18	7:15 p.m.	Tri-City United	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Dec. 19	7:15 p.m.	Triton	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Dec. 28	5 p.m.	Saint Charles	New Richland Invitational
Dec. 28	7 p.m.	Alden-Conger	New Richland Invitational
Dec. 29	5 p.m.	Saint Charles	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Jan. 4	7:15 p.m.	Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Jan. 6	6 p.m.	Hayfield	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Jan. 9	7:15 p.m.	Blooming Prairie	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Jan. 12	7:15 p.m.	United South Central	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Jan. 13	3 p.m.	Sleepy Eye	United South Central H.S.
Jan. 19	7:15 p.m.	Bethlehem Academy	Hayfield Invite
Jan. 23	7:15 p.m.	Maple River	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Jan. 26	7:15 p.m.	Medford	Maple River H.S.
Feb. 1	7:15 p.m.	Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial	Medford H.S.
Feb. 3	7:15 p.m.	Fairmont	Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial H.S.
Feb. 5	7:15 p.m.	Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Feb. 9	7:15 p.m.	Blooming Prairie	Waterville-Elysian-Morristown
Feb. 13	7:15 p.m.	Waseca	Blooming Prairie H.S.
Feb. 16	7:15 p.m.	Saint Peter	Waseca H.S.
Feb. 15	7:15 p.m.	United South Central	Saint Peter H.S.
Feb. 19	7:30 p.m.	Blue Earth Area	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
			Blue Earth Area H.S.



NEW RICHLAND PANTHERS WRESTLING

Date	Time	Opponent	Location
Dec. 15	4 p.m.	Redwood Riot	Redwood Valley H.S.
Dec. 16	9 a.m.	Redwood Riot	Redwood Valley H.S.
Dec. 21	7 p.m.	Triton	Triton H.S.
Jan. 5	7 p.m.	Madellia/Truman/Martin Luther Jayhawks	NRHEG H.S.
Jan. 11	7 p.m.	WEM/JWP	NRHEG H.S.
Jan. 13	10 a.m.	Gopher/Vailley Conference	Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial
Jan. 18	5 p.m.	Tournament	
Jan. 18	8 p.m.	Westfield Flazorbacks	NRHEG H.S.
Jan. 25	5 p.m.	Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial	NRHEG H.S.
Feb. 1	7 p.m.	Le Sueur-Henderson	La Sueur-Henderson H.S.
Feb. 8	7 p.m.	Medford	NRHEG H.S.
		Maple River	Maple River H.S.

NEW RICHLAND PANTHERS BOYS BASKETBALL

Date	Time	Opponent	Location
Dec. 12	7:15 p.m.	Medford	Medford H.S.
Dec. 15	7:15 p.m.	Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Dec. 19	7:15 p.m.	Trition	Trition H.S.
Dec. 22	7:15 p.m.	Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	Waterville-Elysian-Morristown H.S.
Dec. 27	8 p.m.	Saint Croix Lutheran Academy	Bethany Holiday Tournament
Jan. 5	7:15 p.m.	Tri-City United	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Jan. 6	7:30 p.m.	Hayfield	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Jan. 9	7:15 p.m.	Blooming Prairie	Blooming Prairie H.S.
Jan. 12	7:15 p.m.	United South Central	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Jan. 19	7:15 p.m.	Bethlehem Academy	Bethlehem Academy
Jan. 23	7:15 p.m.	Maple River	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Jan. 26	7:15 p.m.	Medford	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Jan. 30	7:30 p.m.	Le Sueur-Henderson	Le Sueur-Henderson H.S.
Feb. 3	7 p.m.	Fairmont	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Feb. 5	7:15 p.m.	Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Feb. 9	7:15 p.m.	Blooming Prairie	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Feb. 12	7:15 p.m.	United South Central	United South Central H.S.
Feb. 17	7:15 p.m.	Redwood Valley	Redwood Valley H.S.
Feb. 19	7:30 p.m.	Blue Earth Area	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Feb. 22	7:15 p.m.	Saint Peter	Saint Peter H.S.
Feb. 23	7:15 p.m.	Bethlehem Academy	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.
Feb. 27	7:15 p.m.	Waseca	New Richland-H-E-G H.S.

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PANTHERS IN HUNT FOR CONFERENCE TITLE AND MORE AGAIN

**BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER**

It would be very difficult to equal or surpass last year's season for the NRIHEG boys' basketball team that compiled a 30-3 overall record, tied for the Gopher conference title, won the section 2A championship, and then culminated the year with a state consolation trophy. But Coach Pat Churchill is confident that the squad has enough talent remaining to challenge for a conference title and beyond.

Three starters return this season, including seniors guard Benji Lundberg and Jerret Updell and junior Brady Agrimson. Lundberg is a two-year starter who averaged 13 points per game, tough on the dribble and a hardnosed defender on the ball. Updell is a versatile guard and a good shooter off the dribble, and Agrimson can score inside and out and is a good defender and rebounder.

Other players who coach Churchill will count on this season include senior Nathaniel Techau and junior Jacob Schuller. Both are 6'5", and Techau

shoots well from 15-foot range, while Schuller is a good athlete, who can alter a lot of shots. Other returnees include senior Perry Peterson, juniors Devin Buendorf, Jake Stork, and Peyton Castle, and sophomore Blake Ihke. Lonnie Wilson and Gabe Dahle round out the varsity squad.

"We are replacing a lot of players from a very talented team last year," remarked Coach Churchill, "and it will take awhile for the new athletes to learn the varsity game and their new roles. We may struggle a little early in the season, but with experience, we can keep getting better and be a solid club by seasons' end."

Those talented players lost through graduation include Oakley Baker and Tyler Raimann, the two

leading scorers from last year. Baker averaged 18 points a game, started four straight years, was 2,000 point scorer in his career, a four-time All Con-

ference pick, and made the state All-Tournament team. He is playing at St. Johns University this year.

Raimann averaged 13 points and 8 rebounds per game and earned All-Conference honors. All-Con-

ference Chad Agrimson, point guard Sam Prigge, Jack Schultz, and Carter Fisher also graduated from the team last year. All of those players made great contributions to the team last season.

"Our biggest strength this season is our size," continued Churchill, "We should start four players 6'3" or taller who are all pretty decent athletes. A lack of experience and several new faces will probably need to adjust to the varsity speed. Replacing our shooters will also be a concern."

Coach Churchill is in his eighth year at the Parthenheim, and Isaiah Lundberg will assist him in mentoring the team. Last year's record highlighted his coaching career which includes a 117-75 career mark.

It should be another winning season for the Panthers.

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BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS WRITER

Very few basketball teams in the area can boast of its success over the last five years than the NRHEG girls.

Coach Onika Peterson will enter her fourth year as the Panther mentor with 10 letter winners in an effort to keep that success going. The team earned two straight State Class 2A titles in 2012-2013, and 2013-14, and in Peterson's third year at the helm (2016-17), the team won the state consolation championship.

"We lost six seniors from last year's team," commented Coach Peterson, "and those girls all had a lot of varsity experience. Because of that, there will obviously be a bit of a learning curve in this season. I am extremely excited, however, for this group of girls and what is

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PANTHER GIRLS BANKING ON CONTINUED SUCCESS

coming up in the program. I am hoping we will be playing our best ball come playoff time again."

Losses from last season include two of the top three scorers for the Panthers — Maddie Wagner and Marnie Wagner. Maddie finished the season second in points with 412, and Marnie trailed by just 5 points at 407. The two Wagners pulled down 222 and 196 rebounds, and the twins had 100 and 118 steals respectively. Kayley Camerer had 136 rebounds and scored 280 points in the season, with 72 assists.

Rachel Collins had 213 points, 87 rebounds, and 40 steals, and Grace Johns scored 132 points, 63 rebounds, and 27 steals. Gretchen Ramaker didn't play much her junior and senior seasons, with torn ACL injuries.

Probably the most important player returning for NRHEG is a Gopher All-Conference pick, Betsy Schoenrock. Schoenrock, the 6'5" center bound for Gustavus Adolphus college on a scholarship, led the team in scoring and rebounding last season with 480 points, 250 rebounds, and 76 blocked

shots. Kelly Harden made an Honorable Mention All-Conference and had 80 points, 112 rebounds, 54 assists, and 47 steals.

Besides Schoenrock and Harden, seniors Lauren Hermann, Gabby Muri, and Erin Van Wilgen return, as do juniors Olivia Christopherson, Hannah Budach, Alexis Anderson, and Caitlin Goette, and 8th grader Sophie Stork. As of now 11 players comprise the varsity squad.

"We will find that experience will be the greatest weakness beginning the year," concluded Peterson. "if we can gain experience quickly, keep the turnovers at a minimum, keep hustling, and rebound a little better, we should continue to have success on the court."

WEM and Maple River will be tagged the favorites in the always tough Gopher conference, and one can add St. Peter and Norwood-Young America to the list in the section.

It should be another exciting year for the Panther girls.



Swenson Photography

TIGERS THRILLED FOR FUTURE

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Medford Tigers wrestling team is excited about the potential of the season after many familiar and some new faces returned to the program.

Coach Dennis Whitman said the Tigers have a lot of new faces joining the team because Medford's current group wrestlers are doing a great job of selling the program to their potential teammates.

"The culture of our program is changing a little bit," he said. "We went through a few stretches where our youth program didn't have a lot of kids participating. Now, we are starting to see the numbers come out again."

The Tigers' goal for the season is to be consistently aggressive and offensive-minded.

"That's what we want out of every kid," Whitman said. "We work hard in the wrestling room and our kids are usually well conditioned, so we want all of our kids to be aggressive and looking to score at all times."

Whitman said Medford has great senior leadership with six senior spread throughout its lineup.

"We should have a more balanced lineup," he said. "We will still have a couple of holes in the lineup, but overall as team, we should be much more more balanced, and we should be a much more solid dual meet team."

"Wrestling is without a doubt an individual sport," he continued. "But the kids really do get into the team part of it. Team-wise, I think we are going to have a bit of a more enjoyable season this year."

Individually, we have few kids that had a chance to do some special things."

That starts with two-time qualifier Willie Von Ruden. The sophomore is currently ranked N. 5 in Class A at the 138-pound weight class.

Whitman said Willie Von Ruden a vigorous three-sport athlete.

"Wrestling is sport where hard work pays off and he's put a lot of time and effort into his craft," he said. "When you get athletic kids that work hard year-round, those guys usually turn out pretty special."

"[Willie Von Ruden] is looking to not only qualify for state this year, but finish in the top six, if not win the whole thing," Whitman continued. "He's one of our leaders on the teams even though he's one of our younger guys."

Senior Jonny Meyer is currently ranked No. 6 in Class A at the 106-pound weight class.

Meyer had more than 20 wins for the Tigers this past season.

"He had great year this past season," Whitman said. "He's had a lot of success for us and I expect him to build onto that this year."

Senior Nate Meixner is expected to wrestle at either the 182 or 195-pound weight class.

"He's been on varsity for a few years now and I look for him to be a leader," Whitman said. "He's has a lot of success on the mat and I look for him to continue to do that."

Senior Javis Von Ruden returns to the team and will wrestle at the 160-pound weight class after taking a hiatus for a couple of years.

"He is a really athletic kid," Whitman said. "I expect him to hit the mat running at full stride."

Bo Noble is another senior who is expected to have a good season for the Tigers at either the 145 or 152-pound weight class.

"He broke his collarbone last year and missed his entire junior season," Whitman said. "He's back and healthy this year. I think a lot of people are going to have forgot about him because he didn't complete last year, but he's going to do a lot of really good stuff for too."

Whitman said he is also excited about sophomore Zach Wetmore, who came out for the team for the first time this season and will wrestle at the 160-pound weight class.

"He's going to get some varsity time," he said. "He's new to the sport and he's pretty raw, but he's a strong, athletic kid that I picking it up really fast. He's a kid that we will probably hold back a little bit at the beginning of the season, but the end of the year he could be a permanent part of our lineup."

Senior Greg Larson is another wrestler who rejoins the team after not competing for a couple of seasons.

Larson will wrestle at either the 170 or 182-pound weight class.

Whitman said the Tigers also have a lot of young wrestlers who have put in a lot of work and are looking to turn the corner.

"They're solid group of kids who are great leaders too," he said. "They will be ready to take over next year when these guys move on."



OWATONNA HUSKIES BOYS BASKETBALL

Date	Time	Opponent	Location
Dec. 12	7:30 p.m.	Northfield	Owatonna H.S.
Dec. 15	7:30 p.m.	Winona	Winona H.S.
Dec. 21	7:30 p.m.	Apple Valley	Owatonna H.S.
Dec. 27	5 p.m.	Minnetonka	Owatonna H.S.
Dec. 28	5 p.m.	Burnsville	Owatonna H.S.
Dec. 28	6:30 p.m.	Chisago Lakes	Owatonna H.S.
Jan. 2	7:30 p.m.	Rochester John Marshall	Owatonna H.S.
Jan. 4	7:30 p.m.	Rochester Mayo	Rochester Mayo H.S.
Jan. 6	7:30 p.m.	Rochester Century	Rochester Century H.S.
Jan. 9	7:30 p.m.	Red Wing	Owatonna H.S.
Jan. 12	7:30 p.m.	Faribault	Owatonna H.S.
Jan. 16	7:30 p.m.	Austin	Austin H.S.
Jan. 19	7:30 p.m.	Mankato East	Mankato East H.S.
Jan. 22	7:30 p.m.	Mankato West	Owatonna H.S.
Jan. 26	7:30 p.m.	Albert Lea	Owatonna H.S.
Jan. 30	7:30 p.m.	Northfield	Northfield H.S.
Feb. 2	7:30 p.m.	Winona	Owatonna H.S.
Feb. 5	7:30 p.m.	Rochester Century	Owatonna H.S.
Feb. 8	7:15 p.m.	Saint Michael-Albertville	Saint Michael-Albertville H.S.
Feb. 13	7:30 p.m.	Rochester Mayo	Owatonna H.S.
Feb. 16	7:30 p.m.	Red Wing	Red Wing H.S.
Feb. 17	7:30 p.m.	Rochester John Marshall	Rochester John Marshall H.S.
Feb. 20	7:30 p.m.	Faribault	Faribault H.S.
Feb. 23	7:30 p.m.	Austin	Owatonna H.S.
Feb. 27	7:30 p.m.	Mankato East	Owatonna H.S.
March 2	7:30 p.m.	Mankato West	Mankato West H.S.

OWATONNA HUSKIES GIRLS BASKETBALL

Date	Time	Opponent	Location
Dec. 12	7:30 p.m.	Northfield	Northfield H.S.
Dec. 15	7:30 p.m.	Winona	Owatonna H.S.
Dec. 27	6 p.m.	Alexandria Area	Alexandria H.S.
Dec. 28	5 p.m.	Alexandria Area	Alexandria H.S.
Jan. 2	7:30 p.m.	Rochester John Marshall	Rochester John Marshall H.S.
Jan. 4	7:30 p.m.	Rochester Mayo	Owatonna H.S.
Jan. 6	7:30 p.m.	Rochester Century	Owatonna H.S.
Jan. 9	7:30 p.m.	Red Wing	Red Wing H.S.
Jan. 12	7:30 p.m.	Faribault	Faribault H.S.
Jan. 16	7:30 p.m.	Austin	Owatonna H.S.
Jan. 19	7:30 p.m.	Mankato East	Owatonna H.S.
Jan. 22	7:30 p.m.	Mankato West	Mankato West H.S.
Jan. 26	7:30 p.m.	Albert Lea	Albert Lea H.S.
Jan. 30	7:30 p.m.	Northfield	Owatonna H.S.
Feb. 2	7:30 p.m.	Winona	Winona H.S.
Feb. 5	7:30 p.m.	Rochester Century	Rochester Century H.S.

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Feb. 13 7:30 p.m. Rochester Mayo
Feb. 16 7:30 p.m. Red Wing
Feb. 20 7:30 p.m. Faribault
Feb. 23 7:30 p.m. Austin

OWATONNA HUSKIES BOYS HOCKEY

Date	Time	Opponent	Location
Dec. 14	7:15 p.m.	Austin	Riverside Arena
Dec. 16	3 p.m.	Chanhassen	Victoria Recreation Center
Dec. 27	3 p.m.	Mound-Westonka	Heritage Center Duluth
Jan. 2	7:15 p.m.	Rochester John Marshall	Four Seasons Centre
Jan. 4	7 p.m.	Northfield	Northfield Ice Arena
Jan. 9	7:30 p.m.	East Ridge	Cottage Grove Ice Arena
Jan. 11	7 p.m.	Rochester Mayo	Graham Arena
Jan. 16	7 p.m.	Faribault	Faribault Ice Arena
Jan. 18	7:15 p.m.	Rochester Century	Four Seasons Centre
Jan. 20	3 p.m.	Red Wing	Prairie Island Arena
Jan. 23	7 p.m.	South Saint Paul	Four Seasons Centre
Jan. 25	7:30 p.m.	Mankato East	Four Seasons Centre
Jan. 30	7:15 p.m.	Northfield	Four Seasons Centre
Feb. 1	7:15 p.m.	Rochester John Marshall	Rochester Recreation Center
Feb. 3	7:15 p.m.	Rochester Mayo	Four Seasons Centre
Feb. 8	7:30 p.m.	Mahtomedi	Saint Croix Rec CEnter
Feb. 10	7:15 p.m.	Rochester Century	Graham Arena
Feb. 13	7:15 p.m.	Mankato Wst	Four Seasons Centre
Feb. 17	3 p.m.	Winona	Bud King Arena

OWATONNA HUSKIES GIRLS HOCKEY

Date	Time	Opponent	Location
Dec. 12	5 p.m.	Mankato East/Loyola	All Seasons Arena
Dec. 14	7 p.m.	Austin	Four Seasons Centre
Dec. 16	1 p.m.	Mankato West	All Seasons Arena
Dec. 21	5:30 p.m.	Rochester John Marshall	Rochester Recreation Center
Dec. 28	7:30 p.m.	Schwan Cup	National Sports Center in
Blaine, Minnesota			
Dec. 29	TBD	Schwan Cup	National Sports Center in
Blaine, Minnesota			
Dec. 30	TBD	Schwan Cup	National Sports Center in
Blaine, Minnesota			
Jan. 2	7 p.m.	Austin	Riverside Arena
Jan. 9	7 p.m.	Mankato East/Loyola	Four Seasons Centre
Jan. 11	7 p.m.	Rochester Mayo	Four Seasons Centre
Jan. 16	7 p.m.	Faribault	Four Seasons Centre
Jan. 18	7:30 p.m.	Rochester Century	Rochester Recreation Center
Jan. 20	7 p.m.	Red Wing	Four Seasons Centre
Jan. 25	7 p.m.	Northfield	Four Seasons Centre
Jan. 30	7:30 p.m.	Rochester Mayo	Graham Arena
Feb. 1	5:30 p.m.	Rochester John Marshall	Four Seasons Centre
Feb. 3	2:30 p.m.	Wayzata	Plymouth Ice Center

OWATONNA WRESTLING SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Opponent	Location
Dec. 14	5 p.m.	Northfield	Northfield H.S.
Dec. 21	7 p.m.	Rochester Century	Rochester Century H.S.
Jan. 4	7 p.m.	Winona/Winona Cotter	Winona H.S.
Jan. 11	7 p.m.	Albert Lea Area	Owatonna H.S.
Jan. 13	9 a.m.	Mounds View	Mounds View H.S.
Jan. 18	7 p.m.	Rochester John Marshall	Rochester John Marshall H.S.
Jan. 20	9 a.m.	Zumbrota-Mazeppa	Zumbrota-Mazeppa H.S.
Jan. 25	5 p.m.	Austin	Owatonna H.S.
Jan. 25	5 p.m.	Mankato East	Owatonna H.S.
Jan. 27	9 a.m.	Bloomington Kennedy	Owatonna H.S.
Feb. 1	7 p.m.	Rochester Mayo	Bloomington Kennedy H.S.
Feb. 2	7 p.m.	Farmington	Owatonna H.S.
Feb. 8	7 p.m.	Faribault	Farmington H.S.
			Owatonna H.S.

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NEW COACH ON A MISSION TO CHANGE CULTURE OF MEDFORD BASKETBALL PROGRAM

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

New Medford boys' basketball coach Todd Schneider watched from the stands this past season as the Tigers went 0-24 with only two of the losses being within 10 points.

Schneider said he would tell his wife every game, "Man, these guys can really play and I would love the chance to coach them."

So it was no surprise Schneider was one of the first in line to inquire about the open position when former Medford coach Spencer Busho resigned after just one season.

"Even though they really took a beating last year, they still played hard every game," Schneider said. "They did improve throughout the season too."

Now, Schneider is focused on changing the culture of the program that hasn't won a conference game since the 2012-13 season.

"We want to create a championship and winning environment," he said. "We really hope to take leap

from the bottom of the conference and section. Not take everything in one big step, but if we can get to near the middle of the conference and section than that would be a giant step in a positive direction for us."

Tigers are ready to push the ball after enacting

Medford has a total of five seniors this year after having none a season ago.

Schneider said he has very high expectations for all five seniors.

Forwards Bryce McCarthy and Alex Gengler re-turn to team for their senior seasons after spending a year away from the team.

"They are very good athletes that did not play last year," Schneider said. "That's going to make us better right away by adding to our depth, rebounding and defense."

"It's great to see them on the court again," he continued. "I don't know why they didn't play last year, but they are both good athletes and ball players. They re both also very intense player. The intensity level in practice has pick up a notch just by having those two on the team. I fully expect them to carry that over into the game."

Senior guards Brody Berg and Ben Sutcliffe are also expected to be major contributors to the team.

"We have some real nice depth and some younger kids that can really play too," Schneider said. "There is definitely the potential to take this program in a different direction than it has been going."

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SENIOR GROUP READY TO LEAD LADY HUSKIES

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Heading into her second year as the head coach of the Owatonna girls' basketball team, Lindsey Hugstad-Vaa is looking for the Huskies to take the next step in their progression.

Owatonna returns all five starters and total of eight letterwinners from a season ago.

"We have a huge group of seniors who have a lot of experience and will bring a lot of intensity to games," Hugstad said. "We have a total of about 10 girls who could get significant playing time this season. We want to use that depth to play fast and uptempo." Leading the way for the Huskies are seniors Sydney Schultz and Jenna Zeman, both were All-Big 9

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Conference selections this past season. Schultz, a forward, has already scored more than 1,000 points in high school career.

"She is really aggressive in the paint for us," Hugstad-Vaa said. "She's also very versatile in the press."

Zeman, the team's point guard, is a multifaceted player and a merciless defender.

Hugstad-Vaa said Zeman does a good job of attacking the basket and is also a great 3-point shooter.

Seniors Bria Wachowiak, Stephanie Liebl and Ahnna Stelter round out the starting lineup for the Huskies, and seniors Hannah Gebur, Lexi Falken, Alexa Sommers, Julia Haarstad and sophomore Sara Anderson are expected to get playing time coming off of the bench.

"All 10 of those girls will be very much in the groove of this team," she said. "We need them all to give us good minutes and play aggressively and uptempo. We also want them to play with a lot of

intensity."

The Huskies look to improve from their 19-10 record and fourth place finish in the Big 9 conference from this past season.

Hugstad-Vaa said Owatonna plays in a tough conference and section, but she believes the Huskies have what it takes to compete for both titles.

"We're hoping to be at the top of conference," she said. "We also want to be a competitor in the section finals."

Hugstad-Vaa said having such a large group of seniors will definitely benefit the team.

"They all have grown up playing together and, most importantly, they enjoy playing with each other," she said. "They're just really comfortable around each other and play really hard for one another."

"That's very beneficial for us because we aren't mixing together a bunch of kids from different grades," Hugstad-Vaa said. "They all are use to each other. That team chemistry and camaraderie is really important for us."

OLDENBURG PHOTOGRAPHY

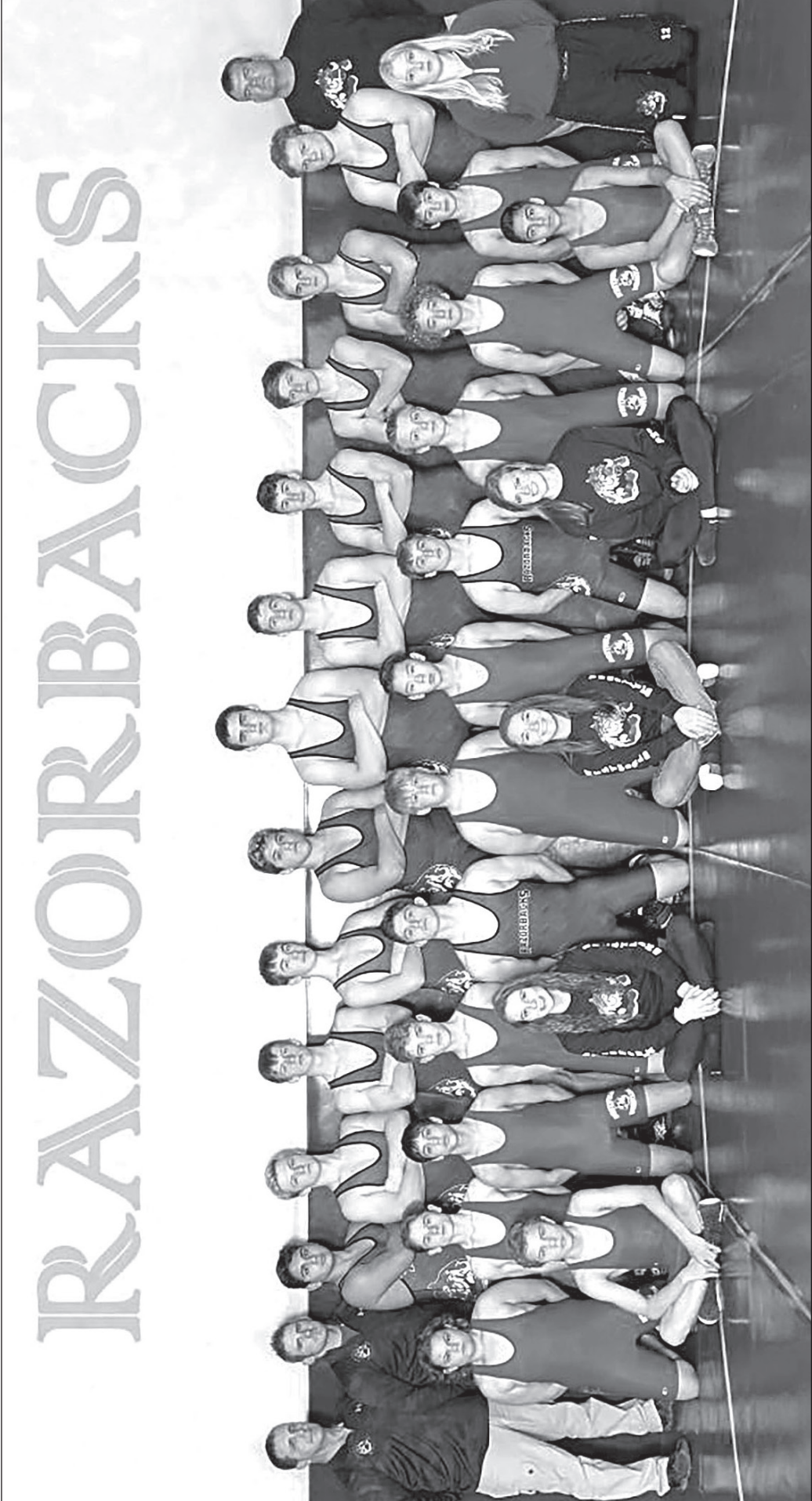


PHOTO COURTESY SONJA'S STUDIO

Front row: Conner Christianson, Jori Rieken, Natalee Heydt, Miranda Steinfadt, Danny Fernandez; Second row: Cobey Sandte, Alex Phenix, Land Lembke, Keegan Bronson, Payton Simon, Sam Pirki, Sam Skillestad, Ethan Arett, Tyler Archer, Cael Becker, Cade Christianson, Frederikke Kildested; Third row: Coach Chad Gimbel, Coach Shane Masching, Isaac Fernandez, Dylan Ehmke, Riley Schultz, Joe Pirki, Morgen Moreno, Mitchell Oswald, Seth Peterson, Cole Christianson, Joey Meyer, Jack Pennington, Colton Krell, Coach Karl Steckelberg.

RAZORBACK WRESTLERS BUILD ON SUCCESS

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS WRITER

In the first season of a shared program named the Westfield Razorbacks, Blooming Prairie and Hayfield found success. The team compiled a 15-5 dual meet record and went all the way to the section semi-finals before losing to Kenyon-Wanamingo.

Eleven letter winners return to bolster hopes of continuing success individually, and as a team.

Co-Coach Chad Gimbel starts his second year after three years as the Blossom mentor, and Shane Masching begins his first season as Gimbel's Co-Coach. Carl Steckelberg will assist the two this season in his first stint for the program.

"We hope to compete for a conference title and a section championship too," remarked Coach Gimbel. "Our strengths will be in the upper weights

where Morgan Moreno and Mitchell Oswald both return after qualifying for the state tournament a year ago, and Ethan Arett also advanced to the state. Inexperience at the lower weights and a lack of depth are the principal weaknesses."

Among the returning letter winners, Oswald wrestled to a third place at the state meet. He compiled a 29-4 dual bout record at 285, and he will anchor the team this season. The other senior letter winner, Moreno, went 32-6 at 220 and qualified for the state meet as well. Arett qualified for state with a 27-6 record at 113 pounds.

Three juniors return as letter winners. Seth Peterson wrestled at 152 and went 10-7 in dual meets. Tristan Rieken went 26-10 at 182, and Riley Schultz won 14 and lost 10 at 126. Three sophomores lettered a season ago. Colton Krell won 32 and lost

only 6 on his way to the state tournament at 160, where he finished fourth. Joey Meyer went 4-21 at 145, and Dylan Nirk wrestled 24-13 at 195.

A freshman and an eighth grader round out the letter winners from last season. Ninth grader Joe Pirki went 5-6 at 132 pounds, and Tyler Archer wrestled at 120. He won one bout out of seven. Other matmen who will be counted on this season include junior Payton Simon, ninth graders Lane Lembke, Dylan Ehmke, and Isaac Fernandez, and 8th graders Alex Phoenix and Cody Nirk.

Lost from last year's squad, Trey Chatman compiled a 28-6 dual mark, Jackson Heydt went 23-13, Quentin Kubista won 10 and lost 20, and Sutton Schultz won one bout and lost 14. Chatman qualified for the state meet with his impressive dual bout victories.

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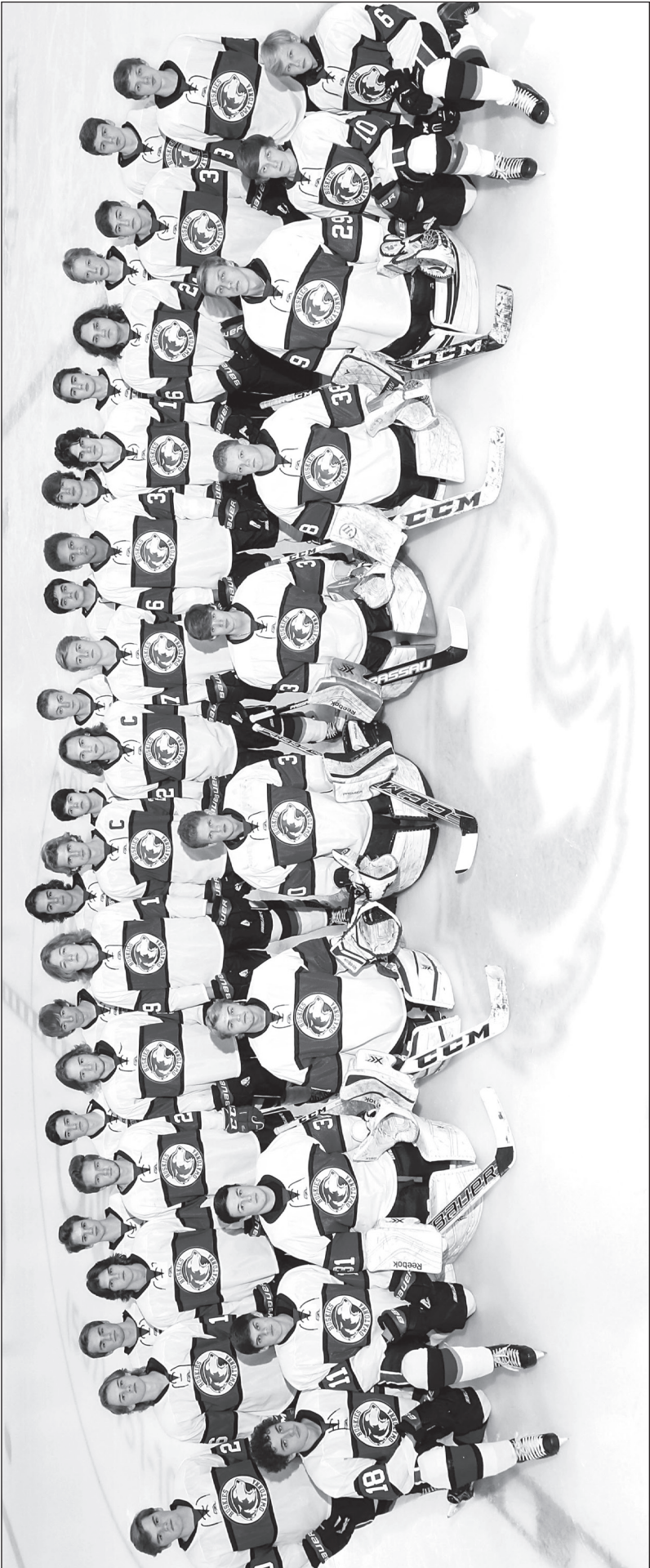
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OWATONNA BOYS' HOCKEY IS EXCITED ABOUT TALENT, POTENTIAL

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Owatonna boys hockey coach Josh Storm believes the Huskies have the raw talent and potential to have a strong season, but their success will come down to three key things: being an offense-first team, putting a lot of pressure on opponents and having a team-first mentality.

"Those are the ideas we want to live by and three things we will have to do in order to have a successful season," Storm said. "Mostly, we want to have the mentality of 'pack over pride,' which means we care more about the team's success than what we accomplish as individuals."

The Huskies return 12 letterwinners from this past season's team that finished 14-11-0.

Owatonna's top returning offensive threat is senior Tyler Wencil.

"[Wencil] is ridiculously dynamic," Storm said. "He has the ability to make plays and score on every single shift."

Wencil's 17 goals were the second most for the Huskies this past season.

"He's a big strong power forward," Storm said. "But he also has the ability to stick-handle and beat guys one-on-one. [Wencil] is our guy right now."

Senior brothers Nate and Nick Smith are also

important assets to the team.

Nate is a spirited, crafty forward that provides the Huskies with another option on offense.

"Nate brings another offensive presence to the team," Storm said. "He and [Wencil] work very well together."

"Nick will definitely chip in offensively too," he continued. "But he's also extremely strong of the defensive side. He's a very good penalty killer and he's willing to sacrifice and block puck for us."

Owatonna also return its top defensemen in seniors Mitchell Wiese and Walker Nelson.

"They are both really strong defensemen," Storm said. "They make smart plays and they're good with the puck."

Wiese, who named one of the team's captains, was also an outstanding linebacker for the Huskies' state championship football team this season.

Storm said Wiese is an intense competitor, but more importantly he has an unrivaled character.

"[Wiese] never takes shifts off," he said. "You know what you're going to get from him every single day. His offensive game has improved and he's one of the best skater that we have."

Nelson biggest strengths are his intelligence and calm demeanor on the ice.

"[Nelson] never gets stressed with the puck," Storm said. "He can make plays because of that. He

stays where he belongs and he doesn't get himself into trouble."

Seniors Jacob Dub and Ryan Johnson are the Huskies top returning goalies.

"They both have a lot of minutes between them," Storm said. "They are both very competitive people and really good goalies. I feel comfortable playing either of them right now. Our goaltending depth is probably the best I have seen in my tenure here."

Dub and Johnson had save percentages of .886 and .889, respectively, this past season.

Storm said senior captain Braeden Meier really came into his own at the end of this past season, and he expects him to be a major contributor to the team when he return from injury.

Beck Henderson is another senior who is expected to receive a lot more playing time and have an increased role on the team this season.

Storm said he has also been impressed with senior Landon Thurnau speed and quickness.

"I anticipate some really big things from this team," Storm said. "We have a little bit of growing up to do early in the year. We will gain some experience in the first handful of games and the young guys will figure it out. We will be playing our best hockey by the end of year and be a formidable opponent for Big 9 [Conference] opponents and beyond."

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Front row (left to right) – Zach Archer, Max Romeo, Tim Wolf, Kaden Thomas, Cory Wagaman; Back row— Isaac Ille, Karson Vigeland, Jake Ressler, Trent Swenson, Jarrett Larson.

OLDENBURG PHOTOGRAPHY

BLOSSOMS LEARNING ON SOPHOMORES FOR HELP

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS WRITER

Although nine seniors return to the Awesome Blossom boys' basketball season this year, Coach Nathan Piller will count heavily on two sophomores to be part of a leadership that will improve the Blossom fortunes in the upcoming campaign.

The returning letter winners have seniors Cameron Kubista, Jake Ressler, and Max Romeo, and sophomores Gabe Hagen and Kaden Thomas.

Of the seniors, guard Kubista led the team in steals and was second in handing out assists. Forward Ressler led the team in rebounds per game, three-point shooting percentage, and blocked shots, and guard Romeo came in second in steals and three-point shooting, and third in points per game.

Forward Nick Thompson is a versatile player who rebounds well and has an above average inside game to complement good defensive fundamentals. Other seniors looking for varsity playing time will be Kory Ratdai, Jeremy Hocking, Brad Staska, Cory Wagaman, and Austin Behne. Ratdai had some rare starts on the varsity.

Sophomore Hagen is a returning All-Conference player and was voted the team MVP after last year's season. He led the team in points per game, and two-point field goal percentage and came in second in rebounds and blocked shots, Thomas recently was named one of the top 50 sophomores in Minnesota, after having a tremendous off-season. He finished in the top five scoring last season, came in second in two-point field goal shooting, and led the team in free throw shooting percentage.

"We had a great off-season," remarked Coach Piller, "with 25 boys participating at various levels. With back-to-back seasons of young rosters, we hope that past experience will lead to more success this year. We have a large number of boys who want to participate and do well, and we need to improve daily in practice to become competitive in games. We need to improve our rebounding and team defense, and then I think we will have some success."

Junior Trent Swenson leads a group of eight juniors vying for varsity playing time, and eight other sophomores and 11 freshmen also are fighting to

get some playing time. Swenson led the JV team last season, and Matthew Pryor, Karson Vigeland, and Zach Weber all should have a say in varsity action. Some talented freshman will provide spirited competition in practice.

This will be Coach Piller's third year at the Blossom helm, after bringing years of coaching experience at various non-varsity levels. Andrew Hardecopt will again assist with the program. Piller expects the usual teams to be in contention for the conference, with NRHEG, WEM, and Maple River the three favorites. Goodhue and Hayfield will be strong opponents in the section.

"We have some good potential," concluded Piller. "We need to find guys to play defense and who take pride in getting stops, and guys who are willing to outwork anyone to bring down rebounds. Couple that with desire and a winning attitude, and a measure of success can be obtained."

If nothing else, it should be an interesting season for the Awesome Blossom basketball boys.

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