STEELE COUNTY Times

NEW COFFEE OWNERS B4

SPORTS B1

www.steeledodgenews.com TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019 Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

New Year's Day fire burns house to ground in BP

Man fighting cancer now has no home

BY HOWARD LESTRUD AND RICK BUSSLER
STAFF WRITERS

A man facing several medical problems is now staring at another challenge—finding a new place to live.

Ken Zylstra of Blooming Prairie has lost everything after fire swept through his residence early on New Year's Day. Twenty-four Blooming Prairie firefighters, assisted by firemen from Ellendale and Hayfield, fought the blaze on East Main Street near Arkema.

The two-story house was fully engulfed when firefighters arrived at the scene after receiving a 911 call at 3:30 a.m.

Blooming Prairie Fire Chief Dean Naatz said the home, owned by Ken Zylstra, was destroyed. He was not at home at the time of the fire.

A home and a garage next door was also damaged to the sum of about $10,000, Chief Naatz said. Occupants of the home (names unavailable) were raised and removed from the house next door, Naatz reported.

A semi truck, parked on the Zylstra property, appeared to suffer no damage.

Zylstra has been fighting colon and liver cancer, which has left him with medical bills and time away from his job. He is a truck driver.

A gofundme campaign has been started to assist Zylstra with getting back on his feet. As of Sunday night, $1,910 had been raised of the $10,000 goal.

According to the gofundme posting, Zylstra had no home insurance because he couldn't afford it after battling the medical issues. "He lost everything," the posting read. "Ken is such a happy,

SEE **FIRE, A3**

FIRE VICTIM FUND

Gofundme campaign to help Ken Zylstra

www.gofundme.com/ken-zylstra-house-fire

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Police tape sealed off this property on East Main Street in Blooming Prairie early Tuesday morning, Jan. 1, New Year's Day. The Blooming Prairie Fire Department was summoned to a residence just east of Blooming Prairie at 3:30 a.m. The home owner, Kenneth Zylstra, was not home at the time.

STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS BALDWIN

At 75 years old, Don Matejcek dives into the ice during the New Year's Day dive at Kaplans Quarry by Owatonna. The dive has been held every year since 1963 by members of the Owatonna Diving Club. This was Matejcek's 52nd New Year's Day dive.

A New Year's dip

Veteran diver plunges under the ice

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

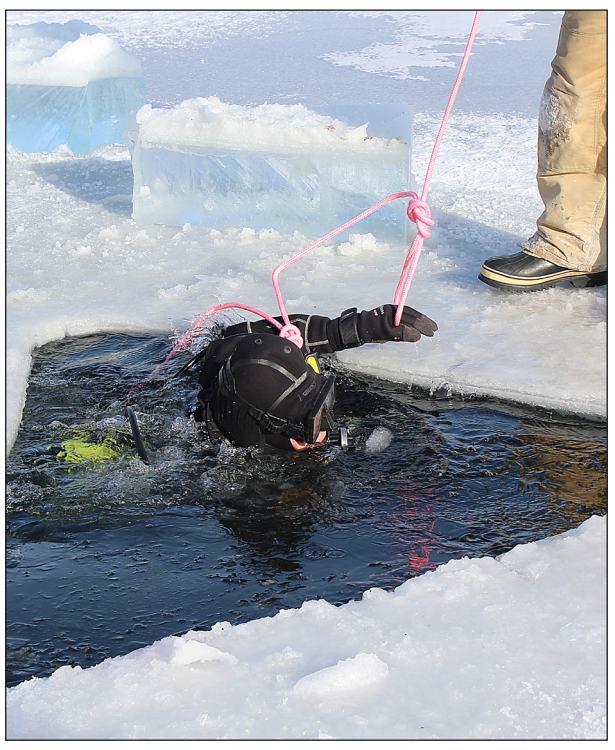
On a freezing cold New Year's Day, three divers submerged under the ice at Kaplan's Quarry outside of Owatonna, and one of them was 75-year-old Don Matejcek.

Matejcek, whose interest in diving was inspired by Jacques Cousteau as a youth, has participated for 52 of the dive's 56 years. The tradition began on New Year's Day in 1963, when Matejcek and a few others, prompted by a dare from some adults the night before, jumped into the frigid waters of Lake Kohlmeir. The Owatonna Diving Club was formed that spring.

Prior to that, there were initial classes given through the Owatonna High School by two teachers that were self-taught divers in the fall of 1961 that spurred Matejcek's life-long hobby. "When they offered it in the fall, we wanted to try it," he recalled.

Serving in the United States Army Aviation branch during Vietnam meant that Matejcek wasn't able to dive every year

SEE **DIVE, A8**



New year brings pay hike for county board

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

After several years without any pay increases, members of the Steele County Board have decided it's time for them to make more money.

In late December, the board approved a 2.5 percent increase in base pay on a split 3-2 vote. The raise will boost the salary of commissioners by $547 to $22,433 per year. Commissioners John Glynn and Rick Gnemi voted against a pay raise.

Commissioner Greg Krueger made the motion to give the commissioners the 2.5 percent pay hike. He noted it is the same increase county employees generally receive each year.

Glynn, who serves as the board chair, voted against a pay raise because of how commissioners have leaned on people to keep costs down and be efficient.

County administrator Scott Golberg said the last time the board raised its pay came in 2012. In December 2011, the board raised its pay by about $400 to the current level before this year's increase of $21,886.

Asked how Steele County's commissioner pay compares to other counties, Golberg responded, "We're definitely on the low end."

Golberg said there have been no employee contract settlements yet for 2019, but he anticipates the increases will fall between 2.5 and 3 percent. The county's budget was approved in December with those increases reflected within the budget, he noted.

The often-controversial issue of per diem pay, which adds additional pay above and beyond the regular salary for commissioners attending extra meetings, will remain the same at $70. Past county boards have drawn sharp criticism for per diem pay.

"It makes clear sense to keep the per diems the way it has always been," said James Brady, commissioner. He said keeping per diems provides a certain degree of accountability for commissioners to attend meetings they are supposed to be at. "We wanted to keep per diems to make sure we're going to meetings," he added.

Brady noted that commissioners only collect per diem pay one time no matter how many meetings they attend in one day. For example, on Jan. 14, Brady is scheduled to be at four meetings throughout the day beginning at 9 a.m. in the Twin Cities and ending back in Owatonna later in the day with the last meeting at 7 p.m. He will collect $70 for all four meetings and about 12 hours of work and travel.

Brady said it happens two or three times each month where he attends multiple meetings in one day.

The salary change took effect on Jan. 1.

Unusual hunt brings in $25K for cancer

Coyote fundraiser benefits BP Cancer Group

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

For the second straight year, a large group of coyote hunters participated in a fundraising event for the benefit of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group. Nine pelts were turned in at the close of the hunt at The Cue Company on Saturday, Jan. 5

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"It's pretty incredible, and I'm still in awe," remarked an ecstatic Elliott Herdina after seeing the Second Annual Coyotes "Fur" Cancer fundraiser surpass its goal by $5,000.

Herdina and Craig Anderson, co-chairs of the fundraising event for the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group, said unofficial totals showed the take at $25,000, a total exceeding the goal the two had set.

"It's just amazing, and we are so thankful," said Cheri Krejci, treasurer of the BP Cancer Group.

"It is always so rewarding to see how generous people are, the donors of prizes and those who bought chances on prizes," Herdina said.

Several different hunting groups and some individuals hunted the coyote during the day. Even Elliott Herdina bagged a coyote, shooting it with an automatic .22 rifle from about 250 yards. "I got a male and it had a pretty coat," Herdina said.

Herdina's pelt and eight others were brought to the Cue Company where they were staged for a photo of all coyote hunters participating in this event. "Let's take the photo and get it done in less than 10 minutes," Herdina challenged the hunters. After the photos were taken, Herdina said the time elapsed was only eight minutes.

An estimated 200 persons attended this special event, which appealed to not only the coyote hunters but to other sportsmen and to supporters of the BP Cancer Group.

Monies from the fundraiser were earned from raffles, auctions and general donations. Most of the prizes were

SEE **COYOTE HUNT, A8**

$1.00 | Volume 127, No. 24

507-583-4431 | bptimes@frontiernet.net

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AREA DEATHS

Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893

OPINIONS MATTERED IN 2018

Times readers give their opinions during 2018

It's always rewarding to see Steele County Times readers engaged with issues of the day.

Again in 2018 as in other years, readers shared their opinions on a variety of subjects.

The year 2018 was a political year and because of some contentious races, our letters soared from 36 in 2017 to 69 in 2018. Many of the letters were generated by a Steele County Sheriff's race that pitted incumbent Sheriff Lon Thiele against Darrin Helget, a current Steele County deputy.

The Times always encourages its readers to write letters on a regular basis.

Sometimes readers write to share an experience, while others desire to express their opinions about an issue. Whatever the case may be, we want our readers to know the opportunity to write a letter is available.

Let's look back on 2018 and read a couple of letters that appeared in our editorial columns.

No plans to disband BP Police

Dear Editor,

It has come to my attention that members of the Vote for Darrin Helget campaign are misleading members of our community into believing that if they don't vote for Darrin Helget and Sheriff Lon Thiele is re-elected that the Blooming Prairie Police Department. This is not true (fake news).

There have never been any formal discussions with the Steele County Sheriff or the Steele County commissioners about contracting with Steele County for law enforcement There had been a discussion with Sheriff Thiele after Chief Paul Wayne decided to retire about coverage, but there was never any serious discussion about disbanding the City of Blooming Prairie Police Department.

All members of the City Council, the mayor and myself support the Blooming Prairie Police Chief and his staff and there are currently no discussions with the current Steele County Sheriff or any future sheriffs about letting the county take over our department.

If you feel that you might have been misled and felt forced to install a Vote for Darrin Helget sign because of the possible disbanding of the Blooming Prairie Police Department, rest assured that there has not been any secret discussions or meetings with the Steele County Sheriff or the Steele County Commissioners.

I am somewhat embarrassed that members of our community would believe that the Blooming Prairie Council would consider disbanding our police department.

Michael G. Jones
Blooming Prairie City Adminisrator

Choose the most qualified

To the Editor:

Mary Helget's letter regarding our Steele County Sheriff's Department dated Sept. 15, 2018 got me thinking. Yes, this is a great place to live. I was born and raised here in Steele County, and I love it here.

In the last eight years, per public information, deputes have left for various reasons, retirement, medical, new jobs, moving home and promotions in other cities, to name a few. Our County Sheriff is ultimately here to enforce the law, not to be a best friend, in some cases not everyone appreciates that fact.

Management of our multi-million dollar department with all its complexities should be continued by the most qualified and experienced leader. It's not a place to "experiment."

Sheriff Lon Thiele has been consistently under budget and has been a great steward of the taxpayer dollars, finding many innovative ways to save taxpayers money. He has implemented many public safety programs in Steele County for children and adults and has been very active in our communities with fundraisers, benefits, education and of course law enforcement.

The position of county sheriff should be filled by the most qualified person and if you study the candidates, I think there is no question that Sheriff Thiele is that person.

Steele County has an excellent training program that will assist deputies to meet the Sheriff's Office high standards. Sheriff Thiele has publicly said the deputy training is some of the best in the state.

Sheriff Thiele has been in law enforcement for 28 years, was born and raised on a dairy farm here and is committed to keeping Steele County safe. His work resume will speak for itself.

I encourage electing the candidate with the vest qualifications and most experience.

Re-elect Sheriff Lon Thiele Nov. 6.

Debi Souba,
Steele County resident

Candidate plans to rebuild relationships with neighboring counties

To the Editor:

I am Darrin Helget and I am running for Steele County Sheriff. I believe it is time for a change.

On Aug. 10, 2018, the Owatonna People's Press published an article about an idea by the current Steele County Sheriff to combine our detention center (jail) with Waseca County. The way it was presented to Waseca County, by leaving Sheriff Brad Milbrath "out of the loop," was not met well by Sheriff Milbrath. Sheriff Milbrath subsequently removed all Waseca inmates from the Steele County Detention center on Aug. 3 and is housing them elsewhere. Sheriff Milbrath stated he had no intention to house any more in Steele County at about $60 per day.

The current Steele County Sheriff was quoted as saying, "One person isn't going to make or break a jail."

At a time when our detention center is under the watchful eyes of citizens and commissioners, we should not be losing any outside income. For each such inmate at $60 per day, $21,900 is lost per year.

Now let's look at the real numbers. So far in 2018, Waseca County has paid Steele County $39,960 from Jan. 1 until Aug 3. That is 215 days, which translates to just over three inmates per day at $60 per day.

Furthermore, since 2008, Waseca County has paid Steele County $502,687.24 to house inmates. These figures are from the Waseca County Auditor's Office.

Steele County cannot afford this. I am a 20-year veteran of the Steele County Sheriff's Office, and I will work hard to rebuild the relationship with the Waseca County Sheriff's Office and other neighboring agencies.

Vote Darrin Helget for Steele County Sheriff on Nov. 6.

Darrin Helget
Steele County Sheriff candidate

Sheriff has done an excellent job

To the Editor:

We are writing this letter in support of re-electing Lon Thiele for Sheriff.

Lon has been our Sheriff for the past eight years. He has done an excellent job.

Lon has the knowledge, experience and training to continue to be Sheriff.

Lon was born and raised in Steele County and is very committed to all of the citizens of Steele County. He holds people accountable, he has proven leadership, and he has integrity.

Join us in voting for Lon Thiele for Sheriff of Steele County on Nov. 6.

Jeff and Jessica Warner
Owatonna

Chief disagrees with letter from reader

To the Editor:

A recent letter to the editor from Ron Priebe commented on Oct. 16. I am confused by everything that he wrote. Ron stated my letter was half-truths? Everything I said was the truth.

In Ron's letter, it was stated that the current sheriff would never prevent a deputy from assisting the Blooming Prairie PD or another agency if an officer needed assistance. Did you know the current sheriff denied backup to one of the BP officers?

One of BP's officers was on a traffic stop, and requested assistance from the Steele County Sheriff's Office. While the deputy was on their way to Blooming Prairie, the current sheriff got on the radio and requested the deputy who was responding to go to "car to car," which is a channel on the radio that is not recorded.

Surrounding law enforcement agencies are able to monitor and hear everything that takes place on car-to-car channels. The sheriff told the deputy that Blooming Prairie has their own police department and that the officer can call out an off-duty officer to assist. You could hear in the deputy's voice that he was not alright with that decision, not being able to respond to an officer needing assistance.

The traffic stop in Blooming Prairie occurred at 4:55 p.m. Steele County had a call at 4:13 p.m. and then not another call until 6:41 p.m. There were no calls during the time the officer requested help. I had numerous Steele County deputies reach out to me and apologize as they were embarrassed and ashamed about this.

Recently, an officer in BP was in a foot pursuit, and ended up deploying his taser. A deputy responded who was not far away and was told by the sheriff he should have never responded.

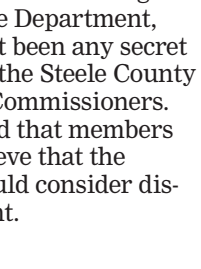
Greg Skillestad
Chief
Blooming Prairie Police Department

WHO WROTE TO THE EDITOR IN 2018?

Here's a list of those who wrote letters to the editor and had them published in the Steele County Times in 2018:

Marcy Sundine • Douglas Eayrs • Jackie Rasmusson • Joan Young • Team Gleasons • Jane Norquist • Mary Preston Atthowe • Michelle Even • Sonja Trom Eayrs • Wayne Stenberg • Ben Anderson • Jane Fraser • Tom Shea • Mark Jacobson • William Wiemer • Melanie Tschida • David Nelson • Michael G. Jones • Stephanie Miller • Dan Deml • Mary Helget • Debi Souba • Ron Skala • Greg Skillestad • Marty and Deb Rethemeier • Don Overlie • Andrew Bateman • Philip Heim • Craig Helgeson • Jim Boerboom • Janet Tippett • Luella Heim • Ron Priebe • Tony Padilla • Cynthia Herbst • Susan Maricle • Curt & Karen Oeljenbruns • pfc Noah Sletten • Don Boeke • Mike Meyer • Jeff and Jessica Warner • Greg Skillestad • Wyonne Priebe • Tom Peterson • B.J. Schrank • Brian Bettett • Connie Ruth • Donna Harris • Matt Steinrueck • Bill Souba • Carl Wieman • Tom Harris • Jodi Bushey • Ron and Michelle Sletten • Jean Reese • Stephanie Kibler • Scott Reese • Brooke Thiele • Wyonne and Ron Priebe • Donna Harris • Tom Harris • Kurt Frietag • Jeremy Jirele • Christy Hanson • Philip Hein • Mary Hnnenkamp and Scott Hanson.

It's just another way to fight cancer



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

There's more than one way to fight cancer and hopefully ending up finding a cure for it.

Just check with the many people who have supported the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group over the years.

If it isn't a Ham Bingo, Turkey Bingo or cancer auction, it's a coyote hunt designed to raise monies toward finding a cure for that dreaded disease.

It's just unbelievable that more than $25,000 can be raised on a coyote hunt and that this money can be directed toward cancer research.

That's what happened last weekend as the Second Annual Coyotes "Fur" Cancer fundraising event brought in an unofficial $25,000. This is $7,000 more than raised last year by the first event of its kind.

Yes, we believe this is the first event of this kind held around the country.

It just took the ingenuity of two young hunters, Craig Anderson and Elliott Herdina, to come up with the idea of having an event that would benefit the BP Cancer Group.

Cancer touched the Anderson family, and this event is one way that we can strike back against cancer.

The generosity of Blooming Prairie people continues to impress me. Put out a fine cause and the people of the Blooming Prairie area will support it.

It's because of the hard work of Anderson and Herdina and many, many others that his event could even be born.

If there's a cause to be supported, it seems like the Blooming Prairie area communities will support it.

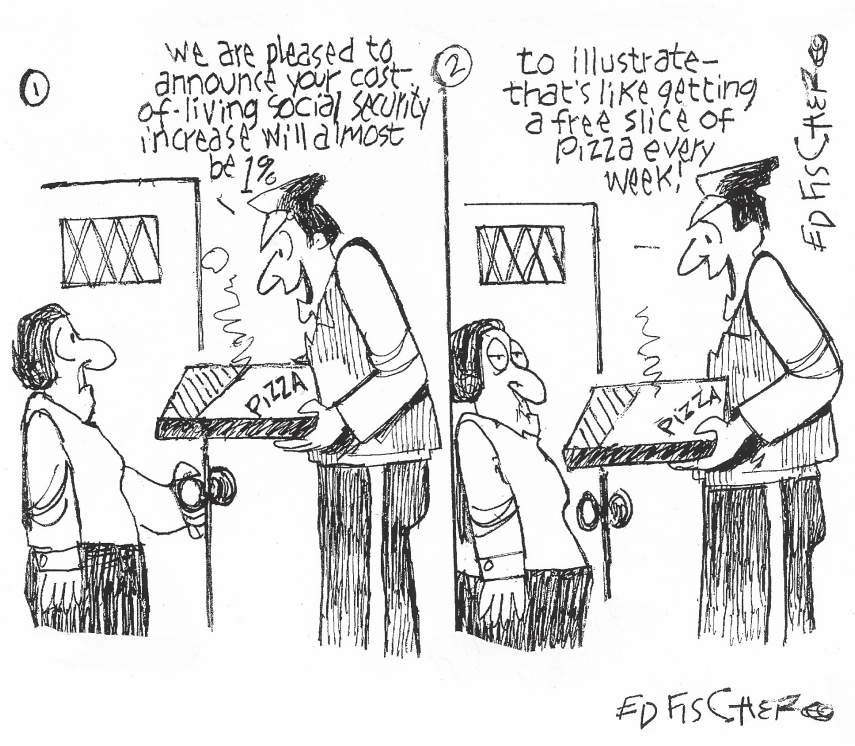
Now, for the next two weekends, Geneva will sponsor its annual cancer auctions. Go to the Geneva Liquor Store the next two weekends and help another cancer fighting cause.

Enough thanks cannot be said to the organizers of these fundraising events. Thank yous must also go out to the many people who dig into their wallets and purses to say, "I will help you."

These fundraising events are only successful because small communities care.

Never give up on an effort to beat cancer. There are many cancer survivors out there and it's because of the loyal and determined efforts of many people, that inroads continue to be made against cancer.

THANK YOU.



STEELE COUNTY Times
Founded in 1893
Bussler Publishing, Inc.
www.steeledodgenews.com
Email: bptimes@frontiernet.net

USPS 058-340
Published Weekly on Tuesdays
Postmaster: Send address changes to:
Steele County Times
P.O. Box 247
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
Phone: 507-583-4431
Fax: 507-583-4445

Publisher ..... Rick Bussler
Sports Editor ..... Dennis Marshall
Advertising Director ..... Annie Anderson
Staff Writer ..... Howard Lestrud
Staff Writer ..... LeMar Nelson
Sales ..... Tracie Anderson
Bookkeeper/Sales ..... Jaye Adams

ETHICS
The Steele County Times editorial staff strives to present the news in a fair and accurate manner. Please bring any grievances against the Steele County Times to the attention of the Managing Editor.

DEADLINES
News: Noon Fridays.
Web: 11 p.m. (Daily)
Advertising: 4 p.m. Thursdays.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower $46
Elsewhere in Minnesota $49
Out of state $52

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Deeper appreciation for history

Steele Talkin'
STEPHANIE KIBLER

Working at the Steele County Historical Society has given me a deeper appreciation for our history, locally and nationally. I have also come to realize that we do not seem to be quick learners; we tend to repeat our history, whether it is our personal story or our nation's story.

The Over Here, Over There: The Great War 100 exhibit at the Steele County History Center provides insight in to some similarities between 1919 and 2019.

One hundred years ago, progressives suggested a number of solutions that very often involved increasing the power of government. Critics of big businesses advocated regulation and income taxes. Suffragists argued that the wholesome influence of women in politics would lead to a better society. Temperance activists made similar claims about the prohibition of alcohol.

This week our newly elected officials were sworn in. It is the most racially diverse and most female group of representatives ever elected to the House, whose history spans more than 200 years. It boasts many firsts, from the first Native American congresswomen to the first Muslim congresswomen. Of the 111 newest faces in Congress, 42 women will join Congress, there are 24 people of color in the freshman class, and many of them will represent mostly white district. More than a dozen documents and books, including the US Constitution, Eastern Orthodox Bible and Quran, were used to swear in officials of various ethnic and religious backgrounds.

WWI divided the progressive movement. Pacifists wanted a peaceful resolution to disputes. More militant progressives wanted to "make the world safe for democracy." During the Presidential election in 2016, Donald Trump promised a 'safer' America.

In April of 1917, the country was far from united, many feared disunity would translate into disloyalty. This fear led government officials to take drastic action. Today there is significant division on building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

"No country is the Mother County of America……..All nations have added their contributions to the great homogeneous American people." –John Moonan, Former May of Waseca, July 4, 1916, Central Park, Owatonna

During WWI, mass immigration created social tensions. Many native born citizens demanded assimilation and wanted less immigration. Once the US entered the war, immigrants were drafted. The presence of immigrants in the army—one in five draftees was foreign born—making a diverse fighting force. Assimilationists hoped the military would be a "melting pot." Yet, despite their war service, many Americans remained suspicious of immigrants, associating them with dangerous ideologies like Bolshevism.

"They came [to Minnesota], most of them, poor and empty-handed, with no capital but stout hearts and willing hands, [and] possessed of an intense desire and purpose to become good American citizens….An today, after the lapse of half a century, she can truly say that they have not betrayed the trust she reposed in them…the foreign-born sons and daughters of Minnesota, though loving the lands of their birth, still place her, and the great country of which she is a part, uppermost in their love and affection." -- Senator Knute Nelson, May 14, 1896

According to the 1910 census, immigrants made up one-fifth of Steele County's population. Less than one-third of county residents were Americans with two native-born parents. Today 3.6 percent of the Steele County population is foreign born.

In addition to immigration and suffrage, the inter-active exhibit shares information on how Steele County was impacted by WWI, the role mascots played in the war and much more!

Stephanie Kibler is the meetings and event coordinator for the Steele County History Center in Owatonna. She also serves on the Ellendale City Council. Steele Talkin is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

BP Legion announces 2 scholarship winners

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

American Legion Post 52 and Auxiliary presented two $500 scholarships to Lucas Zellmer and to Jennifer Koudelka. American Legion Commander Karl Luiken is at far left and Legion Auxiliary President Suzy Thorson is at far right. Randy Zellmer, second from left, accepted for his son Lucas. Jennifer is second from right.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie's American Legion Post 52 and Auxiliary have once again donated two $500 scholarships to two college students.

Recipients in 2019 are Jennifer (Jen) Koudelka and Lucas Zellmer.

Legion Commander Karl Luiken and Suzy Thorson, president of the Auxiliary presented the checks to Koudelka and Zellmer.

LUCAS ZELLMER

Legionnaire Ken Trom is administrator for the Legion Scholarship Committee.

Koudelka is the daughter of Scott and Gretchen Koudelka of Hastings. She is a sophomore at St Catherine's University, St Paul. Jennifer is a 2017 graduate of Hastings High School.

Zellmer is the son of Randy and Kay Zellmer, Blooming Prairie. He is in his second year of medical school at the University of Minnesota. Lucas is a 2012 graduate of Blooming Prairie High School and is a 2016 graduate of the University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse.

Koudelka is studying to be a sonographer, working in hospitals or clinics, specializing in Obstetrics.

Her connection to the Blooming Prairie American Legion Auxiliary comes through the working relationship between Commander Luiken and Jennifer's father through their work at the Eagan Post Office.

Luiken logged 44 ½ years with the Eagan Post Office before retirement. Scott Koudelka is still working for the Eagan Post Office and has been there 29 years.

Jennifer has an older sister, Katelin, who also attended St. Catherine's and graduated in 2018, studying physical therapy. She is now studying for her doctorate at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. She worked at Courage Kenny in Golden Valley.

Koudelka is a very busy young woman. She is in charge of making bowls for Open Arms of Minnesota, a nonprofit that cooks and delivers free, nutritious meals to people living with life-threatening illnesses in the Twin Cities.

She is also a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) at Augustana Care in Hastings. Koudelka only works as a CNA when she's not in school. "Her school is more important than working," says her father Scott.

Jennifer was also hired as an athletic trainer at Hastings High School. She also helped with coaching running, lifting and resistance/agility classes.

In high school, Jennifer volunteered at the Regina Senior Care Center. She worked in physical therapy. "I liked pushing wheel chairs around," she said, showing her love for volunteering.

"I'm very grateful to the Legion Auxiliary and it will help me pay for my schooling," remarked Jennifer.

She also is the recipient of a $25,000 Presidential Scholarship for each of her collegiate years.

"We're pretty proud of you," commented Karl Luiken. "I am blessed and grateful to have this scholarship," Jennifer stated.

Zellmer is receiving a $500 scholarship from the Legion for the second year in a row. His older brothers Matt and Marc also received the Legion awards.

Lucas has 2 ½ years left in his schooling and has not decided on his specialty field.

All three brothers were active in sports in Blooming Prairie, each playing football, basketball and baseball. "All are proud to be Blossons," says Zellmer's father Randy.

Zellmer's goal is to combine his love for both community level health and biochemical level pathophysiology throughout his career.

"Being awarded the BP American Legion scholarship has eased the financial burden of medical school," Zellmer said.

Seven applicants' documents were studied by scholarship committee members Bruce Kubicek, Doris Rasmussen, Carol Prokopec and Bob Ingvalson.

Open house set for upcoming road projects in Owatonna

Steele County and the City of Owatonna are undertaking a pavement rehabilitation project during the summer of 2019 along two important routes through Owatonna.

The routes are CSAH 45 (Oak Avenue) from Rose Street to Holly Street, and CSAH 19 (Rose Street) from Hoffman Drive to Willow Avenue.

An open house will be held Thursday, Jan. 10, 2019 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Steele County Community Center, 1380 South Elm Avenue, Owatonna.

Preliminary drawings will be available during the open house and community members will have an opportunity to comment on proposed improvements that include converting Oak Ave from a 4-lane road to a 3-lane road, adding a mini-roundabout at Grove Ave & Rose Street, and traffic signal modifications. County, City, and engineering consultant staff will be available for questions. The purpose of the Open House is to share information and encourage public comments (verbal and written) on the project.

For updates on this or other Steele County Highway construction projects, visit: www.co.steele.mn.us/divisions/public_works/transportation/construction_projects.php .

FIRE:
New Year's Day FROM A1

loving, giving person who never hesitates to help others. Let's reach out in this new year and help him through this difficult time."

The funds raised will go to help Zylstra with costs of clean up, clothes, food and housing.

"Anything will help, it's going to be a tough few months ahead for Ken," the gofundme posting said.

Anyone interested in contributing to help Zylstra can do so by reaching out to www.gofundme.com/ken-zylstra-house-fire.

In addition to the BP Fire Department and the departments from Ellendale and Hayfield, the Blooming Prairie Ambulance Service, Steele County Sheriff's Office and the Blooming Prairie Police Department were on the scene.

The State Fire Marshal is investigating the blaze.

PANTHER of the Week

Sponsored by: Steve's Smokey Acres — Award Winning Home-Cured Meat Products — Established 1973

Lauren Wakefield

This week's panther of the week is Lauren Wakefield. Lauren lives in the country by New Richland with her parents Emily and Kyle. She has a younger sister named Naomi. Lauren is in Mrs. Ihrke's second grade class at NRHEG.

She is a very artistic student with the kindest heart! Lauren loves to help others and she is an amazing friend! She's also a great role model for others because she is always showing her panther pride. She is very respectful to her teachers and works so hard in school.

Lauren likes to read I Survived and Magic Tree House books. Her favorite food is macaroni and cheese. Lauren enjoys drawing, doing gymnastics, and playing T-ball. Keep up the great work Lauren!

Two Owatonna juniors selected as ExCEL nominees

A pair of juniors from Owatonna High School have been nominated for the Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership (ExCEL) Award for the 2018-19 school year.

Samantha Fredin and Carson Dekam are finalists for the prestigious award. The award winners will be announced on Feb. 4.

Fredin is involved with DECA, prom committee, homecoming committee, Kiwanis Key Club and National Honor Society. She also participates in soccer, track and field, gymnastics manager and athletic training student assistant. For Fine Arts, she is involved with symphony orchestra and choir. In the community, she is a Sunday School teacher, Toys for Tots, Junior Fair Board and BBBS.

SAMANTHA FREDIN

CARSON DEKAM

Dekam is involved in student council, National Honor Society and homecoming committee. He participates in football, basketball, baseball, concert band, jazz band, pep band, concert choir, marching band and men's chorus. For community service, he is involved with From the Heart, BBBS, Trio of Friends, Toys for Tots and Salvation Army.

Sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League, the ExCEL awards recognize high school juniors who are active in fine arts and athletic activities, who demonstrate leadership qualities and who are model citizens in the community.

Each high school in the state can nominate one junior boy and girl for the awards.

This is the 23rd year that MSHSL has sponsored the ExCEL Award.

Smart Home Devices That Can Help Seniors Age-In-Place

THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by: Prairie Manor Care Center

Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus
220 3rd St. NW, Blooming Prairie
583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,
I recently read an article about how "smart home" devices can help seniors with aging-in-place. What types of smart home products can you recommend that can help with this?
Inquiring Senior

Dear Inquiring,
There are actually a wide variety of affordable smart home devices you can add to your home that can help make it safer and easier to live in as you age. Here's what you should know.

SMART HOME TECHNOLOGIES

While most Americans today use technology and enjoy the conveniences they provide, there are millions of seniors who still don't have much use for it. But you don't have to like technology or be tech savvy to benefit from the many different smart home automation devices that can help seniors age-in-place.

Smart home devices can also give family members and caregivers the ability to electronically keep tabs on their elder loved one when they can't be there, which provides peace-of-mind.

If you're interested in adding some smart home products to your house, you need to know that these devices require home Wi-Fi, and for many of the products, you'll need either a smartphone, tablet or voice-enabled assistant to operate them. Here are some popular aging-in-place smart home products to help you get started.

VOICE-ENABLED ASSISTANT: Popular products like the Amazon Echo (Amazon.com/echo), Google Assistant (Assistant.google.com) or Apple HomePod (Apple.com/homepod) will let you operate compatible smart home products with simple voice commands.

These devices can also play your favorite music, read audiobooks, make calls, set timers and alarms, provide reminders for medications, appointments and other things, check traffic and weather, ask questions, and much more – all done by voice commands.

SMART LIGHTS: Falls are common concerns among elderly seniors, which are often caused by fumbling around a dark room looking for a light switch. Smart light bulbs like the Philips Hue (MeetHue.com) can turn on and off the lights by voice command, smartphone or tablet. These bulbs can also dim the lights and you can program them to turn on and off whenever you want.

There are also smart electric plugs like the Wemo Mini (Wemo.com) that offer remote control automation for lamps, fans, or other electrical devices.

VIDEO DOORBELL: Safety is also a concern for seniors who live alone. Smart doorbells like the Ring video doorbell (Ring.com) would allow you to see, hear and speak to someone at her door (via smartphone, tablet, Google smart displays, Amazon Echo Show or Spot) without having to open it.

STOVETOP SHUT-OFF: To help seniors prevent home cooking fires, stovetop shut-off devices like the IGuardStove (IGuardFire.com) uses motion sensors to turn off electric and gas stovetops when left unattended for a predetermined amount of time. It will also alert family members via text.

MEDICATION MANAGEMENT: Seniors on a complex medication schedule can benefit from a smart medication tracking system like the PillDrill (PillDrill.com) that reminds you when pills are due, tracks that you've taken them, and notifies loves ones.

HOME MONITORING: Family members can keep tabs on older loved ones from afar with smart home video cameras like Lighthouse Al (Light.house/elderly-care) or a smart home sensor system like TruSense (MyTruSense.com).

OTHER OPTIONS: Some other helpful smart home products to consider include smart door locks like Kwikset Kevo (Kwikset.com), smart thermostats such as the Nest (Nest.com), and smart nightlights like Aladin (Domalys.com), which detects falls and alerts caregivers.

The costs for most smart home products range anywhere from a few dollars to several hundred dollars and can be found in many local home improvement stores as well as online.

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.

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10 Years Ago

Jan. 6, 2009

DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

Otto T. Lund, Post 52, American Legion and local American Legion Auxiliary awarded three $500 scholarships to local students—Patricia Mans, Sarah Mans and Hannah Severtson this past week.

Owatonna Police responded to a motor vehicle crash at 922 North Elm Ave. on Dec. 28. A child was transported to the hospital and died a short time later from injuries.

Donna Ditlevson has retired from Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie after 38 years on the job. She started in 1970 as an overnight nursing assistant.

Barb Kraling was featured for her local business at Cutting Edge. She has been providing a wide variety of services out of her home since 1993.

20 Years Ago

Jan. 5, 1999

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Blooming Prairie Police reported trees down on the median on Memorial Drive last week, apparently a truck driver intentionally swerved to down several trees there, as well as on the north part of town. Damage also included a snow fence down. Police are asking anyone with information to contact them about this case.

The Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce announced its Light Up Blooming Prairie winners. The winners were chosen from those entered in the contest with the winners picked by chamber members from Hayfield. Winners include Jeff and Suzi Burt, Tom and Julie Morgan, Tim and Sandy Kae Bass and Darrell and Cindi Hansen. Winners get the electric portion of their utilities bill for January paid.

50 Years Ago

Jan. 1, 1969

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

U.S. Air Force Major Roger Dean Ingvalson, a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, sent holiday greetings to his family in Stanford, Maine, and also in Blooming Prairie. The recorded message—addressed to Ingvalson's wife at 71 Lebanon St., in Stanford—was broadcast by Radio Hanoi, which identified the voice as Major Ingvalson's and said his serial number was FR30713.

Blooming Prairie will resume normal operations somewhat on Jan. 2, after the two-week holiday season and the Christmas shopping rush. Regularly scheduled monthly meetings will convene at their usual dates and other activities held as planned.

75 Years Ago

Jan. 6, 1944

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Regular meeting of the village council was held Monday night. After canvassing and auditing results of the election held Dec. 7, 1943, election certifications were acknowledged to O.J. Underwood, president; G.E. Egge, trustee and Frank Rysavy, constable. Glen Dennis was appointed street commissioner and police at a salary of $150 per month.

Six Blooming Prairie men passed the physical examinations at Ft. Snelling last week and have already been sworn into the armed forces of the United States. Ronald Dahl and Robert Ditlevson chose the Navy and Arnold Hanson the Marines. Chester Johnson, Myron Anderson and Vryle Krejci selected the army branch of the service.

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

JAN. 10
4 p.m. - Police Commission Meeting

JAN. 14
7 p.m. – City Council Meeting

JAN. 15
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
2 p.m. – Intro to Computers, BP Library
2:30 p.m. – BP Public Utilities Meeting
4:30 p.m. – Fire Commission Meeting
5:30 p.m. – Ambulance Commission Meeting
7 p.m. – Planning and Zoning Meeting

JAN. 16
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library

JAN. 17
6 p.m. – Annual Chamber Banquet, Servicemen's Club

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ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

JAN. 11
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

JAN. 14
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
7 p.m. – Berlin Township Meeting, Community Building

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

JAN. 16
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
5:30 p.m. – Community Ed-Rosemaling for Beginners, NR HS Art Room

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

JAN. 10
Noon – Park & Rec Youth Scholarship Committee Meeting, City Admin Building
2 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library
5 p.m. – Airport Commission Meeting, Airport
5 p.m. – Steele County Project Information Meeting, Community Center

JAN. 14
4:30 p.m. – Park & Rec Board Meeting, City Admin Building
5 p.m. – Joint County/City/School Meeting, County Admin Building
7 p.m. AAUW Meeting, Trinity Lutheran
7 p.m. – Steele County Planning Commission Meeting, County Admin Building

JAN. 15
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Tale Time, Owatonna Library

Support group offered for grief in Austin

A five-week bereavement support group for those who have experienced a loss will begin Tuesday, Jan. 15 and continue through Tuesday, Feb. 12.

This education and support group will provide materials and discussions on a variety of topics to assist participants in their grieving process. The group will meet weekly in the conference room at the Mower County Senior Center in Austin.

The meetings will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a different presenter each week and will be followed by an informal lunch gathering for anyone interested. The group is open to the public and all who feel this might be beneficial to their healing and all who are supporting them are invited to attend.

If more information is needed, please contact Mary at 507-433-5000 or 507-583-7561.

Annual pet cat show coming to St. Paul

More than 200 cats from the United States and Canada will compete for the title of Best Cat at the Saintly City Cat Club's 42nd Annual Championship and Household Pet Cat Show on Jan. 26-27.

The show will be held at the RiverCentre complex, in the Roy Wilkens Exhibition Hall (Lower Level) in downtown St. Paul. It is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Admission for adults will be $4, children (under 10) and senior citizens (over 65) will be $3.

Anyone interested in entering their cat in the show may contact Linda Mae Baker, show manager, at 651-455-8043 or email her at dasibe@centurylink.net for more information.

Ecumen Hospice seeks volunteers

Ecumen Hospice is opening Jan. 2 and seeking volunteers with an interest in serving patients and caregivers in Owatonna and surrounding communities.

Anyone interested can email HospiceVolunteer@Ecumen.org, or call Mary Schwieters at 507-774-3221.

WCO donates to charities

Representatives of three local not-for-profit organizations each received $1,453, the proceeds of the Woman's Club of Owatonna charity event. Left to right are: Dan Moeckly, Steele County Historical Society, for building a traveling mobile children's history to go program; Linda Breyer, Grandparents for Education, for recruiting volunteers and marketing; Missy Ahrens, co-chair of the We All Play inclusive playground project; and Marlys Olson, treasurer of WCO.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Women in Ag Conference set for Feb. 13

"Weathering the Storm," the fourth annual Women in Ag Network Conference will be Feb. 13 at the Willmar Conference Center, 240 23rd St. SE, Willmar.

This fourth annual event will be a day of learning and networking for women involved in agriculture. Registration begins at 8:45 a.m. with conference program from 9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Sandy Hansen-Wolff, local agricultural business owner, speaker and consultant, will be the keynote speaker. Hansen-Wolff will focus on looking at participants' current life path – both professionally and personally. She will address areas in life and business where participants want to let go, change, reduce stress, become better leaders and improve in their lives.

Breakout sessions will feature three diverse tracks for attendees to choose from: business and finance, organizational leadership, and business and finance. The day will end with a panel discussion, "Make Your Own Weather," where panelists will talk about how they have worked to focus on making the best of agriculture even in challenging times.

Pre-registration is required for the conference at z.umn.edu/WAGN2019ConferenceReg. The early bird rate is $50 until Jan. 30. After that date, regular registrations are $65 and accepted until Feb. 6. Late registration is $80 and accepted after Feb. 6, if space allows. Students receive a special rate of $10 if registered by Feb. 6.

The Women in Ag Network is a collaboration between University of Minnesota Extension and Minnesota's Farm Service Agency. For more information, please visit z.umn.edu/WAGN. Feel free to contact Sarah Schieck (schi0466@umn.edu or 320-235-0726 ext. 2004) or Megan Roberts (meganr@umn.edu or 507-389-6722) with questions.

Area diving club offers scuba classes

For those wishing to learn more about scuba diving, the Owatonna Diving Club has the opportunity for you.

The club will sponsor a free Discover Scuba class on Feb. 6.

Sign-up is being handled through the Owatonna Community Education at Owatonnacommunityed.org or by calling 507-444-7900.

The club also encourages people to check out SCUBA classes through community education. Regular classes will be offered on Feb. 13.

Resolve to give blood with the Red Cross

The American Red Cross encourages people to help meet the urgent need for blood by resolving to give blood this January – National Blood Donor Month.

Donating blood or platelets is a way to make a lifesaving impact in the new year for patients like Judy Janssen, who was diagnosed with end-stage autoimmune liver disease in 2016. Janssen received frequent blood transfusions – sometimes multiple times a week – until she underwent a liver transplant last January.

"Blood donors make a really big difference with very little effort," said Janssen, who received dozens of transfusions before and during her transplant surgery. "I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for blood donations."

The critical role of blood donors has been celebrated each January for nearly 50 years during National Blood Donor Month, which coincides with one of the most difficult times to maintain a sufficient blood supply for patients. Busy holiday schedules, extreme winter weather and seasonal illnesses often impact donor turnout this time of year.

The Red Cross encourages eligible donors to resolve to give blood regularly, beginning in January.

Make an appointment to donate blood by downloading the free American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Another way to help keep the blood supply strong in the new year is to host a Red Cross blood drive. To learn more about hosting a blood drive and to sign up, visit RedCrossBlood.org/HostADrive.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in January:

STEELE
Owatonna
Jan. 10: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., St. Joseph's Church, 512 S. Elm Ave.
Jan. 11: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Joseph's Church, 512 S. Elm Ave.
Jan. 14: 1-6 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 609 S. Lincoln Ave.
Jan. 22: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Riverland Community College, 965 Alexander Drive SW.
Ellendale
Jan. 11: 12-6 p.m., Ellendale Community Center, 505 2nd St.

FREEBORN
Albert Lea
Jan. 9: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Freeborn County Sheriff's Office, 411 S. Broadway Ave.
Jan. 21: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Ramada, 2301 E. Main St.
Jan. 25: 2-7 p.m., St. Theodore Catholic Church, 308 E. Fountain St.
Jan. 31: 1-7 p.m., United Methodist Church, 702 Highway 69 S.

MOWER
Austin
Jan. 10: 12-6 p.m., Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1600 W. Oakland Ave.
Jan. 14: 12-6 p.m., Holiday Inn, 1701 4th St. NW
Jan. 28: 1-7 p.m., National Guard Armory, 800 21st St. NE
Jan. 29: 12-6 p.m., National Guard Armory, 800 21st St. NE
Jan. 30: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., National Guard Armory, 800 21st St. NE

DODGE
Dodge Center
Jan. 15: 1-7 p.m.- American Legion, 401 W. Highway St.
Hayfield
Jan. 11: 2-7 p.m., Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 204 Third Ave. NE
Kasson
Jan. 31: 12:30-6:30 p.m., Holy Family Catholic Church, 1904 N. Mantorville Ave.

How to donate blood
Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE LUNCH MENU

Jan 9 Carnita Nachos, Philly Flatbread, Calico Bean Bake, Birthday Cake

Jan 10 French Bread Pizza, Tuna Panini, Roasted Cauliflower

Jan 11 National Milk Day Cheeseburger on Bun, Ham Deli Sandwich, Green Beans

Jan 14 HOM: Basil and Onion Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Cheesy Italian Flatbread, Tomato Soup

Jan 15 Crispy Chicken Sandwich Basket, All American Burger Basket, Kettle Potato Chips, Pickle Slice

Jan 16 Italian Stromboli, Chicken Bacon Ranch Melt, Garden Salad

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

Jan 9 Hearty Vegetable Soup, Hamwich Sandwich, Alt: Turkeywich Sandwich, 3-Bean Salad, Cranberry Bog Dessert

Jan 10 Lasagna, Green Salad/Dressing, French Bread, Banana Pudding Dessert

Jan 11 Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Peas with Onions, Home Made Dinner Roll, Orange Slices

Jan 14 Swiss Steak in Sauce, Baked Potato/Marg/Sr Cr, Green Beans, Pumpkin Nut Cookies

Jan 15 Tater Tot Hotdish, Coleslaw, Home Made Dinner Roll, Mixed Fruit Cup

Jan 16 Italian Chicken Breast, Rice Pilaf, Buttered Carrots, Green Salad/Dressing, Cranberry Sauce, Cream Puff

J&H LIQUOR
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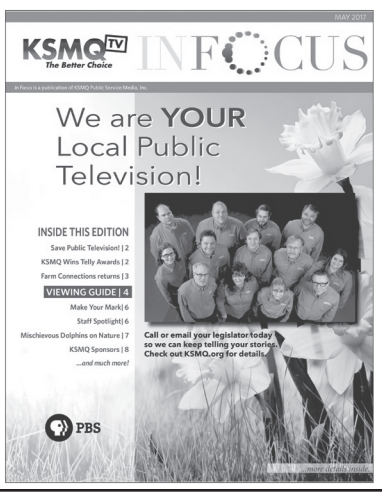

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Cast revealed for latest Little Theatre play

Little Theatre of Owatonna has announced the cast for its winter musical production of "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet."

The Tony Award-winning musical is a dark, witty tale of love, murder and revenge set against the backdrop of 19th century London. The theatrical treat has simultaneously shocked, awed and delighted audiences across the world.

The infamous tale tells the story of Sweeney Todd, an unjustly exiled barber who returns to London seeking revenge against the lecherous judge who framed him and ravaged his young wife. The road of vengeance leads Todd to Mrs. Lovett, a resourceful proprietress of a failing pie shop. Above her shop, Todd opens a new barber practice. Mrs. Lovett's luck sharply shifts when Todd's thirst for blood inspires the integration of an ingredient into her meat pies that has the people of London lining up. And the carnage has only just begun.

Patrick McColley is Sweeney Todd, Heather Burke is Mrs. Lovett, Maddie Mularky is Johanna, Jason Meyer is Anthony Hope, Isaiah DaMitz is Judge Turpin, Tim Van Gelder is The Beadle, Kenneth Griswold is Adolfo Pirelli, Kaitlin Baumann Hohenstein is Beggar Woman, Hank Bell is Tobias Ragg and Bill Wood is Jonas Fogg.

Members of the ensemble/company are Timothy Abraham, Alexis Ayers, Michael Burke, Mary Francis, Ron Hager, Shelby Johnston, Curt Jorgensen, Holly Jorgensen, Payton Jorgensen, Zackery Knapton, Courtney Kryzer, Sherry Kuns, William McIntyre, Ian Miller, Michelle Minton, David Philips, Theresa Scheidt, Heather Speiker, Dianne Suarez, Aaron Thevenot, Kate Verlautz, Tom Wiersma, and Gail Zollner.

Music and lyrics are by Stephen Sondheim with book by Hugh Wheeler. Jeffrey Jackson is the artistic director, Bev Cashman the music director and Kathy Purdie the technical director.

This production is for mature audiences.

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 14-16 and Feb. 21-23, with matinee performances at 2 p.m. Feb. 17 and 24.

"Sweeney Todd" is presented with special arrangements through Music Theatre International and is sponsored by the Wenger Foundation.

LIBRARY BOOK NOOK

Movies come to the big screen in BP

NANCY VAILLANCOURT

We are excited to let you know that we will again have a winter movie series at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library.

We invite you to join us at 1 p.m. on Thursdays in the City Council Chambers to watch the movies on our large screen projector. Copyright restrictions require the library to have a license to show movies in public. Not all movies are included in our licensing agreement so when groups want to show movies under our library license, we have to be sure that they can be shown publicly.

One of the restrictions of our license is that we cannot publish the names of the movies that will be shown. There is a list in the library so you know what is coming next. However, let me give you some hints and you can figure them out.

Jan. 10 - Attending a wedding in Singapore can open your eyes.

Jan. 17 - Documentary about a beloved children's show host.

Jan. 24 - Women can plan crimes too.

Jan. 31 - Bring your dancing shoes and be ready to sing along!

Feb. 7 - What happens when mature women read books together?

Feb. 21 - Suggestions are welcome for our final movie.

See you at the movies!

COLLEGE NEWS

Area students named to Wartburg Dean's List

Wartburg College has recognized 478 students who were named to the 2018 Fall Term Dean's List.

They include Lydia Revier and Natalie Shroyer of Owatonna.

The list honors students who earned a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above in at least four course credits during the term. Three of the four course credits have to be graded with a traditional letter grade.

Wartburg students take four courses during Fall Term, which runs from September through December.

Wartburg, a four-year liberal arts college internationally recognized for community engagement, enrolls 1,498 students. Wartburg is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and named after the castle in Germany where Martin Luther took refuge disguised as a knight during the stormy days of the Reformation while translating the Bible from Greek into German.

761 Foundation mini grant applications due Jan. 15

Teacher mini grant applications through the 761 Foundation for the 2019-2020 school year are now available and due on Tuesday, Jan. 15.

Every spring, the 761 Foundation awards nearly $100,000 in mini grants to teachers and principals in Owatonna's public schools to fund creative and innovative programs that benefit a large number of students and are not likely to be funded through traditional school funding.

The 761 Foundation was established in 1993 to support students and staff with opportunities and programs not usually funded with tax dollars. Since then, the 761 Foundation has awarded more than $1.7 million in mini grants to Owatonna Public Schools teachers and principals for programs and activities that enhance educational opportunities for all students.

Grant guidelines and the mini grant application can be found at the 761 Foundation website at https://www.761foundation.com-grants-scholarships

Grant recipients will be notified in March.

INDIVISIBLE set to present to Owatonna council

Owatonna will soon be designated as a "Pollinator Friendly City."

On Tuesday, Jan. 22, Steele County INDIVISIBLE will meet at 6 p.m. at the Owatonna City Council Chambers in West Hills to hear a presentation about the importance of supporting pollinators before presenting a resolution to the Owatonna City Council about becoming a pollinator friendly city.

Steele County INDIVISIBLE is a grassroots organization committed to the progressive movement begun by the 2017 Women's March encouraging grassroots activism at the local, regional, and national levels. Everyone is Welcome. We speak with many voices following the principals of the Women's March Minnesota in the pursuit of truth, equity, and justice.

Twice monthly meetings of Steele County INDIVISIBLE are regularly held at noon on second Tuesday each month and at 6 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday each month at the Owatonna Public Library, third floor Gainey Room. Meetings are free and open to the public. All are welcome.

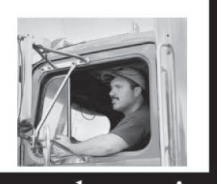
AAUW Owatonna plans January meeting

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Owatonna will be having its monthly meeting on Monday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. in the Trinity Lutheran Church Lounge.

AAUW Owatonna members invite interested guests and potential members to attend their meeting. The program for the evening will feature Sheryl Keith as she recounts her experiences while living in Venezuela. Venezuela is a South American country that is going through very hard times with dictators, organized crime and corrupt governments leaving the people poor, hungry, and vulnerable.

D.O.T. Physicals

Dr. Eischens is a Certified Medical Examiner and on the National Registry for DOT Health Cards



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Recipe Corner

REUBEN SOUP

INGREDIENTS:

1/3 c. butter
2 T. minced onion, or 1/2 tsp. onion powder
1 heaping T. finely-diced celery
3/4 c. flour
5 1/2 c. milk
1/4 tsp. caraway seed
1 tsp. salt
1 to 2 drops Tabasco sauce
12 oz. sauerkraut, undrained
1/3 lb. corned beef, cut into chunks
1/2 lb. Swiss cheese, grated

DIRECTIONS:

Saute onion and celery in butter until soft. Remove from heat and add flour. Gradually add milk, caraway seed, salt and Tabasco sauce. Mix with a wire whisk. Return to medium heat and cook until thickened. Add corned beef and sauerkraut; simmer on low heat for at least 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add Swiss cheese; heat until melted. Do not boil once cheese has been added.

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Birthdays

January 9
Kory Rafdal
Chris Schaefer

January 10
Paula Abbe

January 11
John Fredrickson

January 12
Jean Haubenschild
Ernie Betlach

January 13
Luke Nelson
Shannon Rivera-Escandon
Kim Erickson
Amelyah Hass

January 14
Brayden J. Greene
Jeremy Doerhoefer

January 15
Dr. Chad M. Eischens
Pam Hameister
Brian Farr

Anniversaries

January 11
Karl and Tricia Steckelberg

January 14
Jay and Jamie Klemmensen

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PASTOR'S COLUMN

New year, new beginnings, new resolutions

Rev. Stephanie Wood
AURORA AND TRINITY LUTHERAN, OWATONNA AND BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Whether in PJ's or a fancy dress, we go through the ritual of reflecting on the past at the end of every year. On TV or the radio we see or hear all the previous year's highlights, best clips, songs and movies. It is a time of remembrance, reflection and projection into the future. We imagine what might be in store for us and those we love. We wonder who might be married, what new job may come our way or what adventures we may go on.

For those of us disciplined enough or those of us who believe this year will be different, we add resolutions and expectations to a year that has yet to unfold. We hope that some new activity will either enhance or reduce something in our lives. Whether it be a new exercise routine, reading more books or making more time for family, there is a hope that this new resolution will change everything. That this year will be different than the last.

Perhaps, in the midst of all this contemplation we can allow for one more consideration. We can ask ourselves where have we seen God in the past year? In the moments of celebration or the moments of sorrow, where has God been faithful in being present or offering guidance? While we begin to plan for the new year ahead, where in our lives can we invite God to walk with us and work through us? Then as we enter into a new year, what resolutions can we make that encourage us to grow deeper in a relationship with our creator? As you consider all this, offer up the following prayer.

NEW YEAR PRAYER:

God of beginnings and endings,
grant peace upon the close of this past year.
I offer you thanks
For family and friendships,
Joy in my blessings,
Strength in face of my sorrow
I ask that you forgive the ways I have come up short,
the times I have ignored you,
the moments of which I gave in to anger or hatred
the gifts of which I have taken for granted.
Take from me all that weighs heavy on my heart,
the grief,
the pain,
the disappointments.
This New Year may I walk in the light of Christ,
Open my ears to hear you calling
Open my eyes to see those in need
Open my heart to love you and my neighbor.
God of beginnings and endings,
grant peace upon the close of this past year.
Amen

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Worship: Sunday at 10:45 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
106 Third St. SE., Geneva
Pastor Kristen Venne
507-256-4288
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC
503 Radel Ct., Ellendale
Pastor Richard Sliper
507-684-2451
Saturday: 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/ Confirmation
Tues.: 7 p.m. Call to Prayer, open to all churches
Wed.: 9:30 a.m. BibleStudy; 3:30 – 5 p.m. Jesus and Me; 6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:30 p.m. Youth Group

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

FIRST LUTHERAN – LCMC
8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope
Pastor Sandy Miller
507-451-3854
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School, Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m. Sun.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS
2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna
Rev. Mark Rosenau,
Senior Pastor
Rev. Greg Schlicker,
Associate Pastor
507-451-4125
www.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., Sargeant
Pastor Collin Duling
507-251-5568
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Pastor Dwight DoBell
507-567-2474
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor: 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 Weinkauf
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)
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CHRISTIAN

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

PENTECOSTAL

FIRST UNITED PENTECOASTAL
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

MENNONITE

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

MORMON

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

PRESBYTERIAN

ASSOCIATED CHURCH
Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ
800 Havana Road, Owatonna
507-451-1546
www.associatedchurch.org
office@associatedchurch.org
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.
(Fellowship, Church School, and Adult Discussions follow)
Wednesday Activities: Sept – May (see website for schedule)

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

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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COYOTE HUNT: *$25k donated* FROM A1

donated.

Colette and Tony Lea of The Cue Company provided a soup bar with freewill offerings appreciated. A soup bar drew many of the attendees to the back of The Cue Company. Chicken wild rice, chili and potato and ham soups were available.

The BP Cancer Group made bars and also provided meat and cheese trays for those attending the fundraiser.

The first live auction of the night was auctioneered by a lively and intense auctioneer, Galen Peterson. He was able to get $1,000 for a Ruger .22 long rifle with a scope and a heavy barrel.

The winning bidder of the rifle was Mike Herdina, Elliott's father. He outbid Butch Anderson, Craig's father.

A half hog, processing included, was bought twice, the first successful bidder turning the prize back in for another auction chance.

Jake Garness of Brownsdale was the winning bidder on a beautiful, solid oak gun cabinet built by Butch Anderson.

Two more rifles and two bows were raffled with tickets sold at the door. Jeff Zwiener, Blooming Prairie, had the hot hand, winning a rifle and a bow.

Anderson and Herdina said the especially warm weather held down the coyote numbers. "Coyote hunters generally like snow on the ground for tracking purposes," Anderson said.

One group of coyote hunters came from the Geneva area and included Wyatt Grose, Tony Muri, Brian Muri, Todd Eide, Josh Cornelius, Brian Berglund, Travis Simon, Tait Ingvaldson, Lucas Bailey, Steven Bailey, Jake Jensen and Doug Klemmensen. Cornelius said the group got four coyotes but saw five get away.

"It's definitely tougher to hunt coyotes without snow; it has a big-time effect," said Cornelius. "It's hard to see them in bright conditions," he explained.

"It's a great cause and we are here to celebrate the hunt," said Cornelius.

Ingvaldson said the coyotes "were scared" of him. "They ran away," he joked. He said he saw one coyote run through an open barn door.

Some young, aspiring hunters were also at the fundraiser. Young Jack Bruns helped with some of the event duties. He is a young trapper who also wants to hunt coyotes some day.

Tom Butler of Blooming Prairie is not a hunter but supports the Coyotes "Fur" Cancer fundraiser. He has 200 acres of habitat near St. Mary's Cemetery and says he sees lots of coyotes on that property. "I'm raising coyotes," he laughs.

"It's a great project Craig and Elliott started," said Butler.

It appears that Herdina and Anderson will coordinate the event for a third year in 2020. "We again wish to thank everyone because their support comes from the heart," remarked Herdina. "Craig and I are not the ones who make it happen, it's those who donate," Herdina commented.

Anderson and Herdina were also very appreciative of the t-shirts and sweatshirts created by Linda Klemmensen of Sportstitch and by Tyler Kruckeberg of KIK Graphics.

Anderson and Herdina agreed that this event brings people and communities closer together. "People are so generous," Anderson and Herdina concur.

"Cancer has affected so many people and this fundraiser brings in monies to be used toward cancer research," Krejci said.

DIVE: *New Year's Day* FROM A1

of the event. But he was able to do some diving off the coast of the southeast Asian country.

Since then, he's dove in places as remote as the Philippines, Central America, the Grand Cayman Islands, and the Florida Keys, as well as destinations a little closer to home, like the Great Lakes.

"That's my main love of diving," he said of the Great Lakes dives. "I like saltwater a bit, but I like the wrecks in the Great Lakes. They stay like how they looked when they went down."

Around here Matejcek has participated in dives in Lake Kohlmeir, the quarry, and the Straight River before the new dam went up, among other places.

"The best place we did the New Year's dive was before they redid the dam. There was a large hole there, and we found wedding rings, a billfold, and even a stolen car someone had driven into there," Matejcek recalled fondly. "You'd never know what you'd find."

At the quarry there isn't necessarily all that much to look at, but one thing he hopes to find under the ice is a late 1940s pickup truck, which he'd encountered on a warm-weather dive one summer. "That's what we're looking to find," he explained.

Other things worth noting are the broken trees and fish, which the divers will be able to spot at any given time, depending on the visibility. Bass, northern pike, walleye, and pan fish all inhabit Kaplan's Quarry, and can be seen by the divers at differing occasions.

"It depends on the rain in the fall," Matejcek explained of the visibility. "Last year was the clearest I've ever seen in Kaplan's Quarry; the visibility was 30 feet."

To perform the dive the divers all wear dry suits with scuba gear. "You actually sweat in a dry suit," Matejcek revealed before adding, "I was never warm in the winter in a wetsuit." They used wetsuits prior to adopting the dry suits.

Ropes are attached, both a primary and backup, and one diver is submerged at a time. "The only way to find the way back is with the rope," he said. The divers are down there under the ice around 45 minutes at a time.

Although he'd never gotten himself into any dangerous situations while diving, Matejcek does recall a close call back when he was a little greener. "When I was still young and foolish the person on the rope dropped it so I went back but by then he had pulled it in and we met at the hole, but now they anchor the rope." The ropes are used as signals as well as safety precautions. By tugging on the rope, the diver ensures that he is still okay.

Matejcek said that there was a lot more participation in the club back in it's heyday during the 1970s when there were around 125 families. Now there are still a decent number of participants with 80 to 90 families taking part, but with more expensive equipment the hobby has become difficult for novices to pick up so easily, that and, as according to Matejcek, "it's not something you learn in one or two nights."

At 75, he hopes to become one of the oldest divers ever, but he still has a way to go to catch up with world record holders in their 90s. And despite diving all over the world, the New Year's Day dive still holds a special place in Matejcek's heart.

"It's to start the New Year off right," he said of the event. "I'm planning on going in again." Sure enough, on a cold New Year's morning, the veteran diver plunged into the frozen Minnesota waters for another celebratory dive.

Cancer Corner

Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

BIG THINGS Coming from BP Cancer Group

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"It's gonna be a BIG deal," says Blooming Prairie Cancer Group Treasurer Cheri Krejci when looking ahead to the 2019 Fifth District Eagles Cancer Telethon in Rochester.

The 65th annual telethon will take place at the Mayo Civic Auditorium in Rochester from 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19 to 4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 20.

Krejci said the BP Cancer Group will again give a HUGE check to the Eagles Cancer Telethon on Saturday night. The actual time of donation is expected to be about 8:45 p.m. on Saturday.

No dollar total has been made public as of yet, but it is believed that this year's BP Cancer Group donation will be the largest in the Cancer Group's history.

Last year, $70,000 was donated by the BP Cancer Group to the Eagles Cancer Telethon. Krejci reported that a $10,000 donation was also given last year to the Hormel Institute for cancer research.

Last year's grand total was $972,083.

A Blue Sapphire kickoff dinner is planned for the Eagles Cancer Telethon on Friday, Jan. 18 at the Mayo Civic Center. A sit-down dinner is planned with live and silent auctions to raise much needed funds in the fight against cancer.

Theme for this year's telethon is "Together We Can Make a Difference."

Go to the Eagles website and read:

"The 5th District Eagles Cancer Telethon is a non-profit charity dedicated to raising funds in support of cancer research.

"Each year, the Telethon brings much hope to those lives that have been touched by cancer.

"With each Telethon the talent is a little different; veterans return with crowd favorites and newcomers bring their own style and talent but they all have one thing in common: their passion to help in the fight against cancer. In the end, the result is hundreds-of-thousands of dollars raised in the fight against cancer."

The Rochester Eagles Telethon is said to be the longest locally run telethon in the United States. It has the continuous support of many volunteers, community organizations and local TV station KTTC.

The Telethon has continued to grow in donations and support throughout the many years and the money raised is used to help fund cancer research at the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center, Hormel Institute for Cancer Research and U of M Masonic Cancer Center.

These institutes continue to work for discoveries leading to a cure for cancer.

The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group, of course, will have its annual pancake breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 20 in the Pizza Cellar party room. Silent auction items will be featured.

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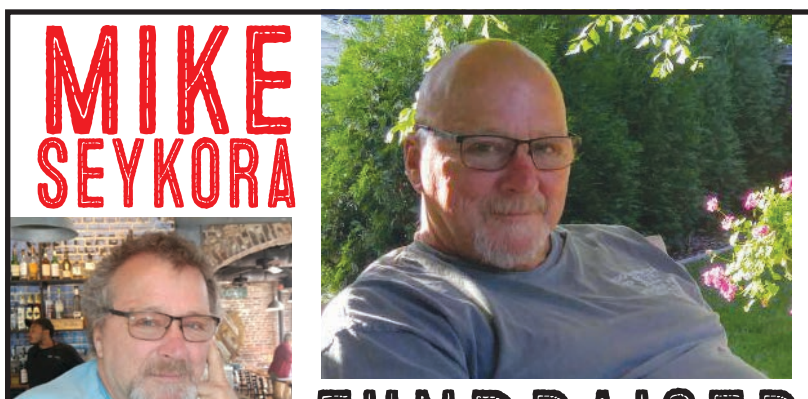

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STEELE COUNTY TIMES TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018 B1

BASKETBALL

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM AGRIMSON

Former NRHEG star Carlie Wagner stands for a photo during her jersey retirement ceremony on Friday, December 28 at NRHEG High School.

NRHEG honors state championship teams, retires Wagner's number

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva gymnasium was packed on Friday, December 28 to see former Panthers and Minnesota Golden Gophers star Carlie Wagner have her number retired.

Wagner led the NRHEG Panthers to back-to-back Class 2A state titles in 2013 and 2014 and was named Minnesota's Miss Basketball her senior season.

Wagner was 139-13 during her NRHEG career, which started when she was just an eight grader.

She scored the second most points ever in her career and still holds many of the state tournament records including most points in a state tournament career (371).

In addition to retiring Wagner's jersey, the 2013 and 2014 NRHEG girls' basketball team were honored.

The teams reeled off 61 consecutive wins, which is the second-longest streak in the state history for a girls' basketball team.

SEE **NRHEG, B8**

BASKETBALL

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Blooming Prairie's Julia Worke goes up over a Chatfield defender for a layup on Friday at BPHS.

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Maren Forystek attempts to tip the ball away from a Chatfield player on Friday at BPHS.

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Blooming Prairie's Bobbie Bruns drives through the Chatfield defense in the Awesome Blossoms 60-47 victory on Friday.

BP girls put down Gophers

BY LAMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Awesome Blossoms defeated an underrated Chatfield team in a non-conference game 60-47 on the home court Friday, January 4.

BP never trailed in the game and led 32-25 at the halftime break.

The Gophers start three players who are 5-foot-11-inches or taller, with some depth, and the Blossoms knew the team was much netter than their record indicated, but the locals got a quick start in the contest and maintained control throughout.

Chatfield made several runs at the Blossoms, especially in the second half, but the home team managed to counter every Gopher challenge.

"We knew the Gophers were a better team than their record indicated," Blooming Prairie head coach John Bruns said. "But we got a good start and never trailed in the contest. When Chatfield made a run, we were able to score some timely baskets and restore order to the game."

Julia Worke piled in 18 points to lead the way for the winners, and freshman Bobbie Bruns starred for the Blossoms with 17 points and five assists.

Megan Oswald added 17 points, nine rebounds and four steals. Maggie Bruns chipped in eight points and six assists. Maya Lembke and Allison Krohnberg pulled down six and five rebounds, respectively.

The team record improved to 7-3 overall.

TRITON NIPS BLOSSOMS

Late treys by the Cobra girls pulled Triton into the lead, and the home team hung on for a 56-49 victory on Thursday, December 20.

The loss dropped the girls to a 5-2 record, with a contest at Hayfield Thursday, December 27, rounding out the 2018 portion of the season schedule.

Triton scored the last nine points of the first half to take the lead at the break, but the Blossoms made some adjustments at the half and took a 41-38 edge with six minutes left, but Triton then made three straight treys, two by Kendra Peterson and one by Chelsea Lasker to regain a Cobra lead. The locals just could not get back on top.

"It was a hard-fought loss tonight for us against a good Triton team," Bruns said. 'The late 3-pointers really hurt, and we just couldn't overcome that lead in the last minutes. It didn't help that Allison Krohnberg stayed home ill, and Maggie Bruns was playing her first game back, also due to illness. It was a hard loss, but we will move on from there."

Oswald took her usual lace atop the leaderboard with 21 points and 12 rebounds for yet another double-double. Worke contributed 11 points and four assists, and Bobbie Bruns added 10 points and pilfered the ball four times in the contest. Maggie Bruns dished out five assists.

WRESTLING

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Westfield's Colton Krell takes down his Triton opponent during their match.

Westfield a double winner

BY LAMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie g Westfield opened its post-holiday schedule with a double dual win over Triton and Austin on Thursday, January 3.

After taking down Austin 39-24 in the opening bout, the Razorbacks stormed past the Cobras 42-30 in the nightcap.

In both duals, the final three wrestlers in the lineup won bouts to decide the match.

Against Triton, Colton Krell won the 182-pound weight class bout by a forfeit, Dylan Nirk also won by a forfeit at 220 and Tristan Rieken pinned Corbin Giesler at heavyweight in just 52 seconds.

The locals trailed the visitors 24-30 going into the last three bouts on their home mat.

Lane Lembke, Keegan Bronson and Alex Phenix had given the Razorbacks an 18-0 lead, on falls, Bronson's at just 55 seconds, and Phenix's at 1:03.

However, Triton fought back to tie the match with a fall and two forfeits but Tyler Archer pinned Hunter Shadow in 4:58 at 152 to regain the Razorback lead. Triton won the next two bouts to gain the 30-24 edge, before the Razorback finishers took over.

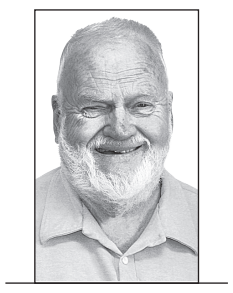
PACKERS FALL TO RAZORBACKS

In the Austin victory, Westfield trailed the Packers 21-24, before Krell, Rieken and Nirk took over . Krell pinned Lemus Aguilera in 52 seconds at 182, Rieken pinned Jordan Derry at 220 and Nirk won by a fall over Enrique Martinez at heavyweight.

The Razorbacks took an early 15-0 lead in the match, with Lembke winning by forfeit, Bronson pinning Sean Donovan in 3:17, and Phenix earning a 6-1 decision over Sam Oelfke at 132.

The teams gave Austin the next bout, and the teams traded forfeits, to give Austin that 24-21 edge, going into the final three bouts.

HAPPY ABOUT A NEW YEAR



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

The post holiday sports schedule at Blooming Prairie High Sschool had an auspicious start, as both basketball teams and the wrestlers ended the week with victories.

The wrestling team defeated Austin and Triton, with both matches credited to the three final weights on the team. Colton Krell, Dylan Nirk and Tristan Rieken have all been really strong in the early season going.

The basketball boys had a mixed week of play, but they managed to win both games on the schedule. The Chatfield win this past Friday illustrated their most complete game of the season. The girls won their only game of the week and still have only three losses in the season.

With the two major holidays of Christmas and New Years disrupting the publishing schedule, and giving staff reporters like me a two-week hiatus from column responsibilities, it is time once again to resume obligations and impart words of knowledge to readers.

Much celebration took place ever the last two weeks, and let me be the last to wish everyone a very happy new year.

Let 2019 be happier and more productive than ever. For me, the entire period of celebration proved much different from past years.

A MOVE OF GREAT IMPORT

After a couple of years of gentle persuasion by all three of my daughters and my present rather tenuous physical condition, I have taken a recent move to an apartment in Richfield on a temporary residence. While most people go south in the winter, I have decided to go north.

My daughters all live within minutes of my apartment, and it has been a decision that satisfies all of us, at least on this temporary basis.

A party room at the apartment complex allowed me to entertain my whole family at Christmas, and my daughter and her husband spent a pleasant New Years Eve with me, playing a favorite game of younger days. Thus, it has been a monumental alteration in my life, but one that benefits everyone.

There are many things I miss about people and events in the Blooming Prairie community, such as singing in the choir, short trips with friend JW and others, and keeping up with the many events at school.

That is why I remain hopeful that this move will be more of a temporary situation rather than one of permanence. I guess the next few months will ultimately pull a big weight in my decision.

IS IT WINTER?

I guess it depends upon where one lives in this new winter season, as weather conditions have been tipped upside down in many areas of our country. Right here we have blizzard conditions in the north and western part of our state, while those of us who reside in this area are dealing with a few cold days and then a warming trend to thaw us out.

Last week Arizona and New Mexico residents were experiencing significant snow fall for the first time in years and driving conditions in many areas proved quite difficult. Other areas have had to deal with unusual winter an condition that once again makes me comfortable to be living right where I am. Hurray for Minnesota winter.

A WELCOME REUNION

I had the opportunity last week to renew acquaintances with one of the two renowned Hollywood actors from Blooming Prairie, and it was a real treat. Jay Allen Christianson visited the community, after recently finishing filming an independent film, "Garrow," surrounding a hostage taking and murder in the Adirondacks back in 1973.

Christianson has the male lead in the film, and his portrayal of the title character has gotten very good reviews.

At the present time the film is making the rounds of several film festivals, and some of Christianson's family was fortunate enough to attend the premiere showing of the film. Hopes are high that the film will get general release in theaters nationwide later this year.

I was able to spend an hour or so with Christianson and some friends and it involved some reminiscences of past school experiences and a recounting of his career in Hollywood. Christianson has always found roles in various TV episodes and movies, but the role in "Garrow" will be his first starring role. The entire community around Blooming Prairie is hopeful the film will be a hit.

I have to say that it feels good to be back in print, and I hope everyone is enjoying our unseasonably pleasant weather. We'll talk again

BASKETBALL

Panthers drop early game

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM AGRIMSON

NRHEG's Brady Agrimson goes up for an easy layup over a TCU defender.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM AGRIMSON

NRHEG's Blake Ihrke puts up a 3-pointer during the Panthers' 69-36 victory over TCU.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM AGRIMSON

NRHEG's Jacob Schuller throws down a monster jam against TCU on Thursday, January 3.

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

An early morning contest turned into a high-scoring affair, as Cedar Mountain/Comfrey outgunned New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva 74-70 at Bethany Lutheran Saturday, January 5.

Defense was noticeably absent as both teams scored early and often in this game.

NRHEG took a 16-9 lead early in the game, but the Cougars warmed up with Lewis Pendleton sparking a rally, and the game turned back and forth for most of the first half.

The offense shone for both teams, and CM/C led 42-40 at the halftime break.

The second half duplicated the first half, with a lot of scoring on both sides.

The Panthers crept in front 54-52, but the Cougars regained the lead and went up 67-62.

NRHEG closed the gap to a single point again, but they could never get over the edge in the last minutes.

The offense remained good, but a few rebounds went the other way, and the winners held on for the victory.

"Our offense was good," NRHEG head coach Isaiah Lundberg said. "But our defense let us down today. It was never really very good, and some key free throws and a rebound or two made it tough. We got double figure scoring from players in this game, but the defense suffered."

Jacob Schuller pumped in 21 points for the Panthers, and Blake Ihrke and Brady Agrimson added 15 and 11.

Lonnie Wilson chipped in 10 points.

Pendleton finished with 26 points for the winners, and Andre Larson and Troy Peterson counted 16 and 14, respectively.

NRHEG saw its record drop to 5-8 for the season.

NRHEG ROLLS OVER TCU

Riding a 34-point barrage from Agrimson, the NRHEG boys exploded late in the first half and rolled to a 69-36 victory over Tri-City United at Montgomery on Thursday, January 3.

TCU led 20-13 with six minutes left in the half, before the Panthers took off.

A timeout for Lundberg did the trick, as the visitors outscored the Titans 20-3 and took a 39-23 margin at the break.

The second half proved more of the same.

TCU switched to a zone, and the Panthers took advantage of that with good patience and excellent shooting. A switch back to man to man for the home team didn't help, as NRHEG adjusted quickly and capitalized on fast breaks and good defense.

"We did some really good things tonight," Lundberg said. "We have improved since we began the season. Agrimson had a monster game scoring."

Schuller complemented Agrimson's output with 14 points, and Ihrke chipped in seven. Eight players scored for NRHEG. Matt Feddema had 10 and Carter Simon had seven for TCU.

REBELS EDGE PANTHERS

In a game that went back and forth most of the night, United South Central had the last lead in a 40-39 win over NRHEG boys at Wells on Friday, December 21.

The Panthers dropped their record to 2-6, with a tournament next on the schedule at Bethany Lutheran.

Neither team led by more than six points in the first half, nor 27-21 was the Rebel lead at the break.

Lundberg indicated that the team kept control of the ball pretty well and made a few threes to keep the game close.

USC came out hot in the second half and built a 14-point lead, before the visitors put on a press with over eight minutes to go.

The Panthers closed within two points at 47-45. A tough miss with a chance to tie and some late free throws for the Rebels gave them the one-point victory,

"I give our guys credit," Lundberg said. "They didn't fold or quit when they went down 14 points, and they continued to play hard. Our play the first half featured some of the best ball we have played so far this season."

Agrimson and Schuller counted 13 and 12 points to lead the Panthers, and Ihrke added eight. AJ Kloos led all scorers with 16 points for USC with Colby Klocek adding 10. The Rebels shot 56 percent for the game, including 7-of-12 from the 3-point line, NRHEG made 51 percent, including 4-of-11 3-pointers.

GOPHER CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Boys' Basketball

	Conf.	Overall
Hayfield	4-0	4-0
Blooming Prairie	4-1	8-1
United South Central	2-0	2-0
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	2-1	6-1
Bethlehem Academy	2-2	3-3
NRHEG	1-5	1-5
Maple River	0-2	0-2
Medford	0-4	0-7

Thursday, Jan. 3
NRHEG 69, Tri-City United 36
Randolph 44, Bethlehem Academy 30
Lyle/Austin Pacelli 80, Medford 69
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown 90, St. Clair 54
Friday, Jan. 4
Blooming Prairie 71, Chatfield 66
Bethlehem Academy 74, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 48
Saturday, Jan. 5
Blooming Prairie 56, Triton 49
Monday, Jan. 7
Maple River at Sibley East, 7:15 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 8
Blooming Prairie at Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, 7:15 p.m.
Bethlehem Academy at NRHEG, 7:15 p.m.,
Maple River at Medford 7:15 p.m.
United South Central at Hayfield, 7:15 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 10
Kenyon-Wanamingo at Bethlehem Academy, 7:15 p.m.
Triton at Medford, 7:15 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 11
Medford at Blooming Prairie, 7:15 p.m.
NRHEG at Maple River, 7:15 p.m.
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown at United South Central, 7:15 p.m.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

	Conf.	Overall
Medford	4-0	9-0
Maple River	3-1	7-4
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	3-1	10-1
Blooming Prairie	3-2	6-3
Maple River	2-2	3-2
NRHEG	2-5	2-5
Hayfield	1-3	1-3
United South Central	1-4	1-9
Bethlehem Academy	0-5	1-9

Thursday, Jan. 3
Medford 73, Mabel-Canton 34
Triton 80, NRHEG 69
Alden-Conger/Glenville Emmons 83, United South Central 59
Houston 68, Bethlehem Academy 30
Friday, Jan. 4
Blooming Prairie 60, Chatfield 47
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown 45, Blue Earth 44
Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial 71, Maple River 55
Saturday, Jan. 5
Maple River 55, United South Central 36
Monday, Jan. 7
Triton at Medford, 7:15 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 8
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown at Blooming Prairie, 7:15 p.m.
Hayfield at United South Central, 7:15 p.m.
Medford at Maple River, 7:15 p.m.
NRHEG at Bethlehem Academy, 7:15 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 10
Maple River at NRHEG, 7:15 p.m.
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown at Lake Crystala-Wellcome Memorial, 7:15 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 11
Blooming Prairie at Medford, 7:15 p.m.
Hayfield at Bethlehem Academy, 7:15 p.m.
United South Central at Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, 7:15 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 12
Grand Meadow at NRHEG, 11 a.m.
Maple River at Houston, 3 p.m.

WRESTLING

	Conf.	Overall
Medford	2-0	5-0
NRHEG	2-1	2-1
Maple River	1-0	1-0
Westfield Razorbacks	3-3	3-3
United South Central	0-1	0-1
WEM/JWP	0-1	0-7

THURSDAY, JAN. 3
Westfield 39, Austin 24
Westfield 42, Triton 30
Friday, Jan. 4
Windom/Mountain Lake Cobras 41, NRHEG 21
NRHEG 18, Madelia/Truman/Martin Luther Jayhawks 6
Adrian Area 38, NRHEG 30
Thursday, Jan. 10
Medford at United South Central, 7 p.m.
Maple River at Westfield Razorbacks, 7 p.m.
NRHEG at WEM/JWP, 7 p.m.

BIG 9 CONFERENCE STANDINGS
Boys' Basketball

	Conf.	Overall
Mankato East	6-0	7-1
Austin	6-1	7-2
Rochester Mayo	5-1	6-3
Northfield	4-2	7-2
Owatonna	3-2	4-5
Rochester Century	4-3	6-5
Winona	3-3	5-4
Rochester John Marshall	3-3	5-5
Faribault	2-5	3-6
Mankato West	1-5	2-6
Red Wing	0-6	1-7
Albert Lea	0-6	0-7

Thursday, Jan. 3
Austin 80, Owatonna 59
Mankato East 92, Albert Lea 34
Rochester Century 80, Red Wing 43
Rochester John Marshall 78, Mankato West 48
Northfield 72, Rochester Mayo 66

AUTO RACING

Chateau Speedway announces schedule for 63rd anniversary season

BY MATTHEW GRAGE

The Winter landscape of snow and ice may dominate the scene at the Chateau Speedway in Lansing these days but plans are underway for a summer of excitement. With that thought in mind the track has announced the release of the much anticipated 2019 schedule.

The race season will run from May into September with 22 race dates on the schedule at this time.

The possibility of adding other dates is still open. Admission prices will remain the same as last year with Adults $10, Juniors (pre-teens) $5 and under 5-years-old for free.

The first green flag each week will be 7:15 p.m.

The Speedway will be returning the same six main classes. The French's Repair USRA A Mods, the USRA B Mods, WISSOTA Street Stocks, WISSOTA Midwest Modified, Power 96 Pure Stocks, and Y Waste Hornets.

The first action of the season will be a test and tune, depending on weather will be either Tuesday April 30 or Wednesday May 1 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., with Opening Night Friday Night May 3.

The 2019 Track Champions will be decided over the next 18 Friday Nights.

Several Friday night promotions will be run over the course of the season. Among them will be the popular Kids Night Bicycle Giveaway and Kids Car Rides on May 31. June 28 will be sponsored by the popular radio program "The Dirt Show" who will be hand. The program which highlights dirt track racing news and results will bring some excitement to the night.

The Exciting Fireworks Display will again be a part of the Fourth of July Weekend on Friday Night July 5. Admission Price for the Fourth of July night will be $12, however fans will still be able to get in for the regular $10 fee by bringing two nonperishable food items as the track sponsors a Food Drive for the night. August 9 will be "Pack The Stands Night" with special pricing of $5 per person.

August 23 will be Backpack Night. A Back to School Night with a number of Backpack giveaways for some school age youngsters. Season Championship Night will be Friday Night September 30, the final night for Track Points when the Champions for the year will be decided.

Two Holiday Weekend Sunday Night Specials highlight the schedule as well on Labor Day and Memorial Day weekends. The first of those Sunday Nights, May 26, will be the return and rebranding of the Mike Guttormson Memorial.

The Memorial was not run last year after 20 straight seasons since Mikes passing in 1997 as the track did not get reopened until July. The Memorial Race will be expanded to more of a celebration of the tracks history and drivers who have been lost over the 62 years of racing at Lansing.

The Memorial race will still pay tribute to Mike as it will be called the "Team 83 Memorial". The race will carry an increased purse for all classes highlighted by a $1,600 to win payday for one of the USRA A Mods. The USRA A Mod payout will also feature a $1,400 check for second, $1,200 for third and $1,000 for fourth.

The Labor Day weekend special event will run on Sunday Night September 1 . Increased purses will also be on the line for all classes for this show as well lead by a $1,000 to win payday for the A Mods. Each of these Sunday night shows will have a 6 p.m. starting time and feature the four sanctioned classes. The addition of any support classes will be decided later. These two nights will be for National Points only.

Rounding out the schedule will be the second annual Autumn Extravaganza two night special on Friday, September 27 and Saturday, September 28.

Like last year along with running for the regular payouts each night the drivers will be awarded points for each night with the top 10 in each class receiving a third payout.

All 22 nights will be National Points nights for the sanctioned drivers in there respective classes. As the track looks forward to its 63rd Anniversary Season track owners Mark and Annette Wytaske once again would like to thank all the fans, drivers, employees, sponsors and volunteers who came out and made the reopening of the facility a possibility and so successful.

They look forward to seeing everyone back out for another exciting season of dirt track racing action. Your invited and encouraged to keep up with everything Chateau Speedway online. Visit us at 'Chateauspeedway.com', as well as on Facebook at 'Chateau Speedway'. You can also join the History Facebook Group, 'Chateau Speedway – Chateau Raceway History' where fans share photos and stories.

Saturday Night December 6 has been reserved for the Annual Awards Banquet. As part of the Night the Track will have a collection night for "Toys for Tots'. All attendees to the banquet will be encourage to bring an item for this effort.

Kisha Aquino

Ava "Grace" Krejci

JANUARY
BLOSSOMS OF THE MONTH

Blooming Prairie High School

Kisha Aquino – Junior

The senior high student of the month is Kisha Aquino, who is a junior. Her favorite class is anatomy. *"Mrs. Oelkers is there to help with many activities,"* Kisha says.
"Kisha is a student who is very concerned about doing her best and, therefore, works very hard," said one of her teachers.
Other teachers commented:
- *"Kisha is a very hardworking student and a great student leader."*
- *"I work with Kisha in the One Act Play, and she is very outgoing, energetic and knows how to fire up her classmates to work hard and have fun."*
- *"Kisha is a very dedicated, hard-working student."*
- *"Kisha is a highly intelligent girl who likes to do well in the classroom."*

Kisha's special interests are badminton, computer games and visual art. She has a brother, Karl, who is 28. Kisha also enjoys a pet dog, Loki.

Ava "Grace" Krejci – 7th Grade

The junior high student of the month is Ava "Grace" Krejci, who is in seventh grade. Her favorite class is math, which she describes as "easy."
Some comments shared by staff members about Ava include:
- *"Grace works hard in class and does her best. She is also a good role model to her peers."*
- *"Grace is super nice, very smart and extremely helpful."*
- *"Grace is off to a good start this year, always eager to learn."*
- *"Grace is kind and willing to help her classmates."*

Ava's special interest is "medical stuff." She would like to be doctor some day. She has two siblings—Eden, 24, and Alex, 22. Ava also has a cat named Cosmo and a dog named Bailey.

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

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BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: DWI : Officer made a DWI arrest at 22nd St. SE and Cedardale Dr. SE at 1:41 a.m.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Dec. 17 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Alexandra G. Calderon, 25, Jamaica, NY, previously appeared and was convicted of felony identity theft. She was sentenced to $181, 8 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, no contact with victim, obtain permission to leave the state, 176 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

Matthew M. Dahl, 33, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony aggravated robbery. Dahl was sentenced to $1,081, 99 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

Sarah S. Eaton, 30, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony stalking. Eaton was sentenced to $181, 120 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, mental health evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, 200 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

Richard A. Miller, 41, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony DANCO violation. Miller was sentenced to $381, 90 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

Brian K. Schnagl, 35, South St. Paul, previously appeared and was convicted of felony knowingly violation predatory offender registration requirement. The defendant was sentenced to $131 and 30 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Dec. 17 – 21:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Angela M. Cisneros, 38, Blooming Prairie, domestic assault, stay of adjudication, $200, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Ricardo R. Morfin, 52, Austin, speeding, $141; Jacob C. Sandte, 34, Hibbing, domestic assault, $81, diversion program and 2 years of supervised probation.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Todd E. Brewer, 31, New York, NY, speeding, $131; Daniel B. Bunzey, 22, Apple Valley, speeding and revoked license, $421; Mark S. Dressel, 62, Kenyon, speeding, $141; Michael D. Feller, 53, Champlin, speeding, $141; Jose B. Garcia Fuerte, 21, Lakewood, CO, speeding, $131; Dereje M. Gemeda, 33, Brooklyn Park, expired registration, $111; Nicole M. Lemieux, 32, Coventry, CT, speeding, $221; Malin A. Palani, 48, Waterloo, IA, seat belt, $106; Devante M. Peck, 26, Brooklyn Center, vehicle covers violation, $121; Tyler E. Schmidt, 19, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Timothy L. Thraenert, 51, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Eric K. Trimble, 38, Hopkins, possession of marijuana and revoked license, $331.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Janet A. Bauer, 63, Owatonna, stop sign, $131; Matthew J. Chavie, 28, Minneapolis, suspended license, $281; Erika D. Degollado, 24, Owatonna, no insurance and permit offense, $381; Mario A. Fernandez-Guerra, 32, Owatonna, revoked license, $281; Riley M. Flynn, 29, Owatonna, threats of violence, stay of adjudication, $100, 1 day in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Timothy R. Garbers, 19, Owatonna, host or allow juvenile party, $281, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Alex J. Guerrero, 19, Owatonna, no license and speeding, $221; Troy J. Gunderson, 39, Owatonna, stalking, $731, 50 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, no possession of firearms, domestic abuse evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Shannon A. Guy, 30, Owatonna, stalking, $381, 2 days in county jail, maintain employment, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Taylor B. Hooks-Witter, 20, Medford, no insurance, $281; Jacob J. Jeno, 34, Waterville, parking violation, $37; Camille H. Lowell, 18, Owatonna, minor consumption, $181; Arletha Lyons, 33, Minneapolis, parking violation, $37; Emilio D. Mendoza Alvarez, 22, Owatonna, cancelled license and following vehicle too closely, $331; Osman M. Mohamed, 59, Owatonna, seat belt, stay of adjudication, $100; Arturo J. Ortega, 33, Claremont, suspended license and no insurance, $481; Duane E. Petruck, 67, Dodge Center, seat belt, $106; James C. Schmidt, 23, Waseca, revoked license, stop sign and no insurance, $531; Max A. Stanley, 71, Owatonna, passing parked emergency vehicle, $131; Nyariri K. Thor, 24, Owatonna, revoked license, $281; Robert D. Winter, 49, Waseca, failure to yield, $131; Devin T. Zilm, 28, Owatonna, DWI, $1,106, 90 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel, obtain permission to leave the state, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 3 years of supervised probation.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jack W. Armstrong, 36, Waseca, speeding, $381; Nadia M. Conner, 19, Milwaukee, WI, speeding, $221; Wanda R. Deleon, 57, Waseca, speeding, $141; Caleb R. Freeman, 41, Morristown, no insurance, stay of adjudication, $181 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Christian T. Freeman, 23, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Lisa R. Neidermeier, 49, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $121; Duane P. Paskewitz, 48, Redwood Falls, registration violation, $181; Cecil L. Porter, 36, Faribault, revoked license, $281; Grant A. Quam, 52, Kenyon, speeding, $121; Christopher C. Ruiz, 21, Faribault, speeding, $121; Ethan L. Strenge, 17, New Richland, speeding, $221; Madalyn J. Sween, 22, Eagan, speeding, $121; Trevor A. Tangen, 22, Waterloo, IA, speeding, $121; Daniel R. Thornburg, 26, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Ryan D. Toews, 21, Barron, WI, expired tabs, $111; Anthony L. Wiuff, 19, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Jacob A. Zak, 27, Hope, stalking, $5,736, 90 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, attend sex offender program, no contact with victim, predatory offender registration, no possession of pornography, no access to Internet without approval, obtain permission to leave the state and 3 years of supervised probation.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

Dec. 21

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Highway Ave. N. and Main St. E. at 8:16 a.m.

OWATONNA POLICE

Dec. 21

DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest at 22nd St. SE and Cedardale Dr. SE at 1:41 a.m.

Warrants: Police made warrant arrests in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 4:31 p.m. and the 1200 block of Kohlmier Dr. at 8:12 p.m.

Dec. 22

DWI: Police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at Mill St. E. and Cedar Ave. S. at 12:48 a.m.

Arrest: Officer arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Hoffman Dr. NW and 32nd Ave. NW at 3:50 a.m.

Theft: At 11:22 a.m., a theft occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 4:59 p.m.

Dec. 23

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 200 block of 13th St. SW at 11:12 a.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: At 11:41 a.m., police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the city.

Dec. 24

Restraining Order: Police responded to a restraining order violation in the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW at 11:10 a.m.

Suspicion: At 11:36 a.m., police responded to suspicious activity in the 1900 block of 3rd Ave. NE. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of Chambers Ave. SE at 2:12 p.m.

Dec. 25

Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 600 block of Young Dr. SW at 2:38 a.m.

Arrest: Officers arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Hoffman Dr. NW and Interstate 35 southbound at 9:38 p.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest at Cedar Ave. N. and Rose St. E. at 11:14 p.m.

Dec. 26

Juvenile: Police received a juvenile complaint from the 1200 block of Oak Ave. S. at 1:35 a.m.

Trespassing: Officers responded to a subject trespassing in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 10:56 a.m.

Compliance Checks: Police conducted compliance checks throughout the city at 2:13 p.m.

Trespassing: At 4:02 p.m., police arrested a subject for trespassing in the 400 block of Glendale St. NW.

Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 4:25 p.m.

Dec. 27

Compliance: At 5:26 p.m., police conducted compliance checks in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Dec. 21

Warrants: Deputies made warrant arrests in the 100 block of 5th Ave. W. in Ellendale at 10:06 a.m. and the 9300 block of 92nd Ave. SW in Lemond Township at 1:15 p.m.

Burglary: Deputies responded to a burglary in the 75000 block of 32nd Ave. SW in Somerset Township at 6:22 p.m.

Dec. 22

Crash: Paramedics and deputies responded to motor vehicle accidents with injuries on Highway 218 in Blooming Prairie Township at 9:33 a.m. and on Interstate 35 in Owatonna Township at 9:47 a.m.

Dec. 24

DWI: At 10:40 p.m., deputies arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated on Interstate 35 in Somerset Township.

Dec. 27

Driving Arrest: Deputies responded to a driving complaint in the 3900 block of Highway 30 W. in Ellendale at 1:02 a.m. They took a subject into custody.

Animal: Deputies responded to an animal call in the 1600 block of 128th St. SW in Summit Township at 8:28 a.m.

Crash: At 1:30 p.m., a motor vehicle accident with injuries occurred in the 7900 block of 70th Ave. NW in Deerfield Township.

Domestic: Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Main St. S. in Medford at 4:01 p.m.

Threats: Deputies arrested a subject for making threats in the 3600 block of 118th St. SW in Summit Township at 5:46 p.m.

ARRESTS
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Abdulkadir Mohamud Mohamed, 28, arrested at 1:17 a.m. Dec. 22, DWI, held for court.

Leighton Thomas Wradislavsky, 21, arrested at 4:20 p.m. Dec. 24, assault, held for court.

Abdirizak Warsame Mohammed, 40, arrested at 2 p.m. Dec. 21, felony extradition hearing, body only.

Andrew Avery Buzzard, 24, arrested at 9:47 p.m. Dec. 25, warrant arrest, $1,000 bail.

Laticia Lyn Castillo, 31, arrested at 6:14 p.m. Dec. 26, trespassing, held for court.

Briar Michael Mork, 32, arrested at 2:36 p.m. Dec. 27, felony drugs, held for court.

Joshua Lee Jurgensen, 32, arrested at 9:10 p.m. Dec. 27, terroristic threats, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Bradley James Bergen, 31, arrested at 12:15 p.m. Dec. 21, warrant arrest, body only.

Robert Lynn Hagmann, 38, arrested at 6:42 p.m. Dec. 21, warrant arrest, body only.

Kallop Jon Kunkel, 20, arrested at 8:46 p.m. Dec. 21, warrant arrest, $500 bail.

James Christopher Schmidt, 23, arrested at 4 a.m. Dec. 22, warrant arrest, body only.

Kpaw Htoo, 27, arrested at 11:08 p.m. Dec. 24, DWI, held for court.

Jesse James Niesen, 19, arrested at 9 p.m. Dec. 26, warrant arrest, held for court.

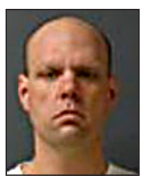
Brittany Judith Roepke, 33, arrested at 2:20 a.m. Dec. 27, DWI, held for court.

Tracey Ann Nagel, 50, arrested at 9 p.m. Dec. 27, warrant arrest, $1,000 bail.

Joseph Allen Stenbakken, 32, arrested at 6:20 p.m. Dec. 27, warrant arrest, $25,000 bail.

CRIME BRIEF

DRUG TASK FORCE NETS LARGE AMOUNT OF METH


MORK

A large drug bust has a man facing serious felony charges.

Briar Mork, 32, of Owatonna, has been charged with first-degree possession of methamphetamine. He remains locked up in the Steele County Detention Center.

The charge against Mork stems from a bust conducted by South Central Drug Investigation Unit on Dec. 26. According to police, a drug agent made contact with Mork and arranged to meet him at the Law Enforcement Center.

Mork diverted the meeting to a different location and was found near the Firestone Building on North Oak Avenue. At that time, task force members executed the search warrant. They found a large amount of currency bound together by a rubber band in Mork's pants pocket, police said. In Mork's front breast pocket, several bags of apparent meth were uncovered, according to police.

Police said the substance later tested positive as meth and weighed 147.83 grams.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Dec. 17 – 24:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Faith E. Briggs, 20, Kasson, minor consumption, $280; Russell J. Hodge, 42, Hayfield, seat belt, $105; Brandon J. Lewis, 41, Claremont, suspended license, $280; Kathryn A. Marrero, 33, Rochester, DWI, $505, alcohol assessment and 1 year of supervised probation; Tanner G. Massey, 30, Kasson, DWI, $810, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, Ignition Interlock, 10 days of electronic home monitor and 2 years of supervised probation; Esmeralda E. Renteria, 18, Austin, speeding, $140; Joshua J. Roggenbuck, 31, Byron, speeding, $380; Amy L. Schwering, 39, Claremont, obscured license plate, $110; Lacey M. Stadler, 41, Hayfield, DWI, $405 and 1 year of supervised probation; Leonard S. Vogt, 23, Dodge Center, DWI, $405, alcohol assessment and 1 year of supervised probation; Daniel T. Vrieze, 28, Dodge Center, open bottle, $180.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mariah E. Benda, 26, West Concord, speeding, $140; Devyn D. Deyo, 21, Wykoff, disorderly conduct, $180 and 1 year of probation; Brian A. Grzanek, 54, Mantorville, parking violation, $32; Donovan E. Howard, 25, Rochester, revoked license, $280; Dallas J. Laqua, 24, Kasson, parking violation, $32; Alexandra M. Prigge, 19, Byron, minor consumption, $180; Molly J. Reed, 23, Kasson, parking violation, $32; Gary S. Steffen, 60, Rochester, speeding and no insurance, $340; Jeffery S. Thobe, 49, disorderly conduct, $180, 10 hours of community service and 1 year of probation.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Jaden M. Abbott, 16, Kasson, speeding, $140; Francis Brady, 31, Milwaukee, WI, speeding, $220; Courtney R. Schletty, 29, West Concord, suspended license, $280; Dale R. Ulrich, 28, West Concord, speeding, $140; Kari N. Vers, 24, Kasson, speeding, $120.

Word Search Corner

Happy New Year!

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A family business

Central Park Coffee continues under mother-daughter duo

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

The staff at Central Park Coffee, including mother-daughter owners Char and Alicia Esch as well as Char's daughter Krista, who helps out as well, pose before the counter. The Eschs recently bought Central Park Coffee and are excited to continue its tradition of providing the community with tasty drinks and flavorsome food.

The Esch family has a history of entrepreneurship, and when they were looking for a good food service business to get into timing couldn't have been better for them to take the reins of Central Park Coffee in Owatonna.

Mother Char and daughter Alicia Esch purchased the business on Nov. 27 with an eye towards continuing the great service and hallmarks that residents have come to know while also adding their own new spin on things.

Here to stay are waffles Wednesday, with $5 waffles with a featured waffle picked from a rotating roster of unique flavors each month, and the soup of the day. "We do a soup every day and it's always homemade," Char said.

Char has always had a love of cooking, and wants to bring that love to the community at large. "For me, I love to cook, I've always gotten a lot of input from family and friends," she said of her culinary concoctions. "That's one of my creative outlets."

When they were transitioning as new owners, previous owner Thea Farrington helped smooth the changeover by getting them up to speed on the day-to-day operations. "She helped us a lot, and trained us for two weeks," Alicia said.

"She was great to work with, and really set us up to grow and be successful," Char added. "She wanted to see us win." Farrington had owned Central Park Coffee and Perfect Day Cakes before stepping away due to health issues.

Although not entirely familiar with the food service industry, their family history of entrepreneurship definitely lent itself to the new endeavor. "We've always been very self-employment oriented," Alicia said.

Still, a new business is not without its challenges. "It's been a big learning curve because our other businesses were not food related," Char explained of the initial adjustments.

"There's a lot of behind the scenes stuff. It's been challenging, but it's also been a fun process," Alicia said. Other members of the Esch family also help out, and not just at the Coffee Shop, but in testing and tasting recipe ideas at home.

> "Owning a business is more work, but it's more rewarding. It's one of those things where the **more you put into it, the more you get out of it."**
>
> **Char Esch**
> Owatonna Business Owner

With this being a family affair, there was some hesitation over how well the partnership would work. "At first I was a little nervous, but now we're having a lot of fun working together," Alicia said of her and her mother's enterprise.

It was in fact Alicia who had expressed interest in getting in on the ground floor of a new business, and having volunteered selling food at events and enjoying it, they were on the lookout for a food service business that would be perfect for them. It also just so happened that "we both love coffee," Alicia said.

"It's people related. It's a connection between people to cook a good meal for someone," mother Char said of working in the food industry. "Food is an awesome connection with people, and when people stop in and visit it brings joy to us."

With their business underway, the Eschs have found themselves members of Owatonna's resurgent downtown. "It's been a lot of fun so far to get to know them, it's like a fun family," Alicia said of their fellow downtown entrepreneurs.

"We find ourselves using downtown businesses," Char said. "The support has been huge and we want to give that support back."

Indeed, a factor in their decision to purchase the business was the recent push for more downtown growth in Owatonna. A push spearheaded by the chamber and those within the city. "Downtown is definitely on the up in development and that was a big part of our decision," Char explained.

"We feel that it's fun to be a part of," Alicia added, noting that there are plans for an apartment building and other additions in the works.

As small business owners, Char and Alicia find it rewarding to be their own boss. "I take a lot more pride in what I do, and I personally value each and every customer who comes in. I would say it's definitely rewarding," Alicia said.

Her mother Char was in complete agreement. "Owning a business is more work, but it's more rewarding," she said. "It's one of those things where the more you put into it, the more you get out of it."

While returning to staples like the soup of the day and waffle Wednesday was always part of the plan, so, too, was finding some new avenues on which to take the community coffee shop. Before a grand opening in a few months, the Eschs will be redecorating it to put a new spin on the coffee shop.

"We're going to make it look cool and cozy and appeal to everyone," Alicia said. The plan is to help gear it towards a younger crowd, while retaining the classic coffee shop feel. "I think it will be the perfect place to hang out."

Business Briefs

Workers at Federated Insurance continue giving ways

Employees of Federated Insurance in Owatonna opened their hearts and wallets in support of their communities to create a record year of giving to United Way.

Nearly 1,750 employees across the country contributed a total of $255,683, helping Federated surpass its $250,000 goal. Adding in the corporate gift, Federated's total donation was $343,033, nearly $10,000 more than the previous year.

Employees in the Owatonna offices gave $226,419. After adding the $70,050 corporate gift, United Way of Steele County will receive $296,469.

"The generosity of Federated and its employees makes a huge difference in the lives of Steele County residents," said UWSC executive director Kim Schaufenbuel. "By coming together in their fundraising activities, they not only have a great time as a team, but make an impact for the work of United Way of Steele County and its 16 partner agencies."

Aside from the individual donations and payroll deductions, Federated employees held creative fundraisers to further boost giving. Bake sales, a silent auction, and a chili cook-off were among the events held by various departments throughout the company.

"There is no more worthy cause than helping our community members in need," said Federated Insurance Chairman and CEO Jeff Fetters. "I am so proud to see the generosity and ingenuity of our employees."

Founded in 1904, Federated Insurance is a national insurance and risk management organization that serves the property, casualty, and life insurance needs of clients in select industries. The organization has more than 500 recommendations from state, regional, and national associations and buying groups, and is rated A+ (Superior) by industry analyst A.M. Best.

MPCA extends public comment period for Lansing landfill

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has extended the public comment period for the draft state permit for the SKB Lansing Landfill, north of Austin in Mower County, to 4:30 p.m. Jan. 11, in order to give interested parties more time to review the draft permit and provide comment.

The ownership of the SKB Lansing Landfill and the adjacent WCI Austin Landfill merged into one entity in August 2017. This draft permit would cover activities at both the SKB Lansing Landfill and WCI Austin Landfill sites, which operate as a Class 3 and Class 2 demolition landfill, respectively. The sites together encompass 116.1 acres in Section 21 of Lansing Township.

The SKB Lansing Landfill would continue to operate as a Class 3 demolition landfill, accepting all types of construction and demolition waste as well as most industrial waste. A Class 3 facility must have groundwater monitoring, waste screening, a liner underneath the waste, and a system to collect leachate (water such as precipitation that mixes with the waste).

The WCI Austin Landfill is a demolition landfill that was formerly operated as Vonco 4 and was owned by Veit Companies. WCI Austin Landfill purchased this site in July 2014. Under the draft state permit, it would continue to operate as a Class 2 demolition landfill, accepting construction and demolition waste, along with non-recyclable packaging such as paper, cardboard and plastic, as well as industrial wastes such as wood, concrete, porcelain fixtures, shingles and window glass.

The public notice and draft permit for SKB Lansing Landfill are on the MPCA website: Go to www.pca.state.mn.us, click on "public notices" in the right margin, and scroll down to Dec. 7.

Comments on the draft permit are now due Jan. 11 to Sherri Nachtigal, landfill engineer, by email to sherri.nachtigal@state.mn.us or by mail to Sherri Nachtigal, MPCA, 18 Wood Lake Drive S.E., Rochester, MN 55904. For more information, call her at 507-206-2600.

STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS

Food Truck Business

Byron High School awarded Bush Foundation Grant

Byron High School was awarded a $45,000 Bush Foundation Grant to help reimagine the purpose and focus of school to meet the needs of all students in today's world. This work is operated by 2Revolutions, a national education design lab, in partnership with the Bush Foundation.

The grant will support the creation of a self-sustaining business within Byron High School to provide students with authentic applied learning experiences in running and maintaining their own business. The food truck business will be a collaboration between the Business and Family and Consumer Science (FACS) departments and will give students an entrepreneurial and culinary experience in the food truck business.

While the Business and FACS departments will oversee the food truck business, other departments have also indicated an interest in providing support. The Agricultural department has a greenhouse that we will be able to use to grow fresh vegetables and herbs. The Industrial Technology department will help maintain our equipment. Several community members will donate time and money to help with this opportunity.

Teacher and co-author of the grant, Ryan Radke shared, "I'm beyond excited for our District, our students, and the people of Byron. It is going to be a great experience for everyone involved. I can't wait to get started with fellow teacher Josh Benards as he will be working along with me on the business side. Also, we will include many other departments in this adventure including Agriculture, Art, and Industrial Technology. Thanks to all of those who've helped this 'Dream' become a reality."

The School Design for Individualized Learning mission is in developing educational systems that help kids reach their full potential. Byron superintendent Dr. Joey Page believes that the idea aligns very well with Byron's strategic priority of personalizing learning for all students in pursuit of their academic excellence. This idea has the potential not only to impact our students and our community but can be a prototype that can be used on a larger scale-within other departments, and especially school districts across rural America. Creating startup businesses not only provides students with real-world "résumé-ready" learning experience but could, long-term, lead to an increase in growth and economic development in rural communities. Students will be equipped with the design thinking methodologies and foundational knowledge of running their own business, and we desire to foster and grow our nation's next generation of entrepreneurs.

Byron Public Schools is coordinating focused work on the power and potential of individualized learning models and supports learning experiences anchored in the following principles:

- **Deep, Individualized Learning** — in which students learn in ways that match how they learn, who they are and where they aspire to go in life. Students receive academic content when and how they need it to move forward in their learning.
- **Commitment to Student Agency** — learning experiences that promote and build student agency and ownership of learning.
- **Authentic Experiences & Assessment** — that embrace learning experiences and assessments of understanding that are interesting, engaging and connected to the real world.
- **Tech "Enabled"** — schools understand that learning is supported by technology, but "tech" by itself is not the solution to developing innovative and individualized learning experiences.
- **Serving All (Equity)** — with a strong commitment to serving all learners.

School Design for Individualized Learning is designed to help achieve this goal by giving educators a unique opportunity to develop and implement individualized learning plans in their schools. The guiding goal for the Bush Foundation's education initiative is to be a national leader in providing individualized education that meets the abilities, backgrounds, and aspirations of all students. School Board Chair, Sharon Kreitinger stated, "What a phenomenal opportunity we have here. The shared mission of The School Design for Individualized Learning and Byron Public Schools will further expose our students to expand upon and learn real life/applicable skills that are needed for success in whatever career path they choose. I am very excited to see this idea come to life as we watch our district, staff, students and community work together to make it a reality."

2Revolutions is a national education design lab striving to transform the American education system. They work with entrepreneurial leaders and practitioners within K12 and Higher Education to design, build and implement new learning models and help catalyze the enabling systems that prepare students for success in the future.

State blasts Frontier Communications for shoddy service

Frontier Communications has failed to provide adequate, reliable phone and internet service to its Minnesota customers, according to an investigation by the Minnesota Commerce Department.

The investigative report was filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on Friday, Jan. 4.

The report recommends that Frontier be required to refund or credit customers for service outages and unauthorized charges; add staffing to improve customer service; and increase investments in infrastructure and equipment.

The investigation focused on the service quality, customer service and billing practices of Frontier Communications of Minnesota, Inc., and its affiliate, Citizens Telecommunications of Minnesota, LLC.

Together, they provide landline phone service to nearly 100,000 Minnesota households and businesses, as well as internet service, in parts of northeastern Minnesota, southern Minnesota and the Twin Cities metro area.

As part of the investigation, seven public hearings were held last fall in Frontier's service area. The report is based on more than 1,000 consumer complaints and statements, as well as Frontier's responses to information requests by the Commerce Department.

According to the report: "Many of the issues reported by consumers show direct violations of Minnesota law and Commission rules, and indicate broad, systemic problems with Frontier's service quality, recordkeeping and business operations."

The investigative report details a wide range of concerns about Frontier:

- Frequent and lengthy service outages, including loss of customer access to 911 emergency services;
- Delays in repairing and restoring service;
- Failure to provide expedited responses to service outages affecting vulnerable customers with medical needs;
- Failure to maintain and repair equipment, causing service outages and leading to public safety hazards such as lines and damaged equipment on the ground;
- Lack of investment in infrastructure to ensure reliable service;
- Frequent billing errors, including inaccurate and unauthorized charges;
- Failure to provide refunds or bill credits for service outages;
- Lack of timely, responsive customer service, including lengthy call wait times, inaccurate information and "lost" repair tickets;
- Discriminatory practices such as prioritizing new service installations over repairs of existing service and providing slower repair services in rural areas compared to more populated areas.

The Commerce Department investigation was authorized early last year by the Public Utilities Commission, which had received numerous complaints about Frontier. The Commission regulates companies providing local phone service in Minnesota.

The report is available on the Minnesota Commerce Department website (mn.gov/commerce). It is also available on the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission website (mn.gov/puc). Click on the eDockets link to go to the search page and then type 18-122 for the docket number.

Business Briefs

Revol Greens to expand by Medford

Minnesota's homegrown lettuce is about to become even larger.

Revol Greens of Steele County has announced a facility equity partnership with Equilibrium Capital to drive a major expansion in 2019. The greenhouse farm, which is located along Interstate 35 outside of Medford, supplies fresh, locally grown lettuce and greens.

Plans are still in the works, but it appears Revol will at least double the size of its greenhouse to meet strong consumer demand.

"The heightened awareness around food safety has only increased the appetite for greenhouse grown produce," said Jay Johnson, president of Revol. "We look forward to expanding our greenhouse operations so that we can serve the growing number of consumers seeking out fresh, great-tasting lettuce that is safe to eat."

The partnership allows the company to lease the space, free up capital and begin plans for expansion. Equilibrium Capital, which is based in Portland, Ore., works with sustainability-focused companies.

Johnson said that Revol's current operation team will stay in place.

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.

NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 25, 1999
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $60,750.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Robert M. Sikel and Angela J. Sikel, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Voyager Bank, a Minnesota banking corporation
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on August 30, 1999 as Document Number A277326 (labeled as T277326) in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Norwest Mortgage, Inc., a California Corporation n/k/a Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. successor by merger to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. by assignment recorded on August 30, 1999 as Document Number A277327 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 14, except the South 5 feet thereof in Block "E" in Creamery Addition to the City of Ellendale.
ALSO: Beginning at NE corner of Lot 14, in Block "E" in Creamery Addition to City of Ellendale, thence East 30 feet, more or less, to the East line of said addition, thence south to a point 33 feet North of SE corner of said addition, thence West 38 feet more or less, to the SE corner of Lot 19 of said addition, thence North to the place of beginning.
EXCEPTING: That portion of said tract lying East of the South 5 feet of Lot 14, and
EXCEPTING: That portion of said tract lying East of Lots 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 in said addition, the foregoing described tract or tracts being situated in the Creamery Addition to the City of Ellendale.
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 609 SCHOOL STREET, ELLENDALE, MN 56026-1000
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $41,752.70
TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Voyager Bank, a Minnesota banking corporation
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 15-104-0514
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: January 29, 2019 at 10:00 AM.
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota.
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. The time allowed by law for redemption by the United States of America or any agency thereof is twelve (12) months from the date of the sale, if applicable.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on July 29, 2019.

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

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

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

THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

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

NOTICE

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:
Horizon EyeCare Professionals

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS:
2560 Street Harvest Lane, Owatonna, MN 55060 USA

NAMEHOLDER(S):
Name:
Gilthvedt EyeCare Clinic, Inc

Address:
2560 Harvest Lane
Owatonna, MN 55060

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:
Elizabeth M. Gilthvedt, OD
Date:
December 19, 2018

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES:
ncvoptometry@gmail.com

12/25, 1/8

FORECLOSURE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:
That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 16, 2008
MORTGAGOR: Pamela S. Ingvalson, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union, a credit union organized under the laws of the United States of America
DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded October 24, 2008 in the office of the County Recorder, as Document No. A000360304, Steele County, Minnesota.
TRANSACTION AGENT: None
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: None
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: N/A
MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 455 Main Street West, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota 55917
TAX PARCEL I.D. NO. 14-111-0107
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 7, Block 1, Prairie Villa Addition to the Village of Blooming Prairie, Steele County, Minnesota.
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $89,240.00
AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: $84,731.06
INTEREST RATE AND PER DIEM: Current interest rate is 3.500%, with a per diem of $7.64.
That prior to commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage or any part thereof;
PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 14, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060, to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor, their personal representatives or assigns.
DATE AND TIME MORTGAGOR MUST VACATE THE PREMISES: 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 August 14, 2019, at 11:59 p.m.

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

Dated: December 20, 2018
MESSERLI & KRAMER P.A.
By: /s/ Jonathan R. Septer
Jonathan R. Septer (Lic. #390506)
1400 Fifth Street Towers
100 South Fifth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1217
(612) 672-3600
Attorney in Fact for Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union

15845-928
IMPORTANT NOTICE
This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

12/25,1/1,1/8, 1/15,1/22,1/29

NOTICE

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:
Central Park Coffee
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS:
113 North Cedar Avenue, Owatonna MN 55060 USA
NAMEHOLDER(S):
Name:
Vision Force, LLC
Address:
17545 295th Avenue
Waseca MN 56093

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:
Charlene J. Esch President
Date:
November 27, 2018

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES:
the_momin8tor@hotmail.com

12/25, 1/8,1/15

NOTICE

Proposed
City of Blooming Prairie
City Council Meeting Agenda
January 14, 2019
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance

Oath of Office

Approval of Agenda
Approval of Minutes of December Regular City Council Meeting
Financial Report

Committee/Commission Reports
1. B.P. Public Utilities
2. B.P. Economic Development Authority
3. B.P. Planning & Zoning
4. B.P. Fire Commission
5. B.P. Police Commission
6. B.P. Ambulance Commission

Business
1. Official Appointments, Official Depository and Official Newspaper
2. Review Expense Reimbursement and Mileage Rate
3. Review Fee Schedules
4. Summary of Closed Session
5. Mayor & Council Member's Workers Compensation Insurance
6. Designation of Polling Place for 2019
7. Update Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual
8. Purchase of Used Plow Truck

City Administrator's Report
1. Three-year Revenue Average

City Attorney's Report
Council Members' Reports
Adjourn

This Agenda is Subject to Change

1/8

NOTICE

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 55917
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

6:00 a.m.
Thursday, January 17, 2019
Regular School Board Work Session –High School Board Room
5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 22, 2019
Open Public Forum–High School Media Center
Technology (Camera) Presentation by Erik Vigeland
5:15 p.m.
Tuesday, January 22, 2019
Regular School Board Meeting–High School Media Center

Any person may raise a question to the School Board. The Board will not act on any item presented to them, which is not on the agenda, until the following Board meeting. Also, the Board would like persons to limit themselves to five minutes, with a maximum of 15 minutes per topic. These limitations are needed for us to run a timely and orderly Board meeting. Persons are requested to identify themselves prior to speaking.

I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON
II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
III. ROLL CALL – CLERK
IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS
VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED
A. Rotation of Officers
B. School Board Committee Assignments
C. Consent Agenda
Minutes
Bills
Treasurer's Report
Resignation
Donations

D. Employment
E. Volunteer Coaches
F. Designation of Local Depositories, Newspaper, and School Attorney
G. Promulgation of Seniority Lists for the Teaching Staff
H. DJ for Snow/Sadie Hawkins Dance
I. MSHSL Foundation Resolution (Form B)
VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
A. Committee Reports
B. Enrollment Data

C. Dates to Note
VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS
IX. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

1/8

NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
November 15, 2018

A regular school board work session was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 15, 2018, in the Board Room at the High School.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Dean Meshke, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools

DISCUSSION ITEMS:
General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the November 19, 2018, regular school board meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Hameister
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

1/8

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids will be received by the City of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, in the City Hall at 138 Highway Avenue South, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 until 10 A.M., CST, on Tuesday, February 5, 2019, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for the furnishing of all labor, materials, and all else necessary for the following:

2019 Street Rehabilitation Improvements

In general, Work consists of the reclamation and resurfacing of bituminous roadways, along with concrete curb and gutter spot replacement and structure rehabilitation and adjustments. The Project consists of the following approximate quantities:

26,650	SQ YD	Reclaim Bituminous Pavement
26,650	SQ YD	Bituminous Non Wear Course SPNWB230B (2.0-Inches Thick)
26,650	SQ YD	Bituminous Wear Course SPWEB230B (1.5-Inches Thick)
1,150	LIN FT	Remove and Replace B618 Concrete Curb and Gutter
29	EA	Remove and Replace Catch Basin
2,950	CU YD	Preparation of Reclaimed Aggregate Base (P)

Along with miscellaneous utility improvements, removals, restoration and correlated appurtenances.

Complete digital Bidding Documents are available at www.questcdn.com for $20.00 by inputting **QuestCDN eBidDoc #6049049** on the website's Project Search page. Paper Bidding Documents may also be viewed at the City of Blooming Prairie and at Stantec, 6188 Rome Circle NW, Rochester, MN 55901, (507) 282-2100.

Direct inquiries to Engineer's Project Manager, Brett Grabau, at (507) 529-6030.

Bid Security in the amount of 5 percent of the amount of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The Owner reserves the right to retain the deposits of the 3 lowest Bidders for a period not to exceed 60 days after the date and time set for the Opening of Bids. No Bids may be withdrawn for a period of 60 days after the date and time set for the Opening of Bids.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein, and further reserves the right to award the Contract to the best interests of the Owner.

Mike Jones, City Administrator
City of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS

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

1. The Corporation, whose principal office is located at 5881 SE 118th Street, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917, is in the process of voluntary dissolution.

2. The Corporation has filed with the Minnesota Secretary of State a Notice of Intent to Dissolve.

3. Such Notice was filed with the Minnesota Secretary of State on the 30th day of October 2018.

4. 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

5. 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

STEELE COUNTY Times
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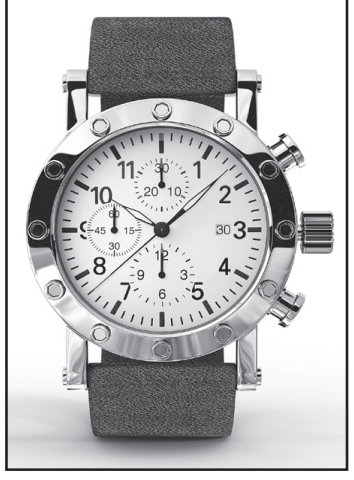
Place your business ads with us. Call 507-583-4431 and ask for Tracie

THE CLASSIFIEDS- Where the Deals Are!
APARTMENTS FOR RENT
SITUATIONS WANTED
AUTOMOBILES FOR SALE
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
GARAGE SALES
HOMES FOR SALE
STEELE COUNTY TIMES
Call to place an item in the Classifieds today:
507-583-4431
Place your employment ads with us. Call 507-319-1549 and ask for Annie

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Sell your car, bike, RV, trailer, and anything on wheels today!!

CLASSIFIEDS

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Sell your items for $50 or less. Run it for four weeks. ONLY $5!

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NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA November 19, 2018

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center at 7:15 p.m. (Open Forum at 7:00 p.m.).

OPEN FORUM – No comments.
I. CALL TO ORDER –CHAIRPERSON
II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
III. ROLL CALL - CLERK
Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Dean Meshke, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille
ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools, Members of the BPTA, Elementary School Principal, High School Principal, Associate Principal, School Patrons
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of the November payroll amount. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS
Principal reports given by Mr. Staloch, Mr. Worke, and Ms. Mach.
VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED
A. Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Donations
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Kelly Braaten to approve the bills, treasurer's report, and donations received. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
B. Employment
Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve the employment of Laci Baumgartner as an elementary special education paraprofessional. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve an overload in Social Studies for quarters two, three, and four for Cory Hendrickson. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
Motion by Steve Ille and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve an overload in Math for quarters two, three, and four for Janet Luick. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
C. Volunteer Coaches
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve Alexandra Smith as a "volunteer" junior high girls basketball coach. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
D. Winter Cheerleading
Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Steve Ille to approve offering winter cheerleading and employing Kelly LaMotte as the coach. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
E. Handbook Updates
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve a revision to the high school teacher and student handbooks. The revision addresses a new policy which is in compliance with the public health law center Model K-12 Tobacco Policy which has been adopted by MSBA. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
F. December Work Session
Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the December work session be moved from December 13 to December 12. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
A. Committee Reports
A report update was given on the following committees: Education Foundation, and ZED.
B. Enrollment Data
Enrollment for the 2018-19 school year as of November 13, 2018, was 415 at the elementary school (grades K-6) and 339 at the high school (grades 7-12) (334 attending BPHS and 5 attending PSEO). The PSEO number consists of 3 seniors and 2 juniors with attendance being full-time.
C. Dates to Note
The Board notes dates of importance.
VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS
1. ZED building location is being sought along the Highway 14 corridor.
2. Fall sports season went smoothly. Thanks to Ms. Mach and the administration for all the additional preparation that went into the football season. It was a great experience for all.
3. The regular December board meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. with the Open Forum along with the required budget/levy discussion at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Media Center.
4. A thank you was acknowledged.
IX. ADJOURNMENT
Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Steve Ille to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.
Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Work Session will be held on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, at 6:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the High School. Tentatively, the next regular meeting of the School Board will be Monday, December 17, 2018, at 5:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center (Open Forum begins at 5:00 p.m. along with Budget/Levy discussion at 6:00 p.m.).

A complete copy of the official minutes may be found in their entirety in the official minute book located in the superintendent's office at the high school; however, they will not be available until approved by the School Board.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Hameister
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

1/8

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by Steele County at the Steele County Auditor's Office located at 630 Florence Avenue, **until 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 29, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud in the board chambers, for the furnishing of all labor and materials for the following project:

Steele County – Cold Storage Building

Owner
Steele County
630 Florence Avenue
Owatonna, MN 55060
Phone: 507-456-2470

Documents for the project may be obtained from the County via e-mail.
Contact: Alan Forsberg
Phone: 507-456-2470
E-mail: Alan.Forsberg@co.steele.mn.us

Documents are also available at:
1. Steele County Highway Department located at 635 Florence Ave

Bids shall be submitted on copies of the bid proposal form. One certified copy of the bid form shall be submitted in a sealed envelope, labeled with the project name as listed above and addressed to the Steele County Board. The bid shall be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond in the amount of five percent of the total bid price, made payable to Steele County, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into the proposed contract within the time specified and at the price bid proposed.

The Steele County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any irregularities and informalities therein and to determine whether a bid is responsive or non-responsive. The County further reserves the right to award the contract to the best interests of the County.

Greg Ilkka, County Engineer

1/18

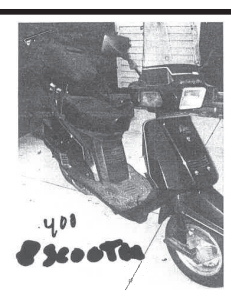
DEALS ON WHEELS

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

Electric Bicycle (needs nothing)

Asking $700.
(retail $1700)
507-279-4103 cell or 281-4040.



Motor scooter 5000 mile, Yamaha model Royal.

Asking $600.
(new #3,500)
Call 507-279-4103 cell or 281-4040

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

DEALS ON WHEELS

Yamaha Virago XV750
Adult Driven - One owner
54K miles 97'
Shaft Drive, cover, soft saddle bags, books.

Asking $1239.
call 507-634-4345

- **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

Find us on Facebook

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)

2000 Ford F250 7.3 diesel/ Many new parts.

Asking $9000 OBO.

call 507-261-2884

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

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

For Sale - Brent Grain Cart Model 882 with tarp.

Asking $29,500.
Call 507-269-8797

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: New Waste Oil Furnace w/ 200-gallon underneath Tank $450.00. Call 507-383-9024.

PIANOS, DIGITAL PIANOS, Rodgers Church Organs - New, Used, Sales & Service - Call DEWEY KRUGER MUSIC, Northwood, Iowa, 800-933-5830, deweykrugermusic.com Wk4,5,6,7

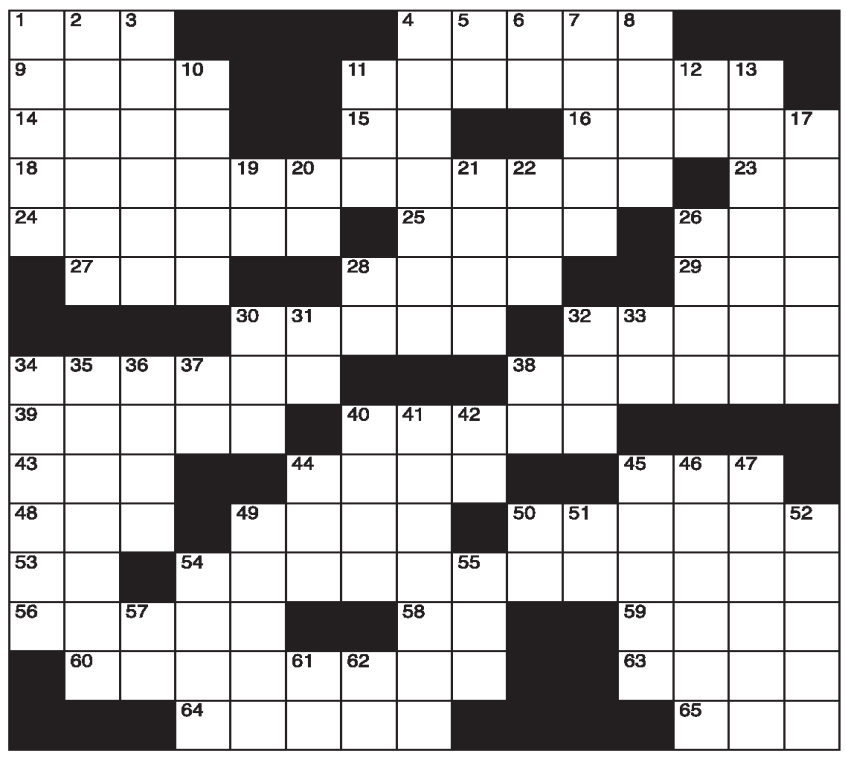
FOR RENT

APARTMENTS FOR RENT, 1, 2 & 3 BR, gas & elec. Included. 507-273-7386. 44tfc

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)

CLUES ACROSS

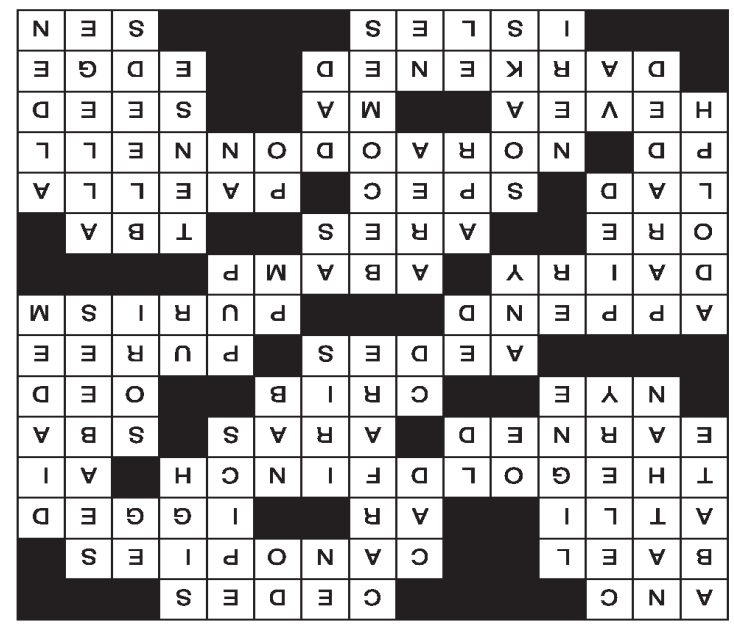
1. Contradicted
7. The Donald's Marla
13. Mediterranean sandstorm
14. Shoulder adornment
16. Earth crust's 5th element
17. Rainbow prize
19. NCIS star's initials
20. Mischa __, violinist
22. Constitution Hall org.
23. More dried-up
25. First on moon
26. Braid
28. 11% of Guinea population
29. Sea eagle
30. Scottish variant of "to"
31. A border for a picture
33. Belonging to a thing
34. On top
36. Automobile hood (Brit.)
38. Skewered Thai dish
40. Clamors
41. Eggs cooked until just set
43. Flat
44. 13th Hebrew letter
45. Short poking stroke
47. Japanese classical theater
48. 007's creator
51. Romanian Mures river city
53. Music term for silence
55. A crane
56. Ringworm
58. Romanian money
59. True frog
60. Integrated circuit
61. "Highway Patrol's" Crawford
64. Point midway between S and E
65. On a whim
67. Protagonist
69. Quantity with only magnitude
70. Oversights

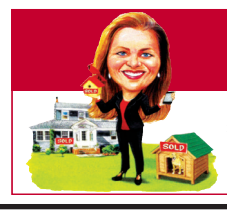


CLUES DOWN

1. One who operates a dial
2. Trauma center
3. Prickly pear pads
4. Fashion superstar
5. Shock treatment
6. Mindless drawing
7. AKA migraine
8. Military mailbox
9. Buddies
10. Heavy tranquilizers (slang)
11. Raised railroad track
12. School session
13. Picture
15. Stabs
18. Supervises flying
21. Early American militiaman
24. Downfall
26. Cooking vessel
27. Check
30. In a way, manipulated
32. Sacred book of Judaism
35. Chum
37. Negating word
38. Relating to the body
39. W. hemisphere continents
42. Make lacework
43. Witty remark
46. More hairless
47. Relating to a nerve
49. Originates
50. Consumer advocate Ralph
52. Actress Winger
54. Center for Excellence in Education (abbr.)
55. Japanese brews
57. Fleshy seed covering
59. Canadian law enforcers
62. So. Am. wood sorrel
63. Actress Lupino
66. Personal computer
68. Do over prefix

Weekly crossword





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CHEERLEADING

NRHEG cheerleaders perform in London New Year's Day Parade

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva cheerleaders Hailey Westrum, Laura Worrell and Avery Hill performed in the world-renowned London New Year's Day Parade along with more than 800 other high school cheerleaders from across the United States.

The girls were invited to perform in the London celebration are part of the All-American program, selected from Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) and National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) at summer camps across the country. All-Americans are chosen based on superior athletic and leadership skills. Only the top 12 percent of athletes who attend camp earn the chance to perform in the holiday spectacular.

NRHEG cheerleader Brenlee Knudson and Grace Wilkerson was also selected as an All-Americans, but elected to not make the trip.

"The All-American program is celebrating its 31st year in 2018, and our talented cheerleaders, dancers and drum majors really enjoy the opportunity to show their skills to a very enthusiastic international audience," says Mike Fultz, International Event Coordinator for Varsity Spirit.

Memphis-based Varsity Spirit has been a driving force behind cheerleading's dynamic transformation into the high-energy, athletic activity it is today, and the leading global source for all things cheerleading and dance."

PHOTOD COURTESY OF NRHEG CHEER

NRHEG cheerleaders Hailey Westrum, Laura Worrell and Avery Hill during their trip to perform in the London New Year's Day Parade.

Varsity Spirit is a leader in uniform innovation and educational camps, clinics and competitions, impacting nearly a million athletes each year. Focused on safety, entertainment and traditional school leadership, Varsity Spirit's 5,000 employees have been helping raise cheerleading's influence and profile since 1974.

For more information, visit london.varsity.com, or contact Fultz at (800) 238-0286.

BASKETBALL

Blossoms ekes out win

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

After playing a complete game against Chatfield the previous night, the Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossom boys basketball team played the makeup game of the Triton Christmas Tourney without any energy at all.

That lack of energy and purpose almost resulted in a loss, but the locals had just enough to down Triton 56-49.

BP improved to 8-1 for the season with the win.

"We were able to win the game despite heavy legs and a lack of purpose," Blooming Prairie head coach Nate Piller said. "We came up short on several of our usual standards. One obvious bright spot in this game belonged to Parker Vaith, who came in and sparked the team to the win. He scored 14 points, and played really good defense for us."

BP led 29-27 at the half.

Besides Vaith's output, Karson Vigeland counted 13 points and Gabe Hagen chipped in 11 for BP. Drew Kelly counted 21 points for the losers.

BP BOYS DOWN CHATFIELD

"We are a little banged up and short-handed," Piller said. "But the boys put together their best and most complete game of the season," in a 71-66 non-conference win at Chatfield on Friday, January 3. Both teams scored scored quickly and often over the first half, with the Blossoms leading 41- 32 at the break.

After the prolific first half, BP managed to stretch the lead to 11 points in the second half before the boys cooled off in shooting a little, which led to a little frustration. But the Blossoms stayed the course and put together some vital shots to keep the lead.

When Chatfield was forced to put the locals at the free throw line, they made enough of them to make the game a three-possession one and ensure the BP victory. It upped the season mark to 7-1 overall and 3-1 in the conference.

Kaden Thomas led the Blossom scoring with 18 points, and Hagen and Vigeland both chipped in 16. Josef Fahrenholtz counted 15 points for the Gophers

TOUGH NIGHT FOF BP BOYS

Hayfield boys made the night a tough one for the Awesome Blossoms Friday, December 21, as the Vikings dominated BP to the tune of a 62-44 win in non-conference action.

The locals played the contest with two starters out of the game.

With that said, a lot of credit goes to the winners, who came out of the box with a lot of energy and effort. Good floor play and hot shooting got the Vikings rolling, and they forged a 36-22 lead over the locals at the break.

Piller commented, "We were without one of our best starters to begin the evening, and another starter broke his nose early. To top that off, two more players found themselves with three fouls each before the break. It was that kind of night."

Hagen led all scorers in the game with 24 points, and Swenson added 10, but Mason Tapp led several Vikings in balanced scoring. with 18 points.

NRHEG: *retires Wagner's number*

FROM B1

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM AGRIMSON

Former NRHEG star Carlie Wagner stands for a photo during her jersey retirement ceremony on Friday, December 28 at NRHEG High School.

Those honored included: Katie Cole, Abby Crabtree, Hannah Lundberg, Paige Overgaard, Jade Schultz, Wagner, Anna Stork, Jade Peterson, Ryann Hagen, Kayley Camerer, Gretchen Ramaker, Maddie Wagner, Marnie Wagner, Kelly Harrington, Raelin Schue, student managers Sidney Schultz and Annie Prigge and coaches John Schultz, Grant Berg, Sam Lundberg and

GOPHER CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Friday, Jan. 4
Winona 70, Faribault 44
Red Wing 74, Kasson-Mantorville 42
Saturday, Jan. 5
Austin 76, Rochester Century 70
Mankato East 86, Orono 63
Marshall 77, Mankato West 54
Tuesday, Jan. 8
Faribault at Owatonna, 7:30 p.m.
Rochester Century at Rochester Mayo, 7:30 p.m.
Austin at Red Wing, 7:30 p.m.
Northfield at Mankato West, 7:30 p.m.
Rochester John Marshall at Albert Lea, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 10
Rochester Mayo at Mankato East, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 11
Rochester John Marshall at Rochester Century, 5:45 p.m.
Owatonna at Winona, 7:30 p.m.
Mankato West at Faribault, 7:30 p.m.
Northfield at Austin, 7:30 p.m.
Red Wing at Albert Lea, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 12
Mankato East at Marshall, 3 p.m.
Irondale at Winona, 6 pm.
Rochester John Marshall at Owatonna, 7:30 p.m.

Girls' Basketball

	Conf.	Overall
Rochester John Marshall	8-0	10-2
Austin	8-1	9-2
Red Wing	6-2	10-2
Mankato West	6-2	6-4
Northfield	5-3	5-6
Mankato East	6-4	6-6
Rochester Mayo	4-4	6-5
Faribault	3-6	3-8
Owatonna	2-6	2-9
Winona	2-7	3-9
Albert Lea	1-7	2-10
Rochester Century	0-9	0-13

Thursday, Jan. 3
Austin 70, Owatonna 49
Red Wing 75, Rochester Century 27
Rochester John Marshall 68, Mankato West 59
Friday, Jan. 4
Faribault 53, Winona 49
Rochester Mayo 57, Northfield 50
Austin 71, Rochester Century 30
Mankato East 51, Albert Lea 25
Saturday, Jan. 5
Austin 76, Rochester Century 70
Mankato East 86, Orono 63
Marshall 77, Mankato West 54
Tuesday, Jan. 8
Owatonna at Faribault, 7:30 p.m.
Rochester Mayo at Rochester Century, 7:30 p.m.
Red Wing at Austin, 7:30 p.m.
Mankato West at Northfield, 7:30 p.m.
Albert Lea at Rochester John Marshall, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 10
Mankato East at Rochester Mayo, 7:30 p.m.
Worthington at Mankato West, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 11
Winona at Owatonna, 7:30 p.m.
Rochester John Marshall at Rochester Century, 7:30 p.m.
Austin at Northfield, 7:30 p.m.
Albert Lea at Austin, 7:30 p.m.
Faribault at Mankato West, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 12
Marshall at Mankato East, 1:30 p.m.
Owatonna at Rochester John Marshall, 7:30 p.m.

BOYS' HOCKEY

	Conf.	Overall
Northfield	6-2-0	8-4-0
Rochester Century	5-0-0	10-2-0
Owatonna	4-1-0	8-4-0
Rochester Mayo	3-1-1	9-1-2
Albert Lea	4-2-0	6-6-0
Faribault	2-2-1	8-2-1
Rochester John Marshal	1-3-1	4-7-1
Mankato East	1-2-0	6-6-1
Mankato West	1-3-1	4-6-1
Red Wing	1-3-0	3-8-0
Winona	1-5-0	3-10-0
Austin	1-6-0	2-8-0

Thursday, Jan. 3
Owatonna 6, Austin 1
Northfield 3, Rochester John Marshall 0
Albert Lea 4, Red Wing 1
Faribault 3, Winona 2
Rochester Century 2, Rochester Mayo 1
Friday, Jan. 4
Rochester Mayo 5, Hibbing 2
Saturday, Jan. 5
Hastings 2, Owatonna 0
Lourdes 5, Winona 1
Northfield 5, Mankato West 4, OT
Faribault 4, Austin 3
Rochester John Marshall 5, Hibbing 3
Holy Angels 5, Rochester Century 4
Rochester Mayo 4, Duluth Marshall 1
Tuesday, Jan. 8
Rochester Mayo at Holy Angels/Richfield, 7 p.m.
Mankato East at Mankato West, 7 p.m.
Gentry Academy at Austin, 7 p.m.
Faribault at Albert Lea, 7:15 p.m.
So. St. Paul at Rochester Century, 7:15 p.m.
Simley at Northfield, 7:15 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 10
Winona at Mankato East, 5:15 p.m.
Owatonna at Rochester Century, 7:15 p.m.
Northfield at Austin, 7:15 p.m.
Red Wing at Faribault, 7:15 p.m.
Rochester John Marshall at Rochester Mayo, 7:15 p.m.
Albert Lea at Mankato West, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 12
Mankato West at Winona, 3 p.m.
Rochester Mayo at Owatonna, 7 p.m.
Austin at Rochester John Marshall, 7:15 p.m.
Mankato East at Red Wing, 7:15 p.m.

Girls' Hockey

	Conf.	Overall
Northfield	10-0-0	12-8-0
Faribault	10-2-0	14-4-0
Mankato East	8-3-0	12-3-2
Owatonna	5-3-1	6-9-2
Mankato West	4-4-1	8-4-3
Rochester Century	5-5-0	9-6-1
Red Wing	4-5-0	5-11-1
Rochester Mayo	3-6-1	5-10-3
Albert Lea	1-6-1	5-9-2
Austin	1-9-0	3-13-1
Rochester John Marshall	1-9-0	2-17-0

Thursday, Jan. 3
Owatonna 4, Austin 2
Northfield 7, Rochester John Marshall 2
Rochester Century 9, Rochester Mayo 2
Red Wing 4, Albert Lea 1
Mankato East 3, Mankato West 2
Friday, Jan. 4
Proctor/Hrmntn 4, Owatonna 0
Princeton 10, Rochester Mayo 3
Saturday, Jan. 5
St. Francis/No. Branch 1, Owatonna 0
Faribault 9, Austin 2
Northfield 5, Mankato West 1
Rochester Century 7, Windom 2
Mankato East 7, Rochester John Marshall 4
Tuesday, Jan. 8
Red Wing at Rochester Century, 5:30 p.m.
Mankato East at Owatonna, 7 p.m.
Mankato West at New Ulm, 7 p.m.
Albert Lea at Faribault, 7:15 p.m.
Onalaska at Rochester Mayo, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 10
Rochester Century at Owatonna, 7 p.m.
Faribault at St. Peter, 7 p.m.
Austin at Red Wing, 7:15 p.m.
Mankato West at Albert Lea, 7:15 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 12
Mankato East at Robbinsdale Armstrong, 10 a.m.
Rochester John Marshall at Austin, 11 a.m.
Northfield at Mahtomedi, 2 p.m.
River Falls at Red Wing, 3 p.m.
Mankato West at Henry Sibley, 4 p.m.
Owatonna at Rochester Mayo, 7:30 p.m.

WRESTLING

	Conf.	Overall
Owatonna	4-0	8-2
Albert Lea	2-0	8-2
Faribault	4-1	5-4
Northfield	3-1	8-5
Rochester Mayo	3-1	5-9
Winona	1-2	2-2
Rochester John Marshall	1-2	2-6
Mankato West	1-3	2-3
Austin	0-2	1-5
Mankato East	0-3	4-4
Rochester Century	0-4	0-5

Thursday, Jan. 3
Westfield 39, Austin 24
Triton 48, Austin 24
Mankato East 56, WEM/JWP 18
Mankato East 33, GS/LP 25
Friday, Jan. 4
Owatonna 41, Kearney 20
Owatonna 39, Thompson 34
Oak Park River Forest 37, Owatonna 34
Faribault 38, Mankato West 33
East Ridge 55, Rochester Mayo 21
New Hampton 45, Rochester Mayo 19
Oak Park Rover Forest 63, Rochester Mayo 12
Forest Lake 34, Northfield 27
Washington 32, Northfield 26
Saturday, Jan. 5
Owatonna 44, Waukee 26
Denver, IA 37, Owatonna 26
Owatonna 40, STMA 25
Northfield 43, Blaine 21
Northwest, NE 48, Rochester Mayo 28
East Ridge 43, Northfield 22
Dover-Eyota 50, Rochester Mayo 27
Rochester Mayo 42, Mitchell, SD 25
Northfield 53, Grant, IL 12
Tuesday, Jan. 8
Mankato East, Maple River and Worthington at St. James Arena, 5 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 10
Austin, Rochester Mayo at Faribault, 5:30 p.m.
Mankato West, Rochester John Marshall at Winona, 5:30 p.m.
Mankato East, Northfield at Rochester Century, 5:30 p.m.
Owatonna at Albert Lea, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 12
Rochester Mayo, Blooming Prairie, Hopkins, Grand Meadow, Rochester John Marshall, New Hampton, Medford, Rochester Mayo, NRHEG, Park Rapids, LARP, Linn-Mar at Stewartville, 8 a.m.
Owatonna, Anoka, Blaine, Eastview, Maple Grove, North Branch, Tartan Senior at Mounds Views, 9 a.m.
Chatfield, Coon Rapids, Eagan, Faribault, Hudson, Little Falls, Mahtomedi at Stillwater, 9 a.m.
Apple Valley, Albert Lea, Sauk Rapids-Rice, Foley, Hastings at St. Cloud Tech, 9 a.m.
Goodhue, Lakeville North, Northfield at Henry Sibley, 9 am.
Byron, Richfield, Caledonia, Winona, Albert Lea, Lewiston-Altura/Rushford-Peterson, Austin, St. Thomas Academy, Wabasha-Kellogg, Lake City, Maple River, La Crescent-Hokah, FC/L/MC, Cochrane Fountain City at Plainview-Elgin-Millville, 10 a.m.

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