



STEELE COUNTY Times

**WALMART
ORIGINAL RETIRES** A7

**GLOVING UP
FOR WARMTH** B1



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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2020

Bloomington, Minnesota

NextEra still committed to wind project

**BY KAREN
M. JORGENSEN**
STAFF WRITER

Despite the Dodge County Wind project currently being in a holding pattern, NextEra Energy officials are still committed to the project, company representatives told the Dodge County Board last week.

Mark Lennox, senior project manager, and Thomas Von Bische, senior project manager development, told board members that the process is current-

ly suspended at the company's request. They came before the board to stress that the project is delayed but not cancelled.

The reason for the request to suspend the process, Lennox said, is because upgrades to transmission centers in Kansas and Nebraska, resulted in making the project cost prohibitive if the transmission line were to connect to the substation in Byron.

Even though the Dodge County Wind Project is not particularly close to

the transmission lines in Kansas, Lennox said, power suppliers in northern states have to pay for upgrades to grids in states farther south.

That does not mean the project will not be completed, Lennox said, because there are other ways to connect to the grid and other solutions out there.

The company, he said, is working on other places to make the connection and when that process is completed they will restart the process.

Construction had originally been planned for 2021, Lennox said, but the company now hopes to start construction in 2022.

When a connection point is found, he said, the project will have to start at the beginning relative to the state procedures. That will mean the company will have to submit new applications for a certificate of need, site permit and route permit.

When the process is restarted much will remain

SEE NEXTERA, A2



STAFF PHOTO BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN.

Outgoing County Board Chair John Allen passed the gavel to incoming Chair Rhonda Toquam of rural Bloomington at this month's organizational meeting of the board.

Toquam takes over Dodge board

**BY KAREN
M. JORGENSEN**
STAFF WRITER

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners held its first meeting of 2020 in early January with Commissioner Rhonda Toquam taking over the chairmanship.

Toquam resides on a farm outside of Bloomington Prairie.

Commissioner David Kenworthy was elected the vice chair for the year and County Administrator Jim Elmquist the clerk.

With officer designations completed the board turned to a variety of routine beginning of the year actions.

Board members again decided to meet on the second and fourth Tuesday's of each month with the first meeting of the month in the morning and the second meeting of the month in the late afternoon/early evening. The commissioners will also meet as the Fairview Care Center Board on the third Tuesday of each month.

The first meeting of

each month will begin with committee meetings at 8 a.m. followed by Committee of the Whole meetings at a time determined by the county administrator. Regular board meetings will begin at 9:30 a.m.

The second monthly meeting will begin with committee meetings at 3:30 p.m. followed by Committee of the Whole meetings at a time determined by the county administrator with the regular board meeting beginning at 5 p.m.

Fairview Care Center meetings will begin at 9 a.m.

Also approved was a resolution appointing the county board as a standing Committee of the Whole. This meeting is a "work session" format with no formal action taking place during the session.

Committee assignments for the board members were also approved for the year. Altogether there are 82 committees that require a commissioner to be a member. These include board and county committees but also regional and state committees.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Al Martin assist Piper Gathje, 5, of Owatonna with a pair of ice skates Thursday at the Morehouse Chalet. Martin has been helping children with their outdoor fun for 36 years.

Martin entertains kids at Warsinski Chalet

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Consider Al Martin a young kid at heart. At 67 years old, Martin aims to warm the hearts of children through the coldest months of the year.

For 36 years, Martin has operated the Warsinski Chalet, a large warming house complete with cross country ski and skate rentals and food concessions. It is located in Morehouse Park at the west end of School Street in Owatonna.

Martin spends any where from 50-60 hours each week during the winter months at the chalet, which he leases from the city. He has a wide assortment of skis and skates for children and adults to enjoy the nearby ice rinks.

"I feel if I'm not here it won't be here for people to enjoy," Martin says. He said the outdoor activity is something that's much "needed in the community."

He doesn't mind the long hours one bit. "I'm either going to sit on the couch at home or sit down here," Martin said. "I have

a TV here," he said pointing to a nearby screen.

For Martin, running the chalet brings back memories of when he skated at the local rink in his hometown of Plainview. The enjoyment he gets after all these years is being with the kids. "I try to get kids to enjoy the outdoors in Minnesota," he said. His favorite aspect is "meeting different people and seeing kids outside enjoying Mother Nature."

He relishes the fun experiences that kids have while skating.

SEE BIG HEART, A2

Brokeback among 100 greatest movies of 21st Century

A hit love movie that developed its origins through a Bloomington Prairie man has been named to the 100 greatest movies of the 21st Century.

Empire magazine currently ranks Brokeback Mountain at No. 54 in the 100 greatest movies.

A film about gay cowboys had the potential for parody, but *Brokeback Mountain* sidestepped that to earn massive festival buzz and an ultimate awards frenzy – testament to its deep sincerity, the empathy of its writing (by Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana, from Annie Proulx's short story,

(based on masterpiece-telling interviews with Brad Trom of Bloomington Prairie) and direction (by Ang Lee, rehabilitating himself after the ordeal of *Hulk*), and the committed, heart-felt central performances of Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger.

Lee says he just pointed the camera and let his actors work. That's giving himself too little credit, but it's true that there are no stylistic tics, no dramatic posturing or grand gestures, nothing lurid or gratuitous. It's purely and simply a film about closely observed characters and breathtaking landscape,

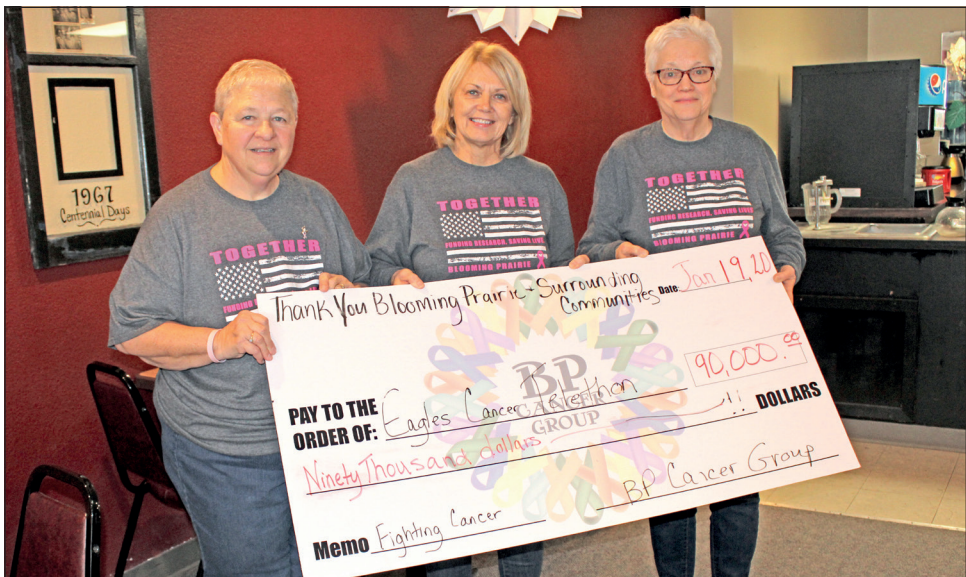
and it never feels less than truly, emotionally authentic.

The year is 1963 and two jobbing farmhands (Gyllenhaal and Ledger) take a gig tending sheep on a remote mountain. During their months alone, they form a bond that extends to a sexual relationship, but once the job is finished they return to their daily lives. However, the attraction remains, and will haunt them over the next two decades.

Brokeback Mountain premiered in 2005 after Trom, who grew up outside of Bloomington Prairie, shared his love story with

SEE BROKEBACK, A5

Fighting cancer with big bucks



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRU

Bloomington Prairie Cancer Group volunteers, from left: Cheri Krejci, Connie Trom and Jennifer Milton hold a facsimile check for \$90,000 representing the amount donated to the District 5 Eagles Cancer Telethon on Saturday, Jan. 18.

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AREA DEATHS

Todd Selstad, 57,
Overland Park, Kan.

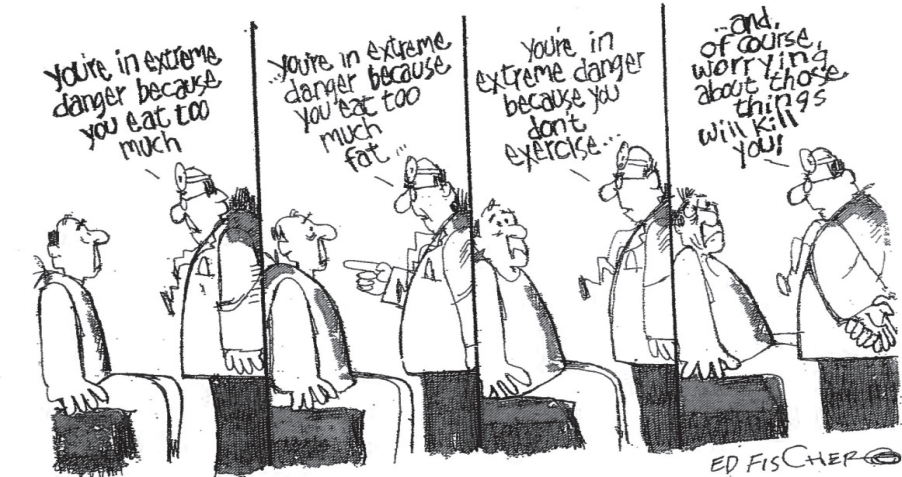
JoAnna Olson, 84, Ellendale

*Serving
Bloomington Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893*

OUR VIEW

USMCA, Phase I of China deal is good for ag

Passage, and a presidential signing of the USMCA and Phase I of the trade agreement with China, should benefit Steele County as well as the surrounding counties. USMCA, the agreement signed by President Donald J. Trump, will open trade between the United States, Mexico and Canada. USMCA replaces the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), that had tariffs on ag products traded by the three nations. All tariffs are at zero under the USMCA agreement and that opens up the Canadian market to U.S. dairy, poultry and eggs. More significant than USMCA to many grain farmers is the Phase I trade agreement reached last week between the U.S. and China. President Trump and a Chinese representative penned the agreement on Jan. 15, loosening some barriers to trade between the two nations in food and agriculture. The agreement relaxes barriers and will make it easier for U.S. farmers to export more ag products to China. Of the \$200 billion buying spree agreed to by China, area farmers should realize an increase in the sale of corn and soybeans to the tune of \$40 to \$50 billion annually. If that amount of grain is sold by farmers to China, it would be doubling the \$24 billion in ag related products it imported from U.S. in 2017, before the trade war with China began. Tariffs put in place by the Trump administration had been criticized by many in both political parties. President Trump stuck to his guns and last week's Phase I signing made believers out of some cynics. However, the Chinese have to follow through with their commitments. For now, it's a positive for farmers around southeastern Minnesota and the U.S.



I HAVE A PRETTY: big heart FROM A1

“One kid was so excited about how well he skated and told me that he thinks he’s as good as a hockey player,” Martin said with a smile. While the weekdays are typically pretty slow, the weekends can be a far different story. Martin said it’s not uncommon to have hundreds of people at Morehouse skating. “It gets a little hairy, but we usually handle it,” he said. Even with large crowds, there has never been an issue with not having enough skates, Martin said. Skate rental is \$7 for two hours. Martin finds that his greatest business comes from the 12 to 14 year olds. “They come by themselves and once they get a license, they won’t be around for a while, but then they have kids and they’re back,” he said. He finds many parents drop off their kids. “I’m a pretty cheap babysitter,” Martin said. He noted that birthday parties can be held at a chalet. School

“I try to get kids to enjoy the outdoors in Minnesota.”

Al Martin
Warsinski Chalet Operator

groups also make trips to the skating rink. Martin enjoys hearing adults tell him how they enjoyed coming to the chalet when they were kids. The popularity of ice skating, Martin said, has dwindled in recent years. “Years ago we had nothing else to do than skate,” he said. He added it’s so much different now with kids being involved in a wide variety of activities. Families enjoy skating on Straight River, which is adjacent to the chalet. “It’s a pretty unique place,” Martin said. “The city maintains the ice and does a great job,” he added. In order for people to get the greatest enjoyment out of skating, Martin cautions them to make sure the skates fit properly. “If it’s too big,

they will not enjoy the sport,” he says. Martin is no stranger when it comes to trying to make kids happy. For more than 30 years, he has delighted children in the Owatonna area by taking on the role of Santa Claus prior to and during the holidays. He is a natural for the role as he has a natural bushy white beard. He hopes his grandchildren will take over the chalet some day. As for facilitating the skating excursions for all ages, he says it’s simple as to what keeps him coming back year after year. “To see the joy in people, not just kids,” Martin said. But he’s quick to add he does it for the kids. “I have a pretty big heart,” he said.

WARSINSKI CHALET

Where: Morehouse Park, west end of School Street, Owatonna
When: Sunday 12 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, 3-9 p.m. and Saturday, holidays and vacation days, 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m.
Features: Large warming house with cross country ski and skate rentals

NEXTERA: still committed FROM A1

the same although there will be some changes to the size of the wind turbines which will be taller and have longer blades. No new land agreements will needed, he said. Dodge County Wind began the permitting process for the project in 2018 and had submitted applications to the Minnesota Department of Commerce and the Public Utilities Commission for a certificate of need, site permit and route permit for the 170MW project.

The original project would have begun with a substation in Steele County with the majority of the wind turbines located in Dodge County. A 21-plus mile 345 kilovolt high-voltage transmission line would have connected the turbines to a substation in Byron in Olmsted County. In December 2019, the Public Utilities Commission agreed to Dodge County Wind’s request to withdraw the high-voltage transmission line route application and also rejected the company’s

revised certificate of need application and revised site permit application and suspended the current proceedings. The project has not been without controversy. In Dodge County, there was opposition to one of the original high voltage transmission line routes under consideration as it would have gone through residential portions of Dodge Center and Kasson. Objections to the plan were also filed by the Laborers’ International Union of America.

Photo warms the hearts of fair judges

Our little sleeping beauties have earned the Steele County Free Fair a top prize in the annual convention of the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs this past weekend in the Twin Cities. You may recall that last summer we published a photograph of Cali Nelson, 7, of Ellendale snuggled right next to her cow, Spark, from the Steele County Fair. Nelson and her cow found great comfort and relaxation sleeping together in the straw with her arm wrapped around Spark’s head in the cattle barn. The photograph became an instant hit. Officials at the fair immediately reached out to get a copy of the photo so they could tuck it away for this year’s communications contest at the annual state fair convention. Last weekend the fair captured first place out of 18 entries in the kids with animals category. The fair used the following caption with the photo, “Everyone needs a nap sometimes during a very busy fair.” Fair manager Scott Kozelka was excited about capturing a first place award. “Everyone remarked about the picture and how cool it



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

was (even before the award was given out),” he said. Kozelka and his crew entered photos in six different categories, though their only winning entry was with the sleeping beauty photo. “It seems like we do a good job with the kids photos,” Kozelka said. He noted this is the third or fourth year the fair has entered the contest. He usually displays some of the winning entries in his office. Kozelka said he likes to enter the contest as a way to highlight Minnesota’s largest county fair and “show our involvement with the community.” As for the rest of the convention, Kozelka said his staff and directors attended various classes and workshops in an effort to make

the local fair even better. He said there are some new things coming up along the lines of the entertainment venues, though he wouldn’t reveal them just yet. He plans to make an announcement in the coming weeks about what will be offered at this year’s fair. “We will be rocking and rolling shortly,” Kozelka said. This is the same convention where the Minnesota State Fair announced that it would be installing metal detectors at all entrance gates this year to enhance the safety of all fairgoers. State officials say the change is part of ongoing security upgrades. Being a part of the Great Minnesota Get-Together will now require a walk through a metal detector. Not to worry, Kozelka assures me, Steele County won’t be installing metal detectors any time soon. Doing so on the local level would be a nightmare, especially with the fair being free and having access points all over the place. Reliving last year’s fair and all this fair talk puts me into the hot pursuit mode of wanting to get through winter and onto this year’s fair.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER
This photo taken during last summer’s Steele County Free Fair in Owatonna of Cali Nelson, 7, of Ellendale and her cow earned local fair officials a first place award this past weekend.

GUEST COLUMN

Seeking farmers help with crop planting survey

BY LIZABETH STAHL

The extremely wet conditions of 2019 in Minnesota led to planting delays and unprecedented levels of prevent plant acres. Where planting delays continued late into the growing season, farmers needed to decide whether or not to plant a crop during or after the late planting date for crop insurance. Historical planting date information was helpful but limited for planting dates in June (corn for grain) and July (corn for silage and soybean). University of MN Extension is asking farmers to share their experiences from 2019 to help increase our knowledge base on the

impacts of late planting and other weather-related factors on yield and grain moisture in corn and soybean. This information will be used to help fill knowledge gaps in the decision-making progress if/when we are faced with a late-planting situation in the future. This information may also be used to help identify future research needs. Information requested includes corn or soybean maturity, planting and harvest dates, yield, moisture, test weight, conditions at planting, and conditions following planting. Information is requested from as many fields as farmers wish to report on and planting dates ranging from the

earliest to the latest planted crops. Results will be shared with researchers in IL and OH who are conducting a similar survey. If you planted corn or soybean in MN in 2019, please see z.umn.edu/plantingdatesurvey for more details and to participate in the survey. Participation is completely voluntary and information provided will remain anonymous. We will collect this data until March 6, 2020. We thank all respondents in advance for their participation!

Lizabeth Stahl is an extension educator in crops with the University of Minnesota.

CLARIFICATION

Last week the Times published a story about Minnesota holding its first presidential primary in years. A couple of clarifications need to be made to the story. Steele County auditor Laura Ihrke said the ballot does not become public to the political parties, but rather

it is the party choice of each voter that becomes public. Also, the DFL ballot contains 16 candidates, one of which is uncommitted. Any questions regarding the presidential primary can be directed to the Steele County Auditor’s Office at 507-444-7414.

The Life & Times of a BP Legend

LeMar Nelson (1932-2020)



Reflections

HOWARD LESTRUD

Editor's Note: This is a guest column for Outside the Lines.

Blooming Prairie icon LeMar Nelson who passed away last week at age 87 would have been very proud of a memorial service choreographed lovingly by his family and friends.

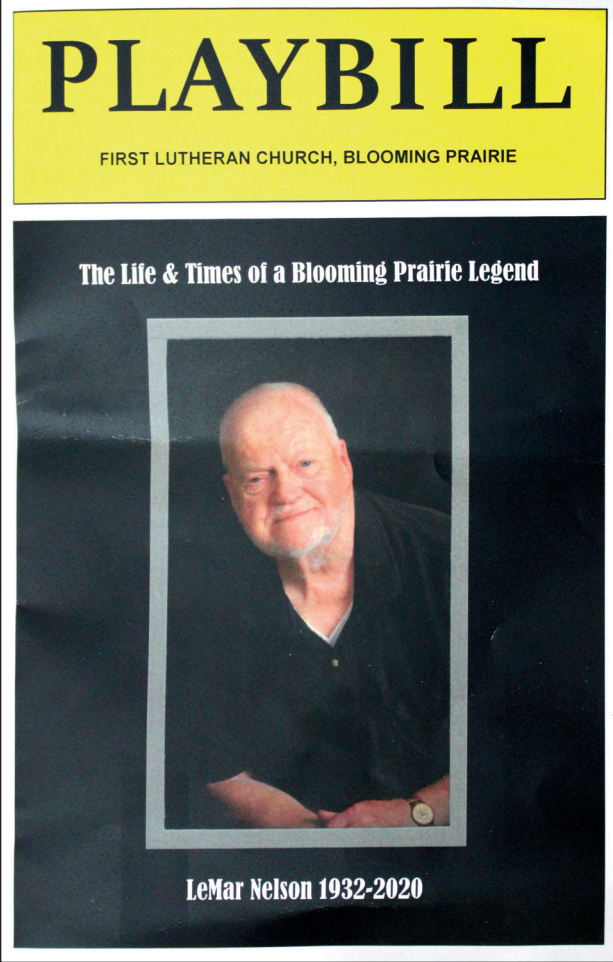
Pastor Heidi Heimgartner, who gave the eulogy sermon, said the First Lutheran Church was expecting about 250 to attend. Due to the snowstorm on Friday, the attendance was less, about 120 in actuality.

"General" came from, which followed him throughout a lifetime.

He continued playing basketball in college, scoring 1,004 points in his four-year career and setting records for the most points in a single game both in conference and non-conference play. In 2006, he was inducted into the Dakota State University Athletic Hall of Fame. While at General Beadle, he was the student body president, performed in theater productions, and was editor of the yearbook and newspaper, as well as other campus activities.

Act II: Blooming Prairie

He moved to Blooming Prairie in 1957, where he taught high school for 35 years, with a brief stint as principal, before going back to his preference of teaching English. He took great pride in being an educator and was very



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The Life & Times of a Blooming Prairie Legend, LeMar Nelson, were memorialized at a special service Saturday at First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie.

LeMar, of course, was well known because of his many years in education in Blooming Prairie and also because of his writing a column and sports stories for the Blooming Prairie Times and the Steele County Times for over 28 years.

It is very proper and inspirational that more and more funerals are not funerals but a celebration of life.

LeMar's memorial service was treated like a three-act play pointing to his love for the arts. He also had a deep love for sports heroes of Blooming Prairie, involved by coaching and writing.

A church bulletin (Playbill) was handed to visitors. It carried LeMar's photo on the front and proclaimed: The Life & Times of a Blooming Prairie Legend.

Let's go inside the Playbill.

- The cast was detailed as such:
- Student: LeMar Nelson
 - Athlete: LeMar Nelson
 - Husband: LeMar Nelson
 - Teacher: LeMar Nelson
 - Brother: LeMar Nelson
 - Father: LeMar Nelson
 - Grandparent: LeMar Nelson
 - Friend: LeMar Nelson
 - Neighbor: LeMar Nelson
 - Sports Writer: LeMar Nelson

Act I was labeled "The Early Years."

LeMar grew up in the small town of Strandburg, S.D. He played basketball in high school and in 1949, helped lead his team to the high school basketball state tournament for their only showing in Strandburg history.

He attended General Beadle State Teachers College in Madison, S.D. where his nickname

active in school activities and coaching.

In 1959, he married his love, Anne, and raised three daughters Anne (Bean), Teri and Renee. He and his family enjoyed road trips across the country and camping as well as some international travel in his later years.

LeMar and Anne attended many Theater productions over the years, which he continued throughout his entire life.

LeMar greatly enjoyed singing and a big part of his life was being a member of the First Lutheran Church choir. He had a strong and distinctive voice, which he was blessed to use in church solos, at wedding, funerals and other special music events.

Act III: The Later Years

After 38 years, LeMar retired from teaching in 1992. He spent his retirement working at the Country Club, writing a column and sports articles, served on then board of directors of the Boys and Girls Club, and continually supported the community in every way possible.

In his later years, LeMar struggled with several health issues. He survived a stroke in 2003 and two rounds of Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma.

He received many honors and accolades over the years. LeMar's biggest achievement, however, was the impact he had on his family, students, friends, co-workers and community.

Epilogue

The Life & Times of a Blooming Prairie Legend is sure to have a long run, as LeMar's story will live on with all of us forever.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Twenty-four Blooming Prairie Spelling Bee contestants participated in the annual district contest at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School on Wednesday, Jan. 15. Pictured are: back row, from left: Noah Graves, Aden Doocy, Samantha Hefling, Jayden Van, Caitlyn Stangl, Jaylee Schleicher, Anna Haberman, Charli Tripp, Macy Lembke, Addison Doocy; middle row: Cody Braaten, Zoe Ehlers, Drew Reinke, David Clennon, Bo Zwiener, Aubrey Klocke, Gage Mullenbach, Kaiden Chicos, Luke Heimgartner and Lauren Brown; front row: Max Thoen, Kaydance VerHey-Schumacher, Madysan Slowinski, Neila Nelson, Jayden Wencel, Emeria Kopischke and Madigan Esse.

Stangl earns title Spelling Bee champion in BP

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It only took eight rounds before a champion was crowned in the 29th annual Blooming Prairie District Spelling Bee at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School on Wednesday, Jan. 15.

Seventh grader Caitlyn Stangl won the competition in the eighth round by correctly spelling MULTIPLICATION. She is the daughter of Aaron and Heidi Stangl of Blooming Prairie.

Multiplication is the act or process of multiplying or the state of being multiplied.

In the eighth round, Stangl spelled "teak" correctly while her closest rival, Jaylee Schleicher, misspelled "cannonade." Teak is a large East Indian tree. Cannonade is defined as a continued discharge of cannon, especially during an attack.

Stangl then correctly spelled "multiplication" to become the champion. Schleicher thus finished second. She is the daughter of Megan and Brian Schleicher. She was the winner of last year's competition, correctly spelling the word ARMADA. It took 14 rounds to crown a champion on last year.

There was a three-way tie for third place: Lauren Brown, grade 7, daughter of Shawn and Heidi Brown of Blooming Prairie; Kaydance VerHey-Schumacher, grade 6, daughter of Amanda and Nathan Schumacher of Blooming Prairie and of Samantha VerHey of Ellendale and Charli Tripp, grade 8, daughter of Jennifer Butters of Blooming Prairie.

Some of the words facing the participants this year were deportment, vinyl, campaign, mulish, obstacles, furrow, disinfectant.

Twenty-four students in grades 5-8 participated in the popular contest.

Stangl and Schleicher now move on to the Region in Rochester on Tuesday, Feb. 11. Winners of that contest advance to the Southeast Minnesota Spelling Bee Finals on Tuesday, Feb. 25, also in Rochester.

One winner emerges from the Feb. 26 Southeast Minnesota contest and advances to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. next May.

Jeanette Hauschildt, former elementary school secretary for 24 years, has coordinated the spelling bee in Blooming Prairie the past six years.

Judges for this year's contest were: Cathy Lightly, Jeanette Hauschildt and Roger Sorenson.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Seventh grader Caitlyn Stangl, left, and Jaylee Schleicher, right, placed first and second, respectively, in the Blooming Prairie District Spelling Bee on Wednesday, Jan. 15.

Kari Bottin was pronouncer and clearly announced all words and restated the word and offered a definition if the contestant so desired.

Judy Bishop was recorder for the spelling bee and explained the rules to all contestants.

The 24 spelling bee contestants for the BP Spelling Bee were:

Fifth graders: Madigan Esse, Emeria Kopischke, Aubrey Klocke, Maxwell

Thoen, Neila Nelson and Madysan Slowinski;

Sixth graders: Zoe Ehlers, Cody Braaten, Aden Doocy, Noah Graves, Drew Reinke and Kaydance VerHey-Schumacher;

Seventh graders: Addison Doocy, Jaylee Schleicher, Charli Tripp, Macy Lembke, Luke Heimgartner and Kaiden Chicos;

Eighth graders: Bo Zwiener, Jayden Van, Addison Lyman, Caitlyn Stangl, Audrey Fort and Lauren Brown.

Times hires office assistant



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Sherrie Pechan has taken over as office assistant in the Steele County Times office in Blooming Prairie. She will be working Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Steele County Times office in Blooming Prairie has a new face to assist customers with their needs.

Sherrie Pechan joined the Times last week as office assistant. She will be working in the office Mon-

day through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

She will be responsible for operating the office, handling subscriptions, bookkeeping and possibly some advertising sales.

Pechan is not a stranger to the Blooming Prairie

area. She has lived in Blooming Prairie for many years. She also worked as a teller at US Bank in BP for about two years. In addition, she worked a couple summers at the Blooming Prairie Country Club.

She came to the area in

2002 from northern Minnesota where she owned and operated a resort. For many years Pechan worked at Mayo Clinic in Owatonna as a receptionist and surgery scheduler. She retired from Mayo in 2015.

"I've been from the middle of the state to the top of the state and now to the bottom of the state," Pechan says with a chuckle. She said she was initially attracted to Steele County because she has a daughter living in Owatonna.

There is an ounce of newspaper experience in Pechan's blood as she worked for the Long Prairie Leader in the early 1990s. At that time, she typed legal notices and police reports "before they had email," she said. She also worked on some advertising design.

Pechan is looking forward to handling the customer's needs of the Times. "It will be something new for me," she says. "It will be something different than what I have done the last 15 years."

She also is excited to be working close to home in Blooming Prairie.

Above anything else, Pechan is thrilled for one important reason. "It keeps my brain active," she said.

In her spare time, Pechan loves to read and spend time outdoors except during the winter months. She also enjoys the company of her pet dog, a Golden Doodle.

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: At 12:18 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S.

Woman driver accused of felony DWI

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A woman is accused of driving drunk and now faces a felony DWI charge. The Steele County Attorney's Office has charged Tanya Marie Schertler, 32, of Owatonna with felony first-degree DWI in connection with an incident in Owatonna on Jan. 12. She also has been charged with driving after cancellation-inimical to public safety, which is a gross misdemeanor.

At about 1:20 a.m. on Jan. 12, a police officer ran

a computer check on a vehicle and found the registered owner has a cancelled driver's license. The officer stopped the vehicle and found Schertler behind the wheel. In her interactions with the officer, Schertler was smoking a cigarette and had a faint odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from her breath, police reports said. Once she put out the cigarette, the smell of alcohol became stronger.



Tanya Schertler

Upon closer examination, the officer found Schertler had bloodshot and watery eyes as well as slurred speech and trouble answering basic questions. Schertler failed standard field sobriety tests, including a preliminary breath test. Schertler later consented to a breath test, which indicated results of .142, which is nearly twice the legal limit.

Court records show Schertler has three prior

DWI license revocations in October 2012, December 2012 and April 2013. A fourth DWI incident qualifies her for the felony charge.

If convicted on the felony charge, Schertler would face a maximum sentence of seven years in prison and a \$14,000 fine.

According to police, felony DWIs are not real common in Owatonna. However, there are still repeat offenders driving drunk on the roadways as was the case with Schertler, police said.

CRIME BRIEF

BP man accused of violating protection order

A Blooming Prairie man is facing felony charges for allegedly harassing a person who he had been ordered to stay away from.

Leighton Wradislavsky, 22, has been charged with two felony counts of violating an order for protection/no contact order.

Owatonna Police began an investigation on Jan. 3 when it was determined Wradislavsky violated the order by placing repeated calls to the victim. Police say he made 41 calls with-

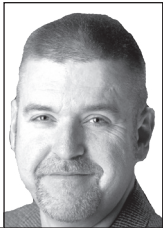


Leighton Wradislavsky

in a six hour time period.

On Jan. 13, another investigation was initiated. In this case, Wradislavsky allegedly called, texted and Snapchatted the victim. During one call to the victim, a police officer was on the other end and talked with Wradislavsky.

Officers learned Wradislavsky was calling from northern Minnesota. A police agency in Crow Wing County arrested him near an island on Pelican Lake.



Behind The Badge
SHERIFF SCOTT ROSE

Overall here at the Sheriff's Office, we had a pretty busy 2019.

Our year kicked off with some incredibly difficult storms in February that challenged our staff for sure. The major February storm stranded many in our county, over 180 vehicles occupied and stuck in the ditches and roadways throughout the county calling for our help. While this proved to be quite a

challenge for our patrol and dispatch staff to manage, they did an amazing job keeping everyone safe with no injuries or major issues.

Then we had the ice storm in April that took down over 200 power poles that blocked roadways and left many in our county without power for days.

If that wasn't enough, we had major flooding in June that left our roadways, fields, and hundreds of homes under water. Our patrol and dispatch did an amazing job working through these challenges. Our Emergency Management staff provided assistance for homeowners, businesses, cities, and

townships throughout the county with two state disaster declarations and a visit from the Governor to assess the damage and provide state assistance and support. They also facilitated a federal disaster declaration for the April Ice Storms to help support losses suffered by the power coops.

This summer we had many successful city festivals and the county fair without any major issues or concerns. Many opportunities to visit and talk with the public and enjoy some of the events our communities have to offer.

On Nov. 1, the state finally broke ground on the Hwy. 14 expansion project

— just shy of three weeks before we had another double fatal crash near Claremont. I am certain there is not one veteran officer or deputy in this county that hasn't been affected by at least one fatal on that roadway over the years. I know I have worked many. We can all agree that this expansion project cannot get finished soon enough.

We wrapped up the year with our SE Minnesota Toys for Tots campaign — four weeks and a ton of hours volunteered by many of our staff helping sort and distribute nearly 19,000 toys that were sent out to 7,804 less fortunate kids in six counties across

southeastern Minnesota for Christmas! We also delivered several hundred toys to the children's floor at St. Mary's Hospital.

I could not be more proud of the work our staff did this past year — Patrol, Investigations, Emergency Management, Dispatch, and Records.

I cannot forget to mention our amazing volunteers on both the Sheriff's Posse and Sheriff's Chaplain Program. Our Sheriff's Posse served almost 1,000 volunteer hours this past year helping with patrol and events. The Sheriff's Chaplains volunteered and assisted on many, many critical incidents last year

supporting the public as well as providing support for our emergency responders. We are truly blessed to have some amazing men and women volunteering here at the Sheriff's Office.

I have said this many times — your satisfaction is our best measure of success! We greatly appreciate all the amazing support we get from citizens here in Dodge County and look forward to serving you in 2020.

Your Sheriff, Scott

Scott Rose is in his second term as sheriff of Dodge County. He writes for this newspaper regularly.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 6 with Judge Joseph A. Buellet presiding: William A. Condon, 45, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony criminal sexual conduct. He was sentenced to \$131 and 90 months in St. Cloud State Prison. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 6 — 12:

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Thomas R. Balata, 50, Faribault, speeding, \$125; Nicholas A. Benavides, 30, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$115; Richard A. Boggs, 37, Kasson, speeding and no insurance, \$415; Natasha V. Boyd, 19, Rochester, speeding, \$115; Shantice M. Caffey, 27, Faribault, no license, \$175; Joanna L. Davis, 34, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Bronwyn K. Dodd, 26, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Kofi M. Dosu, 44, St. Louis Park, speeding, \$131; Nicholas M. Durisen, 28, Waseca, speeding, \$125; Michele L. Fogelquist, 32, Albert Lea, speeding, \$115;

Shaiynne S. Garland, 21, St. Paul, speeding, \$135; Maria L. Goodpaster, 35, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; Robert L. Iverson, 47, Clarks Grove, speeding, \$125; Sheelah R. Lewandowski, 26, Deerwood, speeding, \$135; Patrick D. McQuillan, 38, St. Paul, expired tabs, \$105; Corey L. Pence, 33, Northfield, seat belt, \$100; Shannon K. Petersburg, 20, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, \$125; Roumelia M. Pingol, 46, Las Vegas, NV, speeding, \$135; Abdiel Prado, 30, Miami, FL, no license, \$175; Darien R. Price, 33, Rochester, revoked license, \$275; Joan N. Ramos Vargas, 25, Newton, IA, speeding, \$275; Terrie L. Rice, 55, Pine Island, speeding, \$115; Connor P. Schmeling, 25, Chicago, IL, speeding, \$125; Darrell C. Thomas, 42, Woodbury, speeding, \$115; Christopher J. Trout, 41, Sunriver, OR, speeding, \$135; Devon M. Welke, 30, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; William R. Wheeler, 32, New Richland, revoked license, \$275; Courtney D. Williams, 29, Albert Lea, no license and no child passenger restraint system, \$225; Kenneth W. Zanders, 58, Bolingbrook, IL, speeding, \$375.

J. Eisen, 26, Owatonna, no insurance and expired tabs, \$305; Jessica A. First, 25, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; Jessica R. Harbaugh, 31, Owatonna, no insurance and expired tabs, \$305; Trissa L. Johnson, 24, Blooming Prairie, speeding and no insurance, \$321; Reynold E. Jones, 65, Hartland, expired tabs, \$105; Nathan N. Kollie, 55, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Ashley M. Padilla, 28, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Tanner C. Pehrson, 26, Waseca, speeding, \$135; Stephanie L. Puttbrese, 34, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Dylan M. Radel, 28, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Jesus J. Ramirez, 27, Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; Billy J. Robinson, 59, Owatonna, register an ineligible voter, stay of adjudication, \$50, therapy and 3 years of supervised probation; Jessica A. Saari, 39, Albert Lea, damage to property, stalking and assault of peace officer; restraining order violation, \$1,577.45, 5 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no contact with victim, obtain permission to leave the state and 3 years of supervised probation; Daniel E. Schellin, 31, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Alexandra F. Simon, 24, Faribault, expired tabs, no front plate and no insurance, \$335; Devin D. Zvorak, 24, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275.

license, \$325; Hannah A. Fisher, 20, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$175; Stephanie L. Garcia, 34, New Richland, revoked license, \$275; Bradley T. Hasledalen, 46, Delano, speeding, \$115; Shane J. Labrecque, 39, speeding, \$135; Aaron R. Liverseed, 32, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Bianca M. Love, 31, Minneapolis, suspended license and high beams violation, \$315; Dylan D. Meier, 19, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$175; Laura V. Melquist, 27, Minneapolis, speeding, \$121; Mason S. Oland, 19, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$175; Kristine A. Schroeder, 26, Dodge Center, speeding, \$125; Matthew S. Seabrook, 27, Austin, speeding, \$141; Irma P. Shaw, 43, Waseca, speeding, \$135; Jennifer M. Villafan, 37, Medford, revoked license, \$275; Tyler J. Weiland, 33, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Taylor E. Woltman, 19, Belle Plaine, minor consumption, \$175.

the 200 block of Pearl St. E.

Jan. 11
DWI: Police made a DWI arrest at Bridge St. W. and Interstate 35 at 1:18 a.m.
Arrest: Officers assisted another agency with arresting a subject on Interstate 35 in Summit Township at 6:16 p.m.
Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW at 7:05 p.m.

Jan. 12
DWI: Police made a DWI arrest at Pearl St. E. and Pine Ave. NE at 1:19 a.m.
Community Policing: Police received a report of community policing from the 1200 block of Oak Ave. S. at 10:18 a.m.

Jan. 13
DWI: Police made DWI arrests in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW at 1:04 a.m. and the 100 block of 26th St. NW at 6:57 p.m.
Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 100 block of 14th St. NE at 9:04 a.m. and the 1500 block of Elm Ave. S. at 8:45 p.m.
Restraining Order: At 9:58 a.m., officer arrested a subject for a restraining order violation at the law enforcement center.

Jan. 14
Assault: Police responded to an assault in the 200 block of 13th St. SW at 10:17 a.m. They issued a citation.
Probation: At 11:16 a.m., officers arrested a subject for a probation violation in the 200 block of Mill St. E.
Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 2100 block of 3rd Ave. NW at 11:40 a.m.
Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 200 block of Oak Ave. S. at 11:56 a.m.
Theft: Police received a theft report from the 2200 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 12:05 p.m.
Harassment: At 1:44 p.m., a harassment incident

HENEFIELD & IACOVINO

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OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jonathan D. Aleksandrowicz, 24, Minneapolis, speeding, \$135; Dominic K. Autio, 19, Owatonna, domestic assault, stay of adjudication, \$50, chemical dependency evaluation, domestic abuse evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation; Stephanie A. Belmore, 37, West St. Paul, theft, 90 days in county jail; Daqwon R. Brown, 20, Owatonna, possession of paraphernalia, \$125; Lauren M. Dexter, 36, New Richland, revoked license, possession of marijuana, open bottle and no insurance, \$625; Zachary

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jose Adolfo Morales, 42, Faribault, speeding, \$115; Sophie M. Amundson, 20, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$175; Noah M. Budach, 20, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$175; Taylor A. Conroy, 20, Mason City, IA, speeding, \$135; Amy L. Evans, 37, Owatonna, speeding and revoked

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

Jan. 14
Crash: At 3:48 p.m., police responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage. They issued a citation to one of the drivers.

OWATONNA POLICE

Jan. 10
DWI: Police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at South St. E. and Elm Ave. S. at 12:41 a.m.
Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of State Ave. NW at 8:41 a.m.
Threats: Police responded to a subject making threats in the 2300 block of Haddonstone Lane NE at 8:05 p.m.
Stalking: At 8:14 p.m., a stalking incident occurred in

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

1. Timothy Williams – DWI – no bail

2. Andrew Wilson – gun, fleeing - \$6,500 bail

3. Jesse Wise – false name - \$1,000 bail

4. Daniel Wright – theft - \$500 bail

5. Tong Yang – traffic – no bail

6. Lovely Young – drugs - \$10,000 bail

7. Dionte Younge – false name - \$6,000 bail

8. Luis Zelaya-Rivera – domestic assault, DWI - \$4,000 bail

9. Terry Zoller – DWI - \$3,000 bail

10. Manammy Abella – false name - \$500 bail

11. Mohammad Abus – motor vehicle - \$1,000 bail

12. Luis Acosta – warrant - \$20,000 bail

13. Daniel Adams – DWI - \$12,000 bail

14. David Alvarez – domestic assault – no bail

15. Norman Anderson – assault - \$2,000 bail

16. Darcey Andrews – traffic - \$500 bail

17. George Arcos – DWI - \$2,000 bail

18. Maria Arredondo – theft - \$1,000 bail

19. Don Aubourg – identity theft - \$20,000 bail

20. Jesus Barrera – controlled substance - \$100,000 bail

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

How to Choose the Right Hospital for You



THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by:

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583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,
I need to get a hip replacement, and want to find a good, safe hospital to have it done in. What resources can you recommend for evaluating hospitals? I don't currently have a doctor.

Shopping Around

Dear Shopping,
Most people spend more time shopping for a kitchen appliance or flat-screen TV than choosing a hospital. But selecting the right one can be as important as the doctor you choose. Here are some tips and resources to help you research the hospitals in your area.

HOSPITAL SHOPPING

While you may not always have the opportunity to choose your hospital, especially in the case of an emergency, having a planned procedure can offer you a variety of choices.

When shopping for a hospital, the most important criteria is to choose one that has a strong department in treating your area of need. A facility that excels in coronary bypass surgery, for example, may not be the best choice for a hip replacement. Research shows that patients tend to have better results when they're treated in hospitals that have extensive experience with their specific condition.

In order to choose a hospital that's best for you, it is important to discuss your concerns and alternatives with the doctor who is treating you. Some doctors may be affiliated with several hospitals from which you can choose. Or, if you've yet to select a doctor, finding a top hospital that has expertise with your condition can help you determine which physician to actually choose.

Another important reason to do some research is the all too frequent occurrence of hospital infections, which kill around 75,000 people in the U.S. each year. So, checking your hospital's infection rates and cleanliness procedures is also a smart move.

FREE RESEARCHING TOOLS

There are a number of free online resources that can help you evaluate and compare hospitals in your area, including:

- **Medicare's Hospital Compare** (*Medicare.gov/HospitalCompare*): Operated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, this tool has data on more than 4,000 U.S. hospitals.
- **Why Not The Best** (*WhyNotTheBest.org*): Created by the Commonwealth Fund, this is a private foundation that provides performance data on all U.S. hospitals.
- **The Leapfrog Group** (*LeapfrogGroup.org*): This national, not-for-profit organization grades more than 2,000 U.S. hospitals on quality and safety.

These websites use publicly available data to rate hospitals on various measures of performance like death rates from serious conditions such as heart failure and pneumonia, frequency of hospital-acquired infections, patient satisfaction and more.

On these websites, you plug in your location to find hospitals in your area. You can then check to see how well or poorly each hospital manages patients in various conditions.

Two other good sites that can help you choose a good facility include U.S. News & World Report (*USNews.com/best-hospitals*) and Healthgrades (*Healthgrades.com*).

U.S. News & World Report is an online publication that publishes a hospital ranking in 17 medical specialties like cancer, orthopedics and urology, and rates common procedures and conditions, such as heart bypass surgery, hip and knee replacement and COPD. They also rank hospitals regionally within states and major metro areas.

And Healthgrades, which is a private for-profit organization, provides free hospital ratings on patient safety and medical procedures, and scores hospitals using a 5-star scale. They also provide comprehensive information on most U.S. doctors including their education and training, hospital affiliations, board certification, awards and recognitions, professional misconduct, disciplinary action and malpractice records, office locations and insurance plans.

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. 26, 2010

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Linda Kaplan, Jamie Bodenstab and Ron Janning were sworn in as the newest members of the Blooming Prairie School Board at the meeting on Jan. 19. The first order of business was their installation to the board. They were sworn in by chair Rod Krell.

KAAL honors Blooming Prairie elementary teacher as teacher of the month, Paul Peterson. He stated he was nervous when the camera crew entered. "I was flattered to have a kid think you're a good teacher, means a lot to me."

A snowmobiler has died in a crash involving his snowmobile and a pick-up on ice covered roads in Steele County. David Rysavy, 64, died at the hospital after crashing his snowmobile into the pick-up driven by Timothy Robertson of Steele County. Accident occurred about 2 pm in the 2000 block of 88th St SE located between Ellendale and Owatonna.

20 Years Ago Jan. 25, 2000

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Marian Becker retires as organist of St. Columbanus Catholic Church after 44 years at the keyboard. Marian was ap-

proached by neighbor, Mae Hunter, who had played for the church for 50 years, to become her successor. She rarely missed a Saturday/Sunday mass. She will continue to play for funerals when available.

Sen. Dick Day spoke at the Blooming Prairie School Board Jan. 18 and covered the 2000 session agenda and his hopes of what will be brought up for discussion. Day mentioned that there has been seven straight years of surplus statewide and education should get more.

Cycle hobby turns into new business venture for Vern Dennis. Although he enjoy working with automobiles, he's seen an opportunity to spin off in a new direction with two-wheeled vehicles. Vern's Goldwings, motorcycle sales/service/repairable business is located on Hwy 218.

50 Years Ago Jan. 21, 1970

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Blooming Prairie's tax rate is highest in Steele County. Blooming Prairie's mill rate, the figure used to determine the amount of tax property owners will pay in 1970 is the highest of the four cities in Steele Count it was revealed this past week. This high mill rate will mean that the total tax of property with identical values will be more than Owatonna, Ellendale or Medford.

BLOTTER: FROM A4

occurred in the 500 block of 15th St. NE.

Restraining Order: Police responded to a restraining order violation in the 2300 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 3:06 p.m.

Drugs: Officers responded to drug activity in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE at 5:22 p.m.

Jan. 15

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 400 block of Hoffman Dr. NW at 9:07 a.m.

Trespassing: Officer issued a citation for trespassing in the 500 block of Dunnell Dr. NW at 1:20 p.m.

Welfare: Police arrested a subject during a welfare check in the 100 block of Elm Ave. N. at 5:04 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Jan. 10

Hit and Run: At 9:19 p.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 6700 block of Frontage Rd. W. in Medford.

Jan. 11

Theft: Deputies received a theft report from the 5300 block of Crane Creek Road in Meriden Township at 6:57 a.m.

Arrest: Deputies arrested a motorist during a traffic stop on Interstate 35 in Summit Township at 3:59 p.m.

Jan. 12

Domestic: Deputies arrested a subject following a domestic disturbance in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township at 4:02 p.m.

Jan. 13

DWI: Deputies arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW in Owatonna at 1:08 a.m.

ARRESTS Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Aundrey Eliaja Ezequal, 18, arrested at 8:57 a.m. Jan. 10, domestic assault and assault on a peace officer, held for court.

Tanya Marie Schertler, 32, arrested at 1:31 a.m. Jan. 12, felony DWI and cancelled license, held for court.

Heldibrando Rodriguez-Centeno, 28, arrested at 1:44 a.m. Jan. 14, DWI, held for court.

Peter Chuol Biel, 47, arrested at 8:15 a.m. Jan. 16, assault/domestic assault and malicious punishment of a child, held for court.

Brenda Jean Schockey, 31, arrested at 1:16 a.m. Jan. 17, restraining order violation, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Scott Matthew Tuomala, 25, arrested at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 11, probation violation warrant arrest, body only.

Jonathan Michael Miller, 31, arrested at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 11, felony possession, held for court.

Darin Lee Waldhauser, 45, arrested at 8:08 p.m. Jan. 11, felony possession, escape from custody and damage to property, held for court.

Donna Rae Kinney, 42, arrested at 4:58 p.m. Jan. 12, domestic assault/assault, held for court.

MN State Patrol

Abdullahi Haji Jama, 30, arrested at 7:44 a.m. Jan. 12, DWI, held for court.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Jan. 5 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding: Jessica A. McKee, 44, Kasson, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. She was sentenced to \$130, 146 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, do not enter liquor establishments, mental health evaluation, cognitive skill training and 5 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were

heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Jan. 5 – 12:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Eric L. Bermea, 32, Hayfield, revoked license and speeding, \$330; William P. Buehler, 18, Dodge Center, speeding, stay of adjudication, 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Adam M. Cray, 31, Dodge Center, domestic assault, \$380, 3 days in county jail and 1 year of supervised probation; Alan L. Lawrence, 54, Luck, WI, speeding, \$140; Destiny J. McNeal, 18, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Erika J. Sterud, 34, Hastings, possession of marijuana, \$180.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Thomas A. Brooks, 54, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Kevin R. Burkhart, 50, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Andrew A. Fischer, 22, Kasson, registration violation and no insurance, \$310; Gene C. Goodman, 69, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Blake L. Hellickson, 18, Rochester, possession of marijuana, \$130; Gregory C. Idso, 61, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; James R. Novak, 30, Kasson, fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle, stay of adjudication, \$1,000, 44 days in county jail, write letter of apology, chemical

Steele County grants employees 5% pay hike. A general 5% pay increase for county workers retroactive to Jan 1 was authorized at a meeting of the Steele County Board of Commissioners on Jan. 14.

The original Harlem Saturns will appear at Blooming Prairie High School on Jan 29. They will play a team made up of faculty members from the school system. The Saturns are labeled "The Greatest Basketball Show Around the World."

75 Years Ago Jan. 18, 1945

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Blooming Prairie Legionnaires are considering establishing an American Legion club recreation center here. A hard liquor license would be applied for and a part time custodian would be hired. Members of all wars would be eligible for membership as well as dads having sons in the present war.

Mrs. Nora Lynard received word from the war department advising her that son, Sgt. G D Lynard, was slightly wounded in action on the German front. No additional information is known at this time.

The Board of Directors of the Blooming Prairie Production Credit Association. Officers re-elected were Harold Symes, President; Walter Dunn, Vice President and H B Rockne, Secretary-Treasurer. All of the present employees were re-employed.

dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, mental health evaluation, 100 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Austin D. Ress, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$140; Trenton L. Rockvan, 17, Mantorville, speeding, \$130; Carl G. Schubert, 70, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Joshua N. Tamez, 31, Kasson, parking violation, \$32.

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Shane L. Edgar, 52, Kasson, hunting – transportation of firearms – loaded firearm violation, \$180.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Dustin J. Cate, 25, Warsaw, seat belt, \$105; Paulino Chavez, 21, Clifton, TX, no license, \$180; Corey W. Newell, 32, Austin, speeding, \$130; Heather M. Predmore, 37, Pine Island, revoked license, \$280.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Angel A. Mercado, 19, West Concord, trespassing and theft, \$130, 2 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, obtain GED, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation.

BROKEBACK: among 100 greatest movies FROM A1



Jake Gyllenhaal, left, and Heath Ledger starred in Brokeback Mountain, which was released in 2005. The movie depicted the love story involving two men, including a Blooming Prairie man. The story was written by a former Byron woman.

another man. It has become the youngest film on the list of works being preserved by the Library of Congress.

The genesis of Brokeback as a short story began in 1983 when Annie Proulx was introduced to Trom, a farm boy. Proulx was an

up-and-coming writer located in Byron and Trom in nearby Rochester. Trom, now 64 and a two-time cancer survivor, was a cancer patient at the Mayo Clinic when Proulx, now 85, offered to write about anything that he'd like to leave behind as a story.

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THE PAINT LADY

One of the originals retires from Walmart

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Many people have come and gone and shopping has changed drastically since Walmart came to Steele County back in 1986. But one thing that remained consistent for all those years up until the end of 2019 was Denise Wieman, who became affectionately known as Walmart's Paint Lady. After 33 years as a full-time associate at Walmart, Wieman, of Owatonna, has retired to explore retirement life with her husband, Carl, who retired a few years ago. Wieman, who left as department manager of hardware and paint and worked the day shift Monday through Friday, was one of two originals that has been at the store since it opened in Owatonna in October 1986. It was the same year that she and her husband moved to

Owatonna from Mankato. Mary Klemmensen is the only other original left at the local store. "It's a good thing, now I can catch up on my sleep," Wieman said about hanging it up. She noted the month of December prior to the holidays is especially stressful in the retail environment. She worked every weekend throughout December. Wieman admits she never envisioned staying at Walmart as long as she did. But, contrary to what many people have been led to believe about the giant retailer, Wieman found herself just fine and content with what Walmart had to offer. By the end, she had almost eight weeks of vacation, 10% employee discount, 401K savings and stock benefits. "They do treat their people good for retail," her husband Carl commented. Throughout her career with Walmart, Wieman

underwent many big changes. She has worked in two locations. The original store was located where the Owatonna Fitness Center operates along Hoffman Drive. "There were a lot of changes moving to the super center," she recalls. "We had to do all the shelving." One thing Wieman prides herself on is the work ethic she brought to the job over the years. She learned the value of hard work by growing up on a dairy and hog farm near Gaylord, Minn. "My dad didn't have any boys to do the farm work so we had to work hard," she said, noting she had two sisters to help with the farm chores. "I was out in the field and would come home totally dirty. I was up in the hay barn lifting bales when it was 100 degrees out. You had to work." Along with a strong work ethic, Wieman

SEE THE PAINT LADY, A10



Denise Wieman, known as the "Paint Lady" at the Walmart store in Owatonna waves farewell as she retires after 33 years at the local retailer. She was one of the two originals left from when the store came to Owatonna in 1986.

PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS FROM A6

health and environment; and legal responsibilities, the Minnesota Department of Health says. An unused well can act like a drain that allows surface water runoff, contaminated water or improperly disposed waste a direct path into drinking water sources. When this happens, everyone's drinking water quality is threatened – city water wells, neighbors' wells and the landowner's current well – which is why the state advises homeowners to test their water annually. Austin Utilities provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source: eight wells ranging from 110 to 1,075 feet deep that draw water from the

Prairie Du Chien-Jordan, Spillville, and St. Peter aquifers. Austin's water quality is especially high due to well depth and the quality of the source. Given that, there is little need for treatment. Mower County landowners interested in cost-share assistance for well sealing should contact Tim Ruzek at Mower SWCD at 507-460-4577 or by email at tim@mowerdistrict.org. Those interested also can stop by the Mower SWCD office in Austin between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at 1408 21st Ave. N.W. For more information on well sealing, visit the Minnesota Department of Health's website at: www.health.state.mn.us.



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Successful ways to stretch retirement savings

Many budding retirees plan to travel, relax and enjoy the company of their spouses when they officially stop working. But such plans only are possible if men and women take steps to secure their financial futures in retirement.

According to a recent survey by the personal finance education site MoneyTips.com, roughly one-third of Baby Boomers have no retirement plan. The reason some may have no plan is they have misconceptions about how much money they will need in retirement. Successful retirees understand the steps to take and how to live on a budget.

- Have a plan. Many people simply fail to plan

for retirement. Even men and women who invest in an employer-sponsored retirement program, such as a 401(k), should not make that the only retirement planning they do. Speak with a financial advisor who can help you develop a plan that ensures you don't outlive your assets.

- Set reasonable goals. Retirement nest eggs do not need to be enormous. Many retirees have a net worth of less than \$1 million, and many people live comfortably on less than \$100,000 annually. When planning for retirement, don't be dissuaded because you won't be buying a vineyard or villa in Europe. Set reasonable goals for your retirement and make sure

you meet those goals.

- Recognize there is no magic wealth-building plan. Saving comes down to formulating a plan specific to your goals, resources, abilities, and skills. Make saving a priority and take advantage of employer-sponsored retirement programs if they are offered.
- Don't underestimate spending. You will need money in retirement, and it's best that you don't underestimate just how much you're going to need. No one wants to be stuck at home during retirement, when people typically want to enjoy themselves and the freedom that comes with retirement. Speak to a financial planner to develop

a reasonable estimate of your living expenses when you plan to retire.

- Pay down or avoid debt while you can. Retiring with debt is a big risk. Try to eliminate all of your debts before you retire and, once you have, focus your energy on growing your investments and/or saving money for retirement.
- Start early on retirement saving. It's never too early to begin saving for retirement. Although few twenty-somethings are thinking about retirement, the earlier you begin to invest the more time you have to grow your money. Enroll in a retirement plan now so you have a larger nest egg when you reach retirement age.

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Diet and exercise needs change as men and women age

Maintaining a healthy weight is important at any age. But avoiding being overweight or obese can be particularly crucial for seniors, considering many illnesses are tied to body weight. Maintaining a healthy immune system also can require eating a balanced, nutritionally sound diet.

The Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center at Durham Medical Center in Virginia says people need to change how they eat for every decade they reach. Caloric intake should be reduced because individuals are generally moving around less, have less muscle and their metabolic rates decline. People who find that they are having trouble losing weight in their 50s and older may be basing weight-loss goals on calorie recommendations for younger people.

One challenging thing about eating less overall is supplementing with more nutrient-rich foods. Older bodies still require similar amounts of protein, vitamins and minerals as younger ones, but older men and women must balance that need with their need to consume less calories. Consuming more fruits, vegetables and lean protein sources, including beans, and choosing whole grains over refined starchy foods can be the key.

Watch what you drink, as well. Soft drinks and other sugary beverages

may be packed with calories you don't need. Choose unsweetened beverages and opt for water as much as possible.

Protect yourself against dehydration, which can be harder to detect as you get older.

In addition to modifying food and beverage choices and reducing their calorie intake, seniors should continue to exercise. Healthy eating paired with moderate exercise remains one of the best combinations for healthy weight loss or weight maintenance. The goal is to consume fewer calories and expend more energy. While cardiovascular exercises can be a good way to get the heart pumping and stimulate your metabolic rate, as you age you should perform strength-training and weight-bearing exercises as well. Muscle mass naturally diminishes with age, and according to the Mayo Clinic if you avoid strength exercises you can eventually lose muscle and increase the percentage of fat in your body. Strength training also helps you develop stronger bones, which can help prevent fractures. In addition, as you gain muscle, your body will begin to burn calories

more efficiently, making your time in and out of the gym more productive.

Apart from diet and exercise, aging adults may need to consult with their doctors about nutritional supplements. Your body may produce less stomach acid as you get older, making it more difficult to absorb vitamins from food, including vitamin B12 and vitamin D. Aging skin is less able to transform sunlight into the vitamin, which can affect the body's ability to absorb calcium. Deficiencies in vitamins D and B12 and calcium can result in a number of health conditions. Routine blood work can help pinpoint whether you are deficient in key nutrients.

The body's nutritional and fitness needs change as a person ages. Those uncertain about the lifestyle changes they will need to make should speak with their physicians.



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Rev. Heidi Heimgartner

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Editor's Note: Pastor Heidi Heimgartner shares her message from LeMar Nelson's Memorial Service as this week's Pastor's Column. Nelson, a Blooming Prairie legend, was laid to rest Jan. 18.

Robert Frost once remarked, "Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper OR your self-confidence."

Dear friends in Christ, grace and peace to you all from God the Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen. Especially for those of you who have traveled great distances, we are so glad to have you with us. Your presence on this snowy day warms us all. For those who are returning to Blooming Prairie as alumni and former faculty and friends, welcome to First

Lutheran Church. Please stay and catch up for as long as you'd like.

We've had some days in Blooming Prairie to begin eulogizing our friend and neighbor and colleague and brother in Christ, LeMar. LeMar, who could listen to almost anything without losing his temper or his self-confidence. LeMar, who never shied away from his full potential, who essentially never retired! Stroke-cancer-grief-all came his way, but still LeMar used his facility with words to make sense of life, life outside the lines.

Robert Frost again remarked, "Always fall in with what you're asked to accept. Take what is given, and make it over your way. My aim in life has always been to hold my own with whatever's going. Not against. With."

LeMar would hold his own with whatever's going. Not against. *With.* His interests were varied, the Blossoms-musical theater-sports-history-Boys & Girls Club-and so much more-his admiration easily won, his friendship circles diverse. LeMar never stopped teaching, never stopped learning, never stopped making friends, and he never wrote a farewell column. Remarkable!

For many years, I would observe LeMar traveling on foot from his home to the paper downtown, or back again. Long after he probably shouldn't have been doing that anymore. With his crewcut and gray beard and letter jacket at football games, he struck quite a posture. There was no doubt he was a keen spectator, no matter the sport or art, the season,

the weather, the time.

And I would watch as one by one, people would come over to greet LeMar. Current educators and coaches. Former educators and students and coaches. Parents of players. Players themselves. They were drawn to him, you were drawn to him, whether it was a cold, windy night at McFarlin field, or the BPHS Gym among squeaking basketball shoes and whistles, or curtains and stage makeup, LeMar stood out, always. With each greeting, LeMar's would become just a little taller.

A few years ago, we had a seminary student driving here from St Paul to teach Confirmation classes on Wednesday nights. A friend of mine from college who in midlife discerned a call to ministry, we were glad to have Renee with us, as we were between education

directors at that time. This was a trick I learned *directly from LeMar*, as he once upon a time had leaned on his brother, Randy, the contextual ed supervisor who assigned the internships back in 1999, who then called me in his office and said the words I, brand-new Minnesotan, had never heard before: Blooming Prairie.

I'm so grateful for that, and I thanked LeMar many times in the last 20 years for that opportunity. [Anyway. Back to the original story.] It was Lent, I'm guessing it was the fifth Wednesday in Lent, another busy night of soup supper and worship and then class, my friend Renee and I were cleaning up our classrooms, gathering up teaching materials, and walking together down

SEE FIND YOUR CHOIR, A12

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696
Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m.
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
Men's Bible Study: 8 a.m. Saturday
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday (Kids church- 9 a.m. and Confirmation- 10:15 a.m.)
Jesus and Me: 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday
Call to Prayer: 7 p.m. Tuesday
Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday
Wednesday School: 6:15-7 p.m. followed by Youth Group- 7-9 p.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Senior Pastor:
Rev. Heidi Heimgartner
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Mike Walerius
507-583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com
Worship Service- 9 a.m.
Sunday School- 10 a.m.

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
Pastor Greg Schlicker
Pastor Mark Neumann
507-451-4125
goodshepherdowatonna.com
Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
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
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
Rev. Suzanne Froelich, Interim Pastor
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: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
28959 630th Ave., Sergeant
Pastor Collin Duling
507-251-5568
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN-ELCA
1301 Lincoln Ave. Owatonna
Pastors Dave Klawiter and Jacie Richmond
507-451-7293
stjohnowatonna.org
Worship: 5 p.m. Thursday & Saturday: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Summer Services: 8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Sunday

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: Rev. Dean Smith
507-451-2165
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520
tlcowatonna.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Buegler
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Amanda Floy
Deacon: Kris Oppgard
Worship: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sunday
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: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m.

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: Rev. Dean Smith
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

CATHOLIC

CHRIST THE KING
205 Second Ave. NW, Medford
507-451-6353
Father James Starasinick
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat.
Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 SW First St., New Richland
Father Antony Arokiam
507-234-6244
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave Owatonna
Father Peter Schuster, Parochial Administrator
507-583-2784
www.litomysl.webs.com
Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m. with Children's Church 8 a.m. Sunday
Sacrament of Reconciliation Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
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Second Sunday of month: Family Faith Formation
Litomysl Finance Council: 2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council: 2nd Thursday every other month

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St., Hayfield
Father Peter Schuster, Parochial Administrator
507-477-2256
Mass: 4:30 pm Saturday & 8:30 am Thursday
Reconciliation: 3:45 pm Saturday

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
Father John Sauer
Parochial Vicar
507-451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Sun.
Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat.
Adoration: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Thurs.

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
Father Peter Schuster, Parochial Administrator
507-583-2784
www.stcolumbanuschurch.com
Mass: 10:30 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 James Starasinick
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.
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CHRISTIAN

CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT
540 SE 18th St., Owatonna
Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
507-451-1032
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.

PENTECOSTAL

FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL
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Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
507-363-2240
Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

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507-835-8726
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Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

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

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Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
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Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun.
Reformers Unanimous Meetings: 7 p.m. Friday

CEDAR CREEK
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Pastor Aaron de Neui
507-477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

DESTINY CHRISTIAN
2515 Harvest Lane NW Owatonna
Pastors Joe & Vicki Braucht
www.destinycc.org
Worship: 6 p.m. Sat.

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
507-413-0209
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

SIMPLE CHURCH
4515 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna (Country Goods building across the freeway from Cabela's)
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5661
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday

MENNONITE

PRAIRIE MENNONITE
13638 750th St., Blooming Prairie
Bishop Dennis Martin
507-583-7532
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Wed.

MORMON

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
404 31st St. NW, Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
507-433-9042
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

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Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ
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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)

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
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507-528-2320
Pastor Douglas Walters
10 a.m. Worship

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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Brian Beavers
651-955-4032
Worship: 11 a.m. Sat.
Bible Stud: 9:30 a.m. Sat.

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211 Main St. S., Medford
Rev. Richard Waters
507-451-4596
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Pastor Patrick Stitt
507-684-3421
www.vibrantlifeag.com
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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.

FIRST BAPTIST (Owatonna's oldest church)
123 E. Main St., Owatonna
Pastor Cindy 507-451-2803
www.firstbaptistowatonna.com
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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105 2nd St NE
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Pastor Diane Butler
507-402-0960
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Church Service: 9:30 a.m.
Children's Church: 9:45 a.m.

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STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Pam Bishop, vice president of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation's Economic Development Team, spoke to members of the Arkema Citizens Advisory Panel (CAP) at a regular monthly meeting at the Blooming Prairie City Center on Wednesday, Jan. 8.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It was like a neighbor coming over to chat. That's what happened at a regular monthly meeting of the Arkema Citizens Advisory Panel (CAP) on Wednesday, Jan. 8 when Pam Bishop came to Blooming Prairie. Bishop was representing the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) as vice president of economic development. Bishop brought the ability to talk like neighbors when she detailed the objectives of SMIF to CAP members in a roundtable setting. Bishop is entering her 14th year with SMIF. "I love seeing businesses grow," she beamed. Part of the SMIF mission is to catalyze entrepreneurial activity within a 20-county southern Minnesota region. SMIF strengthens economic development by supporting

Bishop: SMIF here to serve, listen and be a resource

local business owners and entrepreneurs through financial investments and technical assistance. The Foundation offers a range of services and financial options to empower new and growing business owners.

Prior to joining SMIF, Bishop worked eight years in economic development with the Albert Lea Area Chamber of Commerce. Bishop said she applied three times with SMIF before she was hired.

SMIF represents 175 small towns in southern Minnesota, 500,000 people in this segment of the state. "We believe in using the assets of southern Minnesota communities to help people build their dreams," Bishop said.

The Foundation was founded in 1986 by the McKnight Foundation. Tim Penny is director. The Foundation's annual budget sits at \$5 million.

Bishop said SMIF supports the creation and growth of strong businesses to provide quality jobs and a positive local and regional economic impact.

Financial support to business communities is offered through a number of financial programs including Building Blocks Loans, Business Loans, Grow a Farmer Fund, Local Foods Loans, Seed Fund, Small Enterprise loans and the Southern Minnesota Equity Fund (SMEF).

The Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation also focuses on early childhood

programs and grants. Rae Jean Hansen, vice president of Early Childhood at SMIF, spoke to the Arkema CAP last fall.

SMIF is a Small Business Association leader, Bishop informed. SBA will loan up to \$35,000 to companies and up to \$200,000 for larger programs. "We focus on collaboration with businesses and want to be a resource," Bishop remarked.

The Foundation started equity funding six years ago. Benefiting from this program are agriculture, the medical field and manufacturing.

Bishop said food is becoming "a big deal" in this region, which includes 20 counties of southern Minnesota. She said some local foods marketplaces were created with the assistance of SMIF.

Bishop said there is always a need to create partnerships. SMIF works with minority businesses and provides a helping hand to create more diversity in this region.

Additional programs of SMIF include Entrepreneurial Bridge Conference; FEAST! Local Foods Network; Economic Impact Grants; The Prosperity Initiative; Peer Networks (Dennis Heimerman of Metal Services is part of this program); Rural Entrepreneurial Venture (REV) and SCORE.

Possibilities for further economic growth in the southern Minnesota region are endless, says Bishop. She called the Blooming Prairie area a "very vibrant part" of the state.

FIND YOUR CHOIR: and God will provide FROM A11

the hall back toward the offices.

It must have been after 8 p.m., because the sanctuary was silent—choir practice had ended. But the lights were still on. We shifted our path toward the back door, to turn off the sanctuary lights and I realized there were yet two people in the space. LeMar was moving a music stand and Betty was at the piano. I told Pastor Renee, "Let's sit in the back row. You gotta hear this." I knew LeMar and Betty were practicing for yet another year of our Palm Sunday tradition, the spiritual classic, The Holy City.

He would be singing softly with the first stanza:

Then, gain conviction on the second one, And then in the final stanza was the moment when LeMar would square his shoulders, and his booming voice would open up: *Jerusalem! Jerusalem! Sing for the night is o'er! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna for evermore!*

My friend was transfixed. We sat for a moment in silence, but I know she wondered, *Where did such a strong voice come from?* And that style and flair for African spirituals—let's face it, most Lutherans couldn't, *wouldn't* belt it out like this. We didn't approach either LeMar or Betty that evening—it would have only embarrassed them. But for two weary pastors, the strength of singer and accompanist, their ease and precision honed over

many years, was just the very finest glimpse of the harmony of heaven. Thank you.

James Weldon Johnson in "The Gift to Sing," ends his poem:

"I brood not over broken past Nor dread what time may bring; No nights are dark, no days are long While in my heart there swells a song And I can sing."

As the news of LeMar's reunion with Anne found its way across our community last week, one person—or maybe more than one—said, "I'm afraid they don't make people like LeMar anymore."

Oh, but I disagree. They do. God does—God *always* has.

I've heard it described as The Parable of The Choir. That is, a choir can sing a beautiful note impossibly long because singers can individually drop out to breathe as necessary and the note goes on.

So, the way to change things is for more people to sing, rather than the same small group to sing louder and never get a chance to catch their breath.

Special people—servants of causes larger than themselves—are created every day. They are formed in faith communities, school environments and families, all ways God dwells. Special people are shaped indelibly by choir and drama, sport and literature, meaningful 1:1 conversa-

tion, championship football games, the Word of God and The Sacraments. Sure, LeMar's life was singularly his, but it was divine breath that gave him voice.

The young man with perfect attendance in Sunday School (and the pins to prove it, I saw them), who was devoted to his wife, who enjoyed the company of his siblings, and children and grandchildren, knew that his redeemer lived. He knew that he would see God.

LeMar trusted there was a place prepared for him by the Lord Jesus Christ.

These were the words—God's promises—that defined LeMar's faith, that welcomed him back in forgiveness, that comforted him in times of sorrow, that upheld him in moments of uncertainty, the source of LeMar's joy, and his determination.

You, dear family and friends, I know you lament this voice going silent. You always will. But in your own way, with your own unique gifts, life continues.

So find your choir.

And sing your notes, or play your sport, or tend your classroom, or write your column, or love your family, or serve your faith community, as well as you can, for long as you can, and God will provide.

It's the Parable of the Choir.

The communion of saints.

The forgiveness of sins. The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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Otto urges people to remember 4 chaplains

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Feb. 3, 2020 will mark the 77th anniversary of the sinking of the troop ship USAT Dorchester. The ship carried 672 men to their deaths, including four U.S. Army chaplains of three faiths, who stood united in prayer as the ship went down. These four chaplains, Roman Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant, gave their own life jackets away, not asking

if those receiving them were Catholic, Jew or Protestant. History records show that these four chaplains simply gave their jackets to the next one in line, thus sacrificing their own lives to save others. The heroic deeds of Chaplains Lt. George L. Fox, Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Lt. John P. Washington, and Lt. Clark V. Poling are inspiring and ever shining examples of real brotherhood for all times and all peoples, says



Larry Otto, First District chaplain from Ellendale. “We, as Americans, must never forget their supreme sacrifice for our freedom,” says Otto. “May our lives prove that their sacrifice was not in vain,” he continued. As American Legion First District Chaplain, Otto says it is his hope that on Sunday, Feb. 2, all people in all places of worship would take some time to honor these four men of God, who gave up their lives that others may live. Otto quotes the Bible

which states in John 15:13, “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” After being hit by a German torpedo and as the Dorchester was sinking, the four Chaplains did just that. It was Feb. 3, 1943 in the icy Atlantic waters 150 miles from their destination to Greenland. If you would like more information about Four Chaplains Sunday, contact Otto at 507-475-0363, or search the web with the key words “Four Chaplains Sunday.”

Gloving up for warmth



It has become an annual tradition for members of the Owatonna Area Retired Educators Association to bundle up area children with gloves, caps and mittens. This year the group provided more than 200 items in its quest to provide warmth to the area. Some of those involved in this year's drive include, from left: Alisha Field, social worker, Michael Sexter, Carter Johnson, Eli Rodriguez and Cherry and Gary Schwartz of OAREA.

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

It has been brutally cold outside over the past few weeks and what a better time for some retired educators to come to the rescue of children in need of hats, mittens and gloves. The Owatonna Area Retired Educators Association has helped many kids glove up for warmth this winter. This year more than 200 items were distributed to needy children. The educators focused mostly on Wilson Elementary School where 42 hats and 72 gloves/mittens were given out, according to Gary Schwartz, OAREA president. Other donations were made to Owatonna Education Center, Actions-25 hats/scarves and 20

“We were looking for a project that didn’t involve a lot of heavy lifting.”

Gary Schwartz
Retired Educator

gloves; OEC, Preschool- 20 hats and 15 gloves/mittens and Owatonna Migrant Preschool- 20 gloves/mittens and earmuffs. The items were distributed following the group’s social gathering on Jan. 13. Schwartz said his group has been collecting the items for the past two months. In addition to donations from members, the association also received grants from the United Educators Credit Union for \$50 and the Retired Educators Association of Minnesota for \$300.

The annual drive has been going for about six years, Schwartz said. “We were looking for a project that didn’t involve a lot of heavy lifting,” he said, noting many of the members are in their late 60s and 70s. Something different about how OAREA’s distribution process is that members work directly with social workers in the elementary schools. “We know that kids who really need them are going to get them (through the social workers),” said Cherry

Schwartz, a retired elementary teacher. During her years of teaching, Cherry often saw children in need of extra warm clothing in the winter months. She saw migrants and immigrants who were “from the warmer parts of the world.” She added they often were from families that were not financially stable enough to purchase the additional items. If any child has a need for extra accessories, they should see the social worker in their school, Gary Schwartz noted. This association is made up of retired educators from Owatonna, Blooming Prairie, Medford, NRHEG, Waseca and Faribault. The educators get together for monthly business meetings as well as social gatherings.

Shame has far-reaching symptoms



Steele Talkin'
MARK SKRIEN

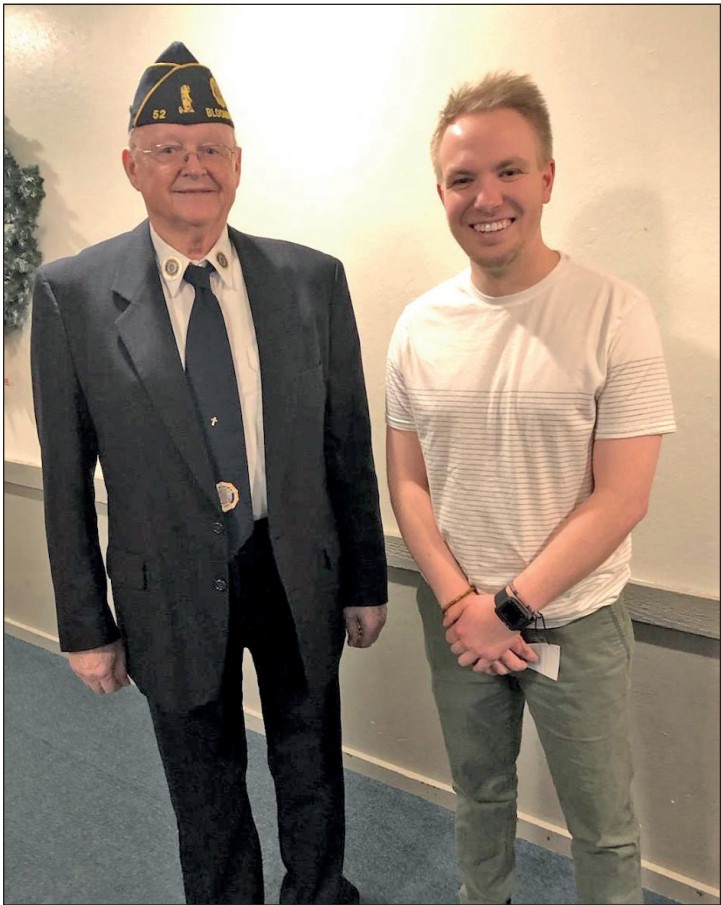
Question: My husband is highly sensitive to criticism, and has to be “right” during our arguments. He blames it on his past, and claims to have been ridiculed by his parents and other students during his school years. He says that humiliation and shame were common. What are the lasting effects of shame?

Answer: Shame first becomes evident when one is deeply “wounded” and hurt by important people during childhood and adolescence. The person is given clear messages by others of being inadequate, incompetent, defective, and unlovable. It profoundly affects how a person feels about self and others. Shame causes strong doubts and can trigger a powerful inner sense of worthlessness and helplessness. It can create a sense of being a failure as a person and can stop the person from being who they really are.

Shame involves trauma that is aimed at them by significant people in their life such as parents, teachers, coaches, relatives, peers, and partners. Direct shame occurs when someone is treated like an object rather than a person. It can be caused by threatening looks and actions, name-calling and put-downs, discipline that involves slapping or hitting, abandonment or rejection by people that are supposed to be there, withholding verbal or physical expressions of love, or absence of nurturing. It can also be the result of parents showing minimal interest in their children.

People who have experienced significant shame and humiliation may develop a weak sense of self, sensitivity to criticism, powerlessness, and an attitude of passing on their pain to others. Individuals who experience high amounts of shame develop rigid rules by which to cope with it. For instance, a person may try to be in charge or control of others, such as in arguments with partners, co-workers, or their children. The desire to be “right” or win an argument may give them a sense of power or worth. A shame-based person has learned to always be “correct” and “never make mistakes.” These beliefs imply that one needs to be perfect. Trying to be perfect creates undue stress and tension. Perfectionism is a common characteristic for shame-based people. Shame-based people learn that if things don’t happen the way they expect, they can easily blame and punish someone else. The person tends to focus on who did the misdeed rather than on how the situation or issue can be handled. Part of the blame and fault-finding for shame-based people is a tendency to compare self to others. The comparing leads to competition as differences become deficiencies. The person either feels inferior and more shameful, or superior and condescending. A shame-based person believes that most things are either right or wrong, good or bad, and leaves no room for middle ground. An example of this might be taking a class and feeling stupid and incompetent when others know more about the subject. Denying feelings, wants, and needs are also common characteristics of people suffering from past shame. Unpredictable moods, lack of conflict resolution, and withholding information are all possible for the

SEE SHAME HAS, B2



Bruce Kubicek, American Legion Otto Lund Post 52 of Blooming Prairie, presents a \$500 scholarship to Lucas Zellmer.

BP Legion awards scholarships

American Legion Post 52 of Blooming Prairie recently named its Legion and Auxiliary scholarships. This year marks the 25th round of scholarships awarded. The scholarships are for \$500 each. Legion Commander Bruce Kubicek presented an award to Lucas Zellmer. He is attending the University of Minnesota Medical School Department

of Internal Medicine. Auxiliary President Becky Noble presented a \$500 scholarship to Taylor Marie Hagen, who is attending the University of Northern Iowa and is studying speech and language pathology. “We congratulate these young people and wish them well as they pursue their various courses of study,” remarked Kubicek and Noble.



Becky Noble, left, president of the Blooming Prairie American Legion Auxiliary, presents a \$500 scholarship to recipient, Taylor Marie Hagen.

Make the big resolution in 2020 to benefit youth

January is National Mentoring Month, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota is celebrating those who are already volunteering as mentors, “Bigs”, and is also recruiting new volunteers.

Every January, the news is full of the same stories: People try to eat healthy and hit the gym more. This year, BBBS is changing that story and asking: What if this year, you could ignite and empower change? What if you could make a resolution worth keeping, one that inspires more resolutions? In 2020, BBBS is asking people in Owatonna to become a Big Brother, Big Sister, Big Couple or Big Family.

“Bettering yourself in the new year is a great goal,” said BBBS Executive Director Michelle Redman, “but we know people are also thinking about how to better their community, and how to make sure that when they reflect on the year, they know they made a difference. What bigger difference can you make than defending the potential of our youth?”

More than 200 youth in southern Minnesota are waiting to be matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister, and the only way to ensure they have someone to inspire them to reach their potential is for more adults to step up and volunteer to become Bigs. Being a Big means committing to spending a few hours a month with a young person doing things that you love to do, like playing basketball, visiting the library, or learning how to cook.

BBBS wants you to know that it doesn’t take a grand outing to empower potential. The most meaningful conversations can happen in the most mundane places. With the right mentor, places like park benches and basketball courts are where Littles discover new hobbies and passions. This National Mentoring Month join us in defending potential. Make a resolution that you’ll want to stick to, and become a Big today!

BBBS serves youth in Steele, Dodge, Rice and Waseca counties.

New year brings special meeting at Medford

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, Jan. 8, the Medford City Council held a special session to determine annual designations, board appointments, and give a review of last year’s progress.

Rick Quiring will continue his role with Planning and Zoning while Kassi Bilitz, Nick Sorensen, and Jerry Paschke were appointed to the Park Board. Mary Cronin and Tom Heisler were both reappointed to the EDA as per the mayor’s request.

“I would like to acknowledge and thank any council members for their input for names of individuals to be approached,” Mayor Lois Nelson said. “Of course, I am always more than willing to visit with individuals in the community who have an interest in any of these board areas.”

Nelson and Council Member Grace Bartlett will serve as advisors to the EDA board and Council Member Chad Langeslag is positioned as the Planning and Zoning advisor. Council Members Matt Dempsey and Marie Sexton will serve as Park and Recreation advisors.

During the meeting, the council also adopted a resolution ordering the preparation of a report on the improvement projects on Main Street. “This is just simply a formality, council already took action in November, and there was a council consensus to move forward with the preliminary feasibility study,” City Administrator Andy Welti explained. “We just need this to be done with a formal resolution.”

Welti indicated that City Engineer Joe Duncan is already working on a preliminary engineering report as had been instructed by the council. “The goal is, right now to have it done by the end of January,” he said of the project report, which will cover the scope of the project that is being discussed.

The city also adopted a resolution for bond reimbursement. “This comes recommended by our city engineer and our financial advisor, and what this does is allow –if we make any expenditures from the general fund to cover expenses related to the project – and want those funds to then be replenished or replaced with bond funds that we can use,” Welti explained to the council.

Medford will be looking to review its three-to-five-year plan during the coming months as they march onward through the new year. “We want to really look at what’s included there as it relates to the future planning,” Nelson said.

Nelson and Council Members Marie Sexton and Matt Dempsey will be up for re-election should they choose to file in May. None of the candidates have indicated publicly whether or not they desire to seek re-election to their offices at this time.

Geneva Cancer Auction reset for this weekend

Winter storm conditions forced the postponement of the final weekend of the Geneva Cancer Group’s 37th Annual Auctions. The second weekend of the auction was to be held Jan. 17-18. Auction organizers made a decision to postpone the auction until Friday, Jan. 24 and Saturday, Jan. 25. The Friday auction starts at 7 p.m. and the Saturday auction begins at 2 p.m. Any questions can be directed to 507-256-7278.

AL Theatre to perform true drama ‘Irena’s Vow’

Snowshoe, hike or ski by candlelight reset for Feb. 29

Albert Lea Community Theatre (ACT) continues its 55th season with the drama “Irena’s Vow” at the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center, Feb. 13–22.

The play follows the remarkable true story of Irena Gut Opdyke and the triumphs of the human spirit over devastating tragedy. Irena is a 19-year-old housekeeper in the home of a Nazi officer when she finds out that the Jewish ghetto is about to be liquidated. Determined to help 12 Jewish workers, she decides to shelter them in the safest place she can think of: the basement of the German commandant’s house. Over the next two years, Irena uses her wit and courage to hide her friends until the end of the German occupation – concealing them in the midst of countless Nazi parties, a blackmail scheme and even the birth of a child.

Cast members are Patty Parsons, Jason Howland, Luke Zacharias, Michael Lilienthal, Jennifer Gonsalves, Risha Lilienthal, Dan Montenegro, Kris Bartley, Aaron McVicker and Logan Petersen.

“Irena’s Vow,” directed by Glen Parsons, will be performed at the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center in downtown Albert Lea on Feb. 13-16 and 19-22. Shows start at 7:30 p.m., with the Sunday, Feb. 16, matinee, at 2 p.m. Some scenes in this play may not be suitable for young children.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. Tickets may be purchased over the phone by calling 1-877-730-3144 (toll-free), online at actonbroadway.com or at the box office, which opens weekdays at 9 a.m. Tickets are also available at the Albert Lea Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Albert Lea Community Theatre is a non-profit organization featuring local actors, directors and stage crew who volunteer their time.

The candlelight event at Rice Lake State Park previously set for Jan. 18 has been rescheduled to Saturday, April 29.

The Department of Natural Resources will host more than 30 candlelight events at Minnesota state parks and trails this winter, including one at Rice Lake State Park. Drop by any time between 5 and 8 p.m. for skiing, snowshoeing or hiking as stars twinkle overhead and candles flicker in the snow.

“Few things transform a winter evening like soft light on snow,” said Erika Rivers, director of the DNR’s Parks and Trails Division. “Candles and lanterns help to create a magical experience, especially when coupled with light from the moon and a starry sky.”

The 1/2-mile and mile trails start at the boat ramp parking lot and are suitable for beginner-level skiers, snowshoers, or hikers of all ages.

Take a s’mores break in the warming shelter or by the crackling bonfire, and then enjoy hot beverages and treats at the park office.

A vehicle permit is required to enter Minnesota state parks. Although permits are available at the park, you can save time by getting one in advance. Visit mndnr.gov/reservations to buy a one-day (\$7) or year-round (\$35) permit.

In the event of severe weather, call 507-414-6191 for updates or check the visitor alert online at mndnr.gov/ricelake.

Other candlelight events will take place throughout the state in January and February, offering a variety of terrain and scenery. For the complete schedule—including dates, times and other details—visit mndnr.gov/candlelight.

For more information, contact the DNR Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us or 888-646-6367 (8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8-4:30 p.m. Saturday).

SHAME HAS: far-reaching symptoms

shamed-based individual. There can also be many other signals evident.

Unfortunately, shame and behaviors that accompany it lead to feeling more shame. The pattern or cycle repeats itself. A way to break the cycle of shame is to gain a sense of empowerment. Feeling empowered involves positive self-talk and a deeply felt belief of a right to be human and not having to be perfect at all times. It means that a person is worthwhile even when mistakes are made. This leads to an enormous lessening of tension and to a sense of relief, self-respect, and self-confidence.

If self-worth and self-esteem are evident, the person can begin to clearly identify unhealthy behaviors and patterns and to start to see real choices and alternatives in any given situation.

The shame cycle can be complicated to identify and moving toward empowerment can be even more difficult. If some of the symptoms of shame and humiliation are present, a mental health professional may be able to assist and get the person back on the road to recover.

Mark Skrien is a licensed psychologist, licensed marriage and family therapist, and the former Clinical Director of the South Central Human Relations Center in Owatonna. Steele Talkin’ is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

Got ideas for the theme of the fair?

While fair officials are focused on the upcoming 2020 fair, they’re also getting a jump on the 2021 fair.

The Steele County Free Fair is looking for a theme for the 2021 fair. The 2021 fair will be the 150th anniversary for the Steele County Free Fair, which should inspire some clever themes for the 2021 fair.

This year’s theme is “Food, Fun and Friends a Plenty in 2020.” Please submit your suggestions for a theme for next year’s fair by March 1.

The fair is also accepting applications for the recognition of 2020 Century Farms in Steele County. Applications are now available at the fair office.

Century Farms will be recognized during the Steele County Livestock Hall of Fame program on Tuesday, Aug. 18.

Farms that qualify for the Century Farm recognition are those that are at least 100 years old in 2020 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 March 1.

Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary accepting scholarship applications

The Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary and Donald Sanford Fund are sponsoring a number of scholarships for individuals who are currently attending programs in nursing and health-related careers. Recipients of these scholarships will be selected on the basis of need and merit.

The Donald Sanford Nursing Scholarship is for applicants entering their first year or more and majoring in nursing at a college or vocational school. The Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship is for applicants entering their second year or more of school and majoring in a health-related field at a college, medical school or vocational school.

The application can be found at allinahealth.org/Owatonna-Hospital. Click on the “Auxiliary scholarship application” link in the left-hand column. Completed applications must be received by Monday, March 16. If you have any questions, please contact Scholarship Committee Chair Deb Albrecht at 507-455-1626 or Volunteer Services Coordinator Sharon Jacobson at 507-977-2778.

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JAN. 23

1 p.m. – Winter Movie Series, BP Library

JAN. 26

KC Annual Breakfast

JAN. 27

6:30 p.m. – Fire Relief Association Meeting

JAN. 28

10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library

JAN. 29

10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

JAN. 23

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

JAN. 24

10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

JAN. 27

10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

JAN. 29

10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

JAN. 23

Bold & Cold Winter Celebration
2 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library
6:30 p.m. – Family Storytime, Owatonna Library
7 p.m. – Lest We Forget – Fred Amram & Sandra Brick Presentation, History Center

JAN. 24

Bold & Cold Winter Celebration

JAN. 25

Bold & Cold Winter Celebration
10 a.m. – Fat Bike/Hok Ski Demo, Kaplan's Woods Park
11 a.m. – Adult Snow Volleyball Tournament, Lava Burgers and Wings
6 p.m. – Rock on Ice, Morehouse Park

JAN. 26

Bold & Cold Winter Celebration
2:30 p.m. – Family Ice Fishing, Lake Kohlmeier

JAN. 27

4 p.m. – Owatonna HRA Meeting, City Admin Building
6:30 p.m. – Owatonna Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby Meeting, Trinity Lutheran
7 p.m. – Medford City Council Meeting, City Admin Building

JAN. 28

9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Preschool Storytime, Owatonna Library
4 p.m. – Owatonna Public Utilities Meeting, OPU
5 p.m. – Steele County Board Meeting, County Admin Building

Workshop to help farmers and landowners counter floods, fish kills on Jan. 25

Farmers, landowners, and anglers can learn how to buck the damage caused by extreme weather to soil and water during a program on Saturday, Jan. 25, being hosted by the Izaak Walton League's (Ikes) Owatonna chapter and the Upper Mississippi River Initiative (UMRI).

The workshop begins with registration at 9 a.m. at the Albert F. Reding Environmental Education Center, 1546 58th St. SW, Owatonna and runs until 1:30 p.m. Please RSVP for lunch to Gary Schwartz, presikel@live.com. A \$5 donation will help offset the cost of the meal.

Confirmed speakers include Minnesota cover crop farmer-experts Tom Cotter and Myron Sylling, and George Boody of the Land Stewardship Project (LSP), also a co-sponsor.

"This whole thing is about improving soil and cutting back on erosion," said Randy Schroht, an Ikes member and area farmer. Speakers will address why no-till fields need cover crops to battle erosion, how to strike a better deal for conservation in rental agreements, the role of livestock, 260-bushel corn, and how soil health pays the bills.

Additional co-sponsors include University of Minnesota Extension, League of Women Voters/Upper Mississippi River Region Region-Interleague Organization, and the Cannon River Watershed Partnership.

For more information on the UMRI, please see <http://umrinitiative.org/about/>.

Scuba classes offered in Owatonna

The Owatonna Diving Club is offering a free Discover Scuba class on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

Regular scuba classes are also being offered on Wednesday, Feb. 12.

Those interested may sign up through Owatonna Community Education through its website at owatonnacommunityeducation.org or call 507-444-7900.



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Bob Remker

Grand opening set for Country School exhibit

The Steele County Historical Society announces the grand opening of a new exhibit, Country Schools: The Beating Heart of Rural Community Feb. 8 at the Steele County History Center.

Step back to a time when one room schools dotted the countryside. Join the historical society crew between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. to be among the charter class at the Steele County History Center, 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna.

The grand opening will remember Valentine's Day, a time when farming communities celebrated the bond formed through their schools. The History Center's exhibit grand opening includes exhibit tours, heart-shaped cookie decorating, and creating a valentine for a special someone.

Bring your children or grandkids to share and learn about the rural schools of yesteryear. Schoolroom soup, cookies, and lemonade will be served.

Kiwanis invites young children to read

Pre-school to third grade children and their parents are invited to attend a "Read Around the World" event sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Owatonna, Saturday, Feb. 1 from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Owatonna Public Library.

The event will feature six celebrity readers reading their favorite children's books and telling about the importance of reading in their occupations. Each child will be able to select a book to take home, and the event concludes with milk and cookies.

This annual Kiwanis event encourages children to value and explore books with the encouragement of their parents, teachers and community leaders. The Kiwanis Club, a Kiwanis International affiliate, meets Wednesday noons at the SpareTime Entertainment, 333 18th St. SE and welcomes all to membership and service in support of the needs of young children.

Parkinson's group to meet in Owatonna

The Owatonna Parkinson's Support Group will meet Tuesday, Jan. 28 from 2-3:30 p.m. at the Owatonna Public Library in the Gainey Room, which is accessible by elevator.

The program will address "Myths about Levodopa." This podcast is supported by the Michael J. Fox Foundation its Education Consortium. It will address the questions: Does levodopa lose effectiveness over time? Does everyone who uses it eventually develop dyskinesia?

The Parkinson's Support Group has been organized to provide a resource for patients and their caregivers. The group usually meets the fourth Tuesday of each month. All individuals who have Parkinson's and their caregivers are invited to attend. The meetings are free and open to the public. For further information, contact Linda Hoffman at 507-977-2171.

Concordia Band to perform in Owatonna

The nationally recognized Concordia Band from Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., announces its annual domestic tour Feb 2-9. The band will perform a joint concert with the Owatonna High School Concert Band, conducted by Peter J. Guenther, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, at St. John Lutheran Church, 1301 Lincoln Ave. SE.

The concert is sponsored by the Owatonna High School Instrumental Music Department. Admission is open to the public; freewill donations will be accepted. For information contact pguenther@isd761.org.

Each winter The Concordia Band tours regionally in the United States and internationally every four years. The 2020 Band Tour also includes performances in Osage, Iowa; Fergus Falls, Mankato, Roseville, and Sartell, Minn.

The Concordia Band is a select group of 77 outstanding student musicians, each of whom studies privately with members of Concordia's acclaimed music faculty. Membership represents a broad range of majors and disciplines from the campus. The ensemble has performed at state and national conventions, including the North Dakota Music Educators Association, Minnesota Music Educators Association, MENC: The National Association for Music Education, the Western International Band Clinic and the College Band Directors National Association.

Dr. Peter J. Haberman became the ninth conductor of The Concordia Band in 2012. Prior to his appointment at Concordia, Haberman held a similar position as director of bands at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire where he conducted the Wind Symphony, taught courses in conducting and repertoire, supervised student teachers, and was music director of the Chippewa Valley Youth Symphony.

Concordia College is a four-year liberal arts college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America offering more than 50 majors, including 18 honors majors and 12 preprofessional programs.

Quilts of Freeborn County to open at Historical Museum

The Quilts of Freeborn County will open on Jan. 29 at the Freeborn County Historical Museum, Library and Village (FCHM).

The exhibit displays nine beautifully sewn quilts from the 1860s through the 1940s. Bright and colorful to dark and intricate, these quilts were made or cuddled under by people living in Freeborn County. Some tell a story about their owner, others show unique quilting choices made by their designers. All of them exhibit the talent and lives of people and family members of the people in Freeborn County.

The Quilts of Freeborn County exhibit was made possible by the generosity of the Freeborn Mower Cooperative Services Operation Round Up.

In addition to the quilt exhibit, the Marion Ross exhibit has been refreshed with a new timeline, scrolling photos, and additional interpretation of collection items.

A members only preview will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 28, from 1 to 3 p.m. Not a member, but want to be one of the first to see these exhibits? Come to the preview and join the FCHM. You will receive free admission to the Museum and receive invites to upcoming member only previews and other perks throughout the year. An annual individual membership is \$25, family member is \$35.

The Freeborn County Historical Museum, Library and Village is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1948, committed to building the future by preserving the past. The Society collects preserves and tells the story of Freeborn County's past through museum exhibits, research, collections, tours, and educational programs. The FCHM is located at 1031 Bridge Ave., Albert Lea.

Let's Explore Minnesota the easy way

Mark your calendar for the next Steele County Historical Society Day Away bus tour Thursday, March 5. The group will spend the day exploring with a guided tour of the Native American exhibit at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, have lunch at Stout's Pub and afterwards check out the new Bell Museum learning about the state's natural history and wildlife, followed by a daylight visit to the stars at the planetarium. Departure will be at 8:30 a.m. with return about 5 p.m.

Make your reservations by Feb. 13 or until bus fills and specify your meal selection by stopping at the History Center, 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna, Phone 507-451-1420. All-inclusive price of \$75 for SCHS members, \$85 for non-members.

Litomysl Valentine Dinner set for Feb. 14

The annual Holy Trinity Catholic Church Adult Valentine Dinner is scheduled for Valentine's Day, Friday, Feb. 14 at the church in Litomysl.

Social hour is at 5:30 p.m. and the dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.

The dinner will feature Windsor pork chops. All adult singles and couples are welcome. Limited tickets are available and cost \$20 each and must be purchased by Friday, Feb. 7. No tickets will be available at the door.

Tickets may be purchased at Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Blooming Prairie; from Carol Holman at 507-583-2966 or from Mary Ann Rysavy at 507-451-2564, or at the Holy Trinity church before and after the 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass.

Door prizes will be given and musical entertainment will be provided.

For more information, contact Carol Prokopec at 507-583-7848.

Snowshoe or hike by candlelight at Myre-Big Island State Park on Feb. 15

The Department of Natural Resources will host more than 30 candlelight events at Minnesota state parks and trails this winter, including one at Myre-Big Island State Park on Saturday, Feb. 15. Drop by any time between 6 and 9 p.m. for snowshoeing or hiking as stars twinkle overhead and candles flicker in the snow.

"Few things transform a winter evening like soft light on snow," said Erika Rivers, director of the DNR's Parks and Trails Division. "Candles and lanterns help to create a magical experience, especially when coupled with light from the moon and a starry sky."

The .75-mile trail starts at the Picnic Grounds and is suitable for beginner-level snowshoers or hikers of all ages. Snowshoes can be rented at the park. Call 507-668-7061 in advance to confirm the availability of equipment.

The evening wraps up with a cup of hot cocoa or cider near a crackling fire in the Picnic Shelter fireplace.

A vehicle permit is required to enter Minnesota state parks. Although permits are available at the park, you can save time by getting one in advance. Visit mndnr.gov/reservations to buy a one-day (\$7) or year-round (\$35) permit.

In the event of severe weather, call 507-668-7061 for updates or check the visitor alert online at mndnr.gov/myre.

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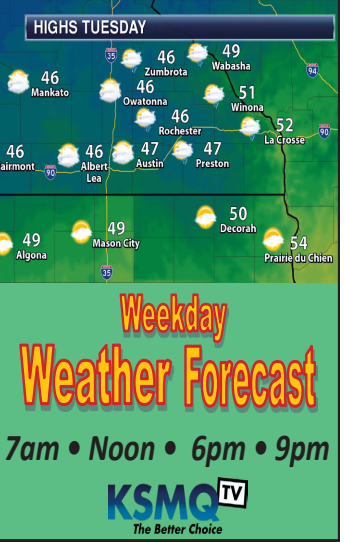
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July 3: Street Dance - Red Dirt Road - 8 p.m. to Midnight - \$5 coverage charge. 21 and over. ID required.

July 4: Open - 9 am to close (Bar & Off Sale)

July 18: B.O.B. Ride - Toys for Tots. Registration: 9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. @ J & H. Fee: 10 per rider. Ride: Leaves @ 10:30a.m. MEAL: 5 p.m. @J&H. (2019 Donation was \$17,500)

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And, the 2019 version of the Blooming Prairie Fourth of July parade is about to start. Carrying a welcome banner are cousins Gloria Hernandez, Elena Salinas and Ella Salinas. If nobody comes forward to chair the parade in 2021, the parade could be history.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

It's a cry for more help

Volunteers needed to keep BP tradition alive

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

What happens if nobody steps forward to chair the Blooming Prairie Fourth of July parade?

It's a cry for help, says BP Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Becky Noble.

The chamber, sponsor of the annual Big Show over the Fourth of July holiday, is looking for more volunteers to help with the parade and other Fourth of July events.

Nick Schiefert has been overall chamber chairman of the Fourth of July celebration. He has stepped down from that role he has assumed for the past 20 years.

Karen Fouarge has been parade chair for about 10 years. She is relinquishing her volunteer gig after this year's (2020) parade. This year's parade will be the 46th annual parade in BP. Noble is looking for someone to fill these two spots. "It's critical," says Noble. A Fourth of July committee meeting is planned for 5:15 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 27 at the BP City Center.

People who might be

interested in chairing the overall event and with chairing the parade are asked to attend this important meeting.

"It will be a very sad day if this event folds up," says Noble. She pointed out that the parade is the highlight of the Fourth of July observance. The Chamber pays a stipend to some of the parade entries. Those with advertising do pay a fee.

Parade costs amount to about \$9,000, says Noble. "There are a lot of hidden costs," she said. "We can't hire anyone to do the parade chair's job," says Noble.

Fouarge and Noble both say that more than one person can handle the parade chair duties.

"It's not really that hard and maybe I feel that way because I have been doing it for so many years," Fouarge explained. "I have lots of good help with my sons Trevor and Tyler Kruckeberg stepping up," Fouarge said.

She also pointed to other helpers who have made her job easier: Julie Hoffman (signup table), Mark and Becky Noble, T.J. and Kathy Kartes and Larry and Mary Kruckeberg.

"Life sometimes throws

"It will be a very sad day if this event folds up."

Becky Noble
BP Area Chamber of Commerce

you a curve ball, and I have decided to sit back and enjoy life for awhile," remarked Fouarge.

She said she has organized the parade the past four years, assuming the chairmanship from Amy Trotman. Four years beyond Trotman's volunteer service, Fouarge held the job for about six years.

Fouarge says she believes Blooming Prairie has a "good parade" and she hopes someone steps forward to take over for her.

Noble says the Fourth of July parade showcases the Blooming Prairie community. "You will never get 20,000-plus people into town unless you have an event," she said. The opportunity is there to show visitors what kind of businesses Blooming Prairie has and also to see our nice schools, Noble continued.

Fouarge says she has a routine to follow in lining up parade entries. She begins contacting last year's entries in February or March. By April, people

begin to get involved and declare their intentions to participate in the parade, Fouarge said.

Following these contacts of potential parade entrants, Noble sends out correspondence to Fourth of July interested parties.

Last year's parade drew 98 entries, said Fouarge. She said more than 100 units were in the Sesqui-centennial (150 years) parade three years ago. Two years ago the parade was rained out for the first time in its history.

"I hope the parade can continue to grow," said Fouarge. For guidance for the next chair, Fouarge said she will be there to answer questions.

"We have a fun and safe celebration and hats off to all who have helped in the past," says Fouarge.

Noble praises Fouarge for her parade leadership and dedication. Fouarge determines the lineup. "She is in charge of making it look easy," commented Noble.

If someone does not step

forward to help with the parade, other Fourth of July events could be in jeopardy, says Noble. She said the Fourth of July car show likely will continue under new sponsorship.

The tractor pull's future is in limbo. Noble is hopeful that more games can be featured in the Fourth of July celebration, for example, miniature golf. Sarah Esplan organized the game activities last year.

"Let's not lose this popular community event," pleads chamber director Noble. "It has definitely put Blooming Prairie on the map," she believes.

Not only is Blooming Prairie the home of the giant-sized Fourth of July celebration, it is also the home of the state champion football team, the Blooming Prairie Blossoms.

CHAMBER MEETINGS 2020

- Feb. 19- Dairy Queen-Night
- March 18- City Center-Catered by Subway-Noon
- April 15- George's of Geneva-Night
- May 20- Bunkie's-Noon
- May 16- City Wide Garage Sales
- June 17- Chamber Picnic-Brookside-Night
- July 15- Golf Fun Day-BP Country Club
- Aug. 3- Meeting-City Center-5 p.m.
- Sept. 16- City Center-Catered by Casey's-Noon
- Oct. 21- Bakery-Noon
- Nov. 18- Annual Meeting-Pizza Cellar
- Nov. 28- SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY
- Dec. 4- Holiday Dazzle
- Dec. 16- Business After Hours- Farmers & Merchants Bank

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Consider joining the chamber

BY DAN PEACH

As a resident or business person in the Blooming Prairie area, you are invited to consider membership in the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce.

The chamber would certainly welcome new members and look forward to your involvement at whatever level you would choose to be involved.

The major role of the chamber is to promote our community in whatever ways we can. A healthy community benefits us all and we would love to have you on our team. Please consider joining our next meeting. Guests are always welcome. Thanks for your consideration!

The chamber provides many benefits, many of which are listed elsewhere in this section.

I never realized the importance of a Chamber of Commerce until Greg Johnson at B to Z Hardware got me involved. Greg was the president of the chamber at the time and had asked me to be his vice president.

I never knew how much the chamber does for our great community. There are a lot of behind the scene work that goes on to prepare for events, meetings, fundraisers and to help our members. There are many tools that can be utilized through the Chamber to help support your business and or organization. It has been an asset joining the Chamber of Commerce. I recommend that you consider membership and attend meetings to see what the Chamber can do for you.

Did you know you that you do not have to be a business or organization to be a member of the Chamber? We have many citizens who are associate members! Please visit our website at blooming-prairiechamber.com to learn more information. Follow us on Facebook at: Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce. We have monthly Chamber meetings. Please call the Chamber Office at 507-583-4472 and let us help you!

Dan Peach is the president of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce. He also serves in the community as a police officer and works at B to Z Hardware.



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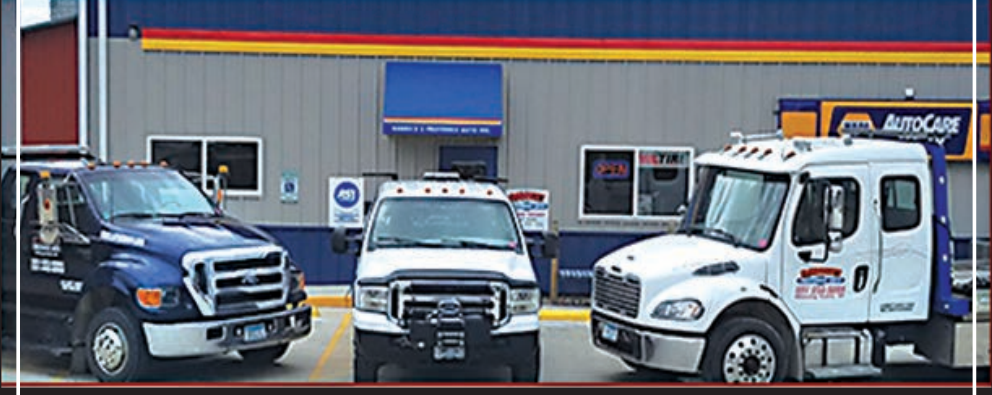
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- Representation at state chamber meetings
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- Business After Hours for members only
- A link to the Economic Development Authority
- Weekly emails with information of the events in the community
- State Chamber opportunities such as Chamber Day at the State Capitol
- Fun and fellowship with friends and neighbors



Bold & Cold coming to Owatonna next week

Bold & Cold, Owatonna's annual Winter Festival, is coming up at the end of January.

A snow sculpture competition is set for Jan. 22-26 at Central Park in downtown Owatonna. Sculpting is open to the public to watch teams carve their sculptures.

Sculptures will be completed by 12 p.m. on Jan. 26. They will be available for viewing until they melt. Prizes will be given away for first and second places.

Winter Weekend Out is set for Jan. 24-26. Organizers have a fun-filled, snow fun weekend planned.

On Jan. 24, there will be free admission to West Hills Fitness Center from 5-7 p.m. Gym, walking track, cardio room and weight room are all available for free use. Family open swim takes place from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Owatonna Middle School.

Activities on Jan. 25 include: adult snow volleyball tournament at Lava Burgers at 11 a.m.; fat bike/hok ski demo at Kaplan's Woods from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.; 2020 iGames from 2-4 p.m. at West Hills Social Commons; free tennis at West Hills Tennis Center from 4:30-6 p.m. and rock on ice at Morehouse from 6-8 p.m.

The weekend will be capped off with family ice fishing at Lake Kohlmier on Jan. 26 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. This is a free event for anyone to attend. The back-up date will be Feb. 9.

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Hometown Sports

Westfield wins third straight dual

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

While two consecutive wins is a coincidence, three is a trend, and the Westfield wrestling team is trending in the right direction after beating United South Central 39-18 on Thursday, Jan. 16.

The Rebels actually scored the first three points of the dual when Bo Zweiner lost by a 0-3 decision at 113 pounds, but Westfield's Lane Lembke tied the score by winning via a 5-2 decision at 120 pounds.

The Razorbacks' Alex Lea and Keegan Bronson

both won by forfeit to give Westfield a 15-3 lead.

However, United South Central rallied by winning the next two weights, 138 and 145 pounds, by decision. They then tied the score at 15-15 when the Rebels' Micah Hamson won by fall over the Razorbacks' Bradley Simon.

At 160 pounds, Westfield's Matthew Pryor won by forfeit and Tyler Archer won by fall at 170 pounds to give the Razorbacks a 27-15 lead.

In the closest match of the dual, Dylan Ehmke lost by 6-7 decision to trim Westfield's lead to nine points, 27-18.

But that's as close the Rebels would get as the Razorbacks' Colton Krell and Dylan Nirk both won by forfeit at 220 pounds and 285 pounds to seal the win.

The 39-18 victory improves Westfield's overall record to 7-7, 5-1 in their section.

The Razorbacks' next match is a tournament in Lake City on Saturday, Jan. 25. Their next and final home match, at Blooming Prairie High School, is against Medford. It's scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 6.



Triton guard Haevan Quimby tries to his shoot the ball over the outstretched hand of Blooming Prairie forward Gabe Hagen (33) during the second half of the Awesome Blossoms' 63-50 win over the Cobras. Parker Vaith (23) looks on to assess the play.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Blossom boys tame the Cobras

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

Following a tough 60-64 loss to Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, the Blooming Prairie boys' basketball team seems to have gotten back on track as they made it back-to-back wins by winning "pretty decisively," as Coach Nate Piller put it, 63-50 over Triton on Thursday, Jan. 16.

The Awesome Blossoms took an eight-point lead, 31-23, into halftime.

Blooming Prairie really began to impose its will on the offensive and defensive side in the second half.

The boys allowed just one Triton player to score 10 or more points.

Thanks to their defense, the Awesome Blossoms led by 20 points late in the second half and that's when Piller started to put his reserves in the game.

"I thought we were doing the right thing and started emptying our bench with better than five minutes left and that's

when Triton decided to start pressuring us and fouling to extend the game. We didn't handle the pressure well at that point, and we missed free throws," he said.

Triton got within 12 points in the final minute, but ran out of time.

On top of the convincing 63-50 win, Piller was pleased with the way his team played.

"I thought our boys played with class and finished off the game well," he said.

Blooming Prairie Stats: Gabe Hagen scored 19 points, Karson Vigeland 14 points, Kaden Thomas 7 points, Isaac Ille 7 points, Jarrett Larson 6 points, Drew Kittleson 6 points, Zach Weber 2 points, and Parker Vaith 2 points.

BP TOPS MEDFORD

The Blossoms easily defeated Medford 61-43 Jan. 14.

Blooming Prairie jumped out to a big first half lead only to have Medford pull it back near the

end of the half and keep it competitive.

"The boys did a nice job of reestablishing the lead in the second half to pull out the win," Coach Piller noted. "I thought our size and athleticism wore on them during the course of the game."

Piller credited his team's shooting with keeping them in the game. "But when they weren't making baskets, our guys did a nice job rebounding," he said.

Gabe Hagen led the Blossoms with 20 points while

Karson Vigeland added 11.

Leading Medford's scoring attack were A.J. Vandereide and Kael Hermanstore with 12 each.

The victories improved BP's overall record to 9-1.

Medford travels to United South Central Friday night followed by a game at Hayfield on Tuesday, Jan. 28.

After a home game Tuesday, the Blossoms travel to Lyle-Pacelli Thursday night and they host Faribault Bethlehem Academy Friday night.

BP girls keep rolling with two more wins

Another good defensive effort led the Blooming Prairie girls basketball team to kill United South Central 55-16 Jan. 16.

The Blossoms allowed only five first-half points, which allowed them to take control of the game from early on.

"We played solid in the second half as well, and we were able to get everyone on the roster some good playing time," said Coach John Bruns.

Megan Oswald led the Blossoms with 16 points while Bobbie Bruns chipped in 12 points.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE 55, USC 16

BLOOMING PRAIRIE (55)
Maggie Bruns 6 P, 2 3-PT; Bobbie Bruns 12 P, 1 3-PT; Maya Lembke 2 P; Baylee Sorensen 2 P; Julia Worke 8 P, 2 3-PT; Allison Krohnberg 5 P; Anna Pauly 4 P; Megan Oswald 16 P.

UNITED SOUTH CENTRAL (16)
Tristan Servantez 3 P; Taige Suhr 1 P; Lexi Johnson 1 P; Hannah Meyer 2 P; Izzy O'Rourke 9 P.

Halftime: BP 26, USC 5.
Free throws: BP 8-10,

USC 8-17.

Three-point goals: BP 5, USC 0.

The battle of teams with one loss each on the season ended with the Blossoms coming out on top over Medford 49-41 Jan. 14.

Both teams came into the game with one conference loss, and they were 10-2 overall.

After leading most of the first half, Medford finished on a run to take a two-point lead at half time.

Megan Oswald carried the Blossoms offensively in the first half scoring 15 of her 18 points.

With BP trailing going into the second half, the Blossoms allowed Medford only 11 points in the second half. "It was a defensive battle in the second half, but Bobbie Bruns came up with seven points and Allison Krohnberg came up with six to help seal the win," said Coach Bruns.

"We have been close a couple times to getting big wins against highly regarded opponents like Medford so it was nice to finally break through with a big game victory," Bruns said.

Friday's game against United South Central was

cancelled because of the weather.

The victories improved BP's overall record to 12-2 and 6-1 in the Gopher Conference.

The Blossoms travel to Faribault Bethlehem Academy Friday night while Medford travels to Randolph Thursday and United South Central Friday.

Blooming Prairie travels to Randolph Monday night.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE 49, MEDFORD 41

MEDFORD (41)
MacKenzie Kellen 0 P;

Kiley Nihart 16 P, 3 3-PT; Isabella Steffen 3 P; Emma Kniefel 0 P; Izzy Reuvers 3 P, 1 3-PT; Alorah Weise 4 P; Jenna Berg 3 P, 1 3-PT; Katie Dylla 12 P.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE (49)
Maggie Bruns 6 P, 2 3-PT; Bobbie Bruns 11 P, 8 R, 1 3-PT; Maren Forystek 1 P; Julia Worke 7 P, 1 3-PT; Allison Krohnberg 6 P; Megan Oswald 18 P.

Halftime: Medford 30, BP 28.

Free throws: Medford 8-11, BP 13-19.

Three-point goals: Medford 5, BP 4.



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132 2nd Ave NE

Blooming Prairie

Blossom JV girls pick up big wins

Two big wins highlighted the week for the Blossoms junior varsity girls basketball team. They defeated United South Central and Medford last week.

On Thursday, Jan. 16, the Blossoms came out on top of a 35-31 game over Medford.

Macy Lembke led the Blossoms with nine points followed by Shawntee Snyder with seven and Anna Pauly and Addison Doocy with six each.

In the first half, USC out-hustled the Blossoms, Hendrickson said. “They played much faster and stronger than we did,” he noted.

Hendrickson admitted this wasn’t the prettiest game for the Blossoms. “But we fought hard in the second half to get the win,” he said. “I was very proud of the girls for rallying in the second half.”

On Tuesday, Jan. 14, the Blossoms squeaked out a 36-33 victory over Medford.

Leading scorers for Blooming Prairie were Pauly with 12 points followed by Anna Kittelson and Addison Doocy with 10 each.

“This was a really good win for us,” said Coach Cory Hendrickson. “Medford is a solid team and beating them is a great accomplishment,” he added.

Hendrickson complimented the work of Pauly and Doocy, who had great inside games. He also was impressed with Kittelson’s efforts in shooting the ball well from the outside.

Waterville-Elysian-Morristown easily defeated the Blossoms 36-16 on Jan. 10.

Pauly led the Blossoms with seven points.

“WEM played fantastic defense and made it incredibly difficult for us to score,” Hendrickson said. “We weren’t aggressive enough and just couldn’t get anything going,” he added.

On Jan. 7, the Blossoms came out on top 44-29 over Southland. Pauly scored 17 points while Lembke added seven points.

“This was a great team win for us,” Hendrickson commented. “We moved the ball well and our defense solid for most of the game. Everyone got a chance to play and that is always a success in my mind.”

Blossom C squad kills USC

The Blooming Prairie C Squad girls basketball team came out on top as a big winner against United South Central Jan. 16. The Blossom girls killed USC 37-11.

Shawntee Snyder led the Blossoms with 17 points while Haven Carlson scored 12.

“It was a great effort by the girls,” said Coach Cory Hendrickson. “We jumped out to an early lead and kept extending it throughout the game. Shawntee and Haven had great games inside.”

On Jan. 10, the Blossoms dropped a 33-21 contest against Waterville-Elysian-Morristown.

Scoring was even at 15 in the second half, but WEM got out to an 18-6 lead in the first half to make the difference in the game.

Addison Doocy and Sienna Fyksen led BP with four points each. Hanna Hamersma added three points.

“The main difference in the game was our inability to handle WEM’s press,” said Hendrickson. “When we got the ball into the half-court, we had success. The girls really fought in the second half to get back into the game, and I was really impressed with that.”

BP’s record is 2-6.

PUBLIC NOTICES

STEELE COUNTY BIRTHS MAY 2019

Tasnim Osman Hirsi, Parents: Deqo Jama and Osman Omar, May 2.
Owen Calvin Kampa, Parents: Megan and Kyle, May 5.
Layla Ann Wacholz, Parents: Sarah and Thomas, May 5.
Sloane Elizabeth Neseth, Parents: Elizabeth and Brandon, May 6.
Bodhi Benton Myers, Parents: Kassandra Gilormini and Nicholas Myers, May 7.
Oie Jonathan Baxter, Parent: Qiah, May 8.
Jaxson Richard Robinson, Parent: Laura Ost, May 8.
Montserrat Kirlgam Gonsalez, Parents: Marysol and Omar, May 14.
Owen Lloyd Savor, Parents: Elise and Coltin, May 15.
Elizabeth Kellene Joylene McMahon, Parents: Kristine and Christopher, May 16.
Cooper Jay Hendrickson, Parents: Katelyn and Cody, May 17.
Trae Jameson Killday, Parents: Ashley and Joel, May 17.
Waylon Eldor Nelson, Parents: Chelsea Stoltz and Tanner Nelson, May 19.
Audryana Mae Klemmensen, Parents: Michaela Jenkins and Brandon Klemmensen, May 21.
Ace Celestino Abrego, Parents: Rachel Long and Trevor Abrego, May 22.
Alexander Noel Servellon, Parents: Judith Corpus and Irvin Servellon, May 23.
Archer Steven Smith, Parents: Amanda and Mark, May 23.
Emily Maria Baldo, Parents: Matiana and Julio, May 26.
Boyd Lee Hanson,

Parents: Tabitha and Mitchell, May 28.
Deklan Nikolas James Rosendahl, Parents: Harleigh and Keith, May 28.
Rock Timothy McKinley, Parents: Abigail and Callan, May 31.

STEELE COUNTY DEATHS MAY 2019

Harriet Regina Jirousek, 102, Owatonna, May 3.
Robert James Loe, 84, Owatonna, May 4.
Eugene Charles Hundebly, 81, Owatonna, May 4.
Lois Maxine Hunt, 89, Owatonna, May 6.
Viola Kruger, 93, Blooming Prairie, May 7.
Ferris Leland Decker, 85, Blooming Prairie, May 8.
Florence Lorraine Borwege, 82, Medford, May 9.
Arvid Kenneth Hustad, 92, Owatonna, May 10.
Martin Elmer Finley, 65, Owatonna, May 11.
Beverly Ann Willert, 79, Blooming Prairie, May 12.
Mary Patrice Tibodeau, 66, Faribault, May 13.
Wilbert L. Oakes, 88, Owatonna, May 13.
David Eric Rausch, 80, Blooming Prairie, May 14.
Martha Jane Warehime, 81, Owatonna, May 18.
Evelyn Louise Kaplan, 93, Owatonna, May 22.
Douglas Frank Winter, 71, Ellendale, May 22.
Sidney Peter Brosen, 86, Owatonna, May 22.
Andrew Michael Nevils, 25, Medford, May 22.
Ricki Mark Moeckly, 57, Owatonna, May 24.
Theodore Joseph Staley, 87, Owatonna, May 26.
Donna Jean Jacobsen, 88, Owatonna, May 26.
Roy Dewayne Halverson, 88, Owatonna, May 27.
Steven Christian Holst, 64, Medford, May 30.
Raphael J. Hagel, 88, Owatonna, May 31.
Gretchen Renee Heil, 61, Owatonna, May 31.

STEELE COUNTY MARRIAGES MAY 2019

Shawn Charles Richard Northway and Kessa Jo Wallace-Barnett, May 4.
Matthew Michael Toov and Melissa Teresa Klecker, May 4.
Mackenzie Dane Petersen and Joseph Edward Jacobson, May 10.
Nicole Mary Morgan and Christopher James Muler, May 11.
Miranda Rose Thurston and Lee Van Mai, May 13.
Madisonn Rochelle Aubin and Brian Charles Calhoun, May 24.
Arenas Jesus Bautista and Laritza Madrid Del Bosque, May 25.
Larissa Nicole Voss and Aaron Philip Nehl, May 25.
Megan Noel Suter and David Andrew Wyatt, May 25.
Rachel Rose Oppgard and Xavier Jose Herrera, May 28.
Jeanette Marie Jensen and Bruce Daniel Yanke, May 30.

STEELE COUNTY DIVORCES MAY 2019

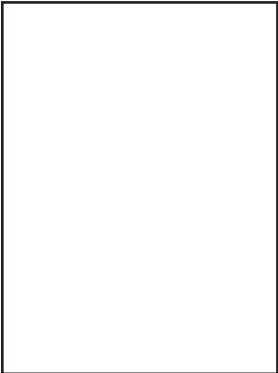
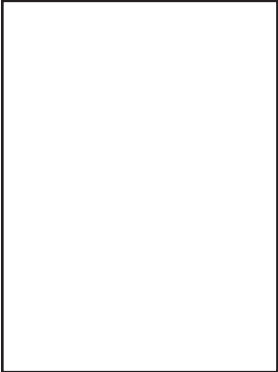
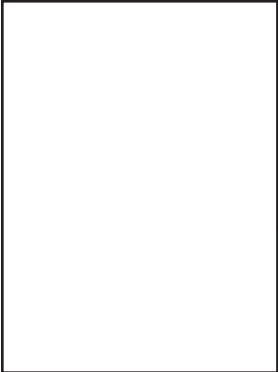
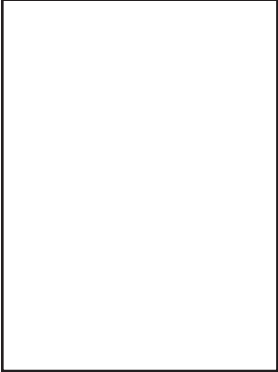
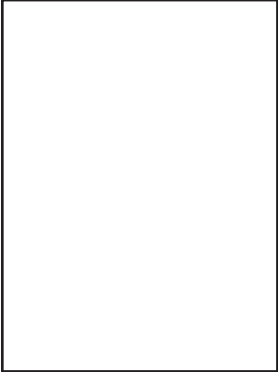
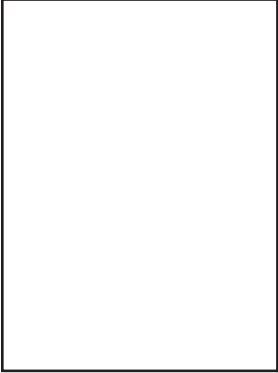
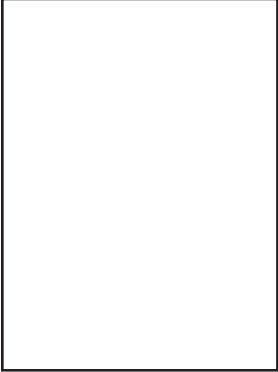
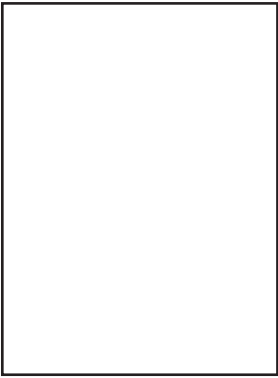
Daniel Gerard Paur and Emily Paur, May 1.
Nola Jane Wradislavsky and David Howard Joseph Wradislavsky, May 3.
Michael Jon Nylund and Jacquelyn Natasha Bingham, May 13.
Traci Lynne Ranslow and Jason Scott Ranslow, May 14.
JoAnna Beth Kennedy and Robert David Kennedy, May 14.
Halimo Abdulle and Bashir Hassen Mohammed, May 20.
Tricia Jean Fisher and Eric Henry Fisher, May 21.
Diana Alicia Delgado and Javier Delgado, May 23.
Rachelle Renae Hansen and Jeremiah Axel Hansen, May 28.



Week 1 Winner:
Mike and Becky Wheeler
Mantorville



Week 2 Winner:
Dave Paulson
Blooming Prairie



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No purchase necessary.

3 WAYS TO ENTER:

1. Call 507-583-4431

2. Mail to Steele County Times-P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

3. Stop by our office at 411 E. Main St., Blooming Praire

BAKER'S DOZEN GIVEAWAY-DCI

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

NOTICE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE
PROBATE COURT

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Probate Court Division

Court File No. 74-PR-20-36

In Re: Estate of
ELIZABETH A. LOGAN,
Deceased

ORDER AND NOTICE
OF HEARING ON
PETITION FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION
OF INTESTACY,
DETERMINATION
OF HEIRSHIP AND
APPOINTMENT
OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
IN UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS:
It is Ordered and Notice is
hereby given that on the 2nd
day of March, 2020, at 2:45
p.m., a hearing will be held
in the above named Court at
Owatonna, Minnesota, for the
adjudication of intestacy and
determination of heirship of
the above named decedent,
and for the appointment of
Grace Logan, whose address
is 2243 Brooks Ave., Red
Wing, MN 55066, as personal
representative of the estate of
the above named decedent in
unsupervised administration,
and that any objections
thereto must be filed with
the Court. That, if proper,
and no objections are filed, a
personal representative will
be appointed to administer the
estate, to collect all assets,
pay all legal debts, claims,
taxes and expenses, and sell
real and personal property,
and do all necessary acts for
the estate. Upon completion
of the administration, the
representative shall file a final
account for the allowance and
shall distribute the estate to
the persons thereunto entitled
as ordered by the Court, and
close the estate.
Notice is further given that
ALL CREDITORS having
claims against said estate are
required to present the same
to said personal representative
or to the Court Administrator
within four months after the

date of this notice or said
claims will be barred.
Dated: 01/08/20

Joseph A. Bueltel
Judge of District Court

Robin Hoesley
Court Administrator
by: /s/ Deanna Verdick
Deanna Verdick,
Deputy Clerk

PATTON, HOVERSTEN &
BERG, P.A.
William L. Hoversten, #47478
150 West Park Square, PO
Box 506
Owatonna, MN 55060
Phone: 507-451-9000

01/15, 01/22

NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICA-
TION OF THE DEBT AND
IDENTITY OF THE ORIG-
INAL 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 3, 2008
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL
AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE:
\$130,560.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Dusty M.
Peterson f/k/a Dusty M. Si-
manski-Newman and Andy W.
Peterson, wife and husband
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo
Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FIL-
ING: Recorded on October 9,
2008 as Document Number
A000360015 in the Office of
the County Recorder of Steele
County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORT-
GAGE: Assigned to: None.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF
PROPERTY: The West 34.25
feet of Lot 9 and The East
15.75 feet of Lot 10, All in
Block 2, in Phelps` Addition to
the Town (now City) of Owa-
tonna, EXCEPT: The North 58
feet of the whole thereof.
Steele County, Minnesota.
STREET ADDRESS OF
PROPERTY: 216 E PHELPS
STREET, OWATONNA, MN
55060-3309

COUNTY IN WHICH PROP-
ERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO
BE DUE ON THE MORT-
GAGE ON THE DATE OF
THE NOTICE: \$119,915.13
TRANSACTION AGENT:
None
NAME OF MORTGAGE
ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo
Bank, N.A.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER:
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICA-
TION NUMBER: 17-101-0222
TRANSACTION AGENT'S
MORTGAGE IDENTIFICA-
TION NUMBER: None
THAT no action or proceeding
has been instituted at law to
recover the debt then remain-
ing secured by such mort-
gage, 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 judg-
ment rendered therein has
been returned unsatisfied, in
whole or in part.
PURSUANT, to the power of
sale contained in said mort-
gage, the above described
property will be sold by the
Sheriff of said county as fol-
lows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE:
March 17, 2020 at 10:00 AM.
PLACE OF SALE: Steele
County Sheriff's Office, Law
Enforcement Center, 204
Pearl Street East, Owatonna,
MN 55060.
to pay the debt then secured
by said mortgage and taxes, if
any actually paid by the mort-
gagee, on the premises and
the costs and disbursements
allowed by law. The time al-
lowed 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 VA-
CATE PROPERTY: Unless
said mortgage is reinstated or
the property redeemed, or un-
less the time for redemption is
reduced by judicial order, you
must vacate the premises by
11:59 p.m. on September 17,
2020.
THE TIME ALLOWED BY
LAW FOR REDEMPTION
BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE
MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVES OR AS-
SIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED
TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDI-
CIAL ORDER IS ENTERED
UNDER MINNESOTA STAT-
UTES, 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 PRO-
DUCTION, AND ARE ABAN-
DONED.
MORTGAGOR(S) RE-
LEASED FROM FINANCIAL
OBLIGATION ON MORT-
GAGE: None
Dated: January 15, 2020

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.
By: _____/s/_____
N. Kibongni Fondungallah,
Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
*Michael van Muelken,
Esq.*
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(20-0002-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICA-
TION FROM A DEBT COL-
LECTOR.

01/22, 01/29

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE
IN DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Civil Division
OTHER CIVIL

CAN Aggregate, LLC,
and Vera E. Meixner
a single person
SUMMONS
Plaintiffs, vs.
Shelley A. Vogel; John Schil-
tz; Daniel Schiltz; Steven D.
Bloom; Joanne B. Bloom,
Joseph C. Jandt; Lilia Jandt;
Henry E. Helgeson; Marlette
L. Helgeson; Hammann Prop-
erties, LLC; Frank Voll; Mary
Voll; Joseph Maixner; Rose
Maixner; Frank J. Meixner;
Josie J. Meixner; and also the
unknown heirs of the above
named Defendants and all
persons claiming any right,
title estate, interest or lien in
the real estate described in
the Complaint herein,
Defendants
THE STATE OF MINNESOTA
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DE-
FENDANTS:
YOU, AND EACH OF YOU,
are hereby summoned and
required to answer the Com-
plaint in the action above-en-
titled, which has been filed
with the Court Administrator
of Steele County, Minnesota,
and to serve a copy of your
Answer to said Complaint
upon the attorneys for the
Plaintiff in the City of Owaton-

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND
ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS FOR 2020

The Annual meeting and Election of Officers of the
Steele County Chapter of Minnesota Pheasants for
2020 will be held at the KC Hall, 820 S. Elm, Owatonna
on Tuesday Feb. 11 with social hour at 6:30 and
meeting at 7:00

Please contact Dennis Thompson –
507-456-1644

Run 1-22, 1-29, 2-5

Billing: same as last year

01/22, 01/29, 02/05

S	O	N				E	G	O				S	V	S	
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S	C	A	B					F	P	L			C	B	S

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47	48					49				50	51	52	53	54
55						56				57				58
59						60				61				
62						63					64			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Protective crust
5. Federal poverty level
8. NCIS network
11. This many makes a trio
13. Geological time
14. Populous Colombian city
15. Interviewer Morgan
16. More (Spanish)
17. Not close
18. Confined
20. ___ Farrow, actress
21. One point east of southeast
22. Kinetic and elastic are two
25. Taking possession of a property
30. Associate of same rank
31. Uganda
32. Heads the department
33. Assistants
38. I (German)
41. Small vessel
43. Home to Deadwood
45. Vetoed
47. Wings
49. Vestment

CLUES DOWN

1. Engine additive
2. Fashionable
3. Region
4. Friday Night Lights director Peter
5. ___ fatale, French seductresses
6. A treeless grassy plain
7. Large flat rectangular strips of pasta
8. Eating houses
9. Divulge a secret
10. Beget
12. Midway between east and southeast

14. Container for shipping
19. Deceased basketballer Bison ___
23. Neither
24. Large lizard
25. Licenses TV stations
26. Express delight
27. Refusal of medical assistance
28. Upon
29. Bright or deep red
34. A way to sign
35. Zhou Dynasty state
36. Shock therapy
37. Ocean
39. Basketlike boat
40. Irish sport
41. Doctor
42. Middle day
44. Autonomous island
45. Made of wood
46. Meat from a calf
47. Inquires
48. Chinese dynasty
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. The Wire actor Idris
54. Resistance fighters
58. Criticize

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GREENFIELD VILLAGE APARTMENTS 2 BD ~ KASSON Newly updated & open January. \$540 p/mo + elec. Month to month leases & deposit payment plans. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity (52-1-5 chg)

HAYFIELD- For Rent - Great Western Apartments. Large 1 bedroom apartment (available NOW) and 2 bedroom apartment (available now), includes all utilities, laundry onsite. Must have proof of employment, Call (507) 796-0152 or (701) 330-9788. (6-8 chg)

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KASSON AREA-OAK firewood for sale-split and dried. If interested, please call 507-951-1041 (6-8 pd)

HAYFIELD- JOHN DEERE Snowblower TRS26" Kohler 12HP Electric Start \$385.00 firm New belts-oil-chains call 507-272-3102 if interested (wk 6pd)

HOT JOBS

PARTTIME COOK Experience preferred but required. Nights and weekends. Call 507-634-6646 or visit us at 111 West Main St. to Apply. TFN.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

CALEB'S PET SITTING, Cats and Dogs, please call me at 507- 634 -7907. 33tfc

SAMANTHA UPHAM'S BABYSITTING/NANNY services I'm a 15-year-old honors student entering my sophomore year at Kasson High School. I have babysitting experience and have been through a class specific for caring for young children. I am best suited to care for toddlers through young teens. Available 7 days a week and can be very flexible with times. I will ensure a summer full of fun! (references upon request) 507-358-3415 27tfn

PIERSON LAWN AND SNOW. Now giving bids for snow removal for this winter. I plow for residential and commercial properties. If interested, please call 507-696-3849 and leave a voice message for your free estimate.

BRIANNA'S LAWN CARE SERVICES Mowing, trimming, complete yard cleanup. Weekly or on call. Satisfaction guaranteed Free estimates. Call 507-421-7945

I JUST WANTED TO LET PEOPLE OUT there know that I would like to start a small snow removal business in the Blooming Prairie Area! I live in Blooming Prairie and if you are interested or need somebody to shovel your driveway and sidewalk(s) I would be happy to help, if interested my number is 507-774-9366.



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STEELE COUNTY Times

Call to place an item in the Classifieds today: (507) 583-4421

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TWO OLDER BOOK DISPLAY racks, each holds approx. 50-60 books. Racks came from Hallmark store. \$40 for both, or best offer. Call 507-450-5395 (52-1-5pd)

APPROX. 100 OLDER SPICE TINS, some cardboard containers, some are very rare. \$50 for all, or best offer Please call 507-450-5395 (52-1-5 pd)

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3 TABLE LAMPS (2 are very old pair), Floor Lamp, End Table. All are good condition. Asking \$50.00 for all OBO Please call 507-450-5395 (wk 6-9 pd)



Semcac

People Are Our Business

Do you like meeting new people? **Semcac's Rolling Hills Transit**, is looking for Substitute bus drivers for our growing service areas.

- CDL License with passenger endorsement required, or we will help train for it.
- Must pass the mandatory Pre-employment Drug Screen prior to employment.
- Ability to read and interpret documents such as safety rules, DOT regulations, operating and maintenance instructions, and procedure manuals.
- Represents Semcac Transportation and Semcac agency to promote excellent public relations and customer service.
- Assures highest possible safety standards are followed while transporting passengers
- Must be a team player and have a positive attitude

More information & application available at **www.semcac.org** or contact Barb Thompson at **barb.thompson@semcac.org** or **507-864-8202**.

Applications must be postmarked by February 1, 2020. E.O.E.

Do you enjoy meeting new people?

Semcac's Rolling Hills Transit is looking for Bus Drivers (Full and Part Time) for our Stewartville area.

- **CDL License with passenger endorsement required, or we will help train for it.**
- **Must pass the mandatory Pre-employment Drug Screen prior to employment.**
- **Ability to read and interpret documents such as safety rules, DOT regulations, operating and maintenance instructions, and procedure manuals.**
- **Represents SemcacTransportation and Semcac agency to promote excellent public relations and customer service.**
- **Assures highest possible safety standards are followed while transporting passengers Must be a team player and have a positive attitude.**



More information & application available at **www.semcac.org** or contact Barb Thompson at **barb.thompson@semcac.org** or **507-864-8202**. Applications must be postmarked by Feb 1, 2020. E.O.E.



Citizens State Bank

Mantorville Branch has a part time teller position opening.

20 hours per week, with the flexibility to work 32 -40 if needed, plus one Saturday a month. Must be motivated, friendly and a team player. Benefits do not apply for this position.

Pick up an application at
Citizens State Bank, 402 N Main St., Mantorville, MN, 55955.
For more information call **507-635-2481.**
Citizens State Bank is an EEO employer.



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COMBINATION TECHNICIAN:

KMTelecom, an Independent Telecommunications company located in Kasson, MN is seeking a full-time, experienced combination technician. Primary position responsibilities include the installation and maintenance of Customer Telephone, Broadband, Television and PBX services. Other responsibilities include locating, splicing and troubleshooting fiber and cable facilities. Qualifications include experience/degree in both voice and data networking applications. The individual must be a self-starter, motivated and possess strong technical and communication skills. We offer competitive wages and an excellent benefit program. Please submit your resume to **KMTelecom, ATTN: Human Resources, 18 2nd Ave NW, Kasson, MN 55944** or email to **hr@kmtel.com**.

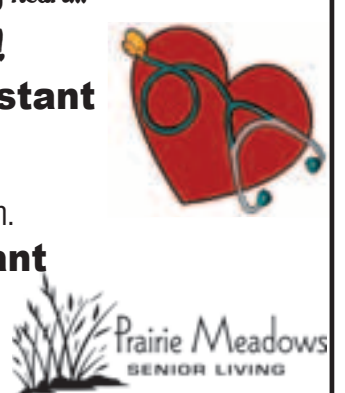
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If you have a caring-giving heart...

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- **Resident Assistant**
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 - PT 7 a.m. - 11 a.m.
 - PT & FT 10 p.m. - 6 a.m.
- **Dining Assistant**
 - PT 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- **Cook**
 - PT 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Apply at: 800 5th Ave. NW, Kasson, MN • EOE





City of Faribault

Position: Building Inspector
Deadline: Friday, January 31, 2020

Inspector performs a variety of routine and complex technical work to ensure compliance with the State Building Code, City's zoning and sign ordinances, and other related codes and standards.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must meet the requirements set forth in MN Rules Chapter 1301 for a Combination Inspector.
- Possession of a valid Certified Building Official Certification within a year from the State of Minnesota.
- Two years of experience as building inspector in a municipal or other local government setting.

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

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

Pine Haven Community proudly serves the Pine Island and the surrounding communities.

The Pine Haven Community campus includes a 70-bed skilled nursing facility providing short-term rehabilitation and long-term skilled nursing care and a 24-unit apartment Housing with Services facility providing home care services to seniors age 55 and older.

If you are looking for a challenging and rewarding career, are a motivated leader, and enjoy making a difference in people's lives, we may have the job for you!



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- **Competitive Pay**
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- **Medical and Dental**
- **Life Insurance and Disability**
- **Tuition reimbursement through our scholarship program**



Apply online at **www.pinehavencommunity.org** or submit resumes to **humanresources@pinehavencommunity.org**

For questions regarding employment opportunities please call Human Resources at 507-356-8304 ext. 112
Pine Haven Community Inc. is an equal opportunity employer: minority, female, veteran, disability.

Place your employment ads with us.
Call 507-319-1549 and ask for Annie

 **Find us on Facebook**

Part-Time Farm Work

The National Association of State Department of Agriculture is seeking someone to collect agricultural data from farmers in Dodge County and adjoining counties.

Prefer someone with farm background and knowledge of agriculture.

If interested, please contact
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Call 507-382-7505 between 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
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