

Harberts: ‘I cry every day’

Father and son trying to put lives back together



Santa Claus stopped by the Bloomington Prairie Elementary School recently and took time to say “hello” to Jaxon Harberts, a graduate of the school last year. Jaxon is recovering from injuries suffered in a car crash last Sept. 7 that claimed the lives of his mother and sister.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It was a day that changed the lives of seventh grader Jaxon Harberts and his father Brandon forever.

The day was Friday, Sept. 7, 2018, the fourth day of a new school year. Jaxon was a passenger in his mother’s car, carrying the two of them and his sister Emerson on their way to school in Bloomington Prairie.

“I cry every day,” says Brandon Harberts when reflecting on the last three months since the crash, which claimed the lives of his wife Rachel and 8-year-old daughter Emerson.

“We are doing good,” Jaxon quickly inter-

jects.

Jaxon says, as siblings, he and Emerson got along well. “She could have been in the Tooth Fairy movie,” Jaxon chuckles as he refers to Emerson having lost her front teeth last summer.

Since that September day, Brandon and Jaxon have been working emotionally and physically to put their lives back together.

Do they have a new normal? Brandon believes there may never be a normal again.

Father and son do help one another during this time of recovery. Jaxon has become more outgoing since the crash and tells his dad, “Just wait, in another three years, I will be driving you around and you will be walking with a cane.”

Brandon responds with a shrug of the shoulders “I’ve got a joke for you,” Jaxon said while showing his retention of a sense of humor. “What’s invisible and smells like carrots?” Jaxon replies: “bunny farts.”

Brandon and Jaxon took time recently from their busy lives to visit with this Times writer about the tragic crash and to review the recovery and grieving process that has followed.

SEE HARBERTS, A3



Submitted photo
Hudson Linse of rural Owatonna has undergone four open-heart surgeries during his short 20 months of life. He is still recovering from the latest surgery that took place on Nov. 13 at St. Mary’s Hospital in Rochester.

Battling defects, little boy fights for stronger heart

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Just like the Grinch in the storybook holiday tale, Hudson Linse has a heart smaller than normal. But Hudson is nothing like a Grinch and it certainly isn’t because he lacks Christmas spirit.

Hudson was born with congenital heart defects in which he only had one ventricle. In his short life of 20 months, Hudson has already undergone four open-heart surgeries. He is currently recovering at St. Mary’s Hospital in Rochester from the most recent open-heart surgery, which is the biggest one he has had to date.

The congenital heart defects Hudson was born with include double outlet right ventricle, Wolff White Syndrome and Hypo Plastic left heart. Hudson underwent his first open-heart surgery when he was just three days old.

The most recent surgery took place on Nov. 13 when doctors took his heart and made it into two ventricles. Since the surgery, Hudson has developed some complications and is expected to remain in the hospital well past the holidays. His mother, Jamie Linse, has remained at his

SEE OPEN HEART, A5

Our Christmas gift to you

This week staff members of the Steele County Times present their second annual Christmas gift to readers. It’s the gift of good news.

The front page, along with several pages inside, has been devoted to good news stories. We have made an intentional effort to deviate from the usual practice of placing all types of news on the main pages. Unfortunately, our society is bombarded with negativity that flows through to the news pages of the local newspaper.

Our writers are sharing stories this week that are inspirational, hopeful and uplifting. We found that there is no shortage of holiday cheer and spirit being shared around Steele County and elsewhere this holiday season. We offer a sampling of how people are making the lives of other people brighter.

As you sit down with your families this holiday season, we hope you will share with others in the good news that we have uncovered throughout our greater community. Merry Christmas from all of us at the Times. We wish you all the merriest holiday season filled with happiness and joy.

Rick L. Bussler
Publisher

The perfect partnership

Area churches work together to provide food for local families

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Since spring of 2015 Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, and St. John Lutheran Church have worked along with the Owatonna Golden ‘K’ Kiwanis Club to assist working families who may need help when it comes to affording food.

It is a partnership that has a profound impact on the people it serves. The Weekend Pantry partnership currently serves 22

families comprised of a total of 110 individuals. “As a religious community, that’s what we do is to take care of the hungry,” said Louanne Kaupa, the project’s leader.

Kaupa explained that the initiative originated as a challenge from the bishop of their synod, and that the Golden ‘K’ Kiwanis Club was also instrumental in getting it off the ground. “They were the ones that really pushed for it because their mission was child

SEE PARTNERSHIP, A4

BP man inflates Christmas

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Kids love to build snowmen. And, so does Carl Barber of Bloomington Prairie.

Carl has a 15-foot snowman inhabiting his front yard these days. And, the snowman has a lot of company with about 25-30 other Christmas-themed inflatables taking up space.

“It’s so much fun,” Barber says about his interesting hobby.

Barber lives just across the street from the Prairie Manor Care Center. His residence is a popular destination for many Bloomington Prairie locals who have seen Barber’s work in the past.

He’s always looking for new items to put up with his display. In addition to the huge snowman, Barber added an arch way that invites passers by the opportunity to enjoy the many other images por-

“I want to be Santa for the children.”

Carl Barber
Avid Holiday Decorator

trayed by the “blow-ups” and other Christmas decorations in front of his house.

Barber spends a lot of time putting his inflatables in place and he has two interested observers watching every step he makes. They are his birds that have earned him the nickname, “The Bird Man.”

The observers are none other than Barber’s McCaw parrot named Holly and his Amazon parrot named Valerie. Holly is 6 years old and Valerie is 13.

Holly was thought to be a girl when he got the bird six years ago. Carl recently found out that Holly is a boy. “We call him Buddy Holly now,”

he laughs.

Barber is nearly a native of Bloomington Prairie, coming to this community with his parents when he was in third grade. His mother, Nyla, currently lives in Lansing. His father passed five years ago.

Previously living at NE 3rd Street in Bloomington Prairie, Barber bought a 4-foot snowman inflatable.

He was hooked on the hobby when a work associate at Daikin in Owatonna said she had about a dozen inflatables she should sell him. All of them are Disney characters, Winnie the Pooh, the Grinch, Mickey Mouse, Santa Claus and snowmen.

He has added pieces to his Christmas inflatable puzzle each year.

He has added a taco truck with a concessions stand and also has displayed a ladder with elves hanging from his

SEE BARBER, A3



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Bloomington Prairie resident Carl Barber loves to make kids and adults happy and he does it with his Christmas display created by inflatables in his front yard.

OUR VIEW

God’s Speed to BP’s iconic figure

LeMar Nelson is indeed a Blooming Prairie iconic figure. He is not a native of Blooming Prairie but has spent most of his years in this southeastern Minnesota community. It is nice to say some beautiful words about someone when they are still alive. Nelson, 86, is still with us but just a little farther away. He moved to Richfield last weekend to be closer to his daughters in the Twin Cities. Nelson says it will be just for three months and he hopes to return to Blooming Prairie next spring. His health issues have forced the move to the Twin Cities. Nelson, of course, is known for his many years in education, most of them in Blooming Prairie as a teacher, principal and coach. He has also been very active in the community, writing for the Blooming Prairie Times/Steele County Times for the past 27 years. His writing has been mostly aimed at sports. This beautiful person is one of the most respected gentlemen this community has known. He has been a very important cog in shaping the lives of young people via the schools and through his involvement in the BP Boys and Girls Club. Nelson is also known for his wonderful voice. He has been a fixture in the First Lutheran Church choir for many years. We wish to thank LeMar for his civic mindedness and for his caring gestures to all who know him in Blooming Prairie. This is not a goodbye but rather a “see you soon.”

GUEST COLUMN

Another positive state budget forecast

By JOHN PETERSBURG Our state’s latest fiscal forecast has brought good news, as state economists recently announced that Minnesota can expect a surplus of \$1.544 billion for the 2020-21 budget cycle. According to Minnesota’s economists, the good financial forecast is due to higher than expected revenue collections and lower than expected state government spending. In addition, \$491 million is being allocated to budget reserves, and that reserve account now totals \$2.075 billion. During the upcoming session, we will craft a budget for the 2020-21 budget cycle, and all of the projected surplus funds must be allocated before we adjourn for the year. So what should we do with your money? As I’ve stated before, having a surplus is not justification for a wild state government spending spree. In fact, I believe it’s a recipe for a budget deficit. We’re currently collecting more from taxpayers than we are expected to spend. If you permanently raise spending and collections begin to decrease, a shortfall becomes reality. To me, we should continue investigating tax relief. The money belongs to the people, so we should be looking at ways to return it. One time spending could also be an option – think road and bridge improvements. The 2019 session begins on Jan. 8, and I expect there will be many discussions over the coming months on how this projected surplus should be utilized. If you have any questions or comments on the surplus or any other Capitol issue, do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached by email at rep.john.petersburg@house.mn, or call my office at 651-296-5368.

John Petersburg is a state representative for District 24A. He was just re-elected to another two-year term in last month’s election. He lives in Waseca.

YOUR VIEW

National Parks are too critical to neglect

Letter to the Editor: For years I have enjoyed our national parks for hiking, camping, exploring and sightseeing. In Minnesota we are fortunate to have five national park sites including Voyageurs, Pipestone, Grand Portage, and portions of the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers. Visitation to national parks is at record highs. Last year, 1.2 million people visited national parks in Minnesota, and they spent more than \$64 million in our local communities, which created 924 jobs. Unfortunately, increased visitation, aging facilities and inconsistent federal funding, has taken a toll. Right now, national parks in Minnesota need \$17.8 million for infrastructure repairs. Crumbling historic markers, outdated electrical systems, and deteriorating trails and roads are now common. The good news is that Congress is considering bills to create dedicated funding for park maintenance needs. The House of Representatives’ Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act (H.R. 6510) and the Senate’s Restore Our Parks Act (S. 3172) would direct federal funds each year to ensure that our national parks are maintained and accessible for all visitors. In addition to fixing these American treasures, this investment would help the state’s job market. A recent study commissioned by The Pew Charitable Trusts found that over 200 infrastructure-related jobs would be created or supported in Minnesota if Congress invested in repairs to national park sites. As a proud Minnesotan, I am delighted that our state is home to some of America’s finest natural and cultural landscapes. These national park sites offer us places to contemplate the outdoors or learn about our shared history. Because of that, they are too critical to neglect. That’s why I hope Congress will see these bills through to final passage so that our national parks can be enjoyed for generations to come.

Matt Steinrueck
Minneapolis



Proclaiming the good news

Christmas is a season filled with hope, inspiration, joy and happiness. Because of this, our newspaper has come up with a special holiday gift for our readers. This week we are proclaiming the good news of Steele County and beyond. Our staff members have come up with a variety of stories, photographs and columns that we hope will provide everybody with the Christmas miracle. Our goal is to simply uplift and inspire our readers over the holiday season. What we found over the past few weeks is that the area abounds with good news, especially during the month of December. We obviously can’t get every last positive story that’s out there, but we hope we have come up with a strong sampling of what the area has to offer. Sadly we live in a world that’s imperfect. Just look at some of the news that has surrounded our area this past year. While some people get a bit edgy about what they perceive as negative news, it’s our responsibility as the newspaper

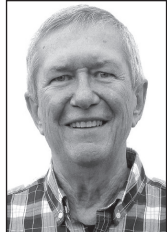


Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

to report on what’s happening no matter if it’s good, bad, ugly or anywhere in between. One of the tragic stories that we covered this past year has been turned into a good news story filled with hope and promise for a family still reeling from the tragedy. The Harberts family—dad Brandon and son Jaxon— is finding a way to piece their lives back together after losing their wife/ mother and daughter/sister. In a lengthy interview with Howard Lestrud, which by the way will likely bring tears to your eyes, both Brandon and Jaxon share how complete strangers have rallied behind them and carried them through this horrible ordeal. They have suffered incredible loss, but Brandon and Jaxon share how the community is holding them together. Another family is relying on the strength of the community to pull their family through a tough situation involving their 20-month-old son, who has already endured four open-heart

surgeries. A benefit is planned this Saturday outside of Blooming Prairie for Hudson Linse. There are many other stories and photos scattered throughout this week’s paper proclaiming the good news. Let’s just say it’s all the good news that’s fit to print. We tried hard to deviate from the normal news that often grabs the headlines in shocking ways, and quite honestly makes us all uncomfortable. While this week’s paper is filled with good news, we will continue to make efforts to showcase the positive side of life every other week during the year. We are always trying to find a balance. We welcome tips and suggestions for any story ideas you may have. Generally the best stories come from our readers who let us know about things going on. The good news is being proclaimed in more ways than one over the next week. We hope it proves to be a good time for peace on Earth in your life as well as the lives of your loved ones. It’s our privilege this holiday to go in hot pursuit of proclaiming the good news of the area. Merry Christmas!

She escaped death after horrific accident



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

Christmas gifts are given in many different ways, material and otherwise. My sister-in-law Cindi Hansen of Blooming Prairie said she received a special Christmas gift a couple of weeks before Christmas this year when she met a walking miracle, 12-year-old Amber Rose Kordiak of rural Hinckley, Minn. Cindi, accompanied by husband Darrell, was in the Mayo Clinic at Rochester for a routine doctor’s visit. While at the hospital, Cindi, jogging her memory of a television broadcast, was sure she had seen Amber Rose before and had heard about her near-death experiences. “Should I know you?” Cindi asked. “Were you the young girl who had a large tire and rim fall on you?” Cindi persisted. EDITOR’S NOTE: Cindi is a professional at putting puzzle pieces together and the Amber Rose puzzle was another she solved. Amber replied that she was that young girl. Amber

suffered a nearly fatal farm accident in July of 2013 when she was 7 years old. A 600-pound tractor tire fell on top of her, the rim slicing through her face. Since the accident, Amber has experienced death but has managed to survive after many surgeries to repair her face. Google Amber Rose Kordiak and you will learn many of the details of the tragic accident that could have claimed her life. Discover the many surgeries she has had following the accident and hear her doctor, Uldis Bite, explain how facial reconstruction was done on Amber. Cindi and Darrell said they were amazed at how mature Amber is in relating her experiences since the terrible accident. “She sure seems older than 12,” Cindi said. Amber is very willing to tell her stories of recovery from the accident. “I went to heaven,” Amber says in a news account. Much of the reporting on Amber’s accident and death experiences have been reported by KSTP Television and other media throughout the world. Amber told her mother, “I floated up out of my body and I saw dad holding me. He pulled the tire off me.” Amber’s mother Jennifer said Amber said she saw hundreds of light beams of prayers from everybody

around the world praying for her to live. Amber said she was happy in Heaven. How did the freak accident happen? News reports say that the large tractor tire was proper against a barn wall and Amber Rose was warned by her father not to go near it. As an inquisitive youngster at seven, she didn’t listen and tried to walk through the tire. Jennifer told the TODAY show that she heard Amber’s father scream. She ran outside and found him holding Amber, her face completely cut in half. Jen says the melt rim of the tire cut through her face, severing bones, muscles and nerves. The Kordiaks tried to stop the bleeding and put her in a family van and then traveled to meet an ambulance on the way. Jennifer recounts the evening further: Amber-Rose’s right eye socket was completely shattered, leaving just a void. The bones forming her nose were gone. Her upper jaw, the maxilla, was completely severed. She had a dislocated right jaw joint and a broken lower left jaw. Part of right cheekbone was gone. She suffered a brain injury in the violent fall.” Her recovery has been lengthy but according to Cindi and Darrell, this young girl has relied on family support, has relied on the skills of medical profession-



AMBER ROSE KORDIAK



CINDI HANSEN

als and has demonstrated an unbelievable will to recover from her terrible injuries. There is much more that can be said but we will stop here and let you, the reader, do some more investigating about Amber Rose. Either, go to the Internet and search the name of Amber Rose Kordiak, or visit with Cindi. She will tell you how meeting this young girl became a Christmas gift to her. Check out this Youtubevideo, too, https://youtu.be/rPCOFpMkJj4 “Miracles do happen,” Cindi believes.





STAFF PHOTO BY TRACIE ANDERSON

Flashing BP bucks are the winners of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce Medallion Hunt 2018. Shown from left are cousins Neila Nelson, Jack Bruns, Bobbi Bruns, Jeffrey Bruns, Bo Zwiener and Emerson Nelson.

Only one clue does the trick for a clan of cousins

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Only one clue had been circulated, and guess what, the Blooming Prairie Holiday Medallion was found.

On Monday, six youngsters came to The Times office to report they found the hidden medallion near the Welcome to Blooming Prairie sign on the south end of town, near the city ambulance garage.

The first clue reads: “North Pole, South Pole, Brave the Cold, Finding a medallion is like fixing gold.”

The second clue (finders didn’t need it) reads: “The holidays are bright. Searching

can be a fright. Search by Day or search by night.”

Finding the medallion were six cousins: Emerson Nelson, 7; Neila Nelson, 9; Bo Zwiener, 12; Jeffrey Bruns, 8; Bobbi Bruns, 14 and Jack Bruns, 11.

The winners earned \$50 in BP bucks. The youngsters plan on donating the \$50 to a local charity yet to be determined.

Some of the same cousins found the medallion last year on the anniversary of their grandmother Elaine Klemmensen’s death. They found the medallion again this year on the anniversary of their grandmother’s death, Sunday, December 9th.

BARBER: Christmas decorations

FROM A1

house gutter.

His Santa toy land arch spans 12 feet. “You can get inflatables the year round on Amazon,” Barber informed.

Not this year, but maybe next year, Barber hopes he can purchase a two-story Grinch. Where will he put him? “Out front,” Barber quickly replies. He’s also hoping to some day getting an 18-foot Rudolph.

Barber purchases many of his inflatables after Christmas when they go to 50 percent or more off the regular price. “That’s when I go shopping,” he affirms.

Barber takes most of the inflatables down the day after Christmas. He stores them downstairs in boxes. Some stay on his lawn until spring.

Santa and his reindeer were on top of Barber’s roof for awhile but Barber said he gave up on climbing up and down the roof.

He does his own repair work on the inflatables. “My current Grinch is getting old and I have to bring him in for some surgery,” Barber remarked.

Barber said he would like to put all of his inflatables on a hay rack and take them to area parades. “My goal is to do that some day; they do it at the Macy’s parade,” he said.

Barber says he does the Christmas decorating “for the children” and “maybe for myself, too,” he admits. His investment is not only in the inflatables. It’s also in the electricity used. “I haven’t blown any fuses this year,” he revealed.

“I don’t think I could put up all of these inflatables in a larger city,” he believes. “Here in Blooming Prairie, I get lots of people driving by and enjoying the display; this makes me feel good.”

The inflatable characters grow quickly with air when the

timer begins their ascension at 4:45 p.m. They are shut down at 9:15.

Barber’s favorite blowup is an airplane with Snoopy, of Peanuts comic fame being the pilot. Barber has the plane crashing into his house. Above the plane, a sign offers a lesson: “Don’t drink and fly.”

Barber says he continues putting up his inflatables because “I want to be Santa for the children.”

His other hobby is spending time with his parrots when not working with his Christmas inflatables.

“These birds are really smart,” says Barber. “They can tell when you are down and need some cheer,” he commented. “They are very therapeutic and are very intelligent,” Barber continued.

Barber said his McCaw is very jealous and doesn’t like it when he spends too much time on the cell phone. He will pick it up and toss it across the living room, Barber said. Holly also growls like a dog and thus serves as Barber’s security guard.

Barber shares his love for the birds by bringing both birds to Central Park and allowing kids to pet them and even hold them with his help.

The Bird Man was in the Austin Fourth of July parade this past summer with his birds. “People applauded when we went by and this made me happy,” said Barber.

Oh, by the way, Barber also has two Bearded Dragon Lizards. Barber keeps them in an aquarium.

Want to take a leisurely ride over the Christmas season? Drive by Barber’s house and be in awe about the house that resembles a land at Disney World.

“Merry Christmas” from Carl, Holly and Valerie.

Santa benefits BP’s public safety



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Mr. Newspaper Delivery Guy Kevin Mans of Blooming Prairie shows off one of his recent purchases, a Golden Gopher snow man created by Diane Jensen (The Bakery). Proceeds from the sale of these colorful snow men go to the Blooming Prairie Fire Department and ambulance crew. Different varieties are available, including the Minnesota Vikings.

HARBERTS: Father, son update

FROM A1

“I’ve seen you before,” Jaxon quipped as he sat down at a table at the Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie.

Jaxon looks like most other seventh graders, somewhat shorter in physical stature and dwarfed by his father who could be an offensive lineman on the Minnesota Vikings football team.

Jaxon, who will become a teenager next Feb. 23, shows evidence of his traumatic brain injury with a huge scar atop his head. Brandon explains that half of his skull was removed early in his recovery process at St. Mary’s Hospital in Rochester.

Jaxon was placed in an induced coma and doctors removed part of his skull. He also suffered several torn ligaments in his neck.

“It feels like forever when you are in the hospital for two months,” remarked Brandon. He said he spent every night in the hospital with Jaxon until he was released.

“The doctors, nurses and medical staff at St. Mary’s were incredible,” states Brandon. “They would sit down and have a normal conversation with us,” he tells.

Brandon praised the work of a Lanesboro friend Tori Eide, a registered nurse who serves as a nursing coordinator.

The medical staff set goals for Jaxon during his recovery and he beat all of them,” Brandon related.

A difficult surgery for Jaxon came when medical staff inserted a feeding tube in him. He started talking six days later.

“They put it in on a Monday and eight days later, he was eating regular food,” Brandon says. “He maybe wouldn’t have seen so much progress without the feeding tube,” Brandon believes.

“When he came into the hospital from the accident, Jaxon wasn’t Jaxon,” Brandon explained. “He was labeled an “Unidentified Tahoe Khaki.”

The small southeastern Minnesota community of Blooming Prairie has become a second home to Jaxon and his father as they interact with working colleagues of Rachel and with fellow students of Emerson and Jaxon.

The Harberts family lived in a rural area outside of Dodge Center.

Both Jaxon and his father are amazed at the support they have received from everywhere. “I don’t know a lot of these people who have been helping us during this time of recovery,” Brandon says.

“How do you say thank you enough to the people who have helped,” Brandon remarks. “I’m one who wants to help others and it’s difficult for me to accept help,” Brandon admits. “I guess Jaxon is helping, too, by getting better,” Brandon added.

Brandon said he has tote bags full of cards he has received from supporters.

Brandon says Jaxon’s physical recovery has been “unbelievable” and he is working hard to retain his short-term memory capacities.

Jaxon has therapy sessions scheduled for three days each week. The therapy is helping him recover from his traumatic brain injury which doctors have called a massive concussion.

Jaxon is hopeful of returning to his seventh grade classes at Blooming Prairie High School after the Christmas vacation break, which ends on Jan. 2.

How is Jaxon doing? In his own words, flashing a bright twinkle in his eyes, Jaxon says, “Pretty good.” He said he is ready to go back to school where his favorite classes are math, social studies and band.

He will be attending part days at first and may miss first hour and physical education, father Brandon says.

Jaxon visited some of his classrooms at Blooming Prairie High School recently and has kept in contact with many of his school chums.

Is Jaxon the same kid he was before the accident? “Yes and no,” says Brandon. “The personality is there but we are waiting on the memory to return,” Brandon says. “The doctors told us that it may take 12-18 months for him to recover, or it may take up to two years.

“It’s hard to grasp that it could be another two years,” Brandon comments, fighting back tears. Feeling his dad’s emotions, Jaxon also wipes away tears.

“The support is everywhere and it’s really something else.”

Brandon Harberts

Jaxon’s Father

Brandon said he spoke with a psychologist about how to tell Jaxon about the passing of his mother and sister. Jaxon was recovering quickly soon after the accident and was talking and putting full sentences together six days after the accident.

“What do we do?” Brandon asked a therapist. “They said to tell him sooner than later and also said we might have to tell him again and again and again and again.”

Jaxon’s recovery has amazed the doctors and Jaxon’s family. “I thought there would be no way he would get out of the hospital before Christmas,” Brandon confessed. Jaxon was released on Nov. 9.

“The people who work at Mayo are incredible, knowledgeable and personable,” says Brandon.

Physically, Jaxon is doing well, his dad says. “If he’s pushed, he does better,” Brandon said.

A football player himself, Jaxon is a staunch Minnesota Vikings fan. He has received two autographed footballs, one from wide receiver

Adam Thielen and the other from defensive back Harrison Smith.

Who is your favorite Viking player? Jaxon does not hesitate. “It’s Adam Thielen; he’s a Minnesota boy you know.”

Jaxon and his father are going to the Vikings’ last home game of the season on Dec. 30 when they play the Chicago Bears at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. The Vikings gave the tickets to Jaxon and Brandon. Jaxon and Brandon also have passes to be on the sidelines before the game.

Several of Jaxon’s family will also be at the game on Dec. 30.

Brandon says Jaxon’s grandmother, Sharon Post, is the biggest Viking fan he knows. “Yeah, she has Viking bricks that she throws at the television when the Vikings aren’t doing too good,” Jaxon laughs.

She once had a four-foot helmet bolted to her house in Lanesboro, Brandon said.

Jaxon and his dad followed the Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossoms in their trip to the state tournament in November. Jaxon was even made part of the team’s acceptance of a state tournament trophy on the field of U.S. Bank Stadium.

Brandon, who holds down two jobs, says he and Jaxon try to stay busy. “We’re going to Tasha’s house on Friday,” Brandon said, explaining that Tasha Gilbertson, a college roommate of Rachel, has been very supportive of Jaxon and him during the past few months.

Brandon works for the City of Rochester sewer department full time and he works part time for Lowell’s Auto Sales in Dodge Center. He also plows snow for the city. He drove semi truck from 2003-11 and returned to the City of Rochester after working there from 1997-2003.

“I remember riding with you when you were truckin’,” Jaxon tells his dad.

Brandon and Rachel met in Rochester on Rachel’s 21st birthday. Brandon, a Rochester native, said he had never heard of Lanesboro prior to that time.

Brandon says Rachel “was a volleyball girl” and good at it.” He said she planned to coach Emerson.

Rachel worked 16 years for the Blooming Prairie schools, teaching first grade most of that time.

Brandon says Blooming Prairie and other surrounding communities have been “incredible.” Brandon says he is not on social media but other friends have been and have raised funds for the Harberts family.

Brandon and Jaxon salute Blooming Prairie teacher and coach John Bruns who sold over 800 t-shirts in



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Blooming Prairie High School seventh grader Jaxon Harberts spends lots of his time with his dad, Brandon. Both stopped by the Pizza Cellar recently to have a bite to eat.

“We are doing good.”

Jaxon Harberts

Crash Survivor

memory of Emerson and Rachel.

Bracelets were also sold in the memory of Rachel and Emerson. Brandon said he also ordered 1,100 purple bracelets that carry the message, “Forever loved, never forgotten.”

“The support is everywhere and it’s really something else,” Brandon says. He said a school in Austin recently sent a check.

“It’s not just Blooming Prairie or Dodge Center,” he says. “It’s Casey’s in Ellendale, Hayfield at a school concession stand and Blooming Prairie kids selling apples to raise funds to benefit the Harberts family. A fifth grade football team in Kasson also had a pancake breakfast for the Harberts family.

A car show was held as a benefit in Rochester.

“I don’t know many of these people who have given us support,” Brandon says. “It was Rachel and the kids’ lives in Blooming Prairie.”

Brandon’s sister, Kelsy Flowers, administered a Caring Bridge site in memory of Rachel and Emerson and to follow Jaxon’s recovery. Sisters Nicole Hoffmeister and Kaitlyn Harberts also helped keep family and friends connected to the progress made in recovery by Jaxon.

The three sisters also held a benefit at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on Saturday, Dec. 8.

A GoFundMe page was set up and resulted in pledges of \$27,000 in the first 24 hours and \$50,000 in 2 1/2 days. The fund is currently at \$65,025.

“It’s almost sad that it takes a tragedy for people to come together and to quit arguing,” Brandon

reflects. “That’s the entire world though,” he said. A sister of Brandon died when she was 6 years old of spinal meningitis. Brandon was 9 1/2 at the time.

Jaxon says he “has always believed” and has prayed a lot during his recovery. Brandon said he has always let his wife and kids make up their own minds in respect to church.

Brandon has tried to stay strong for Jaxon. “I’ve gained weight with all the candy we’ve been given,” Brandon says. He admits that he did not sleep well in the early days of Jaxon’s recovery.

Brandon says his supervisors at work have been very supportive during Jaxon’s recovery. Rochester’s public works director visited Jaxon every other week.

With Christmas just a few days away, Brandon says he and Jaxon may go to a movie, a tradition carried on by Rachel, Emerson, Jaxon and him. Jaxon says his favorite movie was “Jumanji.” Brandon says, “I am a Star Wars fan myself.”

Jaxon keeps lots of appointments at Mayo but still loves to stay at home and watch football. “He also has coffee regularly with the ladies (Rachel’s mother),” Brandon mentions.

Golfing is also a game that appeals to Jaxon. “I got a hole in one at Lanesboro when I was eight,” Jaxon says proudly. He hopes to play some golf at the simulator range at Bunkie’s this winter.

His father also likes golf and never played golf until he met Rachel.

Jaxon’s recovery continues and many of his friends and family members are helping with that recovery.

There seems to be no obstacle that Jaxon can not hurdle.



STAFF PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER

Steele County Sheriff's deputy Kari Woltman provided the Christmas miracle to a young girl from Owatonna on Dec. 5 at the Target store in Owatonna. They shopped together as part of the Shop with a Cop program sponsored by the Salvation Army.

Cops provide Christmas miracle for needy children

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The Christmas miracle came a little early for some needy children from around Steele County as they took advantage of a shopping experience with a least expecting shopper in hand.

Fifteen children were paired up with uniformed officers from Owatonna Police and the Steele County Sheriff's Office on Dec. 5 at the Target store in Owatonna. The officers volunteered their time to be with the kids for shopping, gift wrapping and refreshments.

Armed with a list in hand, sheriff's deputy Kari Woltman wheeled a cart around Target with a young girl by her side. They started by picking out \$100 worth of winter wear and clothing and ended with \$75 in gifts for the girl and the rest of her family.

"Knowing we can put smiles on their faces and interacting with the children at such a young age is a wonderful experience," said Sheriff Lon Thiele, who coordinated the law enforcement effort. "It's a great sense of community policing working with these children."

The Salvation Army, which provides \$100 per child for winter wear and clothing, make the Shop with a Cop program possible. Jan Karasch of the Salvation Army said the money comes from the Army's Kettle fundraiser. Target also kicks in another \$75 per child for gifts.

Karasch said at the start the kids are often shy and not sure what to expect, but by 10 minutes into it, they are beaming from ear to ear

with joy. "It's priceless to watch them interact with the officers," she said. "It's wonderful."

Shop with a Cop, Karasch says, is designed to give children a different perspective and different interaction with law enforcement.

The Salvation Army relies on various community agencies for referrals to be involved with the program, Karasch said. While the Salvation Army utilizes a careful selection process, she pointed out it is not income based at all. The children selected are from Steele County.

"We feel privileged and blessed to do this," Karasch said.

Zeb Schultz of Target coordinates the response from Target for the program. Target provides team members to assist the police officers with finding items in the store for the children. Target also has workers in Santa's Workshop ready to assist with wrapping gifts.

Schultz said Shop with a Cop allows Target to give something back to the Owatonna community. "It's awesome seeing the kids coming in and knowing they are shopping for their families," he said. "This is one of those things that restores your faith in humanity."

Shop with a Cop has been going for seven years in Owatonna with the past two taking place at Target. Karasch said the Salvation Army has received nothing but wonderful feedback about the program. "They are thankful and tell us they didn't know how they were going to provide everything at Christmas," she said of the families involved. "We



STAFF PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER

Fifteen young children from Steele County, including this girl, got the opportunity to pick out Christmas gifts for their family through the Shop with a Cop program. The children were paired up with law enforcement officers from Owatonna Police and Steele County Sheriff's Office.

have never had an unhappy parent," she added.

Thiele said the program is more than just providing gifts at Christmas. "Being able to work with children at such a young age so they're not afraid of us and can come to us if they need any kind of assistance is what this is all about," the sheriff

said.

Besides regular patrol officers, Steele County's special deputies and Owatonna's reserve officers took part in the event.

"It's always nice to do this for the community and give back in a positive way," Schultz said.

Home for the holidays?

Local business help pets find homes for holidays

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

There's no place like home, especially during the holidays. Despite not having a facility, the Steele County Humane Society's extended family of staff and volunteers love, shelter and care for homeless pets, but even the coziest shelter is no substitute for the comfort of a real home.

The SCHS partners with area businesses to host adoption drives on the third Saturday of every month, but now thanks to one area business the event has found a more stable situation.

"They asked us to host one weekend and they were kind of looking for permanent place so they didn't have to jump around between all the random businesses in town," said Shawn Copp, sales consultant with Flooring Frenzy and More. "We were able to tell them that we could host it as many times as they needed us to."

The adoption drive for the month of December was hosted this past Saturday from noon to 2 p.m.

"We are all pet people here," Copp said. "We believe in the cause and they are doing a good thing for the community and the pets. We support them and that's why we wanted to help. It's awesome to see the pets getting adopted and taken home."

The SCHS currently does not have any dogs or puppies, but is in search of foster and forever homes for many cats and kittens.

"Maybe the fact that there isn't a lot of puppies around town is the fact that we are making a difference, and we are getting the spaying and neutering done," foster caregiver and former SCHS board member Pat Jorgensen said. "A lot of people say they can't foster because they would fall in love with them and can't let them go. But you to go into with the frame of mind that when

you find a home for one pet, there are probably 10 more out there that need my help."

Jorgensen, a SCHS volunteer for about 20 years, said it was always rewarding to help pets find a family, although some adoption drives are more successful than others.

"It all depends on the day and who is out and about," she said. "People who are pet owners need to do the right thing and make sure that their pets are spayed and neutered so that we can get this over population under control."

"It would be good if we were out of business one day," Jorgensen continued. "If there are no more unwanted pets. It's wishful thinking and it will probably never happen, but if you're going to be a pet owner make sure you get the right pet. Make sure you know what you're getting into as far as cost for having the pet and choosing a pet that fits your lifestyle."

Pet owners should also consider the benefits to microchipping their pet, in addition to vaccinations and spaying and neutering their pets.

Jorgensen said the SCHS recently reunited a cat that was found in Steele County with its owner in Albert Lea after the cat had been missing for over a year.

"That's kind of the Christmas miracle story," she said. "That little microchip did wonders and reunited them."

Jorgensen said the SCHS plans to begin construction on a new facility once they have the compete cost of the building and three years of operating expenses.

"We are being very cautious," she said. "We want to make sure that we do this with a lot of forethought."

If you have any questions about adoption, volunteering or donations can contact the Steele County Humane Society at 507-451-4512.



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Cabela is a playful, affectionate kitten who is available for adoption through the Steele County Humane Society. For more information call 507-451-4512.

CHURCH PANTRY: Partnership

FROM A2

hunger," Dawn Berg said of the club's participation.

Berg, a retired social worker, works closely with social workers from Lincoln, Washington, and St. Mary's schools who refer the families to the program. "Our school social workers are really priceless," she said. "We have formed relationships with the families which is really special. Our families are so appreciative of the food they get."

"People really want to do good and help families any way possible," Berg added while noting the program's 50 volunteers. On Wednesday Channel One Food Bank delivers food, which is then divvied up or refrigerated until the following day, when families are able to come and pick up what they need for the weekend. During the week the children are able to eat at their schools.

"We've got great volunteers, and we have tremendous support," Kaupa said of her army of volunteers. "Channel One has been awesome to work with, they've just been great," she added.

Back in spring of 2015 when the program was still in its infancy, volunteer Judy Gilman and her husband drove to Rochester and filled their car with food. "The car was so full," she recalled of the trip. What started as a service for 12 to 15 families has now increased to over 20.

"It cost around \$200 for 1,000 pounds of food," Kaupa said. "We're feeding families for \$2 a person each week."

Kaupa, who works as a dietician, knows the value of a healthy diet for those of all ages. "My goal is to get these kids to have access to fruits and veggies," Kaupa explained of her efforts. "As a dietician I feel that's so

important."

The program runs for about 36 weeks of the year and helps to provide not only the students from each school who are referred, but also their families and older siblings. "We do have family members that are teenagers, so we care for the whole family," Kaupa said.

On Thursdays the families are able to pick up their necessary food from either Our Savior's or St. John Lutheran Church, and during the summer the program is operated solely out of Our Savior's. "St. John has a dedicated volunteer crew, they have been involved since the get go," Kaupa explained.

"It's working together with people from other churches and that's a good thing," Marge Larson, who helps assist in the program, said of the partnership. "They're working people, but people that maybe have a little trouble getting everything," Larson said of those they serve.

While most of the volunteers assist during the

unloading on Wednesday mornings or handing out the food on Thursday afternoons, some help in other ways as well. "At different times of the year our Sunday school kids make gift bags," Berg said. Larry Schultz Organic Farms helps provide eggs, and Kwik Trip donates bananas for the program. At the end of the school year they recognize volunteers, and are always on the lookout for more.

Helping those who may be struggling or can't always afford every necessary amenity is what good communities do, and with such willing volunteers and a partnership that has continued to grow and operate successfully, these area churches are strengthening their community.

"Our volunteers are their smiling faces each week," Kaupa said of the work they all do to help those in need.

The Weekend Pantry is held each week during the school year and every other week in summer at St. John



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Wednesday's volunteers at Our Savior's Lutheran Church after finishing unloading and boxing up food for their Weekend Pantry initiative, which helps feed working families in Owatonna. Back row, from left: Tony Nowak, Barb Nowak, Dennis Ebeling, and Marge Larson; front row: Louanne Kaupa, Judy Gilman, Joann Heidecker, and Dawn Berg.

Lutheran Church and Our Savior's Lutheran Church. The churches work in partnership with Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Lincoln,

Washington, and St. Mary's schools, and the Owatonna Golden 'K' Kiwanis Club.

Christmas lights spread the joy

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It's all about spreading the joy of Christmas.

That's the way Rick and Robin Christensen of rural Blooming Prairie feel about their Christmas light display they have provided for public enjoyment the past four years.

"It's Jesus' birthday," Rick says about the reason for having a Christmas lighting display.

From 5-10 p.m. each night, the Christensens throw the switch and put all of their 10,200 Christmas lights on display for anyone who wishes to drive by or walk through the maze of lights.

The lighting display features some large snowmen, an air-plane, Mickey Mouse and Santa Claus and his reindeer sliding atop the Christensens' garage roof.

The Christensens reside at 52300 335th St., about four miles

southeast of Blooming Prairie. They started their lighting tradition soon after they were married five years ago, Oct. 19, 2013, on the steps of the Titanic (display) at Branson, Mo.

Sentimentally, Rick says his favorite lighting display is a small bear he purchased for his wife who said she never had Christmas lights previous to meeting Christensen. Another favorite of Rick and Robin

is a snowman that shivers. "I didn't do much for lights until I married Mrs. Wonderful," laughs Rick.

The Christensens have 16 inflatables which can be seen better on a walking tour.

If viewers drive by, they can tune in to 88.1 FM on their radio and listen to Christmas music synchronized with the lighting display.

The light show is run from a computer.

On Saturday nights, the Christensens serve hot chocolate, marshmallows and S'mores.

"We are celebrating Christmas with our lighting display," says Rick. "We like to do it and love to see the smiles put on the faces of little kids," added Robin.

Repairing an inflatable in his garage, Rick proudly makes mention of a car his wife bought for him. It is a 2013 Chevrolet Camaro, ZL1.

Rick says the car produces 580 horsepower and has a fac-



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Rick and Robin Christensen show off some of their snowmen they have on their Christmas lighting display at their residence in rural Blooming Prairie.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Santa Claus and his reindeer, pulling a sled full of toys, is one of the colorful displays at the Rick and Robin Christensen residence, southeast of Blooming Prairie.

tory super charger. It tops out at 179 miles per hour and will do a quarter mile in 12.1 seconds. What did Rick buy his wife? "Look

at Robin's hand," he implores. She proudly shows off a huge diamond ring.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Karen Peterson of Confections by Karen made 13 dozen cookies to distribute at Santa Night at the Blooming Prairie Police Department on Thursday night, Dec. 13.

Santa makes detour to BP police station to spread holiday cheer

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

That jolly old fellow, sometimes called Santa Claus or St. Nicholas, took a detour on his way to deliver some toys last week by stopping at the Blooming Prairie Police Department.

Santa was joined by two of his elves, some BP police officers and by Explorer Scouts.

Guests, mainly kids escorted by parents or grandparents, entered the front door of the PD and proceeded into the police conference room where Santa was waiting to meet the youngsters.

Santa gave out surprise gifts to the kids and also gave them a special coin that said, "I was caught being nice."

Karen Peterson of Confections by Karen gave out old fashioned sugar cookies and some specially decorated Christmas cookies. She said she made 13 dozen cookies for the event.

Santa's elves were busy taking photos of the kids with Santa and giving the photos to the families.

With kids and adults, the special BPPD Christmas Party for kids was attended by more than 70 kids. The police headquarters were decorated

with plenty of Christmas flavor.

"We thank the community for coming in to visit Santa, his elves and police crew," said Chief Greg Skillestad.

"It's fun to see the kids have fun and have a chance to visit with Santa," Skillestad said. He added that not all youngsters were smiles. Some kids cried but that did not stop their parents from getting a photo of them with Santa and his elves.

"I saw one kid take a coin from Santa and you could read his lips as he said, 'WOW,'" Skillestad said. "That made it all worthwhile," he said.

Skillestad emphasized that no city funds were used for sponsorship of the Santa visit.

"Santa's visit provided a way for kids to interact with the local police department," said Officer Dan Peach. "If kids need help or need someone to talk to, they can reach out to police," Peach said.

"It's cool to have the trust of the kids," Peach added.

Santa and his elves promise to make a stop at the Blooming Prairie Police Department again next year. Santa plans on visiting next year in the council chambers.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Santa saw more than 70 kids when he stopped by the Blooming Prairie Police Department on Thursday night, Dec. 13. Here, he poses for a photo with Odin Haberman, 7 months; Imogen Esse, 3 and Madigan Esse, 9.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Hudson Linse's father, Gene, is a special deputy with the Steele County Sheriff's Office. Gene and the rest of his family, Jamie, Henry and Hudson, are shown with Steely and Stella at the Steele County Fair this past summer.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Little Hudson Linse will be spending the holidays in the hospital recovering from his fourth open-heart surgery. A benefit is planned on Saturday outside of Blooming Prairie.

OPEN HEART: Hudson Linse FROM A1

side throughout the entire ordeal. She doesn't know exactly when Hudson will be released, but it will likely be until late January.

"Surgery is a temporary bandage to make him have the best life now," Jamie said. "It's not a fix or cure. It's just making it so he can live. Every day is a miracle."

With Hudson in ICU, James stays with him every chance she gets. She stays at the near-by Ronald McDonald House. "It's hard for me to leave the hospital," she said. "I wouldn't have to be here, but I want to be here every day and be involved in his care."

Of the most recent surgery, Jamie said, "It has been very emotional for me. It's a tough situation. It's stressful and

there are tears. Very tough mentally and emotionally."

Since the surgery last month, Hudson has been heavily sedated with drugs. "He's not too aware of anything," Jamie said.

Jamie takes comfort in knowing Hudson won't remember anything that's happening to his young body. "It's a blessing that all the big surgeries are done," she said.

When he's not in the hospital, Hudson receives outside help from Owatonna Schools with the Grow with Me program. A school worker comes to the Linse house to work with Hudson on fine motor skills and social skills, including speech. He walks with the aide of a walker.

Hudson's ordeal in landing a stronger heart has put a

drastic strain on the Linse family. His father, Gene Linse, stays at their rural Steele County home with Henry, who is 6 years old and just started kindergarten this year. Henry had stayed at the hospital in the past prior to starting school this fall.

Gene has been forced to reduce his work schedule to part time in order to accom-

WINTER FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER

Benefitting Hudson Linse
Featuring the Pittman Percherons

Saturday 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Witt Farms
30175 U.S. Hwy. 218
Blooming Prairie

modate getting Henry off to school in the mornings. Other family members jump in to help in the afternoons. He is a truck driver with Waterford Oil Co. of Northfield and also volunteers in the community as a special deputy with the Steele County Sheriff's Office.

The Linses knew about some of the problems Hudson would encounter even before he was born. During a 20-week ultrasound, doctors couldn't get a good picture of his heart and immediately sent Jamie to Rochester for further testing. She said it became tough trying to enjoy the rest of her pregnancy knowing something wasn't quite right with her unborn.

Hudson will never function with a normal heart. Doctors estimate that his heart will have the functionality of about 67 percent, according to Jamie. Hudson will not be able to be involved in any

contact sports, but should be able to bicycle and run, she said. "He won't have endurance," she added.

The little boy is expected to have lifelong cardiology appointments to monitor his situation. What exactly happens moving forward will depend on how his heart grows.

"We're hoping for a good case where he will just need tune-ups for the valves rather than another open heart surgery," Jamie said, adding he mainly has non-invasive procedures ahead of him.

Family and friends are planning a Winter Festival benefit for Hudson on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Witt Farms located south of Blooming Prairie. Jamie's sister, Tracy Pittman, Erin Pittman and Emma Basness are organizing the fundraiser, which will feature sleigh rides, bonfire, cookies and

refreshments. There will be a free-will donation.

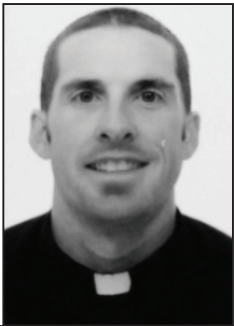
The sleigh rides will feature the Pittman Percherons, which win awards in horse shows throughout the state every summer. Hudson is a big supporter of the horses. "He loves the horses. He completely lights up when he sees the horses," Tracy Pittman said. "We consider him part of the pit crew," she added.

Tracy said the fundraiser is one way for the Pittmans to give back to Hudson.

"It's very hard to see him sedated and kind of just laying there," Tracy said, noting Hudson is normally a very free-willed boy who "talks your ear off."

Jamie hopes to take a break from the hospital and attend the fundraiser for a short time. "I want to give some people hugs and love for being there," she said.

The Christmas Encounter



Father Tom Niehaus
ST. COLUMBANUS & SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
BLOOMING PRAIRIE AND HAYFIELD

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14).”

When God makes his dwelling upon us, literally we can say, that He pitches His tent or constructs His tabernacle in our camp. The tent or tabernacle for the Jewish people of the Old Testament was the place of God’s presence among His people.

During this Christmas season, Christians throughout the world celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ the truth that God himself enters into space and time. Jesus is the fulfillment of all

the Old Testament teachings of the law and the prophets who pointed to the Messiah or the Immanuel which means “God is with us.”

When Jesus takes on the frailty of human flesh He who is fully Divine takes on our full humanity except sin. The Christ-Child enters into the camp of the world in a mysteriously simple and crude way. This way is fitting for God because He has assisted His people consistently throughout time in subtle and varied ways that are usually beyond the power of the human intellect.

Points for prayer: this Christmas let us find

ourselves singing songs of praise with the angels, or humbly bowing to the tiny baby with the shepherds, or simply taking the situation in like the animals or perhaps feeling the love shared for this special child by Mary and Joseph. With gratitude for the mystery of faith that is revealed at Christmas, I pray that you and your families would be blessed during this Holy Season.

Merry Christmas!



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 Slipper 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.goodshepherd owatonna.com Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. MOLAND LUTHERAN – ELCA 7618 NE 84th Ave., Kenyon Pastor Nancy Edwardson 507-789-6661 Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN – ELCA 9651 SW 75th St., Ellendale Pastor Mike Walerius 507-465-8366 Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sun. 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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Christmas in the Country



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Scott Groth of the Ellendale Commercial Club presents a special prize to Audrina Suchow of Fairmont during Kids Bingo at Floors for U on Saturday, Dec. 8.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Twenty-eight Christmas trees were on display as part of the Festival of Trees at the Old Fifth Avenue Pizza place. Cynthia Nelson and Pat Motl put up the trees in the building owned by Victor and Kelli Mrotz.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
JayLee Larson, 5, of Ellendale, was a smiling face behind a wood sign table at a holiday craft fair Saturday at the Ellendale Community Center.

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Natalie

Natalie is a very sweet, talkative, and friendly 14-year-old. She enjoys reading, going to movies, bowling and cooking. She thinks it would be cool to be a make-up artist when she grows up. Natalie has no special requests of her future Big, she would just like someone to hang out with. 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.

Varzaes

Varzaes is a sweet and smart 10-year-old. He enjoys playing board games, video games, soccer, and watching movies. He hopes to be a police officer when he grows up and wants to learn to be helpful and friendly. Varzaes hopes his future Big is someone he "can rely on with his problems." 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.

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STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Winter frost brought about painting like results during a few days last week. This barn scene was found on a farm located about five miles south of Blooming Prairie on Highway 218.

Frost brings winter magic



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

It was winter beauty at its finest as frost formed on these pine trees on County Road 46 west of Blooming Prairie. Types of frost include crystalline frost (hoar frost, hoarfrost, radiation frost) from deposition of water vapor from air of low humidity, white frost in humid conditions, window frost on glass surfaces, advection frost from cold wind over cold surfaces, black frost without visible ice at low temperatures and very low humidity, and rime under supercooled wet conditions.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The streets of Blooming Prairie had a beautiful, frosty look on several days last week. Frost is a thin layer of ice on a solid surface, which forms from water vapor in an above freezing atmosphere coming in contact with a solid surface whose temperature is below freezing. Ice crystals of frost form as the result of fractal process development.

Area newspapers cease printing

A pair of area newspapers serving Dodge and Olmsted counties has printed their final editions after the owner abruptly put a halt to continuing publishing community news in those communities.

Community News Corp., which published the Byron Review and Star Herald of Dodge Center, made the announcement to staff members last Monday, Dec. 10 and on the front pages of last week's newspapers.

Larry and Melanie Dobson of Dodge Center have owned the newspapers for the past 15 years.

Last week's announcement will also bring an end to the Town & Country

Trading Post shopper, which the Dobsons started in March.

The Dobsons cited "lack of profitability" as the reason for ceasing publication.

"It has not been profitable for many years," Larry Dobson wrote in last week's newspapers.

"We kept it going mostly out of love for journalism and the belief that having a newspaper is important to the sense of identity people have with their communities, that it helps build community spirit and promotes cooperation."

Larry went on to say, "It is very expensive to produce a newspaper, and

we do not have the resources to continue production."

The Dobsons indicated in other media reports during the week that they have filed for bankruptcy with the newspapers.

In a letter to readers, Melanie said, "We may not have been the most professional paper, but we have tried to get things right. I feel our papers have had a lot of heart — heart, humor and joy."

The only newspaper remaining in Dodge County is the Dodge County Independent, which is based in Kasson and owned by Rick Bussler, publisher of the Steele County Times.

Bussler has published the DCI for more than three years.

Voters to decide fate of new high school

Special election set for May 14 in Owatonna

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The issue of building a new high school will end up in the hands of voters next spring after action taken by the Owatonna School Board Dec. 10.

At last week's meeting, school board members accepted the Community Task Force on Facilities recommendation to build a new high school. The board also authorized Superintendent Jeff Elstad to prepare a resolution with ballot language as well as the Review and Comment report as required by the Minnesota Department of Education for a special school election on May 14.

The board's approval comes after it authorized Elstad to form a task force in July to study Owatonna's facilities and to develop and update a comprehensive,

long-range Facilities Master Plan for recommendation to the board.

The Task Force provided its recommendation to build a new high school on Nov. 26. During a work session held the following week, three major companies in Owatonna came forward in support of a new high school and offered generous financial support. Federated Insurance leads the charge by earmarking \$20 million to the project. Wenger Corporation and Viracon have also pledged their products and services, believed to be in excess of \$1 million each.

The total project cost is estimated at \$138 million.

The board is expected to review the ballot language at its regular board meeting on Jan. 28, according to Shaylene Baumbach, spokesperson for Owatonna Schools.

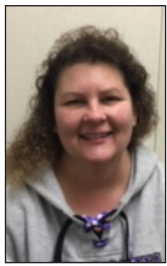
Program helps raise babies

There is so much delight in new born babies. We are amazed by how fast they grow and develop. It seems like they are learning something new every day.

Did you know that there are certain milestones a baby must reach every 2-4 months? For example, a child should be cooing by two months or sitting up by 6 months. Sometimes, it is hard to know if our child is actually doing what they are supposed to especially when we compare ours kids to others. Because kids develop at different rates, it is hard to know if our kids are on track.

One way to know for sure is to sign up for the Follow Along Program (FAP) at Steele County Public Health. The FAP is a great way to learn about your child and follow their health and development through questionnaires that are sent to you every few months. You fill them out and send them back to us. We score the questionnaires and tell you the results. If there are concerns, someone will get in touch with you and together plan what to do next.

Some options include a direct referral to the school district's early childhood services to get the child evaluated. It could be a medical referral. Or, it just could be that your child couldn't do some of the skills the day you filled out the form but after several weeks your child is now doing them, for instance, like walking up and down stairs or kicking a ball, and there is no longer any concern. Many parents will shy away from this type of program because it may put the parent in a "bad light" if their child is not developing where he/she should be. None of us want to hear that our child is behind, but as hard as it is to hear, it



Steele Talkin'
JUNE PIEPHO

is better if you find out while they are toddlers and young enough to "catch up" in development then waiting for school and trying to "catch them up" as a kindergartener or older child to which they are being singled out from their peers, and plain and

simple, it is harder to catch them up as the child gets older which gives them a bad attitude about learning and school. Make it easier for everyone and get help right away.

The questionnaires used are the ASQ3 and the ASQ-SE 2 which are evidenced based tools that give a snapshot on how your child is doing at that time. All children who get screened for kindergarten will fill out the appropriate age form of the ASQ-SE too. Some doctor offices will use these forms as well because it is an accurate picture of where that child is at in development and what areas the parent can work on with the child.

The FAP offers a lot of information to help parents sort through and process their child's development, and we are here to answer questions and to be helpful in any way we can. This is a fun way to get ideas about "what to teach" and "what age to" teach different skills to your child. This is also an easy way to find out about other activities for you and your child to do together and what services you may want for your child. This program runs from birth to 36 months. There is no cost to you. Sign up today and learn about your child's development and make sure they are ready for kindergarten.

June Piepho is the Follow Along Program coordinator with Steele County Public Health in Owatonna. Steele Talkin' is a weekly column featuring authors

Steele County birders flock together for Christmas Bird Count

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

For 47 years Steele County birders have aided the longest running community science project by assisting the Audubon Society with its yearly Christmas Bird Count effort.

The data that is collected will be used to gauge migration and population trends of birds around the globe. Darryl Hill, who started up the local effort 47 years ago, leads his team of birders each year, compiling the results and sending them in to the Audubon Society.

While tackling this expansive effort, the group utilizes bird spotters in the field by dividing up the county into quadrants with their nexus located at Havana Township. This creates a 15 miles radius that stretches



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Birders in the field include from left, Lowell Larson, Nels Thompson, and Terry Dorsey. They use binoculars to follow the path of a Red-tailed Hawk. Larson, Thompson, and Dorsey were tasked with spotting in the northeast quadrant of this year's Christmas Bird Count.

out to encompass parts of the county, one of over 100 such circles in the state. There are also feeder spotters who stay home and birders who walk through the city of Owatonna.

"We had around 20 or so people when we started," Hill recalled of the number of participants at the beginning, noting that this year could see more than 100 birders from feeder spotters to those in the field. The increase in participants means more reliable data. "Owatonna is so supportive, they're interested, and the more people, the more accurate the count is," Hill explained.

This year's count had about

15 birders out in the field patrolling those quadrants, including Lowell Larson, who has participated in the bird count for 45 of its 47 years in Steele County. "A single year's numbers are not as significant as a trend, if you see a trend over several years or 10 years, that's more significant," Larson said of what the data can tell scientists.

The reason for the specific date which is chosen by each local group between mid-December and early January, is to ensure that the birds are sedentary. "Birds are not migrating, that's where they are, so if you count birds at this time all over the world,

it's more accurate," Hill said.

Hill explained that this year saw far less birds in his early morning going, particularly due to the fact that Lake Kohlmer, which falls within his southwestern quadrant, was iced over. This meant that waterfowl were already on the move south, or else hunkered down in places like Morehouse Park, where running water allows them respite.

It is an all-day affair. Birders rise early to begin their routes and stay at it until sundown, taking a break during the early afternoon when bird activity is at a minimum. "They are more active in the morning, or in the evening," Larson explained.

Larson was part of a group surveying the northeastern quadrant, including Rice Lake State Park and Clinton Falls. He scouted along with long-time birders Terry Dorsey and Nels Thompson, both of whom also participate in the Austin count.

By the afternoon their team had spotted 19 species, including two stationary bald eagles near Rice Lake. "We were pleased to see a number of pheasants," Larson said of their early morning results. Other rare birds they

SEE BIRD COUNT, B2

Area senator congratulates Minnesota Biofuel Producers

Federal and state officials joined the Minnesota Corn Growers Association, American Lung Association in Minnesota, and other renewable fuel advocates to celebrate on Dec. 13 the opening of more than 400 E85 stations in Minnesota, and the 300th station selling 88 octane fuel in the state.

The event highlighted the successful completion of the Biofuels Infrastructure Partnership (BIP), a national public-private effort to make cleaner-burning ethanol fuels available to more American motorists. Through BIP, the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded Minnesota \$8 million for ethanol infrastructure development. The federal grant funding was matched by more than \$3.5 million in state funds, \$2.5 million in private funds, and an investment of more than \$9.7 million from fuel station owners. A total of 137 locations across Minnesota received funding under this effort.

"I am pleased to congratulate Minnesota's biofuel producers on their continued success and economic contributions to our state," said Sen. Dan Sparks, DFL-Austin. "Through cooperation and collaboration among many different stakeholders, Minnesota has grown to the fourth-largest ethanol producer in the United States. This has delivered tremendous dividends to southern Minnesota in the form of economic growth and reliable income for family farmers."

Minnesota has more E85 stations than any other state, and the state has also been a leader in the growth of the new 88 octane gasoline (also known as E15). E85 is a high-ethanol fuel blend that can be used interchangeably with gasoline in flex fuel vehicles. There are more than 30,000 flex fuel vehicles in Minnesota. The 88 octane gasoline is a 15 percent ethanol blend, which has been approved for use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for any 2001 and newer on-road gasoline light-duty vehicle. Minnesota's regular 87 octane gasoline has been a 10 percent ethanol blend for more than 20 years.

Railroad updates in Ellendale



Workmen for the Union Pacific Railroad have been busy recently updating the railroad signals in downtown Ellendale on Highway 30. New signal arms have been installed.

SMIF awards 4 economic grants

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) approved four Economic Development grants totaling \$33,900 to organizations that participated in a "Building an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem" event earlier this year.

The goal of the grant is to fund projects that support the development of entrepreneurial cultures in communities that are in SMIF's 20-county region.

Funding was awarded to the following organizations:

- \$10,000 to the Development Corporation of Austin (DCA) for the Austin Food & Beverage Co-Manufacturing Feasibility Study. In partnership with Riverland Community College - Agricultural Utilization Research Institute, DCA will conduct an assessment of manufacturers, food industry experts and food entrepreneurs of gaps and needs to support scale-up-ready businesses.
- \$5,000 to the City of Spring Grove for the Imagine Spring Grove Entrepreneur Toolkit and accompanying programming to equip

entrepreneurs with the resources and information they need to address common business challenges, such as start-up procedures, financial management, succession planning and more. This grant will leverage the momentum started by Spring Grove's participation in SMIF's Rural Entrepreneurial Ventures (REV) program.

- \$8,900 to Community and Economic Development Associates for the Bluff Country Collaborative - Youth Entrepreneurship Initiative which engages youth in meaningful exploration of entrepreneurial career opportunities in Houston, Fillmore and Winona Counties. This initiative will inspire youth to explore entrepreneurship as a viable career option, providing access to educational opportunities both in and outside of the classroom.
- \$10,000 to Minnesota State University, Mankato for the Extension of the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem workshop. A pilot collaboration between Rochester's

Destination Medical Center and Minnesota State University, Mankato's Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, this high-quality design workshop will equip college students to develop solutions to real world problems with the goal of growing a culture of entrepreneurship by sparking innovative projects.

"We are excited to fund these new initiatives to support the growth of entrepreneurship in our region," said Pam Bishop, vice president of Economic Development at SMIF. "Thanks to these organizations, southern Minnesota continues to be innovative in its approach to economic development."

Additional funding for economic development projects is available. To inquire about this grant program, contact Pam Bishop at 507-214-7013 or pamb@smifoundation.org. For information about SMIF's other grant programs, contact Jennifer Heien, Grants Coordinator, at 507-214-7040 or jenniferh@smifoundation.org.

BIRD COUNT:

Count goes back to 1900 FROM B1

encountered while on their afternoon jaunt was a flock of bluebirds, which were to the east of Clinton Falls.

"We've never had bluebirds before," Dorsey said while tallying their numbers. Dorsey, Thompson, and Larson utilize binoculars and spot from primarily their car. They also use an app which can help them identify a given species based on markings, but a bird's call can also be a tell. "Sometimes the call is more diagnostic than the patterns," Dorsey said.

Jeanine Vorland, who works for the DNR and has been taking part in the bird count for just over 10 years, was tasked with the southeastern quadrant this year. She had spotted 329 birds before noon, including rare pine siskins near Claremont. Pine siskins are a relative of the goldfinch.

"It's interesting to see changes from year to year," Vorland said. With a background in wildlife management, she is perfectly experienced for the task. "I have one of the rare instances where my avocation and vocation are aligned," she said.

While those in the field are

busy traveling throughout their quadrant, often straining their eyes to spot an airborne avian or two, feeder spotters are able to assist in the project from home. "If you see one bird, say a chickadee, at your feeder, and then later you see two, and after that four, you count it as four, so it's the most you see at one time," Hill explained of how feeder spotters tally up their birds.

At the end of the day the information is compiled by Hill, and from there it will go to the Audubon Society for use in scientific research. The Christmas Bird Count is a worldwide affair, with locations in North, Central, and South America, as well as Africa. All of the circles are the same size, ensuring accurate and consistent data.

The Christmas Bird Count began on Christmas Day of 1900, when ornithologist Frank Chapman had the idea to count birds, instead of killing them. This year's Steele County bird count was held on Dec. 15. With warm weather, and sunny skies, it was a perfect day to be out bird watching, and for those who participated in the study, it was a great way to take part in a tradition that is over 100 years old.

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to be included in all plans made after the death of a spouse. Reactions may be supportive, protective, jealous, or insecure. And all family members should be encouraged to discuss feelings about the new relationship and how it affects the family. Dating after the death of a spouse can be a positive step forward for everyone concerned.

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Cancer Corner

Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

There's always hope out there. Cancer survivors everywhere love to share their experiences as they battle cancer.

We went hunting for some inspiring quotes at Christmas time. We found 20 inspirational quotes from a website entitled I Had Cancer. The message from all cancer survivors is "Never give up, never gave in."

Here they are:

1. You beat cancer by how you live, why you live and in the manner in which you live.
2. Remember how far you've come, not just how far you have to go. You may not be where you want to be, but neither are you where you used to be.
3. You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think, and twice as beautiful as you'd ever imagined.
4. When you have exhausted all possibilities, remember this: You haven't.
5. Your life is your story. Write well. Edit Often.
6. Be thankful for this day.
7. Small steps every day.
8. Never be ashamed of a scar. It simply means you were stronger than whatever tried to hurt you.
9. When it rains, look for rainbows When it's dark, look for stars
10. Optimism: someone who figures that taking a step backward after taking a step forward is not a disaster; it's more like a cha-cha.
11. Never give up. Never give in.
12. I have loved the stars too fondly to be fearful of the night.
13. Surround yourself with only people who are going to lift you higher.
14. Good thoughts only.
15. Don't look back. You're not going that way.
16. I can and I will.
17. I had cancer, cancer never had me.
18. Cancer is a word, not a sentence.
19. Broken crayons still color.
20. It is often in the darkest skies that we see the brightest stars.



Word Search Corner

Christmas

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

Word List

Presents • Candy Cane • Ornament • Elf
Snowman • Tree • Seigh • Lights • Star
North Pole • Stocking • Bag of Toys • Holly
Santa Claus • Snow • Wreath • Reindeer



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BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 700 block of Center Ave. N at 3:30 p.m.

Holiday traditions abound

Christmas has always been my absolute favorite time of the year. We have so many long-time traditions that we cherish in our family.

My wife Rosie has taken on the family tradition of lefse baking. This tradition has been passed down many generations on my mother's side of the family. Everyone gets involved in the process and everyone argues who should be the first to taste test the batch – nothing better than warm lefse fresh off the grill with butter and sugar. My mother always bakes her amazing Christmas bread and home-made cinnamon rolls.

Another tradition is our family's Norwegian meatballs, which I now make each year. I also continue to make my Dad's scalloped corn, a family favorite. We make our family's Norwegian Sweet Soup recipe too, which we serve warm as a side or after dinner treat. Then there's all the different Christmas cookies –

Christmas wreath cookies and nutmeg logs are two favorites.

As you can see, a lot of the Rose family tradition revolves around food. We also have stockings for all the family members displayed, including my original stocking that my parents gave to me when I was 1 year old. We prefer a real tree and love putting up our old Christmas ornaments. Each family member has a container with ornaments collected over the years, including ornaments I've had since I was a kid.

My wife collects the Breyer Christmas horses each year and decorates our home with them, a tradition I'm sure our kids will always remember. It's funny how certain smells at Christmas - the food, the pine scent from the Christmas tree, the candles...



Dodge Sheriff
SCOTT ROSE

even the smell of the older ornaments and decorations bring back so many great memories of years past - memories that serve as constant reminders to us how blessed our family has been over the years.

This year, be sure to remember and thank those who work day and night to protect our families, our communities, and our country. Our military both here and abroad and our public safety partners – law enforcement, fire, and medical. These great men and women often sacrifice so much during the holidays in order to help keep us safe and secure. They add “Public Service” to their list of family traditions. For that we are all grateful.

This week 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 serving our communities and our country, and a prayer for those struggling this holiday season. Also consider volunteering and/or donating to some of the many great service organizations in our community. Make donating and volunteering a family tradition - great life lessons your kids will always remember and hopefully pass down to the next generation. Together we can help continue to make Dodge County a great place to live and raise our families.

On behalf of the great men and women serving you at the Dodge County Sheriff's Office, we wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and safe and Happy New Year.

Your Sheriff,
Scott

Scott Rose has been sheriff of Dodge County since 2015. He was just re-elected to another four-year term last month.

CRIME BRIEF

CITIZEN TIP LEADS TO ARREST



LAROQUE

An anonymous tip from a citizen led police to picking up a man wanted on an outstanding warrant.

Owatonna Police received the tip on Dec. 7 that a man with the warrant would be leaving a residence in the 100 block of W. Front Street. Patrol officers and

detectives set up surveillance and saw a man matching the description of the wanted person getting into the backseat of a vehicle.

When police stopped the vehicle, officers found Coty Laroque, 26, of Owatonna, lying down in the backseat. During a search, police found a bandana that contained a glass pipe with methamphetamine.

After the bandana and glass pipe were uncovered, officers placed them on the hood of the squad. At that time, Laroque allegedly headbutted the hood, causing a dent and about \$640 in damage to the squad.

Besides the warrant for receiving stolen property, Laroque has also been charged with fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance and third-degree damage to property.

COURT NEWS

Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Dec. 3 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

Tommy L. Bennett, 28, Waseca, previously appeared and was convicted of felony solicit child or believe to be a child through electronic communication to engage in sexual conduct. Bennett was sentenced to \$1,081, 90 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, psychological-sexual evaluation, attend sex offender program, predatory offender registration, submit to polygraph examination as directed, no contact with minor, no possession of pornography, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

Aaron D. Robinson-Velzke, 31, Florence, SD, previously appeared and was convicted of felony fleeing in motor vehicle and gross misdemeanor DWI. The defendant was sentenced to \$581, 30 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend MADD impact panel, obtain permission to leave the state, 216 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

Marcus A. Trevino, 26, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony receiving stolen property and felony motor vehicle theft. He was sentenced to \$581, 79 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, no contact with victim, complete gambling assessment, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Dec. 3 – 7:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Brayann J. Cremeans, 19, Ellendale, suspended license, \$281; Matthew E. Stegmüller, 39, Minneapolis, speeding, \$131.

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Robert D. Hutchens, 40, New Richland, forgery – destroy/ mutilate record and conspiracy to import minnows, stay of adjudication, \$20,581, 240 hours of community service, obtain permission to leave the state and 1 year of supervised probation.

MN STATE PATROL

ROCHESTER

Jesse A. Banton, 35, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$106; Scott A. Bloom, 32, Minneapolis, no insurance, \$281; Casey J. Boris, 26, Fairmont, expired registration, \$111; Leonel A. Cardenas, 29, St. Paul, speeding, \$381; Melvin K. Carter, 29, Woodville, MS, speeding and no license, \$231; Samuel A. Escobar, 20, Storm Lake, IA, speeding and no license, \$241; Donald F. Hogan, 61, Maple Grove, speeding, \$141; Kimberly K. Kellum, 51, Cleveland, seat belt, \$106; Cindy S. Kephart, 61, Mason City, IA, speeding, \$131; Christopher W. Kirsch, 45, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Dylan R. Larson, 18, Mora, speeding, \$141; Victor A. Madrigal Jr., 53, Aurora, IL, expired registration, \$111; Xavier J. Martine, 38, Minneapolis, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$115 and 30 days of unsupervised probation; Mario P. Rosas, 49, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Derek J. Schwab, 27, Milwaukee, WI, speeding, \$141; Samantha M. Wencel, 21, Blooming Prairie, no insurance, \$281; Karen S. Wong, 22, Verona, WI, speeding, \$221.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Danielle R. Abbas, 43, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Darron D. Anderson, 30, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Megan M. Dalland, 24, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Morgan M. Dallmann, 19, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$131; Alexander J. Kaufman, 22, Owatonna, DWI and carrying pistol under influence of alcohol, \$706, 3 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel and 2 years of supervised probation; Shawn P. McDowell, 40, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Tiara J. Munoz, 20, Morristown, failure to obey traffic control device, \$131; Teri L. Prestegard, 18, Owatonna, following vehicle too closely, \$131; Deandre L. Rogers, 29, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281 and 1 year of supervised probation; Lois S. Velzke, 87, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Tiffany A. Wadley, 36, Owatonna, revoked license, stay of adjudication, \$50 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Saadio Warsame, 38, Owatonna, no insurance and no license, \$381; Shalene H. Wilson, 28, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Rodney A. Bramstedt, 50, Blooming Prairie, revoked license and seat belt, \$306; Mary C. Ebert, 60, Kilkenney, speeding, \$121; Earl P. Gray, 74, St. Paul, speeding, \$221; Devon J. Hovey, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Bridgett D. Mitchell, 44, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$281; Joseph R. Nagel, 29, Lake City,

speeding, \$141; Trevor D. Twite, 21, Owatonna, speeding, \$121.

POLICE BLOTTER

Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

Dec. 8

Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 700 block of Center Ave. N at 3:30 p.m.

Dec. 9

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 200 block of 1st St. SW at 12:20 a.m.

Dec. 10

Shoplifting: At 6:24 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 200 block of Highway Ave. S.

OWATONNA POLICE

Dec. 7

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of Front St. W. at 12:44 p.m.

Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of McKinley St. E. at 10:03 p.m. -

Dec. 8

Hit and Run: Hit and run accidents resulting in property damage occurred in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 8:06 a.m. and the 300 block of Allan Ave. SW at 6:49 p.m.

Shoplifting: At 8:10 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Dec. 9

Trespassing: Police arrested a subject for trespassing in the 500 block of Academy St. E. at 3:18 a.m.

Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of Main St. E. at 3:38 a.m. They took a subject into custody.

Burglary: At 6:33 a.m., officers began a burglary investigation in the 600 block of Mound St. SW.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 200 block of Rose St. E. at 3:46 p.m.

Threats: Police responded to a subject making threats in the 200 block of 12th St. NE at 9:54 p.m.

Theft: At 11:29 p.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 300 block of McIndoe St. SE.

Dec. 10

Welfare: Officer conducted a welfare check in the 700 block of Paris Place SE at 8:28 a.m.

Arrest: Police assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 12:08 p.m.

Assault: Police responded to an assault in the 300 block of School St. E. at 3:38 p.m.

Dec. 11

Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in

the 400 block of 16th St. NE at 2:05 a.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 400 block of North St. W. at 9:45 a.m.

Medical: Police responded to a medical emergency in the 100 block of Elm Ave. N. at 12:50 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 12:57 p.m.

Welfare: Officer conducted a welfare check in the 100 block of Riverside Ave. NW at 2:54 p.m.

Shoplifting: At 3:13 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 100 block of Vine St. W.

Dec. 12

Medical: At 12:51 p.m., police arrested a subject after responded to a medical emergency in the 1400 block of Elm Ave. S.

Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 200 block of 21st St. NW at 3:57 p.m.

Animal: Officers responded to an animal bite in the 1900 block of State Ave. NW at 5:20 p.m.

Dec. 13

Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 1800 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 2:04 a.m. They arrested a subject on the scene.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 200 block of Rose St. E. at 7:21 a.m.

Drugs: Police responded to drug activity in the 300 block of School St. E. at 8:13 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 300 block of Main St. E. at 8:15 a.m. and the 400 block of Broadway St. E. at 9:15 a.m.

Bomb Threat: Officers responded to a bomb threat in the 700 block of Academy St. E. at 5:39 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Dec. 7

Welfare: Deputy conducted a welfare check in the 100 block of 8th Ave. W. in Ellendale at 3:43 p.m.

Dec. 9

Burglary: Deputies began a burglary investigation in the 8900 block of Lemond Road in Lemond Township at 11:21 a.m.

Dec. 10

Crash: At 5:03 p.m., a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage occurred at 4th St. SW and Central Ave. W. in Medford.

Dec. 11

Drugs: Deputies handled drug activity at the detention center at 12:38 p.m.

Warrants: Deputies made warrant arrests in the 41000 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township at 2:08 p.m. and the 200 block of 1st St. SE in Medford at 3:10 p.m.

Owatonna Police

Coty William Laroque, 26, arrested at 2:10 p.m. Dec. 7, warrant arrest, held for court.

Michael Lee Schwebach, 29, arrested at 10:45 p.m. Dec. 7, assault and disorderly conduct, held for court.

David Deluna, 40, arrested at 3:54 a.m. Dec. 9, trespassing and contempt of court, held for court.

Ashley Ann Schultz, 32, arrested at 4:32 a.m. Dec. 9, assault and domestic assault, held for court.

Christopher John Johnson, 53, arrested at 1:54 p.m. Dec. 10, apprehension and detention arrest, held for court.

Justin Lee Johnson, 29, arrested at 5:20 p.m. Dec. 10, warrant arrest, held for court.

Deandrea Antoina Gill, 24, arrested at 5 a.m. Dec. 11, assault and domestic assault, held for court.

Hanna Jean Anderson, 19, arrested at 3:45 p.m. Dec. 11, warrant arrest, held for court.

Misty Donell Herrley, 35, arrested at 3:40 p.m. Dec. 11, warrant arrest, held for court.

Jarod James Fuller, 20, arrested at 2:29 a.m. Dec. 13, apprehension and detention arrest, held for court.

Branden Anthony Hendrickson, 19, arrested at 6:53 p.m. Dec. 12, drugs, held for court.

Cody Dean Schoultz, 28, arrested at 11:02 p.m. Dec. 13, drug court, held for court.

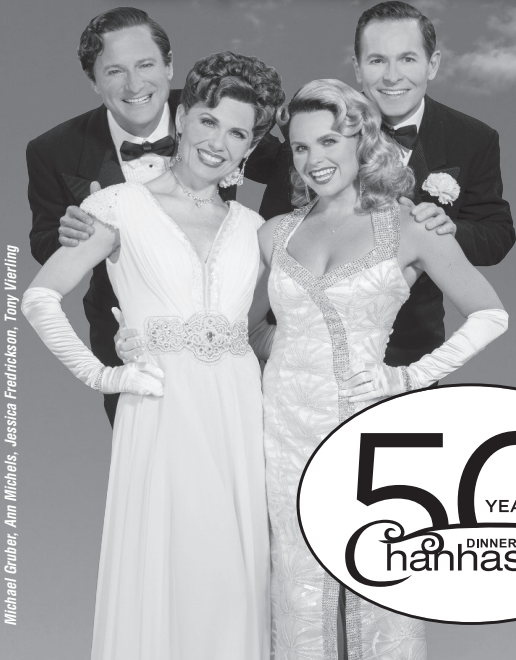
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Kevin Donald Morrow, 40, arrested Dec. 12, felony possession, held for court.

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Paranoid Paul

Dear Paul,
Mistakes in the Social Security earnings record are actually fairly common. Your Social Security benefits are based on your highest 35 years of earnings history. So, if your earnings for any particular year are underreported, it will reduce your benefits. These errors typically occur because your employer either reported your earnings incorrectly or reported your earnings using the wrong name or Social Security number. Or if you got married or divorced and changed your name but did not report the change to Social Security.

CHECK YOUR STATEMENT
The best way to keep an eye on your benefits and avoid any possible mistakes is to carefully review your Social Security statement every year. To do this, go to SSA.gov/myaccount and then print your statement out on paper. If you're age 60 or older and not yet receiving benefits and don't have a My Social Security account online, your statement will actually be mailed to you about three months before your birthday. Your Social Security statement lists your earnings record for each year of employment and estimates the benefits you and your family may receive as a result of those earnings. Once you get your statement, take some time to verify its accuracy by comparing the earnings listed on your statement with your own tax records or W-2 statements. You have to correct errors within 3 years, 3 months and 15 days following the year of the mistake. If you happen to spot a discrepancy within that time limit, follow these steps. First, call your nearest Social Security office (see SSA.gov/locator or call 800-772-1213 to get the number) to report the error. Some corrections can be made over the phone, or you may need to

schedule an appointment and go in with copies of your W-2 forms or tax returns to prove the mistake, or you can mail it in. If you suspect a discrepancy but don't have backup records, the Social Security Administration (SSA) may be able to use your employment information to search its records and correct mistakes. If the SSA can't locate your records, you'll need to contact the employer to obtain a copy of your W-2 for the year in question. Once your earnings record is corrected, Social Security will send you a confirming letter. If you don't receive the confirmation within three months, contact them again, and double-check the correction by making sure it appears on your Social Security statement. If corrections aren't made on your statement start an appeals process (see SSA.gov/pubs/EN-05-10041.pdf).

OTHER MISTAKES
Social Security earnings miscalculations can also happen if there's a mistake in your current mailing address that the IRS has on file for you. Check your federal tax returns for this possible error; especially if you've moved recently. To correct your address, contact the IRS at 800-829-3676 and ask them to mail you the "Change of Address" form 8822, or print it off at IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8822.pdf, fill it out and mail it back to the address on the form. Other factors that can cause mistakes are if your name or date of birth in the SSA records isn't the same as it appears in the IRS files. So double-check your Social Security statement for these possible mishaps, and if you find an error call the 800-772-1213 and ask for Form SS-5, "Application for a Social Security Card," and submit it with the correct information. The form can also be downloaded at SSA.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf. *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.*

Owatonna groups awarded grants from Otto Bremer Trust

The Otto Bremer Trust has awarded \$10,296,101 in grants as part of its most recent grantmaking cycle. Two Owatonna organizations have received funds. Hospitality House of Owatonna has been given \$50,000 for general operations to provide temporary housing and other opportunities for homeless men to achieve self-sustainability. Let's Smile, Inc., also based in Owatonna, received \$15,000 for general operations to improve access to oral health care, increase oral health literacy, and raise awareness about the importance of oral health's impact on overall health. There were many other organizations throughout southeastern Minnesota that received grants. One of them was Austin Public School, which will receive \$30,000 to pilot utilization of neuro-mindset curriculum to address retention and goal attainment with adults basic education learners. "Being responsive to community needs

has been a hallmark of OBT, and this round of investments exemplifies that commitment," said Charlotte Johnson, co-CEO and trustee, Otto Bremer Trust. "Whether providing children's dental care, job skills training, hunger relief, or supporting tribal populations, we are energized by the programs and organizations impacting the lives of people across the region." The Otto Bremer Trust, based in St. Paul, is a private charitable trust established in 1944 by founder Otto Bremer, a successful banker and community business leader. OBT owns 92 percent of Bremer Bank and also manages a diversified investment portfolio. The mission of OBT is to invest in people, places, and opportunities in the Upper Midwest. Since its inception, OBT has invested more than \$650 million in organizations throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, and western Wisconsin. Visit ottobremer.org for more information.

Hormel Institute uncovers major breakthrough in skin cancer

Dr. Rebecca Morris, I.J. Holton Professor of the Stem Cells and Cancer lab at The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, published break-through skin cancer research based on findings from 14 years of scientific investigation. Morris' research team included Heuijoon Park, Sonali Lad, Kelsey Boland, Kelly Johnson, Nyssa Readio, Ashok Singh, and Anupama Singh from The Hormel Institute; Guangchun Jin, Samuel Asfaha, Kelly S. Patterson, and Xiangdong Yang from Timothy C. Wang's group at Columbia University; Douglas Londono and Derek Gordon from Rutgers University; and Carol Trempus from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. The research used a bone marrow transplantation model to induce carcinogenesis with a hydrocarbon carcinogen and a plant compound as a tumor promoter. One of the critical discoveries reported in the article "Bone marrow-derived epithelial cells and hair follicle stem cells contribute to development of chronic cutaneous neoplasms" showed evidence that a significant number of skin cancers involve recruited cells from the bone marrow. The team concluded that bone marrow-derived epithelial cells contribute to the development of papillomas and chronic dysplasia. This finding is surprising because it reveals that some squamous skin tumors have a previously unrecognized systemic component. Dr. Morris and team also found that carcinogen exposed bone marrow can develop both benign and malignant skin lesions upon tumor promotion. "Our research is a gateway to studying new therapeutic targets so we can intervene earlier to stop the development of skin cancer," said Morris. "This research demonstrates that although many skin cancers are induced by stem cells, and these cancers develop because of what is going on elsewhere. While it is surprising information, it is important because we can aim for better targets and stop cancer progression at the true source." These findings cast a new light on our understanding of skin cancer development. This is important because scientists can now look for new targets for treatment of non-melanoma skin cancers. Skin cancer (usually basal or squamous cell) is the most common of all cancers. According to American Cancer Society, these cancers affect about 3.3 million Americans each year. About 8 out of 10 of these are basal cell cancers. Squamous cell cancers occur less often but are also more invasive. The number of these cancers has been increasing for many years, probably from a combination of improved detection, more sun exposure, and people living longer. For the full article, please visit <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-018-07688-8>.

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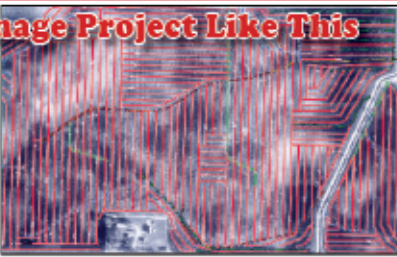
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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

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10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
DEC. 26
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
DEC. 24
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

DEC. 20
5 p.m. – Steele County Board Meeting, County Admin Building
DEC. 21
2:30 p.m. – Dave Lubahn's Retirement Celebration, Owatonna Library
4 p.m. – Ice Fishing with Brian Brosdahl, Cabela's
DEC. 26
9 a.m. – 8 p.m. – Used Books & AV Sale, Owatonna Library

Donations being accepted for 2019 BP Youth Club Benefit Bash

Donations are already being accepted for the Blooming Prairie Youth Club's Benefit Bash, which will be held on Saturday, Feb. 2.

Tri-chairs of the Bash are Ashley Rye, Andrea Kvalsten and Kelli Naatz.

Guests appearing at the 2019 Bash will be able to take part in a silent auction, live auction and additional raffles and games while supporting the kids in the BP area community.

"Your support will have a great impact, because 100 percent of the funds raised go directly to programming available to the youth in the BP community," says Naatz, who is the club's director.

The BP Youth Club helps youth of all backgrounds develop the qualities needed to become responsible citizens and leaders.

The club is open five days a week, 12 months a year and available when youths need

help the most.

Club members are offered valuable homework help, life skills, character and leadership development activities, arts, fitness and recreational activities and field trips.

Consider becoming a sponsor or consider donating items such as gift baskets, memorabilia, collectibles, gift certificates, goods and services or experiences.

The goal is to raise \$25,000 for the Youth Club.

Donations may be dropped off at the club any time before the event. The club is located at 401 4th St. SE in Blooming Prairie.

Questions can be directed to Bash Chairs: Ashley Rye 507-440-9922 or airye1992@gmail.com; Andrea Kvalsten 507-993-0210 or andreakvalsten@gmail.com and Kelli Naatz at 507-440-8973 or knaatz@bpyouthclub.com.

10 Years Ago
Dec. 16, 2008

DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

Hard work, dedication and going above and beyond are just some of the words that describe Blooming Prairie's Brandon Haubenschild. For the fourth time, he was awarded Spray Control Systems' "110-percent Award" for his efforts. He has worked at Spray Control since 2004 and is a 2008 graduate of Blooming Prairie.

The Blooming Prairie City Council approved the new EMT Retention program and it will go into effect in 2009. "We are trying to find ways to keep the EMTs we have and add more," said EMT Stacy Fischer.

Even with the State of Minnesota in a huge deficit, the City of Blooming Prairie will be able to continue offering the services residents require—police, ambulance and fire. BP's operating budget is \$1,982,000 and the tax levy will be raised only 15 percent.

20 Years Ago
Dec. 15, 1998

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

If you visit one of the three classrooms at St. Isidore's School of Litomysl, you quickly realize it's a trip back in time. It's back to a one-room schoolhouse atmosphere where students first through eighth grade take care of each other; perform chores before, during and after school, and practice respect and faith in their fellow man.

"Overwhelming and chaotic" were just two of the words used about mail sorting when talking to Chris Elleby, fill-in postmaster at the Blooming Prairie Post Office. Elleby arrived for his temporary position on Monday, Nov. 30, filling the shoes of Jim Tloughan, who is at the Hayfield post office

temporarily.

Blooming Prairie City Council approved its 1999 budget and local homeowners will see a slight increase in their property taxes next time around. Although next year's hike will be at the most 5.8 percent for local property owners, it is down from the 9 percent hike of a year ago.

50 Years Ago
Dec. 12, 1968

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Arrangements have been completed for Santa Claus to make his traditional visit in Blooming Prairie on Saturday afternoon of this week. It is sponsored by the Civic Progress Club's promotion committee.

Dick Viktora is the new meat cutter at Blooming Prairie Super Valu Store. Viktora, 21, is a native of Rose Creek and has five years of experience as a butcher.

Revised preliminary plans for Prairie Manor Nursing Home in Blooming Prairie have been approved by the State Department of Health, according to Donald Morrison, president of the organization.

Construction of a hockey rink in Community Park is another project undertaken by the Blooming Prairie Jaycee Chapter. The rink has 4-foot high boards and is 85-feet wide by 160-feet long.

Sallie Olson, 17, of Owatonna, was crowned 1969 Steele County Junior Miss at the pageant held on Saturday night in Blooming Prairie. More than 500 people were in attendance at the event sponsored by the BP Jaycee Chapter. Debbie Cassen, 17, also of Owatonna,

was named first runner-up in the competition.

75 Years Ago
Dec. 16, 1943

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

As an accommodation to late Christmas shoppers, Blooming Prairie's business houses will remain open Wednesday and Thursday evenings, Dec. 22 and 23. Store owners are asked to close their establishments promptly at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23.

Blooming Prairie's electric light, power, water and building commission has a new member, A.E. Fosteson, executive vice president at First National Bank. Mr. Fosteson will take the place of Edw M. Betlach who tendered his resignation to the village council on Dec. 6.

The Times was selected by Swift & Co., one of the nation's largest meat packers as a medium of carrying a series of institutional advertising messages, first of which appeared in last week's issue. Out of 385 newspapers in Minnesota, only 15 papers were chosen to carry Swift & Company's schedule.

Word received here from Headquarters 532 Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment operating somewhere in New Guinea by Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Peterson, informs them that their son, Capt. Gerald E. Peterson, was officially commended for gallantry in action and manner of performance of especially hazardous service in combat in the early part of September 1943.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE LUNCH MENU

- Dec 19** Chicken Tender Basket, French Bread, Fish
Nugget Basket, French Bread, Dill Seasoned Potato
Wedges, Mini Rice Krispies Treat
- Dec 20** Walking Taco with Lettuce, Tomato, and
Cheese, Beef Taco Salad with Corn
- Dec 21** All American Burger, Cheesy Italian Flatbread,
Broccoli Salad
- Dec 24** No School
- Dec 25** No School
- Dec 26** No School

SEMCAC SENIOR DINING MENU

- Call 583-7369 Day before 10-1 to reserve
B. P. Sr. Center 11:30-12 M-F Ellendale M-W-F 11:30-12
- Dec 19 Christmas Dinner Party Baked Ham Alt:**
Chicken Breast, Baked Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans/
Mushrooms, Dinner Roll, Ice Cream/Cookie
- Dec 20 Last Day to Order Box Lunches!!** Meat
Lasagna, Mixed Greens Salad, Orange Slices,
French Bread, Pudding
- Box Lunch** Chili With Crackers, Cottage Cheese/Peach,
Dinner Roll, Pumpkin Bar
- Dec 21** Hawaiian Chicken, Parslied Potatoes,
Asparagus, Fresh Fruit Cup
- Dec 24 CLOSED**
- Dec 25 CLOSED**
- Dec 26** Sweet Pepper Steak, Brown Rice, Cauliflower,
Tossed Salad/Dressing, Dinner Roll, Banana

Recipe Corner

CHICKEN PARMIGIANA

- INGREDIENTS:
6 chicken breast halves, skinless
3/4 c. seasoned bread crumbs
1/2 c. Parmesan cheese
1 lg. egg, beaten
1/4 c. olive oil
1 (26 oz.) jar spaghetti sauce
1 lg. garlic clove
1 tsp. dried oregano leaves
1 (8 oz.) pkg. Mozzarella cheese, cut into 6 pieces
3 c. hot cooked pasta
2 T. minced parsley

DIRECTIONS
Preheat oven to 350°. In a shallow bowl, combine bread crumbs with 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese. In another bowl, place beaten egg. Dip chicken in egg, then crumb mixture. In a large skillet, heat oil. Add chicken pieces and saute 5 minutes each side. In a small bowl, combine spaghetti sauce, garlic and oregano. Pour into 9 x 13-inch pan. Put chicken over sauce; mix. Cover loosely with foil; bake 50 minutes. Remove foil; add 6 slices of Mozzarella cheese. Bake 10 minutes, or until cheese is melted and sauce is bubbly. Toss cooked pasta with 1 tablespoon oil and parsley. Serve with chicken or just use spaghetti sauce from chicken for pasta.

Sponsored by
Krejci Ford
15th Presidents Award Winner
Blooming Prairie, 583-2046

CALL NOW & SAVE ON YOUR NEXT PRESCRIPTION

Drug Name	Qty (pills)	Price*
Viagra 100mg	16	\$120.00
Viagra 50mg	16	\$100.00
Cialis 5mg	84	\$150.00
Cialis 20mg	16	\$119.00
Levitra 20mg	30	\$130.00
Stendra 200mg	16	\$260.00
Spiriva 18mcg	90	\$130.00
Advair 250mcg/50mcg	180 ds	\$190.00

All pricing in U.S. dollars and subject to change without notice. *We accept Amex, Electronic Checking, Personal Check or International Money Order. *Prices shown are for the equivalent generic drug if available. *

World Health Link

1-866-237-5131

Mailing Address: World Health Link, PO Box 42 Station Main
Winnipeg, MB R3C 2G1 Canada

CODE MG09

THE CLASSIFIEDS-
Where the Deals Are!

APARTMENTS FOR RENT
SITUATIONS WANTED
AUTOMOBILES FOR SALE
GARAGE SALES
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
HOMES FOR SALE

Times
STEELE COUNTY

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

J&H LIQUOR
Bar Bingo: Mondays @ 6:30 p.m. Wine & Women: Wed 6-10 p.m.

Bloomin' Grapevine Club: Tuesdays 7-8:30 P.M.
• Nov. 20 & Dec. 11: Holiday Get Together

A Touch of Charm & J & H Off-Sale present
Girls Night Out: Wed. 5-7 P.M.
• Nov. 14: "Gatherings" & Dec. 19: "Jingle & Mingle"

• Dec. 7: 5-7p.m. Holiday-Dazzle Downtown Event
• Dec. 8: Harvey's Holiday Cheer

WE CAN ACCOMMODATE YOUR BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY, OR RETIREMENT PARTY
340 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie • 583-7557

BUSINESS FOR SALE
Need a career change?
Be your own boss!
Great opportunity to own this hometown bar/off-sale.
Contact Harvey for details

ALL EVENT DETAILS AVAILABLE AT J&H LIQUOR



mcAn

Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

WANTED TO BUY OR TRADE

FREON R12 WANTED:
Certified buyer will pay CASH for R12 cylinders or cases of cans. 312/291-9169; www.refrigerantfinders.com

SEED/FEED/GRAINS

PROTECT AGAINST SOYBEAN WHITE MOLD IN 2019!
Ask your soybean dealer for Heads Up Seed Treatment. Local, grower driven data available. www.headsupST.com or 866/368-9306

Classified Advertising that is Easy!
THE MINNESOTA CLASSIFIED Ad NETWORK
Make an impact with your advertising dollar with classified advertising that reaches over 2.5 million readers!

mcAn
Your newspaper representative can provide complete details.
The 2nd Network is a program of the MNA, phone 800-278-2979

FARM EQUIPMENT

GOT LAND?
Our hunters will pay top \$\$\$ to hunt your land. Call for a free info packet & quote. 866/309-1507 www.BaseCampLeasing.com

MISCELLANEOUS

A PLACE FOR MOM
The nation's largest senior living referral service. Contact our trusted, local experts today! Our service is free, no obligation. Call 844/347-2104

DONATE YOUR CAR
truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3-day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 844/220-9501

DISH TV \$59.99
For 190 channels. \$14.95 high speed internet. Free installation, smart HD DVR included, free voice remote. Some restrictions apply. Call 855/562-4309

MISCELLANEOUS

SAVE BIG ON MEDICATIONS
Up To 90% Savings from 90DAYMEDS! Over 3,500 Medications available! Prescriptions req'd. Pharmacy checker approved. Call today for Your free quote 844/209-2877

WIN \$3,000 IN CASH & PRIZES!
Enter to win. Take our survey at www.pulsepoll.com and tell us about your household shopping plans and media usage. Your input will help us improve the paper and get the advertising specials you want. Thank you!

ONLY \$279 to reach a statewide audience of 2.5 million readers!!! **1-800-279-2979**

SAVE ON YOUR NEXT PRESCRIPTION
World Health Link. Price match guarantee! Prescriptions required. CIPA certified. Over 1,500 medications available. Call today for a free price quote. 866/237-5131 Call now!

STEELE COUNTY **Times**
Always local,
all the time.



*Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, good
will toward men.*

Good Tidings of Great Joy

Local Christmas Church Services



CORNERSTONECHURCH

Austin, MN

Cornerstone Church, located in the Sterling Shopping Center, invites you to our Christmas Eve Experience. We will have a candlelit service with live music, a meaningful message and candy for kids on their way out. Please join us on Monday, December 24th at 2pm, 3:30pm or 5pm.

Merry Christmas!



St. John Lutheran Church

1301 Lincoln Ave SE, Owatonna

Christmas Eve Family Service	4:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	9:30 p.m.
Christmas Day Service	9:30 p.m.

Aurora Lutheran
6329 SE 28th St, Owatonna
Christmas Eve: 5 p.m.,
Christmas Day: 10 a.m.

Good Shepherd Lutheran
2500 7th Ave NE, Owatonna
Christmas Eve: 4 & 5:30 p.m.,
Christmas Day: 10:30 a.m.

Redeemer Lutheran
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service: 5:30 p.m.

Associated Church, Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ
800 Havana Rd., Owatonna
Christmas Eve: Interactive Church 5-6 p.m.,
Candlelight with Communion: 11-11:45 p.m.

Red Oak Grove Lutheran
30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin
Christmas Eve: Candlelight Service: 5 p.m.

St. John Lutheran Church
1200 13th Ave NW, Austin
Candlelight Service: 6:30 p.m.,
Christmas Day: Worship Service: 10 a.m.

St. Olaf Lutheran Church
306 2nd St NW, Austin
Christmas Eve: Family Blessings Service: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., Christmas Eve Services with Communion: 5:30-6:30 p.m. and 10:30-11:30 p.m.,
Christmas Day Service: 10-11 a.m.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1600 W Oakland Ave., Austin
Christmas Eve Services: 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 10:00 p.m.

Peace be with you



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve Services with Communion
3 p.m. - 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Dec. 30: Lessons & Carols, 9 a.m.

434 1st St. SW - Blooming Prairie

Building a family in Christ,
to reach families for Christ

Christmas Services



One Starry Night: A Family Christmas Experience
December 21 - 6-9 p.m. and December 22 1-4 p.m.

Sunday, December 23 — 9:00 a.m. Worship

Christmas Eve Service
Monday, December 24 - 6:30 p.m.

Join us for worship and song to fill your heart with the love of Jesus' birth. Everyone Welcome!

1500 18th Street SE | Owatonna | 507-446-5850
www.cornerstoneowatonna.com

Our Savior's Lutheran Church



Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service & Blessing	3:00 PM
Candlelight Service & Blessing	5:00 PM
Candlelight Service & Communion	9:00 PM

1909 Saint Paul Road | P.O. Box 423 | Owatonna | 507-451-4853

Christmas Eve
Family Blessing
9:30 am
1:00 pm
3:00 pm
Candlelight & Communion
5:00 pm
8:30 pm
10:00 pm

Christmas Day
10:00 am
with Communion

Celebrate the birth of Christ at worship!



TRINITY Lutheran Church
609 Lincoln Avenue | Owatonna MN | 507.451.4520 | tlcowatonna.org

St. Columbanus Catholic Church

Christmas Eve Mass
4:00 pm, St Columbanus Church, Blooming Prairie
10:00 pm, St. John Baptist de la Salle, Dodge Center

Christmas Day Mass
9:00 am, Sacred Heart, Hayfield
11:00 am, St. Francis de Sales, Claremont

Solemnity of Mary Mass (Holy Day of Obligation)
12-31, 5:00 pm, St Columbanus Church, Blooming Prairie
1-1, 8:30 am, Sacred Heart, Hayfield
1-1, 4:00 pm, St. John Baptist de la Salle, Dodge Center

114 E Main Street | Blooming Prairie | (507) 583-2784

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

810 S. Cedar Ave
Owatonna, MN 55060

CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. (en Español)	CHRISTMAS DAY 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
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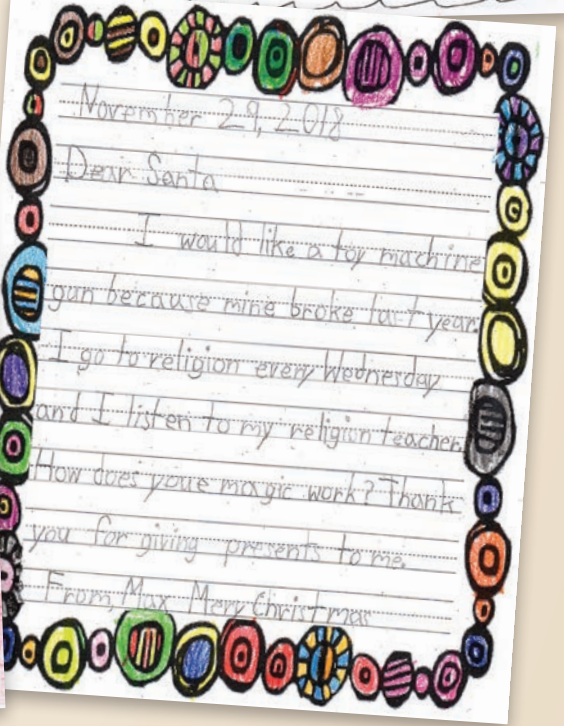
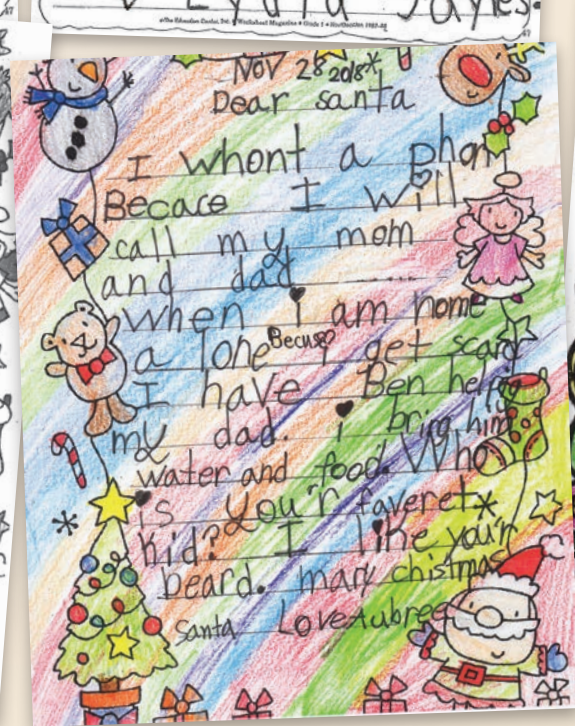
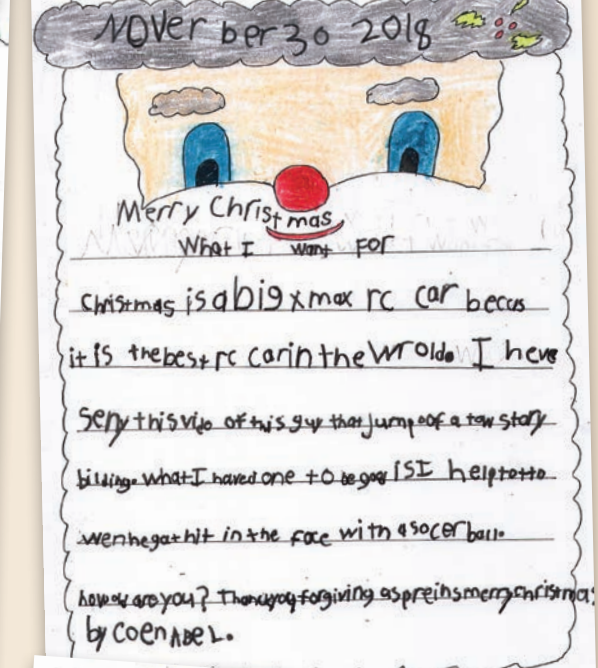
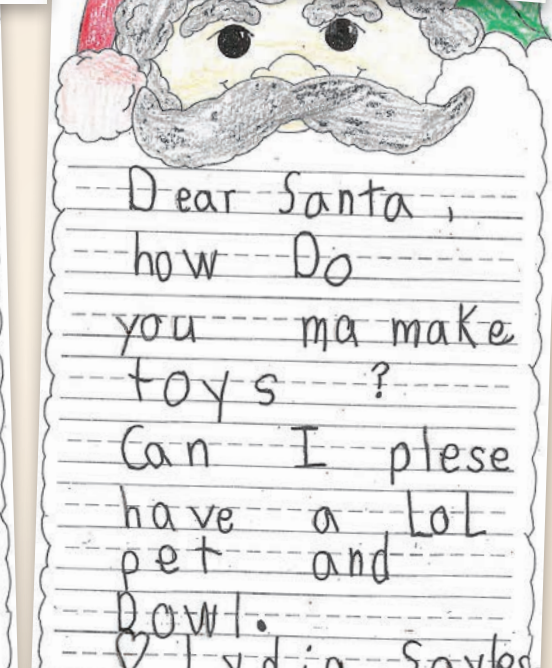
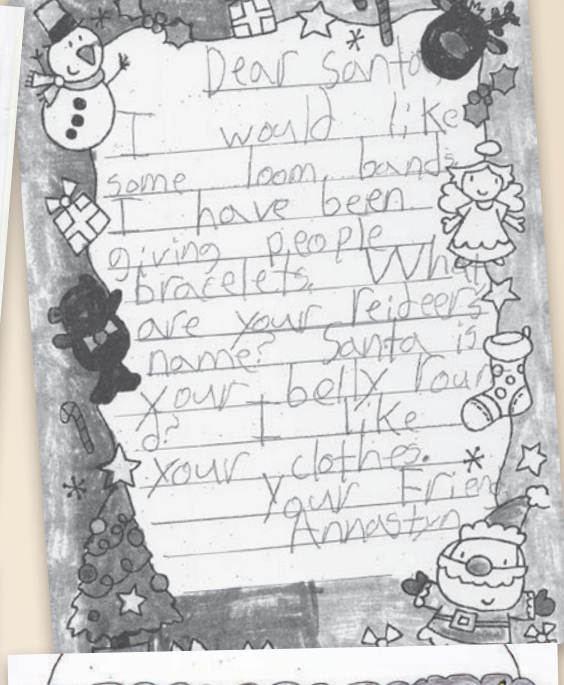


www.sacredheartowatonna.org

Students in the Second Grade and Mrs. Sorensen's First Grade at Blooming Prairie Elementary School were busy recently, writing letters to Santa and delivered to Santa, the letters were shared with the Steele County Times. 📖



Class of Mrs. Natalie Sorensen not pictured.



State Farm®

Plemel Insurance Agency

A group photo of seven insurance professionals, four women and three men, dressed in business attire, standing together and smiling.

Highway Ave. S., Blooming Prairie • 507-583-7747

LETTERS TO SANTA

MRS. SORENSEN'S
FIRST GRADE CLASS

DEAR SANTA,
is Rudolfs nose
glowing? Santa can
i please have a
Karaoke machine
Santa
Love Abbey
Johnson and merry
chrismas.

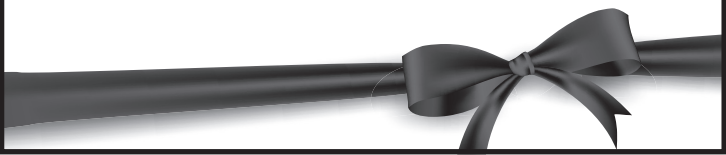


Christmas Give away
Winners

Sandra Christenson- Chanhassen Ticket for 2
Peggy Luschen- \$75 Vandals Gift Card
Judith Esplan- \$75 Vandals Gift Card
Charlotte Haberman- 1yr. SCT

Holiday Dazzle winner

Vinnie Luschen- Chanhassen Ticket for 2



Season's Greetings

PRAIRIE PLUMBING &
HEATING, INC.

Larry & Sandy Christianson, Joe Morgan
Authorized Lennox Dealer
507-583-7266
438 Hwy Ave. South • Blooming Prairie



May the
Christmas season
fill your home
with joy, your
heart with love,
and your life with
laughter.



A Flurry of Holiday Wishes
Peace, Joy, Happiness, Love...
May the Christmas season shower
you and your loved ones with
many blessings!



Beede Apartments 583-2246
Herman & Karen Beede

A
Christmastime
salute to
our men and
women in
uniform.

Servicemen's Club
210 Forth St. N.E. • Blooming Prairie • 507-583-7884



MERRY
CHRISTMAS



From
THE CUTTING
EDGE

583-2304
128 3rd Street SW
Blooming Prairie



"Sew" happy to serve you
this past year
From Linda & Holli
Sportstitch Inc.
583-7001
341 E. Main Street
www.sportstitch.net
"like" us on Facebook

We're All Smiles at Christmas



With friends and neighbors like you,
we have every reason to smile at the
holidays and all year!
We hope you have a merry and bright
Christmas and a dazzling New Year.
Best wishes to you and yours!


Main Street Dental Clinics
comfortable dentistry
Blooming Prairie 507-583-2141 • Mankato 507-720-0250 • New Richland 507-463-0502
Owatonna 507-455-1000 • Rochester 507-536-7700
www.mainstreetdentalclinics.com

DEAR SANTA,
How is Mrs. Claus? I Would like
a Phone end MToTer Truc. I can't
wait to see you Santa!
Your friend, Grant DeWeese

DEAR SANTA,
Does mrs Claus rily bring candy
canes? I would like a mini
modercickil. For Christmas. I can't
wait to drink hot coco.
Your friend, Kazaiya Bliss Miller

DEAR SANTA,
on Christmas eve can you take
me to the northepole? I want a
fingerling for christmas. I can't
wait to see the northepole. Your
friend, Addison winzendurg

DEAR SANTA,
wute cakeese do you like? ples
cin you get me a horse set. Baby hat
chimal. Slime ples? A LOL house?
Ho Ho Ho. marecrimis. Do you like
the cukese. Love samttarah
Dear Santa, How are the radar?
Wod you ples glv me a phon and a
ninge ligoe set and a nrfgun I will
lev cuce and milk
luve Ashton Studer

DEAR SANTA,
How are the elves? May I please
have books? I will leev cooks for
you. Love, Karly Reinke
Dear Santa, how ae the rander?
Plis wil you giv me a lot of vikins
stof thak you Santa and I wod gut
caris fr the rander.
Love Zane Johnson

DEAR SANTA,
how aer the randeer?



Can you plees give me a kitten and
a robot cat? I will leev sum milk
and cukees for you.
Love Avilynn Wacek

DEAR SANTA,
How are you santa? Can you
please get me a pupy phone and a
kitten? Thanks I will leave cookies
our for you.
Love Kate Herling

DEAR SANTA,
why do you eat cookies? I ben
extra good. Can I ples have for
chrismiss a elf book and a Teevee?
Max Harthan

DEAR SANTA,
is rudofs nos sinen for crismis I
wont NFL FuootBuool ViKins stof
crismis is joy not tust prasins.
Love Weston Johnson

DEAR SANTA,
how are the reindeer? Can you
please give me a real baby bunny.
And a horse pluse that is white.
And a horse set. And a treehouse.
Meery christmas.
Love Avalea

DEAR SANTA,
can you wait for the
milk and cookies and
I want a computer
and I hop you hav a
good fit. Love Max
Braaten

DEAR SANTA,
How are the reindeer? Can I
please have a Tablet and slime.
Thank you mrs Claus For the
candycane.
Love payton esplan





DEAR SANTA,

How do you get all those toys delivered? I would like a calindr like Ms. Ruens and you Are sweet I can't Wait to play in the snowe.

Your Friend, Claire. Klocke

DEAR SANTA,

How is Mrs claus? I want a elf and a toy Robot kittien for Christmas. I can't wait for my family to come at my home and my new baby sister?

Your friend, Kendra Long

DEAR SANTA,

What is your favorite part of your job? I would like a Shrak acshin figr and a Shark Play set. I can't wait to drink hot Choclit

Your friend, Seth Plants

DEAR SANTA,

How did the eLves get in my home? I would like a tedeebar. I can't wait to see my famlee!

Your friend, Bella Chapman

DEAR SANTA,

I want a PSU and a remote control and go to bed on time. How do you survive at the North Pole? I like how you give presents. How do your reindeer fly?

From, Levi

DEAR SANTA,

I wolud like a elf on the shelf becuase I have been nice to a



Cue the Lights: It's Christmas!

**Hope it's merry, hope it's bright,
Hope the season treats you right!**

At the holidays and all year, we're filled with gratitude for friends and customers like you.

Thanks for brightening our year with your visits. We wish you all the best!

Blooming Prairie Utilities
333 2nd Ave. NE • Blooming Prairie
583-6683

Thanks for
30 great years!
Leanne
**A TOUCH
OF CHARM**

SEASONS
GREETINGS

507-451-6080
OWATONNA

**Krause
Feeds & Supplies**
Hope, Minnesota
451-3043

Peace on Earth!
**JESSE'S
BOOT STORE**
Blooming Prairie
507-583-9900

**FARMERS
INSURANCE**
Mike Bishman
Owatonna, MN
(507) 451-0193

Season's Greetings!
**Elks
USA**
Owatonna
507.451.1395

**Koster's
CAR KORNER**
507-583-2018
Blooming Prairie

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS
**LERBERG'S
FITNESS CENTER
& CARWASH**
507-684-2471
Ellendale

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
**LERBERG'S
FOODS**
SINCE 1901
507.684.2472
Ellendale, MN

**FARMERS
INSURANCE**
Mike Bishman
Owatonna
507-451-0193

Season's Greetings
Offered by
**FRONT DOOR
REALTY**
507-451-3333
www.realestate-owatonna.com

Season's Greetings!

lot of pepol, I love your red slay the nitgh that you come it brings joy to the town.
Your friend, Rayanne

DEAR SANTA,
I would like Poopsy Slime. Surprise pleas because my family likes slime. What is the summer temperature? You are the best present giver! I help by taking our the garbage. I love family.
Your friend, Addison

DEAR SANTA,
I want lots of presents this year. I want light sabre, footballs, lots of toys. I help a freind. I want a elf or two mabe. Hope year a mare Crismism.
From Kady

DEAR SANTA,
I would like a I pod cuse I tuck ot the gabeg ot a and put a now wun in. You sher have a fanse white beard. How do you cepp it clen? Whare do the elf slep?
Your friend, Peyton

DEAR SANTA,
I want a reinder for Christmas so I can fly on it. I also want a go-cart so I can brive it. I help Scott get wood. You have



a nice beard. Can you write me back. Do you eat 1 million cookies at Christmas?
Your friend, Shane

DEAR SANTA,
I would like Poopsy Surprise and more bracelet stuff. I know I have not bene a good girl but I want it because I love slime. Do you think I am a good girl? I love your black boots. Cen you tell me if my family in Texas is happy? All I want for Chritmas is for my family to be happy.
Love, Serenity
PS: Write me back

DEAR SANTA,
I want for Christmas is a Poopsie Slime kit because I can play with it. I also want rubber bands and clips to make bracelets. Do the

Happy Holidays

from Bob & Donna
& everyone at
FoamCraft packaging!

F C P

FoamCraft
Packaging Inc.
Quality Packaging Products & Services

507-455-2893
www.foamcraftpackaging.com

Tis the Season

Discover what a fireplace can do for your home.

Fireplace Connection

HEAT & GLO
No one builds a better fire

507-444-0067
140 26th St. NW • Owatonna
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Happy Holidays

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elves sleep in tiny house? How do you keep your suit clean?
Love, Savannah

DEAR SANTA,
For Christmas, I want a turtle toy. I play with friendes that sit on the buddy bench. Santa you have a nice hat. Santa how does you hat stay on your head?
Your friend, Andrew

DEAR SANTA,
I wold like a teacher chair because I taake care of my baby sisters. How do the elves lose their magic? You are so nice to drop off presents.
Your friend, Lily

DEAR SANTA,
PS: Rite me back.
I would like one diamond for Christmas. I think I can make a neckloss out of it. I have shared with friends. Why was shiny the elf not moving? You're very kind. Why couldn't shiny get out of the house I made for her?
Why did shiny not take the notes I gave her?
Love, Eva

DEAR SANTA,
I would like beyblades and



silly putty. Where do the elfse sleep? I really love your silky beard. I help my mom, dad sisster and my cat.
Your friend, Aaron

DEAR SANTA,
I want a remote control red dunbuggy for Christmas and a Chevy remote control truck. I know you are real. Where do all the elves like? Where do all the reindeer live?
Your friend, Auerr

DEAR SANTA,
I would like a lot of horse toy like Briars Schleich, Copperfox and more. I have been kinde good because I get in fights with my brother. Where do the elves sleep? I actually like your red coat.
Your friend, Wyatt

DEAR SANTA,
I want a 2 Ds and a X Box. I was sharing my toys. I always say please and thank you. Santa do you have a Ginger Bread man? Do you have a shiny beard? I like it.
Your friend, Damien

DEAR SAINT NICK,
I would like a key board and four tickets to a Miami Dolphins game. I took the dirty bags out to the garbage. Then I put in new bags. I

like that you are nice and kind.
Love, Melanie

LETTERS TO SANTA

SECOND GRADE
MRS. LEA

DEAR SANTA,
I liked weh I so you at Montana. Did you? I want mine craft toys. I wont toy ningus. I wont a toy puppy. I wont a zombie costoon. I wont a ningu masc. I wont a X-Box. I wont a Play stashin. I wont a puppy pichr. I wont my little pony moves. I wont a computer and a toy sord. I wont a pet brd. I been helping my famly with dishis a lot. Mary Chismis Santa.
James

Dear Santa,
What I want for Chrismis is a red 4 weller because they have good gas. I been doing my chores with



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CHRISTMAS

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Drifts of snow and boughs of holly,
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out being asked. Can you go to my nana’s house this year? You do good at piking out presents.
Jollily yours, Zander

Dear Santa,
Mary Christmas! I want a phon for Christmas becoms. I want a popsock it to go with it. If I am home alon and I think some whon is the hows

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Adam Thoen	Sandra Christensen
Julie Lembke	Emily Holevoet
Tiffany Decker	Michelle Sunde
Anita Deters	Amanda Schumacher
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I could. Call mom or dad. When mom is waiting to pick up Alivia. I can call her and tell her to come out faster. I never ben bad to a techer. Is rood of arell rander? How old are you? I like that you give me presints every year. I really like Mrs. Claus baking that she dose for you the niceist kide around.
Bristol Hansen

DEAR SANTA,
For Christmas I want a fingerlining because I want to scare my sister with it. How does your reindeer fly? Thank you for giveing all the boys and girls for the presants. What is your favrite Christmas cookie? I helped my baby sister when she crys. Marry Christmas.
Love, Nevaeh

DEAR SANTA,
Mary Christmas. I rely want to pas gynnasties. I am olmost able to land a kartwel on the beam and almost can do a stoop. A stoop is whar you swing and you put your feet on the beam. I have been good because I make my bed and I play with my brothers nicely.

Is it troow that my brothers takes my birthday mony? I love all of your rander. It must be fun to have a rander. Have a wonderful Christmus.
Love, Makinzie Wangen

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas! For Christmas this year I would

like a blad and fluffy cat because I do not have a girl cat. I have been good this year because I have been wricking so hard on read and math. I love your white beard. Santa what is your favrety color? Is it red?
Merry Christmas!
Love, Emery

DEAR SANTA,
Mare Kirismis! I want a LOL and a horse that will go bak and forth and some bloks too. And can you tel me wut is yore firabet cookes? LOLs are so cute and I want a baby LOL with a sister. LOL that wuld scwrt out water or chan, the hare culer and give the sister and baby some close that can go on and oof. I ben good to my mom and I made some cookies for my famly and I will prolbe make some cookes for you. I haf a question for you. Haowe do you fly? Haowe do you nawe wut haose to go to give them the presents that they owase wanted? Haf a gerate mare Krismis and I want a baby.
From Aireanah

DEAR SANTA,
This year I would like a X box whthfortnite and vbuts because its fun. I have been helping Seth by getting his water and ice. He is brave. How old our you? Good job piking out prens. I love the nerf gun.
Jolly yours, Owen

DEAR SANTA,
I would like a huge makeup set and a huge Bariby house. I want it becouse when I do chorse and right it on the bord. I still get no money and my mom wont get it for me. Allso I’m all ways bord. I have bin doing my chores. Do you have a best friend dog who can talk? Thank

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from

**The Home of
The Blossoms**
BP Public Schools.



you for giving all the girls and boys prezins. Can you send me a note of your best Christmas cookie resapy? Thank you agien.
Merry Christmas, Hannah Garcia

DEAR SANTA,
I have been good this year. I wood like a new phone so I can call mom and dad if I'm lost. I have been helping my sister with her room. It's very messy. I have a messy room, too. I hope you have a good neight dalivreing present's. Santa is rood of real? I love you Santa.
Marie Christmes!
Love, Trenton

DEAR SANTA,
Merry befor crismis! I wont a skilander stuff anamal. I was helpful this year because I made popcorn for my twin brothers.
Santa did rodof have a son? I like that you give presins to good kids that believe in you.
Jollily yours, Otto Ehlers

DEAR SANTA,
Mary Christmus! Wut I want for Christmas is owl footy pujanmus from justis and whatever else you want to get me. Becas I do not no wut I wont. A noo owl diery book becos I love those books. I helped with the babies at dakcare. How do you eat



all ur thows cookeas on Chrismas eav. Santa you are the best toy macere evir.
Mary Christmas!
Love, Isabe

DEAR SANTA,
You are a very good person because you give toys. Does Mrs. Clause make good cookies? I would love a babby alive for Christmas. I have bein doing my chores and bein doing my homework. That I supposed to do. I want a new Land of Storys series. Because they are my favrites books. How old are you? How do you eat all the cookies and don't get fat?
Have a nice night!
Love, Elaine

DEAR SANTA,
Merry Christmas! For Christmas this year I would like to reicev one more fish because I need my fish to have more friends. Can you promes me to tell Mrs. Claus I relly appresheat the bird very, very much. I kown I can be a little troubol sometimes, but I have made my brothers beds some times. Why do you have so much elvs? Mrs. Claus looks so pretty! Does Roadof have a son? How old are you? How do you kown if we are bad or nice? I love how your beard red is so puffy! What is your favret rander? Is Mrs. Claus food good? Wher did you find Mrs. Claus? Wher did you get married? Who is the fastest rander?
Jollity yours, Addison
PS: Why are elves so small?

I want to check how many steps I take a day. I have ben being kind to others. I like that you buy toys for us. What is your favrat trifick holladay?
Jollily yours, Jeffrey

DEAR SANTA,
I wont all the sky landers that I do not have because it is fun to see you win. I have been helping my mom with dishes and siblings. How old are you? You are so handsome because your glasses are cool.
Love, Mason

LETTERS TO SANTA

SECOND GRADE
MRS. HADRATH

DEAR SANTA,
I would like a deck of Pokemon cards. I want it becace I can trade with my friends. I'm farming with my dad and grandpa so I have been working really hard. Santa, how old are the elves? Santa thanks for bringing the best presents.
From, Reid Jensen



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DEAR SANTA,
Mary Christmas!
For Christmas this year I rilly want a blue fitbit because

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Season's Greetings

DEAR SANTA,
I woad like some P4 games. I woud like to play with them. I got my dad things when he was sick. How is Rudolph doing? You are cool,
From Montey

DEAR SANTA,
I would like some slime for Christmas because I wont to have some thing that I can play with so I don't play on my phone. I deserve it because I help my mom with the chores. How are Mrs. Claus's cookies taste? I love the America Girl Doll that you gave me last Christmas.
Love, Lizzy

DEAR SANTA,
Hi May. I have a phone because I ned it so I can call my mom or 911 wen we are in danger. How is your wife? Thanks for the silly elf on the shelf.
Love, Briella

DEAR SANTA,
I would like a box full of crafting things. Why? I love to make crafts. I feel I deserve it because I do my chorse. Are you feeling sick? Am I on the naughty list. Thanks for giving us presents every year. Your a good trainer with the raindeer. Merry Christmas!
Sincerly, Joseph Schwarz

DEAR SANTA,
I would like a LOL doll, sow I can play with Bristol. I feel I deserve it becace I help my mom with the babies. How is Mrs. Claus doing? I like your clothes.
Love, Karmen Fleming

DEAR SANTA,
I would like a Cheesmat so I could practice my front handspring. I desevere a cheesmat because I help my mom clean the house up. How does Mrs. Claus cookies taste? I like your hat.
Sincerely, Cassidy
Marry Christmas!

DEAR SANTA,
I would like a cheesmat so I could practice gymnastics. I feel I deserve a cheesemat because I help my mom



take care of Raegan. Is Roudoulph's nose still glowing? I liked the present you got me last year.
Sincerely, Emmerson Nelson

DEAR SANTA,
I would like a coloring book because I am going to be a artist when I grow up. I feel I deserve it because I help my brother do chores. What do like to do. You are the best present giver.
Sincerely, Claire
Merry Christmas!

DEAR SANTA,
I would like a big stuffed animal unicorn please and thank you. I would share it with my family. I deserve it because I do my chores every day and I listen to my teacher and family. How is the reindeer doing? You are the best!
Love, Lexys
Merry Christmas!

DEAR SANTA,
I would like a diary because I can write secret in my diary. I feel I deserve it because I unloud the dishwasher. How does Mrs. Claus cookies taste? I like your present that you gave me last year.
Love, Amelia Pauly



Wishing all of our Steele
County neighbors a
happy and healthy
holiday season.



FOOTBALL



Owatonna's Jason Williamson breaks free during the state finals at U.S. Bank Stadium.

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Gopher commit Jason Williamson named MN's Mr. Football

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

In an unsurprising announcement, Owatonna High School running back Jason Williamson was presented the 2018 Mr. Football Award by the Minnesota Football Coaches Association at the annual banquet on Sunday at the Doubletree By Hilton-Minneapolis Park Place Hotel.

Williamson said being named Mr. Football was the crown jewel of all his individual accomplishments. "It's special because it is voted on by all the coaches," Williamson said. "They kind of study every player and make their decision."

Williamson gained 3,003 yards and 47 touchdowns in 2018. His rushing total was the second-most in state history for a season.

However, Williamson was



PHOTO COURTESY RICH WILLIAMSON

2018 Minnesota Mr. Football Jason Williamson serves as a honorary captain for the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday, December 16 at U.S. Bank Stadium.

far from a one-year wonder. Not only did Williamson help lead the Huskies to back-to-back Class 5A championship

in his career, but individually he finished with 7,012 rushing yards, the second highest

SEE WILLIAMSON, D2

WRESTLING

Owatonna's West claims gold at Minnesota Christmas Tournament

Huskies finish 7th, Razorbacks 34th

STAFF REPORT

The Owatonna Huskies and the Westfield Razorbacks were two of the 40 teams that competed at the 32nd annual Minnesota Christmas Tournament this past weekend at the Rochester University Center

Simley won the prestigious tournament with an overall team score of 204.5 points while Owatonna, ranked No. 3 in Class 3A, finished seventh

with 157 and Westfield placed 34th with 49.

The Huskies' Blake West was the only individual champion from either team. West, ranked No. 1 at the 106-pound weight class, finished the tournament 5-0 and improved his overall record to 13-0.

Albert Lea's Zach Glazier defeated both Owatonna's Cade King and Westfield's Colton Krell on his way to winning gold at 182.

Glazier defeated Krell by technical fall 19-4 in the semifinals and King by a hard-fought 3-2 decision in the championship match.

King claimed silver while

Krell went on to defeated Stillwater's Josh Piechowski in the fifth place match.

The Huskies' Landen Johnson finished fourth at 138, Kaden Nelson placed eighth at 145 and Nick Staska was sixth at 195.

Westfield's Tristan Reiken earned bronze with victory over Holmen's Jess Fiers at 285.

In other action this past week, Owatonna defeated Northfield 46-19 on Thursday, December 13.

The Huskies host Rochester Century on Thursday while the Razorbacks will travel will travel to Plainview-Elgin-Millville on Saturday.

MINNESOTA CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT

Team Results: Simley 204.5, Kasson-Mantorville 199.5, Shakopee 176, Willmar 175.5, Apple Valley 166.5, Scott West 164.5, Owatonna 157, Fairmont 147.5, Stillwater 131, Waconia 127, Holmen 125, STMA 120, Albert Lea 118.5, Luxemburg-Casco 109.5, Anoka 106, Kaukauna 99.5, East Ridge 98, Edmond 89, Prior Lake 87, Totino-Grace 86.5, Forest Lake 86, Mounds View 82, Aurora Christian 79, Wayzata 78, Hortonville 75.5, Ellsworth 69, Plainview-Elgin-Millville 66, St. Francis 64.5, St. Rita 62.5, Zumbrota-Mazeppa 62, Cambridge-Isanti 60, Byron



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Owatonna's Kanin Hable takes on Winona's Ryan Henningson.

56.5, Hastings 54, Westfield 49, Eagan 46, Farmington 41.5, Coon Rapids 38, Roch. Mayo 38, Minnetonka 21, Leo 12.

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES
106-pound Weight Class:

Blake West (Owatonna, 13-0) decision over Pierson Manville (Shakopee, 13-1) 5-4. 113: Paxton Creese

SEE WRESTLING, D2

BASKETBALL

Defense shines for Blooming Prairie



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM AGRIMSON

NRHEG's Brady Agrimson scored over Blooming Prairie's Karson Vigeland during the Panthers' 57-52 loss on Friday.

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossom boys' basketball team continued unbeaten with a close 57-52 victory at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva on Friday, December 14.

The win was the fifth straight, and defense again played a big part in the outcome.

The first half was a tightly played contest and went back and forth for the most part.

The Panthers did hold a six-point edge at one point, but BP came back for a 20-19 edge.

The home team scrambled to take a 27-25 margin at the break.

NRHEG built a 10-point lead in the second half, but some questionable shots and missed opportunities gave the Blossoms life, and they climbed back into the lead.

A couple of late baskets by Kaden Thomas and Gabe Hagen sealed the win for the visitors.

Although the overall defense shone, the Blossoms had no answer for the Panthers' Brady Agrimson, who notched 29 points to lead all scorers.

Jacob Schuller had 12 points, and Lonnle Wilson added nine. Thomas and Hagen had

19 and 14 respectively for BP.

"I give our guys credit for how hard they played," NRHEG head coach Isaiah Lundberg said.

"It was the best overall effort on both ends of the floor. Saying that, I give BP credit for making shots and dictating play in the last minutes. It was a typical BP-NRHEG contest"

BLOSSOMS PLUCK EAGLES

Once again the Awesome Blossom defense stepped up against an opponent, and BP defeated Maple River 52-43 at Mapleton on Tuesday, December 11.

The win made it four in a row for the young season, mainly thanks to a sticky and aggressive defensive effort.

The Eagles counted just 16 points in the first half, and BP had pretty good control of the game for the most part.

In the four games so far, no team has scored more than 58 points, and the average has dropped to 41 over the last three games. Karson Vigeland and Thomas counted 12 points each to lead the scoring.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM AGRIMSON

At right, Blooming Prairie guard Kaden Thomas blocks NRHEG's Blake Ihrke during the Blossoms' 57-52 victory on Friday.



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BASKETBALL

Awesome Blossom girls off to strong start

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

In a home court battle with rival New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, the Awesome Blossom girls defeated the Panthers 57-45 on Friday, December 14.

BP took a first lead about four minutes into the game after falling behind 6-0.

The team never trailed again all night.

The winners lengthened a lead at the half to 32-20 behind 10 points from freshman Bobbie Bruns and nine from junior Julia Worke.

Bruns finished with a career-high 18 points in the game.

The team opened the second half with another run to take 20-point margin, but three late treys from NRHEG’s Sophie Stork made the final score respectable.

“We fell behind early,” Blooming Prairie head coach John Bruns said. “But once we took the lead, we never trailed again. We earned a huge home conference win against a good Panther team, and we were able to stand late pressure

from the visitors to get the win.”

Besides Bobbie Bruns’ 18 points, Worke finished with 13, and Megan Oswald earned her fifth straight double-double, with 10 points to go along with 15 rebounds.

The team improved to 4-1 overall and 3-1 in conference play.

The team travels to Southland (1-6) Tuesday and then entertains Triton (3-4) in a non-conference tilt Thursday, December 20.

GIRLS DROP FIRST GAME

After three straight wins the Awesome Blossom girls ran into a tough shooting night and dropped a contest to Maple River 57-34 at home on December 11.

A big run by the Eagles closed out the first half and put the Blossoms in the hole 25-15.

BP led much of the first half, but MR went on a 15-4 run near the end of the half for a big advantage at the break. The Blossoms did make a run in the second half, closing within 5 at one point, but the Eagles always had an answer.

The locals shot poorly all

night, making only nine field goals the whole game. One bright spot was the 15-of-22 night at the free throw stripe. Oswald had 16 of the Blossom total points, and Bobbie Bruns added seven.

PANTHERS LOSE TO WEM

The week had a rough start, as the Panthers dropped a 53-30 contest to WEM on Tuesday, December 11, at Waterville.

NRHEG managed only 15 points in the first half and trailed 28-15 at the break.

“Tonight was a tough one for us,” NHREG head coach Onika Peterson said. “Defensively, we struggled getting out to their shooters and cutting off their driving layups. We need to have better spacing in our offense, and we need to move the ball better for us to be successful.”

Alexis Anderson had eight points to lead the Panther scoring, and Sidney Schultz and Sophie Stork each added six points. Schultz also pulled down seven rebounds and had 2 assists in the game, and Caitlin Goette contributed five points and six rebounds.

WILLIAMSON:
Earns trifecta of major awards FROM D1

total in a career and 111 touchdowns, the most in state history.

Williamson completed the trifecta of major awards after claiming Mr. Football. He had already been named the 2018 Minnesota Associated Press Player of the Year and Gatorade Minnesota Football Player of the Year.

It’s was Williamson’s second straight year claiming the Gatorade POY. He joined Cretin-Derham Hall’s Michael Floyd (2006 and 2007) as the only player to win the award twice.

Williamson and fellow Husky Chris Lewis helped led the South over the North 33-12 in the Minnesota Football Showcase on Saturday at U.S. Bank Stadium. New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva lineman Alex Buckmeier also participated in the game.

Williamson ran multiple plays out of the Wildcat and scored on a 1-yard touchdown before adding in a jump pass to Spring Grove tight end Ethan Matzke for a 2-point conversion and 20-0 lead.

Williamson and Owatonna



Jason Williamson is presented the 2018 Mr. Football Award at a banquet on Sunday, December 16.

head coach Jeff Williams were recongized at the Minnesota Vikings and Miami Dolphins game on Sunday. Williams was honored for being the Minnesota High School Coach of the Year, while Williamson

was recognized as a member of the all-state team.

Williamson also served as an honorary captain for the Vikings and participated in the coin toss before kickoff.

WRESTLING: *Huskies’ King second at 182* FROM D1

(Shakopee, 14-0) major decision over Logan Vaughan (Kasson-Mantorville, 10-1) 17-4.

120: Eric Barnett (Hortonville, 13-0) decision over Joey Thompson (Totino-Grace, 13-2) 10-3.

126: Jake Svihel (Totino-Grace, 17-0) decision over Reid Ballantyne (Stillwater, 12-1) 1-0.

132: Ryan Sokol (Simley, 13-0) technical fall over Noah Villarreal (Aurora Christian, 15-1) 20-5.

138: Tyler Schackle (Scott West, 13-2) decision over Bryce Bosman (Luxemburg-Casco, 14-2) 6-4.

145: Cael Carlson (Willmar, 17-0) decision over Sebas Swigum (Apple Valley, 15-1) 5-1.

152: Brady Gross (Apple Valley, 14-2) decision over Nathan Ronsman (Luxemburg0Casco, 18-2) 5-2.

160: Colby Njos (Anoka, 13-0) decision over Tim Stapleton (Waconia, 11-1) 3-1.

170: Patrick Kennedy (Kasson-Mantorville, 13-0) technical fall over Cade Mueller (Waconia, 11-1) 19-4.

182: Zach Glazier (Albert Lea, 13-0) decision over Cade King (Owatonna, 12-1) 3-2.

195: Calvin Sund (Prior Lake, 13-0) fall over Lincoln Shinn (Willmar, 15-1) 2:47.

220: Andrew Reigstad (Willmar, 11-0) decision over Garsen Schorr (Kasson-Mantorville, 9-2) 4-2.

285: Calvin Menke (Scott West, 12-1) overtime tiebreaker

over Tyler Kim (Apple Valley) 3-2.

OWATONNA RESULTS

106-pound Weight Class—Championship Match: Blake West (Owatonna, 13-0) decision over Pierson Manville (Shakoppe, 13-1) 5-4.

113—Consolation Round Four: Garrett Johnson (Edmond, 11-2) major decision over Yves Evillard (Owatonna, 7-5) 17-3.

120—Consolation Round Four: Zyan Hall (Mounds View, 10-4) decision over Kanin Hable (Owatonna, 6-5) 5-4.

126—Consolation Round Six: Regan Schrempp (Apple Valley, 10-5) fall over Chase Dall Dallman (Owatonna, 11-4) 4:40.

132—Consolation Round Four: Cale Steuber (Fairmont, 7-3) major decision over Jacob Reinardy (Owatonna, 8-4) 9-0.

138—Third Place Match: Hunter Lyden (East Ridge, 18-1) fall over Landen Johnson (Owatonna, 13-4) 3:25.

145—Seventh Place Match: Tyler Vanderlois (Kaukauna, 13-3) decision over Kaden Nelson (Owatonna, 10-4) 1-0.

152—Consolation Round Two: Grant Deegan (Willmar, 8-4) technical fall over Hdsen Aase (Owatonna, 0-2) 15-0.

160—Consolation Round Four: Ethan Roux (Willmar, 9-4) fall over Matt Seykora (Owatonna, 4-4) 1:21.

170—Consolation Round Three: Connor Jones (Plainniew-Elgin-Millville,

3-6) decision over Ethan Stockwell (Owatonna, 9-4) 3-0.

182—Championship Match: Zach Glazier (Albert Lea, 13-0) decision over Cade King (Owatonna, 12-1) 3-2.

195—Fifth Place Match: Will Gleason (Stillwater, 12-3) overtime tiebreaker over Nick Staska (Owatonna, 13-3) 2-1.

220—Consolation Round Two: Godswill Pepple (Hastings, 14-4) major decision over Luke Effertz (Owatonna, 3-6)

285—Consolation Round Four: Marco Cavallaro (East Ridge, 6-4) fall over Isaiah Noelder (Owatonna, 10-4) 2:53.

WESTFIELD RESULTS

113—Consolation Round Two: Aiden Erickson (Hastings, 8-6) fall over Lane Lembke (Westfield, 3-3) 1:54.

120—Consolation Round Three: Brandon Psyk (STMA, 8-2) fall over Keegan Bronson (Westfield, 1-5) :26.

182—Fifth Place Match: Colton Krell (Westfield, 9-2) decision over Josh Piechowski (Stillwater, 11-4) 10-6.

195—Consolation Round Three: Alex Rahman (Plainview-Elgin-Millville, 4-4) decision over Dylan Ehmke (Westfield, 2-3) 3-0.

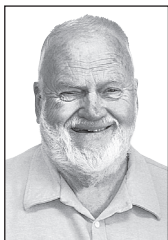
220—Consolation Round Four: Godswill Pepple (Hastings, 14-4) decision over Dylan Nirk (Westfield, 5-3) 8-7.

285—Third Place Match: Tristan Rieken (Westfield, 8-2) fall over Jesse Fiers (Holmen, 14-3) 3:53.

STILL GOING

The Blooming Prairie basketball girls had their winning record interrupted early last week, but the boys continue a winning streak that has now reached five games.

The close win at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva last Friday proved a satisfying one, again using a sticky, aggressive defense to trigger the action.



Outside
the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

most prestigious of them probably go to quarterback Seth Peterson and Blossom head coach Chad Gimbel. Peterson was named the District Offensive Player of the Year, and Gimbel earned District Coach of the Year. Adding those two to the almost ten players

Whether it was his winning smile or sympathy because he was on crutches, total contributions for the contest this year capped \$800, all of which goes to the Main Street Christmas lights. The annual celebration was judged a big success

DAZZLING DISPLAY

I would guess that just about everyone had a chance last week to witness one of the most sparkling displays put on by nature, when several days began with a completely frosted landscape. Fellow reporter Howard Lestrud and I were returning from a trip to the clinic, when we actually had to pull over on the road and marvel at the sight.

Every tree, every field, and every other inanimate object had nothing but brilliant white covering the surface, and the view was almost too bright in which to look. I don’t think that I have ever seen so much sparkle and brightness in my entire life, and it was a sight firmly etched into my memory bank. Oh, the wonders of Nature!

’TIS THE SEASON

I acknowledge that I sound liked a broken record every this time of the year rolls around, but I am a real sucker for the Christmas season. I admit that I have other favorite seasons, but these particular few weeks in December have always been at the top. The atmosphere just seems to be lighter, the people one meets to be happier, and the whole world just appears to be a better place in which to exist.

Now, with just one week to go before the actual Christmas, I again take a moment to ponder another year of existence. Surely, I have had my own personal problems, but I also realize that the alternative is so much worse, and that there are so many who struggle much more than I. I wish everyone the merriest of Christmas and the most prosperous New Year ever. We’ll talk again.

recognized in the Austin and Owatonna dailies gives the Blossoms some much deserved accolades.

Junior Colton Krell also drew publicity last week, with an in-depth interview in the Rochester Post Bulletin. The article emphasized Krell’s extreme passion for wrestling and the time and energy he puts into that sport. Although he earned a District Honorable Mention in football this fall, it is the wrestling mat that draws all of his attention.

Krell finished second at the state wrestling tournament last spring, and his goal is to claim a championship next spring. He will probably begin the season wrestling at 182, but his plans are to reach 170 before too long. A good student, Krell is just another example of the student athlete that turns out as a respective productive citizen.

Finally, Trent Swenson had his minutes in the spotlight, as he was featured in the recent Owatonna Live podcast hosted by Todd Walkingstick. Swenson had some interesting comments to contribute to the broadcast.

ANNUAL EVENT A SUCCESS

From all accounts, the annual Holiday Dazzle proved a success for onlookers and businesses alike. One big reason for that was credited to the Mr. Scrooge contest, which set a record for contributions. BPHS senior Seth Peterson earned the title with contributions of \$500 going his way.

My deadline came up before the wrestling tournament Saturday was complete, but it will be interesting to see if Colton Krell can do well in that big event. He has set some high goals for this year, and he will be followed with a lot of interest.

Julia Worke had her best game of the season, and Megan Oswald recorded a double-double with 10 points and 15 rebounds. Oswald has had a double-double in every game so far, and she has been a true leader in both scoring and rebounding. The team is a fun squad to watch.

My deadline came up before the wrestling tournament Saturday was complete, but it will be interesting to see if Colton Krell can do well in that big event. He has set some high goals for this year, and he will be followed with a lot of interest.

MORE HONORS

The area daily papers have honored several Awesome Blossom football players in recent weeks for selection on All-Area teams, but the two

BASKETBALL

BP junior high teams split matchup against Bethlehem Academy

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

After losing the season openers to Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, Blooming Prairie junior high head coach Coach Tyler Krekling’s teams managed a split against Faribault Bethlehem Academy on the home court on Monday, December 10.

The eighth-grade dropped its second straight game 37-22, while the seventh graders evened their record at 1-1 with a nail-biting 28-27 win over the Cardinals.

Derek Kubicek led the seventh-grade team with 14 points, and the team

managed to hold the lead late in the game for the win.

Krekling expressed satisfaction at the adjustments the boys made from their first game.

“They minimized turnovers and finished their layups, which proved the difference,” he said.

Bethlehem Academy had a 6-foot-2-inch guard that the eight graders couldn’t handle in the loss.

Jacob Weinberger had six points for BP, and seven players scored points, but the team needs a little more energy and to minimize the turnovers.

BLOSSOMS DROP OPENERS

The junior high basketball

teams had a rough start to the season, when they lost both games to Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton on the home court. December 4.

The Bulldogs picked up easy wins against struggling Blossom teams.

JWP won the seventh-grade game 40-14, although Krekling was happy with the energy the boys played with.

Kalden Alves counted six points to lead the Blossoms, and Kolby Vigeland shot 100 percent from the free-throw line.

Cleaning up passing and limiting turnovers will be priorities for the team going

SEE JUNIOR HIGH, D3



of the Week



Bianca Mattson

Sponsored by:



This week’s Panther of the Week is Bianca Mattson. She is the daughter of Jason and Heidi Mattson and they reside in New Richland. Bianca is in Mr. Beynon’s third grade class.

Bianca shows her Panther Pride in a variety of ways. She is the sweetest girl who makes everyone around her smile. She shows great perseverance when faced with challenges in school and always wants to get better. She is very kind and respectful to her peers and teachers.

Bianca loves playing with her friends at school and playing with her little sister, AJ, at home. Keep up the great work Bianca!

BASKETBALL

Viking boys' off to best start since 2013

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Hayfield boys' basketball team is off to its best start in recent memory.

The Vikings are 5-1 and picked up a pair of impressive Gopher Conference victories this past week.

Hayfield won 78-52 at Medford (0-3) on Tuesday, December 11.

"We got off to sloppy start," Hayfield head coach Chris Pack said. "Medford can be credited for that. They played hard, kept the ball alive offensively and benefited from some second chances.

"We warned our kids about playing too fast and turning the ball over," he continued. "That's what they wanted us to do, but I thought we played to our potential once we settled down and started being patient for good shots."

The Vikings Mason Tapp finished with 23 points. Tapp has scored at least 20 in five straight games.

"Mason Tapp is obviously our leader," Pack said. "He can shot well from the outside, but he's really been taking it strong to basket."

Isaac Matti finished with a career-high 16 points and Patrick Towey also shot the ball well making four 3-pointers and finishing with 16 points.

The Vikings had four players who have made at least one 3-pointer in every game this season.

"We are able to spread the floor out with shooters everywhere," Pack said. "It allows [Tapp] to drive and kick it out if needed.

"All these guys out on the floor tonight played a lot last year and took some lumps," he continued. "We only had five wins last year just because we felt physically ready to play at the varsity level, but taking those lumps last year it's helped us this year."

Other scorers for the Vikings were Ethan Staatbaug with 12, Luke Dudycha with eight, Isaiah Tempel with two and Erik Burgum with one.

"We are playing well together," Pack said. "I love it when we make the extra pass because we have guys who can knock shots down. If we trust each other and move the ball we are going to get good shots."

Medford head coach Todd Schneider said he was impressed with Vikings and expect them to challenge for conference title in their first year as a member of the Gopher Conference.

Hayfield picked up its second win of the week on Thursday at home over Waterville-Elysian-Morristown (3-1). The game went down the wire but the Vikings prevailed with a 50-48 win.

Hayfield hosts Kenyon-Wanamingo (1-3) on Tuesday and travels to Blooming Prairie (5-0) on Friday.

JUNIOR HIGH: Eighth graders lose to JWP

FROM D2

forward.
BP's eighth graders lost to the JWP 39-25. The Blossom had seven players score. Jacob Weinberger counted seven points for the locals.
The game was close until the final three minutes, when JWP was able to pull away. BP was able to break a full-court press, but the visitors had too much talent in this one.

BASKETBALL

Rough start send Medford boys to 0-4

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Medford boys basketball team is off to rocky start sitting winless at 0-4, but head coach Todd Schneider is confident the team has what it takes to turn the season around.

The Tigers lost a pair of Gopher Conference contests this past week. Medford fell 78-52 to Hayfield (5-1) on Tuesday, December 11 and 74-54 to Faribault Bethlehem Academy (2-3) on Friday.

"They didn't give up and they played hard the entire game," Schneider said after the Hayfield game. "We are going to get our share of wins this year. We just have to go back to drawing board, do some tweaking and shots will start falling for us. We have some good shooters on the team."

The Vikings are off the surprising 5-1 start in their first season as a member of Gopher Conference.

"We are heading in the right direction," Schneider said. "We just have adjust and get better. It's a tough conference and Hayfield just made it tougher."

The Tigers shot 50 percent on two-point field goals, but were a pitiful 2-of-17 from 3-point range.

"That's the game in a nutshell," Schneider said. "We had open, good looks, but the shots just went falling."

Hayfield on the other hands, made 6-of-9 3-pointers in the first half to build a comfortable halftime lead.

"We cleaned some stuff up tonight from the first couple of games," Schneider said. "We played pretty solid defense as a team, but out shooting was bad. We did get the line a little bit more than we had the last game, but we only made four out of 11 free throws. We just not shooting very good right now."

Schneider said he anticipates the Vikings challenges for the conference title this year.

"We needed to challenge their shots more," he said. "But that's a tough team to challenge shots against because of their size. If you come out on them, then they will dump in down



Medford's Noah Pirkel sizes up a much taller Hayfield defender on Tuesday, December 11.

to their inside guys."

Hayfield was very impressed and there were stretches where the Tigers struggled just to get up a shot attempt.

Hayfield coach Chris Pack said the Tigers put up a good effort.

"They had us on the ropes during the first 10 minutes," he said. "We weren't playing well and they were capitalizing on the opportunities. We knew they were going to play hard. They run everybody in off their bench. They tried to get up and down, turn the game into a track meet and make us uncomfortable."

Mason Tapp lead the Vikings with 23 points. It was his fifth consecutive game with at least 20 points.

Other Viking scorers were Patrick Towey with 16, Isaac Matti with 16, Ethan Staatbaug with 12, Luke Dudycha with eight, Isaiah Tempel with two and Erik Burgum with one.

The Tigers leading scorer was Jerone Chavis with 10 points.

Jordan Edel, AJ Vandereide, Noah Pirkel and Kael Hermanstorfer



Medford's Jerone Chavis drives past a Hayfield defender in the Tigers' 78-52 loss.

each had eight points while Ryan Hermanstorfer scored five, Mac Schneider had three and Devan Federly had two.

Medford has a pair of road games

before taking a break for holidays.
The Tigers travel to Randolph (3-0) on Thursday and Waterville-Elysian-Morristown (3-1) on Friday.

AUTO RACING

2018 Chateau Speedway season officially concluded with awards banquet

SUBMITTED BY MATTHEW GRACE

Top Gun for the Hornets was Brian Adams of Shakopee who was the only driver in the class with multiple feature wins claiming three of them. Andy Knutson of Rochester finished second, Nick Sillman of Minnesota Lake was third, Ashley Bell of Farmington fourth and Shawn Grabinger of Farmington fifth. Knutson and Grabinger each had a feature win with Bell finishing runnersup three times.

Kory Adams of Stacyville Iowa picked up his second straight Track Championship in the WISSOTA Street Stock Class and his third overall. Kory, with a pair of feature wins on the year, also took the top honor in 2015 at Chateau. Finishing second in points was Bernie (Kenneth) Adams of Stacyville, Iowa. Rounding out the top five were Zach Elward of Hayfield, Jason Newkirk of Austin and Greg Lammers of Owatonna. Bernie and Zach each had one feature win on the year while Jason had two. Jason, a three-time Track Champion in the Pure Stock class, 2010, 2014 and 2016, was leading the points going into the final points night but engine problems prevented him from having a chance to run for the title. Newkirk, who moved up to the Street Stock class this year, had to watch from the pits as the final feature went out to decide the title. Elward has the distinction of being the only driver to roll twice on the season.

Mitch Weiss of Scandia added his name to the list of Champions at Chateau Speedway with his first title in the WISSOTA Midwest Modified Class. Weiss picked up his only feature win of the season on the tracks opening night but stayed on the top of the list all season long. Brayten Cisneros of Blooming Prairie captured his first two career feature wins on his way to finishing second in the points chase. Ryan Goergen, a four-time Track Champion, ended up third in points with one feature win during the year. Ryan Took the Midwest Mod title in 2016 and also won IMCA Stock Car Track Championships in 2011, 2012 and 2013 when the track ran that class for a few years. Michael Wytaske of Hartland, the 2008 Junior Hornet Track Champion, with two feature wins finished fourth in points followed by Luke Hainka of Wannamingo.
Sitting on the top of the mountain



The 2018 Chateau Speedway Season Champions. Photo (Left to Right): Track owner Mark Wytaske, French's Repair USRA A Mod Champion Darwyn Karau (Kasson), USRA B Mod Champion Kadden Kath (Owatonna), WISSOTA Midwest Modified Champion Mitch Weiss (Scandia), WISSOTA Street Stock Champion Kory Adams (Stacyville, Iowa), Power 96 Pure Stock Champion Jesse Stahl (Austin), Y Waste Hornet Champion Brian Adams (Shakopee) and Annette Wytaske.

for the third time in his career in the USRA B Mod Class was Kadden Kath of Owatonna. It was his second straight title to add to his 2013 Championship. Kadden lead the class with four feature wins. AJ Zvorak of Blooming Prairie, with one feature win on the year finished second in points. AJ is a four time Track Champion with WISSOTA Street Stock Championships in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. Two time Track Champion in the Pure Stock Class from 2013 and 2015, Matt Brooks of Austin finished third while claiming his first career USRA B Mod Feature win during the season. Hunter Kennedy of St. Ansgar, Iowa and Jesse Baer of Minnesota Lake rounded out the top five honorees.

In the USRA A Mod Class Darwyn Karau of Kasson claimed his second Championship Crown. Darwyn, who also took top honors in the class in 2015, claimed his first USRA A Mod Feature win during the course of the season. Greg Pfeifer JR of Austin, a three-time Champion in WISSOTA Midwest Modified action in 2005, 2011 and 2012, finished second in points with one feature win during the season. Another former Track Champion, Doug Hillson of Blooming Prairie finished third in points. Doug was the USRA A Mod Champion in

2009. David Wytaske JR of Grand Meadow and Charlie Steinberg of Kasson were the rest of the top five. Charlie picked up his first career A Mod Feature win during the course of the season.

During the Fall Extravaganza the Track allowed Fans to vote on their Favorite Driver and that award was given out on Saturday Night as well. Picking up the most Fan Votes was Kadden Kath. The track also choose to give out a Chateau Speedway Rookie of the Year award and gave that to TJ Barnett of Owatonna who competed in the Hornet Class.

Although not a part of the Awards since they only ran 3 nights during the regular season and were not a full time class the KEVKO Outlaw Mini Mods did have a points System in place. Top 5 drivers at Lansing during the year were Nathan Kilwine of Glenville, Matt Prehn of Mason City Iowa, Ryan Hensel of Forest Wisconsin, Michael Bryant of Mason City Iowa and Cole Bennerotte of Kasson. The Class runs at numerous tracks over the upper Midwest and encourages drivers to run multiple tracks. At least 12 tracks were listed on their 2018 schedule. As they run for their National Championship they are only allowed 3 point shows from any one track to apply toward their overall

totals. Kelly Steele of Zimmerman, who made two appearances at the track, won their National Title. In fact the entire top 5 in their final National Points made appearances at the track, just not finishing in the top 5 group, reflecting their traveling show billing.

So now the full focus can be on the preparations for the 63rd season next spring. The Schedule has not been released yet but fans will be excited to know that all the fall specials are being planned on again as well as several more during the course of the year.

When the final touches are completed that information should be out. Fans and Drivers are asked to keep Friday Nights open, as well as a few other special nights in 2019, to gather with Family and Friends in Lansing where Memories have been made and relived since 1956. Fans can follow the track and get their information on their website at chateauspeedway.com, or by following them on their Facebook page, ChateauSpeedway.

There is also the fun History Group page, Chateau Speedway/Chateau Raceway History Page, where fans can join the group and look at and share old Chateau Racing Photos, Videos and Stories.

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#: 10084811700991861
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
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 ON

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 mortgageor(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@owatonnalawyers.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@owatonnalawyers.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

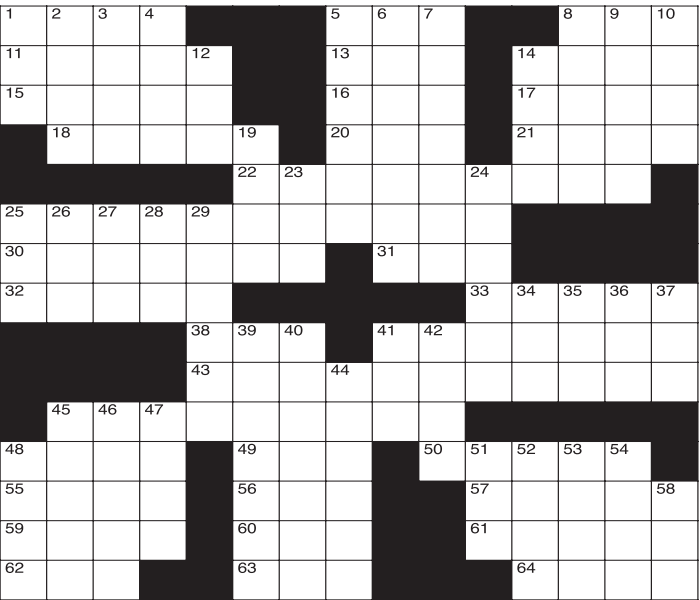
12/11, 12/18, 12/25

Public Notice
NOTICE OF FILING
WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given to the citizens of Westfield Township that affidavits of candidacy may be filed with John Fouarge Township Clerk at his home starting January 2nd 2019 and Closing January 16th at 5pm for the office one Supervisor for a three-year term and one Treasurer for a two-year term.

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

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Fall down
 - Walmart founder Walton
 - Los Angeles time zone
 - Gallantry
 - Early Supreme Court justice Bartlett
 - One-time governor of Maryland
 - Act of imitating
 - Popular basketballer Jeremy
 - Round Dutch cheese
 - American rodents
 - Comic opera "Princess "
 - Commodities buyers and sellers (slang)
 - Hovers
 - Having had one's head cut off
 - One-time monetary unit of Greece
 - Not no
 - Beloved Cubs third baseman Ron
 - Shapes
 - Giants signal caller Manning
 - Moves all the way around
 - Babe Ruth retired as one
 - Relinquishing
 - Native religion in China
 - Not well
 - Fill with high spirits
 - In bed
 - Type of pet



- Somewhere to go
 - Smaller quantity
 - Ingested
 - Singer and Jacobs are two
 - Anger
 - British rockers __ Zeppelin
 - Like
- CLUES DOWN**
- Polyvinyl acetate

- Soil-like material
- Not wide
- When you aim to get there
- Hold molecules
- Tooth caregiver
- Amount of time
- Beverage container
- Perform
- Appollo's grandmother
- Obsolete home entertainment device
- Serbian mythological demon
- Bulgarian currency
- Midway between south and southeast
- Makes sense
- A way to single out
- Criminal (slang)
- Former Tigers third baseman Brandon
- Wobbled
- Singapore's second highest peak
- Grossly overweight
- Radioactivity units
- Famed Spanish painter
- Internet router algorithm
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Druidic mother goddess
- Electronic counter-counter-measures
- Midway between east and southeast

Let's get you movin'!

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Serving Serving Steele, Dodge, Mower and Freeborn counties, including Rochester, Byron, Kasson and Owatonna.

kw KELLER WILLIAMS PREMIER REALTY **MLS**

Jennifer Walsh
507.438.6676
email: jenwalsh@kw.com
web: jenwalsh.kw.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS

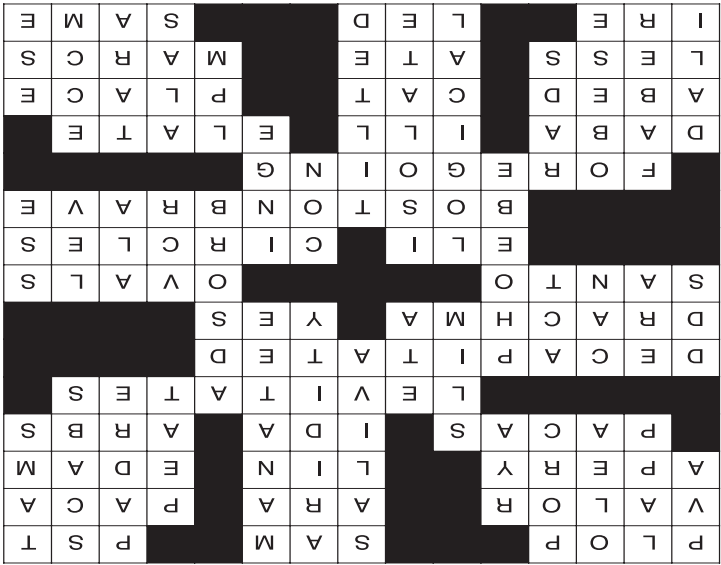
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by Trinity Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie that:

- The Corporation, whose principal office is located at 5881 SE 118th Street, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917, is in the process of voluntary dissolution.
- The Corporation has filed with the Minnesota Secretary of State a Notice of Intent to Dissolve.
- Such Notice was filed with the Minnesota Secretary of State on the 30th day of October 2018.
- All claims by creditors or claimants must be in writing and must be presented to: Michael Rodning Bash Attorney at Law 400 South 4th Street #1025 Minneapolis, MN 55415
- All claims by creditors or claimants must be presented by the 16th day of March 2019.

ss/ LaRae Hansen, Secretary

12/18,12/25,
1/1,1/8

Weekly crossword



DEALS ON WHEELS
Sell your car, bike, RV, trailer, and anything on wheels today!!
Over 25,000 in households

CLASSIFIEDS

BARGAIN FINDER
Sell your items for \$50 or less. Run it for four weeks. ONLY \$5!
www.steeledodgenews.com

TO PLACE AN AD
Steele County Times
507-583-4431
bptimes@frontiernet.net
411 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

3-WEEK SPECIAL: \$32
BUY TWO WEEKS,
GET THE THIRD FREE
UP TO 20 WORDS; 10¢ FOR EACH WORD AFTER

TO PLACE AN AD
Dodge County Independent
Dodge County Advantage
507-634-7503 • dci@kmtel.com
121 W. Main St., Kasson, MN 55944

DEALS ON WHEELS

2003 SPORTSMAN 5TH WHEEL CAMPER

- 26FT W/AWNING
- SLEEPS 5 - BUNK BEDS IN REAR
- QUEEN BED IN FRONT, COUCH/BED
- SUPER SLIDE (LIVING ROOM & DINING AREA)
- INSIDE/OUTSIDE SHOWER, 2 LG. STORAGE BINS
- VERY CLEAN. USED BY 2 ADULTS

CALL TO MAKE APPOINTMENT
GENE FRANCIS 507-583-2331



\$8,000

DEALS ON WHEELS



2010 Honda Gold Wing, 12,000 miles. Heated seats and handle bars (\$24,000 new)
Asking \$14,000.
Call Jim 477-2458 or 438-9981 (cell)

DEALS ON WHEELS

1992 Dodge Dakota



318 V8, Black, 192,000 miles, Fair condition, Running Boards, Ladder Rack, Tool Box
\$1,500 OBO
507-455-9662 or **507-390-2626**
Ask for Stephen

to month leases & no pets. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity (wk 1,2,3 chg.)
2 BD ~ DODGE CENTER Available February. \$725 p/mo. + elec. Smoke free, garage, one-year leases & no pets. Included blinds, 1½ baths & central air! 507-633-2178 or 507-451-8524 or www.lifestyleinc.net/greystone.asp tdd 507-451-0704 EHO (wk 1,2,3 chg)

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

SERVICES

HAMM'S WELDING - All types, aluminum, stainless steel, cast iron, fabrication work and repairs. HAMM'S WELDING, 528-2524, rural Claremont. 9tfc

EMPLOYMENT

DODGE CENTER AMERICAN LEGION looking for a part time bartender. If interested, please contact Melissa at 507-380-0983 (wk 1,2,3 chg)

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

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



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

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)

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: BORDER COLLIE / BLUE HEELER cross Puppies. Born 10/30/18. 3 males, 4 females. Asking \$250.00 each. Call 507-383-6701. (wk 1,2, and 3 No charge)

FOR RENT

APARTMENTS FOR RENT, 1, 2 & 3 BR, gas & elec. Included. 507-273-7386. 44tfc
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 507-451-0704 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 507-451-0704 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)
1 BD ~ MANTORVILLE Rent from \$480 p/mo. + elec. Month

Farmland for Rent

354 tillable Acres in Westfield Township

Taking bids till the end of December

Gary Trom
507-456-2957

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

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



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.stewartvillegarecenter.com or send an email to: KSchwartz@stewartvillegarecenter.com

 *Affirmative Action Employer*
120 4th Street NE, Stewartville, MN 55976

MDS Coordinator (RN)

Prairie Manor Care Center is a 40-bed skilled nursing facility in Blooming Prairie, MN looking for a MDS Coordinator (RN) to join our team. This position is special as it will not require the RN to work the floor. The RN would primarily be working a desk position completing a variety of care plans, assessments, and MDS related reporting. Knowledge in our electronic health record system, Point Click Care (PCC) is preferred. Common complaints among nurses is working irregular hours and being pulled in many directions. With this position you can be comfortable in knowing you will work steady hours of 8am-5pm M-F.

Great benefits include:

- Simple IRA with match
- BCBS Health with HRA
- Free life insurance
- PTO, paid holidays, and more!

Contact Joseph at 507-583-5180


www.prairiemanorinc.com
Job Type: Full-time | Salary: \$29.00 to \$35.00/hour | EOE

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Registered Nurse
Fulltime position in our assisted living environment.

Flexible schedule/Benefits.
Join a great team


Prairie Meadows SENIOR LIVING

Apply at: www.oxfordmgmt.com/careers • EOE



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

GREAT VALUE LIKE NEW

- ▶ 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

 **Stewartville Care Center**
120 4th Street NE Stewartville, MN 55976

NOW HIRING:
RN's · LPN's · TMA's · CNA's
Full and Part-time Hours

Day and Night Shifts; Nurses (12 Hour Shifts); TMAs Day and PM Shifts (8 Hour Shifts) CNA's PM shifts (8 Hour shifts)

Work Every Other Weekend and Holiday; Flexible Schedules. Scholarship program including: Tuition, Books, Mileage, And Childcare while in school.

Group Health Insurance and Group Dental Insurance

If you're interested, you can apply online at: stewartvillegarecenter.com or email a resume to: kschwartz@stewartvillegarecenter.com

Affirmative Action Employer

NOW HIRING

Cook (AM Shift-Part-Time)
Dietary Aide (PM Shift- Part-Time)

We have current openings for:

Cook on Day Shift (4:30am-1:00pm). 48 Hours Pay Period

Dietary Aide on PM Shift (3:30-7:00pm) 24 hours Pay Period.

Please go to our website at: stewartvillegarecenter.com to apply or email a resume to: KSchwartz@stewartvillegarecenter.com

 **Stewartville Care Center**
120 4th St NE Stewartville, MN

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

DEAR SANTA,

I want a lego pelay set because I don't have very many legos. I deserve them because I help put away groceries. I think your clothes are neat. I was wondering if your reindeers have decorations on their antlers.

Love, Levi

DEAR SANTA,

May I have some Pokemon cards so I can battle with Read. I feel I deserve it because I did the chores for Macy. How are you doing? I hope the reindeer are going good? Thak you for sending Scott to us every year.

From, Cooper White

DEAR SANTA,

I would like an RC truck because my RC car hasn't been working. I feel I deserve it because I help my mom clean the guinea pig cages and the liter boxes. How is Mrs. Claus? How are her cookies? The toys that you have been giving me the past few years were the best things ever.

Sincerely, Justin

Merry Christmas Santa!

DEAR SANTA,

I want a diary because then I can write all my stories in there. I feel I deserve it because I've been helping my mom and dad clean. How is Mrs. Claus doing? I like that the elves make toys for us.

Your friend, Zoey

Merry Christmas!



A vertical graphic with a blue background, white snowflakes, and a red ribbon that says "Happy Holidays" in a cursive font.

The Bakery

Main Street
Blooming Prairie
583-4433



A yellow badge with a star and the text "Star Tribune TOP 150 WORKPLACES 2018".

A large, circular graphic with the words "Happy Holidays" in a blue, cursive font, surrounded by a dense pattern of white snowflakes.

It's Our Business to Protect Yours

FEDERATED
INSURANCE

Commercial Insurance Property & Casualty | Life & Disability Income | Workers Compensation
Personal Lines Insurance (MN only) Homeowners, Condominiums, & Renters | Auto | Personal Umbrella
Federated Mutual Insurance Company and its subsidiaries* | federatedinsurance.com
Ward's 50® Top Performer | A.M. Best® A+ (Superior) Rating
19.11 Ed. 12/18 *Not licensed in all states. © 2018 Federated Mutual Insurance Company

Have a Merry Christmas

Legacy Monument Sales

Thank You to all the families we have been blessed to work with.
A special Thank You to the Chamber of Commerce, American Legion and Community for all the support in the Green Space Veterans Memorial project in Claremont MN.

Leon & Lori Bohlman

A black granite monument for Douglas E. (Doug) and Kathleen A. (Kathy) Krell. The monument is shaped like a house and has a circular photo of the couple on the roof. The text on the monument reads: "WENCL DOUGLAS E. (DOUG) MAR. 31, 1951 KATHLEEN A. (KATHY KRELL) DEC. 1, 1954". Below the main text, it says "PARENTS OF TREVOR KENOB UMA IRISHA CZARINA DAHLIA".

& a Joyous New Year

Leon's cell: 507-456-7864
Lori's cell: 507-456-3735
Email: landlbo@gmail.com