

STEELE COUNTY Times

WRESTLERS GO TO STATE B1

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2018

Blooming Prairie, Minnesota



Doug Meier of Christian Brothers Cabinets of Owatonna shows off a cabinet that was specially made for this weekend's cancer benefit for Jim Gleason, former manager of the Steele County Free Fair. The cabinet will be one of many items auctioned off at the benefit Saturday night at the Retro Fit Building (old Walmart) in Owatonna.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

TEAM GLEASON BENEFIT

What: Benefit for Jim Gleason, former manager of Steele County Fair
When: Saturday, 4-8 p.m.
Where: Retrofit- Owatonna (old Walmart Building, 1010 Hoffman Dr.)
Cost: \$10 per ticket

Commissioner set to go on trial

The criminal case against the chairman of the Steele County Board is set to go on trial next week.



Brady

James Brady appeared in court Thursday for a final settlement conference with Waseca County Judge Carol Hanks, but no deal was reached.

The case will now move to trial beginning March 6.

Brady, 55, was charged last June with a gross misdemeanor of officials not to be interested in contracts. If convicted of the charge, he could face a maximum sentence of one year in jail and a \$3,000 fine.

According to the complaint, Brady was accused of being in his official capacity as a county official when he wrongfully and unlawfully was directly or indirectly interested in any contract,

work, labor or business to which the county is a party.

The case revolves around Steele County entering into a contract for road contracts in March 2016. During a special session, Brady seconded the motion to award the contract to Ulland Brothers, Inc., which was the main contractor. The general allegation is that Brady was the co-owner of a gravel put, which was supplying aggregate for the road project.

Brady serves as the District 1 commissioner, representing the cities of Ellendale and Medford, along with several rural townships. He was elected to the board in 2014 and became board chair in January 2017. He is up for re-election this fall.

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

TEAM GLEASON

Former fair manager's cancer battle pulls friends together for 'mini-fair' benefit

BY RICK BUSSLER PUBLISHER

True to form, this weekend's cancer benefit for the former manager of the Steele County Free Fair will take on the appearance of a mini-fair.

The benefit will feature fair food, vendors, entertainment, color guard, souvenir mugs and most likely many of the same regulars that come together every August for the Steele County Fair.

The only thing absent will be the man who has been behind the fair for many years acting in his capacity as fair manager. Jim Gleason, who resigned as manager in January, is fighting an aggressive form of brain cancer. He is expected to still be at

the benefit, but the operations of the event will fall onto Team Gleason, a group of fair friends, family and other friends that Gleason has encountered over the years.

Doug Meier, who owns a cabinet shop in Owatonna, has organized the Team Gleason benefit, along with several other people. Over the years, Meier has organized several cancer benefits for others in the community.

Asked how the Team Gleason benefit got rolling, Meier said, "It started at the fair with several of us talking about it and it erupted from there. It takes a few people to get things rolling and you get lots of volunteers."

Gleason has had a positive impact on many people within the community throughout the years, Meier said. "Jim has been known for many years," he said. "He is a great people person

SEE GLEASON, A3



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Michele A. Lawson is now officially the postmaster at the Blooming Prairie Post Office. She was named postmaster on Feb. 17. She has logged 24 years with the United States Postal Service.

New BP Postmaster wears many hats

BY HOWARD LESTRUD STAFF WRITER

It's official! As of Feb. 17, 2018, Michele A. Lawson became postmaster of the Blooming Prairie Post Office. "I wear lots of different hats," Lawson says.

"For example, I was postmaster, supervisor, mail carrier, clerk, landscaper and maintenance person all in one day," she said.

Lawson is no stranger to Blooming Prairie, coming here as acting postmaster on Dec. 28, 2016.

Her 24 years of postal employment began in 1994 when she reported to the Owatonna Post Office as a part-time

SEE POSTMASTER, A3



Steve Amundson, left, and Brendon Krieg of Revol Greens are sprouting lettuce in the first of its kind greenhouse operation outside of Medford. Revol opened earlier this month and plans to supply fresh lettuce to grocery stores and restaurants in a 200-mile radius.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Fresh lettuce sprouts up in Steele County

BY RICK BUSSLER PUBLISHER

Minnesotans may be in the deep freeze buried in snow much of the winter, but that isn't stopping fresh lettuce from sprouting up in Steele County.

Revol Greens, a greenhouse farm located outside of Medford, is producing locally grown lettuce led by a team of veteran greenhouse growers. Revol's premium, sustainably grown lettuce and

greens have been hitting the grocery store shelves since early February.

The head grower is Steve Amundson, a 1981 graduate of Blooming Prairie. He previously worked with Bushel Boy in Owatonna for 25 years. Amundson said he is excited about this latest venture because he's "seeing that all our theories and research have exceeded what we expected."

Combining natural growing with the latest greenhouse technology, Revol grows lettuce year round and delivers

it to the Twin Cities and surrounding markets within a 200-mile radius much faster than lettuce and greens typically shipped from California or Arizona.

The 2.5-acre greenhouse is the largest of its kind in the state. It is designed to maximize natural light, supplementing with high efficient LED lighting during shorter winter days.

The controlled greenhouse environment allows Revol Greens to

SEE FRESH, A3

Board member picked to run Steele County Fair

BY RICK BUSSLER PUBLISHER

In the end, the Steele County Fair didn't have to look very far to find its new manager. The board chose one of its own members to operate the state's largest fair.

Scott Kozelka of Owatonna has been hired as the full-time manager, fair president Dan Deml announced Monday. Kozelka will begin his new duties on April 2.

In making the selection, Deml said

Kozelka possesses a strong background in



Kozelka

management, sales and marketing. Kozelka has been a member of the fair board for six years and has been in charge of the concessions and exhibitors at the fair.

Kozelka, 56, will leave his current job with Aramark Uniforms in Owatonna where he has

SEE FAIR, A3

\$1.00 | Volume 126, No. 31



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Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893

OUR VIEW



New local grower provides safe food supply

A new twist to agriculture has been introduced in southern Minnesota, the heartland of farm country for the state.

In the first of its kind in Minnesota, Revol Greens has opened a greenhouse featuring fresh lettuce outside of Medford. A veteran team of greenhouse growers is supplying grocers and restaurants throughout the Midwest with fresh, locally grown lettuce all year long.

Revol Greens has tapped the latest technology in greenhouse innovation, including responsible and sustainable growing practices, to grow high-quality lettuce 365 days a year. The state-of-the-art facility along Interstate 35 is designed to maximize natural light, growing year-round by supplementing with LED lighting during winter.

Operators at Revol are keeping the environment in mind with this operation. Revol will use a fraction of the water consumed in traditional growing and will cover most of its needs by capturing rain and snowmelt from its roof.

The leadership team has already proven to be successful with another operation. Jay Johnson, founder and former owner of Owatonna-based Bushel Boy Farms, brought one of the first U.S. greenhouses to grow tomatoes year round. Helping Johnson grow Bushel Boy to the largest supplier of locally grown tomatoes in Minnesota were Marco de Bruin and Steve Amundson. The two are joining Johnson with the new lettuce operation.

Marc Vergeldt, a well-known greenhouse crop consultant, and Brendon Krieg, who formerly managed leafy greens and greenhouse buying for Target, are also part of the Revol team.

Locally grown fruits and vegetables have five important advantages in which consumers need to be mindful of when making their selections. They are flavor, nutrition, variety, economics and environment. Purchasing products like Revol Greens will strengthen the local economy.

The many environmental costs of unnecessary transportation with food products shipped from other parts of the country are clear. They include air pollution, noise, traffic congestion and global warming. Revol's concept should prove that even in the heart of winter, Minnesotans can produce lettuce in greenhouses for a small fraction of the environmental cost of shipping them from California or Arizona.

It's comforting to know that Revol is taking the step to ensure that at least one part of our food supply will be grown in one of the safest venues possible.

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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



Team Gleason to honor former fair manager during dark times

As a journalist covering news stories of all sorts, I know first hand how quickly things can change in life.

Just when you think things are moving forward in a positive direction, life gets in the way and changes everything very quickly.

Such has been the case at the Steele County Free Fair over the past several months. I remember stopping in to speak with manager Jim Gleason at the fair office one afternoon last October. He spoke to me with his infectious smile and positive tone that I've only experienced with him in the seven years I've known him.

It saddened me to find out just a few weeks after our meeting that his life had drastically changed. After some nudging from the gals in his office, Gleason made a trip to the emergency room only to find out he had an incurable brain tumor. The prognosis did not look good.

With cancer treatments staring him in the face, Gleason gracefully stepped down as manager in early January. Steele County had lost a powerful force in coordinating the best fair in the state if not the entire country. The fair will never be the same without Gleason at the helm.

Since Gleason began his cancer journey, Team Gleason

has been formed to help him through the difficulties. Team Gleason consists of family, friends and not surprisingly, many of his fair friends.

On Saturday, Team Gleason will fire in action with a big benefit at the Retrofit Building in Owatonna. Gleason should feel right at home as many of the staples of the fair will be apart of the benefit—fair



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

vendors, fair food, color guard, entertainment and perhaps most importantly, friends who enjoy the fair that Gleason has helped build into the monster it has become.

Doug Meier, an Owatonna businessman who has a huge heart for helping others, has been planning the benefit along with many other friends of the fair. He credited Shelly Noble and the Honorable Renee Worke for helping him pull everything together.

"It was shocking," Meier told me last week of learning about

Gleason's fate last fall. "I still have a hard time believing it. He wanted to keep going and now look at how things change so fast."

Meier's desire to help a friend in need is extraordinary. "I like promoting things in town that people like to have fun at," said Meier, who grew up in Owatonna. "I love to give back to the community," he says.

Meier has planned other benefits in the past. Without Gleason's being over yet, he's already looking ahead to another one. On May 19, Meier is planning a German Fest for local auctioneer Jeff Kath, who passed away suddenly in January at the age of 63. The celebration will be called, "Good golly, Molly May Fest."

One thing Meier assured me is that residents will not be disappointed with either one of the benefits he has planned. "It will be a good time," Meier said.

County fairs are more than just a yearly carnival. The electric atmosphere that Gleason helped to create for everyone stimulates cultivation of a vibrant community. And now community members have the chance to go in hot pursuit of returning their thanks to a man who has supported Steele County for many years.

GUEST COLUMN

Much to accomplish at the State Capitol in 2018

BY JOHN PETERSBURG
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

My fellow Minnesota lawmakers and I have returned to St. Paul for the start of the 2018 Legislative Session. With a two-year budget approved last year, you may be wondering what legislators might be working on over the next three months. In reality, we have much to accomplish.

First, federal tax conformity needs to be addressed. While this won't impact anyone's tax returns this year, the federal bill would definitely come into play at this time next year, which is why some legislative urgency is needed.

Conforming to the federal tax code would cause Minnesota to experience an increase in tax revenue. This is why lawmakers will need to take a careful look at the ramifications of this tax change. Expect there to be much debate as to how we allocate or return this money.

The odds are also strong that we'll approve a capital investment plan this year. This bill funds construction projects across Minnesota, and despite the fact

that we approved a \$987 million bonding bill last year, I expect there will be a strong push for another proposal in the weeks ahead.

As vice-chair of the Minnesota House Transportation Finance Committee, I can tell you with certainty that MNLARS, Minnesota's new licensing and registration system, will be discussed.

Despite nearly 10 years of planning and \$100 million in taxpayer funds spent on it, MNLARS has been a disaster since going online in July. Deputy registrars and countless citizens have reported difficulties obtaining vehicle titles, tabs and license plates, and our committee had been told by the Dayton administration that these problems were fixable and that a lack of funding was not the issue.

However, several weeks later, the Dayton administration announced that another \$43 million was needed to address the MNLARS mess.

It is mind-boggling that those in charge allowed this critical statewide program to get to this point without changing leadership or plotting a new course of action. Yet here we

are, being told that a massive taxpayer bailout is now needed to make the program functional. Add in the fact that sometime next year MNLARS is supposed to begin issuing drivers' licenses – including those with Real ID – and you can see why this topic is giving many lawmakers – and me - heartburn. We will have to get this fixed, there is no option here.

Finally, I will once again address the children identity theft dilemma by pursuing legislation that would give parents the right to obtain a security freeze for their children. Discovering that a child's credit history has been abused for years by a cyber thief is not a situation teenagers want to face, and I'm hopeful this legislation will give parents another tool to better protect their son's or daughter's identity.

As always, please contact me if you have questions, comments, or concerns. Reach me by email at rep.john.petersburg@house.mn or call my office at 651-296-5368. I look forward to hearing from you!

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

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Go back to the 1920s and learn more about the history of the prohibition era in Blooming Prairie. Here, Bryce and Jackie Schlichter participate in the first Speakeasy Night. This year's Speakeasy Night is on Saturday night, March 3.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

It's back to the time of the Speakeasy

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Dial back to the 1920s and early 1930s and recall some vivid history of Speakeasy Days. March 3, 2018 will mark the return of the second Speakeasy Night in Blooming Prairie. As part of the BP Sesquicentennial celebration (150th birthday) last year, the committee staged a Speakeasy Night on March 11, 2017. Tickets are on sale at New York Life, Sportstitch, the library and the Chamber office for \$25 per person. It will once again be a fun night full of surprises! The event last year was promoted but the locations were kept secret: Bell Liquor (J & H Liquors), Coggins Bar (Bunkie's) and

The Blue Hen (The Cue Company). New speakeasy sites are expected for the 2018 Speakeasy Night. They are a secret until the night of the event. A gathering place will be announced days before the event, which runs from 7-11 p.m. Ticket holders were encouraged to dress in 1920s type clothing and they indeed did that with some of the participants renting special outfits or buying them. Bring a group and join the fun, said Becky Noble, executive director of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce, sponsor of this year's event. Prizes will be awarded for the best 1920's costume. Steve Wencil, local historian on the prohibition days in Blooming Prairie, will field all kinds of questions on the history of bootlegging in Blooming Prairie. He has prepared some helpful visuals to help visitors understand the history of prohibition in BP.

GLEASON: Benefit for cancer battle

FROM PAGE A1

and goes out of his way to say hi.” Meier credits Gleason for continuing the tradition of Steele County being the best county fair in Minnesota. “He has done a terrific job,” Meier said. “He took over right where Elmer (Reseland, former manager) left off.” Meier said Gleason is “pretty well known” throughout the community. Prior to becoming fair manager in 2012, Gleason worked for many years at KRFO Radio in Owatonna. Meier said he first came into contact with Gleason about 25 years ago when Gleason sold radio advertising to his father who operated a business. “This community always supports back to those kind of people,” Meier said. Team Gleason is hoping for at least 1,000 people to show up at Saturday night's benefit. However, the group has

not established a goal of money it hopes to raise. “Whatever we raise is more than we had,” Meier said, adding proceeds will help the Gleason family offset medical costs. The benefit will go from 4 to 8 p.m. at Retrofit, the old Walmart Building, at 1010 Hoffman Dr. in Owatonna. Tickets will be \$10 per person. The VFW Color Guard will kick off with opening ceremonies at about 4:30 p.m. Flags will be posted by the entertainment area. Godfather's Pizza will be providing a meal of pizza, bread sticks and salad. Tom Thumb donuts will also be available throughout the evening. A cash bar will be available from the Knights of Columbus. Team Gleason souvenir mugs will be available to hold drinks. Meier is happy to see how some of the fair's food vendors are coming together to help with the benefit. Sober Cab compliments of Owatonna

Bus Co. will be available from 8 to 10 p.m. Three bands will be featured as entertainment during the benefit. They include Luverne Wanous, Dave Williams Band and Snowy River Band. Both live and silent auctions will take place at the benefit. Meier's cabinet shop has constructed an 8-foot garage cabinet for the auction. There will many other items, including a Toro push mower, Twins tickets, gift baskets and gift cards to various places. As the benefit nears, Meier is excited to see everything come together. “It makes me super happy to make other people happy,” Meier said. “It's rewarding to do. I love to give back to Jim and this community.” Gleason was diagnosed with an incurable form of brain cancer last October. He has been undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments since December.

BP School picks up learning grant

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Blooming Prairie Schools are the recipient of a learning grant. Prior to the Feb. 20 board meeting, the Blooming Prairie School Board accepted a \$500 Student Learning Grant awarded to the district by Gary Anderson of Kraus-Anderson Construction Company. During the regular meeting, board members discussed enrollment data. Enrollment at the elementary school is 421 compared to a year ago, while enrollment at the high school stayed steady at 310. “Enrollment is very steady,” Superintendent Barry Olson said. “Our numbers are just a little bit higher this year. We are very stable.” In other action, the board: • Accepted resignation of assistant track coach Stephanie Murphy. • Approved Kayla Harvey and Diane Anderson as co-Science Club/ Fair advisor. • Approved Cory Hendrickson as assistant track coach. Hendrickson has previously been a track coach at Blooming Prairie for five years. • Approved Justin Kiehne as the junior high baseball coach. • Approved giving Kendal Osborn a regular teaching contract for the remainder of the school year. Osborn was hired as long-term substitute teacher when a staff member was out for maternity leave. • Approved resolution discontinuing and reducing education programs and positions. “That is something that we do ever year in case something comes up where we have to reduce a program,” Olson said. “It's just a resolution making sure that everybody is aware of that. It's a standard thing that we do every year. For example if we only had two people registered for band,” he continued. “Well we can't run band with two people, but we are not planning on reducing anything that we know of this year at this point.” The next board meeting will be March 19 at 7:15 p.m.

FRESH: Lettuce in Steele County

FROM PAGE A1

use 90 percent less water than traditional growing. In addition, a gutter system captures rain and snowmelt from the roof and stores it in a water retention pond. An average year of precipitation covers all Revol Greens irrigation needs. Five varieties of Revol Greens product, including Baby Spinach, Spring Mix, Mighty Spring

“Consumers expect produce grown close to home to be fresher, tastier and better for the environment.”

Jay Johnson

Revol Greens President

Mix, Romaine Crunch and Romaine Twins, are available at mostly Twin Cities supermarkets, including Kowalski's, Lunds and Byerlys, Coborn's and Coborn's Delivers, and select Cub Foods stores. Revol is partnering with Box Produce to distribute to local restaurants. Sales manager Brendon Krieg said Revol is currently looking to branch out to the Rochester and Mankato markets. While Revol will ship out some of the lettuce, Krieg said most of the stores will be coming to Medford to pick up their own lettuce. “Consumers expect produce grown close to home to be fresher, tastier and better for the environment,” said Jay

Johnson, president of Revol. “We want to meet and exceed their expectations.” Johnson has been at the forefront of greenhouse growing in Minnesota and an advocate of locally grown food for more than 20 years. In 1989, he founded Bushel Boy Farms, one of the first U.S. greenhouses to grow tomatoes year round. Johnson and his partners helped grow the greenhouse to be the largest supplier of locally grown tomatoes in Minnesota before they sold the company in 2011. Revol offers more than 100 collective years of greenhouse growing experience. “Our Revol Greens' team has taken that knowledge and expertise to create the ideal environment for growing premium greens year-round even through a harsh Minnesota winter,” Johnson said. “Further, our commitment to sustainable and responsible farming ensures that our high-quality, always non-GMO lettuce is grown naturally without the use of pesticides, herbicides or other harsh chemicals,” he added. Johnson said his team spent the past five years traveling around the world researching growing systems. Revol chose this method for its ability to produce high quality lettuce and greens using minimal natural resources and inputs, he said. There are currently 12 employees working at the Medford greenhouse. Amundson said Revol expects to expand the facility down the road.

FAIR: Board member chosen to manage

FROM PAGE A1

worked for the past 32 years to join the fair. He has been a large account manager and traveling throughout the Midwest. He puts on about 60,000 miles every year. “This was an opportunity that would keep him around Owatonna more,” Deml said. “We're very fortunate and happy to get him.” Despite his heavy travel schedule for work, Kozelka has found time for volunteering in the community. “He has been very heavily involved in volunteer work,” Deml said. During the absence of a fair manager over the past five months, Kozelka stepped up to help the fair more as time permitted for him, Deml said. Deml said Kozelka had expressed an interest in taking over previous manager Jim Gleason's job some day even before Gleason became ill last fall. But, Deml said, the position ended up coming available much

sooner than anybody ever thought it would. The president feels fortunate to have landed somebody like Kozelka from the inside instead of bringing in an outside candidate. “Scott has deep roots in Owatonna and knows the community and businesses very well,” Deml said. Deml is impressed with Kozelka's sales experience and public relations skills. “He is a people person and likes to be out in the public,” Deml said. He added that Kozelka is also very organized in his work and gets work done in a timely manner. Kozelka will be “a lot like Jim,” Deml said. Gleason stepped down from the manager role on Jan. 1 because of health reasons. In October, Gleason was diagnosed with incurable brain cancer. Steele County is one of the only fairs in Minnesota with a full-time manager. The fair board will meet for its regularly scheduled board meeting Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Mother's Rest on the fairgrounds.

POSTMASTER: Wears many hats

FROM PAGE A1

flexible clerk. She then became a city carrier. Lawson grew up in the West Concord area, part of a family of four sisters and two brothers. She graduated from West Concord in 1978. She is married to Kevin Lawson and the couple has three sons, Brad, Matt and Jeff, and seven grandchildren. As postmaster, Lawson oversees employees and coordinates truck pickups and deliveries. “We aim to provide the best service we can,” she stated. BPPO is a busy place with over 1,600 addresses being maintained. Staff led by Lawson includes three regular carriers, two clerks, Eileen Loverink and Diane Bergstrom, and three substitute carriers. “We do what needs to be done,” says Lawson, who always keeps her fingers on the pulse of the operation. A clerk reports at 5:30 in the morning and carriers come into the post office to sort their routes at 7:30 a.m. The post office is open from 9-11 a.m. and

from noon to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and from 10-11 a.m. on Saturdays. The local mailing station sees lots of foot traffic and sometimes it is a random meeting place for customers. Typically, all mail is delivered by 3:30 p.m. First Class postage recently increased to 50 cents. The post office carries 20 varieties of First Class Forever Postage, the most recent stamp paying tribute to entertainer Lena Horne. Lawson admits that she has seen a lot of changes at the post office, most of them in the technology area. “We have our own type of e-mail,” she says. Training is very important in postal circles, with much of it being done through web conferences, Lawson said. When not working at the post office, Lawson finds time to spend with her family and she also works about four to six nights a month as a server at the Hubbell House Restaurant in Mantorville. “I also enjoy listening to bands,” she says.

BLOTTER
SPOTLIGHT

Blotter Spotlight: Tampering: On Feb. 15 at 5:26 p.m., a citizen reported that a subject was letting air out of her vehicle tire in the 72600 block of 260th Ave. in Hayfield.

Rash of stolen vehicles in Dodge County prompts warning from sheriff

Several stolen vehicles in Dodge County over the past week sent local law enforcement officers scrambling to recover them. The rash of stolen vehicles is prompting a warning from the sheriff.

Within a four-day period, the Dodge County Sheriff's Office was involved in five stolen vehicle cases, including one in which the vehicle was taken in the county. Sheriff Scott Rose urges residents to lock up vehicles and buildings and don't leave vehicles running.

On Feb. 20, deputies pursued a stolen vehicle from Kasson to Owatonna. The vehicle had been stolen out of Freeborn County. On Feb. 22, the sheriff's office recovered three stolen vehicles, including a pickup taken from Owatonna, one from Iowa and another from rural Hayfield. With the Iowa stolen, the license plates also had been stolen from a different vehicle.

At 8:45 a.m. on Feb. 23, deputies recovered a stolen vehicle south of Kasson on County Road 10. The vehicle had been taken from a residence in Byron.

Sheriff Rose wants to remind citizens that vehicle burglary and thefts are most often a "crime of opportunity" that can often be avoided. "The concern is when a stolen vehicle is dumped or left on the roadside, the suspects will often look for the next vehicle to steal in that general area," Rose said, adding it could be your vehicle, ATC or snowmobile in the garage with keys in it.

To minimize the chance of becoming a victim, Rose encourages citizens to take away the thief's opportunity by taking a few preventative steps. They include:

- Don't leave your car running unattended. Leaving a vehicle warming up in the street or driveway unattended is an invitation for someone to take it. If you're going into a store, do not leave the vehicle running with the keys in it.
 - Lock your vehicle. Many stolen vehicles are those that have been left unlocked. This includes both day and night and in your own driveway.
 - Lock your garage/out buildings. One of the vehicles recovered by the sheriff's office came out of someone's outbuilding that had been left unlocked.
 - Do not leave valuables in plain view. This includes keys, purse, wallet, cell phone or other personal belongings. The sheriff urges people to not leave these items in their vehicles.
 - Park in well-lit areas. Two things burglars and car thieves don't like are lights and witnesses.
 - Don't leave personal papers in vehicles. This includes driver's license, social security card, vehicle title and credit card or bank statements. Thieves use this kind of information to commit identify theft.
 - Consider theft prevention devices. Audible alarms are a great deterrent.
- "We also want to encourage citizens to report any suspicious activity - suspicious or unusual vehicle traffic in the area, unknown vehicles left on the roadway or parked in your neighborhood and suspicious persons on foot in your area," Rose said.
- Anyone with questions regarding the stolen vehicle cases may contact the sheriff's office at 507-635-6200.

CRIME BRIEF

Man accused of stealing vehicles

A man faces felony theft charges after allegedly stealing a couple vehicles.

Corey Gilbertson, 18, of Owatonna, has been charged with two felony counts of motor vehicle theft in Steele County District Court.

While on patrol, an officer with Owatonna Police saw an unoccupied car with a dome light on by Parkview Apartments in the 600 block of Agnes Street. The officer also found the vehicle was missing a license plate. After checking the VIN, the officer discovered it was stolen out of Faribault.

During the investigation, a woman yelled from her apartment balcony at the officer telling him her vehicle had just been stolen

by someone visiting her apartment. She told the officer that the suspect who took her car was also seen driving the stolen car the officer had just been looking at.

As the officer spoke to the victim, an acquaintance called her and said he was following her vehicle from Faribault to Owatonna. They used a phone app to monitor the direction of the caller. Another Owatonna officer intercepted the stolen vehicle entering Owatonna and a traffic stop was made. Police found Gilbertson as the driver and arrested him.



Gilbertson

COURT NEWS

Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Feb. 12 with Judge Dennis J. Murphy presiding:

Logan M. Klemer, 20, Leroy, previously appeared and was convicted of felony criminal damage to property. Klemer was sentenced to \$81, 63 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no contact with victim, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Feb. 12 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Caleb M. Hillesheim, 19, Madelia, previously appeared and was convicted of felony criminal sexual conduct – significant relationship with 16 or 17-year-old. He was sentenced to \$11,635.37, 360 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, attend sex offender program, remain 500 feet from places where minors congregate, do not obtain a prescription for drugs designed to improve sexual function without approval, must be tested for STDs and AIDS/HIV, be evaluated for civil commitment, no contact with minors, no contact with victim, predatory offender registration, no possession of pornography, do not enter any establishment which has sexual entertainment as its primary business, submit to polygraph examination as directed, no access of Internet without approval, obtain permission to leave the state, no unsupervised contact with vulnerable adults, no possession of firearms and 15 years of supervised probation.

Zakeria M. Newman, 23, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. He was sentenced to \$1,081, 48 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, do not enter liquor establishments, maintain employment, obtain GED, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Feb. 12 – 16:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Thomas A. Decker, 25, Waltham, expired tabs, \$111.

MN STATE PATROL GOLDEN VALLEY

Michael F. Mahle, 46, East Bethel, failure to change information on license, \$101.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Steven M. Blazing, 41, Mankato, speeding, \$221; Santiago R. Bolanos, 39, Houston, TX, no license, \$181; Aaron G. Chimal, 20, Le Center, speeding, \$121; Linda M. Coffman, 62, Crystal, speeding, \$121; Mason P. Ferguson, 25, Des Moines, IA, no license, \$181; Alma A. Forst, 76, Gibbon, speeding, \$221; Gabriel J. Green, 41, Austin, speeding, \$131; Randy D. Haukom-Brandt, 58, Minneapolis, speeding, \$121; Trent T. Horning, 33, Rochester, speeding, \$121; Chengxing C. Jian, 22, Tulsa, OK, speeding, \$141; Kalie A. Kathryn Davis, 24, Cedar Rapids, IA, speeding, \$281; Justin P. Lilly, 33, Woodbury, failure to yield, \$131; Bradley P. McNally, 52, Austin, revoked license, \$281; Rodrigo Peralta Huerta, 37, Albert Lea, no license, \$181; Juan R. Portillo Meraz, 47, Phoenix, AZ, no license, \$181; Barbara J. Reed, 67, Clinton, MO, speeding, \$121; Jose S. Romero, 44, Albert Lea, no license, \$181; Chelsy M. Stadler, 26, Faribault, speeding, \$141; Tiffany M. Steinhaus, 28, Stewartville, speeding, \$131; Timothy J. Teas, 71, Brooklyn Center, speeding, \$121; Laron D. Underwood, 41, St. Paul, revoked license and possession of marijuana, \$331; Luis A. Vital, 29, Austin, revoked license and no insurance, \$481.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Alexander Alvarez, 22, Faribault, domestic assault, \$381, 28 days in county jail, domestic abuse evaluation, no possession of firearms, predatory offender registration and 1 year of supervised probation; Marisol Barajas, 33, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Sara A. Broughten, 31, Owatonna, permit offense, \$181; Cody J. Bussert, 16, Owatonna, speeding and failure to yield, \$171; Hailey M. Cockram, 17, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Derek P. Denelsbeck, 36, Owatonna, revoked license and possession of marijuana, \$431; Florence D. Glenn, 31, Owatonna, permit offense, \$181; Jordan A. Kane, 27, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Debra L. Knish, 63, Owatonna, improper

information on license and failure to keep to the right, \$151; Lisa M. Madson, 36, Medford, texting while driving, \$131; Joseph L. Marlin, 35, Albert Lea, failure to stop for collision, \$81, 7 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Bethany L. Patrick, 30, Ellendale, texting while driving, \$131; Benjamin L. Stockwell, 33, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Tarren P. Weise, 19, Waseca, speeding, \$121.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Gene P. Cox, 39, Sioux Falls, SD, speeding, \$121; Brian E. Elliott, 53, El Dorado Hills, CA, passing parked emergency vehicle, \$131; Stephanie R. Hanson, 41, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Thomas S. Hiatt, 28, Lenexa, KS, speeding, \$121; Octavio Martinez Medina, 31, Austin, no license, no insurance and speeding, \$521; Bryant L. McLaughlin, 27, New Prague, open bottle, \$181; Guy A. Minnich, 55, Lansing, speeding and no insurance, \$331; Gabrielle A. Muri, 17, Geneva, speeding, \$121; Jose V. Navarro, 59, Medford, no license, \$181; Devon T. Sather, 17, Medford, speeding, \$121; Kelly L. Utpadel, 50, Ellendale, speeding, \$121.

POLICE BLOTTER

Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

Feb. 19
Theft: Police took a theft report in the 300 block of Highway Ave. S. at 9:13 a.m.

OWATONNA POLICE

Feb. 16
Theft: A motor vehicle was stolen from the 300 block of Pine Ave. NE at 7:31 a.m.
Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 7:57 a.m.
Juvenile: Police received juvenile complaints from the 400 block of 14th St. NE at 9:18 a.m. and the 600 block of Florence Ave. NW at 3:11 p.m.
Forgery: At 10:31 a.m., counterfeit money was found in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.
Accident: Officers responded to a crash resulting in property damage at Frontage Rd. W. and 21st Ave. NW at 1:59 p.m. They issued a citation to one of the drivers.
Criminal Sexual Conduct: A citizen came to the law enforcement center to report criminal sexual conduct at 2:11 p.m.
Intoxication: At 9:05 p.m., police responded to a report of an intoxicated individual in the 1800 block of Cedar Ave. S.

Feb. 17
Thefts: Police received theft reports from the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 10:32 a.m. and the 100 block of 24th Place NW at 11:19 a.m.
Warrant: Officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 1400 block of St. Paul Road NE at 5:46 p.m.

Feb. 18
Disturbance: Police responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW at 7:06 a.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.
Assault: Officers assisted with an assault in the 2600 block of 3rd Ave. NE at 8:47 a.m.
Arrest: At 2:54 p.m., police assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 700 block of State Ave. NW.
Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 3:21 p.m.
Hit and Run: At 3:57 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 1500 block of Elm Ave. S.
Restraining Order: Police responded to a restraining order violation in the 100 block of Pearl St. W. at 4:37 p.m.

Feb. 19
Theft: A motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 1300 block of Greenleaf Rd. SE at 7:09 a.m.
Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 200 block of Rose St. E. at 1:56 p.m.
Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 4:19 p.m.

Feb. 20
Truancy: Police received a report of truancy in the 300 block of School St. E. in Owatonna at 11:08 a.m.
Burglary: At 11:55 a.m., police arrested a subject following a burglary in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW.

Feb. 21
Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 1000 block of State Ave. NW at 12:41 p.m.
Theft: At 5:39 p.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 200 block of Fremont St. E.

Feb. 22
Theft: Police arrested a subject for stealing a motor vehicle in the 600 block of Agnes St. E. at 2:06 a.m.
Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 500 block of State Ave. NW at 9:26 a.m.
Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of Beech Ave. NE at 5:43 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Feb. 16
Crash: Paramedics and deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 4000 block of Cedar Ave. in Clinton Falls Township at 8:03 a.m.

Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 900 block of Calverly Court in Ellendale at 12:47 p.m.

Feb. 18
DWI: At 11:09 a.m., deputies arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at Highway 14 E. and Interstate 35 in Owatonna Township.
Harassment: Deputies responded to a harassment incident on 5th St. S. in Ellendale at 6:56 p.m.

Feb. 19
Theft: A vehicle was reported stolen from the 1800 block of 44th Ave. SE in Havana Township at 7:41 a.m.

Feb. 20
Truancy: Deputies received a report of truancy in the 700 block of 2nd Ave. NE in Medford at 8:59 a.m.
Welfare: Deputy conducted a welfare check in the 400 block of 6th Ave. W. in Ellendale at 10:43 p.m.

Feb. 21
Shoplifting: At 11:15 a.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 3900 block of Highway 30 W. in Ellendale.

Feb. 22
Crash: Deputies assisted the State Patrol with a motor vehicle accident with injuries at 64th Ave. SE and 38th St. SE in Havana Township at 4:10 p.m.

ARREST

Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Damian Jacob Hortop-Rocha, 20, arrested at 8 a.m. Feb. 18, possession of marijuana, disorderly conduct, obstruction, tampering with motor vehicle and contempt, held for court.
Alize Lyn Johnson, 19, arrested at 1:30 a.m. Feb. 20, motor vehicle theft and possession of stolen property, held for court.
Mario Anthony Lindsey, 21, arrested at 9:19 a.m. Feb. 21, warrant arrest, \$10,000 bail.
Denasha Raye Sutton, 21, arrested at 5:15 p.m. Feb. 21, probation violation warrant arrest, held for court.
Corey Jay Gilbertson, 18, arrested at 4 a.m. Feb. 22, felony motor vehicle theft, held for court.

COURT NEWS

Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Feb. 12 with Judge Pamela King presiding:

Rebecca H. Charlson, 41, Albert Lea, previously appeared and was convicted of felony sale of marijuana. She was sentenced to

\$655, 67 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, mental health evaluation, 50 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Feb. 12 – 19:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Cole E. Baldwin, 31, Hayfield, domestic assault, \$380, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of supervised probation; Eric W. Benson, 57, Hayfield, parking violation, \$32; Michael P. Benzing, 33, Faribault, unlawful passing, \$100; Marline J. Caballero, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$130; Silvia A. Fuentes Lara, 28, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Roxanne L. Johnson, 53, Hartland, DWI, \$1,085, 2 days in county jail, chemical assessment, 314 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Connor R. Kispert, 24, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Brittany E. Maroo, 24, Sioux Falls, SD, speeding, \$140; Brandon J. Mathews, 18, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Dalen J. Maxson, 46, Mantorville, burning of prohibited materials, \$130; Annette M. Pudwill, 54, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Shawn M. Samic, 21, Rochester, revoked license, \$280; Nathan R. Sande, 36, Austin, careless driving and suspended license, \$280; Larry J. Simpson, 59, Dodge Center, speeding, \$140; Benjamin A. St. John, 69, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$140; Adam L. Thoen, 37, Blooming Prairie, failure to stop for school bus, stay of adjudication, \$100, defensive driving course and 6 months of probation; Taytan J. Tierney, 18, Byron, minor consumption, \$180; Alexandria J. Waas, 23, Hayfield, revoked license, stay of adjudication, \$100, obtain license and 6 months of probation.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Franklin S. Birch, 42, Byron, speeding, \$140; David J. Moldenhauer, 55, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Shayla J. Peterson, 21, Kasson, revoked license and no insurance, \$480; Tavarious D. Pitchford, 37, Kasson, cancelled license, stay of adjudication, \$200, obtain license and 6 months of probation; Danielle L. Rix, 27, Rochester, failure to stop for school bus, \$580; Dennis M. Schaefer, 44, Kasson, failure to stop for school bus, stay of adjudication, \$200 and 6 months of probation;

CONTINUED ON A5

WARRANTS: The following individuals have active warrants in Steele County. The Sheriff provides this information as a public service

1. Alfredo Garza Jr. – no insurance, cancelled license - \$9,500 bail
2. Elizandra Garza – shoplifting - \$500 bail
3. David Gatheright – possession - \$20,000 bail
4. Domach Gatluak – DWI – no bail
5. Conrad Ginter – DWI – no bail
6. Claudia Gomez – criminal abuse - \$3,000 bail

7. Lisa Gomez – drugs - \$75,000 bail
8. Mark Gomez – assault - \$10,000 bail
9. Miguel Gomez – theft - \$1,000 bail
10. Valente Gomez Jr. – DWI – no bail
11. Christopher Gonzalez – theft - \$500 bail
12. Hiran Gonzalez – dishonored checks – no bail
13. Douglas Greier – worthless check - \$1,000 bail

14. Brandon Grunwald – DWI – no bail
15. Alma Guajardo – no insurance - \$1,000 bail
16. Steven Gustafson – warrant - \$2,000 bail
17. Edgar Gutierrez – assault, theft - \$2,000 bail
18. Ricio Guvrrra – theft - \$300 bail
19. Roger Halbach – DWI - \$3,000 bail
20. Michael Hale – theft - \$3,000 bail

Disclosing active warrants promotes public safety and aids in the identification and apprehension of wanted individuals

Income Tax Filing Requirements for Retirees



THE SAVVY SENIOR

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Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus

Dear Savvy Senior,
I've fallen several times over the past year and my doctor has recommended that I start a strength-training program to help prevent future falls. But at age 72, I've never lifted weights before and could use some help. What can you tell me?
Looking for Help

Dear Looking
Weak leg muscles and poor balance are two of the biggest factors that cause seniors to fall. Most people, after age 40 lose about one percent of their muscle mass each year, which really adds up over time. But study after study has shown that it's never too late to rebuild muscle through strength training. Regular resistance or strength training can help you build muscle strength, increase your bone density and improve your balance, coordination and stamina, and will help prevent falls. It can also help reduce the signs and symptoms of many chronic conditions too like arthritis, diabetes, high blood pressure, back pain, depression and obesity. And some studies even show that it helps improve cognitive function too. Here are some simple ways to help you get stronger.
Getting Started
After you get your doctor's okay, consider working with a professional trainer or physical therapist for a few sessions to help you develop a safe and effective routine you can continue on your own. Or go to GrowingStronger.Nutrition.Tufts.edu for a free program from Tufts University in Boston and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
Also see Go4Life.NIA.NIH.gov, a resource created by the National Institute on Aging that offers a free exercise guide that

provides illustrated examples of exercises you can do at home to strengthen your body. You can order your free copies online or by calling 800-222-2225.
To improve your strength you have to keep stressing your muscles, so you'll need to exercise at least two or three days a week for 30 to 45 minutes, and increase resistance and the number of repetitions over time. But be sure you give your muscles a day off between workouts. It makes the muscle stronger and more able to resist future injury.
Equipment
If you work out at home you'll probably need to invest in some equipment. While some strength training can be done using your own body weight (like push-ups, sit-ups and leg squats), hand weights, ankle weights, medicine balls, resistance bands or rubber tubing, are all great tools for strength training. You can find all these products at sporting goods stores, or online at Amazon.com for around \$10 or less. Cans of soup, water bottles or plastic milk containers filled with water or sand can also be used (like small hand weights) for resistance.
Senior Classes
If you don't like exercising alone consider joining a gym, or call your local senior center to see if they offer any strength training exercise classes.
You should also check out SilverSneakers (SilverSneakers.com, 888-423-4632) or Silver&Fit (SilverandFit.com, 877-427-4788), two fitness programs offered in thousands of fitness centers, gyms and YMCAs throughout the U.S. that offer special classes designed for older adults. These programs are available for free to seniors that have certain Medicare supplemental policies or Medicare Advantage plans.
Aerobic and Balance Exercises
Some other good fall-prevention exercises that can help you get stronger include aerobic activities like walking, cycling or water aerobics. And to improve your balance there's Tai chi, along with a number of simple balance exercises that you can do anytime like standing on one foot for 30 seconds then switching to the other foot, and walking heel-to-toe across the room.

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 Feb. 26, 2008 Dan Evans, Publisher

Last Thursday night the Blooming Prairie High School Triple A award winners were recognized at the last girls' basketball home game of the season. This year's award winners are Patrick Rumpza, son of Bruce and Diane Rumpza, and Sarah Mans, daughter of Chris and Sheryl Mans. Triple A stands for academics, arts and athletics.
After spending the past six weeks on the injured list, Cody Poshusta-Schmitz, made a huge comeback last Saturday at the individual section meet. Poshusta-Schmitz (17-2) qualified for the state tournament.
Local FFA member Justin Krell has won the Regional Star Farm Award. Krell is a senior at Blooming Prairie and has been active in FFA for many years. He is the first star farmer recipient at BP since 1966 when Roger Pfeifer earned the honor.

took two tack-o-meters from the store and put them into a car belonging to one of the other youths he was with. They then drove out by the high school and hid them by a telephone pole. The three were eventually detained and will appear in juvenile court.
Highlight of this year's FFA-FHA Valentine party held on Feb. 16 at Blooming Prairie High School was the crowning of the king and queen. Jean Peterson was crowned queen while Richard Mullenbach was chosen king. Attendants were Karen Rossow, Bonnie Peterson, Barb Taylor, Carol Fiebigler, Steve Eaker, Steve Tilleraas, Clint Becker and Richard Ryks.
Stockholders of the Central Co-op Oil Assn. heard reports which revealed the firm again enjoyed a highly successful business year in 1967 at its 46th annual meeting held Feb. 19 at the Monterey Ballroom just south of Owatonna. Over 700 persons, including 361 voting members, were present at the meeting if the cooperative, which has business establishments in both Blooming Prairie and Owatonna.

20 Years Ago Feb. 24, 1998 Elsie Slinger, Publisher

The Fire Truck Auction held Saturday night at the BP Cue Company/Pizza Cellar was a great success with money raised at over \$20,000. The auction went into the wee hours of the morning because of all the items donated.
Jon Ehmann is the new coordinator for Semcac's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. He will be serving Steele, Dodge and Rice counties.
During Lent, fish sandwiches will be available on Hamburger Night each Friday starting Feb. 27 at the BP Servicemen's Club.

75 Years Ago Feb. 26, 1943 Frank Krejci, Publisher

Blooming Prairie property is always in demand, but seemingly more so this spring. Realizing that this town is one of the best and most progressive in Steele County, rural folks retiring from active farm duties, select Blooming Prairie as their new home. Ole Olsen reports the sale of the Mrs. Dan Bolsinger residence to Frank Horsky.
Anticipating the largest chicken hatching season in history, Blooming Prairie's two chick plants have everything in tip-top shape to take care of the overflow business. Two of the several mammoth electric incubators at Richardson's Hatchery are now in motion with 5,000 eggs expected to turn into baby chicks and be released from their egg-shell prisons March 15.
Jack Shaw, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Shaw and Vyrle Krejci, son of Publisher and Mrs. Frank Krejci, were among a group of 35 Steele County teenage draft registrants who took their first physical examination for armed service at Owatonna Wednesday night of this week.

FROM PAGE A4

POLICE BLOTTER
Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 195 complaints during the week of Feb. 14 – 20. Some of them include:

Feb. 14
Disturbance: At 3:26 p.m., deputies received a report of a second-grader running around outside in the 800 block of Hwy. St. W. in Dodge Center.
Restraining Order: Deputies responded to a violation of an order for protection in the 500 block of 5th St. NE in Hayfield at 5:38 p.m.
Burglary: At 6:04 p.m., deputies responded to a burglary at a residence in the 71900 block of State Hwy. 56 in Hayfield.
Civil: At 6:44 p.m., a West Concord woman called deputies when her three-year-old son's grandmother wouldn't bring him back home.

Feb. 15
Animal Bite: At 7:43 a.m., deputies received a report of a dog bite that occurred on Feb. 14 in the 300 block of 3rd St. SE in Dodge Center.
Larceny: Deputy took a report of tools being stolen from the 500 block of Hwy. St. E. in Dodge Center at 10:40 a.m.

Feb. 16
Suspicion: At 6:06 a.m., deputies received a report of two suspicious vehicles in the 17300 block of 620th St. in Dodge Center.
Dumping: A washer and dryer were found dumped in a ditch at 640th St. and 130th Ave. in Claremont at 7:53 a.m.
Juvenile: Deputies received a juvenile complaint from 9th St. NW and 6th Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 4:21 p.m.
Hit and Run: At 5:02 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred on 1st St. SE in Hayfield.

Feb. 17
Noise: Deputies received a complaint of loud music in the 100 block of Front St. W. in Claremont at 1:02 p.m.
Hit and Run: Deputies received information regarding a past action hit and run accident in the 400 block of 4th Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 3:12 p.m.

Feb. 19
Noise: Deputies received a noise complaint of a vehicle

Feb. 20
Civil: At 9:50 a.m., a Dodge Center woman called deputies when her ex refused to bring her children home.
Vandalism: Deputy took a report of a tire being slashed in the 100 block of 1st Ave. NE in Hayfield at 4:29 p.m.

Feb. 20
Crashes: Fire rescue responded to motor vehicle accidents with injuries in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 7:59 a.m. and the 4000 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 8:05 a.m.

Feb. 18
Accident: At 10:39 a.m., a motor vehicle accident with injuries occurred on U.S. Hwy. 14 E.

Feb. 19
Crash: Firefighters responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries on U.S. Hwy. E. at 7:40 a.m.

Feb. 20
Fire: Firefighters responded to a building fire in the 2000 block of State St. N. at 7:13 p.m.

MN STATE PATROL
ROCHESTER

Corey C. Hinsch, 27, Hayfield, speeding, \$120; Brendan C. Johnson, 34, Brownsdale, speeding, \$130; Mustaf H. Qarshaye, 32, Rochester, speeding, \$215; Shawn T. Quay, 43, Faribault, speeding, \$140; John J. Zeller Jr., 18, West Concord, speeding, \$220.

WEST CONCORD
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Joshua M. Groby, 32, Rochester, DWI, \$1,010, 3 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 90 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation.

OWATONNA FIRE

Feb. 16
Crashes: Fire rescue responded to motor vehicle accidents with injuries in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 7:59 a.m. and the 4000 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 8:05 a.m.

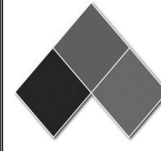
Feb. 18
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Feb. 20
Fire: Firefighters responded to a building fire in the 2000 block of State St. N. at 7:13 p.m.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

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OBITUARIES

Jeffrey L. Ditlevson, 54



Jeffrey L Ditlevson, 54 of Mantorville, passed away Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018 at his home.

Jeff was born Dec. 17, 1963 in Owatonna to Lynwood and Donna (Allen) Ditlevson. He graduated from Blooming Prairie High School with the Class of 1982 and then went on to attend Mankato State University.

He worked at Blount in Owatonna, McNeilus Steel, Inc., in Dodge Center for many years and most recently Rochester Meat Company in Rochester. In 2000, he married Jessica Stocks and later divorced. Two wonderful kids were born from this marriage.

Jeff was a wonderful dad to his two kids, Kaya and Brady. His children were the most important part of his life. He greatly enjoyed spending time with them attending and helping to coach their sporting events. He loved the simple things in life like throwing a football or playing catch in the back yard or just hanging out.

Jeff was an avid Minnesota Vikings fan. He enjoyed attending many different sporting events, fishing with his high school buddies and spending time with his family. He cared deeply for others and always placed their concerns before his own. He was always there for others whenever needed. He was the one that people would be drawn to in a crowd with his laugh, quick wit and funny stories. Jeff's contagious personality and warm smile will be forever missed by all that knew him.

Jeff is survived by his daughter Kaya and son Brady of Kasson; his mother, Donna Ditlevson of Blooming Prairie; three brothers, Dan Ditlevson of Prior Lake, Rick (Karen) Ditlevson of Owatonna, Scott (Diane) Ditlevson of Byron; three sisters, Debbie Krell of Las Vegas, Shelly (Scott) Noble and Lori (Tim) PirkI of Blooming Prairie; nieces and nephews, Angie McDonald, Brad (Brooke) Krell, Christopher (Michelle) Ditlevson, Josh Ditlevson, Chad (Tram) Ditlevson, Cory Ditlevson, Kassandra Hill, Whitney Noble, Jordan Noble, Rachel PirkI and Heather PirkI; seven great nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Lynwood Ditlevson in 1981 and his sister-in-law, Kathy Ditlevson in 2013.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018 at the Community Celebration Church in Kasson. Visitation will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at the Community Celebration Church in Kasson, and will continue on Wednesday morning from 9 to 11 a.m. prior to the service. Interment will be in the St. Columbanus Cemetery in Blooming Prairie.

Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home is assisting the family with funeral arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family at www.worlein.com.

Memorial Service

A Celebration of Life for Cecil Friesner will be held at a Memorial Service at Red Oak Grove Church in rural Austin on March 10, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.

022706148

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



Direction With Dignity

www.michaelsonfuneral.com
507-451-7943

Lloyd S. Otterson, 85



Lloyd S. Otterson, 85, of rural Austin, passed away Sunday, Feb. 18, 2018 at Mayo Clinic Health System in Austin.

Lloyd Sandford was born March 8, 1932 near Geneva in Bath Township, Freeborn County. He attended Freeborn County country school. At age 15, Lloyd went to live and farm with Kermit (Gladys) Kvenvold until joining the service. He entered military service in the United States Army on Jan. 16, 1951 during the Korean War. Following his honorable discharge on Dec. 16, 1952, he

returned home.

He was united in marriage to Charlene Lester on Oct. 4, 1957 at Geneva Lutheran Church. Lloyd and Charlene lived in Freeborn before moving to Austin in 1963. In October of 1968, they moved to the farm they purchased north of Austin. In his early years Lloyd worked as a butter maker in Clarks Grove and Otisco. He later worked as a mechanical tradesman for various businesses before starting his own mechanical business.

In 1970, Lloyd began a long career with Farmstead Foods (formerly Wilson Foods) in Albert Lea, and retired in 1989 after 18 years of service. His true passion was farming; he loved working in the fields, raising cattle, and baling hay. He was a member of the Albert Lea American Legion Post #56 and the Albert Lea DAV Gladyon Iverson Chapter #16. Lloyd was always eager to help family and friends whenever needed, and enjoyed tractors, the outdoors, and tinkering.

Lloyd is survived by his wife Charlene of rural Austin; children Sharon (Gary) Fisher of Owatonna, Dean (Jolene) Otterson of Hartland, Renae (Ron Thomas) Brackey of Albert Lea, LeAnn (Ralph) Miller of Owatonna, Linda (Mark) Crom of Albert Lea, Lori (Matt) Jordison of Blooming Prairie; grandchildren Cathleen Miller (Aaron), Nathaniel Fisher, Katie Jo Elmer (Chad), Elizabeth Fisher (Robert), Matthew Miller (Katie), Nicholas Otterson, Andrea Crom, Christy Crom, Caitie, Colby, Cydney and Corbin Pathammavong, Colin Jordison, Abby Jordison; great-grandchildren Aubrey, Bryce, Hailey, and Abraham; brothers Clifford (Margaret) Otterson, Dovain (Darlene) Otterson, Odean (Margie) Otterson; many brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews, great nieces and great nephews, and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Omar and Sophia Otterson; father-in-law and mother-in-law Lloyd and Annie Lester; siblings Eugene Otterson, Raymond (Berneice) Otterson, Theresa (Maryls) Sorenson, Rolf Otterson; sisters-in-law Lana Otterson, Marie Guerrero; great grandson Corey Fisher; son-in-law Randy Brackey.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018 at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie with Pastor Heidi Heimgartner officiating. Interment followed in the Blooming Prairie Cemetery with military honors by the Blooming Prairie Honor Guard.

Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home handled the arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 27
Doris Rasmussen
Brad Hines
Sophia Schiller
Neal Clausen
Linda Christianson
Julia Worke

Feb. 28
Douglas Novak
Tim Trotman
Mike Ingvalson
Amber Loneragan
Jayden Peterson

March 1
Barry Olson
Nikki Farr
Taylor Hagen
Natalie Scheper

March 2
Kim Symes
Mark Anderson
Keith Thomas
Mason Simon

March 3
Jake Peterson
Sandy Shaw
Kerrigan
Justin Krell
Norm Wonderlich

March 4
Phillip Milton
Gwen Klinger
Hunter Johnson
Jacob Weinberger

March 5
Ken Vermilyea
Dee Dee Machin
Sharon Glynn
Nicole Richards

March 6
Hannah
Stoneburner
CJ Coleman
Sylvia Swenson

March 7
Allyson Skillestad
Marissa White
Brendan McCabe

Shirley Hinzmann
David Miller

March 8
Noah Jonathan
Nelson
Cody Pashusta
Jean Lee
Clint Becker

March 9
Jeremy Wangen
Nicki Bishop
Kylie Forystek
Kim Eaker Lang
Adrian Noble

ANNIVERSARIES

March 1
Jeremy & Brieanne
Wangen

March 4
Richard & Imogene
Symes

March 5
Henry & Lucy Post

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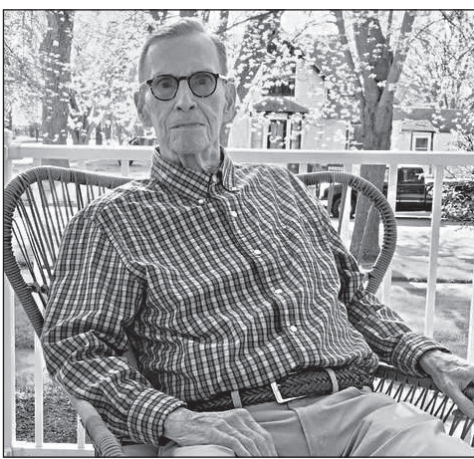


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James A. Srsen, 82



James A. Srsen, age 82, of Blooming Prairie, passed away peacefully Sunday, Feb. 18, 2018 at Homestead Hospice House in Owatonna, surrounded by his family.

James Allen was born June 8, 1935 in Austin to Hubert and Georgiana (Creegan) Srsen. He graduated with the Class of 1953 from Blooming Prairie High School and went on to earn his B.A. degree in Business Administration and Economics from Mankato State College in Mankato. During his college years, Jim served in the National Guard.

Jim started his career with International Harvester Co., and worked for them at various levels for the next nine years. He was united in marriage on Sept. 23, 1958 with Marilyn Swanson in Mankato. That same year, he began a two-year military duty in the United States Army, much of which he spent in Okinawa, Japan.

Following his honorable discharge, Jim and Marilyn lived in St. Paul and Zumbrota for the next few years before returning to Blooming Prairie in 1966. It was at that time he took over the operation of Srsen I.H. Implement in Blooming Prairie until 1985. From 1985 to 1988, Jim served as beverage manager for the Owatonna Country Club, and finished his career in electronic manufacturing with Itron, Inc. in Waseca, retiring in 2000.

Familiar to collectors around southern Minnesota, Jim and Marilyn were avid antique hunters/dealers who enjoyed researching and reselling their finds. Jim had a special interest in old tin toys, loved a good auction or flea market, and was always tinkering with something. BP folks would often see Jim around town enjoying his recumbent bicycle! He was a long-time member of St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie, and a 3rd Degree Knights of Columbus member.

Jim's loved ones will cherish and miss his quick wit, easy sweet smile, gentle soul, and those twinkling blue eyes behind his ever so stylish eyeglasses!

He is survived by his children Brian (Kari) Srsen of Austin, Jon (Margaret) Srsen of Blooming Prairie, Julie Srsen (Francis Keys) of Blooming Prairie, Kimberly (Chad) Loecher of Northfield; grandchildren Kyle (Jenny Strand), Jaime (Chris Stundahl), Ryan, Dylan and Nick Srsen, Hannah and Griffin Loecher; great-grandchildren Brody Srsen, Evelyn and Korbyn Stundahl, and Alayna Srsen; brothers-in-law and sister-in-law and nieces and nephews.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents; wife Marilyn on Aug. 16, 2009; and his twin brother Jerry (Evie) Srsen.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 12:30 p.m., Saturday, March 3, 2018 at St. Columbanus Catholic Church with Father Thomas Niehaus officiating. The Srsen family will greet friends from 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday, March 2 at Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home, and will continue on Saturday for one hour prior to services at St. Columbanus. There will be a Knights of Columbus Rosary prayer at 4 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Jim's memory are preferred. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

LIBRARY BOOK NOOK



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

Top authors revealed
by library readers

Each year as we do our Hot Reads for Cold Nights program, visitors to the Blooming Prairie Branch Library can sign up for books and other prizes. The winners for the first three weeks are: Doris Rasmussen, Dawn Harshbarger, and Catherine Lightly. This is the last week to sign up - the first time you do

so, you can choose a free book.

Participants are asked to give their recommendations for favorite books and authors. Here are the top 10 authors as chosen by the readers of Blooming Prairie: Karen Kingsbury, John Sandford, Julie Klassen, Jan Karon, Nora Roberts, Lauraine Snelling, J.D. Robb, Beverly Lewis, Stephen King, and Jane Green.

Come tell us your favorite authors, plus sign up to win prizes in the Hot Reads for Cold Nights. The cold nights are leaving soon (we hope) and so will the prizes. See you at the library!

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PPASTOR'S CORNER



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Many parents who parented in the 80s and 90s, may remember or be aware of a book series that was called, “Where’s Waldo.” The first book in the series was published in 1987, and they were illustrated children’s books, with illustrations of a dozen or more people, doing random things, and amongst them was Waldo. But he wasn’t always easy to find amongst the crowd, thus, “Where’s Waldo!”

I couldn’t help but think of that book series when I was thinking of how many people can read the Bible but not know that it’s ultimately about Jesus... to which I would ask, “Where’s Jesus?” Whether it’s the Old Testament pointing forward to Him, the Gospel focusing on

Him, or the rest of the New Testament pointing every which way to Jesus, it’s all about Him!

The Resurrected Jesus himself pointed this out when he, joining some disciples for a walk on the way

“How unwise and slow you are to believe in your hearts all that the prophets have spoken!”

that the prophets have spoken! Didn’t the Messiah have to suffer these things and enter into His glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted for them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures?” (Luke 24:

the Old Testament book of Isaiah without understanding it. Philip helped explain it to him, and made it clear that not only was the Scriptures from the book of Isaiah about Jesus, but so was the rest of the Old Testament Scripture:

“So Philip proceeded to tell him the good news about Jesus, beginning from that Scripture” (Acts 8:35).

This is not to say it’s always easy to see Jesus everywhere in the Bible, especially the Old Testament, but let’s remember that these two Scriptures I shared as well as many others clearly show, that the life and even more, the death and Resurrection of Jesus is ultimately what the Bible and the Christian life is all about!

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN AURORA LUTHERAN 6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna Pastor Stephanie Wood 507-676-5696 Worship: 9:00 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 10:15 a.m. COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 106 Third St. SE., Geneva Pastor Kristen Venne 507-256-4288 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun. FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC 503 Radel Ct., Ellendale Pastor Richard Sliper 507-684-2451 Saturday: 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/ Confirmation Tues.: 7 p.m. Call to Prayer, open to all churches Wed.: 9:30 a.m. BibleStudy; 3:30 – 5 p.m. Jesus and Me; 6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:30 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Eve Service: 5 p.m. Dec. 24 FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA 434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie Rev. Heidi Heimgartner, 507-583-6621 firstlutheranbp.com Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sundays Education Hour: 9:30 a.m. Sun. FIRST LUTHERAN – LCMC 8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope Pastor Sandy Miller 507-451-3854 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday School, Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m. Sun. GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS 2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna Rev. Mark Rosenau, Senior Pastor Rev. Greg Schlicker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4125 www.goodshepherd owatonna.com Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. MOLAND LUTHERAN – ELCA 7618 NE 84th Ave., Kenyon Pastor Nancy Edwardson 507-789-6661 Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN – ELCA 9651 SW 75th St., Ellendale Pastor Mike Walerius 507-465-8366 Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sun.	REDEEMER LUTHERAN – LCMS 1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna Pastor Kirk Griebel 507-451-2720 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sun. RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA 30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin Pastor Lindsay Stolen 507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000 www.roglutheran.org Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday School (Sept. – May): 10:15 a.m. ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS 4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont Pastor Alan Broadwell 507-528-2404 Worship: 6 p.m. Saturday; 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS 28959 630th Ave., Sergeant Pastor Collin Duling 507-251-5568 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 Weinkauf, 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 Joyce Parker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4734 www.owatonnaumc.org Traditional Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Contemporary Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun. Sunday School/Adult Classes: 10 a.m. Wednesday night service at 6:30 p.m. BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY 130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna Pastor Keith Haskell 507-215-2249 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun. Reformers Unanimous Meetings: 7 p.m. Friday CEDAR CREEK 30 E. Main St., Hayfield Pastor Aaron de Neui 507-477-2255 www.cedarcreekchurch.org Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. DESTINY CHRISTIAN Owatonna Campus 422 North St., Owatonna Pastors Tyler & Jessica Braucht 507-254-8514 www.destinycc.org Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. ELEVATION NORTH 2002 Austin Road, Owatonna Pastor Doug Jones 507-363-3099 www.elevationnorth.blogspot. com Worship (English): 10 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Worship (Spanish): 2 p.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Spanish Evangelism & Prayer: 7 p.m. Friday NEW BEGINNINGS 332 14th St. NE., Owatonna Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson 507-721-1366 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. Gateway Connection: 6 p.m. Sun. SIMPLE CHURCH 4515 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna (Country Goods building across the freeway from Cabela's) Pastor Todd Lundgren 507-451-5661 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday MENNONITE PRAIRIE MENNONITE 13638 750th St., Blooming Prairie Bishop Dennis Martin 507-583-7532	Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Wed. MORMON THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS 404 31st St. NW, Austin Bishop Rick Bremner 507-433-9042 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. PRESBYTERIAN ASSOCIATED CHURCH Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ 800 Havana Road, Owatonna 507-451-1546 www.associatedchurch.org office@associatedchurch.org Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. (Fellowship, Church School, and Adult Discussions follow) Wednesday Activities: Sept – May (see website for schedule) FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 109 E. Main St., Hayfield Pastor Kirk Johnston 507-477-2631 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun. SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST 2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna Pastor Bob Brauer 507-340-7143 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sat. Bible Study: 11 a.m. Sat. UCC CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 211 Main St. S. Medford Rev. Richard Waters 507-451-4596 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. ASSEMBLY OF GOD VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD 702 Third St. S., Ellendale Pastor Patrick Stitt 507-684-3421 www.vibrantlifeag.com Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun. BAPTIST FIRST BAPTIST 104 First Ave. NE, Blooming Prairie Pastor Matt Fennell 507-583-2673 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. & 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Sunday School: 9 a.m. Bible Study: 11:30 a.m. Sun.
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Author Otto: Science can be the foundation to unite us

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER



Science and technology have entered the micro world. It “can be the foundation that unites us,” author Shawn Otto told an audience of about 30 persons attending a Library Legacy program at the Blooming Prairie Library on Feb. 20. Otto is an award-winning author of “The War on Science: Who’s Waging It and What We Can Do About It.” His book was the basis for his Power Point presentation that lasted about 90 minutes. He and his wife, Rebecca Otto, state auditor and candidate for governor, live in a solar and wind-powered green home near Stillwater. Shawn Otto designed and built the home. Science is Otto’s motivating source for presenting his philosophical views on a subject that often has become controversial. Otto is a co-founder and producer of the U.S. presidential science debates at

ScienceDebate.org. It is said that he is the only person who received a response about science from Donald Trump during the presidential campaign. He has traveled all over the world the past 11 years and was a movie writer in Hollywood. Otto is best known for writing and co-producing the Academy Award-nominated movie, “House of the Sand and Fog.” He is also a Los Angeles Times Book Prize finalist for his literary crime novel, “Sins of Our Fathers.” Prior to speaking at the BP Library, Otto had given a presentation to students at Kasson-Mantorville High School. He had another presentation to make the next day in Rochester. Otto has advised science debate efforts in many countries, speaking worldwide on the critical role of

science, evidence and objectivity in free societies. Analyzing the advances in science over the years, Otto said when he was a kid, science “was up there with apple pie and the American flag” for popularity. “Science has a real relationship with democracy,” Otto commented. He referred to the writings of Thomas Jefferson that reflected the ideas of Isaac Newton, Francis Bacon and John Locke. These idols of Jefferson laid a foundation for science and for democracy, Otto said. “Now, 240 years later, we have magic with our iPhones and with Harry Potter and his flying broom,” Otto quipped. “It is a matter of magic,” he said. Fields of science are overlapping, Otto added. During his generation, barriers are being broken down, Otto said. “We are creating new knowledge in such a quick amount of time,” he explained. Using the United States Congress to measure interest in science, Otto asked the audience to guess how many scientists are serving in Congress. With various numbers shouted out, Otto revealed that only 11 members (2 percent) of Congress have a professional background in science. “How many lawyers are in Congress?” Otto asked. He answered his own question: “211 or 40 percent.” Scientists will never choose an outcome they want, Otto said. He said it has become politicized mainly because of discussion on climate change. President Trump has called climate change a hoax, Otto said. “The data is there,” Otto believes. Otto was very careful in treading on political views about science. He said scientists must be super conservative and super progressive at the same time. “Scientists must be open to the cutting edge,” he remarked. Much of the arguing politically is without input of scientists, Otto pointed out. “Vote as if democracy depends on it because it does,” he continued. Referring to Rachel Carson’s book, “Silent Spring,” Otto said chemicals are bothering the human welfare and the environment. The war on science covers the ideological front and the industrial war on science, which includes regulations on tobacco, carbon dioxide, chemicals, guns, drugs, sugar and mining. Otto was critical of many, from academics to industrialists, journalists and politicians. He said scientists are winning the war waged against them.

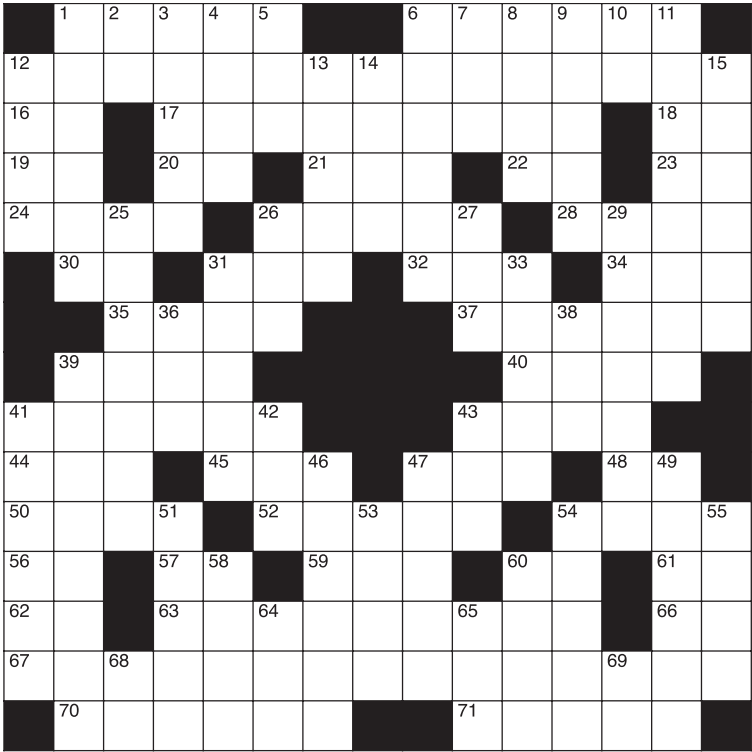
STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Wearing a baseball cap and blue jeans when speaking at the Blooming Prairie Library Legacy event on Feb. 20, award-winning author Shawn Otto talked about science and its advances over the years. He is the author of “The War on Science...”

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Put within
- 6. Learned person
- 12. Resistance
- 16. Female title
- 17. Logical basis for a belief
- 18. Of I
- 19. Indicates position
- 20. Article
- 21. Insignificant organizational member
- 22. ___ route
- 23. Expression of disapproval
- 24. Microelectromechanical systems
- 26. Ponds
- 28. Satisfy
- 30. Dad
- 31. Spanish soldier “El ___”
- 32. Pouch-like structure
- 34. Obscure unit of measurement
- 35. Okinawa prefecture capital
- 37. Platforms
- 39. Jazz singer Irene
- 40. Benefits
- 41. Hellenistic governors
- 43. Brownish-green fruit
- 44. Needed to see
- 45. Political action committee
- 47. Fast plane
- 48. Bahrain dinar
- 50. Urgent request
- 52. Raccoon genus



- 54. Millisecond
- 56. Atlanta rapper
- 57. Rural delivery
- 59. Intrauterine device
- 60. The Wolverine State
- 61. Free agent
- 62. For instance
- 63. Reduces
- 66. Lincoln’s state
- 67. Quit

- 70. Midsections
- 71. Bullfighting maneuvers

CLUES DOWN

- 1. The arch of the foot
- 2. Canadian peninsula
- 3. Koran chapters
- 4. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 5. Youngster
- 6. Burns
- 7. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 8. Valley
- 9. Belongs to sun god
- 10. Nickel
- 11. Great in salads
- 12. Leader
- 13. Forced through a sieve
- 14. Entryway
- 15. Support pillars
- 25. Aquatic mammal
- 26. ___ Farrow, actress
- 27. Unhappy
- 29. Holds molecules
- 31. Thrifty
- 33. French dynasty
- 36. Scottish port
- 38. Irish militant organization
- 39. Dawn
- 41. Musical group of seven
- 42. Used to fry things
- 43. Carrot’s companion
- 46. Rough stone landmarks
- 47. Fourth son of Jacob and Leah
- 49. Goes against
- 51. Passion
- 53. Hard white animal fat
- 54. Soybean pastes
- 55. Beckon
- 58. Mountain and morning are two
- 60. Self-referential
- 64. Data executive
- 65. Retirement plan
- 68. Star Trek character
- 69. You and I

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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WRESTLING

Area schools send 14 wrestlers to state meet

Huskies advance five to state

STAFF REPORT

The Owatonna Huskies had five wrestlers punch their tickets to the state meet by either winning or finishing second at the Section 1AAA Meet on Friday and Saturday at Mayo Civic Center in Rochester.

The Huskies' Blake West (43-3) qualified after he finished second in the 106-pound weight class.

West did not have to wrestle a true second place match after he defeated third place match winner, Northfield's Chase Murphy, 10-6 earlier in the tournament.

Owatonna's Peyton Robb pinned Winona's Trevor Pomeroy in just 77 seconds in the championship match at 160. Robb, a South Dakota State commit, is two-time state champion and is currently ranked No. 1 at 160.

The Huskies' Parker Westphal pinned Faribault's Dylan Lippert in the true second place match at 170.

Cade King was the fourth Husky to qualify for the state meet. He won the championship match at 182 by pinning Farmington's MacAron Kubowski in 27 seconds.

King is also ranked No. 1 in the state at his respective weight class.

Nick Staska was the final Husky to qualify for the state meet. He defeated Albert Lea's Brady Nielsen 3-0 in the true second place match at 195.



Westfield's Morgen Moreno locks onto the arm of his opponent in the Section 2A Championship match in the 195-pound weight class at Blue Earth on Saturday.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Westfield, Medford and NRHEG send nine to state

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Westfield Razorbacks had five, the Medford Tigers had three and the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Panthers had one qualify for the state meet thanks to their performances at the Section 2A Wrestling meet on Friday and Saturday at Blue Earth High School.

Medford's Charley Elwood defeated Westfield's Ethan Arett, 9-7, in the championship match of the 106-pound weight class.

Elwood said it felt good to qualify for state as only a seventh grader.

"It means a lot to me," Elwood said. "I didn't stop wrestling and that's how I felt like I won that match. This is definitely one of my best [accomplishments]."

Arett also qualified for the state meet by winning the true second place match, 7-3, over United South Central's Bryce Sonnek.

Medford's Willie Von Ruden won the championship match at 138 over Maple River's Lincoln Arndt by a 6-4 decision.

"Him and I wrestled three times last year and two of them went into overtime," Von Ruden said. "We knew each and we knew it would be close."

"I took him down on my feet right away, so I felt pretty confident and I just kept grinding from there. I felt good. I had my weight under control and I just came out ready to wrestle."

It's the sophomore's third time qualifying for the state meet.

"I haven't had the best first two experiences at state," Von Ruden said. "So hopefully this is the year."

Westfield's Colton Krell won at 160 by major decision, 9-0, over Lake Crystal-Wellcome Home Memorial's Jeremiah Colon after Colon had defeated him by technical fall earlier this season.

Krell said the match was a tough, physical battle.

"I knew what I had to do," he said. "The most challenging part of the match was the first 10 seconds when he pushed me right off of the bounds. That's when I knew it was just going to be brawl. I knew he was going to come at me, try to throw me and pin me right off the bat."



NRHEG's Tyler Jacobson lets out a roar after pinning his opponent in the true second place match at the 2A Section at Blue Earth High School

PHOTOS OF NIKKI ERIKSON

In perhaps the most surprising turn of events of the meet, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva's Tyler Jacobson came back to pin Kenyon-Wanamingo's Cole Johnson in the true second place match at 170 after trailing 11-0.

"I let him get a couple of bad takedowns that I wasn't ready for," Jacobson said. "He put me on my back once and I fought out of it and broke the grip on cradle. I just took top third period and did what I know how to do. I got on top of him and buried a half [nelson] and got it deep and tight and finished it."

"It definitely wasn't the way I wanted it to go. It was a little unexpected after I wrestled that kid a week ago and controlled the match the whole time, but I was little tired going into the match and that's why you can't quit until you get to six minutes."

Jacobson said he has dreamed of qualifying for the state meet since he started wrestling in sixth grade.

"It's a pretty big moment for me," he said. "I'm excited for the next challenge."

Medford's Nate Meixner after finishing second at 182. He was not required to wrestle a true second place match because he pinned third

place match winner, Blue Earth's Dominic Whitlow, earlier in the tournament.

Westfield's Morgen Moreno earned his second trip the state meet after he won the championship at 195. He pinned Saint Clair-Mankato Loyola's David Loeffler in the championship match.

"I definitely know that there are going to be some better kids at state," Moreno said. "I'm looking forward to it. Last year, I choked first round and the kids I pinned in sections went on to take second place, but that stuff happens because everyone wrestles different styles. I'm just ready to go and compete against some great competition and hopefully end up on top."

Westfield's Dylan Nirk also qualified for state after finishing second at 220. He defeated third place match winner, Kenyon-Wanamingo's Kaya Lindell, by pin earlier in tournament.

Westfield's Mitchell Oswald won the true second place match in the heavyweight division by 5-0 decision over Kenyon-Wanamingo's Jesse Jackson.

Oswald hope to improve on his third place finish at this past season's state meet.



Medford's Nate Meixner squares up with his opponent in the championship match of the 182-pound weight class at the 2A Section at Blue Earth High School.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DENNIS MARSHALL

SCOREBOOK

BIG 9 CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Boys' Basketball		
	Conf.	Overall
Austin	20-1	24-1
Rochester John Marshall	18-2	22-2
Mankato East	16-4	20-4
Owatonna	16-4	18-6
Northfield	12-7	15-8
Mankato West	11-9	14-10
Rochester Mayo	9-11	11-13
Rochester Century	7-13	7-17
Winona	4-16	7-17
Red Wing	4-16	5-19
Faribault	4-17	6-18
Albert Lea	0-21	0-23

Saturday, Feb. 17
Rochester John Marshall 62, Owatonna 46
Tuesday, Feb. 20
Owatonna 85, Faribault 44
Friday, Feb. 23
Austin 74, Owatonna 70
Tuesday, Feb. 27
Mankato East at Owatonna, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 2
Owatonna at Mankato West, 7:30 p.m.
END OF REGULAR SEASON

Girls' Basketball		
	Conf.	Overall
Northfield	21-1	23-3
Owatonna	19-3	20-6
Red Wing	16-6	20-6
Mankato West	16-6	19-7
Faribault	12-10	14-12
Rochester John Marshall	12-10	13-13
Austin	12-10	12-14
Rochester Mayo	11-11	13-13
Mankato East	5-17	5-20
Rochester Century	4-18	6-20
Albert Lea	3-19	4-22
Winona	1-21	1-25

Friday, Feb. 16
Owatonna 64, Red Wing 48
Tuesday, Feb. 20
Owatonna 64, Faribault 48
Friday, Feb. 23
Owatonna 58, Austin 52
END OF REGULAR SEASON
1AAA Section
First Round
Wednesday, Feb. 28
Rochester John Marshall at Owatonna, 7:30 p.m.

Boys' Hockey			
	Conf.	Overall	Pts.
Rochester Century	13-1-1	20-4-1	40
Northfield	14-3-1	18-5-2	37
Owatonna	9-4-2	12-11-2	33
Mankato East	9-3-1	13-10-2	32
Albert Lea	13-4-2	18-5-2	31
Rochester Mayo	7-7-1	12-12-1	25
Rochester John Marshall	4-9-2	6-16-3	17
Red Wing	5-7-2	5-17-2	15
Faribault	4-9-2	8-13-3	12
Mankato West	4-10-1	8-16-1	11
Austin	3-12-1	6-17-1	7
Winona	0-15-0	2-22-0	0

Tuesday, Feb. 13
Owatonna 4, Mankato West 2
Friday, Feb. 17
Owatonna 6, Winona 1
END OF REGULAR SEASON
SECTION 1AA
Second Round
Thursday, Feb. 22
Owatonna 3, Farmington 2
Semifinals
Wednesday, Feb. 27
Owatonna vs. Lakeville North at Rochester Recreation Center, 5:30 p.m.

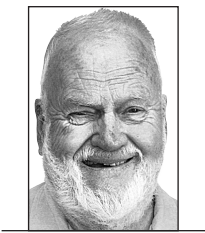
Girls' Hockey			
	Conf.	Overall	Pts.
Red Wing	12-1-0	21-4-0	38
Northfield	10-2-0	15-8-2	34
Rochester Mayo	14-4-0	20-5-0	30
Owatonna	11-5-0	15-8-0	26
Faribault	11-6-0	15-10-0	26
Mankato East	9-7-0	12-13-0	18
Mankato West	7-8-0	13-11-1	16
Austin	6-12-0	8-15-0	12
Rochester John Marshall	4-13-0	7-18-0	10
Albert Lea	2-13-0	6-18-0	4
Rochester Century	1-16-0	3-21-0	2

Section 1AA Tournament
First Round
Wednesday, Feb. 7
Owatonna 3, Rochester Mayo 2
Second Round
Saturday, Feb. 10
Lakeville South 7, Owatonna 0
Owatonna eliminated from the postseason

Wrestling		
	Conf.	Overall
Owatonna	10-0	19-6
Albert Lea	9-1	21-3
Faribault	8-2	16-4
Northfield	7-3	9-3
Mankato West	6-4	15-8
Rochester Mayo	5-5	8-11
Mankato East	4-6	14-8
Austin	3-7	4-7
Winona	2-8	2-15
Rochester Century	1-9	3-15
Rochester John Marshall	0-10	0-10

Section 1AA Tournament
Friday, Feb. 16
Second Round
Owatonna 77, Rochester Century 0
Semifinals
Owatonna 39, Northfield 24
Saturday, Feb. 17
Championship
Albert Lea 33, Owatonna 19
Owatonna eliminated from the postseason

Hopeful for nicer weather



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

of a hindrance. But for those like me, whose sense of balance makes every venture outside of the house a major hardship; it has been a tough stretch of days. Hopefully, we will see a change in the coming days, and even less hardy folk like me will again join civilization. I can't wait.

PLAYOFF ACTION

The Blooming Prairie girls earned an impressive win in the first round of the section tournament, when they flew past Wabasha-Kellogg this past Thursday. That continued a fine season for the Blossom girls and gave them win number 17 for the season. As far as I am concerned, the team has more than met expectations, as they have scored much better than I thought they would have. I expected them to be pretty good defensively, but their prolific scoring has been somewhat of a pleasant surprise. When readers see this column, we will know how the team fared against No. 2 seed Hayfield, but no matter the outcome, the team deserves a big tip of the hat for

the season's accomplishments. Well done, girls! This week the basketball boys also begin tourney action. The team lost its final regular season game at Waterville to finish one game above .500, but now the playoffs begin. BP will play at LeRoy-Ostrander in first round action this coming Thursday. Should they get by the Cardinals, the team would bump up against the section No.1 seeded Rushford-Peterson. That is quite a task, but something for which to aspire. The individual wrestling tournament provided the local fans with several moments of excitement. Foremost among them would be that five Razorbacks earned their way into state tournament action. Morgan Moreno and Colton Krell both took section titles. While Ethan Arett, Dylan Nirk and Mitchell Oswald all finished second in their weight classes.

Krell took first at 160 and Moreno won at 195. The five to advance for Westfield in the second year of sharing the program with Hayfield constitutes the most area representatives to state in many years, if ever. A tip of the hat this week to the wrestling team.

THE CONTINUING SEASON

As I mentioned just a bit earlier, winter continues, although this week offers some hints of better times ahead. With the advent of March in the next few days, I always get feelings that the long winter is beginning to give up its clutch on all of us. There is still snow banked up on all the streets and lawns, there is no sign yet of gentle rains or budding trees and flowers, and no real indication that a

new season is approaching. Yet, as I sit in my living room and watch the days pass by, that feeling of a new time in our theater of seasons creeps into my outlook on life. Maybe it is just wishful thinking, but a little milder temperatures and longer daylight hours make my optimistic nature perk up and take notice. We still have plenty of time for major snowfalls and cold temps, but I prefer to look forward with anticipation to spring and all the aforementioned signs that winter is behind us. Now that is something for which we can all hope and wish.

COMING UP

One final reminder that the second annual Speakeasy Tour takes place this coming Saturday, March 3, and tickets for that event are still available. This is a wonderful opportunity to hearken back to the days of prohibition and the chance to dress up in the style of the 20's and 30's. The first such tour last year roved quite popular, and it is anticipated that even more individuals will join in the fun this year. Plan to participate. Another reminder that the annual Ed Foundation auction is just three short weeks away as well. That event is the biggest fundraiser of the organization each year, and it generally raises thousands of dollars for school programs that can't be afforded in the regular school budget. Residents are urged to make plans to attend that worthwhile occasion Saturday, March 24. Continue to enjoy winter, while we begin to anticipate spring, and we'll talk again.

BASKETBALL

Blossoms pluck Falcons

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The two teams were only three places apart in the seeding process, but the Awesome Blossom girls never gave Wabasha-Kellogg a chance in the opening round of the Section 1A tournament. The No. 7 seeded Blossoms took off fast and flew past the No. 10 seed Falcons 81-38 on the BP court Thursday, Feb. 22. The victory moved the Blossoms into the unenviable position of meeting Hayfield on Monday, Feb. 26, at Rochester. The Vikings are the No. 2 seed in the section. An aggressive defense and some easy transition points enabled the Blossoms to get a fast start against the losers. BP also had one of the best shooting nights from the field in the game as they made 44 percent on 36-of-81 attempts. Wabasha-Kellogg shot 29 percent on 15-of-51 tries. The Blossoms made 6-of-8 from the charity stripe as well. "We earned a very solid first round win," BP coach John Bruns said. "We were able to get a fast start behind our excellent defense, which led to easy transition baskets. We raced to a 42-18 advantage at the half, and we extended that lead in the second half. We also forced the Falcons into 30 turnovers in the game. Now we get another shot at Hayfield." The Blossoms had eleven players scored at least two points for the home team. Sam Wurst led the way with 20 points. Wurst also had nine rebounds. McKenna



STAFF PHOTOS BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Blooming Prairie's Megan Oswald goes up for a shoot against NRHEG earlier this season. Hein scored 16 points and Megan Oswald counted a double double with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Hein had two assists and five steals in the game; Ayren Ingvalson added six points, dished out an assist and had four

steals and Oswald and Julia Worke both added three steals to their game. The victory raised the season record to 17-8, while the Vikings go into the Monday contest with a 23-4 mark.

BASKETBALL

Bucs wilt Blossoms

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER



STAFF PHOTOS BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Blooming Prairie's Megan Oswald goes up for a shoot against NRHEG earlier this season.

It wasn't that Blooming Prairie played bad. It was that Waterville-Elysian-Morristown was that good. The Buccaneers rained 3-pointers and shot the ball overall with great efficiency in outscoring the Blossoms 76-55 at Waterville on Friday, Feb. 23. It closed out the regular season for BP with a 12-11 record overall. "We ran into a real buzz saw tonight," BP Coach Nate Piller said. "We scored 36 points in the first half, but we gave up 40. I thought the effort was there, but WEM did such a god job setting screens for shooters that we were always scrambling to cut off their scorers." The Bucs finished the game with four players in double figures. They were led by Bladyn Bartelt, who came off the bench and poured in 30 points, including four 3-pointers. Tanner Renslow counted 18 points, Cole Kokoschke had 14 and Grant McBroom added 12. Jake Ressler scored 11 points for the Blossoms and Gabe Hagen had 10. Kaden Thomas and Max Romeo each counted nine points and Karson Vigeland added eight. WEM made 11 3-pointer in the game, while BP made only two the entire contest. WEM shot almost 50 percent from the field, while the Blossoms had difficulty shooting all game. The locals did make 6-of-8 free throw attempts. "We tried different defenses," Piller said. "But nothing seemed to put a damper on the Bucs' shooting. We did a good job rebounding in the first half also, but we tired out in the second half. Even with the loss, it was good to get back on the floor again after a postponement earlier in the week." Waterville-Elysian-Morristown finished the season with third in the Gopher Conference with an overall record of 11-14 and a conference record of 7-5.

GYMNASTICS

Huskies earn bronze at state



PHOTOS COURTESY OF OHS MAGNET BY HARRISON KUHN

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna Huskies’ gymnastic team finished third at the state meet this past weekend at the University of Minnesota.

Owatonna finished the meet with a total score 148.700
Stillwater and Lakeville North finished ahead of the Huskies with scores of 150.250 and 149.700, respectively.
Owatonna were second in the vault with a score of 37.775, third in the uneven bars with 37.175, fourth in the balance beam with

36.525 and were sixth in the floor exercise with 37.225.
Owatonna freshman Lindsay Bangs finished seventh in the individual competition on Saturday with a score of 9.5625.



SCOREBOOK

GOPHER CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Boys' Basketball	Conf.	Overall
New Richland-H-E-G	13-0	23-2
Maple River	8-4	16-9
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	7-5	11-14
Bloomington	7-6	12-11
Bethlehem Academy	6-7	14-12
United South Central	3-9	9-14
Medford	0-12	2-22

Monday, Feb. 5
Maple River 74, Bloomington 60
NRHEG 49, WEM 43
Saint Clair 63, Medford 50
Thursday, Feb. 8
JWP 71, Medford 64
Friday, Feb. 9
NRHEG 77, Bloomington 55
Bethlehem Academy 71, Medford 53
Monday, Feb. 12
Jordan 87, Medford 44
Bloomington 68, Hayfield 58
Tuesday, Feb. 13
Maple River 56, NRHEG 42
Bloomington 65, Medford 52
Thursday, Feb. 15
Lyle-Pacelli 76, Medford 54
Friday, Feb. 16
NRHEG 65, United South Central 41
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown 67, Medford 30
Saturday, Feb. 17
Redwood Valley 63, NRHEG 61
Tuesday, Feb. 20
Cleveland 93, Medford 68
NRHEG 61, Blue Earth Area 29
Thursday, Feb. 22
NRHEG 70, Saint Peter 61
Friday, Feb. 23
Water-Elysian-Morristown 76, Bloomington 55
NRHEG 60, Bethlehem Academy 49
Maple River 66, Medford 54
Monday, Feb. 26
Glennville-Emmons at Medford, 7:15 p.m.
Thursday, March 1
Waseca at NRHEG, 7:15 p.m.
END OF REGULAR SEASON

Girls' Basketball

	Conf.	Overall
New Richland	10-3	15-5
Maple River	10-4	13-6
Bloomington	9-3	17-8
Medford	6-6	17-7
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	6-6	12-14
Bethlehem Academy	2-10	2-24
United South Central	0-11	2-17

Monday, Feb. 5
Medford 42, Fairmont 40
NRHEG 50, WEM 41
Bloomington 51, Maple River 47
Thursday, Feb. 8
Bloomington 58, Medford 39
Friday, Feb. 9
Medford 56, Bethlehem Academy 28
NRHEG 66, Bloomington 55
Saturday, Feb. 10
NRHEG 61, Maple River 54
Monday, Feb. 12
Medford 60, Jordan 58
Hayfield 75, Bloomington 45
Tuesday, Feb. 13
Waseca 51, NRHEG 35
Randolph 71, Bloomington 67
Thursday, Feb. 15
Bloomington 59, Kingsland 46
Friday, Feb. 16
Medford 49, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown 36
NRHEG 68, United South Central 27
Tuesday, Feb. 20
Medford 61, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 41
Blue Earth 46, NRHEG 36
END OF REGULAR SEASON
Monday, Feb. 26
Section 1A
Second Round
Bloomington at Hayfield, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 27
Section 2AA
First Round
Waterville-Elysian-Morrisrtown at NRHEG, 7:15 p.m.
Medford at Maple River, 7:15 p.m.
Wrestling

	Conf.	Overall
Maple River	5-0	13-2
Westfield	4-1	11-7
Medford	3-2	7-5
United South Central	2-3	7-9
W-E-M/J-W-P	1-4	6-14
New Richland	0-5	3-7

Thursday, Feb. 1
Medford 42, NRHEG 30
Westfield 42, WEM/JWP 34
Thursday, Feb. 8
Maple River 56, NRHEG 22
Medford 51, WEM/JWP 21
END OF REGULAR SEASON
Section Tournament
First Round
Thursday, Feb. 15
Medford 43, Westfield 33
Kenyon-Wanamingo 61, NRHEG 18
Westfield and NRHEG eliminated from postseason
Second Round
Kenyon-Wanamingo 70, Medford 12
Medford eliminated from postseason

BASKETBALL



Left: Minnesota's Carlie Wagner attempts a free during her final home game for the Gophers. Right top: Minnesota's Carlie Wagner guards Indiana's Tyra Buss as she brings the ball up the court on Tuesday, Feb. 20. Bottom right: Friends and family join Minnesota's Carlie Wagner on the court as she is recognized for an outstanding career with the Gophers.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Carlie Wagner ending UM career in style

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Carlie Wagner continues to cement her legacy as one of the greatest players in the history of the University of Minnesota's women's basketball program. The New Richland native scored a season-high 32 points and moved into third all-time on the Gopher's career scoring list on Tuesday, Feb.

20 against Indiana University in her final home game. "I was just kind of shocked," Wagner said. "It always exciting when you hit a goal or a milestone. "When I first went to the university I wasn't expecting to accomplish the things I have, whatsoever. I was just happy to be going to the university, but I think it just goes to show what being surrounded by great coaches and teammates can do." Wagner currently has 2,125

career points. "It gives me a lot of confidence having so much support behind me," she said. "It took a lot of hard work and it's nice to see it pay off, but I know it wasn't just me that accomplished these goals. There were a lot of other people involved." She'll need 160 more to pass Lindsay Whalen for the second most in program history. However, individual accomplishments are the last

things on Wager's mind. She focused on making history and bringing Minnesota its first women's Big Ten Tournament Championship. Wagner has already helped lead the Gophers to a 22-7 record this season and the No. 4 seed in the Big Ten Tournament, which is the higher seed the team has received in the past decade. "I'm so happy with the way our season has been going," she said. "But I'm still hungry for a Big Ten Championship. "How cool would it be to be a part of history and bring home the first Big Ten banner? I have a sense of urgency. I'm hungry for these things and it's my last shot. I'm going to do anything it takes to achieve these goals."

After a Big Ten Title, one of Wagner's other goals are for the Gophers to play a significant role in March Madness. "We're not going to be happy just to make the NCAA Tournament," she said. "We want to win some games as well." For all that she has accomplished, Wagner said her greatest memories on the court where from her time at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School, where she won two state championships alongside her younger twin sister, Maddie and Marnie. "I always thought that was very special, especially for our family," Wagner said. "Not very many people get the opportunity to play with their little sisters, who are three years younger, and get to win two state championships together and

share those moments. Those are my fondness, most special basketball memories." In addition to winning back-to-back state titles, Wagner finished her career at NRHEG with 3,957 points, which ranked second all-time in the state of Minnesota. She averaged an astonishing 37.1 points, 5.3 assists and 4.4 steals per game her senior season and was honored as Minnesota's Miss Basketball. A recent WNBA Mock Draft published by the Associated Press had Wagner being drafted in the second round by the Minnesota Lynx. "If I have that opportunity,

I feel like it's something you can't turn down," she said. "It was just cool to see my name by the Lynx. It was pretty excited and it's been another thing that has been motivating me. I'm very honored and blessed. To even see that in mock draft was a dream. "More importantly, I want to be remember as a role model and as person that people could look up to during my time here at the U of M. I want to be an example for the little girls that are someday going to playing here. I hope they become better than me and chase their dreams."

★ STARS OF STEELE ★



Tyler Jacobson

BOYS

NRHEG wrestler Tyler Jacobson qualified for the state tournament after finishing second at the 2A Section at Blue Earth High School. Jacobson trailed 11-0 in the true second place match before regaining his composure and pinning his opponent.



Lindsay Bangs

GIRLS

Owatonna Lindsay Bangs helped guide the Huskies' gymnastics team to third place finish at the Class AA State Meet on Friday at the University of Minnesota. She followed that with a seventh place individual finish on Saturday.

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M	S		R	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	E		M	E
A	T		A	N		C	O	G		E	N		A	W
M	E	M	S		M	E	R	E	S		S	A	T	E
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Academic excellence

Congratulations to the students who earned a spot on the A and B Honor Roll at NRHEG.

A Honor Roll

Grade 6 Bell, Ned Borchert, Grace Buendorf, Kia Bunn, Parker Bunn, Payton Churchill, Julia Dalbec, Emilee Kitzer, Levin Kruger-Diaz, Jordis Lenort, Keira Loken, Addison Mikesell, Kiyah Mueller, McKenzie Murray, Madison Nydegger, Evelyn Peterson, Erin Petsinger, Annabelle Roesler, George Rollins, Debra Schmidt, Tayler Schultz, Elsie Schultz, Hallie Sommer, Brenna Stadheim, Isabel Williams, Gracie	Deyle, Aidan Domeier, Anton Fischer, Raquel Groskreutz, Wyatt Ihrke, Bailey Ihrke, Bree Jacobson, Erin Jeno, Torrence Kofstad, Olivia Lageson, Jackson Lembke, Taya Nelson, Valerie Nissen, Charlie Nolan, Zander Schultz, Sidney Smith Vulcan, Tatum Soulsak, Mayla Strom, Josie Swenson, Spencer Thompson, Ethan Wayne, Eva Wencl, Neela Wilkenson, Gavin Wilkenson, Grace	Gushwa, Elsabet Hagen, Ashley Harpel, Cora Horejsi, Jordan Johannsen, Madison Knudson, Brenlee Kormann, Cassie Kruger, Kylee LaCanne, Miranda Martin, Rhys Mueller, Matthew Nicholson, Cameron Peters, Ethan Nolan, Zander Peterson, Anna Peterson, Porter Stenzel, Clay Stork, Sophie Utpadel, Journey Vaale, Torri Vanek, Nathan Vanwinkle, Haley	Jacobson, Anna Johnson, Kendall Martin, Cassidy Nissen, Cambria Riewer, Caden Schlaak, Kardell Staloch, Nicklas Stencel, Carter Strom, Lorelei Tufte, Grace	Goette, Caitlin Gullickson, Shaun Horejsi, Rachel Ignaszewski, Lexie Jameson, Ellarose Johnson, Aubrey Johnson, Jazzlyn Nelson, Caitlyn Stenzel, Hailey Thompson, Kallie
Grade 7 Boyd, Avyana Briggs, Andrea DenHerder, Levi	Grade 8 Baas, Madalynn Beck, Jaxon Bogue, Hunter Budach, Bo Dobberstein, Alex Eads, Severin	Grade 9 Baker, Elli Barber, Alexis Blowers, Bridgette Christenson, Tory Crabtree, Hanna Dobberstein, Kelly Gaona Quezada, Luisa Gushwa, Tewodros Huisman, Hannah	Grade 10 Combs, Alexandra Domeier, Jayna Fell, Evan Gushwa, Agro Jameson, Emmablu Karl, Elizabeth Kath, Summer Kofstad, Grace Malakowsky, Tiara Maloney, Maggie Peterson, Paige Prigge, Annie Retallick, Naomi Sepulveda, Aracelis Stene, Holly	Grade 12 Bell, Lillian Harden, Kelly Johnson, Kaleb Lewer, Benjamin Lundberg , Benjamin Mortensen, Justin Mortenson, Sadie Olien, Hanna Olson, Aaron Peterson, Nikita Possin, Kyra Prigge, Emily Schoenrock, Betsy Stenzel, Christopher Tollefson, Emma
			Grade 11 Anderson, Alexis Christopherson, Olivia Finseth, Jayna	

B Honor Roll

Grade 6 Blatti, Anna Briggs, Gavin Chrz, Jackson DenHerder, Aubri Flatness, Zander Garcia, Haylie Johnson, Hunter Johnson, Kyli Karl, Graden Lee, Daxter Lewer, Sydney Malakowsky, Dacoda Nielsen, Faith Nielsen, Preslie Olson, Samuel Peters, Khara Possin, Brian Purdie, Jayden Routh, Clay Routh, Reese Spies, Kyra Tuttle, William Wilson, Malonna	Howe, Braydan Howe, Nash Johannsen, Treyvin Kofstad, Katheryn Misgen, Makota Mudgett, Emma Nelson, Conner Nelson, Vada Nolan, Andrew Pittman, Clair Prigge, Sawyer Reistad, Cody Schlaak, Brady Schmidt, Kaleb Smith Vulcan, Trinity Strand, Brooklyn Sutter, Teagan Utpadel, Will Wobschall, Ashley	Woollard, Ulrich Zimmerman, Samuel	Ferber, Mason Ihrke, Blake Jensen, Angelie Knudson, Paige Kohnert, Dillon Kormann, Madison Koziolk, Sydney Marcks, Cherysh Medrano, Destiny Nelson, Jenna Olson, Journey Rosevold-Wisler, Andrey Schumacher, Cierra Williams, Mia Woollard, Diamond	Strom, Karenn Surat, Jady Tufte, Spencer Wegge, Justus Westrum, Hailey Wobschall, Brooke Worrell, Laura
Grade 7 Beauvais, Sean Beckmann, Evan Berg, Aden Besser, Tarynn Borchert, Faith Breitbarth, Haley Bueltel, Maverik Butler, Natalie Cain, Jared Chambers, Alexis Christensen, Samuel Duncan, Rozlynn Garcia, Che George, Sarah Hanna, Lucas	Grade 8 Barber, Keira Combs, Autumn Huisman, Isaiah Johnson, Natalie King, Austin Knutson, Maverick Kyllo, Ava Lenort, Trevor Lewison, Lex Malakowsky, Tylar Malecha, Cooper Olson, Isabella Olson, Jack Petsinger, Nikolas Quesada, Demetria Rocha, Brittney Schiell, McKenna Schoenrock, Benjamin Smith, Isaac Wilson, Tyrone Witikko, Alisa	Grade 9 Arndt, Cloie Besser, Morgan Blatti, Jacob Bogue, Dakota Chicos, Riley Duncan, Trenten Hagen, Zachary Hill, Avery Hill, Brayden Hinderscheit, T'Shayla Johns, Sarah Johnson, Ashton Johnson, Brody King, Julia Knudson, Madison Lee, Katie Loken, Dylan Martin, Josh Martinez, Maricela McGinnis, John Grayson Neste, Dakota Nydegger, Daniel O'Brien, Christopher Pittman, Charles Routh, Thor Schultz, Riley Smith, Caleb Solland, Cary Stafford, Jonah Techau, Courtney Tonkin, Jenika	Grade 11 Arndt, Kylie Arndt, Quinten Beck, Jager Buckmeier, Alexander Budach, Hannah Bueltel, Madisyn Demi, Lawren Dobberstein, Bennett Hansen, Kaylee Hodapp, Khryssa Hogstad, Jack Jacobson, Tyler Johnson, Madison Knutson, Mackayla Kraay, Dalton Kyllo, Graham Lenort , Ross Mosher, Dylan Mrotz, Sophia Pearson, Darian Peterson, Rebecca Schlinger, Sydney Schuller, Jacob Smith Vulcan, Tanner Stork, Jake	Grade 12 Anderson, Brianna Blowers, Samiha Broitzman, Brayden Broitzman, Cole Crabtree, Emily Crabtree, Katelyn Dahle, Gabriel Dobberstein, Evan Erickson, Chad Galindo, Natalia Harpel, Caleb Herrmann, Lauren Jewett, Robert Johnson, Landon Katzung, Michelle Lembke, Kylie Malakowsky, Jason McShane, Jamie Muri, Gabrielle Nielsen, Lillie Pederson, Carma Peterson, Perry Rhoades, Makenzi Routh, Braden Stafford, Solveig Techau, Nathaniel Thompson, Cole Thompson, Sophie Utpadel, Jerret VanWilgen, Erin Wayne, Tali

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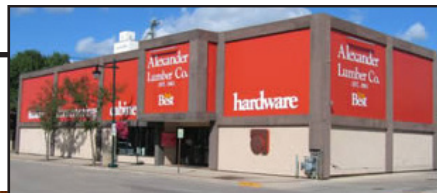
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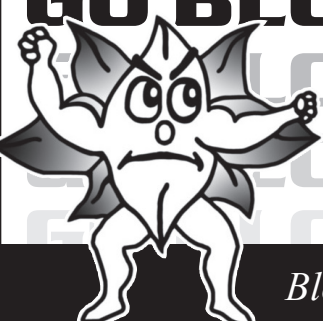
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Blooming Prairie Schools



The Steele County Recorder's Office has a new Property Fraud Alert system available for land owners to utilize for notifications of potential fraud. The office consists of (left to right) Kristi Blum, Melissa Trihus, Rick G. Kvien, Lesa Hullopeter and Liane Peterson. Missing is Rose Branderhorst.

Fraud alert

New program notifies property owners of fraud

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Protecting your most valuable investment may be just a few clicks away thanks to a new program offered by the Steele County Recorder's Office.

Recorder Rick Kvien and his staff have devised a notification system for property owners in the county to keep tabs on any potential fraudulent activity with their homes or property. It's called Property Fraud Alert, and it's a free service to anyone who subscribes.

The recorder's office has teamed up with Fiddler Technologies, which supplies the software used to record property transactions in Steele County.

Property Fraud Alert, Kvien said, notifies subscribers of activity in the recorder's office utilizing their name. "If anything is recorded with their name, they get an email alert from us," he noted.

Kvien said receiving a timely alert regarding property transactions gives owners the opportunity to fix something right away instead of waiting 10 years or longer down the road.

The recorder's office was prompted into taking some kind of action last fall when Equifax notified 143 million customers that their identity had been

hacked. Though there have been no situations where property transactions of Steele County residents have been compromised, Kvien said he realized his office needed to do something to help local property owners. "We're very fortunate that we don't (have any fraud here)," he added.

"My deputies and myself found out by working with our recorder software company that we could provide this notification system at no cost to the taxpayer," Kvein said, adding his office went to work immediately to get it implemented.

According to the FBI, property and mortgage fraud is the fastest growing white-collar crime in the country. Property fraud involves someone illegally using property for financial gain.

Kvien said property fraud happens when someone records a fraudulent document in the records office making it look like they own the home or property.

Since the alert system became available in January, there has been

widespread interest locally, Kvien said. "The deputies and I decided we wanted to be more proactive than reactive with it," he said. "Our office will do everything we can to help with taxpayer."

The alert program, Kvien said, will not cure the problem of property fraud. But he pointed out it will notify someone in a timely manner of any wrongdoing. "It gives us the opportunity to work with the land owner to fix any issues," he said.

Anyone can subscribe to the alert system by enrolling online at propertyfraudalert.com or calling 1-800-728-3858. If anyone has additional questions, they can be directed to the local recorder's office at 507-444-7450 or recorder@co.steele.mn.us.

Kvien also wants residents to be aware of a fee increase coming up next month. The passport fee will increase by \$10 beginning April 2.

Property Fraud Alert

To enroll: propertyfraudalert.com
For information: call alert hotline: **1-800-728-3858**
Or contact Steele County Recorder at **507-444-7450**

Medford School Board approves teacher contract

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

The Medford School Board held a special session Feb. 23 to approve contract changes and discuss extracurricular position changes for the coming year.

After discussing some of the major contract language changes, among these the addition of "workdays" to the list of days that cannot be used as personal days, as well as the adoption of military leave language, the School Board got down to brass tax.

Salary and benefit variations were also touched upon. Some of the contract changes included a two-year increase of \$361,890 for the period of 2017 through 2019, an amount which translates to a 7.7 percent rise, and the consideration of additional extracurricular positions.

Under the new contract, a new first-year teacher with a bachelor's degree in

Medford will be paid \$38,148. The highest paid teacher with a master's degree and 30 years of experience would be paid \$66,758. There are 17 steps under the contract with varying levels for different experience levels and degrees.

Salaries were established for coaches and advisors of extra-curricular activities. The highest paid coaches are head basketball and head wrestling. They are paid \$4,930 per season.

Another contract change revolved around additional extra-curricular positions. These added positions introduce a Student Council advisor, speech assistant coach, a robotics coach, and a photography director, which would be replacing the old position of Yearbook instructor.

Some of the extra-curricular positions are set to receive an increased stipend, including the fall and spring trap shooting coaches as well as the head speech coach and the art team coach.

The lack of a One Act Play director was a mild point of contention, but the Board adjourned after approving the agenda at hand. They were all excited to get back to the Medford JV and varsity basketball games.

Superintendent Mark Ristau described the special session as pretty routine. "This was a slam dunk tonight," he said, eager to watch his School's Basketball game.

The Minnesota Education Association negotiations team and Ristau met 10 times beginning in November of 2017 to discuss and negotiate the Master Agreement for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years.

Major contract language changes include:

- Added a lane change date making it twice a year staff can submit for a lane change
- Clarified agreement for overload agreement
- Clarified payment for administrative workshop attendance

Medford School Salary/Benefit changes

	Total Salaries	Total Package	New Money	% Increase
2017-2018 School year:	\$3,257,835	\$4,783,471	\$190,459	4.147
2018-2019 School year:	\$3,406,051	\$4,954,902	\$171,431	3.584

Moving kids forward

Local company celebrates school bus drivers

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

The Owatonna Bus Company has been giving rides to area students and residents for 50 years. This week it will celebrate the second annual Minnesota School Bus Driver Appreciation Day.

Tasked with the safety and transport of youth, it is a vital position within society, which is too frequently overlooked. For many students the bus driver can be a positive force in their life.

Kevin Nelson, a substitute bus driver who fills in when he can, has been driving a bus since 2011. "It's nice to be appreciated, and some of us are retired, or have second jobs so it feels good to get that thanks," he said.

His favorite part of the work is interacting with the kids, as well as some of the events and trips he gets to go on with them. "Most are well mannered," Nelson jokes.

One of his fellow bus drivers, Rick Culver, said, "It's fun watching the kids grow up, you get to see them grow



Rick Culver, left, and Kevin Nelson celebrate the second annual Minnesota School Bus Driver Appreciation Day, which was proclaimed by Gov. Mark Dayton last year in an effort to thank the state's bus drivers. Culver and Nelson drive for Owatonna Bus Co.

as a person." Although Culver did note that sometimes routes can change, and that means a new group of kids.

The biggest challenge they see is the importance of safe driving. "It can take patience," Culver says, "especially with other vehicles and drivers out there, and traffic can get congested during rush hours, but you just got to drive carefully." According to Culver, he's never been in an accident in the 50 years he's been driving.

They both agree that proper safety is a significant part of the job. Nelson, who also demonstrates bus safety techniques for kids, thinks that, "driving safely is what comes first."

Culver sees additional challenges when the weather can get rough. "Driving conditions can be bad in Minnesota, so your senses have to be alert," he said. He also thinks that many of the students can absorb proper driving practices. "Important lessons they learn on the bus in terms of safety, can be carried over when they're ready to drive," he added.

"Parents entrust their children to us, and it's our job to get them safely to school and then home again," Culver said. "And it's important for the parents to understand that we do the best we can."

Proper safety has become a mantra for both of them. "The kids need to know where the emergency exits are, and what to do in a situation like that," Nelson says.

Culver describes how he has every child find a seat, and then makes sure the aisles are clear before he begins his route. "If they're young, we make sure they get across the street or to their house safely," he reiterates.

He feels he's able to develop a good rapport with many of the kids, which helps make his job more enjoyable. "For the most part, we are the first person they see in the morning and the last one they see after school," Culver explained. "Sometimes a bus driver can give a kid stability they might otherwise be lacking."

Nelson agrees. "We might be the most important part of their day," he says, describing how children will sometimes recognize him and come up to talk, or give him a hug.

"It's the main reason we do this I think," Culver said. "It can be very rewarding."

Both Culver and Nelson stress the importance of outside drivers adhering to the rules of the road, as well as the standards set by school bus safety. For instance, drivers should always stay a safe distance away and wait as children exit the bus. They should also give the bus driver ample time to make sure the child has safely made their way to the sidewalk before continuing.

The Owatonna Bus Company was founded on January 1, 1968. In their 50 years of service, it has safely transported generations of Steele County residents to and from school or events. When it comes to such an impactful and important role, a little appreciation can go a long way.

"Parents entrust their children to us, and it's our job to get them safely to school and then home again."

Rick Culver
School Bus Driver

Owatonna youth soloist to perform with orchestra



Submitted Photo
Pianist Brianne Ulrich of Owatonna has been selected to perform with the Cannon Valley Regional Orchestra in March.

An Owatonna teenager has been named to the Cannon Valley Regional Orchestra. Brianne Ulrich is one of three winning soloists who will play with the orchestra in CVRO's Youth Solist Concert in March. Ulrich, who is home schooled, plays the piano.

The other winning soloists are from Kenyon-Wanamingo High School. All three are accomplished, active musicians. The concert's repertoire includes the overture from the motion picture, "Beauty and the Beast" and Antonin Dvorak's "New World" Symphony.

The concert will take place on March 11 at 3 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield.

The three soloists were selected from numerous applicants, all having submitted audio recordings of solo pieces. Applicants could be of any age, play any instrument, and live in the larger Northfield/Cannon Falls area. Applicants have the opportunity to work with CVRO's players and its esteemed conductor, Dr. Paul Niemesto.

Since 1979, the orchestra's performers have been dedicated amateurs of all ages whose love for orchestral music encourages them to perform to high levels of artistic excellence. CVRO is a program of the

4-H program busy year round



Steele Talkin'
TRACY
IGNASZEWSKI

The snow is flying, the warmth of the summer days is long gone and there are 171 days to County Fair! So, that must mean that the Steele County 4-H'ers, the volunteers and the staff are taking it easy, right? Not!

County Fair is not the only thing 4-H people do. Just a few weeks ago I was sitting here working on my "Plan of Work" and my "Year Review," thinking about all the activities and opportunities that 4-H has to offer. Like.... did you know you can learn how to subtract DNA from a strawberry in 4-H?

Let me fill you in on a few of the other opportunities we will have in the 4-H program this year. We will have new events and activities for youth of all ages. Coming this summer, Cloverbuds (K-2nd graders), will be offered through club and county events like "Discover 4-H" and "What's Your Project." Youth in grades 3-6 can participate in a 'Lock In' which will take place this April. For the older youth, we will have new and different opportunities within our Ambassador and superintendent programs.

This year the Steele County 4-H Program will promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) in many of the county programs, including after school adventures, overnight camp, day camps, summer, winter, spring and fall activities. We will also be incorporating STEM in the Afterschool program and the Livestock program, so watch for these events - they will be loads of fun.

This year we have big plans to provide lots of project trainings both in the general project areas and livestock project members. We will even be providing our older youth superintendents with opportunities to teach these trainings.

We are also making a strong commitment to continue to improve our county wide program quality. YPQA (Youth Program Quality Assessment) is a newer assessment tool that we will be using in the 4-H program. We will be training our leaders to recognize quality programming and how to attain a quality program. Missy and I will be attending many club and discovery meetings where we can coach leaders on ways that they can reinforce individual discovery and increase program quality.

Wow, that is a lot in a year! Keep your eyes open and watch for these new events and opportunities coming your way. But, don't worry, we will be offering the "same old stuff," too!

Tracy Ignaszewski is a 4-H program coordinator with Steele County. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various groups and organizations throughout Steele County.

Winter Olympic games come to the BP classrooms



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Blooming Prairie seventh graders were divided into teams to study the 2018 Winter Olympics. In Kari Bottin's class, students wrote their own anthems. Shown from left are: Picture 3: Joie Ruhler, Alex Riley, Jaydon Schewe, Anna Reese, Zander Peterson, Anna Pauly, Trista Moti and Kaleb Sapien.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Most believe that the 2018 Winter Olympics took place in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

That's true but it is also a reality that Blooming Prairie seventh graders had a close glimpse at the Winter Olympics by participating in classroom projects endorsed by several teachers.

Choral director Kari Bottin was the driving force in having seventh graders cross over their various disciplines (class subjects). She said when she was in sixth grade in Red Wing, her class participated in researching the Winter Olympics.

"I wanted to step outside of the classroom and try something new," Bottin related. "It's been fun for the kids and the teachers," she added.

Seventh graders in Bottin's class were challenged to write an anthem after they had researched a country anthem. Social studies teacher Cory Hendrickson assigned students to teams, about 7-8 students on a team. Each team was given a country to follow.

As part of her class assignments on the Olympics, Bottin would play the theme and ask the students to identify which anthem came from which country.

Students were encouraged to bring in clothing or hats to make the project "more real," Bottin said.

"It was great to see the students exposed to other anthems and to learn what the anthems mean to the countries they represent," Bottin remarked.

Students were surprised by the number of countries involved in the Olympic games. This year's Winter Olympics featured 92 nations and 2,952 participants in 102 events.

"I love to watch figure

skating," Bottin said. "My favorite thing is to see the athlete's hard work pay off," she added.

"It's good for us to focus on something positive and see athletes reach their dreams. It gives our kids a different perspective on their daily lives," Bottin said.

Other seventh teachers involved in the Olympic projects included social studies teacher Hendrickson, art teacher Nate Piller, family and consumer science teacher Jennifer Flemming, science teacher Sarah Oelkers and math teachers Lisa Poe and Janet Luick.

In Piller's class, students made 12 by 18 inch country flags, using a variety of colored markers. As part of

their assignment, students were asked to explain the

symbolism and meaning behind the flag.

Art students also created family flags. Piller said many BP students represent Norwegian and German backgrounds.

By watching the Olympics and by creating flags, the seventh graders were able to relate to the athletes' successes and disappointments, Piller said. Students used their iPads to obtain photos of their country flag.

"I had no idea where Iran was," said seventh grader Sam Pirkel when researching that country. As part of the project, Pirkel said he had to name some famous people from Iran and also relate some top attractions of Iran.

Pirkel said he liked snow boarding as an Olympic event. "I snow board, too, but I'm not very good at it," Pirkel confessed. He said he enjoyed watching the competitive nature of the athletes.

Neveah Garcia studied about Puerto Rico. "I learned about the people of Puerto Rico and also about their different foods and cultures," she said.

"This project gave the kids a better awareness of the world we live in," said Hendrickson. "It was rewarding to see the kids cross curriculum and to see them work together," he continued.

Stepping outside his classroom, Hendrickson pointed to the end of the hallway where a medal count chart was posted on the wall. With several days of competition remaining then, Norway led in medals. He said he enjoyed skating and skiing the most.

Choir students Haven Carlson, Madelaine Stoen and Leah Thorson all agreed that they enjoyed the opportunity to work together on creating their anthems.

It's possible, Hendrickson said, that teachers will try this project again using a different subject, maybe the Civil War, he hinted.

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

Chamber seeks better attendance at meetings

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Greg Johnson, president of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce, is the first one to admit that attendance at regular monthly chamber meetings could be better.

"We must try to get more people to our meetings and if you have any suggestions of how to attract more members to our meetings, please contact us," pleaded Johnson at a regular monthly meeting Wednesday, Feb. 21 at the Blooming Prairie Dairy Queen.

Twenty-one attended the Feb. 21 meeting.

The Chamber has 118 members, thus a goal would be to get a higher percentage of members attending meetings, Johnson said.

The Chamber has a wealth of activities planned for this year. Here's some of them:

- March -- 21, noon meeting at City Center, catered by Subway
- April -- 18, 6 p.m. meeting at George's of Geneva

- May -- 12, city-wide garage sales; 16, noon meeting at Bunkie's
 - June -- 20, 6 p.m., Chamber picnic at Brookside Campgrounds
 - July -- 3-4, Old fashioned Fourth of July; 18, Golf Fun Day at BP Country Club
 - August -- 14-19, Steele County Fair
 - September -- 19, noon meeting at City Center, catered by Casey's
 - October -- 17, noon meeting, The Bakery
 - November -- 1, 6:30 p.m., wine tasting at Servicemen's Club; 14, 6 p.m., annual meeting, Pizza Cellar
 - December -- 7, Holiday Dazzle; 12, 5-7 p.m., Business After Hours, F & M Bank
- In other business the Chamber members in attendance approved the budget for 2018 at \$38,118.
- Joseph Mason, new administrator for Prairie Manor Care Center, was introduced as were Jennifer Trostem of State Farm Insurance and Tracie Anderson of the Steele County Times.
- Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 21 at the City Center with a meal catered by Subway.

To become a Blooming Prairie Chamber member, contact Becky at 583-4472

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Long journey filled with HOPE

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It has been a long journey for Philip and Jennifer Milton of Blooming Prairie. The husband and wife team has been fighting Philip's cancer since 2013, and they are both energized with hope that a cure to his acute lymphoblastic B-cell leukemia (blood cancer) is not far off.

Philip is striving to have his leukemia declared in complete remission. After that step is achieved, he will have a stem cell transplant at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

Stem cell transplants are procedures that restore blood-forming stem cells in people who have had theirs destroyed by the very high doses of chemotherapy or radiation therapy that are used to treat certain cancers.

According to the National Cancer Institute, Blood-forming stem cells are important because they grow into different types of blood cells.

The main types of blood cells are:

- White blood cells, which are part of your immune system and help your body fight infection
- Red blood cells, which carry oxygen throughout your body
- Platelets, which help the blood clot

All three types of blood cells are needed to be healthy.

The good news while Philip waits for a transplant is that two of his four sisters are "perfect matches" for him.

When will this transplant occur? Philip and Jennifer do not know but say it could be months before the actual transplant takes place. "I hope to be done by the Fourth of July this summer," Philip says.

Optimism is at a high pitch with both of the Miltons as they have been told that a cure is possible.

It is ironic that his first bout with cancer came in 2013 when he was informed that he had lymphoma. He had noticed a lump and told by his doctors to have a biopsy. After this time it



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Philip and Jennifer Milton of Blooming Prairie, who are on a journey to cure Philip's cancer, check out some recent entries to Philip's Caring Bridge site. The Miltons also are very active in the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group.

“It is a waiting game and spring will come and go possibly before the transplant comes.”

Philip Milton
Battling Cancer

was only in that area and no treatment was done.

In the fall of 2016, he discovered another lump, which was diagnosed as Stage 3 Lymphoma. He then underwent six rounds of therapy in 2016 and 2017.

Following the last treatment a year ago, he was told that the lymphoma was gone or was in remission. Philip continued to work for Central Farm Services during and after this treatment. He has worked there for the last 17 years.

He went back to the doctor every three months and the news last June and September was good.

On Dec. 8, 2017, the other shoe fell. "At that time I felt better than ever," Milton recalls.

He was then given the news that he had

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, also known as Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia or Acute Lymphoid Leukemia. It is the least common type of leukemia in adults.

WebMD says ALL is a type of leukemia that starts from white blood cells in the bone marrow, the soft inner part of bones. It develops from cells called lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell central to the immune system, or from lymphoblasts, an immature type of lymphocyte.

It has definitely been a learning experience for the Miltons to learn about the forms of leukemia and the treatment for it.

A different form of chemotherapy began on Dec. 19 of last year. Philip went through more tests and underwent in-patient chemo. He has not worked since the December treatment began.

He and Jennifer have been commuting back and forth from Rochester for treatment and even stayed several weeks at the Gift of Life Transplant House.

Jennifer said Philip's mother had a form of lymphoma. She also says cancer runs on her side of the family.

The long-term cure for ALL is a stem cell transplant, the Miltons have been told. Before transplant, the goal is to have less than one in

10,000 cells or none at all.

Following his second round of chemotherapy on Jan. 27 and a stay at the Gift of Life House until Feb. 9, Milton was advised to go home and recover some more and then have two different rounds of chemo.

"It is a waiting game and spring will come and go possibly before the transplant comes," Milton said.

In spite of their frustration with the lengthy process, they both cling to that hope that Milton is good for a cure.

Jennifer and Philip are both very active in the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group. She joined the cause 16 years ago.

"I never thought we would be recipients of help from the Cancer Group Community Fund," Jennifer remarked. The Community Fund helps cancer patients and their families with lodging, groceries, gas, parking permits and electrical bills.

This type of treatment is very expensive, both report. "The days go pretty slow at times,"

Philip says. "We take it one day at a time," Jennifer added.

Both Miltons are Blossoms, having graduated in 1970.

Attitude of the patient during treatment is extremely important, Jennifer related. "They say I recover faster than most after treatment," Philip said.

The Miltons are most thankful about the support they have received from family and friends.

Surgery is not new for Philip Milton. He had a heart valve replaced and it's still working after 17 years, Milton smiles.

Jennifer last December started a Caring Bridge page for her husband. Thus far, the site has had 3,548 visits. "The story is there," she says. It has served as a journal for his journey.

Looking to the future, Jennifer affirms: "We can do it even though we may get crabby with one another at times."

Support "has been pretty overwhelming," the quiet-mannered Philip says. "We appreciate all the support and can't thank everyone enough for their help," Jennifer added.

Showing a thumbs-up gesture, Jennifer said, "There are lots of success stories out there and if we can't help ourselves, we can still help others."

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This week's Panther of the Week is Brendan Schmidt. Brendan resides in New Richland with his parents Dan and Tina Schmidt. He is in Mrs. Schultz third grade class.

Brendan is a model student who is always exhibiting panther pride. He is kind to others and is a good helper in the classroom. He is a very conscientious student that works very hard.

Brendan enjoys drawing, origami, as well as playing basketball and football. Keep up the great work Brendan!

Free workshop offered to learn about managing falls

Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute – Owatonna Hospital is offering a free program designed to help older adults manage falls and increase activity levels.

“A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls” includes eight, two-hour sessions for a small group led by a trained facilitator. This class is especially helpful for those concerned about falls, interested in improving balance, flexibility and strength, who’ve fallen in the past or who’ve restricted activities because of falling concerns.

Participants will learn to:

- view falls as controllable
- set goals for increasing activity
- make changes to reduce fall risks at home
- exercise to increase strength and balance.

Classes are held Tuesday and Friday each week for four weeks, beginning April 10 from 10 a.m. to noon at Owatonna Hospital, 2250 NW 26th Street, Owatonna.

Instructors include: Greg Lenz, physical therapist and Heather Lenz, physical therapist, both from Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute – Owatonna Hospital.

For more information or to register, contact Greg Lenz or Heather Lenz at 507-977-2150.

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Cancer Corner

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Yell BINGO and win a ham

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Support the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group by yelling BINGO!

The BP Cancer Group's fifth annual Bingo party is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, March 15 in the Pizza Cellar Party room in Blooming Prairie.

Robyn and Craig Kruckeberg are sponsoring the evening by donating the hams, which come from Geneva Meats.

Door prizes will be given away during the night.

Twenty-five games will be played with all ages encouraged to participate.

“This is a fun event and one that is supported well by the community,” said Cheri Krejci, Blooming Prairie Cancer Group treasurer.

Bingo caller for the night will be either Lindsey French or Connie Trom.

“This ham bingo event continues to grow and draws about 100 bingo players,” Krejci said.

Preparing for youth gathering



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie youths have been fundraising for many months to help finance their ELCA Youth Gathering trip to Houston, Texas this summer. Twenty youths from First Lutheran and four from Red Oak Lutheran will be attending the gathering. Shown from First Lutheran are: front row (left to right): ShyAne Jorgenson, Abby Braaten, Taylor Wurst, Anna Kittelson, Maggie Bruns, Kiya Thompson, Baylee Sorensen, Halle Strunk and Maren Forstetk; back row: Riauna Bishop, McKenna Hein, Trent Swenson, Jarrett Larson, Julia Worke, Karson Vigeland, Zachary Weber, Gabe Hagen, Ian Wayne and Seth Peterson. Allison Krohnberg is not pictured.

Grants offered for early childhood literacy

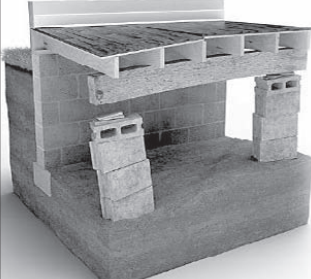
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), in partnership with ABDO Publishing and Capstone, is accepting applications for the Early Childhood Literacy Grant Program. The Literacy Program is designed to support early literacy efforts that enhance school readiness for children birth to age 5 by providing children with books. Organizations working with these children in SMIF’s 20-county region are encouraged to apply for books to be given to families to keep and read to their children. SMIF has previously partnered with both publishing companies on collectively distributing more than a hundred thousand books across the region through grants and programming. The Literacy Program is a new collaborative effort to put more books into the hands of children birth to five. We know literacy skill development is a key measure of future success in school and life. “A lack of literacy skills in young children is a major barrier to getting ready for Kindergarten,” said Rae Jean Hansen, Vice President of Early Childhood at SMIF. “Our long-term partnerships with both ABDO and Capstone are

critical to our efforts to provide parents and children in the region with support they need to prepare for school.” “At Capstone, we are passionate about improving the world through literacy,” said Christie Skilbred, Corporate Giving and Literacy Center Manager for Coughlan Companies, the holding company for Capstone. “Our continued partnership with Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation parallels our mission of providing children the building blocks for lifelong success. We are thrilled to stand together with SMIF to assist in providing the new Literacy Grants and look forward to the positive impact these grants offer southern Minnesota.” Award recipients will choose from a selection of more than 10,000 books donated by the publishing companies, including bilingual and early childhood appropriate books. Applications are due to SMIF by April 12, 2018. Awards will be announced in May with a book pick-up celebration in June. For more information or to apply visit our website at www.smifoundation.org or contact Jennifer Heien at 507-214-7040; jenniferh@smifoundation.org.

Group seeks applicants for developmental disabilities scholarship

Advocates for Developmental Disabilities of Steele County (ADD) is offering a scholarship for students who received special education services during their high school years. Scholarship criteria: - Must be accepted at a two or four year – college or vocational school - Involvement in school and/or community activities Scholarship applications may be picked up from your school counselors or career center at area high schools in Owatonna, Medford or Blooming Prairie. You can also download an application at www.advocatesfordevelopmentaldisabilities.com. Applications need to be returned to your school by April 15 or the ADD office by April 30. The ADD is based in Owatonna. The director of the group is Laurie Running.

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Police chase stolen vehicle through 2 counties

A high-speed chase through two counties involving a stolen vehicle ended with police coming up empty handed. The Dodge County Sheriff's Office received information from an off-duty community service officer reporting that he was behind a stolen vehicle out of Freeborn County on Highway 14 by Kasson Feb. 22 at about 5:12 p.m. Sheriff Scott Rose said the vehicle, a 2017 black Ford Fiesta Sedan, was reported stolen on Feb. 10 from rural Albert Lea. Deputies caught up to the vehicle while it was turning off

on Highway 56 towards Dodge Center. When the suspects saw the marked squad approach, they turned around and fled westbound on Highway 14 at speeds of over 100 mph, Rose said. The chase continued into Steele County where Steele County deputies set up stop sticks at the U.S. Highway 218 bridge on Highway 14 east of Owatonna. The suspects maneuvered around the stop sticks and continued northbound into Owatonna, according to Rose. Officers continued to pursue the vehicle until they lost sight of it in the downtown area of Owatonna due to high traffic volumes, Rose said. The area was searched by officers from various agencies, but the suspects were not located. Rose said the vehicle had been occupied by four black males. Rose encourages anyone who may have information on the chase, the stolen vehicle or its occupants, to call local police.

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B Honor Roll

Grade 9 Hudson Aase Gabriel Adams Moukarama Afoda Alexis Akemann Iqra Ali Asad Ali Isabella Anderson Katelyn Arndt	Grace Arthur McKenna Baker Aaron Bangs Lila Bartkowiak Angelina Bartz Chloe Beede Joseph Bellomy Jenna Bergeron Payton Beyer	Klara Blacker Carter Breckenridge Joseph Brein Ava Bretl Jocelyn Brooks Madelin Bruessel Evan Buck Connor Budach Caitlynne Bussert	Gabriel Chavez Hailey Clear Skylah Conner Katie Cottingham Abbey Crandall Samuel Cummins Abdinasir Dahir Garett Dahlen Riley Davis	Emma deBruin Derek Dunn Joseph Earl Emilia Edel Madison Effertz Alexander Engbard Emily Engebretson Ethan Engels Eli Engler	Kayla Eschenbrenner Jacob Fast Mckenzi Fedder Jaydan Feuring Brent Fischer Elizabeth Fisher Hailey Fox Thomas Frandle
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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

FEB. 28 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library	MARCH 3 Blooming Prairie Speakeasy, Undisclosed locations
MARCH 1 5:30 p.m. – American Legion's 99th Birthday, Servicemen's Club	MARCH 6 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library



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ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST
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ELLENDALE/GENEVA/HOPE

MARCH 5 6 p.m. – Steele County Historical Society Board Meeting, Ellendale Community Center 6 p.m. – Ellendale Fire Department Meeting, Community Building 6 p.m. – NRHEG Band Boosters Meeting	Fever Frenzy Special Event, Ellendale Elementary Gym South 6:15 p.m. – Community Ed, Ellendale Elementary Smart Room 6:30 p.m. – Karate, Ellendale Elementary Gym North 7:30 p.m. – NRHEG Band Concert, NRHEG HS Gym
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MARCH 6 6 p.m. – ECFE Cabin

Blooming Prairie
800-248-3855
www.minimizer.com

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

FEB. 28 2 p.m. – Owatonna Strategic Planning Session, Owatonna Public Utilities	MARCH 4 4 p.m. – Hometown Sampler Concert Series, Little Theatre of Owatonna
MARCH 1 9 a.m. – Jr. History Detectives, History Center 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, Famous Dave's 6 p.m. – Steele County Free Fair Board Meeting, Mother's Rest 6:30 p.m. – History Detectives, History Center 6:30 p.m. – Family Storytime, Owatonna Library 7 p.m. – History Uncorked, History Center 7 p.m. – Cyber Guide for Parents Seminar, Trinity Lutheran Church	MARCH 5 1 p.m. – Senior Place Inc. Board Meeting, Senior Place 1 p.m. – 6 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, Trinity Lutheran Church 7 p.m. – Steele County Planning Commission Meeting, County Admin Building
MARCH 2 7 p.m. – Hometown Sampler Concert Series, Little Theatre of Owatonna	MARCH 6 8 a.m. – Steele County Public Safety Committee Meeting, County Attorney's Office 9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – It's Tale Time, Owatonna Library 10 a.m. – SCHS Genealogy Club, History Center 7 p.m. – Owatonna City Council Meeting, City Admin Building 7 p.m. – Poetry Writers Group, Owatonna Library 7 p.m. – Steele County Board of Adjustments Meeting, County Admin Building
MARCH 3 3 p.m. – Hometown Sampler Concert Series, Little Theatre of Owatonna 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. – Jim Gleason benefit, Retrofit	

**Recipe
Corner**

Makes about 3 cups

2 cups cooked black beans, drained, rinsed and mashed (see tip 1 below)

1 cup diced tomatoes (see tip 2 below)

4 green onions, finely chopped

2 roasted peppers (poblano or sweet), peeled and diced

1 roasted jalapeño, seeded and diced, or

In slow cooker stoneware, combine beans, tomatoes, green onions, poblano, jalapeño peppers, garlic, lime zest and juice, and cheese. Stir well. Cover and cook on high for 1.5 hours, until mixture is hot and bubbly. Stir in cilantro, sprinkle with green onions, if using, and serve.

Sponsored by

Krejci Ford

15th Presidents Award Winner
Blooming Prairie, 583-2046

Warm Black Bean Salsa

1 chipotle pepper in adobo sauce

1 teaspoon puréed garlic (see tip 3 below)

1 teaspoon finely grated lime zest

2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lime juice

2 cups shredded cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese

2 tablespoons finely chopped cilantro leaves

Finely chopped green onions

J&H LIQUOR

● **BAR BINGO:** Monday, 6:30 p.m.

● **BLOOMIN' GRAPEVINE WINE CLUB:** Meets Tuesdays at J&H Liquor from 7 to 8:30 p.m. On these dates: Jan. 30, Feb. 20, March. 20, April 17 and May 8th/Season Finalē. Benefits the BP Youth Club.

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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ALL EVENT DETAILS AVAILABLE AT J&H LIQUOR

Christian group to celebrate 50th anniversary

The Owatonna Christian Women’s Club (CWC) is excited to celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

CWC is a part of Stonecroft Ministries, an international organization that began 80 years ago. The local group was founded when Trudy Gilbert, from Stonecroft, contacted Evie Nordman of Owatonna, to begin a group here. And as they say, “The rest is history.”

The group started out small, but it didn’t take long to catch on. Initially, our venue was a room at a restaurant. CWC has met at the Kitchen, Inn Town Motel, Open Hearth, Ramada Inn, Country Club, Eagles, Methodist church, and now at the current location, the Elks Club.

Throughout the years, CWC has had a variety of events at meetings. The group has held style shows, both silly ones and actual ones from local businesses, bake sales, and auctions. Once a year a male speaker presents and men are invited to

join in.

Each month an individual or a group donates their time and talents to bless the group with special music. It can be vocal or instrumental, and sometimes it’s both. CWC also offers a special feature where someone from the community gives a short presentation, either about a business, a hobby, or a non-profit organization. It’s informative and free advertising for those who present. The community has been very gracious to help with these parts of CWC’s program.

CWC was designed to supply spiritual support for women who are seeking the Lord or have found Him and who want encouragement from hearing other Christian women testify to God’s love and faithfulness. The speakers, trained by Stonecroft, share their life stories. Some have had very dramatic events in their lives, and others have been changed through more subtle experiences. But all

share how by grace through faith God changed their lives. Though the topics are often serious, members really have a great time.

There is no membership fee as you belong to this group just by attending. CWC’s celebration will be held on March 13 at 9 a.m. at the Elks Club, 126 East Vine. The group starts with a little humor, coffee, juice, and a treat for only \$4. Door prizes will be given away. Sandy (Heinsch) Waters will be the featured speaker as she honors the past 50 years of God’s steadfast love. Greg Krueger will be the soloist, and Romayne Moore will accompany him on the piano. Sherry Segal will share her message: My Journey from Hopeless to Joy in Jesus.

The group invites the community to join to help celebrate its special day. If you wish to come, please reserve a spot by calling Inez at 507-451-9539.

Owatonna Foundation offers scholarships for technical careers

Are you graduating from high school in spring 2018? Do you plan to attend a technical or community college? If you answered yes, apply for an Owatonna Foundation traditional scholarship.

April 10 is the deadline for traditional Owatonna Foundation scholarship applications. The Owatonna Foundation has \$15,000 available to assist students who will be attending non-four year programs at technical/community colleges to prepare themselves for a technical career.

An applicant must be a June 2018

graduate of Owatonna High School, Owatonna Alternative School, Eagle Academy, Owatonna Christian School, Choice Technical Academy, or Pillsbury College Prep. The parent or guardian of applicant must be a resident of Steele County.

Previous award recipients have pursued training in the following areas: accounting, business and office technology, agriculture services and management, carpentry/cabinet making, child development, civil engineering technician, construction electrician,

cosmetology, culinary arts/chef, drafting, electronics, interior design and sales, jewelry and gemology, machining/ tool and die, microcomputer support technician, paramedic/ EMT, and sales and marketing.

Applications must be submitted no later than April 10. Applications are available at the Foundation’s website at <http://www.owatonnafoundation.org/Grants/Scholarships>, and Apply for a Scholarship; from Jill Holmes at 507-455-3059, and at the Foundation’s office at 108 West Park Square, Owatonna.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

HAPPY 99TH BIRTHDAY, AMERICAN LEGION

It will be a grand day on Thursday, March 1 as the Blooming Prairie American Legion, Sons of the American Legion and Auxilliary celebrate the 99th birthday of Post 52.

A special supper is planned for the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club. Call 507-583-7884 for reservations.

Social hour is from 5:30-6 p.m., supper follows at 6 p.m. A program will begin at 7 p.m., featuring Steele County History Center director Dan Moeckley. He will give an update on the American Legion’s 100th birthday celebration planned for next year.

The menu will include turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable and dessert.

Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

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 – Noon – 6 p.m. March 2, Salem Lutheran Church

Albert Lea – Noon – 6 p.m. March 2, North Bridge Mall

Albert Lea – 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. March 12, United Methodist Church

Alden – Noon – 6 p.m. March 6, Alden Conger High School

Austin – Noon – 6 p.m. March 8, Our Saviors Lutheran Church

Blooming Prairie – 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. March 9, Blooming Prairie High School

Hayfield – 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. March 6, Hayfield High School

Medford – 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. March 14, Medford School

Owatonna – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. March 1, Famous Dave’s

Owatonna – 1 p.m. – 6 p.m. March 5, Trinity Lutheran Church

Owatonna – Noon – 6 p.m. March 7, St. Joseph’s Church

Owatonna – Noon – 6 p.m. March 8, St. Joseph’s Church

Owatonna – 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. March 9, St. Joseph’s Church

Owatonna – 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. March 12, Ag Power Enterprises

CYBER SAFETY PRESENTATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS COMING TO OWATONNA

The Moonlighters Exchange Club of Owatonna, Exchange Club of Steele County and Exchange Club of Owatonna have collaborated to sponsor child crime safety, Detective Rich Wistocki, of Naperville, Illinois to come to Owatonna on Thursday, March 1.

During the day, Wistocki will give student presentations

regarding Internet predators, cyber-bullying, social networking dangers and more at Owatonna Middle School. In the evening, he will give a presentation with free admission for parents of school-aged children in Steele County starting at 7 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna. It will cover Internet predators, cyber-bullying, understanding what is on your child’s applications and more.

STEELE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES BOARD MEETING

The Steele County Historical Society (SCHS) March 2018 meeting of the SCHS Board of Directors will be held in Ellendale. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 5 and will be held at the Ellendale Community Center. The meeting starts at 6 p.m. and is open to the general public.

HEALING ARTS RECEPTION TO BE HELD MARCH 13 AT OWATONNA HOSPITAL

The community is invited to a special Owatonna Hospital Healing Arts Program reception where you can meet the artists Tuesday, March 13 from 4:30-6 p.m. at the Owatonna Hospital, 2250 NW 26th Street.

The Healing Arts Program is a collaboration between Owatonna Hospital and the Owatonna Arts Center to bring the visual arts, natural light, images and elements of nature to lessen stress and promote healing while in the Hospital. The new artwork is on view March through the end of June.

The works of William Gillis, photography; Michelle Kaisersatt, clay; Gail Thompson, watercolor; and Annie Young, painting will be on display. This exhibit is underwritten by the Owatonna

Hospital Foundation. The Owatonna Arts Center serves as the curator for this series.

EXPLORE EMIGRATION THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY AT VESTERHEIM MUSEUM EVENT

Why do some people leave their homes in search of a better life? Join Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Owatonna to explore that question through the stunning black and white photography of Norwegian Knud Knudsen from the late 1800s.

This program and luncheon is on March 24 from 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. at the Steele County Historical Society. It will include the program “Rocks and Hard Places—Emigration through the Lens of Knud Knudsen” by Chris Johnson, Vesterheim’s President/CEO. Everyone is welcome. Tickets are \$30 for museum members and \$35 for non-members. Reservations are required by March 16 and can be made by contacting Vesterheim’s Development Events Coordinator Karla Brown at 563-382-9681, x107, or kbrown@vesterheim.org.

The program is connected to the exhibit “Rocks and Hard Places—Emigration through the Lens of Knud Knudsen” on view at Vesterheim now through September 23. Considered one of Norway’s most important photographers, Knudsen (1832-1915) was born in Odda, Hardanger, and he established one of the first photography businesses in the city of Bergen in 1864. Despite the idyllic landscape, Knudsen’s work vividly shows why the ever-present threat of rockslides and avalanches, lack of arable land, lack of economic opportunity, and savage beauty of life on the fjord led to some of the highest rates of emigration per capita in Norway. The exhibition is sponsored by Gerald and Mary Jo Boman, The Broadway Group in memory of Eva Alsaker, David and Kirsten Heine, The Family Care Clinic, and The Perfect Edge, with additional support.

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

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THE BOLD LOOK OF **KOHLER**

B Honor

Owatonna High School for first semester

FROM PAGE C6

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TRUE Gieseke
Henry Gigstead
Emilia Gomez
Tristan Groh
Isaac Guzman
Alyssa Heathman
Catrina Herr
Sean Heselton
Hannah Hesprih
Piper Hiber
Brody Homan
Brooklyn Houser
Emma Howe
Asma Hussein
Leone Jacobson
Tucker Jen0
Annalia Johnson
Megan Johnson
Casey Johnson
Jorden Kalbach
Bailey Keck
Emma Klemmensen
Ethan Koziolk
Gabriel Lancette
Garrett LaPlount
Thomas Leon
Madison Levy
Grace Linders
Evan Little
Elissa Macias
Annabella Mast
Logan McGaheran
Muna Mohamed
Naima Mumin
Maggie Newhouse
Emmanuel Ojulu
Wyatt Oldefendt
Logan Olson
Emani Palacios
Kaelyn Peters
Rylee Petterson
Mason Piepho
Nicholas Remker
Elijah Roberts
Danielle Robertson
Lucas Robillard
Keezia Rud
Hailey Rysavy
Makenzie Schmidtke
Isabella Schroeder
Andrew Schumacher
Alivia Schuster
Abigail Schwartz
Diamond Sexter
Joseph Smith
Abigail Smith
Nathan Smith
Grace Smith
Samantha Spears
Kylee Stirens

Cameron Stoen
Preston Studnicka
Jay Thompson
Jack Titchenal
Anthony Villarreal
Jonathan Wall
Jared Warn
Deyjah Weaver
Abigail Webster
Jamie Wells
Joby Werk
Connor Whalen
Sydney Winch
Cade Woltman
Blake Worrell

Grade 10

Fardowsa Abbas
Abukar Abdi
Melinda Abernathey
Macy Barrington
Gabriela Breuer
Seth Brewer
Carly Christenson
Erik Coulter
Marcus Crosby
Hunter Dallman
Carter DeBus
Jesse Deml
Daniel Donlon
Kya Elsbecker
Aisha Farah
Josef Friesen
Mathew Gardner
Madeline Gardow
Logan Gauthier
Isaac Gefre
Isaac Goettl
Angel Gonzalez
Abbie Granquist
Jessica Gregory
Marissa Gronli
August Grubish
Jackson Grunwald
Solomon Havelka
MaKayla Hedberg
Tristan Hollister
Hunter Huebbe
Evan Huemoeller
Sudi Hussein
Derek Huxford
Samantha Ihrke
Noah Ihrke
Alyvia Johnson
Jessy Kasfeldt
Brendan Kath
Joshua Katzung
Sado Keyse
Skyler Kopecky-Johnson
Phillip Koslosky
Kylie Kruckeberg
Kora Larsen
Cole Larson
Ransom Maslinski
Mariah Mason

Olivia Matejcek
Nicolas Meneguzzo
Tanner Miles
Ian Moffett
Abdirahman Moussa
Mackenzie Mullenbach
Nicholas Mullenbach
Abdinasir Mumin
Austin Mundt
Kira Munguia
Bryce Murry
Tristan Nelson
Wesley Nelson
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Ashley Peterson
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Ava Sletten
Shannon Smith
Donna Sosa
Logan Steckelberg
Noah Stephenson
Kaitlyn Strusz
Olivia Svenby
Jasmine Talley
Kate VanReeth
Ethan Walter
Tayiah Waltz
Zachary Wiese
Matthew Williams
Ellie Youngquist
Jazmine Zapata
Jennifer Zetino-Ramos
Jasmine Ziegenhagen
Emilee Zirmgible

Grade 11

Adnan Abdullahi
Donavan Bailey
Grace Barner
Graciela Bautista
Genesis Beascochea
Alex Beaver
Marc Berkley
Patricia Biegert
Cody Blaisdell
Nelson Bottin
Jonathon Burbie
Angel Chavez
Jayson Cox
Alicia Crawford

David Crawford
Samuel Davidson
Madison Day
Raul De La Paz Carranza
Cole Deason
Matthew DeHaan
Brandon Distad
Lucas Dittmer
Patrick Donlon
Kayla Eaton
Gabrielle Esparza
Sadia Fakrudin
Peter Fast
Jared Fett
Kiley Friedrichs
Michael Gamez
Angel Garcia Perez
Wyatt Garten
Abdulkadir Geelle
Drake Gieseke
Sophia Gieseke
Kianna Gillispie
Hannes Gohlke
Julia Hansen
Jack Hanson
Joshua Hensley
Jonathan Hernandez
Jakota Hernandez
Fatuma Hersi
Mia Hiber
Quang Ho
Kylie Hodges
Regan Ihlenfeld
Alissa Jensen
Johnathon Jensen
Myiah Jewison
Krystal Johnson
Benjamin Johnson
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Gabrielle Kramer
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Maggie Marks
Morgan Masche
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Caedon McCartney
Madison McKenzie
Michael Meyer
Makenzie Michael
Jacob Miller
Machayla Millhouse
Leyla Mohamed
Katie Morgan
Andrew Munns
Amaal Munye
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Jackson Newhouse
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Harrison Utoft
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Nicole Weber
Zachary Williams
Kinzie Williams
Paige Winter
Lillian Yates
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Grade 12

Jacob Bangs
William Behne
Joshua Belting
Jiovani Bermudez
Jessica Boerner
Jacob Boerner
Tanner Booth
Hanna Brekke
Noah Budach
Seth Bungum
Emily Burns
Matias Chavez
Terrell Conner
Kayla Crawford
Morgan Dallmann
Jenna Dallmann
Paula De La Rosa
Rica Degollado
Armand Deines
Skylah Drache
Jacob Dub
Arely Enriquez Morales
Ceasar Escalante
Kimberly Esquivel
Lexington Falken
Lydia Fischer
Hannah Fisher
Talia Fladager
Arianna Forcelle
Corey Gander
Cade Gasner
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Raleigh Goettl
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Taylor Hagen
Faith Harlicker
Kalvin Hays
Riley Henson
Noah Hudrlik
Andrew Jackson
Andrew Jensen
Luke Johnson
David Keck
Skye Kirby
Owen Koslosky
Tate Krampitz
Ryan Laatsch
Aqil Lakha
Katelyn Marquard
Sharmae Martin
Juan Maya Ramirez
Benjamin Mees
Mason Miranda
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Hannah Munch
Vincent Neaves
Walker Nelson
Lydia-Jo Olson
Ashley Ortiz
Mariam Osman
Zilpa Pablo
Brooke Parker
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Alyxandra Phillips
Madison Piepho
Teri Prestegard
Emily Prohaski
Alex Raichle
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Hanna Roberts
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Nathan Smith
Shane Smith
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Sarah Spears
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Matthew Steel
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Arianna Volkmann
Alea Wall
Joseph Walsh
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Great job on achieving academic excellence in the classroom!



A gift of Sacred Art

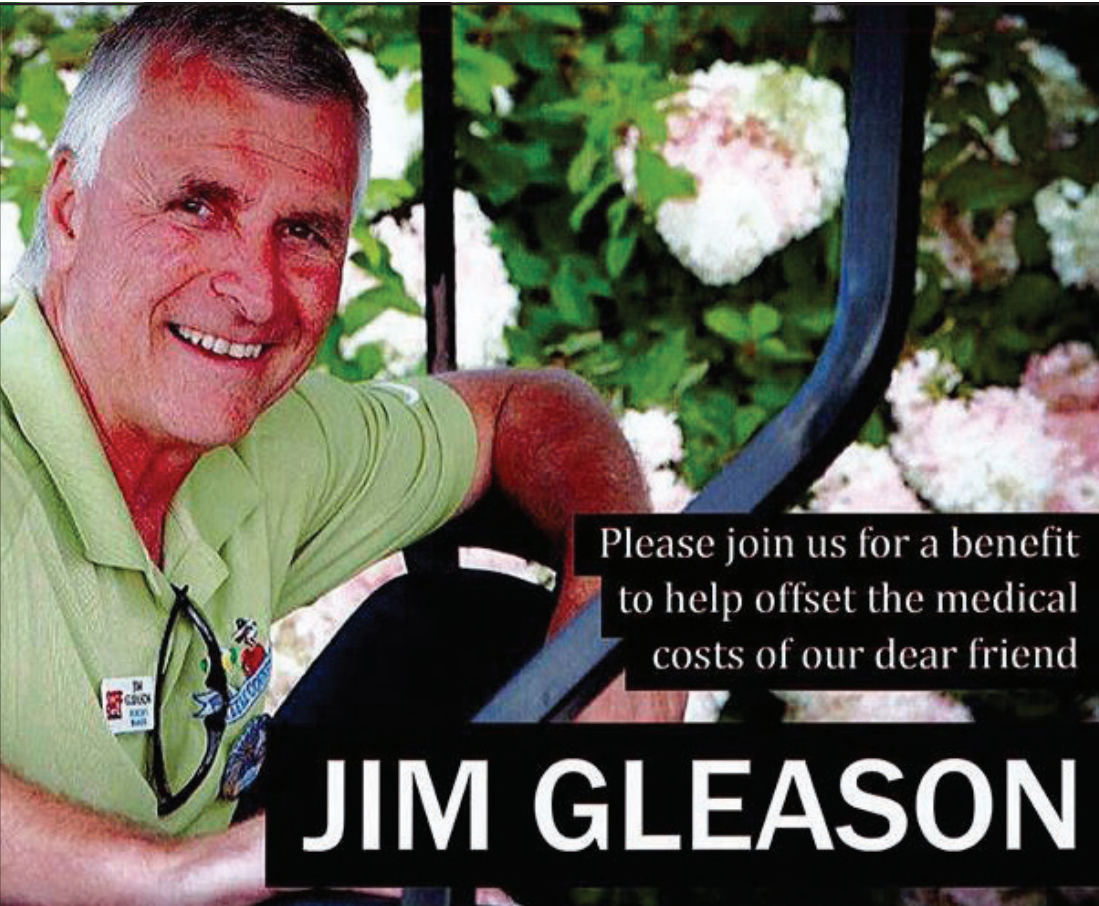
Please join us for a special viewing of the St. John's Heritage Bible

Koda Living Community Open House
Sunday, March 11 – 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
2255 30th St. NW, Owatonna
507-444-4200

Park Place Senior Living Open House
Thursday, March 8 – 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
125 Park St., Owatonna
507-451-0808







Please join us for a benefit to help offset the medical costs of our dear friend

JIM GLEASON

Live & Silent auction

Items for donation may be dropped off at the Steele County Free Fair office Monday - Friday 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Donations accepted until Feb. 28

Meal & admission

\$10 per ticket. Tickets available at the Steele County Free Fair office. Kottke Jewelers, KC Hall, from a fair board member and at the door.

Donations

Cash Donations can be mailed to the Steele County Free Fair office or Community Bank Owatonna, 640 West Bridge Street. Donate online via GoFundMe: Jim Gleason's Medical Fund.

SATURDAY MARCH 3

RETROFIT
(Old WalMart Building)
1010 Hoffman Dr. Owatonna

4:00 to 8:00 P.M.

CASH BAR

Thank you for supporting
TEAM GLEASON
Questions: 507-451-5305

Applicants sought for local summer apprentice

Applicants for summer conservation apprentice positions throughout Minnesota need to apply by next week, including those interested in working at Mower Soil & Water Conservation District in Austin.

Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa is accepting applications through March 2 for young adults, ages 18 to 25, for summer apprentice positions at 31 host locations with Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) offices in the state.

Mower SWCD was approved for a third-straight year by Conservation Corps to host and mentor an apprentice, who will serve from May 15 to Aug. 10. Apprentices spend the summer working with SWCD natural resource professionals to learn hands-on skills in managing soil and water resources.

“Our office really has enjoyed and greatly benefited from hosting a Conservation Corps apprentice,” Mower SWCD district manager Justin Hanson said. “It’s not only an outstanding experience for the apprentice to gain skills and knowledge but also truly helpful to our staff to get work done during what’s always a busy summer.”

Since 2011, Mower County is one of 56 counties in Minnesota that have hosted a Conservation Corps apprentice. Mower SWCD and other SWCDs train and mentor the future conservation professionals by



providing the apprenticeship service opportunities.

This summer, the apprentice with Mower SWCD will work with Mower County landowners on conservation seeding and help with several water-monitoring projects in the Cedar and Root River watersheds.

The apprentice also will assist with checking conservation easements and newly established buffers as well as help with a soil-health research project getting launched this year.

Applicants can designate sites they are willing to work; other nearby host sites include Winona and

Fillmore SWCD offices.

Conservation Corps pays each apprentice a \$1,355 monthly stipend. Once a term is completed successfully, apprentices will get a \$1,538 education award to use toward qualifying education and student loan expenses.

The summer apprentice program is funded through the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund and LCCMR.

Management projects for apprentices might include service and groundwater monitoring; wetland and watercourse inventories and assessments; preparation for cost-share and easement programs; field surveying and site inspections; and coordinating educational programs. They also might communicate with landowners to develop management plans, gather input on best practices and provide education materials on water resources.

Those interested can get more information at www.conservationcorps.org/apprentice-academy and complete an application online at www.conservationcorps.org/apply. Applications are due by March 2.

Conservation Corps provides meaningful work for young people in managing natural resources, responding to disasters, conserving energy and leading volunteers. It gives training in resource management, safety, job-readiness and technical skills as well as helps young people develop personal responsibility, a strong work ethic and greater awareness of environmental stewardship.

COLLEGE NEWS

Area students shine in academics at various colleges

RIVERLAND COLLEGE

Riverland Community College announces the students whose academic achievement placed them on the 2017 fall president’s and dean’s lists.

Students named to the President’s List are Shauna Christiansen, Alicia Ptacek and Jesse Schewe of Blooming Prairie and Wyatt Grundmeier of Waltham.

Area students included on the Dean’s List are Kathryn Borchert, Nicole Louks, Alexis Shaw and Zachary Sisler of Blooming Prairie and Ann Meyer of Waltham.

To be eligible for the president’s list students must have completed 12 credits per semester with letter grades and have earned a GPA of 4.0. To be eligible for the dean’s list students must take 12 credits and have a GPA of 3.25 to 3.99.

Riverland is located with campuses in Albert Lea, Austin and Owatonna.

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY

Brianna Hoveland and Nicholas Srsen of Blooming Prairie have been named to the Fall 2017 Dean’s List at Bemidji State University. A total of 1,123 students earned such a distinction.

At Bemidji, students must be enrolled for at least 12 credits and earn a 3.5 GPA for the semester.

LUTHER COLLEGE

Camden Heimerman of Blooming Prairie has been named to the fall semester Dean’s List at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. To be named to the Dean’s List, students must earn a semester GPA of 3.5 or better and must complete 12 credit hours.

Luther is a national liberal arts college with enrollment of 2,050.

DRAKE UNIVERSITY

Brooke Otterson of Blooming Prairie was among students named to the Dean’s List at Drake University in Des Moines. The honor is achieved by earning a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Drake enrolls more than 3,200 undergraduates and 1,700 graduate students.

MINNESOTA STATE-MANKATO

Four students from the Blooming Prairie area have been named to the Fall 2017 Dean’s List at Minnesota State University in Mankato.

Lindsey Schiefert was named to the high honor list. She is a junior majoring in special education: academic and behavioral strategy.

Included on the honor list are Leah Schiefert, sophomore, dental hygiene; Emily Sprau, freshman, psychology; Matthew Walters, senior, accounting and management.

Students qualifying for the high honor list must achieve a straight 4.0 average while the honor list includes students earning a 3.5 to 3.99 average.

AREA STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE

Two area students have graduated from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth.

Stephanie Nelson and Megan Grubish of Owatonna graduated during Fall Commencement ceremonies at the college on Dec. 16. Both of them graduated with bachelor’s degrees in nursing.

Among the undergraduates the most popular majors were nursing, social work and management.

The College of St. Scholastica is nationally recognized for quality.

How will our winter affect the Japanese beetle?

Do you shudder when you hear the two little words, “Japanese beetle?” You’re not alone. Gardeners in Minnesota have had issues with these little buggers for the past few years. The Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*), is a common scarab beetle, which is causing issues in local gardens, yards, and more recently, in soybean fields.

We see the damage caused by adult Japanese beetles – they feed between leaf veins, resulting in a lace-like appearance, and they effectively skeletonize plants. Heavy infestations can cause significant defoliation; they eat leaves until there is little to no leaf left, which can cause plant death or in the case of soybeans, reduced yield. We typically see adults from around July to August. What we don’t see, or usually think about, is their larval stage.

Japanese beetles are in the family scarabidae (scarab family), which includes dung beetles and June beetles. Larvae of beetles in the scarab family are collectively known as “white grubs.” We don’t often think about beetles in their larval stages, because they are out of sight and out of mind. They live unseen, in the soil, and eat grass roots as voraciously as their adult parents eat leaves. Japanese beetles spend a good portion of their lives underground as larvae, and their main objectives are to eat and to stay alive until they can pupate and emerge as adults in the summer.

In their effort to live through the winter, larvae burrow down in the soil below the frost line. Grubs usually dig down 2 to 8 inches, but if the cold weather is consistently bitter, they might move down as far as a foot into the soil to avoid freezing to death. They submerge deeper and deeper into the soil to outrace the descending frost line, because if soil temperatures dip below 15° F, they may die. We’ve had air temperatures far below 15° F (down to negative 16° F to be precise) throughout January and February, but it’s important to keep in mind that topsoil and snow act as insulators, protecting soil-dwelling critters from extreme cold.

We thought maybe our cold weather was good for something, but it turns out that extremely cold air temperatures might not be enough to kill our insect pests. However, the warmer weather we’ve been getting periodically throughout the winter serves as more than a small relief



On The Farm
CLAIRE
LACANNE



PHOTO: RUSS OTTENS, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA.
BUGWOOD.ORG



PHOTO: DAVID CAPPAERT, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY.
BUGWOOD.ORG

Figure 1. Japanese beetle adult (top) and grub (bottom).

from the bitter cold. Variable weather can confuse Japanese beetles. We’ve had temperatures anywhere from 16° F below to 44° F above zero, and this erratic weather creates the perfect conditions for confusing our soil critters.

A span of warm temperatures encourages beetle larvae to move upward toward the soil surface, and if this warm streak is followed by a nasty cold snap, the larvae are in a position in the ground where the sudden cold kills them. So far, we’ve had several of these freeze/thaw cycles, which means we might just have fewer Japanese beetles to battle in our fields and gardens this year.

Claire LaCanne is the agricultural extension educator for Steele and Rice counties. Her column appears in this newspaper on a regular basis.

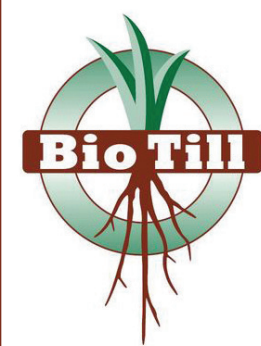


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STEELE COUNTY PUBLIC RECORDS - SEPTEMBER 2017

BIRTHS	DEATHS
Garrison Keith Wetzel, Parents: Trisha and Devin, Sept. 1. Aubrey Marianna Montes, Parent: Handy Escobar, Sept. 1. Caroline Ann Underwood, Parents: Kelsey and Adam, Sept. 4. Maddyx David Fogal, Parents: Krista and Dustyn, Sept. 4. Corbyn Daniel Lynch, Parents: Kerri and Tyler, Sept. 6. Manha Abdikadir Mohamed, Parents: Habiba Mohamed and Abdikadir Abdi, Sept. 7. Jayden David Skala, Parents: Diane and Nathan, Sept. 8. Lily Jean Schroer, Parents: Tracy and Brandon, Sept. 8. Mila Marie Fell, Parents: Cassie and Tyler, Sept. 8. Leliana Shea Macy, Parents: MyKayla and Jacob, Sept. 9. Leroy Jerome Riley, Parent: Alison Verstegen, Sept. 11. Arlo Darvin Hernandez, Parent: Cory Segner, Sept. 12. Aida Elise Braband, Parents: Holly and Travis, Sept. 14. Klayton David Harty, Parents: Brittany Johnson and Wyatt Harty, Sept. 15. Lilah Jane Schwab, Parents: Ariana and Ryan, Sept. 16. Christian Jay Haberman, Parents: Samantha and Cody, Sept. 17. Jaxon Everett Robran, Parents: Brianna and Darren, Sept. 20. Mumtaaz Bashir Hassan, Parents: Fatuma Dahir and Bashir Kheir, Sept. 20. Quinn Amelia Adams, Parents: Kateline and Joel, Sept. 23. Nicolas Fernandez, Parents: Jenna and Seti, Sept. 26. Alec Marcel Zimmer, Parents: Lorraine Huerta and Ryan Zimmer, Sept. 29. Bailee Louise Kaiser, Parents: Kelsie and Christopher Sept. 29. Sagal Mohamed Abdi, Parents: Fadumo Omar and Mohamed Shakur, Sept. 29. Steele County Deaths	Lorraine Gertrude Quinlan, 88, Faribault, Sept. 1. Leona Mary Eustice, 92, Owatonna, Sept. 4. Marilyn Irene Thorason, 91, Blooming Prairie, Sept. 7. Judy Elizabeth Tetzloff, 63, Faribault, Sept. 9. Helen Dene Miller, 90, Owatonna, Sept. 9. Dorothy Jane Johnson, 93, Blooming Prairie, Sept. 9. Richard Wayne Binstock, 60, Owatonna, Sept. 10. Robert Marcus Laugeson, 76, Owatonna, Sept. 10. Terry Gene Wiese, 74, Owatonna, Sept. 11. Gary Dean Sticha, 75, Owatonna, Sept. 11. Gerald Henry Elsner, 78, Owatonna, Sept. 11. Maynard Charles Burt, 96, Owatonna, Sept. 14. James Ralph Blanshan, 90, Owatonna, Sept. 16. Shirley Mary St. Martin, 80, Faribault, Sept. 16. Constance Salome Albright, 94, Kenyon, Sept. 22. Janice Mary Wolf, 74, Owatonna, Sept. 27. Richard Curtis Wandrey, 66, Owatonna, Sept. 28. Donald Lee Zeise, 70, Owatonna, Sept. 29. Joseph Ballard McDilda, 89, Owatonna, Sept. 30. Steele County
MARRIAGES	Joseph Daniel Aul and Kristine Elizabeth Peterson, Sept. 2. Casey Thomas Goff and Angelica Maria Lopez, Sept. 2. Zachary Michael Noble and Erin Patton Hall, Sept. 3. Nicholas Jacob Emond and Cherylyn Kay Jorgensen, Sept. 3. Jonathon Paul Schmidt and Kimberly Ann Murphy, Sept. 9. Kayla Deann Widmar and Eric Alton Wobschall, Sept. 9. Nicholas Ray Ballstadt and Holly Jean Lysne, Sept. 9. Keith Robert Billing and Taylor Rae Meurer, Sept. 9. Nicholas Leith Brown and

Haylee Mae Lantz, Sept. 9. John Dirk Terpstra and Rachael Lynn Hafften, Sept. 9. Heron Nick Martinez and Stephanie Angelic Zepeda, Sept. 12. Jason Jay Ryks and Tracy Jo Gunderson, Sept. 13. Julio Cordova III and Robert Kenneth Jones, Sept. 14. Terrance H. Wipf and Marilyn Leah Decker, Sept. 15. Juan Antonio Ramirez Vargas and Bonnie Mejia, Sept. 15. Derek John Strohschein and Kristina Jo Tuma, Sept. 16. Samuel James Garbers and Lauren Ashley Mischke, Sept. 16. Kayla Marie Kaufman and Nicholas Raymond Harenza, Sept. 16. Marcus Lowell Twaddle and Katie Marie Wagoner, Sept. 16. Matthew Jens Jensen and Sadie Jo Kubat, Sept. 16. Kirby Dale Sorensen and Melanie Lee Krempges, Sept. 16. Mitchell Lee Hannover and Whitney Marie Kubat, Sept. 16. Melinda Louann Mallory and Eric Ervan Wiese, Sept. 17. Jesse Dylan Kaderlik and Erica Nicole Anderson, Sept. 20. Savannah JoyceSarah Goodwin and Kyle James Shaw, Sept. 22. Thomas Jeffry Camery and Miranda Jean Goff, Sept. 22. Zachary Steven Lawson and Mikayla Rose Bock, Sept. 23. Terri Kay Nelson and Christian Michael Nordquist, Sept. 23. Jay Duane Brunner and Mallorie Nicole Ulferts, Sept. 23. Karl Laszlo Wurdak and Della Althea Johnson, Sept. 23. Jordan Elizabeth Wentte and Burgin Masaichi Russell, Sept. 23. Jasmine Nichole Vaupel and Jamie Duane Knutson, Sept. 25. Jason David Wilker and Melissa Ann Broton, Sept. 26. Brandon Lee Pudil and Hayley Marie Schmidt-Macelroy, Sept. 28. Erin Paige Watkins and Jose Primo Soto, Sept. 29. Andrew Thomas Nims and	Stephanie Kay Blaha, Sept. 30. Anna Marie Tuma and Jesse Bertram Pike III, Sept. 30. Phillip William Hildebrandt and Kathryn Constance Uber, Sept. 30. Charles Vernie Earles and Tomine Kathleen Erredge, Sept. 30. Steele
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DIVORCES

Ashley Ann Hill and Brian Patrick Hill. Anna Joy Ulrich and Zachary Hugh Ulrich. Kelli Lynn Snorek and Keith Thomas Snorek. Cody Mitchell Honsey and Chelsea Marie Honsey. Angela Marie McCampbell and Joshua Eugene McCampbell. Jennifer Lorraine Emmons and Marc Howard Emmons. Brian Walter Fisher and Lisa Lynn Fisher. Devin Sarah Hanneman and Anthony John Hanneman. Kenneth Charles Vail and Rebecca Mary Vail. Briana Marie Delbridge and Jeffrey Michael Delbridge. Benjamin Josiah Block and Cilla Celeste Block Day. Desirae Jean Haukaas and Kenneth Ray Haukaas.

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FORECLOSURE

17-107902

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: March 30, 2016
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$100,708.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Jill H. Haubenschild, an unmarried woman
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 100273872511026742
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Envoy Mortgage, LTD
SERVICER: PHH Mortgage Corporation
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed April 4, 2016, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000406888
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: PINGORA LOAN SERVICING LLC
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 2 and the West 7 feet of Lot 1, in Hansen's Addition to the Village (now City) of Blooming Prairie
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 116 5th St NW, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-110-0102
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$103,578.53
THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 22, 2018, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060
to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on September 22, 2018, or the next business day if September 22, 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: January 23, 2018
PINGORA LOAN SERVICING LLC
Assignee of Mortgagee

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

1/30, 2/6, 2/13
2/20, 2/27, 3/6

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 26, 2010
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$121,042.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Joel R. Garten and Denise M. Karlen-Garten, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on February 2, 2010 as Document Number A000369164 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE:

Assigned to: None.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 9, Block 1, Willowbrook Addition No. 2, Steele County, Minnesota.
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 630 LEE ST NE, OWATONNA, MN 55060-6221
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$114,153.79
TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-500-0109
TRANSACTION AGENT’S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 27, 2018 at 10:00 AM.
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff’s Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota.
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 27, 2018.
THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR’S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

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

Dated: February 1, 2018
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.
By: _____
Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Corbin C. Smith, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(18-0067-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

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

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

18-108511

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 11, 2014
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$123,469.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Jarad Sikel and Caitlin Sikel, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 100867100130181025
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: American Mortgage & Equity Consultants, Inc.
SERVICER: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed April 15, 2014, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000396488
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing on South line of Vine St., 8 rods East of East line of Maple St., & running South parallel with Maple St. 8 rods; thence East 4 rods; North 8 rods; West 4 rods to beginning (Located in Lot 1 in NE ¼ of SW ¼ of Sec. 10-107-20)
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 415 E Vine St, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-010-3108
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$119,522.82

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 29, 2018, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff’s Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060
to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on September 29, 2018, or the next business day if September 29, 2018 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: February 2, 2018
PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
Assignee of Mortgagee

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

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

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

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

That the original principal amount secured by said mortgage was \$104,800.00; that there has been compliance with any condition precedent to acceleration of the debt secured by said mortgage and foreclosure of said mortgage required by said mortgage, any note secured thereby, or any statute; that no action or proceeding to recover the debt remaining 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. Heinzerling
Atty. No. 142475
Attorneys for Mortgagee
250 Marquette Avenue, Suite 1200
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

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

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 31, 2010
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$176,912.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Ronald D. Mead and Michelle J. Mead a/k/a Michelle J. Zolnosky, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on September 3, 2010 as Document Number A000373333 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing at the Northwest corner of Northwest Quarter of Northwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter of Section 1, Township 105, Range 21, Steele County, Minnesota, running thence North 89 degrees 53' East (assumed bearing) along the North line of the Northeast Quarter 318.0 feet, thence South 0 degrees 00' West 548.0 feet, thence South 89 degrees 53' West 318.0 feet to the West line of Northeast Quarter, thence North 0 degrees 00' East along West line 548.0 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 4.0 acres more or less Subject to existing public road rights of way on the North.
Assessor's Parcel Number: 03-001-1401.
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 4683 108TH ST SW, ELLENDALE, MN 56026-2015
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$111,406.41
TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 03-001-1401
TRANSACTION AGENT’S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 10, 2018 at 10:00 AM.
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff’s Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota.
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the date of sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on April 10, 2019.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR’S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL

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

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

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

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

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

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

18-108743

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: \$60,309.71
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 5, 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 5, 2018, or the next business day if October 5, 2018 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

Kris Schmitz
Registrar
2/9/2018

ASMITH, TOLLEFSON, RAHRICK & CASS
Mark J. Rahrick (MN # 252402)
108 W Park Sq., Ste. A,
Owatonna, MN 55060
Telephone: (507) 451-6540
e-mail: mark@owatonnalaw.com
ATTORNEY FOR
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

2/20, 2/27

"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 16, 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

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

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

**DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PROBATE DIVISION**

**Court File Number:
74-PR-18-261**

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

**In Re: Estate of
Marcella Magdalyn Trandem
Decedent**

Notice is given that an Application for Informal Probate of Will and Informal Appointment of Personal Representative was filed with the Registrar, along with a Will dated May 17, 2011 . The Registrar accepted the application and informally appointed Marvin John Trandem , whose address is 1313 SW 18th Street SW, Faribault MN 55021, to serve as the personal representative of the Decedent’s estate.

Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Any objection to the appointment of the personal representative must be filed with the Court, and any properly filed objection will be heard by the Court after notice is provided to interested persons of the date of hearing on the objection.

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

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

Kris Schmitz
Registrar
2/9/2018

ASMITH, TOLLEFSON, RAHRICK & CASS

Mark J. Rahrick (MN # 252402)
108 W Park Sq., Ste. A,
Owatonna, MN 55060
Telephone: (507) 451-6540
e-mail: mark@owatonnalaw.com
ATTORNEY FOR
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

2/20, 2/27

NOTICE

NOTICE OF TOWNSHIP ELECTION AND ANNUAL MEETING

WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP

Annual meeting notice is hereby given that the Township of Westfield Township in the County of Dodge, State of Minnesota will be held on the second Tuesday of March being the 13th day of March , 2018 at 3:00pm. Polls will open at the close of the Annual meeting and close at 8:00 pm to elect the following officers for the following terms.

- One Supervisor for a three (3) year term.
- One Clerk for a One (2) year term.

Business meeting at 3:00 pm to transact town business as required or permitted by law.

John Fouarge (Clerk)
Westfield Township
C/O 75020 118th Ave
Blooming Prairie , MN 55917

2/20, 2/27

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DODGE COUNTY PRINTING, wedding invitations, bumper stickers, graduation invitations, pens, can holders, letterheads, envelopes, business cards, carbon-less forms, computer stationery. Ask about other items available, 507-634-2661. 33tfc
HAVE YOU TAKEN LN-VOKANA and suffered any serious side effects? Call 507-573-4551 to speak with a lawyer. You may be entitled to compensation.

WANTED

CROP LAND TO RENT. Paul & David Stanton Farms are looking to expand existing corn and soybean operation in Hayfield and surrounding area. Call Paul Stanton at 507-951-0914 or David Stanton 507-951-0915. 46tfc
CROP LAND TO RENT, sharecrop, or custom farm. Shamrock Farms: call Tim at 507-259-1169. 47tfc

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Mantorville Location

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

FAHI is seeking applicants for

Human Service Technician -

Part-time Various, every other weekend

Responsibilities include but not limited to:

- Advocate and provide support to promote the needs, interests, and preferences of the person(s) served.
- Have an understanding of the person respecting each person's history, dignity, and cultural background.



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

For additional information
call Mindy 507-429-8962

Fourth Avenue Homes, Inc. (FAHI)

Mantorville Location

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

FAHI is seeking applicants for

Program Coordinator -

Full-Time Day every other weekend

Responsibilities include but not limited to:

- Manage the daily operations of the home
- Implementation of the person's active treatment plans
- Monitor and assure all medications and treatments are administered and documented in compliance with the license holders Medication Administration Policy and Procedures

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

For additional information
call Mindy 507-429-8962



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position:	Accounting Technician
Starting Wage:	\$22.69 per hour
Contact:	Kevin Bushard, Human Resources Manager Telephone: 507-333-0354 Email: kbushard@ci.faribault.mn.us
Application Deadline:	Received by Friday, March 2, 2018 by 4p.m.

The City of Faribault has an opening for an Accounting Technician in the Finance Department. This position performs skilled accounting tasks involving the application of governmental accounting principles to the maintenance of financial accounts and records. Responsible with minimal supervision for the preparation and processing of utility billing, accounts payable and receivable, cash receipts, capital assets, special assessments, general accounting reconciliations and other related accounting tasks.

Minimum qualifications:

- Two years related accounting experience
- Two years experience with accounting software and data entry

Preferred Qualifications

- Associate degree or higher in business or accounting
- Two years municipal accounting experience

Application Instructions

Applicants must submit a letter of interest, resume and complete City application packet to be eligible for this position. Application packets are available at www.faribault.org or at Faribault City Hall, 208 NW First Avenue, Faribault, MN 55021. Application materials must be mailed or dropped off at the above address to be considered.

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STEELE COUNTY Times

DODGE COUNTY INDEPENDENT



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We are a growing company.

We are looking to hire two individual people
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HOURS are 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. on
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MANTORVILLE:

HOURS are *Sundays* 9:30 p.m. to 11 p.m./11:30 p.m.;
Tuesday through Thursday, 10 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. or
12 a.m.; *Friday and Saturday*, 11 p.m./11:30 p.m.
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Please leave a message or text
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KASSON, 1 BR apt, laundry on-site, off street parking, heat included, must be 62+ or handicapped/disabled, rent based on income, equal housing opportunity, call 507-634-4188. 42tfc
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DODGE COUNTY INDEPENDENT

STEELE COUNTY Times

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Troy (Ostrander) 507-657-2234

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DODGE COUNTY ADVANTAGE

STEELE COUNTY Times

DODGE COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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A campaign team from Gopher Sport led an informative and fun-filled campaign for co-workers. Members of the team included: (left to right) Laura Fletcher, Brianna Isaacson, Mackenzie Follmuth, Cali PirkI, Ashely Sands, Julie Riley, Michael Ewen and Joe Mongeau.

More big donations pour in for United Way



Above, ERA Gillespie employees made a generous donation to the United Way of Steele County. Making the donation included: front row (left to right): Connie Knutson, Anel Beascochea and Brenda Solomon; second row: Stephanie Woodrich, Erin Gillespie, Heidi Seykora and Tracy Steinberg; back row: Mark Woodrich, Jennifer Herr, Barry Gillespie, Jason Young and Justin Ohnstad. Missing due to illness were Jose Escobedo and Sid Schroeder.

At right, Employees from Jostens have given \$14,000 to the United Way. Along with a corporate donation of \$3,500, the total contribution puts Jostens as number six in the Top 20 of Most Generous Workplaces. Jostens workers involved in the United Way campaign were front row (left to right): Frenchie Ogdahl, Ashley Skala and Angie Snow; back row: Jennie Favro, Brenda Hager, Jim Jandro, Krystal Clemens and Kelly Olson. Missing were Barb Meier, Liz Peterson, Jennye Savoie, Amy Richter, Shannon Guy, Angel Hogate, Chris Neste, Kassi Gilormini, Eric Farrington and Gisela Phillips.

Three area businesses have made big donations to the United Way of Steele County. Gopher Sport of Owatonna has donated \$20,373, which includes \$11,373 from employees and a corporate contribution of \$9,000. The Gopher Sport campaign team led an informative and fun-filled campaign for co-workers. Gopher Sport finished in fourth place in the United Way's 2017 Top 20 Most Generous Workplaces. "Year after year, Gopher Sport and its employees demonstrate their commitment to our community through their generosity to our campaign," said Kim Schaufenbaul, director of United Way. "We are thankful for their support." Jostens workers pulled together \$14,007. With a corporate donation of \$3,500, Jostens total contribution to United Way ended at \$17,507, placing it number six on the most generous workplace list. Jennie Favro led the workplace campaign for Jostens. Said Schaufenbuel, "Jostens employees demonstrate their commitment to our community through their loyal generosity. They are a long-term partner we know we can count on." Employees of ERA Gillespie also made a generous donation totaling \$3,125 to the United Way campaign combined with a corporate donation of \$1,500, bringing their total contribution to \$4,625. ERA Gillespie Real Estate is one of the longest supporting businesses to United Way. "Year after year, ERA Gillespie employees demonstrate their commitment to community betterment through their generosity," said Schaufenbuel. "Their loyalty gives evidence that UWSC is an important community asset." The mission of the United Way of Steele County is to change lives by mobilizing and optimizing the caring power of our community. This year's raised funds of \$745,122 will fund 24 critically needed programs operated by local nonprofit agencies. To make a contribution go to www.unitedwaysteelecounty.org or mail a check or pledge to United Way, Box 32, Owatonna, MN 55060 or text UWSC to 40403.

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