STEELE COUNTY Times

SNOW SCULPTURES A3

SPORTS B1

www.steeledodgenews.com | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019 | Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

Owatonna woman latest in Hwy. 14 carnage

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The deadly two-lane stretch of U.S. Highway 14 between Owatonna and Dodge Center has claimed yet another life.

Allison Christine Anderson, 67, of Owatonna is the latest victim as she was killed in a head-on crash on Highway 14 in Havana Township Saturday afternoon. She was riding in a 2008 Pontiac G6 driven by Todd Richard Anderson, 58. Allison was pronounced dead at the scene.

Anderson's death was the fourth fatality along Highway 14 over the past seven months.

Todd Anderson received life-threatening injuries and was transported to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester. His exact condition is unknown at this time.

According to the State Patrol, a 2018 Freightliner Tractor was traveling eastbound on Highway 14 at Mile Marker 182 when it attempted to pass an unknown vehicle and struck the Pontiac head-on. The crash happened at about 4:54 p.m.

The driver of the Freightliner, Hashim Lencha Siddiq, 29, of Blaine was not injured. He also had a passenger, Abdisalam Hasji Hassan, 28, of Oakdale, who was not injured.

The State Patrol reported the Andersons and Hassan were wearing their seat belts. It is unknown if Siddiq was buckled up. No alcohol is suspected in the crash, the patrol said.

The road condition was wet at the time of the crash, the patrol said.

The Steele County Sheriff's Office assisted at the crash.

The crash took place in the 12-mile stretch of Highway 14 that is two lanes between Owatonna and Dodge Center. This is the third fatal crash that has claimed four lives over the past year. In July, Michael Joe Anderst of Dodge Center died in a single vehicle crash at Highway 14 and Highway 56 north in Dodge County. In September, Rachel Harberts and her daughter, Emerson, died of injuries in a two-vehicle crash along Highway 14 near Claremont.

Distracted driving has been identified as a major cause of the Harberts crash. However, State Sen. Dave Senjem, R-Rochester, a long-time critic of Highway 14, has also blamed the roadway for contributing to the Harberts deaths.

The Minnesota Legislature last year approved funding to expand Highway 14 in that area. However, lawmakers need to clean up some language in the bill before the project moves forward. It is likely construction on the expansion won't begin until next year.

The Legislature has been wrangling over what to do with Highway 14 for nearly 30 years while many lives have been lost along that stretch of roadway. The road is not only viewed as a death trap, but has become infamously dubbed the Highway of Horrors.

HIGHWAY 14 DEATH WATCH

12-mile stretch between Dodge Center and Owatonna

3 fatal crashes, 4 deaths since July 2018

- **July 18:** Dodge Center man killed at Hwy. 14 & Hwy. 56 north
- **Sept. 7:** Dodge Center woman and daughter killed at Hwy. 14 & CR 3 by Claremont
- **Feb. 2:** Owatonna woman killed on Hwy. 14 in Steele County

THE NEXT STEP... SOBRIETY

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"This is more than a graduation from the Steele Waseca Drug Court. It is a commencement, or a new beginning."

Those were the words of Third District Steele County Judge Joseph A. Bueltel as he addressed the 38th and 39th graduates of the Steele Waseca Drug Court on Wednesday, Jan. 30.

A nearly packed Court Room B at the Steele County Courthouse was the scene of many accolades being directed to two new graduates of Drug Court.

Decked out in their graduate gowns, Randal (Beau) Jones, 45, and Christopher Powers, 43, stood proudly as Judge Bueltel praised the two Drug Court participants for turning things around in their lives. He commended the two graduates with overcoming "so much adversity" in their lives.

"This is a commencement more than a graduation because people are moving on," Bueltel said.

"Remember, you are still on probation," the judge said, with a large grin on his face.

Nicole Grams, coordinator of the Steele Waseca Drug Court program, said between the two of them, Jones and Powers have logged 1,882 days of sobriety, 1,265 for Jones and 617 for Powers.

"I was one day away from getting booted out of the program," Powers confessed. "This program has saved my life and there were times I wanted to give up," said Powers, choking back pure emotion.

"I worked hard to get to where I got to today, and I chose to give up drugs and have a better life," Powers said.

Powers thanked the Drug Court staff and also said he found something higher than himself and "that is my God," he related. "Today, I can say life is good without drugs," Powers said emphatically.

Jones, known as Beau to most everyone, said he "tried to write something down" to say at the graduation but admitted that his ego took over. He spoke without preparation of remarks and then thanked the presence of God. "I'm so grateful I'm the guy who wanted to get clean himself," Jones said.

Saluting Nicole Grams and others on what he called his "PR team," Jones said they helped him to feel differently and to think differently.

In the beginning with Drug Court, Jones said he had to make nine meetings a week. "I came in (to Drug Court) very aggressive, and I had to find some trust," he explained.

Pastor Joel Stauffer of the New Life Community Church of Owatonna said he baptized both Jones and Powers. "They have both stepped into a new life and you are rewriting God's story," Pastor Stauffer said with sincerity.

Prior to the weekly Drug Court session, Jones acknowledged to this writer that it had been "a long road" for him to reach sobriety. "There is hope," he said, "by reaching out and anything is possible."

Jones started the program on Aug. 6, 2015 and has participated for about 3 1/2 years. He entered the program on a felony, possession of a pistol. This offense carries a mandatory commitment of 60 months, said Drug Court coordinator Grams. Jones also faced a first-degree burglary charge, which carried a stayed stench of 33 months.

During his time in Drug Court, Jones exceeded 456 drug tests and has logged 1,265 sobriety days.

Grams said Beau continues to self-direct during adversity and reaches out to others in recovery, as well as giving back to the recovery community.

Grams also detailed Powers' time in Drug Court. He started the program on July 13, 2016 and has participated for about 2 ½ years. He entered the program on two separate domestic violence convictions and a violation of an order for protection. He had a stayed sentence of 23 months in prison.

SEE SOBRIETY, A2

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARDLESTRUD

Christopher Powers is congratulated on his graduation from Steele Waseca Drug Court at the Steele County Courthouse. Showing off Chris' plaque of accomplishment are: Kaylee Dawson, 9; Tyler Duenes, 8 and Jana VanBluricon, 8. Jennifer Duenes is mom.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARDLESTRUD

Beau Jones poses with three of his children at his graduation from the Steele Waseca Drug Court at the Steele County Courthouse on Jan. 30. From left are Keylan Jones, 7; Boniecanna Jones, 4 and Dorisha Jones, 5. Mom is Helena Shaw.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Andrea Rumpza, a 2004 graduate of Blooming Prairie High School has been fighting Lyme disease for more than 10 years. She says she was not diagnosed early enough and now is seeking suitable treatment.

'I have a long way to go'

Rumpza keeps battling Lyme disease

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It's been nearly 10 years that Andrea Rumpza, began to battle Lyme disease. The fight goes on 10 years later.

Rumpza, 32, is an Awesome Blossom, graduating from Blooming Prairie High School in 2004. She is the daughter of Diane and Bruce Rumpza of Blooming Prairie.

Andrea is single and currently resides in Northfield.

For the greater part of the past 10 years, Rumpza was either mis-diagnosed or not diagnosed at all.

"I went through Mayo twice, and they sent me on my way," Rumpza says.

Not only is Rumpza fighting this disease with the help of her family, friends stepped in on Sunday, Jan. 27 at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie by sponsoring a benefit breakfast. The breakfast was organized by the Knights of Columbus.

Troy Anderson of the KC organization said the turnout was "fantastic" with more than 200 showing up to declare their prayerful support for Rumpza and her family.

"We've been throwing lots of money at doctors, hoping to come up with answers that will lead to successful treatment," says Rumpza.

She currently is employed by Nutritional Weights & Wellness and works out of two locations, Mendota Heights and Lakeville.

It's a small business that is co-owned by Darlene and Kory Kbist. Rumpza has worked there for nine years but for more than three years of that time, she was sick and seeking a diagnosis and treatment.

"Since I've been sick, I work as a part-time client services representative," Rumpza said. She schedules appointments and classes covering nutrition-related questions.

Rumpza started having symptoms of Lyme disease in 2009. "I really got sick, fatigued all the time," she relates. She also suffered from joint and muscle pain.

Her pain has developed into more series motor issues including swallowing. "It's pretty awful," she admits.

Rumpza said she was undiagnosed for over 10 years.

SEE LYME DISEASE, A3

BP Board finalizes supt search

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The search for a new superintendent in Blooming Prairie School District 757 has continued to pick up steam with the job being officially posted on Jan. 30.

Current superintendent Barry Olson will retire on June 30.

The job has been posted internally and externally, reports Blooming Prairie School Board Chairman Rodney Krell.

A community informational meeting was held on Monday night, Jan. 28 in the Blooming Prairie High School Media Center.

The meeting drew a sparse representation of the public, only six residents other than the school board of Rodney Krell, Steve Ille, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Jenny Thurnau and Dean Meshke. School board member John Sunde was not present.

The decision to post the full-time position of superintendent was made by the board at a closed meeting following the Jan. 28 community meeting.

A search process continues with a school board sub-committee of Krell, Braaten and Thurnau picking up the reins and handling the overall search procedure.

The sub-committee of Krell, Braaten and Thurnau met on Jan. 15 with the elementary school staff and on Jan. 17 with the high school staff to solicit input about the search for a superintendent. The Jan. 28 community meeting was the final step before posting the job internally and externally.

Board Chairman Krell told the public in attendance at the Jan. 28 meeting that the job posting expires on Feb. 20. Krell's committee then will review the applications and decide who should be interviewed. Interviews are tentatively planned during the week of Feb. 25.

The board sub-committee will interview superintendent candidates. A public interview session is planned, Krell said, involving the full board and the community. Dates will be announced.

Krell said it is hoped that a new superintendent would be appointed by March 1. Following that step, the board would hopefully approve a new superintendent at its March 18 regular meeting.

The superintendent's position currently held by Barry Olson is part time,

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$1.00 | Volume 127, No. 28

507-583-4431 | bptimes@frontiernet.net

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AREA DEATHS

Duane Wayne Wohl, 76, Blooming Prairie

Rose Mary Nelson, 71, Annandale

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YOUR VIEW

Thanks for helping with Christmas project

Dear Editor,

I am writing to thank Blooming Prairie residents for sharing the true meaning of Christmas with children in need this past holiday season.

Because of the generosity of donors in Blooming Prairie and across the United States, Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, collected more than 8.8 million shoeboxes in 2018. Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2018, the ministry is now sending more than 10.6 million shoebox gifts to children suffering from poverty, natural disasters, war, disease and famine.

These simple gifts bring smiles to the faces of children around the world. Packed with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items, these gifts bring joy and are a tangible expression of God's love. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 157 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 160 countries and territories.

It's not too late for people to make a difference. Though drop-off locations serving Blooming Prairie shoebox packers are closed until November 2019, anyone can still pack a personalized shoebox gift online at samaritanspurse.org/buildonline. Information about year-round volunteer opportunities can also be found at samaritanspurse.org/volunteerwithOCC.

Thank you again to everyone who participated in this global project — many who do so year after year. These simple gifts send a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten.

Dana Williams
Operation Christmas Child

Times is a top-notch paper

Dear Publisher Rick,

Congratulations on the awards for the Steele County Times. That is one of the reasons that we subscribe to the paper, we know it is a top-notch paper with great articles. The articles are always more in-depth and about the human interest part of the story. We always enjoy and understand the articles in the paper. They tell the whole story of the person or event, not some rambling as is the case in so many papers.

Every bit of the articles in the Steele County Times makes us want to keep reading.

Keep up the fantastic articles.

Carl Wieman
Owatonna

SOBRIETY: FROM A1

Powers exceeded 288 tests and totaled 617 sobriety days.

Grams said once Powers became committed to his recovery, he adapted his entire lifestyle to support his goals.

Grams challenged both Jones and Powers to "continue to be connected and to utilize the supports you have gained through the recovery community and to consider mentoring others."

Grams detailed the beginning of the Steele Waseca Drug Court, which was implemented on July 1, 2014. As the program grew, it was enhanced with more state grant monies from the Bureau of Justice Assistance grant top incorporate early mental healthy evaluations, mental health consultation, defense counsel services, gaining and continued evaluation.

Another grant, this time from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, provided funding to launch a DWI track specifically targeting how to best serve high risk/high need DWI offenders. This grant allowed the Steele Waseca Drug Court to expand its capacity from 40 to 60.

Grams said SWDC has served 165 participants with 76 withdrawing or electing to serve jail/prison time, or being transferred to another drug court.

Today, the program has 53 participants, Grams announced. It is a "rigorous program," she said about its four phases. It lasts a minimum of 18 months, she said.

The combined total amount of sobriety amongst the Drug Court to date is 15,017 days, an estimated average of 41 combined years, said Grams. The average sobriety per participant is 283 days.

Judge Bueltel, as always, allowed probation officers and others time to reflect on the accomplishments of the graduates.

County Attorney Dan McIntosh complimented Jones and Powers on their number of sobriety days and said he saw a change of attitudes and perspectives by both. McIntosh also mentioned that their involvement in the New Life Community will continue to be a positive influence on the men.

Jones' brother, John, said he had seen "a whole change" in his brother. "You keep doing what you are doing," he challenged Beau.

Helena Shaw, the mother of three of his seven children also praised Jones' accomplishment. "You're Beau, keep going kid."

Beau didn't jump into the program with both feet, remembers Grams. "He has helped develop activities in the recovery community and he has done a tremendous amount of research to assist others in their journey toward recovery," Grams added.

As the commencement ceremony came to a close, lots of hugs were exchanged by Jones and Powers with their families and friends.

Pastor Stauffer then joined the graduates for cake in celebration of their newest accomplishment.

Their accomplishments are just mile markers in the road that they are passing, said Stauffer. "It's not an end; they will keep going and growing," he said.

Stauffer's church meets Sundays in the small auditorium at Owatonna High School and draws over 400 for two services.

More commencements are imminent. Stay tuned by following the final Wednesday court date of the month, the day typically designated for graduation/commencement.

Minnesota's governor supports a free press

Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz is pledging to make "One Minnesota" as he settles into his new role of leading this great state. He's not just spewing campaign rhetoric, but seems committed to making it a way of operating his large administration.

I had the opportunity to hear Minnesota's new governor speak a few weeks ago during the Minnesota Newspaper Association convention in Bloomington.

What intrigued me the most about Walz is how he handled our group of editors and publishers. In a room full of community journalists, he praised the work of journalism.

Wait a minute, I thought the press was the "enemy of the people." After all, our dear president says so.

Walz was sincere in his comments about how he expects the media to hold government and its officials accountable and for informing him on issues around the state.

"Your job is to hold the government accountable, a job you have done well," Gov. Walz said. "Minnesota journalism is alive and well."

He went on to say, "The press is foundational to a free and democratic people," Walz said. "The press is the friend of the people."

I about choked on my lunch when I heard that after the snipes our president keeps feeding the public about the media. He stressed several times how a free press is fundamentally crucial.

The new governor repeatedly talked about the importance of a free press in a democracy. Walz said that attitude was reinforced as a visiting teacher in China when restrictions on media were even further tightened following the Tiananmen Square protests.

He shared how he reads small daily and weekly newspapers to stay informed about all corners of the state. He even talked about the recent 80th birthday party for his mother-in-law in Ivanhoe. Turns out, a sitting governor had not visited Ivanhoe in anyone's memory, and the birthday gathering may have set a Lincoln County record for most media coverage.

"Four newspapers showed up," Walz said of the birthday party. "I'm a hero to my mother-in-law."

The media definitely won some points with the governor over the coverage of his mother-in-law.

Walz is bringing fresh energy and a sweeping agenda to the State Capitol. In the past, he has made it clear that he is "done with the drama" in Washington, D.C.

It's a breath of fresh air to not have a dominant political leader continually criticize and humiliate the media. As Walz alluded to in his remarks, the relentless, ugly, mischievous attacks against the media are unwarranted.

I think Minnesotans are in for a real treat over the next four years as Walz settles into his new role of leading the state. While his voice probably got lost in the chaos of Washington when he served as U.S. Congressman for southern Minnesota, Walz is one of the most common sense and level-headed politicians I have seen in decades. He truly is committed to making "One Minnesota," despite the differences we may all have with each other. At least he will be able to keep things together on the home front for us in Minnesota.

Isn't it refreshing to have a political giant like Gov. Tim Walz vowing to go in hot pursuit of making "One Minnesota" while at the same time not ripping apart the media and actually praising journalists?

GUEST COLUMN

Minnesota needs to be hands-free

By PEGGY BENNETT

Roughly four months ago, we were shocked by news that Blooming Prairie teacher Rachel Harberts had been driving her 8-year-old daughter Emerson and her 12-year-old son Jaxon to school when their car was horrifically rear-ended by another vehicle.

Rachel and Emerson died as a result of the crash. Jaxon was badly injured.

A friend and former co-worker of mine shares a similar story. Her dad, a well-known and much-loved school bus driver, had just finished his morning route. Still wearing a bright yellow school bus jacket, he went to pick up his mail along his rural county road when he was struck and killed by an oncoming motorist.

So, what ultimately caused these unnecessary deaths? Icy roads? Blinding sunlight?

Sadly, the answer points to something entirely preventable: both drivers who caused the crashes admitted they had been texting while driving.

Stories like these are far too common. There's not a Minnesotan around who hasn't been touched in their home or their hearts by a texting while driving car crash. This is why I am working with Rep. Frank Hornstein (D-Minneapolis) this session as co-author and Republican lead on legislation that would require hands-free use of a cell phone while driving, as we shared at a Capitol press conference this week.

Current law states that it is illegal to text while driving in Minnesota. While that may sound like foolproof language, law enforcement tells us it's anything but.

For example, while an officer can see if a person typing on their phone while driving, he or she is unlikely to determine whether the driver is calling home or programming a GPS, both of which are legal under current state law.

The legislation I am co-authoring would allow voice activated cell phone use only, along with one-touch or headsets, and would make it very clear to all Minnesota drivers: put the phone down and keep your eyes on the road - or risk being pulled over. Current penalties will remain in effect, though increased and/or additional penalties will be debated in a separate bill.

Hands-free laws have proven to be effective. Twelve of 15 states saw a decrease in fatalities within two years of implementation (two states didn't have sufficient data) and six of those 12 states saw a more than 20 percent decrease in fatalities.

I'm not one who would normally support adding more regulations to our books, but we know hands-free laws reduce the number of accidents, thus helping save lives. Worth noting: this bill has Republican and Democratic authors in both the House and Senate.

This measure is meant as a pro-active way to curb preventable car accidents, driver injuries, and motorist and passenger deaths. By requiring Minnesota's drivers to keep their eyes on the road, we will keep more people safe. Hands free cell phone use is simply the right thing to do.

REINSTATING SICK TAX

Our new House majority and Governor Walz have signaled their desire to reinstate the expiring Minnesota's sick tax — also known as the provider tax — that levies a two percent tax on most patient services in Minnesota, including things like baby deliveries and routine doctor visits.

According to state law, the sick tax will expire less than a year from now. If Democratic leaders reinstate the tax, it will result in a more than $600 million increase on health care costs for Minnesotans next year alone.

It's my hope that we let this tax sunset as required by state law. We don't need to continue punishing the sick and suffering. We have a lot of work to do to lower health care costs. Increasing the costs of medical visits would certainly be moving in the wrong direction. Let's work on real solutions that don't involve raising costs for patients.

As always, I look forward to hearing your legislative questions, concerns, and ideas. You can reach me any time at 651-296-8216 or by email at rep.peggy.bennett@house.mn.

Peggy Bennett is the state representative for District 27A, which includes all of Freeborn County, the City of Blooming Prairie and southern Dodge County, including the City of Hayfield.

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

DODGE COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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

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

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

DEADLINES
News: Noon Fridays.
Web: 11 p.m. (Daily)
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower $46
Elsewhere in Minnesota $49
Out of state $52

A state and national award winning weekly
MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
2019—7 state awards
2018—5 state awards
2017—3 state and 2 national awards
2016—4 national awards

Start the bidding!

Eagles hold annual cancer auction in Owatonna

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

For the 58th year the Eagles Cancer Auction at the Owatonna Eagles Club raised a boatload of money to help fund local cancer research Minnesota.

The event began on Friday at 6 p.m. and continued on Saturday afternoon and featured a live auction with well over 500 items as well as various gift cards and certificates.

This year's chairs were Nola and Dan Olson, who recently presented last year's money in the form of a check during the Fifth District Cancer Telethon on Jan. 19. Last year the auction raised $41,000 for local cancer research.

"All the proceeds stay in Minnesota," Nola Olson said. "It gets distributed to Rochester Mayo Clinic, the University of Minnesota, and the Hormel Institute in Austin."

After 58 years, the auction has become a favorite fundraiser within the community. Part of the reason the event seems to grow each year is that cancer is a disease which hits home for a lot of people, including the Olsons.

"We lost Dan's mom in 2010 to cancer," Nola explained. "Just within this last year we lost my mom and my aunt to cancer, and my best friend from high school just got diagnosed with breast cancer. It hits home and it has more meaning for us, so we were really gung-ho this year to raise a ton of money."

Although persuaded initially into joining the auction committee by friends of theirs, the Olsons have taken what was a supporting role and stepped up to chair the event this year. "We're hoping to double the money raised from last year," Dan said optimistically.

The event features a live auction, with auctioneers rotating throughout the weekend due to the exciting and fast-paced atmosphere, which is itself a draw. "People get into bidding wars and all of a sudden something might raise a little more," Dan said of the fun a live auction provides.

"I think they look forward to it," Nola said of the community's continued participation. "Owatonna and the surrounding communities have just been phenomenal, not only the businesses but the people in general who just come out to support this cause. Obviously without each other, this wouldn't take place."

Both her and Dan are in agreement over Owatonna's willingness to help those in need, or to chip in for a good cause when asked. "Whether it's an event like this, or raising money for an individual who has cancer, they just step up," Nola said of the community.

STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Auctioneers call out bids during last weekend's Owatonna Eagles Cancer Auction. The auction has been held for 58 years at the Owatonna Eagles Club and raises money for cancer research in Minnesota.

"The auctioneers, they volunteer their time, and they do a phenomenal job and they keep everything going and moving," she said of those calling out bids. "Without those guys, I don't think it would take place. They're professionals, that's what they do."

The entire committee is also volunteers. "The committee is wonderful," Nola added after explaining that it is an all-year effort to get the auction underway including preparation and soliciting for donations.

Brandon Nelson has been an auctioneer at the event for 10 years and is more than happy to volunteer for such a good cause. "It's fun to raise money for a good cause," Nelson explained. "It's an honor that they ask us to help, because everybody knows where it goes, and everybody's been affected by cancer in one way or another so that hits home for everybody."

"It's interesting to see all the faces that come back year after year," he said of the pleasure the event provides. "It just gives you an energy boost. I want people to have fun, because if they're engaged and having fun, then they're spending money. There's a friendly competition to it."

Finding beauty where you live

Steele Talkin'
STEPHANIE KIBLER

Most days we get bogged down with the day to day activities of life. Too often we do not take time to look around and appreciate all what we have within our family, friends and community.

The other evening, I was sent a photo of Main Street in Ellendale from the front seat of one of our plow trucks. It was stunning—blowing snow, dark blue sky, the city lights beginning to illuminate our quaint business district--a professional photographer could not have taken a more perfect shot. (The photo is on the City of Ellendale Facebook page.)

This photo caused me to reflect on all that the City of Ellendale has to offer and made me realize we all need to take time to reflect and make the best of what we have. It is often too easy to take for granted what we see each and every day.

As I pulled in to town Tuesday evening, right before the photo was taken, I garnered a parking space at the front door of Lerberg's. I was so grateful I did not have to park at the end of a parking lot and battle the wind that was blowing so fiercely. Many small communities do not have this luxury, and that was never more evident to me on Tuesday evening.

This got me thinking about all the amenities our small community offers its residents. In addition to Lerberg's Foods, we are fortunate enough to have a local bank, post office, meat market, carpet and window treatments, a muni offering great food, the list goes on and on. Each of these businesses and the many others that support our community are a luxury, and we are truly blessed to have them willing to support our city and its residents.

In addition to an active business district, we have a new manufacturing company opening soon, businesses that support our farming community which is vital to the city's survival, the possibility of a new business building an office, showing we are a viable community for business.

We are also fortunate to have three active churches and a variety of community groups that support community activities and improvements, a Fire Department and EMT service that is always willing to go the extra mile to keep residents safe. The list goes on and on.

All of these and so many more perks make up our community. It is truly amazing what you realize if you take a few minutes to look around at all that you have.

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

BOLD AND COLD

SUBMITTED PHOTO

This owl sculpted by the Spencer family won first prize at the Snow Sculpture Competition held in Owatonna last weekend. The sculpture will be available for viewing at Central Park until it melts.

Sculpting snowy creations despite bitter temps

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Although last weekend saw many Owatonna Winter Weekend Out events canceled or rescheduled due to a cold and snowy prelude of this week's polar vortex, other events such as the Snow Sculpture Competition went ahead as scheduled.

"We were happy we were able to pull off the Snow Sculpture Competition during Bold & Cold," said Jessica Abrahams, Owatonna Parks and Rec administrative assistant. "At first, it didn't look like we would have enough snow for the competition and then once we got enough snow, the temperatures were less than ideal for the competition."

This year was the first time the weekend festival featured a snow sculpture contest, and the three teams who signed up were not going to let the artic weather stand in their way of creating cool winter works.

The sculptors were able to carve away at their chunks of snow beginning Thursday and then continued through the weekend. On Monday, Jan. 28, the winners were announced.

First place and a prize of $100 in Chamber Dollars went to the Spencer family and their ornate owl. Second place and $50 in Chamber Dollars went to the Frozen North Team comprised of John Donkers and family for their fish. Third place and a pair of Bold and Cold gloves went to Foremost Brewery Cooperative for their rendition of a pint glass complete with logo.

"We're so thankful that the sculpting teams stuck with it though, braved the cold and completed the sculptures during the Bold & Cold Festival," Abrahams said of the diligent sculptors. "All of the teams were great to have and be a part of the competition; they were all positive and having fun despite the cold weather."

Some excess snow was in need of clearing away after the competition, but as the current weather stands now there is no sign of the sculptures melting any time soon. "We encourage everyone to stop down to Central Park in Owatonna to see the sculptures, the sculptures will be available for viewing until they melt," Abrahams added.

Regardless of the weather, the snow sculpting competition was a success in its first year as part of the Bold and Cold festival, a weeklong celebration that was also in its inaugural year running alongside the Winter Weekend Out.

Abrahams is hoping that next year will see even more sculptures standing at Central Park, that is, as long as the weather cooperates. "We hope to get more teams signed up next year and fill Central Park with many snow sculptures," she said.

LYME DISEASE: FROM A1

Lyme disease is commonly caused by a tick bite. "Unfortunately, I have no idea when I was bitten," Rumpza says. "The ticks are so tiny that they get into crevices of the body," she explained.

Rumpza was a student at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She was going to school there on a track and cross-country scholarship. It is speculated that she could have gotten bitten when running, either competitively or for enjoyment.

She visited many doctors in hopes of getting a diagnosis. Some of those doctors specialized in alternative medicine.

At first, she was given IV and oral antibiotics. Now, she is in the process or another treatment plan using integrative medicine. She visits a clinic in Minnetonka. This clinic does more alternative therapies, ozone therapy, IV infusions and a high does of Vitamin C therapy.

This clinic also uses biofilm busters that go directly to the Lyme, which is a protective tissue. The goal is to use IV silver to kill the Lyme.

Asked if she is gaining any relief, Rumpza said it is early because she is in the middle of treatment. "Usually, people feel worse before they can better," she said. Fatigue is still an annoying problem for her.

Rumpza's family has been "a great help," she says. "We all want to get well and get my health back," she affirms.

Lyme disease, Rumpza said, is a very annoying disease because "it's sad that the medical system is not recognizing it soon enough." She said many victims are going through unnecessary suffering.

"If you catch it early, there is a good chance of beating it," said Rumpza. "It's a tough disease to treat," she agrees.

"Without a proper diagnosis people don't deserve to live that way," says Rumpza.

Doctors are not doing the proper testing to detect Lyme disease, says Rumpza. "It is being missed on tests; more thorough testing needs to be done."

Rumpza is hopeful that she can return to her old normal. "I hope it is possible. It's hard to keep the faith and hope after trying a lot of different treatments to get well. It's been very disheartening."

Rumpza said the disease had affected her more physically than emotionally. "I try to stay positive," she says with hope.

Because of her constant fatigue, Rumpza is unable to do a lot of physical activity as she would like. She was very active and loves to run and lift weights.

"I do not have the energy to do much activity any more which is very hard. If I am able to regain my health, I would like to be active again by walking, jogging and lifting weights.

"I like to get outdoors to enjoy the fresh air and nature when I can. I enjoy my job and am thankful to have that as a part of my life as I am able, even though it's difficult due to fatigue and all of the symptoms I experience.

Rumpza said lots of people with Lyme disease, unfortunately, are not able to work because of the debilitation it causes. She says good and nutrition are passions of her, and she enjoys cooking healthy dishes.

"I enjoy spending time with family and friends when I have the energy for it," she re-emphasizes.

Rumpza urges people with Lyme disease and those thinking they have Lyme disease to get diagnosed early and seek proper treatment.

How to Save Money on Your Medication

THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by: Prairie Manor Care Center

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Dear Savvy Senior,

I take several medications for multiple health conditions and the prices keep going up, even with insurance. Can you recommend any tips that can help me save?

Price-Gouged Patty

Dear Patty,

The rising cost of prescription drugs is a problem that stings millions of Americans. While there's no one solution, there are some different strategies and resources that can help reduce your drug costs, so you can afford what you need. Here are several to consider.

If you have insurance, know your drug formulary: Most drug plans today have formularies (a list of medications they cover) that place drugs into different "tiers." Drugs in each tier have a different cost. A drug in a lower tier will generally cost you less than a drug in a higher tier, and higher tier drugs may require you to get permission or try another medication first before you can use it.

To get a copy of your plan's formulary, visit your drug plan's website or call the 800 number on the back of your insurance card. Once you have this information, share it with your doctor so, if possible, he or she can prescribe you medications in the lower-cost tiers. Or, they can help you get coverage approval from your insurer if you need a more expensive drug.

You also need to find out if your drug plan offers preferred pharmacies or offers a mail-order service. Buying your meds from these sources can save you some money too.

Talk to your doctor: Ask your doctor if any of the medications you're currently taking can be reduced or stopped. And, find out if the ones you are taking are available in generic form. About 80 percent of all premium drugs on the market today have a lower-cost alternative. Switching could save you between 20 and 90 percent.

Ask for a three-month prescription: This can be significantly cheaper for drugs you take long-term. If you use insurance, you'll pay one co-pay rather than three.

Split your pills: Ask your doctor if the pills you're taking can be cut in half. Pill splitting allows you to get two months' worth of medicine for the price of one. If you do this, you'll need to get a prescription from your doctor for twice the dosage you need.

Find and use online discounts: Start by trying GoodRx.com, BlinkHealth.com or WeRx.org. They will ask for the name of the drug, the dose, the number of pills, and where you live. Then they will show you what you can expect to pay at various pharmacies if you use their discount coupons or vouchers, which you can print out or download to your phone to show a pharmacist.

Pay cash: Most generic medications cost less if you don't use your insurance. For example, chains like Target and Walmart offer discount-drug programs that sell generics for as little as $4 for a 30-day supply and $10 for a 90-day supply if you pay out-of-pocket. While some insurance companies charge a $10 copay for a 30-day supply.

Also ask your pharmacy if they offer a drug discount card program and compare costs with your insurance plan. You can also find free drug discount cards online at sites like NeedyMeds.org, which can be used at most U.S. pharmacies.

Shop online: You can also save by using an online pharmacy like HealthWarehouse.com but be sure to use an online retailer that operates within the U.S. and is licensed. The site should display the VIPPS symbol, which shows it's a Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Site.

Search for drug assistance programs: If your income is limited, you can probably get help through drug assistance programs offered through pharmaceutical companies, government agencies and charitable organizations. To find these types of programs use sites like BenefitsCheckUp.org, PatientAdvocate.org, RxAssist.org and NeedyMeds.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.

Owatonna Schools awarded SMIF grant for literacy

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) recently approved seven grants totaling $120,490 to support asset-based collaborative approaches to meeting the needs of children birth to age five and their families.

Among the 2019 Early Childhood Grant award recipients is Owatonna Public Schools, which will receive $20,000 to expand a high quality literacy curriculum in order to support PreK-Grade 1 alignment.

Kasson-Mantorville Schools also received $20,000 to provide literacy support in an effort to get all students reading well by third grade.

Another $20,000 grant went to the Jeremiah Program to provide education and mentorship to single mothers in southeastern Minnesota living in poverty with young children. This program will increase parenting skills and knowledge required to build their child's social and emotional skills.

"We are proud to support these organizations that are doing the important work of preparing young children for school and educating parents and teachers in the region," said Rae Jean Hansen, vice president of Early Childhood at SMIF. "SMIF's Early Childhood Grants support the Foundation's focus area of investing in the children and families of our 20-county region in southern Minnesota."

For more information on SMIF's grant programs, contact Jennifer Heien, grants coordinator, at 507-214-7040 or jenniferh@smifoundation.org.

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History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago

Feb. 3, 2009

DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

Several Blooming Prairie residents took part in the Presidential Inauguration for President Barack H. Obama in Washington, D.C. Among the locals were Harlan Hinzmann, Trent Vorlicek, Frank Vorlicek, Mark Nahlovsky, Bob Nahlovsky and Jason Vorlicek. Vorlicek and Nahlovsky are both retired social studies teachers who have a great appreciation for the political process.

The Ninth Annual Blooming Prairie Education Foundation Fundraising Banquet was a night of memories, laughter and the honoring of impressive Blossom alumni. On Jan. 24, Marian Amundson Lehman, Bill Underwood, Jeanne Kruckeberg Ide and Allan Wold were honored for their achievements in service to others and for athletic accomplishments that everyone can be proud of.

Doug Olson of Owatonna claimed a $77,777 prize at the Lottery's headquarters in Roseville on Jan. 26. He won the prize by playing the Lottery's Red Hot Cherry 7s scratch game.

Spencer Warner won the spelling bee at Blooming Prairie Elementary School. He spelled "poultry" correctly to claim first prize.

20 Years Ago

Feb. 2, 1999

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Three local juveniles have been arrested for the rash of vehicle thefts last summer. Chief Paul Wayne reported that 15 vehicle thefts occurred over a period of months in Blooming Prairie. The investigation was ongoing until a recent suspect admitted to the acts and named additional individuals.

Bradley Nelson and Katrina Olivo were crowned king and queen of Snow Week festivities last Monday night at Blooming Prairie High School.

Catholic School Week is being celebrated Jan. 31-Feb. 5 at St. Isidore's School of Litomysl. The week will begin with a service project of collecting canned goods for Steele County Food Shelf.

Carl Wagaman of Blooming Prairie retired from GTE after 32 years of service recently. Carl was a customer service technician for the company and covered mostly the Hayfield, Brownsdale and Dexter areas as well as a backup for Blooming Prairie.

50 Years Ago

Jan. 29, 1969

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Gary E. White, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard White, Blooming Prairie, has accepted a position as medical salesman with the 3-M Company in St. Paul. He began his duties with the firm on Jan. 27.

The Steele County Sheriff's Office investigated 147 traffic accidents during 1968. They included five fatal crashes, 69 personal injury and 73 property damage.

A pair of lifesavers of this winter's blasts is Joe Wurst, Jr. and Tom Camerer, employees of Harpel Chevrolet Co. of Blooming Prairie. They have gone to the aid of stranded motorists at all hours of the night, on Sundays and holidays, in addition to the calls from car owners throughout the day. Harpels operates two tow trucks.

75 Years Ago

Feb. 3, 1944

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Information given the Times Wednesday afternoon by Dr. B.A. Zupp, local veterinarian, reveals that a dog poisoner is again getting in his cowardly work here. One dog has already died in the terrible agony of strychinine poisoning. Druggist Olson's fine Labrador hunting dog and Attorney Thorson's little pet Water Spaniel were discovered in the nick of time and saved by the doctor. Two other dogs had also gotten a dose of the poison.

Mrs. Palmer Peterson was hostess to the Past Matrons Club at her home Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 1. There were seven members present. It was the annual business meeting. New officers elected were Mrs. T.P. Golberg, president; Mrs. O.C. Ulland, vice president; Mrs. A.L. Fosteson, secretary-treasurer and Mrs. Ragna H. Peterson, press chairman.

Nelson & Bray of Blooming Prairie, operators of stores at Pratt, Waltham, Elkton and Sargeant purchased the general store of their competitor, Henry Hahn, at Sargeant. Hahn has been a merchant in the Sargeant area for nearly 50 years.

The Board of Directors of the Blooming Prairie Production Credit Association held its regular organization meeting last Tuesday at the central office for the purpose of electing officers. Mr. Harold Symes was re-elected president; Walter H. Dunn, vice president and H.B. Rockne, secretary-treasurer.

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

FEB. 7
1 p.m. – Movies, BP Library

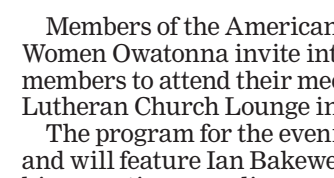
FEB. 11
6:30 p.m. – Friends of the Library Meeting, BP Library
7 p.m. – City Council Meeting
1:30 p.m. – Intro to Computers, BP Library

FEB. 12
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
1:30 p.m. – Computer Class, BP Library
2:30 p.m. – BP Public Utilities Meeting
4:30 p.m. – Fire Commission Meeting
7 p.m. – Planning & Zoning Meeting

FEB. 13
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
4:30 p.m. – Economic Development Authority Meeting

FEB. 14
4 p.m. – Police Commission Meeting

FEB. 19
5:30 p.m. – Ambulance Commission Meeting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ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

FEB. 8
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

FEB. 11
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
7 p.m. – Berlin Township Meeting

FEB. 13
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

FEB. 7
5 p.m. – Preschool Taco Supper and Open House, Good Shepherd Lutheran
6:30 p.m. – History Detectives, History Center
6:30 p.m. – Story Time, Owatonna Library

FEB. 11
4:30 p.m. – Park & Rec Board Meeting, City Admin Building

FEB. 12
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Tale Time, Owatonna Library
1 p.m. – So Many Books... So Little Time, Owatonna Library
5 p.m. – Steele County Board Meeting, County Admin Building
5:30 p.m. – Human Rights Commission Meeting, City Admin Building
5:30 p.m. – Neighborhood Improvement Projects Meetings, Arts Center
5:30 p.m. – Planning Commission Meeting, City Admin Building

FEB. 13
5 p.m. – 2019 City Employee Celebration, Elk's Club

AAUW Owatonna plans February meeting

Members of the American Association of University Women Owatonna invite interested guests and potential members to attend their meeting on Feb. 11 at 7p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church Lounge in Owatonna.

The program for the evening is Opioid addiction in the U.S. and will feature Ian Bakewell, RPh, PharmD. Ian will share his expertise regarding prevention, treatment and overdose reversal drugs as it relates to the opioid epidemic.

Sheriff to provide safety lesson for women

SHERIFF LON THIELE

The Woman's Club of Owatonna will resume its 2018-2019 season at 1 p.m. this Thursday at St. John Lutheran Church, 1301 Lincoln Ave., with personal safety as the theme.

The speaker is Steele County Sheriff Lon Thiele. There will be a question and answer period after his prepared remarks.

Thiele was re-elected to his third term in November. Sheriff Thiele is a 1985 graduate of Owatonna High School and received is AAS in law enforcement from Hibbing Technical College.

He began his career as a police officer in Madison, S.D. He was the SWAT team commander, a firearms instructor, field training officer, defensive tactics instructor and a member of the critical incident response team, and was active in the community. He was named the 1997 South Dakota Peace Officer of the Year.

He returned to Minnesota in 1997 having accepted a position as a deputy with the Watonwan County Sheriff's Office. In 1999, he accepted the Chief of Police position in Truman, Minn. He completed the Minnesota Chief Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO) Academy.

He accepted a position as a Steele County deputy in 2003 and was promoted to sergeant in 2006. He was elected sheriff in 2010, and was re-elected in 2014 and 2018. A year ago, he was named Peace Officer of the Year by the Exchange Club of Steele County.

He has been successful in obtaining grants and has historically brought the department in under budget.

He found a Thompson machine gun that had been assigned to the Sheriff's department in the 1930s in the basement of the Law Enforcement Center. It had been collecting dust for decades. Working with the ATF, he was allowed to sell it to a private collector for $37,500.

"It was a win-win for the sheriff's office," he said. "The proceeds bought a squad car and the buyer placed the gun behind glass, not on the street."

Greeters on Thursday will be Harriet Bakehouse and Diane Engelstad. The tea committee is being chaired by Sharon Bishop with Margaret Gaworecki, Karen Kanne, Gloria Kenow, Penny Nordhorn, Cory Peters and Judy Srsen serving on the committee.

Finally, nice enough to play hockey

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Finally, it became warm enough to skate on the Blooming Prairie ice rink. Winter conditions have not been too kind to the ice rink. Here, worker Colin Lerum and friend William Cardenas keep their eyes on the puck during a practice session.

Eagles offers scholarships

The Owatonna Eagles would like to invite all traditional and non-traditional students to apply for three $1,000 scholarships that will be awarded in May 2019.

A Link with more information and an application can be found at www.eagles1791.com.

The funding for the generous award is from the Don Tuerk Endowment. Don Tuerk was a community-minded Owatonna native, long-time Eagles member, and Owatonna fireman. The scholarship will be targeted, but not limited, to students with goals of public service, two or four year degrees. Scholarships will be used for improving our communities and helping others.

Please encourage everyone that you know to apply. Deadline is March 31.

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Feb 7 Swiss Steak in Gravy, Buttered Noodles, Seasoned Broccoli, Carrot Pineapple Salad, Chocolate Cherry Bar

Feb 8 Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Corn, Coleslaw, Fruit Cup

Feb 11 Swedish Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes/Marg, Seasoned Broccoli, Beet Pickles, Mixed Fruit Cup

Feb 12 Oven Baked Chicken, Bread Dressing, Parslied Carrots, Coleslaw, Apple Crisp

Feb 13 Hearty Vegetable Soup, Hamwich Sandwich, Alt: Turkeywich Sandwich, 3-Bean Salad, Cranberry Bog Dessert

KC fish fry coming to BP

The Blooming Prairie Knights of Columbus #4323 will host a fish fry from 5-8 p.m. on Friday, March 8 at the BP Servicemen's Club.

The menu will include mouth-watering fish fillets, cheese bread, baked potato, dessert, vegetable, juice and coffee.

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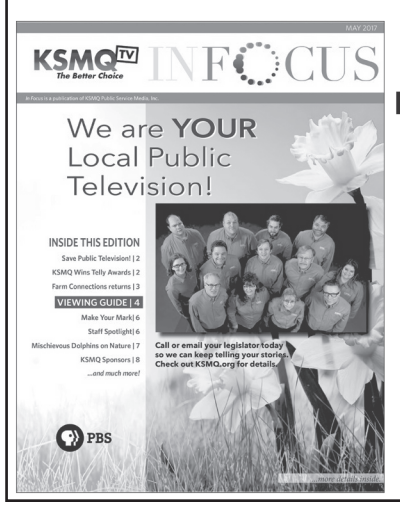
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OBITUARIES

Rose Mary Nelson, 71, Annandale

Rose Mary Nelson of Annandale passed away on Jan. 25, 2019, at the age of 71 following a courageous battle with cancer.

A wake was held Wednesday, Jan. 30 at Dingmann Funeral Care Chapel in Annandale. Mass of Christian Burial was held on Thursday, Jan. 31 at 3 p.m. at St. Ignatius Catholic Church. There was a Celebration of Life reception after the funeral at Classic Hall Event Center in Annandale.

She was born in West Concord on Sept. 13, 1947 to John and Catherine (Lambert) Wilson as one of eight siblings. Following high school graduation, she took business courses at the University of Minnesota that prepared her for a successful 32-year professional career in the telecommunications industry.

Rose Mary married the love of her life, Don Nelson, on July 10, 1970. Their partnership was a perfect union in marriage, as well as in business, community leadership and volunteerism. Throughout their life together, they treasured time at a cabin on Lake Sylvia outside of Annandale. In 2002, they moved permanently to Lake Sylvia, starting a successful marine business, Anchor Dock and Lift.

Providing "world class service" in her work as well as championing the communities she lived in was central to Rose Mary's life. Always the "promoter and booster" she loved to share the accomplishments of friends, family and community, always making connections. She and Don loved to provide hospitality to friends, neighbors, family and business associates. Their home, patio and dock were always open to gatherings, meals, bonfires and lively conversation.

Rose Mary believed in and lived a life of civic engagement. She was a member of the Twin West Chamber of Commerce, Twin Cities United Way Fundraising Chair, Junior Achiever supporter, participant in the Community Service Team Leadership Program, and a founding member of U.S. West Minnesota Management Women. Rose Mary was recognized in the 1980s as a staunch advocate for equal pay and rights for women working in management.

Her civic engagement continued when she and Don moved to Lake Sylvia, where she was a founding member and former chair of the Annandale Area Community Team (ACT), a group that planned and facilitated community visioning sessions and leadership teams to work on projects to achieve community goals. Those many projects improved the quality of life for area residents and included the creation of the Clock Tower Park, development of the popular Field to Feast community dinners that support locally grown food, a farmer's market and an opportunity for hundreds to gather for a meal on Main Street. She was an active member of the Annandale Chamber of Commerce and the Annandale Improvement Club. Her passion for the lake brought her to work on the Greater Lake Sylvia Association with a focus on the battle against invasive lake species. Rose Mary and Don were recognized for their outstanding volunteerism in 2014 with the Honorary Aquatennial Commodores award for community service.

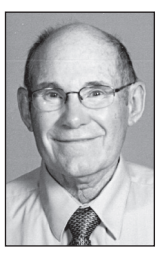
Rose Mary loved kayaking with her friends, attending her book club, traveling and entertaining. Her ever positive spirit and attitude were contagious and resulted in making others appreciate life's blessings. Her continuous work to serve her family, friends, business and community will leave a lasting legacy. Rose Mary always made people know how important and special they were and promoted their potential to do good in the world.

Rose Mary was preceded in death by her parents, sisters Rose Nelson and Carolyn Jorgensen, and brother Dick Wilson.

She is survived by her husband Don Nelson, sister Mary Rosati, and brothers Mike, Lynn and Grant (Tammy) Wilson. She loved her nieces and nephews Cheryl Rosati, Steve Rosati, Angie Hubert, Jeff Jorgensen, Jennifer Cowan, Shelly Wilson, Jessica Larson, Catherine Wilson, and Laura Wilson. Her great nieces and nephews, Patrick and Bobby Cowan, Finnegan Jorgensen, and Annabelle Hubert brought her great joy. She is also survived by her aunt Nancy Lambert and many cousins. Rose Mary was godmother to Jennifer Cowan, Catherine Wilson, Bjorn Wangensteen and Lindsey (Moore) Oldre. She will continue to be held in the hearts of her family, friends and community as we carry on the positive attitude and good will toward each other, always striving to make the world better.

Obituary, Guestbook & Video Tribute online at www.dingmannfuneral.com. Arrangements were handled by Dingmann Funeral Care Burial & Cremation Services in Annandale.

Duane Wayne Wohl, 76, Blooming Prairie



Duane Wayne Wohl, age 76 of Blooming Prairie, formerly of South Dakota, passed away Monday, Jan. 28, 2019 at his home.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, February 8, 2019 at First Baptist Church in Blooming Prairie with Pastor Matthew Fennell officiating. Visitation will be held for one hour prior Friday at the church. Refreshments will be provided after the service. Interment will be in South Dakota at a later date.

Duane was born on March 19, 1942 in Fort Yates, N.D., to Ernest and Pauline (Horning) Wohl. Duane grew up in McLaughlin, S.D., and on June 7, 1964 married Marilyn Hetterley. Together the couple had two children, Devin and Gena. They had resided in McLaughlin, S.D., Redfield, S.D. and Lemmon, S.D. before moving to Renner, S.D. in 1993.

On Jan. 19, 2018, Duane and Marilyn moved to Blooming Prairie, to be closer to their daughter and family. He attended the First Baptist Church in Blooming Prairie. Duane was an avid car guy, and enjoyed motorcycling, camping and reading. He had a passion for helping friends and family with projects. Duane was a people person, who had a kind heart and loved family time.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Marilyn, of Blooming Prairie, a son, Devin (Silke) Wohl of Germany, and a daughter, Gena (Jeremy) McGillivary of Kasson; three grandchildren, Torey Wohl, Kaiden McGillivary, and Riley McGillivary; two brothers, Larry Wohl of Spokane, Wash., Van (Sue) Wohl of Reardan, Wash.; and many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends. Special members included into the family are: Lois Oberlander-Condie, ShashiKanth SN and family, and Sakurako (Naoki) Kudo.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ernest and Pauline Wohl; and one younger brother, Arlyn.

Worlein Funeral Home in Blooming Prairie is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family at:

Marilyn Wohl and family
226 3rd St. SE.
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

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BOOK NOOK

Computer classes rescheduled for February

NANCY VAILLANCOURT

Mother Nature had some other plans for us during the month of January, so several of the Basic Computer Classes at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library were postponed.

We will be meeting on the following Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. Here is the new plan for our upcoming classes:

Feb. 12 - Learn how to make a document on your computer. We will address keyboard shortcuts, changing fonts, correcting mistakes, adding clipart, and more.

Feb. 19 - Class members requested more information about managing your photographs online. We will look at editing photos, printing photos, and also organizing folders on your computer in which to store your photos.

Feb. 26 - Bring your tablets/smart phones/laptops to find out how to download books, audiobooks, movies, music, and television shows. All of these formats are available with your Owatonna Public Library or Blooming Prairie Branch Library.

Come for whichever class you are most interested in. If you can't make those times, call the library at 507-583-7750 to set up a time to meet one on one to address your questions. See you at the library!

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Birthdays

February 6
Rick Miller
Connie Trihus
Tony Glynn
Jena Lee
Gina Hendrickson
Holli Naatz

February 7
Lucas Swenson
Gloria Trom
Julie Horn
Pete Kittelson
Derek Miner

February 8
Jaxon LaMotte
Rick Krejci

February 9
Luke Winzenburg
Stacy Johnson

February 10
Corey Butera
Anthony C. Nelson

February 11
Kristin Krell
Kim Trotman
John Konecne
Weston Fiebiger
Steve Drexler

February 12
Emily Trihus
Justin Esplan
Alan Schaefer
Gary Polinder
Adam Esplan

Anniversaries

February 6 Ryan and Jenny Heimerman

February 9 Mark and Karen Thoen

February 12 Mark and Diane Lembke

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Thursday - Your Choice
Friday - Beef
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Recipe Corner

Wild Rice and Chicken Hot Dish

INGREDIENTS:
3 c. cooked chicken or turkey, diced
1/2 tsp. salt
1 c. celery, chopped
1 (8 oz.) can sliced water chestnuts, chopped
3/4 c. mayonnaise
1 c. wild rice, cooked
1 (10 3/4 oz.) can cream of chicken soup
1 T. onion, chopped
1 tsp. lemon juice

TOPPING:
1/4 c butter, melted
1 c. corn flakes, crushed
1/2 c. slivered almonds

DIRECTIONS:
In a large bowl, combine all ingredients except topping. Spoon into greased 9x13-inch pan. In a small bowl, combine topping ingredients; sprinkle over casserole. Bake at 350° for 35 minutes, or until top is brown and heated through. Yield: 8 servings.

Note: This may be refrigerated before baking; allow extra baking time if chilled.

Sponsored by

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

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Wrapped in grace in Guyana

Rev. Amanda Weinkauf
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
OWATONNA

Some friends and I were in Guyana on a 2007 mission trip, staying in the small coastal town of Skeldon. We had just finished Sunday worship when a man approached us, introduced himself as Chattergoon Jamsie, and asked us to come to his home a couple of nights later.

"You must come. Pastor Brian is coming and he can bring you too. We are having a Nine Night Service. See you then!"

Pastor Brian filled us in on what we had just been invited too. The Nine Night Service is a tradition in Guyana as well as other Caribbean countries. It is a celebration of life held nine nights after the death of an individual. The service is held in the home of the deceased, usually with singing, eating, and a short liturgy.

The one who had died was Chattergoon's wife.

When we arrived at Chattergoon's home for the service, a tent was set up with rows of chairs and a table with flowers, a Bible, and a tambourine. Women prepared food in the kitchen; the smell of roti and chicken biryani filled the air. The tent filled up quickly. Not wanting to make a scene or draw attention to ourselves, we found our way to the back corner of the tent and sat down quietly. Immediately when Chattergoon saw us, he made his way to greet us. He then graciously and simply said, "Please, come with me."

He took us to the front of the tent, and sat us next to his children in the front row. The service was lovely, filled with prayer, singing and stories. Afterwards, Chattergoon's children, whom we had just met, served our group the meal first, before everyone else in the tent.

It was a quiet car ride back to our bunk house that night. My friend was the only one to break the silence when she said, "Chattergoon and his family were Jesus to us tonight."

Despite their sorrow, this family embodied the amazing grace that comes from Jesus. They were living out their faith in the only way that knew how - with radical hospitality and a welcoming spirit that made us feel included and greatly loved by complete strangers, a couple of thousand miles from home. This moment has stayed with me for many years and has been formative to my faith. I believe that we have an awesome God who loves us and welcomes us, without conditions. I wonder how can we strive to be Jesus for others? How can we show such welcome and love to those around us, both friend and stranger?

Rev. Amanda Weinkauf
Associate Pastor
Trinity Lutheran Church
Owatonna

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696
Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

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

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

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

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS
2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna
Rev. Mark Rosenau,
Senior Pastor
Rev. Greg Schlicker,
Associate Pastor
507-451-4125
www.goodshepherd owatonna.com
Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

MOLAND LUTHERAN – ELCA
7618 NE 84th Ave., Kenyon
Pastor Nancy Edwardson
507-789-6661
Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN – ELCA
9651 SW 75th St., Ellendale
Pastor Mike Walerius
507-465-8366
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sun.

EDEEMER LUTHERAN – LCMS
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
507-451-2720
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Education Hour:
10:15 a.m. Sun.

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA
30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin
Pastor Lindsay Brennan
507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000
www.roglutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School
(Sept. – May): 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
Pastor Alan Broadwell
507-528-2404
Worship: 6 p.m. Saturday; 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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

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

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
507-451-2165
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m..

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
Trinity Lutheran Church
609 Lincoln Avenue
Owatonna MN 55060
507.451.4520
tlcowatonna.org
Worship:
Saturday: 5 p.m.
Sunday: 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.
tlcowatonna.org/worshipschedule
Pastor Todd Buegler
Pastor Amanda Weinkauf
Deacon Kris Oppegard

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
104 First St. SE., Hayfield
Pastor Paul Hauschild
507-477-2248
www.trinityhayfield.org
Worship: 8 a.m.
& 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS
108 Third Ave. SW., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
507-451-0447
8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS
57043 300th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
Worship: 8:30 a.m.

CATHOLIC

CHRIST THE KING
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

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave. Owatonna
Father John Sauer, Pastor
507-451-1588
www.litomysl.webs.com
Sunday Mass:
9:30 a.m.c with Children's Church
Reconciliation:
8:45 a.m. - 1st & 3rd Sundays
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.:
Faith Formation for K thru Confirmation
Second Sunday of month:
Family Faith Formation
Litomysl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other month

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St., Hayfield
Father Thomas Niehaus
507-477-2256
Mass: 8 a.m. Sun.
& 8:30 a.m. Thursday
Reconciliation: 7:30 a.m. Sun.

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

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
Father Thomas Niehaus
507-583-2784
www.stcolumbanuschurch.com
Mass: 10 a.m. Sun.
& 8:30 a.m. Friday
Reconciliation: 9 a.m.
First Friday & Saturday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna
Father James Starasinick
Deacon Patrick Fagan
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation:
3-3:30 p.m. Sat.
Daily Mass:
8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri.
(Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday)
Adoration Chapel available
Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Key fob required after hours or weekends

CHRISTIAN

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

PENTECOSTAL

FIRST UNITED PENTECOASTAL
230 Locust Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
507-363-2240
Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST
43089 180th St., Medford
(Seven miles west of Medford on CR 23)
Pastors JJ & Stefanie Morgan
507-835-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

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

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST
815 E. University, Owatonna
Loren Olson, Pastor
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
Joyce Parker, Associate Pastor
507-451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship (Pathways): 9 a.m. Sunday
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun.
Reformers Unanimous Meetings: 7 p.m. Friday

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY
130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna
Pastor Keith Haskell
507-215-2249

CEDAR CREEK
30 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
507-477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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

ELEVATION NORTH
2002 Austin Road, Owatonna
Pastor Doug Jones
507-363-3099
www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com
Worship (English): 10 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Worship (Spanish): 2 p.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Spanish Evangelism & Prayer: 7 p.m. Friday

NEW BEGINNINGS
332 14th St. NE., Owatonna
Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson
507-413-0209
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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

MENNONITE

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

MORMON

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

PRESBYTERIAN

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
P.O. Box 66, Claremont
507-528-2320
Pastor Douglas Walters
10 a.m. Worship

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Brian Beavers
507-340-7143
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sat.
Bible Study: 11 a.m. Sat.

UCC

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
211 Main St. S.
Medford
Rev. Richard Waters
507-451-4596
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Pastor Patrick Stitt
507-684-3421
www.vibrantlifeag.com
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST
104 First Ave. NE,
Blooming Prairie
Pastor Matt Fennell
507-583-2673
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
& 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Bible Study: 11:30 a.m. Sun.

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VICTORY LIFE
105 2nd St NE
Geneva
Pastor Diane Butler
507-402-0960
Worship on Sundays
Prayer Service: 7:30 a.m.
Church Service: 9:30 a.m.
Children's Church: 9:45 a.m.

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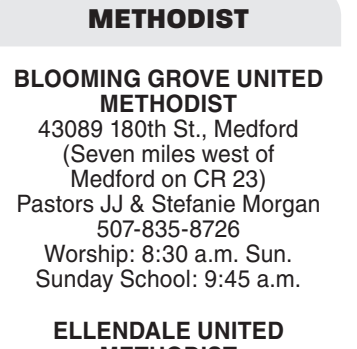

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Claremont, MN

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Blooming Prairie
507-583-6671

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507-583-2018

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SUPERINTENDENT:

FROM A1

.6. The replacement will be full time, thus .4 is added to the position, Krell explained to the public.

"Our student population has grown considerably with the elementary using every space it can including closets and the cafeteria," said Krell.

Chairman Krell said school district growth is sometimes a double-edged sword, meaning that more numbers may equate to quality education and it also may lead to the need to build in the future and that means a bond issue.

Olson is currently under contract with a company approved by the board. The new superintendent will be fully employed by the district, Krell informed.

District resident and former school board member Wayde Bishop asked what type of experience is viewed by the board. "You might get a newbie," responded Krell. The new hire may be a first-time superintendent, possibly coming from the principal ranks, he said.

Bishop said he believed the superintendent should be good at public relations and must have a sound business sense.

"You need a real people person," said local business woman Sue Zwiener.

"We have a quality person at the elementary," interjected district resident Becky Braaten. She was referring to Blooming Prairie Elementary School Principal Chris Staloch. He holds a superintendent's license.

Staloch would be a "win-win" situation for the district, Braaten continued.

Krell agreed that Staloch is an asset to the school district.

Hiring from within also has its negatives, said Wayde Bishop. "It's sometimes like hiring a minister from within," Bishop said. Krell agreed that sometimes someone from the outside may bring new ideas and a different style leadership.

BARRY OLSON

District resident Judy Bishop asked if the new superintendent had to live in the community. Krell said times have changed and superintendents don't always live in the district they serve.

Krell was asked how long a contract the new superintendent would sign. He said it is typically two years.

Board member Ille summarized some of the public concerns and identified strengths they desired. These areas include: visibility, must be a people person, public relations, new initiatives and someone who can balance the stress load.

Some districts hire a firm to coordinate the search and interview process. The board has rejected this approach. "Hiring a head hunter is a waste of money," concurred district resident Mark Larkoski.

"Chris (Mr. Staloch) is a quality guy, and we'd hate to lose him," Zwiener remarked.

"People usually do not spend money to get a superintendent's license if they aren't interested in moving up," Krell said.

"If you are looking at a bond issue down the road, you will have to post the job externally," Bishop said.

Board member Hameister said Staloch is well liked in his current position. "He has proven himself in promoting a new playground," Braaten said. Hameister added that Staloch handled the Harberts tragedy in an admirable manner.

"I assume he (Staloch) has expressed an interest in the position?" Larkoski rhetorically asked. "He has," Krell replied.

Krell thanked the public for its input and said it is the board's goal to do what's best for the kids.

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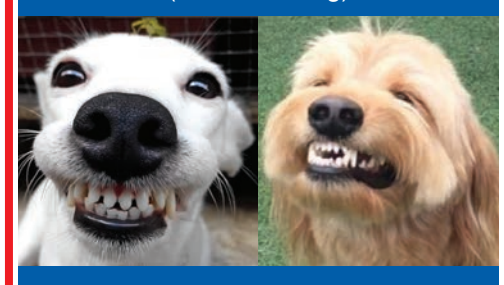

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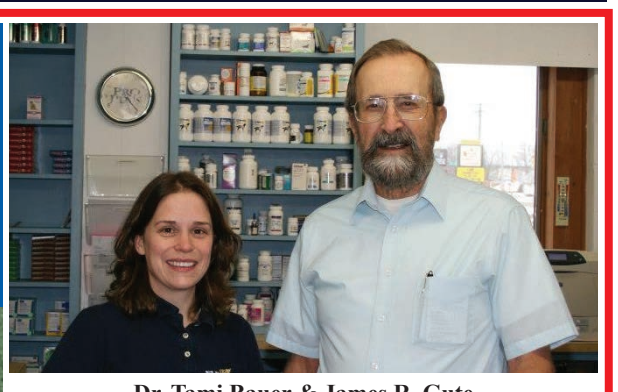

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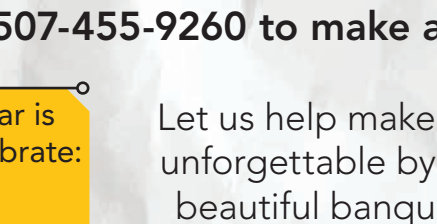

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STEELE COUNTY TIMES TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019 B1

BASKETBALL

Blossoms cruise to a big win

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

BP's Gabe Hagen puts shot up in the Blossoms' 56-55 win over Grand Meadow.

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie boys basketball team played might have played its best game to this point in the season running past New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, 71-51, at BPHS on Friday.

The win improved the Blossom record to 13-3 and 6-2 in conference play.

The team didn't shoot its best, but the defense, ball-handling and team-first approach has never been better.

This coming in a week when we were locked out of the gym for two days because of the weather and played to a one-point win the previous night. It proved to be an incredible week for the Blossoms.

"This was a great week for us," Blooming Prairie head coach Nate Piller said. "The boys were really dialed in against two opponents that have some real talent.

"The guys really continued to play well and stretched the lead when NRHEG was trying to really force turnovers," he continued. "I've said for a long time that we've been winning, despite not playing well. Tonight was different."

Gabe Hagen and Kaden Thomas lead the Blossoms in scoring with 16 and 15 points, respectively.

Zach Archer and Parker Vaith chipped in eight points each.

NRHEG's Jacob Schuler led the Panthers with 12 points, Lonnie Wilson had 10 and Blake Ihrke added nine.

A slow start put NRHEG down 14-5 early in the first half and the team never really got the ball moving enough.

Players were standing a bit too much and the Panther defense wasn't bad but the Blossoms get credit for stepping up and hitting some shots from 3-point range.

"We never got into a good rhythm in the first half and the second half was about the same on both ends," NRHEG head coach Isaiah Lundberg said. "We had an opportunity to get the lead into single digits, but we turned it over and they went down and brought the lead back up into double figures."

One big positive note for the Panthers was that they were 17-of-22 at the free throw line.

NRHEG fell to 7-11 for the overall season.

SEE **BASKETBALL, B2**

Tigers' have Gopher Conference title in sights

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Medford's Kiley Nihart finishes off a fast break layup against Faribault Bethlehem Academy on Friday at MHS.

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Medford girls basketball team winning streak reaches 16 after a 66-31 rout of Faribault Bethlehem Academy (2-16) on Friday at MHS.

"I would say we were rusty for the first half of the game and second half we warmed up some more," Medford senior Bailey Purrier said. "As a team I would say we weren't on our top game but we still had a decent game."

Junior point guard Kiley Nihart led the Tigers in scoring with 20. Emma Kniefel chipped in 18.

Medford can clinch it first Gopher Conference title in girls basketball since 2003 with wins at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (7-13) on Monday and at Waterville-Elysian-Morristown (15-4).

"[A conference title] means a lot to me," Purrier said. "We just go one game at a time and play as hard as we can. Our practices need to be more intense each and everyday. If we play to our ability every game we can achieve the goals we want to reach this season."

GYMNASTICS

Owatonna gymnastics top Faribault on Huskies' Senior Night

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna gymnastics team celebrated Senior Night with a 147.050-122.475 win over Faribault on Friday at the Owatonna Gymnastics Club.

Seniors Allison An, Sydney Kretlow and Grace Barner were honored in a pre-meet ceremony.

"[An and Kretlow] have had incredible careers being all-conference, all-section and all-state almost every year," Owatonna head coach Tom Smith said. "Grace has always been a consistent performer and would compete on most varsity in the state, but our depth on the team is incredible."

Owatonna finished the season undefeated in dual meets.

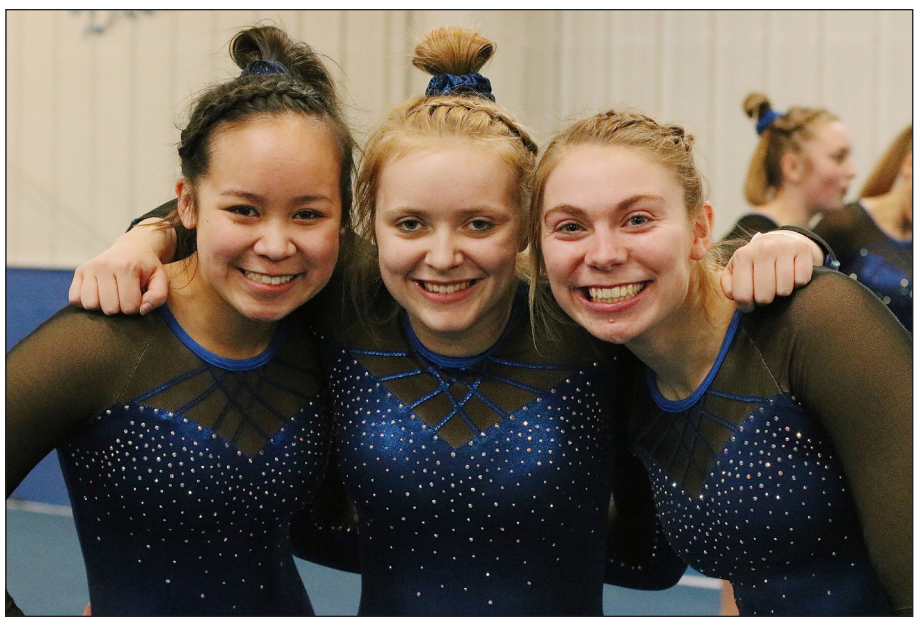

PHOTO COURTESY OF SERENA OMANGI / OHS MAGNET

Owatonna seniors Allison An, Grace Barner and Sydney Kretlow stand for photo on senior night following the Huskies 147.050-122.475 victory over Faribault on Friday at the Owatonna Gymnastics Club.

"This is our fourth-year being undefeated in the conference and section," Smith said.

Owatonna had the high scores in every event.

Sophomore Lindsay Bangs earned gold in the vault (9.500), uneven bars (9.550), balance beam (8.900) and all-around (37.325). An won the floor exercise with a score of 9.650.

The Huskies had the four highest all-around scores in Bangs (37.325), An (37.075), Lucy Macius (36.400) and Kretlow (36.250).

Barner's all-around score of 32.750 was good enough for sixth overall with only Faribault's Lauren McDonough (34.350) earning a higher score.

SEE **GYMNASTICS, B2**

FOOTBALL

Recruiting service upgrades Williamson to four-star prospect

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Former Owatonna running back and current Minnesota Golden Gopher recently was upgraded from a three-star to a four-star prospects by 247sports.com.

JASON WILLIAMSON

Owatonna and Minnesota fans should be able to catch their first glimpse of Williamson, a January enrollee, in Maroon and Gold during the Gophers' Spring game on April 13 at TCF Bank Stadium.

"He posted monster number in his team's playoff run," 247sports.com noted. "While high school stats only count into this rankings process a small amount, between those measurable qualities and his production, it was tough to keep him out of four-star range."

Williamson gained over 3,000 yards this past season in leading Owatonna to second straight MSHSL Class 5A State Title.

247sports.com added, "His ability to project to different positions makes him unique. At first, we saw him as an athlete who could play safety or maybe outside linebacker. The more we have seen him play running back, the more we see

SEE **WILLIAMSON, B2**

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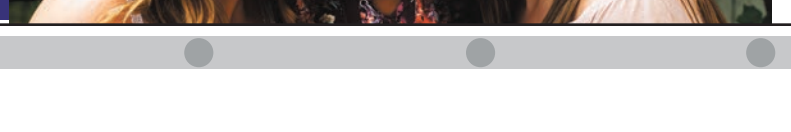

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BASKETBALL

BP girls pick up road win

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie girls basketball team captured a road conference win at New Richland, 53-52, on Friday.

The Awesome Blossoms played some of their best basketball of the year in the first half and jumped out to 29-20 lead behind some outstanding defense.

In the second half the Blossoms held the lead until about 3 minutes to go, but in the last minutes the lead changed hands six times with the locals taking the final lead on a rebound basket by Megan Oswald. Maya Lembke saved the game with a huge offensive rebound that helped run the final second off the clock. That win ups the Blossom record to 9-6 overall and 5-4 in the conference.

"This was a huge conference win tonight for us," BP head coach John Bruns said. "Some outstanding defense and some hot shooting enabled us to take a good lead at the half. This was a good win, considering the layoff from the days of no school."

Bobbie Bruns led the scoring with 15 points and six assists. Megan Oswald scored another double-double with 14 points and 13 rebounds, Julia Worke added 13 points and eight rebounds and Maya Lembke had 11 rebounds. Sophie Stork poured in 26 points for the Panthers including seven 3-point baskets. Alexis Anderson added 11 points.

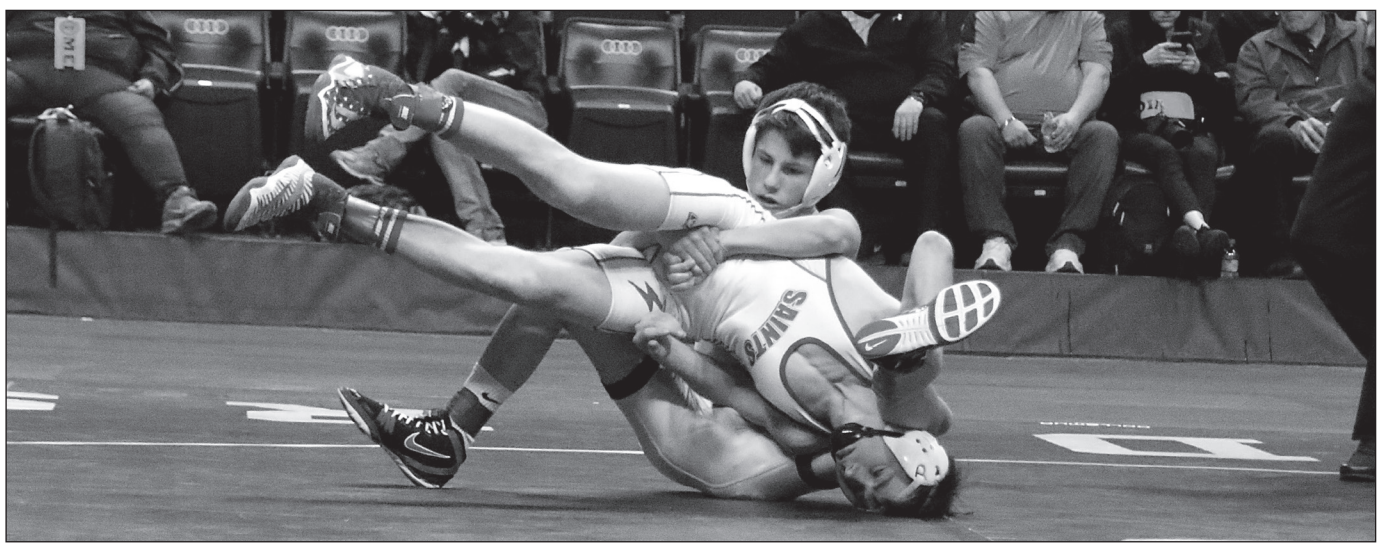
"We put ourselves in a hole in the first half by going down 9 points," NRHEG head coach Onika Peterson. "We gave them too many points in transition by not giving back and playing defense. I'm proud of the way the girls battled back in the second half. Our record fell to 7-13 and 4-5 in conference play."

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

BP's Bobbie Bruns drives past the defense in a earlier game this season.

WRESTLING

Tiger compete at Mike Fasnacht Memorial



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Medford's Charley Elwood competes during the 2018 MSHSL State Meet.

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Medford wrestling team finished eighth at the Mike Fasnacht Memorial on Saturday at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School.

"It was a really tough tournament," Medford head coach Dennis Whitman said. "Our kids competed well."

Medford scored 62.5 points as team, while Shakopee took home first place with 229.5 and earned gold in six different weight classes.

Willie VonRiden (145-pound weight class) was the Tigers lone winner.

Charley Elwood, who's ranked No. 1 at 113 in Class A, finished second after he was injured in the semifinals of the tournament and did not return.

Whitman said he wasn't sure if Elwood would miss any additional time.

Medford's Brennon Hoffman placed fourth at 220, while Alex Helgeson (106), Tate Hermes (132) and Zach Wetmore (170) finished sixth in their respective weight classes.

Mike Fasnacht Memorial

Saturday, Feb. 2 at JWP High School

Team Results: Shakopee 229.5, Minneota 161, Dover-Eyota 124.5, Farmington 117.5, Chatfield 114.5, Jackson County Central 106.0, Wabasha-Kellogg 73.5, Medford 62.5, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown/Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 29, Saint Clair-Mankato Loyola 27.

First Place Finishers—106: Pierson Manville (Shakopee). **113:** Pazton Creese (Shakopee). **120:** Ben Lunn (Shakopee). **126:** Tyler Jones (Shakopee). **132:** Nolan Rommel (Wabasha-Kellogg). **138:** Tagen Miller (Wabasha-Kellogg). **145:** Willie VonRuden (Medford). **152:** Marcus Otomo (Dover-Eyota). **160:** Connor Raines (Shakopee). **170:** Shawn Buysse (Minneota). **182:** Joey Johnson (Shakopee). **195:** Michael Nelson (Dover-Eyota). **220:** Eli Edlin (Jackson County Central). **285:** Jackosn Esping (Minneota).

GYMNASTICS: *Owatonna* FROM B1

Owatonna junior varsity team won 137.600-39.000 and had the top five finishers in every competition.

"The JV scored 137.6 and broke the school record by 1.7," Smith said. "That score would beat 80 percent of the varsity teams in the state."

Cheyenne Petersen led the Huskies with an all-around score of 34.200. She was followed by Kaitlyn Cobban (35.050), Kaelyn Smith (34.050) and Marissa Gronli (31.550).

Owatonna will be back in action on February 9 in Winona for the Big 9 Conference Meet.

WILLIAMSON: *four star* FROM B1

that as a real option in college as well."

Williamson gained more than 7,000 total rushing yards in high school career, which is the second most in state history.

He was named Mr. Football, AP Player of the Year, USA Today Minnesota Offensive Player of The Year and Gatorade Player of the Year this past season.

NRHEG Runs Past JWP

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva girls basketball team wasted no time getting back on the court, rolling over Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 80-40 at Janesville on Thursday.

The Panthers jumped to a 51-19 halftime lead and were never threatened during the entire contest.

"The team came out real strong tonight," NRHEG head coach Onika Peterson said. "The girls looked to run, attack the basket, and rebounded strong. It was great to get them back in the gym and get a win after a long break. They had gone almost 2 weeks without a game."

Sidney Schultz led the scoring with 22 points but Darian Peterson contributed 18 points and nine rebounds to the total. Alexis Anderson flirted with a triple-double and had 10 points, 10 rebounds and six assists. Sophie Stork chipped in nine points with five steals.

BASKETBALL: *BP* FROM B1

BP EDGES GRAND MEADOW

The BP boys handled the long layoff with control on their home court, defeating Grand Meadow 56-55 on Thursday.

"It was good hard-fought win," BP senior Trent Swenson said. "We knew going into the game that it was going to be tough, but we played how we were suppose to and shut down the guys that we thought were the biggest threats, and it ended up going our way."

Both teams played fairly well considering the break due to weather.

The Super Larks have 14 wins and they have won against some very good teams, so this win was a big one.

"It was kind of rough week because we haven't school and this was our first day back," Swenson said. "We just have to turn right around, play our next game and keep the ball rolling."

The Blossoms got some quality minutes from a number of players, and the defense from the boys all night long was huge.

Grand Meadow rebounds the ball well so that was a challenge for BP and they handled the challenge well.

"Our communication on defense was good," Swenson said. "We have been talking a lot better on defense and that's helped us out a lot."

An opportunity to stretch a six-point lead was erased by the visitors 3-point shooting.

BP led most of the game except for a brief two-point lead for Grand Meadow, but the Blossoms buckled down defensively and were able to hang on.

"It's a big section win for us," BP head coach Nate Piller said. "Both teams came in with just three losses and GM had played a lot of section games so this win was special. We had to play defense from a missed free throw, but played well and gathered in the last rebound to end the game."

Hagen led the Blossoms scoring with 18 points, but Karson Vigeland added 17 points and Thomas added eight points. Austin Funk scored 21 points for Grand Meadow.

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STARS OF STEELE

Charley Elwood, Medford wrestling
Elwood may only be an eighth-grader, but he is 20-0 and ranked No. 1 at the 113-pound weight class in Class A. He has earned gold in tournaments at Kenyon, Buffalo, Stewartville and Lake Crystal this season.

Sophie Stork, NRHEG girls basketball
Stork is averaging 16 points per game as a freshman for the NRHEG Panthers. She has been a key contributor on both ends of the court pulling down 112 rebounds and dishing out 25 assists on offense and grabbing 11 steals and blocking 14 shots on defense.

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Pros say most furnaces will be fine as they run continuously in the bitter cold, but there are a couple of steps homeowners can take to lessen the chance of a problem.

Tip No. 1 from professionals is to make sure furnace filters are clean.
"Check your filter on your furnace. If they are plugged up, that's a problem. You absolutely have to replace them," said Milwaukee home maintenance expert Tom Feiza, owner of Mr. Fit-It Inc. "If they are a little dirty they still will work. But if they are plugged up with dirt, that will ruin the furnace and force it to shut down, too."

Tip No. 2 Blowing and drifting snow also can cause an issue for furnaces if outdoor vents get buried or clogged with snow. They should be checked to make sure they're clear.

"One thing a lot of customers don't think about are those exhaust pipes that vent out," said Christina Yendrzeski of Quality Heating & Sheet Metal Co. "Older units usually vent out through the chimney, but newer units vent out through PVC on the side of the house." Check for drifting snow around these exhaust pipes and clear away ASAP. Furnaces typically will automatically shut down if they can't properly vent.

It's also recommended homeowners make sure the snow hasn't covered up their clothes dryer vent to the outside.

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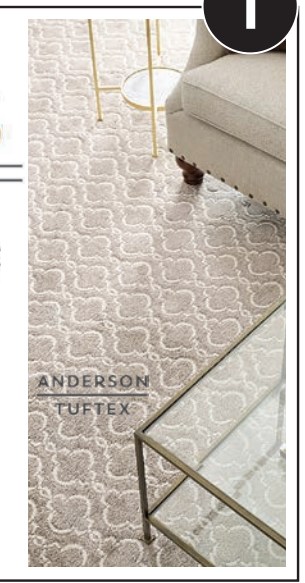

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BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: Carbon Monoxide: Firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide incident in the 600 block of El Dorado St. at 7:08 p.m.

MnDOT wraps up speed limit study on rural roads

Speeds to increase on highways in Steele and Dodge counties

By RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Speed limits on many rural highways, including some in Steele and Dodge counties, will be increasing after the Minnesota Department of Transportation completed a five-year study on speed limits.

MnDOT is increasing speeds on 5,240 miles of state highways based on recommendations found in the study, which was released last week. The speeds will increase from 55 to 60 miles per hour.

Highways affected with the higher speed limits in Steele County include Highway 30 from Ellendale to Blooming Prairie and through Dodge County to U.S. Highway 63 outside of Rochester; U.S. Highway 218 from Austin to Owatonna; U.S. Highway 14 from Owatonna to Dodge Center.

Also included in Dodge County is Highway 56 going from the Iowa border through Dodge County and ending by Randolph.

The increased speed limits have already been in effect on Highways 30 and 56.

Of the 7,000 miles studied, speed limits ultimately will be increased on 77 percent of rural, two-lane state highways, according to MnDOT's final report. New speed limits go into effect once signs are posted.

In 2014, the Minnesota Legislature mandated that MnDOT study all Minnesota two-lane roadways with a speed of 55 miles per hour.

It is the most comprehensive study the agency has made in terms of miles studied and level of detail, according to Nathan Drews, engineering specialist in the Office of Traffic Engineering.

The study is also the largest system-wide change in Minnesota speed limits since the national maximum speed limit of 55 mph was included in President Nixon's Emergency Highway Conservation Act bill in 1974. The Minnesota Commissioner of Highways later that year established an executive order about speed limits.

The $1.2 million study included collecting travel speed samples on each section of roadway and evaluating roadway geometrics and hazards to determine if a speed limit could be changed without affecting motorist safety.

The recommendation for a speed increase along each of the roadways considered the speed that 85 percent of motorists drive at or below along with an evaluation of other factors, such as access points, shoulder width, vertical grades and crash history.

MnDOT has conducted before and after studies on many roadways that recently increased to 60 mph. There was no change in the overall 85th percentile speed from before the speed limit change to after. The mean speed, which is the average speed of all drivers, increased by one mile per hour and the standard deviation, which is the measure of how spread out the drivers' speeds were, reduced slightly.

"This means that after speed limits increased, travel speeds at the locations sampled were slightly more consistent between each vehicle," said Drews. "In other words, more drivers traveled at a similar speed after speed limits increased. This is a desirable outcome, but this change is very slight and may not affect the frequency or severity of crashes."

This most recent study echoes results from the previous studies. From 2006 to 2013, MnDOT increased speeds to 60 mph on 1,550 miles of two-lane rural highways. Studies conducted to determine the impact of raising speed limits on those roadways found that the overall 85th percentile speed before and after the changes were the same, the average speed increased slightly and the variation of the speeds decreased.

Drews said a properly selected speed limit can potentially increase the safety of the roadway by creating uniform travel speeds for all vehicles.

MnDOT plans to study the effect of the changes over the next several years to ensure these roadways continue to operate safely.

CRIME BRIEF

MAN'S DRINKING EPISODE LEADS TO FELONY DWI

MARCUS MARTIN

A man's night of heavy drinking has led to a felony DWI charge against him.

Marcus Martin, 45, of Rochester has been charged with two counts of felony DWI and driving after cancellation for being inimical to public safety in Steele County District Court.

Owatonna Police received a citizen report of an intoxicated driver on Jan. 30. Officers stopped the vehicle on State Avenue. During the stop, the officer found Martin displaying signs of intoxication. Martin was also found to have a cancelled driver's license.

While at the jail, Martin became uncooperative by shoulder-checking the breath test instrument and causing it to become detached from the computer stand. He later refused to submit to a breath test and threatened to beat up an officer until he was black and blue.

Court records show Martin has been convicted of a previous felony DWI in 2017.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 21 with Judge Ross L. Leuning presiding:

Viengvilay Phetsomphou, 37, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. The defendant was sentenced to $131, 3 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 21 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Branden A. Hendrickson, 19, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. He was sentenced to $131 and 15 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

Andrew O. Nordby, 41, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana and misdemeanor DWI. Nordby was sentenced to $131, 137 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, mental health evaluation, chemical dependency evaluation, maintain employment, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

Joseph A. Stenbakken, 33, Dixon, MO, previously appeared and was convicted of felony non-support of spouse or child and felony escape from custody. He was sentenced to $10,324.95, 165 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, mental health evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 21 – 27:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Shannah R. Roloff, 18, Shakopee, unsafe passing, $131.

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Cole T. Lenort, 21, Clarks Grove, public water access violation, $37.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Tah Eh, 31, Allentown, PA, speeding, $131; Joshua D. Filipovich, 20, Eveleth, unsafe change of course, $1,121 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Luisa M. Fuentes, 31, Austin, DWI, $381, 1 day in county jail, substance abuse subtle screening inventory, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Ryan T. Guenther, 21, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Kaushal Kalyanasundaram, 22, Omaha, NE, speeding, $121; Megan M. Kline, 18, Faribault, impeding traffic, $131; Keith E. Knight, 73, Adams, speeding, $121; Heather J. Knoke, 27, Mounds View, speeding, $141; Win Kyi, 25, St. Paul, speeding, $121; Jack D. Lothenbach, 61, Bloomington, speeding, $121; Parker E. Moore, 17, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Irakoze Olestina, 25, Des Moines, IA, speeding, $121; Marco A. Regalado Ambriz, 25, Crete, NE, speeding, $131; Kari M. Rickenbach, 28, Minneapolis, speeding, $121; Kusheenya I. Rogers, 28, Owatonna, no insurance, $281; Matthew L. Smith, 53, Spring Park, speeding, $121; Kenneth D. Stevenson, 39, Clarks Grove, unsafe lane usage, $131; Jonathan C. Valenzuela, 27, Calipatria, CA, speeding, $131; Shannon L. Walker, 34, Sheffield, IA, speeding, $131; Tisha M. Wells, 39, Des Moines, IA, no license, $181; Luke P. Wiersma, 27, Springfield, MO, texting while driving, $131; Samuel J. Wood, 26, Faribault, speeding and no child passenger restraint system, $271.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Abdi M. Ahmed, 29, Owatonna, speeding, $201; Keven M. Daugherty, 24, Fridley, no insurance, $281; Isaac K. Erickson, 18, Owatonna, permit violation, $131; Deuce J. Hodge, 28, Owatonna, revoked license, $281; D'ago E. Padilla, 18, Owatonna, minor consumption, $181; Zachery P. Pena, 25, Owatonna, failure to yield, $131; Joshua J. Radsek, 34, Owatonna, failure to yield, $131; Erica L. Rainone, 30, revoked license, no insurance and expired tabs, $511; Steven R. Slater, 22, Owatonna, obscured license plate, $111; Noriah M. Tabor, 23, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, $131; Brian T. Thompson, 42, Medford, expired tabs, $111; Chris A. Vruno, 31, Faribault, controlled substance crime and false name to peace officer, stay of adjudication, $100, 56 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, psychological evaluation, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Julian R. Waggoner, 52, Owatonna, speeding, $131; Jason D. Wencl, 43, Faribault, speeding, $121; Jordan E. Whalen, 17, Owatonna, stop sign, $131; Allison D. Whitbeck, 38, Owatonna, texting while driving, $131; Sallie M. Wilson, 36, Owatonna, failure to stop for traffic collision, $131 and 1 year of supervised probation.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jerima O. Agwa, 26, Austin, permit violation, $131; Hannah J. Anderson, 19, Owatonna, suspended license, $281; Douglas M. Bjorge, 31, Owatonna, speeding, $121; John R. Brown, 36, Waterville, speeding, $221; Seti Fernandez, 40, Owatonna, speeding and no insurance, $341; Aaron J. Fitzgerald, 51, Medford, speeding, $121; Laura J. Hering, 58, Faribault, speeding, $131; Jay K. Lee, 36, St. Paul, speeding and no child passenger restraint system, $171; Michael R. Nowacki, 36, Kasson, expired tabs, $111; Ray M. Sellers, 48, Blooming Prairie, revoked license, $281; Bobby J. Smitty, 25, Blooming Prairie, no insurance, $281; Laura M. Stene, 44, New Richland, speeding, $141.

ARRESTS
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Peyton Nicole Crow, 25, arrested at 4:02 p.m. Jan. 29, probation violation arrest, held for court.

Adelin Marie Schmidt, 27, arrested at 6 p.m. Jan. 29, warrant arrest, held for court.

Marcus Antwan Martin, 45, arrested at 2:44 a.m. Jan. 29, felony DWI and cancelled license, held for court.

Scott Edward Wagaman, 48, arrested at 3:04 a.m. Jan. 30, felony domestic assault-strangulation, held for court.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE
Jan. 30

Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of 3rd St. NE at 2:27 a.m.

OWATONNA POLICE
Jan. 25

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of Oakdale St. SW at 12:28 p.m.

Drugs: Officers responded to drug activity in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 1:02 p.m.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 2200 block of 30th St. NW at 5:04 p.m.

Domestic: At 7:30 p.m., police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 600 block of School St. E. They arrested a juvenile at the scene.

Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 11:57 p.m.

Jan. 26

Harassment: At 6:26 a.m., a harassment incident occurred in the 200 block of 18th St. SW.

DWI: Officer arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 1700 block of Cedar Valley Dr. NW at 9:50 a.m.

Shoplifting: At 2:30 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Mental Health: Officers responded to a mental health incident in the 200 block of 18th St. SW at 2:48 p.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 1900 block of St. Paul Rd. NE at 6:20 p.m.

Disturbance: Police responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Vine St. E. at 10:04 p.m.

Jan. 27

Theft: Police received a theft report from the 900 block of Vine St. E. at 6:37 p.m.

Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1200 block of Bellflower Lane NE at 8:39 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Jan. 28

Crash: At 5:25 p.m., police responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at 46th St. NW and Frontage Rd. W. They issued a citation to one of the drivers.

Jan. 29

Theft: Police received a theft report from the 300 block of Vine St. E. at 11:57 a.m.

Shoplifting: At 12:05 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S.

Theft: A motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 100 block of Lewis Dr. NW at 2:52 p.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 3:22 p.m.

Jan. 30

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Elm Ave. S. and School St. E. at 7:26 p.m.

Jan. 31

Property: At 1:13 a.m., stolen property was recovered in the 500 block of Cedar Ave. S.

Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW at 6:07 a.m. They issued a citation.

Theft: A motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 800 block of Oak Ave. S. at 10:20 a.m.

Pursuit: Police assisted with a vehicle pursuit in the 1200 block of Liberty Dr. SW at 10:21 a.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF
Jan. 25

Harassment: Deputies responded to a harassment incident in the 200 block of 3rd St. NW in Medford at 4:46 p.m.

Jan. 27

Threats: Deputies responded to a subject making threats in the 100 block of Main St. S. in Medford at 1:39 p.m.

Jan. 31

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 2:35 p.m.

OWATONNA FIRE

Jan. 27

Carbon Monoxide: Firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide incident in the 600 block of El Dorado St. at 7:08 p.m.

Jan. 29

Gas Leak: Natural gas leaks occurred in the 7500 block of Crane Creek Road at 8:09 p.m. and the 2200 block of 46th St. at 10:10 a.m.

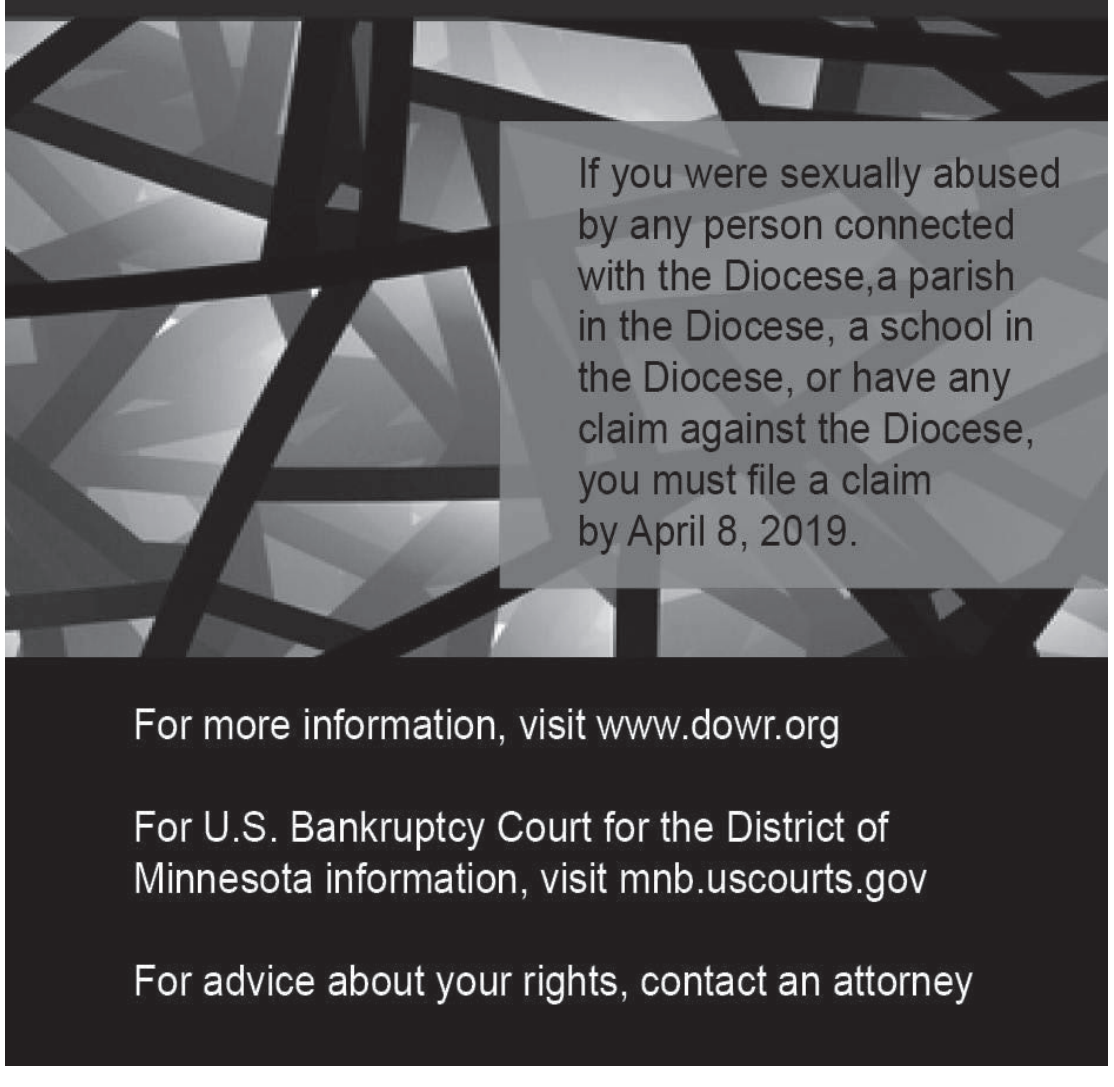
Cooking Fire: Firefighters responded to a cooking fire in the 1200 block of Clover Ave. at 4:37 p.m.

Jan. 31

Fire: Firefighters responded to a passenger vehicle fire in the 100 block of 20th St. at 6:50 p.m.

United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Minnesota
In re Diocese of Winona-Rochester, Case No. 18-33707

DIOCESE OF WINONA-ROCHESTER



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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
DOOR COUNTY, WI	AUGUST 2 - 4, 2019	$479
NEW YORK CITY	AUGUST 24 - 31, 2019	$1,649
MACKINAC ISLAND, MI	SEPTEMBER 13 - 15, 2019	$499
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
WASHINGTON DC & GETTYSBURG	OCTOBER 5 - 11, 2019	$1,199
AUTUMN IN THE SMOKY MTS	OCTOBER 15 - 20, 2019	$999
FALL MYSTERY TOUR - ALL NEW 8 DAY TOUR!!!	OCTOBER 19 - 26, 2019	$1,229
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FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Date: January 24, 2019

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT default has occurred in the conditions of the following described Mortgage:

INFORMATION REGARDING MORTGAGE TO BE FORECLOSED

1. The Mortgagors are Michael Nash, a single man, and Bruce J. Nash and Paula R. Nash, husband and wife.

2. The Mortgagee is AgStar Financial Services, FLCA, a federal instrumentality organized and existing under the laws of United States of America, now known as Compeer Financial, FLCA.

3. The Mortgage is dated June 11, 2013 and was recorded in the office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota, on June 12, 2013, as Document Number A000391890.

4. The Mortgage has not been assigned.

INFORMATION REGARDING MORTGAGED PREMISES

5. The tax parcel identification number of the mortgaged premises is 03-106-0101.

6. The legal description of the mortgaged premises is:

Lots 1 and 2, Block 1, Red Oak Division, Steele County, Minnesota.

7. The physical street address, city, and zip code of the mortgaged premises is 13460 72nd Avenue Southwest, New Richland, Minnesota 56072.

OTHER FORECLOSURE DATA

8. The person holding the Mortgage is not a transaction agent as defined by the Minnesota Residential Mortgage Originator and Servicer Licensing Act. The name of the residential mortgage servicer and the lender or broker, as defined by this Act, is AgStar Financial Services, FLCA, now known as Compeer Financial, FLCA.

9. If stated on the Mortgage, the name of the mortgage originator, as defined by the Minnesota Residential Mortgage Originator and Servicer Licensing Act, is AgStar Financial Services, FLCA, now known as Compeer Financial, FLCA.

INFORMATION REGARDING FORECLOSURE

10. The conditions precedent and requisites for foreclosure under the Minnesota Statutes on foreclosure by advertisement have been satisfied, including that no action at law to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage is pending and that a default has occurred by which the power to sell has become operative.

11. The original principal amount secured by the Mortgage was $141,000.00.

12. At the date of this Notice, the amount due on the Mortgage, including taxes (if any) paid by the holder of the Mortgage, is $139,385.62.

13. Pursuant to the power of sale in the Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota, will sell the mortgaged premises at public auction on March 14, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the Steele County Sheriff's Office, in the Steele County Law Enforcement Center, 204 East Pearl Street, in the City of Owatonna, Minnesota.

14. The time allowed by law for redemption by the Mortgagor or the personal representatives or assigns of the Mortgagor is six months after the date of sale.

15. If the real estate is an owner-occupied single-family dwelling, the time to vacate the property if the Mortgage is not reinstated under Minnesota Statutes, section 580.30, or if the property is not redeemed under Minnesota Statutes, section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on September 16, 2019.

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

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

COMPEER FINANCIAL, FLCA,
formerly known as AgStar Financial Services, FLCA, Mortgagee

DUNLAP & SEEGER, P. A.

By /s/ Paul W. Bucher
Paul W. Bucher
Attorney Registration No. 123237
Attorneys for Mortgagee
30 3rd Street SE, Suite 400
Post Office Box 549
Rochester, Minnesota 55903-0549
Telephone: (507) 288-9111

1/29, 1/5, 1/12
1/19, 1/26, 2/5

NOTICE

Proposed
City of Blooming Prairie
City Council Meeting Agenda
February 11, 2019
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of new City Administrator

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

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

Business
1. Award Contract – 2019 Street Rehabilitation Project
2. Liability Insurance Waiver
3. Blooming Prairie Ambulance Commission Annual Report for 2018
4. July 3rd Street Dance
5. Temporary On-sale Liquor License – BP Servicemen's Club
6. Request for Exempt Gambling Permit – BP Education Foundation
7. Advertise for and Hire Pool Employees

City Administrator's Report
1. Public Hearing March 11th Codification of Ordinances update
2. BP Fire Department Annual Meeting February 25th
3. Ambulance Annual Meeting February 26th
4. CRWD Appointment
5. Ice Rink Update

City Attorney's Report
Council Members' Reports
Adjourn

This Agenda is Subject to Change

2/5

NOTICE

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 55917
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

6:00 a.m.
Thursday, February 14, 2019 Regular School Board Work Session –High School Board Room
5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 19, 2019
Open Public Forum–High School Media Center Presentation by Patrick Gordon from ZED
5:15 p.m.
Tuesday, February 19, 2019
Regular School Board Meeting–High School Media Center

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

I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON
II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
III. ROLL CALL – CLERK IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS
VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED
A. Consent Agenda
Minutes
Bills
Treasurer's Report
Resignation
Donations
B. Employment
C. Volunteer Coaches
D. Final Seniority List for Teachers
E. Pay Equity Implementation Report
F. Resolution Discontinuing and Reducing Educational Programs and Positions
G. Special Meeting Dates for
VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
A. Class Sizes
B. Committee Reports
C. Enrollment Data
D. Dates to Note
VIII.SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS
IX. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

2/5

NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
December 17, 2018

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756,
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center at 5:15 p.m.
(Open Forum at 5:00 p.m.).
OPEN FORUM – No comments.
I. CALL TO ORDER –CHAIRPERSON
II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
III. ROLL CALL - CLERK Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Dean Meshke, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell
ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools, Elementary School Principal,
High School Principal, Associate Principal
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of the December payroll amount and transfer of funds. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS
Principal reports given by Mr. Staloch, Mr. Worke, and Ms. Mach.
VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED
A. Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Resignations, Donations
Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the minutes, bills, treasurer's report, resignations, and donations received. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
B. Employment
No new hires at this time.
C. Volunteer Coaches
Motion by Steve Ille and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve Jeremy Hocking as a "volunteer" coach for boys basketball. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
D. Dental Plan 2019
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Steve Ille to approve changing dental plans from Sun Life to Argus effective January 1, 2019. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
E. School Calendar 2019-2020
Motion by Steve Ille and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve the proposed school calendar as presented. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
F. World's Best Workforce Annual Report
Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the annual report as submitted on December 15, 2018 along with the annual public meeting scheduled to be held on January 22, 2019 at 4:45 p.m. in the High School Media Center. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
G. Election Resolution
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve the annual resolution establishing combined polling places for multiple precincts and designating hours during which the polling places will remain open for voting for school district elections not held on the day of a statewide election. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
H. Cooperative Sponsorship for Adapted Bowling
Motion by Steve Ille and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve a resolution for ZED Schools that have joined together and would like to apply to MSHSL for a cooperative sponsorship of adapted bowling (CI, PI, ASD). Minimal expenses are expected. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
6:00 p.m. – Budget/Levy Review and Discussion Took Place Prior to Final Levy Certification
I. Final 2018 Payable 2019 Levy Limitation
Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the final 2018 payable 2019 levy limitation. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
A. Rotation of School Board Officers
Discussion with the consensus to leave officers as status quo.
B. Committee Reports
A report update was given on the following committee: Education Foundation.
C. Enrollment Data
Enrollment for the 2018-19 school year as of December 10, 2018, was 416 at the elementary school (grades K-6) and 339 at the high school (grades 7-12) (334 attending BPHS and 5 attending PSEO). The PSEO number consists of 3 seniors and 2 juniors with attendance being full-time.
D. Dates to Note
The Board notes dates of importance.
VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS
1. Cameras being installed are not part of the School Safety Grant. They were purchased with "Safe School" levy dollars.
2. The January Work Session will be held on January 17 with Mr. Olson attending the MSBA conference thereafter.
3. World's Best Workforce annual report will be presented on January 22, 2019, at 4:45 p.m. in the High School Media Center.
4. A memorial thank you was acknowledged.
IX. ADJOURNMENT
Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Steve Ille to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m.
Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday,
January 17, 2019, at 6:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the High School.
Tentatively, the next regular meeting of the School Board will be Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at
5:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center (Open Forum begins at 5:00 p.m. along with Budget/Levy discussion at 6:00 p.m.).

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

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

2/5

Tax Prep Guide 2018

2019 TAX TIP:

Taxpayers can file for free.

Join the millions of Americans who safely file their taxes and save money using IRS Free File. Seventy percent of the nation's taxpayers are eligible for IRS Free File. The IRS's commercial partners offer free brand-name software to about 100 million individuals and families with incomes of $66,000 or less. Taxpayers who earned more can use Free File Fillable Forms. This option allows taxpayers to complete IRS forms electronically. It is best for those who are comfortable doing their own taxes.

Taxpayers can also use the Interactive Tax Assistant tool on IRS.gov to answer many tax questions.

For tax year 2018, all individual taxpayers will file using the new Form 1040. Forms 1040A and 1040EZ are no longer available. Taxpayers who previously filed these forms will now file Form 1040. The new Form 1040 uses a "building block" approach allowing individuals to add only the schedules they need to their 2018 federal tax return. Taxpayers with more complicated returns will need to complete one or more of the new Form 1040 Schedules. This group of taxpayers includes those who claim certain deductions or credits, or who owe additional taxes.

Individuals who filed their federal tax return electronically last year may not notice any changes, as the tax return preparation software will automatically use their answers to the tax questions to complete the Form 1040 and any needed schedules.

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Certified Tax Preparer/Accounting Services
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Roger L. Borchardt
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Phone: (507) 451-7748

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bptimes@frontiernet.net
411 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

3-WEEK SPECIAL: $32
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UP TO 20 WORDS; 10¢ FOR EACH WORD AFTER

TO PLACE AN AD
Dodge County Independent
Dodge County Advantage
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121 W. Main St., Kasson, MN 55944

DEALS ON WHEELS

2003 Sportsman 5th Wheel Camper

- 26ft w/awning
- Sleeps 5 - bunk beds in rear
- Queen bed in front, couch/bed
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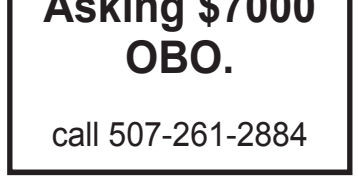
- Inside/Outside Shower, 2 lg. Storage bins
- Very Clean. Used by 2 Adults

Call to make appointment
Gene Francis 507-583-2331

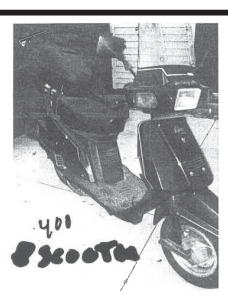
DEALS ON WHEELS



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

Electric Bicycle (needs nothing)
Asking $700.
(retail $1700)
507-279-4103 cell or 281-4040.

2000 Ford F250 7.3 diesel/ Many new parts. New ball joints, new breaks,tires, no rust.
Asking $7000 OBO.
call 507-261-2884



Motor scooter 5000 mile, Yamaha model Royal.
Asking $600.
(new #3,500)
Call 507-279-4103 cell or 281-4040

1992 Dodge Dakota

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

Yamaha Virago XV750 Adult Driven - One owner 54K miles 97' Shaft Drive, cover, soft saddle bags, books.
Asking $1239.
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$2,700 OBO.
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- **Used 2 months**
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- **1 slide out**
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- **1/2 ton towable**
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For Sale - Brent Grain Cart Model 882 with tarp.
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Call 507-269-8797

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

NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA December 12, 2018

A regular school board work session was held at 6:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, in the Board Room at the High School.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Jenny Thurnau

ALSO PRESENT:
Superintendent of Schools

DISCUSSION ITEMS:
General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the December 17, 2018, regular school board meeting.

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

2/5

Weekly crossword

C	A	M	■	S	R	O	O	D	■	S	T	L	A	M
E	H	S	■	R	E	T	A	E	■	D	E	L	I	P
M	S	I	■	E	V	I	T	A	N	I	G	A	M	I
L	A	N	O	T	A	■	■	A	I	A	R	P	■	■
O	K	A	H	S	■	E	L	B	A	R	A	P	E	S
■	■	G	C	E	■	T	A	■	■	■	T	A	E	T
S	T	A	E	M	■	S	I	S	N	E	■	■	B	A
A	I	P	■	E	G	A	T	N	A	V	■	K	L	E
L	C	■	■	S	E	T	I	R	■	I	S	R	A	S
L	I	E	C	■	■	■	N	O	■	S	D	A	■	■
O	L	L	I	R	A	G	I	C	■	S	A	M	A	S
■	■	P	N	E	P	U	■	■	S	E	M	E	H	T
T	T	O	C	S	T	R	A	U	T	S	■	D	O	R
E	C	E	I	N	■	H	T	O	R	B	■	I	L	A
L	A	P	P	A	■	S	E	S	A	O	■	T	A	M

SPRING CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Sat. March 16, 2019—9 a.m.

Located: Hamilton Auction Co. off Interstate 90 at Dexter, MN exit #193 then ¼ mile East on Hwy 16

Consign your farm machinery including tractors, tillage equipment, sprayers, construction equip., trucks & trailers, pickups & cars & misc. items by the 25thof Feb. to have items advertised. **–NO TIRES—**Titled items must have a current certificate of title or registration when brought in to sell. Limited amount of small items accepted for this auction.

To consign call: 507-584-0133 office

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

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State of Minnesota – Department of Human Services

Direct Care Jobs Available in Hayfield and Rochester

We are hiring additional members to join our team! The State of Minnesota Department of Human Services is seeking caring people to fill Direct Support Specialist positions with a salary range of $14.55-$23.08/hour. We are looking for individuals who are passionate in helping those who need the additional support in their daily lives. Please apply at **http://www.mn.gov/careers** using Job ID# 13234. To schedule an interview, call 651-431-6875.

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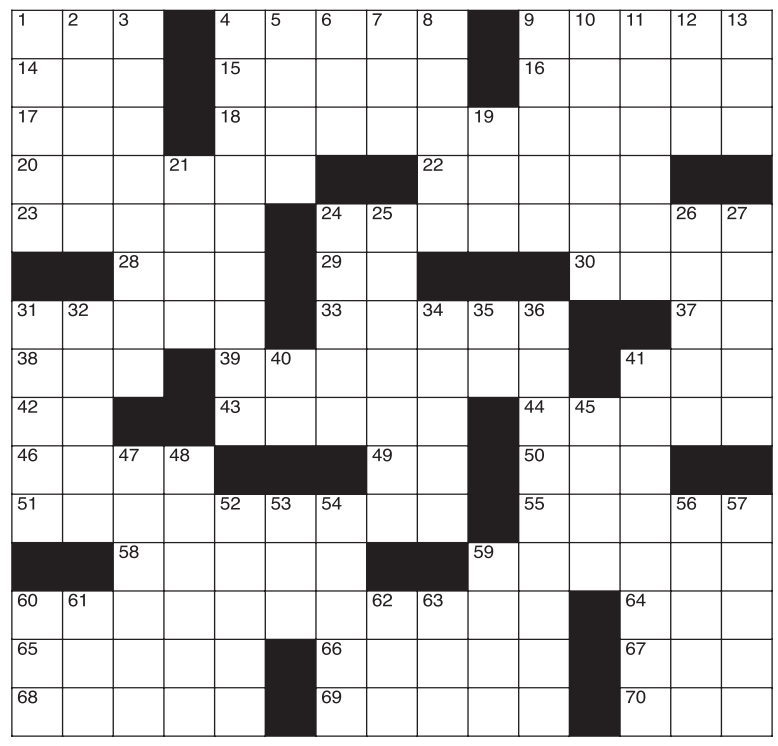
CLUES ACROSS

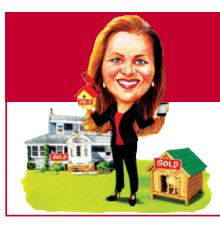
1. Thick flat pad
4. Green regions of desert
9. Fill with dismay
14. Boxing legend
15. Soup
16. Your sibling's daughter
17. A long thin implement
18. Late ESPN anchor
20. Motives
22. Astronumerology term
23. Semitic Sun god
24. Small cigar
28. Promotions
29. Not off
30. Line or plaster the roof
31. African Indian people of Alberta, Canada
33. Rituals
37. Chlorine
38. Red deer
39. Offers a good view
41. Post-indictment arrangement
42. Blood group
43. Razor clams
44. Fleshes of animals
46. Nipple
49. Indicates position
50. Electrocardiogram
51. Can be disconnected
55. Tall military cap
58. Cape Verde capital
59. Not written in any key
60. Creative
64. Suffix
65. Stacked
66. One who consumes
67. Not he
68. Whiskey and milk are two
69. Entryways
70. ___ and cheese



CLUES DOWN

1. Marketplaces
2. Hawaiian greeting
3. Mark left by the sea
4. Strongly affected by something
5. Music and painting are two
6. Small coin (French)
7. Letter of the Greek alphabet
8. A gesture involving the shoulders
9. Grey geese
10. Meal in the park
11. Human beings
12. What thespians do
13. Allow
19. Third-party access
21. "Casino Royale" villain Mikkelsen
24. Painful foot problems
25. The very first
26. Lawful
27. Ceramic jars
31. Hind ends
32. "Virginia Woolf" author
34. Try
35. For instance
36. Academic terms
40. Article
41. Religious belief outside the mainstream
45. Sound caused by reflection
47. Greatly horrify
48. Prey
52. Forays
53. River in eastern France
54. Bleated
56. Soft food cooked from buckwheat
57. Pre-Mayan civilization
59. Assert to be the case
60. Inches per minute (abbr.)
61. "Rosemary's Baby" actress Farrow
62. Chinese philosophical principle
63. Simpson trial judge

Let's get you movin'!



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