



Past Blooming Prairie Education Foundation president and BP Ed founder Sue Zwiener shows off a couple of collectible items containing the autographs of National Football League Hall of Famer Bud Grant, former Minnesota Vikings coach. The items will be auctioned at the BP Ed Foundation auctions on Saturday, March 24.

STAFF PHOTO

A community caring for kids

15th annual BP Ed auctions on Saturday

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The kids of the Blooming Prairie School District are the recipients of a caring community.

The existence of the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation proves that point. The 15th Annual BP Ed Auctions are scheduled for Saturday at the Pizza Cellar and Cue Company.

As soon as the 14th annual auctions entered the history books on March 25, 2017, planning began for the 2018 auctions. Last year's take was \$70,000.

"We don't set goals, we just try to make each event better than the one before," said Julie Noble, president of the BP Ed Foundation. "This community truly believes in their kids and with these funds, it is possible to make a brighter future for them with more educational programs," added Noble.

The BP Education Foundation is a non-profit organization created by a group of fiscally conservative community members. Mission of the Foundation is "to enhance the educational opportunities for the students

of ISD 756."

Funding for the Foundation is possible through the generous contributions of community members, alumni, business and other charitable organizations.

Karen Fouarge is auction committee chair. Her committee is about 20-strong.

More than 300 items were donated and auctioned last year. Fouarge believes that total might be eclipsed this year.

The Foundation uses its resources to fill voids in programs by adding to the education experiences of the students of ISD 756.

Proceeds from the auctions will be used to fund allocations requested from the BP School District and from teachers. The allocation requests are made twice a year. About 50 are allotted each year, founder Sue Zwiener said.

The funds are used to support technology advances, field trips, robotics team at the high school, lego project at the elementary school, purchase of 3D printers for the high school and elementary, etc.

A variety of auction items are featured with the silent

SEE CARING, A3

BP standout picked for national honor

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation announced last week that Blooming Prairie high School student Mitchell Oswald was named a 2018 scholar athlete.

Oswald and the other winners chosen by for academic excellence, leadership, and community involvement, will be recognized at the 11th annual Minnesota football

honors coming up later this spring.

The Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame is a non-profit organization. Its mission is to promote and develop the power of amateur football in developing the qualities of leadership, sportsmanship, competitive spirit, and academic excellence in Minnesota's young people.



Oswald

The Minnesota chapter recognizes legendary football icons, college football Hall of Famers, and Minnesota's top high school and college football scholar athletes.

As Blossoms' coach Chad Gimbel remarked, "This honor doesn't happen by chance. It happens because of the hard work, the focus, and the dedication he applies to reach his goals. As good of a student and athlete Mitchell is, he is an even

SEE OSWALD, A3

Police activity skyrockets in Blooming Prairie in 3 years

POLICE CALLS
FOR SERVICE
BLOOMING PRAIRIE

2017- 3,034 incidents
2014- 1,707 incidents
44 percent increase

HIGHEST INCREASES:

Curfew violations and mental health calls
90 percent
Noise complaints
82 percent
Drug activity
80 percent

Source: Blooming Prairie Police

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

At first glance it may appear the calls for service to Blooming Prairie Police are through the roof.

In 2017, local police responded to 3,034 incidents within Blooming Prairie compared to 1,707 in 2014. That's a 44 percent increase in activity for a department with three full-time officers and several part-timers.

While Chief Greg Skillestad acknowledges the calls have increased substantially over the past three years, he's quick to point out it certainly does not reflect that crime is running rampant. Instead, he says, it's a sign of a department that's proactively tackling issues before they become worse.

Within the past year, Blooming Prairie increased a fourth officer to nearly full-time hours allowing the city to have around the clock police coverage on most days. Officer Dan Peach is working 32 hours per week.

Judging by the calls for service, Skillestad said the city warrants having a fourth full-time officer. He would like to see Peach's hours increased to 40 per

SEE POLICE, A6



Attorney Callyn Bedker gives a presentation on succession planning for farmers in attendance at the North American Farm and Power Show in Owatonna. The seminar focused on the importance of staying educated on finance changes and rules, and how careful estate planning can translate to success for the next generation.

LEAVING A LEGACY ON THE FARM

Farm and Power Show teaches farmers how to pass on farms

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

The North American Farm and Power Show kicked off with a seminar on succession planning for local farmers.

Aimed at farmers who are nearing or already at retirement age, the seminar was sponsored by Linder Farm Network and hosted by Callyn Bedker, an attorney with Pluto Boes Legal, PLLC. Bedker has a background in agricultural finance and estate planning, making her a perfect choice to present the seminar.

Those who attended were given a presentation on succession strategies and provided with a worksheet and some notes which would test their recently acquired

knowledge on the subject.

Succession planning is an issue which Bedker feels is crucial for farmers of all ages to stay engaged with, especially those who are nearing the point in their careers when figuring out a proper and financially solvent exit strategy is paramount.

After the presentation, Bedker offered to answer questions and addressed individual concerns before offering a free consultation for any in the audience who were interested.

"There are ways to hedge your bets ahead of time if you're willing to sit down and talk to someone about it," she told the audience. Bedker also detailed some of the approaches to estate planning,

SEE FARM, A6

Help support our community's education



15th Annual BP Education Foundation

Auction - Saturday, March 24, 2018

Silent Auction - 3 p.m., Pizza Cellar

Live Auction - 6 p.m., Cue Company

OUR VIEW

Reform needed to curb school gun violence

It's no secret that our nation's schools have become a battleground for gun violence in recent years. And last week students from schools across the state and country, including Steele County schools, waged peaceful protests to demand action to make schools safer.

A Nation School Walkout took place on March 14, exactly one month after 17 students were gunned down in a Florida high school. A youth branch of the Women's March called EMPOWER called for students, teachers, school administrators, parents and allies to take part in a walkout for 17 minutes at 10 a.m. to protest Congress' inability to do more than tweet thoughts and prayers in response to the gun violence plaguing our schools and neighborhoods. It was one minute for each of the 17 people killed at Florida's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

A generation that has now been raised on gun violence is sending a loud and clear message to adults: enough! It's time we listen and take appropriate action.

EMPOWER is demanding action. Specifically, the organization wants Congress to pass legislation to keep students safe from gun violence in schools, on streets, in homes and places of worship.

It's great to see students willing to take a stand in this growing public concern. The voice of people is so strong and will go far in bringing reform to this country when it comes to gun laws.

President Trump has suggested arming teachers with guns to help curb the violence. We do not believe this is a reasonable solution to school shootings. Requiring teachers to prepare for combat is ridiculous. They need to be focused on teaching and preparing our youth for the future. Teachers have a hard enough job without having to worry about packing a pistol along with their classroom books and papers.

Staff and students have the right to teach and learn in an environment free from the worry of being gunned down in their classrooms or on their way home from school. And parents have the right to send their kids to school in the mornings and see them home alive at the end of the day.

Gun violence in our schools is a significant public health crisis that needs immediate attention from our lawmakers. Congress must pass federal gun reform legislation before countless more lives are taken at the hands of crazed individuals. Perhaps, for starters, it's time to tighten the reins on who qualifies for guns in the first place. How about banning assault rifles and machine guns? Maybe it's time to raise the age to buy firearms.

Lawmakers need to set aside their political differences and who's funding their campaigns to get re-elected. Do what's right for the country. This is a matter of public safety. And, sadly as many schools have found, it's a matter of life and death.



Celebrate the abundance of agriculture

When I was growing up, it seemed so simple to know exactly what agriculture provides society. Granted I grew up on a crop and livestock farm in central Minnesota to help bolster my knowledge.

I guess I had the inside scoop on many facets of agriculture that have served me well throughout my life. Through 4-H, FFA and other programs, I helped educate others about farming.

But as time marches on, I'm seeing a disturbing trend. Family farms are no longer what they once were and perhaps even scarier is that more people are isolated from what happens on the farm.

As generations are becoming removed from the farm, it becomes even more necessary to help people understand how their food, clothing and other products get from the farm to the table or their homes.

American agriculture plays a very critical economic and food security role in our country. We need to increase the public awareness of what agriculture does for every single person in the world.

March 20 is National Ag Day. This marks the 45th anniversary of the special day, which is celebrated in classrooms and communities. In addition, the entire week is celebrated as National Ag Week.

It's a great time to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture, especially in southeastern Minnesota, the heart of Midwestern agriculture.

From beef and pork to cotton and corn, agriculture gives us the very necessities of life.

To give you an idea of how robust agriculture is, Minnesota ag is showing no sign of slowing down. There are nearly 75,000 farms spread across 26 million acres of land, as well as 1,000 agricultural and food companies. The industry contributes \$75 billion to the state's economy each year.

Minnesota makes an impact across the country with several top crops. The state ranks third in the nation in total crops cash receipts, and breaks the top 10 in a number of different commodities, including sugar beets, oats, sweet corn and green peas for processing, wild rice, soybeans and many more. Soybeans, corn and wheat are Minnesota's top exports, heading across the globe to top markets in China, Japan and Mexico.

About 5.3 billion bushel of corn is used for U.S. ethanol production. There are approximately 200 operating ethanol plants in the U.S., including one in Claremont, producing just over 15 billion gallons of ethanol, which is a valuable U.S. fuel source.

The U.S. farmer of today produces enough food and fiber for over 160 people. This compares to 19 people in 1940, 46 people in 1960 and 115 people in 1980.

Farmers receive just over 17 cents of every consumer dollar that is spent on food. The other 83 cents is spent of processing, packaging, marketing, transportation, distribution and other costs associated with the retail food supply.

National Ag Day helps all of us appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products. It also shows the value of the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.

Agriculture is big business, and we all need to go in hot pursuit of valuing what farmers do to make our lives easier.



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

GUEST COLUMNS

Another view on the governor's State of State

BY JOHN PETERSBURG

On March 14, Governor Dayton gave his final State of the State address to members of the Minnesota Legislature. Generally speaking, he used his time to point out a number of positives over the past few years. But there were a pair of areas that I found were either completely ignored or could be interpreted differently.

First the governor mentioned the amount of people who are lacking healthcare coverage, saying that between 2015 and today the number of uninsured is greater than ever before. What he didn't state is that the only thing that has changed between now and then was the establishment of MNsure, which he supported and worked to get passed.

The governor also noted he would like everybody to be eligible for MinnesotaCare and that competition is needed to control costs. The problem is, if everybody is forced into MinnesotaCare, there is not competition since your employer's health plan would no longer exist.

There also was no mention of MNLARS, Minnesota's new and floundering licensing and registration system. With a horrible rollout in July and continued problems in approving titles and registrations in a timely fashion, MNLARS has been an abject failure. This program is under the supervision of the governor and directly overseen by the Department of Public Safety.

The governor is also asking us to blindly support the existing MNLARS plan – after already spending nearly \$100 million on half a system – with additional finances to the tune of 40 percent more. That's tough for us to do when we're trying to hold the Department of Vehicle Services accountable for its oversight over this program, not to mention MN.IT, which took over after HP was fired.

DVS needs to take accountability for this failure, and while I would have liked for Governor Dayton to say we'll do whatever we need to do to improve MNLARS, he chose to sidestep that issue.

Overall though, Governor Dayton had a positive message. Though he didn't say it directly, he pointed to how successful Minnesota has been with some of the Republican policies that have been enacted into law. Hopefully, we will continue that trend this session. I am looking forward to working with the governor on the issues he has and has not raised with the solutions already moving through the legislature.

Rep. John Petersburg is a state representative for District 24A, which covers Steele and Waseca counties. He lives in Waseca.

Learning from school shooting incidents

BY DON HEINZMAN

Rick Kaufman led the crisis response team during the Columbine, Colorado high school massacre on April 20, 1999, and has worked since to improve the safety and security of schools.

Today he is the executive director of community relations and emergency management with Bloomington Public Schools, and teaches about school safety.

Looking back to Columbine, he says despite the changes to buildings, improved training and programs to identify students with significant mental health issues, there is no 100 percent guarantee there won't be another school massacre.

The shootings at Columbine and at Marjorie Stoneham Douglas high school in Parkland, Fla., have two major similarities. In both cases, the writings, activities and anti-social behaviors were reported to authorities before the act. There were many signs that the three boys involved in the shooting intended to shoot

students.

That said, Kaufman says we learn from each school shooting incident in order to improve on current security measures. Right now he is focused on how the Florida shooter gained access to the school if there were safety measures in place that prevents easy access. He's also studying fire alarm systems since the Florida shooter may have pulled the fire alarm to draw students out of their classrooms to kill them. Minnesota law requires students to exit the building if the fire alarm sounds, said Kaufman.

The Florida shooting also illustrates why staff and students should not stand behind the classroom door when in a lockdown mode, as several victims were killed and wounded by the gunman shooting through the closed classroom door.

"Put chairs or a desk against the door and get away from it," advises Kaufman.

Another major change since Columbine is improved building

SEE HEINZMAN, A4

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BP Ed Auction's success comes because of behind the scenes work

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It has taken lots of volunteer hours behind the scenes to make the annual Blooming Prairie Education Foundation Auctions such a success over the years.

Many helping hands have joined together to plan the 15th annual BP Ed Foundation fundraiser which will be held on Saturday at the Cue Company and Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie. The silent auction goes from 3-6 p.m. and the live auction follows.

Last year, more than \$70,000 was raised with the funds being designated as an investment in education. "The schools need our support more than ever and these funds go directly back to our schools in special projects," Julie Noble, BP Ed president explained.

Money is a big factor when it comes to improving curriculum and that's where the Education Foundation has played a key role.

Auction monies are often used for field trips, for special classroom materials and most recently, excess funds were used to buy a 3D printer for the elementary school and one for the high school.

Funds were recently used to update the elementary school's collection of non-fiction books. A Storia E-Books project will also allow students in grades 1-6 access to books online.

"Our community is just amazing in how it cares for kids," said elementary principal Chris Staloch.

Two former board members, Mary Kittelson and Kathi Peterson, are a couple of examples of people working behind the scenes for the Education Foundation auctions.

Kittelson has assisted in different areas of the auction including soliciting items and helping set up the silent auction on Friday evening. She also has helped promote the cupcake raffle and the wall of wine.

"It takes a lot of people power to pull off this

great event," Kittelson affirmed.

She and husband Pete have had the opportunity to donate a pair of Minnesota Vikings football tickets each year. The Kittelsons have also been the proud winning bidders of some incredible items including a truck load of dirt and an antique BP Blossoms giant megaphone.

"Auction night is a wonderful example of a community coming together for a great cause and having a great time," Kittelson says. "Each and every student in our district will benefit at some time or another because of the auction," she remarked.

Kittelson encourages anyone who has not been involved in the auction to get involved as new volunteers and new ideas are always welcome and it's not too late for this year, she said.

“Our community is just amazing in how it cares for kids.”

Chris Staloch
BP Elementary
Principal

Kathi Peterson's main duty until this year was to cashier at the auction. She says the event has become "so much more organized and runs like clockwork."

"There are so many great people who have donated their time to help this process flow so well," Peterson said.

She praised John Bruns for his behind the scenes magic to produce receipts. Once those receipts are received, people pay, get a signed receipt and then take it to the distribution door where there are always "fabulous people" to distribute the purchases.

Elementary students are part of the behind the scenes crew, too. They create items including quilts and other crafts for the silent auction.

"It is fun to see the excitement in the students' faces when they see their classroom



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Julie Noble, left, Stella Kvalsten and Karen Fouarge are pictured with a Swedish blanket crafted by Dorothy Trom of Blooming Prairie. The blanket is the results of many hours of devoted work.

projects up for bid," Peterson said.

"There is something for everyone," promises Peterson. She said simple baskets are put together and are popular with bidders. Chocolate chip cookies are donated by Judy Lestrud. The local FFA makes a fruit basket. Butch Anderson puts together a Blossom box. Allyson Skillestad and Gwen Kubista have put together special dinners.

Other items are extravagant and appear on the live auction. Jeff and Sue Zwiener are

offering a trap shoot outing again.

"There are so many community members who work so hard on this event," said Peterson, "and it truly shows what a wonderful place Blooming Prairie is," she added.

BP alumni also get involved. Chelsie Hansen-Stratton, a 2007 graduate, makes items out of reclaimed wood. She donated a book box to the third grade class for their project and she has also donated a hanging rack for wine bottles and glasses.

OSWALD: 2018 scholar athlete

FROM PAGE A1

better person. It starts with his personality, as he has a great sense of humor that brings smiles to everyone he touches on a daily basis.

"He is not your typical teenager, as he doesn't get wrapped up in social media, his phone is not his most prized possession, and he doesn't care about social status," Gimbel said. "The highest praise I can give is that I truly hope my boys grow up to have the morals, respect, consideration for others, and work ethic that Mitchell Oswald does," he added.

Oswald is a two-time all district lineman who was selected to the Minnesota All-Star Showcase on the defensive side of the ball. Chosen as the South's captain in the game, he was also the Awesome Blossoms' captain and earned an AP All-State second team honors. Oswald was a standout wrestler for Blooming Prairie, winning two section titles.

His community involvement includes mission trips with his church youth group, a toy drive and Farm Safety days through FFA, Habitat for Humanity home repair, and more.

Oswald earned Academic All-State recognition, ranks first in his class, and has multiple Academic All-District honors in football and wrestling. He was also inducted into the Minnesota Honor society. He plans to attend UW at River Falls and study crops and soils science with agriculture engineering technology.

The Minnesota Chapter of the National Football foundation will host the annual Football Honors on Sunday, April 29, at U.S. Bank Stadium at 4 p.m. The event is open to the public.

CARING: BP Ed auctions on Saturday

FROM PAGE A1

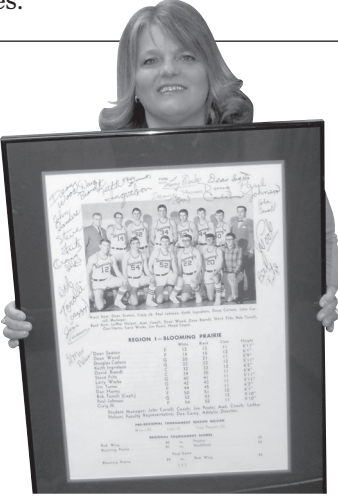
auction running from 3-6 p.m. and the live auction following.

Collectibles, craft items, food items and specialty pieces are donated by community residents and by people outside of the community who also believe in investing in the education of kids.

A new twist was added to the auction last year. One hundred tickets at \$50 each were sold with the winner getting the chance to pick any item on the auction list. Sandy Jones was the winner. She picked the four airline tickets at any place in the continental United States. The tickets were donated by Minimizer.

The winner of the drawing and their item selection will be announced at 6 p.m.

- containing a bevy of items selected by volunteers Karen Fouarge, Julie Noble, Sue Zwiener, Rachel Klemmensen, Mary and Pete Kittelson and Betti Johnson
- Homemade baked goods
 - Shania Twain concert tickets
 - Kids murder mystery birthday party sponsored by the Blooming Prairie Police Department
 - Progressive dinner at Whitetail Estates
 - Weekend stay at the Wisconsin Dells
 - Hillbilly bash
 - Breezy Point stay donated by 1984 alumnus Neal Narveson
 - Pheasant hunt donated by Mark Larkoski and Shirley Magnuson
 - Blossom buddies (male and female) will donate 4-5 hours of labor
 - Two Minnesota Vikings football tickets donated by Mary and Pete Kittelson.
 - Minnesota Twins baseball tickets
 - Blossom Brothers (Sam, Mike, Max and Scott Romeo) will donate 4-5 hours of work
 - Homemade sauerkraut made by John Worke
 - Two fainting goats donated by the Zwiener family
 - Ride-on wooden airplane made and donated by Tom Morgan
 - Winemakers Tour at 4



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
BP Ed Foundation auction committee member Karen Fouarge displays a gem of a collectible, a framed photo, autographed by members of the state basketball tournament team of Blooming Prairie in 1966. The item was donated by Sue Swenson whose father is the late Jim Poole, Blossoms coach.

- Daughters Vineyard and Winery in Spring Valley, Donated by 4 Daughters
- Conversion bench crafted by John Fouarge
 - Bonnie Sloan's famous caramel and cinnamon rolls made by Cheri Krejci
 - Authentic Swedish blanket made and designed by Dorothy Trom
 - 8 x 12 utility shed constructed by Blooming Prairie High School vocational agriculture class. Last year's shed was won by Brian Nelson.
 - Lots of gift certificates

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DEATH NOTICE

Eugene Kaplan, 86, Blooming Prairie

Eugene Kaplan, age 86, died March 18, 2018, at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie. Friends may greet the family from 4:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at the Brick Meger Funeral Home in Owatonna, and one hour prior to the funeral at church. Funeral Mass will be 11 a.m. Thursday, March 22, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Litomysl.
For more information or to leave an online condolence message go to www.brick-megerfuneralhome.com.
A complete obituary will appear in next week's Times.

HEINZMAN: Learning from school shooting incidents

FROM PAGE A2

security. In the Bloomington schools as elsewhere in the state, all outside doors are locked. Each site has a single point of entry into the office. Visitors must check-in and have a specific purpose in order to gain access into the school..

All classroom doors are locked and fire doors can be closed to seal off classroom wings in the event of a school emergency. There is a phone in every classroom with access to the school's public address system to allow any staff member to put the school into a safe condition, such as a lockdown.

Minnesota state law requires five lockdown, five fire/evacuation drills and a severe weather drill so students are aware of where they should go.

Another change since Columbine is assessing a student who may pose a threat to him or herself, or others as a result of mental health issues. Schools have teams trained to evaluate the risk posed by a student as a response to an actual or perceived threat or concerning behavior.

If a staff member suspects a threatening situation, they are advised to call 911 immediately.

If the school determines an individual poses a threat of violence, local law enforcement may be involved as an intervention, or to assist in determining other alternatives to reduce the risk to both potential victims and the perpetrator.

If a student is pictured on Facebook holding a gun, even an air rifle, and it is brought to the attention of the school or district, Bloomington police are immediately notified.

Kaufman emphasized that every effort is made to help the troubled student, including mental health, social service, and school-based interventions to reduce the student's risk for violence.

"We don't want them to turn into hardened criminals," Kaufman said.

What is the most important advice Kaufman has to prevent these tragedies in schools?

"Be vigilant at all times. If students see something they need to say something. As adults we can't act unless we know. If parents and students see something on social media they need to report it."

Finally, Kaufman assures parents that schools are safer and secure than ever, but he cautions "we must always be on the alert for the signs."

Don Heinzman is a veteran newspaper journalist who lives in the Twin Cities. He has provided editorial consulting work to staff members at the Steele County Times in the past.

GRIEF RELIEF



If a friend is dying, what can you do? Don't avoid your friend by staying away or changing the subject when they talk of illness or death. Follow the normal conversations that are part of your relationship. If your friend wishes to talk further allow them to; letting them know that you care and will help in anyway you can. Honest conversations are usually most welcome and your presence may be all that is needed.

Direction with dignity from Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna.



Cory Michaelson



www.michaelsonfuneral.com
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LIBRARY BOOK NOOK

How about reading during spring break?



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

Some lucky people will be spending spring break by traveling south for warm weather. For those of us who won't be able to get away, there is another way to experience the same benefits as taking a vacation: by reading!

Jonathan Gottschall, author of The Storytelling Animal, describes MRI studies that show that when we read a story, our brains don't light up like an observer, instead they react

the same way the doer's brain does. Reading lets us live vicariously since our brain takes us into the story we are experiencing.

In addition, there are actual health benefits to reading. The New Yorker reported, "Reading has been shown to put our brains into a pleasurable trance-like state, similar to meditation, and it brings the same health benefits of deep relaxation and inner calm. Regular readers sleep better, have lower stress levels, higher self-esteem, and lower rates of depression than non-readers."

So when your friends regale you with stories of their vacations, counter by telling them of the latest book you read! And if you need some books, come and see us at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library.

HARVEST OF THE MONTH Pineapple, Radish, Dill

Blooming Prairie Elementary School Menu

All meals subject to change without notice

Prices

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

Wednesday, March 21

Breakfast: Long John, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Orange Juice, 1% Milk Lunch: Pulled Pork Sandwich, BBQ Meatball Sub, Dill Seasoned Potato Wedges

Thursday, March 22

Breakfast: Mini Eggo Waffles, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, 1% Milk Lunch: Walking Taco, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Hot Ham & Cheese Panini, Black Beans

Friday, March 23

Breakfast: French Toast Loaf, Cheese Stick, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, 1% Milk Lunch: Cheesy Italian Flatbread, Chicken Parmesan Sandwich, Tomato Soup

Monday, March 26

Breakfast: Banana Muffin, Cheese Stick, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Canned Fruit, 1% Milk Lunch: Popcorn Chicken Bowl, Whole Grain Dinner Roll, Kettle Potato Chips, Rice Krispie Treat

Tuesday, March 27

Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, 1% Milk Lunch: Macaroni and Cheese, Ham, Egg & Cheese on an English Muffin, Roasted Broccoli

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

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

HARVEST OF THE MONTH Dill, Radish, Pineapple

Blooming Prairie High School Lunch Menu

All meals subject to change without notice

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

Wednesday, March 21

CC: Sloppy Joe Sliders, Scalloped Potatoes DC: BBQ Rib Sandwich GG: Chef Salad CS: Sweet & Sour Chicken

Thursday, March 22

CC: Hot Ham & Cheese Panini, Dill Seasoned Potato Wedges DC: Crispy Chicken Tenders CS: Build Your Own Baked Potato PP: Cheese Pizza

Friday, March 23

CC: Cheesy Italian Flatbread, Mediterranean Soup DC: Maxx Sticks CS: Build Your Own Sub

Monday, March 26

CC: Chicken Parmesan w/ Pasta, Garlic Toast DC: Cheeseburger on Bun GG: Chicken Caesar Wrap CS: Orange Chicken

Tuesday, March 27

CC: Sloppy Joe on a Bun, Macaroni & Cheese DC: Chicken Patty on Whole Grain Bun PP: Cheeseburger Pizza CS: Taco Bar

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

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

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

March 20

Dillon Easton
Sandy Christianson
Hunter Borg
Tom Walters
Johnathan Manges

March 21

Calla Staads
Mary Ann Betlach
Pam Farr
Sue Rossow
Joe Hjelman
Jackie Olson
Esther Hansen
Jan Anderson
Dwayne Gross

March 22

Robert Haberman
Jeanine Humphrey
Kevin Christianson
Tom Donnelly
Dustin Hensrud
March 24
Kay Toquam

March 25

Jenny Heimerman
Charles Wagner
Whitney Yentsch
Nala Klemmensen
Becky Severtson
Mark Anderson
Bryan Rossow

Gordon Hjelman

Douglas Wencil
Kathleen Christey

March 26

Marty Shaw
Cale Braaten
Tiffany Peterson
Steve Wollenburg

ANNIVERSARIES

March 19

Jessie & Aaron Christianson

March 27

Doug & Kim Hillson
Dick & Norma Hegal

SEMCAAC Senior Menu

All meals subject to change

Wednesday, March 21

Pork Steak/Dressing, Oriental Blend Veg, Romaine Lettuce Salad, Dinner Roll, Peanut Butter Cookies

Thursday, March 22

Meat Lasagna, Mixed Greens Slaad, Orange Slices, French Bread, Pudding

Friday, March 23

Salmon Loaf, Alt: Hamburger Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Creamed Peas, Oatmeal Cookie

Monday, March 26

Chicken Breast/Sauce, Wild Rice Pilaf, Fresh Squash, Waldorf Salad, Pudding

Tuesday, March 27

Swedish Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Asparagus, 3-Bean Salad, Mixed Fruit Cup

Recipe Corner

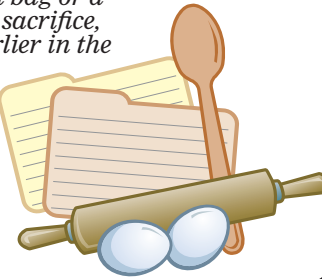
Cauliflower Popcorn

Makes 12 bites

1 head cauliflower
4 tablespoons olive oil

Preheat oven to 425 F.
Cut out and discard cauliflower core and thick stems. Trim remaining cauliflower into florets the size of golf balls. In a large bowl, add cauliflower; olive oil and salt. Toss thoroughly.
Spread cauliflower on a baking sheet (line with parchment paper, if available, for easy cleanup). Roast for 1 hour, or until much of the floret has become golden brown. The browner the florets, the sweeter they will taste. Turn 3 or 4 times during roasting. Use crumpled up aluminum foil or paper towels to create a false bottom in your popcorn container; fill it with cauliflower; and serve immediately.
Note: Raw cauliflower can be precut and refrigerated for up to 2 days in an airtight bag or a bowl of water. With minimal sacrifice, cauliflower can be cooked earlier in the day and reheated in a 450 F oven for 10 minutes.

1 tablespoon salt (or, for a salt-free alternative, Mrs. Dash table blend)



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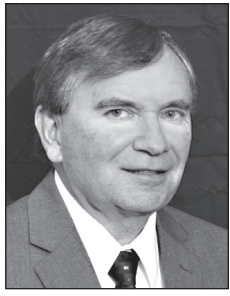
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PASTOR'S CORNER



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2 Corinthians 5:10 says, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

From this text it becomes obvious that all are going to appear before Christ judgment seat. There is no escape from judgment. That judgment is final and it is binary. It has only two possible outcomes. You are either guilty or not guilty.

James adds to our understanding of judgment from God's perspective. James 2:13 “For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.”

God's judgment is final and has eternal consequences. But the good news is that because Jesus Christ died for our sins on Passover and was raised for our salvation early on Sunday morning, mercy can triumph over judgment.

If we accept the mercy of God in Jesus Christ we need have no fear of judgment. James tells us that when we come before judgment if we have accepted God's mercy in Christ Jesus then that mercy

will have lodged in our hearts and God will recognize that and give us mercy in the judgment. If you are one who has believed in God's mercy extended to you through His Son then that same mercy will be reflected in your life.

In his book, “Unoffendable,” Brant Hansen makes the case that Christians should be the most merciful and anger free of all people. Our hearts should be filled with mercy instead of judgment

for those we see around us. This is the unerring sign of those who have been saved by the merciful grace of God. If it is missing, we might need to see if we believe that we, ourselves, have been saved by the mercy of God in Christ Jesus. Or do we think that our acceptance of Jesus' mercy was a good work that now has earned us the right to look down and treat with anger and contempt those who have not accepted Him?

If we are followers of Jesus of Nazereth, we will be like Him in living lives of mercy and grace to all those we meet.

“Our hearts should be filled with mercy instead of judgment for those we see around us. “

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN AURORA LUTHERAN 6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna Pastor Stephanie Wood 507-676-5696 Worship: 9:00 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 10:15 a.m. COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 106 Third St. SE., Geneva Pastor Kristen Venne 507-256-4288 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun. FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC 503 Radel Ct., Ellendale Pastor Richard Sliper 507-684-2451 Saturday: 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/ Confirmation Tues.: 7 p.m. Call to Prayer, open to all churches Wed.: 9:30 a.m. BibleStudy; 3:30 – 5 p.m. Jesus and Me; 6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:30 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Eve Service: 5 p.m. Dec. 24 FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA 434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie Rev. Heidi Heimgartner, 507-583-6621 firstlutheranbp.com Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sundays Education Hour: 9:30 a.m. Sun. FIRST LUTHERAN – LCMC 8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope Pastor Sandy Miller 507-451-3854 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday School, Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m. Sun. GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS 2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna Rev. Mark Rosenau, Senior Pastor Rev. Greg Schlicker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4125 www.goodshepherdowatonna.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., Sargeant 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) TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna Rev. Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor Rev. Dean Smith, Associate Pastor Rev. Amanda Weinkauff, Associate Pastor 507-451-4520 www.tlcowatonna.org Worship: Saturday: 5 p.m.; Sun.: 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 6 p.m. Sunday School:	8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 104 First St. SE., Hayfield Pastor Paul Hauschild 507-477-2248 www.trinityhayfield.org Worship: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS 108 Third Ave. SW., Medford Pastor Mark Biebighauser 507-451-0447 Worship: 8 a.m. & 10:30 Sun. Education Hour: 9:15-10:15 a.m. Sun. TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS 57043 300th St., Waltham Pastor Jesse Krusemark 507-567-2272 Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA 7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar 507-451-2165 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun. 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 Father Raul Silva Fr. Adam McMillan, Parochial Vicar 507-465-8217 Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL 9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna Father John Sauer Fr. Jose Morales, Weekend Presider 507-451-1588 www.litomysl.webs.com Reconciliation: 8:45 a.m. 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 507-451-1588 www.sacredheartowatonna.org Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Sun. Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun. Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m. Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat. Adoration: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Thurs. ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC 114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie Father Thomas Niehaus 507-583-2784 www.stcolumbanuschurch.com Mass: 10 a.m. Sun. & 8:30 a.m. Friday Reconciliation: 9 a.m. First Friday & Saturday ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH 512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna Father Kevin Connolly Deacon Patrick Fagan 507-451-4845 Saturday Mass: 4 p.m. Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m. Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat. Daily Mass: 8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri. (Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday) Adoration Chapel available Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Key fob required after hours or weekends CHRISTIAN CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT 540 SE 18th St., Owatonna Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor 507-451-1032 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m. PENTECOSTAL FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL 230 Locust Ave., Owatonna 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 507-451-4734 www.owatonnaumc.org Traditional Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Contemporary Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun. Sunday School/Adult Classes: 10 a.m. Wednesday night service at 6:30 p.m. BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY 130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna Pastor Keith Haskell 507-215-2249 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun. Reformers Unanimous Meetings: 7 p.m. Friday CEDAR CREEK 30 E. Main St., Hayfield Pastor Aaron de Neui 507-477-2255 www.cedarcreekchurch.org Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. DESTINY CHRISTIAN Owatonna Campus 422 North St., Owatonna Pastors Tyler & Jessica Braucht 507-254-8514 www.destinycc.org Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. ELEVATION NORTH 2002 Austin Road, Owatonna Pastor Doug Jones 507-363-3099 www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com Worship (English): 10 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Worship (Spanish): 2 p.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Spanish Evangelism & Prayer: 7 p.m. Friday NEW BEGINNINGS 332 14th St. NE., Owatonna Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson 507-721-1366 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. Gateway Connection: 6 p.m. Sun. SIMPLE CHURCH 4515 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna (Country Goods building across the freeway from Cabela's) Pastor Todd Lundgren 507-451-5661 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday MENNONITE PRAIRIE MENNONITE 13638 750th St., Blooming Prairie Bishop Dennis Martin 507-583-7532 Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Wed. MORMON THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS 404 31st St. NW, Austin Bishop Rick Bremner 507-433-9042 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. PRESBYTERIAN ASSOCIATED CHURCH Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ 800 Havana Road, Owatonna 507-451-1546 www.associatedchurch.org office@associatedchurch.org Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. (Fellowship, Church School, and Adult Discussions follow) Wednesday Activities: Sept – May (see website for schedule) FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 109 E. Main St., Hayfield Pastor Kirk Johnston 507-477-2631 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun. SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST 2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna Pastor Bob Brauer 507-340-7143 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sat. Bible Study: 11 a.m. Sat. UCC CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 211 Main St. S. Medford Rev. Richard Waters 507-451-4596 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. ASSEMBLY OF GOD VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD 702 Third St. S., Ellendale Pastor Patrick Stitt 507-684-3421 www.vibrantlifeag.com Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun. BAPTIST FIRST BAPTIST 104 First Ave. NE, Blooming Prairie Pastor Matt Fennell 507-583-2673 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. & 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Sunday School: 9 a.m. Bible Study: 11:30 a.m. Sun.
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FARM: Show teaches how to pass on farms

FROM PAGE A1

explaining that “wills tend to be cheaper on the front end than trusts, but trusts are often more expensive on the back end.” In the realm of farming, succession planning is vital for those farmers who are interested in handing their estate off to their children when the time comes. Daryl and Judy Murray, who attended the seminar, said they plan on passing their farm on to the next generation, and hopefully the next one after that. “It was an excellent presentation,” Daryl said, adding it was very informative, with a lot of important information there for farmers. The Murrys are crop farmers, but have raised swine in the past. Daryl addressed the need for farmers to plan ahead during the current commodity downtick. “Older generations need to plan now so that they can create a cushion for the next generation down the line.” Despite the current market outlook, the Murrys are optimistic, but they still understand the need for expert advice. “We think there’s so many things to know, tax related, or finance wise, that one person alone can’t know everything, so you need some cooperation if you’re going to make an informed decision,” Daryl said. Bedker feels that her message is for those of all financial backgrounds. “Farmers are already pretty skilled financially, but staying up to date on taxes, and tax breaks, or estate planning is important, because the numbers change and farms have gotten so expensive.” Although the market can be an issue, and farmers often want to farm until they can’t anymore, Bedker reiterates that “yes, farmers can retire.” She feels that in the world of farming, retirement times have changed. “It used to be that you’d do it until you die, but now you can retire if you plan for it,” she said.

Much of estate planning involves deciding how one wants to pass on their land and equipment. Many farmers choose to hand it off to their immediate children, but some opt for a plan that skips a generation, letting the estate pass to their grandkids instead. “There’s definitely more to farming than just simply farming,” Bedker explained. “You have to get the next generation ready, and all of the estate planning needs to move together as one decision.” Earlier in the seminar, Bedker hazarded against rash land sales, reminding those in the audience that “land goes up for sale one time, so you must be careful when you sell.” Her talk was all about leaving a legacy of success for those ready to take up the mantle. Bedker said her and her husband have always wanted to farm. “We’ve looked at it, and want to be farmers one day, but we will probably be in our 50s or 60s when we’re able to buy land.” She described farming as “probably the most expensive career out there.” She feels that farming as a practice is something that takes time to learn the ins and outs of, but she still retains a passion for it. “So much of farming is beyond just buying the land and the crops, a lot of it is really something you learn secondhand,” Bedker said. With a smile she added, “It’s not for the faint of heart.” Jeff Stewart, market specialist for Linder Farm Network, shares Bedker’s opinion that the seminar was crucial for farmers. “It’s essential for farmers to develop an exit plan of their own, as complicated as finances can be, I think it’s very essential information,” Stewart said. With commodity prices low, and rents remaining relatively high, Stewart still sees much to be confident in. “Yes there are low commodity prices, which can effect succession planning,

POLICE: Activity skyrockets in BP

FROM PAGE A1

POLICE CALLS FOR SERVICE BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Increase noted for each category from 2014 to 2017

- 90%: Curfew and mental health calls
- 82%: Noise complaints
- 80%: Drug activity
- 78%: Towed vehicles
- 67%: Neighbor disputes
- 60%: 911 hang-ups
- 57%: Ordinance violations
- 50%: Criminal sexual conduct and suspicious activity
- 48%: Domestic violence, assaults, fights and disturbances and welfare checks
- 43%: Missing persons
- 40%: Harassment
- 33%: Civil calls
- 27%: Juvenile complaints and warrant arrests
- 22%: Motorist assists

Source: Blooming Prairie Police

week to handle the increasing work load. “We want to continue to be proactive,” Skillestad said. “I don’t like to react.” The current scheduling allows for two officers to take calls before 8 a.m. “That’s huge to have two officers available,” Skillestad said. He noted his big push has been to have a squad available both before and after school hours. The largest increases in call volume have been curfew violations and mental health calls. Those calls have skyrocketed 90 percent over 2014 activity, according to Skillestad. In regards to curfew, Skillestad said the numbers are reflective of having an overnight car making contact with kids loitering around the city. “We’re making more contacts like we have never before,” he said. “We’re getting to know the kids a lot more,” he added. Mental health calls are “through the roof,” Skillestad said. He said officers are dealing with mental health issues at the schools as well as homes. The spike in mental health calls also has become an increasing strain on the local ambulance service as EMTs are utilized to transport people to the hospital for further evaluation. “Depression is extremely high,” Skillestad said. “There are a lot of people that need help and it’s concerning,” he said, adding officers are not doctors, but try to be the best counselors they can be in those situations. Other areas that have seen significant jumps are noise complaints (82 percent), drug activity (80 percent) and neighborhood disputes (67 percent). Skillestad said that while alcohol had always been a big problem in the past, the shift has now taken place to marijuana. Officers have discovered marijuana in the city parks. “It’s huge,” he said of the marijuana problem. “They chose to do

marijuana over alcohol,” he added. One area of particular concern for Skillestad is the 50 percent jump in criminal sexual conduct cases. He said the number of sex cases in Blooming Prairie is nearly equal to the number in the rest of the county, excluding Owatonna. Officers have found many juvenile cases of pornography, according to Skillestad. “It comes because of our social media. People are sending photos,” he said. The chief warned against people sending images over the computer. “People think once it’s gone, it’s gone, but it’s not,” Skillestad said. “We have technology to bring it back. Basically if you want to get rid of computer (images), you have to burn it.” Police saw a 50 percent jump in suspicious activity throughout the city. Skillestad attributes that large increase to self-initiated activity by his officers, especially throughout the overnight hours. “Our officers are checking on individuals walking in the alley or behind a business,” Skillestad said. “We check into anything that draws attention to an officer on patrol. We’re not just sitting around and being reactive waiting for the calls,” he said. Despite the large jumps in many categories of calls, Skillestad isn’t alarmed. “The community of Blooming Prairie needs to know this is a very safe community,” Skillestad said. “It’s the best kept secret in southern Minnesota.” Skillestad hopes community members will join in the effort to keep the community safe. He urges residents to call 911 if they see suspicious activity. He said, “We’re here to deter crime. We never will know what we prevent, but we know what we catch.”

but in agriculture everything is cyclical, so I expect they will balance out in due time,” he said. The Farm Business Succession Planning seminar was the inaugural presentation at the North American Farm and Power Show. The show was held at the Four Seasons in Owatonna last Thursday through Saturday. The presentation offered those attending valuable insight into estate planning and agricultural finances. Other seminars featured at the three-day show included one on nitrogen management in Minnesota crop systems, another one sponsored by Linder Farm Network concerning the current market and the future outlook and lastly one on manure management. The North American Farm and Power Show has been held in Owatonna for the past 15 years. It showcases exhibitions and features valuable information for farmers. The event brings together farmers and vendors in order to build lasting relationships and educate attendees on available products, influencing them to make smarter purchasing decisions.

2017 TAX PREP GUIDE

FREE TAX HELP

You may qualify for free tax preparation help from IRS-certified volunteers at locations across Minnesota for your federal and state income tax returns. Qualified taxpayers are age 60 or older, have a disability, speak limited or no English, or have income less than \$54,000 per year. Most free tax preparation sites are open Feb. 1 - April 15. Visit our website, www.revenue.state.mn.us to find free tax preparation sites near you.

VOTER REGISTRATION

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

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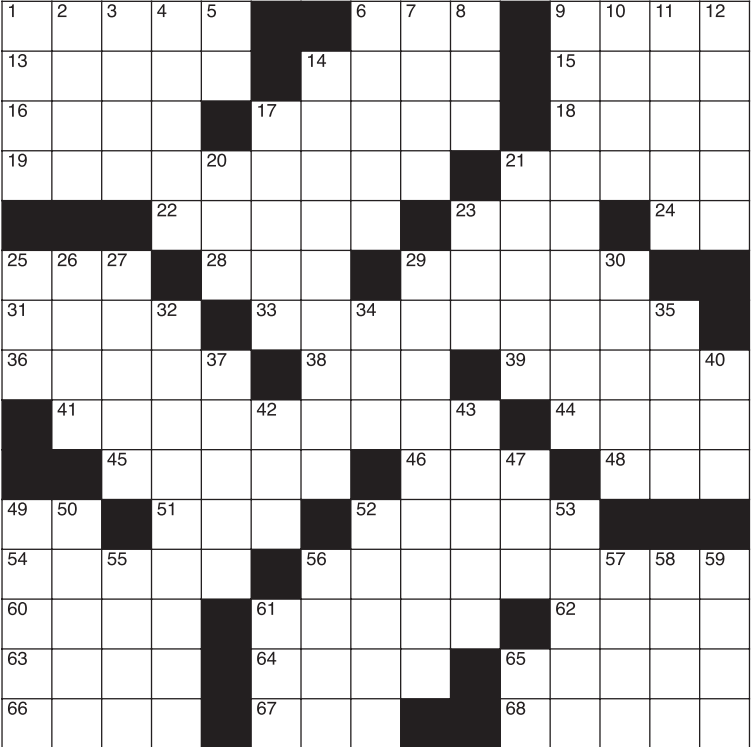
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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Punctuation mark
- 6. Married woman
- 9. Nocturnal rodent
- 13. Suffix
- 14. A way to disappoint
- 15. Saddle horse
- 16. West African country
- 17. Philippine island
- 18. “Girls” creator Dunham
- 19. A type of twin
- 21. Groans
- 22. Infections
- 23. What a beaver makes
- 24. Thou
- 25. Make a mistake
- 28. Receive
- 29. Dresses
- 31. Burn the surface of
- 33. Where coaches observe
- 36. Ceremonial offices
- 38. Paddle
- 39. The body’s main artery
- 41. Altered the original state
- 44. Alleges
- 45. Short-billed rails
- 46. Northern Thai province
- 48. Albanian monetary unit
- 49. Who the Wolverines play for
- 51. Oath
- 52. Astronomical period
- 54. A single unit
- 56. Presides over
- 60. Spoiled tot
- 61. Hillsides
- 62. Fertility god
- 63. Assuage
- 64. Signs a contract



- 65. Ancient Greek war dance
- 66. Allows
- 67. Lunar crater
- 68. Crash a motorcycle (Brit. slang)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Loose-fitting undergarment
- 2. Western Romanian city
- 3. Unit of length
- 4. Type of electricity
- 5. Article
- 6. Mothers
- 7. Monetary unit
- 8. Single Lens Reflex
- 9. Tan-colored horses
- 10. Region
- 11. Cautious in spending

- money
- 12. Belittle
- 14. Sarcastic
- 17. Fathers
- 20. Clothes
- 21. Opera’s Callas
- 23. Lentil dish
- 25. Energy-saving module
- 26. Make sense of a language
- 27. Hurries through
- 29. Songs to one’s lover
- 30. Name given to plant groups
- 32. Improves
- 34. Patriotic women
- 35. Inflamed swelling on the eyelid
- 37. Instrument in Indian music
- 40. Request
- 42. Make into leather without using tannin
- 43. Defies
- 47. Neither
- 49. Flower cluster
- 50. Phonological unit
- 52. Leaves in water
- 53. Cavalry-sword
- 55. Famed American cartoonist
- 56. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 57. Scarlett’s home
- 58. Make
- 59. Stony waste matter
- 61. What to do at auction
- 65. Incorrect letters

Let’s get you movin!

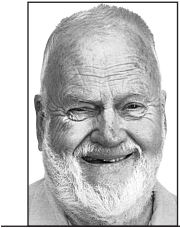
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WEATHER OR NOT

Because we are still between seasons (although the sports staff has been busy compiling information and writing preview articles), my thoughts the past week or so have gravitated to serious thoughts about spring. The slow melt we have been enjoying for the last few days has made one thing abundantly clear. Unless we get some torrential downpours in April, flooding in our state should be no problem this year. That will be a relief to part of our population that always fret and worry about that problem every year.



Outside the Lines
 LEMAR NELSON

In fact, except for the long period of streets and sidewalks that stayed abnormally slippery, the winter has been a rather mild one. I don't think, for example, that in our immediate are, we had a snowfall over 6 inches in depth. Although that is not a rarity, it is a little unusual. I am not saying we are out of the woods yet, as far as snow and winter is concerned. The days continue to get longer, and the environment shows signs constantly that a new season approaches. I don't think it is any secret that my two favorite seasons of the year are spring and fall, with spring probably the one true favorite.

I have noticed robins gathering at various times, bushes on the south side of houses already showing some buds, and the piles of snow diminishing in size each day. Today is officially the first day of spring, and I hope we can enjoy warmer temps and sunnier skies from now on.

OSWALD HONORED MORE

More honors have come BPHS senior Mitch Oswald's way after the Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation named him a 2018 Scholar athlete. This is a very prestigious honor, and Oswald was named because of his academic excellence, leadership, and community involvement. As football coach Chad Gimbel remarked, "The honor was awarded because of Oswald's hard work, his focus, and the dedication he applies to reach goals. As good a student as he is, he is even a better person. His many honors in football and wrestling, his participation in FFA activities, and his involvement in community projects make him a truly worthy winner."

BASKETBALL

Huskies well represented on All-Big 9 teams

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
 SPORTS EDITOR

Owatonna High School landed 24 players on the all-Big 9 Conference winter sports teams and had an additional nine players selected as honorable mention.

Owatonna seniors Dalton Kubista, Nolan Malo, Andrew Jackson and Alex Raichle were named all-conference and junior Jason Williamson was a honorable mention selection in boys basketball. The Huskies finished the season with a overall record of 20-6 and 18-4 conference record.

Seniors Sydney Schultz, Jenna Zeman and Ahnna Stelter were all-conference selections in girls basketball after Owatonna finished the season 20-7 with a conference mark of 19-3.

Owatonna freshman Lindsay Bangs, juniors Sydney Kretlow and Ali An and senior Rebecca Olson were named all-conference selections and freshman Lucy Macius was honorable mention in gymnastics after the Huskies won the conference championship and finished third at the state meet this past season.

Seniors Nate Smith, Tyler Wencil and Mitch Wiese were named all-conference and Nick Smith was honorable mention in boys hockey. The Huskies' boys hockey team finished this past season with a record of 12-11 overall and 9-4 in conference.

Nate Smith and Wencil led the team in goals (14) this past season. Wencil

TRIPLE A WINNERS NOTED

Although the winners were presented two months ago, the BPHS Triple A winners just received their publicity this week. The MSHSL sponsors the award each year for seniors who excel in athletics, academics, and the arts, and one male and one female from each school is honored. This year Samantha Wurst and Ethan Arett represented BPHS, and the both had impressive careers. Wurst starred in volleyball, basketball and track and belonged to the National Honor Society academically.

Arett compiled an outstanding wrestling record and played on the baseball team. He was very active in FFA and also belonged to the local chapter of the National honor society. A big tip of the hat this week goes also to those two impressive BPHS students.

COMING UP

The time has arrived for the big Ed Foundation auction, and community residents are waiting in anticipation for the event. It seems that the affair gets bigger and bigger each year, and each year there are several big-ticket items that go on the block.

What I find really neat are the items that are created by the school children themselves. That part of the auction gives them the pride and satisfaction of knowing that they have a part in the success, and that some of the projects that they benefit from may be by the students themselves.

It is anticipated that an overflow group of bidders will crowd the cue company, and all interested parties are urged to get there early with bidding numbers in hand. It should be a great night for education in the Blooming Prairie school district. Hats off to a caring community.

One other event on the horizon is the annual Women of Today sponsored Easter Egg Hunt in the city park. Mark the calendar for Saturday, Mar. 31, and gather the little ones to attend this fun activity. A big thanks goes to the Women of Today for keeping a tradition alive.

BRACKET BUSTING

For the multitude of sports fans that play NCAA basketball tournament picking favorites, this is a hectic time. I indulge in friendly competition with my brothers, and I, like countless other fans around the country, are already counting our losses with the first round defeat of No. 1 ranked Virginia.

All that is left now is to continue picking and work for a consolation prize. Continue to enjoy the mild temps, anticipate the big spring sports tab in the Times, and we'll talk again.

also led the Huskies in assists with 11. Nate Smith had eight assists to go with 14 goals. Wiese scored five goals and dished out eight assists. Nick Smith had nine goals and six assists.

Seniors Margo Achterkirch and Jamie Davison and freshmen Grace Wolfe and Sydney Hunst were selected as all-conference and senior Laura Ebeling and junior Maylynn Prokopec were named honorable mention in girls hockey.

Achterkirch led the Huskies in goals with 30 and in assists with 20. Davison scored seven goals and added 10 assists. Wolfe had three goals and 11 assists, and Hunst had 11 goals and six assists. Ebeling earned a 13-8 record as the teams goalie. She made 411 saves on 458 shots on goal for a .897 save percentage.

Prokopec had 12 goals and 12 assists. The Huskies finished the season 15-8 overall and 11-6 in the conference.

Senior Sydney Sampson was named all-conference and sophomore Elsie Sande was selected as honorable mention in dance.

Seniors Peyton Robb (48-0) and Nicholas Staska (36-12), junior Cade King (44-0), freshman Blake West (46-5) and eighth-grader Landen Johnson (31-10) were named all-conference and unior Riley Becker (29-15), freshman Kaden Nelson (31-16), senior Cameron Roberts (22-22) were selected honorable mention in wrestling. Robb and King claimed state titles while West finished fifth this past season. The Huskies finished the season with an overall record of 19-6 and 10-0 on their way to winning a Big 9 regular season championship.

ATHLETICS



STAFF PHOTOS BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Top: Participates get their heads shave at the Saint Baldrick's event at Medford on Thursday. Middle: University of Minnesota football players Bailey Schoenfelder and Ko Kieft get their heads shaved in support of awareness for childhood cancer at the Saint Baldrick's event at Medford on Thursday.

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
 SPORTS EDITOR

Teachers, students, law enforcement officers, firefighter and the University of Minnesota football players were some of 95 people who showed their support for young patients battling cancer by shaving their heads to raise money for childhood cancer research at the Medford Saint Baldrick's Foundation fundraiser on Thursday at the high school.

Medford teacher and event organizer Chris Haakonson said he has participate in Saint Baldricks events for the past three years, and he wanted to bring an event to community after Medford sophomore Logan Pleschourt was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma this past October.

"I really thought it would be super cool to get an event here in Medford and really see the community come out and support it," Haakonson said. "I just reached out to anyone I could. I got some responses from some people who were more than willing to donate their time. They're showing everyone that they want to be more than just a police officers or a football players — They want to be a big part of their community which is great to see."

Haakonson said he still waiting on concession stand money to come in, but he anticipates the event raise approximately \$14,000.

Pleschourt went through a rigorous chemotherapy treatment and miraculously is now cancer-free.

"I think it's really cool to everyone who shaving their heads," Pleschourt said. "Not just for me, but for all the other kids who have to go through it. It's not their choice to lose their hair.

Pleschourt said he's feeling a lot better and is regaining his strength and endurance.

"Everything back to normal," he said. "I'm eating fine and sleeping well, just staying steady on everything.

"I'm still a little tired," Pleschourt continued. "But next week I'll be starting to get back into weight room and try to get my stamina back up. I'm just getting ready as much as I can for football. I'm ready to get back out there and I'm ready to hit some people."

Some people Pleschourt said he wouldn't enjoy hitting were the Gopher football players who cut their hair in support of him.

Minnesota defensive back Antonio Shenault said he wanted to participate in the Saint Baldricks event because he believes in the importance of giving back to the community.

"One of staff guys asked us about two months ago if anyone who be interested in doing it," he said. "I immediately raised my hand because I wasn't doing anything for spring break and I figured I might as well do something for a good cause.

"I'm a big proponent of serving and giving, and coach [PJ] Fleck preaches it," Shenault continued. "I've have been doing some other volunteer activities and this was another thing to do to raise awareness about a great cause."

He said he was nervous at first, but he knows the hair will grow back and it was all worth it.

"Some of my teammates have been growing their hair out for over two years," Shenault said. "That kind of shows the dedication we have to helping and doing what we can to serve."

Two of Gopher who had been growing their hair out for over two years were sophomore linebacker Bailey Schoenfelder and sophomore tight end Ko Kieft.

Each player had between 12 and 14 inches of hair shaves from their head.

"I feel good," Schoenfelder said after having his



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Megan Tegmeier and Aaliyah Gonzalez stand for a photo after having their hair cut to be donated to Locks for Love.

shaved. "I feel light. I feel free and aerodynamic. I've just been trying to expand my horizons and really serve and give as much as can," he continued. "I just wanted to do something for somebody else."

Kieft said he started growing his hair so it would look cool with a helmet on, but he doesn't expect the short hand to affect his game in any way.

"We are just out here looking to make someone's day," he said. "I think we did that."

Medford firefighter Nick Donahue was one of the many public servants to participate in the event.

Donahue actually lived in the house next door to Pleschourt and said he just wanted to raise of money for a worthy cause.

"I'm really close with the family and I been right next to them through this battle," he said. "I couldn't think of better cause to do this for, to try to raise some money to try to find a cure for cancer."

Megan Tegmeier, 8, and Aaliyah Gonzalez, 11, did not have their heads shaved, but had their pony tails cut off and donated to Locks of Love.

Tegmeier said he wanted to donate her hair to help the children who are suffering from cancer.

Gonzalez said, "I wanted to it so that God can heal all of the people with cancer and I wanted you donated my hair to them."

"It's incredible seeing the community, the school, the Gopher football players, the police and firefighters all being here to support [Pleschourt] and all the other kids," Haakonson said. "It's really just blown my expectations away."

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

Blotter Spotlight: Assault: On March 1 at 4:08 p.m., deputies responded to an assault involving a woman being punched in the face by a co-worker in the 300 block of 2nd St. NE in Hayfield.

CRIME BRIEF

Movement with hands catches the attention of police

Owatonna Police displayed that the eye is quicker than the hand during a recent traffic stop.

On March 9, police stopped a vehicle for not displaying a front license plate. The officer also saw the vehicle had a severely crashed windshield. As the officer talked to the driver, he readily admitted to not having a driver's license.

During the stop, the driver was asked to exit the vehicle and in doing so, he put his hands down toward the center console. A back-up officer noticed the driver dropped a baggie of what appeared to be drugs. A search of the vehicle uncovered



English

Cedric A. English, 45, of Owatonna, has been charged with fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance and four-degree criminal damage to property.

English's vehicle has been seized and is subject to forfeiture, according to police.

Spartz, 40, Northfield, speeding, \$121; Benton J. Westrom, 22, Dodge Center, speeding, \$121; Michael L. Wiuff, 23, Owatonna, speeding, \$121.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

March 11
Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Main St. W. at 1:23 p.m.

March 13
Domestic: At 3:26 p.m., officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 600 block of 3rd St. NE.

OWATONNA POLICE

March 9
Fraud: Officer took a fraud report in the 800 block of 17th St. SE at 8:46 a.m.

Arrest: Police assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 11:15 a.m.

Arrest: Officers arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Southview St. SW and Redwood Place SW at 12:51 p.m.

Shoplifting: At 5:33 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 300 block of School St. W. at 6:15 p.m.

Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 10:09 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

March 11
DWI: Police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 1200 block of Oak Ave. S. at 12:06 a.m.

Shoplifting: A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 7:45 p.m.

March 12
Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 400 block of Hillsdale St. at 12:18 p.m.

Welfare: Officer conducted a welfare check in the 400 block of Elm Ave. N. at 5:52 p.m.

Assault: Officers responded to an assault in the 600 block of Cherry St. NE at 6:33 p.m.

March 13
Theft: At 7:43 a.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 400 block of State Ave. NW.

Fraud: Officer took a fraud report in the 2200 block of 46th St. NW at 8:09 a.m.

Assault: Officers responded to an assault in the 300 block of School St. E. at 12:48 p.m.

Shoplifting: Police arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 4:25 p.m.

Crash: Officers assisted the State Patrol with a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 1000 block of 21st Ave. NW at 5:42 p.m.

Stop Arm: Police issued a citation for a stop arm violation at Grove Ave. S. and Academy St. E. at 7:23 p.m.

DWI: Police made a DWI arrest at State Ave. NW and Adams Ave. NW at 8:31 p.m.

March 14
Fraud: Police received a fraud report from the 500 block of Park Dr. NW at 8:04 a.m.

Warrant: Officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 100 block of Allan Ave. SW at 4:58 p.m.

Disturbance: Police arrested a juvenile following a disturbance in the 200 block of Oak Ave. S. at 6:31 p.m.

March 15
Shoplifting: Police made a shoplifting arrest in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 12:01 a.m.

Dodge sheriff's office investigates death of Hayfield child

Dodge County authorities are investigating the death of a Hayfield child who died over the weekend at home.

On Sunday at about 11:22 a.m., the Dodge County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from a Hayfield residence reporting a 10-year-old juvenile was found in bed unresponsive and CPR was in progress. Lifesaving efforts to resuscitate the child were unsuccessful, and the juvenile was pronounced dead at the

scene, according to Sheriff Scott Rose.

Preliminary investigation indicates there was no obvious trauma or known medical history, Rose said. While investigators believe the child likely died from natural causes, an autopsy will be performed this week by the Olmsted County Medical Examiner's Office to determine the exact cause of death.

Rose said the county's

school resource officer and Hayfield School officials responded to the high school Sunday to organize a crisis response program for students during the week.

Dodge Center Ambulance and Hayfield Fire Department assisted the sheriff's office at the death scene. Rose said the sheriff's office also utilized its newly formed chaplaincy program to assist at the scene.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 208 complaints during the week of March 7 – 13. Some of them include:

March 7
Disturbance: Deputies responded to a disturbance on 3rd St. SE in Dodge Center at 3:20 a.m.

March 8
Environment: At 1:35 a.m., deputies found environmental dumping in the 55000 block of 130th Ave. in West Concord.
Vandalism: A citizen reported that eggs were thrown at his house in the 500 block of 2nd St. SE in Hayfield at 3:38 a.m.
Marijuana: Deputies found marijuana at the courthouse at 10:06 a.m.
Civil: At 1:41 p.m., deputy assisted with a civil matter regarding a rental property in the 200 block of 1st St. SE in Hayfield.

March 10
Civil: Deputy assisted with a civil matter regarding custody in the 100 block of Hwy. St. W. in Dodge Center at 9:34 a.m.
Vandalism: At 10:38 a.m., a citizen reported the back window of his vehicle was smashed out in the 600 block of 11th Ave. NW in Dodge Center.
Intoxication: Deputies responded to a property dispute in the 400 block of 3rd Ave. SW in Dodge Center at 1:06 p.m. They transported one male to detox.
Drunkeness: At 10:21 p.m., deputies received a report of an intoxicated male laying on the ground on Main St. W. in Dodge Center.
Disturbance: Deputies responded to a disturbance with two people arguing at Main St. E. and Airport Dr. S. in Dodge Center at 11:07 p.m.

March 11
Civil: Deputy assisted with a civil matter regarding custody in the 55700 block of 110th Ave. in West Concord at 9:17 a.m.
Burglary: At 11:55 a.m., deputies received information regarding a past action attempted break-in in the 300 block of 4th St. NW in Dodge Center.
Suspicion: A citizen reported a suspicious vehicle in the 71800 block of 160th Ave. in Hayfield at 5:25 p.m.
Fire: Deputies responded to a house fire in the 100 block of Front St. E. in Claremont at 8:12 p.m.

March 12
Disturbance: At 7:56 a.m., deputies responded to a verbal domestic disturbance on Airport Dr. S. in Dodge Center.
Civil: At 10:01 a.m., deputy assisted with a civil matter over property in the 100 block of Front St. E. in Claremont.
Fraud: Deputy took a fraud report in the 500 block of 3rd St. in Claremont at 12:01 p.m.
Harassment: At 3:38 p.m., a West Concord woman reported receiving harassing phone calls.
Snowmobile: Deputies received a snowmobile complaint from the 59000 block of 210th Ave. in Dodge Center at 4:04 p.m.
Disturbance: At 5:44 p.m., a man called deputies when his brother tried to run him over in the 400 block of 2nd Ave. NW in Dodge Center.

March 13
Suspicion: At 1:45 a.m., deputies found a suspicious vehicle with its headlights on in the 62200 block of 140th Ave. in Claremont.
Vandalism: At 7:28 p.m., vandalism was reported in the 400 block of 9th St. SE in Hayfield.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 5 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

Derrick S. Butson, 24, Kasota, previously appeared and was convicted of felony burglary. He was sentenced to \$131 and 52 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

Cody C. Forbes, 30, Portage, WI, previously appeared and was convicted of felony theft. The defendant was sentenced to \$2,555.01 and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 5 – 9:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT
Sun Fajun, 40, Waterloo, IA, speeding, \$131; Deuce J. Hodge, 28, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Leighton T. Wradislavsky, 21, Blooming Prairie, auxiliary driving lights violation and speeding, \$181.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER
Michelle A. Ankian, 31, Rochester, speeding, \$121; Nicholas M. Connolly, 36, Circle Pines, speeding and revoked license, \$341; Leah M. Filzen, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Jequinnson D. Fisher, 24, Pittsfield, MA, DWI, \$306, 6 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, 10 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Joann M. Hess, 65, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Lisa L. Jewett, 54, Austin, speeding, \$121; Ian R. Meister, 32, Shoreview, no license and revoked license, \$381; John P. O'Neal, 20, Spirit Lake, IA, careless driving, \$181; Donelle M. Rohlfling, 55, Le Sueur, speeding, \$121; Alaina C. Sauer, 20, Savage, speeding, \$221; Joann E. Siverling, 60, Rochester, speeding, \$121; Heidi L. Skogerbo, 30, Kasson, speeding, \$121; Tallie M. Slayton, 53, Eyota, seat belt, \$106; Eric J. Tucker, 20, Robbinsdale, speeding, \$121.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT
Amir A. Akbar, 43, Minneapolis, rear lamps violation, \$121; Sebastian G. Ambrocio Gomez, 19, Faribault, permit violation, \$131; Bethany L. Butler, 34, Owatonna, careless driving, \$281 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Anthony W. Caywood, 35, Owatonna, stop sign and rear lights violation, \$171; Alexander J. Chavie, 25, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Joseph M. Davis, 33, Owatonna, revoked license



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Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 800 block of 15th St. SE at 10:13 a.m.

Threats: Police responded to a subject making threats in the 300 block of School St. E. at 10:46 a.m.

Theft: At 5:08 p.m., a citizen reported identity theft in the 700 block of 17th St. SE.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

March 9
Weapons: Deputies responded to a weapons-related complaint at 30th St. NW and 52nd Ave. NW in Deerfield Township at 10:17 a.m.

March 11
Off the Road: At 5:40 a.m. a vehicle ran off the road at Highway Ave. N. and Highway 30 W. in Blooming Prairie.

Welfare: Deputy conducted a welfare check at 4th St. and 7th Ave. W. in Ellendale at 9:17 p.m.

March 12
DWI: Deputies made a DWI arrest in the 1200 block of Oak Ave. S. in Owatonna at 1:49 a.m.

Warrant: Deputies arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant at the law enforcement center in Owatonna at 9:21 a.m.

Domestic: Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of 7th Ave. W. in Ellendale at 6:52 p.m.

March 13
Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 100 block of Riverview Court in Medford at 3:26 p.m.

March 14
Animal: Deputies responded to an animal call in the 38000 block of 68th St. SE in Aurora Township at 12:39 p.m.

Theft: Deputy received a theft report from the 100 block of Riverview Court in Medford at 2:32 p.m.

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 4:11 p.m.

ARREST Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE
Alexander James Anderson, 30, arrested at 12 p.m. March 2, probation violation warrant arrest, held for court.

Nashid Asmir Abdul-Zahir, 42, arrested at 11:44 p.m. March 2, felony possession of a stolen motor vehicle, held for court.

Nicholas Ross Richards, 25, arrested at 3:10 p.m. March 2, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.

Ryan Matthew Berg, 25, arrested at 2:50 p.m. March 2, probation violation warrant arrest, held for court.

Jazmyne Amanda-May Shinabarger, 25, arrested at 6:16 p.m. March 4, felony assault, disorderly conduct and obstruction of legal process, held for court.

Jequinnson Dijawon Fisher, 24, arrested March 4, open bottle in commercial motor vehicle and DWI, held for court.

Matthew John Schultz, 23, arrested at 9:30 p.m. March 4, felony theft and possession of shoplifting tools, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF
Ricky Eldon Dague, 34, arrested at 5 p.m. March 2, warrant arrest, \$1,000 bail.

Jose Trinidad Vazquez, 41, arrested at 6:30 p.m. March 6, warrant arrest, body only.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of March 5 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Tessa A. Sjol, 22, West Concord, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. She was sentenced to \$140, 24 days in county jail,

Tips and Resources for Older Job Seekers

*Dear Savvy Senior,
What resources can you recommend to help older job seekers?
I'm 60 and have been out of work for nearly a year now and need some help.
Seeking Employment*

Dear Seeking,
While the U.S. job market has improved dramatically over the past few years, challenges still persist for many older workers. To help you find employment, there are job resource centers and a wide variety of online tools specifically created for older job seekers. Here's where you can find help.

Job Centers
Depending on where you live, there are career service centers located throughout the U.S. that can help you find a job. One of the best is the American Job Center (AJC) that has around 2,500 centers nationwide. Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, AJCs are free-to-use resource centers that can help you explore your career options, search for jobs, find training, write a resume, prepare for an interview and much more. To find a center near you, call 877-872-5627 or go to CareerOneStop.org.

Some other good programs for older workers include the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), and AARP's Back To Work 50+ program.

The SCSEP – sponsored by the Department of Labor – helps place income-eligible workers over age 55 in part-time, temporary community service positions where they can learn job skills. To learn more or locate a program in your area visit DOLETA.gov/seniors or call 877-872-5627.

AARP's Back To Work 50+ program currently offers workshops in 19 locations around the U.S. that provide career counseling, job coaching and skills development for 50-plus job seekers. Or, if you can't attend their workshop, they also offer an excellent guide called "7 Smart Strategies for 50+ Jobseekers." To get a free copy, or see if there's a workshop in your area call 855-850-2525.

If none of the above programs are available in your area, check with your local public library or nearby community college to see if they provide career services.

Job Search Sites
There are also a number of online job search sites that can help you connect with companies that are looking for mature, experienced workers.

Some good sites for 50 and older job seekers include: WhatsNext.com, which offers a job search site and has online assessment tools, calculators, career guides and career coaches to help you; RetiredBrains.com that provides information on finding temporary or seasonal jobs, as well as starting your own business, working from home, writing your resume, finding full-time work, and continuing your education; RetirementJobs.com that lets you post your resume and search for full-time or part-time jobs online; and Workforce50.com, which has job search functions and a list of favorite age-friendly employers by industry. It also gives you the ability to sign up for job alerts.

Work at Home
If you're interested in working at home, there are many opportunities depending on your skills, but be careful of work-at-home scams that offer big paydays without much effort. Some popular work-at-home jobs include sales and



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marketing, customer service, teaching and tutoring, writing and editing, Web development and design, consulting, interpreting and medical coding just to name a few.

To find these types of jobs, a good place to start is FlexJobs.com, which filters out the job scams and lists thousands of legitimate work-at-home jobs in dozens of categories. You can gain access to their listings for \$15 for one month, \$30 for three months or \$50 for a year.

Start a Business
If you're interested in starting a small business but could use some help getting started, the U.S. Small Business Administration offers tips, tools and free online courses that you can access at SBA.gov.

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

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago

MARCH 18, 2008
DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

Felipe Suatez of Brazil has left his country to travel and live in Minnesota for six months as a foreign exchange student in Bloomington. He is living with the Trotman family. This is the fifth foreign exchange student the Trotmans have hosted.

Three veterans—Joe Wacek, Burton Knutson and Dale Hanson—have applied to be guardians or escorts for Southwest Minnesota Honor Flight. It is an organization that flies local World War II veterans to view World War II Memorial and other memorials in Washington, D.C.

Bloomington senior Carlan Strand earned a first place in the JWP invitational speech festival at Janesville March 15. The Blossom speakers also came home with a second and a third place from the contest. Strand picked up first in extemp speaking.

20 Years Ago

MARCH 17, 1998
ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Continued problems with vandalism and loitering have prompted the Bloomington City Council to back the police chief and enforce an earlier curfew. The council voted 3-2 to require children under 15 to observe a 10 p.m. curfew. The curfew for 16 and 17 year olds remains at midnight.

Area townships held their annual elections again, this year on March 10. Owen Ferguson, Bennie Bishop and Arthur Ingvalson were re-elected clerks in their respective townships surrounding Bloomington. Supervisors re-elected include Hubert Swenson, Don Peterson and Burnell Johnson.

Brad Clark of the Bloomington Fire Department presented a \$250 donation to the Steele County Food Shelf this week.

50 Years Ago

MARCH 14, 1968
VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Lynwood D. Ditlevson, manager of the Central Co-op Oil Association in Bloomington resigned effective March 9 to accept a position with the Northwest Refining Co. Ditlevson has been an employee of the co-op since 1952.

More than 130 persons were in attendance at the annual American Legion birthday dinner served by the Auxiliary last Thursday, March 7, in the Servicemen's Club. Among the dignitaries present at the event were First District Commander Donald Gray and First District Auxiliary President Mrs. Stanley Rhiger.

Father Herman A. Boecke, former pastor of St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Bloomington, will observe his golden jubilee of ordination to the priesthood, Diocese of Winona, during 1968.

75 Years Ago

MARCH 18, 1943
FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Bloomington contributed four young men in the teenage draft as part of Steele County's March quota. Boys called to Ft. Snelling Wednesday for final physical examination were Charles Nelson, Charles Ressler, Donald Ditlevson and William Shaw.

With district court in session at Owatonna, James Cartin appeared in court and entered a plea of guilty to the charge of criminal negligence. A coroner's jury found Cartin criminally negligent in driving a truck last Aug. 27 when he collided with a car in which Daryl Jensen, 20, of Ellendale, a passenger, was instantly killed.

Ladies of the area will be delighted to know that Bloomington's commercial club will again sponsor a cooking school this year. These annual events have been growing in popularity each year and the attendance shows a marked increase at each session.

Traveling art hits the area



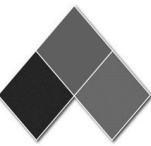
STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The 24th Annual High School Traveling Art Show stopped recently in Bloomington. Here is some of the work of area students. The display will be at Kasson-Mantorville Elementary School March 19-26, at the Byron High School April 10-16 and at Pine Island High School April 18-25.

Crossword solution

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

Accountants



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FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

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

That the original principal amount secured by said mortgage was \$104,800.00; that there has been compliance with any condition precedent to acceleration of the debt secured by said mortgage and foreclosure of said mortgage required by said mortgage, any note secured thereby, or any statute; that no action or proceeding to recover the debt remaining secured by said mortgage is pending, or any part thereof; that there is claimed to be due upon said mortgage and is due thereon at the date of this notice, the sum of \$99,587.15 in principal and interest.

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

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

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

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

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

TCF National Bank

DATED: February 13, 2018
FOLEY & MANSFIELD, P.L.L.P.
By: Karl K. Heinzlerling
Atty. No. 142475
Attorneys for Mortgagee
250 Marquette Avenue,
Suite 1200
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

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

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 31, 2010 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$176,912.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Ronald D. Mead and Michelle J. Mead a/k/a Michelle J. Zolnosky, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on September 3, 2010 as Document Number A000373333 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing at the Northwest corner of Northwest Quarter of Northwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter of Township 105, Range 21, Steele County, Minnesota, running thence North 89 degrees 53' East (assumed bearing) along the North line of the Northeast Quarter 318.0 feet, thence South 0 degrees 00' West 548.0 feet, thence South 89 degrees 53' West 318.0 feet to the West line of Northeast Quarter, thence North 0 degrees 00' East along West line 548.0 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 4.0 acres more or less Subject to existing public road rights of way on the North. Assessor's Parcel Number: 03-001-1401. STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 4683 108TH ST SW, ELENDALE, MN 56026-2015 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota. THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$111,406.41 TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 03-001-1401 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part. PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 10, 2018 at 10:00 AM. PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota. to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the date of sale.

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

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

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

Dated: February 14, 2018
WELLS FARGO BANK,
N.A. Mortgagee

THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/
Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Corbin C. Smith, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(18-0091-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

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

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE 18-108674

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following de-

scribed mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: June 8, 2013 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$96,850.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Judith A. Fonner, a single woman MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 100397202862153187 LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Nationstar Mortgage, LLC SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed June 20, 2013, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T000070390 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot One, (Except the West 70 Feet), in Block Two in Heger Addition to the City of Owatonna, and that part of Sixth Avenue Southeast as vacated, lying immediately East of the above described Lot and being a Parcel thirty three Feet East and West and 88 Feet North and South, all being in Block Two in Heger Addition to the City of Owatonna. AND The North Half of Lot Sixteen (16), Except the West Seventy (70) Feet, Block Two (2), Heger Addition to the City of Owatonna, and also that Portion of Sixth Avenue S.E. lying immediately East of the North Half of said Lot 16 as vacated, the Portion of the Vacated Street herein conveyed being 33 Feet East and West and 44 Feet North and South.

REGISTERED PROPERTY PROPERTY ADDRESS: 553 11th St SE, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-174-0200 COT# 17109 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$92,506.19 THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 24, 2018, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

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

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

Dated: February 23, 2018

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

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

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

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE 17-108330

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 23, 2006 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$80,000.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Nicole J. Livingston, a single person, Brian L. Livingston, a single person, Shauna M. Livingston, a single person and Michael J. Livingston, a single person MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 1001752-0000290554-8

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: MILA, Inc. SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed March 15, 2006, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000339706 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: U.S. Bank, National Association, as Trustee for the Holders of the Specialty Underwriting and Residential Finance Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-BC3 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The North 48 feet of: All of Lot 9 and East 1/4 of Lot 8, in Block 12 of the Original Town (now City) of Owatonna, Minnesota. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 110 N Grove Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-100-1211 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$79,182.06 THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 1, 2018, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on November 1, 2018, or the next business day if November 1, 2018 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: March 9, 2018

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for SPECIALTY UNDERWRITING AND RESIDENTIAL FINANCE TRUST MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFI-

CATES, SERIES 2006-BC3 Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

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

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA IN DISTRICT COURT

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

Summons
Court File Number:

In the marriage of:

Rukiya Ali,
Petitioner(s)
vs.

Ahmed Dahir Wais,
Respondent(s)

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

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

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

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

(4) PARTIES TO A MARRIAGE DISSOLUTION PROCEEDING ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEMPT ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA LAW. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION INCLUDES MEDIATION, ARBITRATION, AND OTHER PROCESSES AS SET FORTH IN THE DISTRICT COURT RULES. YOU MAY CONTACT THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR ABOUT RESOURCES IN YOUR AREA. IF YOU CANNOT PAY FOR MEDIATION OR ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION, IN SOME COUNTIES, ASSISTANCE MAY BE AVAILABLE TO YOU THROUGH A NON-PROFIT PROVIDER OR A COURT PROGRAM. IF YOU

ARE A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC ABUSE OR THREATS OF ABUSE AS DEFINED IN MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 518B, YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO TRY MEDIATION AND YOU WILL NOT BE PENALIZED BY THE COURT IN LATER PROCEEDINGS.

NOTICE OF PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 518.157, IN A CONTESTED PROCEEDING INVOLVING CUSTODY OR PARENTING TIME OF A MINOR CHILD, THE PARTIES MUST BEGIN PARTICIPATION IN A PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT MEETS MINIMUM STANDARDS PROMULGATED BY THE MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE FIRST FILING WITH THE COURT. IN SOME DISTRICTS, PARENTING EDUCATION MAY BE REQUIRED IN ALL CUSTODY OR PARENTING PROCEEDINGS. YOU MAY CONTACT THE DISTRICT COURT ADMINISTRATOR FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THIS REQUIREMENT AND THE AVAILABILITY OF PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA REGIONAL LEGAL SERVICES

Dated: January 10, 2018

/s/ Tracy Shoberg

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

3/13, 3/20, 3/27

NOTICE

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

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

ASSUMED NAMED: Lava Burgers

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

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

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

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

SIGNED BY: Mark R. Carver

MAILING ADDRESS: None Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: josedherrera@msn.com

Steve Simon
Secretary of State

3/6, 3/13, 3/20

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE
18-108743

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 22, 2011
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$65,301.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Derek Denelsbeck, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed June 30, 2011, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T000067413
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Eleven (11), in Block Two (2), in Northrop's Sunrise Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota
REGISTERED PROPERTY
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 730 NE 12th St, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-175-0211 COT# 17932
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$60,622.03
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: May 1, 2018, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060
to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-fam-

ily dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on November 1, 2018, or the next business day if November 1, 2018 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

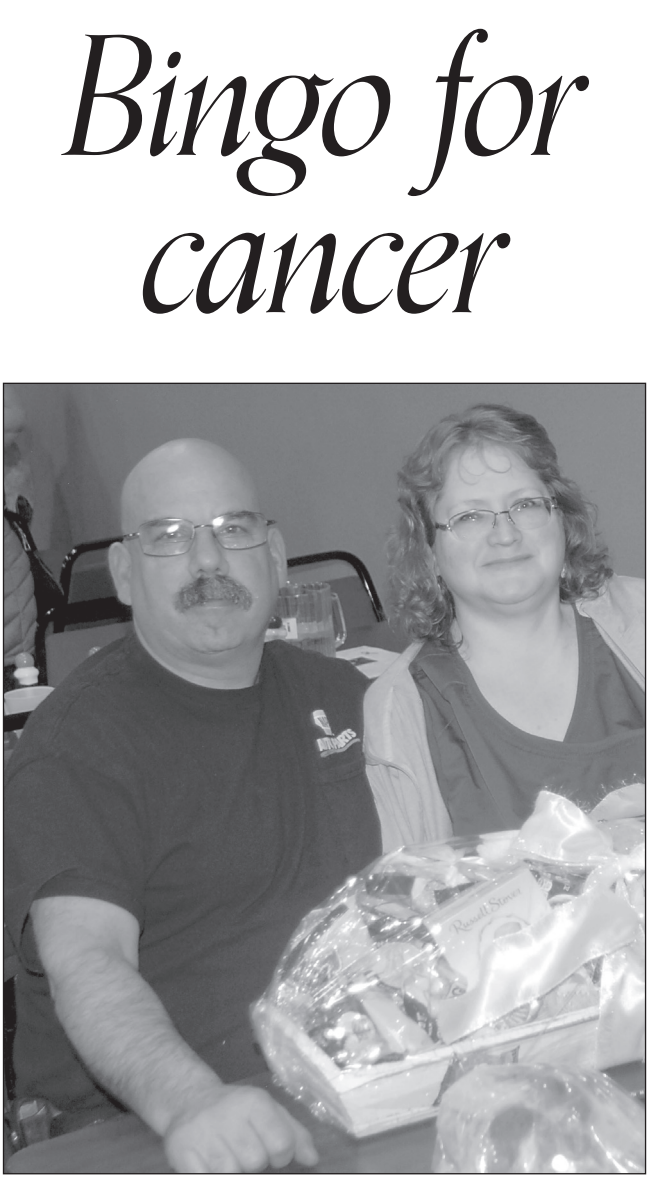
Dated: March 12, 2018
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Mortgagee
SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP
BY
Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee
Shapiro & Zielke, LLP
12550 West Frontage Road,
Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR
3/20, 3/27, 4/3
4/10, 4/17, 4/24

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE TO BIDDERS
WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP

Westfield Township will be accepting quotes for crushed rock and gravel on **April 2nd 2018** at 7:00 p.m. at the Westfield Township Hall. Quotes will be read when full board is in attendance. Bidder must show cost of material and cost of delivery separately, with no less than 5 trucks. Quotes must include the following. ¾ with no more than 20% fines, ¾ washed and Class 5 road rock. Bidders must have a Certificate of Insurance with .Quote. The Westfield Township Board reserves the right to reject any and all quotes and to wave irregularities therein and reserves the right to award the contract in the best interest of the township;
John Fouarge (Clerk)
Westfield TownshLp
C/O 75020 118th Ave
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

3/13



STAFF PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUUD
About 60 people gathered at the Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie on March 15 for Ham Bingo, a fundraiser to benefit the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group. Mike and Julie Hoffman had that lucky horseshoe with them during the bingo party. Mike won the grand prize, a basket full of candy and other items. Cancer volunteer Amy Trotman presents a meat raffle prize to a lucky winner, Brynna Ingvaldson. 8. Brynna was one who played bingo and helped the cancer group raise nearly \$2,300.

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments
This may affect your 2019 property tax payments.

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

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

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

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

Given under my hand this 5 day of March, 2018
John Fouarge
Clerk of the Township of Westfield

SELLING SOMETHING ON WHEELS?

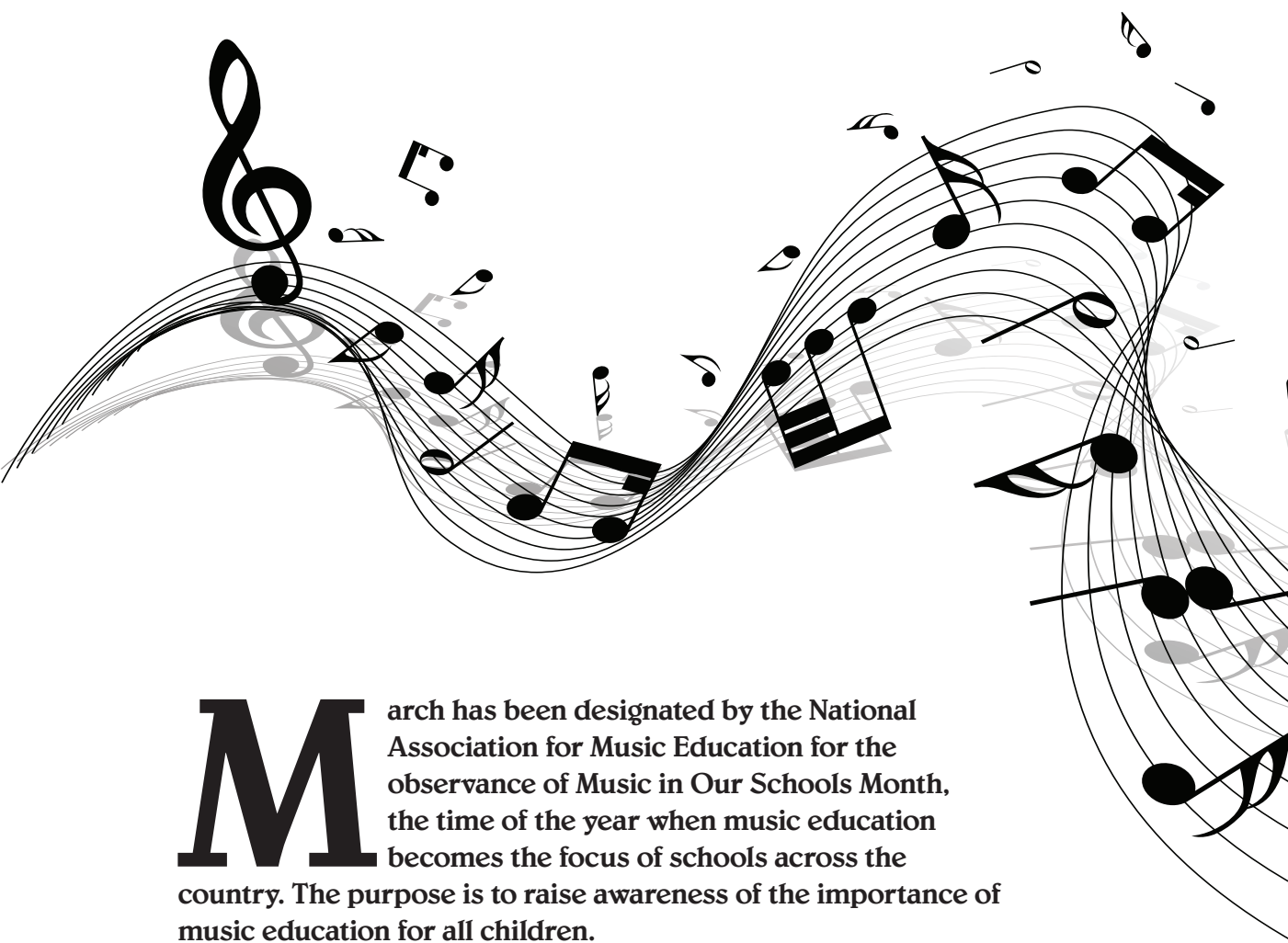
SELL IT HERE!
ONLY \$39
With photo TILL IT SELLS
Place your ad and reach over 20,000 households in Steele, Dodge, Olmsted, Mower and Freeborn counties.
Up to 30 words

Classified ad with photo runs till it sells in four publications and covers 12 communities. You may cancel your advertisement when your item sells, however, there are no refunds for this special. Call: 507-634-7503 or email: dci@kmtel.com and place your ad today. Must be prepaid prior to ad running.

GENEVA TWP / FREEBORN COUNTY, MN
LAND AUCTION
550 ACRES+/- • 5 TRACTS
SALE TO BE HELD AT THE GENEVA COMMUNITY CENTER, 1ST AVE, GENEVA, MN
FRI., MARCH 23 @ 10 A.M.

Mr. Brouwer lives in California and has decided to sell his Minnesota farm land at public auction on March 23, 2018.
This Highly productive land is in close proximity but will be selling in five separate tracts. Two of these tracts have irrigation wells and pivots.
Online Bidding Available
Tract 1: 152.27 Deeded acres / 148.77 Tillable acres / CPI - 67.9 / Sec. 20 • Tract 2: 141.79 Deeded acres / 132.5 Tillable acres / CPI - 65.4 / Sec. 29 • Tract 3: 95.23 Deeded acres / 89.9 Tillable acres / CPI - 70 / Sec. 21 • Tract 4: 40 Deeded acres / 37.49 Tillable acres / CPI - 70.8 / Sec. 29 • Tract 5: 120 Deeded acres / 118.01 Tillable acres / CPI - 70.1 / Sec. 29 • Terms: \$50,000 down on each Tract the day of the sale, remainder due on or about May 5, 2018. 2% Buyer's Fee will apply.
LANDPROZ.COM
Agricultural & Recreational Real Estate / Auctions / Farm Management
507-383-1067 gregjensen@landproz.com
Broker Greg Jensen - MN, IA / Broker Brian Haugen - MN, SD / Broker Amy Willett - MO
LandProz Real Estate, LLC. 111 East Clark Street, Albert Lea, MN 56007

Don't miss a beat and celebrate music in our schools month



March has been designated by the National Association for Music Education for the observance of Music in Our Schools Month, the time of the year when music education becomes the focus of schools across the country. The purpose is to raise awareness of the importance of music education for all children.



BEST IN SITE WINNERS: Clare Rennie and Olivia Anderson.



SOLO AND ENSEMBLE PARTICIPANTS
Clare Rennie, Abby Smith, Asha Lighthizer, Olivia Anderson, and Stirling Hart.



HIGH SCHOOL SOLO AND ENSEMBLE
Front row: Viridiana Villarreal, Grace Magnuson, Raynee Fawner, Rachel Thompson and Emily Kubicek; back row: Alec Ille and Jon Herron.



SOLO AND ENSEMBLE PARTICIPANTS
First row: Lilly Wacek, Cameron Blume, and Hailey Schumacher; Second row: Grant Magnuson, Aiden Slowinski, Kolby Vigeland, Jaxon Halberts, and Claire Foster.



JUNIOR HIGH BAND
First row: Clare Rennie, Natalie Sheper, Hailey Hensrud, Abby Smith, Isabelle Sunde, Lexi Ripka, Anika Sunde, Grace Krecji, Olivia Anderson, Lauren Schammel, Emily Anderson and Larisa Judy; second row: Sam Smith, Asha Lighthizer, Bradley Simon, Stirling Hart, Marquette Millam, Melanie Wigham, Tyrone Suhl, Parker Kubicek, Caleb Wacek, Madison Thurneau and Tyler Iverson; third Row: Ethan Marzolf, Sam Michaud, Dawson Sorenson, Gustaof Ogren and Sam PirkI. Not pictured: Dominic King.



SENIOR HIGH BAND
First row: Shayane Jorgensen, Reese Millam, Greta Sunde, Rachel Thompson, Emily Kubicek, Bella White and Elizabeth Bramstedt; second row: Grace Magnuson, Allison Kronberg, Kiya Thompson, Jon Herron, Alec Ille, Kyler Christianson, Josh Temple and Mckenzie Jensen; third row: Maggie Bruns and Zach Weise. Not Pictured: Raynee Fawner, Colton Krell, D.J. Slender, Viridiana Villarreal, Joe Scheifert and Hannah Peterson.

Sponsored by these following area businesses:

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STEELE COUNTY

Times

Vandal's

FAMILY MARKET

237 Hwy Ave. S • Blooming Prairie 583-6671

Hope

CREAMERY

TRY HOPE BUTTER FOR YOUR BAKING!

507-684-2019

SALINAS AUTO REPAIR INC.

656 3rd St. NE • Blooming Prairie, MN

Robert Salinas
Family-Owned
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FLOOR

TECH

322 East Main St.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2276

CASH WISE

LARGE SELECTIONS
LOW PRICES

495 West N. ST.
Owatonna
507-451-7220

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Dr. Deborah Lien

ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST

Building Healthy Smiles!

132 2nd Ave NE • Blooming Prairie
507.583.6613 * FREE CONSULTATION

Mike's

REPAIR

Ag & Truck Tire

870 32 Ave. NW, Owatonna
Emergency or on the farm repair
507-455-0388
(After hours 507-455-0483)

Sorenson's

Appliances & TV

GE, Frigidaire, Direct TV, Danby, Crosley, Broan, Jenn-Air, KitchenAid, Maytag, Panasonic, RCA, Samsung, Toshiba, Whirlpool

Geneva, Mn
507-256-7258

misgen

507-684-2100
12880 SW 72nd Ave, Ellendale

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Local students join in 17 minutes, 17 lives effort

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Area students joined in a National School Walkout for 17 minutes on March 14 as a way to demand action in light of the school shootings around the country.

Students joined other teenagers in solidarity across the state and nation during the walkout, one month after the mass shooting took 17 lives at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

In Blooming Prairie, about 30 students, mostly seventh and eighth graders, joined in a peaceful protest, according to John Worke, high school principal. Worke said he encouraged the students to walk around the entire block surrounding the high school, and they did so for the 17 minutes.

Concerned for the safety of the students outside the school building, Worke requested assistance from Blooming Prairie Police to ensure everyone made it back safely.

“We gave them some guidelines to they’re

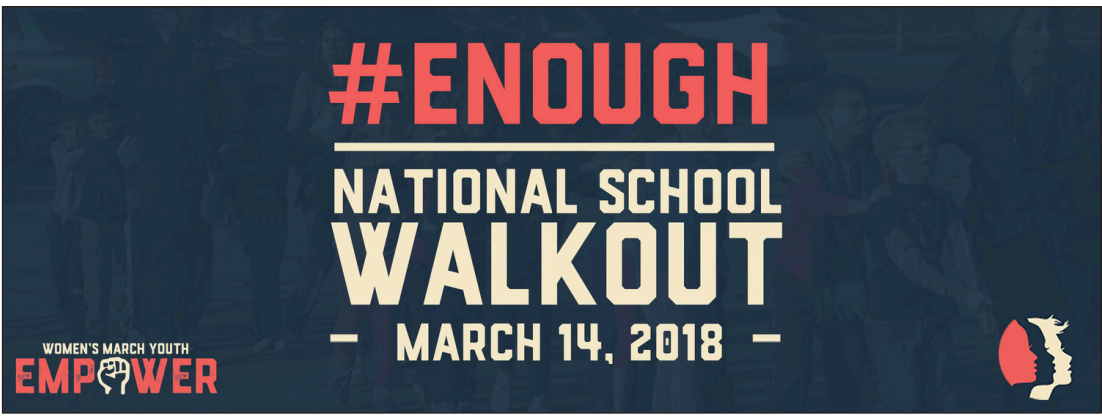
not trying to take advantage of the situation,” Worke said. “I told them to just remember this is recognition of the 17 victims who lost their lives in Florida.”

In the end, the students thanked administration for its support during the walkout, Worke said. “It was really low key. They felt bad for the students and just wanted to recognize them,” he added.

At Medford High School, administrators made the school auditorium available for students to take part in the walkout. Principal Kevin Babcock felt the auditorium was a venue more conducive than going outdoors to the school’s parking lot.

Babcock said about 50 students joined in for the 17 minute walkout. Four of the students read off the names of each of the 17 Florida students killed as well as short biographies about them.

“They were extremely polite and respectful of what they were doing,” Babcock said, noting he had no issues with what they were trying to do. “They are beginning to advocate and stand-up for things they believe in,” he said. “It’s okay



for them to have feelings.”

Babcock noted he is not aware of a walkout ever being staged before at Medford.

About 120 students at Owatonna High School reportedly took part in the national walkout. The protest took place on the front steps of the high school with everyone sharing in a common goal of ending gun violence.

Senior Maddy Kuck told the Magnet, OHS’ student website, “I decided to walk out because it is the right thing to do. It’s like we can give 17 minutes of our lives for 17 who can’t.”

Peaceful protests and demonstrations acted as a solidarity call to Congress to pass tighter gun control laws and to brainstorm and discuss ways to make schools safer.

EMPOWER, a youth branch of the Women’s

March, organized the walkout and reported that more than 2,500 walks were set around the country. The walkout was designed to serve as a movement for legislators to take action, especially since teens will soon be eligible to vote.

“Students and staff have the right to teach and learn in an environment free from the worry of being gunned down in their classrooms or on their way home from school,” EMPOWER says. “Parents have the right to send their kids to school in the mornings and see them home alive at the end of the day.”

EMPOWER urges Congress to take meaningful action to keep students safe and pass federal gun reform legislation that address the public health crisis of gun violence.

EDUCATION STANDOUTS

Wurst, Arett named Triple A winners at BP

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Two Blooming Prairie students are being honored with the coveted Triple A honor.



Wurst



Arett

Samantha Wurst and Ethan Arett, seniors at Blooming Prairie High School, bring impressive resumes to the honors. The awards are sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League and are based on athletics, academic excellence, and the arts. Each school in the state chooses one

senior boy and one senior girl as selected by the high school staff to receive the honor.

When it comes to the athletic portion of the Triple A requirements, Samantha (Sam as she is called on the basketball court), has had a great amount of success,

SEE EDUCATION, C3

BP Ambulance Service has record year

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Blooming Prairie Ambulance Commission Annual Report was accepted at the March city council meeting on Monday, March 12.

The commission held 12 meetings in 2017 and appointed Commissioner Lisa Vaith to serve an additional three-year term and council member Brad Clark to serve another year term on the commission.

Blooming Prairie’s ambulance service responded to 421 emergency medical calls in 2017, of which 260 were billable runs.

City Administrator Mike Jones said it was the busiest year on record for the ambulance service.

There are 20 active members of the Blooming Prairie

SEE AMBULANCE, C3



Doubles teams participate in the Sixth Annual Mike Hansen Washer Board Tournament while the silent auction gets ready in the next room, with proceeds going to a Parks and Rec scholarship, and the We All Play project. The tournament took place on St. Patrick’s Day at the Owatonna Eagles Club.

Tossing and hitting washer boards

Annual Eagles fundraiser supports two causes

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

While it appeared to be fun for all involved, the Sixth Annual Mike Hansen Memorial Washer Board Tournament managed to raise money for two different causes.

This year’s event fell on St. Patrick’s Day, and promised to be a well-attended affair, with friends and family driving down and members from the community pouring in to take part in the competition and benefit.

The tournament took place on St. Patrick’s Day at the Owatonna Eagle’s Club with the proceeds going to an Owatonna Parks and Rec scholarship as it has in the past as well as partnering this year with We All Play.

We All Play is a local effort that is in the early stages of raising funds for a miracle field and inclusive playground spearheaded by Missy Ahrens and Amanda Gislason. The project aims to provide all children and adults with a safe and inclusive area of play.

Those participating in the washer board tournament were also there to reminisce and celebrate Mike Hansen, who passed away six years ago while attending his sons’ hockey game. His friend, Wes Jones, immediately felt he had to organize

something in Hansen’s honor.

This year’s tournament began early, with the singles leg of the event commencing at 9:30 a.m., and the doubles portion following around noon. The singles winner at this year’s tournament, Derek Jones, was on hand to celebrate his win, but also to celebrate the important causes the event goes to benefit.

“It feels satisfying to win,” Jones said, having placed second the last two years, “but it’s for a phenomenal cause, so I’m just happy to participate.”

Jones has taken part in the tournament since its inception, and feels that each year the event seems to draw more and more support from the community. But this year was particularly busy. “It’s a good turnout,” he said while admiring the crowds, before winding his way back into position for the doubles

“It’s really cool. It’s for a good cause, and it means a lot to us and our family.”

Rich Hansen
Mike’s Son

tournament.

Mike Hansen’s family also took part in the tournament.

SEE EAGLES, C3

Offering hope with mindfulness therapy

As a part of a wide variety of treatment options, South Central Human Relations Center offers an intensive outpatient treatment program known as DBT (Dialectical Behavioral Therapy).

The name comes from the philosophy that recognizes the validity of the extremes in peoples’ experience and helps them find a balance to live a more effective and meaningful life. It provides a compassionate and directive kind of help for people suffering from significant behavioral health issues. The intensity of the program is reflected by it’s year long duration with weekly sessions of a class and individual therapy that work together. Clinical skills are learned in the context of small groups and they are applied with the help of an individual therapist. One of the main assumptions is that people are doing the best they can with what they know and yet they need to work hard to learn different ways of looking at themselves, others, and the world to re-build a life worth living.

The educational component or class includes basically three content areas (i.e. Interpersonal Effectiveness, Distress Tolerance, and Emotion Regulation) along with Mindfulness. Learning how to develop fulfilling relationships while

maintaining personal satisfaction has proven to be difficult for anyone, but particularly for those suffering from a serious mental illness. Tolerating stress has been the downfall of



Steele Talkin’
DAVID MOLL

makes it easier to make changes. Mindfulness is woven into all content areas and is the cornerstone of DBT. It is simply a set of skills that allows for greater focus and attention to the present moment that is necessary to make changes in one’s life. It has been receiving a lot of attention in the media as a practice that allows for all to experience life fully.

The individual therapy component includes a therapist who is like a coach or a guide. This

many who despite their best efforts have not been able to make it through life’s challenges. This failure creates severe consequences that could include hospitalization. Changing emotions is a hallmark of the program, which allows for greater insight and comfort with feelings, which ironically

is a more direct, down to earth, and structured experience that makes it different than most psychotherapies. Special attention is focused on keeping people in treatment and motivating them to change. The therapist takes as much responsibility as the patient with regard to success in programming. Using specific skills learned in class allows for solving problems and seeing themselves, the world and others in a different light. Again, in essence, DBT individual therapy works toward weaving particular skills learned in class to end destructive behavior and build a life worth living.

Team consultation occurs weekly. It’s primary function is to provide support and challenge each clinician (both individual therapists and class skills trainers) to uphold principles of DBT. The DBT team takes responsibility as a whole in caring for each patient.

The intense nature of DBT serves those with complex and intractable behavioral health problems that have not responded to traditional outpatient behavioral health treatment. Admission to the program is rather selective based on the severity of mental health issues. Numerous hospitalizations are common.

People typically come in with a sense of desperation. Although the DBT patient’s issues can be rather diverse, they typically experience difficulties regulating emotions, interpersonal instability and impulsive/self destructive behavior.

The DBT program at HRC has been certified through the State of Minnesota Department of Human Services since 2013. It is considered an evidenced based practice. Referrals come from a variety of sources that include doctors, human services, probation officers, hospitals, and therapists. A number of self-referrals are received as well. The admission process begins with a consult with one of the DBT therapists. For more information contact Bobbi Mathern, MS, LMFT, DBT Team Leader at 507-451-2630.

David Moll has been a licensed psychologist at South Central Human Relations Center since 1996. He specializes in Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), Assessments and Psychological Testing, and serves children, adolescents and adults. Steele Talkin’ is a weekly column featuring authors representing various groups and organizations in Steele County.

BP teams take third in academic triathlon

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

In the conclusion to the academic triathlon season, the BPHS teams finished top in three out of as many contests. The final contest at Byron High School last Friday made adviser Janet Luick a proud teacher, indeed.

“I was so proud of our triathletes,” remarked Luick. “We are a smaller school district in the Zumbro Education District, but besides Byron, we ended up with the most overall trophies for the season. The local school won the third place trophy overall among the seven schools that compete in the triathlons.”

Members of the Yellow Challenger team that took first include Gage Mullenbach, Grady Steckelberg, Tyler Forystek, Addison Doocy, Grant Magnuson, and Mia Johnson. Ben Riley, Catelyn Bartlett, Macy Lembke, Mason Simon, Alexis White, and Ella Smith made up the Red Challenger team, and the Blue Cross-trainer team included Hannah Green, Sierra Larson, Asha Lighthizer, Jaylee Schleicher, and Larisa Judy.

For those unfamiliar with the concept, Academic triathlon is a competition between the seven schools in the Zumbro Education District.

According to Luick, academic triathlon encourages positive risk-taking by challenging trathletes to discover, refine, and demonstrate their combined and inherent interests. “By using seven types of learning, the program greatly helps students with a wide variety of talents,” she said. “It is a dynamic way to nurture creativity, teamwork, and real world problem-solving skills in fifth through eighth grade students.”

Luick remarked that the BP teams performed admirably throughout the entire triathlon season.

In addition to the winning teams, the cross-trainer seventh and eighth grade girls earned a Mary Ann Berdan Creativity Award, with only a very few of the teams from the seven schools nominated for that award.

The Byron meet concluded the triathlon season for this school year.

Austin car club makes several donations

The River Rats Car Club of Austin has some exciting news to share with the community.

With the donations and proceeds from the 2017 car show, the club has been able to purchase 16 pavers valued at \$4,800 for past and present Veterans. These pavers will be placed at the Veterans Memorial in downtown Austin on or before the Memorial Day Services.

The car club was also able to donate \$250 to the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Preston. This money went towards a Quilt of Valor, which will be mounted in the Administration building at the cemetery.

Another donation that the club did this year was \$500 to the Lyle Cancer Telethon. Gary Harrison, River Rats member and Lyle Mayor presented the check at the telethon.

The car club is working on one more project, which it is really excited about. So, stayed tuned. Anyone interested in following the River Rats Car Club can do so on Facebook. If you have any questions, know anyone that is in need of a Veterans Paver or would like to become a member of the club, please call John DeVries at 507-438-6635.



Submitted photo

Wayne Madson, left, of Mower County Veterans Services accepts a donation from the River Rats Car Club of Austin. Joining in on the presentation were Stan Iverson, center and John DeVries, president of the River Rats.

Legion picks 2 BP juniors for Boys State

Two Blooming Prairie students have been selected to attend 2018 Legion Boys State.

Commander Karl Luiken of the Otto T. Lund American Legion Post #52 in Blooming Prairie announced last week that Brett Motl and Clint Peterson will attend Legion Boys State to be held on the Campus of St. John's University at Collegeville June 10-16.

Scholars to Boys State must be juniors in high school. They are honored in view of the outstanding qualifications set forth as requirements in selecting them. They are named through cooperation of the local post, high school faculty and leading citizens in the community.

Legion Boys State is a practical learning experience in local and state

government. Its citizens will apply knowledge already gained through their school experience and additional knowledge provided through instruction by competent individuals from selected governmental areas to organize and operate their own city, county and state governments.

Boys State scholars will be encouraged through participation toward a better civic behavior and appreciation of our democratic ideals. It is in

no way a military training camp. Programs will be considered without reference to any existing political party and will be free from political propaganda. It is not a recreational outing.

Legion Boys State was first held in Minnesota in 1949 with 169 boys attending on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. Last year there were approximately 300 boys stateros on the campus of St. John's for the 2017 program.

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Birthday Party W/ Varsity Basketball Team
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STEELE COUNTY

Times

AMBULANCE: Record year in BP

FROM PAGE C1

Ambulance Association, five new EMTs joined the team; however, two of the EMTs are part-time due to their college schedules. There are still more EMTs needed to serve on the ambulance staff and the recruitment and training of new volunteers continues to be a concern on the EMTs.

During 2017 the BP Ambulance Service applied and received a grant to purchase a IUCAS CPR device that assists EMTs in providing accurate and consistent chest compressions.

“We appreciate the ambulance service for providing Blooming Prairie with a very valuable service,” Mayor H. Peterson said.

The EMTs continue to provide the community with the following training and programs to the community: CPR training to the Pine Springs Pool lifeguards; blood pressure checks; life line program; provide emergency medical education to the youth at Blooming Prairie Grade School, the

Scouts and the Blooming Prairie Youth Club; and provide support at the Blooming Prairie football games, Richie Brothers Auctions, National Night Out, Hope Kids and other local events like the Gobble Wobble and Holiday Dazzle.

Other highlights from the council meeting were:

- Approved a request from the J & H liquor to close East Main Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenue to hold a street dance on Tuesday, July 3.
- Approved a temporary liquor license for the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce to sell alcohol in on July 3 and 4 in the Central Park Beer Garden.
- Approved a temporary liquor license for the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce to sell alcohol on July 3 Street Dance on Main Street.
- Approved the Blooming Prairie Fire Relief Association’s request for an increase in the Fire Relief from \$1,425 to \$1,525 per service year upon retirement or death and

allow the city administrator to certify the benefit.

- Approved the application for the Blooming Prairie Veteran Memorial to the State of Minnesota Gambling Control Board for a gambling permit to conduct a raffle at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club on May 28.
- Approved the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club for a temporary On-Sale Liquor License for a Bloody Mary Bar on March 18.
- Approved the application for the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group to the State of Minnesota Gambling Control Board for a gambling permit to conduct designer purse bingo at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club on April, 21.
- Set a date of April 16 at 7 p.m. for the City of Blooming Prairie to hear public input about the proposed ordinance addressing a Solar Ordinance within city limits.

Celebrating the luck of the Irish



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
St. Patrick's Day was a special day for many authentic Irish men and women on Saturday, March 17. It was also a special day for some wannabes. The Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club had corn beef and cabbage on the menu on Saturday. Two workers, Shannon Koster, left, and Dee Anne Rasmussen got in on the fun.

EAGLES: Annual fundraiser supports two causes

FROM PAGE C1

where he goes to school at the University of North Dakota just to participate in the event. He was registered in the doubles tournament along with his girlfriend.

Like his father, Rich is a big fan of sports, and says he still plays some intermural hockey now and then at UND. “It’s really cool,” he said of the tournament. “It’s for a good cause, and it means a lot to us and our family.”

According to Rich, one of his favorite parts of the tournament is getting to see all of his father’s old friends. “I hear stories about him from all his buddies, so that’s always fun.” When Mike passed he had been coaching his triplets, Rich, Ian, and Mark in hockey.

Wendy Hansen is happy that the event is able to bring together so many people for such a good cause. “We love to give back to the community,” she said. She added that its “overwhelming and wonderful” to see all of her friends and family there.

Many of Mike and Wendy’s old classmates were in attendance. “The Class of ’77 still has a reason to get together and celebrate,” Wendy said.

One of their friends from school, Carol Henderson, was there to celebrate along with Wendy. “Mike had his locker next to mine,” she recalled. Carol feels the tournament is a great way to keep Mike’s memory alive, while also providing an opportunity for the family and friends to get together and smile.

It is the first year she’s attended

the tournament, and Carol admits she has no plans to jump into the washer board competition. “I have no washer board skills,” she jokes, before mentioning that the tournament is almost like “a mini reunion for us, although we just had our 40th last year.”

During the tournament, people were filtering in and out of the room in order to view some of the items on display for the silent auction. Missy Ahrens was grateful for all the support from both the Eagles Club as well as Wes Jones and the Mike Hansen Memorial Tournament.

According to Ahrens, people from the Mike Hansen Memorial Washer Board Tournament approached her after last year’s iteration worked closely with a cancer benefit. Noticing the money they were able

to raise, she said she leapt at the opportunity. “I was like, yeah, let’s do it.”

The venue was also heralded by Ahrens, who was more than happy to work with all those involved. “The Eagles have been amazing,” she said, “they’ve given us everything we needed.” Ahrens said she feels that 2018 could be an important year for her cause. “This is our big push year,” she added.

Ahrens and her co-chair on the project, Amanda Gislason, hope to raise roughly \$800,000 for a miracle field and inclusive playground located at Manthey Park. Their goal is to get the park finished by fall of 2019 or spring of 2020.

Among the auction’s 150 items were baskets and handmade picnic tables, as well as some large line

prizes like propane porch heaters and tricycles.

Another big item that drew interest from those bidding was a day of brewing at Seven Sins Brewing, a local home brewing company begun by Korey Borchert. The day of brewing promises to reward the winning bidder with the opportunity to brew their own beers, and take home five gallons of the resulting product.

With the tournament drawing crowds, and the auction siphoning some of them off in-between rounds of competition, this year’s event was a great way for local residents to give back, while also having a beer or two for St Patrick’s Day and playing some washer board.

EDUCATION: BP Triple A winners

FROM PAGE C1

especially in her last two years of competition. She is a two-year starter for the basketball girls and this season was the team’s leading scorer, averaging almost 15 points per game and just about a dozen rebounds. She and her two fellow senior teammates set fine examples for the younger players as one of the team captains, and she played basketball all six grades at BPHS.

Last spring season Wurst set her mind to becoming a standout high jumper in track and through great determination and concentrated practice she wound up advancing to the start track meet. She will compete in that event, plus several running events this spring. Wurst started on the volleyball team two straight years, kept football statistics for three years, played softball in seventh grade and also competed in volleyball her whole school career.

Athletics, however, is not the only area in which Wurst shines. She had roles in the fall musical her junior and senior years, competed

in contest speech last year, and serves on the local Chamber of Commerce as a student ambassador. Academically, she ranks in the upper 5 percent of her class and is a member of the Blooming Prairie chapter of the National Honor Society.

The daughter of Tim and Tammy Wurst, she has one brother and one sister, declares Spanish as her favorite subject, and has no class that she dislikes.

“I was very honored to be notified that I was named a Triple A representative from BPHS,” Wurst said, noting it vindicated all the hard work she put in trying to achieve that big goal. “I owe my parents, teachers and my friends for helping me on this incredible educational journey,” she added.

As Sam’s mother, Tammy, remarked, “It has really been a joy raising Sam. She is an amazing young woman, and we are very proud of her.”

After graduation, Wurst will attend the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and major in political science and Spanish. There is

not much doubt in anyone’s mind that she will succeed in reaching that goal as well.

For the boys’ honor, Arett, also sports an impressive array of credentials. Athletically, he has six-year careers in both baseball and wrestling, and has compiled a very impressive record in dual wins in wrestling, plus success at both the section and state tournaments. He has been a starter on the baseball team for the last two seasons.

His other big success in his high school career has come through his participation in 4-H and FFA. He has been an officer in FFA the past four years, and is serving as chapter president this year. He has shown beef cattle at both the Steele County and Minnesota State fairs, and his beef herd is his number one love.

Arett’s FFA adviser, Bill Rinkenberger, commented about him in this way. “I have known Ethan for several years and have advised him in FFA the past six years. He is a one of a kind young man, who is very intelligent, respectful and ambitious. He is very involved with his beef herd that he has with

his parents and older brother. His future will be centered around a career in animal science, and I couldn’t be prouder of the young man he has become.”

Arett has been a member of the high school choir, serves on the student council, and is a two-year member of the BP Chapter of the National Honor Society. This year he also serves on the Arkema Citizens’ Advisory Board. It should be no surprise then, that chemistry is probably his favorite school subject, although he says that he likes all of them.

“It was cool to be recognized with the award,” Arett said. “It is acknowledgment about having a well rounded career and personality and also a little vindication that all the hard work through the years has been worth the effort.”

He plans to continue his education at UW in River Falls and major in animal science. He plans to return to the farm to care for his beef herd. There remains no doubt that the cattle will have good care under his management.

Cancer Corner

Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Ethan Thompson, New Richland, and his grandfather, Hank Thompson of Ellendale were a lucky pair at the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group's Ham Bingo on Thursday night, March 15 at the Cue Company in Blooming Prairie.

BINGO is always a winner for BP Cancer group

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Ham Bingo is always a winning proposition for the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group.

It was a winner again on Thursday night, March 15, when more than 60 Bingo goers of all ages participated in the fundraiser at the Pizza Cellar party room in Blooming Prairie.

Just ask Ethan Thompson, 13, of New Richland. He and his grandfather, Hank Thompson, have been regular Bingo fanatics at BP Cancer Group Bingo events.

Last week, Ethan hit the

jackpot by winning two meat raffles, bingoing twice to win Hope Butter and a ham. Oh yeah, he also won cupcakes given as a door prize.

Cheri Krejci, treasurer of the Bingo Group, was back in action last Thursday night after missing the past two BP Cancer Group Bingo parties because of two knee surgeries.

“Again, it was a fun night and our supporters came through,” said Krejci. She said the event raised \$300 more than last year with the earnings totaling \$2,287.

Hams from Geneva Meats were donated by Robyn and Craig Kruckeberg of Blooming Prairie. Hope Butter was donated by Victor and Kelly Mrotz of the Hope Creamery. Many door prizes were also given by the Cancer Group and by downtown businesses.

Twenty-five games were played with the final game a blackout to claim a big Easter basket with all kinds of goodies. Mike Hoffman of BP won the basket. His wife Julie was sitting next to him and also won a ham. She won the grand prize in two previous Bingo parties.

Lindsey French was the Bingo caller for the evening.

The BP Cancer Group plans a Designer Purse Bingo at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 21 at the BP Servicemen’s Club. The event will also feature loaded Bloody Mary’s.

Ten games will be played and door prizes will be offered. Tickets cost \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. Tickets are available at Krejci Ford, the BP Servicemen’s Club and the Pizza Cellar.

To sponsor a purse in memory or in honor of a friend or loved one, contact Lindsey (Krejci) French at 507-438-6895.

Jonathan

Sponsored by:

NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

This week’s Panther of the Week is Jonathan Quezada. Jonathan resides in New Richland with his parents Jonathan and Sarah Quezada. He is in Mrs. Jensen’s Kindergarten class.

Jonathan shows Panther Pride everywhere we go in our school. He walks in the hallway, picks up trash in the bathroom, is a good listener, and he loves to help others. Jonathan loves to learn science and math.

He remembers so much of what he has seen and heard and can relay it to the classroom. At home, he likes to listen to music. Keep up the great work Jonathan!

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MARCH 21
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
Noon – Chamber of Commerce Meeting, City Center

MARCH 24
3 p.m. Education Foundation Auction, Pizza Cellar

MARCH 27
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library

6 p.m. – 55+ Driver Improvement First Time Course, BP High School
6:30 p.m. – Bookclub, BP Library

MARCH 29
6 p.m. - 55+ Driver Improvement First Time Course, BP High School

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MARCH 21
6 p.m. – NRHEG After Prom Meeting, NRHEG HS Media Center

MARCH 22
7:30 p.m. – Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building

MARCH 26
4:30 p.m. – NRHEG

Kindergarten Orientation, Ellendale Elementary

MARCH 27
6 p.m. – ECFFE Special Easter Event, NRHEG HS South Gym
6:30 p.m. – Karate, Ellendale Elementary Gym North



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OWATONNA/MEDFORD

MARCH 21
4 p.m. – Owatonna EDA Meeting, City Admin Building

MARCH 22
2 p.m. & 7 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library
6:30 p.m. – Family Fun Night, Owatonna Library

MARCH 23
3 p.m. – 8 p.m. – KOWZ & KRUE Home & Recreation Show, Four Seasons Centre

MARCH 24
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. – KOWZ & KRUE Home & Recreation Show, Four Seasons Centre
Noon – 2 p.m. – Vesterheim Museum Event, History Center
6:30 p.m. – Steele County Dairy Banquet, Owatonna VFW

MARCH 25
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. – KOWZ & KRUE Home & Recreation Show, Four Seasons Centre

MARCH 26
4 p.m. – Owatonna HRA Meeting, City Admin Building

MARCH 27
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – It's Tale Time, Owatonna Library
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, Buffalo Wild Wings
4 p.m. – Owatonna Public Utilities Meeting, OPU
5 p.m. – Steele County Commissioners Board Meeting, County Admin Building
5:30 p.m. – Business After Hours, Home Federal Savings
5:30 p.m. – Owatonna Planning Commission Meeting, City Admin Building
7 p.m. – Medford City Council Meeting, City Hall



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
The Bloomington Servicemen's Club hosted a special breakfast on Sunday featuring Bloody Mary treats for those who ordered them. Drew Hanson of Brownsdale was one of the guests. His parents and grandparents lived in Bloomington.

LTO's 'My Man Godfrey' cast announced

Little Theatre of Owatonna is pleased to announce the cast for the spring production, "My Man Godfrey" opening April 20.

In the depths of the Depression, Godfrey, a "forgotten man," is rescued from his packing-crate home by ditzy socialite Irene Bullock during the course of a scavenger hunt. Irene offers Godfrey a job as butler to the banking family of Bullocks. Godfrey tolerates their eccentricities, alcoholism and general nuttiness. He cures hangovers, dodges missiles thrown by Irene's

jealous sister, Cornelia, and charms matronly Angelica Bullock, who sees pixies every morning. Irene and Molly, the pert Irish maid, both fall in love with Godfrey, but for Irene it's serious-and she's determined to get her man. Falsely accused by Cornelia of stealing the famous Bullock Pearls ("de bullock boils" according to the detective on the case), Godfrey uses the opportunity to recover his personal finances-and, when the Bullocks end up going broke, he rescues them by getting them all (gasp!) jobs in The Dump, a new nightclub

Godfrey has built to provide work for his friends and for the Bullocks, too. Finally, Irene weds her man Godfrey, and it all works out in the end.

The cast includes: Mr. Bullock is Bill Wood, Mrs. Bullock is Lisa Biwer, Godfrey is David DeNeui, Cornelia is Amber Boettcher, Irene is Sarah Esch, Molly is Sharon Gearin, Carlo is Jon Esch, Tommy Gray is Tim Fitzgerald, Faithful George is Zackery Knapton, M/C-Process Server is Darren Schaufenbuel, Handsome Cabbie is Mark Zollner, Detective is Ron Hager, Van

Rumpole is Aaron Thevenot, Socialites are Diane Suarez, Pete Johnson, Lilly Zollner, and Mayor LaGuardia is Jeffrey Jackson.

The artistic director is Jon Terrill and the technical director is Mary Butler Fraser. Performances of 'My Man Godfrey' will be 7:30 p.m. on April 20-21, and April 27-28. Matinee performances will be 2 p.m. on April 22 and 29.

The performance is presented in special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

Little Theatre seeks scholarship applicants

Little Theatre of Owatonna is proud to announce it is seeking eligible candidates for its 12th Sarah Foreman Memorial Post-Secondary Scholarship.

This scholarship was established as a memorial to long-time Little Theatre of Owatonna member Sarah Foreman who died in February 2006. Foreman's work as a director extended through 30 years, directing 18 shows and serving 11 years on the LTO Board during three separate terms. Her extensive contribution and dedication to theatre in Owatonna is memorialized in this scholarship.

This scholarship is meant to recognize and support the post-secondary education of a current Steele County resident or a previous (prior to 2018) graduate of a Steele County high school whose studies and/or participation in theatre distinguish him/her. The recipient will be chosen based on theatre involvement, two letters of recommendation, academic achievements and educational goals, and other college and/or community involvement.

Details and forms for the application can be found on the Little Theatre of Owatonna website, <http://littletheatreofowatonna.org/little-theatre-of-owatonna-seeks-post-secondary-scholarship-applicants/> or from county high school counselors/career centers. Deadline for application is June 1. Previous applicants who qualify and did not receive the scholarship are encouraged to re-apply.

Announcements and notification regarding the \$1,000 scholarship will be made in June. The recipient will be recognized, and the scholarship presented at the opening night of LTO's summer musical production, Seussical, Friday, July 12.

Little Theatre of Owatonna is committed to providing dramatic arts opportunities and incentives for citizens of Steele County. Questions regarding this scholarship should be directed to Gaylene Steckelberg, LTO Scholarship Chairperson, at P.O. Box 64, Owatonna, MN 56060.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DAIRY BANQUET COMING TO OWATONNA

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

Social hour will be at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:15 p.m. followed by the program. The highlight of the evening will be recognition of the 2018 Dairy Royalty.

Tickets are \$12 and can be reserved by contacting Mary Schroeder at 507-213-9394.

Celebrate Red Cross Month by giving blood in March

During Red Cross Month in March, the American Red Cross encourages eligible donors to join in its lifesaving mission by giving blood.

Since 1943, every U.S. president has designated March as Red Cross Month to recognize how the Red Cross helps people across the country and around the world. Red Cross Month is

a celebration of supporters, who are the face of the Red Cross in their communities and bring hope to people facing emergencies.

The Red Cross depends on blood donor heroes across the nation to collect enough blood to meet the needs of patients at approximately 2,600 hospitals nationwide. Donors of all blood types, especially type O, are needed to help those rely on blood products.

Make an appointment to become a hero to patients in need by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities include:

Albert Lea – 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. March 22, National Guard Armory

Austin – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. March 22, Primrose Retirement Communities

Austin – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. March 23, Mayo Clinic

Owatonna – 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. March 27, Buffalo Wild Wings

Owatonna – 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. March 30, Lowe's

OPEN HOUSE COMING TO NRHEG ELEMENTARY

An open house is set for youngsters entering NRHEG School.

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

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

If you have questions,

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

55+ DRIVER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM COMING TO AREA

The Minnesota Highway Safety Center will be offering 55+ Driver Improvement Courses to the open in the area.

By utilizing the most up-to-date research in the field, participants will be provided the latest information in regards to driver safety, new laws and vehicle technology.

Persons age 55 and older who complete the course qualify for 10 percent discount on their auto insurance premiums for three years, according to Minnesota law. First time participants must complete the initial eight hours of training and a four-hour refresher class every three years to maintain the 10 percent discount. The eight hour course costs \$26 and the four-hour refresher course is \$22.

For more information or to register, visit www.mnsafetycenter.org or call 1(888) 234-1294.

Classes in the area include: Eight-Hour First Time Course: 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. March 27 & 29, Bloomington High School

of Norwegian Knud Knudsen from the late 1800s.

This program and luncheon is on March 24 from 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. at the Steele County Historical Society. It will include the program "Rocks and Hard Places—Emigration through the Lens of Knud Knudsen" by Chris Johnson, Vesterheim's President/CEO.

Everyone is welcome. Tickets are \$30 for museum members and \$35 for non-members. Reservations are required by March 16 and can be made by contacting Vesterheim's Development Events Coordinator Karla Brown at 563-382-9681, x107, or kbrown@vesterheim.org.

The program is connected to the exhibit "Rocks and Hard Places—Emigration through the Lens of Knud Knudsen" on view at Vesterheim now through September 23.

Considered one of Norway's most important photographers, Knudsen (1832-1915) was born in Odda, Hardanger, and he established one of the first photography businesses in the city of Bergen in 1864. Despite the idyllic landscape,

Knudsen's work vividly shows why the ever-present threat of rockslides and avalanches, lack of arable land, lack of economic opportunity, and savage beauty of life on the fjord led to some of the highest rates of emigration per capita in Norway. The exhibition is sponsored by Gerald and Mary Jo Boman, The Broadway Group in memory of Eva Alsaker, David and Kirsten Heine, The Family Care Clinic, and The Perfect Edge, with additional support.

Through 33,000 objects and 12 historic buildings, Vesterheim, the national Norwegian-American museum and heritage center in Decorah, Iowa, shares the most comprehensive collection of Norwegian-American artifacts in the world and is a national center for folk-art classes. For complete schedules of events, exhibitions, and classes, and more information about ways to donate, check out Vesterheim online at vesterheim.org.



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2018 EVENTS

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

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THE FAMILY OF JON BALZUM would like to thank everyone for their kind words, prayers, telephone calls, visits throughout Jon's journey of Alzheimer's. A special thank you to Pastor Nirnala from St. John's for all her prayers, visits and the memorial service. Thank you to the members of St. John's for serving the lunch.

Muriel Ann, Amy, Dan, Joseph, Cole and Allison, RuthAnn Shadow

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sfillius@landstewardshipproject.org

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STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Several students from Blooming Prairie have earned trips to the regional science fair in Mankato April 28. They include: front row (left to right): Alexis White, Madelyn Harvey, Chloe Weber, Ella Finholdt, Allison Blume, Avry Hoffman, Isabella Schiller, Gabe Staloch, Cooper Foster and Evan Fyksen; middle row: Elizabeth Wemple, Samantha Hefling, Aden Doocy, Carter Bishop, Brianna Deplitch, Sophia Schiller, Nicole Penkava, Lauren Brown, Naomi Lebak, Ruby Evans, Callie Iverson and Audry Fort; back row: Gage Mullenbach, Ella Smith, Addison Lyman, Vincent Hernandez, Alex Lea, Grady Steckelberg, Cole Wangen, Jaylee Schleicher, Bo Zwiener, Alec Wangen, Lucas Smith, Jonathan Grant, Zoey Alwes, Madilynn Madsen, Elissa Martinez and Blake Kramer.

BP Elementary Science Fair sparks curiosity and creativity

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

From a demonstration on what kind of salt melts ice the fastest to an explanation on which batteries last the longest, everything scientific was on display on Monday, March 12 at Blooming Prairie Elementary for the annual science fair.

All fifth grade students in the school were required to participate in the event, but students in third fourth and sixth grade could also partake.

Co-science fair advisor Diana Anderson said approximately 95 students took part in this year's event.

Fifth-graders Carter Bishop and Jack Bruns did a project to see what kind of salt melts ice the quickest.

Bishop said he and Bruns thought table salt would melt ice the fastest but their hypothesis was incorrect and sea salt melting the ice the faster.

After finishing the project Bishop and Bruns were curious why sea salt was the fastest so they did some additional resource and found out that sea salt contained a higher percentage of

calcium than the others and that was the reason it melted the ice faster.

Bishop said that he is already looking forward to participating in the science fair next year.

"It was very fun doing the project and hanging out with my friend," he said. "I was kind of into science when I found out we had to do this, but this has made me more interested."

Bruns said he loves science, but his favorite part of the experience was hanging out with his friend while working on their project.

"It was fun," he said. "I have always liked science and I knew I'd have fun doing this project with my friend."

Co-science fair advisor Kayla Harvey said she saw a lot of excitement from the students who participate in the science fair.

"Just like the buzz in the air," she said. "They love it and they are all very proud of their projects."

Harvey said all the students go through a controlled experiment following the science method and are judged by a combination of teachers and students from the high school.

Students stayed after school every Monday since January to work on their projects.

Harvey said in addition to that, students spend a lot of time outside of school working on their projects.

"The student work very hard on their project," Anderson said. "They all enjoyed presenting and explaining their projects to judges. The science fair has been going on for 28 years now. It always seems to be a very successful event because of all the parent support."

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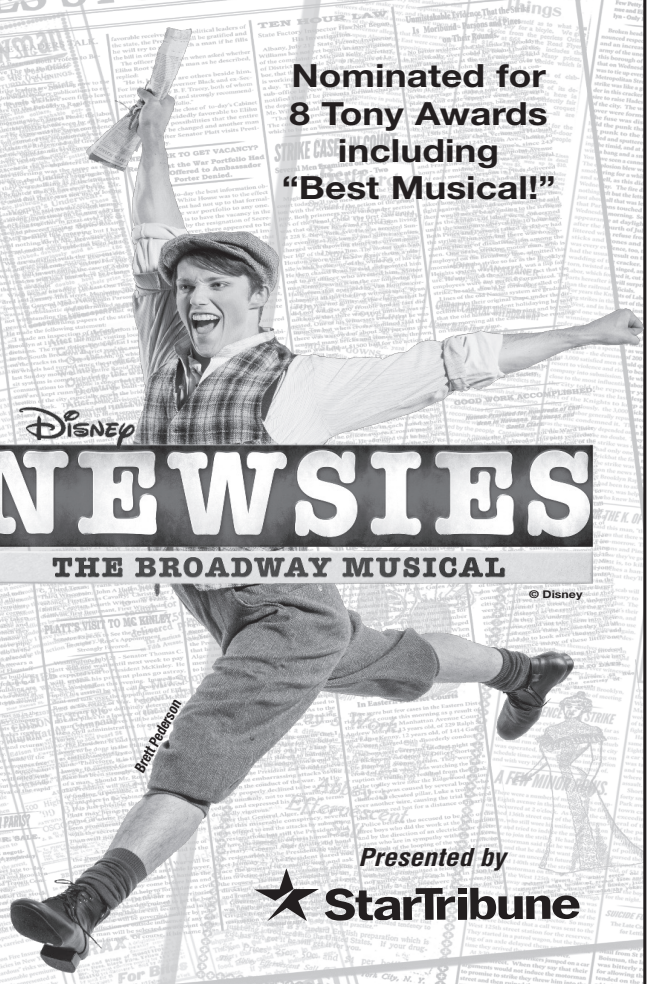


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Internationally known 'Soil Guy' Archuleta leads soil health workshops

Are you interested in building soil and improving profits?

A series of "Maximizing Soil Health!" workshops with internationally known expert and speaker Ray Archuleta will be held March 27-29 in southeastern Minnesota. The workshops are for farmers interested in how soil-building methods like cover crops, reduced tillage, and livestock integration can boost the health and resiliency of our farms.

The cost is \$20 and covers a meal (\$10 for students and additional family members). To register, contact the Land Stewardship Project's Sarah Fillius at 507-523-3366 or sfillius@landstewardshipproject.org.

The dates and locations of the workshops are:

Tuesday, March 27, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Lewiston Community Center, 75 Rice St.

Wednesday, March 28, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Faribault American Legion, 112 5th St. NE.

Thursday, March 29, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Kasson Events Center, 401 8th St. SE.

Wednesday, March 28, 6 p.m.-9 p.m., Austin Riverland Community College, West Campus Garage, 2000 8th Ave. NW.

In his workshops, Archuleta addresses concerns about weather extremes and growing financial pressures and how we can use the principles of soil health to take part in the soil health revolution now emerging in the farming community.

The Lewiston, Faribault and Kasson workshops include a panel of local farmers describing their experiences working to build soil health. The Lewiston workshop will feature farmers Everett Roling of Lewiston, Willie Erdmann of Ridgeway and Chuck Henry of Dover. The Faribault workshop will feature Tim Little of Faribault, John Bonde of Nerstrand and Kaleb Anderson of Goodhue. The Kasson workshop will feature John Meyer of Stewartville, Kevin Connelly of Byron and Tom Pyfferoen of Pine Island.

"Ray Archuleta is a great motivator," said Myron Sylling, a no-till cash grain and cover crop farmer from Spring Grove. "He's the highest energy and most passionate presenter on soil health that I've seen. If you're interested in planting cover crops, Ray will fire you up and make you want to do it."

"We're going to hit a tipping point where we'll see a massive following in soil health," Archuleta told Successful Farming magazine in November. "Between the mass education going on...the success that some farmers and ranchers are having, and the always-increasing price of inputs, there's going to be a fundamental shift. People want to see something different. They see something is intrinsically wrong. Why do we put in so many resources and, yet, a son or daughter can't come into the operation?"

These workshops are being organized by the Land Stewardship Project in cooperation with the Rice, Fillmore, Dodge, Carver, Freeborn and Mower Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and University of Minnesota Extension.

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