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STEELE COUNTY Times

DUST TO DUST B1



BUSINESS SECTION A4-A5

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019

Blooming Prairie, Minnesota



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Andrew Langholz has taken over the reigns of city administrator in Blooming Prairie. He says BP is right where he wants to be.

New city administrator right where he wants to be

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie's new city administrator Andrew Langholz is right where he wants to be. Langholz, who started on Feb. 4, comes to BP with the experience the city was looking for, according to his predecessor Mike Jones. "Everything has been moving along excellently," Jones said. "I think we made the right decision. We narrowed the selection down and anyone of those candidates could have fit, but with

his experience, he was able to walk in the door and start right up. We didn't have to do any major training." Langholz earned a master's degree in urban and regional studies from Minnesota State University-Mankato, and spent the past three years as the city clerk in Starbuck, Minn. He earned bachelor's degrees in ethnic studies, and urban and regional studies. "He's going to come with some new ideas and a young mind," Jones said. "We will probably see some things change, that maybe, the community wanted to see occur."

Langholz also worked with Greater Mankato Growth and with the Coon Rapids' city inspector. "I'd go around town and pick on people that don't mow their lawn or have a bunch of junk vehicles laying around, something you wouldn't want to live next to," Langholz joked. Langholz said the city government in Starbuck was a very small crew, so he dealt with a little bit of everything. "It exposed me to all areas of city government and prepped me for this job,"

SEE CITY ADMIN., A7

Governor signs bill for Hwy. 14 upgrade

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
STAFF WRITER

Residents of Steele and Dodge counties finally got what they have long hoped for. Last week Gov. Tim Walz signed a bill that included language ensuring that the funds to upgrade U.S. Highway 14 from Owatonna to Dodge Center will be available in 2019. Although funding for the 12-1/2 mile stretch of highway was approved last year, a question arose over the language of the bill and whether the funds could be released 2019 or had to wait until 2021, which would have delayed construction until 2022. With bipartisan support, the Minnesota House and Senate passed legislation making "technical corrections" to the legislation, and Walz signed the bill the next day. The action clears the way for design work to begin on the project this year with actual construction in 2020.

The safety of Highway 14 has been a concern of southern Minnesota residents for decades. Over the years, portions of the highway have been upgraded to four lanes. Currently the only two lane sections that remain are two 12-1/2 mile segments - one from Owatonna to Dodge Center and the other from Nicollet to New Ulm. Instrumental in keeping improvements to the highway before the public and the legislature has been the Highway 14 Partnership. The Partnership was formed in 1998 and includes local governments, businesses and organizations throughout southern Minnesota. "We are grateful that the governor and legislature were able to come to an agreement that will allow construction on the Owatonna to Dodge Center Highway 14 expansion project to proceed as scheduled," said Karen Foreman, president of the Partnership.

SEE HWY 14, A3

Ownership of building comes as a surprise to county officials



Steele County is trying to find a service provider that wants to utilize this three story building in the West Hills campus along Florence Avenue in Owatonna. Prior to a few months ago, most county officials didn't even realize the county owned this property.

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Steele County has one more building than most anybody, even county officials, realized.

When a longtime substance abuse recovery operation notified Steele County that it was planning to move elsewhere from a building in the West Hills campus of Owatonna, county officials

were caught off guard because they didn't know about it. The county suddenly had a three story building on its hands

SEE BUILDING, A7

'The real deal!'

Elsner selected as Woman of Achievement

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

This year marked the 100th anniversary of the Owatonna Business Women, and Jane Elsner was given the distinction of being named the Woman of Achievement during its 47th annual ceremony. Elsner was all smiles as she humbly received her award at the end of the night's celebration March 8 at Torrey's Restaurant in Owatonna. "I feel blessed," she told the crowd. She's not only blessed because of the award, but also for the work she does for the community. "There were so many women

SEE WOMAN OF ACHIEVMENT, A7



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Jane Elsner, right, receives her award from Ryan Gillespie, president of Owatonna Business Women's, after being named this year's Woman of Achievement. Elsner thanked the crowd upon winning the award during the 47th Annual Woman of Achievement celebration.



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INSIDE

Opinions.....A2
Business Section.....A4-A5
History.....A7
Faith.....A9

Hometown Living.....B1
Owatonna Honor Roll.....B3
Public Safety.....B4
Community Calendar.....B5

Sports.....B6-B7
Tax Guide.....B7
Public Notices.....B8
Classifieds.....B9

AREA DEATHS

George B. Ressler, 101, Blooming Prairie
Maxine Higgins, 98, formerly of Austin
Alice E. Reese, 79, Blooming Prairie

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OUR VIEW

Hwy. 14 Bill signed, now time to get to work



It was an exciting day last week for communities in Steele and Dodge counties as well as surrounding communities, as Gov. Walz signed into law the Highway 14 Funding Bill during a signing ceremony last week in St. Paul.

After months of battling over verbiage with the Highway 14 Bill, it now looks like funding for the four-lane highway expansion from Dodge Center to Owatonna will officially be a reality.

It quite frankly shouldn't have taken this long.

Between the time it was announced there was a glitch in the funding bill signed last year, and the time the bill was signed by Gov. Walz during a signing ceremony last week, too many lives have been lost because of the "Highway of Horrors" that the stretch of Highway 14 from Dodge Center to Owatonna is referred to as by many.

Although the four lane wouldn't have been completed in that short amount of time, it is still a slap in the face to the many people who lost loved ones due in part to the highway being only a two lane.

It is sad to think that a small technicality can cause something so important not to be funded, and something that is supported by virtually everyone in the area, including lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

In our view, this project would still not have been a reality if it wasn't for the hard work that has gone into pushing the bill at the State Capitol.

All of those who dedicated thousands of hours to make it the project happen deserve a tremendous amount of credit.

It's through non dedicated public servants, and more importantly, everyday community members putting in the time and effort needed, that this funding bill became law.

The grassroots efforts is a symbol of our great democracy and shows that anything is possible when local people put their minds together in an effort to make their community better and safer.

We are excited to be there when the first shovel is put into the ground, and the project begins.

It's been a long overdue project, to say the least.

GUEST COLUMN

Good news for Hwy. 14, bad news for deputy registrars

BY JOHN PETERSBURG

A bill that converts bonding projects previously financed by Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) bonds to traditional general obligation bonds also contains good news for Highway 14.

On Monday, House Republicans successfully pushed to have technical fixes included that would allow funding to proceed for the Highway 14 and Highway 23 projects approved during the 2018 session, and Gov. Walz has signed the bill into law.

Last session, Republicans in the House and Senate approved \$160 million to complete a stretch of Highway 14 from Owatonna to Dodge Center, but construction had been delayed as a result of bill language issues that could only be fixed with new legislation.

I'm grateful that the House majority included this language in the bill, as it's great news for the residents in the Owatonna and Waseca areas. Now we can get shovels in the ground, and I'm hoping to see dirt moving this fall.

Gov. Walz has also signed into law another financial bailout of the state's failing drivers' licensing system, MNLARS.

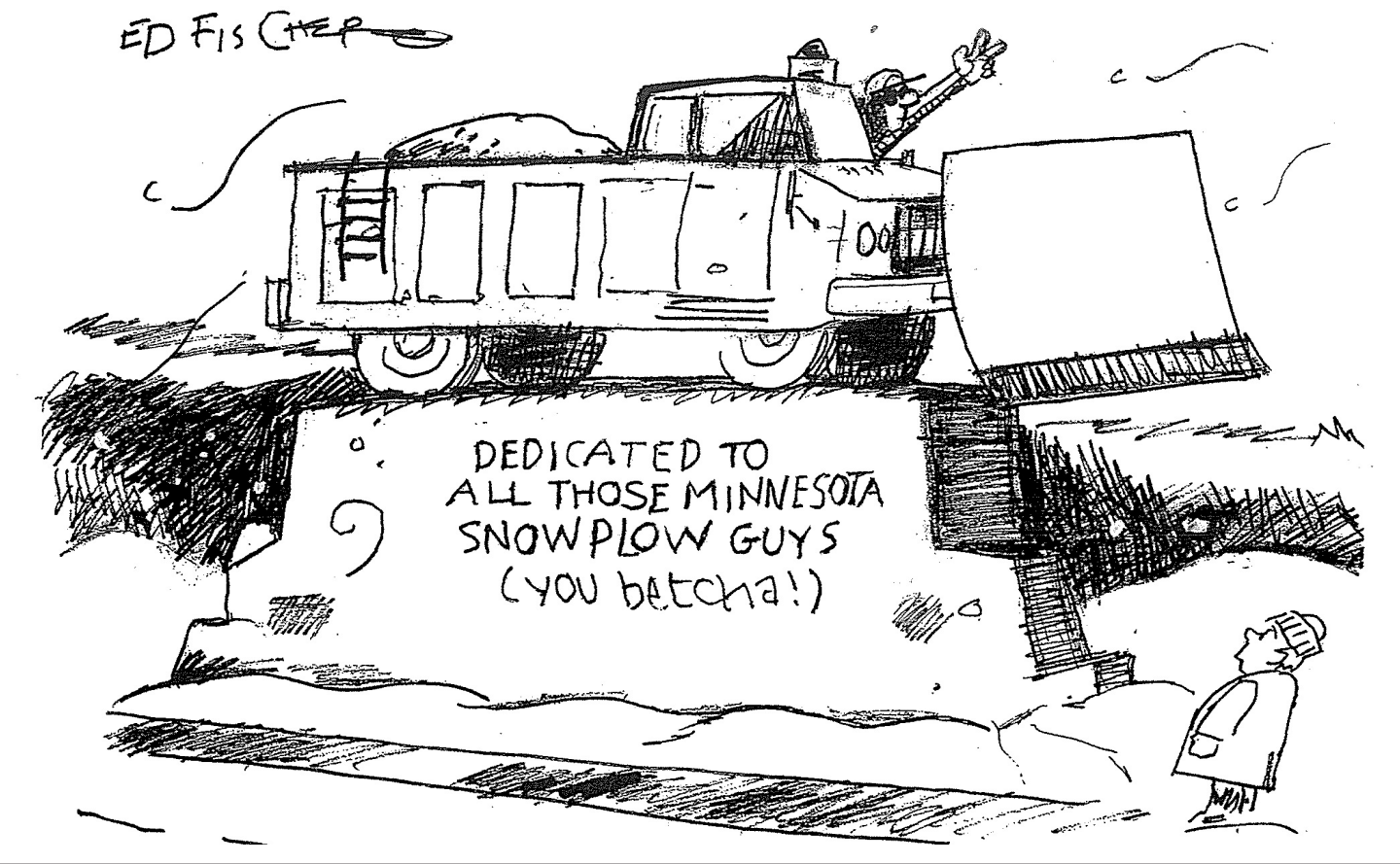
The bill provided \$5.7 million to continue work on MNLARS, \$5.5 million for Phase 2 of the FAST Drivers Licensing System, and \$2 million for additional staffing at the Department of Public Safety Department of Vehicle Services division.

It provided nothing to Minnesotans who run the local Department Of Motor Vehicle offices (DVS) and are going into debt over the program's continued incompetence.

Personally, I really wanted to help our deputy registrars, the people who work with drivers to get their titles and license plates. But Democratic House leadership refused to let us put money into it and help them. Even though the bill leaving the House floor only had \$10 million in it – or a third of the amount that's needed to keep them whole - it did not stay in the conference committee report, so there's nothing there to help them out

Just as a reminder, deputy registrars have to follow everything that DVS provides them: programming, responsibilities and training. Yet they are now \$27 million in the hole over the last two years, and we couldn't even provide them with some reprieve. This is truly a travesty. I will continue to fight for funding to cover the huge debt that deputy registrars have incurred through no fault of their own. It is the least that the State can do.

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



Support teens doing the right thing

Teenagers often get a bad rap for some undesirable things they get involved with from time to time. But I received a pleasant surprise a few weeks ago from a local teen that I hope would make you shake whatever image you may have of teens in general.

Facing some serious health issues, including brain surgeries twice over the past year, Mariah Miller approached me with a plan to showcase the local Future Farmers of America chapter in a positive light. She is a sophomore at Blooming Prairie and serves as the reporter for the FFA chapter.

Not only did she provide me with some stories for the FFA section we put out last month, but she came up with the novel idea of doing a FFA spotlight each week on the local FFA officers. She is writing the stories, providing the photos and even sold some sponsorships to have pay for the space in the newspaper.

What impresses me most is that she decided to do this all on her own without any guidance from anyone on our staff. Keep in mind this is coming from a sophomore in high school that easily could be involved in many other "teen-age activities."



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

Miller has had a hard road over the past few years. Besides the health issues, she left Pacelli School in Austin to come to Blooming Prairie High School because she had been bullied.

She has fought these incredible obstacles with an unwavering smile and determination to stay focused on what's important in life. Other teenagers, and certainly some adults as well, should take notice of Miller's character and positive attitude she has in wanting to do the right thing.

The teenager considers it "a great honor" to be in the local FFA chapter. Miller loves living on the farm and is not afraid to work with large farm machinery.

Contrary to what you might be led to believe from time to time, it's not all gloom and doom with our teenagers. Miller and many others are staying out of trouble and doing wonderful things with their lives. We could all take a lesson out of her play book.

She has the potential to be a great leader in the coming years if not in our communities, some place else. FFA and what Miller is doing are shining examples of youth doing the right thing for the right reasons.

Sometimes the headlines get steered away and focused on negative aspects of what our youth are doing, but that's definitely not the case with Miller.

Our future depends on youth like Miller. I hope she continues going in the direction she has been in recent months. She'll definitely be a powerful force to



FILE PHOTO
Mariah Miller, a sophomore at Blooming Prairie High School, serves as the reporter for the local Future Farmers of America chapter. Despite several setbacks, she is doing some great things as a teenager.

reckon with in the coming years.

We all need to go in hot pursuit of supporting teenagers like Miller that are committed to doing the right thing.

YOUR VIEW

Vote yes for new high school in Owatonna

May 14, 2019 is a critical date for Owatonna's future.

On May 14, we will be asked to vote on a bond referendum for a new high school. Owatonna is currently home to a high school that was originally constructed in 1920-1921 and located on 19 acres. The high school has served our community well and it's time to position our community for the next 100 years.

Three of our largest employers have pledged more than \$20 million dollars in support of a new high school. Why? Owatonna is at a crossroads, and a new high school facility is a vital component in determining the future of our community. These employers recognize this and hope we do as well.

We can choose to continue delaying the inevitable, or we can step up and make a positive impact on our future. I have nothing to gain personally. I have no children or grandchildren who will benefit. However, I welcome the opportunity to vote 'yes' on May 14 in the interest of OUR community's future.

Over the next few weeks, we will be subjected to many voices on both sides of this topic. Unfortunately, some will be fiction combined with negativity and scare tactics. Seek facts, take advantage of the high school tours being offered, talk to a current student or teacher, follow Vote Yes for OHS on Facebook, and make a positive impact on the future of our community.

Please join in voting YES on May 14!

Seth Madole
Owatonna

A big thanks during the blizzard

To-the-Editor:

During the recent snow storm, we found ourselves in weather and road conditions we haven't experienced for quite some time. The winds along with the elements prevented proper road clearing and difficult maneuvers rescuing stranded motorists. It also meant extensive hours for the individuals working the blizzard.

I wanted everyone to know how pleased I was with everyone stepping up to assist the Steele County Sheriff's Office with accomplishing life saving measures within and near Steele County.

Being involved with several rescues, I was able to see firsthand how well everyone performed.

I worked alongside members of the National Guard who literally gave stranded motorists their coat off their back to warm the under-dressed occupants driving in Minnesota weather.

Monitoring the radio and knowing the hundreds of calls dispatch received from frantic drivers stranded in a snowbank and then trying to prioritize rescue routes. The tow companies unable to be everywhere at once and risking their lives alongside law enforcement retrieving vehicles from the ditches during some treacherous conditions.

It was truly amazing watching everyone pulling together to reach the common goal of public safety.

Although I don't have the exact number of motorists everyone assisted yet, I believe as a team, we worked extremely well coordinating rescue efforts. This professionalism reflects in a manner all entities assisting should be proud of.

Teamwork consisted from the SCSO, National Guard, Emergency Management, County Highway, State Patrol, OPD, Ellendale Fire, Blooming Prairie Fire, Gold Cross, OFD, MN DOT, Red Cross, CERT, Steele-Rice dispatchers, local tow companies, and churches. I apologize if I missed anyone.

Residents along with the stranded motorists trying to travel through Steele County should be proud knowing their community personnel have demonstrated the caring acts for everyone during a trying time.

Thank you again to everyone!

Your Sheriff,
Lon Thiele
Steele County

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2014—3 state and 3 national awards
2013—7 state and 2 national awards
2012—2 state awards
2011—4 national awards

(Awards presented by the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Associations)

Lembke family donates masonry work for BP Vets Memorial

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It has taken unselfish donations from individuals and from Blooming Prairie area businesses to make the BP Veterans Memorial a reality.

Tom Peterson, chairman of the BP Veterans Memorial, has made another announcement as to another family in-kind donation to the project.

The Memorial is located just east of the BP Servicemen's Club.

Fundraising for the Memorial started in the spring of 2014. A goal of \$250,000 was attained late in 2018.

Peterson, adjutant of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #52, said the Sons and the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial Committee are proud to recognize Maurice, Julie, and Lance Lembke of Lembke Masonry for their part and generous contribution to the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial.

The Lembkes donated all the labor for the concrete pad under the granite



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Maurice, Julie, and Lance Lembke of Lembke Masonry played a major part in the construction of the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial by making a generous contribution of masonry work. This view shows the creative and professional work of the Lembkes.

pieces of the Memorial.

Maurice's and Lance's years of experience and attention to detail were essential to making sure the Memorial had a beautiful concrete pad for the granite

pieces, said Peterson.

There are important reasons why Maurice, Julie, and Lance stepped forward with their donation. Ten of their family members are veterans and have wall pavers on the Memorial!

They include:
Leo Coughlin – Julie's father
Mark Coughlin – Julie's uncle
Francis Coughlin KIA – Julie's uncle
Gerald Coughlin – Julie's uncle
Robert Coughlin – Julie's uncle
Charles Coughlin – Julie's uncle
Howard Coughlin – Julie's uncle
Michael Underwood – Julie's brother
Melvin Lembke – Maurice's father
Marvin Lembke – Maurice's uncle
"It is fitting that all these family members are on the Memorial, which Maurice, Julie, and Lance helped to build," Peterson said.

"The service and sacrifice of all our family veterans was worth our contributions to the Memorial and their memory," said the Lembkes in a prepared statement.

Snow collapses roof



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

The weight of all the winter snow we have received in recent weeks has taken a toll on the roofs of buildings, barns and others, including this shed on the southeast side of Blooming Prairie. The middle portion of the facility caved in. Workers removed snow on both sides of the collapsed roof in an effort to save the rest of the building. The area got lucky this past weekend as only a few inches of snow fell, well short of what had been predicted.

French Quarter moves into BP

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Just for an evening, the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club was transformed into the French Quarter of New Orleans to celebrate Mardi Gras.

An estimated 130 guests enjoyed a Low Country Boil, served NOLA-Style at tables set for eight.

The menu included shrimp, sausage, sweet corn, potatoes and onions, dessert and milk and coffee. The food was delivered to each table and dumped on a big center tray piping hot and delicious.

Several guests wore festive masks and, of course, beads.

Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, refers to events of the carnival celebration, beginning on or after the Christian feasts of the Epiphany (Three Kings Day) and culminating on the day before Ash Wednesday (known as Shrove Tuesday).

Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday," reflecting the practice of the last night of eating rich, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season.

Wikipedia says related popular practices are associated with Shrovetide celebrations before the fasting and religious obligations associated with the penitential season of Lent.

In countries such as the United Kingdom, Mardi Gras is also known as Shrove Tuesday, which is derived from the word shrive, meaning "to administer the sacrament of confession to; to absolve."

Sons of the American Legion Squadron # 52 sponsored the fundraiser with support from members of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, and the Servicemen's Club.

"The Sons of the American Legion is very thankful to the

posts, auxiliaries and BP Servicemen's Club for all their help and support given to make the night special," said Sons of the American Legion Commander Joe Motl.

All proceeds from the Mardi Gras benefit are dedicated to the BP Servicemen's Club and to veterans activities.

Mark your calendars for the Spring Fling to be held on Saturday, May 18.

Pork loin sandwiches will be served...made from slowly roasted pork loin and Dean Zilm's "family secret" barbecue sauce, juices, and herbs.

HWY 14: Bill signed FROM A1

"The legislation signed by the governor fixes a technical glitch in a bill passed last year that would have held up \$160 million of funding and delayed the project's start until 2022."

Highway 14 has long been considered the most dangerous highway in the state and the stretch between Owatonna and Dodge Center has claimed four lives since July 2018.

The most recent fatality was on Feb. 2 when an Owatonna woman was killed in a head-on collision in Havana Township. On Sept. 7, a Dodge Center woman and her young daughter were killed in a rear-end collision at the intersection of Highway 14 and County Road 3 near Claremont. On July 18, a Dodge Center man died in a crash at Highway 14 and Highway 56 north near Dodge Center.

"Recent tragic events on this portion of Highway 14 drive home the importance of getting this project done as soon as possible," said Kevin Raney, vice president of the Partnership and a member of the Owatonna City Council. "Southern Minnesota families and businesses serve an efficient highway that



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Gov. Tim Walz didn't hesitate last week in signing the cleaned up bill paving the way for upgrading U.S. Highway 14 from Dodge Center to Owatonna. Construction should begin in spring of 2020.

they don't have to be scared to drive on. I want to thank the legislature and governor for taking this matter seriously and advancing it early on in the legislative session." When the funding for the project was approved last year in the Corridors of Commerce appropriation it was with the expectation that the first contracts could be let this year. However, a question arose about the wording of the legislation and whether that wording would allow the funds to be released this year or if they would have to wait

until 2021.

Minnesota Department of Transportation officials have said that passage of the technical correction would mean design work could still start this year with actual construction beginning in 2020. The highway could then be expected to open in late fall of 2021 with local road connections completed in 2022.

With the funding for the Owatonna to Dodge Center portion now secured, efforts will continue to fund the final portion of the highway.



By Mariah Miller

Boone Carlson, son of Jason and Jessie Carlson, is a sophomore at Blooming Prairie High School. Boone is the acting sentinel for the local Blooming Prairie FFA chapter. He is a member of the varsity General livestock Judging Team. Boone shows pigs at the Freeborn County Fair and earned a trip the Minnesota State Fair. Last year, Boone received a grant to help build a pig shed to pursue his love for pig showing.



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Brogan joins Times sales team

BY ALEX MALM
STAFF WRITER

The Steele County Times has added a new advertising sales specialist.

Bridget Brogan recently joined the sales team for the Times as well as its sister publication, the Dodge County Independent, in Kasson.

She comes from Cedar Rapids Iowa, where she worked as a digital marketing specialist for Hibu, which publishes YellowBook.

In her role at Hibu, she created websites for businesses, power listings on google and an online marketing strategy to target consumers looking for products and services that businesses offered.

After moving to Owatonna on Christmas Day, she began looking for a new job and found a perfect match with the Times.

"I felt with my experience in sales and my knowledge of how advertising is beneficial for all businesses, I would be able to utilize my experience to help businesses and build a partnership with our clients," Brogan said.

For Brogan, her favorite part about her job is being able to create top-notch advertisements for her clients.

"My favorite part of my job is creating quality and effective advertising for businesses and helping consumers easily find what they are looking for," Brogan said.

Publisher Rick Bussler said he feels with Brogan's experience, she can play a key role in the success of any businesses with advertising.

"I am looking forward to seeing the success that Brogan will have with creating advertisements that will meet the needs of our clients," Bussler said. "With that I am confident that our clients will be happy with their outcomes," he added.

Brogan is excited to get to know her clients in the area and can help any business with its advertising needs.

"I am extremely happy with the move and for becoming part of the Times," she said. "I feel I have a bright future building relationships with my clients," she said.

To contact Brogan, email her at BridgetbroganHM@gmail.com.



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Business Briefs

Manke's takes over as
Big Green Egg dealer

Manke's Outdoor Equipment & Appliances of Owatonna has become a dealer for Big Green Eggs.

Big Green Eggs are the ultimate cooking experience. You are getting a grill, a smoker and a brick oven all in one device. They can also be used year-round, including during the Minnesota winters.

Manke's has a huge display with many accessories so stop down and take a look!

Pair achieves Circle of Success
at Ameriprise

A pair of financial experts has achieved the Circle of Success with Ameriprise Financial.

Brandon Wayne, CRPC, a private wealth advisor with Dufresne, Wayne & Associates private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. in Owatonna, has qualified for the company's Circle of Success annual recognition program and will be honored for this achievement in 2019.

Thomas Dufresne, CFP,ChFc, CRPS, BFA, has also qualified for the company's Circle of Success.

To earn this achievement, Wayne and Dufresne established themselves as one of the company's top advisors. Only a select number of high-performing advisors earn this distinction.

Wayne has 18 years of experience in the financial services industry while Dufresne has 23 years of experience.

As a Private Wealth Advisor, the pair provides financial advice that is anchored in a solid understanding of client needs and expectations and is delivered in one-on-one relationships with his clients. For more information, please contact Wayne at 507-451-3598 or Dufresne at 507-444-0901 or visit the Ameriprise office at 1850 Austin Road, Suite 104 in Owatonna.

Durand joins
U.S. Bancorp as
wealth advisor

U.S. Bancorp Investments, an affiliate of U.S. Bank, announces that Jessica Durand has joined U.S. Bancorp Investments as a Wealth Management Advisor.

Durand will be based in U.S. Bank's Owatonna branch.

At U.S. Bancorp Investments, Durand will work with a team of investment, insurance and financial planning experts from U.S. Bancorp Investments, plus banking experts from U.S. Bank to help her clients meet all of their financial needs.

Durand brings more than five years of experience in financial services to the new role. She earned a degree in finance from Minnesota State University, Mankato and an MBA from Auburn University.



DURAND

Hy-Vee to support the Great American Milk Drive throughout March

Hy-Vee, Inc. has announced its commitment to delivering much-needed milk to local food banks in its eight-state region by partnering with The Great American Milk Drive throughout the month of March. This is the third consecutive year of the companywide partnership.

During the month-long campaign, every Hy-Vee store will offer customers the opportunity to donate \$2 or \$4 toward the purchase of milk when they check out. At the end of the month, all donations will be used to purchase milk from area processors to be distributed to local food banks.

In partnership with Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, MilkPEP and the National Dairy Council, The Great American Milk Drive campaign unites and enables the nation's food banks, processors, retailers and consumers to ensure milk and its essential nutrients, including high-quality protein, are provided to families who need it most. Last March, donations from Hy-Vee customers supplied more than 265,000 gallons of milk.

"Hy-Vee is honored to continue its participation in The Great American Milk Drive to provide even more assistance to help alleviate hunger," said Randy Edeker, Hy-Vee's chairman of the board, CEO and president. "Through the generosity of our customers, and with participation from all of Hy-Vee's 249 stores, our goal is to increase donations and make nutritious milk available to those in need."

Sponsors for this year's campaign include Dean Foods, Kraft Heinz, Mondelez International, Hiland Dairy, Kemps and Anderson Erickson Dairy.

According to Feeding America, there are nearly five million food insecure people in Hy-Vee's eight-state region, and milk is one of the most requested – yet least available – items in food banks across the nation. Food bank clients receive less than one gallon of milk per person, per year.

"The Great American Milk Drive offers us all an opportunity to make a meaningful impact for local families throughout our eight-state region," Edeker said.

CDI promotes Flesner to design engineering manager

Climate by Design International (CDI) is pleased to announce that Reuben Flesner has been recently promoted to design engineering manager. In his new role, he will be leading all elements of Design Engineering at CDI, which will include design standards, design engineering methods, and new product development.

"Reuben's aptitude and contributions have propelled him into a leadership role where he will have the opportunity to direct CDI's design standardization. His innovative approach will continue to enhance our strategic direction and long term growth at CDI. We look forward to his continued contributions to our success in these areas," said Mike Peterson, VP of Operations.

Flesner joined CDI in October 2011 as an applications engineer where he gained experience in the sales area. His work included numerous HVAC applications including Hospital Surgical Suites and Archival Storage. He was promoted to senior design engineer in February 2017. As a senior design engineer for almost two years, he has led several new product and design changes. He brings more than nine years of experience in the HVAC industry.

Flesner commented, "CDI's engineering team members are internally driven to improve processes and design. This ambition will allow fundamental change in how we serve our customers with robust, efficient designs; and also build a foundation for continued growth. I am excited to be an integral part of this team."

Flesner holds a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from South Dakota State University and a MS degree in Mechanical Engineering from Iowa State University. He was the recipient of a 3M Engineering Scholarship for Excellence of Graduate Research in Design and Manufacturing.

STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS

New Byron business offers healthy energy drinks, shakes

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
STAFF WRITER

Cindy Clayton feels great, and she wants everyone else to feel the same way.

To accomplish that goal Clayton opened her new business, Healthy Starts, in Byron in January. The store features energy drinks and shakes, all healthy of course.

“My passion is to share my experiences,” she said. “My motivation is the way I feel and sharing that with people.”

Her products are “great tasting shakes, aloe, teas and energy drinks,” she said. She also has specials on Fridays, which she calls Friday Fun Shakes, healthy food preparation classes, wellness evaluations, menu planning and other programs, including business appreciation events where she visits local businesses, takes along some shakes and explains what her business offers to the employees.

She has done “Paint and Shakes” at other places where she worked and had her first such event at Healthy Starts this week. She is also planning a weight loss challenge for March. The Paint and Shakes, she said, offers participants a chance to paint a picture and then try the shakes. “It’s a really good time for friends to get together,” she said.

“I like to give back to the community,” she said. “So I do business appreciations.”

Healthy Starts is located in the Byron Towne Square at 1067 4th St., Suite 550.

“It’s a really nice location,” she said.

“So many people have been so welcoming as I go around talking to people,” Clayton said. “I am really thankful businesses are so welcoming and kind.”

She added that she believes people are getting more aware of and want to take care of their bodies which makes her business a perfect one to start.



Cindy Clayton makes a shake for Dustin Johnson of Dodge Center. Johnson, a regular customer at Healthy Shakes, said “everything I’ve tried has been awesome.”

“My **passion** is to share my experiences. My **motivation** is the way I feel and sharing that with people.”

Cindy Clayton
New Business Owner

Clayton said she lives in Waseca where she worked at a similar nutrition club as well as one in Faribault. When she decided to open her own store, she said, she did not want to go north of Waseca because of other facilities in Faribault, Northfield and Farmington.

Going east, towards Rochester, seemed a logical move, she said.

Healthy Starts is open six days a week, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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Business Briefs

Hy-Vee to take over Weber & Judd pharmacies

Hy-Vee, Inc. is taking over all Weber & Judd pharmacies in Minnesota, including one in Dodge County.

Weber & Judd has served the Rochester area since 1862. In late February, Hy-Vee announced it has acquired all the pharmacies. On April 12, Weber & Judd in Kasson will close and reopen on April 15 as Hy-Vee HealthMarket RX.

Other locations affected by the acquisition include Rochester, Pine Island, Plainview, Preston, Spring Valley, St. Charles, Stewartville and Zumbrota.

“Web & Judd has been an exemplary provider of pharmacy care for more than 150 years. Combining Weber & Judd with our Hy-Vee Pharmacy family is a perfect match because we both pride ourselves on providing excellent experience to our customers,” said Randy Edeker, Hy-Vee’s chairman of the board, CEO and president. “We are grateful for the opportunity to continue to provide this

same personalized care for the Weber & Judd family of patients and communities.”

Patient files will automatically transfer to Hy-Vee, and the pharmacies will be named Hy-Vee HealthMarket Rx.

In addition to traditional pharmacy services, Hy-Vee HealthMarket Rx feature text message notifications, free prescription delivery, automated refill ordering, immunization services, free blood pressure checks, private medication consultations and a registered dietitian available for nutritional consultations.

Hy-Vee pharmacies are also integrated into the free Hy-Vee mobile app for both iOS and Android devices for easy prescription management.

Weber & Judd pharmacy patients will receive a letter from their new Hy-Vee pharmacy with additional details. Hy-Vee expects current Weber & Judd employees to continue working at their respective locations as Hy-Vee employees.

Pietta elected as Kasson Chamber president

Cathy Pietta was elected to serve as the Kasson Chamber of Commerce president for the 2019-2020 year.

Pietta previously served as the vice president of the chamber last term.

For the last 15 years, Pietta has worked as the Kasson Liquor Store Manager.



PIETTA

Pietta takes over the reigns as president from Bill Kase, who served as the chamber president last year.

For those who are interested in joining the Kasson Chamber of Commerce, contact Pietta or another chamber board member for more information.



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History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago
March 10, 2009

DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

Darrell Hansen, general manager for Frontier Communications, announces the company will be offering internet training classes starting March 24. Richard Schwartz, a retired computer education teacher from Blooming Prairie Elementary School, will be instructing the course.

The American Legion and Auxiliary turned 90 years old this month and the Blooming Prairie groups celebrated at the Servicemen's Club on March 5. The Legion commander is Maylon Heinz.

Since the Servicemen's Club opened its doors more than 25 years ago, it has been a hot spot for many events. The club's bar, The Foxhole, has grown in popularity and because of this, the lounge will soon be renovated. Club manager Ralph Diaz said the remodeled lounge will allow more people to sit at the bar.

20 Years Ago
March 9, 1999

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

The Blooming Prairie girls basketball team has caught state tournament fever. The girls came away with an overtime victory over Lake Crystal-Welcome-Memorial Friday night. It is the first time in the 26-year history of girls basketball that the Blossoms have made it to the state tournament, and the first time in 33 years that a Blossom bucket team has achieved state tourney status.

It's daffodil time! The American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days will be March 16-22 this year, and locally A Touch of Charm in Blooming Prairie will be selling them that week.

The days of Blooming Prairie's past have been preserved at Heritage Halls Museum north of Owatonna. Blooming Prairie's Main Street has been depicted in a Mayberry scene in the TV show, "The Andy Griffith Show," which aired in the 1960s. The street scene is from Blooming Prairie in the early 60s, but technologically altered to make it appear like the North Carolina town in the show.

50 Years Ago
March 5, 1969

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE

KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Roger Sorenson and Milo Hoel were delegates from the Blooming Prairie Education Association at the Delegate Assembly of the Southeastern Minnesota Education Association March 1 in Rochester.

Robert Ille, Blooming Prairie businessman, suffered a broken leg in a skiing mishap last Sunday evening. He was participating in a skiing party with the Blooming Prairie Jaycee Chapter east of Rochester when he sustained the injury.

Gifts to the Heart Fund in memory of Victor F. Hurdlik and George Day, late residents of Blooming Prairie, were made last month and will be used for research into the cause and control of heart disease.

Funeral services for Lonna Jean Lindquist were held Friday, Feb. 28 in the Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church with Rev. Leland Evenson officiating. She died in a tragic car crash in California. She was a member of the Class of 1968 in Blooming Prairie.

75 Years Ago
March 9, 1944

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

While in Minneapolis Monday making preparations for induction into the U.S. Navy, Lawrence Lysne, Blooming Prairie contractor, had his 1941 green tudor Ford car stolen from a downtown parking lot.

The 1944 Red Cross War Fund Drive in Blooming Prairie got off to a flying start despite the fact that supplies for the campaign had not arrived up to Wednesday night of this week. Three \$25 contributions have been received.

Another large contingent of men from Steele County left on Tuesday morning from Owatonna for Fort Snelling for final induction. The usual program under auspices of the American Legion and Elks assisting had charge of the farewell ceremonies for the new inductees. There were 48 men from Steele County, including five from Blooming Prairie. The men to leave in the first March group from this county are mostly married men.

Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you recommend some good stair lift companies? I have a difficult time getting up and down the stairs anymore and am interested in purchasing a stair lift for my house but could use some help choosing one.

Arthritic Ann

Dear Ann,

A good home stair lift is an excellent solution for those with mobility challenges who have trouble with steps. A stair lift will carry you up and down the stairs in a safe seated position, providing easy access to the second story or basement level of your home.

To help you choose a quality stair lift that meets your needs and budget, here are a few shopping tips, along with some top-rated companies that make them.

Types of Lifts

There are two basic types of stair lifts that are sold today: straight and curved. The type you need will depend upon the design of your staircase.

A straight stair lift is one that travels in a straight line up a flight of stairs uninterrupted by landings, bends or curves, and costs between \$2,500 and \$5,000 installed. Curved lifts, however, are much more elaborate and will go around corners, bends and changes in direction. Curved lifts are also much more expensive, typically running between \$8,500 and \$15,000 or more depending on the complexity of the installation.

You also need to know that all stair lifts mount to the stair treads, not to the wall, so they are very sturdy and can be installed in almost any home.

If you are a large person, you may need to get a heavy-duty lift with a wider seat and bigger lifting capacity – all companies offer them. Or, if you're tall, find out about raising the seat height during installation.

Most stair lifts available today also have seats, armrests and footplates that fold up out of the way, and swivel seats that make getting into and out of the chair

easier. They also come with standard safety features like seatbelts, breaking systems and footrest sensors, push-button or rocker-switch controls located on the armrest for easy operation, and "call send" controls which allow you to call or send the unit to the other end of the stairs. Make sure the lift you choose has all these features.

Depending on the company, you may also have the option of choosing between an electric (AC) and a battery powered (DC) stair lift. Battery powered units charge at the base station (some recharge anywhere on the track) are quieter, smoother and better than electric lifts, and will work even if there's a power failure in the home.

Where to Shop

While there are many companies that make and sell stair lifts, two of the best, based on reputation and customer satisfaction ratings, are Bruno (Bruno.com, 800-454-4355) and Stannah



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Unfortunately, original Medicare does not cover stair lifts nor do Medicare supplemental (Medigap) policies, but some Medicare Advantage plans may help pay. There are also many states that offer Medicaid waivers that will pay for lifts to those that qualify, and the VA offers cash grants to veterans with disabilities for home safety improvements.

To save some money, you may want to consider purchasing a used or refurbished model. Or, if you need a stair lift for only a

short period of time, consider renting one. Most companies offer these options, and many offer financing programs too.

To get started, contact some stair lift companies who will put you in touch with a dealer in your area. All dealers provide free in-home assessments and estimates and can help you choose an appropriate lift.

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.

WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT: Jane Elsner FROM A1

who believed in me, coached me, and some are here this evening," Elsner said. "I want to thank you very much."

Those who nominated Elsner describe her as "the real deal!" Adding that she is "one of the most kind, caring, giving and Godly women. Jane genuinely cares about others, giving her time and talents to help others feel loved and cared about."

Last year's winner Janet Simon had the honor of announcing Elsner, and said in her keynote speech earlier in the evening, "There's a lot of wisdom in this room and a lot to learn from this group which has been around for 100 years."

"When we look out for others," Simon continued during her keynote address. "We look out for ourselves. Keep up the good work and remember that you are all winners."

Owatonna Business Women's President Ryan Gillespie opened the evening by expressing her honor of being a part of the organization. "I am so proud to be a member of this organization. Tonight, we celebrate women who made this community so great. That is why we are here."

"This celebration showcases the incredible contributions of local women, but it also helps us raise money for scholarships," Gillespie told the crowd. This year's proceeds will go to next year's scholarship recipients, four of which are traditionally chosen.

Gillespie also paid tribute to the history of the organization as it celebrated its 100th anniversary. "So much has happened in our first 100 years," she said. "We have evolved from a politically charged group of women to a non-partisan



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Women of Achievement. A group of past nominees and winners pose for photographs during this year's Woman of Achievement celebration. This year marked the 100th Anniversary of the Owatonna Business Women organization.

group focused on the development of women in all areas of their lives."

Many of the past nominees and winners were there to celebrate the special milestone. "We must honor the women that walked before us, and we must praise the women who walk beside us, and we must give inspiration and support for the women who follow our lead," Gillespie said to those in attendance.

Elsner was chosen from a group of admirable nominees including Diane Holland, a realtor for Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Advantage Real Estate, Joleen Sherrets, the house manager for Hospitality House in Owatonna, Julie Sullivan, the principal of Owatonna Middle School, and Jannell Tufte, a mortgage loan officer at Profinium.

Elsner serves as the director of Walk with Me and ReaLife through YoungLife of Owatonna. A role in which she plans, leads, and coordinates all aspects of the ReaLife

Club. This includes recruiting and training volunteer leaders.

A Licensed Social Worker and a member of the Minnesota School Social Workers Association, Elsner has previously been nominated for School Social Worker of the Year, and has worked with the Lily Sparrow House, the Crisis Resource Center, and was a board member for Big Brother Big Sisters.

She formerly held the social worker position at the Owatonna Area Hospice, through which she developed a partnership with the school district to provide grief support services to children in grades K-12.

Ann Barker received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Since 1990, Barker has been the president and sole shareholder of Barker Law Office in Owatonna. Upon receiving the honor, she spoke to the audience about her educational journey. "I encourage women in the room of whatever age to continue their education, because I went to Law School relatively late in life,"

BUILDING: Steele County FROM A1

to find a new tenant to utilize it. For county administrator Scott Golberg and members of the county board, it came as a complete shock that the building belonged to the county. "I didn't know about it," Golberg said. "It was a surprise to me."

Added county commissioner James Brady, "It's a piece of property I knew nothing about it and most people didn't know. Most didn't know it was county property."

For about 35 years, West Hills Lodge has provided a facility at 545 Florence Ave. for a substance abuse recovery operation. West Hills also operates in Northfield. Since the beginning of the year, the non-profit organization has consolidated to one facility in Northfield.

West Hills assists people after they leave inpatient treatment because they are usually facing serious problems or life crisis. The Owatonna location offered walking distance for mental health services, to Steele County Human Services, fitness center and housing options.

The three-story building is about 13,000 square feet

with about 4,000 square feet on each floor. While Golberg is not criticizing West Hills Lodge in any way, he said there has been neglect with the building for years. "It needs work," he said. "They have been doing minimal

"I didn't know about it. It was a surprise to me."

Scott Golberg
County Administrator

work on it."

Golberg said as far as he's been able to figure out the county board back in the early 1980s issued a quick claim deed to set up the arrangement for West Hills to use the property. There never was a formal lease agreement between the county and West Hills Lodge, according to Golberg. West Hills, he said, paid an initial fee when they took over the building, but had not been paying rent. West Hills had been paying the utilities on the facility.

"I'm not sure how the county ended up with it," Golberg said, noting he believes the building served

as a former hospital for the state school property.

With West Hills now out of the building, the county is left with the dilemma of what to do with it moving forward. "It's not in our best interests to leave a vacant building," Golberg said.

In recent weeks, the county has provided tours to some other providers in the area. "We have some people interested in it," Golberg said. "If there is an obvious service provider, the county would be interested in letting them have it."

While West Hills obviously slipped under the radar of the county for years, Golberg said the organization proved to be beneficial for the building. "They were providing a needed service in the community," he said. "It fit in our line of human services."

The property, Golberg said, is not on the state historic site. "We need to make sure we understand what we can and can't do with the property," he said. "It's still being evaluated for potential occupants," he added.

If the county decides to sell the property, the City of Owatonna would have first right of refusal, Golberg noted.

CITY ADMIN.:
Blooming Prairie FROM A1

he said. "I just felt like I was really after I did so many different things there as the city clerk."

When Langholz was in grad school his professor asked his class of about 20 students where their ideal destination would be when entering the workforce.

"Every person but me said they wanted to be in the Twin Cities," he said. "I like the small community because I feel like I'm held more accountable. I just feel more connected in a small town and that people seem to care a little more about each other."

Langholz said he's been impressed by the city's infrastructure and amenities.

"The infrastructure here in significantly better than my previous town or even those neighboring towns," he said. "A lot of other small communities basically let the infrastructure crumble and then cross their fingers and hope they can pay for it."

Langholz said he's looking forward to meeting more of the city's residents and get more acclimated with the community.

"I'm excited how there are actually things to do here like more restaurants, bowling, golf simulator and couple of good golf courses near town that I can now actually afford," he said. "I don't come in with an agenda. I don't claim to know everything. Having Mike here helps with the transition and puts me way ahead of schedule on everything. He's just a wealth of knowledge."

OBITUARIES

George B. Ressler, 101, Blooming Prairie

George B. Ressler, age 101 of Blooming Prairie, passed away Sunday, March 3, 2019 at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie.

George Bernard Ressler was born Feb. 22, 1918 in Blooming Prairie, the son of Frank and Albina (Motl) Ressler. He grew up and attended school in Blooming Prairie, graduating from Blooming Prairie High School in 1936.

In 1941, George entered the United States Army Air Corp, serving in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater during World War II. He married Tillie Christine Risovi on Feb. 14, 1946, at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie, where the couple remained members. In 1947, George was co-owner of Ressler Lanes and Ressler Men's Clothing in Blooming Prairie until his retirement in 1983 from the restaurant and owned the bowling alley until 2006, when purchased by his grandson.

George was a lifelong member of the St. Columbanus Church, where he was baptized and confirmed. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 52, V.F.W. Post 878, and was on the Board of Directors at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie. His hobbies included golfing, watching sports on TV, and bowling. He was in a bowling league and bowled on teams around the country. George will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

George is survived by his children, David Ressler of



Blooming Prairie and Joanie (Harry) Muellner of Rochester; six grandchildren, Kristin (Jack) Holforthy of Carmel, Ind., Michael (Alysa) Ressler of Blooming Prairie, Aaron Ressler of Blooming Prairie,

Eric (Melanie) Ressler of Ackworth, Ga., Brian (Sarah) Muellner of Rochester, and Andrea (Chris) Peterson of Eden Prairie; 10 great grandchildren, Jackson and Taylor Holforthy, Jake, Jessica, Connor and Kensley Ressler, Broderick and Eleanor Muellner, Ava and Blake Peterson; three step-great grandchildren, Aubry, Kaiden, and Kollyn Alwes; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Albina Ressler; wife, Tillie Ressler in 2015; twin daughters, Karen and Sharen Ressler; two brothers, Frank and Charles Ressler; granddaughter, Bethany Muellner; and great-grandson Jordan Ressler.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at St. Columbanus Catholic Church with Father Tom Niehaus officiating. There was a parish rosary service Monday. Interment will be in St. Columbanus Catholic Cemetery.

Memorials can be directed to recipient of donor's choice. Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Maxine Higgins, 98, formerly of Austin

Maxine Marjorie (Runden) Higgins, age 98, formerly of Austin, passed away Sunday, March 3, 2019 at Westview Care Center in Britt, Iowa.

Maxine was born on Dec. 17, 1920 in Albert Lea, to George and Cora (Hagen) Runden. She attended Albert Lea High School, graduating in 1939. In April of 1938, Maxine met Robert Higgins, they were engaged on Christmas Day 1939, and were united in marriage on July 13, 1940, in Northwood, Iowa. To this union two children were born; son Thomas and daughter Carol. Maxine was a loving wife, mother, and homemaker.

The family took yearly fishing trips up north and traveled to all 50 states as well as Maxine and Robert traveling to Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. Maxine was a member of the St. Olaf Lutheran Church, where she was active in WELCA, Circle 5, and the Alter Guild. She was also a member of the Hormel Retirees and the Golden Age. She will be dearly missed.

Survivors include her daughter, Carol Ann (Steve) Olson of Wesley, Iowa; daughter-in-law, Pat Higgins of Austin; seven grandchildren, Kristen Kiecker, Kelly Olsen, Michelle Peterson,



Gina Nelson Higgins, Angela Higgins, Shannon Olson, and Scott Higgins; 16 great grandchildren, Shea Kiecker, Tayte Kiecker, Cristian Olsen, Cassandra Chadwick, Onna Peterson, Grace Peterson, Cassondra

Nelson, Amanda Nelson, Matthew Nelson, Ryan Petievich, Rayna Petievich, Jake Petievich, Duel Higgins, Duncan Higgins, Asia Higgins-Lewis, and Thomas W. Higgins; three great-great grandchildren, Kashlyn Kiecker, Aviana Kiecker, and Charles Chadwick; many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, George and Cora Runden; husband, Robert in 2008; son, Thomas Higgins in 2017; and one brother, Ellsworth Runden.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Austin. Interment will be in Grandview Cemetery in Austin. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be directed to St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Austin.

Services are prearranged and performed by Worlein Funeral Home of Austin. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Alice E. Reese, 79, Blooming Prairie

Alice Elaine (Nelson) Reese, 79 of Blooming Prairie, passed peacefully at Mayo Clinic Health System of Austin on Friday, Feb. 22, 2019. Family members were with her during her last few days and when she passed.

Alice was born on Aug. 21, 1939 in Austin to parents Herman J. and Alberta M. (Blackwell) Nelson. She was the second child of five, born with a twin brother who died at birth. She grew up in Austin by Todd Park and graduated from Austin High School.

As a young woman, she worked at Weyerhaeuser Co. She was united in marriage to Gary J. Reese on June 21, 1961 at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church. She stayed at home to raise their four children and worked on the farm and fed the hired men during spring and fall work. Gary and Alice enjoyed going out dancing, especially polka and waltz. She enjoyed baking donuts, pies, and cookies. She had a love for reading as well as watching NASCAR and the Minnesota Twins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Herman and Alberta; husband, Gary; brothers, Donovan and Arnold; sister, Ardice; sister-in-law, Betty; brothers-in-law, Curtis and Ronald Reese; and mother-in-law, Dorothy



Johnson. Alice is lovingly remembered by her four children, Kimberly (Rollin) Strand of Hollandale, Lori (Tammy) Reese Earley of Minneapolis, Gina (Anne) Reese of Minneapolis, and Jeremi (Amanda)

Reese of Austin; grandchildren, Jason (Kati) Strand of Faribault, Kraig (Alie) Strand of Blooming Prairie, David Meier of Minneapolis, Kevin Meier (Jordyn) of St. Paul, Diana (Matt) Horan of Hollandale, Gabriel Reese of St. Paul, Marnie Reese of Rochester, and Anna Reese of Austin; brother-in-law, Nolan Johnson of Austin; sister-in-law, Denise Nelson of Mesa, Arizona; brother-in-law, Allan (Vicki) Reese of Ellendale; 10 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 15 at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church with the Rev. Lindsay Brennan officiating. Interment will follow at Red Oak Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be at the church for one hour before the service.

Memorials may be designated to Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church or to the Humane Society.

Clasen-Jordan Mortuary of Austin is in charge of arrangements.

BOOK NOOK

Documentary artist coming to library

Please make plans to be at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library (well, actually the City Council Chamber across the hall from the library) on Wednesday, May 20 at 2 p.m. Documentary artist James A. Bowey will be here to share stories and photographs from his traveling exhibition about refugees in Minnesota. The program "When Home Won't Let You Stay" will be a mix of stories, photography, and discussion about current refugee policies and attitudes. You will be introduced to people who now call Minnesota home and learn about the challenges they faced in their previous homes in Thailand, Myanmar, and other places.

As Bowey explains, "My work seeks to explore subjects that challenge our empathetic imagination and understanding of others. This is particularly germane to our consideration of refu-



NANCY
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gees in America. The number of globally displaced people has risen dramatically in recent years, and is expected to continue to rise in response to ongoing conflicts, poverty, and climate change. However, fears of terrorism and economic dislocation have created social and political pressure to exclude refugees from the United States. These challenges force us to consider the basic human rights of all, and our global responsibilities to others."

As with all library programs, there is no charge to attend. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Blooming Prairie Library. Thanks to the Minnesota Library Legacy program, the Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment, and SELCO (South East Libraries Cooperating) for providing this opportunity.

have created social and political pressure to exclude refugees from the United States. These challenges force us to consider the basic human rights of all, and our global responsibilities to others."

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EVIE EMANUAL
JESSICA JENSEN

MARCH 14
LUCY POST
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JOHN ABBE

MARCH 15
DENNY ZWIENER
CAROL FRISTEDT
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KELLY NJOS
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MARCH 16
CALEB KUBISTA
CORK DREXLER
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JERRY & PATTY INGVALSON

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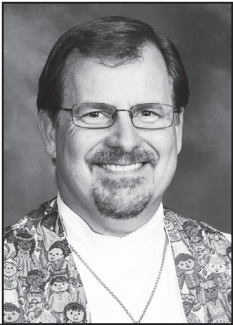
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“The Beauty, Beast and the Cross”



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One of my favorite Disney movies is “Beauty and the Beast.” What would have happened to the Beast if the Beauty hadn’t appeared? You know the story. There was a time when his face was handsome and his palace pleasant. But that was before the curse, before the shadows of his sin fell upon is heart. And fell upon his whole look and demeanor. But that all changed when the girl came. How dark it would have remained in the palace if the girl did not come or did not care. But because

the Beauty had compassion and loved the Beast, he became more beautiful himself. The story is familiar, not just because it’s a fairy tale, but because it reminds us of ourselves. As humans we were once beautiful and our home was stunning. But then the shadow of darkness fell upon us, and we became beastly. The ugly part of us shows often. In the Disney story the Beauty kisses the Beast in love and that transforms him. In the Bible, the Beauty does much more. He becomes the beast so that the beast can become the

beauty. Jesus changes place with us. We like Adam and Eve were under a curse, but Jesus “changed places with us and put himself under that curse” (Galatians 3:13). Now we can be transformed daily by the Spirit of Jesus! Our sins can be placed at the foot of the Cross, and our ugly side can turn into the re-deemed souls we were created to be. Thank God for the Beauty! Thank God for the Cross! Thank God for another chance to shine goodness! Not because we are somehow good enough, but because Jesus is.

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AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN	1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna Pastor Kirk Griebel 507-451-2720 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sun.	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	www.stcolumbanuschurch.com Mass: 10 a.m. Sun. & 8:30 a.m. Friday Reconciliation: 9 a.m. First Friday & Saturday	130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna Pastor Keith Haskell 507-215-2249 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun. Reformers Unanimous Meetings: 7 p.m. Friday	Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. (Fellowship, Church School, and Adult Discussions follow) Wednesday Activities: Sept – May (see website for schedule)
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.	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.	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.	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	CEDAR CREEK 30 E. Main St., Hayfield Pastor Aaron de Neui 507-477-2255 www.cedarcreekchurch.org Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 109 E. Main St., Hayfield Pastor Kirk Johnston 507-477-2631 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 106 Third St. SE., Geneva Pastor Kristen Venne 507-256-4288 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.	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.	ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA 7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith Worship: 8:30 a.m.	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	DESTINY CHRISTIAN 2515 Harvest Lane NW Owatonna Pastors Joe & Vicki Braucht www.destinycc.org Worship: 6 p.m. Sat.	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN P.O. Box 66, Claremont 507-528-2320 Pastor Douglas Walters 10 a.m. Worship
FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC 503 Radel Ct., Ellendale Pastor Richard Sliper 507-684-2451 Saturday: 8 a.m. Men’s Bible Study Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/ Confirmation Tues.: 7 p.m. Call to Prayer, open to all churches Wed.: 9:30 a.m. BibleStudy; 3:30 – 5 p.m. Jesus and Me; 6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	ST. 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.	CATHOLIC CHRIST THE KING 205 Second Ave. NW, Medford 507-451-6353 Father James Starasinick Deacon Patrick Fagan Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat. Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.	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.	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	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.
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.	ST. MICHAEL’S LUTHERAN – ELCA 30450 570th Ave., Waltham Pastor Dwight DoBell 507-567-2474 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.	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	PENTECOSTAL FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL 230 Locust Ave., Owatonna Pastor Eliazar Talamantes 507-363-2240 Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday	NEW BEGINNINGS 332 14th St. NE., Owatonna Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson 507-413-0209 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.	UCC CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 211 Main St. S. Medford Rev. Richard Waters 507-451-4596 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
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.	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..	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	METHODIST BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST 43089 180th St., Medford (Seven miles west of Medford on CR 23) Pastors JJ & Stefanie Morgan 507-835-7826 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.	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	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.
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.	TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA Trinity Lutheran Church 609 Lincoln Avenue Owatonna MN 55060 507.451.4520 tlcowatonna.org Worship: Saturday: 5 p.m. Sunday: 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. tlcowatonna.org/worshipschedule Pastor Todd Buegler Pastor Amanda Weinkauff Deacon Kris Oppgaard	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.	ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST 200 Sixth St. NW., Ellendale Pastor Randy Cirkseña 507-684-2731 www.ellendaleumc.org Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.	MORMON 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.	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.
MOLAND LUTHERAN – ELCA 7618 NE 84th Ave., Kenyon Pastor Nancy Edwardson 507-459-6661 Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.	TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS	SACRED HEART PARISH 810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna Father John Sauer Fr. Jose Morales, Parochial Vicar 507-451-1588 www.sacredhearttowatonna.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.	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	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.	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.
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.		ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC 114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie Father Thomas Niehaus 507-583-2784	NON-DENOMINATIONAL BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY	PRESBYTERIAN ASSOCIATED CHURCH Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ 800 Havana Road, Owatonna 507- 451-1546 www.associatedchurch.org office@associatedchurch.org	

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Bennett advocates for increasing vocational opportunities

A bill being sponsored by State Representative Peggy Bennett, R-Albert Lea, that would bring more opportunities for high school students to take vocational classes outside of school hours was recently presented in the Minnesota House Education Policy Committee.

“Fairmont Schools have seen great success by offering a welding class on Saturdays,” Bennett said. “Programs like the one in Fairmont offer more opportunity for students to access vocational educational programs like welding, carpentry, and more. This is a win-win situation for both our students and our area businesses, which are seeing tremendous worker shortages in the trades. I believe the state should fund these classes like it does for those that take place during the regular school day.”

Bennett said the goal of her legislation is to increase vocational learning opportunities to help students gain the skills and knowledge they need, and to fill in-demand work in vocational trades and skilled labor. Her proposal would provide state grants for that purpose.

Bennett would like to see as many avenues as possible for Minnesota students to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to enter a career of their choice after graduation.

“Many students prefer to learn and work with their hands, and we should have classes and coursework where they can learn an in-demand skill that will help them after graduation,” Bennett said.

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Ashes to ashes, dust to dust

Christians marked the beginning of the Lenten season last week by attending Ash Wednesday services at area churches. Rev. Todd Buegler, left, of Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna imposed ashes on the foreheads of parishioners with the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Ashes to ashes reflects the notion that we come from dust and we return to dust. Lent is the six-week period leading up to Easter. It's one of the most important times of the year for many Christians.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DENNIS MARSHALL



A measure of success

Steele-Waseca Drug Court celebrates another graduate riding on sobriety

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

"I feel great," Ray Scovill said while celebrating his graduation from the Steele-Waseca Drug Court.

Originally booked on a third-degree narcotic sale charge, Scovill was required to serve 39 months in prison. Instead he is now clean and sober, has a job, got his GED, and is a contributing member of society.

"I just sort of rolled the ball and went with it," he said of trying to make the best of the program. "I took it as it comes. It's definitely better than serving 39 months."

Scovill is the 40th graduate of the program, which was implemented on July 1, 2014 in order to respond to high risk/high need substance abusers that continued to cycle in and out of the local justice system and jails.

"Even with good behavior, he would still be serving jail time," Drug Court Coordinator Nicole Grams explained. "He's a primary example that if he wouldn't have had this opportunity, he would be serving 39 months in prison. Really it's an opportunity for him to change his course from repetitive incarceration to being a successful member of the community."

With 217 sobriety days and 144 tests taken, Scovill has surpassed his required commitments to the program, which currently serves 51 individuals throughout both Steele and Waseca counties.

The program is rigorous. It has four-phases and is a minimum of 18 months. SWDC requires court attendance ranging from weekly to monthly, contingent on the phase of a given participant. Recovery related programming includes treatment, support meetings, mental health meetings, completion of cognitive skills programs that help to change thinking, which changes behaviors and recovery events.

At least three hours of self-help recovery meetings are also required weekly. Participants submit to a minimum of twice weekly random testing. All participants must complete treatment, make meaningful connections in the recovery community, obtain a valid driver license, GED/ Diploma, employment, compliance with child support and payment of fines, fees and restitution prior to graduation.

The SWDC has a combined total of 14,492 days of sobriety, which is an estimated average of 39 combined years.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Caption: Steele County District Court Judge Joseph Bueltel presents Raymond Scovill with a plaque commemorating his graduation from the Steele-Waseca Drug Court.

Average sobriety per participant is 284 days.

Graduates like Scovill serve as a positive reinforcement for others within the program. "The reality is they get frustrated and when they see that someone has been able to navigate through the program and do well then they can see that there's a path to success," Grams said.

During his graduation, Scovill had friends and coworkers there to support him, which proves the level of commitment and success he has had. "I would tell others in the program to basically just buckle up and do it," Scovill said. "They made the choice and why not go along with the choices that they made."

"I probably would have kept going

"It's definitely
better **than serving**
39 months."

Raymond Scovill
Drug Court Graduate

down the wrong path," he said if he hadn't made the choice to join the program. "Now I have my GED, a car, a job. I'm just really grateful."

After the graduation, Judge Joseph Bueltel presented Scovill with a plaque in front of the other drug court participants. "I'm just really proud of Ray, he's worked so hard, he's very diligent," Judge Bueltel said.

"This program was really made for him. He saved himself 39 months in prison, and he switched that off for 18 months of freedom and now having a job, and a home, and good relations with his friends in the community, and with his family," Bueltel added. "He's earned it, and he's done the hard work."

Like Grams, Judge Bueltel sees much benefit in a program like this which can effectively alter people's lives and save money. "It costs probably \$5,000 or \$6,000 per year per drug court participant versus \$41,000 for a state prison yearly stint. It clearly makes sense to try this," he said.

Scovill celebrated his graduation from the program on March 6 following a drug court session at the Steele County Courthouse. With past mistakes behind him, and brighter days waiting in the future, Scovill is proof that programs like this carry a wealth of positive results.

BEE FRIENDLY

Owatonna designated as a Pollinator Friendly City

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Owatonna is opting to become a Pollinator Friendly City.

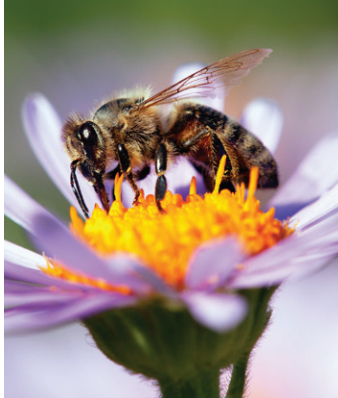
This decision during the March 5 Owatonna City Council meeting came after a January presentation by University of Minnesota Extension and Steele County Indivisible on the prospect of designating the municipality as such.

The presentation was spearheaded by Beth Giltthvedt of Steele County Indivisible who expressed her passion for environmental issues like this one. "Without pollinators, we don't have food, it's as simple as that" she told the council.

Giltthvedt explained to the council that Steele County Indivisible is "a local group that is looking at equity and justice, including earth justice and the environment." Giltthvedt went on to say that, "we look at this as a first step to creating a better environment for our city and our world."

Claire LaCanne of University of Minnesota Extension also weighed in with her own expertise on the matter by giving a slideshow with facts and figures concerning pollinators and their importance.

"We're at a time now, for economic and environmental reasons, that there is a renewed emphasize on protecting our pollinators," LaCanne said. LaCanne explained that pollinators include insects like bees, flies, ants, and butterflies, as well as animals like birds and bats.



There are over 400 species of bees in Minnesota, but their numbers have been declining over the last 40 years. Pollinators such as bees are directly tied to both nectar and pollen, which the critters digest as sustenance.

Prior to Owatonna's adoption of the designation, 39 municipalities across the state had been designated as Pollinator Friendly Cities. This came after the State of Minnesota issued an Executive Order in 2016 for Pollinator Protection.

The resolution stipulates that: The City of Owatonna shall continue its efforts to provide and maintain vegetation on city property in a fiscally responsible manner that considers the health of people, plants, and pollinators.

It also charges the city with educating pertinent city staff with best management practices as far as the use of pesticides are concerned as well as requiring the city and its contractors to limit the use of systematic pesticides that can be harmful to pollinators.

Additionally, the resolution also states that the City of Owatonna will undertake best efforts to purchase and plant

SEE **BEE FRIENDLY**, B2

Award-winning author stops by the town he calls home for debut of his newest novel

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Chris Norbury's first novel won awards. To celebrate the release of his second, he kicked off his book signing tour in Owatonna, where he has lived for nearly 20 years.

The official book launch celebration was held at Central Park Coffee in Owatonna on Feb. 28. Norbury also held a book signing at Owatonna Fitness on March 5.

This book is a prequel to his first book, "Castle Danger," and the first in a planned trilogy. It follows Matt Lanier, a southern Minnesota farm-kid-turned-professional-musician whose comfortable middle-class world is turned upside down by a conspiracy of powerful, ambitious, violent men.

"It takes place in a fictional small farm town in southern Minnesota called Straight River," Norbury explained. "Straight River" is also the named of the

new work, which is a thriller featuring some twists and turns for its protagonist.

The main character grew up on a farm, and so Norbury has imbued his novel with a lot of farm culture as well as an agricultural conspiracy. "He goes to the big city for college and becomes a professional musician, so he's sort of left that one world and gone into a totally different one," Norbury said of his protagonist.

"He comes back to town after his father dies and tries to help out a neighbor, a farmer," he said. "But the more he tries to help the worse things get, and by the end of the book he's in deep trouble. He stumbles upon a conspiracy, which is the reason his neighbor's farm is in jeopardy."

Norbury infuses the narrative with thrilling plot twists involving the central conspiracy, which is sure to keep readers guessing. "He tries to find out who's behind the conspiracy, and tries to get them to stop what they're doing and then they start trying to kill him, so he goes

on the run and nobody believes him because the guy who runs the conspiracy is too clever to let his name get involved."

"I said to myself, what if a normal guy gets plunged into an extraordinary situation that is beyond his control," he said of the thematic elements of the novel. "How far does he go to test his integrity, to test his sense of duty and honor, and his loyalty to his friends. So, he has a real moral dilemma."

There is also the aspect of people changing and trust changing over time, as Norbury suggests that some of the folks in the small town that his protagonist returns to have grown older and are no longer as close to him as they once were. "It's like that Tom Wolfe quote, you can't go home again," he said.

While not originally a writer, Norbury was spurred on at the behest of his wife and family and friends. He grew up in the Twin Cities and holds a degree in music education from the University

SEE **AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR**, B2



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Caption: Owatonna author Chris Norbury and his son Ethan during a book signing at Owatonna Fitness. Norbury debuted his second book "Straight River" at Central Park Coffee in Owatonna, and will also hold book signings throughout the area. He donates part of the proceeds to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota.

Positioning for growth in Medford

Congratulations to our Medford Tigers and their representation at post-season wrestling and girls' basketball tournament play. Special kudos to Alex Helgeson, Charley Elwood, and Willie VonRuden on your state wrestling tournament performances. The Tiger girls have given all the fans something to be excited about in their undefeated season going into sectional play. Thanks to all our students who participate in winter sports and activities. You have given us reason to get out of our homes rather than hibernating the season away!

As I'm working on this column, it is snowing AGAIN! We are at a point of no place to go with the snow-whether in our own driveways or the streets and roads around our community. Everyone should plan for a little longer commutes these days. Please pay special attention at intersections.

This is the season for buried



Mayor Lois
LOIS NELSON

we positioning ourselves for growth or are we going to sit tight knowing we have limited room in both the wastewater operation and not too far away, water systems.

Generally, typically these systems are designed for a 20-year operation period. Our last wastewater update was completed in 2006 and our water system during 2009-10. Serious opportunities for both residential and commercial expansion leading to increasing our overall tax base continue to be a regular discussion topic.

For months we have studied, flow charts, usage scenarios, financing while considering a regional connection to either Owatonna or Faribault or expanding our current site. "Regionalization" is a relatively new topic in out state Minnesota.

The Twin Cities Metro area has for years operated with a shared system. In our part of the state, Kasson-Mantorville now operate with a shared wastewater system.

Minnesota, in recent years, has taken aggressive steps in protecting all waterways and our environment's natural resources. City public works personnel and the Minnesota State Pollution Agency (MPCA) always closely monitor municipal wastewater operations. We will be visiting with area legislators about incentives for exploring regional operations and overall financing assistance.

Availability of licensed operators for any community system continues to be a challenge. In Medford, we now have three public works employees who are multi-taskers with a variety of responsibilities, but this winter, a great deal of time has been spent on snow removal and sanding.

Qualified, licensed operators are in short supply!

At our February meeting, the Council moved directing our engineering firm to proceed with further analysis on expansion of our current wastewater operations positioning the city for growth into the next decades. There is a price tag that goes with this decision! How to manage this major project is part of the challenge we will be discussing around the council table in these coming months. Our citizens are always invited to attend these meetings and listen to the discussion.

We are dealing with more than the accumulating snowfall in our area. We will continue to share our challenges as we work to manage growth opportunities in Medford.

Lois M. Nelson is now serving her seventh year as Medford mayor. She writes regularly for this newspaper.

SMIF sprouts economic growth through spring workshops

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) is pleased to announce the launch of four community resource events this spring.

SMIF is a donor-supported foundation that invests for economic growth in the 20 counties of south central and southeastern Minnesota. The Foundation has provided more than \$111 million in grants, loans and programming within the region since 1986 in the areas of economic and early childhood development and community vitality.

In an effort to expose more people to the many resources that the Foundation has to offer, SMIF is hosting these open house "Sprout!" events where the public is invited to meet with program staff and network with SMIF grant recipients, loan clients and program participants. SMIF's resources include support for business financing and training, minority entrepreneurship support, quality training for child care providers, early childhood programming, a

Cast chosen for Little Theatre's spring play

Little Theatre of Owatonna has announced the cast for its spring comedy production of "Farce of Habit."

Comic fireworks explode in Farce of Habit, an absurdly funny Southern-fried romp that takes us to the quaint Reel 'Em Inn, a fishing lodge in the Ozarks. Proprietor, D. Gene Wilburn looks forward to a peaceful weekend on the lake. But only two chances of that happening: slim and none. Why, for example, has his wife, Wanelle, picked these three days to white-knuckle her way through caffeine withdrawal? Is his son Ty's marriage to Jenna falling apart due to the French can-can costume Ty is wearing? Why would D. Gene's feisty sister, Maxie, allow herself to get caught up in such a bizarre undercover police assignment? And that's just his family. Thwarting D. Gene's weekend plans is a gaggle of nuns converging on the Inn to experience a nature retreat revealing D. Gene's chronic fear of anything in a habit? Add the colossal ego of Jock McNair, nationally known relationship guru who threatens everyone's sanity; a shy retiree anxious to cut loose and embrace his "inner caveman;" throw in the storm of the century

Owatonna Foundation awards scholarships

The Owatonna Foundation awards traditional and nontraditional scholarships. During spring semester 2019, five individuals will use nontraditional scholarship funds to assist with their education costs. The nontraditional scholarships are awarded to individuals who are returning to college or continuing their education after high school graduation. Recipients attend technical programs at technical or community colleges.

Since 1995 the Owatonna Foundation has awarded 440 scholarships, investing totaling more than \$584,000 in individuals seeking to further their education and employment opportunities.

Nontraditional Scholarship Recipients

- Brooke Hondl, Riverland Community College, Radiography, \$1,500, parents Ken and Cheryl Hondl
- Joseph Nelson, Alexandria Community and Technical College, \$1,500, Power Sports and Marine Technology
- Jill Olson, Saint Paul College, American Sign Language Interpreting and Transliterating, \$1,500, spouse Curtis Olson
- Madison Prokopec, Riverland Community College, Radiography, \$1,500, parents Holly and Brad Prokopec
- Leah Rieck, Rochester Community and Technical College, Veterinary Technology, \$1,500, parents Curtis and Amy Rieck

For the 2018–2019 school year, \$22,500 remains available for scholarships. Individuals graduating from high school in June 2019 are eligible to apply for traditional scholarships. Traditional scholarship applications are due April 10. Nontraditional scholarship applications are due June 25.

The Foundation is also pleased to announce that Hamdi Abdi received a \$1,500 June A. and Melanie Nelson scholarship. Abdi is attending the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities and completing a Human Resources and Industrial Relations bachelors degree with an Entrepreneurial Management major.

Nelson scholarship applications are due June 25. Applications for any of the scholarships are available at the Foundation's office at 108 West Park Square, Owatonna; <http://www.owatonnafoundation.org>, Grants/Scholarships, and Apply for a Scholarship, or from Jill Holmes at 507-455-3059.

AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR: *Debut* FROM B1

of Minnesota. He's written for several websites as a freelance writer, and essays he's written on wilderness canoeing have been published in the Boundary Waters Journal.

Norbury was more than happy to hold his book launch in the town he now calls home. "I do a lot of my writing at the local coffee shops," he said of deciding upon Central Park Coffee for his first venue. "So, I tell people that there's a lot of coffee and donuts from the local coffee shops in these books."

He has also been heavily involved in Big Brothers Big Sister of Southern Minnesota, a program near and dear to his heart. Part of the proceeds of the books sold during his signing go to Big Brothers Big Sisters. "I've been involved for 20 years, and Ethan is my

BEE FRIENDLY: Owatonna FROM B1

vegetation on city property favorable to pollinators. The city will also endeavor to purchase plants native to the region, particularly those that have not been genetically engineered to have herbicides or pesticides in their DNA.

At the special work session in January, LaCanne saluted Owatonna's current efforts, saying "it sounds like you're set to become a pollinator friendly city." With this official resolution, the City of Owatonna has become the 40th city within the state to be designated as such.

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Alexander Vereide Caleb Vereide Lane Versteeg Anna Vetsch Rhiannon Vraspir Nyagam Wal Trace Walderon Gavin Walerius Susan Walker Tatum Walkingstick Thomas Wall Jonathan Wall Caleb Wannarka Nicole Weber Abigail Webster Scott Weckman Lillian Weegman Niveah Welch Leah Welker Annabelle Wellnitz Joby Werk Blake West Dallas Wetzel Dakota Wetzel Jordan Whalen Morgan White Annika Wiese Ariana Wilker Madeline Wilker Kinzie Williams Andrew Williams Nicholas Williams Matthew Williams Ava Wolfe Grace Wolfe Emma Wolff Luke Wottreng Elizabeth Wunderlich Ryan Yankoviak Dominick Yerhot Ellie Youngquist Logan Zaccaria Angela Zaccaria Benjamin Zappa Haley Zempel Madison Ziegler Emma Zimmerman Max Zirngible Lillian Zollner
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B Honor Roll

Shamso Abdullahi Adnan Abdullahi Gabriel Adams Mahamed Aden Ayan Ahmed Nasra Ahmed Alexis Akemann Elena Alba Gustavo Alejandro Matthew Amundson Annika Andrix Jennifer Armendariz Brianna Bailey McKenna Baker Nolan Baker Kaine Baldus Michael Bangs Damaeon Bartlett Angelina Bartz Camryn Bartz Lauryn Bateman Emily Beckmann Jackson Bellomy Sean Bergeman Damien Bessette Payton Beyer Cody Blaisdell Michael Bobo Paige Boedecker Lainy Boedecker Tea Boerner Dylan Boerner Elizabeth Borromeo Lillie Bos Cassondra Bremer Gabriela Breuer Jocelyn Brooks Haven Broton Joseph Brueggemeier Evan Buck Gabrielle Buck Connor Budach Samuel Buegler Emma Burns Justin Camozzi Michael Carr Brady Carrigan Victoria Cassen	Nolan Cederstrom Mason Chandler Logan Chandler Hailey Christenson Alyssa Cicero Isabella Claeys Matthew Clark Tyler Cobban Grace Cocchiarella Chloe Cockram Hailey Cockram Skylah Conner Valentina Contreras Matthew Cook Megan Copeland Katie Cottingham Jayson Cox Abbey Crandall Tyrel Creger Nicholas Cummins Garrett Dahlen Aaron Dahlin Emma Dahnert Jordyn Daley Jaden Dallenbach Hunter Dallman Kenna DaMitz Samuel Davidson Riley Davis Raul De La Paz Carranza Antonio DeAlba Cole Deason Connor deBruin Carter DeBus Matthew DeHaan Carson DeKam Seth Delbridge Jake DeLeeuw Jorge Delgado Makenna Dempsey Gavin DeWitz Reilly Dibble Kya Dixon Mackenzie Donahue Daniel Donlon Noah Drache Joseph Dub Liam Dublin	Derek Dunn Evan Dushek Marlee Dutton Joseph Earl Karmen Eaton Steven Eckard Alexander Engbard Emily Engebretson Ethan Engels Mason Enger Eli Engler Brody Erola Kayla Eschenbrenner Jocelyn Esquivel Lesley Esquivel Jose Esquivel Aisha Farah Samera Fearn Mckenzi Fedder Jada Federly Jared Fett Kaden Finholdt Elizabeth Fisher Madison Flynn Samantha Fredin Ethan French Kiley Friedrichs Landon Fumo Hector Funes Altamirano Michael Gamez Ryan Gander Angel Garcia Perez Madeline Gardow Wyatt Garten Austin Garten Citlaly Garza Hunter Gathje Said Geelle Sahal Geelle Holly Gerdts Tate Gfrerer Reilly Gieseke Henry Gigstead Ryley Glassmaker Emma Goll Emilia Gomez Jessica Gonzalez Ryan Good	Logan Granquist Madysen Grass Tyia Graupmann Oxford Gray Estae Green Ryan Gregory Tyler Grobner Dylan Grobner Tristan Groh Marissa Gronli Isaiah Grube August Grubish Jackson Grunwald Rian Grunwald Max Guenther Gabrielle Guimond Alya Gutierrez Mackenzie Haberman Ryan Haberman Kanin Hable Brynn Hackerson Stephanie Hager Sydney Hall Alexander Hamilton Brayden Hansen Max Hanson Jack Hanson Thomas Hanson Lisabet Hanson Mathieu Hanson Avery Hartman ZamZam Hassen Anthony Hauer MaKayla Hedberg Jessica Helms Burke Henderson Samuel Henson Mariela Hernandez Jakota Hernandez Mariana Hernandez Alondra Hernandez-Montero Catrina Herr Fatuma Hersi Sean Heselton Brandon Highberg Quang Ho Mackenzie Hoffman Ashton Hoffman	Leif Hoffstatter Michael Hofmaster Tristan Hollister Hailee Homeier Brooklyn Houser Parris Hovden Emma Howe Hunter Huebbe Evan Huemoeller Sudi Hussein Derek Huxford Nolan Ideker Adela Interiano Spencer Intress David Izquierdo Samuel Jabara Tytiana Jackson Karla Jacobo Zavaleta Leone Jacobson Jannah Jandt Miguel Jaramillo Alec Jarvis Alissa Jensen Carter Jensen Lucas Jensen Johnathon Jensen Henry Jessop Myiah Jewison Hunter Johnson Krystal Johnson Auna Johnson Alyvia Johnson Brad Johnson Isabelle Johnson Annalia Johnson Janessa Juarez Jordan Kalbach Gavin Karow Jessy Kasfeldt Joshua Katzung JaceKatzung Bailey Keck Kerryn Keller Allison Keller Caleb Kess Sarah Kingland Zackary Kirsch Karissa Klecker	Jonathan Klecker Jack Kleeberger Sam Knoll Eli Knutson Jaden Knutson Skyler Kopecky-Johnson Gavin Kopischke Griffin Korbel Madeline Koslosky Phillip Koslosky Ethan Kozirolek Wyatt Kriesel Kylie Kruckeberg Blake Kubat Ethan Kubat Caden Kubicek Andrew Laatsch Zachary Langager Samuel Lange Connor Lantsberger Garrett LaPlount Levi Larsen Kora Larsen Cole Larson Braydn Larson Abigail Leemkuil Thomas Lehrer Thomas Leon Christopher Lewis Onyka Lopez Trenton Lower Heidi Lundberg Jamie Lysne Sabella Maas Tyler Maas-Schlie Roxey Manzano Maggie Marks Meryk Martin-Kubat Mariah Mason Logan McGaheeran Justice McGuire Avery McManimon McKenna Melby Makayla Mendez Xitlali Mendez Talus Meyer Camryn Miller Jacob Miller
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BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: Crash: Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at Riverside Ave. NW and Sylvan St. NW at 6:46 p.m. They issued a citation to one of the drivers.

Sex offenders take up new residences in Owatonna

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A pair of sex offenders deemed as the most likely to reoffend is on the move and taking up new residences in Owatonna.

Beginning today (Tuesday), Richard Villarreal is moving to the vicinity of East Rice Street and South Cedar Avenue in Owatonna. He previously had lived in the area of Rose Street East and Elm Avenue North.

James Peteer Zylstra changed his residence on March 1. He is now living in the vicinity of State Avenue and Hoffman Drive NW.

Because Villarreal and Zylstra are labeled as Level 3 offenders, Owatonna Police held



JAMES
PETEER
ZYLSTRA



RICHARD
VILLARREAL

a community notification meeting Monday afternoon to let residents know about the moves.

Villarreal has a history of sexual contact with two girls ages 12 and 14. Contact included sexual touching and penetration. He also has prior juvenile history of sexual contact with two girls ages 8 and 10.

Zylstra has a history of sexual contact with known and unknown female victims ranging in ages 12 to adult. Contact included sexual touching and indecent exposure. The adult victims were

vulnerable.

According to police, both offenders have served their sentences and have been transitioned into the community since their releases. Police note the notification is not intended to increase fear but rather raise awareness. Law enforcement believes that an informed public is a safer public.

Police are unable to direct exactly where the offenders reside, work or go to school.

In addition to Villarreal and Zylstra, there are several other Level 3 offenders living in Steele County. They include: Robert Martinez in Blooming Prairie and Benny Ledesma, Justin Wayne Fischer, Curtis Lavern Enzenhauer, William Marcus Daniel Edwards and Phillip Louis Davis, all living in Owatonna.

CRIME BRIEF

TWO CHARGED IN GOLD THEFT IN OWATONNA



HARLEY
NORBERG



JOHN EPEL

Facebook helped police crack a gold theft in Owatonna.

Police received a theft report from Black Forest on Feb. 26. Black Forest reported it had been contacted by a local jeweler that a man had been selling scrap gold believed to have come from Black Forest. An employee identified the scrap as coming from rings manufactured by Black Forest.

Through Facebook, police found out the suspect selling the scrap was a friend to a Black Forest employee. Officers interviewed the employee who admitted to taking about 100 pieces of scrap gold over the past year and having his friend sell it to the jeweler.

Police arrested the employee, Harley Norberg, 63, of Owatonna. He has been charged with theft and fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance as he was allegedly in possession of methamphetamine at the time of his arrest.

Norberg's friend, John Eppel, 51, of Owatonna, has also been charged with receiving stolen property and aiding and abetting theft. Eppel admitted to selling the gold over the past year, according to police.

In total, the jeweler paid \$1,240 for the gold that was valued at \$4,386, police said.

COURT NEWS

Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Feb. 25 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

David Deluna, 41, Bricelyn, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault of correctional employee/probation officer/prosecutor/judge – intentionally transfers bodily fluids and misdemeanor disorderly conduct. He was sentenced to \$131, 90 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, cognitive skill training, anger management, obtain permission to leave the state and 3 years of supervised probation.

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Feb. 25 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

Jeremiah J. Bauer, 32, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony attempted murder, felony kidnapping and felony assault-use of deadly force against peace officer/prosecutor/judge. He was sentenced to \$5,314.53, 183 months in St. Cloud State Prison and predatory offender registration.

Shayne D. Bowers, 29, Faribault, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. Bowers was sentenced to \$131, 106 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Feb. 25 – March 3:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Kyle E. Arndt, 33, Austin, revoked license, \$281; Priyia K. Lacey, 22, Albert Lea, revoked license, no insurance, no child passenger restraint system and seat belt, \$556; Zachary J. Lieberman, 35, Eagan, speeding, \$121; Thanh-Kevin P. Nguyen, 22, Blooming Prairie, no license, \$181; Dustin G. Smitty, 18, Willmar, seat belt, \$106.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Saleh H. Almarri, 22, Rochester, speeding, \$121; Yien R. Douth, 46, Waterloo, IA, speeding, \$121; Keniqua D. Francois, 24, Houston, TX, speeding, \$141; Wilfred Ghanyea Jr., 28, Des Moines, IA, speeding, no insurance and no license, \$441; Kevin Guerrero, 19, Onalaska, WI, speeding, \$281; Nicolas A. Leiven, 28, Owatonna, texting while driving, \$131; John D. Neitge, 26, Mankato, speeding, \$131; Selene G. Ochoa-Ruiz, 19, Minneapolis, speeding, \$141; Remigio A. Rodriguez, 32, Waseca, revoked license, \$281; Natalie J. Storlie, 25, Prior Lake, seat belt, \$106; Joseph W. Urwin, 20, Sioux Falls, SD, use fictitious information on license, \$131 and 3 days in county jail.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Kenna A. Brown, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Marcy K. Busho, 33, Owatonna, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$181; Richard K. Cory, 30, New Richland, no insurance and expired tabs, \$311; Jonathan E. Cozad, 43, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$131, 5 days in county jail and 2 years of supervised probation; Eulalio Cuellar, 39, Owatonna, speeding, \$100; Jessica A. Dahle, 42, Faribault, theft, \$165.18, 60 days in county jail; Amber L. Dewey, 28, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$131; Makayla M. Gasner-Hobgood, 17, Apple Valley, failure to yield, \$131; Matthew R. Grieger, 32, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, substance abuse subtle screening inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Fatima A. Ikar, 17, Rochester, permit violation, \$131; Jared F. Krampitz, 31, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, \$281, 4 days in county jail, cognitive skill training and 1 year of supervised probation; Cindi M. Luna, 20, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$131; Tyler M. Lutz, 29, Owatonna, DWI, \$1,106, 30 days in county jail, ignition interlock program, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, 224 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Rachel A. Madson, 42, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Brian J. Maestre-Reavis, 31, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, \$381, 76 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, cognitive skill training, predatory offender

registration, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Michael D. Marquardt, 50, Dodge Center, expired tabs, \$111; Joseph D. Miller, 28, Owatonna, failure to stop for traffic control signal, \$131; Ashley L. Myers, 27, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Martin J. Olson, 43, Meriden, seat belt, \$106; Marcus C. Padilla, 48, Owatonna, texting while driving, \$131; Marcus P. Pennington, 24, suspended license, \$281; Jeffrey A. Pitzen, 52, Kasson, theft, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Kevin M. Raichle, 36, Owatonna, fleeing in motor vehicle, stay of adjudication, \$300, 18 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state and 3 years of supervised probation; Jesse F. Riley, 39, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Bobby J. Smitty, 25, Blooming Prairie, suspended license, possession of marijuana and no insurance, \$531; Kendra J. Thomas, 24, Owatonna, no insurance and revoked license, \$481; Alfredo E. Torres Garcilazo, 55, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Tyeisha D. Wadley, 27, Owatonna, make emergency call, \$131; Nizhoni T. Walter, 45, Owatonna, failure to notify owner of property damage, \$281; Beau P. Wanner, 31, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$131 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Timothy O. Williams, 48, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$381 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Luis A. Zelaya Rivera, 31, Maple Grove, suspended license and speeding, \$331.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Timothy A. Banister, 23, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$100; Kelly M. Cardenas, 46, Waseca, speeding, \$90; Marjace N. Crawford, 24, Chisago City, speeding, \$141; James G. Dykes, 59, St. Paul, speeding, \$141; Amy L. Evans, 36, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Jacob R. Howlett, 22, Rochester, expired tabs and no insurance, \$311; Kong G.

Kong, 18, Mankato, speeding and suspended license, \$341; Bradley S. Kruesel, 52, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; Ahmed A. Mohamed, 20, Faribault, speeding, \$131.

ARRESTS

Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Brian Meastre-Reavis, 31, arrested on March 5, felony robbery, burglary, assault and theft, held for court.

Nicholas Lawrence Dube, 25, arrested at 9:16 p.m. March 5, felony robbery, assault and theft, held for court.

Bobby James Smitty, 25, arrested at 10:36 a.m. March 6, warrant arrest, \$20,000 bail.

Robert James Stockwell, 52, arrested at 7:30 p.m. March 6, obstruction of peace officer and disorderly conduct, held for court.

Ross Raymond Milbrett, 36, arrested at 12:18 a.m. March 7, DWI-refusal, no insurance and obstruction, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff Eloy Tarango, 40, arrested at 10:26 p.m. Feb. 28, probation violation, held for court.

POLICE BLOTTER

Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

March 1

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest at Highway Ave. N. and 5th St. NE at 3:27 p.m.

March 3

Burglary: Police responded to a burglary in the 300 block of Center Ave. S. at 1:33 a.m. Owatonna Police

March 1

Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 2300 block of 43rd St. NW at 12:07 a.m.

Burglaries: Police began burglary investigations in the 1900 block of Rosewood Dr. NW at 11:37 a.m. and the 1000 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 3:30 p.m.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 300 block of Cedardale Dr. SE at 3:39 p.m.

March 2

Shoplifting: At 3:45 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N.

March 3

Burglary: Officers responded to a burglary in the 100 block of 21st St. NW at 8:12 a.m.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 2:19 p.m.

Suspicion: Police responded

to suspicious activity in the 800 block of Greenhave Lane NE at 5:36 p.m.

March 5

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 600 block of Willowbrook Dr. NE at 10:10 a.m.

Domestic: police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1000 block of Hoffman Dr. NW at 10:12 a.m.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 500 block of Park Dr. NW at 4:53 p.m.

March 6

Warrants: Police made warrant arrests in the 200 block of McKinley St. E. at 2:02 a.m. and the 500 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 6:54 p.m.

Disturbance: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 500 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 6:15 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

March 7

Arrests: Police assisted other agencies with arresting subjects in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 11:52 a.m. and the 200 block of McKinley St. E. at 4:46 p.m.

Crash: Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at Riverside Ave. NW and Sylvan St. NW at 6:46 p.m. They issued a citation to one of the drivers.

DWI: Police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at Hoffman Dr. NW and Rose St. W. at 11:23 p.m. Steele County Sheriff

March 1

Crash: At 12:50 p.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred in the 6600 block of Frontage Rd. W. in Medford.

March 2

Crash: At 2:05 a.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred on Interstate 35 in Owatonna Township.

Welfare: Deputy conducted a welfare check in the 300 block of 5th Ave. SW in Medford at 12:38 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

March 3

Crash: At 4:26 a.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred at U.S. Highway 14 W. and Interstate 35 in Owatonna Township.

March 5

Crashes: Motor vehicle accidents occurred at 58th St. SW and Interstate 35 in Somerset Township at 2:18 a.m., on Interstate 35 in Owatonna at 5:31 a.m. and the 9000 block of 88th St. SW in Lemond Township at 5:28 p.m.

Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 100 block of 2nd St. SW in Medford at 10:18 a.m.

COURT NEWS

Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Feb. 24 – March 3:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Maria D. Arrequin Tapia, 34, Dodge Center, invalid license and no insurance, \$380; Robert S. Benke, 32, Hayfield, suspended license, \$280; Jason C. Bryant, 26, Waltham, possession of paraphernalia, \$130; Michael W. Churchill, 23, Austin, revoked license, \$280; Michael A. Davis, 34, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$105; Tricia W. Johnson, 44, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Lori A. Siegele, 27, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Kevin D. Sprunt, 27, Hayfield, parking violation, \$32; Bryan A. Studnicka, 28, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Stephen J. Sullivan, 29, Lanesboro, parking violation, \$32; Patricia M. Utech, 54, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; William R. Young, 24, Sumter, SC, speeding, \$120.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Kas Investment Co., Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Diann K. Ingersoll, 65, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Karole L. Lee, 65, St. Croix Falls, WI, parking violation, \$32; Jason J. Lesmeister, 39, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Daniel P. Polonia, 36, St. Paul, parking violation, \$32; Jeffrey S. Schellhammer, 53, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Henry L. Tews, 57, Glenville, parking violation, \$32; Christian D. Unger, 28, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Miguel S. Valdez, 54, Mantorville, invalid license, \$180; Elijah K. Zwiefel, 17, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Vianey Jacobo Martinez, 20, Rochester, speeding and no license, \$240; Jessica D. Rivera, 34, West Concord, suspended license, \$280.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Melissa M. Rolлие, 35, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Brandon M. Schnell, 33, West Concord, parking violation, \$32; Ann M. Woslager, 53, Hayfield, parking violation, \$32; Daniel Zgodava Jr., 23, Waltham, speeding and no insurance, \$330.

WARRANTS: The following individuals have active warrants in Steele County. The Sheriff provides this information as a public service

1. Jose Mota – theft - \$1,000 bail

2. Guadalupe Munoz – false name - \$3,000 bail

3. Ricardo Munoz – DWI - \$6,000 bail

4. Deris Murillo-Benitez – DWI - \$12,000 bail

5. Charlene Murry – DUI – no bail

6. Deq Mursal – DWI - \$3,000 bail

7. Hailee Nagelstad – speeding - \$200 bail

8. Chad Nappin – motor vehicle - \$500 bail

9. Olvidio Narraez – DWI, no license - \$1,000 bail

10. Jennifer Nekolite – disorderly conduct - \$500 bail

11. Theodore Nelson – speeding - \$200 bail

12. James Neubauer – traffic - \$500 bail

13. Dai Nguyen – drugs – no bail

14. Benito Nieto – terroristic threats – no bail

15. Jason Nolan – theft by check - \$5,000 bail

16. Pedro Nolasco – revoked license - \$500 bail

17. Gracie Nunez – theft - \$10,000 bail

18. Joan O'Quist – FTA-obey order - \$3,000 bail

19. Kelley Oelker – worthless check - \$500 bail

20. David Olivo-Santana – unauthorized use – no bail

Disclosing active warrants promotes public safety and aids in the identification and apprehension of wanted individuals

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

MARCH 14
6 a.m. – School Board Work Session, BPHS Board Room
4 p.m. – Police Commission Meeting

MARCH 15
5 p.m. – American Legion 100th Birthday Dinner, Servicemen's Club

MARCH 18
6:30 p.m. – Friends of the Library Meeting, BP Library
7 p.m. – School Board Meeting, BPHS Media Center

MARCH 19
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
5 p.m. – Ambulance Commission Meeting
7 p.m. – BPHS Band Concert, BP Gym

MARCH 20
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
Chamber of Commerce Meeting

MARCH 30
Education Foundation Auction



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ELLEDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

MARCH 14
6 p.m. – NRHEG Referendum Open House, NR HS Lower Commons
7:30 p.m. – Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building

MARCH 15
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

MARCH 18
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
6 p.m. – Ellendale Fire Department Meeting, Community Building

6 p.m. – ECFE Adventures in Parenting Class, NR Preschool Room
6:30 p.m. – NRHEG School Board Meeting, Ellendale Media Center
7:30 p.m. – NRHEG Grades 5-12 Band Concert, NR HS Gym

MARCH 19
6:15 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do, Ellendale Gym North

MARCH 20
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

MARCH 14
9 a.m. – North American Farm & Power Show, Four Seasons Centre
9 a.m. – Jr. History Detectives, History Center
2 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library
5 p.m. – Airport Commission Meeting, Airport Lounge
6:30 p.m. – Family Story Time, Owatonna Library
6:30 p.m. – History Detectives, History Center

MARCH 15
9 a.m. – North American Farm & Power Show, Four Seasons Centre

MARCH 16
8 a.m. – Owatonna Senior High Tour, OHS
9 a.m. – North American Farm & Power Show, Four

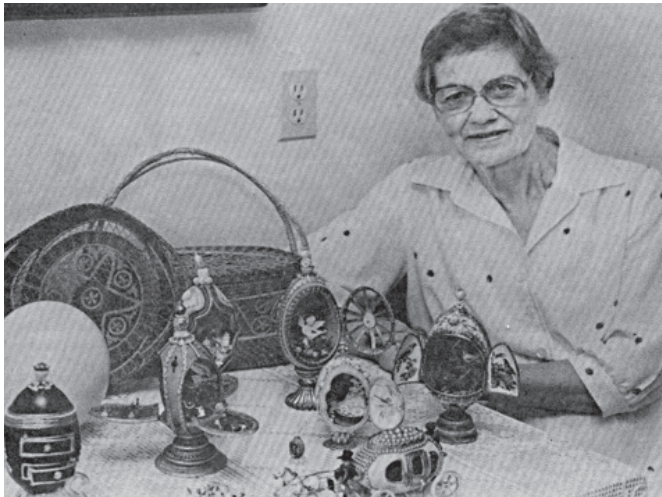
Seasons Centre
11 a.m. – We All Play Silent Auction, Owatonna Eagles
6:30 p.m. – Romantica, History Center

MARCH 18
7 p.m. – Medford Planning & Zoning Meeting, City Admin Building

MARCH 19
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Tale Time, Owatonna Library
4:30 p.m. – Library Board Meeting, Owatonna Library
7 p.m. – Owatonna City Council Meeting, City Admin Building

MARCH 20
2 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. – When Home Won't Let You Stay: Stories of Refugees, Owatonna Library

Egg-crafting on display at History Center



Katherine Ott's egg-crafting hobby is on display at the Steele County History Center in Owatonna through early May.

When you first walked into Katherine Ott's apartment it seemed like any other home. It had two overstuffed rocking chairs, a couch covered with a handmade afghan and shelves filled with greeting cards. But there is one thing that was different. In the corner, the one farthest from the door, was a glass cabinet filled with eggs. Not just any eggs, but eggs decorated with beautiful patterns and carved into beautiful shapes. Egg-crafting was Ott's hobby.

The Steele County Historical Society's latest pop-up exhibit, Egg-crafting: The Art of Katherine Ott, offers a sampling of eggs she created over a 10-year period. Because she worked with egg-crafting for so long, she had built up quite a collection, which includes chicken eggs, goose eggs, turkey eggs, duck eggs, a quail egg, a pheasant egg, a sparrow egg and even an ostrich egg. And what she has done with the eggs is simply amazing. A sampling of Katherine's eggs will be on exhibit through May 3.

"There were about seven of us (in Minnesota) that worked with eggs," Ott shared in an interview with an unknown newspaper. "We'd get together and exchange ideas. But we each did our own thing."

The first step in crafting eggs, according to Ott, is to remove the egg yolk. This is done by poking a tiny hole in either end of the shell and blowing out the yolk or by carving a hole into the shell and simply dumping out the yolk. Ott would then draw a design on the empty shell and use a small electric saw with fine teeth to cut out the design. The rest was up to her imagination. She has covered the eggs with beads and braids and has put tiny figures into them. Some of the eggs are lined with velvet, and most are decorated with paper flowers.

It would be difficult to select the most beautiful egg in Ott's collection; there are just too many to choose from. Ott did something different with each of the eggs in her collection. "I don't think I have a favorite egg," she said. To her, each one is special.

Sons of Norway to feature Knud

The Nortonna Lodge 1-638 of the Sons of Norway meets Monday, March 18. Supper will be served at 6 p.m. for a cost of \$8 at the Owatonna Elks Lodge, 126 East Vine Street.

The March program features Dr. Lawrence Moe on "Knud Wefald: You Can Take Knud out of Norway..." Dr. Moe, who is on the faculty of Metropolitan State University, will chronicle the life of Knud who came to Minnesota at age 17

as a penniless farmhand and worked his way into business and politics. He also wrote a series of 29 newspaper articles about his return trip to Norway with his young family. Come and learn more about this interesting Norwegian-American.

If you would like more information on the Nortonna Lodge of the Sons of Norway, contact Cindy or Paul Hokanson at 507-451-9301.

AAUW to feature Carleton administrator

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Owatonna members invite interested guests and potential members to attend their meeting on March 21 at 7 p.m. at the Owatonna Arts Center.

The program for the evening will feature Heidi Luehmann Jaynes, associate athletic director/senior woman administrator at Carleton College. She

oversees NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) and MIAC (Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) Compliance for 20 sports and the department's gender equity, inclusion, and Title IX plans. Jaynes will update on Title IX.

A \$5 fee will be charged at the door, the net proceeds benefitting the Owatonna Arts Center.

Mystery Bus Tour offered by Historical Society

Join the Steele County Historical Society (SCHS) for an exciting day on an escorted Mystery Bus Tour. On Friday, April 12, the bus will depart from the Steele County History Center at 7:30 a.m. and return at approximately 4:30 p.m.

A valid state photo ID or passport is required for admission, and reservation and payment must be made not later than March 29.

Where are we going? No one on the bus – except

the driver and tour escort Jerry Ganfield – will know. The one-day trip to the destination is secret, but guaranteed to offer an enjoyable, educational, innovative way to experience history.

Tickets for the tour are available at the Steele County History Center. Space is limited and filling quickly. The group will stop for lunch, which is paid on your own, but menu item to be selected when ticket is purchased.

Garrison Keillor coming to History Center

Steele County Historical Society (SCHS) will host a fundraising event featuring Garrison Keillor on Thursday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the Steele County History Center in Owatonna.

In addition to Keillor's performance, there will be a Meet and Greet. Guests will get time with Keillor, appetizers and beverages, and preferred seating for the performance. The Meet and Greet is limited to 30 people, and will be held March 28 at 6 p.m. in the Dunnell House. Tickets are available to members only.

The American author, storyteller, humorist, voice actor, and radio personality will entertain guests with stories and anecdotes. Come prepared to laugh!

Keillor is best known as the creator of the Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) show, A Prairie Home Companion, which he hosted from 1974 to 2016. Keillor created the fictional Minnesota town Lake Wobegon, the setting of many of his books, including Lake Wobegon Days and Leaving Home: A Collection of Lake Wobegon Stories.

Keillor is also the creator of the five-minute daily radio/podcast program The Writer's Almanac, which pairs one or two poems of his choice with a script about important literary, historical, and scientific events that coincided with that date in history.

"I wrote a limerick about an old Lutheran in Owatonna who raised 10 acres of marijuana and set it ablaze for several days and had visions of the blessed Madonna," Keillor said. "I'm curious to meet him."

March Madness hits Steele Fair

March Madness has set in at the Steele County Free Fair in Owatonna.

Throughout the month of March, the fair is offering special rate tickets for upcoming concerts at the fair in August. Tickets went on sale on March 1 for the Chris Kroeze and Chris Hawkey concerts. Kroeze is a national recording artist from NBC's The Voice, and Hawkey is from KFAN.

Fairgoers may purchase

tickets on-line at www.SCFF.org throughout March. The fair is offering discounted tickets for both performances.

Fair manager Scott Kozelka said the rates featured during the March promotion will only be offered once.

Hawkey will perform Thursday, Aug. 15 while Kroeze will take the stage on Friday, Aug. 16

Kindergarten Open House set for NRHEG

Kindergarten/Bridges Orientation/Open House for NRHEG Elementary School is scheduled for Monday, April 1, at 4:30 p.m. The orientation will be held in the NRHEG Elementary School music room in Ellendale and will last approximately one hour.

Please bring your child with you to the

orientation. Both our Bridges (a kindergarten alternative program) and Kindergarten programs will be highlighted at this orientation.

If you have questions, please contact Jean Greenwood, administrative assistant, in the school office at 507-684-3181.

Flashlight tour shines on WWI

On Thursday, March 21 at 8 p.m., join the Steele County Historical Society for a guided flashlight tour of Over Here, Over There: The Great War exhibit.

Perfect for a date night or a unique group outing. The WWI Flashlight Tour allows guests to explore the SCHS Over Here, Over There: The Great War exhibit in the dark. Guests will experience the sights, sounds and smells of WWI on this guided Flashlight Tour. Each group is accompanied by a guide who will illuminate pieces throughout the exhibit. Under flashlight, The Great War details come alive in a way not seen in the day. You will see WWI in a whole

new light! SCHS requests that guests do not bring their own flashlights.

Tickets are available for purchase at the Steele County History Center or online at www.steelehistorymuseum.org.

The Steele County Historical Society is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1949. Its mission is to preserve and share Steele County history today for tomorrow. The Society collects, preserves and tells the story of Steele County's past through museum exhibits, research, collections, tours, educational programs and book publishing.

COLLEGE NEWS

Area students named to Dean's Lists

Two area students have been named to the Dean's List for their respective colleges.

Nicholas Srsen of Blooming Prairie earned Dean's List honors from Bemidji

State University for Fall 2018 semester.

To be eligible for Dean's List at Bemidji, students must be enrolled in at least 12 credits and earn a 3.5 GPA. A total

of 797 students earned honors for fall semester.

Brandon Katzung Hokanson of Owatonna has been placed on the Gettysburg College Dean's Honor List

for outstanding academic achievement for the Fall 2018 semester.

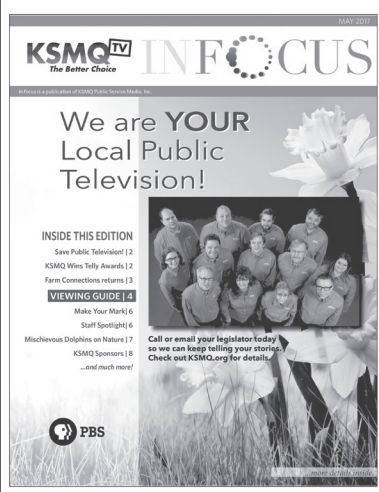
Students qualify for the Honors List by achieving a GPA of 3.60 or higher.

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BASKETBALL

Vikings edge Awesome Blossoms

Blooming Prairie's season comes to end

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

As was befitting a playoff rivalry game between two matched teams, Hayfield prevailed at the end, edging Blooming Prairie 50-48 and ending the Awesome Blossom season. Hayfield (25-4) moved into the sub-section finals with the victory.

Both teams played consistent defense over the first half, with the Blossoms holding Viking thrusts at bay, and Hayfield doubling down on every interior pass into the paint by the locals. That tactic and difficult backgrounds for shooting kept the

score low through the first half, although the winners managed an 18-13 margin at the break. Some good shooting by Parker Vaith kept the Blossoms close through the first 18 minutes.

In the second half the offenses took over. Zach Archer led the action after the break, as BP quickly tied the score, and Kaden Thomas rebounded from three first half fouls to fire up 18 second half markers.

The Blossoms even took an eight-point lead, before Hayfield's Mason Tapp finally got his game going in the final seven minutes.

The Vikings outscored the locals 14-4 down the stretch. What had worked on defense previously became ineffective because of Tapp's ability to score from all over. With just over a minute to play, a Blossom shot rattled off the rim, and a Hayfield rebound and a driving layup clinched the Viking victory.

As Coach Nate Piller remarked, "It was a heck of a game. Good defense dominated the first half and good offense marked the second half. It was a very competitive game, and I thought the guys rallied around each other and put themselves into position to win. We had a chance, but the last shot just wouldn't fall."

Tapp led all scorers with 21 points. Luke Dudycha had nine, Towey and Isaac Matti finished with eight and Ethan Slaatbaug scored four.

BP's Thomas counted 18. Vaith added 10 points, and Isaac Ille and Vaith chipped in six points each. The Blossoms finished an exceptional season with an 18-7 overall record.

Hayfield moves on to play No. 1 seed Spring Grove (21-4) in the subsection championship on Wednesday, March 13 at the Mayo Civic Center.



BP's Karson Vigeland is stunned and Hayfield fans erupt after the Vikings hit a game-winning shot against the Blossoms on March 5.

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Towey's game-winner lifts Hayfield past BP in section tournament

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

It might have taken an incredible shooting performance to get the game back within reach, and a game-winning shot, but the Hayfield (25-4) boys' basketball team edged Blooming Prairie 50-48 on Tuesday, March 5 in the quarterfinals of 1A Section Tournament at the Mayo Civic Center Auditorium in Rochester.

With the game tied and the final seconds ticking away, Hayfield's Patrick Towey banked in a shot that barely got over the outreached arms of Awesome Blossoms defender.

"That's kind of [Towey's] role on this team, to be a penetrated and he finishes well in traffic," Hayfield head coach Chris Pack said. "We have trust in him to make plays like that."

Hayfield's Mason Tapp scored 15 of the Vikings' final 19 points and willed



Hayfield's Patrick Towey goes up for a game-winning shot against Blooming Prairie on Tuesday, March 5 at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester.

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

the team back into the game with his incredible 3-point shooting. He made the first of his five consecutive 3-pointers with

seven minutes remaining in the game and the Blossoms leading 38-31.

"It's fun to watch when he's making them like he

was tonight, Tapp said. "There were hardly even hitting rim."

Pack said it isn't uncommon for Tapp to get

hot and make 15 straight 3-pointers in practice.

"It just came down to him playing and not wanting it to here tonight," he said. "He's played so much basketball and I'm sure he was frustrated him the way he shot the ball in the first half."

Towey's game-winner and Tapp's astonishing shooting overshadowed a great second half performance by BP's Kaden Thomas.

Thomas scored all 18 of his points in game's final 14 minutes.

"Maybe that's what it took for Mason to realize he needed to be the best player on the court," Pack said.

BP switch to zone defense this time around with Vikings after playing primarily man-to-man defense in the squads previous two meeting this season.

The Blossoms did an excellent job of slowing

SEE HAYFIELD, B7

Blue Earth Area ends Panthers' season

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

A good shooting Blue Earth Area boys' basketball team pushed New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva out of the subsection playoffs and ended the Panthers' season with a 70-54 verdict on Thursday, March 7.

BEA (10-11) took the lead early by shooting the ball well, and the Buccaneers continued that good accuracy from the field most of the game.

NRHEG had some early chances to take a lead, but the shots just weren't falling. A brief lead didn't last long, and BEA eventually managed a ten-point lead 28-18.

A brief comeback cut the margin to that two points at the half 30-28, but the Bucs came out shooting the ball and were successful in doing so.

BEA also scored a lot at the free throw line going 17-of-22.

NRHEG (12-15) struggled the whole second half.

"I thought the boys never quit," NRHEG head coach Isaiah Lundberg said. "They battled to the end, and effort was never a question. This was the last game for our three seniors, and they will be truly missed."

NRHEG's Jacob Schuller led all scorers in the game with 23 points, and Brady Agrimson added 14.

The Bucs had five players reached double figures, led by 18 from Cameron Anderson and 13 from Austin Thieffoldt.

NRHEG OUSTS KENYON-WANAMINGO

In opening round play of the Class 2A Subsection playoffs, the NRHEG boys held Kenyon-Wanamingo (1-25) at bay in a 62-35 victory on Monday, March 4.

The Panthers jumped out early and withstood a Knight comeback to lead 31-19 at the half. KW took an early 5-4 edge, but then NRHEG went up 20-5 on 15 straight points.

The Panther defense stayed strong in the half, and The Knights did stage a 14-8 run to make to close the gap somewhat by



NRHEG's Devin Buendorf sets up the Panthers' offense on Thursday in subsection playoff action.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM AGRIMSON

the break. at the break. The second half duplicated the opening stanza, as NRHEG started slowly, but the defense held KW to just three points over the first 12 minutes.

With the offense finally taking off, the winners pushed to lead to 34 points. During that stretch, Schuller and Agrimson took over the offense, scoring in the post and also in easy transitions.

"Our defense played strong the entire game," Lundberg said.

"Schuller and Agrimson did a great job at both ends of the floor scoring well and holding the players they were guarding to no points in the game. It was a good win."

Agrimson and Schuller led the scoring with 20 and 18 points and nine players scored for the winners. Colin Sviggum and Laden Nerison each had eight points for the Knights, and Trevor Steberg chipped in seven.

SPORTS SEASON TURNS PAGE

It may have seemed like a long time, but just like that the winter sports season ended, and equipment has to be stored away for another year. It always seems such an abrupt cessation to the winter action, especially when the teams don't advance as far as they wished or thought they would.

Both basketball teams finished their season with winning records, and the boys came within four points from advancing to the section semifinals.

Probably the high point of the season summary is that both teams return veteran players and should be strong contenders for postseason play next year. The girls had no seniors in their squad, and the boys return several seniors with lots of ability. We can hope so anyway.

The second year of shared wrestling program also seems to have gone smoothly, as wrestlers from Hayfield and Blooming Prairie have found spots in the lineup and have made the team competitive in tournaments and dual meet.

Congratulations are in order for Colton Knell for his third place at the state wrestling tournament. Also a word of praise for Dylan Nirk and his advancement to state. Both of those wrestlers will return for another season.

OUT AND ABOUT

As Becky Noble stated in her "Finally Friday" email last week,, our little community seems to have no dearth of activity.

Last Friday, the local KC group sponsored a fish fry at the Servicemen's Club. It was enjoyed by many, and the club comes right back next Friday to host a 100-year birthday party of the American Legion. That is quite a milestone, and the local group is to be commended for keeping the organization alive and vibrant through all 10 years.

ED FOUNDATION

Our community has three auctions each year for fund raising purposes — The BP Youth Club bash in February, the Ed Foundation Auction in March and the Cancer Group Extravaganza in the fall.

ThIs month is the Ed Foundation's turn, and residents are already getting pumped up for the big event on Saturday, March 30.

The foundation auction offers some things a little different, as student contributions are a big part of the event. That doesn't mean, however, that some big-ticket items won't be available. I am sure fishing trips, hunting trips, casino packages and beautiful handmade furniture will pop up at the affair; and bargains will be on the agenda.

Make plans now for a big event and a time to help the cause of education here in our great community. And as an added benefit, the occasion offers folks a respite from our long hard winter, and a good evening of socialization should be in order.

OUT AND IN

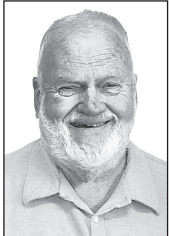
Congratulations are definitely in order at this time for two community individuals. Barry Olson will officially step out of the superintendent position in June, and it has certainly has been an exciting and successful tenure for him.

He has provided excellent leadership through some hectic times, including building projects and radical program changes.

I taught beside him many years ago, admired his ability to coach championship basketball teams at neighboring Owatonna, and gladly accepted his return to teaching at BPHS. He deserves the accolades he is receiving for his leadership, and he is completing many years of faithful service to the school system.

Congratulations are also in order for Chris Staloch on his appointment as the new BP Superintendent. I think his choice was a masterstroke of genius by the local school board.

In his years as the BP Elementary School Principal, he has built a solid reputation as a teachers' principal. He is innovative, forward thinking sensitive to all, and strong in knowing good educational policy. I think it is an advantage to hire from within, when possible feasible, and that is the case here. Congratulations again to both individuals.



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HAYFIELD: Spring Grove is next foe

FROM B6

down the Vikings' thanks to stellar defense and well-thought-out game plan.

"The game was definitely played at their pace," Pack said. "They wanted to slow it down and they did that. We would rather get up and down the court and try to score 65 or 70 points."

Both teams struggled at the start of the game.

"You got to tip hat," Pack said. "They went with and it worked for them. Their guys really played well."

It's tough playing a team for the third time when you know so much about each other. They took us out of our rhythm and made us do some things that we don't normally do. "

Hayfield led 11-5 with 4:10 remaining in the first half before both teams sort of settled in and started consistently making shots.

The Vikings held a 18-13 advantage at halftime.

"I just didn't feel like we played well for the first 30 minutes, but great players make great plays and Mason really came through there for us," Pack said. "He's our guy and we are going to rely on him every night. He came through and got us back in it, and then Patrick made a heck of play there at the end to win it."

Pack said although the environment of playing in the auditorium of Mayo Civic Center is a "little tough," he mostly contributes the low scoring first half to great defensive play by both teams.

Tapp led all scorers with 21 points. Luke Dudycha had nine, Towey and Isaac Matti finished with eight and Ethan Slaatbaug scored four.

Hayfield moves on to play No. 1 seed Spring Grove (21-4) in the subsection championship on Wednesday, March 13 at the Mayo Civic Center.

Owatonna wrestling adds former Gophers All-American

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna Wrestling Association announced Thursday the hiring of former University of Minnesota All-American wrestler Michael Kroells for the spring freestyle and Greco-Roman seasons.

Kroells career highlights while wrestling for the Golden Gophers includes being a three-time All-American, four-time Academic All-Big Ten, three-time NWCA All-Academic, three-time CoSIDA Academic All-District, CoSIDA Academic All-American and his 119 careers wins are the 17th-most all-time in Gopher history.

Kroells also had three top-

five finishes at the Big Ten Tournament. He was fifth in 2015, third in 2016 and fourth in 2017.

Kroells wrestled for Scott West High School under coaches Al Flynn, Darren Ripley, Jerold Stauffacher and Gopher great Dan Zilverberg. He was a two-time individual state champion, a four-year placer and helped the team to back-to-back runner-up finishes at the state tournament.

Kroells has seven years of Greco-Roman and freestyle coaching experience and he is currently competing in freestyle with Minnesota Storm where he is learning from some of the best coaches and wrestlers in the world.

Owatonna Parks and Rec events

STAFF REPORT

Register now for youth spring and early summer programs online at www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation/online-registration. Under the league registration tab you will find: Soccer, Little League, Fastpitch, T-ball and Squirt Ball and under the activity registration tab you will find: Swim lessons, Lacrosse, Tennis, and Munchkin Market Booths. Walk-In Registration is available at the Park and Recreation office at 540 West Hills Circle. Office hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you have any questions call (507) 444-4321. Save \$10 on each program by registering before the deadline.

- The Owatonna Park and Recreation Department

in cooperation with the Owatonna Slow Pitch Softball Association offers organized leagues in Men's and Co-Rec softball. Games are played from early May through late August at the Fairgrounds softball complex. Team registration deadline is Thursday, March 14 at 4:30 p.m. and there will be a mandatory managers meeting and annual softball association meeting in April.

- Brooktree Golf Course Season Passes are now available through March 15. Purchase a membership and

pay 2018 prices (base price, does not include trail fees). Pay for a membership and receive a Guest Pass & Register to win a cart punch card. Start a automatic payment plan now for lower monthly payments. Membership must be paid in full by October 1, 2019.

- Registration for lifeguard training courses are now available. The course costs \$185 (no refunds will be issued if you do not pass). The March courses will will take place March 25 through 29. The April courses will take place April 24 through May 5.



of the Week



Aiden Merritt



This week's Panther of the Week is Aiden Merritt. Aiden lives in the country by Waldorf with his parents Glee and Larry. He has one sister, Alicia, and three older brothers named Alex, Avery, and Aaron. Aiden is in Mrs. Ihrke's second grade class at NRHEG.

Aiden really enjoys doing STEM activities, Science, gym, and recess at school! Aiden is a hard worker and always tries his best. He has a positive attitude and gets along with everyone. He's a great role model in our class because he is always showing Panther Pride. Aiden is very respectful to his teachers and kind to others. Aiden likes to read Boxcar Children, Goosebumps, I Survived, and Captain Underpants books.

His favorite foods are enchiladas, macaroni and tuna, and plain tuna. He likes to play with legos, watch videos on youtube, and play Minecraft on his tablet.

Keep up the great work Aiden!

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Attorneys Frank Henefield and Jason Iacovino

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Tax Prep Guide 2018

2019 TAX TIP:

IRS waives penalty for many whose tax withholding and estimated tax payments fell short in 2018

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

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

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

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

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

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

withheld in 2018 and saw more in their paychecks.

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

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



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FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: September 11, 2015
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$112,930.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Cory Stucky an unmarried man
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation, as nominee for Envoy Mortgage, Ltd., a Texas entity
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on October 2, 2015 as Document Number A000404445 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Pingora Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment recorded on July 30, 2018 as Document Number A000419422 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 4, Block 4, Original Townsite of the Village (now City) of Blooming Prairie, Steele County, Minnesota.
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 119 2ND ST NE, BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MN 55917
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$111,899.16
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Envoy Mortgage, Ltd., a Texas entity
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Flagstar Bank
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-100-0404
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100273872511022451
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 30, 2019 at 10:00 AM.
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota.
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs

and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgageor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on October 30, 2019.

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

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

Dated: March 6, 2019

PINGORA LOAN SERVICING, LLC
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/

N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Corbin C. Smith, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(19-0081-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

3/12, 3/19, 3/26
4/2, 4/9, 4/16

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 27, 2017
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$142,373.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Alan Dominguez, an unmarried person.
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation, as nominee for Mortgage Lenders of America, L.L.C., a Kansas Limited Liability Company.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on November 1, 2017 as Document Number A000415593 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele

County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on January 31, 2018 as Document Number A000416786 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The North half (N 1/2) of Lot 13, Block 2, Kelly's Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota, Steele County, Minnesota.
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 409 E MAIN ST, OWATONNA, MN 55060
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$154,917.86
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Mortgage Lenders of America, L.L.C., a Kansas Limited Liability Company.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-103-0213
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 1002782-0000227993-2

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 30, 2019 at 10:00 AM.
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota.
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgageor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on October 30, 2019.
THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERLY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE

ABANDONED.

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

Dated: March 4, 2019

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/

N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Corbin C. Smith, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(19-0124-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

3/12, 3/19, 3/26
4/2, 4/9, 4/16

NOTICE

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MN
January 28, 2019

A special school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center at 6:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER –CHAIRPERSON
II. ROLL CALL - CLERK
Pam Hameister, Dean Meshke, Jenny Thurnau, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten
ALSO PRESENT:
School Patrons; Member of the Press
MEMBERS ABSENT:
Jon Sunde
III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve the agenda as presented.
(6 Aye/0 Nay)
IV. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
A public meeting was held for input on the search for a new Superintendent of Schools.
V. ADJOURNMENT
Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Steve Ille to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m.
Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

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

3/12

NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MN
January 22, 2019

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 – A demonstra-

tion of the new video surveillance updates was given.

I. CALL TO ORDER –CHAIRPERSON
II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
III. ROLL CALL - CLERK
Pam Hameister, Dean Meshke, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten
ALSO PRESENT:
Superintendent of Schools, Elementary School Principal, High School Principal, Associate Principal, BPTA Members, Members of the Press
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 January payroll amount. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS
Principal reports were given by Mr. Staloch, Mr. Worke, and Ms. Mach.
VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED
A. Rotation of Officers
Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Steve Ille to approve officers for the 2019 calendar year: Rodney Krell, Chair; Jenny Thurnau, Vice Chair; Pam Hameister, Clerk; and Jon Sunde, Treasurer. These officers are the same as the 2018 calendar year. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
B. School Board Committee Assignments
Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve School Board committee assignments to remain the same as the 2018 calendar year. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
C. Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Resignation, Donations
Report.
Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve the minutes, bills, treasurer's report, resignations, and donations as presented. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
D. Employment
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve the employment of Anthony Cornell as a high school special education paraprofessional. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
Motion by Steve Ille and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the employment of Kaitlin Vetsch as a fourth grade long-term substitute teacher. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
E. Volunteer Coaches
Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve Anthony Cornell as a "volunteer" coach for junior high boys' basketball. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
F. Designation of Local Depositories, Staff, Newspaper, and School Attorney
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Steve Ille to approve financial institutions as depositories for school funds and investments through January 2020: Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Pam Hameister to authorize personnel to make electronic or paper transactions for the district. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Steve Ille to designate the Steele County Times as the official school newspaper through January 2020. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Steve Ille to designate Hoversten, Johnson, Beckmann & Hovey, PLLP, Austin, MN as the district's designated school attorney through January 2020. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
G. Promulgation of Seniority Lists for the Teaching Staff
Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve the promulgation of the seniority lists for the teaching staff. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
H. DJ for Snow/Sadie Hawkins Dance

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Steve Ille to approve Chris Moe Entertainment as the DJ for the Snow/Sadie Hawkins dance which will be reimbursed from the Student Activity Fund. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
I. MSHSL Foundation Resolution (Form B)
Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve a resolution of support from the MSHSL. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
A. Committee Reports
A report update was given on the following committee: Education Foundation, Staff Development, Wellness, and ZED.
B. Enrollment Data
Enrollment for the 2018-19 school year as of January 16, 2019, 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.
C. Dates to Note
The Board noted dates of importance.
VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS
1. Superintendent search process.
2. Superintendent Olson attended the MSBA Leadership Conference.
IX. ADJOURNMENT
Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Steve Ille to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 p.m.
Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday, February 14, 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, February 19, 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

3/12

NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
January 17, 2019

A regular school board work session was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 17, 2019, in the Board Room at the High School.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Jon Sunde

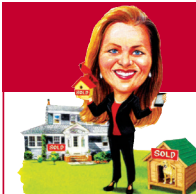
ALSO PRESENT:
Superintendent of Schools

DISCUSSION ITEMS:
General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the January 22, 2019, regular school board meeting.

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

3/12

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Let's get you movin'!

Continued from page B9 - HONOR ROLL

- Ian Miller

Celina Mims

Ayaan Moalin

Andrew Moen

Ian Moffett

Muna Mohamed

Khalid Mohamed

Ayman Mohamed

Liban Mohamed

Heba Mohamed

Tyler Mollenhauer

Evan Moore

Katie Morgan

Natalie Morrow

Nicholas Mullenbach

Mackenzie Mullenbach

Hunter Mundt

Riley Myrom

Kaden Nelson

Logan Nelson

Joshua Neuman

Maggie Newhouse

Hong Nguyen

Walker Nielsen

Christian Nogle

Shyanne Nordquist

Joshua O'Daffer

Eden Ojulu

Aderi Okumu

Landon Olson

Abigayle Olson

Emerson Omangi

Devin Omangi

Isaac Oppegard

Aiden Packard

Emani Palacios

Jessica Parsons

Casey Pederson

Jonathan Perez

Isai Perez

Kaelyn Peters

Evan Peterson

Ashley Peterson

Mercedes Phillips

Robyn Phillips

Calbey Podein

Hailey Prestegard

Logan Proechel

Maylynn Prokopec

Elizabeth Prostholl

Joshua Prostholl

Aaron Quast

Drew Randall

Isaiah Ranslow

Lily Redman

Cole Richmond

Alyssa Ringhofer

Alexis Rions

Nathanial Rions

Nicholas Roberts

Dante Robertson

Thomas Robillard

Samantha Rodriguez

Lane Roemhildt

Brady Rohwer

Ryan Rohwer

Devon Roush

William Ruch

Keezia Rud

Matthew Russell

Tyler Sackett

Brittany Sackett

Catherine Sager

Abdikarim Saleban

Oscar Sanchez

Joab Sanchez

Jack Sande

Isabella Schroeder

Karli Schroeder

Nevin Schroeder

Ciara Schultz

Maya Schultz

Fletcher Schulz
- Alivia Schuster

Maria Schwab

Abigail Schwartz

Makayla Simon

Ava Sletten

Camryn Smith

Nathaniel Smith

Shannon Smith

Joseph Smith

Abigail Smith

Abigail Smith

Jared Smith

Jaden Smith

Lauren Sommers

Dayana Sorenson

Samantha Spears

Eli Spurgeon

Logan Steckelberg

Nicholas Steel

Tanner Stendel

Jacelyn Stenzel

Laura Stevensen

Abe Stockwell

Cameron Stoen

Andrea Storm

Aiden Stowe

Grant Stowe

Jacob Stoykovich

Zacharia Stransky

Korban Stricklin

Kaitlyn Strusz

Zoe Sutter

Makalia Szymanski

Cayce Tekautz

Seapaltura Thompson

Jay Thompson

Jack Titchenal

Kaven Torabpour

Cameron Tracy

Brayden Truelson

Madilyn Trupe

Leah Tucker

Nyakuoth Tut

Harrison Utoft

Paige Vaith

Zinash Valen

Anora Vang

Izaya Vazquez

Margarita Vielma

Stanley Von Helms

Madison Voracek

Erika Vortherms

Hailey Wagaman

Taylor Wagner

Kadra Walid

Ethan Walter

Jared Warn

Cody Wehr

Alexis Weinzel-Anderson

Evan Weippert

Jamie Wells

Connor Whalen

Jacob Wieman

Kennedy Wilker

Brayden Williams

Jordan Wimmbush

Dalten Wincell

Morgan Winter

Paige Winter

Cade Woltman

Lillian Yates

Gabriella Yciano

Aleighya Zak

Makayla Zapata

Jennifer Zetino-Ramos

Jasmine Ziegenhagen

Alanna Ziegler

Emma Zinsli

Mason Zirngible

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121 W. Main St., Kasson, MN 55944

EMPLOYMENT

NEW HIGHER STARTING WAGES! Immediate openings for Direct Care Staff for 4 bed group home in West Concord. PT AM, PM, and Awake Overnight positions available. Must have current MN driv lic & pass background check. Paid training provided! AM's: \$12.25 – \$12.75; PM's: \$12.50 - \$13.00; Overnights: \$12.75 - \$13.25. 401K with employer match for qualifying positions. Call Heidi or Karla at 507-527-2456 or apply at 205 Southview Street, West Concord. "EOE" WK 10,11,12,13

FARM WORKERS NEEDED: Seasonal positions available on a crop farm to operated tillage equipment or drive semi-truck. Must have a clean driving record. 507-438-3570 (11,12,13 chg)

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

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

SAMANTHA UPHAM'S BABYSITTING/NANNY services I'm a 15-year-old honors student entering my sophomore year at Kasson High School. I have babysitting experience and have been through a class specific for caring for young children. I am best suited to care for toddlers through young teens. Available 7 days a week and can be very flexible with times. I will ensure a summer full of fun! (references upon request) 507-358-3415 27tfn

NICK'S LAWN MOWING SERVICE Weekly or vacation, residential or commercial, yard cleanup, mowing and trimming, satisfaction guaranteed 10 years experience. Free estimates. Please call 507-696-3849 and leave a message. Tfn

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Dodge County Independent

Dodge County Advantage

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121 W. Main St., Kasson, MN 55944

SEMCAAC IS LOOKING FOR A

FULL TIME Transportation Operations Manager

to oversee operations for our Public Transit Bus Service.

Position requires:

- two year degree in related field, or three to five years transit related experience and/or training, or combination of education and experience.
- Solid working knowledge of computer-based software, internet, spreadsheets, and word processing software is required.
- Previous supervision and customer service experience is very desirable.
- Must have valid driver's license. Travel is required, office is located in Kasson, MN.

Application & job description available at

www.semcaac.org

or contact Barb Thompson at

(507)864-8202 or

barb.thompson@semcaac.org.

Applications must be postmarked by March 22, 2019.

E.O.E

HELP WANTED

CHS has multiple openings for **Truck Drivers & Applicators** at all our CHS locations including Byron and Claremont. Potential employees must be familiar with farm equipment, mechanically inclined and possess or have the ability to obtain a Class A or B CDL or a seasonal CDL.

Please apply online at:
www.chsrochester.com/about-us/careers.

If you have any questions contact:
Chris (Byron & Claremont) 507-775-2900



HELP WANTED

CHS has multiple openings for **Seasonal Laborers** at all our CHS locations including Byron and Claremont. Potential employees must be familiar with farm equipment, mechanically inclined and possess or have the ability to obtain a Class A or B CDL or a seasonal CDL.

Please apply online at:
www.chsrochester.com/about-us/careers.

If you have any questions contact:
Chris (Byron & Claremont) 507-775-2900



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If you're interested, you can apply online at:
stewartvillecarecenter.com or email a resume to:
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CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Resident Assistant

- PT 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- PT 4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- PT 2 p.m. - 10 p.m.
- PT 10 p.m. - 6 a.m.



Apply at: **www.oxfordmgmt.com/careers • EOE**

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments

This may affect your 2020 property tax payments.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Township of Westfield will meet:

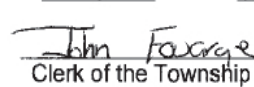
Date/Time: Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 10:30 am

Location: Town Hall

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county board of appeal and equalization.

Given under my hand this 6 day of March, 2019


Clerk of the Township of Westfield

Central Farm Service

has an opening for a 2nd shift Feed Delivery Driver. In this position, the team member will provide accurate & efficient delivery of feed. Essential duties & responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Report for work when scheduled.
- Know and follow all company safety policies and procedures. Perform work in a safe manner.
- Provide accurate and efficient delivery of bulk feed to the destination indicated on the assigned feed order.
- Perform deliveries in such a manner as to maintain good customer relations.
- Perform pre-trip and post-trip inspections. Report all maintenance items to supervisor.
- Maintain equipment in operational and cleanly appearances at all times.
- Accurately records time worked, personal time off, holidays and other time away from work.

Desired Minimum Qualifications:

- Graduation from high school or GED equivalent

Required Licensing Qualification:

- Class A CDL

Benefits include Health, Dental, Vision, Life, PTO, Company Paid Short/Long-term Disability, Matching 401k, Defined Pension Plan and more.

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply at **www.cfscoop.com** click on Careers or contact **Kim Jones at kjones@cfscoop.com or (507) 438-4471.**

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