



STEELE
COUNTY

VINTAGE KIDS
CONCERT: B2

Times



CONFECTIONS
BY KAREN D2

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2018

Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

BP Ed awards \$68K for school projects

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie alumnus Julie Noble has a wide smile of achievement when talking about the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation's contributions to Independent School District 756.

Noble is completing her sixth consecutive year as president of the BP Ed Foundation and is more than proud of the community investment in making education better for its kids. She has served nine years on the board.

The Ed Foundation was founded "to **keep our kids one step above.**"

Julie Noble
BP Ed Foundation President

The Ed Foundation provides allocations of monies to school projects identified by its teaching staff. Allocations are made in October and in February following the Ed Foundation's huge fundraiser in March. Last

year's fundraiser brought in \$70,000.

Noble recently announced that the Ed Foundation board in October approved \$67,800 in allocations.

Because of the successful fundraisers and countless donations, the BP Education Foundation, founded in 1999, has been able "to keep our kids one step above," says Noble.

The Education Board consists of community members who look at the education requests of its school staff and administration for the benefit of its



JULIE NOBLE

students. "We love to see new and innovative ideas come to us from our teachers," Noble remarked.

Twenty-six allocations were made in the latest round, Noble said.

Here's some of the major allocations approved by the ED Foundation board:

- Robotics at the high school, \$10,000. It's because of the Ed Foundation that an aggressive robotics program exists at the high school level. "It's a very expensive program with more

SEE ED AWARDS, A3

Major
companies
support new
high school

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Three major businesses have committed significant financial and product support for a new high school in Owatonna even before the school board has decided on a specific direction.

"Federated believes this must be an investment that this city must be willing to make **for the future of our city,** community and certainly our children."

Jeff Fetters
Federated CEO

Federated Insurance is planning to give \$20 million for a new high school while Viracon and Wenger Corporation would provide their products and services, believed to be in excess of \$1 million each. The CEOs for the three companies conveyed their support for a new high school during the school board's work session meeting Dec. 3.

Jeff Fetters, chairman and CEO of Federated Insurance, announced that his company would be gifting the school district \$20 million towards a new high school. "We're all on the same team as a business standpoint (referring to Viracon and Wenger). Owatonna is home to Federated and we rely on this community and the school system to continue to hire quality employees," Fetters said.

"The community is ready. The business leaders are ready. Federated is ready, and it is time to build a new state of the art high school in Owatonna," Fetters said. "Federated believes this must be an investment that this city must be willing to make for the future of our city, community and certainly our children."

Kelly Schuller, president of Viracon, said his company will provide all the glass needed for a new high school at cost and at no profit to the organization. "You have my emotionall support,

SEE NEW SCHOOL, A4



STAFF PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Walking Christmas ornaments Stacy Salinas and Ann Wiedeman and their friend the Grinch posed with Santa for a Christmas photo at the Holiday Dazzle photo booth in F & M State Bank last Friday during Blooming Prairie's annual Holiday Dazzle celebration. Hundreds of people showed up for the event. See page 6C for more photos from the event.

Gearing up for the holidays

A Scrooge kind of title added for this year's homecoming king

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Temperatures were not near 40 degrees as they were last year for the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce Holiday Dazzle celebration, but they were tolerable on Friday, Dec. 7.

More than 30 merchants participated in the Chamber Holiday Dazzle event, an annual cooperative effort involving business people.

Temperatures were in the mid-20s and kind of cccccccccccold if you didn't wear the proper clothing.

A highlight of the night was the



Seth Peterson is crowned Scrooge of 2018 by Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Becky Noble. Peterson, Homecoming King of 2018 and his rivals, Jeff Zwienner, Leanne Hansen and H Peterson, earned over \$800 for the Christmas Light Fund.

crowning of Scrooge. Shoppers the past few weeks have had the opportunity to vote for their favorite Scrooge.

Candidates were: Leanne Hanson, A Touch of Charm; Jeff Zwienner, local handy man and lawn guy (mowing and snow removal); H. Peterson, mayor and Seth Peterson, 2018 Blooming Prairie High School Homecoming King.

Seth Peterson was announced the 2018 Scrooge by Becky Noble, Chamber executive director. Seth came with his parents, Tara and Chad Gimbel and his special

SEE HOLIDAY, A6

ANOTHER MEDALLION
CLUE REVEALED

The Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce has revealed the second clue for this year's Medallion hunt in Blooming Prairie. The lucky winner who returns the hidden medallion to the chamber office will receive \$50 BP bucks.



THE SECOND CLUE:
The holidays are bright
Searching can be a fright
Search by day or search by night

THE FIRST CLUE:
North Pole
South Pole
Brave the cold
Finding a medallion
Is like finding gold

Needy families in hunt for food through Channel One

BY ALEX MALM
STAFF WRITER

In Minnesota, 1 out of 10 people are hungry, according to Virginia Merritt, executive director of Channel One Regional Food Bank.

That's why food banks like Channel One are so important.

In the middle of November, the regional food bank began its 2018 Holiday Campaign, with a objective of raising \$180,000 this holiday season, a press release stated.

Merritt explained that one of the main reasons for having the campaign is because food is an important part of many holidays,

and unfortunately across the state, including in Steele County, people are going hungry.

Through the campaign they hope to eliminate as much of this as possible.

"Everyone has holiday memories that they'll never forget. Not everyone has a way to put food on their table. We can change that. Let's make memorable meals this holiday season," Merritt said.

One of the good things about donating to Channel One is the fact that they are able to purchase a much greater amount of food than the average person could at the grocery store for the same amount of money.

"As a food bank, Channel One is able to make each dollar go further than it could on an average trip to the grocery store. A \$10 donation can provide access to 40 meals," the press release explained.

Through donations made to Channel One, people will directly be able to help people in the community they live in which could include their neighbors, friends, colleagues and others.

How it works is Channel One is able to buy food for a very reduced rate from retailers or able to get food donations for free.

In return they are able to either sell the food directly to different food shelves and backpack pro-

grams for a very minimal price and in some cases are able to donate the food for free.

One of the ways that the different food banks across the state are able to balance out where different produce goes to is by having a mixing center in the cities where they bring up the produce to. There it is sorted and divided up for the different food banks and from there the food banks deliver them to different locations.

For Channel One that means they deliver produce to 14 different counties that they service, including Steele County.

With that being said, there are costs that come with providing the

different area food shelves and programs with food, many costs which have increased over the years, including transportation costs.

Merritt explained that they hope that people will be thinking of all their blessings this holiday season and will be generous in their giving to Channel One this year as they have in the past, in order for them to reach their goal this holiday season.

"We will get there but we need everyone's help," Merritt said.

To give, visit the Channel One website at helpingfeedpeople.org or simply text FEEDPEOPLE to 243725.

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AREA DEATHS

Bernice Wesely, 94, Owatonna
Marleen E. Steen, 81, Freeborn
Margaret Betlach, 96,
Blooming Prairie

Serving
Blooming Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW

Community policing at its finest

Police work is inherently dangerous and poses a hard-core image often associated with arresting bad guys and dealing with less than desirable situations. But there is another side to law enforcement.

The Blooming Prairie Police Department is showcasing itself in a way that fosters great public relations and community policing at its finest. On Thursday Chief Greg Skillestad and his officers, along with jolly ol Santa Claus, will be opening up the police station to offer the community a holiday celebration.

Police officers are attempting to spread a little cheer throughout the community while at the same time building relationships with young and old. It's essential that young people especially learn not to be afraid of the police.

With the Black Lives movement sweeping across the country in larger urban areas, law enforcement has taken a beating in recent years. And it trickles down to rural areas like southern Minnesota.

Chief Skillestad wants to build strong relationships in the community and not rip them apart. From our perspective, that's the overriding goal of all police agencies no matter how big or small they may be.

Community policing has been around since the early 1980s in the U.S. Most people in public safety have likely heard this term before, but what does it really mean? Community policing is a philosophy that allows officers to continuously operate in the same area in order to create a stronger bond with the citizens living and working in that area. In its simplest form, community policing creates a partnership between law enforcement and residents. The more involved law enforcement is with the residents they are sworn to protect, the more residents can help law enforcement achieve their goals.

Blooming Prairie has a good handle on community policing. Besides the holiday event, the department also sponsors a huge community event in conjunction with National Night Out in August.

Thanks to our local police officers for showing us a softer side to law enforcement.

GUEST COLUMN

Developing a more effective flu vaccine

BY AMY KLOBUCHAR

Earlier this year, Shane McAllister grew worried when his 9-month-old son, Andrew, developed a 102 degree fever. Shane is a Minnesota doctor, but even with his medical training, he was surprised to see his son quickly lose his cheerful energy and spirit. It scared him, so he rushed Andrew to the emergency room. It didn't take doctors long to diagnose Andrew with a severe case of the flu. Thankfully, treatment returned the little boy to his normal self within a few days.

As a parent, I know that there's no greater feeling of helplessness than having your child sick and hospitalized. No parent should ever have to go through a health scare with their child, and certainly not for the flu.

But too many do.

Last year's flu was the worst we've seen in years. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about 80,000 Americans died of the flu last season—including 180 kids. Annually, the flu also costs the nation \$10.4 billion in direct medical costs and \$87 billion in total economic burden.

And in Minnesota, nearly 6,500 patients were hospitalized for influenza, including 699 outbreaks in schools and 211 in long-term care facilities.

People rely on the flu vaccine to keep themselves and their loved ones safe from the flu, yet the flu vaccine isn't always as effective as it should be.

Some years the flu vaccine is more effective than other years depending upon what strain of the flu is spreading. Overall, the CDC has found that getting vaccinated for the flu reduces your chance

of getting the flu by 40-60 percent.

Too much is on the line, so we must redouble our efforts to improve the flu vaccine. And one of the best steps we can take is getting the FLU Vaccine Act signed into law.

Earlier this year, I joined several of my Senate colleagues to introduce this bill to help support critical research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and finally develop a vaccine that would be effective across multiple strains of the flu. The bill's objective is simple – to better protect Minnesotans and Americans everywhere from all variations of the flu.

In September, the Senate secured additional funding for the creation of a universal flu vaccine that I pushed hard for, but it's not nearly enough to get a vaccine over the finish line. We must pass the FLU Vaccine Act to further support this critical research.

But even without a universal vaccine it's still important to get a flu shot. While it might not be 100 percent effective, a simple shot that reduces your risk of serious illness or even death is well worth it.

Simply put, the flu shot saves lives.

So let's both take the time to get a flu shot and take action to support the next breakthrough vaccine. Because families, friends, and kids like Andrew are counting on us – in Minnesota and across the country.

For more information on the flu, including where to get a flu shot, visit Flu.gov.

Amy Klobuchar is one of two senators representing Minnesota in the U.S. Senate. She was just elected to another term last month.



The disappearing Christmas letter

I recently came across a story talking about the demise of the holiday letter and that many families are giving up on the ritual of writing a letter. Bah, humbug! Say it isn't true, please.

One of my Christmas gifts to family and friends over the years has been sending out a Christmas letter. As I noted in my Christmas letter this year, my gift appears to be something that seems to be disappearing as the world of social media keeps expanding.



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER



The response given for the rapid decline of letters is, not surprisingly, "too busy." People also feel social media makes a holiday letter redundant.

My family has produced a Christmas letter for many years. According to my count, I have sent out a holiday letter since 1994. I feel it's a good way to connect with those family members of cousins, uncles, aunts and others that you don't come across during the year.

I enjoy hovering over the computer, pulling together the elements for the annual family Christmas letter. I usually try to pick some sort of theme for the letter. Some of them over the years have been letter to the editor, 911 transcript, Top 10 of the year, Hot Pursuit column, the 12 days of holiday cheer, Baby Stork report, cable TV script, police report, district court trial, All Points Bulletin, among many others. This year's, as you've probably guessed, focused on the disappearing holiday letter.

Ann Burnett, communications professor at North Dakota State University, said there are fewer holiday letters and the ones that go out are shorter. Nobody under age 40 writes them anymore, she says.

The holiday letters gained widespread popularity with the advent of copying machines, which made it easy to insert a Xeroxed letter into every Christmas card, rather than scribbling personal notes.

The story referenced Lori Williamson, outreach coordinator at the Minnesota Historical Society. "This keeps me up at night," she admitted. "What will historians of the future look at that will tell them about our time? People don't write letters or keep diaries, and what replaces it is ephemeral."

The Historical Society keeps holiday letters in its collection, which are treasured for their unique perspective on the times when they were composed.

SEE HOT PURSUIT, A3

The real Christmas gift

What does Christmas mean to me?

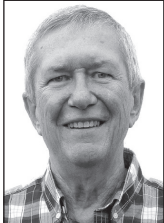
It means gifts, the most meaningful gifts being the birth of Jesus Christ and the birth of my daughter Tammi the day after Christmas.

As we wait in anticipation every year to celebrate Christmas, our family (Judy, Troy and Howard) awaited the birth of a new member to our family. That new family member came into the world at 10:33 on Dec. 26, 1972.

Tammi almost didn't make it, having her umbilical cord twisted around her neck. Our doctor (Carl Peikert) and his team of nurses delivered her safely and we are thankful that we had Tammi with us until Aug. 29, 1995. She died in surgery having a liver transplant.

Those 22 years with Tammi can never be taken away from us. She was a Christmas gift, weighing in at 8 lbs. 13 ozs., that will live forever in our memories.

Tammi spells HOPE for all of us, her example of living life to the



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

fullest.

Music was a big part of Tammi's life, the piano being her instrument of choice. Music is also a big part of the Christmas season. Music continues to keep Tammi's spirit alive with all of us, her immediate family, cousins and others.

A song that Tammi often played on the piano was Canon in D. She would often play that tune perfectly on the piano.

It's at Christmas time when Canon in D is played and every time we hear it at Christmas time, we think of Tammi and become emotionally touched.

My brother-in-law Darrell (Hansen) called me one day and said, "Howard, turn your radio to 830." I did and it was Tammi's song. There have been many other times, too, when we have been listening to the radio and the Canon in D song comes on. Listening to the song brings Tammi's memory to life.



TAMMI JO LESTRUD

SEE REFLECTIONS, A3

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Look for Santa at BP Police Department on Dec. 13

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Look for Santa Claus' sleigh to be double-parked in front of the Blooming Prairie Police Department on Thursday, Dec. 13.

Santa and his friendly elf will be holding office hours at the PD from 5-7 p.m. No, Santa will not be in jail.

Santa plans to listen to all requests from kids 2 to 102. He has made the stop at the PD the last two years.

Activities and treats are planned for everyone. In the past, Karen Peterson of Confections has donated colorful Christmas cookies and Nick Schiefert of the Blooming Prairie Dairy Queen has donated Blizzard (12 oz.) gift certificates for the youngsters.

Enter the police department from the front door. Once in the doorway, kids will spot Santa and his elf. Each youngster will receive a bag of candy.

Police Chief Greg Skillestad and officer Dan Pach believe that Santa's visit provides a way for kids to interact with the local police department.

"If kids need help or need someone to talk to, they can reach out to the police," Officer Peach said. "It's cool to have the trust of the kids," he added.



Abbey Johnson, 7, found Santa Claus and his trusty elf at the Blooming Prairie Police Department last year. The BP Police Department sponsored Santa's visit at the police station. His sleigh was double parked in front of the PD.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

BP Backpack Program still making a difference after 2 years



BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie's Backpack Program has made a difference after two years in operation, claims coordinator Karen Peterson.

The Blooming Prairie schools Backpack Program sends home meals for kids who need some healthy nutrition on the weekend.

Volunteers who work with the program say it is their way to paying the community back for what the community does for them.

The program evolved in the fall of 2016 when two local parents, Karen Peterson and Stephanie Bruggeman, initiated conversations about starting a backpack food program that would benefit kids on the weekend.

Peterson and Bruggeman reached out to Principal Chris Staloch and to social worker Renae Berg to see if the program might work in Blooming Prairie.

"We want to see kids get enough to eat and we will not deny food to any family," said Peterson.

Mankato is involved in the program, Peterson says, and sends meals home to over 850 kids. Seventeen different schools in Blue Earth County participate in the program, Peterson said.

The Feeding America Backpack Program has existed on a national level for 15 years. It helps children get the nutritious and easy-to-prepare food they need to get enough to eat on the weekends.

It has been reported that 22 million children receive free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program and the National School Breakfast Program.

Today, bags of food are assembled at more than 160 local food banks and then distributed to



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Food is packaged and ready to be picked up from the St. Columbanus Catholic Church every week. It will be delivered to nearly 50 Blooming Prairie students identified as recipients of free food for the weekend.

"We want to see kids **get enough to eat.**"

Karen Peterson
Backpack Coordinator

more than 450,000 children at the end of the week. For many of these children, school meals may be the only meals they eat.

Food started to be sent home with 37 Blooming Prairie area kids, mainly elementary students, in February of 2017.

Peterson said 47 youngsters pre-kindergarten through eighth grade are currently benefiting from the program. Suzi Burt is co-coordinator of the Backpack program.

Blooming Prairie's Backpack Program has been tweaked along the way and has become better organized, says Peterson, while

looking back on the two years of experience.

In addition to Peterson and Burt, other board members are: Becky Hoffman, treasurer; Debi Watkins, secretary; Kristi Jorgenson, director and Judy Richard, director.

The local Backpack Program gained support of the school district and also of First Lutheran Church and St. Columbanus Catholic Church.

First Lutheran has been the financial vehicle for the program. First Lutheran signed the application in cooperation with the Channel One Regional Food Bank in Rochester.

Donations keep the program going. Two sizable donations of \$1,100 each were given by Central Farm Services and by Land O'Lakes.

The Target Store in Owatonna recently donated 6,000 shopping bags that are used to package the food on a weekly basis. B to Z Hardware also supplied some bags.

To emphasize the Biblical Feeding of the 5,000, Red Oak Lutheran church donated 66 cans of tuna and 44 jars of peanut butter.

A special black tie fundraiser is planned for the BP Servicemen's Club on Feb. 16. Music will be provided by "Relativity." The BP Backpack Program will get a percentage of tickets sold.

The evening starts with a social at 5:30 and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available from board members, Peterson said.

In the beginning, the food was stored in Bill Rinkenberger's vocational agriculture classroom at Blooming Prairie High School.

Becky Hoffman of St. Columbanus Catholic Church then offered a church classroom as a staging area each week for the food distribution. Amber Konz schedules Faith and Formations kids, grades 1-12, to work on the program. It's part of "Acts of Service."

The food is packed on Wednesdays and goes home with the kids on Thursdays. Karen said it usually takes 5-6 kids 20 minutes to pack the food. She says she has done it with as few as two volunteers.

The local Backpack program became its own corporation last March with local attorney Jason Iacovino preparing the paper work. Karen filed a form 1023 to make the program a non-profit entity.

Now, the local Backpack Program can apply for grants and vouch for its needs.

HOT PURSUIT: *card* FROM A2

"Christmas letters are primary-source documents, a direct line to the past with no filter between you and the person talking," Williamson pointed out. "You hear their voice, you learn about their lived experience. People studying genealogy have names and dates, but documents like this give you the rich family stories."

Despite the apparent decline of the holiday letter, I plan to continue producing one as long as I can. It's my hope that the letter will help strengthen family bonds, especially the links among the younger members.

I also hope more families will consider writing letters. I don't think they realize how much fun it is to share the pride you have in your family.

Won't you help by giving in hot pursuit of keeping the holiday letter from disappearing?

REFLECTIONS: *real Christmas* FROM A2

Judy and I were at Disney World in Florida and enjoying the Christmas lights when a song came on the loudspeaker. It was Canon in D.

German Baroque composer Johann Pachelbel created Canon in D. The song has been revised and revised to still be popular today. It is often played at weddings and at funerals. It was played at Tammi's funeral service.

Since music was such a part of Tammi's life, I asked my son Troy to tell me what song Tammi cherished at Christmas. It was Canon in D and also "Do They Know It's Christmas?"

Tammi's cousin, Nicole Bishop of Blooming Prairie, confirmed Troy's recollection about Tammi liking "Do They Know It's Christmas?"

This song was written in 1984 by Bob Geldof and Urie Line in reaction to television reports of the 1983-85 famine in Ethiopia. It was first recorded in a single day on Nov. 25, 1984 by Band Aid, a super group put together by Geldof and Urie.

The song was a major success around the world, reaching number one in 13 other countries outside the UK. In the US, the single fell short of the top 10 in the Billboard Hot 100 due to a lack of airplay, but it had sold an estimated 2.5 million copies in the US by January 1985.

Tammi's song featured vocals by Boy George, George Michael, Bono and Sting. Phil Collins also played the drums on the recording.

This song is very meaningful to Tammi's family. Just read the beginning lyrics:

"It's Christmas time; there's no need to be afraid; at Christmas time, we let in light and we banish shade.

"And in our world of plenty, we can spread a smile of joy; throw your arms around the world at Christmas time.

"But say a prayer, pray for the other ones; at Christmas time, it's hard . . ."

Tammi loved this song's meaning. Check it out. Just ask Google!

Many songs at Christmas have threads to keep us together and focused on the real meaning of Christmas, the birth of the Christ child.

Tammi's birth was also a gift we will always treasure. Merry Christmas!

ED AWARDS: \$68k

FROM A1

and more kids being involved," Noble said. The robotics program is always looking for other resources, too.

- Blooming Prairie Elementary School playground, \$25,000. "Kids need a playground to socialize and help them prepare to learn," Noble said.

- New curriculum for vocational agriculture department, \$4,200 approved.

- Eighth grade Earth science class requested a stream table to study the layers of the Earth. The Ed Board approved \$2,600. Teacher Jen DeKok solicited bids to have such a table constructed. Cost is \$2,600.

- Heart monitors for physical education classes in grades 7-12, \$4,600.

- Krista Reeder of Blooming Prairie El-

ementary School has requested monies to update musical instruments during class time including tambourines, bells, symbols, etc. Board approved \$2,500 for this project.

- Blooming Prairie Youth Club asked for help updating technology. Board approved \$5,000 for new computers, iPads and some software. This expenditure will help students do their homework and complete special projects. These funds are dedicated with the condition that the money not be used for administrative services or overhead.

Other items often funded by the Ed Foundation include field trips, reading libraries for classrooms, CPR First Aid certification for 10th graders, flexible classroom seating for both schools.

The Ed Foundation budget for 2018-19 is set at \$69,400.

Funds for the October allocations amount to \$38,579.38 and that comes out of the general budget. The \$4,270.27 expense for a new

vocational agriculture curriculum comes out of the agriculture fund.

The Ed Board had \$25,000 left over from the Big Idea investment program. Those monies are dedicated to the elementary school playground.

Noble expects allocations to be about \$30,000 in February.

In order to access funds, teachers must follow a process which first involves filling out a form and identifying the request as an object, field trip, technological change or new program.

"The requestor must tell us how and why the expense would be beneficial for the classroom," Noble said. The request must also tell how many students would be affected by the expense. The board also wants to know if funds are being requested from other sources.

If a request is made for a kit, the board wishes to see supporting documentation. Completed forms are then given to the pres-

ident of the board and to the administration to review and recommend approval or denial to the board. "We have to have checks and balances," Noble emphasized.

An allocations committee of six members looks over the requests and then makes a recommendation to the board.

These allocations provide materials to provide the best education possible for our students, says Noble.

She said the board is always looking for the WOW factor when approving expenses. It also looks for futuristic programs, Noble said.

The Ed Board's next fundraiser will be the annual auction on Saturday, March 30. Donations of items can be dropped off at New York Life or with a board member.

More information on the BP Ed Board may be obtained from Noble by calling 507-456-2410.

STEELE COUNTY **Times**

*Always local,
all the time.*

OBITUARIES

Bernice “Bunny” Wesely, 94, Owatonna

Bunny Wesely, a lifelong resident of Owatonna, died peacefully Dec. 3, 2018 at Koda Living Community of Owatonna.

Mass of Christian Burial was Friday, Dec. 7, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church in Owatonna. A parish Rosary took place at the church.

Bunny was born April 5, 1924 in Bixby. On Oct. 16, 1945, Bunny was united in marriage to Charles Wesely at Sacred Heart Church in Owatonna. She was a homemaker and worked with her husband on the farm and held various jobs.

The couple purchased a farm by Hope in 1950 and it was their lifelong residence. Bunny was a member of Sacred Heart Church, St. Elizabeth Circle, Owatonna Eagles, and was a 4-H leader. Bunny’s hobbies and interests include crocheting, sewing/quilting, puzzling, gardening, mowing lawn and picking sticks, planting flowers, listening to old time music and dancing, along with



visiting with her neighbors and spending time with her family. Bunny will be missed by her children Sharon (Walter) Clark of Maple Plain; Ronald Wesely of Fargo, N.D.; Susan (Dave Barkman) Wesely of St. Petersburg, Fla.; Sheryl (Greg) McLaughlin of Owatonna. Her grandchildren Renee (Mike) Johnson, of Fargo; Katie Clark of Maple Plain, Stephen and Melissa Clark of Montrose; Matthew and Shawna Evans of Apple Valley; Michael (Andrea Warda) Evans; and Michelle Evans of Owatonna, and seven great-grandchildren.

Bunny is preceded in death by her husband, twin boys, her parents and siblings. To leave a message go to www.brick-megerfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements were handled by Brick-Meger Funeral Home of Owatonna.

Marleen E. Steen, 81, Freeborn

Funeral services for Marleen E. Steen of Freeborn, were held Monday, Dec. 10, 2018 at The Church of All Saints in New Richland. Father Mike Cronin officiated. Interment was in the Calvary Cemetery in New Richland.

Marlene died Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018 at St. Mary’s Hospital in Rochester. She was 81 years of age.

Marlene was born Nov. 5, 1937 in Blooming Prairie, the daughter of Lawrence B. and Blanche E. (Betlach) Antl. She graduated from Blooming Prairie High School. On Dec. 28, 1957, she was united in marriage to Alvin E. Steen in Blooming Prairie.

Marlene was employed for over 23 years as a CAN at the Albert Lea Good Samaritan Center and for five years as the activities director at the New Richland Care Center. After retirement, she continued to



be a caregiver and enjoyed taking care of people. She was an active member of the All Saints Church in New Richland. Marlene enjoyed dancing (rather than eat!) played the accordion, country western music, baking and canning. Her favorite song was “I Fall to Pieces” by Patsy Kline.

Marlene is survived by her children Rebecca (Gerald) Kuschel of Waseca, Paul (Kay) Steen of Owatonna, Dawn (Larry) Weller of Chanhassen, Jim Steen of Freeborn, and Mike Steen of Austin. There are 19 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, cousins, aunts and uncles.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Alvin, a stillborn child, sister Darlene Antl, grandson Jacob Kuschel and special friend Ray Nemec.

DEATH NOTICE

Gail Hofius, 63, of Blooming Prairie passed away Sunday, Dec. 9. The family is planning a celebration of life at the Servicemen’s Club in Blooming Prairie. However, no date has yet been set. A full obituary will appear in next week’s paper.

NEW SCHOOL: support FROM A1

but we’d also like to be a part of this project,” he said.

Wenger Corporation has committed to providing support with the acoustic, stage and storage solutions for a new high school. Chris Simpson, CEO and president of Wenger, said the gift would be well into the seven digits.

“Reality is when I bring in talent and potential employees to look at our facility, they are also looking at the community and schools,” Simpson said. “We need to have a high school that is a 21st Century building to help

us attract new employees and also to retain the employees we have.”

Mark Sebring, chairman of the Owatonna School Board, expressed his gratitude towards the local business leaders during the work session. He delivered thank yous on behalf of current and future generations of students as well as teachers, administrators, community and the board.

“There has always been a heritage of business and community leadership started by the names Martineau,

Wenger and Buxton,” Sebring said. “Today we sincerely appreciate the continuation of this profound leadership that the names Simpson, Schuller and Fetters bring to these revered organizations. Your voice, leadership and demonstration of financial support for the future of our students speaks volumes to our Owatonna pride.”

Shaylene Baumbach, spokesperson for Owatonna Schools, said other local businesses have expressed interest in supporting the new high school. “The community has supported this for a long time,” Baumbach said. “We are very grateful. It will help us move forward,” she added.

The school board received a recommendation last month from the Community Task Force on Facilities to build a new high school. The total project cost is estimated at \$138 million. The board has yet to vote on the recommendation, though it was expected to be discussed at Monday night’s board meeting. Public comments were allowed for the first time at the board meeting.

“After the public comments, they (board members) will give some sort of direction,” Baumbach said. She added the board’s direction should be known after Monday night’s meeting.

LIBRARY BOOK NOOK

Spreading holiday cheer at the library

While you are getting ready for the upcoming holidays, don’t forget to stop in at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library!

We have holiday cookbooks and crafting ideas to help make your celebrations special. There are classic Christmas movies and music for all to enjoy. If you have some extra time to enjoy a seasonal book, there is a wide variety to choose from - Christmas fiction, romance, suspense, and even westerns.

The Friends of the Library is again sponsoring the Christmas Tree project.



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

ect. Inside the library you will find ornaments on our Christmas tree featuring children’s books. Choose a book that you would like the library to acquire and donate the money; when it arrives your name will be placed inside the book and you will

be given the opportunity to be the first to check it out. If you have favorite books that you think the children of the area would enjoy, donations are always appreciated. It’s a great way to spread holiday cheer to the whole community.

Enjoy the holidays!

COLLEGE NEWS

Buck to graduate from Moorhead

Karissa Buck of Owatonna will be receiving an associates degree in arts on Dec. 20 from Minnesota State University at Moorhead.

She will be among 500 students to graduate during the fall commencement program at Moorhead.

Buck graduated from Owatonna High School in 2011.

Area student in Christmas festival

Tiana Moore of Owatonna participated in Carthage College’s annual Christmas Festival in Kenosha, Wis.

Yearly, Carthage College invites the community to celebrate the joy of the holiday season at the annual Carthage Christmas Festival, three performances of readings and music in the A. F. Siebert Chapel. These annual concerts are the College’s Christmas gift to the community. Tickets to the Christmas Festival have been free since the festival began more than 20 years ago.

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Birthdays

December 12 John Fouarge Joshua Jones Kristine Smith	December 15 Rick Hocking Ian-Thomas Campbell Darrell Erickson Isaia Toquam Leader Dog Summit Gregg Fristedt	December 17 Jean Peterson Tim PirkI Mariesa Rossow Dorothy Peterson Violet Lane Lauren Doyle Jessica Alwes Hannah Vogt Holly Vogt
December 13 Erica Toquam Bob Arett Chloe Weber Tony Schiller	December 16 Wally Wilke Norma Henefeld Laverne Johnson Brennen Toquam Keith Holman Devin Zilm	December 18 Kaylin Wolf Erin Naatz Amy Doerhoefer Layla Coleman Henry Post
December 14 Joan McDonald Katie Jo Alderete Jake Ressler Nikki Ryks Harvey R. Farr		

Anniversaries

December 12
Tom and Barbie Johnson
Gwen and Gale Klingner

December 15
Todd and Erica Nelson

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OBITUARIES

Margaret Betlach, 96, Blooming Prairie



Margaret “Ione” Betlach, age 96 of Blooming Prairie, passed away Friday evening, Dec. 7, 2018 at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie. Margaret Ione Lynard was born on Oct. 22, 1922 in Owatonna, the daughter of Christopher and Mary (Carroll) Lynard. On June 10, 1946, she was united in marriage to Frank A. Betlach at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Litomysl. Frank died on Dec. 20, 2004. The couple made their home in Blooming Prairie where they raised three sons. She was

a member of St. Columbanus Catholic Church. Ione enjoyed spending time with her family and at the cabin, and loved watching the Minnesota Twins and Minnesota Vikings. She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her. Survivors include her three sons, James (Nancy) Betlach of Eden Prairie, Thomas (Sandy) Betlach of North Mankato and Brian Betlach of Blooming Prairie; five grandchildren, Jenny (Zach) Mitchell, Greg (Kaitlin) Betlach, Staci (Logan) Deopere, Kyle Betlach (Ashley) and Chelsea Miller; five great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Frank, and her three sisters. A Mass of Christian Buri-

al will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie with Father Thomas Niehaus officiating. Visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 13, at Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home, and will continue for one hour prior to the service on Friday at the church. A CCW Rosary service will be held at 3:45 p.m. on Thursday afternoon. Interment will be in St. Columbanus Catholic Cemetery, Blooming Prairie. Services prearranged and performed by Worlein Funeral Home in Blooming Prairie. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Decorating the community



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Blooming Prairie city employees were busy in late November putting up Christmas decorations. Bryce Schlichter gives a “thumbs up” signal as he completes the job on one utility pole.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN AURORA LUTHERAN 6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna Pastor Stephanie Wood 507-676-5696 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Worship: Sunday at 10:45 a.m. COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 106 Third St. SE., Geneva Pastor Kristen Venne 507-256-4288 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun. FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC 503 Radel Ct., Ellendale Pastor Richard Sliper 507-684-2451 Saturday: 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/ Confirmation Tues.: 7 p.m. Call to Prayer, open to all churches Wed.: 9:30 a.m. BibleStudy; 3:30 – 5 p.m. Jesus and Me; 6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:30 p.m. Youth Group 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 Rev. Mark Rosenau, Senior Pastor Rev. Greg Schlicker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4125 www.goodshepherdowatonna.com Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. MOLAND LUTHERAN – ELCA 7618 NE 84th Ave., Kenyon Pastor Nancy Edwardson 507-789-6661 Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN – ELCA 9651 SW 75th St., Ellendale Pastor Mike Walerius 507-465-8366 Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sun. EDEEMER LUTHERAN – LCMS	1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna Pastor Kirk Griebel 507-451-2720 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sun. RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA 30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin Pastor Lindsay Brennan 507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000 www.roglutheran.org Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday School (Sept. – May): 10:15 a.m. ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS 4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont Pastor Alan Broadwell 507-528-2404 Worship: 6 p.m. Saturday; 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS 28959 630th Ave., Sergeant Pastor Collin Duling 507-251-5568 Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9 a.m. ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA 30450 570th Ave., Waltham Pastor Dwight DoBell 507-567-2474 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun. ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – LCMS 202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale Pastor Jesse Krusemark 507-567-2272 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA 2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith 507-451-2165 Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. Worship: 10:30 a.m. TRINITY LUTHERAN 5881 SE 118th St., Blooming Prairie Pastor Stephanie Wood 507-676-5696 Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m. TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA Trinity Lutheran Church 609 Lincoln Avenue Owatonna MN 55060 507.451.4520 tlcowatonna.org Worship: Saturday: 5 p.m. Sunday: 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. tlcowatonna.org/worshipschedule Pastor Todd Buegler Pastor Amanda Weinkauff Deacon Kris Oppegard 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 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 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. CATHOLIC CHRIST THE KING 203 Second Ave. NW., Medford 507-451-6353 Father James Starasinick Deacon Patrick Fagan Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m. Monday Mass: 9 a.m. CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS 307 SW First St., New Richland Father Raul Silva Fr. Adam McMillan, Parochial Vicar 507-465-8217 Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL 9946 SE 24th Ave. Owatonna Father John Sauer, Pastor 507-451-1588 www.litomysl.webs.com Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.c with Children's Church Reconciliation: 8:45 a.m. - 1st & 3rd Sundays Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.: Faith Formation for K thru Confirmation 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 Thomas Niehaus 507-477-2256 Mass: 8 a.m. Sun. & 8:30 a.m. Thursday Reconciliation: 7:30 a.m. Sun. SACRED HEART PARISH 810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna Father John Sauer Fr. Jose Morales, Parochial Vicar 507-451-1588 www.sacredheartowatonna.org Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:30 a.m. &10 a.m. Sun. Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun. Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m. Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat.	Adoration: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Thurs. ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC 114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie Father Thomas Niehaus 507-583-2784 www.stcolumbanuschurch.com Mass: 10 a.m. Sun. & 8:30 a.m. Friday Reconciliation: 9 a.m. First Friday & Saturday ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH 512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna Father 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. Key fob required after hours or weekends CHRISTIAN CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT 540 SE 18th St., Owatonna Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor 507-451-1032 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m. PENTECOSTAL FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL 230 Locust Ave., Owatonna Pastor Eliazar Talamantes 507-363-2240 Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday METHODIST BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST 43089 180th St., Medford (Seven miles west of Medford on CR 23) Pastors JJ & Stefanie Morgan 507-835-8726 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST 200 Sixth St. NW., Ellendale Pastor Randy Cirksena 507-684-2731 www.ellendaleumc.org Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST 815 E. University, Owatonna Loren Olson, Pastor Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor Joyce Parker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4734 www.owatonnaumc.org Traditional Worship (Pathways): 9	a.m. Sunday NON-DENOMINATIONAL BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY 130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna Pastor Keith Haskell 507-215-2249 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun. Reformers Unanimous Meetings: 7 p.m. Friday CEDAR CREEK 30 E. Main St., Hayfield Pastor Aaron de Neui 507-477-2255 www.cedarcreekchurch.org Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. DESTINY CHRISTIAN Owatonna Campus 422 North St., Owatonna Pastors Tyler & Jessica Braucht 507-254-8514 www.destinycc.org Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. ELEVATION NORTH 2002 Austin Road, Owatonna Pastor Doug Jones 507-363-3099 www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com Worship (English): 10 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Worship (Spanish): 2 p.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Spanish Evangelism & Prayer: 7 p.m. Friday NEW BEGINNINGS 332 14th St. NE., Owatonna Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson 507-413-0209 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	Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ 800 Havana Road, Owatonna 507-451-1546 www.associatedchurch.org office@associatedchurch.org Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. (Fellowship, Church School, and Adult Discussions follow) Wednesday Activities: Sept – May (see website for schedule) FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 109 E. Main St., Hayfield Pastor Kirk Johnston 507-477-2631 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN P.O. Box 66, Claremont 507-528-2320 Pastor Douglas Walters 10 a.m. Worship SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST 2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna Pastor Brian Beavers 507-340-7143 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sat. Bible Study: 11 a.m. Sat. UCC CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 211 Main St. S. Medford Rev. Richard Waters 507-451-4596 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. ASSEMBLY OF GOD VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD 702 Third St. S., Ellendale Pastor Patrick Stitt 507-684-3421 www.vibrantlifeag.com Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun. BAPTIST FIRST BAPTIST 104 First Ave. NE, Blooming Prairie Pastor Matt Fennell 507-583-2673 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. & 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Sunday School: 9 a.m. Bible Study: 11:30 a.m. Sun. ASSEMBLY OF GOD VICTORY LIFE 105 2nd St NE Geneva Pastor Diane Butler 507-402-0960 Worship on Sundays Prayer Service: 7:30 a.m. Church Service: 9:30 a.m. Children's Church: 9:45 a.m.
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Ellendale marks Christmas in the Country

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It was Christmas in the Country in the small Steele County community of Ellendale Dec. 2-8. On the first weekend, a soup and bread feed was held at the Ellendale United Methodist Church following a concert at 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8 was a fun day for the kids with bingo at Floors for U. The Ellendale Commercial Club sponsored bingo games for the kids with lots of special prizes given. Scott Groth and Brian Wayne called the games and handed out prizes. Amiya Lippincott of Hutchinson won the grand prize, a Dream Vision electronic unit that connects to cell phones. Following bingo, players went across the street to the Old Fifth Avenue Pizza to see Santa. Mr. Claus listened intently to wishes of the youngsters and then he handed out a bag of candy to each. The Festival of Trees was also on display in the building owned by Victor and Kelli Mrotz, who donated use of the building. The trees were put up by Cynthia Nelson and Pat Motl. A craft fair was also held on Saturday at the Ellendale Community Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Many of the downtown businesses participated in the Christmas in the Country events.



Santa had lots of friends waiting to see him in Ellendale during Christmas in the Country on Saturday, Dec. 8. Shown with Santa are Alaina Lippincott, 4 of Hutchinson; Amiya Lippincott, 2 of Hutchinson and Adalyn Krippner of Rochester. The girls are all granddaughters of Linda Altermatt of Ellendale.

Retirement Open House
for Pete Kittelson

Date: December 14, 2018
Time: 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Location: Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club

* Lunch will be served

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HOLIDAY: scrooge crowned FROM A1

friends, a pair of crutches. Seth suffered a torn ACL in a football game at mid-season. Noble crowned Peterson outside of A Touch of Charm store. More than \$800, \$836.86 to be exact, was earned from the contest. All proceeds go to the Chamber Christmas Light Fund. Last year's Scrooge, Aaron Ressler of Bunkie's Lanes & Grill, was not present for the crowning. Business merchants offered free refreshments and in some cases, they offered some free goodie bags. Hometown Insurance carried on a tradition of giving out pistachio nuts. New York Life Insurance accepted artwork from youngsters and gave each artist a sack of Christmas goodies. Blooming Prairie merchants gave out snowballs to shoppers and later in the evening, drawings were held for Blooming Prairie Bucks. Rick Kittelson won the Snow Ball contest at B to Z Hardware. He was given \$100 in BP bucks. Kids also participated in a snow ball toss and a wooden nickel toss. Ken Esplan tossed the coins. Overall winner on the nickel toss was Madi Lea, She received lots of special prizes.

The Women of Today, assisted by the local AAUW (American Association of University Women) sponsored a Santa House featuring gifts youngsters could get for their parents. Parents were not allowed in the shopping area. Lots of kids visited the Santa House at the BP City Center just after the BP Elementary Holiday Concert concluded. Santa Claus also made an appearance on Main Street, arriving via horse and wagon provided by Roger Pittman of Bixby. Long lines of kids, parents and grandparents waited to see Santa. Photos were taken by F & M State Bank employees and copies were given to the little kids who agreed, or disagreed to sit on Santa's lap. Grinch toured the Main Street area on foot and posed for photos with the kids. The Blooming Prairie Fire Department and ambulance squad located their rigs on Main Street. Kids were able to roast marshmallows or to make smores. Because of the cold weather, Just for Kix dancers did not perform. It was also Ladies Night Out at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. Vendors set up in the Liberty Room. A packed crowd was welcomed.

TWELVE KIDS OF CHRISTMAS

Lilly is a sweet and active 9-year-old with ambitions to "make the world better". Lilly loves puppies and hopes to work with them when she grows up. The best Big for Lilly would be someone who enjoys doing hair and makeup, dancing, coloring, being creative, and watching Full House. Lilly feels sad when she watches her sister leave to do activities with her Big and can't wait to have a Big of her own.

Give the gift of friendship this holiday season. Become a Big today! Call 507-451-5922 or visit bbbsofsouthernmn.org and click *Become a Big*.

Tristan is an outgoing 10-year-old. He enjoys drawing, video games, soccer, and playing catch outside. He is a very smart student and would like to be a doctor or a teacher when he grows up. Tristan would like to become more social and learn to avoid bullies at school. The best Big for Tristan would be someone with patience and enjoys being active.

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MNPrairie honored for excellence at state awards ceremony

Four outstanding programs from counties across Minnesota, including one from Steele and Dodge counties, were recognized with Association of Minnesota Counties' (AMC) 2018 County Achievement Awards for exhibiting excellence and innovation in their counties.

AMC president Susan Morris, an Isanti County commissioner, presented the County Achievement Awards at the association's annual conference Dec. 3 in Bloomington. The recipients were nominated by their counties and selected by a committee of county officials. Minnesota Prairie County Alliance, which includes

Steele, Dodge and Waseca counties, received one of the awards. Noted during the presentation was that as one of four multi-county human services agencies across Minnesota, the merger undertaken by Steele, Dodge and Waseca counties to form Minnesota Prairie County Alliance is unique in several respects.

The unique aspects cited during the awards ceremony included:

- Customer service has been improved with the provision of evening office hours – at no additional cost – to enable people with jobs to access services.
- Efficiencies have been

achieved in many ways, but uniquely by combining caseloads across sites in the state computer systems so that staff use their MNPrairie identification number once, rather than having to sign out using one county identification number and sign in using another each time they work on a case from a different site.

- Increasing management and strategic agency direction-setting by redeploying two director roles to establish managers who are subject-matter experts who pay attention to externalities, systemic matters, and best and emerging practices in their program area, as well



SUBMITTED PHOTO

2018 AMC President Susan Morris, an Isanti County commissioner, presented the County Achievement awards at the association's annual conference Dec. 3 in Bloomington. The recipients were nominated by their counties and selected by a committee of county officials. Representatives from MNPrairie serving Steele, Dodge and Waseca counties accepted one of the awards.

as internal work; enabling supervisors to focus on supporting the work of their

individual team members' work with clients.

- Obtaining state

certification as a human services delivery authority, SEE MN PRAIRIE, B2

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

The magic of the holiday season can bring joy to the hearts of people of all ages.

For more than 20 years the Owatonna Arts Center has whipped up its own version of that classic Christmas cheer by inviting Santa and the Missus to take part in a Saturday of cocoa, carols, and cookies.

With Mrs. Claus performing holiday standards and the jolly old St. Nick decked out in red and sporting a white mane, the Arts Center was alive with Christmas spirit. "Everything about Christmas," Santa said when asked his favorite part of the festive holiday.

While he looks the part each and every year, Santa did admit to shaving down the beard some during the offseason. "I take it down to half an inch or less," he revealed.

Although he exhibits that classic Santa jolliness, he still finds a few children who get intimidated when in the presence of the big man himself. "I had a few today," he said. "They'd come back and forth and that's when I get my magic clock out." When Santa opens the timepiece, it comes alive with the happenings of the north pole.

Mrs. Claus shares his love of the holiday, revealing that one of her favorite activities is visiting with all of the children. "Actually, this is one of my favorite parts because it's as romantic, and special, and heartwarming as it can be. You can't beat it," she said.

She loves playing the piano for all of the guests who come in, and Santa will even do his best by helping to sing along. "Back in my high school days, I was the accompanist for the choir and ensemble," Mrs. Claus explained before recalling that, oddly enough, she happened to have graduated from Blooming Prairie before taking up residence at the North Pole.

Along with the music, Mrs. Claus also reads a Christmas story to the children in attendance. "All of the children have their favorite books, and they look forward to that," she said. This year's story was "A Christmas for Bears" from "My Christmas Treasury," a collection



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Santa and Mrs. Claus marvel at his magical timepiece after entertaining children during the Cocoa with Santa event held last Saturday at the Owatonna Arts Center.

of holiday stories.

With the Arts Center playing host, Mrs. Claus felt that it was the perfect venue to warm hearts and spread some Christmas joy. "Maybe because it was a home, an orphanage for many years, that in many ways it still is like a home," she said.

Creative Director Silvan Durben explained that the event used to be breakfast with Santa before they changed it to its current iteration. "We invite all ages of people to come and bring their wishes forth to Santa," he said.

"People come in and you see their faces light up, and not just the children but the parents and grandparents too," he said. "It's a magical time of year."

Durben and his staff had the entire Arts Center decked out for the holidays, with trees, and decorations, and an exhibit of old holiday toys. "We try to create a magical environment and the thing that's so wonderful is all of this comes together almost like a



Santa hears Christmas requests from Ava and Brooklyn Cummins during Cocoa with Santa at the Owatonna Arts Center.

miracle," he said. Like Santa and the Missus, Durben marks Christmas as his

favorite holiday. "It's that time of year when we all come together and get soft and warm hearted."

Steele County to receive state disaster aide

Governor Mark Dayton has authorized the use of funds from the State Disaster Assistance Contingency Account for emergency relief in eight Minnesota counties and one tribal nation, including Steele County.

Areas of Steele, Waseca, Faribault, Goodhue, Le Sueur, Martin, Renville and Rice counties, and the Prairie Island Indian Community experienced significant damage to public properties caused by severe thunderstorms with heavy rains, damaging winds, and tornadoes.

The storms occurred between Sept. 18-20. Steele County is slated to receive \$435,155

in disaster aide. Most of the local aide will be used to pay for damage to local infrastructure, including power lines and power poles throughout Owatonna.

Rice County received the greatest amount of aide at nearly \$2.1 million. Steele was the second highest of the counties.

Aid from the Contingency Account will reimburse the eight Minnesota counties and one tribal nation for public infrastructure repairs and clean-up costs associated with the storms.

Under Minnesota law, the state will reimburse 75 percent of eligible costs for public

infrastructure repairs and clean-up, with local governments responsible for covering the remaining 25 percent.

In 2014, Dayton signed legislation establishing the State Disaster Assistance Contingency Account to assist local communities after a natural disaster without a special session, even when federal aid is not available.

The legislation also directs the State to cover the full Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding match for local governments in federally declared disasters.

Rep. Poppe to chair ag committee

Minnesota House Speaker-designate Melissa Hortman has announced that State Rep. Jeanne Poppe, DFL-Austin, will chair the House Agriculture and Food Finance and Policy Committee for the 2019-2020 biennium.

The Agriculture and Food Finance and Policy Committee will be tasked with overseeing and financing several state agencies, including the Department of Agriculture and the Board of Animal Health. These agencies are responsible for loans under the rural finance authority, licensing, farm incentives, and food safety.

"It's a wonderful honor to be given this responsibility," Poppe said. "I look forward to working on agricultural and rural issues with my colleagues in the Legislature and Governor Walz. For my part, I will do all I can to prioritize and showcase the importance of agriculture in Minnesota. Our agriculture sector has faced some financial and emotional challenges in the past few years; I look forward to working together to solve problems and creating opportunities for success and sustainability." The Legislative Session is scheduled to start on Jan. 8.



POPPE

Making granddaughter a priority in 2019



Steele Talkin'
STEPHANIE KIBLER

With the end of 2018 quickly approaching, many of us are looking to the future, determining where we can improve or what changes we should make. New Year's resolutions have become the norm. Occasionally, maybe more often than not, they don't stick.

This year I am vowing to share with my granddaughter all the things that I wished I had shared with my daughter. Don't get me wrong, I raised an intelligent, compassionate, strong woman. There are no words to express the pride I have in who she has become. But let's face it, none of us is perfect, and some things were missed. So in 2019, I promise to share with my granddaughter all that I can to ensure she is a stronger, more intelligent, equally compassionate woman.

Be brave. Grab a hold with both hands and don't be afraid to fail. With failure comes knowledge.

Your dreams can be achieved; you

SEE STEELE TALKIN', B2

"A Vintage Christmas" at BP Elementary School

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It indeed was "A Vintage Christmas" at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School on Friday, Dec. 7.

The entire student body, which totals about 420 according to Principal Chris Staloch, participated in two concerts, one at 9 in the morning and the other at 1 p.m. Both concerts were staged in the elementary gymnasium.

Both performances featured a special dedicated Christmas tune, "That's Christmas to Me." All

students, in a massed finale, performed this touching song in memory of Blooming Prairie first grade teacher Rachel Harberts who died of injuries suffered in a car crash on Sept. 7 and her daughter, Emerson, a third grader at BP Elementary, who died instantly of injuries in the crash.

First grade teachers and third grade teachers placed two roses on a piano to symbolize loving memory to fellow teacher Harberts and to Emerson.

Jaxon Harberts, a seventh grader at Blooming Prairie High School, survived the

crash and was in attendance for the afternoon concert, sitting between his grandparents, Sharon and Jerry Post of Lanesboro.

The concerts featured the musical direction expertise of Kari Bottin, Krista Reeder and Ross Reishus.

Students were part of the elementary music classes, elementary choir and elementary bands.

The programs opened with the elementary choir performing "Winter Lullaby, by Pinkzebra and "Can't Wait for Christmas" by Douglas F. Wagner.

Members of the elementary choir were: Zoey Alwes, Carelyn Bartlett, Carter Bishop, Allison Blume Bradley Boyd, Allison Bruggeman, Cleopatra Carlson, Zoe Ehlers, Ruby Evans, Nash Fawver, Audrey Fort, Miley Fulton, Addison Haugland, Samantha Hefling, Mairead Holmes, MacKenna Jensen, Mia Johnson, Abby Nordison, Jazlyn Kapsch, Brady Kittelson, Abriannah Kopischke, Addison Lyman, Madilynn Madsen, Lilahna McDaniel, Sierra Miller, Gage Mullenbach Ariana Paulson, Sophia Schiller, Claire Schwarz, Elijah



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Mom Haily Adams and Norah Davis, 4, found a seat on the floor during a packed crowd at the afternoon Blooming Prairie "A Vintage Christmas" on Friday afternoon at the BP Elementary School.

Skillestad, Ella Smith, Lucas Smith, Grady Streckelberg, William Sunde, Jayden Van, Kaydance Verhey-Schumacher, Kloe Wacek, Cole Wangen and Bo Zwiener.

The Fifth Grade Band, directed by Ross Reishus, performed "Merrily We Roll Along," "Itsy Bitsy Spider" and "Good King Wencelas."

Fifth grade band members were: Tyler Anderson, Allison Blume, Allison Bruggeman, Natalie DeVries, Regan Donnelly, Ruby Evans, Madelyn Harvey, Addison Haugland, Samantha Hefling, Jonathan Heimgaartner, Colby Johnson, Sierra Miller, Justin Neuse, Drew Reinke, Miley Ripka, Ella Salinas,

Claire Schwarz, Kloe Wacek and Chloe Weber.

The Massed Band played "Jingle Bells."

Sixth grade band members played "Jolly Ol' Saint Nicholas," "The Dreidel Song," "Kwanzaa Celebration," and "Bennett's Switch by Les Taylor.

Sixth grade band members included Elsie Arnold, Carter Bauer, Erhan Beauseigneur, Jack Bruns, Carter Bishop, Cooper Cooke, Nash Fawver, Mairead Holmes, MacKenna Jensen, Alex Lea, Naomi Lebak, Gage Mullenbach, Sophia Schiller, Ella Smith, Caitlyn Stangl, Will Sunde

SEE CONCERTS, B6



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Naomi Lebak plays the horn in the sixth grade Blooming Prairie Elementary School band. The band was directed by Ross Reihus.

STEELE TALKIN': Seeking to empower young women

have the power to turn them in to reality.

No means no. No one, male or female, friend or foe, has the right to make you do something you are not comfortable with.

Be kind, towards friends, frenemies, and most importantly towards yourself. Love who you are. There is no one else like you.

Lift up your friends. Applaud their successes. Life is not a competition.

Equity matters. Be inclusive. Stand up for others. Take care of the vulnerable. Fight for freedoms. Look for ways to bridge the divide.

Money is important, but it isn't everything. More stuff does not equal happiness.

Remain an optimist. Look for the positive in what you do and what others do.

Trust your gut! If it doesn't feel right, it likely isn't right. Intuition is a powerful tool.

It's not all about how you look or who is the prettiest. Learn to love everything about yourself, inside and out.

And remember, if you every get hung up, call Grandma. I will always be there, no matter what.

It is often way too easy for us, women, to forget what truly matters and how to really trust

and take care of ourselves. My goal is to empower the young women and girls so they will grow to be stronger, wiser women than I.

Stephanie Kibler is the meetings and event coordinator for the Steele County Historical Society. She also serves on the Ellendale City Council. Steele

Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.



Korbin Johnson

Sponsored by:



This week's Panther of the Week is Korbin Johnson. He is the son of Stephanie & Kelby Johnson and they reside near New Richland. Korbin is in Mr. Beynon's 3rd grade class.

Korbin has shown such a positive attitude in the classroom. He recently made a big jump in his reading progress and has accepted the challenge and responsibility that comes with school. He has greatly improved his effort in class! Korbin really enjoys riding go-karts and snowmobiling and he likes playing with his friend, Rowan.

Keep up the great work Korbin!

Group seeks applications for child care shortage grants

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) is seeking applications for a new grant program called Communities Addressing the Child Care Shortage. These grants are designed to assist communities in developing action plans to address local child care needs.

Recent research shows that in SMIF's 20-county region, there is a potential need of 8,919 licensed child care slots. "The child care shortage has a dramatic impact on families and the local economy," said Rae Jean Hansen, vice president of Early Childhood at SMIF. "This new grant is a step in the right direction for supporting communities as they work toward solutions to this challenge."

Communities in SMIF's region are invited to apply for this community engagement process. Each community has unique needs and because of this SMIF will develop and implement an individualized action plan with each grant recipient community. Representatives

from a variety of sectors will be involved in the initial core team, ranging from City and County economic development staff, employers, elected officials, child care providers, Chamber of Commerce leaders, and more.

Selected communities may become eligible for grants up to \$10,000 as they begin to implement solutions to the child care shortage.

Applications are due January 22 at 4 p.m. Visit smifoundation.org/childcaregrant for full guidelines and application. Proposals must be submitted by an independent 501(c)(3) organization, a unit of government or a public agency.

For questions contact Teri Steckelberg, Early Childhood director, at teris@smifoundation.org or 507-214-7015 or Jennifer Heien, grants coordinator, at jenniferh@smifoundation.org or 507-214-7040.

This program is partially funded by the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

MN PRAIRIE: Unique aspects cited

FROM B1

enabling the agency to seek waivers of state and federal program requirements to get better outcomes; setting the stage for greater innovation in this next stage.

Other award winners included the Library VolunTeen program and the Chemical Health and Heroin Initiative, both from Anoka County and the IPS Collaboration from Wright County.

AMC is a voluntary statewide organization that assists the state's 87 counties in providing effective county

governance to the people of Minnesota. It is the mission of the Association to assist in the provision of effective county governance for the people of Minnesota. The association works closely with the legislative and administrative branches of government in seeing that legislation and policies favorable to counties are enacted. In addition, the Association provides educational programs, training, research and communications for county officials.

GRIEF RELIEF



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Bob Remker

Country Christmas Tea celebrated at First Baptist Church of BP

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Nearly 100 women attended a Christmas Country Tea at First Baptist Church of Blooming Prairie on Tuesday, Dec. 4.

It is a tradition that has continued since it was started in the late 1960s, said Rev. Matt Fennell and his wife Tanya.

Music was provided in the sanctuary by Dunnell Lenort prior to the women coming downstairs to sample some delicious treats prepared by members of the church.

The men of the church served the ladies who were seated at 10 different tables. Cream of broccoli soup, chicken noodle soup, a delicious salad, a bread basket and plates of homemade Christmas goodies were served.

Each woman who attended received a small, white candle wrapped in Christmas colors. Center pieces were also given to those traveling the farthest and to those answering trivia questions.

Marilyn Wohl provided the prelude and postlude music. Tanya Fennell welcomed guests and also provided a scripture reading.

Dunnell Lenort offered several Christmas songs, most with a country twist. The



A Country Christmas Tea was sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Blooming Prairies. Table waiters prepare to serve about 100 women who attended the tea on Tuesday night, Dec. 4.

second half of he program, he sang songs emphasizing the birthday of Jesus.

Lenort has been singing country music and “oldies” since 1981. He has performed at county fairs as well as at other events in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa. He has also performed on stage of the Grand Ole Opry in

Nashville.

Lenort was born in 1961 in Wells. He was the first born of five children. At the age of 8 months, Lenort developed a high fever. A blood vessel broke in his head resulting in paralysis in his right arm and leg. He spent the next 20 years undergoing many surgeries to correct various problems with

his arm and leg.

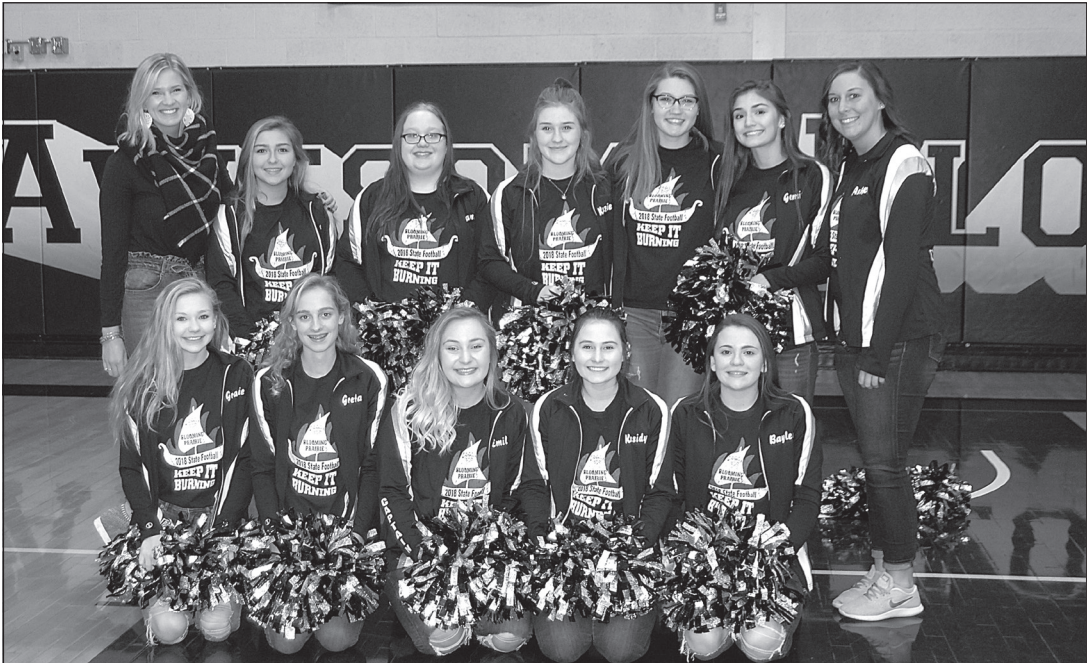
Lenort married Angie, who later died of brain cancer.

His love of music kept his spirits alive. He developed an early interest in music at age five. He has performed with a band for many years and now performs on his own, using sound tracks.



A lighted manger scene illuminated a colorfully decorated table at the First Baptist Church Country Christmas Tea on Tuesday night.

A memorable season to cheer about



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

It was a fun run for the Blooming Prairie High School football team this past season. The season ended in the semifinals of Class 5A at the state tournament played at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. Cheering the team on all the way were these cheerleaders: back row, left to right: Coach Kelly LaMotte, Bella Heiber, Hannah Kinny, McKenzie Jensen, Jillian Wigham, Gemini Johnson and Coach Ashley Rye; front row: Gracie Rudlong, Greta Sunde, Emily Krampitz, Kassidy Borgen and Baylee Sorensen.

HONOR ROLL OMISSION

Due to a computer glitch at Blooming Prairie High School, one name was omitted from the Honor Roll list published in last week's Times.

Abby Braaten, who is a sophomore, was named to the B+ Honor Roll for fall quarter. Congratulations to Abby!

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Cancer Corner

Blooming Prairie Cancer Group



Let's take a look at next year's early schedule of Blooming Prairie Cancer Group events:

The Coyotes Fur Cancer is planned for Saturday, Jan. 5. Following the coyote hunt, hunters meet at the Cue Company for food and a silent auction. Over \$16,000 was raised by this first-time event last year. Elliot Herdina and Craig Anderson are co-chairs for the event.

A pancake breakfast is planned for Sunday, Jan. 20 at the Pizza Cellar. A silent auction will also be held. The Eagles Telethon is also scheduled for this weekend. This is a time when the BP Cancer Group distributes a huge check to the Eagles Cancer Telethon. This year's Paint Blooming Prairie Pink celebration is dedicated in honor of the memory of Philip Milton, a long-time member of the BP Cancer Group.

Purse Bingo at the BP Servicemen's Club, Saturday, April 5.

Let's take a look back at the year 2018 for the BP Cancer Group. One of the very active volunteers was the late Philip Milton of Blooming Prairie.

The 2018 auctions in September were dedicated in memory to Philip Milton. A special flag in Philip's memory was posted at the Field of Flags on Highway 218.

Philip worked with his wife Jennifer on many BP cancer weekend projects. Milton died on July 15, 2018.

The idea of a local effort to do something involving Blooming Prairie with cancer research started with Eunice Coughlin in 2000.

Eunice was 80 at the time and while watching the Eagles Cancer Telethon in Rochester, she decided Blooming Prairie should get involved. That was the beginning of the BP Cancer Group.

Eunice and her family put together a bake sale, silent auction and a dance at the BP Servicemen's Club. The result: \$1700.

Philip and Jennifer became involved the second year of the group's existence.

A special flag paying tribute to the late Philip Milton is displayed at the Field of Flags last August and September. Jennifer Milton stands next to the Parade of Pink which displays her husband's flag.

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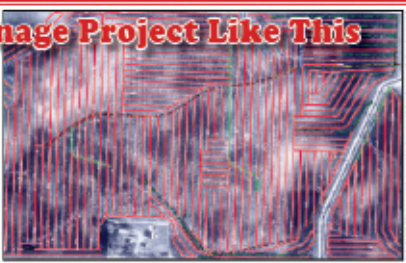
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PUBLIC RECORDS

STEELE COUNTY BIRTHS
MARCH 2018

Graham Robert Karge, Parents: Nicole Johnson and Matthew Karge, March 1.

Chloe Sophia Dawn Malis, Parents: Krystal and Nicholas, March 1.

Yonis Abdiwali Mohamoud, Parents: Fadumo Abdullahi and Abdiwali Abdllahi, March 1.

Ismael Sanchez, Parents: Evelyn Salinas and Ismael Sanchez Martinez, March 1.

Reyna Jean Caswell, Parents: Heather Fast and Aaron Castwell, March 2.

Aden Osman Noor, Parents: Saadiyo Abdi and Osman Aden, March 2.

Emma Ruth Selvik, Parents: Kyrstin and Luke, March 2.

Yussuf Mohamed Beddel, Parents: Shukri Ore and Mohamed Abdullahi, March 3.

Raynier Evelyn Fuller, Parents: Aphten Heberlein and Brett Fuller, March 4.

Jose Juan Sanchez, Parents: Esmeralda Guzman Mandujano and Jose Sanchez, March 4.

Eleanor Marie Kasper, Parents:

Amber and Gabriel, March 5.

Aurora Skye Bell, Parents: Jessica and Daniel, March 6.

Ava Marie Bell, Parents: Jessica and Daniel, March 6.

Oliver Robert Brittain, Parents: Ruth and William, March 6.

Esteban Merari Perez, Parents: Yesica and Daniel, March 6.

Emmet Kaye Simington, Parents: Kathleen and Chance, March 6.

Avery Lee Snidow, Parents: Tacy and Dustin, March 7.

Gannon Greg Buegler, Parents: Karli and Adam, March 8.

Jack Thomas Berg, Parents: Katie and Jacob, March 10.

Ellie Jo Mullenmaster, Parents: Sabra and Cole, March 10.

Dimitri Robert Horn, Parents: Mia and Gage, March 12.

Rhett Ellis Wolfe, Parents: Jacklyn and Joel, March 13.

Cora Rae Clements, Parents: Jennifer and Thomas, March 15.

Kelsy Melisa Garcia Gonzalez, Parents: Olga and Joel, March 16.

Weston Stanley Melchert, Parents: Tricia and Daniel,

March 16.

CJ Eric Standke, Parents: Lacy and Eric, March 16.

Henry Matthew Thamert, Parents: Katheryn and Matthew, March 16.

Finlee Elizabeth Zych, Parents: Kelly and Robert, March 16.

Saadia Dahir Abdirahman, Parents: Sagal Soofe and Dahir Ahmed, March 19.

Tristan Curtis Letona, Parents: Nicole and Julio, March 19.

Nevaeh Carol Burns, Parents: Jessica and Preston, March 20.

Kinslee Fay Behne, Parents: Amanda and Christopher March 23.

Phoenix'J Dakota Emmanuel Mork, Parents: Cassandra Britt and Joseph Mork, March 26.

Madelyn Larae Asprey, Parents: Lauren and Charles, March 27.

Tatum Matthew Snyder, Parents: Coleena and Brandon, March 27.

Melody Jane Johnson, Parents: Courtney and Lucas, March 28.

Hudson Walker Randall, Parent: Jordan Collier, March 29.

Kinsley Lorene Anderson,

Parents: Kallie Williamson and Troy Anderson, March 30.

Olive Maigred Goetz, Parents: Stephanie and Joseph, March 30.

STEELE COUNTY DEATHS
MARCH 2018

Susan Struthers, 70, Owatonna, March 1.

Dwaine Wetzel, 62, Owatonna, March 3.

Dianna Maas, 81, Owatonna, March 6.

Carl Cicero, 71, Owatonna, March 8.

Dorothy Smith, 98, Owatonna, March 8.

James Johns, 74, Blooming Prairie, March 9.

Verdon Erickson, 85, Owatonna, March 10.

Mary Welker, 82, Owatonna, March 12.

Roger Halla, 58, Owatonna, March 14.

Gertrude Quick, 96, Owatonna, March 15.

Vivian Steffen, 101, Owatonna, March 15.

Shirley Deming, 83, Blooming Prairie, March 16.

Eugene Kaplan, 86, Blooming Prairie, March 18.

Richard Meixner, 100, Owatonna, March 18.

Bernard Hruska, 94, Owatonna, March 19.

Andrew Hogen, 28, Medford, March 20.

Lyle Davis, 63, Owatonna, March 23.

Dorothy Jensen, 92, Owatonna, March 23.

Keith Rouhoff, 63, Austin, March 23.

Jerome Schultz, 71, Owatonna, March 23.

Marie Johnson, 67, Owatonna, March 27.

Edwin Strohschein, 93, Owatonna, March 27.

Clement Wall, 82, Faribault, March 29.

Leo Lacanne, 88, Faribault, March 30.

Evelyn Ward, 88, Owatonna, March 30.

STEELE COUNTY MARRIAGES
MARCH 2018

Michael James Johnson and Theresa Marie Erickson, March 4.

Donald Howard Darrah Jr. and Barbara Gail Nygreen, March 10.

Willie Clearance Hampton Jr. and Chelsea Renee Scherr,

March 15.

Frederick Arthur Schneider and Judy Marie Petricka, March 23.

Jose Antonio Sanchez and Kimberley Marie Lewon, March 24.

STEELE COUNTY DIVORCES
MARCH 2018

Erynne Kate Elaine Reyes and Steven Allen Reyes.

Keith Thomas Richards and Veronica Marie Richards.

Anita Ann Rademacher and Danny Lee Rademacher.

Cherie Lynn Cline and Nicholas James Cline.

Ashley Irene Marquardt and Charles Michael Marquardt.

Pamela Kay Brown and Michael Rodney Brown.

Sara Ann McDermott-Brandvold and Kenneth Michael Brandvold.

Anna Belen Garza and Alberto Garza.

Weston Lee Wilker and Betsy Margaret Blume Wilker.

Seth Ramsey Ackerman and Sarah Michelle Ackerman.

Lindsay Anthony Zaharris and Christine K. Zaharris.

Carolee Rodell Palmquist and Jason Lee Palmquist.

Medford 1st Quarter Honor Roll



High Honor Roll

Grade 7

Mia Amberg
Riley Babcock
Ava Clark
Abigail Cloutier
Ava Cottrell
Dakoda DuChene
Omar Guerrero
Sadie Kern
Annette Kniefel
Isabel Miller
Liliana Murphy
Carolina Perez
Mataya Roos
Ethan Solomon
Tessa Underdahl

Grade 8

Andrea Bock
Samantha Buecksler
Casey Chambers
Rian Cloutier
Landon Driscoll
Abigail Fitzgerald
Dylan Heiderscheidt
Alex Helgeson
Tate Hermes
Josephine Homeier
Connor Jones
Grace Keller
Lydia Krenske
Preston McCarty
Jack Meyer

Riley Norland
Payton Ristau
Paige Stadler
Tyler Steffen
Reagan Sutherland
Mackenzie Zacharias

Grade 9

Logan Buecksler
Isabel DeLeon
Clara Kniefel
Samantha Miller
Julia Niles
Elizabeth Peterson
Nicole Schrot
Hannah Schull
Erika Thurnau

Ava Jae Westbrook
Jeancarlo Zuniga

Grade 10

Jenna Berg
Kinsey Cronin
Garrett Fitzgerald
Johanna Grant
Lizbeth Gutierrez
Brock Merritt
Mason Nagel
Brooke Purrier
Lily Roehrick
Isabella Steffen
Tyler Stursa
Haley VonRuden
Hanna VonRuden

Grade 11

Zachary Finholdt
Veronica Gonzalez
Emma Kniefel
Kiley Nihart
Kevin Robles
Jordyn Stadler

Grade 12

Andria Archibald
Bailey DuChene
Warren Garza
Rachael Luebbe
Austin VonRuden
Kelsey Walock

Regular Honor Roll

Grade 7

Maizee Alberts
Bailee Amberg
Mya Borwege
London Caron
Kelsie Casper
Jacquelyn Cole
Presley Condon
Natas Doyon
Avery Dressen
Tyler Ernste
Lily George
Broderick Goodnature
Hannah Hansen
Savannah Larson
Beau Lawson
Emely Lazaro
Luis Lopez
Rachel Miller
Addison O'Connor
Hunter Perdue
Kynnedie Schauer
Evan Schweisthal
Peyton Snow
Raeanne Spitzack
Lauren Stinocher
Kourtney Stoneking
Montana Strommer
Cayden Thorson
Sarah Wall

Grade 8

Autumn Bender
Joshua Bluhm
Hanna Chadbourn
Kylie Dusek
MaKenna Enzenauer
Jacob Esch
Morgan Jones
Beau LaCroix
Adalia List
Carter Luebbe
Alexys Lustig
Jenesis McGuire
Kael Neumann
Cohen O'Connor
Hunter Peterson
Jaidyn Rubio
Jeremiah Schlund
Martina Smith
Annabelle Troester
Keaton Walock
Isis Walters
Josephine Witter
Abbigayle Wright
Anahi Zuniga

Grade 9

Jacob Andrews
Carter Blome
Jordan Capello
Jalene Chavis
Reed Cumberland
Jazmyne Duncan

Cheyenne Fedder
Ryllei Federly
Henry Grayson
Nicole Harfmann
Noah Honsey
Johnathan Houston
Isabelle Huizel
Nathan Johnson
MacKenzie Kellen
Megan Klein
Jacob Kucera
Bridgette Lemke
Journey Palluck
Jack Paulson
Justin Ristau
Brielle Smith
Anna Sobrak
Jayme Stransky
Malachi Sutcliffe
Amelia Thompson
Rosie Tobar
Jared Zuniga

Grade 10

Braden Barbeau
Brayden Beede
Emily Chadwick
Roberta Domstrand
Jasive Guerrero
Kaelan Hermanstorfer
Gavin Hermes
Madison Jaster
Blake Lawson

Ernesto Lazaro
Angela Lippert
Alexander Oatway
Luz Peralta
Peyton Seiler
Alex Vandereide
Miya Weber
Gunner White
Halli Zumbunnen

Grade 11

Austin Aase
Cayden Benton
Conrad Blome
Wyatt Brewer
Emily Cloutier
Kylie Cumberland
Boden Devoe
River Disher
Sebastian Duncan
Jordan Edel
Devon Federly
Taylor Fette
Yazmin Gonzalez
Jordyn Hansen
Hailee Homeier
Shawn Johnson
Madison Klein
Hannah Knutson
Sierra Larson
Reilly List
Mackenzie Paulson
Isabel Reuvers

Elizabeth Ruiz Becerra
Sawyer Shaffer
Makayla Smith
Carson Sobrack
Dylan Stenzel
Jeremiah Sutcliffe
Abigail Tellijohn
William VonRuden
Lanaya Wacek

Grade 12

Journey Anderst
Zackariah Andrews
Tanner Barbeau
Mary Braasch-Turi
Natalea De Alba
Jason Domstrand
Jarren Hoffmann
Cody Kosel
Bryce Lisowski
Brianna Nellis
Sergio Palma
Noah PirkI
Tori Riggleman
Madison Schletty
McKinley Schneider
Bryan Scholljegerdes
Joseph Schull
Claire Stewart
Nickolas Wall

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

DEC. 13
4 p.m. – Police Commission Meeting
7 p.m. – BPHS Band Concert, BPHS

DEC. 17
5 p.m. – School Board Meeting, BPHS Media Center
7 p.m. – City Council Meeting
7 p.m. – BPHS Choir Concert, First Lutheran

DEC. 18
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
4:30 p.m. – Fire Commission Meeting
5:30 p.m. – Ambulance Commission Meeting
7 p.m. – Planning & Zoning Meeting

DEC. 19
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library



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ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

DEC. 14
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
3:30 p.m. – Girl Scouts Meeting, NR HS Lower Commons

DEC. 16
2 p.m. – Just for Kixs Dance Recital, NR HS

DEC. 17
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

6 p.m. – NRHEG Band Boosters Meeting, NRHEG
6 p.m. – ECFE Reindeer Games Class, NR Preschool Room

DEC. 18
6:15 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do, Ellendale Gym

DEC. 19
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

DEC. 13
2 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library
5 p.m. – Airport Commission Meeting, Airport
6:30 p.m. – Family Fun Night, Owatonna Library

DEC. 15
2 p.m. – A Traditional Musical Christmas, Arts Center
11 a.m. – Ice Fishing Seminars, Cabela's

DEC. 16
2 p.m. – A Traditional Musical Christmas, Arts Center
1 p.m. – Ice Fishing Seminars, Cabela's

DEC. 17
4 p.m. – Owatonna HRA Meeting, City Admin Building
6 p.m. – Movies for All, Owatonna Library
7 p.m. – Medford City Council Meeting, City Admin Building

DEC. 18
4:30 p.m. – Owatonna Library Board Meeting, Library
7 p.m. – Owatonna City Council Meeting, City Admin Building

DEC. 19
4 p.m. – Owatonna EDA Meeting, City Admin Building

Benefit planned for Sunday to help Ellendale teen

A benefit for Ashley Hagen is planned for Sunday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Ellendale Community Building. The benefit will feature a sloppy Joe meal with a free-will donation. There will also be a bake sale and silent auction.

Hagen is 14 years old and was diagnosed two years ago with CRPS, which is a rare and complex neuroinflammatory disorder. She has undergone several treatments at specialty clinics out of state and will continue to need more care.

She is currently homebound as her immune system is too compromised for her to attend school. Proceeds from the benefit will help with her continued medical expenses.

The great support system of family and friends is hosting the benefit.



Submitted Photo
The Hagen family consists of Lizzy, Ashely, Brad, Ben and Allyson. A benefit is planned for Ashley Sunday at the Ellendale Community Building.

Auditions for Mousetrap mystery coming to Albert Lea

Albert Lea Community Theatre (ACT) announces auditions will be held Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 17 and 18, at 7 p.m., for the Agatha Christie murder mystery play “The Mousetrap” at the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center, 147 N. Broadway, Albert Lea.

A group of strangers is stranded in a boarding house during a snow storm, one of whom is a murderer. A full slate of suspects is present, and into their midst comes a policeman traveling on skis. To get to the rationale of the killer's pattern, the policeman probes the background of everyone present and rattles a lot of skeletons. It's another famous Agatha Christie finish!

Directed by Brian Mattson, eight performances of this murder mystery play are scheduled for Feb. 14–23. There are eight roles available for men and women of various ages. There are no roles for children in this show. Those auditioning should be prepared to read from the script. Rehearsals will be scheduled weeknights, with some weekend involvement closer to the performance dates.

Tickets and more information regarding auditions are at actonbroadway.com.

ACT is a non-profit organization featuring local actors, directors and stage crew who volunteer their time.

Mower County 4-H seeks sewers and quilters

Were you a former 4-H member? Do you like working with youth? Would you like to get a firsthand look at the projects that Mower County 4-H members bring to the fair? If you answered yes to one of these questions, read further!

The Mower County 4-H program is working hard at growing the Clothing & Textiles and Quilting projects and most importantly teaching our youth valuable life skills. The 4-H program is seeking individuals who are passionate about sewing and quilting to guide our members through their projects and pass along skills needed to build confidence and desire to pursue these hobbies.

Currently plans are being made to hold workshops once a month, working on projects that will help members gain skills they need to complete projects, allowing them to exhibit at the 2019 Mower County Fair and potentially the Minnesota State Fair.

For more information, call the Mower County Extension Office at 507-437-9552.



Submitted Photo
Sewing 101 instructor Karla Muller and Ann Prescott assist Allison Prescott, a 4-H member, with her pillow case at a sewing 101 class last spring. The program is offered through Mower County 4-H.

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Dec. 19: Girls Night Out 5-7 P.M. "Jingle & Mingle"
Holiday Hours:
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Dec. 25 Closed – Merry Christmas!
Dec. 31 New Years Eve Munchies 5-8pm • Champagne... Midnight
Jan. 1 Closed – Happy New Year!

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Dec 12 Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes /Gravy, Cauliflower/Peas Blend, Orange /Pear Cup

Dec 13 Vegetable Soup, Cheeseburger on Bun, Pear/ Cranberry Sauce, Frosted Chocolate Chip Cake

Dec 14 Baked Cod/ Tarter Sauce, **Alt:** Pork Steak, Oven Brownd Potatoes, Parslied Carrots, Mandarin Orange Dessert

Dec 17 Meatloaf, **Alt:** Liver & Onions, Parslied Boiled Potatoes, Spinach with Vinegar, Citrus Fruit Cup

Dec 18 Chicken ala King, Biscuit, Peas, Craisin Coleslaw, Banana

Dec 19 Christmas Dinner Party Baked Ham **Alt:** Chicken Breast, Baked Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans/ Mushrooms, Dinner Roll, Ice Cream/Cookie

BLOOMING PRAIRIE LUNCH MENU

Dec 12 Soft Beef Tacos with Lettuce, Tomato, and Cheese, Crispy Chicken Salad, Mexican Street Corn

Dec 13 HOM Sage, Italian Meatball Sub, Ham Deli Sub Sandwich

Dec 14 Crispy Chicken Sandwich, Lasagna Rollup with Sauce, Garlic Toast

Dec 17 Dutch Waffle with Scrambled Egg, Syrup, Chicken Caesar Salad, Breakfast potatoes

Dec 18 Mac & Cheese, Ham Deli Sandwich, Pinto Beans

Dec 19 HOM Cabbage, Walking Taco with Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Beef Taco Salad, Corn



Colton Hemann nods off during a musical presentation at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School holiday concert, "A Vintage Christmas" on Friday, Dec. 7.



Santa Claus and Blooming Prairie Elementary School choir director Krista Reeder give big hugs to Jaxon Harberts, who is now a seventh grader. Jaxon has been out of school since an accident on Sept. 7.

CONCERTS: Entire Blooming Prairie Elementary student body participates

FROM B2

and Alexis White.

Kindergartners performed Five Little Snowmen" and "Rudolph Comes on the Housetop."

First Graders sang "Susy Snowflake" and "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town."

Second Graders performed "Silver Jingle Rock," "The Night Before Christmas" and "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree."

Third graders were next and sang "Let It Snow," "Have a Holly Jolly Christmas" and

"Run, Run Rudolph."

Fourth graders did "Sleigh Ride," "The Christmas Song" and "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch."

Fifth graders sang "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" and "Little Saint Nick."

Sixth Graders were the last group on the program, singing "Winter Wonderland," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "Christmas (Baby, Please Come Home)."



Blooming Prairie Elementary School second graders Justin Schumacher and Elizabeth Johnson sing their loudest during "A Vintage Christmas" concert Friday afternoon

These businesses will be part of the Christmas Giveaway for 2018.

All you have to do is register at the locations listed below for the next two weeks. On Friday, December 14, each business will draw a name to be entered in the final drawing for following PRIZES:

- 1 - 1 yr. Subscription to the Steele County Times
- 2 - \$75 Gift Certificates to Vandals Family Market
- GRAND PRIZE - 2 tickets to Chanhassen Dinner Theatre!

Good Luck and Merry Christmas!

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WRESTLING

Huskies win Ethan Herman Memorial Tournament

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna Huskies were the overall team champion at the Ethan Herman Memorial Tournament in Chanhassen on Saturday.

It was the second time this season that the Huskies have won a tournament. The team finished first at the Faribault Invite on Saturday, December 1.

Owatonna's Blake West (106-pound weight class) and Cade King (182) were individual champions, while Kanin Hable (120), Landon Johnson (138), Kaden Nelson (145) and Nick Staska (195) finished with silver.

The Huskies also defeated Winona/Winona Cotter, 63-11, in their first dual meet of the season on Thursday at OHS.

"Overall, I quite impressed with how everyone did," Owatonna head coach Adam Woitalia said. "We came put and wrestled hard. There were some situations where I thought we could improve in a couple of matches, but that comes with more reps. It's still early in the season."

West (106), YJ Evillard (113), Johnson (138), Nelson (145), Trevor Schroder (152), Matt Seykora (160), King (182) and Quincey Price (195) all won by forfeit.

Owatonna's Chase Dallman (126), Jacob Reinardy (132), Isaiah Noeldner (285) recorded pin fall

victories.

"I feel like we did pretty well for the first dual meet of season," Noeldner said. "That first meet is always a little nerve-racking and it sometimes hard to be at your best, but we will get better as the season goes on."

ETHAN HERMAN MEMORIAL
TOURNAMENT

Team Results: Owatonna 210, Wayzata 161.5, Lakeville North 122.5, Buffalo 120, Mankato West 113, Sauk Rapids-Rice 90, Osseo 89, Eden Prairie 75.5, Chaska-Chan Stormhawks 71, Minnetonka 66.5, Glencoe-Lester Prairie 56, Maple Grove 45, Hopkins 36, Minneapolis Washburn 35.

Owatonna Individual Results
106-pound weight class—
Championship Match: Blake West (Owatonna, 7-0) won by decision 8-5 over Kore Volk (Lakeville North, 8-2).

113—Third Place Match: Zach Hanson (Lakeville North, 8-1) won by decision 4-3 over Yves Evillard (Owatonna, 4-3).

120—Championship Match: Cael Swensen (Wayzata, 9-0) won by fall over Kanin Hable (Owatonna, 4-2) in 5:45.

126—Fifth Place Match: Chase Dallman (Owatonna, 6-2) won by decision 7-2 over Matt Wallerius (Wayzata, 6-4).

132—Third Place Match: Jacob Reinardy (Owatonna, 5-2) won by

decision 7-4 over Rufus Summeville (Osseo, 6-4).

138—Championship Match: Charlie Pickell (Makato West, 4-0) won by major decision 12-2 over Landon Johnson (Owatonna, 5-2).

145—Championship Match: Gavin Peterson (Maple Grove, 5-1) won by decision 12-6 over Kaden Nelson (Owatonna, 5-1).

152—Consolation Semifinal Match: D'Allen Rutherford (Hopkins) won by decision 5-3 over Trevor Schroeder (Owatonna, 0-2).

160—Consolation Semifinal Match: Jack Bricker (Minnetonka, 5-4) won by fall over Matt Seykora (Owatonna, 1-2) in :32.

170—Consolation Semifinal Match: Marcus Santillana (Sauk Rapids-Rice, 4-5) won by fall over Ethan Stockwell (Owatonna, 2-2) in 1:44.

182—Championship Match: Cade King (Owatonna, 6-0) won by fall over Isaiah Thompson (Eden Prairie, 8-3) in :51.

195—Championship Match: RJ Chakolis (Hopkins, 6-0) won by decision 3-2 over Nick Staska (Owatonna, 2-1).

220—Fifth Place Match: Mason Theissen (Mankato West, 2-1) won by fall over Luke Effertz (Owatonna, 2-4) in :53.

285—Fifth Place Match: Isaiah Noeldner (Owatonna, 6-2) won by fall over Jac Craver (Wayzata, 6-5) in :21.



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Owatonna's Nick Staska locks up with an Winona opponent during the Huskies first dual meet of the season on Friday, December 7 at OHS.

BASKETBALL

Blossom defense steps up

BY LAMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Bethlehem Academy Cardinals (1-1) ran up against a good defensive effort from the Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossoms (3-0), and BP came away with its third win of the young season 49-42 on their home court, Decemeber 8.

"I was really happy how we played defense and shut down their tree top scorers," Blooming Prairie head coach Nathan Piller said. "Our first half defense, especially, put the clamps on the Cardinals."

Matthew Pryor and Trent Swenson both took charges that turned out to be pivotal

plays.

Zach Archer led the Blossom scoring in this game with 14 points and some good defensive play.

BOYS DOWN JWP

Using the home court to their advantage, the BP boys eased to a 58-37 win on Tuesday, Decemeber 4.

"[Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton's] 1-3-1 zone was somewhat effective," Piller said. "But I think our boys handled it pretty well overall. We had only seven turnovers in the game, although I thought we could have been better defensively. We definitely need to work on the

defensive side of the court."

Kaden Thomas led the Blossom offense with 19 points, but seven players for the locals counted at least three points. Karson Vigeland added 10 points, Gabe Hagen had eight, Parker Vaith had seven, Swenson had six and Isaac Ille had five.

BP had big problems with JWP's Kobe Weimert, as he scored 24 of his team's 38 points.

The Blossoms travel to Maple River (0-1) on Tuesday, December 11 and New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (0-2) on Friday, December 14.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Parker Vaith (23) of Blooming Prairie drives toward the hoop while defended by two Bethlehem Academy players, Jack Clark (5) and Ethan Nutter (1). The Awesome Blossoms won their third straight, 49-42 in action last Friday night in Bloom-ing Prairie.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Blooming Prairie High School junior Karson Vigeland (15) looks for a teammate breaking toward the basket in a game with Bethlehem Academy on Friday, Dec. 7 in the BP gym. He is guarded by Kyle Kohn (44) of the Cardinals. The Awesome Blossoms defeated the Cardinals, 49-42 to remain undefeated on the season at 3-0.

BASKETBALL

Blooming Prairie girls off to 3-0 start

BY LAMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie girls' basketball team found themselves in a early hole at Faribault Bethlehem Academy (0-5) on Friday, December 7, but the Blossoms (3-0) turned things around and defeated the Cardinals 59-29.

BP found themselves behind 8-3, but the girls outscored BA 22-0 to take complete control of the action.

The game went into running time for the last three minutes of the contest.

Megan Oswald notched her third double-double in as many games.

Bobbie Brunns counted 14 points, while Maya Lembke and Allison Krohnberg added six points each.

Maggie Brunns pulled down seven rebounds.

The JV girls played two solid halves of basketball for coach Cory Hendrickson, resulting in the first win of the season 36-19 at BA.

The defense was good all game long, and the girls earned the victory with some hard work.

Lauren Schammel and Anna Kittelson scored 16 and 10 points, respectively.

OSWALD'S 24 LEADS BP

On their first trip away from the home court, the Awesome Blossom girls followed a first game pattern in notching a victory. The Blossoms rolled to a double-digit lead after the first six minutes of the game and cruised to a 67-50 win over the home-standing Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Bulldogs (0-5) on Tuesday, December 3.

The aggressive guard play early in the contest gave BP several easy transition baskets, and the winners poured in 38 first half points for a 13-point margin at the break. They added 29 points in the second half, as the home team did a better job of scoring over the last 18 minutes.

"We jumped out early

again," BP head coach John Brunns said. "Were able to maintain and answer several Bulldog runs. In addition to the scoring, we had several other nice performances. Bobbie Brunns dished out a career-high eight assists, Maya Lembke pulled down 11 rebounds and Maggie Brunns had four steals in the game."

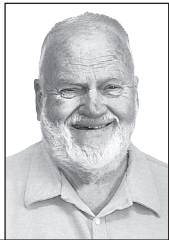
Oswald again led the BP scoring with 24 points, and Julia Worke added 18. Allison Krohnberg chipped in 11 points, and Bobbie Brunns contributed seven.

Megan Walz led the home team with 11 points, and Mandy Gruis had seven.

Hendrickson's JV team took it on the chin again 38-14, as the girls struggled to make baskets all game long. Anna Pauly had seven points for BP, and Anna Kittelson added four.

BP will host Maple River (1-2) on Tuesday, December 11 and New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (2-1) on Friday, December 14.

THE BEAT GOES ON



Outside
the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

Last week provided additional early success for the Blooming Prairie basketball teams.

It raised some additional optimism that the season will be a winning one for both the boys and the girls.

The Blossom girls have had the easiest time of it in notching their three wins for the young season. Sophomore Megan Oswald and company have used a very good aggressive defense with some excellent floor play to literally roll over their three opponents.

Oswald has recorded a double-double in each game so far, and the ballhawking guard play has led to many easy baskets.

Don't get it wrong. There will be much stiffer competition along the way, but one has to be encouraged with the play of the girls so far.

Competition gets a lot stiffer in a hurry now, with games this week against Maple River and New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, and then it will be just a week until the holidays take center stage and provide respite from the rigors of school.

The basketball boys have had a little tougher road to follow, but they have also been impressive in mounting a three-game unbeaten string. Although Kaden Thomas and Gabe Hagen have been the main scoring cogs in the machine, the team has also displayed some good basketball, especially on the defensive end of the floor.

The team has followed head coach Nate Piller's mantra of good defense, and so far that is paying off.

Finally, the wrestling team is starting a little later, but

they will be getting into more action yet before Christmas. Their only dual meet so far resulted in a close loss at Medford.

HOLIDAYS NEAR

With just two weeks now until Christmas, the holiday spirit is starting to infect everyone once again. Of course the atmosphere is quite different for folks in our advanced age, but even we old-timers get a little excited about this favorite time of the year.

The little ones are busily making their Christmas gift lists, rehearsing and performing in school and Sunday school programs and generally pestering parents for Christmas to quickly get here.

It is a time when patience becomes in short supply, and days pass by especially slowly.

The season becomes just a little different for everyone. Broader smiles appear on most faces, a cheerier hello

SEE OUTSIDE THE LINES, C2



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WRESTLING

Medford owns the mat against Westfield



Medford's Garron Hoffman pins Westfield's Cael Becker during the team's Gopher Conference clash on Thursday, December 6.

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Medford Tigers wrestling team picked up a valuable Gopher Conference victory on Thursday 33-26 over Westfield.

The Tigers improved to 4-0, while the Awesome Blossoms dropped to 0-1.

“This was our first real test of the season,” Medford head coach Dennis Whitman said. “We wrestled well all night.”

In the first match of the night, Westfield’s Lane Lembke defeated Medford’s Alex Helgeson 4-2 at the 113-pound weight class and gave the Razorbacks a 3-0 advantage. However, it would be the only time Westfield led as the Tigers’ quickly regained the lead when Charley Elwood pinned Keegan Bronson in three minutes and 26 seconds.

Elwood improved his individual record to 4-0 and is the No. 1 ranked wrestler in Class A at 113.

“We are doing well

as team and we have started the seasons strong,” Elwood said. “4-0 is not bad, but we just have to keep working hard and keep it rolling.”

The Tigers’ Garron Hoffman bullied Westfield’s Cael Becker and recorded a pin in just 1:39 at 132.

Medford’s first individuals to wrestle were eight graders.

“We have a core of really young kids who wrestling really well for us,” Whitman said. “That’s not a surprise, but for this early in the season they’re looking pretty composed and mature. It’s nice to see.”

Medford’s Dylan Heiderscheidt (138) and George McCarthy (145) won by forfeit to extend the team’s lead to 24-3.

Medford’s Curtis Fitch-Babcock defeated Westfield’s Jack Pennington by a 8-2 decision at 152, and the Tigers’ Willie VonRuden made quick work of the Razorbacks’ Tyler Archer at 160. VonRuden took just 26 seconds to record the pin.

VonRuden is the No.

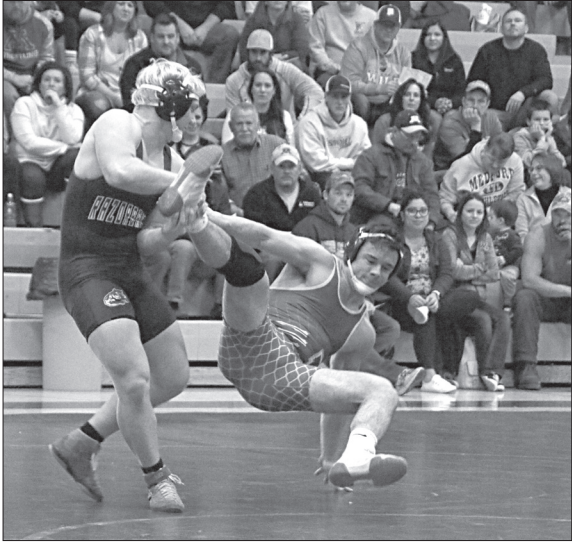
2 ranked wrestler in the state at 145 in Class A.

Westfield’s Ethan Ehlers received a forfeit victory at 170.

The Razorbacks’ Colton Krell, who is ranked No. 1 at 160, defeated Medford’s Zach Wetmore by technical fall in 4:26 at 182, and Dylan Nirk, who is ranked No. 7 at 195, pinned Brennon Hoffman in just 1:52 at 220.

Westfield’s Tristen Rieken won at heavyweight by forfeit.

“We still struggling on where our weights are going to go and who going to be doing what,” Nirk said after the meet. “We are just trying to get into condition to get back up to speed. A lot of guys are first year wrestlers on varsity. It can seem a little overwhelming, but as time goes on they will start picking it up.”



Westfield's Colton Krell takes Medford's Zach Wetmore down on Thursday, December 6 at MHS.

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

RACING

2018 Chateau Speedway Season Officially Concluded With Awards Banquet

SUBMITTED BY
MATTHEW GRAGE

The book on the 62nd season of racing action at Chateau Speedway in Lansing was officially closed Saturday night as the annual banquet was held with awards handed out to the top drivers in each class. Owners Mark and Annette Wytaske hosted the event at the Eagles Club in Austin with about 150 people on hand to see the 2018 Top Five drivers in each class pick up their trophies. Weather played a part in the awards banquet much the way it does every week at the track. Eleven of the award winners were not on hand, many likely due to the winter storm that blew in for the weekend.

The new owners took over the track in mid-season after the track sat idle for the first half of the year. It had been announced in the spring that the track was up for sale and would not open unless it was sold. It took several months

to get something worked out with the sale finally getting finalized in June with racing resuming in July. With adding a few specials at the end of the year the track ended up hosting 10 race nights. There were six regular season nights that determined the Track Champions for 2018. The Track hosted three specials in September, an Open Invitational at the beginning of the month and a two-Night Extravaganza at the end of the month. The other event they hosted was the Season Finale event for the Southern Minnesota Enduro Drivers.

During the course of the season race fans were treated to action in 8 different classes. Chateau ran 6 regular weekly classes, Y Waste Hornets, Power 96 Pure Stocks, WISSOTA Midwest Modified, WISSOTA Street Stock, USRA B Mods, and French’s Repair USRA A Mods. The KEVKO Outlaw Mini Mods made 3 appearances during the

regular season as well as joining in on the 2 Night Extravaganza. WISSOTA Super Stocks were part of the Open Invitational in early September. In amongst those classes 281 different cars and drivers took part in the action with 85 of those taking home at least one win of some sort in a heat, consolation, or feature event. 13 drivers took part in racing action in more than one class with four drivers taking wins in multiple classes.

One new speed record was set during the course of the season with Jesse Stahl of Austin resetting the top speed for the Pure Stock Class while on his way to his 3rd Track Championship, and 2nd in a row. The old mark was a lap of 18.656 set by Marcus Berndt in 2015. The tracks computerized scoring showed Stahl lowered that by just .002 with a fast lap of 18.654 on August 10. Jesse, who also won the Championship in 2007, lead the class with five feature wins.

BASKETBALL

Panthers edge Vikings.

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Despite an injury in the first half, the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva girls’ basketball team rallied to eventually win 48-47 over Hayfield (2-3) at home on Friday, December 7.

The win improved the Panthers’ record to 2-1 for the young season.

“It was not the prettiest win,” NRHEG head coach Onika Peterson said. “But I was impressed with the fight the girls displayed the entire game. They never gave up, and their hard work paid off.”

Hannah Budach and Sidney Schultz counted nine and eight points, respectively. Sophie Stork pulled down 10 rebounds, while Caitlin Goette added seven rebounds, Alexis Anderson had



NRHEG's Darian Pearson attempts a shot on Friday at Medford. The Panthers fell 79-61.

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

six and Jayna Finseth finished with five.

NRHEG travels to Waterville-Elysian-Morristown (4-0) on

Tuesday, December 11, Blooming Prairie (2-0) on Friday, December 14 and Fairmount (2-3) on Saturday December 15.

OUTSIDE THE LINES:

The beat goes on FROM C1

and greeting replaces the winter hunch and the brusque greeting that frequently is the norm, and carols resonate through the air in homes and everywhere. It truly is the favorite time of the year for most. It is a time when family gatherings become more important and religious observances step front and center for many families to worship together and celebrate the birth of Christ.

For my regular readers, it is also time for my adventures with Red Elf, and you won’t be surprised that he disappeared just last night from his perch on my little Christmas tree in the living room. Who knows when and if he will show up again and join Gold and Green Elf? I just hope he didn’t run away for

good, and that he will join the family again at Christmas. That would be nice.

A WAYS ABOUT

I think most regular readers have been made aware that I have had some medical and physical problems over the past months. The upshot is that my daughters, after some time of encouraging and persuading, have convinced me that I am better off being closer to them for support. When most people go south in the winter I am going north, and will spend the next three months apartment living in Minneapolis.

It is nothing I particularly look forward to with pleasure, but I can understand my daughters’ concerns for my well-being. I certainly will miss church choir and some aspects of my newspaper work, and friends, but for now I am proclaiming it to be a temporary situation to be resolved a few months down the line.

DAZZLED AGAIN

Despite the more normal circumstances surrounding the annual Holiday Dazzle celebration (Yes, the weather was cold and the temperature low), the event could be judged a success. Many good deals were available from merchants, some fun activities took place, and

a long line of tots took the opportunity to see Santa Claus and express a wish for the thing most wanted for Christmas. This is a tradition that is enjoyed by many and, to my way of thinking, should certainly be continued. Continue to enjoy the holidays, as we eagerly await Christmas, and we’ll talk again.

STARS OF STEELE



Blake West, Owatonna wrestling
The sophomore sensation has had a very strong start to the season. West was the individual champion of the 106-pound weight class at the Faribault Invite on Dec. 1 and at the Ethan Herman Memorial Tournament on Saturday



Bobbie Bruns, Blooming Prairie girls’ basketball
The freshman guard has been impressive this season being the Awesome Blossoms floor general. Bruns scored eight points and dished out a career-high eight assists in Blooming Prairie’s 67-50 victory over JWP on Tuesday, December 3

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Jarrett Larson



Paul Sunde

DECEMBER BLOSSOMS OF THE MONTH



Jarrett Larson - Junior
The senior high student of the month is Jarrett Larson, who is a junior. His favorite class is construction tech. He enjoys working with his hands buildings things.

“Jarrett is conscientious, hard-working student who understands the value of having a good work ethic,” said one of his teachers.

Another teacher said, “Jarrett is one of the nicest, pleasant, young men to have in the classroom. Very mature and respectful for his age.”

A third comment from staff indicated Jarrett makes wise, thought-out decisions. He looks at all angles before committing. Jarrett’s special interests are sports, including football, baseball, basketball, hunting and fishing.

He has two sisters, Marissa and Sierra as well as three dogs, Duke, Sophie and Luca.

Paul Sunde - 8th Grade
The junior high student of the month is Paul Sunde, who is in eighth grade. His favorite class is agriculture where he can learn about animals and shop work.

Some comments shared by staff members about Paul include:

- “Paul is a sweet kid who is also a hard worker in class.”
- “Paul is always happy and smiling and willing to help out with anything. Plus he loves agriculture.”
- “Paul likes to work with his hands doing physical labor. He takes pride in a day when he works out on the farm. It is a feeling of accomplishment.”

Paul’s special interest is electrical work. He has five siblings—Hannah, Cole, Linnea, Greta and Will. Paul also has two dogs, 10-15 cats and nine cows.

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



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BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: Hit and Run: At 1:35 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S.

Help others who are less fortunate

For most of us, Christmas is time to reflect and give thanks to the blessings we enjoy throughout the year. Unfortunately, for many families this time of year is not as positive. There are many families and seniors struggling to make ends meet in Dodge County. Struggles that often include financial challenges that sometimes make it hard to put a meal on the table or clothing on their kids, some dealing with major health battles, some further burdened by chemical dependency challenges - both drugs and alcohol.

This month, as you get ready to celebrate Christmas with your families, please consider taking time to help others who are less fortunate. There are so many simple things you can do help make Christmas a little brighter for area families that are struggling. **SE MN TOYS FOR TOTS** - Here at the Sheriff's Office, we are heavily involved in the Toys for Tots program every year. Toys for Tots was founded in 1947 by the United States Marine Corps Reserve which distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas. Our first goal at the Sheriff's Office is

to make sure no child in Dodge County goes without a few nice gifts under the tree this Christmas. We then help neighboring communities fill their orders including delivering a bunch of toys to Santa Anonymous and to the Children's Floor at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester. Last year we sorted over 14,000 toys and delivered them throughout SE MN to over 7,000 deserving kids. We are collecting new unwrapped toys now thru Dec. 20, 24/7, at the Sheriff's Office in Mantorville. The simple act of purchasing an extra toy when you are out shopping can make a tremendous difference for some very deserving kids in our area.

SEMCAC is another great local organization that comes to mind with several great programs (call 507-634-4350 for more information on their programs):

DODGE COUNTY FOOD SHELF - an amazing program that is always in need of support



Dodge Sheriff
SCOTT ROSE

for those in need – to personal appointments, medical and dental appointments, etc. They use volunteer drivers as well, a great opportunity if you are retired or work part-time. This is also another great program you could donate funds to.

MEALS ON WHEELS – this program provides meals for anyone age 60 and over who are confined to their home or unable to prepare a balanced meal. No one is denied a meal because of inability to donate towards the cost of the meal. You can volunteer time to help deliver meals, or donate to help pay for meals.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS - The bell ringing season starts each November and runs through Christmas Eve,

when the red kettles are packed away for the season. Volunteers are the difference between an empty kettle and one that raises about \$30 per hour – enough to provide a family with two bags of groceries, or shelter an individual for a night. They could still use your help. Call 507-421-9466 to get signed up.

These are just a few examples of great programs and organizations in our area that could use your help this time of year. Involving your kids in volunteering will also prove to be a tremendous life lesson for them.

In a couple weeks when you celebrate Christmas with your family and friends, and you give thanks for all the blessings you've enjoyed throughout the year – please say a prayer for those struggling this holiday season and consider donating and/or volunteering a little bit of your time to one of the many great charitable organizations in our area. Together we can help continue to make Dodge County a great place to live and raise our families.

Your Sheriff, Scott
Scott Rose is completing his first term as Dodge County Sheriff. He was just re-elected to a second term last month.

CRIME BRIEF

MAN CHARGED WITH FELONIES IN DOMESTIC



GEARY

An Owatonna man faces some serious charges after a domestic violence disturbance.

Police responded to a residence on Lancer Drive on Dec. 3 for a woman heard yelling and screaming for help. Upon arrival, officers saw a man and woman through a window with the man having the woman by the shoulders pushing her away from the door, police said. Another officer heard a woman screaming for help from inside and saw her running to a window trying to get out.

Officers found a woman hyperventilating and crying hysterically in the residence. She also had blood on her nose, mouth and hair. Police determined the argument took place and the victim was trying to leave. The man did not allow her to leave and hit her in the chest, according to police. He later allegedly struck the victim in the mouth with a coffee mug and was choking her as she was screaming for help, police said.

Police arrested Joshua Geary, 27, and charged him with false imprisonment, domestic assault by strangulation and domestic assault.

COURT NEWS

Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Nov. 26 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Corey J. Gilbertson, 18, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony motor vehicle theft. He was sentenced to \$3,081, 90 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, no contact with victim, write letter of apology, psychological evaluation, no possession of firearms, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, attend AA, 20 hours per week of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Nov. 26 – 30:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Linda M. Hull, 72, Charles City, IA, speeding, \$121; Jessica Irakoze, 19, Cedar Rapids, IA, speeding, \$121; Allan J. Marquardt, 42, Austin, failure to drive in single lane, \$131; Cara L. Tuzzolino, 37, Brownsdale, no insurance, stay of adjudication, \$175 and 1 year of unsupervised probation.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Nelson J. Diaz-Menjivar, 28, Des Moines, IA, no license, \$181; Priscila Y. Garcia Chavez, 35, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$121; Kent A. Germander, 78, Rushford, speeding, \$121; Bradley T. Gray, 49, Waseca, speeding, \$131; Alex J. Menk, 27, Chatfield, possession of marijuana, \$131; Lauren K. Mullenbach, 23, Adams, speeding, \$141; Barbara J. Ostendorf, 67, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Francisco J. Rendon Lugo, 31, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$121; Jordan L. Ryan, 29, Waseca, speeding, \$281; Leonardo G. Saucedo, 28, Eagle Pass, TX, no license, \$181; Kelsy J. Swanson, 20, Mankato, speeding, \$141; Jennifer K. Ubl, 22, Faribault, window tint violation, \$131; Wyatt M. Varnum, 27, State Center, IA, DWI, \$406, 2 days in county jail, attend MADD impact panel, chemical dependency evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Marcos C. Zapata, 19, Duncan, OK, no license, \$181.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Daquon R. Brown, 19, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Ricky E. Carr, 50, Spring Valley, rear lights violation, \$121; Peter R. Caudillo, 26, Owatonna, suspended license and possession of marijuana, \$431; Alejandro B. Garza, 30, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, \$381 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Brandi M. Grant, 38, Owatonna, no license and no insurance, \$381; Jackson D. Grunwald, 16, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; Dawson J. Hinchley, 18, Owatonna, texting while

driving, \$356; D'Mario A. Holmes, 32, Bastrop, LA, financial transaction card fraud, \$2,066.65, 25 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 2 years of supervised probation; Ashley K. Johnson, 29, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Haley M. Lenz, 24, Rochester, speeding, \$201; Ana Laura O. Padilla, 33, Owatonna, failure to obey traffic control device, \$131; Vanessa C. Rais, 30, Owatonna, no license, no child passenger restraint system and no insurance, \$431; Epifanio Ramon, 31, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$381, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of supervised probation; Khader A. Safi, 30, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Takiya S. Smith, 33, Owatonna, no child passenger restraint system, \$131; Travis T. Stigney, 32, St. Cloud, theft, \$397, 10 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Joseph C. Thomas, 26, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, \$131; Cory Tolentino, 22, Faribault, DWI, \$381, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of unsupervised probation.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Falconer R. Bellefy, 23, Owatonna, speeding and revoked license, \$331; Jolene D. Clark, 28, Waseca, no insurance, \$281; Trevor R. Gibbs, 24, Morning Sun, IA, failure to stop for traffic control signal, \$131; Mollie E. Dougherty, 29, Battle Ground, WA, speeding, \$221; Clayton L. Hagen, 24, Albert Lea, speeding, \$121; Lindsay J. Lemke, 23, Albert Lea, stop sign, \$131; Uriel Morales, 25, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Tyler W. Musel, 35, Faribault, cancelled license, stay of adjudication, 1 year of supervised probation; Steven R. Reinhardt, 65, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Lisa M. Romero, 38, Ellendale, speeding, \$131; Michael A. Sloane, 52, Pine Island, speeding, \$121; Jeni M. Stewart, 36, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Michael W. Strand, 48, Medford, cancelled license, \$281; Miguel A. Zuleiman, 56, Mankato, suspended license, \$281.

POLICE BLOTTER

Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Dec. 1 Disturbance: Police responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Grove Ave. N. at 2:33 p.m. They issued a citation.

Dec. 2 Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW at 4:38 a.m.

Dec. 3 Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 800 block of Lancer Dr. NE at 1:37 a.m.

Burglary: At 3:30 a.m., police began a burglary investigation in the 500 block of Academy St. E.

Theft: A citizen reported an identity theft incident in the 200 block of 32nd Ave. SW at 2:19 p.m.

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at 26th St. NE and 3rd Ave. NE at 8:01 p.m.

Dec. 4 Pursuit: At 1:23 p.m., police pursued a subject at 3rd Ave. NE and 16th St. NE. They took a juvenile into custody.

Dec. 5 Fraud: Police took reports of fraud incidents at the law enforcement center at 9:20 a.m. and 11:02 a.m.

Arrest: Officer arrested a motorist during a traffic stop in the 400 block of 18th St. SE at 10:15 a.m.

Drugs: Officers responded to a report of drug activity in the 300 block of School St. E. at 1:10 p.m.

Theft: At 1:12 p.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 100 block of Pearl St. W.

Dec. 6 Arrest: Officer arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Cedar Ave. N. and Vine St. E. at 9:22 a.m.

Theft: At 5:33 p.m., police arrested a subject for stealing a motor vehicle from the 100

block of Phelps St. E.

Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 500 block of State Ave. NW at 7:52 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Dec. 1 Crash: At 3:04 p.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred at Cedar Ave. N. and 36th St. NE in Clinton Falls Township.

Dec. 2 Crash: Paramedics and deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 3600 block of County Road 45 N. in Owatonna at 10:56 a.m.

Dec. 3 Fire: Deputies responded to a fire call in the 1600 block of 136th St. SE in Summit Township at 1:07 a.m.

Dec. 4 Warrants: Deputies made warrant arrests at the detention center at 8:44 a.m. and 10:17 p.m.

Dec. 6 Theft: Deputies received a theft report from the 300 block of Main St. S. in Medford at 4:19 p.m.

Theft: Deputy arrested a subject for theft in the 300 block of 2nd St. SE in Medford at 4:23 p.m.

ARRESTS

Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

David Deluna, 40, arrested at 12:15 a.m. Dec. 2, drugs, held for court.

Jessica Ann Tilden, 41, arrested at 10:27 a.m. Nov. 30, probation violation, held for court.

Joshue Alan Geary, 24, arrested at 2:20 a.m. Dec. 3, felony domestic assault, strangulation and false imprisonment, held for court.

Cody Dean Schoultz, 28, arrested at 9:55 a.m. Dec. 3, apprehension and detention arrest, held for court.

Paulina Lizlyn Rivera, 20, arrested at 10:17 p.m. Dec. 4, warrant arrest, held for court.

Zane Martin Roberts, 28, arrested at 10:37 a.m. Dec. 5, felony drugs, revoked license and no insurance, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Sabrina Michelle Henry, 38, arrested at 6 p.m. Nov. 30, warrant arrest, body only.

Jacob Skyler Farless, 26, arrested at 12:47 a.m. Dec. 2, warrant arrest, body only.

Brandon Christopher Skinner, 34, arrested at 2:20 p.m. Dec. 5, warrant arrest, body only.

Holly Ann Marie Kuball, 28, arrested at 9 p.m. Dec. 6, tampering with motor vehicle, held for court.

COURT NEWS

Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Nov. 26 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Rickie L. Carlson, 61, Dodge Center, previously appeared and was convicted of felony criminal sexual conduct. He was sentenced to \$1,080, 120 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend sex offender program, submit to polygraph examinations as directed, no contact with minors, maintain employment, no contact with victim, no possession of firearms, no access to Internet without approval, predatory offender registration and 30 years of supervised probation.

Thomas J. Mitchell, 46, Wanamingo, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. Mitchell was sentenced to \$130 and 21 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Nov. 26 – Dec. 3:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Mariah E. Benda, 26, West Concord, speeding, \$140; Max

D. Blaisdell, 20, Mantorville, speeding, \$140; Michael R. Brual Jr., 24, West Concord, speeding, \$120; Alicia M. Chaney, 25, Ingleside, TX, windshield violation, \$120; Keaton G. Decook, 18, Hayfield, speeding, \$120; Brenda J. Gullickson, 54, Rockford, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, \$1,000, 6 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, mental health screening, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation; Megan J. Hagen, 23, Dodge Center, invalid license, \$180; Dalton R. Hanenberger, 21, speeding, \$220; James B. Kalodrich, 54, Hayfield, invalid license, \$180; Robin L. Radke, 65, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120; Angela M. Richardson, 26, Minneapolis, no insurance and permit offense, \$380; Robert L. Schaudenecker, 44, Kasson, speeding, \$220; Christian J. Schiltz, 20, Hartland, speeding, \$120; Delecta E. Watkins Jr., 27, Austin, cancelled license, no insurance and speeding, \$620.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Maria I. Castillo Moreno, 21, speeding, \$140; Juan M. Castro Yescus, 50, Claremont, invalid license and failure to deliver certificate of title, \$380; Deborah A. Crawford, 46, Byron, parking violation, \$32; Hailey M. Davidson, 17, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Larry E. Hoffman, 67, Pine Island, seat belt, \$105; Emanuel R. Lopez, 56, Rochester, speeding, \$120; Ruth A. Wendler, 61, Dodge Center, DWI, \$605, chemical assessment, 50 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Michael T. Barren, 21, Austin, revoked license and possession of paraphernalia and marijuana, \$380; Cheyenne A. Kusick, 23, Dodge Center, speeding, \$130; Ruben Ramon, 44, Faribault, speeding and revoked license, \$340.



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Dear Almost,
Medicare's coverage of dental care is extremely limited. It will not cover routine dental care including checkups, cleanings, or fillings, and it won't pay for dentures either.
Medicare will, however, cover some dental services if they are required to protect your general health, or if you need dental care in order for another health service that Medicare covers to be successful. For example, if you have cancer and need dental services that are necessary for radiation treatment, or if you need surgery to treat fractures of the jaw or face, Medicare will pay for these dental services.
Although Medicare's coverage of dental services is limited, there are other ways you can get coverage and care affordably. Here are several to check into.

CONSIDER A MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN:
While dental services are mostly excluded under original Medicare, some Medicare Advantage plans do provide coverage for routine dental care. If you are considering joining a Medicare Advantage plan, find out what dental services, if any, it covers. Also, remember to make sure any Medicare Advantage plan you're considering covers the doctors and hospitals you prefer to use and the medications you take at a cost you can afford. See Medicare.gov/find-a-plan or call 800-633-4227 to research plans in your area.

PURCHASE DENTAL INSURANCE:
If you have frequent gum problems and need extensive dental care, a dental insurance plan may be worth the costs versus paying for care yourself. Expect to pay monthly premiums of \$15 to \$40 or more for insurance. To find dental plans in your state, go to NADP.org and use the "find a dental

plan" tool. Then review a specific plan's website.
CONSIDER DENTAL SAVINGS PLANS:
While savings plans aren't as comprehensive as insurance, they're a good option for those who can't get covered. How this works is you pay an annual membership fee – around \$80 to \$200 a year – in exchange for 10 to 60 percent discounts on service and treatments from participating dentists. To find a savings plan, go to DentalPlans.com (or 888-632-5353) where you can search for plans and participating dentists, as well as get a breakdown of the discounts offered.

CHECK VETERANS' BENEFITS:
If you're a veteran enrolled in the VA health care program or are a beneficiary of the Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA), the VA offers a dental insurance program that gives you the option to buy dental insurance through Delta Dental and MetLife at a reduced cost. The VA also provides free dental care to vets who have dental problems resulting from service. To learn more about these options, visit VA.gov/dental or call 877-222-8387.

SHOP AROUND:
FairHealthConsumer.org and HealthcareBlueBook.com lets you look up the cost of different dental procedures in your area, so you can comparison shop – or ask your regular dentist for a discount.

TRY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS OR DENTAL SCHOOLS:
There are many health centers and clinics that provide low-cost dental care to those in need. And all university dental schools and college dental hygiene programs offer dental care and cleanings for less than half of what you would pay at a dentist's office. Students who are supervised by their professors provide the care. See ToothWisdom.org to search for a center, clinic or school near you.

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.

Grants available to repair homes

USDA Rural Development has funding available for very low- and low-income individuals and families seeking to purchase or repair a home in a rural area.
USDA's Direct Home Loan Program offers financing to qualified very low and low-income applicants that are unable to qualify for traditional financing. No down payment is required, and the interest rate could be as low as one percent with a subsidy. Applicants must meet income and credit guidelines and demonstrate repayment ability. Generally, rural areas with a population less than 35,000 are eligible.
The maximum loan amount for repair is \$20,000 at 1 percent interest rate, repayable for up to 20 years. Grants of up

to \$7,500 are available to homeowners 62 and older and must be used to remove health or safety hazards, such as fixing a leaking roof, installing indoor plumbing, or replacing a furnace.
Contact a USDA Rural Development employee today in your area to see if you qualify. Single Family Housing is available in the following counties: Steele, Dodge, Mower, Freeborn, Blue Earth, Dakota, Faribault, Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Le Sueur, Olmsted, Rice, Scott, Wabasha, Waseca, and Winona Counties. For more information, please contact USDA Rural Development at 1408 21st Ave NW, Suite 3, Austin, MN 55912 or 507-437-8247 x 4. You can also visit USDA's website at www.rd.usda.gov/mn.



Holiday party planned for Sons of Norway

The Nortonna Lodge 1-638 of the Sons of Norway will meet on Monday, Dec. 17 for the annual Christmas party. Supper will be served at 6 p.m. for a cost of \$7 at the Owatonna Elks Lodge, 126 East Vine Street. Come and enjoy "A Scandinavian Christmas" with Christmas songs, food, and games (including Norwegian bingo). If you would like more information on the Nortonna Lodge of the Sons of Norway, contact Cindy or Paul Hokanson at 507-451-9301.

10 Years Ago Dec. 9, 2008

DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

The Christmas season is a great time to help out those who are in need and Blooming Prairie's Budget Mart is giving back. The Budget Mart Board was interested in lending a helping hand and teamed up with the Steele County Food Shelf. The store is accepting donations and offering store specials.

By continuing its wonderful service, the Ellendale United Methodist Church has received its third straight Hospitality Award from the United Methodist Communications denoting it as an official welcoming congregation.
Rick Krejci of Krejci Ford in Blooming Prairie has been named the Scrooge of the Year by the BP Chamber of Commerce during the community's annual Holidazzle.

the little guy again. For Brian Braaten, former Blooming Prairie man, it's been a headache he would have avoided if he could. But for now, the situation is under control and as of Jan. 1, 1999, will be rectified. Braaten was forced to change the name of his business, Cars R Us, in Hayfield under the threat of a lawsuit from corporate toy giant, Toys R Us.

50 Years Ago Dec. 5, 1968

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE
KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Two workmen installing formica in the kitchen of Roger Braaten, Jr. home suffered second-degree burns of the hands when fire suddenly occurred at 9:50 a.m. Tuesday of this week. Harold Nelson and Allen Nelson, brothers from Bixby, had finished placing glue on the area of the formica was to be installed when the blaze occurred.
The Severtson Well Co. bowling team set an all-time record high for 3-game actual pins at Ressler Lanes this week. The new record is 2,968 actual pins and breaks the old record of 2,929 rolled by Grain Belt Beer team back in 1958. Team members of Severtson were George Ressler, Don Hope, Jerome Severtson, Denis Sime and Dave Ressler.
Walbran & Walbran law firm with offices in Owatonna and Blooming Prairie announced this week that Lawrence E. Agerter is now associated with the firm. Mr. Agerter will reside in

Blooming Prairie with his wife, Nancy, and their 11-month-old daughter. He is originally from West Concord.
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Garness of Blooming Prairie were informed by telegram Monday morning of this week that their son, Specialist E-3 Steven B. Garness, had been wounded in Vietnam. The message was delivered to the Garness home by Sheriff Bernard Coufal.

75 Years Ago Dec. 9, 1943

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Three Blooming Prairie High School stenography students will assist in the office of Dr. J.E. Price to fill out OPA forms. The three girls assisting Dr. Price are Phyllis Johnson, Lorraine Dugan and Yvonne Donahue.
Not within the memory of many old-time residents of Blooming Prairie has so little interest been displayed nor such a light vote cast in a town election as the one held here Tuesday. Present incumbents, O.J. Underwood, mayor, and Bob Egge, councilman, were re-elected without opposition by large majorities.
At a very impressive ceremony held at Owatonna armory on Sunday, Mrs. Frank Zweiner of Blooming Prairie, was awarded the air medal and oak leaf cluster medal on behalf of her son, Staff Sgt. Mylan Zweiner, whose plane was shot down over Kiel, Germany on June 13, 1943. Mylan was a member of a bomber crew of 10.

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Registration begins November 29:

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- Learn to Skate Hockey – Session 2
- Future Sports Stars Camp
- Therapeutic Rec Leisure Swim

Special Events

- Bold and Cold/Winter Weekend Out December 21: Owatonna Deer Hunt ends December 26: Adult Tennis League registration deadline January: Learn to Skate Session 2 begins January: 2019 Brooktree Memberships available January 6: Group Swim Lessons begin January 6: West Hills Tennis and Fitness Center open house January 8: Future Sports Camp Session 1 begins January 9: Therapeutic Recreation Kid's Leisure Swim begins January 18-27: Bold & Cold-Owatonna's Winter Festival: www.boldcoldowatonna.com for more information January 25-27: Owatonna Winter Weekend Out/Bold and Cold January 25: Winter Weekend Out-Sledding at West Hills January 25: Winter Weekend Out-Free Admission to West Hills Tennis and Fitness Center January 26: Winter Weekend Out-Icicle Dive January 26: Winter Weekend Out-Sled Dogs at Morehouse Park January 26: Winter Weekend Out-Rock on Ice January 26: Winter Weekend Out-Kids Games/Activities/ Rec on the Go January 26: Winter Weekend Out-Ice Bocce Ball January 27: Winter Weekend Out: Family Ice Fishing at Lake Kohlmeier February 5: Future Sports Stars Camp Session 2 begins March 25: Lifeguard Training Class

Bold & Cold-Owatonna's Winter Festival

January 18-27

Why not be BOLD during the coldest month of winter and come out and experience the COLD at our 1st Annual Bold & Cold Winter Festival in Owatonna! Event activities taking place include: Medallion Hunt, Ice Fishing, Candle Light Hike/Ski, Ice Skating, ATV Experience, and Fat Tire Biking to just name a few. For more information on the festival and events visit: www.boldcoldowatonna.com

Parent Tot Open Play at the West Hills Gym

\$2 per person (2yrs and under free)
Mon, Wed, Fri: 8am-10am

An open play program for parents and kids to play together! There will be shortened basketball hoops, balls, a parachute, and other open play items!

Outdoor Public Skating

Warsinks rinks, located in Morehouse Park are the only supervised skating rinks in Owatonna. The Warsinks Chalet, a large warming house complete with cross country ski and skate rentals and food concessions is located at the west end of School Street.

Hours: Sunday: 12:00 noon – 9:30pm
Saturday, Holidays & School Vacation Days: 11:00am-9:30pm
Monday-Friday: 3:00-9:00pm

Give the Gift of Recreation!

Purchase a Parks and Recreation gift card this holiday season and give the gift of recreation and fun! Our gift cards can be used for any registration, program and at any one of our facilities (Brooktree Golf Course, Tennis & Fitness Center, River Springs Water Park or SeniorPlace). River Springs Water Park passes will be available in person and online beginning December 1 for the 2019 season.

Pavilion Rental

Pavilions may be reserved up to one year in advance...book your graduations and family reunions today! Contact 507-444-4321 for availability.

West Hills Tennis & Fitness Center Open House

West Hills Tennis and Fitness Center is hosting a special open house to help the people in our community look and feel their best. You can take the first steps toward a new you by stopping in on January 6th, 2018 and checking out all that we have to offer. We will be offering Cardio Tennis, Strength Circuit Training, Open Gym, and Open Swim for free on January 6th only. Sign up for a Yearly membership on the day of the open house and receive \$25 off! No need to sign up for a membership to participate in this event, stop in for more information and a chance to win prizes!

Special of the Month:

December: No Pain, No Gain:

Purchase a year membership and get entered into a drawing for a free one-hour basketball court rental.

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The first skates were made of bones and strapped to the feet to allow people to cross frozen rivers and lakes! Come to the Warsinski Chalet this winter to rent some real skates and skate across the Straight River! Check our Facebook page! Bonfires are held every Saturday night (weather permitting)




Winter Car Care Tips

Keep the Battery in Good Shape

Your vehicle's battery is especially hard hit when the mercury plummets. Cold temperatures reduce its cranking power. In fact, at about 0° F, a battery has only about half the cranking power it has at 80° F.

Replace Wiper Blades

You have to replace wiper blades more often than you might think. Tests have shown that even the best-performing wiper blades start to lose their effectiveness in as little as six months. Streaks or missed expanses of glass are sure signs that the blades are ready for retirement.

Clear the Windows

If you can't see out the windows, you're a danger to yourself and everyone around. Don't try to use the wipers and those brand-new wiper blades to remove ice from the windshield. Instead, use an ice scraper on frosty mornings. If you park outside, place the wipers in the raised position when it's going to snow overnight to keep them from freezing to the windshield.

Check the Oil

Motor oil thickens when cold, making it harder for the engine to turn over. Check your owner's manual for the manufacturer's recommendation. Generally, you should be using multi-viscosity oil that has a "W" in the viscosity index, signifying that it's formulated for winter use.

Consider New Tires

Spinning out in the snow and ending up in a ditch isn't the best way to discover your tires are worn out. So if you've been waiting to pick up a new set of tires, don't delay as your safety depends on tire traction and winter-grade tires tend to be in short supply when the snow begins to fall.

HOLIDAY MAGIC CHARMS BP

Staff photos by Howard Lestrud



One little girl loved sitting on Santa's lap at F & M State Bank in Blooming Prairie on Holiday Dazzle night, last Friday. The other little girl is not crazy about sitting on Santa's lap. The tears are shed by Natalie Schieck as her sister Jacquelyn tries to convince her everything is OK.



"Oh, that smore tastes good," says Aireanah Thomsorde Wenzel. She was one of many youngsters who made their own smores on Main Street during the Holiday Dazzle celebration last Friday. The Blooming Prairie Fire Department and ambulance crew provided the heat and the makings for smores.



Madi Lea was the grand prize winner in the nickel coin toss. The prizes were given by Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Becky Noble (heads) and Chamber member Kathy Johnson (tails).



Participating in the Holiday Dazzle Coloring Contest are Briella Musel, 8 and Roy Musel, 6. The girls and many other kids colored a Christmas photo, turned it into New York Life's Rachel Klemmendsen and received a candy bag.



Roger Pittman and his Percherons were once again popular with Holiday Dazzle visitors on Friday night, Dec. 7.



Farmers & Merchants State Bank was a popular place for youngsters and their parents/grandparents on Friday night, Holiday Dazzle night. Here, Alujanah and Luciano DeLuna pose for a photo with Santa Claus.



These strolling band members tried to keep Holiday Dazzle visitors warm last Friday night by serving up some hot Christmas tunes. Shown from Left are: Luke Heimgartner, Zack Hein, Sophie Thomas, Aidan Slowinski, Ross Reishus (director) and Gabe Hein.

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Honorary lifetime farmers

Farm Bureau honors Steele County couple for their commitment to farming

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

A retired Steele County couple is being honored for their lifetime commitment to farming by a state organization.

During the Minnesota Farm Bureau's annual state meeting in November, Leland and his wife Sigurd Johnson of Owatonna were honored with a Lifetime Award, receiving a plaque along with two other couples, one from Chippewa County and another from Becker County. "I appreciated being chosen for that," he said of the honor.

Before scooping up 365 acres of land outside of Owatonna in 1984, the Johnsons had farmed in Cottonwood County, where his father farmed before him.

Leland's father farmed during the depression, when farming was far different than today. "My dad started in '33, and his father was a blacksmith," Johnson recalled. "His first corn picker we had he probably had to share in a partnership with the neighbor, so they owned it together."

The first tractor Johnson can remember his father using was a Farmall Model M, an old row crop tractor. "He started during the depression, so things were hard up then," Johnson explained. "They didn't have a lot to live on."

Johnson's great grandparents owned a homestead in Jackson County, and he started helping his dad out on their Cottonwood County farm as soon as he was able to. "I started helping when I was old enough to drive a tractor some and help do things around the farm," Johnson said. "I started combining

and things, and as I got old enough to drive, I did jobs like that."

He would later hone his expertise at the University of Minnesota School of Agriculture, a two-year program for students who were returning to the farm. Johnson graduated in 1957 and the program was discontinued in 1960, but the University kept the program's Alumni Association intact.

"We still have a reunion on campus every April, so we stay connected," Johnson said. "I'm one of the youngest, there used to be many more of us around to make it, but it's becoming less and less."

Seeing his old classmates and others who were enrolled within the program is still interesting for Johnson. "Some of them have memories we can share, so it's been fun to get to know some of them and see them come back," he said.

After graduating from the program, Johnson farmed on 240 acres in Cottonwood County before deciding to swap that in a three-party trade for some land in Steele County. "It was a competitive area, and I thought I'd like to have more acres and it was hard to come by," he said of the decision to move. "I happened to see a bigger farm advertised over here that looked like it could expand."

During his time farming, Johnson mostly grew corn and soybeans, and explained that while his father raised some pigs and a few cows for his own use, Johnson has always preferred crop farming. "It's what I do best, and enjoy doing the most," he said.

When it comes to his favorite part of farming, Johnson said he always liked the variety. "I

guess it was the changing of the seasons, so throughout the year you're not doing the same thing all the time. There's variety, it's changing, and you're not doing the same thing each day. In the spring your planting, or in the fall you're harvesting."

He also said that he loves living in the country, and although he's been retired for just over 15 years, he and his wife still have a home outside of town. "I suppose as long as my health permits, I still enjoy living here so long as we can commute to town, we're happy living on the farm."

While there was much that Johnson loved about farming, it is a profession that was not without its challenges. "Sometimes the weather wasn't always cooperative in terms of getting the crop planted or getting it harvested, and sometimes there was an early frost."

Farming also carried with it long hours. "Sometimes it was busy, especially spring and planting time, and in the fall during harvest time, and tillage time, but there could also be other things that needed to get done," Johnson recalled.

"I don't miss it, I guess there's enough else to keep busy with, and I guess I was ready to step back and try to do some other things that I didn't get to do when I was actually farming," he said. "There's enough to keep me busy now."

Johnson rents his land to a neighbor who farms corn and soybeans on it, and he keeps busy serving on his Alumni Association, as a member of the local Farm Bureau, and serving on the County



Sigurd and Leland Johnson of Owatonna have been honored as honorary lifetime farmers through the Minnesota Farm Bureau. They received the award at farm bureau's annual meeting in November.

Board, as well as serving as a trustee for the Sons of Norway, and performing in a music group as a member of the Owatonna Senior Place.

Although he has much to occupy his time now, Johnson wouldn't have wanted to do things differently. "I'm glad that I did choose it (farming), because I liked it a lot."



THINKSTOCK PHOTO

Count your birds

Bird count takes place this Saturday in Steele County

Owatonna's 47th Christmas Bird Count will take place this Saturday.

The count area covers a 15-mile diameter circle with Havana as its center point. The City of Owatonna is included in the count area so anyone within the city limits is eligible to count birds at their home feeders. The area also includes Claremont, Clinton Falls and Steele Center.

"We would like more people to help us count birds at their home feeders," said Darryl Hill, coordinator of the count. "This

means that you may count birds from your own home on this same one day only," he added.

The National Audubon Society sponsors the count. Bird counts are used in determining the extent of great movements of birds, the changes in the wintering ranges of birds and the expansion of newly introduced species, according to Hill.

People from all over North, Central and South America will also be counting bird counts for one day just as Owatonna

will be doing. The local results will be combined with 68 count areas in Minnesota and about 2,230 counts from all around the world, Hill noted.

Last year Owatonna experienced its fifth highest bird count with 7,368 birds. "We saw 49 different species of birds, which was our second highest number of bird species counted from all of our bird counts," Hill said. He added Owatonna set a record of 99 participants, including 28 first-timers, in last year's count.

"You don't have to be an expert bird watcher to be part of this annual event, but you should know most of the common birds at your feeders," Hill said. "It's fun, it's interesting and it's helpful to the scientific bird community," he added.

Anyone interested in participating in the bird count can contact Hill at 507-451-5073 or hillds@charter.net.

Ellendale farmer joins Farm Bureau Board

County voting delegates at the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation's (MFBF) 100th annual meeting have elected a Freeborn County farmer to the board.

Tony Sekora of Ellendale will be serving one-year term as chairman of the Promotion & Education Committee. The election was held Nov. 16 during the delegate session in Bloomington.

Dan Glessing was re-elected to a two-year term as vice president of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation. This will be his third term.

Glessing and his wife, Seena, farm in partnership with his family near Waverly in Wright County. They have dairy cattle and grow alfalfa, corn and soybeans. The Glessings have three sons and one daughter.

"I am honored and humbled to serve as vice president," said Glessing. "One of Farm Bureau's greatest strengths is our grassroots structure and policy development process which is well respected amongst our elected and appointed officials. We will continue to strengthen our relationships with our officials so they come to us when they have a question about agriculture. Our Young Farmers & Ranchers and Promotion & Education programs will continue to engage consumers in

conversations to increase the understanding of today's farming."

Re-elected to a three-year term were Keith Allen of Kenyon in Goodhue County representing District I, and Miles Kuschel from Sebeka in Cass County representing District VI.

Grant Moorse of Minnetonka was elected chairman of the Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee.

Minnesota Farm Bureau is the largest general farm organization in the state focusing on farmers, families and food with nearly 30,000 family members. Members determine policy through a grassroots process involving the Farm Bureau members in 78 county and regional Farm Bureau units in a formal, democratic process. Through this process, members make their views heard to political leaders, state government officials, special interest groups and the general public. Programs for Young Farmers & Ranchers help develop leadership abilities and improve farm management. Promotion & Education committee members work with programs such as Ag in the Classroom, and safety education for farm children. For more information, contact your county Farm Bureau office.

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@Confections by Karen

2017 Holiday Dazzle

**From backpacks to cookies,
coordinator loves it all**

Story and photos by
Howard Lestrud

When she is not working with the Blooming Prairie Backpack Program, Karen Peterson is busy in her kitchen.

Peterson became associated with the Feeding America Backpack Program two years ago and has continued to dedicate many hours to make the organization run.

"It's my baby," says Peterson, speaking proudly about the program which sends nearly 50 meals home on weekends for young Blooming Prairie school students.

She loves to bake and has her own business, a cottage food enterprise, which allows her to make food items in her home and sell them at a profit.

Peterson has been baking for years. "I bake, create and decorate," she says. "It has a ring to it, doesn't it?" she adds.

A bachelor's degree in law enforcement and corrections was earned by Peterson and it seemed like she was headed toward this vocation. But a strong passion for baking and creativity pointed her to a home-owned business instead.

She was very busy over the Thanksgiving holiday making lefse. She made 40 dozen of the Norwegian delicacy.

Now that the Christmas holiday is nearing, Peterson is promoting her Christmas cookies. She is offering a Paint Your Own Cookie project where a sugar cookie is made and then becomes a pallet for a creative design on that cookie.

The baker extraordinaire uses her favorite sugar cookie recipe that will make four-inch cookies. The cookies can be made in various shapes, especially Christmas themes.

She has a snowman, a moose, a Christmas tree and a penguin.

Peterson bakes and cools the cookies and then covers them with royal icing.

The Paint Your Own Cookies are \$5 each and come with a paint brush and paint dots. Buy a regular dozen of Peterson's Christmas cookies and get two Paint Your Own cookies.

Peterson is never at a loss for trying new and creative baking ideas. She has done weddings, making single tier cakes. She has also made cupcakes for weddings.

A unicorn cake was another one of Peterson's recent creations.

She made 20 dozen cookies and donated them to the National Night Out last summer. She plans to donate some of her specialty cookies to the Blooming Prairie Police Department for its Santa night this Thursday.

Three of Peterson's favorite taste testers are her husband Lee and their two children, Caleb and Eli.

She is very busy in her kitchen but also very busy in the community with her backpack work. She often substitute teaches at both the elementary and high schools. She also is a member of the local Women of Today.



A snowman is one of the colorful Paint Your Own Cookie creations made by Karen Peterson of Confections by Karen.

Business Briefs

Local dealer Noble RV named to Top 50 in North America

With a standing-room only crowd overflowing out of the Champagne Ballroom at the Paris Las Vegas, the RVBusiness magazine 2018 Top 50 Dealers Awards reception honored North American RV dealers on Nov. 7, during the annual RV Dealers Association International Convention/Expo for their outstanding customer service, community involvement and general excellence in overall operations, including local RV dealer Noble RV, Inc. of Owatonna.

"This award would not be possible without the hard work of our staff and the loyal customers we serve on a daily basis," said co-owner, Mike Noble. "It's an amazing feeling of accomplishment to be a five-year consecutive recipient of the Top 50 Dealer award."

The process for determining the 2018 RVBusiness Top 50 Awards was an involved one, beginning with harvesting qualified nominees in early summer from RV manufacturers who nominated dealer partners based not just on sales volume but whom they felt exemplify RVB Top 50 quali-



Noble RV of Owatonna has been named to the Top 50 RV dealers in North America. Accepting the honor were co-owners Pat and Mike Noble.

ties and practices. Those dealers were invited to complete the program's extensive application. Then, an expanded 11-person panel of independent industry insiders met in an intensive two-day, closed-door session in early September to review all the applications and complete their selections.

"We were able to field a judging panel that had expanded familiarity and experience with customer service operations at RV dealerships across North America," reported BJ Thompson of marketing firm BJ Thompson Associates, which has helped organize the RVB Top 50 program since its founding in 2008.

"Many dealers continue to refine the quality of their operations, place even more emphasis on

customer service and sharpen their focus on technician effectiveness. It's pretty impressive how tenacious and creative some RV dealer applicants can be," Thompson stated. "The judges were pretty impressed with the quality of the applications; they analyzed and debated and, at the end of the day, had a tough time paring down the top 50 candidates."

RVBusiness Publisher Sherm Goldenberg said the RVB Top 50 award continues to gain momentum and value among North American dealers, contributing to the program's mission to elevate the industry as a whole.

"We're pleased with the increased recognition that these awards are garnering in both the U.S. and Canadian recre-

ation vehicle markets, and it also provides a unique benchmarking tool for a wide array of retailers to examine their own operations and see how they measure up to industry standards and their own expectations on the brink of the 2019 model year," said Goldenberg. "For their laudable achievements and ongoing excellence, we congratulate this year's RVB Top 50 dealers."

For more information about the Noble RV dealerships, visit noblerv.com or call 507-444-0004.

STEELE COUNTY Times

*Always local,
all the time.*



STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS



100+ years later Citizens State Bank of Hayfield continues to serve Dodge County



Story and photos by
ALEX MALM

Over 100 years ago the first Citizens State Bank of Hayfield was founded. Ever since then they have been committed to helping the community. The main branch which is located in Hayfield was founded in 1910, with additional locations opening up years later including one in Mantorville in 1976 and a additional location in Dodge Center. One of the things that the bank prides itself on is being a locally based bank that serves whatever needs arises in the community. While some banks generally

have one or two specialties, it was explained that the specialty of the bank is the diversity they have. Some of the different things that they offer at the bank include ag loans, home loans, business loans, small business loans and construction loans just to name a few. One of the benefits of the bank that Tom Monson, a loan officer with the bank pointed to is the fact that the people who work at the bank are dedicated to the local area. Monsoon pointed to the banks slogan which is "your deposit is a local investment."

Some of the things that he pointed to that members of the staff do in the local community include serving on different service organizations and boards. He also pointed to the fact that every year they are big supporters of the Salvation Army Holiday Drives and even volunteer as bell



Tom Monson

ringers. "People who work here are involved with the local community," Monson said. Monson explained that they are also in the process of updating their website and continue to work hard to bring the best benefits possible to their clients and the community. "We're able to provide services needed and desired in the area," Monson said.



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411 Hwy St W, Dodge Center • 507-374-9555
2588 Bridge Ave, Albert Lea • 507-373-9194

Business Briefs

SMART Transit announces service changes

SMART Transit has announced some service changes for 2019. The unlimited monthly route pass price will increase by \$5 in each community. The one month route pass will increase to \$35 while the pass for seniors and students will jump to \$30. SMART has announced partial cancellation of services to Blooming Prairie. Dedicated service within the city of Blooming Prairie from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on weekdays will no longer be offered. Service to and from Blooming Prairie and Owatonna will still be available twice per day at about 6:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Changes to service in Owatonna include demand response service will be expanded and available from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. It previously had been 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. A new work route will now be available in Owatonna. A new deviated route will provide service with set stops serving the Industrial Park area, as well as Riverland Community College,

operating a split route with service from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m., 2-7 p.m. and 9 p.m. to midnight Monday through Friday. This route will provide complementary service to SMART's existing Owatonna route and allow transfers from one route bus to the other at no additional charge.

Questions, comments or concerns regarding any of SMART's services may be directed through the dispatch office at 1-855-SMART-B1 or email at SmartService@CedarValleyServices.org.

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NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No:
74-PR-18-1893

AMENDED NOTICE AND
ORDER FOR HEARING ON
PETITION FOR DESCENT OF
PROPERTY

Estate of
Shirley M. Marik,
Decedent

A Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago, leaving property in Minnesota and requests the probate of Decedent's last Will (if any), and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property.

Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted.

IT IS ORDERED and Notice is further given, that the Petition will be heard on December 28, 2018, at 1:30 p.m., by this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota.

1. Notice shall be given to all interested persons (MINN. STAT. § 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-204.

2. Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by:

Mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.

Joseph A. Bueltel
Judge of District Court
11/27/2018

Attorney for Petitioner
Kristin K. Haberman
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver
& Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Avenue, P.O. Box 545
Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 0268045
Telephone: (507) 451-3580; FAX:
(507) 451-3532
Email: haberman@
owatonnallawyers.com

12/4, 12/11

NOTICE

18-110344

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 16, 2012
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$143,698.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Cindy L. Thorn, an unmarried woman
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

MIN#: 100848111700991861
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Mortgages Unlimited, Inc.
SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 8, 2012, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T000068570
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association; Dated: February 26, 2014 filed: March 4, 2014, recorded as document number T000071265
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 1, Block 1, Brindmore Addition
REGISTERED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 650 Allan Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-445-0101 COT# 11914

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$131,347.42

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: January 22, 2019, 10:00am

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060

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

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on July 22, 2019, or the next business day if July 22, 2019 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: November 30, 2018

JPMorgan Chase Bank,
National Association

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

12/4,12/11,12/18
12/25, 1/1, 1/8

NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 25, 1999

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$60,750.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Robert M. Sikel and Angela J. Sikel, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: Voyager Bank, a Minnesota banking corporation
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on August 30, 1999 as Document Number A277326 (labeled as T277326) in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Norwest Mortgage, Inc., a California Corporation n/k/a Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. successor by merger to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. by assignment recorded on August 30, 1999 as Document Number A277327 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 14, except the South 5 feet thereof in Block "E" in Creamery Addition to the City of Ellendale.

ALSO: Beginning at NE corner of Lot 14, in Block "E" in Creamery Addition to City of Ellendale, thence East 30 feet, more or less, to the East line of said addition, thence south to a point 33 feet North of SE corner of said addition, thence West 38 feet more or less, to the SE corner of Lot 19 of said addition, thence North to the place of beginning.

EXCEPTING: That portion of said tract lying East of the South 5 feet of Lot 14, and EXCEPTING: That portion of said tract lying East of Lots 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 in said addition, the foregoing described tract or tracts being situated in the Creamery Addition to the City of Ellendale.
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 609 SCHOOL STREET, ELLENDALE, MN 56026-1000
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$41,752.70

TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Voyager Bank, a Minnesota banking corporation
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 15-104-0514
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining

secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: January 29, 2019 at 10:00 AM.
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota.
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. The time allowed by law for redemption by the United States of America or any agency thereof is twelve (12) months from the date of the sale, if applicable.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on July 29, 2019.

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

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

Dated: November 30, 2018
WELLS FARGO BANK,
N.A. Mortgagee

THE ACADEMY
LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Corbin C. Smith, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(18-0902-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

12/11, 12/18, 12/25
1/8, 1/15, 1/22

NOTICE

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

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

ASSUMED NAMED:
R.W. Draeger & Company

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS:
600 Oakwood Lane Owatonna
Minnesota 55060 USA

NAMEHOLDER(S):
Name:
Draeger Organ, LLC

Address:
600 Oakwood Lane
Owatonna MN 55060 USA

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

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

SIGNED BY:
Russell Draeger

MAILING ADDRESS:
None Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES:
draegerr@gmail.com

12/11, 12/18, 12/25

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No:
74-PR-18-2125

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

Estate of
Carol R. Cummings
Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on January 8, 2019, at 10:30 A.M., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, March 26, 2002, ("Will"), and for the appointment of William J. Cummings, whose address is 725 E. River St., Monticello, MN, 55362 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

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

Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court
11/26/2018

Robin Hoesley
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Mark R. Carver
Einhaus, Mattison,
Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Ave
Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 0276133
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: carver@owatonnallawyers.com

12/11, 12/18

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No:
74-PR-18-2102

NOTICE AND ORDER OF
HEARING ON PETITION

FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF
INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF
HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT
OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE
TO CREDITORS

Estate of
Robert L. Ring,
Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on 1/8/2019, at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Michal R. Otte, whose address is 895 Ridge Road, Owatonna, MN, 55060 and Kristiana J. Westergaard, whose address is 5652 NW 32nd Avenue, Medford, MN, 55049 as Personal Representatives of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representatives will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

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

Joseph A. Bueltel
Judge of District Court
11/15/2018

Robin Hoesley
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
David L. Einhaus
Einhaus, Mattison,
Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Avenue
Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 26190
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: einhaus@
owatonnallawyers.com

12/11, 12/18

NOTICE

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

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

ASSUMED NAMED:
Disraeli Books

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF
BUSINESS: 2431 NE 50th St.
Owatonna MN 55060 USA

NAMEHOLDER(S):
Name:
Jennifer Ann Parsons

Address:
2431 NE 50th St. Owatonna MN
55060 USA

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

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

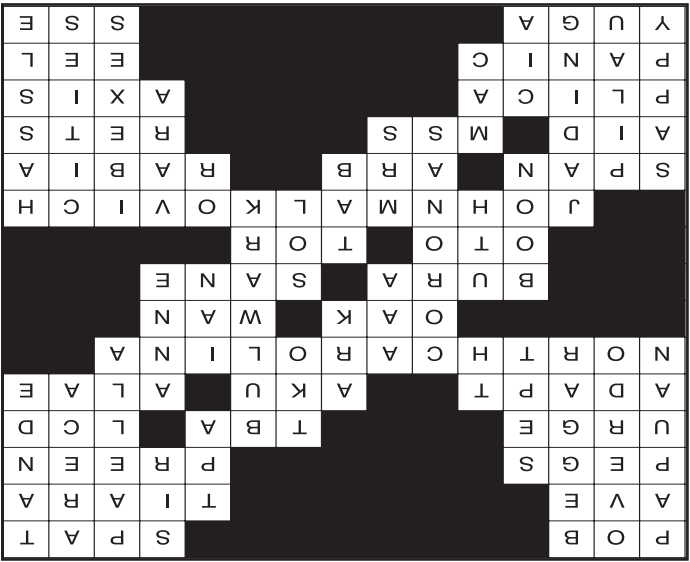
SIGNED BY:
Jennifer Parsons

MAILING ADDRESS:
None Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES:
jenniferpars@gmail.com

12/11, 12/18, 12/25

Weekly crossword



CLUES ACROSS

- Centralized mailing compartment
- Small argument
- Latin for "hail"
- Semicircular headdress
- Hole plug
- Primp
- A spontaneous motivation
- Don't know when yet
- Portable computer screen material
- Conform
- Yoruba
- Wings
- Tar Hill State
- Hard, durable wood
- Pallid
- Pabir language

CLUES DOWN

- Relating to New Guinea
- Carry to excess
- Alms solicitor
- Title of respect
- Spanish saffron dish
- Betel palm genus
- Petter ____, Nordic combined skier
- Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- Not crazy
- Word element meaning ear
- Hill (Celtic)
- "Dangerous Liaisons" actor
- Space between 2 points
- Arbitrageur
- 3rd or 4th Islamic month
- Assistance
- Manuscripts (abbr.)
- In a way, soaks
- Synovial knee syndrome
- 2nd cervical vertebra
- State of sudden fright
- Snakelike fish
- Each of 4 Hindu ages
- Point midway between S and SE
- Clan division
- Referee declares
- Rampart
- "Big" actor's initials
- Noah's boat
- Diarist __ Frank
- Luminous celestial ring
- Famous motor club
- 007's creator
- A timely blessing
- UTHealth (abbr.)
- Roman Helios
- Check
- Making of a worn-out vicious horse
- Wife
- An alternative
- Spanish unit of length
- Wild goats
- Municipalities
- Bother or harass
- Excessively sentimental
- Middle Eastern dish
- Waterproof raincoat
- Former OSS

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Ask for Stephen

LOST/FOUND

FEMALE BLACK CAT, SENIOR CAT-as several of her teeth are missing and prefers to be in the house. She has been roaming the Mantorville area. Please call 507-635-5015

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EMPLOYMENT

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE Board of Commissioners of Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Re-development Authority (SEM-MCHRA) will be held at the SEMMCHRA Main Office, 134 East Second Street, Wabasha, MN 55981 on Wednesday, December 19, 2018 at 10:00a.m. The public is welcome to attend. (52chg)

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

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

DAYCARE

Licensed in-home "Glowing & Growing Christian Daycare". Openings: Dodge Center 2 infants, 1 toddler, 2 preschool, and 3 school aged children. Call 507-218-4535 or email gandchristiandaycare@gmail.com (52,1,3pd)

LAND FOR RENT

DAVID AND PAUL STANTON FARMS are looking to expand existing corn and soybean operations in Hayfield and surrounding areas. Call Paul Stanton at 507-951-0914 or David Stanton at 507-951-0915 (51 chg tfn)

BARGAIN HUNTER

CATNAPER POWER LIFT CHAIR. Burgundy leather. \$50. Call 507-528-2252 44ffc
POST MOUNTED SPORTING CLAY Thrower for \$50 call anytime between 9am-5pm 507-313-0205 (48,49,50,51chg)

FOR RENT

APARTMENTS FOR RENT, 1, 2 & 3 BR, gas & elec. Included. 507-273-7386. 44ffc
HAYFIELD GREAT WESTERN Apts. Large unit, 1,225 sq. Ft., 2 bath, 3-4 bedrooms, large kitchen, living room, large closets. Newly REMODELED. Great for Mother-In-law or roommate, as well as a large family. Laundry on site. All utilities included. Please call 507-796-0152 or 7041-330-9788 (41 tfn)
GREENFIELD VILLAGE-KASSON 2bd spacious apt avail December, Month to Month leases and deposit payment plans. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-4551-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity. (wk. 48,49,50,51 chg.)
CLAREMONT MANOR-CLAREMONT 2bd apt open for December. Rent from \$550 p/ mo+elec. Month to Month leases and deposit payment plans. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-4551-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity. (wk. 48,49,50,51 chg.)
DODGE CENTER 2-bedroom, 2 bath split level home. Stove and refrigerator furnished. Full partially finished basement. Renter pays all utilities. Non-smokers only apply. \$995.00 deposit and \$995.00 rent. Call 507-250-3238 or 507-374-6747 (51 chg-tfn)
1 BD APT-KASSON for 62+ or disabled persons. Smoke free, month to month leases and deposit payment plans. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity. (51,52,1,2 chg)

WOOD FOR SALE

- 100% Split Oak
- \$150 per face cord (4x8 w/15in length)
- FREE DELIVERY within 20 miles of Blooming Prairie

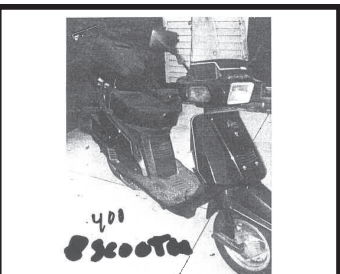
CASH ONLY
Call Lucas
507-676-3828



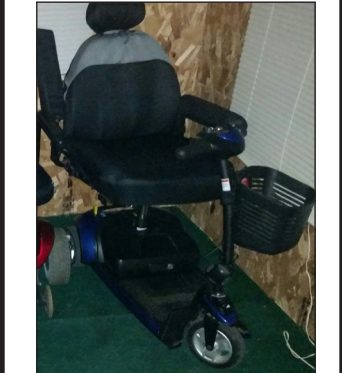
Electric Bicycle (needs nothing)
Asking \$700. (retail \$1700)
507-279-4103 cell or 281-4040.



2000 Ford F250 7.3 diesel/ Many new parts.
Asking \$9000 OBO.
call 507-261-2884



Motor scooter 5000 mile, Yamaha model Royal.
Asking \$600. (new #3,500)
Call 507-279-4103 cell or 281-4040



New scooter. New batteries. Pride series.
Asking \$400.
call 507-355-1347



Yamaha Virago XV750 Adult Driven - One owner 54K miles 97" Shaft Drive, cover, soft saddle bags, books.
Asking \$1239.
call 507-634-4345



1998 John Deere Model 320 18 horse liquid cool hydostatic all gone through 48" lawn mowing, ready to blow snow.
\$2,700 OBO.
call 507-634-7097



2015 27' Travel Trailer

- ▶ Power Awning & Stabilizer Jacks
- ▶ Used 2 months
- ▶ Rear living room
- ▶ 1 slide out
- ▶ Smoke free - Pet free
- ▶ 1/2 ton towable
- ▶ \$22,900 Must sell (health issues) - Make an offer

507-398-3297 Galen



For Sale - Brent Grain Cart Model 882 with tarp.
Asking \$29,500.
Call 507-269-8797

Farmland for Rent

354 tillable Acres in Westfield Township

Taking bids till the end of December

Gary Trom
507-456-2957

HOUSEKEEPER

HOUSEKEEPER (Full-Time)
We have current opening for a Full-time Housekeeper on Day Shift hours

Please stop in for an application, apply online at: www.stewartvillecarecenter.com or send an email to: KSchwartz@stewartvillecarecenter.com



Affirmative Action Employer
120 4th Street NE, Stewartville, MN 55976

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

► **Resident Assistant**

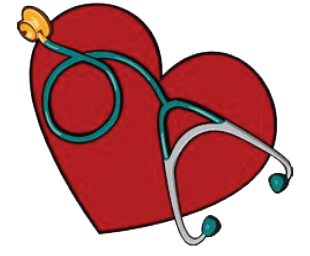
- FT 10 p.m. - 6 a.m.
- PT 2 p.m. - 10 p.m.
- PT 4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

► **Dining Assistant**

- PT 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- PT 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

► **Cook**

- PT Position

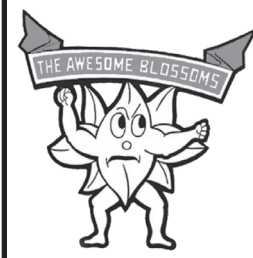


Prairie Meadows SENIOR LIVING

Apply at: www.oxfordmgmt.com/careers • EOE

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

HELP WANTED



Applications are being accepted for a special education paraprofessional at Blooming Prairie High School. Each day that students are in attendance throughout the school year will be working days. Hours from 8:00am - 3:00pm (ie 6.5 hours per day).

Request an application by calling **507-583-4426** or complete the online application located at blossoms-portal.rschooldtoday.com/page/2818

Deadline for applying is Dec 17, 2018.

BATH TWP / FREEBORN COUNTY, MN

LAND AUCTION

85 ACRES+/- • 2 TRACTS

SALE TO BE HELD AT THE GENEVA COMMUNITY CENTER, 1ST AVE SE, GENEVA, MN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21 @ 10 A.M.



#1681 LDM OF NEW RICHLAND FARM

- These are two very productive tracts of farmland. If you own land in or around the area, this would be an excellent time to add on to your farm.
- Selling in 2 Tracts
- West of Geneva, MN
- Online Bidding Available

SECTION 11 OF BATH TOWNSHIP • TRACT 1: 46.70 DEEDED ACRES / 44.65 CROPLAND ACRES / CPI OF 60.8 • TRACT 2: 38.72 DEEDED ACRES / 36.54 CROPLAND ACRES / CPI OF 71.5 • TERMS: \$25,000 DOWN ON EACH TRACT DUE DAY OF THE SALE, BALANCE DUE ON OR ABOUT JAN. 31, 2019. A 2% BUYERS FEE WILL APPLY.

LANDPROZ.COM
Agricultural & Recreational Real Estate / Auctions / Farm Management

Broker/Auctioneer GREG JENSEN

Broker Greg Jensen - MN, IA / Broker Brian Haugen - MN, SD, IA, WI / Broker Amy Willett - MO
LandProz Real Estate, LLC. 111 East Clark Street, Albert Lea, MN 56007

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

All Aboard for Great Gift Ideas

Last Minute Gift Idea from Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce

BP Bucks
Good for \$5.00 of Merchandise & Services at Any Blooming Prairie Merchant
Use Anytime Before January 31, 2020
No Exceptions
Issued by _____
Date _____

Support Blooming Prairie & Purchase BP Chamber Bucks @ F&M Bank or US Bank in Blooming Prairie, MN.

Bucks can be spent anywhere in Blooming Prairie for gifts, groceries, gas, even utilities.

Straight River Sports & Fitness

Skates, skis and fat bikes are available for winter rental!
Minnesota-made clothing and accessories!

TREK AUTHORIZED RETAILER **PEDEGO** ELECTRIC BIKES

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(507) 451-1666 • www.straightriversports.com
Winter Hours M-F 10-6, Sat 9-4

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TRUSTED FOR OVER 60 YEARS

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Sat 8:00am-1:00pm
Sun Closed

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Liquidation of used DVDs (3 for \$5) and used guitar amps & speakers & more

Lessons available for guitar, bass, banjo, mandolin, ukulele, accordion

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tonemusic.net

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Purchase \$100 in gift certificates and receive **\$15 FREE!**

Celebrate your holidays with us!
DOWNTOWN OWATONNA
208 N. Cedar Ave.

507-455-9260 • WWW.TOREYS.NET

Your Christmas tradition for 45 years. We are a true family owned Minnesota business since 1973 and darn proud of it! We will be closed on Tuesday, December 25th and again on Tuesday, January 1st so that we and our employees can enjoy these holidays with our families.

Steve's Meat Market

Award Winning Smoked & Cured Sausage Products

May We Suggest:

- Gift Certificates to give to family and friends – in any amounts, we can mail them for you too!
A gift certificate from Steve's says it all!
- Order your "specialty" meats for your holiday entertaining – Perfect Prime Rib Roasts (fresh cut, never frozen), Crown Pork Roasts, Hickory Smoked Turkeys and Hams, Spiral Sliced Hickory Smoked Hams, Honey Glazed Hickory Smoked Spiral Sliced Hams (available only at Steve's). We have the recipes to go with too! Many other meats to choose from, just stop in or call us with your order.
- Meat and Cheese trays, made to order in any size using our own smoked meats, sausages and the freshest cheeses available. Please call 684.2331 to order.
- Over 125 varieties of select cheeses pre-packaged or some can even be sliced. Check out our "burnin hot" cheese selection also. We now carry Minnesota grown cheese curds and cheese spreads too.
- Stop in to sample our huge assortment of "extra special" goodies for holiday entertaining ideas.
- Check out our meat vending machine. The first in Minnesota. Only at Steve's!
- Pick up a wide assortment of Steve's sliced summer sausages, snack sticks and cheeses to make your own holiday trays to serve or give as gifts.
- Steve's "Famous" B.B.Q. Beans available during this holiday season.
- Choose from 6 kinds of Steve's Hickory Smoked Bacon – including our newest: Warm Bourbon
- We carry the "freshest of the season" Oysters, Herring (wine sauce & creamed),.
- Steve's own Salsa's, Jams, Jellies, Preserves, Mustards, Syrups. Wind & Willow, Rabbit Creek, Frontier Soups, Bald Eagle Salsas, Rufus Teague Sauces, Country Side Sauces, Wallenfang's, and B-Bags food products. Plus many more all really Great Gift Ideas.

Thank you for "shopping small" at Steve's Meat Market in Ellendale, of course!!

210 5th Ave W, Ellendale, MN • 507.684.2331