



County searches for volunteers to assist domestic abuse victims

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Crisis Resource Center of Steele County is searching for volunteers to help when responding to victims of abuse and violence in the county's rural areas like Blooming Prairie, Medford and Ellendale.

CRC Executive Director Sara Colby said the volunteers would be responsible for answering the 24-hour crisis line and responding to victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault when the center is closed. The idea of adding more volunteers in the rural areas of the county came up at last month's Blooming Prairie City Council

meeting. City attorney Jason Iacovino informed council members that the county would like to add multiple volunteers to assist with domestic violence in Blooming Prairie as well as other areas of the county. "It's a great way to give back to your community and others in needs," Colby said. "Anyone can be the victim of domestic violence.

Abuse does not discriminate: it crosses all education levels, ages, races, sexes, religions, abilities and economic classes." According to CRC, one in four women and one in nine men are victims of domestic violence in their lifetimes, and on average, it takes an individual at least seven times to leave an abusive situation for good. Colby said volunteers are required

to take part in 40 hours of training that is a combination of DVDs and literature to learn how to respond to sexual assault and domestic violence situations. "They can do it on their time in the comfort of their own home," she said. "At the end of the training we always take them around and show

SEE VOLUNTEERS, A3

Police urge retailers to improve security

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Security cameras can be one of the most crucial evidence-gathering tools for law enforcement. And to make sure retailers are armed with the proper equipment to catch criminals, a local police agency is ready to step in and help before a crime even occurs. The Owatonna Police Department is giving out 50 analog surveillance cameras to help area businesses enhance existing systems, or begin a new surveillance system.

Detective Christian Berg, who specializes in retail theft for Owatonna Police, is coordinating the giveaway. As a member of

SEE SECURITY, A3



Owatonna Police is making 50 of these analog surveillance cameras available to local retailers to improve their security systems. The cameras came as part of a grant through the Twin Cities Organized Crime Association, which the Owatonna Police Department is a member of.

An artic wagon ride

STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

Last week's artic blast didn't keep some from venturing outside. It may be brutal to go outside in the below zero temperatures, but some tough youngsters welcome the challenge because they are dressed for it. Finnian Stitt, 9, of Ellendale pulls his little sister, Keela Stitt, 2, down an Ellendale street in the bitter cold. Temperatures are expected to moderate this week before dipping down again this weekend.



STAFF PHOTO: CHRIS BALDWIN

Dakota Thiele helps a student with his safety check Saturday in Hope. The Steele County Trail Association, along with Steele County Sno-Blazers Snowmobile Club, hosted an annual safety course for snowmobile enthusiasts. The one request everyone had—more snow is needed!

Snowmobile groups promote safe riding

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Some Minnesotans yearn for spring while others hope only for snow to utilize their favorite winter toys. Snowmobiles have long been a staple of these cold Minnesota winter months, and proper safety, maintenance, and understanding of rules and regulations go hand in hand with snowmobile operation. This past Saturday, the Steele County Trail Association, in partnership with the Steele County Sno-Blazers Snowmobile Club, held an annual safety course for both old and young alike. There was an indoor classroom session followed by an outdoor hands-on testing portion. Kristi Fiebiger, who has been participating at the

event for 23 years, explains that the age range of students typically spans between 11 to 14 years, although adults and older riders are welcome to attend and earn their certification. The youngest one can be when attending the class is 11 years old, and those who are over the age of 16 are only required to complete the written portion. They will then receive a certified endorsement on their driver's license. Those below the age of 16 receive a safety certificate when they reach the age of 12. Fiebiger joked that, although most people go through the proper channels when it's time to learn safety and earn their certification, there are still those who wait until they get fined to do so. Additional options are available for those looking to

SEE SNOWMOBILE, A3

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New platform available for area farmers to get timely information

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A new format has become available for area farmers to receive relevant information about agriculture. Beginning this month, Steele County agriculture extension educator Claire LaCanne is developing a new electronic newsletter to help farmers in Steele and Rice counties get timely information. The e-newsletter, LaCanne said, was designed to share information, which is relevant to farmers as well as any other stakeholders in agriculture. According to LaCanne, the e-newsletter will include news articles from the University of Minnesota Extension, which are relevant to the area. There will also be a calendar of upcoming ag events in the area. Links to useful resources, contact information and web pages are also included for convenience. "We hope that it's useful so it can help farmers with their decision making on various farming operations," LaCanne said. "This Ag Update e-newsletter will help farmers and ag stakeholders who want research-based data receive timely information in an easily accessible format."

LaCanne said she considers one of her main roles as an extension educator to get research data out to farmers. "We hope they value getting research based information," she said. The newsletter will be published once every two months. Those interested in receiving the newsletter can register at www3.extension.umn.edu/county/steele. The sign up for Ag Update for Rice and Steele counties e-newsletter is located under the related links section of the home page. LaCanne admits she didn't come up with the idea on her own. "I got it from another county educator," she said. "I thought it was a good idea to have a consistent platform for University events and research," she added.



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Serving
Blooming Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW

Minnesota roadway deaths lowest in 74 years

Congratulations, Minnesota drivers. Your improved driving habits are making an impact on highway safety across the state and keeping more people alive.

A preliminary figure released by state traffic experts last week indicates Minnesota experienced its lowest number of roadway fatalities in 74 years in 2017. The 348 traffic deaths is the lowest since 1943 when 274 died and second-lowest since 1926 when there were 326 deaths. The most occurred in 1968 when there were 1,060 fatalities.

Of the 2017 Minnesota fatalities, 98 were alcohol-related, 82 speed-related, 80 included unbelted motorists and 16 involved distracted driving, according to state figures.

One of the key reasons for the steep decline in roadway deaths can be attributed to Toward Zero Deaths, an initiative started in 2003. TZD is a multifaceted approach to eliminating roadway deaths through education, roadway engineering and law enforcement. TZD is a foundation to safer roads across our state.

In particular, the TZD effort in southeastern Minnesota has played a critical role in keeping highway deaths down. Regional coordinator Jessica Schleck has done an outstanding job in pulling together law enforcement, engineers, educators and the media to encourage traffic safety as a priority in the lives of Minnesotans.

Another factor for the improving numbers is the ever-improving trauma response and care by ambulance services and medical facilities.

More Minnesotans are staying alive because of the multi-faceted efforts of TZD and other organizations.

On a smaller scale, the Steele County Times has contributed to making the area safer for traveling. In 2016, the Times launched a year-and-a-half campaign on impaired driving. The campaign culminated last August with a special section devoted to the devastating impact drunk driving has on our society.

It's educational efforts like the one we embarked on that will gradually change societal attitudes about impaired driving and other poor driving behaviors, and ultimately keep more people alive.

Together we can make a difference. It's already showing in the lower number of fatalities. And for that Minnesota drivers should feel better about what they're doing behind the wheel.

But it's important to remember we still have room to improve. The 300 plus deaths last year are still far too many.

We need to continue to find ways to drive Minnesota towards zero deaths.

YOUR VIEW

Appreciates chance to change lives

To-the-Editor:

I would like to thank the Boys & Girls Club of Rochester and Blooming Prairie, as well as, the BP Youth Club for giving me the opportunity to change lives of the youth in our great community. Thank you to all who were involved to get me and my family back to Blooming Prairie. We are so glad to be here!

Marcy Sundine
Blooming Prairie



A well-traveled dream catcher

About a month ago the 2017 contest winners for the National Newspaper Association's Better Newspaper Editorial Contest came out by Publishers' Auxiliary, a trade publication for newspapers across the country. As I was flipping through the special section, I was amazed at what I found on page 7.

It was nearly a three-quarter page color photo that I took a few summers ago at the Steele County Free Fair of Hannah Mundt, then 14, of the Pratt Commandoes 4-H Club. She was taking a snooze nestled right up next to her dream catcher—a prize winning Brown Swiss Cow affectionately named Hawaii.

My photo was one of 16 published in this national publication. This has never happened to me in my many years as a journalist.

Earlier last fall, I won a first place award for best feature photo in the National Newspaper Association Contest for weekly newspapers with circulation less than 3,000. In making the selection, judges commented, "Great shot of a sweet moment. Well framed so that the relationship between the human and the animal is captured."

Just last week Publisher's Auxiliary published the rules for the next contest in 2018 in an effort to stimulate newspaper editors and publishers to enter their best stories and photographs of last year. And once again what to my wondering eyes appeared but Mundt's photo. This time it was much smaller than the first run, but still fairly good size.

This was a big deal for me considering that entries poured in from 37 states and 160 newspapers sent in a total of 1,654 entries. Of those entries, 117 newspapers were selected as winners and received a total of 475 awards. The honors were given out back in October in Oklahoma. However, I did not attend.

Finding award-winning photos is no easy task. Of all the thousands of photos I shoot every year, only a handful actually make it into the newspaper to begin with. Those that win awards are even less.

I recall the circumstances surrounding Mundt's cow photo. I was walking around the Steele County Fair with my youngest daughter, Cailyn, then 9 years old, when she stopped me in my tracks and



said, "Dad, there's a photo you need to take." She pointed to a girl curled up by her cow on top of the straw in the dairy building.

I didn't waste any time pulling out my camera and snapping away trying to get that perfect shot for our special fair coverage. Little did I know Mundt's dream catcher would later become published nationally and win a national award.

As you might imagine, I've got my kids well trained in keeping their eye out for photos that will be of interest to readers in the newspaper. Sometimes I think they get tired of me always being on the prowl for great photographs. But, as I remind them, you never know when the great shot is going to smack you in the lenses.

I love photojournalism. It's what I started out doing nearly 40 years ago back at my hometown newspaper while in high school. It excites me to take great quality photos and share them with my readers.

It's time for me to go in hot pursuit of finding some more human interest photos that readers can enjoy and treasure for years to come.



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

There's lots of talent on the Chanhassen stage

Minnesota has become another Broadway of New York with its large array of acting talent.

Much of that acting talent has been showcased at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre in Chanhassen the past 50 years.

I can almost say I remember the early days, having seen Fiddler on the Roof at Chanhassen in the early 1970s.

Judy and I and our two "relleys," Darrell and Cindi Hansen went to Sister Act recently and were again overwhelmed by a Chanhassen performance.

This was our second time to see Sister Act, a divine musical comedy. But, you know what? We saw some different twists to the performance in acting lines and performers.

The first time Judy and I saw Sister Act, Regina Marie Williams played the lead, Deloris Van Cartier. This time, Brianna Graham played the lead and WOW, she was great.

Many of the Sister Act performers have understudies.

One of our favorite cast members is Sister Mary Robert played by Britta Ollmann. She has an exceptional voice and is a tremendous actor. Britta's under study is Laura Rudolph.

Judy and I are familiar with Britta, knowing her father Charlie Ollmann during our residence for over 27 years in Forest Lake. He owns a music store in Forest Lake.

One of the more dynamic performances comes toward the end of the performance when Sister Mary Robert, played by Ollmann, sings "The Life I Never Led."

Some of the Twin Cities play reviewers for the first run of Sister Act praised Ollmann for her performance and said she almost upstaged Williams.

In our estimation, Williams was also almost upstaged by her understudy Brianna Graham. She also plays the role of Tina in Sister Act. She has performed in Hairspray and in Guthrie Theater's The Bluest Eye and Appomattox. She has also performed at the Ordway.

Britta played Cha Cha in Grease, the production before the second run of Sister Act.

She has also performed in Sunday in the Park and in several Guthrie Theater productions. She holds a B.F.A. from New York University and an M.A. in teaching from Hamline University.

If you have never seen a production at Chanhassen Dinner Theatre, make an effort to see



Four Chanhassen Dinner Theatre guests Darrell and Cindi Hansen and Howard and Judy Lestrud recently saw Sister Act #2. They were trying out for an upcoming production but didn't make the cut.

Sister Act before it ends in late February. You will totally enjoy the comedic acting and splendid music performed by all of the actors.

Artistic director Michael Brindisi said, "The spiritual side of me can't help but wonder if God played a hand in our decision to mount this revival of Sister Act, as if to say, 'Perhaps you weren't listening to me.'"

Next production at Chanhassen will be Newsies, a Broadway musical, which opens March 2. Find out more information about the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre by going to the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre website.

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2017 - 2 State Awards
2016 - 6 National Awards,
8 State Awards
2015 - 4 National Awards,
7 State Awards
2014 - 3 National Awards,
3 State Awards
2013 - 2 National Awards,
7 State Awards
2012 - 2 State Awards
2011 - 4 National Award

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



Blooming Prairie's Backpack Program thanked First Lutheran Church for its support of this student help program by serving coffee and goodies after a morning worship service on Dec. 31. From left to right are: Karen Thoen, Kristin Romeo, Karen Peterson, Crystal and Ashton Studer and Kiya Thompson. (Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)

STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

Raising funds for BP Backpack program

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Have some coffee, a cupcake and maybe a cookie to help the Blooming Prairie Schools Backpack Program.

That was the offer given to First Lutheran Church congregation members as they went to coffee on Sunday, Dec. 31. Free-will funds gained from the coffee and goodies provided by Karen Peterson were designated for the Backpack Program, which is soon to turn a year old.

Peterson, coordinator of the Backpack Program, donated the cupcakes and cookies to the cause.

She reports that the program started in February 2017 with 37 students and now has grown to a high of 63 kids.

Faith and Formation students from St. Columbanus Catholic Church pack the backpacks on Wednesday nights when they have class. The amount of students involved varies from week to week. When the kids don't have class, Peterson has volunteers from the community come in and help.

Overall, Peterson says she has about 25 community volunteers

between drivers, packers and other support.

First Lutheran Church and the BP Schools drive the program with the church acting as the fiscal agent.

The program has received very positive feedback, says Peterson.

"Many say the program is helping families get by when they may not have enough. I've been told that it is heartbreaking that there is this need in the community and I've also been told that it is great we've had tremendous financial donations to help sustain the program in the long run."

SNOWMOBILE: *Safe riding*

FROM PAGE A1

learn about snowmobile safety and become certified to operate a sled in the state of Minnesota. These include online certification, which also requires two hours of in-person training. Aside from this, there are other statewide training courses offered.

When it comes to the importance of proper safety techniques and training for potential Minnesota snowmobilers, Fiebiger believes that understanding, and adhering to the rules and regulations is just as paramount as a new driver learning how to properly operate a car.

Fiebiger recalled that when she first started, they used to hold the course over a period of two days. Now, with people becoming busier and busier, the course and its exam are spaced out over the period of a single day. She notes that "having it be an all-day event helps to reward the kids."

This year there were between 50 and 60 participants, including adults. In past years there have been over 100. The volunteers, who help to explain and teach proper techniques and safety measures, as well as aid in the event and its outdoor course, numbered around a dozen or so.

Earlier in the day a few guest speakers were invited, including a representative from the DNR, a father who lost his son in a snowmobile accident, an emergency medical transponder, and a police officer. These guest speakers helped to bring real world experience to the program, which in turn can inspire better safety measures by the students.

During the class the students learn many aspects of proper snowmobile usage, including information on how weather conditioning can change, where and how most fatalities occur, as well as how to properly read trail signs, and what precautions to take during nighttime hours or inclement weather. These are vital details every Minnesota snowmobiler should understand before going for a ride.

Ed Nelson has been involved in the Steele County Trail Association since 1985. Back then it was known as the Steele County Trail Council. Nelson thankfully notes that he's only seen three fatalities within the county in the 40 odd years since he's been participating in the trail association.

Although Nelson feels that "three deaths is still too many," this relatively low figure may be due in large part to the work that the Sno-Blazers Club, and the Trail Association do in educating future snowmobilers at events like this one.

He recalls that back when he started, in 1985, there was only around 25 miles of trails, and the Trail Council received a \$4,700 grant from the state. Today this has evolved to include 250 miles of trails and an increased grant of \$55,000. Back in the 80s, before there was a Steele County Trail Association, or a building to house its operation, Nelson remembers that they would teach the course in public buildings, including schools and other venues.

The trail association moved into its current building around 2001. Nelson estimates that they've certified over 3,000 people in all the years he's been working there, which is quite an achievement.

According to Nelson, snowmobiling is a great outdoor sport to participate in during winter months, when there are typically less activities available to Minnesotans. He has even met snowmobilers who travel from the southern border all the way up to the boundary waters and back again.

Chris Stangl, president of the Steele County Sno-Blazers Club, said that they will be hosting a free ride event on Feb. 10. The event will begin in Hope around 11 a.m. and proceed to New Richland, then to Manchester, and once again back to Hope. They will have free dinner including pop and chips. Events like this one help to bring together Steele County's snowmobile community, and emphasize the importance of proper riding.

Stangl says that he loves snowmobiling, as well participating in the different events that they hold, but that he's "wishing we had more snow." This might sound rather antithetical to most Minnesotans, but Stangl and his fellow snowmobilers know that good snow cover, and a high volume of it allows the trails to be open, and means a safe and fun year of riding.

Typically the trails will open when there is sufficient snow cover on the ground, usually around a foot or more, and can close again in the following weeks due to melting, weather conditions, or a lack of snow. In order to groom the trails the team utilizes a fleet of seven snow cats, large vehicles used to create and flatten the snow covered trails for sled usage.

The trails also need to be properly marked and mapped, guaranteeing that the conditions for riding will be safe and well plotted out. Stangl reiterates that young, inexperienced riders should always have an updated trail map, plan their trip, and let a family member or friend know the location and time of their ride. For safety reasons, young riders should also keep their rides local.

Stangl has been riding since he was around 13, and recommends that young riders stick more towards private property and utilize proper supervision. When noting all of the participants in the day's class, Stangl thinks its "great to see so many young kids still involved."

Once the written portion of the exam is finished, those below the age of 16 are required to complete the hands-on exam, which requires students to properly perform safety checks, hand signals, and driving techniques in a small, circular route that loops around the trail house.

Two of the volunteers who aided with this portion, brothers Tanner and Dakota Thiele, helped the students through their safety checks and monitored them as they completed the route. Dakota explained that he too was hoping for more snow, but that the weather was otherwise pretty decent.

Snowmobiles are used across the country for different reasons, some for practical concerns including people's livelihoods, and others just for fun and recreation. There are 300,000 registered sleds in Minnesota, and 22,000 miles of trail which extend across the state and connect to Canada, as well as our neighboring states.

For Minnesotans interested in a fun, outdoor activity, a snowmobile ride is a terrific idea. Just remember to receive your state certification, and always ride safely and in groups.

A prayer or two for some snow couldn't hurt either.

SECURITY: *New cameras*

FROM PAGE A1

Twin Cities Organized Crime Association, Berg recently acquired Samsung analog fixed position cameras from the organization to give out to local businesses.

"We're trying to get better surveillance capabilities to businesses," Berg said. "We hope we can provide these to the community to enhance (security systems)."

According to Berg, the cameras need an existing DVR analog system to hook into in order to function. If businesses do not have a current system, they would have to invest in a basic system, which can run as low as \$300, Berg said.

Berg said the cameras are available with no strings attached. "We can get you the cameras and you won't have to pay anything," he said, noting there are no warranties available with the cameras. "We supply them and it's up to you to put them in."

Finding the right number of security cameras for a particular business, Berg said, is dependent on various factors, including the size of the store. He recommends that the cameras be mounted at all points of entry and exit to the store as well as the points utilized to make sales. "You want them where bad guys come in and out and where money is being exchanged," he said.

One place that Berg hopes to improve with the camera giveaway is the Target Store in Owatonna. He said because Target isn't a high volume store compared to larger ones in the Twin Cities metro area, they don't always get the proper equipment. "We want to enhance their capabilities for surveillance," he said.

VOLUNTEERS: *Assist abuse victims*

FROM PAGE A1

them the local resources like the law enforcement station and the emergency room; just different places they might be called to doing the evening or early morning hours."

Volunteers would be responsible for being on-call for a couple of days per month.

Colby said the CRC works in collaboration with the Owatonna and Blooming Prairie Police Departments and the Steele County Sheriff's Office.

"We can help the victims with things like harassment restraining order, orders for protection, safety planning and the things the police don't initially do," she said. "We're not trying to step on officers' toes and they're not trying to step on ours. We are just trying to provide the best services possible to any victims of abuse."

SECURITY CAMERA GIVEAWAY

Available for local retailers

Contact: Detective Christian Berg
Owatonna Police Department
Christian.berg@ci.owatonna.mn.us
507-774-7220

Berg said it's important for local stores to have better surveillance equipment because of the sophistication of criminals. "These organized groups are real good," he said. "They're not dumb criminals and they're very cunning."

The cameras will be dispersed on a first come, first served basis.

When Berg took over as an investigator in August 2016, the department had a 50 percent clearance rate for retail theft. He hopes to make improvements in that area. "It's a large undertaking," he said. "We want to see a decrease in thefts and an increase in clearance rates. We can do better."

Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad said CRC provides great resources for residents of Steele County that also help assist area law enforcement agencies.

"It's a good thing to have available for someone in need," he said. "We're not just out here to arrest and prosecute people. We are here to help. That's what we went into this career wanting to do."

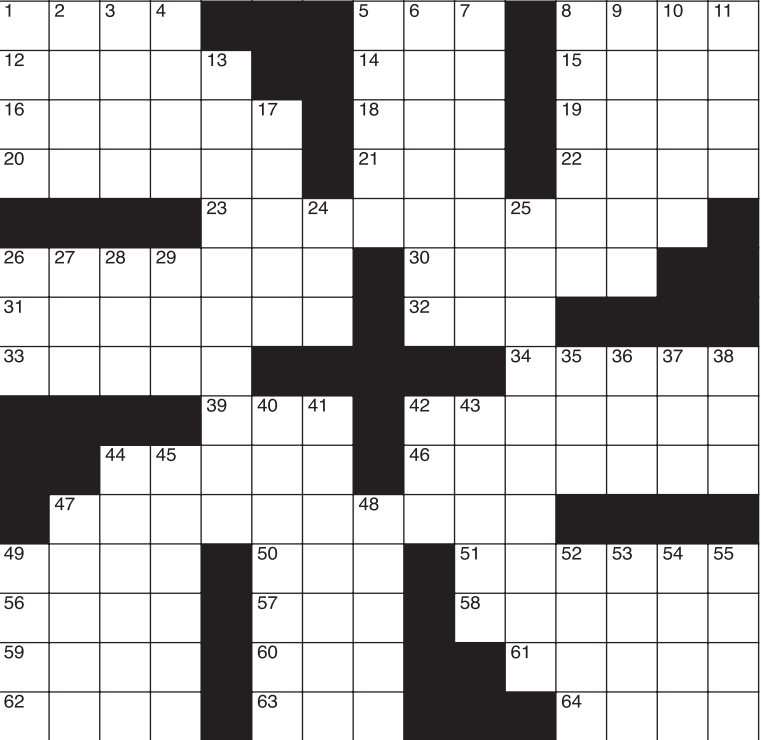
In addition to the 24-hour crisis line, CRC offers programs and support groups for victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault and a number of other services that even includes help with transportation to hospitals, lawyers, clinic and other social service agencies, including emergency transportation to shelters and safe-housing.

All services are free and completely confidential. Anyone interested in helping or in need of help call contact CRC at 507-451-1202.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Make ale
- Residue
- Female parent
- Succulent plants
- OJ's judge
- Czech river
- Embarrassing predicament
- NHL legend Bobby
- Sunfish
- One who acclaims
- On the __: running away
- Oklahoma's "Wheat Capital"
- The Golden State
- Merrymake
- Siberian nomads
- Pock-marked
- Baleen whale
- Leaf-footed bug genus
- Treasure
- Tanzanian shilling
- Changed
- Intestinal pouches
- Walked in a celebratory way
- South American mountain chain
- Jai __ sport
- Consumed
- Firm
- Pubs
- Leafy drink



- Cured
- Northern wind of France
- Tax collector
- Respite from the sun
- American spy Aldrich
- Central Standard Time
- Myanmar ethnic group

CLUES DOWN

- Crush
- Razorbill genus
- "Full House" actress Loughlin
- Bluish green
- Garlic mayonnaise
- Attacks repeatedly
- Secretion
- Special instance

- A handsome youth loved by Aphrodite
- Tree genus in the mahogany family
- Israeli city
- Formed a theory
- Remove
- Type of light
- Repeats
- Certified public accountant
- River in eastern France
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- Special __: military group
- Ribonucleic acid
- Not even
- Power transmission belt
- Doctor of Education
- Type of nerve
- Types of tops
- Large primate
- Flooded, low-lying land
- Gritty
- Gets up
- Stake
- Not the most
- Swedish rock group
- Expresses pleasure
- Expression of boredom
- Queen of Sparta
- Where Adam and Eve were placed at the Creation

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BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

Neglect: On Dec. 30 at 9:39 a.m., a citizen reported that four horses were outside with no protection from the weather in the 62400 block of 190th Ave. in Dodge Center.

CRIME BRIEFS

Man attempting to pick up child from school arrested for DWI

A man suspected of being intoxicated by more than three times the legal limit for driving was stopped before picking up a sick child at school and sent to jail.

Gregg C. Finch, 30, has been charged with two counts of gross misdemeanor DWI in connection with the incident Thursday afternoon.

Owatonna Police responded to a school where Finch allegedly displayed signs of intoxication. Finch left the school, but later returned in his vehicle. Upon his return, he was greeted by a police officer.

The officer saw several signs of intoxication from Finch, according to police reports. Police said Finch failed roadside field sobriety tests.

At the jail Finch provided a breath test of .26, police said.



Gregg C. Finch

domestic assault and terroristic threats, held for court.

Doendrea Harm Williams, 25, arrested at 8:10 a.m. Dec. 25, felony domestic assault by strangulation and domestic assault/assault, held for court.

Julie Ann Flicek, 45, arrested at 12:30 p.m. Dec. 25, felony probation violation warrant arrest, body only.

Jennifer Dawn Ohm, 32, arrested at 12:15 p.m. Dec. 26, theft warrant arrest, \$20,000 bail.

Brandon Lee Stevermer, 23, arrested at 6:42 p.m. Dec. 27, felony violation of supervision order, held for court.

Daniel Lee Berry, 57, arrested at 2:19 a.m. Dec. 28, felony fleeing in motor vehicle and failure to signal lane change, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF Kathryn Michelle Lundstrom, 36, arrested at 6:13 a.m. Dec. 22, probation violation warrant arrest, body only.

Joseph Allen Stenbakken, 31, arrested at 6:12 a.m. Dec. 22, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.

Yennifer Serban, 42, arrested at 9:27 a.m. Dec. 22, warrant arrest, \$5,000 bail.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

Jan. 3
Fraud: Police took a fraud report in the 500 block of 1st St. NE at 7:14 p.m.

Jan. 4
Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct on 7th St. NW at 9:30 p.m.

OWATONNA POLICE

Dec. 28
Pursuit: At 12:53 a.m., police arrested a subject following a pursuit at North St. W. and Oak Ave. N.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 400 block of Vine St. E. at 11:56 a.m.

Suspicion: Officers responded to suspicious activity in the 400 block of Selby Ave. SW at 4:49 p.m. They issued a citation.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 7:29 p.m.

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist following a traffic stop at North St. W. and Hoffman Dr. NW at 11:53 p.m.

Dec. 29
Arrest: Police arrested a motorist following a traffic stop at Mineral Springs Road NE and Robert Bzoscie Parkway at 12:41 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 300 block of Bridge St. W. at 8:02 a.m.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 1:54 p.m.

Trespassing: At 5:31 p.m., police arrested a subject for trespassing in the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW.

Dec. 30
Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Pine Ave. NE at 8:14 a.m. They took a subject into custody.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 300 block of Pylor Place NW at 9:30 a.m.

Hit and Run: Hit and run accidents resulting in property damage occurred at Park St. SE and Elm Ave. S. at 9:31 a.m. and the 700 block of Rolling Green Dr. SE at 3:25 p.m.

Theft: At 1:11 p.m., police received a theft report in the 400 block of 18th St. SE.

Mental Health: Officers responded to a mental health incident at 18th St. SW and Linn Ave. SW at 5:50 p.m.

Fraud: Officer received a report of a fraud incident from the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 7:05 p.m.

Shoplifting: Police arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 7:23 p.m.

DWI: At 11:47 p.m., officers arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at Oak Ave. S.

and Mill St. W.

Dec. 31
Death: Police began a death investigation in the 300 block of Cedardale Dr. SE at 11:02 a.m.

Hit and Run: At 4:51 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 200 block of Oak Ave. N.

Shoplifting: Officers issued a shoplifting citation in the 100 block of Broadway St. W. at 6:31 p.m.

Jan. 1
Suspicion: At 6:34 a.m., police responded to suspicious activity in the 200 block of 13th St. NE. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 200 block of School St. W. at 8:32 a.m.

Hit and Run: Police responded to three hit and run accidents resulting in property damage throughout the day: at Oakdale St. SW and Linn Ave. SW at 5:09 p.m.; the 600 block of Rose St. E. at 7:04 p.m. and Linn Ave. SW and McKinley St. W at 7:25 p.m.

Jan. 2
Hit and Run: A hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 1700 block of Prairie Lane NE at 10:24 a.m.

Trespassing: At 5:15 p.m., police received information of a subject trespassing in the 200 block of Oak Ave. S.

Shoplifting: A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 8:41 p.m.

Jan. 3
Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 12:32 a.m.

Warrant: At 10:35 a.m., police made a warrant arrest in the 200 block of Fremont St. E.

Hit and Run: At 2:11 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Shoplifting: Police arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 3:56 p.m.

Disturbance: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Vine St. E. at 8:54 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Arrest: Officers arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at State Ave. NW and Fairview St. NW at 10:10 p.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported at Oak Ave. S. at Bridge St. W. at 11:15 p.m.

Jan. 4
Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at 24th Ave. NW and Hoffman Dr. NW at 5:44 p.m.

Restraining Order: Police responded to a restraining order violation in the 300 block of 16th St. NE at 12:01 p.m.

Theft: Officer issued a theft citation in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 12:17 p.m.

Arrest: Police assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 1:15 p.m.

Fraud: Officers received a fraud report from the 500 block of Dunnell Dr. NW at 2:04 p.m.

DWI: Police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 1000 block of 22nd St. NE at 3:12 p.m.

Child Protection: At 3:31 p.m., police received a child protection report from the 1000 block of 22nd St. NE.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Dec. 28
Warrants: Deputies made warrant arrest at the detention center at 8:05 a.m. and 12:53 p.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 81000 block of 81st St. SW in Lemond Township at 9 a.m.

Dec. 29
Warrant: Deputy arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant at the detention center at 5:01 a.m.

Crash: At 10:06 a.m., a motor

vehicle accident resulting in property damage at Main St. N. and 2nd Ave. NW in Medford.

Accident: Paramedics and deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Crane Creek Rd. and 72nd Ave. NW in Meriden Township at 6:08 p.m.

Dec. 30
Crash: A motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at 46th St. NE and Kenyon Road in Merton Township at 5:11 p.m.

Dec. 31
Medical: Deputies responded to a medical emergency in the 1000 block of 62nd Ave. SW in Lemond Township at 6:02 p.m.

Jan. 1
Stolen Property: At 7:03 p.m., recovered stolen property was turned into the law enforcement center in Owatonna.

Jan. 2
Warrant: Deputies made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 8:42 p.m.

Jan. 3
Arrest: Deputies arrested a subject in the 100 block of Main St. E. in Owatonna at 3:44 p.m.

Jan. 4
Recovered Property: Stolen property was recovered in the 9000 block of Crane Creek Road in Meriden Township at 11:38 p.m.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Dec. 25 – Jan. 1:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Mark A. Bucher, 56, Mantorville, possession of marijuana, DWI and fleeing peace officer, stay of adjudication, \$1,075, 3 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation; Mary Buckingham-King, 60, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Delaney J. Chomjak, 25, Hayfield, suspended license, \$280; Nicholas C. Goodman, 34, Rush City, possession of marijuana, \$130; Marcus C. Mancilman, 38, Pine Island, possession of marijuana and revoked license, \$1,055, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, cognitive skill training, 90 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Theodore G. Pletta, 54, West Concord, speeding, \$130; Christine A. Ranc, 47, West Concord, speeding, \$220.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Brett K. Meyer, 21, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Brandon C. Nelson, 23, Rochester, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia and revoked license, \$380; Diego Perez, 20, Kasson, possession of marijuana, \$130.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Laverne E. Bender, 23, Mantorville, speeding, \$120; Sidney M. Morrison, 55, Owatonna, seat belt, \$105.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 176 complaints during the week of Dec. 27 and

Jan. 2. Some of them include:

Dec. 28
Narcotics: Deputies found narcotics in the 100 block of Center Ave. N. in Hayfield at 2:47 a.m.

Sex Offense: Deputies responded to a sex offense in the county at 10:16 a.m.

Weapons: Deputies responded to a weapons offense in the 17100 block of 740th St. in Hayfield at 4:53 p.m.

Dec. 29
Animal: Deputies received a complaint of a barking dog in the 400 block of East. St. N. in Claremont at 12:13 p.m.

Child Neglect: At 12:53 p.m., deputies received a report of child neglect in West Concord.

Hit and Run: A hit and run accident occurred in the 200 block of 1st Ave. NE in Dodge Center at 4:55 p.m.

Dec. 30
Assault: Deputies arrested a subject following an arrest in the 100 block of 1st Ave. Circle SW in Dodge Center at 5:55 p.m.

Missing Person: Deputies assisted with a missing person in the 200 block of 2nd St. SE in Hayfield at 11:27 p.m.

Dec. 31
Minor Consumption: At 1:38 a.m., deputy found a minor drinking and driving during a traffic stop at 680th St. and 220th Ave. in Dodge Center.

Jan. 1
Noise: Deputies received a complaint of a noise coming from the sewer line in the 700 block of 2nd St. NW in Dodge Center at 12:21 a.m.

Civil: Deputy assisted with a civil matter on Main St. W. in Hayfield at 9:20 a.m.

Child Endangerment: Deputies received a report of child endangerment in the 800 block of 2nd St. NE in Dodge Center at 5:33 p.m.

Jan. 2
Sex Offense: Deputies responded to a sex offense at 630th St. and Oakview Dr. in Claremont at 1:14 a.m.

Hit and Run: At 7:25 a.m., a citizen reported a SUV hit two cars and drove off in the 200 block of 3rd Ave. NW in Dodge Center.

Threats: At 5:31 p.m., deputies responded to a report of threats and harassment in the 400 block of Meadow Lark Lane in Dodge Center.

OWATONNA FIRE

Dec. 24
Medical: Firefighters assisted with a medical emergency in the 100 block of Park St. E. at 8:09 a.m.

Dec. 25
Fire: Firefighters responded to a building fire in the 200 block of Phelps St. SE at 9:31 a.m.

Mobile Fire: At 11:44 a.m., a mobile home fire occurred in the 1800 block of Rosewood Dr. NW.

Dec. 26
Carbon Monoxide: Fire personnel responded to a carbon monoxide incident in the 300 block of McKinley St. W. at 12:47 p.m.

Dec. 27
Crash: Fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries on Truman Ave. SE at 7:44 p.m.

Short Circuit: At 8:08 p.m., fire personnel responded to a defective short circuit in the 300 block of Grove Ave. S.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Dec. 25 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

William A. Bliss, 31, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony domestic assault-fear, felony domestic assault-harm and felony DANCO violation. Bliss was sentenced to \$381, 90 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation and 5 years of supervised probation.

Ryan S. Theissen, 34, Brooklyn Center, previously appeared and was convicted of felony sale of three grams or more of cocaine/heroin/meth. He was sentenced to \$131, 7 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, psychological evaluation, 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 Dec. 25 – 29:

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Alfred A. Hernandez, 40, Owatonna, unlawful deposit of garbage, \$181.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Derek D. Bogenschutz, 35, Owatonna, invalid license, \$181; Elijah O. Calderon-Pitchford, 20, Waukesha, WI, seat belt and no license, \$206; Maija L. Castro, 26, Winooski, VT, texting while driving, \$131; Joseph M. Davis, 32, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, \$131; Amber L. Hazel, 31, Worthington, speeding, \$121; Marcus P. Kubat, 46, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Jake B. Lancaster, 38, Coon Rapids, speeding, \$131; Reyna I. Lazaro Huerta, 24, Albert Lea, speeding, \$121; Brett K. Meyer, 21, Rochester, speeding, \$131; Angelica F. Montemayor, 31, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Marilee A. Reck, 65, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Jose L. Rodriguez-Juarez, 39, Dallas, TX, no license, \$181; Riley P. Schreiner, 30, Madison, WI, speeding, \$131; London P. Thurman, 25, Rochester, speeding, \$141; Keita Todoroki, 33, Lawrence, KS, speeding, \$141.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

David Barajas, 25, revoked license and speeding, \$321; Falconer R. Beliefy, 22, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Erika D. Degollado, 23, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Jose A. Gonzalez Jr., 22, Waseca, controlled substance crime, stay of adjudication, \$81, 118

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Samuel G. Baisley, 34, Faribault, revoked license, \$281; Isaac A. Baker, 19, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$121; Austin B. Beytien, 18, Faribault, no insurance, \$281; Douglas S. Freelove, 34, Medford, speeding, \$121; Morgan L. Gulbranson, 28, La Crosse, WI, speeding, \$121; Amelia M. Harthan, 37, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$141; Jennifer R. Johnson, 45, New Richland, speeding, \$121; Katrina E. Kloczek, 33, Ellendale, speeding, \$200; Samuel P. Marceleno, 33, Waseca, DWI, \$406, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Tanya L. McKinley, 33, Lonsdale, speeding, \$121; Mason L. Moreno, 22, Hayfield, speeding, \$121; Tina M. Peterson, 47, Faribault, speeding, \$121; Dennis L. Prescher, 68, New Richland, speeding, \$121; Danielle M. Simon, 28, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Charles R. Steward, 40, Waseca, no license, \$181; Brady A. Wallert, 18, Medford, lights violation, \$131; Patrick W. Warrington, 49, Owatonna, no license, \$181.

ARREST Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE De'Ontavious Deontae Walker, 24, arrested at 4:02 a.m. Dec. 23, order for protection violation and domestic assault/assault, held for court.

Vanessa Cloves Rias, 29, arrested at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 24, tax evasion, no license and no insurance, held for court.

Jeremiah Joel Bauer, 31, arrested at 1:53 a.m. Dec. 25, felony attempted murder, assault, false imprisonment,

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

1. Rashid Ahmed – assault - \$10,000 bail
2. Belen Alaniz – DWI - \$12,500 bail
3. Omar Alfaro – minor consumption - \$500 bail
4. Abdisalam Ali – controlled substance crime - \$5,000 bail
5. Roger Allen – false information - \$1,500 bail
6. Juan Alvarez – cont delinq minor - \$6,000 bail
7. Ben Ambrose – open bottle - \$181 bail
8. Darren Anderson – theft by check - \$5,000 bail
9. Norman Anderson – assault - \$2,000 bail
10. Darla Andrews – theft by check - \$19,000 bail
11. Andrew Anzaldua – DWI - \$1,000 bail
12. Jose Aquilas – DWI - \$12,000 bail
13. George Arcos – DWI - \$2,000 bail
14. Jorge Arias – DWI – no bail
15. Michael Armstead – DWI - \$500 bail
16. Mariia Arredondo – theft - \$1,000 bail
17. Jose Arriga – malicious punishment - \$6,000 bail
18. Marcus Aye – soliciting without permit - \$500 bail
19. Jose Ayon – DWI – no bail
20. Thomas Baker – theft - \$10,000 bail

SCHOOL OF NURSING
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Do you have a family member with memory loss who lives in a care facility?

The University of Minnesota is examining the effects of an educational program to support family members with a loved one in a care facility. It will be led by a trained coach. Learn more about participating in this free study by contacting Professor Joe Gaugler at 612.626.2485 or gaug0015@umn.edu.

Visit <http://z.umn.edu/transitionmodule> to learn more



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Crossword solution

M	A	L	T			A	S	H		M	A	M	A	
A	L	O	E	S		I	T	O		O	D	E	R	
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Don't Eat This if
You're Taking That

*Dear Savvy Senior,
If the prescription label says "take with meals," does it matter
what you eat? I currently take eight different medications for
various health problems and would like to know if there are any
foods I need to avoid.*
Over Medicated

Dear Over,
It depends on the medication. Many meds should be taken with food – any food – to increase their absorption and reduce the risk of side effects. But some foods and medications can interact, reducing the medications' effectiveness or increasing the risk of harmful side effects.

To stay safe, you should always talk to your doctor or pharmacist to learn the ins and outs of your prescriptions, along with what foods and beverages to avoid while you're on it. In the meantime, here are some foods you should stay away from for some commonly prescribed drugs.

Cholesterol Medications: If you take a certain statin drug to control high cholesterol like Liptor, Zocor, Altoprev, Mevacor, or generics atorvastatin, simvastatin or lovastatin, you should avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice. Grapefruit can raise the level of the drug in your bloodstream and increase the risk of side effects, especially leg pain.

Blood Pressure Medicine: If you take an ACE inhibitor drug like Capoten, Vasotec, Monopril, Zestril and others to lower your blood pressure, you should limit food that contain potassium like bananas, oranges, tomatoes, spinach and other leafy greens, sweet potatoes, and salt substitutes that contain potassium. ACE inhibitors raise the body's potassium levels. Eating too many potassium rich-foods while taking an ACE inhibitor can cause an irregular heartbeat and heart palpitations.

Blood Thinning Medications: If you are taking Coumadin, Jantoven, or the generic warfarin, you should limit kale and other greens, including broccoli, cabbage, spinach, and brussels sprouts that contain vitamin K. These foods can block the effects of these blood-thinning medications putting you at risk for developing blood clots. You also need to watch out for garlic, ginger, vitamin E and fish oil supplements because they can increase these medications blood-thinning abilities putting you at risk for excessive bleeding.

To find more dietary guidance on the drugs you take, see reliable health sites like MedlinePlus.gov or MayoClinic.org, or consider the excellent new AARP book "Don't Eat This If You're Taking That: The Hidden Risks of Mixing Food and Medicine" available at Amazon.com and BN.com for \$13.

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
Jan. 8, 2008**
**Dan Evans,
Publisher**
SURPRISE...would be the appropriate word to describe the winner of the 2008 New Year's Baby! Cody Dean Braaten was born Jan. 1, 2008 at 8:15 p.m. The proud parents are Billie and Greg Braaten of rural Bloomington, IL. Cody decided to make his way into the world a little earlier than planned. Five-and-half weeks early to be exact.

"Jack of all trades," would be a good way to describe Jack Hayunga who will be re-opening the barber shop here in Bloomington, IL. Upon hearing Bloomington, IL was looking for a barber, he contacted H. Peterson and has been on a roll ever since. Jack decided that going back into the barber business was the perfect job for his "retirement."

**20 Years Ago
Jan. 6, 1998**
**Elsie Slinger,
Publisher**
Attention all moms! Bloomington, IL now has a consignment shop that focuses on kids clothing and equipment. If you're looking for good, quality new and used clothing, Once Around

The Block is the place to shop. Suzanne Lorenzen, at the urging of a friend, decided to open a resale shop for kids clothing after seeing that there was a need for something like this in the BP area.

**50 Years Ago
Jan. 11, 1968**
**Victor, Vernon
& Vryle Krejci,
Publishers**

Ward Morton, a faithful member of the Bloomington, IL Fire Department for the past 42 years, retired recently from active duty, Fire Chief Kermit Peterson reported to the Times this week. In recognition of his many years' service, Mr. Morton was honored at a dinner, held at the Cozy Inn Café on Dec. 16 with 21 firemen in attendance.

Harold B. Hansen was appointed as permanent receiver of the Bloomington, IL Cooperative Creamery Association by District Judge John F. Cahill on Friday of last week and will direct the liquidation of the firm's assets. The appointment was effective immediately and relieved Harold Furness, temporary receiver, of his duties.

Marvin Ingvalson is a new employee at the First National Bank, Bloomington, IL, having began his duties as a teller on Jan. 2. President Allan C. Peterson reported that "Mr. Ingvalson is experienced in banking and that he will be a valued addition to the First National staff."

**75 Years Ago
Jan. 7, 1943**
**Frank Krejci,
Publisher**

Bowling will soon be getting the attention of local fans again this year. Officers were elected Wednesday night, preparatory to opening the season. The new officers are: Ray Zwiener, president; Al Smith, secretary; Vince Ruzek, treasurer; and Jake Niehart, manager.

Marriage licenses, which hit an all-time high in 1941, fell to a 10-year low in Steele County in 1942.

Clerk of Court, S.C. Goff, announced that only 150 couples had received permits for marriage in 1942, in contrast to the 230 applicants in 1941. However, many of our Steele County residents, men and women, were united in marriage in camps throughout the country.



**BLOSSOMS
OF THE MONTH**
Bloomington, IL High School



Payton Fristedt
*The Blossom of the Month
is sponsored by this
community booster:*



Jeremy Hocking
The senior high student of the month is Jeremy Hocking, who is a senior. His favorite class is independent studies with Mr. Rinkenberger. Hocking likes the independence and the freedom of doing individual projects he enjoys. Some comments from school staff include:
• "Jeremy is willing to do any jobs to help out the staff and the school."
• "Jeremy is driven in the classroom. He is an intelligent student who wants to succeed. There is no doubt Jeremy has a bright future ahead of him."
• "Jeremy is a great teammate. Although he gets a little competitive at times, he is always there supporting his team and willing to make the sacrifices needed to be successful."
Hocking's special interests are football, basketball, baseball and fishing. He has a sibling, Amanda.



Payton Fristedt
The junior high student of the month is Payton Fristedt, who is an eighth grader. His favorite class is agriculture because it interests him the most. Some comments about Fristedt from staff include:
• "Payton is a student who always wants to do well in class and will work hard to accomplish that. He is trustworthy and fun, too."
• "Payton is a kind, honest student who knows right from wrong."
• "Payton is a very helpful student. He is not only willing to help his classmates, he is also willing to help his teachers too."
His special interests are sports, including football, basketball and snowmobiling. He has two siblings, Karson and Landon. He also has a pet dog, Marley.



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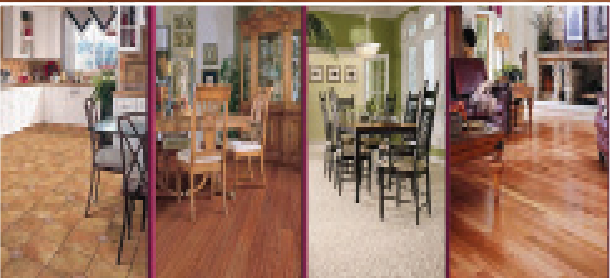




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Postponed by hurricane, new store opens at Medford Outlet



City Fashion, which opened in Medford just prior to the holidays, was delayed by Florida's hurricane season.

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

In Minnesota there are snowstorms while in Florida it's hurricanes. But not even a hurricane could stop the inaugural opening of the Medford Outlet Center's newest store, City Fashion.

The store, whose company has its roots in Florida and offers a wide variety of brand name clothing at competitive prices, opened in Medford several weeks ago, despite facing a delay caused by Hurricane Irma.

When the hurricane rolled across Florida's west coast in September of this year, she did more than wreak havoc and cause flooding, evacuations, and power loss. She also hampered City Fashion's initial Minnesota opening.

“Today most consumers are looking for a brand name product, and we can offer that.”

Chantal Kadoch
City Fashion

The company behind the store's Minnesota introduction, City Fashion LLC, has its corporate headquarters in Sarasota, and as such saw the rollout of its newest addition affected by last autumn's tropical storm.

Chantal Kadoch, the national manager of City Fashion's stores, explained that a lot of the shipments which they needed to arrive were coming from Florida, and as the state was experiencing an evacuation of its west coast compounded by bouts of power loss, those shipments were

understandably delayed.

According to Kadoch, when the hurricane came through Florida many companies around the United States were affected, particularly due to the aforementioned cessation of shipping and trucking. This was also the case with City Fashion's chain of stores.

The company got its start in western Florida around three years ago, and has spread out into other states, including Iowa and Minnesota, since then.

Kadoch said that City Fashion offers products for both men and women. She also reiterates that their stores seek to provide a host of different brands including Adidas, Nike, Zoo York and more. She feels that “today most consumers are looking for a brand name product, and we can offer that.” Her tagline is simple: “brand names for less.”

The Outlet Center is home to many different stores, something which initially intrigued Kadoch about the location. After purchasing the lot, Kadoch says that she was excited by the opportunity this new site is able to provide, and noted that “it's always fun and challenging to open a new business.” She explained that she likes both the state and the city, and she feels that this location presented the company an occasion to grow and develop within the community.

Now that the hurricane season is over and its resultant damage has mostly been wrapped up, City Fashion was able to get its products shipped, and its doors opened before the holiday season.

Tiesha Allen, an employee at the Medford Outlet Center's new store, hopes that people “take the time to come and look,” and also adds that “we have a great staff, and we're helpful and friendly.”

Hurricane Irma was determined to be a Category 5 hurricane, and when it tore through the Atlantic this past September, it became the strongest observed tropical storm, as measured by sustained winds, in the Atlantic since Wilma, which hit Florida in 2005. Irma, a low-latitude forming Cape Verde-Type hurricane, was also the most intense tropical storm to make landfall in the United States since the historic Katrina, also in 2005.

The Atlantic hurricane season typically lasts from June until November, and seems to be at its most turbulent during late August and early September. This year's season saw 17 named storms, and became one of the worst on record. They caused massive damage both in and outside of the United States, and prompted relief efforts from around the globe.

Despite the power outages, flooding, and the temporary halt of truck and shipment movement, Kadoch is pleased that her store is now finally able to open and receive all of its shipments on time. She is looking forward to doing business in Minnesota, and hopes that their varied inventory will be able to entice the community.

Medford's mayor, Lois Nelson, feels that City Fashion is “a welcome and long anticipated addition” to the Outlet Center's business community. As mayor, she also recognizes that the town is always “excited and enthusiastic for anything new.”

Nelson explained that the Outlet Center provides Medford with a large amount of tax based revenue, and is critical to the town's economy. She says that it is “a great financial benefit for the community as well as a provider of great stores, services and merchandise.” In her eyes, the Outlet Center, including its diverse collection of stores, is heavily intertwined within the Medford community at large.

Hurricane Irma caused widespread damage, and resulted in the tragic loss of many lives, but for this intrepid Florida entrepreneur, it was only capable of temporarily delaying the opening of the newest addition to her franchise.

Kadoch says that she “hopes the community is excited about it,” and knows that after the minor logistical setback Hurricane Irma prompted, it feels good to be open.

City Fashion is located in the Medford Outlet Center at 6750 West Frontage Road. It will share the same hours as its neighboring stores within the Outlet Center, and is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.



City Fashion, offers a wide variety of brand name fashions for men and women.



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STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS

Frank-N-Stein’s: All about Family

Byron restaurant continues long tradition

BY RICHARD JOHNSON
DCI MANAGING EDITOR

A sign hanging in the dining room pretty much says it all about Frank-N-Stein’s restaurant. It reads: “Happiness is home-made.” The longtime Byron establishment is a happy, homey, southeast Minnesota-style spot, complete with home-made smiles, a red bathtub salad bar, old family photos, and a real, crackling fireplace. Its name has nothing to do with the Frankenstein monster, as a long-ago local newspaper headline noted. It has to do with family and good humor. Frank-N-Stein’s was started up in February, 1981 by Frank and Twyla Oswald. You had Frank. And you could have a stein of beer. Plus prime rib, chicken wings, burgers, all-you-can-eat cod, homemade soup, and salad from the big red tub. “It is a neat name,” said Tracy Oswald, who manages the restaurant. “It catches people’s attention.” Frank and his wife, Twyla, were renting a kitchen at the American Legion in Byron when a large house came up for sale on the frontage road along Highway 14 in Byron. They purchased the house, fixed it up, and set up shop on Valentine’s Day, 1981. Customers quickly took notice. “It’s the surrounding communities that have supported us,” Tracy said, “and it’s like family. It’s fun seeing the generations grow. It’s worked out really good for us. Our customers are



Twyla Oswald shows off a Frank-N-Stein’s creation: home-made pizza.

loyal.” Tracy worked with her folks and her sisters, Shelly Oswald and the late Kim Struckman. She took over management in 2008. Frank passed away in 2014. Frank-N-Stein’s has about 10 employees, including Tracy’s daughters, Lindsey and Leah Fitzpatrick. Twyla still helps out, too. Twyla said she, too, enjoys seeing all those customers come back, again and again. “And they always get to eat,” she said, noting that her home-made pizza is a big seller now. “They don’t have to do dishes.” “We try to cater to the people, make them want to come back,” Tracy said. “It’s nice to visit with the people – and they become like family.”

If You Go

Frank-N-Stein’s is at 15 Frontage Road, Byron. The restaurant opens at 4 p.m. Wednesdays and is open from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 4 p.m. on Thursdays; opens at 4 p.m. Friday; and opens for the day at breakfast-time on Saturdays and Sundays.

Catering and in-house parties are available, and patrons can play pool and darts, and board games.

Call 507-775-6440 or see the Facebook page for more information.

Kruckebergs named BP Citizens of the Year

Minimizer founder Dick Kruckeberg and his son, current Minimizer CEO and Chief Visionary Craig Kruckeberg, have both been named Blooming Prairie’s 2017 Citizens of the Year. “What a fantastic honor,” Craig Kruckeberg said. “My father and I are truly humbled by this award.”

The Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce presents the BP Citizen of the Year award annually, with Chamber members submitting names based on community involvement and charity.

“We have a lot of great people in Blooming Prairie who do a lot of wonderful things,” BP Chamber Executive Director Becky Noble said. “(Dick and Craig) have started a wonderful business for which we are all very grateful!”

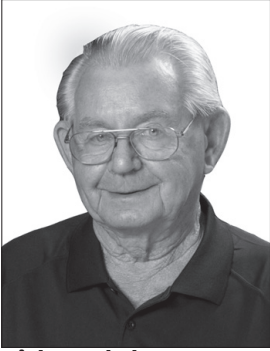
“We’ve always made it a point to give back to the community,” Craig Kruckeberg said. “My father prioritized charity work, and it’s something very important to me.”

The Kruckebergs are the face of Minimizer, founded by Dick Kruckeberg in 1984. Dick, a former truck driver, started his company with the invention of the poly fender.

Craig purchased the company from his father in 2006, and immediately increased Minimizer’s marketing budget, leading to bigger sales and a bigger brand.



Craig Kruckeberg



Dick Kruckeberg

“With our success, we’re very fortunate to be able to give back to our local community,” Craig Kruckeberg said. “The recognition makes me a little uncomfortable, honestly, but folks tell me that if people see one person or one company giving back, maybe others will donate their time or money.”

The recognition banquet honoring Dick and Craig Kruckeberg will be held Thursday, Jan. 18, at the BP Servicemen’s Club.

Cargill to take over Pro-Pet in Owatonna

A Minnesota based company will soon be taking over a company that makes pet food in Steele County.

Cargill of the Twin Cities announced last week that it has reached an agreement to acquire Pro-Pet, an Ohio-based manufacturer of private label and co-manufactured pet foods, including premium dog food brand Black Gold. Pro-Pet operates in Owatonna as well as Ohio and Kansas.

The acquisition makes Cargill the only national supplier of both animal feed and pet food offerings in the agricultural retail space.

According to Cargill, the transaction is expected to close within 30 days, subject to customary approvals. Terms of the

deal were not disclosed.

“Pro-Pet’s commitment to high-quality, safe pet food and passion for the pet food business is the perfect fit for our Cargill Animal Nutrition business, and allows us to better serve our customers seeking a focused supplier for both animal feed and pet food options,” said Pilar Cruz, Cargill president.

More than 150 employees work for Pro-Pet in three manufacturing facilities. The Owatonna facility is currently wrapping up a major expansion project that will bring about 10 new jobs to the area.

“Cargill’s vast resources and competency in sourcing of commodities, along with their reputation in the agricultural retail business sector,

makes Cargill the natural and best partner for Pro-Pet,” said Jim Wiegmann, president and CEO of Pro-Pet. “There is no organization that can leverage the strengths and capabilities of Pro-Pet better than Cargill, which will enhance our ability to serve retail partners and pet food brand owners.”

Pet food is a top-growing category among agriculture retailers with an estimated 8 percent distribution share, in a space that continues to evolve with changing consumer preferences.

Currently, Cargill operates 50 animal feed production and distribution facilities across the U.S., offering branded and private label pet food to agriculture retailer customers.

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OBITUARIES

Vivian Hjelman-Eggert, 81, formerly of Blooming Prairie



Vivian E. Hjelman-Eggert, 81, of West Fargo, passed away Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017, at Sanford Hospital in Fargo. Vivian was born Feb. 24, 1936, in Blooming Prairie, delivered by her aunt Agnes Hjelman-Vandenbrook. She was daughter of Oscar and Esther (Hendrickson) Hjelman. Vivian was baptized and confirmed at Community Lutheran Church in Geneva. She was educated in a one room school and graduated from Blooming Prairie High School. Vivian was employed at deLendrecie's Department Store in Fargo from 1970 to 1997. She married Eugene Eggert Feb. 16, 1989. She was an accomplished musician, playing the accordion, flute and organ. Vivian also was an excellent seamstress. Surviving are a daughter, Mary Lynn Dockter of West Fargo and a son, Todd Emarine of West Fargo; grandson, Logan Eggiman of Fargo; great-grandchildren, Jailyn and Sophie and a brother, Kenneth (Darla) Hjelman of Gulf Shores, Ala. Preceding Vivian in death were her parents; husband, Eugene; son-in-law, Robert Dockter and a sister, Delores Nelson. Memorial Services were held Thursday, Jan. 4, 2018, at West Funeral Home in West Fargo. Burial will take place later in the spring at St. John's Cemetery in rural Horace, N.D.

Bernice E. Thompson, 94, Austin



Bernice E. Thompson, 94, of Austin, died Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018 at St. Marks Lutheran Home. Bernice E. (Braaten) Thompson was born on May 19, 1923 in Mower County. She was the 9th of 13 children born to Tom and Anna (Thompson) Braaten. She attended school in Austin, and married her sweetheart, Sylvester L. Thompson, July 21, 1942 in the chapel at St. Olaf Lutheran Church. The Thompsons made their home in Corning and worked at the Geo. A. Hormel Co. until retiring. For 33 years they wintered in Arizona. She was a lifelong member of Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church and passionate about helping with its annual Strawberry Festival. She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers, Tillman, Henry, Ole, Chester, and George and sisters, Myrtle, Hazel, Alice, Melda, Edna, Netta and Ann. Bernice is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Wayne and Peggy Thompson, Apache Junction, Ariz.; grandchildren, Dave (Beth) Thompson, Lansing, Thomas Burback, Eau Claire, Wis. and Lisa Burback, Austin; great-grandchildren, Emily and Eric Thompson, Dillon Erickson, Roxanne Burback, Katilyn Wirth and Kami Burback; great-great grandchildren, Elija and Dawson; sisters- in-law, Selma Lysne, Austin and Irene Thompson, Austin; many loving nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 10, at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church with Pastor Lindsay Stolen officiating. Interment will be at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Cemetery. Visitation will be at Clasen-Jordan Mortuary in Austin today (Tuesday, Jan. 9) from 4 to 6 p.m. and at the church on Wednesday morning for one hour before the service.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS	John Fredrickson	Jan. 15
Jan. 9	Shawn Kadlee	Jan. 12
Chris Schaefer	Ernie Betlach	Pam Hameister
April Konz	Jean	Dr. Chad M. Eischens
Kory Rafdal	Haubenschild	Elijah Peterson
Kate Borchert	Jan. 13	Brian Farr
Jan. 10	Luke Nelson	
Paula Abbe	Shannon Rivera-Escandon	ANNIVERSARIES
Nolan	Kim Erickson	Jan. 9
Christianson	Amelyah Hass	Phillip & Jennifer Milton
Jan. 11	Jan. 14	Jan. 11
Dustin Doocy	Holly Carlson	Karl & Tricia Steckelberg
Nikki Nielson-Bakker	Brayden J. Greene	Jan. 14
	Jeremy Doerhoefer	Jay & Jamie Klemmensens

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COLLEGE NEWS

Myer named to Dean's List

Weston Myer of Blooming Prairie has been named to the Dean's List for fall semester at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Students on the Dean's List must have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Myer, a junior at UMD, is enrolled in the Swenson College of Science and Engineering. He is majoring in mechanical engineering.

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GRIEF RELIEF

What is grief like? Grief is like a series of waves that come and go, feelings that vary in intensity over a long period of time as we are constantly reminded of changes that result from the death of our loved one. We need to take time to face our emotions and feelings. Then make careful plans for our new lives without the deceased. Our feelings and grief may seem unpredictable and confused at times, but that is perfectly normal.

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Water pipe leakage causes trouble in BP



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Sub-zero weather the past few weeks caused some headaches for homeowners and city and contracted crews when a water pipe extension to a home on SW 2nd St. in Blooming Prairie broke and caused extensive leaking. Lance Lembke and Prairie Plumbing and Heating worked to repair the problem.

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LIBRARY BOOK NOOK

Author coming to local library



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

The Blooming Prairie Branch Library benefits by being a member of South East Libraries Cooperating (SELCO) in many ways. Not only do we receive computer and technical support, but also training and classes that allow us to connect with other library staff. Those benefits may go unnoticed by those who use the library, but another extra provided by SELCO is more public: the annual author visits. Yes, Minnesota Book Award authors visit smaller communities such as Blooming Prairie at no cost to the participating library. This year is no exception. On Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m., author Shawn Otto will be speaking on his book The War on Science. Bill Nye, the science guy, states, "Otto makes a case that can't be refuted." No matter your opinion on such matters, set aside that date to find out more about science and its role in the past, present, and future. The library book club will be discussing the book at our meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 23 at 6 p.m. If you are interested in joining us for the discussion, just show up! If you would like a copy of the book, please call us at 507-583-7750. We hope to host a lively sharing of ideas and opinions!

SEMCAC Senior Menu
All meals subject to change
Wednesday, Jan. 10
Chili con Carne, Crackers, Peach/Cottage Cheese, Corn Muffin, Graham Cracker Eclair Cake
Thursday, Jan. 11
Pork Loin Steak, Dressing/Gravy, Caul/Pimento Blend, Peaches, Peanut Butter Cookie
Friday, Jan. 12
Potato Crusted Pollock with Tartar Sauce, Alt: Chicken Breast, Corn Casserole, Tossed Green Salad, Mixed Fruit Cup
Monday, Jan. 15
Martin Luther King Jr. Day, CLOSED
Tuesday, Jan. 16
Chicken Pot Pie, Cukes/Sr Cream, Beet Pickles, Dinner Roll, Citrus Fruit Cup

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“And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.”
—Deuteronomy 8:2

Happy New Year! It's still the dawn of a new year but as we look back on 2017, some would consider it to have been a ‘very good year’! For others, you’re ready to

put it behind you. But this we know. That regardless of what you may have experienced in 2017, the LORD was with you.
In fact, everything that you experienced in 2017 was something that the LORD was using to either teach you, to grow you, to get your attention, or to use you. Isn’t that amazing? You see, nothing is by accident. Life is all about God providing us opportunities to test our hearts. In every situation and experience, we get to choose whether we will turn to God, ignore God, or reject God.
If we look back to scripture, we see that the history of God’s people was a repetitive pattern of falling away from God, and then returning to Him. These periods of time often lasted for decades or even centuries. And much was dependent on the king that ruled over them, as to whether or not he

followed the ways of the LORD. But here’s the thing. God is always calling us back to Himself. And He’ll sometimes take drastic measures to get our attention!! Why? Because He’s a jealous God. He wants us to live faithful, obedient, and sacrificial lives with His Son, Jesus Christ, not just as our Savior but as our LORD. Not because He’s needy and controlling, but because He knows that this is what is best for us, both now..... and for eternity. He is jealous for us!!
And so I implore you. Be cautious about becoming apathetic about your faith. If you’ve fallen away, start making efforts to ‘return to your first love’ (Rev. 2:4). If you’re still holding on to your life as your own, surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in your life, for those who call upon the name of the LORD are saved. (Acts 2:21; Phil 3:8).

And if you’re not quite there, at least resolve to start seeking the LORD, because He promises that for those who seek Him, they will find Him if they seek Him with all their heart. (Jer 29:13).
So what will 2018 bring? I don’t know. But one thing is certain. God will reign over it. He loves you and He has a plan and a purpose for your life. He’s already sent His Son Jesus to live and die for you so that you can be forgiven. And He’s given His Holy Spirit to help you take hold of the destiny He has planned for you. But the choice is up to you. You can either seek Him, ignore Him, or reject Him. You can either pretend, or you can be authentic. Keeping in mind that you might be able to fool people, but you can’t fool God. He knows your heart and will deal with you accordingly.

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., Sargeant Pastor Collin Duling 507-251-5568 Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9 a.m. ST. MICHAEL’S LUTHERAN – ELCA 30450 570th Ave., Waltham Pastor Dwight DoBell 507-567-2474 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun. ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN – LCMS 202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale Pastor Jesse Krusemark 507-567-2272 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN – ELCA 2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar 507-451-2165 Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS 5881 SE 118th St., Blooming Prairie Pastor Stephanie Wood 507-676-5696 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. (First Sunday of the month) TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna Rev. Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor Rev. Dean Smith, Associate Pastor Rev. Amanda Weinkauff, Associate Pastor 507-451-4520 www.tlcowatonna.org Worship: Saturday: 5 p.m.; Sun.: 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 6 p.m. Sunday School: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.	TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 104 First St. SE., Hayfield Pastor Paul Hauschild 507-477-2248 www.trinityhayfield.org Worship: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS 108 Third Ave. SW., Medford Pastor Mark Biebighauser 507-451-0447 Worship: 8 a.m. & 10:30 Sun. Education Hour: 9:15-10:15 a.m. Sun. TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS 57043 300th St., Waltham Pastor Jesse Krusemark 507-567-2272 Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA 7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar 507-451-2165 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.	Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:30 a.m. &10 a.m. Sun. Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun. Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m. Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat. Adoration: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Thurs. ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC 114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie Father Thomas Niehaus 507-583-2784 www.stcolumbanuschurch.com Mass: 10 a.m. Sun. & 8:30 a.m. Friday Reconciliation: 9 a.m. First Friday & Saturday ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH 512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna Father Kevin Connolly Deacon Patrick Fagan 507-451-4845 Saturday Mass: 4 p.m. Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m. Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat. Daily Mass: 8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri. (Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday) Adoration Chapel available Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Key fob required after hours or weekends	OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST 815 E. University, Owatonna Loren Olson, Pastor Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor Joyce Parker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4734 www.owatonnaumc.org Traditional Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Contemporary Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun. Sunday School/Adult Classes: 10 a.m. Wednesday night service at 6:30 p.m. NON-DENOMINATIONAL 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	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 S. Main St., Medford Pastor Louise Bender 507-451-4596 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9 a.m. 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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Agriculture education available this winter



On The Farm
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‘Tis the season for agriculture education! The winter months provide a fleeting window of slower times for the agricultural industry, resulting in educational events galore.

Winter 2017-2018 brings several learning opportunities from the University of Minnesota (UMN) and Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). I will lay out a few of the events offered in our area.

WINTER CROPS UPDATES

The 2018 UMN Research Update for Ag Professionals events will cover research-based strategies to deal with today’s changing pests, diseases, varieties, and nutrient and environmental recommendations. Agronomists, ag salespeople, crop consultants, agriculture agency personnel, and farm managers are the intended audience. The 2018 Research Update Sessions in Southern Minnesota are: Waseca, Rochester and

Lamberton (Jan. 2-4 respectively). The Southeast Region Winter Crops Day on Jan. 12 in Waseca is more farmer-focused.

WINTER DAIRY SERIES

UMN Extension and Minnesota Dairy Initiative host a free, educational series for dairy producers. Events are held Mondays throughout the winter months. The first event took place on Dec.11. The upcoming events covering timely topics for Minnesota dairy producers are Jan. 15 (current dairy marketing and consumer trends), Feb. 12 (stretching your dollar) and March 12 (local and federal resources for dairy producers).

PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAININGS

Private Pesticide Applicator Certification renewal is required for individuals who apply pesticides to land they own, rent, or lease for the production of agriculture commodities and who plan to use Restricted Use Pesticides, with licenses expiring in 2018. There are three options by which to renew certification: attend a 3.5 hour recertification workshop, complete a mail-in paper copy of the test, or complete the test online at www.pat.umn.edu. The workshops cover pesticide laws, regulations and record keeping, personal protective equipment, applicator health effects, and application equipment. Dates and times vary by location.

Minnesota Organic Conference
MDA’s Minnesota Organic Conference

features acclaimed speakers and an extensive tradeshow. This conference is an opportunity for organic producers to make connections and stay updated in the world of organic agriculture. The conference will take place on Jan. 11-12 in St. Cloud. Educational sessions will take place both days, featuring a different keynote speaker each day.

FOOD SAFETY WORKSHOPS

The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) National Produce Safety Rule establishes science-based minimum standards for the safe growing and handling of fruits and vegetables. The Produce Safety Alliance developed a FSMA course to fulfill the requirement of the Rule (outlined in §112.22(c) of the Produce Safety Rule) that ‘at least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.’ This PSA FSMA Grower Training course is the only course that is recognized by the FDA to fulfill the training requirement. UMN Extension offers this course Jan. 17 in St. Cloud and March 20 in Monticello.

If you’d like more information regarding these events, please contact me at lacanne@umn.edu or 507-444-7691.

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

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT



STAFF PHOTOS: HOWARD LESTRUD

Above, Watch out for this relic from the days of bootlegging in Blooming Prairie. He wasn’t around back then in the 1920s and 1930s but he had some fun participating in the First Annual Speakeasy Night in Blooming Prairie last March 11. A second event is planned for March 3, 2018.

At left, Carol and Jay Iverson of Blooming Prairie got into the swing of things at Speakeasy Night in BP on Saturday night, March 11, 2017 by wearing some of the clothing, popular during the prohibition era of 1919-33.

Speakeasy Night returns to Blooming Prairie March 3

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Just a tip for the future. Some exciting action is likely to happen in downtown Blooming Prairie on Saturday night, March 3.

That date will mark the return of the second Speakeasy Night in Blooming Prairie. As part of the BP Sesquicentennial celebration (150th birthday), the committee staged a Speakeasy Night on March 11, 2017.

Tickets will go on sale next week 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!

Just a few hours before Minnesotans were turning their clocks ahead an hour to comply with Daylight Savings Time, some residents of Blooming Prairie were turning back in history to the days of the speakeasy.

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

Tickets were sold at \$25 each and they gained the holder admission to three different speakeasies. The event 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. Carol and Jay Iverson were attired in clothing from the Godfather’s era.

Each establishment had a guard at the door to screen entrants. Howard Lestrud, tommy gun in hand, opened the door to Bell Liquor, only if visitors knocked three times.

At Coggins, guard Mark Noble let people enter if they said Bunkie’s sent them.

Alex Johnson guarded the door at the Blue Hen and let people enter if they recited “eight ball.”

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 1920s costume.

Learn how prohibition went in Blooming Prairie and experience some places you may have never been in before, said Noble.

On July 1, 1918, Blooming Prairie had a raid and the liquor establishments were shut down! A special event will be planned for that observance.

Steve Wencl, 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.

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

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Hometown Living



Ken Ratzlaff is the new barber in town in Ellendale. He is shown with the tools of his trade which he hopes will bring customers into his barber chairs. Damen Washington will join him in mid-January.

STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

A cut above the rest

New Ellendale barber began cutting hair as a child

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

He started cutting hair at age 11 and 29 years later, Ken Ratzlaff is still manning a pair of clippers, scissors and shaving blade as part of his tools of the barbering trade.

Ratzlaff has become a new resident of Ellendale and has opened a barber shop on Main Street at the same location previously run by barber Jim Johnson, who barbered for nearly 45 years in Ellendale.

Ill health has forced Johnson to take a hiatus from barbering.

Ratzlaff just happened to stop by Johnson's shop last December and asked if he could help. That's when Johnson decided to step aside and encouraged Ratzlaff to bring his barbering experience to Ellendale.

The Ellendale barber shop is open Mondays through Thursdays and on Saturdays. It is open also by appointment.

Ratzlaff will be joined by another professional barber on Jan. 15 when Damen Washington of Minneapolis moves to town. He will open the shop full time. Washington has been a barber for 27 years, born and raised in East Chicago, Ind.

Both Ratzlaff and Washington attended barber school at the Minnesota Community Technical College in Minneapolis. They learned how to cut African American hair and straight hair.

All types of hairstyles will be offered by Ratzlaff and Washington.

Asked if he is a barber or a stylist, Ratzlaff quickly answers, "barber." He and Washington will specialize in flattops, mohawks, fades, tapers, comb overs, crew cuts, bald head shave, full shaves, facials and neck massages.

Washington said he will do women's haircuts, too. "Our customers are gonna like how they look when they leave our shop," he guaranteed.

Special offers will be given to senior citizens and to other customers on certain days of the week. Ratzlaff remembers getting an Afro cut when he was 4 years old. Eddy Withers was the barber "and he was on the phone the entire time he cut my hair," Ratzlaff remembers. He said the haircut "came out real good."

He gave his first haircut to a man named Desmond. "I put designs and lines in his hair; it looked good," he recalls. Ratzlaff said he has not had a haircut for a year and may be ready for one soon. "Barbers are just too busy to get a haircut," Ratzlaff laughs.

Ratzlaff still owns a barber shop in South St. Paul called Southview Barber Shop. He worked in the Burnsville Center at a shop and also worked on Lake Street in Minneapolis, and opened his own shop in South St. Paul in 2014. He also cut hair in Philadelphia, Pa.

In 2015 Ratzlaff went to Faribault and opened a shop, also called the Southview Barber Shop. He said there were seven barbers and salons within a mile so he shifted gears and went to Albert Lea, hoping to open a barber college. He purchased a shop there but it never worked out as black mold was discovered in the building.

One's personal image is important, and Ratzlaff said he hopes his shop "will make people look good, stay clean and be sharp."

Ratzlaff said he hopes former Ellendale barber Johnson comes back to cut hair again. "That's his passion," said Ratzlaff who prefers to be called Ken, Kenny or Kenneth. "I always like to meet new people," he says.

Ratzlaff lives just a couple of blocks away from the barber shop in Ellendale. He has two children at home, Ju'Daya, 4 and Jordain, 19 months. He also has two children out of the home, Kenisha, St. Paul and Kenny, Lakeville. Kenny wants to go to barber school, his father said.

Washington is also moving to Ellendale. "I want to make Ellendale people happy with my haircuts and also want to help out a friend," he said.

Winter gear warms area children

Retired educators donate items to local schools

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Gear to keep warm this winter season is making its way to needy children around the area.

The Owatonna Area Retired Educators Association donated hats, gloves and mittens to three schools last week. They included Lincoln Elementary, St. Mary's Elementary and Steele County Head Start.

According to OAREA president Gary Schwartz, members have been collecting donations for about three months. The group also received grants of \$300 from the Retired Educators of Minnesota and \$50 from the United Educators Credit Union.

Schwartz said the money was used to purchase about 100 pairs of gloves, mittens and winter hats. All of the gear is purchased at local stores.

The group, Schwartz said, doesn't get involved in determining who gets the winter gear. "We know there are kids coming in every day without gloves or caps for whatever reason. It's on-going," he said, noting the group leaves it up to the social workers at each of the schools to give out the items.

Students who need winter gear should contact Amanda Griswold at Lincoln, Deb Westphal at St. Mary's and Terri McLayghlin at Head Start.

Nearly all of the members in OAREA, Schwartz said, are retired educators who have worked in the schools. They include retired teachers, principals, secretaries, aides and other school workers from Owatonna, Medford, Waseca and NRHEG school districts.

"We do it because we know there is a need," Schwartz said.

This is the sixth year OAREA has conducted the winter gear project. He said they got the idea based on other groups focusing on such



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Students at Lincoln Elementary School in Owatonna proudly display about 50 pairs of gloves, hats and mitten donated by the Owatonna Area Retired Education Association. Making the donation was Gary Schwartz, president of OAREA. Social worker Amanda Griswold, back right, accepted the donation on behalf of Lincoln.

necessities as coats, boots and beds. "It was kind of a unique opening for our ability to help someone," Schwartz said.

Anyone involved in education is encouraged to join OAREA, Schwartz said. Dues are \$5 per year. The group meets monthly in the mornings at a local restaurant.

Schwartz retired in 2009 after 37 years in education.

History in the making

What is history in the making? At the Steele County Historical Society (SCHS), we see it as a current event that will be remembered in the future because of its impact on society.

As the number of refugees and immigrants from the Middle East and Africa grows, so, it seems, does the fear of Muslims. In Minnesota, followers of Islam are establishing their place within the state's communities — as leaders and entrepreneurs and innovators — even amid



Steele Talkin'
STEPHANIE KIBLER

Chehabeddine, a Lebanese-born journalist, public speaker, wife and mother of three, who has lived in the U.S. since 2008. She is Muslim and now an American citizen. She feels compelled to reach out to her fellow Americans to help bridge an understanding of her religion and way of life.

Chehabeddine is a branding expert fluent in Arabic, English, and French who has been published in Cosmopolitan magazine, The Washington Times, the Huffington Post, MinnPost, the American Diversity Report, and on her own blog, www.hanadispeaksout.com. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in International Leadership at the University of St. Thomas while changing the perception of Muslims in the corporate world as a diversity trainer.

How does this impact history? Just as we venerate the traditions and impact of Norwegian heritage with the New Land, New Life exhibit currently on display at SCHS, one day we will observe Middle Eastern and African traditions that play a role in shaping our community.

This event is free to the public and is sponsored by the United Way of Steele County through the generous support of a Bush Foundation Community Innovation Grant.

The History Center, located at 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna, is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. For more information, please call our office at 507-451-1420.

Stephanie Kibler is the meetings and events manager for the Steele County Historical Society. Steele Talkin' is a regular column written by various authors representing groups and organizations throughout Steele County.

State awards grant for transportation project

The Minnesota Department of Transportation, in partnership with the Department of Employment and Economic Development, has awarded \$18 million in grants for seven state highway projects, including one in Dodge County, that will support growing industry and businesses, leverage private funding and improve the transportation system for all users.

Four projects in Greater Minnesota and three projects in the Twin Cities metro area will receive a total of \$18,197,450 as part of the state's Transportation Economic Development Program. The project in southeast Minnesota is for Highway 56 south of Dodge Center.

"Projects proposed under the TED program offer us an important opportunity to collaborate with our local partners and DEED to help enhance transportation and economic outcomes in Minnesota," said MnDOT Commissioner Charlie Zelle. "Those projects selected under this competitive program best demonstrated local government's willingness to invest in the transportation system and the private sector partners' commitment to job creation."

"One of Minnesota's strongest assets when it comes to economic development is its world-class infrastructure," said DEED Commissioner Shawntera Hardy. "This program is a tool that allows Minnesota to maintain its high-quality roads, bridges, and highways, in order to attract new businesses and talented workers."

This year's TED funds help leverage other federal, state, local and private funding for a total construction program of \$130 million.

The Dodge County project of \$135,450 provides for a bypass lane for southbound traffic and a right-hand turn lane for northbound traffic on Highway 56, about 1.5 miles south of the intersection with Highway 14 in Dodge Center.

Access to Con-Tech Manufacturing will be improved and may result in the ability to add positions to their operation. Total project cost is \$193,500.

MnDOT received nine project proposals in the Twin Cities area and six proposals in Greater Minnesota, for a total of \$67.6 million in requests for this year's TED grants.

SCFF

Fair begins search for area Century Farms

Applications for the recognition of 2018 Century Farms in Steele County are now available at the office of the Steele County Free Fair. Century Farms will be recognized during the Steele County Livestock Hall of Fame program on Tuesday, Aug. 14. Farms that qualify for the Century Farm recognition are those that are at least 100 years old in 2018 according to abstract of title, land patent, original deed, county land records, court file in registration proceedings or other authentic land records. The family must have owned the farm for 100 years or more. Ownership must be continuous. To obtain application forms on line go to MNstatefair.org. Deadline for applications is April 1.

SCFF

STEELE COUNTY FREE FAIR/ Steele County Agricultural Society

SECRETARY/MANAGER to work closely with Fair Board and staff in operation and management of the Steele County Free Fair and fairground events. Full Time salaried position will also work with other government entities along with sponsors, vendors, and the general public. Must have experience with Marketing, Sales, Public Relations and strong managerial skills.

Applications and job descriptions available at the Steele County Free Fair office, 1525 S. Cedar, Owatonna or on the Steele County Free Fair website, www.scff.org

Cover letter, application and resume, along with salary requirements must be in the SCFF office (not postmarked) by Friday, Jan. 19, 2018 at 4 p.m.

EOE

Special music fills the air



STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

Special music filled the air during the Dec. 31 worship service at First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie. Flutist Ellen Sunde and soloist Elle Harthan teamed up to provide a duet.

Owatonna Eagles offers scholarships

The Owatonna Eagles would like to invite all traditional and non-traditional students to apply for two \$1,000 Scholarships that will be awarded in May 2018.

A Link with more information and an application is available on the Eagles' website at www.eagles1791.com.

The funding for the Generous Award is from the Don Tuerk Endowment. Tuerk was a community-minded Owatonna native, long-time Eagles member, and Owatonna firefighter.

The scholarship will be targeted, but not limited, to students with goals of public service, two or four year degrees. Scholarships will be used for improving communities and helping others.

The Eagles encourages everyone to apply. The deadline is March 31.

Habitat starts Give 10 Campaign

Habitat for Humanity of Steele-Waseca area is holding a Give 10 Campaign through the month of January.

Can \$10 really make a difference? Your \$10 can be help break the cycle of a family moving from place to place trying to secure a safe and affordable place to live. Your \$10 can help improve children's health and performance in school. Your \$10 can help provide a "hand up and not a hand out" to a family looking to become responsible homeowners with an affordable mortgage. Your \$10 can help a child know he or she has a safe place to go home. Your \$10 can buy new hammers and screw drivers for the job site. Your \$10 can buy four studs for the house. You be the judge.

Does \$10 really make a difference? Our goal is to raise \$2,000 before the end of January. Donate today at www.habitatswa.org, P.O. Box 292, Owatonna, MN 55060 or drop off at 108 W. Vine St. in Owatonna.

NRHEG



Panther of the Week



SCARLETT

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Scarlett is in Ms. Beenken's 2nd Grade Class and she resides with her parents, Wade and Deborah Chance, in Hartland.

Scarlett is a wonderful second grader who is always showing Panther Pride as she encourages her classmates to do the right thing and to always show kindness. She is the responsible big sister to her brother Abram as well as an active member in her faith formation and church choir. Scarlett loves to help others.

Her favorite food is pizza and some of her favorite hobbies are going to build-a-bear workshop, coloring, and shopping with her mom. Keep up the great work Scarlett!

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Thursday, Jan. 18 at the Serviceman's Club

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Allina Health announces restricted visitor guidelines for hospitals

Starting Jan. 2, Allina Health implemented restricted visitor guidelines to protect all patients and staff due to influenza.

The restriction includes Owatonna Hospital and District One Hospital in Faribault.

Some of the guidelines now include:

- Children under the age of five (5) are asked not to visit patients.
- Visitors to Mom Baby/ Birth Center units may be screened for wellness and children under 5 will be screened for wellness before visiting.
- Visitors who are sick should refrain from visiting patients in the hospital.
- If you or your child has a cough or sore throat, please wear a mask while in our building.
- Compassionate exceptions may be considered based on a patient's critical condition/ prognosis. Talk to a nurse.

At all times, please cover your cough. Please wash your hands or use the antibacterial hand cleanser we provide throughout our facilities.

Where's my Hy-Vee Insert?



EMPLOYEE OWNED

Good question. It's not in our newspaper this week and won't be moving forward. It's not an oversight on our part, and it's something that you better get used to throughout 2018.

Beginning Jan. 1, Hy-Vee Foods has discontinued its corporate weekly insert with all newspapers throughout Minnesota and elsewhere, including the Steele County Times, which has carried the Hy-Vee insert for many years.

This was not a decision of this newspaper and any comments or complaints about this decision should be directed to customer@hy-vee.com or call Hy-Vee corporate office in West Des Moines, Iowa at 515-267-2800. Please do not call our office, but rather deal directly with Hy-Vee regarding this issue. It was a decision made solely by corporate executives at Hy-Vee.

STEELE COUNTY

Times

Rick Bussler
Publisher
Steele County Times

Geneva Cancer Auction planned for two weekends

The 34th Annual Geneva Cancer Auction will be held at the Geneva Bar & Grill the weekends of Jan. 13-14 and Jan. 19-20.

The Friday night auctions begin at 7 p.m. and the auction resumes each Saturday at 1 p.m.

Varieties of items will be featured on the auctions including favorite foods. Hope butter is always a popular donated item.

Sports items including caps, t-shirts, sweatshirts, fishing poles, basketballs, volleyballs will be put on the auction line.

Hand-made items will be put on the auction and will include quilts and crochet creations.

If interested in donating items to the auction, contact the Geneva Bar & Grill and leave the items there.

STEM to highlight Owatonna AAUW meeting

Members of the American Association of University Women invite interested guests and potential members to attend their meeting on Thursday, Jan. 18, 7 p.m. at the new McKinley Elementary School in Owatonna.

The program for the evening will be a presentation about STEM EDUCATION IN OWATONNA by Tom Meagher and Michelle Simon. STEM emphasizes Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, while also teaching the other content areas. The group will learn of a partnership with Japan, led by Meagher, and will hear about many examples of STEM education from Simon. There will also be a tour of the new McKinley Elementary School.

Scuba diving classes coming to Owatonna

The Owatonna Diving Club is offering scuba diving classes.

A Discover Scuba Class will be available beginning Feb. 7. A regular class offered through Owatonna Community Education will be offered starting Feb. 14.

Folks interested in signing up should do so by going online to owatonnacommunityed.org or calling 507-444-7900.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE'S MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON THURSDAY

The Owatonna Izaak Walton League will have its membership meeting and meal on Thursday, Jan. 11 at the Albert F. Reding Environmental Education Center (1546 58th St. SW Owatonna).

Starting at 6:30 p.m., there will be the annual oyster stew and chili supper. Darryl Hill will speak about Minnesota birds and the 2017 Christmas Bird Count at 7:15 p.m. Then, the membership meeting will begin at 8 p.m.

OWATONNA MUSIC BOOSTERS ANNOUNCE LINE-UP FOR ANNUAL BENEFIT CONCERT

On Saturday, Jan. 13, performers from throughout the community will take to the stage of Owatonna High School to raise money to support music and music education in Owatonna.

This will be the 8th year for this event and it promises to be entertaining for all. The event begins with a silent auction featuring donated items and event tickets, many with a music, theater and the performing arts theme to them. The auction opens at 6 p.m. and closes after the intermission of the show.

The concert will begin at 7 p.m. and will feature a wide variety of music and musical acts. Some highlights from the lineup that have been confirmed so far are a rock band, an elementary clarinet ensemble, several performances by Owatonna Music Staff (including a song performed by elementary music teachers and a quartet of tuba, violin, cello and piano from Owatonna Middle School music teachers), high school students performing in brass, woodwind, and percussion ensembles, a male vocal quartet, a piano trio and several special guest performers.

The Owatonna High School Jazz Ensemble will feature the vocal stylings of the new Owatonna School District Superintendent Jeff Elstad. The Bad Tangerines will return to this event that they launched 8 years ago to share a few songs.

Tickets are available at the door. The cost is \$10/ adult and \$5/student. All proceeds raised will go to support music scholarships, workshops for students, and extra instruments and equipment for the Owatonna music program K-Grade 12.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST BENEFITTING LOCAL GROUPS

A pancake breakfast will take place on Sunday, Jan. 14 from 8 a.m. to Noon at the Owatonna VFW to benefit the Steele County Exchange, Medford 4-H and Izaak Walton League.

Pancakes, French toast, sausage, fried or scrambled eggs, juice and milk will be served. Advance tickets for \$6 are available at Kottke

Jewelers or from Ikes members. Tickets are \$7 at the door.

STEELE COUNTY REPUBLICANS HOSTING CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

The Steele County Republican Party will host a debate between First Congressional candidates Jim Hagedorn and Carla Nelson at the VFW Hall in Owatonna at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 15.

All are welcome to attend, and the event is free of charge. The two candidates will not have seen the questions that will be debated before the event. There will also be a couple of "lightning rounds" of quick one to two-word answers to questions that will help us get to know the candidates better.

It is a great opportunity for you to speak one-on-one with the candidates on issues that concern you.

SONS OF NORWAY ANNOUNCE JANUARY MEETING

The Nortonna Lodge 1-638 of the Sons of Norway will meet on Monday, Jan. 15. Supper will be served at 6 p.m. for a cost of \$7 at the Owatonna Elks Lodge, 126 E. Vine St.

The program is "Carving in the Nordic Style" with Clayton Johnson. Johnson spent over seven years carving a scale model of the Swedish warship Vasa, which has been called "the most accurate in the world" by the director of the Vasa Museum in Stockholm. He will share information about the intricate Nordic carvings he creates.

If you would like more information on the Nortonna Lodge of the Sons of Norway, contact Cindy or Paul Hokanson at 507-451-9301.

SPECIAL SALE AT FARMERS FEED AND PET SUPPLY TO BENEFIT CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Farmers Feed and Pet Supply will hold a Grand Opening of its newly remodeled birdseed and equipment area with a special sale of birdseed and accessories on Jan. 19-20 at 616 N. Cedar Ave.

With the cooperation of the Owatonna Izaak Walton League, there will be special offers as well as gift certificates, free carryout and delivery. The Ikes will use its profits to fund the annual Christmas Bird Count.

For more information, call 451-2363.

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE SELLING SPECIAL CALENDARS IN JANUARY

The Owatonna Izaak Walton League will be selling special 1990 calendars throughout the month of January until they are gone.

The calendars feature historic buildings in Owatonna and daily quotations from famous people including a few from Izaak Walton. They were created by southern Minnesota artist Ron Hunt. All the dates from 1990 line-up with the dates for 2018.

There are over a dozen calendars available at \$5.00 each. If interested, call 451-6676. The Ikes will deliver in Owatonna.

Recipe Corner

Grilled Chicken Skewers

Serves 6

- 6 boneless chicken thighs, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/4 cup olive oil

- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon ground coriander
- 1 tablespoon dry oregano
- 1 teaspoon turmeric

Toss the chicken with all the other ingredients and let marinate in the refrigerator for 4 hours (up to 24 hours is ideal). Thread chicken evenly onto 6 wooden or metal skewers. Prepare a grill on medium-high heat and grill the skewers for about 5 minutes per side, until chicken is cooked through.

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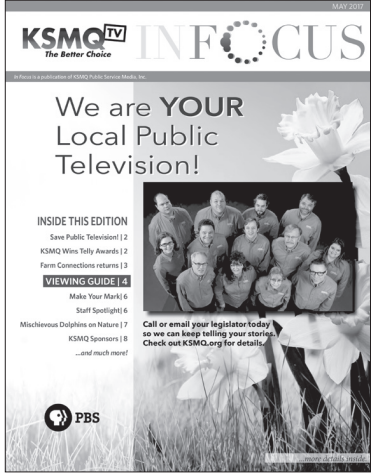


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- BAR BINGO: Monday, 6:30 p.m.
- BLOOMIN' GRAPEVINE WINE CLUB: Meets Tuesdays at J&H Liquor from 7 to 8:30 p.m. On these dates: Jan. 30, Feb. 20, March, 20, April 17 and May 8th/Season Finalē. Benefits the BP Youth Club.

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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JAN. 10
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
4:30 p.m. – Economic Development Authority Meeting

JAN. 11
4 p.m. – Police Commission Meeting

JAN. 14
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. -

BP Cancer Group Breakfast, Pizza Cellar

JAN. 16
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
2:30 p.m. – BPPU Meeting
5:30 p.m. – Ambulance Commission Meeting

JAN. 18
6 p.m. – Annual Chamber Banquet, Servicemen's Club



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ELLENDALE/GENEVA/HOPE

JAN. 11
7:30 p.m. – Ellendale City Council Meeting

JAN. 15
6 p.m. – Com Ed (Water Color Painting with Judy

Tweeten) Class, NRHEG HS Art Room

JAN. 16
6:30 p.m. – Karate, Ellendale Elementary Gym North



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OWATONNA/MEDFORD

JAN. 10
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. – Community Expo – Get Connected, ATA Café area
5 p.m. – Medford EDA Meeting

JAN. 11
2 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library
5 p.m. – Airport Commission Meeting, Airport Lounge

6:30 p.m. – Owatonna Izaak Walton League Annual Oyster Stew and Chili Supper & Membership Meeting, Reding Environmental Education Center
7 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library

JAN. 12
5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Owatonna Chamber of Commerce's 2018 Annual Dinner, Owatonna Country Club

JAN. 13
6 p.m. – Owatonna Music Boosters' Benefit Concert, Owatonna High School

JAN. 14
8 a.m. – Noon – Pancake Benefit Breakfast, Owatonna VFW

JAN. 15
6:30 a.m. – Owatonna Human Rights Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast, Plaza Morena Campestre Grill
6 p.m. – Sons of Norway Meeting, Owatonna Elks Lodge
7 p.m. – 8 p.m. – Steele County Republican Party Community Information Night, Owatonna VFW

JAN. 16
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – It's Tale Time, Owatonna Library
4:30 p.m. – Library Board Meeting, Owatonna Library

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BASKETBALL

Schultz cements legacy, Huskies sweep Rochester foes

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Sydney Schultz has collected one accomplishment after another during her four years playing basketball for Owatonna, but the one she earned on Thursday may be the sweetest one yet.

The senior forward now stands at the top as the all-time leading scorer for the Huskies girls' program after scoring 35 points in Owatonna's 61-49 win over Rochester Mayo (3-7, 2-5).

"It's a huge honor," said Schultz, who has been named an all-Big 9 performer the past three seasons. "I couldn't have done it without my team, so I thank them a lot for all of this."

The game was stopped momentarily to recognize Schultz after she drove past multiple Rochester Mayo defenders to score while being fouled early in the first half of the contest.

"I was just in shock," she said. "I still don't think it's really hit me. It's such a big deal that it might take some time to realize what this means, but I was really excited and happy to be able to do it at home."

Schultz sits at 1,549 points after scoring another 26 points in the Huskies' 78-58 victory versus Rochester Century (3-9, 1-7) on Saturday. She eclipsed the previous mark of 1,490 set by Sarah Draayer from 1997-2001.

"It was so awesome," fellow Owatonna senior Ahnna Stelter said. "No one deserves it more than she does. I'm so happy for her because she has been working so hard for it."

Stelter said Schultz's determination is undeniable.

"She's the most determined player I have ever played with or watched," Stelter said. "That's what sets her apart."

Owatonna coach Lindsey Hugstad-Vaa said it was a lot of fun watching Schultz break the record.

"She just works hard every single day," Hugstad-Vaa said. "She's worked so hard and is so deserving of it."

Schultz said she definitely plans to play college basketball, but she's just not sure where yet.

She has been looking at possibly playing at Concordia, Minnesota-Duluth, Saint Thomas or Luther.

Owatonna started the week off by defeating Rochester John Marshall (6-6, 5-3) on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 54-43.

Stelter said the team feels good about the progress its made, but they know they will have to continue to improve in order to achieve their goals.

"We need to work on defense," she said. "That's going to be on main focus from here on out. Our offense is connecting, clicking, and starting to really get going, but we have to step it up on defense."

Hugstad-Vaa said the Huskies have been playing better since the holiday break and the three wins this past week were pivotal to keep the Huskies' Big 9 title hopes alive.

Owatonna (8-4, 7-1) is currently second in the conference standings behind Northfield (10-2, 9-0), but Red Wing (9-1, 6-1) and a number of others teams aren't far behind.

"We wanted to play well against the Rochester teams and I think the girls did that," Hugstad-Vaa said. "When we play good defense and hustle, good things happen. We had a good overall effort and I'm proud of how hard the kids played."

"We are excited about those three wins and we know we have another big week coming up," she continued. "We are really hoping to have a good stretch in January where we are playing our best basketball so far."

Owatonna traveled to Red Wing on Tuesday and will venture to Faribault (4-7, 3-5) on Friday.



Above, Owatonna senior Sydney Schultz scores in the Huskies' 78-58 win over Rochester Century on Saturday. Below, family and friends celebrate with Owatonna's Sydney Schultz after she set the new Owatonna girls career scoring mark on Thursday. Photo courtesy of Michelle Simon

OWATONNA ALL-TIME LEADING SCORERS (GIRLS)

1. Sydney Schultz 1,549
2. Sarah Draayer 1,490
3. Angie Iverson 1,366
4. Krista Bird 1,315
5. Lauren Barber 1,307
6. Sarah McCann 1,252
7. Beth Peterson 1,248
8. Courtney Hayford 1,117
9. Trisha Benjamin 1,100
10. Lisa Johnson 1,037



Defense key in Panthers wins

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Gritty defense helped the New Richland-Heartland-Ellendale-Geneva boys basketball team secured a pair of close wins after returning to the hardwood following the holiday break.

NRHEG (10-1) recorded victories over Tri-City United (2-7) on Friday and Hayfield (1-10) on Saturday.

"We're feeling pretty good," NRHEG coach Pat Churchill said. "We seem to be getting better most nights. That's our goal: to take it one game at a time and keep getting better and see where we can be at the end of year."

The defense carried the team Friday, as the Panthers hung on to defeated the Titans 43-40.

"Defensively, we did a pretty good job all night long holding them to 20 points each half," Churchill said. "But I felt offensively we were a little off tonight. We settled for jumpers and didn't really want to work that



NRHEG defenders lockdown a TCU player on Friday in the final seconds of the Panthers' 43-40 victory.

hard on offense to get what we could."

Churchill said he knew his team was in for a battle despite Tri-City United's weak record.

"Every year, we seem to have a pretty close game with them," he said. "If you look

SEE DEFENSE, B6

BP girls rout Rebels

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Coming off a two-week break for the Christmas holidays, the Awesome Blossom girls took the floor with good intensity and routed Southland 67-51 on the home court Friday, Jan. 5. The non-conference victory raised the Blossom record to 7-2 overall and the team remained 4-1 in the conference.

A fast start propelled the locals into a 44-19 lead at the break. The starters went to the bench early in the second half. Freshman Megan Oswald scored a game-high 16 points, all in the first half, but three other Blossoms made it into double figures for the game.

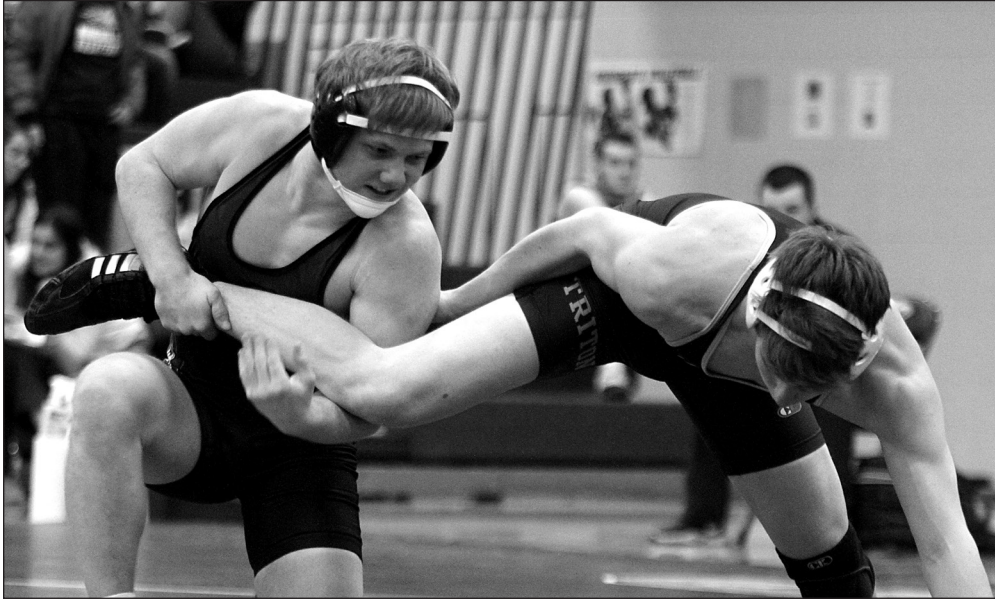
"We played a great first half," BP coach John Bruns said. "We played solid defense and executed well on offense as well. The second half got a little sloppy, but we did open up a 31-point lead, before the Rebels came back to cut the margin to a dozen points at one time."

Besides Oswald's 16 points, Julia Worke counted 14 points, Sam Wurst had 12, and McKenna Hein added 11. Hein credited the bench play for a lot of their success.

"We do a lot of stuff together off the court and the

SEE REBELS, B5

WRESTLING



Razorbacks easy winners

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Westfield wrestlers used six forfeits and two falls to outdistance Triton 58-21 at Dodge Center on Thursday.

Cole Christianson pinned Sean Strom in the second period at the 132-pound weight class and Colton Krell took down Trey Theobald at 3:35 of the second period at 170.

The Razorbacks jumped out to an 18-0 lead on three forfeits. Keegan Bronson, Ethan Arett and

Cody Nirk, and then used Christianson's fall and a forfeit for Joe Pirkil to up the score to 30-6. Tyler Archer had suffered a pin in the first period at 126. Joey Meyer was pinned at 145, but Payton Simon won a wild 13-5 decision over Kalen Strom, after taking a 9-1 lead after two periods for a 34-12 team lead.

Seth Peterson won by forfeit at 160 and Krell earned his second period fall, before Isaac Fernandez lost by a second period fall at 182. The Cobras' Hunter Jennings took an 8-2 verdict over Morgan Moreno at 195, but Dylan Nirk, and Mitchell Oswald closed out the match with an injury default for Nirk and a forfeit for Oswald.

STAFF PHOTO: DENNIS MARSHALL
Westfield's Colton Krell hangs on to the leg of Triton's Trey Theobald, earning a takedown. Krell won by fall in 3:25.

BACK TO SPORTS

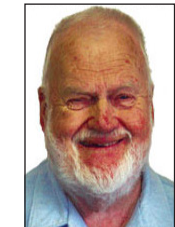
Now that the holidays are history and we enter those dark days of winter, one saving grace for sports fans is the resumption of athletic contests.

The Westfield wrestling team sprang back into action with competition at Triton this past Thursday. It turned into a relatively easy victory, with six forfeits and two falls leading the way.

The shared program with Hayfield has certainly worked to the advantage of both schools, as I know that on our own, the Blossoms could probably be in Triton's shoes, with several forfeits in each match. With the sharing, the wrestling picture is bright, as the team holds its own against almost any

opponent, and that is fun to see.

Both basketball teams also went back to work this past week with non-conference contests against Southland. The Blossom girls had an easy time with the Rebels on the home court, racing to a 44-19 halftime lead and coasting the rest of the way. BP girls coach John Bruns gave a lot of credit to the three seniors on the team for



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

their leadership and guidance for the many underclassmen on the team. No juniors came out for basketball this season, and sophomore and junior high players populate the squad. The team has only one loss in the conference and are 7-2 overall at this time.

The boys rose above .500 again at 5-4 with their win at Adams. The return of Gabe Hagen, who had been out for two months with an injury, provided a good spark for the team. Maybe that was just the spark the team needed as they continue with the season

BP PERSONS FEATURED

BP parent Kathy Piller and senior athlete Alec Ille become the latest personalities to be featured on Owatonna Live's Beyond the Game interview program by reporter Todd Walkingstick. Piller was his guest on the first installment in January, while Ille was featured on the program this past December.

Piller recounted her high school days in Iowa and her induction into her school's Athletic Hall of Fame. She also spoke about her teaching at Southland, her volunteerism on the BP Ambulance squad and her support for the Blossoms' football team as a volunteer trainer. Finally, she relayed some of her feelings being a fan in the stands in contests in which her own boys were competing. It provided an interesting interview.

In the earlier interview, BPHS senior athlete Alec Ille was the latest BPHS student to be interviewed Walkingstick. Ille was one of three area athletes featured on Walkingstick's final show of the year.

Ille recounted some of his highlights from his cross country career and from his track exploits. One of his highlights happened when he broke the school's record in the 3,200-meter run this past spring. Ille is taking a couple of weeks off from running, but will resume his 50-mile-trek each week after the holidays.

Ille, who got his habit of running from his dad, commented that the BPHS course was his favorite cross country course, but that he also enjoyed running at Chatfield. Although his college plans are not definite, he is leaning toward Wartburg College to pursue his post high school career. It proved an interesting interview with one of the brightest athletic stars at the local high school.

BOWL MANIA

With the college national championship decided Monday night, I can't help making one comment about the recent bowl playoffs over the holidays. The Big Ten conference is supposedly down in talent this year, in basketball, but the same certainly can't be said for football. The eight conference teams that played in bowl games had seven of them winning the game. Only Michigan, which lost its game because of numerous turnovers, didn't emerge with victory. It is true that the national title went to a SEC team, but the Big Ten acquitted itself admirably in its post-season play. That is just a thought, anyway.

Now that college football is complete for the season, Minnesota fans are waiting in high anticipation for the Viking playoff game next Sunday. Viking fans have become acclimated to the fact that something always happens to stymie the team from reaching its potential. Whether it is a missed field goal (that has happened twice), a lucky pass completion by the opponent or a late injury. Defeat has always been snatched from victory.

Coach Mike Zimmer promised this year will be different, but we will believe it when it happens. To play in the Super Bowl on the home field would be a history-making event, and we can only cross fingers that it will come to fruition. What a happening that would be!

COMING UP

The annual Chamber of Commerce banquet is coming up on Thursday, Jan. 18, and residents are invited and encouraged to attend the event. Honored citizens this year will be Dick and Craig Kruckeberg, and they are well-deserving choices. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time and it should be a good evening of socializing and honoring those individuals. Several other big events are not too far off in the future and we can say again that there is always something happening in our community. Enjoy the weather and we'll talk again.

BASKETBALL

DEFENSE: Panthers win

FROM PAGE B4

at their schedule you will see that they have played a lot close games against some decent teams.

"They came out ready to play," Churchill continued. "It was tough game that we had to grind out."

The Panthers built a double-digit lead in the second half, but TCU kept playing hard and was able to cut the lead to one point with two minutes remaining in the game.

However, NRHEG's Jacob Schuller made two big free throws and TCU's last second 3-pointer to tie the game was long.

"I thought we had them on the ropes a little bit, but then they made a run," Churchill said. "We held the lead the entire night but they definitely made it interesting down the stretch."

Churchill said he was proud of Shuller for making the clutch free throw after struggling from the line the past few games.

"I just knew that I was going to have to come through clutch," Shuller said.

Brady Agrimson led the Panthers with 12 points and Benji Lundberg and Nathaniel Techau each had eight.

The Panthers cruised to a 59-44 win over the Vikings on Saturday in the team's final meeting as non-conference opponents before Hayfield joins the Gopher Conference next season.

Churchill said it was a typical hard fought, slow paced game.

"I felt our defensive pressure finally started to lead to some steals and easy transition baskets and push the lead to double digit halfway through the second half," Churchill said. "It was another tough, slow, grind-it-out game."

Shuller and Lundberg led the Panthers with 14 points. Agrimson added 13.

Churchill said the three players provided the Panthers with good balance.

"We just have to keep working on the little things," Nathaniel Techau said. "We have the all the pieces to have a special season and we are getting better every game."



NRHEG's Jacob Schuller goes for a block against TCU on Friday

STAFF PHOTO: DENNIS MARSHALL

Owatonna dismantles Winona, nears showdown with No. 3 Albert Lea

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The No. 8 ranked Owatonna wrestling team had one final tuneup before meeting its biggest rival.

The Huskies traveled to Winona and defeated the Winhawks 66-13 on Thursday, Jan. 4.

"Overall, we were very happy with how our kids wrestled," Owatonna coach Adam Woitalla said. "They came out aggressive and were looking to score points right away and they were able to get the job done."

Woitalla said he was especially impressed with eighth-grader Kanin Hable and sophomore Jerez Autridge.

Hable competed against the No. 1 ranked wrestler in Minnesota's Class AAA at the 106-pound weight class, Ryan Henningson.

"Hable wrestled a real tough match," Woitalla said. "He competed very hard which was nice to see from a coaching perspective."

Henningson defeated Hable 12-3.

"The first period went pretty good," Hable said. "After that he just kept racking up points, but I know how to beat him now."

Owatonna's Blake West said it was exciting match and Hable gave his opponent a run for his money.

"It was fun to see everyone work hard," West said. "Everybody grinding out their matches and a lot of the guys got the fall, so it was just a fun dual to watch."

Autridge lost 5-2 to the No. 5 ranked wrestler at the 145 weight class, Jack Vaselaar.

"[Autridge] really frustrated his opponent," Woitalla said. "He was able to slow down the match and he wrestled great."

"If we want to win these bigger matches we need kids like Kanin Hable and Jerez Autridge to step up like that," he continued. "We were really happy with how those two competed for us."

The Huskies will take on No. 3 ranked Albert Lea at home on Thursday, Jan. 11.

"There is a lot riding on this [dual meet]," Woitalla said. "It will be a great test to where we are at as team."

Owatonna and Albert Lea have combined to win the past 22 Big 9 Conference Championships.

The Huskies have won 12 and the Tigers 10. Owatonna won the crown this past season.

"We need to work a little harder in the practice room," Hable said. "We have enough talent. We just have to put the time and effort in if we want to win the section and beat Albert Lea."

THREE HUSKIES GO UNDEFEATED AT THE CLASH

Owatonna also competed at the The Clash XVI at the RCTC Regional Sports Center in Rochester on Dec. 29 and 30.

"We are right on track and trending in the right direction," Woitalla said. "We still have a lot to improve on and get better, but we are where we thought we would be at this point in the season."

Owatonna's Peyton Robb, Cade King and West went undefeated at the tournament.

West also earned some redemption when he defeated Jaden Verhagen from Kaukauna, Wisconsin. Verhagen, who is Wisconsin's No. 2 ranked wrestler at the 106-pound weight class, had defeated West in the third place match a couple of weeks earlier at the Minnesota Christmas Tournament in Rochester.

"It shows that we have good practice partners to get us up to that level," West said. "It also showed that we are working as hard as any team out there to get better."

"It was great competition," Woitalla said. "You're getting some high-end competition from not only the state, but the country."

The Huskies finished the tournament 3-3.

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BOYS



Blake West

Owatonna freshman Blake West had an very impressive week of action. He went 5-0 at The Clash in Rochester on Dec. 29 and 30. One of his five wins were against the No. 1 ranked wrestler in Wisconsin at the 106-pound weight class. West's season record is 21-2 with 13 of his victories coming by pin.

GIRLS



Megan Oswald

A big surprise for the Blooming Prairie girls' basketball team has been the play of freshman Megan Oswald. She has emerged as another consistent scoring option for the Blossoms. Oswald scored a game-high 16 points in BP's 67-51 victory over Southland on Friday, Jan. 5.

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BASKETBALL



Blomming Prairie's Megan Oswald goes up for a layup over Southland defenders in the the Blossoms win on Friday.

STAFF PHOTOS: DENNIS MARSHALL

REBELS: *BP girls*

FROM PAGE B4

team is really close,” she said. “We count on the bench players for advice during the game.”
 Oswald and Worke led the defense with seven rebounds each, and Worke also had six steals for her night. Ayren Ingvalson contributed six points, three rebounds and four assists.
 “We work in practice,” she said, “Then when you push yourself in a game, it is easier.”
 Bruns praised the three seniors who have been the leaders of the team.
 “We have a lot of underclassmen and no juniors on the squad, and the seniors have handled the leadership very well.” he said. “So far, all is well with the Awesome Blossoms.”
 JV coach Cory Hendrickson’s team trailed by three points at the half, but the Blossoms were able to make some shots late in the game to pull out a 28-27 squeaker. Balanced scoring proved the key to the victory, as ten players had at least a point in the contest. Allison Krohnberg and Maggie Bruns both had five points and Riauna Bishop added four. The team record improved to 5-4 with the win.



Awesome Blossom McKenna Hein shuts down a Southland player on Friday.

BASKETBALL

BP boys upend Southland

BY LEMAR NELSON
 STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie sophomore Kaden Thomas had a career scoring night to lead the Awesome Blossom boys to a 57-46 non-conference victory over Southland at Adams on Friday, Jan.5.
 The win put the Blossoms back above .500 for the season at 5-4 overall.
 “This was a hard-fought win tonight,” BP coach Nate Piller said. “The Rebels seemed determined to take the ball out of our post players’ hands, but fortunately, we got off to good starts in both halves. We started out 7-0 in the first half and had a good first few

minutes in the second half too. It was a nice section win for us.”
 Besides the 23 points for Thomas, Gabe Hagen contributed 13 points in his second game back from injury and he and Jake Ressler led the team in rebounds with eight each. Jared Landherr counted 17 points to lead the Rebel scoring. Cameron Kubista handed out eight assists in the game and the team had a season-low six turnovers.
 “Although we never trailed in this game,” Piller said, “The Rebels didn’t go away easily. The lead shrunk to four points midway through the second half, but the boys played through the pressure.”

BOWLING

LADIES BOWLING LEAGUE

FINAL WEEK OF SEASON FIRST HALF
 RESULTS WEEK THIRTEEN JAN. 3, 2018
 TEAM STANDINGS

	WON	LOST
F & M BANK	39.5	16.5
B TO Z HARDWARE	30.5	25.5
KOSTERS' KAR CORNER	28.5	27.5
J & H/DAIRY QUEEN	27.5	28.5
EPIC CONTRACTING	22.5	33.5
BUNKIES LANES & GRILL	19.5	36.5

HIGH TEAM GAME –SCRATCH	
F & M BANK	570
HIGH TEAM GAME- HANDICAP	
KOSTERS' KAR CORNER	567
HIGH TEAM SERIES- SCRATCH	
F & M BANK	1641
HIGH TEAM SERIES- HANDICAP	
KOSTERS' KAR CORNER	1575

HIGH GAME INDIVIDUAL	
1. ALYSA RESSLER	174
2. JUDY ESPLAN	162
HIGH SERIES INDIVIDUAL	
1. ALYSA RESSLER	429
2. JOANN NIELSON	426
2. JUDY ESPLAN	426

Junior high roundup

BY LEMAR NELSON
 STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie coach Emily Henslin’s junior high girls grabbed a doubleheader win over Southland on the home court Friday, Jan.5. Both the seventh and eight-grade teams played

well in getting the victories.
 The seventh grade team got off to a fast start in its contest and stayed aggressive to the rim all game long in a 27-6 win. A great defense allowed the Rebels just two points in the first half. Anna Pauly and Sierra Larson each had eight points to lead the local scoring.
 The eight grade girls, on the other

hand, fell behind 9-2, before mounting a comeback to take a two-point lead at the break.
 Henslin said the team played the best second half of the season and dominated the scoring for a 37-26 victory. Lauren Schammel counted 25 points, many of them coming with assists from Emily Miller. Miller added 10 points to the total.

NRHEG girls split

BY LEMAR NELSON
 STAFF WRITER

Hayfield girls dominated NRHEG in a 58-40 non-conference victory over the Panthers at New Richland on Saturday, Jan.6. The Vikings took a comfortable 33-3 margin into the halftime break. NRHEG dropped to 8-3 overall with the loss.
 “Hayfield is a great team,” NRHEG coach Onika Peterson said. “They shot and rebounded very well, and we struggled keeping up with the fast pace. The girls never gave up, however, and battled all the way.”
 Hayfield had an off night shooting, but the defense played well. For NRHEG Betsy Schoenrock had 14 points and nine rebounds, but Elecia Brown led all scorers with 19 points for the Vikings. Maggie Streightiff and Carrie Rutledge both had 13 points for the winners, and three Panthers added four points each, and Olivia Christopherson handed out five assists.
 PANTHERS EDGE WEM
 In their first start of the

new year, the NRHEG girls got a layup basket by Betsy Schoenrock to edge WEM 53-52 in a Gopher Conference contest on Thursday, Jan.4, on the home court. The Panthers improved to 8-2 overall and 3-1 in conference play.
 “This was a back and forth game throughout,” Peterson

said, “Neither team ever led by more than seven points.”
 Schoenrock made a driving layup to win the exciting game. The Bucs led 21-19 at the half.
 Schoenrock led the Panther scoring with 29 points and Christopherson counted 14 points. Schoenrock

also cleared the boards for 10 rebounds and had four blocked shots. Kelly Harden added six rebounds and handed out three assists. Sophie Stork and Erin VanWilgen each added four assists.

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13-093719

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 7, 2007
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$109,200.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Sharon L. Van Esch, a single woman

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

SERVICER: Seterus, Inc. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed August 13, 2007, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000351664, Thereafter assigned to Federal National Mortgage Association.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lots 3 and 4 in Block 23 in Johnson and Company's Addition to the Village of Medford
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 410 1st Ave SW, Medford, MN 55049
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 16.101.2303
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$122,127.03

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: January 25, 2018, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060

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

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on July 25, 2018, or the next business day if July 25, 2018 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: November 27, 2017
Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae") Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY
Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764

Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee
Shapiro & Zielke, LLP
12550 West Frontage Road,
Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

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

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: September 8, 2014
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$99,170.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Cindy K. Rogness, a married person

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation, as nominee for Wintrust Mortgage, a division of Barrington Bank and Trust Co., N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on September 9, 2014 as Document Number A000398644 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Three (3), Block One (1), in Stormo Addition to City of Owatonna, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 1314 N CEDAR AVENUE, OWATONNA, MN 55060
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$96,964.55
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wintrust Mortgage, a division of Barrington Bank and Trust Co., N.A.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-157-0103

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100031200012152291

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: February 13, 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 August 13, 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: December 19, 2017

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Corbin C. Smith, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy
Professional Building
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(17-1292-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

12/26, 1/2, 1/9,
1/16,1/26, 1/30

FORECLOSURE

17-106617

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 22, 2010
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$131,400.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Ronald G. Dagit and Shirley A. Pichner, husband and wife and their Successors, as Trustees of the Pichner/Dagit Family Trust, the same bring dated 10/17/2005

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

SERVICER: Bank of America, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 19, 2011, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T000067268

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 9, Block 1, La Casa Estates REGISTERED PROPERTY

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 2025 La Casa Lane SE, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-436-0109 COT# 16750

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

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

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: January 25, 2018, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060

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

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on July 25, 2018, or the next business day if July 25, 2018 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING,

AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: November 27, 2017

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

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

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 3, 2008
MORTGAGOR: Mary Jean Patterson, single woman.

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

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

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

Said Mortgage being upon Registered Land. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 100199600000155495

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

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: U.S. Bank National Association

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

TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 173360112
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 12, Block 1, Heers Addition No. 4, Owatonna, Minnesota

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$144,281.00

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

THAT prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 2, 2018 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN

to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. \$580.07.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on August 2, 2018 unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

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

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

Dated: November 28, 2017

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

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P. Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(952) 925-6888
19 - 17-007504 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

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

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: October 23, 2013
MORTGAGOR: Francis L. Pete and Louise Pete who acquired title as Louise M. Barker, husband and wife, as joint tenants.

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Citibank, N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Filed December 3, 2013, Steele County Registrar of Titles, Document No. T000071027 on Certificate of Title No. 17106.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: CitiMortgage, Inc.. Dated January 5, 2016 Filed January 19, 2016 , as Document No. T000073389. And thereafter assigned to: Nationstar Mortgage d/b/a Mr. Cooper. Dated November 17, 2017 Filed November 27, 2017 , as Document No. T000075625.

Said Mortgage being upon Registered Land. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 100011511237743902

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Citibank, N.A.

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE

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

MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1419 North Cedar Avenue , Owatonna, MN 55060
TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 17-156-0209

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Nine (9); and Lot Ten (10), Except the South 70 feet of Lot 10, in Block Two (2) in Ochs' Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota, County of Steele.

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$156,500.00

AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$161,662.64

THAT prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 16, 2018 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN

to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. \$580.07.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on August 16, 2018, unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

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

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

Dated: December 11, 2017

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

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P. Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(952) 925-6888
21 - 17-005832 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

12/19,12/26,1/2
1/9,1/16,1/23

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS FOR 2018

The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers of the Steele Co. Chapter of Minnesota Pheasants for 2018 will be held at the KC Hall, 820 S. Elm, Owatonna on Tuesday Feb 6 with social hour at 6:30 and meeting at 7:00

Please Contact Kevin Johnson 455-0880

1/9 ,1/16 ,1/23

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: September 30, 2004
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$163,920.00
MORTGAGOR(S): John Devetter and Colleen Devetter, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation, as nominee for Timberland Mortgage Services, Inc., a Minnesota corporation
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on October 1, 2004 as Document Number A000326156 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on July 11, 2011 as Document Number A000378974 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to GCAT Management Services 2015-13 LLC by assignment recorded on August 25, 2015 as Document Number A000403768 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to MTGLQ Investors, L.P. by assignment recorded on October 18, 2017 as Document Number A000415351 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Southeast Quarter of Section 35, Township 107 North, Range 21 West, thence running East 1545.7 feet which point is the true point of beginning, thence running North 340 feet, thence running East 384.3 feet, thence running South 340 feet; thence running west to the point of beginning, Steele County, Minnesota.
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 5348 48TH STREET SOUTHWEST, OWATONNA, MN 55060
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$160,595.30
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Timberland Mortgage Services, Inc., a Minnesota corporation
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Rushmore Loan Management Services, LLC
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 09-035-2204
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100321500021405989
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: February 13, 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 August 13, 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: Colleen Devetter a/k/a Colleen Ahern

Dated: December 15, 2017
MTGLQ INVESTORS, L.P. 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 (16-0377-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

12/19,12/26,1/2 1/9,1/16,1/23

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: May 1, 2003
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$89,000.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Paula L. Aldrich and Raymond P. Aldrich, wife and husband
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.
SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 6, 2003, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A 310176
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing at a point 2 rods East and 12 rods and 2 links South of the NW corner of E1/4 of SE1/4 of SE1/4 of Section 3-107-20; running thence East 127.60 feet; thence South 66 feet; thence West 127.60 feet; thence North 66 feet to the point of beginning
AND
The E1/2 of the following described property: Commencing at a point 2 rods East and 12 rods and 2 links South of the NW corner of E1/4 of SE1/4 of SE1/4 of Section 3-107-20; thence East to a point 2 rods West of the East boundary of said SE1/4 of said SE1/4; thence South 66 feet; thence West to a point 2 rods East of the West boundary line of said E1/4 of SE1/4 of SE1/4; thence North 66 feet to point of beginning
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1315 Bigelow Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17.003.2207
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$77,766.35
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: February 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 August 22, 2018, or the next business day if August 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 2, 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

1/9,1/16,1/23 1/30, 2/6,2/13

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROBATE DIVISION

Court File Number: 74-PR-17-2389

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

In Re: Estate of Beverly J. Moen, a/k/a Beverly Moen Decedent

Notice is given that an application for informal probate of the Decedent's will dated October 25, 2010 has been filed with the registrar. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Registrar has informally appointed Marti Lillesve whose address is, 4500 Ranchview Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55446, as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. 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. Unless objections are filed with the Court (pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease, or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate Will or appointment of the Personal Representative must be filed with this Court and will be heard by the Court after the filling of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

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

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 501B.41, subdivision 5.

Kris Schmitz 12.29.2017 Registrar

Attorney for Petitioner Steven T. Rizzi Jr. Adams, Rizzi Sween, P.A. 300 First Street NW Austin, MN 55912 Attorney License No: 153126 Telephone: (507) 433-7394 FAX: (507) 433-8890 Email: srizzi@adamsrizzisween.com

1/9, 1/16

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROBATE DIVISION

Court File Number: 74-PR-17-2379

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

In Re: Estate of Eleanor Jean Anderson, Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on March 5, 2018, at 3:00 p.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at, 111 E. Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, August 7, 1990, (“Will”), and for the appointment of Jeri Linn Alwes, whose address is 527 1st St. NE, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 and Juli Ann Anderson, whose address is 4429 Urbandale Court N., Plymouth, MN 55446 as Personal Representatives of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representatives will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

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

Joseph A. Bueltel 12.28.2017 Judge of District Court

Attorney for Petitioner Eric J. Mattison Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A. 202 N. Cedar Avenue Owatonna, MN, 55060 Attorney License No: 151609 Telephone: (507) 451-3580 FAX: (507) 451-3532 Email: mattison@owatonnalawyers.com

1/9, 1/16

STEELE COUNTY

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 12/12/17
Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website.

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
1. Krueger/Gnemi to approve the agenda.
A. Approve the November 28, 2017 Special Board Minutes.
B. Approve the Bills.
C. Approve Personnel Report.
D. Accept Internal Central Services Committee Minutes.
E. Accept Community Services Committee Minutes.
F. Accept Planning Commission Minutes.
G. Approve the 2017 Emergency Management Performance Grant.
H. Renewed Office Space Lease Agreement between MRCI Work-Source and Steele County in the lower level of the Administration Center from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.
I. Renewed Office Space Lease Agreement between MNPrairie and Steele County in the upper level of the Administration Center from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.
2. Glynn/Abbe to approve the agreement between Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative and Strategic Technologies Inc for the maintenance and support of MCAPS effective January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2022 for the County Attorney's office. Ayes all.
3. Glynn/Abbe offered a Resolution to accept a donation of Diapers, Baby Wipes and Bariatric Commode from Anonymous. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, note absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution in on file in the Auditor's office.
4. Krueger/Gnemi offered a Resolution to authorize appropriated 2018 Petty Cash Funds to various Departments as custodians of these funds. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Auditor's office.
5. Glynn/Abbe to approve the Body Art establishment licenses for Three Dragons Lair and Kats Tats. Ayes all.
6. Krueger/Abbe to approve the Communication Facility License for thirty years ending September 1, 2047 with an automatic renewal option for another thirty years between OPU and Steele County Emergency Management. Ayes all.
7. Glynn/Krueger offered a Resolution to set Commissioner salaries at \$21,886 per year and per diem payments at \$70 per day effective 2018. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, note absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution in on file in the Auditor's office.
8. Krueger/Gnemi to approve CUP #412 for Dan Petsinger to erect a tower up to 199 feet tall on his property located in the SW ¼ of the NW ¼, Section 21, Lemond Township with conditions per the Planning Commission and to accept the Findings of Fact. Ayes all.
9. Glynn/Gnemi to amend CUP #333 for Greg PirkI to expand his existing liquid propane tank farm on his property located in the SE ¼ of the SE ¼, Section 18, Meriden Township with conditions per the Planning Commission and to accept the Findings of Fact. Ayes all.
10. Glynn/Gnemi to renew CUP #290 allowing SMC to mine sand and gravel on 30 acres owned by Mark and April Hafstad located in the NW ¼, Section 12 and the NE ¼, Section 11, Lemond Township with conditions per the Planning Commission and to accept the Findings of Fact. Ayes all.
11. Krueger/Gnemi to renew CUP #297 allowing SMC to mine sand and gravel owned by Virginia Jones located in the NE ¼, Section 17, Medford Township with conditions per the Planning Commission and to accept the Findings of Fact. Ayes all.
12. Gnemi/Abbe offered a Resolution to approve final payment to Crane Creek Asphalt in the amount of \$222,656.32 for SAP 074-636-002, SAP 074-614-033, SAP 074-624-011, SAP 074-626-017, SAP 074-626-018, CP 074-017-003, SAP 074-611-009, SAP 074-618-027. Upon the vote being taken four Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Brady abstaining. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Auditor's office.
13. Bill Fahey from Northland Securities gave an update on Steele County Communities for a Lifetime.
14. Krueger/Abbe offered a Resolution to approve Steele County's application for funding from the Voting Equipment Grant. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, note absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution in on file in the Auditor's office.
15. Glynn/Krueger to approve filling a Public Health Nurse position in the Public Health Department due to a resignation. Ayes all.
16. Glynn/Gnemi to approve increasing the Records Specialist position at the Law Enforcement Center from a .75 FTE to a 1.0 FTE. Ayes all.
17. Krueger/Gnemi to approve the purchase of office furniture in the amount of \$4,252.20 for the existing Conference room in the Public Health Department. Ayes all.
18. Glynn/Abbe to approve the Veteran Services Van Donations account balance of \$2,340 be carried forward into the 2018 budget year. Ayes all.
19. The Public Hearing and Presentation of the 2018 Budget and Tax Levy was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
20. County Treasurer Cathy Piepho and Administrator Scott Golberg reviewed and presented the 2018 Budget and Tax Levy.
21. The hearing was then open to questions from those in attendance.
22. Gnemi/Krueger to close the hearing at 6:42 p.m. Ayes all.
23. Glynn/Gnemi offered a Resolution to approve the 2018 tax levy totaling \$23,604,843. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Auditor's office.
24. Glynn/Gnemi to conduct interviews on December 20, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. for the Information Technology Director position. Ayes all.

LISTING OF BILLS
12/12/2017

30th Place LLC	18,921.23
Aaron Carlson Corporation	14,998.55
Balzer/Larry	14,830.00
City of Owatonna	29,962.50
Computer Professionals Unlimited Inc	4,539.00
CPS Technology Solutions	4,995.00
CRK Properties LLC	6,636.52
Dakota County Financial Services	3,810.00
Faribo Plumbing & Heating Inc	4,142.33
Four Seasons Centre	4,037.50
Fransen HR Consulting LLC	2,200.00
Harlands Tire & Auto Center	8,792.50
J&J Cabinet Works Inc	3,003.69
JR's Advanced Recyclers Inc	6,807.20
Kronos Incorporated	4,151.34
KSW Roofing & Heating Inc	4,694.77
Kwik Trip Inc	4,667.94
Matejcek Implement Co	5,501.98
Media Duplication Systems	3,424.00
MINNCOR Industries	2,050.00
Owatonna Motor Company	7,371.07
Owatonna Public Utilities	16,451.17
Reliance Telephone Inc	17,424.00
Steele County Free Fair	15,958.68
Steele County Highway Dept	27,149.96
Stoel Rives LLP	5,995.00
Streamline Communications LLC	5,230.69
Summit Food Service Management	9,795.92
Vanguard Appraisals Inc	17,710.00
Waste Management of Wi-Mn	50,118.08
Waterford Oil Company	8,733.49
WSB & Associates Inc	9,702.02
147 Warrants under \$2,000	53,914.82
Total:	\$ 397,720.95

Motion by Commissioner Gnemi, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 6:55 p.m. Ayes all.



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Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Cancer Corner

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

Plan a breakfast date Jan. 14 and fight cancer

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Mark your calendar for Sunday, the date of a Blooming Prairie Cancer Group benefit breakfast at the Pizza Cellar in downtown Blooming Prairie.

The breakfast, which officially kicks off the BP Cancer Group's fundraising year, will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Get your taste buds ready for some delicious pancakes, eggs and sausage. Orange juice, milk or coffee will also be served.

A free will donation is asked.

In addition to eating a tasty meal, customers will also be able to bid on several attractive silent auction items.

Kids and adults are encouraged to bring in their coins for the fish bowl. The coins will be donated to the Eagles Cancer Telethon.

The BP Cancer Group is earning funds all year long with a big cancer auction weekend held in early September. This year's dates for the Paint Blooming Prairie Pink auctions are Sept. 7 and 8.

Representatives of the BP Cancer Group will present a check to the Eagles Telethon at the Mayo Civic Auditorium in Rochester on Saturday.

Staff photo by Howard Lestrud



Five-year-old Liam Farr of Austin brought his coins and donated them to the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group at its annual breakfast last year. Youngsters are again encouraged to bring their coins to the 2018 breakfast scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Pizza Cellar, Blooming Prairie.

Last year, the BP Cancer Group donated \$64,000 to the Eagles Telethon. The BP Cancer Group also plans on making a sizable donation to the Hormel Institute.

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Winter Car Care

Safely avoid potential winter hazards

Winter can be a beautiful time of year, particularly when freshly fallen snow blankets the landscape. However, winter is also a time fraught with potential peril. The same winter weather that makes landscapes so pristine can make roads and walkways — and even being outside — dangerous.

The U.S. Department of Transportation says weather-related vehicle crashes killed 6,253 people last year and injure more than 480,000 per year. These accidents most often occur when roadways are wet, snowy or icy. Yet, winter driving is not the only seasonal hazard. Here are some common winter activities and how to avoid getting hurt when engaging in them.

Driving

Exercise extra caution when driving on roadways during the winter, as they may contain ice or snow. All it takes is a small coating of precipitation on roadways to make driving treacherous. Wet-looking roadways may be wet, or they may be covered by ice, and it's difficult to tell the difference with the naked eye. Always slow down and assume you are driving on ice. Make every effort to improve visibility. This includes checking windshield washer fluid levels and ensuring windshield blades are in good working order.

Snow removal

Shoveling or removing snow by various methods can be strenuous work, taking even those who feel they are in good shape by surprise. A 2011 study conducted by researchers at the Center for Injury Research and Policy of The Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital found that an average of 11,500 snow-shoveling-related injuries and medical emergencies were treated in U.S. emergency departments each year from 1990 to 2006.

Lower back injuries, falls, injuries to the arms and hands and cardiac-related injuries account for many of the incidents sustained while removing snow. There's also the risk of injury from collisions with pedestrians and snow plows. Plows and bobcat-type devices can cause serious injury. Exercise caution when operating such machines.

Roof snow removal

Removing snow from a roof can be a dangerous prospect. Always use the appropriate equipment, which includes telescoping poles, rather than climbing on slippery roofs. This may be a job best left for a professional, who will have fall-arrest systems and nonslip safety boots.

Dressing for conditions

Venturing outdoors for winter fun may be enticing, but never put your health at risk for the sake of fun. The Mayo Clinic says hypothermia is a medical emergency that occurs when the body loses heat faster than it can produce heat, causing a dangerously low body temperature. Wear appropriate clothing to prevent hypothermia, which may not produce any initial symptoms. If shivering stops or confusion and slurred speech set in, severe hypothermia is in effect and a person should be moved indoors and gently warmed. Mild hypothermia is also possible indoors, typically when the elderly spend several hours in poorly heated homes.

Winter may be beautiful, but it also can be hazardous. Taking precautions and using common sense help avoid dangerous situations.

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