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BP CHAMBER
SECTION D1

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019

Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

Charges: Driver doing online banking in Harberts crash

*Man faces 2 felonies
in crash that killed
mother, daughter*

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The driver of a Hummer that admittedly was distracted when he crashed into another vehicle and killed two people has been charged with two felonies, which accuse him of doing online banking

behind the wheel.

On Jan. 16, the Dodge County Attorney's Office filed a pair of criminal vehicular homicide charges against Tanner Ronald Kruckeberg, 24, of Dodge Center. The charges accuse Kruckeberg of operating his vehicle in a "grossly negligent manner" while utilizing an online banking application on his cell phone at the time of the crash on U.S. Highway 14 and Dodge County Road 3 near Claremont Sept. 7.

If convicted of the felonies,

Kruckeberg could face up to 10 years in prison.

Kruckeberg will make his first court appearance in Dodge County District Court on Feb. 13. It's unknown who his attorney will be.

Kruckeberg told the State Patrol he had his cruise control set at 60 mph. He also told investigators he was on his cell phone speaking to a buddy and when the call was complete, he looked down to manually hang up the call, according to the complaint.

However, a search warrant executed by the State Patrol showed Kruckeberg was using an online banking application at the time of the crash.

In a statement to the patrol, Kruckeberg stated that when he looked up from disconnecting the cell phone call, the Mercury Milan driven by Rachel Harberts was right in front of him. He did not recall seeing the Mercury stopped with its left turn signal on.

The investigation found that there were no pre-impact

skid marks to indicate hard braking by Kruckeberg prior to the crash.

Harberts, a first grade school teacher in Blooming Prairie, died in the crash as well as her 8-year-old daughter, Emerson, who was killed on impact as she was seated in the back seat. Jaxon Harberts, 12, was a front seat passenger and critically injured. He has since recovered. The Harberts were heading to school around 7:10 a.m. when the crash happened on the fourth day of the new school

year.

The complaint against Kruckeberg reveals he has a lengthy driving record, mostly speeding citations. He has had 23 separate offenses in six counties since 2010. The most recent speeding citation came last April in Douglas County when he was convicted of going 89 in a 70 mph zone.

In 2014, Kruckeberg was convicted of using a wireless communications device while

SEE HARBERTS, A6

New aim at distracted driving

*Local lawmaker
pushes for hands-free
legislation*

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Being a former first grade teacher herself for many years, Rep. Peggy Bennett, R-Albert Lea, was devastated when she heard the news that Blooming Prairie first grade teacher Rachel Harberts was killed in a car crash on her way to classes.

And what made it sting even more for Bennett was the fact that the driver responsible for the crash was allegedly distracted with his cellphone.

"That really hit me close to my heart," said Bennett. "They were just on their way to school."

Bennett is on a crusade to stop what she sees as senseless deaths on our roadways from people involved in distracted driving, mainly with their cell phones. Last week, she, along with several other state lawmakers, introduced hands-free legislation that would ban cell phone use without a hands-free device and increase penalties for texting while driving.

During a news conference at the State Capitol last week, Bennett used the Harberts crash to illustrate the need for changes with distracted driving. "That's the perfect example of why we are doing this bill," Bennett said of the Harberts tragedy. "It's so tragic."

Bennett admits she's not one to overregulate with more laws from government. But, she said, the time has come for lawmakers to intervene with advances in technology.

SEE DISTRACTED DRIVING, A6

SETTLING IN AFTER SPLIT



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

These Blooming Prairie Youth Club kids have some fun on the ice.

BP Youth Club makes comeback

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It's been 16 months since the Blooming Prairie Boys & Girls Club split from the regional organization and became its own youth group.

"I feel the club is settling in" after reorganizing into a youth group of its own, says Bryce Schlichter, co-president of the Blooming Prairie Youth Club. He shares that leadership role with Andrea Kvalsten.

"We had a slight decline in students for our programs, but it has started to come back," Schlichter pointed out.

Kelli Naatz, director of the BP Youth Club, said the Youth Club has added some

new families, acquiring a larger group of kindergartners. Naatz said she recruited kindergartners during their Kindergarten Connection last April.

Naatz said the enrollment at the BP Youth Club hovers around 38. "We also have frequent drop-ins," she said.

The Youth Club added an early morning child care program this year, students coming in at 7 a.m. and then

"It takes a whole community to support the BP Youth Club."

Bryce Schlichter
Youth Club Co-President

boarding a school bus to be taken to either the elementary school or high school.

The regular Youth Club program offers activities for kids after school (3:15 p.m.) to 6 p.m. when parents pick them up.

Naatz says the youth are assigned to their own cubicles. They then sign in and have a healthy, nutritious snack.

The schedule after school has the kids doing their homework, spelling and reading. They are then given outside time and return inside to do technology games.

Naatz said the spelling programs for those in grades 1-6 have been well received by the kids and

approved by elementary teachers. Kids learn how to pronounce words and how to use them in a sentence, Naatz said.

The spelling work done at the Youth Club helps the kids with spelling tests at school, Naatz informed. "Teachers have noticed a significant improvement," she said.

Naatz is the only full-time employee at the Youth Club. She is assisted by three part-timers, Alicia Ptacek, a college student at Riverland and by two high school sophomores Lilly Abbe and Chris Shepard.

Youth Club enrollees are allowed to have free choice,

SEE BP YOUTH CLUB, A6

Fair snags Country star Chris Kroeze

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Excitement is building for this year's Steele County Fair as fair officials announce yet another major headliner coming to perform.

Local fair officials reached a deal this past weekend during the Minnesota Federation of Fairs in Bloomington for Chris Kroeze to perform on Friday, Aug. 16. NBC's Emmy award-winning TV Show, The Voice, catapulted Kroeze onto the national stage this past year.

Kroeze's combination of vocal and guitar skills, along with humility and small town country boy nature, have captured the hearts of millions of fans across America. He has performed 200 shows a year across the U.S. and internationally, including multiple tours overseas in support of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Since the fair made the announcement Sunday on Facebook, they have received more than 30,000 views.

"It was a great team win for our fair," said Scott Kozelka, Steele fair manager. He pointed out entertainment director Wayne Steele came up with the initial idea, and the deal was signed as Kroeze performed at the Minnesota Federation of Fairs Convention.

Kozelka and other local fair officials saw Kroeze perform five numbers at the convention. "It will be fun for everyone," Kozelka said.

Just last week, the fair announced rising Country music star Chris Hawkey will be performing at the fair on Thursday, Aug. 15.

SEE KROEZE, A3

Record donation for BP Cancer

*Local efforts help push
total over \$1M for
cancer telethon*

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

With the help of sizable donations from the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group and from the Geneva Cancer Group, the Fifth District Eagles Cancer Telethon went over the \$1 million mark.

Late Sunday afternoon, it was announced that the 65th annual Telethon reached \$1,011,834.

The Blooming Prairie Cancer

Group donated \$110,000, marking it as the largest donation it has ever made to the Eagles Cancer Telethon.

The Geneva Cancer Group donated \$105,000, almost the same as its donation of \$110,000 last year.

Eight BP Cancer Group volunteers presented a check to the Eagles. The Stix of Fury Drum Corps performed before the check was presented.

Representatives of the BP Cancer Group said this year's donation was dedicated to Philip Milton, a staunch cancer volunteer who worked hard for many years on various cancer projects. Cancer claimed him last July.

Whitey Hagen and his wife LeJune made the Geneva Cancer Group check presentation at 12:40 p.m. on Sunday.

"Philip was smiling down at us," said a jubilant Cheri Krejci, BP Cancer Group treasurer. "It's just phenomenal," said Jennifer Milton, Philip's wife, who was happy and tearful at the same time.

"We have a lot of generous people in this area and we are thankful for their efforts to help fight cancer," Whitey Hagen said. "Hopefully, we can get some good news soon that says we have found a cure for all cancers," Hagen added.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group presented a check of \$110,000 to the Eagles Cancer Telethon last Saturday night. Shown being interviewed are Cheri Krejci, Jennifer Milton, Connie Trom, Joann Nielsen, Amy Trotman, Mandy Doochy, Ashley Valek and Pam Folkens. Teresa Chapman, executive director of the Telethon, accepted the check.

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AREA DEATHS

**Lois (Lysne) Jafolla, 76,
formerly of BP**

*Serving
Blooming Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893*

OUR VIEW

Latest push on distracted driving badly needed

During the same week that a Dodge Center man was charged with two counts of criminal vehicular homicide presumably at the hands of distracted driving in connection with the tragic deaths of a Blooming Prairie school teacher and her young daughter; a Minnesota lawmaker began taking steps to stop what she says is an epidemic.

Rep. Peggy Bennett, R-Albert Lea, says it's high time that something changes to curb the devastation taking place on our roadways. She and her co-horts at the Minnesota Legislature are putting the pedal to the metal on ending distracted driving.

At a press conference Jan. 14, Bennett and other lawmakers introduced hands-free cellphone legislation. The bill would ban talking into and holding a device while driving. Bipartisan bills would also boost penalties for texting.

One bill introduced would triple the penalty for texting while driving to \$150 for the first offense. Sen. David Osmek wants to make it \$250 for a second offense and \$500 for a third.

One legislator didn't mince words in describing what is happening behind the wheel: "There's really a slaughter on the highways in Minnesota."

In the Rachel Harberts crash, the driver is accused of looking at an online banking application just before he smashed into the rearend of the Harberts vehicle at highway speed, killing 8-year-old Emerson instantly and Rachel a week later.

We applaud Bennett for something that's simply long overdue. Drivers using non-hands-free devices need to be treated the same as drunken drivers in case of crashes that result in injury or death.

Minnesota lawmakers need to step in to end the senseless behavior occurring on our roadways. They need to take drastic steps to create a safer environment for drivers, passengers and pedestrians on Minnesota's roads.

The Minnesota Safety Council has cited data collected by the Georgia Legislature, which showed an immediate decline in crashes in the states that have passed a hands-free law.

National figures show significant decreases of more than 20 percent in fatalities in the states that have passed hands-free laws.

Sadly, it's too late for the Harberts family and many others. But hands-free will save lives and heartaches for many families in the future.

YOUR VIEW

Minnesota needs safer transportation

To-the-Editor:
More Minnesotans were killed and injured in traffic crashes in 2018 than in 2017, with an estimated 380 people losing their lives on our roadways. Distracted and impaired driving is a big factor, to be sure. But, with safer roads human error doesn't have to be a death sentence.

The majority of fatalities and injuries occur on two-lane, undivided roadways in rural areas – the exact types of roadways that are persistently underfunded by the state. You read that right – even with a budget surplus - highway money will be underfunded unless the Legislature and Governor act.

Funding for roads and bridges is receiving more attention as a new Legislature convenes and a new Governor is sworn into office. While debates continue about the best way to pay for infrastructure investments, both political parties actually agree that we are underfunding our transportation system and that additional funding should be found during the 2019 Session.

Minnesota is projected to have a surplus in the state's general fund, but highway funding relies on Minnesota's Highway Trust Fund, which faces a chronic deficit. Minnesota voters have decided that user fees like the fuel tax and license tab fees should be constitutionally dedicated – ensuring that those dollars can only be used to fix roads and bridges. These state highway trust fund dollars are not and cannot be used for transit or any other government services – they are used to fix our roads.

Unfortunately, we don't have enough money in the Highway Trust Fund and therefore many important corridors wait years – even decades – for needed safety and efficiency improvements.

Why do roads and bridges need more funding? Construction costs are rising, demand on the system is increasing with more and heavier trucks, the population is growing with increasing congestion and our infrastructure is aging.

Maintaining our state's infrastructure in good repair is clearly a core government function. The Legislature and Governor should make funding for all modes of transportation a top priority for the 2019 Session – especially since they already agree on the basic premise. Our state can't afford to wait, arguing over funding, while the infrastructure deteriorates, businesses move elsewhere, people remain stranded from jobs and services, and the fatality and injury rates from roadway crashes remain in the thousands every year.

As county commissioners, we see first-hand the impact on the local property tax burden when state and federal funds are inadequate. This is the year to build on the work done last biennium and provide increased, dedicated funding that makes a difference for our state and all of its residents.

Tarryl Clark, Stearns County
Vance Stuehrenberg, Blue Earth County
Michael Potter, Wright County



Investing in a smile for decades

Something that happened to my youngest daughter a few weeks ago took me back in time to my childhood.

Just in time for Christmas, my daughter got the gift I'm sure she probably could have lived without, at least in her mind – braces on her teeth. It probably won't be for a number of years before she really appreciates the gift.

I know that was the case for me. I also wore braces as a teenager for about three years. I'll never forget the days of the braces breaking away from my teeth because I chomped on something too hard and spinning the brace around in my teeth for sometimes weeks until I was able to get back to the orthodontist for a repair.

And who will ever forget the name-calling? I sure won't. "Railroad tracks" was a common one back in my school days. Of course, I also endured the jokes of "buck teeth."

For all practical purposes, it was no joke for me because I definitely had buck teeth. I had a severe overbite that definitely needed some straightening out. I cringe when I look back at some of the photos from my earlier years. It



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

hurts so badly!

But, despite the grief I went through, I'm forever thankful to my parents for making the investment into my teeth and allowing me to have a nice looking set of straight teeth today. I hope the same will happen with my daughter.

For many youngsters, braces are part of growing up. With a smile considered one of the building blocks to developing self-esteem and

self-confidence, parents make the investment to straighten their child's teeth.

Nearly 4 million young people between the ages of 6 and 18 wear braces, according to the American Association of Orthodontics. Statistics also show more adults than ever before are wearing braces. Let's just say I'm glad I got that out of the way when I did back in my teenage years. I can't imagine wearing them now.

I stumbled across a news bulletin this week clarifying several common orthodontic myths. Among them is that you need a referral from the dentist to see an orthodontist. Not the case, says Steven J. Moravec, author of Going the Extra Smile.

Another myth is that you don't need

to see your regular dentist while in braces. "You definitely do," Moravec says. "You need to see your regular dentist at least every six months. Having braces makes your teeth a little more challenging to clean, and nothing beats a professional cleaning at your dentist."

Moravec also talks about the myth that braces are painful. Technology, he points out, has made them more comfortable than ever before.

Invisalign or clear aligner treatment takes longer than braces is another popular myth. Moravec said for most patients, that is not true. For most cases, the time to treat is very similar for clear aligners and braces.

While there have been changes in orthodontics since I had my braces decades ago, what hasn't changed is the importance of straightening them at a young age. Braces do work.

Some of the things a smile can do for you include make you more attractive, relieve stress and boost your mood, lower your blood pressure and help you make others happy. In short, it's health, confidence and joy.

I'm glad that I am making an investment in a smile that my daughter will achieve for decades.

Now it's time to go in hot pursuit of paying that pesky orthodontic bill.

GUEST COLUMN

2019 Legislature is open for business

By JOHN PETERSBURG

The 2019 Legislature is now open for business. On Jan. 8, state representatives were sworn in to office and session has now begun.

The Opening Day ceremony is always exciting. On that first day, you raise your hand and say "I will fulfill my duties to the best of my ability," and the process begins. This session, there's a lot of work to be done. It's certainly a transition going from majority to minority, but the amount of work a state representative does is still the same: review the

bills, move forward and improve them where you can.

Serving as your state representative is an awe-inspiring job, one few people ever get to achieve. I always appreciate the support and trust the people in Owatonna and Waseca have given to me, and I look forward to serving your needs again for the next two years.

Most of our work will take place in committees during the first few weeks of session. This year, I will serve on the Property and Local Tax Division, the

Transportation Finance and Policy Division, and the Taxes Committee. With this being a budget-setting year, I am expecting we'll be quite busy and I'm once again looking forward to being part of this process.

As session moves forward, I'd like to hear about your legislative priorities, and your thoughts on issues we will be discussing at the Capitol. You can contact me by phone at 651-296-5368, by email at rep.john.petersburg@house.mn, or by U.S. Mail at 217 State Office Building, 100 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN

55155.

I'd also like to invite you to subscribe to my email update, where I periodically share thoughts and information on happenings in St. Paul. To sign up, visit www.house.mn/24A and click on the "Email Updates" section.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

John Petersburg is the state representative for District 24A, which covers Steele and Waseca counties. He lives in Waseca.



Spell A-R-M-A-D-A

BP seventh grader spells her way to championship

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It took 14 rounds before a champion was crowned in the 28th annual Blooming Prairie District Spelling Bee at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School on Wednesday, Jan. 9.

Seventh grader Jaylee Schleicher won the competition in the 14th round by correctly spelling the word ARMADA. She is the daughter of Megan and Brian Schleicher.

Fighting back tears of jubilation, Schleicher said the word Armada was familiar to her since her parents own a Nissan Armada vehicle.

Armada is defined on dictionary.com as any fleet of warships. It is also defined as a large grip or force of vehicles, airplanes, etc. Schleicher advanced to the championship round by correctly spelling juniper.

Schleicher defeated eighth grader Abby Smith, who stumbled on the word RELINQUISH. Smith is the daughter of Jared and Karen Smith.

Kaiden Chicos and Ethan Marzolf tied for third place. Kaiden is the son of Steven and Miranda Chicos, and Ethan is the son of Travis and Jami Marzolf.

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

The district spelling bee began in all classrooms of those in grades 5-8 where students had spelldowns to qualify to be a contestant. Sponsor of the district spelling bee is the Southeast Service Cooperative of Rochester.

Schleicher and Smith now advance to the Region Spelling Bee Contest in Rochester on Monday, Feb. 11. Winners of that contest advance to the Southeast Minnesota Spelling Bee Finals on Tuesday, Feb. 26, also in Rochester.

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



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Students in grades 5-8 in Blooming Prairie Schools participated in the 28th Annual Blooming Prairie District Spelling Bee on Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 9. There were 24 participants and three alternates. Pictured, back row, left to right: Jayden Van, Ethan Marzolf, Gabe Hein, Madison Lea, Abby Smith, Ty Forystek, Anna Pauly, Addison Doocy, Grace Krejci, Abigail Hefling; middle row: Jacob Pauly, Carter Bishop, Jaylee Schleicher, Caitlyn Stangl, Catelyn Bartlett, Samantha Hefling, Ella Smith, Zoe Ehlers, Bo Zwiener, Noah Fawver (between bottom and middle row), Madilynn Madsen; bottom row: Audrey Fort, Drew Reinke, Kaiden Chicos, Kaydance VerHey Schumacher, Allison Blume, Noah Graves.

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

All students in grades 4-6 attended the contest with fourth graders eyeing a chance to enter the competition next year as fifth graders.

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

A new pronouncer, Kari Bottin, clearly announced all words and would restate the word and offer a definition if the contestant so desired.

Judy Bishop was recorder for the spelling bee and explained the rules to all contestants. She then told the students to take a deep breath and get ready to compete.

A practice round kicked off the contest with all contestants getting a chance to sample the spelling bee atmosphere.

The first round then began and was completed with only two contestants being eliminated for misspelling a word. They tripped up on guidance and eliminate.

After six rounds, only Schleicher and Smith were left in the competition.

Spelling bee contestants included:

Fifth graders -- Zoe Ehlers Allison Blume, Noah Fawver, Kaydance Verhey-Schumacher, Noah Graves, Samantha Hefling and Drew Reinke (alternate).

Sixth graders -- Jacob Pauly, Caitlyn Stangl, Madilynn Madsen, Ella Smith, Catelyn Bartlett, Bo Zwiener, Audrey Fort and Carter Bishop (alternate).

Seventh graders -- Gabe Hein, Jaylee Schleicher, Kaiden Chicos, Ty Forystek and Addison Doocy.

Eighth graders -- Madi Lea, Abby Smith, Abby Hefling, Anna Pauly, Ethan Marzolf and Grace Krejci.

Arkema heading toward 10 years without lost time

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER



LOAN TRINH

The Arkema Inc. chemical plant of Blooming Prairie is heading toward 10 years without lost time due to accidents.

That was the report given to Arkema's Citizens Advisory Panel (CAP) at a regular monthly meeting Wednesday, Jan. 9 at the Arkema plant. Ten members of the panel attended to hear a review of activities in 2018 and to peer into the future.

The report was given by Loan (pronounced Lon) Trinh, Health, Environment and Safety manager at Arkema.

Arkema began operations in the Blooming Prairie in 1969. Since that time, the plant has been an important contributor to the region's economy with a sizable payroll. Currently Arkema employs 46 individuals.

The Blooming Prairie plant produces over two dozen finished products. These products are manufactured by chemically bonding oxygen to unsaturated bonds found in natural vegetable oils, such as soybean, linseed or other olefinic oils.

This bonding causes changes in the physical appearance and chemical properties of the oils, making them more suitable for industrial use. Arkema's highest volume product is epoxidized soybean oil. Arkema is the only plant to do epoxidation.

Epoxidized soybean oil and epoxidized linseed oil are primarily used for imparting flexibility, strength and ultraviolet stability to polyvinyl chloride resin formulations.

Arkema also produces other specialty epoxides, which are used in lubricating oil formulations, plastic formulations, and in the cosmetic field, including shampoo, lipstick, and perfume manufacture.

Arkema has very stringent restrictions dealing with chemicals, said Trinh. "Chemicals should not be spilled," she said.

The firm also recently received the Minnesota Governor's Safety Award for the fourth consecutive year.

The American Chemistry Council safety award was also recently presented to Arkema.

Arkema was OSHA certified in May and completed six safety drills the past year. The next drill is planned for April 6.

Trinh related that Arkema had completed 22 Task Hazard Analysis assessments in 2018, doing two more than required. Arkema held quarterly campaigns to look at specific types of hazards.

In respect to staff, Trinh said Tim Van Ravenhorst recently joined the company and Scott Gedde also joined the firm as a process engineer.

Last year, Arkema produced 44 million pounds of product. Trinh said plant officials believe the production will be closer to 43 million pounds in 2019.

Trinh said Arkema hopes to make more specialty products in the next year. The company has allotted \$600,000 for special projects, which includes recoating of floors, improvement of cooling equipment and designated \$35,000 to replace oil pumping equipment.

Looking ahead, Trinh highlighted some important dates:

- March 6 -- DOT audit
- March 31 -- Rich Busho retirement
- April 6 -- safety drill
- May 2-13 -- Annual plant shutdown
- May 20-25 -- Arkema annual safety certification
- Aug. 12-19 -- Arkema Environmental Audit
- November -- David Maixner retirement

Trinh said Arkema is constantly seeking to be a good citizen. She said the plant is also working on new product updates including Vikolor 68, a hydraulic fluid for airplanes.

KROEZE: Steele County Fair

FROM A1

Kozelka said the fair is currently putting together ticket packages for both shows. Fairgoers will also be able to attend just one show. He expects an announcement regarding tickets within the next week.

Steele County Fair Manager Scott Kozelka, left, sealed the deal this past weekend for Chris Kroeze to perform at this year's fair. NBC's Emmy award-winning TV Show, The Voice, has helped in pushing Kroeze onto the national stage over the past year.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



New mayor takes over in BP

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The city of Blooming Prairie welcomed in a new mayor for the first time in 15 years on Jan. 14 at the city council meeting.

Mayor Curtis Esplan and incumbent council members Bill Newman and Brad Clark took the oath of office inside the council chambers just after 7 p.m.

Esplan received 469 votes or 54 percent of the vote while longtime Mayor Harold Peterson received 397 votes or 45 percent in last year's election.

City Administrator Mike Jones congratulated the trio as they finished the oath of office.

"You're in charge now," Jones said with a handshake to Esplan. "[Acting Mayor] Bill [Newman], the pressure is off."

Jones said he also received the signed contract for Andrew Langholz, the new city administrator.

Langholz attended Minnesota State University at Mankato and will begin his new position on Feb. 4. The 31-year-old previously worked as the City Clerk in Starbuck, Minn.

"It will be nice to have a new young person in here, who will hopefully bring some new ideas," Jones said. "Some youth in the organization could help. The town needs to have that youth once in a while and needs to have an open-minded individual."

The transition from Jones to Langholz is expected to take some time.

"The day that he says, 'Thank you Mike, I think I have a handle on it,' is the day that I will be gone," Jones said.

In addition to being Langholz's start date, Feb. 4 is also the Fire

Department's annual township meeting.

"They are asking for as many township members as possible to attend," Jones said. "I give everyone a chance to see all the fire equipment and anything that is new."

In other news, the council:

- Approved the following appointments for 2019: Farmers and Merchant State Bank of Blooming Prairie (Official Depository), council member Bill Newman (Acting Mayor), Henefield Iacovino Law Office LLC. (City Attorney), Steele County Times (Official Newspaper), Brett Grabau - Stanec (City Engineer), Steele County Building Inspectors (City Building Inspector), Nick Nelson and Dr. Vern Krebs (City Health Officers), Jake Peterson and Dan Peach (Emergency Manager and CAER Liaison), Mayor Curtis Esplan and City Administrator Mike Jones (Relief Association Liaison), Northland Securities and David Drown Associates (Public Finance Advisor), Abdo, Eick and Meyers (City Auditors), City Council (Board of Appeals), Amy Doerhoefer (Public Utilities Commission), Wally Mahnke and Esplan (Planning and Zoning Commission), Brian Betlach and council member Brad Clark (Ambulance Commission), Newman and Esplan (E.D.A. Commission), Ryan Heimerman (First Assistant), Mike Ingvalson (Second Assistant), Wade Johnson (Rescue Captain), Bryce Schlichter (Assistance Resue), Joe Morgan (Fire Marshall), Justin Krell (Assistant Fire Marshall),

Matt Kittelson (Training Officer), Josh Toquam (Assistant Training) and Mike Hoffman (Secretary/Treasurer).

- Approved the following appointments to the BP Parks and Recreation Association Board for 2019: Jeremy Wangen (President), Mike Studer (Vice President), Chase Kelner (Treasurer), Mandy Lembke, Tony Schiller and Katie Winzenberg (Members) and Gina Hendrickson (Director).
- Approved the IRS rate of \$.58 per mile for the city's mileage reimbursement policy. The rate was set by the IRS Jan. 1, 2019 and is an increase of three and half cents per mile from 2018.
- Approved the following administrative fees: \$.015 per page for photocopies, \$20 for copies of audit or budget report, \$.50 per page for fax, \$10 for assessment search, \$50 for cigarette license, \$2 for election filing, \$500 plus actual engineer and attorney expenses for special meeting, \$100 for off sale liquor license, \$5 for off sale-malt, \$2,000 for on sale, \$50 for on sale-malt, \$100 for club, \$100 for on sale-wine, \$10 for one-day license, liquor fines are \$250 for first violation, \$500 for second violation and \$1,000 for third violation, \$100 for peddlers fee, council chambers rental fees are \$25 for city residents and \$35 for non-residents and business use, \$25 for park pavilion rental, \$20 for golf cart fee and \$10 for NSF/check return fee.
- Approved the following police fees: \$20 per day for vehicle impound, no charge for dog license, \$10 for parking ticket, \$15 per day for animal control fee (boarding fee) and \$25 for pickup fee and \$50 for the repeat pickup fee (all veterinary fees including boarding fee will be paid before the animal is released to owner).

- Approved the following street fees: \$175 for blacktop street openings and \$75 for gravel street openings (base fee / four by nine-foot) \$12 per square yard for openings on blacktop streets and \$4 per square yard for gravel streets where the opening is larger than four by nine-foot, \$12 per square yard for concrete street openings, \$25 for curb cut, \$50 for sanding fee, \$50 per truck load for load of wood, \$15 for barricades and \$50 per hour with a minimum of one hour for weed and mowing fees.
- Approved the following planning and zoning fees: \$25 for request change zoning class, \$25 plus \$1 per lot for planned development, no charge for sketch plan, \$25 plus \$1 per lot for preliminary plat, no charge for final play, \$100 per lot with a minimum of \$500 and maximum of \$2,500 for administration fee, seven percent of development or \$50 per lot or 10 percent of land value for open space, \$250 plus all outside administrative, engineering and legal fees for annexation fees and detachment fees.
- Approved the following swimming pool fees: \$50 for family membership, \$25 for single membership, \$1.50 for daily fee, \$15 for swimming lessons for members and \$20 for swimming lessons nonmembers.
- Approved the following utility fees: \$15 for water base rate (\$2.75/1,000 gallons for first 50,00 gallons and \$2.25/1,000 gallons for excess gallons), \$24.25 per month for non-metered water, \$20 for sanitary sewer base rate (\$2.60/1,000 gallons of water used and maximum sewer charge per month for residential is \$50), \$1,000 hookup fee for new development and \$300 for old development, \$14 for electric base rate (\$.1130 per kWh), \$21 for Commercial/City Service/School Service

and Demand service rate, commercial energy rates of \$.1130 per kWh for first 2,000 kWh and \$.1030 per kWh for excess, city service energy rates of \$.0920 all kWh and school service energy rates of \$.1030 all kWh, \$9.25 for demand KW charge, \$4 for residential storm sewer base rate and \$8 for commercial storm sewer base rate.

- Approved the following ambulance fees: \$600 (residents) and \$650 (nonresidents) for base rate, \$12 per mile mileage and supplies and oxygen also billed.
- Approved the following fire department fees: \$500 base rate for fire call, \$250 base rate for CO call (additional fees charged after two hours), \$50 an hour for each piece of equipment (pumpers and tankers) and \$5 an hour for each firefighter (Additional fees charged for oxygen and foam.)
- Approved the following cemetery fees: \$35 for staking fee and \$250 for graves.
- Approved the summary for the employee evaluations closed session held at the city council meeting on Dec. 17. All employees received a 3 percent cost of living raise. The following employees will receive step increases for the year of 2019: Kisha Aguino (step one to step two, part-time library tech 1), Tony Motl (step six to step seven, public works director), Pat Wehner (step six to step seven, waste water treatment plant supervisor) and Dan Peach (step two to step three, police officer).
- Approved resolution to provide coverage, including the mayor and city council members, on the city's works compensation insurance coverage through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust, effective March 1, 2019.

OBITUARIES

Lois (Lysne) Jafolla, 76, formerly of BP

Lois Ann (Lysne) Jafolla, 76, formerly of Blooming Prairie, passed away in Flower Mound, Texas on Jan. 18, 2019.

Lois is survived by daughters, Lynn (Joe) Poole and Christine



(Jim) Reed; four grandsons; and two great-grandchildren, all of the Dallas-Fort Worth area; a sister, Carol (Leo) Haubenschild of Rochester and a brother, Douglas Lysne of Blooming

Prairie.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Ben Jafolla; son, Jeffrey Postier and parents, Lawrence and Eveline (Hopke) Lysne.

Services will be held in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Winter hasn't lost its grip



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

All bundled up and with shovels in hand, sisters Lilly and Sophia Wacek of Blooming Prairie did their part in trying to clear some of the 10 inches of snow that fell last Friday. The winter has been basically snowless until this latest snowfall, making everyone realize that Old Man Winter hasn't lost its grip. After the snow fell, the deep freeze set in and made everyone seek the warm comforts of their homes to escape the cold.

BOOK NOOK

Family fun nights coming to library



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

Are the kids starting to get bored with winter? Do they need a change of pace from television or video games? Then send them to the Blooming Prairie Branch Library for our Boredom Busters!

Any and all 4th-6th graders are invited to the library every Wednesday after school until 5 p.m. throughout the rest of the school year to play board games. Challenge someone to a game of Battleship, Jenga, or start your own chess tournament with the several chess boards available. Some of the other games available at the library are: Connect 4, Monopoly, Pictionary, Scrabble, Mancala, Tri-ominos, Scattergories, Checkers, Cribbage, and Tripoley.

The Blooming Prairie Branch Library has often been the recipient of gifts - some monetary, some of volunteer time, and some of physical items such as books or movies. One of our valued donations is the display case that was given by John Gibson many years ago. Within the past year it has been used to show rocks, snowmen, history of the Czech settlers, and more. If you have a collection that you would be willing to display in our locked case, please call the library at 507-583-7750.

COLLEGE NEWS

Local students named to Dean's List at MSUM

Several area students have been named to the Dean's List at Minnesota State University Moorhead for the fall 2018 semester.

Dennis Schaefer of Blooming Prairie and Madison Lykken and Paige Radue of Owatonna were among the students at MSUM to qualify for the Dean's List. Schaefer

is majoring in construction management while Lykken is majoring in graphic design and Radue early childhood education.

Students must maintain a 3.25 or higher GPA while completing a minimum of 12 graded credits to qualify for the honor.

BP students honored at Bethel

Two Blooming Prairie students have been honored by being named to the Dean's List at Bethel University in St. Paul.

They are Marissa Larson, senior, daughter of Tammy Larson and Anthony Nelson, senior, son of Brian and Lois Nelson.

The Dean's List honors students who achieve an outstanding scholastic record during a semester with a GPA of 3.6 or higher.

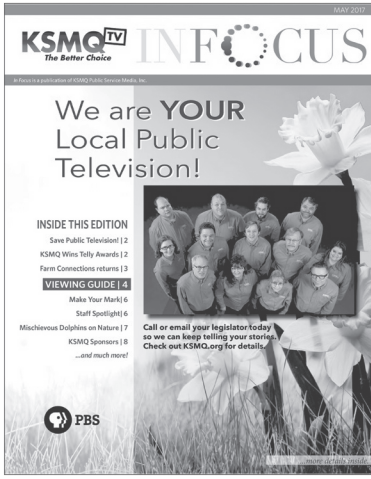
Arett achieves Dean's List at River Falls

Ethan Arett of Blooming Prairie has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin at River Falls for fall semester 2018.

Arett, who is majoring in animal science, was one of 1,603 students who made the Dean's List. Students must earn a GPA of at least 3.5.

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Cancer Corner
Blooming Prairie Cancer Group



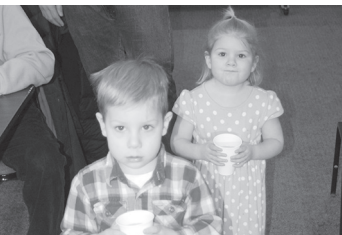
Jubilation sets in for BP Cancer Group



Skyler Valek, 4 of Blooming Prairie, helps pour orange juice at the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group celebratory breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 20 in the Pizza Cellar Party Room.
(Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)



The largest check yet was presented by the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group to District 5 Eagles Cancer Telethon on Saturday night Jan. 19. Shown from left are: Amy Trotman, Mandy Doocy, Jennifer Milton, Joann Nielsen, Ashley Valek, Pam Folkens, Connie Trom and Cheri Krejci.
(Staff Photo by Howard Lestrud)



Three-year-old Nolan Partridge and his twin sister Mallory of Owatonna helped bring some milk back to their table at the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group's annual Pancake Breakfast at the Pizza Cellar last Sunday. (Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)

BY HOWARD LESTRUD – STAFF WRITER

It was back-to-back jubilation for the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group over the weekend.

Eight volunteers presented a check of \$110,000 to the District 5 Eagles Telethon in Rochester on Saturday night and then hurried home to prepare for their annual pancake breakfast on Sunday.

Representing the BP Cancer Group on Saturday night were: Cheri Krejci, Jennifer Milton, Pam Folkens, Connie Trom, Ashley Valek, Mandy Doocy, Amy Trotman and Joann Nielsen.

Pam Folkens took the money at the door at the breakfast as customers gave of their free will.

A silent auction also captivated the interest of many of the estimated 250 who attended the breakfast. The menu included pancakes, sausage, eggs, coffee, orange juice, milk and some homemade muffins.

Cousins Chloe Scheevel, 3, of Estherville, Iowa and Hailey Harvey, 2, of Hayfield enjoyed the breakfast as shown by the tasty crumbs on their cheeks.

Three-year-old twins Nolan and Mallory Partridge, carried their own milk to their table to help out mom and dad.

A facsimile check for \$110,000 donated to the Eagles Cancer Telethon was on display.

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THE BOLD LOOK
OF **KOHLER**

Birthdays

January 23 Dorothy M Johnson Loretta Wurst Kim Hillson Timothy Wacek Jacob Krebs	January 26 Bruce Wolf Tom Blome
January 24 Tom Peterson John Whiting Paisley Wolf	January 27 Lyle Swenson Lisa Vaith
January 25 Becky Miner Collin Meiners	January 28 Katherine Kerrigan Jonathan Heimgartner Jennifer Shaw
	January 29 Kathleen Iversen Samantha Iversen Nicholas Iversen Claire Schwarz

Anniversaries

January 24 Dick & Lorraine Kruckeberg	January 28 Craig & Rebecca Ingvalson
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Old Dutch Restaurant Chips 20 oz. 2/\$7		Lipton Tea 12 Pk. \$4.99	
Pepsi Products 12 Pk./ 12 oz. Cans 3/\$11		Kickstart Drinks 12-16 oz. 4/\$5	

Prices good - 1/20 - 1/26

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Never vilify your friends and neighbors



Pastor Scott Peterson

NEW BEGINNINGS CHURCH
OWATONNA

Three nearby churches on a hot summer day had their windows open and were trying to outsing the others. The Baptists were singing, “Will There Be Any Stars in My Crown?” Then the Presbyterians began singing, “No, Not One. No, Not One.” And the Methodists began singing “Oh, That Will Be Glory for Me.”

All humor aside, it’s not fun to be put down or criticized. When we are criticized and maligned our natural inclination is to do the same. As Christians, however, we are instructed to do the oppo-

site. When provoked, we are not supposed to talk about someone behind their back. Instead, we are to bless them.

The word “bless” literally means “speak well of.” We ask God to bless people, but did you know that you yourself can actually bless a person? You can bless people by the way you talk about them. When someone ridicules you and puts you down, speak well of them. George Washington Carver said, “I will never allow another man to belittle my soul by making me hate him.”

While we can’t control what others say about us, we can control what we say in response. That’s what God will hold us accountable for. When somebody criticizes another, the other person shouldn’t go around bad-mouthing him. Instead, bless him. Find something you can approve of in their life. To find a reason to criticize is easy—anyone can do that. To find a reason to affirm can require a bit more creativity.

Jas 4:11a NIV - Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a

brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law (God’s Moral law) and judges it.

If you are a follower of Christ, you don’t have any business judging one another. There is a higher walk in this life: bless don’t curse. For what a man sows that shall he also reap.

Come visit us at 10 a.m. and learn how to walk in love and live victoriously. New Beginnings Church is located at 332 14th St. NE in Owatonna.

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.	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.
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	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	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.
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.	GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS 2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna Rev. Mark Rosenau, Senior Pastor Rev. Greg Schlicker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4125 www.goodshepherdowatonna.com Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.	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	CHRIST THE KING 205 Second Ave. NW, Medford 507-451-6353 Father James Starasinich Deacon Patrick Fagan Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat. Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.	CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS 307 SW First St., New Richland Father Raul Silva Fr. Adam McMillan, Parochial Vicar 507-465-8217 Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday
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.	GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS 2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna Rev. Mark Rosenau, Senior Pastor Rev. Greg Schlicker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4125 www.goodshepherdowatonna.com Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.	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	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.
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.	GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS 2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna Rev. Mark Rosenau, Senior Pastor Rev. Greg Schlicker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4125 www.goodshepherdowatonna.com Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.	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	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
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.	GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS 2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna Rev. Mark Rosenau, Senior Pastor Rev. Greg Schlicker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4125 www.goodshepherdowatonna.com Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.	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	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 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.	GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS 2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna Rev. Mark Rosenau, Senior Pastor Rev. Greg Schlicker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4125 www.goodshepherdowatonna.com Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.	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	FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL 230 Locust Ave., Owatonna Pastor Eliazar Talamantes 507-363-2240 Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday	METHODIST
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.	GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS 2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna Rev. Mark Rosenau, Senior Pastor Rev. Greg Schlicker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4125 www.goodshepherdowatonna.com Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.	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	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 Cirkse 507-684-2731 www.ellendaleumc.org Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA 434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie Senior Pastor: Rev. Heidi Heimgartner Associate Pastor: Rev. Mike Walerius 507-583-6621 firstlutheranbp.com Worship Service- 9 a.m. Sunday School- 10 a.m.	GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS 2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna Rev. Mark Rosenau, Senior Pastor Rev. Greg Schlicker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4125 www.goodshepherdowatonna.com Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.	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	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
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.	GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS 2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna Rev. Mark Rosenau, Senior Pastor Rev. Greg Schlicker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4125 www.goodshepherdowatonna.com Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.	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	BRIDGES OF HOPE	
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.	GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS 2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna Rev. Mark Rosenau, Senior Pastor Rev. Greg Schlicker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4125 www.goodshepherdowatonna.com Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.	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	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	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 109 E. Main St., Hayfield Pastor Kirk Johnston 507-477-2631 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
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.	GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS 2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna Rev. Mark Rosenau, Senior Pastor Rev. Greg Schlicker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4125 www.goodshepherdowatonna.com Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.	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	CEDAR CREEK 30 E. Main St., Hayfield Pastor Aaron de Neui 507-477-2255 www.cedarcreekchurch.org Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN P.O. Box 66, Claremont 507-528-2320 Pastor Douglas Walters 10 a.m. Worship
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.	GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS 2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna Rev. Mark Rosenau, Senior Pastor Rev. Greg Schlicker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4125 www.goodshepherdowatonna.com Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.	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	DESTINY CHRISTIAN 2515 Harvest Lane NW Owatonna Pastors Joe & Vicki Braucht www.destinyc.org Worship: 6 p.m. Sat.	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.
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HARBERTS CRASH: Charges filed

FROM A1

driving in Olmsted County. He has also been convicted of driving after suspension several times.

LAWMAKERS REACT
Just two days before charges were announced in the Harberts crash, Rep. Peggy Bennett, R-Albert Lea, whose district covers southern Dodge County, introduced hands-free cell-



Emerson and Rachel Harberts

phone legislation at the State Capitol banning cell phones while driving.

“It has become an epidemic,” Bennett said of cell phone use behind the wheel. “I

think it’s high time and the right thing to do.” She is optimistic that legislation will be passed within the next month. Responding to the Harberts crash, Bennett, a former first grade school teacher like Rachel Harberts, said: “That really hit me close to my heart. They were just on their way to school.” Bennett wasn’t the only lawmaker reacting to last week’s charges in the Harberts crash. Sen. Dave Senjem, R-Rochester, agrees that Minnesota needs to become hands-free. Senjem hopes that he and other lawmakers will pass hands-free legislation this year. Although he doesn’t think

that laws will completely change the behaviors of distracted driving, he feels that the laws can send a clear message that distracted driving won’t be tolerated in the state. “We got to send a message,” Senjem said. Senjem also said he believes the two-lane stretch where the Harberts crash took place is one reason why they did not survive. “In that particular case (Harberts) as well as others, we would still have people alive today if there was a four-lane highway,” Senjem said. Senjem has been working tirelessly for nearly two decades to expand Highway

14 because of safety. “Highway 14 has a long history of fatalities, and we have been working hard to create the four lane,” he said. After securing funding for the expansion last year through a capitol funding bill, Senjem is hopeful that they will begin on the project this summer or fall. The reason why it was not started in the summer or fall of 2018, is because of an error in the language of the bill, which will be fixed very soon at the capitol. “There is no doubt in my mind that Highway 14 will be done, the only questions is when we will cut the ribbon,” Senjem said.

YOUTH CLUB: comeback

FROM A1

which includes time outside. Kids then participate in kick ball and soccer. When returning inside, kids are given the opportunity to work on tablets. The tablets were funded by a grant from the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation. “This is a different way of learning and it is popular with the kids,” she said. Books are also available on tablets and this is a good educational piece to have here, said Naatz. Kids also have time to work on crafts, led by Ptacek. The Youth Club program changes in the summer with more kids coming from outside the school district. They come from Owatonna, Austin and Ellendale. In the summer, kids spend three days at the pool, two days at the library and two days at the park. The club kids maintain their own garden in the summer. “The kids grow food and use it during their baking time,” Naatz said. Co-president Schlichter said the Youth Club exists to serve everyone in the

community. “It takes a whole community to support it,” Schlichter said. More enrichment activities definitely keep the kids interested, said Schlichter, who has two children in the youth program. The Youth Club board just recently approved a 2019 budget. The board now plans on building a community awareness of its goals, which include strategic planning and sustaining funding. Long-range goals also embrace programing and capital improvement. “We have dreams,” Schlichter said, like some day building a greenhouse for kids. “It’s all about enriching the lives of our kids,” says board member Naomi Hansen. The Youth Club’s main fundraisers include: the Benefit Bash coming Feb. 2, Rib Fest on the July 4th weekend, wine gala at J & H Liquors and the Gobble Wobble run/walk on Thanksgiving Day. Adding to the discussion on goals, Naatz said two of her goals include getting community members to

come to the club and talk about their jobs and secondly to grow numbers. “The best part of coming to work is being with the kids,” said Naatz. “They can test you, or brighten your day very quickly. You are always learning and it’s fun to see the kids get excited about learning.” There are currently eight positions on the board. Members include Schlichter, Kvalsten, Breau-na Riewe (treasurer), Stacy Salinas (secretary), Adam and Angela Thoen, Kay and Orlo Toquam, Robin and Craig Kruckeberg and Naomi Hansen. Talk has circulated around the community about the possibility of having a new youth facility. Schlichter said a Youth Facilities Foundation has been looking at the future needs of our youth. “We gave them a needs assessment,” Schlichter said. “A new building would be good for the community and any way you can promote better service would be a plus,” Schlichter said.

DISTRACTED DRIVING: legislation

FROM A1

“It has become an epidemic,” said Bennett, who is the lead Republican co-author. “I think it’s high time, and the right thing to do.” Bennett, who represents District 27A, including Blooming Prairie and southern Dodge County, feels distracted driving should be treated “the same as drinking and driving.” In fact, she said, “This is worse. Your eyes are totally off the road (with distracted driving).” Leaders in both the Senate and House have authored hands-free bills. Hearings are planned for this month yet, and the lawmakers hope for floor votes as early as next month. Bennett said if the legislation is passed early in the session, it could likely become law as early as August. Bennett said the hands-free legislation has

bipartisan support, and she thinks there is a very good chance it will get passed. “We want you to get your hands off your phone and keep your eyes on the road,” she said. The Department of Public Safety between 2013 and 2017, distracted driving contributed to 20 percent of Minnesota crashes, killing 53 people every year on average. Citations for texting rose from 1,707 in 2012 to 7,357 in 2017. “There’s really a slaughter on the highways in Minnesota,” said House Speaker Melissa Hortman, D-Brooklyn Park. Added Bennett, “The goal is to get people’s eyes on the road.” Measures to require hands-free devices when using a cellphone while driving have stalled in recent years.



Starting February 6, 2019, Same Day Clinic (formerly Urgent Care) will be located on 2nd Floor Clinic North. Patients can be seen as a walk-in or by appointment. For a list of conditions treated in Same Day Clinic, visit mayoclinichealthsystem.org, select Austin and click on Urgent Care/Same Day Clinic under Services & Treatments.

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Officials still hope for work on Highway 14 in 2019

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
STAFF WRITER

Funding for the upgrading of U.S. Highway 14 from Owatonna to Dodge Center is assured, members of the Highway 14 Partnership were told last week, although the exact date of when the first contracts can be let is still uncertain. Members of the Highway 14 Partnership received an update on the projects at their annual meeting last week in Owatonna. Members of the Partnership, a coalition of government officials, chambers of commerce, businesses and individuals along the U.S. 14, route have been instrumental in keeping Highway 14 before the public and the Legislature. Currently Highway 14 has been upgraded to four-lane status across southern Minnesota with the

exception of two 12-1/2 mile segments, one from Nicollet to New Ulm and the second from Owatonna to Dodge Center. The Owatonna to Dodge Center portion was funded in the last Legislative session, but the Nicollet to New Ulm section remains unfunded. “We’re very excited it (Owatonna to Dodge Center) has been funded,” Greg Paulson, the assistant district engineer for MnDOT District 6 told the group. District 6 includes the area from Owatonna and east. There is a need for a “technical correction” in the language of the bill that was passed funding the project, he said. The original wording caused a question to be raised whether the funding could be released now or had to wait until 2023, he said. Legislators are currently working to draft a bill that would ensure the money

can be available before 2023. Paulson said he is confident the bill will be passed before the session ends in May, but the exact date of the passage will determine when the first contracts can be finalized. He said he anticipates design work to start this year, construction to start in 2020 with the road opening in the late fall of 2021. Local road connections are anticipated for 2022. MnDOT Commissioner Margaret Anderson Kelliher was also present for the meeting and told attendees that both she and Gov. Tim Walz agreed that Highway 14 is a priority. Kelliher said she grew up in Blue Earth County and her family still lives near Highway 14. Walz is a former teacher from Mankato and represented the First Congressional

SEE HIGHWAY 14, B2

Lawsuit settled in Ellendale

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The city of Ellendale was awarded \$155,000 after settling a lawsuit with the developers of Country View Estates, Douglas and Janyce Klemmensens. “The parties came to an agreement as to what the Klemmensens would pay for a release,” Ellendale City Attorney Mark Rahrlick said. “As is common, there is no admission of wrongdoing on behalf of any party.” The suit was originally filed in November of 2014 after the city claimed D.J. Gravel, a Klemmensen

business that filed bankruptcy, violated a 2004 development agreement for an addition at Country View Estates. “As part of the alleged development, the Klemmensens were suppose to install a road in that development,” Rahrlick said. “For whatever the reason, the road was never constructed and so the city sued for damages since the city will now have to presumably construct that road.” Attempts to reach Douglas and Janyce Klemmensen for this article were unsuccessful.

BP’s Prince Charming makes it big

Awesome Blossom becomes professional actor

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

His acting career began with a role as Prince Charming in the Blooming Prairie High School musical, Cinderella. “I didn’t want to do it but my drama teacher encouraged me to take the part,” recalls Jay Alan Christianson, a 1979 graduate of Blooming Prairie High School and now a professional actor. He accepted the role and points out that his sister Renae, and Blooming Prairie educator LeMar Nelson’s daughter, Terry, were the ugly step sisters in Cinderella. Christianson also participated in the “Music Man” and competed in speech contests while attending Blooming Prairie High School. “Yes, I am an Awesome Blossom and proud of it,” laughs Christianson as he reflects on his high school days in Blooming Prairie. It was his drama teacher, Renee Felchle Burns, who talked him into taking the Cinderella part and is glad she did. “I always had a secret desire at a young age to be an actor but those plans didn’t really take root until my 30s,” Christianson says. Far from doing a Walt Disney part, Christianson, 57, most recently played the lead role in Garrow, a dark film and dramatic re-creation of the life and crimes of serial killer, Robert Francis Garrow. The film, which was shot over a five-month period in 2018 (May to September), follows Garrow and his twisted trail of torture that he executed upon his innocent victims. Garrow’s reign of terror paralyzed the North Country between the years of 1960



Actors Mark Valley, left, and Jay Christianson, right, pose with the director of Garrow, a drama released last month. Christianson is a 1979 graduate of Blooming Prairie High School.

and 1978. He was born in Mineville, N.Y. in 1936. Garrow’s childhood was an endless cycle of unimaginable horror including beatings, sexual abuse, bestiality and bloodshed. As an adult, Garrow would become a sadomasochist, rapist and serial killer. The exact number of his victims to this day remains uncertain.

“I always had a secret desire to be an actor.”

Jay Christianson
Professional Actor

A knife-wielding psychopath who could charm his victims

before carving them to death, Garrow was clever and cunning. He was able to manipulate the law, fake his own paralysis, escape from prison, and avoid capture for over a decade. The Garrow movie was released last Dec. 1 in Johnstown, N.Y. It sold out

SEE ACTOR, B2



Steele Talkin'
MARK SKRIEN

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

Answer: Shame first becomes evident when one is deeply “wounded” and hurt by important people during childhood and adolescence. The person is given clear messages by others of being inadequate, incompetent, defective, and unlovable. It profoundly affects how a person feels about self and others. Shame causes strong doubts and can trigger a powerful inner sense of worthlessness and helplessness. It can create a sense of being a failure as a person and can stop the person from being who they really are. Shame involves trauma that is aimed at them by significant people in their life such as parents, teachers, coaches, relatives, peers, and partners. Direct shame occurs when someone is treated like an object rather than a person. It can be caused by threatening looks and actions, name-calling and put-downs, discipline that involves slapping or hitting, abandonment or rejection by people that are supposed to be there, withholding verbal or physical expressions of love, or absence of nurturing. It can also be the result of parents showing minimal interest in their children. People who have experienced significant shame and humiliation may develop a weak sense of self, sensitivity to criticism, powerlessness, and an attitude of passing on their

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

SEE STEELE TALKIN’, B2

BP thanks citizens of the year

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie community gave a huge THANK YOU to Mike and Sandy Jones on Thursday night at a special banquet honoring them as Citizens of the Year for 2019. Mike is retiring as city administrator, but both will continue to be active in a community they love. Sandy has carved her name in the books of volunteering. Some of their friends and associates at work or when volunteering paid tribute to the Joneses at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club. Mike and Sandy were also roasted a bit and thanked the

“Mike makes the town fiscally perfect, and Sandy makes it beautiful.”

H. Peterson
Former BP Mayor

community for its support over the years. Former Mayor H. Peterson, relying on prepared notes, said he had a short version and a long version to describe the honorees. Reciting the short version, Peterson said, “Mike makes the town fiscally perfect, and Sandy makes it beautiful.”

Mentioning a longer version, Peterson said about Sandy, “Look around Blooming Prairie to see the fruits of her talents; she’s so willing to share her joy of being an artist.” About Mike, former Mayor H. remarked, “He is trustworthy and always ends up being treasurer of an organization to which he belongs.” Peterson said Blooming Prairie’s finances are better than most small towns because of Mike’s service. Mike has been a Chamber member since 1986. He represents these words, Peterson said, “dedicated, positive, humble, essential and disgustingly honest.

Peterson interjected some laughter, saying, “He’s really, really tight.” Being around Mike and Sandy “is a real joy and both are proud to be Awesome Blossoms.” Daughters Angie Carlson and Hillary Jones thanked their parents for being a special blessing. Sons Josh and Patrick did not offer comments, but they were there to second their sisters’ comments. Past Chamber President Greg Johnson of B to Z Hardware presented Mike and Sandy with an engraved ice bucket. The Joneses then had the chance to thank their family and friends. “We love this



Past Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce president Greg Johnson presents an engraved ice bucket to Mike and Sandy Jones, the 2019 Citizens of the Year in Blooming Prairie.

town; the community really comes together,” said Sandy. Mike said in the 18 years he

SEE CITIZENS, B2

Medford swears in new council members

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

During a special session held Jan. 14, new Medford City Council members Grace Bartlett and Chad Langeslag were officially sworn in. Langeslag and Bartlett join Matt Dempsey and Marie Sexton, acting mayor, on the council alongside Mayor Lois Nelson.

Langeslag and Bartlett are replacing longtime council members Keith Maas and Chad Merritt, who both opted not to seek reelection in 2018. The two served a combined total of 14 years on the Medford City Council. “Both have supplied us with ideas and input from their own work experience and have seen the city through an extensive planning process in both our city’s finances and capital planning,” Mayor Lois Nelson said concerning Merritt’s and Mass’ tenures. “Medford is ‘healthier’ in many ways thanks to their leadership.”

As well as serving on the city council, Bartlett will join Mayor Lois Nelson on the Economic Development

Authority while Langeslag will serve on the Planning and Zoning Board. These roles were determined by the council’s first resolution of the 2019 year stating annual designations.

The annual designations also included the city’s Consulting Engineer remaining as Bolton and Menk and the City Attorney remaining as Smith, Tollefson, Rahrnick, & Cass. “We’ve had legal advice from that law firm for decades,” Medford City Administrator Andy Welti explained during Monday’s meeting, after noting that Bolton and Menk have also been with the city for a similar duration.

Other appointments made during Monday’s meeting included Tim Finley and Nick Sorensen to the Park Board and Corey Samora and Mary Cronin to the EDA.

Monday’s meeting also saw the council go over its 2018 Year in Review, which highlighted important events that happened in Medford during the 2018 year. As the 2019 year gets underway, the council will look to its newest members for help in determining the city’s future.

STEELE TALKIN’: Sense of empowerment

FROM B1

also be many other signals evident.

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

If self-worth and self-esteem are evident, the person can begin to clearly identify unhealthy behaviors and patterns and to start

to see real choices and alternatives in any given situation.

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

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

HIGHWAY 14: Many future needs can be foreseen

FROM B1

District that encompasses the Highway 14 corridor in Congress.

Among the goals of the Walz Administration, she said, is making sure there is sustainable funding available for transportation, she said.

There is anticipated to be an increase in Minnesota freight traffic of 30 percent by 2030, 850 bridges will need significant work by 2015, there will be 1 million new Minnesotans by 2050, she said, and local roads and bridges have been underfunded and \$18 billion will be needed over the next 20 years.

The harsh climate of the state and the heavy use affects the roads, she said. Fifty percent of the highway pavement in the state is over 50 years old and 20 percent have less than three years of useful life. Forty percent of MnDOT bridges are more than 40 years old.

Plus, she said, the costs of maintenance and construction keep rising.

Raising the fuel tax is one idea, she said, but the administration is open to new funding ideas. Whatever it is, she added, the solution needs to be long term, more than just four years. The good news, she said, is that transportation funds are dedicated according to the State Constitution, that is they must be used for transportation and not for other areas of the government.

“This is going to roads and bridges, not human services, or education or other government areas.”

Shane Zahrt of Flaherty & Hood, who represents the partnership at the Legislature told the group

that they are working to advance the bill to correct the language from last year, the construction schedule for the Owatonna to Dodge Center portion and also are drafting a bill to fund the Nicollet to New Ulm portion of the highway.

Also present at last week’s meeting was Greg Ous, the district engineer for District 7, which includes the Nicollet to New Ulm portion of the highway, as well as representatives from the offices of Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith and Congressman Jim Hagedorn.



of the Week



Gracie Luna

ACTOR: ‘Acting is my life’

five theaters in one day. The film sold out at the 950-seat Strand Theater in Plattsburg, N.Y., outside of Montreal. This was the first time that had happened since 1924.

Garrow has continued to have private screenings and has been shown at several festivals. “We don’t know where it will go now, whether it be Net Flicks or Hulu,” said Christianson.

The Garrow filming actually started in 2001 by the Adirondack Film Company in Mineville, N.Y. Christianson was to play an attorney in the film. The production company went under after two weeks of filming.

After 17 years away from the Mineville project, Christianson was contacted by his agent and by director Lori Bailey, who offered Christianson the chance to play the lead role of Robert Garrow.

Christianson accepted the offer and said he had one week to learn a full script. Two other well-known actors, Mark Valley and Philip Casnoff, played the parts of Garrow’s lawyers, Frank Armani and Francis Belge.

Christianson’s drama teacher, Mrs. Burns, said she has been following Christianson’s success in this latest movie adventure. “He’s perfect for this role,” said Burns.

“I am really proud of Jay and it proves that a small-town boy can make it big,” Burns continued. “If you really want to follow your dream, you can make it,” she added.

Burns called Christianson a “good student” and a high-spirited young man who was “very lively” and got along with his peers.

“Acting is my life, and I never want to retire,” Christianson confessed. “I can’t imagine retirement; I am an actor, I act and it is a joy to do it.”

Garrow has definitely given him his most prominent exposure, Christianson says. “It seems like I’m working more as I get older,” he muses.

He has three films lined up for this year. One is a comedy about the mythical



FROM B1

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jay Alan Christianson, a 1979 graduate of Blooming Prairie High School, has the lead role in a dark drama entitled Garrow. The movie was released on Dec. 1, 2018.

creature, Minotaur. Much of this movie will be filmed in Israel and Morocco. He also plans on working on a 12-episode web series in New York.

Christianson says he is a Minnesotan at heart and is currently, in between movie projects, residing with his sister Renae Smith in the Twin Cities. He also has a sister Holly, who resides near Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church. Their parents are the late Rosmon and Ethel Christianson.

His father passed away in 1992, and his mother died at age 94 on Nov. 1, 2017. His last visit to Blooming Prairie was at his mother’s funeral.

Christianson grew up on a small farm near Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church and was confirmed there in 1974.

Following high school, Christianson attended Concordia College in St. Paul, earning a bachelor’s degree in organizational behavior.

His future acting career did not come into focus until after he worked at Disney World and also worked as a flight

CITIZENS: Mike and Sandy Jones offer perspectives

FROM B1

served the city, he remembers only two council “no” votes.

In a separate interview with this writer, Mike and Sandy offered some different perspectives on their involvement in a community they grew to love.

“We’ve become Blossoms and have watched our kids come through the Blooming Prairie school system,” Mike says proudly. “This involvement gets you tight with the community,” he says.

“People have to make a commitment to be involved in their communities,” Sandy says. “There are lots of unsung heroes out there in small-town USA,” chimes in Mike.

The Jones family first lived on Main Street in former teacher/coach Jim Poole’s house across from the park.

“We had no idea that we were on the Fourth of July parade route,” beams Sandy. She said more than 100 friends and family members often landed on their front yard on the Fourth. “Our

kids grew up with that experience,” Mike interjected.

When Mike and Sandy moved to Seventh Street in 2008, a move the kids did not initially embrace, leaving their best seat in town on the Fourth.

Jones has been a careful conservative in helping manage city affairs. “I try to watch the pennies,” he affirms. He has even appeared before the Minnesota Legislature’s Finance Committee. “My ice breaker while testifying has been that I’m from the home of the Awesome Blossoms.”

During his tenure, Jones said he has seen the city remain fiscally sound. He also says he has been pleased to see city equipment replaced as it aged.

Some interesting times are coming for Blooming Prairie with Second Street improvement in the near future. It could cost over \$3.1 million.

Jones said the city has seen some impressive housing

developments without raising taxes much. He also praised the manufacturing texture in the city.

Jones says Blooming Prairie is somewhat of a destination community, as many people are driving into the city as leaving the city for work. He says 82 percent of the homes in Blooming Prairie are owned.

Looking to the future, Jones says he sees slow, steady growth. “The community needs more elderly housing,” he believes.

“We’ve never had turmoil in city government here,” Jones relates. He tips his hat to Mayor H. Peterson, who he says has been the city’s best ambassador.

Jones said he has relied on trust from the community during his tenure as city administrator.

When not taking their city

business seriously, Mike and Sandy say they “are silly and game” to have fun and are not adverse to embarrassing themselves. Both like to dress up for Halloween.

In their spare time, Mike and Sandy like to go to estate sales. Mike likes to fish and loves golf.

“We love to spend precious time with our children and grandchildren, vacationing, camping and just being together, which is such a blessing,” Sandy said.

Even though Mike is entering retirement, it is doubtful that he and Sandy won’t be active in their community.

“Blooming Prairie is a community that steps forward to help others,” concludes Sandy. “She’s right,” Mike winks.

Word Search Corner Hockey

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

COACH

BOARDS

PENALTY BOX

STICK

RINK

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BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1900 block of St. Paul Road NE at 7:54 a.m. They arrested a juvenile at the scene.

Why do police squads keep running?



One of our Commissioners asked me this week why our deputies often leave our squad cars running. He explained he's been asked this question by voters in his district. It's a great question. Here are the reasons:

Squad cars today are way different than they were back in the day. When my dad (Bob Rose) worked for the Kasson Police Department and later with the Dodge County Sheriff's Office, things were a lot simpler in squad cars – a radio and radar...that was it.

Today, our squad cars are a state-of-the-art rolling office. We have a mobile computer system with printer, a squad car camera system, wireless equipment, rechargeable electronic equipment (cameras, flashlights, microphones, etc.) and chargers, light equipment, and our emergency medical equipment.

There are many reasons why we need to keep our squad cars running, especially in extreme conditions – both cold and hot. Keeping squad cars climate controlled is important, not

for officer comfort, but to keep our staff safe and protect climate-sensitive equipment and emergency medical supplies.

OFFICER SAFETY – The in-car camera system in our squad cars records all audio and video of everything going on inside the squad car and outside. These camera systems record all interaction with the public, both on patrol and in the back seat of the squad car. They protect both the public and our staff from false claims and liability. When our vehicles are shut down for more than 10 minutes, the camera system shuts down to conserve battery power. When the squad car is started back up, it takes a couple of minutes to boot up the camera system and log the system back on. When our deputies get called to emergencies (domestics, driving complaints, medicals, etc.), every minute counts when it comes to the public's safety. We can't delay our response to make sure all of our squad car equipment is back on and logged into. In the litigious environment we live in today, having these cameras running at all times is extremely important.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT – Here in Dodge County our deputies and officers are the first responders for medicals. We carry oxygen and defibrillators for medicals. Cold O2 should not be distributed because it's not good for fragile tissues in bronchial and lungs. O2 should also never be stored

in hot vehicles as they can become unstable and explosive.

Defibrillators must be stored in temperatures from 32 degrees to 122 degrees. Any more and they won't perform properly and may cause battery problems. Temperature extremes can also cause issues with the pads.

NARCAN – The medicine we use with opioid overdose victims is called Narcan. It is very susceptible to temperature issues and needs to be stored in a temperature range from 59-77 degrees. Every squad car carries this medicine and has the potential of saving lives with its deployment.

MOBILE COMPUTER SYSTEM - Laptops are running constantly in our squad cars. While the cold temperature itself isn't as much of an issue anymore with the new laptops, condensation can become an issue with a vehicle interior that is cycling warm and cold. The heat is much more problematic with today's laptops, especially since they sit near the windshield exposed to sunlight.

In the same way chocolate bars melt, leather seats become scalding and smart phones overheat when locked inside a car in the sun for too long, the computers and other electronic equipment our squad cars are outfitted with these days can be negatively impacted by extreme temperatures.

In addition, especially this time of year, it's vitally important that windshields are kept clear when our deputies and officers are dispatched to an emergency call. The only sure way to make sure the windows are clear, is to keep the temperature controlled in the squad car by leaving it running.

The cost of leaving these squad cars running is a small price to pay when you look at the overall picture. Our primary focus is to make sure our staff has the ability to respond quickly and safely with the necessary equipment to handle any potential emergency to the best of our ability. There are too many variables for us to not keep the temperature constant in our squad cars.

Hopefully this better explains why we often leave our squad cars running. Please feel free to contact me any time if you have any questions about our Office, our policies, or our procedures. We take our responsibility of operating within the budget set by the commissioners, and our responsibility of maintaining the safety of our staff and public very seriously.

Have a safe and Happy New Year everyone. We look forward to serving you in 2019.

Your Sheriff,
Scott
Scott Rose just began his second term as Dodge County Sheriff. He writes regularly for this newspaper.

CRIME BRIEF

POLICE NAB PORCH PIRATE



BUENTELLO

Police in Owatonna have nabbed a porch pirate.

On Jan. 10, officers responded to a home in the 200 block of E. McKinley for a report of mail theft. The victim reported he had received a notification that a purchase he made had been delivered, but when he checked, the package was not there.

The victim had a surveillance camera on the front of his home, which showed a person stealing the package out of the mailbox. Another resident looked at the video and identified the suspect as Ricardo Buentello, police said.

When police interviewed Buentello, he admitted to taking the package and that an unknown person he had never met before told him he could take anything he wanted out of the mailbox.

Buentello, 30, of Owatonna, has been charged with felony mail theft

Father jailed on child porn

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

An Apple Valley man with connections to his daughter in Steele County faces a felony count of child pornography.

The Steele County Attorney's Office has charged Dale Francis Boyum Walters, 35, with one count of possession of pornographic work. If convicted of the felony, Walters could face five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

Owatonna Police began an investigation on Jan. 9 when an officer took a report from Walters' ex-wife. He had been staying with her at her residence in Owatonna on and off for two months. He had been living in the garage until she kicked him out.

When the ex-wife checked over his belongings, she

came across an iPad in his suitcase. She was going to give it to their daughter, but thought that she should check it first. Upon opening the iPad, she discovered pornographic images of young girls ranging from ages she believed to be 7-15.

Police executed a search warrant on the iPad. Detectives reviewed the extraction and found several images that appeared to be child porn. Of the images, the detective found nude images of young children engaging in sex acts and exposing themselves.

The complaint noted that the police detective estimated the ages of the children in the images as young as 3 years old.

Walters remains locked up in the Steele County Detention Center in Owatonna.



WALTERS

COURT NEWS

Steele County

The following case were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 7 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

David Ortiz, 40, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony fleeing in motor vehicle and gross misdemeanor DWI. Ortiz was sentenced to \$131, 15 months in St. Cloud State Prison and 265 days in county jail.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 7-13:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Pretrick Andon, 38, Austin, suspended license, \$281; Noe Garcia, 27, Northfield, suspended license, \$281; Tiilish P. Graham, 45, Owatonna, suspended license, \$131 and 2 years of supervised probation; Erin R. Guthrie, 28, Mendham, NJ, speeding, \$141; Colleen Julios, 47, Austin, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Romeo G. Ortiz Diaz, 37, Austin, revoked license, \$281.

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Matthew T. Wurster, 31, Medford, hunting small game without license, \$181.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Daevon W. Abram, 23, Minneapolis, possession of marijuana, \$131; David M. Anderson, 61, St. Charles, IL, speeding, \$121; Emma M. Bartkey, 23, Faribault, speeding and possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$231; Dereje K. Bedasso, 54, Woodbury, speeding, \$141; Gary D. Crownover II, 35, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Kara R. Durward, 26, Thomson, IL, registration violation, \$181; Ayva E. Fogarty, 17, Rochester, speeding, \$381; Tiilish P. Graham, 45, Owatonna, no insurance, \$131 and 1 year of supervised probation; Jacqueline P. Griffin, 59, Minneapolis, speeding, \$121; Douglas W. Hackett, 25, Coon Rapids, speeding, \$121; Prabhagar Karunaharan, 30, Eagan, speeding, \$221; Brandon L. Kos, 28, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Stephanie K. Loring, 33, Owatonna, seat belt and revoked license, \$306; Michael D. Lynch, 28, Minnetonka, speeding, \$131; Xin Ma, 43, Faribault, speeding and seat belt, \$166; Osman N. Madey, 35, Schuyler, NE, speeding, \$131; Nyaruon J. Manpign, 18, Albert Lea, minor consumption,

\$181; James L. McBride, 41, Summit, SD, speeding, \$121; David Morrison, 57, Laplace, LA, speeding, \$141; Luis Perez Jr., 42, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Summer R. Rockstroh, 18, Pine City, speeding, \$141; Plo G. Say, 34, St. Paul, no child passenger restraint system, \$131; Jamara J. Smith, 34, Minneapolis, speeding, \$141; Bobby J. Smitty, 25, Blooming Prairie, no insurance and texting while driving, \$331; Benton E. Sothman, 21, Buffalo, speeding, careless driving, following vehicle too closely and permit violation, \$341; Parthiban Soundararajan, 30, Eagan, seat belt, \$106; Kenneth D. Stevenson, 39, Clarks Grove, no child passenger restraint system, \$131; Carlos Vera, 22, Austin, no insurance, \$281; Jennifer A. Yonkus, 29, Rochester, speeding, \$141; Oliver J. Zay, 39, Albert Lea, no insurance, \$281.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jennifer M. Black, 46, Owatonna, no insurance, stay of adjudication, \$75 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Zahro A. Dahir, 52, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$131; Tiilish P. Graham, 45, Owatonna, suspended license, \$131 and 2 years of supervised probation; Lindsay S. Hachfeld, 32, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Robert L. Hagmann, 38, Faribault, possession of marijuana, \$381, 71 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, do not enter liquor establishments, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Jeanette Hinkle, 58, Owatonna, failure to yield and revoked license, \$331; Tyreese A. Johnson, 25, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Angela M. Klein, 35, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$131; Maheshkumar Manoharan, 39, Eden Prai rie, speeding, \$141; James L. Marquardt, 63, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; D'ago E. Padilla, 18, Owatonna, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$181; Jose L. Reyes, 23, Owatonna, speeding, \$81; Tristan L. Schuett, 21, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; Shelby L. Simon, 27, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Dennis L. Solvang, 44, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Caleb Z. Stewart, 31, Owatonna, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$181; Christine M. Ulrich, 32, Owatonna, expired registration, \$111; Cory R. Ulrich, 19, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, attend MADD impact panel, substance abuse subtle screening inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Antonio Vela, 22, Waseca, no license and failure to stop for traffic

control signal, \$231.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Brenda J. Anderson, 40, Austin, speeding, \$121; Kacey L. Bakke-Van Dyne, 20, Hollandale, failure to drive in single lane, \$131; Chuol N. Buol, 48, Mankato, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Bryna C. Garcia, 19, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$141; Jose J. Herrera Mancera, 40, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Jonathan R. Jacobs, 19, Mitchellville, IA, minor consumption, \$181; Caleb R. Kubat, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Isaiah M. Levi, 20, Pine Island, speeding, \$281; Devin C. Neis, 21, Morgan, DWI, \$381, 89 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Peter O. Obich, 46, Austin, speeding, \$111; Scott L. Rasmussen, 41, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Bryan J. Scholljegerdes, 17, Medford, speeding, \$121; Tyler M. Wendt, 18, Mequon, WI, speeding, \$121; Joshua L. Wicklund, 31, Bloomington, suspended license, \$281; Daltan W. Wincell, 17, Owatonna, speeding, \$121.

POLICE BLOTTER

Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE Jan. 11

Hit and Run: At 5:52 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 100 block of Pine Ave. NE.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 700 block of 16th St. SE at 9:15 p.m.

Jan. 12

Burglary: Police responded to a burglary in the 400 block of Dartt Ave. NE at 1:48 a.m.

Theft: At 12:55 p.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 100 block of Spruce Ave. NE.

Hit and Run: At 1:13 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S.

Shoplifting: Officer responded to a shoplifting incident in the 1000 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 6:37 p.m.

Jan. 13

DWI: Police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at Bridge St. W. and Florence Ave. NW at 12:52 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 100 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 9:18 p.m.

Jan. 14

Disturbance: At 10:57 a.m., police responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. They took a subject into custody.

Suspicion: Police received

information regarding suspicious activity at Grove Ave. N. and Broadway St. E. at 10:15 p.m.

Jan. 15

Warrants: Police made warrant arrests in the 100 block of Pearl St. E. at 3:43 a.m. and the 800 block of Oak Ave. S. at 3:50 p.m.

Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 1300 block of Edinburgh Place NE at 8:22 a.m.

Drugs: Officers responded to drug activity in the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW at 11:20 a.m.

Jan. 16

Shoplifting: At 10:12 a.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 3900 block of Cabela Dr. NW.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW at 2:52 p.m.

Assault: Police responded to an assault in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 3:01 p.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 2200 block of 3rd Ave. NW at 5:42 p.m.

DWI: Police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 200 block of Vine St. E. at 9:34 p.m.

Jan. 17

Theft: Police received a theft report from the 400 block of North St. W. at 1 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF Jan. 11

Arrest: Deputy arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Vine St. E. and Chestnut Ave. NE in Owatonna at 4:53 p.m.

Domestic: Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of School St. S. in Ellendale at 6:50 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Jan. 13

Property: At 8:44 a.m., stolen property was recovered in the 6700 block of 14th Ave. NE in Medford Township.

Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 400 block of Broadway St. E. in Owatonna at 2:57 p.m.

Jan. 15

Fraud: Deputies took reports of fraud incidents at the detention center at 1:30 p.m. and the 8900 block of 52nd Ave. SW in Lemond Township at 6:27 p.m.

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 8:07 p.m.

Threats: Deputies responded to a subject making threats in the 8900 block of Dane Road in Merton Township at 11:32 p.m.

Jan. 16

Dispute: Deputies responded to a neighborhood dispute in the 5400 block of 52nd Ave. NW in Deerfield Township at 3:09 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

Jan. 17

Crash: At 5:39 a.m.,

paramedics and deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries on Interstate 35 in Clinton Falls Township.

ARRESTS

Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Elizabeth Kong Thor, 21, arrested at 3:58 a.m. Jan. 15, warrant arrest, \$1,000 bail.

Shaun Richard Fedder, 41, arrested at 6:20 p.m. Jan. 15, probation violation warrant arrest, held for court.

Anthony Lopez Esquivel, 20, arrested at 8:07 p.m. Jan. 15, warrant arrest, \$20,000 bail.

Jacob Joseph Fuller, 44, arrested at 3:01 p.m. Jan. 15, felony terroristic threats and disorderly conduct, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Dylan Mitchell Ahles, 29, arrested at 6:15 p.m. Jan. 15, warrant arrest, \$10,000 bail.

OWATONNA FIRE Jan. 11

Gas Leak: At 9:38 a.m., a natural gas leak occurred in the 2400 block of St. Paul Rd.

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Dear Savvy Senior,
What are the warning signs for glaucoma? My 65-year-old brother lost some of his vision because of it but never had a clue anything was wrong. Could I be at risk too?
Concerned Sister

Dear Concerned,
It's called the "silent thief of sight" for a reason. With no early warning signs or pain, most people that have glaucoma don't realize it until their vision begins to deteriorate. Here's what you should know.
Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that can damage the optic nerve and cause vision loss and blindness if it's not treated. This typically happens because the fluids in the eye don't drain properly, causing increased pressure in the eyeball.
There are two main types of glaucoma, but the most common form that typically affects older people is called open-angle glaucoma. This disease develops very slowly when the eye's drainage canals become clogged over time, leading to blind spots in the peripheral or side vision. By the time you notice it, the permanent damage is already done.

Are You at Risk?
It's estimated that more than 3 million Americans have glaucoma today, but that number is expected to surge to more than 4 million by 2030. If you answer "yes" to any of the following questions, you're at increased risk of developing it.

- Are you African American, Hispanic/Latino American or Asian American?



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- Are you over age 60?
- Do you have an immediate family member with glaucoma?
- Do you have diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, migraines or extreme nearsightedness?
- Have you had a past eye injury?
- Have you used corticosteroids (for example, eye drops, pills, inhalers, and creams) for long periods of time?

What to Do
Early detection is the key to guarding against glaucoma. So if you're age 40 or older and have any of the previously listed risk factors (especially if you're African American), you need to get a comprehensive eye examination every year or two. Or, if you notice some loss of peripheral vision, get to the eye doctor right away.
If you are a Medicare beneficiary, annual eye examinations are covered for those at high risk for glaucoma. Or if you don't have vision coverage, check into EyeCare America, a

national program that provides free glaucoma eye exams and there are no income requirements. Visit EyeCareAmerica.org or call 877-887-6327 to learn more.
While there's currently no cure for glaucoma, most cases can be treated with prescription eye drops, which reduce eye pressure and can prevent further vision loss. It cannot, however, restore vision already lost from glaucoma. If eye drops don't work, your doctor may recommend oral medication, laser treatments, incisional surgery or a combination of these methods.
For more information on glaucoma, visit the National Eye Institute at NEI.nih.gov, and the Glaucoma Research Foundation at Glaucoma.org.

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.

Little Theatre of Owatonna seeks scholarship applicants

Little Theatre of Owatonna is proud to announce it is seeking eligible candidates for its 2019 Veta Alexander LTO Scholarship(s). Graduating high school in students in Steele County who have been accepted at an accredited two or four-year college for a full-time course of study and have experience and interest in the performing arts are eligible.
Recipients are selected based on academic record, community involvement, leadership quality, school activities, and theatre involvement.
Details and forms for the application can be found on the Little Theatre of

Owatonna website, <http://littletheatreofowatonna.org/veta-alexander-scholarship> or available here for duplication as needed from their guidance counselor. Two recommendations are also required and should be sent directly to the Scholarship Chairperson at the listed address. All application components should be postmarked by Saturday, March 30.
Announcements and notification regarding the scholarship recipients will be made in May. Recipient(s) will be introduced and the scholarship(s) will be presented at awards ceremonies scheduled later in the school year at the appropriate schools(s) and at the opening night of LTO's summer production, Once on this Island, Thursday, June 20.
Little Theatre of Owatonna is committed to providing opportunities and incentives for youth in the Owatonna area to explore the dramatic arts. Over \$60,000 has been awarded to Steele County High School graduates since the scholarship's inception in 1969.
Questions regarding this scholarship should be directed to Gaylene Steckelberg, LTO Scholarship Chairperson, P.O. Box 64, Owatonna, MN 55060.

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago Jan. 20, 2009

DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

On Jan. 14, Johnson & Doerhoefer held an open house in its new facility at 504 12th Ave. NW in Austin. People had the chance to meet owners Tamzen Johnson and Amy Doerhoefer and their employees. The firm employs five people in Austin and seven in Bloomington Prairie. During the first Bloomington Prairie City Council meeting on Jan. 11, the city council heard that its local government aid has been slashed by the state by \$56,640.
Hope, Minn. is a small town with a great history, and as the home of Hope Creamery, Inc., part of that history is making butter. Victor Mrotz purchased the 1920 Creamery in hopes of supplementing his income in 2001.

20 Years Ago Jan. 19, 1999

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

It's time for the annual Bloomington Prairie Jaycees to hand out their awards. This is the 29th year the local Jaycees have presented area citizens with this recognition of their accomplishments. The winners are Kevin and Scott Noble, outstanding young farmers; Tamzen Johnson, outstanding young Minnesotan; Jennifer Deml, outstanding young educator and Donald L. Peterson, lifetime achievement award.
Bloomington Prairie eighth grader Emily Butler, the daughter of Jim and Linda Butler of rural Bloomington Prairie, moved one step closer to a \$25,000 college scholarship by winning the school-level competition of the National Geography Bee on Jan. 11.
Snow candidates at Bloomington Prairie High School are Jason Strand, Andrew Wondra, Eva Svenkova, Katrina Olivo, Jason Harber, Lindsey Carlson, Bradley Nelson, Monica Meyerhofer, William Christenson and Stacy Spinler.
Otto T. Lund American Legion Post #52, Bloomington Prairie and the Legion Auxiliary awarded four scholarships to area students. Legion Commander Tom Walters presented the Legion awards to Kathryn Bonnema and Karen Rasmussen.

50 Years Ago Jan. 15, 1969

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJC, PUBLISHERS

Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Bloomington Prairie announced this week that they are now offering free checking for all personal checking

customers when a balance of \$100 or more is maintained. "The service will save our customers many dollars each year," said President E.C. Habberstad.
Several traffic regulations which in the past have been violated by motorists will be strictly enforced starting immediately, Police Chief Jens Jorgensen informed the Times Tuesday. Double parking on Main Street will not be permitted in the future and the 3-minute parking regulation in front of the Post Office must be observed. Parking on the wrong side of the streets in both the business and residential districts will no longer be allowed.
Births in Steele County during 1968 dropped to their lowest point in 17 years, according to figures released by C. Jess Lee, Steele County Clerk of Court. A total of 503 births were reported in Steele County in 1968, nine less than the 512 recorded in 1967 but 91 less than the 1968 figure and about 260 less than the average a decade ago.
The Steele County Board of Commissioners approved 1969 salaries for most elected and appointed officials and transacted other reorganizational business Jan. 10. Most county employees received a 4 percent boost in base pay and from \$200 to \$300 a year in extra pay for the cost of living increases. Commissioners will be paid \$2,200 plus cost of living and merit factors totaling about \$1,600 to bring their total pay for the 1969 fiscal year to \$3,800. Sheriff Bernard J. Coufal is the highest paid elected official with an annual salary of \$11,700.

75 Years Ago Jan. 20, 1944

FRANK KREJC, PUBLISHER

Front page notice: We plead for time! With the second son of the publisher and member of the Times staff in the U.S. Army, only two of us are left to carry on the work that formerly required the services of six and seven persons. We are working every night, Sunday included, to keep the Times going to press regularly each week. We ask for your cooperation in getting us advertising and news copy earlier in the week. Publisher Frank Krejci.
Another contingent of inductees from Steele County left today from Owatonna for service in the armed forces of the U.S. The men reported at the armory at 9 o'clock a.m. and were taken by bus to Fort Snelling. Men leaving to serve in the army were Chester G. Johnson, acting corporal; Vyrle W. Krejci, Myron C. Anderson, Bloomington Prairie. Other Steele County men in the group were Harvey E. Brockmiller, Arthur H. Guse, Clarence T. Giza, John S. Biersdorf, Leslie C. Childs, Victor R. Wacek, Bernard J. Herzog and Wilfred S. Grubish.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

JAN. 24
1 p.m. – Movies, BP Library
1:30 p.m. – Intro to Computers, BP Library

JAN. 29
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library

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



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ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

JAN. 25
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
Grounds Committee Meeting, NRHEG Board Room
6:15 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do, Ellendale Smart Room

JAN. 28
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
5:30 p.m. – Community Ed-Intro to Politics, NR Classroom B120

JAN. 29
6 p.m. – NRHEG Building and

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

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

JAN. 24
Bold & Cold Winter Festival
2 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library
6:30 p.m. – Family Story Time, Owatonna Library

JAN. 25
Bold & Cold Winter Festival
5 p.m. – Sledding at West Hills Circle

JAN. 26
Bold & Cold Winter Festival
11 a.m. – Fat Bike Demo, Kaplan’s Woods Park
11 a.m. – Icicle Dive, Lake Kohlmeier Beach
2 p.m. – Sled Dogs, Morehouse Park
6 p.m. – 2019 Come Fly with Me, Elks Lodge
6 p.m. – Ice Bocce Ball, Morehouse Park
6 p.m. – Build Your Own Snowman Competition, Morehouse Park
6 p.m. – Rock on Ice, Morehouse Park

JAN. 27
Bold & Cold Winter Festival
2:30 p.m. – Family Ice Fishing, Lake Kohlmeier

JAN. 28
8:30 a.m. – Trinity Nursery School Open House & Registration, Trinity Lutheran
4 p.m. – Owatonna HRA Meeting, City Admin Building
7 p.m. – Medford City Council Meeting, City Admin Building

JAN. 29
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Tale Time, Owatonna Library
5:30 p.m. – Business After Hours, Horizon Eye Care Professionals

JAN. 30
11 a.m. – Trinity Nursery School Open House & Registration, Trinity Lutheran
6 p.m. – Youth 1st Hockey Night with Steele County Blades, Four Seasons Centre

Winter weather kicks in just in time for Weekend Winter Out

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

A flurry of snow came down and blanketed Steele County just in time for the Owatonna Winter Weekend Out.

The weekend of fun winter events is in its fourth year, and for the first year is part of the Bold and Cold Festival, which began last Saturday and continues through Sunday.

There will be ice fishing, music on the ice, and snow sculptures. The West Hills will also open up its facilities for free on Friday, Jan. 25 from 5 to 7 p.m., with free swimming available from 6 to 7 p.m. The West Hills will also host sledding on Friday.

The snow sculpture competition will be held at Central Park with sculpting set to start Thursday, Jan. 24. The sculptures will be available for residents to view until they melt and prizes will be given out for first and second place sculptures.

Sunday’s family ice fishing at Lake Kohlmeier will also be a big draw. Holes will be drilled and bait and equipment provided during

the free event, which takes place from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. There will be prizes for kids 15 and under who catch the top three largest fish.

New this year will be a team of sled dogs featured at Morehouse Park that people can come down and meet on Saturday, Jan. 26 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Another new event, the Icicle Dive, will take place at Lake Kohlmeier Saturday at 11 a.m. The proceeds from the event will go to We All Play for the purpose of building an inclusive playground. “Even if you don’t want to dive, you can still pledge money to any of the divers,” Jessica Abrahams of Owatonna Parks and Rec explained of the charity event.

With the unusually warm winter, Abrahams said she and those involved with the roster of week-long events were watching the forecasts tentatively. “We were nervous about the weather up until pretty much today,” Abrahams said Friday.

Morehouse Park is open, and the snow and weather has begun to cooperate as if by design for this year’s celebration. Rock on Ice

Saturday night from 6 to 8 p.m. will take advantage of the recent cold spell by featuring a DJ outside for those skating at Morehouse.

All in all, it will be a great way to enjoy the winter weather and get out there for some community fun. “Obviously we’re going to have winter in Minnesota,”

Abrahams joked. “It makes it more enjoyable if you can get outside and do something fun!”

“We’re excited to be offering a bunch of fun winter activities for people to take part in,” she said of the events, which will be sprinkled throughout the weekend.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE LUNCH MENU



- Jan 23** BBQ Meatball Sub, Beef Stroganoff, Whole Grain Dinner Roll, Garlic & Herb Broccoli, Mini Rice Krispies Treat
- Jan 24** Chicken Nugget Basket, Fish Sandwich Basket, Golden French Fries, Whole Grain Dinner Roll, Pickle Slice
- Jan 25** BBQ Rib Sandwich, Beef Chili, or Cornbread, Seasoned Ranch Wedges
- Jan 28** Sweet n Sour Chicken Bites, Brown Rice, Cowboy BBQ Burger, Green Peas
- Jan 29** Lasagna Rollup with Sauce, Garlic Toast, BBQ Rib Sandwich, Caesar Salad
- Jan 30** Walking Taco, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Chicken Fajitas, Spicy Pinto Beans

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- Jan 23** Beef Roast Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Harvard Beets Pea/Pickle/Cheese Salad Home Made Dinner Roll Banana
- Jan 24** Chicken Wild Rice Soup Waldorf Salad Pineapple/Cottage Ch Moon Cake
- Jan 25** Ham Balls **Alt:** Fish Corn Casserole Green Salad/ Dressing Fruit Cocktail Cake
- Jan 28** Meat Loaf Confetti Rice Parslied Carrots Green Salad/Dressing Fresh Grapes
- Jan 29** Pork Steak Dressing California Blend Veg Carrot Raisin Salad Cranberry Sauce Craisin Bar
- Jan 30** Tater Tot Hotdish Peach Half/Cottage Ch Cinn Applesauce Gelatin

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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.

Skating begins in Owatonna

Ice skating is now available at Morehouse Park in Owatonna.

Two south ponds are open—one for skating and one for hockey. They opened last Wednesday, Jan. 16.

Chalet hours are Monday-Friday from 3 to 9 p.m.,

Saturdays, holidays and no school days from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Sundays 12 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The park offers bonfires each Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Skating is sponsored by Owatonna Parks & Recreation.

Take a trip for a good cause

Come Fly with Me fundraiser to benefit Steele County Clothesline

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Pack a bag for the Owatonna Elks Club this Saturday, Jan. 26, where the Steele County Clothesline will be holding its third annual Come Fly with Me fundraiser.

The fundraiser will feature three different destinations and a sports room, all with their own unique theme and activities. “Basically, the evening is about travel,” Clothesline Director Maureen Schlobohm said. “It’s very interactive, and it’s good food and fun activities.”

The featured destinations this year will be Las Vegas, complete with a roulette wheel, South Beach, a perfect haven away from the cold, and Alaska, just for those who want a little more winter weather in their life, and lastly a sports room. “There should be something different to do in every room,” Schlobohm said.

Those who attend will be

given a passport at the door and will tour the rooms and take part in the various activities and answer trivia questions in order to be eligible for a drawing at the end of the night’s festivities.

Some of the prizes throughout the night include Vikings Preseason tickets, Wild tickets, a trip to Cancun, and a dinner at El Tequila. The fundraiser will also feature baskets, some of which are tied to the different destinations’ themes.

Schlobohm said the idea for the unique fundraiser came about when their committee board wanted a fresh way to host a fundraiser and came up with a travel-themed approach. “There’s lots of possibilities each year; we could even go international,” Schlobohm added.

Federated Insurance and Gopher Sport are the night’s VIP sponsors among a roster of local businesses and organizations. “Both have been very good to the

IF YOU GO...
Come Fly with Me Saturday, Jan. 26 6-9 p.m.

Owatonna Elks Club
Fundraiser benefitting
Steele County Clothesline

Clothesline over the years,” Schlobohm said of their support. “I just appreciate all the support; we get wonderful support from the community and businesses.”

The Clothesline provides qualifying families with a certain amount of instore money each month in order to purchase clothes and other household items. “In 2018, we served 4,072 individuals, that is 1,576 households throughout Steele County, and 1,613 of those we served were children under the age of 17,” Schlobohm explained.

“We’re providing clothes to help our families save the limited income they have,” she said. “We do household items as well, basically anything you can use in your house other than furniture.”

The Clothesline also partners with a variety of other organizations to provide further services to the people they serve. “We really try to partner with as many community services that we can get in the store to help our families,” Schlobohm said. These include budgeting programs, Let’s Smile dental work, and transitional housing programs.

With such an important cause, Schlobohm is rewarded by the work she does. “The best part of my job is getting to know our families that use the store,” she said. “We’re building relationships with people in our community who need help and we’re helping them transition to a better life.”

Public tours open at Owatonna High School

In preparation for this spring’s bond referendum in Owatonna, school officials are opening the doors of Owatonna High School for the public to view.

School tours will be available in the weeks leading up to the May 14 election when voters will be asked to consider a building bond referendum for a new high school.

The tours are open to the public and will be conducted between the hours of 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Tours will begin every half hour near the auditorium doors.

The dates of the tours are Saturday, Feb.

2, Saturday, Feb. 16, Saturday, March 2, Saturday, March 16, Saturday, April 13, Saturday, April 27 and Saturday, May 11.

The Owatonna School Board voted last month to accept the Community Task Force on Facilities recommendation to build a new high school. The board is expected to review the ballot language at its next board meeting Monday night.

The total project cost is estimated at \$138 million. Several large companies in Owatonna have already pledged financial support towards the project.

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WRESTLING

Razorbacks wrestle with heart and toughness at home tournament

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Westfield Razorbacks may have finished ninth at Dave Erickson Hall of Fame Tournament on Saturday at Hayfield High School, but several wrestlers had strong performances against a field of tough competition.

Central Springs won the tournament with a total of 163 points, Saint Charles was second with 160 and Redwood River Valley was third with 154.5.

“This has always been a good, tough tournament with a lot of ranked kids,” Westfield’s co-head coach Shane Masching said. “We have some young kids that are wrestling and they should be proud of what the did today against this competition.”

Westfield’s Colton Krell was the Razorbacks lone champion. The senior towered above the rest of the field at 170-pound weight class and easily claimed individual gold.

“Colton wrestled like a champ today,” Masching said. “He was dominant. He had been practicing and representing himself on the mat like a true leader and champion.”

Krell is ranked No. 1 in Class A at 170. He was No. 1 seed at the tournament and received a first-round bye. Krell pinned GMLOS’s Isiah Morse in just 1:42 in his first match, won by technical fall 17-1 over Waseca’s Denver Daniel in the

semifinals and again, by technical fall in the championship match, 21-6, over Cannon Falls’ Riley Keenan.

“I’m feeling pretty good and happy with the way I wrestled,” Krell said. “I didn’t let anyone take me down or give up an reversals. I was the only one scoring out there and that was goal for the day.”

Krell said it’s was nice winning the tournament in front of a home crowd.

“It’s a tough tournament that brings in a lot of tough teams,” he said. “But I’m always happy to win a tournament no matter the competition.”

Westfield heavyweight Tristan Rieken advance to the championship match before suffering what appeared to be a serious injury.

The senior pinned Dover Eyota’s Spencer Welsh and won a 12-6 decision over Redwood River Valley’s Chad Maddock to earn his way to the title match.

“His spirits were down,” Masching said. “But we don’t know a thing yet so I’m going to speculate. We will just have to wait to hear from the doctor.”

Dylan Nirk was another Razorbacks who has a

great day of wrestling. The junior earned the bronze at 220 after he pinned Central Springs’ Teddy Behrends with 56 seconds remaining in the third place match. Nirk was trailing Behrends 3-1 when he secured the victory with a pin.

“You have to be aggressive and keep heavy hands the entire time,” Nirk said. “I just tried to do that. He got out of position and I took advantage it. Everyone definitely stepped up today. We all are constantly trying to improve everyday.”

Nirk pinned Reece Lemke of Dover Eyota in his first match, lost a overtime thriller to Waseca’s Jacob

SEE RAZORBACKS, C3

Westfield’s Colton Krell prepares to slam an opponent to the mat during the 170-pound weight class championship match at the Dave Erickson Hall of Fame Tournament on Saturday at Hayfield High School.

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Former Owatonna assistant selected for HOF

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Mayo Civic Center Region 1 Wrestling Hall of Fame Committee has selected eight new members for induction on Monday, March 4.

The 2019 MCC Region Hall of Fame Class includes former Owatonna assistant coach Bob Phillips.

Phillips was an assistant coach at Owatonna for 25 years. He was selected Section 1AAA Coach of the Year and Region 1 Minnesota/USA Coach of the Year. Phillips was a key contributor to the Huskies two state titles and 10 state dual placing teams under Hall of Fame coach Scot Davis.

Kasson’s Ben Pherson will also be inducted as a contributor. Pherson, the Rochester Post Bulletin Sports Supervisor since 2016 has been covering wrestling since 2006. He was awarded the MWCA Media Award in 2010. Pherson has been in journalism for nearly 20 years.

“Ben [Pherson] is the best at covering the sport of wrestling and giving recognition I’ve observed in my 55-year involvement in the sport,” MCC Region 1 Chair Spencer Yohe said in a press release. “Southeast Minnesota is blessed to have [Pherson] as one of ours in the sport of wrestling.”

Pherson recently left the Post Bulletin to accept a position in the district offices at Kasson-Mantorville Schools.

Roy Hagg, Ryan King (GMLOK) and Bruce Moe (Caledonia) will also be honored for their athletic accomplishments.

Hagg was an 26-0 state champion in 1980 while wrestling for HOF coach Frank Murphy at Lewiston-Altura. Haag was also 22-1 and a 1979 state entrant and is considered by many to be one of finest in L-A wrestling program history.

King was a state champion in 2001 and 2002 while wrestling for GMLOK. He was second at state in 2000 and was 103-7 from 2000 to 2002. King earned NCAA Division II All-American honors three times while wrestling for Augustana University. King graduated from LeRoy-Ostrander in 2002 after wrestling for HOF coach Bill Simpkins. Jim Richardson and contributor Dean Hiscocks.

In 1976, Moe was a third place state winner at the 138-pound weight class while wrestling for Caledonia and HOF coach Leo Simon. Moe finished third at the NCAA Division II National Championship in 1980 while wrestling at 150 for Winona State University. Still wrestling at the age of 61, Moe captured the 2018 Masters World Championships in both the Greco-Roman and the Freestyle Divisions. He has earned a total of six Veteran National Titles and 14 other medals at that level, including a world runner-up and a bronze in the 2017 championships.

Linda Kuisle (Kellog), Ruth Siefert (Rochester) and official Paul Fishbaugh (Rochester) will also be honored for their meritorious service.

The banquet will coincide with The Clash Seniors Banquet at Charles’s Eatery in the Hillcrest Shopping Center in Rochester, Minnesota where the Clash Committee will be honoring the Southeast Minnesota graduating seniors, their teams and coaches.

Social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the program will follow.

If you have any questions or need any additional details contact Rick Ties at Rickties@gmail.com or at (507) 358-7075. The cost to the public is \$30 per person. Teams, coaches and inductees are complimentary.

BASKETBALL



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL
Medford’s Emma Kniefel sinks a free throw for the Tigers.

Medford girls’ basketball undefeated midway through season

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

It remains to seen if the Medford girls basketball team will have the same postseason success as the school’s volleyball team did this past fall, but if the first half of the season is any indication, the team is in the midst of another special season.

“Overall, I am pleased with our progress so far,” Medford head coach Mark Kubat said. “We realize that we need to improve everyday to prepare to compete at the highest level that this team is capable of at the end of the season.”

The Tigers improved to 13-0 with a 72-25 rout of Schaeffer Academy on Monday, January 14 that saw a total of 10 Medford players score.

“It sure is nice to see a team that works hard win some games but it is something that no one talks about at practice,” Kubat said. “Our main objective is to get better. As a team, we break down the film from every game and identify weaknesses in our game. We use practice to work on those skills/techniques so we will be

a better team in March.”

Tigers’ star Emma Kniefel lead the team in scoring against Schaeffer Academy with 16 points.

Other Medford scorers: Kinsey Cronin had 15; Izzy Reivers had 12 points; Kileky Nihart had eight; Clara Kniefel, Alorah Wieseand Isabella Steffen had four; MacKenzie Kellen and Emma Berg had three and Brooke Purrier had two.

Kniefel, who’s only a junior, has been a key member of Medford’s varsity team since her seventh-grade year and she became Medford’s all-time leading scorer earlier this season when she surpassed the old record of 1,273 points.

“That was a really exciting and rewarding moment,” Kniefel said. “Having the record means that all my teammates work and my work is paying off. The record is by no means one that I can claim for myself, because of all the support and help I’ve gotten from my coaches and teammates. Medford basketball will always hold a very special place in my heart, especially after I graduate, so leaving a lasting mark on the

program means a lot to me.”

Kniefel said she isn’t necessarily surprised by the team’s success in the first half of the season.

“Honestly I didn’t think to myself, ‘Hey we are going to be undefeated for the first half of the season,’ but I did expect us to take care of business when need be and compete in every game,” she said. “It’s amazing to see how much we have improved and we need to keep it rolling down the road.”

Despite the stellar record, the Tigers remained unranked in the Class 2A top 10.

“I don’t pay too much thought if we are ranked or not,” Kniefel said. “I know in the end that it all is just going to come down to how we play in the big games. Volleyball has definitely opened my eyes to show me that anything is possible. If we just keep working hard and playing how I know we can play, it’s not going to matter if we get a good ranking, if any, or not.”

Kubat said being ranked isn’t something the team discusses.

SEE UNDEFEATED, C2

Buchholtz leads Kingsland past Blooming Prairie

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie girls dropped their second straight game when Kingsland used its home court advantage to down the the Awesome Blossoms, 69-58.

The non-conference contest marked another game in a stretch of tough games in the BP season schedule.

The Blossoms got down early when the Knights scored 26 points in the first seven minutes of the game.

However, BP fought back to trail by just seven shortly before the halftime break, but the home team led by 44-35 at the break.

The offense played well in the second half, but defensively, the team had no answer for the Kingsland outburst. The half was a back and forth affair, with the Blossoms closing within five points a couple of times, but the

Knights answered back with a run of their own.

“We got down early and although we were able to recover, we were never able to counteract the Knights’ early big run,” Blooming Prairie head coach John Bruns said. “I was happy with our offense, but our defense had no answer for their hot shooting.”

BP’s Megan Oswald had another good game, scoring 23 points and pulling down 13 rebounds for another double-double. Maya Lembke added 14 points and nine rebounds and Bobbie Bruns chipped in 10 points and eight assists.

No other Blossom managed more than four points.

Kingsland’s Lauren Buchholtz led all scorers in the game, as she poured in 32 points. Ellie Buchholtz added 15, and Samantha Werrimont chipped in 12 points.



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL
BP’s Maren Forystek shoots a 3-pointer against Chatfield earlier this season.





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BASKETBALL

Hurricanes upset Awesome Blossoms 74-72

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossom boys suffered a disappointing loss at Houston Monday, January 14, when the Hurricanes ousted BP 74-72.

Houston had won just three games prior, took hold in this non-conference battle and beat the Blossoms to every loose ball and every offensive thrust.

“We were out of this one from start to finish,” BP head coach Nate Piller said. “Our defense was just not good. We were consistently beaten in transition and never looked comfortable in the entire game. We just didn’t play well.”

The offense for both teams played

well enough, but Houston played just a little better on the offensive side of the ball. The Hurricanes led 33-27 and never trailed in the game, although BP had several chances to climb into a lead, but could never quite get over the hump.

“I have no reason for our poor defense,” Piller said. “But we just didn’t come to play a decent game in this one. We looked timid and showed lack of communication on defense, which was disappointing.”

Karson Vigeland led the Blossom offense with 20 points, but Kaden Thomas counted 16, and Gabe Hagen added 12.

Alex Van Gundy and Kaden Danielson both had 19 for Houston, and Alex Hongerholt chipped in 15.



BP's Isaac Ille brings the ball up the court versus Medford in a Gopher Conference clash earlier this season at BPHS.



NRHEG's Sophie Stork brings the ball up the court at Medford in a Gopher Conference matchup earlier this season.

St. Peter drubs NRHEG

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

St. Peter had only a 6-8 record entering the contest with New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, but looked nothing like a mediocre team.

The Saints took a 34-25 halftime and rolled to a 78-48 victory over the Panthers on Thursday, January 17, at New Richland.

The non-conference loss dropped NRHEG's record to a 6-10.

“Their record doesn’t do them

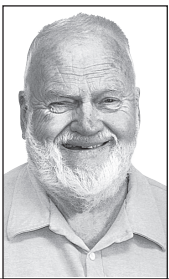
justice,” said NRHEG head coach Onika Peterson. “They do a lot of things well and have a lot of talent. We came back from a big deficit late in the first half, but then fell behind at the half. St. Peter dominated the second half, and we weren’t able to keep up with them.”

Sophie Stork led the Panther scoring with 19 points, and she pulled down six rebounds.

Kim Johnson added eight points, and Sidney Schultz and Alexis Anderson chipped in six points each. Darian Pearson pulled down nine rebounds for NRHEG.

Our Winter Wonderland

Those who wait with patience for things they desire usually get rewarded at some point. It took until January was practically behind us, but last weekend rewarded all those residents who had been commiserating over the lack of snow.



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

The several inches that descended on the community Friday notified winter sports enthusiasts that it was time for them to begin their activity. Among other effects of the snowfall announcement that the scheduled basketball games had been postponed. Both the boys and girls will now play United South Central on February 14, if my information is correct.

The snow, however, reminded many of past snow storms, as attested to by the several entries on Facebook discussing those past incidents.

All of us of a certain age can easily remember the big storms of our youth and even the big blasts here in Blooming Prairie from the late 60s and 70s. It is somewhat difficult to recall now, but I remember one blizzard in the late 60s that was ferocious enough that I couldn’t get across the parking lot after staying later at school, because it was a virtual whiteout right outside the commons windows.

There were years when kids would climb right up snow banks on the west side of the school building and walk on the roof, and others would play on a virtual mountain of snow

in the corner of the school parking lot, as the snow was piled almost 25 feet high.

I remember a year when our athletic director's car sat on the street south of the school for two days, before city plows could get time to plow it out. Yes we just don't have storms like that any more, because of weather changes and because snow removal equipment has gotten so much better.

Going back even further to my childhood days, I can recall winters where storms threw snow into banks so deep that plows would make veritable tunnels in the roads for vehicles to traverse. Push plows were the standard snow removal machines, and sometimes it took many hours to get a lane wide enough for passage.

Yes, that is one area of our lives that has really undergone a change over the years. That is good for travel, but no fun for those desirous of huge piles of snow for playing in. It marks an era that we will never see again, but it surely is good for those of us old enough to remember those days.

AN ABBREVIATED SPORTS WEEK

On the sports scene, it probably was one that all three winter sports teams would rather forget, The basketball boys were upset at Houston early in the week, and a hot shooting Kingsland team managed to hand the Blossoms their fourth loss of the season.

Even the wrestling team took it on the chin, when New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-

Geneva hung on for a close match win. All of the teams should look forward to better times in the future.

A WELL DESERVED HONOR

All reports indicated that the honor of Citizens of the Year for Mike and Sandy Jones was well deserved and well earned. The couple has volunteered in many ways through the years, and the personnel who offered remarks did so with humor and honesty.

Having family in attendance made the evening pretty special, and it should give the two honorees memories of the occasion to last a long time. The festivities marked a good social opportunity for local residents as well. That was a good thing.

NOTES OF BP GRADS

I caught news of two former BPHS graduates last week, and tip proved an interesting couple of items. Taylor Hagen is competing with the University of Northern Iowa again this season and has been a starter in almost every game, and she is averaging over 19 minutes per game in the process.

At last count she had scored 108 points, with 56 rebounds and nine blocked shots. She is shooting 67 percent from the free throw line for the team, which currently has a 10-7 season record against some of the best women's basketball in the country.

A tip of the hat this week goes to Hagen for her continued success in college basketball.

The other item concerned Todd Walkingstick's recent conversation with game radio announcer Jason Iacovino.

Iacovino summarized the Awesome Blossom season and the semifinal playoff contest

in U.S. Bank Stadium.

He has been doing BPHS football for 18 years and still enjoys it. He says that Blooming Prairie fans are some of the best around, and the team continues to be one of the best in the area year in and year out. It was a very interesting few minutes with the local attorney.

The storm last weekend sort of threw sports schedules out of whack and limited some coverage of events. Hopefully, next week will be storm free, and teams will be able to play full schedules. For the first time this year, Enjoy the snow, and we'll talk again.

WRESTLING

Hayfield honors 2019 wrestling HOF inductees



Friends and family of Bob and Lois Rud gather for a photo after the couple was inducted in the Hayfield Wrestling Hall of Fame on Saturday. Back row: Gary Heydt, Dave Erickson, Paul Fishbauguer. Middle Row: Mike Waltman, Ron Rud, Bob Rud Sr., Bob Rud Jr., Rick Rud. Front: Lois Rud.

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The 2019 Hayfield Wrestling Hall of Fame inductee were honored on Saturday during the Dave Erickson Hall of Fame Wrestling Tournament at Hayfield High School.

Bob and Lois Rud were inducted as contributors for being instrumental in helping to start the Hayfield Wrestling Booster Club in 1975.

“I can’t explain what this means,” Lois Rud said. “It hits me right here [pointing towards her heart]. We came from Stewartville and they had a wrestling booster club down there that was second to none. We just wanted to do something like they had down there.”

The booster club has purchased multiple wrestling mats, uniforms and other supplies for the Hayfield teams over the years and even help send some students to college.

“We have done many things for the wrestlers,” Louis Rud said. “This school means a lot to us. At first people didn’t think it was going to fly and wasn’t going to amount to anything, but

we stuck with it and after all these years we showed them that it did.”

Rud said she was most proud of the work she did alongside the Hayfield School Board and Superintendent’s Office to help get the referendum passed for the first new addition at Hayfield High School.

“I worked my tail off to get that through,” Rud said. “The first one failed, but I stuck with again and the second one passed.

“I’m just so proud of this school's whole facility,” she continued. “We worked hard to get this together and it means the world to us to have this school succeed and have the wrestling team succeed.”

Tony Thoma was the athlete inductee this year but was unable to attend the event. Thoma had a career record of 108-34-0, was the 1997 Class A state champion at the 140-pound weight class and a 1996 Class B state qualifier at 135 while wrestling for Hayfield. He scored 495 career team points, was HVL All-Conference three times and was the Section 2A Champion at 140 in 1997.

Thoma was also a member of Hayfield’s 1997 Class A State Championship team.

UNDEFEATED FROM C1

“Honestly, we have much more work to do to be considered a top 10 team,” he said. “Our success as a team will be measured by the level of our play during the tournament. We are preparing now to be at our best in March. This team is motivated by the next challenge — the next game. We prepare for every opponent and take none lightly.”

One of the possible reasons the Tigers have been overlooked in the Class 2A poll is that the team plays against primarily Class A schools. “We can’t really control our schedule right now,” Kniefel said. “So we just have to work with what

we have. That’s why we put such an emphasis on working very hard in practice and staying sharp in every game, no matter who we play.”

Medford added Class 2A schools Fairmount (6-9), Blue Earth (7-6), Jordan (11-3), Tri-City United (10-5) and Byron (5-10) to their non-conference schedule in recent years to improve its strength of schedule. “They have excellent basketball traditions and encourage us to play at a high level,” Kubat said.

Medford plays at United South Central (1-12) on Tuesday and is at home on Thursday versus Hayfield (9-6).

★STARS★
OF

Elise Sande, Owatonna Dance
The junior captain is a great leader, works extremely hard in practice and always give 100 percent. Sande is admired as a person and an athlete by her teammates and coaches.

Zach Wiese, Owatonna Hockey
The junior goalie has a .947 save percentage and a 1.66 GAA in his past three games. Wiese has over a .9 save percentage on the season and has been instrumental in the Huskies’ success to this point.

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BASKETBALL

Junior high teams split matchups

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie junior high basketball teams did the splits last week, with both seventh grade teams earning victories, and the eighth grade teams losing two games.

The boys played Medford on the home court, while the girls traveled to Medford for their games.

The seventh grade boys improved their record to 2-7 with the 24-19 win, as a Blossom press forced numerous Tiger turnovers to maximize position control for the locals.

“We are starting to play better now and hopefully that will continue,” Blooming Prairie coach Tyler Krekling said.

Gabe Hein and Zach Hein scored eight and six points, respectively, to lead the Blossom attack.

A lack of numbers hampered the eighth grade, as seventh graders had to fill in the roster.

The team lost 48-31, but the fill-in seventh graders did a good job for the team.

Zach Hein had nine points in this contest, but the team shot just 3-of-12 from the free throw line that has to improve.

Britany Hoban’s seventh grade girls defeated Medford 28-18 behind some good defensive play.

Addison Doocy had eight points for BP, and Lily Schammel and Sophie Thomas added four each.

Medford won the eighth grade game 27-20, as the Blossoms got into foul trouble in the game.

The Blossoms were whistled for 23 fouls, and the Tigers 18-of-23 free throws. Madeline Stoen and Haven Carlson had seven points each for BP.

WRESTLING

Panthers clip Razorbacks in close match

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Westfield Razorbacks won three of the final four bouts, but New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva held on 36-31 in a match that saw both teams with leads at some point in the proceedings.

The Panthers took a 36-22 lead on a Connor Oakland pin over Dylan Emke at the 182-pound weight class, and wins by Dylan Nirk and Trisatan Rieken fell short in the total.

After Lane Lembke pinned Annabele Petsinger in 55 seconds at 113, Clay Stenzel tied the match with a pin on one minutes and

45 seconds of the first period at 120.

Keegan Bronson gave BP another lead, when he won a major decision over Nikolas Petsinger at 126, but two straight pins for Aden Berg at 132 and Andrew Reich at 138 gave the Panthers an 18-12 advantage, Tyler Archer tied the match for BP on a pin over George Roesler in 1:47 at 145.

NRHEG won the next two bouts by a pin and a forfeit to put the Panthers up 30-16 to setup the final three matches’ drama.

Colton Krell pinned Ralph Roesler in 1:40 at 170, before Oakland’s winning pin at 182.

Nirk won by a fall in 42 seconds, and Rieken took a 6-1 decisiuon over Quinten Arndt at heavyweight.

RAZORBACKS FROM C1

Hertzog 5-4 in his second and defeated Teegan Young of Saint Charles by a 6-2 decision to earn his spot in the third place match.

“[Nirk] is one of the hardest working kids we have in our [wrestling] room and it shows,” Masching said. “They are all hardworking, but he’s really done a good job of drilling and showing some toughness. Today was all about toughness and I was really happy for him.”

Westfield sophomore Dylan Ehmke finished fifth at 182 after he pinned Waseca’s Buck Kuhns, lost by a fall to Saint Charles’ Logan Wendt, lost by a 5-2 decision to United South Central’s Jacob Billings and defeated Rochester Mayo’s Sam Allen by a 9-4 decision in the fifth place match.

“Today was good day of wrestling,” Masching said. “Our elite wrestler performed like they were suppose to and we had some matches that went well for our younger kids we had wrestling.”

Westfield freshman Keegan Bronson was the first Razorback to place in the tournament. He finished sixth in the 120-pound weight class.

Bronson lost his first match to No 1 seed Cooper Peterson of Cannon Falls, who went on to win the tournament. Bronson rebounded and pinned Rochester John Marshall’s Davonta Jones in 2:56 in his first consolidation match. Bronson then won with 17-6 decision over Waseca’s Oliver O’Brien to advance to the fifth place match, but he was pinned in 3:04 by Brock Mathers of Central Springs.

Westfield sophomore Lane Lembke defeated Saint Charles’ Carter Mathison 4-2 in first round.

However, he lost by fall in the second round to Cannon Falls’ Erwin Strelow, who went on to win the tournament. Lembke was eliminated from the tournament in his first consideration match when he came up short in a 2-1 battle to Rochester Mayo’s Rick Kobayashi.

Westfield freshman Tyler Archer won his first match 7-2 over Dover Eyota’s Spencer Honsey before being pinned by Mark Buringa of Saint Charles and Rece Voigt of GMLOS.

Westfield freshmen Alex Phenix and Sam Skillestad each lost both of their matches by falls.

“All of our kids are true champions at heart,” Masching said. “No matter their record they give it 100 percent and we couldn’t ask for more.”

2019 Dave Erickson
Hall of Fall Tournament
at Hayfield High School

Team Results: Central Springs 163, Saint Charles 160, Redwood River Valley 154.5, Cannon Falls 138, GMLOS 134, Waseca 124.5, Dover Eyota 124, Rochester Mayo 86, Westfield 82, United South Central 67, Wabasha Kellogg 53, Rochester John Marshall 46.5.

Championship Matches: 106-pound weight class: Mason Gehloff (Waseca, 22-0) triple overtime decision over Clayton McDonough (Central Springs, 36-1) 2-1.

113: Erwin Strelow (Cannon Falls, 15-2) decision over Luke Osweiler (Waseca, 15-9) 11-1. **120:** Cooper Peterson (Cannon Falls, 13-1) fall over Treyton Thesing (Dover Eyota, 11-8) 2:18. **126:** Marshall Peters (Rochester Mayo, 22-6) decision over Carter Pals (Central Springs, 31-6) 11-4. **132:** Jackson Hale (GMLOS, 23-2) decision over Nolan Rommel (Wabasha Kellogg, 14-6) 5-3. **138:** Tagen Miller (Wabasha Kellogg, 23-2) decision over Blake Legred (United South Central, 28-3) 5-0. **145:** Mark Buringa (Saint Charles, 3-0) decision over Cade Sheehan (Rochester Mayo, 16-6) 7-0. **152:** Tayte Harazin (Redwood River Valley, 25-2) decision over Micah Hamson United South Central, 20-8) 15-4. **160:** Chris Modrak (Cannon Falls, 13-11) fall over Joe Dayland (Saint Charles, 14-11) 1:07. **170:** Colton Krell (Westfield, 23-3) technical fall over Riley Keenan (Cannon Falls, 15-10) 21-6. **182:** Logan Wendt (Saint Charles, 22-3) fall over Mason Rummell (Redwood River Valley) 1:27. **195:** Zach Ryg (Central Springs, 35-0) overtime decision over Michael Nelson (Dover Eyota, 23-3) 7-5. **220:** Kaleb Haase (Redwood River Valley, 22-2) decision over Jacob Hertzog (Waseca, 18-4) 12-6. **285:** Clayton Luthe (GMLOS, 23-2) injury default over Tristan Rieken (Westfield, 18-7).

Owatonna

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OUR MISSION:

The city of Owatonna Parks and Recreation Department provides a diverse system of green spaces, trails, facilities, programs and services to enhance the quality of life for the community.

Ways to Register:

Owatonna Park and Rec has a new registration system, so be sure to follow the prompts on the website to create a new account!

- On-Line: www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation/online-registration
- Walk-In Registration: at the Park and Recreation office at 540 West Hills Circle. Office hours are 7:00am-5:00pm Monday – Friday
- Call In: Call our office at 444-4321

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

Special Events

- Bold and Cold/Winter Weekend Out

January: Learn to Skate Session 2 begins
January: 2019 Brooktree Memberships available
January 6: Group Swim Lessons begin
January 6: West Hills Tennis and Fitness Center open house
January 8: Future Sports Camp Session 1 begins
January 9: Therapeutic Recreation Kid’s Leisure Swim begins
January 18-27: Bold & Cold-Owatonna’s Winter Festival: www.boldcoldowatonna.com for more information

January 25-27: Owatonna Winter Weekend Out/Bold and Cold
January 25: Winter Weekend Out-Sledding at West Hills
January 25: Winter Weekend Out-Free Admission to West Hills Tennis and Fitness Center
January 26: Sled Dogs at Morehouse Park
January 26: Winter Weekend Out-Rock on Ice
January 26: Kids Games/Activities/Rec on the Go
January 26: Winter Weekend Out-Ice Bocce Ball
January 27: Winter Weekend Out: Family Ice Fishing at Lake Kohlmier
February 5: Future Sports Stars Camp Session 2 begins
March 25: Lifeguard Training Class
April 23: Summer Brochure released
April 27: Munchkin Market

The first skates were made of bones and strapped to the feet to allow people to cross frozen rivers and lakes! Come to the Warsinski Chalet this winter to rent some real skates and skate across the Straight River!

Check our Facebook page and Website for opening dates! Bonfires are held every Saturday night (weather permitting)

Bold & Cold-Owatonna’s Winter Festival January 18-27

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

Parent Tot Open Play at the West Hills Gym

\$2 per person (2yrs and under free) Mon, Wed, Fri: 8am-10am
An open play program for parents and kids to play together! There will be shortened basketball hoops, balls, a parachute, and other open play items!

Outdoor Public Skating-check our website for opening day!

Warsinski rinks, located in Morehouse Park are the only supervised skating rinks in Owatonna. The Warsinski Chalet, a large warming house complete with cross country ski and skate rentals and food concessions is located at the west end of School Street.
Hours: Sunday: 12:00 noon – 9:30pm
Saturday, Holidays & School Vacation Days: 11:00am-9:30pm
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Pavilions may be reserved up to one year in advance...book your graduations and family reunions today! Contact 507-444-4321 for availability.

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CALL TODAY

It's training season for pesticide applicators

This is the time of year that your local Extension office gets numerous questions about private pesticide applicator certification. Minnesota has more than 16,000 certified Private Pesticide Applicators. These applicators are generally farmers using Restricted Use Pesticides to manage insects, diseases, weeds, and other various pests in their farming operations.

This certification is for those who apply Restricted Use Pesticides to their own land or sites for the production of agricultural commodities; applicators cannot use these pesticides without certification, which includes training on best management practices and laws governing the use of these pesticides. A new applicator, or one whose certification has lapsed, must take a 50-point exam to become certified. Exams and manuals are available at your local Extension office, or you can take the test online. To recertify, applicators have the option to attend a recertification workshop instead of taking the exam.

If you plan on attending a workshop, know that The Minnesota Department



On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

of Agriculture requires all workshop participants to present a government issued photo ID such as your driver's license or passport, in addition to your current Private Pesticide Applicator Certification card or number. Certification costs \$75 and lasts three years. The cost is the same whether you take the exam or attend a recertification workshop, and only checks are accepted. You can find the workshop dates at: https://z.umn.edu/ppat_workshops.

These private pesticide applicator certification workshops are separate from the label training needed to use the dicamba products XtendiMax® with VaporGrip® Technology (from Monsanto), FeXapan™ (from DowDuPont), and Engenia® (from BASF). Applicators who wish to use these XtendiMax, FeXapan, or Engenia dicamba products in Minnesota in 2019 must have a RUP certification, undergo additional dicamba label training, and follow federal and state label restrictions.

There are several questions regarding the label trainings in Minnesota. The chemical companies which own the

dicamba products are responsible for providing the label training. That means that Monsanto, DowDuPont, and BASF are offering these trainings in Minnesota, and you can attend training from any of these companies, regardless of the product you apply. For example, you can use Engenia™ from BASF but attend label training hosted by Monsanto or DowDuPont. The training will cover the product label requirements, recordkeeping requirements, weed management practices, buffer requirements and protection of susceptible crops, chemistry, mixing and handling, window of application, as well as equipment preparation and special considerations. These free trainings take two hours and you can find the training dates and locations on the Minnesota Crop Production Retailers website at: <https://mcpr-cca.org/dicamba-information-trainings/>.

Please contact your local Extension Educator Claire LaCanne at 507.332.6165 with any questions.

Claire LaCanne is the agricultural extension educator for Steele and Rice counties. She writes regularly for this newspaper. She may be reached at 507-444-7691 or lacanne@umn.edu.

Recert workshops set for private pesticide applicators

If you need to renew your Private Pesticide Applicator certification, you can do so by attending one of the upcoming recertification workshops sponsored by University of Minnesota Extension. These workshops offer a great opportunity to review regulations and safety issues related to pesticide application, as well as provide you with the latest University research.

You need to renew your private pesticide applicator certification in 2019 if you:

- Apply pesticides to land or sites you own, rent or lease for the production of agriculture commodities and
- Plan to use Restricted Use Pesticides and
- Reside in the state of Minnesota and
- Your certification expires in 2019

Recertification workshops scheduled for our region include:

- Faribault-- Tuesday, Jan. 29, 12:30 p.m., Rice County Fairgrounds – 4-H Building, 1900 Fairgrounds Dr. #17
- Blooming Prairie-- Wednesday, Jan. 30, 9 a.m., City Center/Library, 138 Highway Ave. South
- Northfield-- Wednesday, Feb. 6, 6 p.m., Senior Center, 1651 Jefferson Parkway
- Owatonna-- Tuesday, Feb. 12, 6 p.m., Steele County Fairgrounds – Community Center, 1380 South Elm Ave.

Workshop topics will include:

- Pesticide laws and regulations
- Proper clothing laundering practices
- Sprayer calibration
- Current invasive pest issues
- Other hot topics

Registration for the recertification workshops will be taken at the door and no pre-registration is required. Anyone attending a workshop for recertification must bring a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license or passport. Bringing your Private Pesticide Applicator Certification Card will assist in the registration process as well.

Attending a recertification workshop renews your certification for three years. Please note you must attend the entire workshop to meet recertification requirements.

For those who are unable to attend a workshop or would rather retest for recertification, two other options exist. You may either complete the test as a home study course (books and tests available at most County Extension Offices) or you may complete the test on-line at <http://www.pat.umn.edu>.

The cost to recertify, either by attending a recertification workshop or retesting, is \$75. A farmer who is not currently certified (i.e. becoming certified for the first time or their certification expired in 2017 or earlier) is required to first take the test to become certified.

Note these workshops are separate from the additional training required for certified applicators who wish to apply dicamba formulations onto dicamba-tolerant soybeans in 2019. Check the Minnesota Crop Production Retailers Association website at <https://mcpr-cca.org/dicamba-information-trainings/> for more information and to register for one of these sessions.

Please contact Claire LaCanne, Extension educator for Steele and Rice counties at 507-332-6165 or lacanne@umn.edu if you have any questions or need further information about these workshops.

Cedar River Watershed helps farmers with health, water quality in the region

Farmers throughout the Cedar River watershed in Minnesota came out Jan. 16 to learn about how a partnership can help achieve long-term economic and environmental health of their farms through sustainable farming practices accessed through the public-private collaborations like the Cedar River Watershed Partnership.

Launched last year, the Cedar River Watershed Partnership is Minnesota's first public-private-nonprofit partnership that provides farmers with tools and resources to help them adopt new farm management strategies to improve the soil, water, and economic health of their farms and address water quality challenges in the Cedar River Watershed.

Hosted at the Hormel Foods Sales Cabin, the event Partnering for Profitability: Connecting the full set of farm services for your bottom line, walked farmers through practical farming strategies, reported back the farmer and community impacts in the first year of the partnership and demonstrate what sustainability means to Minnesota's farm community.

In the first year of the collaborative effort, the partnership worked with farmers in the Cedar River Watershed to identify practices and resources for improving farm health and water quality throughout the region.

Project partners have worked with dozens of farmers over the past year, with the hope of increasing the number of participants in the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's program in 2019.

"We're thrilled to be involved in the Cedar River Watershed Partnership and appreciate the time and dedication shown by the project partners to make this effort a success," said Matt Carstens, senior vice president of Land O' Lakes Sustain. "This collaboration continues to achieve impressive results, positioning Minnesota agriculture for enhanced sustainability and helping to maintain a

resilient agricultural system in the Cedar River watershed."

Partners work with farmers to identify the most impactful and practical farming strategies and provide them with the tools and resources to help implement changes with the goal of reaching certification through the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program. This effort minimizes red-tape for farmers by coordinating guidance, services, and resources amongst partners so that, no matter who the farmer contacts, they can get the support they need.

Some of those changes may include grid sampling / soil sampling, no-till / strip-till, cover crops or variable rate technology (VRT).

"We talk with farmers every day about their operation and business," said Justin Hanson, Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District's district manager said. "Through this partnership, we are improving the service that local government and ag retailers provide to our customers."

In order to meet the demand of this program, the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District is adding a position dedicated to working with farmers to identify resources available.

Communities in the Cedar River Watershed, an area of roughly a half-million acres, increasingly face water resource issues like flooding and sedimentation, leading to property damage and unsafe drinking and recreational water. Fortunately, the adoption of improved farming strategies on agricultural land is a powerful tool to achieve water quality improvements.

Convened and managed by Minnesota nonprofit Environmental Initiative, the Cedar River Watershed Partnership is a collaboration of Central Farm Service, Hormel Foods, Land O'Lakes SUSTAIN™, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Crop Day coming to Steele County

University of Minnesota Extension, KDHL Radio, and KRFO Radio are hosting the annual Steele and Rice County Crops Day on Tuesday, Feb. 26 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Crop producers and ag stakeholders in Steele and Rice counties are invited to attend the event at the Steele County Community Center located on the Steele County Fairgrounds, at 1380 S. Elm Avenue, Owatonna.

The morning portion will start at 9 a.m. featuring a strategic farming workshop entitled Strategic Farming – Maximizing your Return on Investment (ROI) presented by University of Minnesota Extension Crops Educators Lisa Behnken and Ryan Miller and sponsored by the Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council. Not only will key cost factors in crop budgets be reviewed, but tips will also be provided to help you evaluate ag research and marketing

claims in order to make the best management decisions on the farm. Topics include:

- Crop budgets: What are key cost factors and what margin do we have to work with in the upcoming year?
- Understanding Ag Research: All sources of information are not created equal. Review tips to help understand and critically evaluate ag research and marketing claims to make the best management decisions.
- What return on investment can we expect with various crop and pest management strategies? What is the likelihood of seeing a return from a foliar fungicide application? Should we strive to build and maintain soil fertility test levels? When managing soybean aphid, what tactics are worth the investment? What should we be looking for when making seed and technology-trait decisions?
- Best management practices

for clean seed: Help ensure the marketability of grain by following key BMPs for clean seed.

Following lunch, Brad Carlson, University of Minnesota Extension Crops Educator, will discuss variable rate nitrogen. The event will wrap up with a commodity market outlook with Gordon Kralovetz of Chiodo Commodities, Inc.

There is no fee to attend this

event thanks to sponsorship from the Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council. Pre-registration is not necessary, but is appreciated to ensure enough handouts and for a meal count. You can register at z.umn.edu/strategic-farming.

Please contact Claire LaCanne, Extension educator for Steele and Rice counties with any questions at 507-332-6165 or lacanne@umn.edu.

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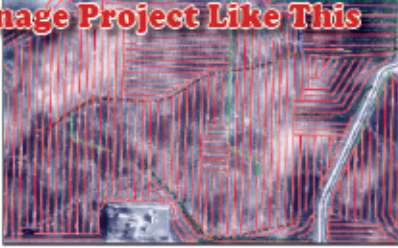
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VIRGINIA BEACH & WILLIAMSBURG, VA	MAY 4 - 12, 2019	\$1,529
HOLLAND, MI TULIP FESTIVAL	MAY 10 - 12, 2019	\$499
ARK ENCOUNTER & CREATION MUSEUM	MAY 15 - 19, 2019	\$809
BRANSON, MO	MAY 16 - 19, 2019	\$629
NIAGARA FALLS & TORONTO, ONT	JUNE 11 - 16, 2019	\$999
MACKINAC ISLAND, MI	JUNE 14 - 16, 2019	\$499
CODY, WY & YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK	JUNE 18 - 24, 2019	\$1,169
TRAINS IN THE COLORADO ROCKIES	JUNE 20 - 29, 2019	\$1,659
CANADIAN ROCKIES & CALGARY STAMPEDE	JULY 6 - 14, 2019	\$1,599
CHICAGO, IL GANGSTER TOUR	JULY 19 - 21, 2019	\$509
SUMMERTIME ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER	JULY 24 - 26, 2019	\$509
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NEW YORK CITY	AUGUST 24 - 31, 2019	\$1,649
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AMISH COUNTRY TOUR IN OHIO	SEPTEMBER 17 - 22, 2019	\$999
ARK ENCOUNTER & CREATION MUSEUM	SEPTEMBER 18 - 22, 2019	\$809
NEW ENGLAND FALL COLORS TOUR	SEPT 28 - OCT 9, 2019	\$1,949
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Volunteers sought for Junior Achievement in Ellendale

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Representatives from Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest made a presentation at the Ellendale City Council meeting on Jan. 10 about the organization and the need for volunteers.

“Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest inspires and prepares K-12 students to succeed in and school and beyond,” the organization’s website says. “We do this through our relevant, experiential curriculum that begins in elementary school, where students learn how they can impact the world around them as individuals, workers and consumers. Our programs continue through the middle grades and high school, where we focus on key content areas of financial literacy, college and career readiness and entrepreneurship. In all JA programs, students process information, apply basic skills, think critically and solve complex problems.”

Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest served 5,061 students in the Owatonna, Waseca and Medford during the 2017-18 school year, and the group has recently returned to Ellendale Elementary School.

District manager Laura Heyne and assistant district manager Linda Leech said they are currently seeking volunteers to teach and help with classroom programs they have planned.

“We provide people with everything they need to teach those lessons,” Leech said. “You don’t have to come up with any of material yourself. I’ll say anybody [can do it], but we really are looking for people who like kids. You have to be interested in what the kids are doing in school and how that’s going to play out into your community.”

Unique opportunities are available to local schools thanks to the generosity

of local foundations, corporations and individual donors, as well the many volunteers who give their time to teach JA lessons in the classrooms.

“The student will think you are the best because you’re bringing a fun activity into the classroom and they will be looking forward to seeing you next time,” Heyne said. “You’ll be JA hero if do decide to volunteer.”

JA offers elementary programs such as JA Ourselves (kindergarten), JA Our Families (first grade), JA Our Community (second grade), JA Our City (fourth grade), JA Our Nation (fifth grade) and JA More Than Money.

Anyone interested in volunteering can get more information at <https://www.jaum.org/regional-offices/owatonna/> or contact Heyne directly at (507) 676-3523 or Laura@jaum.org.

In other business, the council: Approved the following appointments for 2019: the office depository is First

National Bank Waseca/Ellendale Branch, the official newspaper is the NRHEG Star Eagle, acting mayor Scott Groth, Municipal Liquor Store commissioners Stephanie Kibler and Russ Goette, Water and Sewer commissioners Steve Engel and Scott Groth, Streets Duane Goebel, Maintenance Department Engel and Goebel, Building and Grounds Kibler and Goette, EDA Board Goette and Groth, Joint Powers Ambulance Board Goette, Clerk/Treasurer and Data Practice Compliance officer LeeAnn Højberg, assistant clerk Kim Zimprich, city attorney Mark Rahrnick, animal officer Josh Otto, Emergency Management Jerry Ibberson, fire chief Logan Busho, Fire Relief Association Board Goette and Højberg and weed inspector Otto.

Established the following service fees for 2019: \$100 (per event) for Community Center Rent, \$25 for Community Center meeting room, \$10

2019 ELLENDALE COUNCIL MEETINGS

Jan. 24	July 11 & 25
Feb. 14 & 28	Aug. 8 & 22
March 14 & 28	Sept. 12 & 26
April 11 & 25	Oct. 10 & 24
May 9 & 23	Nov. 14 & 26
June 13 & 27	Dec. 12 & 26

for golf cart permit or unlicensed ATV, \$5 for dog or cat license, animal release fees are as follow (after impound) \$25 for first offense, \$50 for second offense and \$75 for third offense, \$50 (annual) liquor 3.2 percent malt liquor on sale license, \$20 (per day) liquor temporary 3.2 percent malt on sale, \$250 (annual) liquor 3.2 percent malt liquor sale license, \$50 (annual) wine on sale license, \$0.25 for photo copies (minutes, ordinances and other public documents), \$125 (per hour) sanding township roads and a \$75 water shutoff/reconnect fee.

Established the following monthly utility rates for 2019: \$40 for water (1,000

gallons, \$32 base plus \$8 for first 1,000 gallons), \$8 for each 1,000 gallons thereafter, \$20 for sewer, \$11 for garbage, \$1.25 garbage fuel surcharge, 10 percent of the delinquent balance for late fees (state fee and taxes may apply), \$50 for sump pump (per month not in compliance), \$900 (each) for water and sewer hooks, bulk water is \$11.67 per 1,000 gallons for city residents and \$12.50 per 1,000 gallons for non-city residents and a 0.025 per gallon dumping fee.

Established the following monthly zoning rates for 2019: \$250 for conditional

use permit, variance is \$100 for one or two family dwelling and \$250 for other applications, \$50 for weed control per hour and the IRS approved rate for mileage.

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Despite the falling snow, residents packed into the Owatonna Country Club to celebrate last year’s successes and look ahead to 2019. They were also there to celebrate the Highway 14 project.

“This is a big deal for our area and so we’re here tonight to celebrate that,” Chamber President Brad Meier said of the evening’s dinner.

“We think it will be a big deal for all of southern Minnesota both because there is a safety element to it and because we will be able to move freight and people more efficiently from the big cities to southern Minnesota,” Meier explained of the benefits the Highway 14 project carries.

The night also featured Ambassador Chair recognition for Cathy Martin of Block Plumbing & Heating and Ambassador of the Year Wayne Starman receiving an award.

“I can’t tell you how proud I am to be a part of this organization and this community,” Starman said after receiving his award. “I can’t be more proud of what’s happening in Owatonna now.”

Board Chair of 2018 Pat McDermott of J-C Press also recognized the outgoing Board of Directors before introducing their successors. Before handing the mic over to McDermott, Meier thanked him for a terrific year.

“A lot of great progress has gone on this past year,” McDermott said. “We are in the second year of our strategic three-year plan.” He mentioned the MainStreet project of improving downtown and increasing tourism as some of the year’s highlights. “It’s an exciting time for Owatonna,” McDermott added.

Incoming Chair Andy Cowell of Profinium then introduced the new Board of Directors after thanking McDermott for his leadership during 2018. “Your passion, your commitment, is something I have admired this past year,” Cowell said.

During his introductory speech, Cowell said that 2018 saw momentum in the Chamber’s four key initiatives: develop talent, restore the core, strengthen the economy, and attract tourism. “I am really excited to chair this board for 2019, and I thank you all for this opportunity,” Cowell told the crowd.

The night also featured a video on the Highway 14 project and a CEO perspective by Randall Doyal of Al-Corn Clean Fuel of Claremont. Doyal touched upon the importance of the project and what benefits it can bring to the region while also sharing some of his background. With the 2019 year underway the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce and Tourism will look to continue to build upon their strategic initiatives which includes a continued effort at revitalizing Owatonna’s Downtown District.



Tax Prep Guide 2018

2019 TAX TIP: IRS waives penalty for many whose tax withholding and estimated tax payments fell short in 2018

The Internal Revenue Service has announced that it is waiving the estimated tax penalty for many taxpayers whose 2018 federal income tax withholding and estimated tax payments fell short of their total tax liability for the year.

The IRS is generally waiving the penalty for any taxpayer who paid at least 85 percent of their total tax liability during the year through federal income tax withholding, quarterly estimated tax payments or a combination of the two. The usual percentage threshold is 90 percent to avoid a penalty.

The waiver computation announced today will be integrated into commercially-available tax software and reflected in the forthcoming revision of Form 2210 and instructions.

This relief is designed to help taxpayers who were unable to properly adjust their withholding and estimated tax payments to reflect an array of changes under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), the far-reaching tax reform law enacted in December 2017.

“We realize there were many changes that affected people last year, and this penalty waiver will help taxpayers who inadvertently didn’t have enough tax withheld,” said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. “We urge people to check their withholding again this year to make sure they are having the right amount of tax withheld for 2019.”

The updated federal tax withholding tables, released in early 2018, largely reflected the lower tax rates and the increased standard deduction brought about by the new law. This generally meant taxpayers had less tax

withheld in 2018 and saw more in their paychecks.

However, the withholding tables couldn’t fully factor in other changes, such as the suspension of dependency exemptions and reduced itemized deductions. As a result, some taxpayers could have paid too little tax during the year, if they did not submit a properly-revised W-4 withholding form to their employer or increase their estimated tax payments. The IRS and partner groups conducted an extensive outreach and education campaign throughout 2018 to encourage taxpayers to do a “Paycheck Checkup” to avoid a situation where they had too much or too little tax withheld when they file their tax returns.

Although most 2018 tax filers are still expected to get refunds, some taxpayers will unexpectedly owe additional tax when they file their returns.



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Blooming Prairie Chamber

Younger blood takes over as Chamber officers

Peach and Camry want to go big
By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer



Dan Peach
New Chamber President

A former University of Minnesota football coach said he was excited about his job to the point where his “corpuscles were hopping and a jumping.”

The Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce has two new officers who can epitomize that statement.

They are Chamber president Dan Peach and vice president Miranda Camry. Peach represents B to Z Hardware, and

Camry comes from Highway 218 Liquors.

Peach becomes the youngest BP Chamber president in its history at age 24. Camry did not reveal her age, but she is in a slightly older generation than Peach. Then comes executive director Becky Noble.

Peach said the fact that he, Camry and Noble shadow different generations becomes a strength for the Chamber to gain new ideas from every age group. Peach also hopes to recruit more young members.

“We want to go BIG,” Peach says about his and Camry’s goals for 2019. Peach says he and Camry already have three projects in place that will benefit the chamber and help it gain new members.

Peach did not reveal what the projects are and said his plan is to tell the membership about them at the February Chamber meeting, which is on Feb. 20. Peach

encourages current members and prospective members to come to all monthly Chamber meetings, which are typically held on the third Wednesday of the month.

“Come and check us out if you have never been to a chamber meeting,” Peach said.

Peach said it is his hope to make the chamber more transparent with the community. What he means by that is he hopes chamber projects will help businesses grow. Peach used two BP Police Department projects as examples, National Night Out and a Christmas event with Santa.

Peach and Camry want to see more members at monthly meetings and they encourage them to bring new ideas forward at these meetings. “We want to be proactive rather than reactive,” Peach said.

The new Chamber president and vice president are inviting non-members to attend a chamber meeting. “If your business is interested in joining, we will give them

“We want to go big.”
Dan Peach
New Chamber President

the first year free,” Peach said.

“We need to help one another,” remarked Peach. Encouraging people to shop locally is an important hallmark for the new leaders.

The chamber is a networking group that can result in businesses interacting with one another and helping one another, Peach said.

The Fourth of July will continue to be a BIG Chamber event, Peach and Camry said.

Using that term BIG, Peach said plans are already under way to make the next Chamber annual golf outing a special event because it is the 25th annual chamber golf outing.

Peach and Camry are encouraging current members to recruit new members. “We want more face to face interactions with members,” Peach commented.

The new officers plan to continue the student ambassadors program, recommending to the ambassadors that they meet monthly and have lively discussions about projects and tours.

“Miranda and I are both energetic, and we plan on having fun with some new ideas,” Peach said.

Peach commended past president Greg Johnson of B to Z Hardware for his leadership the past two years. Johnson always said businesses that help the chamber, help themselves. “I hope to follow in his footsteps,” said Peach.

“I’m excited and want to bring in the younger mindset,” Peach said.

Everyone has different life experiences and members sharing them will make for a stronger chamber organization, Peach promises. He also praised the work of executive director Becky Noble. “We are lucky to have her,” Peach said.

Peach also said he was excited to see where gambling takes the chamber. The chamber implemented charitable gambling last year and it proved successful at Bunkie’s, the Cue Company and at the BP Country Club.

2019 CHAMBER SCHEDULE	
Jan. 30	Ribbon Cutting/Prairie Home/10 am
Feb. 2	Prairie Home Grand Opening
Feb. 20	Chamber Meeting./night/Dairy Queen
March 20	Chamber Meeting/noon/City Center catered by Subway
April 17	Chamber Meeting/night/George’s of Geneva
May 15	Chamber Meeting/noon/Bunkie’s
May 18	City Wide Garage Sales
May 22	July 4th Button Sales
June 19	Chamber Picnic/Brookside Campground
July 3-4	Old Fashioned July Fourth Celebration
July 17	Chamber Golf Fun Day
Aug. 7	25th Anniversary Celebration-Sportstitch
Aug. 13-18	Steele Co. Fair
Sept. 11	Business After Hours – Johnson, Doerhoefer, Miner PA
Sept. 18	Chamber Meeting/noon/City Center/Casey’s Cater
Oct. 16	Chamber Meeting/noon/The Bakery
Nov. 7	Wine Tasting/Service-men’s Club
Nov. 20	Annual Meeting/Pizza Cellar
Dec. 6	Holiday Dazzle
Dec. 18	F & M Bank/Business After Hours



Greg Johnson (center) recently passed the leadership gavel to Dan Peach, incoming president, and to Miranda Camry, new vice president. Peach and Camry will hold their positions for two years. Camry will become the new president in two years. (Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)

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Blooming Prairie Chamber Benefits:

- Information about businesses in response to requests
 - Information about the community in response to requests
 - New residential packets
 - Contacts with local businesses
 - Opportunities to serve the community
 - A voice with influence
 - Encouragement for local spending through promotions and BP Bucks
 - Fourth of July Celebration
 - Golf Fun Day
 - Citywide garage sales
 - Community social events
 - Organization and distribution of Christmas gifts for needy
 - City Christmas decorations
 - Local beautification projects
 - A member of GROW MINNESOTA providing visits
- A base for networking through meetings and social events
 - Coordination of efforts for networking for non-profits
 - Community calendar in City Center
 - Representation at state chamber meetings
 - Representation at Southeast Minnesota meetings
 - A resource center business information, customer inquiries, tourism, state government and agencies
 - Programs with noteworthy and entertaining guests and valuable information
 - Featured businesses inform of local business activity
 - Business After Hours for members only
 - A link to the Economic Development Authority
 - Weekly emails with information of the events in the community
 - State Chamber opportunities such as Chamber Day at the State Capitol
 - Fun and fellowship with friends and neighbors

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- Oak wood flooring
- Maple wood flooring
- Cork flooring
- Flooring installation
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Derek Reichl • 552-1637 • 2201 E. Main St., Albert Lea

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Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

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Blooming Prairie, Minnesota
507-583-7266 Larry Christianson owner**



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:
Prairie Ridge Orthodontics

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 475 26th St. NE, Owatonna MN 55060 USA

NAMEHOLDER(S):
Name:
Jeffrey D. Loveless, D.D.S., P.A.

Address:
475 26th St. NE

Owatonna, MN 55060

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:
Jeffrey D. Loveless
D.D.S., President

Date:
December 14, 2018

1/15, 1/22



FULL PAGE

ADVERTISING

BLOWOUT

Starting January and running through March 12, we're offering a limited number of FULL-PAGE ads in each edition of the Dodge County Advantage, Dodge County Independent and Steele County Times for insanely low rates.

The price you pay will depend on

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17,000

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85% OFF

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STIPULATIONS:

• Full pages must run in January, February, through March 12

• Ad copy must be in by Thursdays prior to the issue date

• Position, placement and color sold first-come, first-served

• Excludes front page of the Advantage

• Excludes special editions

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ADvantage

DODGE COUNTY

INDEPENDENT

STEELE COUNTY

Times

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Sensitivity
- 5. Greek island
- 10. Up to the time of
- 14. Wife
- 15. Composer Ned
- 16. Edging to street path (Brit.)
- 17. Lose energy
- 18. Biblical parable
- 19. Celery (Spanish)
- 20. Arm bones
- 22. Japanese family emblem
- 23. Customary practice
- 24. Acceptance
- 27. Very fast aircraft (abbr.)
- 30. Cool
- 31. Indian state
- 32. Young boy or girl
- 35. Astronomy unit
- 37. Confederate soldier
- 38. Famed German composer
- 39. Alternate name
- 40. Used to pave driveways
- 41. Artery
- 42. Type of powder
- 43. Inquire too closely
- 44. Northern Ireland
- 45. Connects two points at right angles
- 46. Hot drink
- 47. A newt
- 48. Engine additive
- 49. Wealthy Connecticut town
- 52. Not invited or requested
- 55. Embrace
- 56. Spiritual leader
- 60. Wild or sweet cherry

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22					23			
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27	28	29		30				31				32	33	34
35			36					37			38			
39						40					41			
42					43						44			
45					46							48		
			49					50				51		
52	53	54				55					56		57	58
60						61			62		63			
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Very short skirt worn by ballerinas
- 2. Angle between leaf stalk and stem
- 3. Popular in Nebraska
- 4. Dessert
- 5. Cognitive retention therapy
- 6. Wandered
- 7. Mistake

- 8. Adolescent
- 9. Medical term
- 10. Russian tsar's edict
- 11. Type genus of the Nepidae
- 12. High school math class
- 13. Double-reed instrument
- 21. Painful places on the body
- 23. Fiddler crabs
- 25. Resinous substance
- 26. Person of wealth (Brit.)
- 27. Series
- 28. North American plant
- 29. Warble
- 32. Pastries
- 33. Group of eight
- 34. Twyla __, dancer
- 36. Pouch
- 37. Singer Charles
- 38. Cattle genus
- 40. Eye infection
- 41. Where couples go to marry
- 43. Long bench with backs
- 44. Unrestricted free agent
- 46. __ Talks
- 47. Causal agent
- 49. Nincompoop
- 50. Relating to the aura
- 51. Person of conspicuous wealth
- 52. Type of mottled fruit
- 53. Essential
- 54. Fertility god
- 57. Folk singer Ives
- 58. La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- 59. Foot
- 61. Digital audiotape
- 62. Drunk

NOTICE

The Blooming Prairie School Board will be holding a public meeting on January 28, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Media Center in order to gather input from community members regarding the search for a new Superintendent of Schools.

1/15,1/22

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS FOR 2019

The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers of the Steele Co. Chapter of Minnesota Pheasants for 2019 will be held at the KC Hall, 820 S. Elm, Owatonna on Tuesday, Feb. 12 with social hour at 6:30 and meeting at 7:00.

Please Contact Dennis Thompson - 507-456-1644

1/15 ,1/22 ,1/29

Weekly crossword

B	V	T	B		L	E	O	V	L		A	T	D	I
W	E	H	O		O	N	I	W	V		N	V	E	T
V	H	N	B		S	I	H	O	D		N	V	E	G
I	B	B	V	H		G	N	H		D	I	B	N	N
			N	V	V	N	V	O	M	E	N			
D	L	S		L	F	E	V	E	L		T	T	E	
H	E	L	S	T	N	A	H	D		O	T	V	L	
V	L	H	O	V		H	V	L		S	V	I	T	V
H	O	V	B		B	E	H		O	E	S	H	V	D
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E	G	V	S	N		N	O	W		S	V	N	T	N
O	I	D	V		S	E	H	V	L		E	H	I	L
B	H	E	K		W	E	H	O	H		H	O	X	N
O	L	N	N		E	L	E	H	O		L	O	V	L

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Dodge County Advantage
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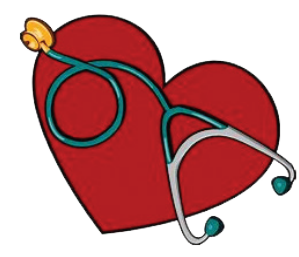
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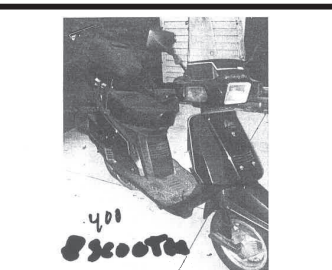
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Call 507-319-1549 and ask for Annie

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– H. Peterson, Former BP Mayor

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