



STEELE COUNTY Times

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TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2019

Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

Grief relief for slain child's family

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Until just a few weeks ago, Blooming Prairie area residents had not heard of a tiny 2-year-old child named Noelani Robinson.

The tragic deaths of Noelani and her mother, Sierra, have caused the Blooming Prairie community to share in the grief the Robinson family of Milwaukee is enduring.

"Grief is such a helpless feeling and these ways are avenues we can use to express our grief."

Rev. Heidi Heimgartner
First Lutheran Church

The body of Noelani was discovered on March 15 in a road ditch along U.S. Highway 218 just outside of Blooming Prairie.

A nationwide Amber Alert was activated for Noelani Robinson, after her mother was found shot to death March 11 in Milwaukee. Noelani's father, Dariaz Higgins, was arrested and charged with first-degree homicide in the death of Sierra Robinson. He is also a suspect in the child's death, but has not yet been charged.

To demonstrate its support for the loss of Sierra and Noelani, the Blooming Prairie community has responded in a very caring way.

One of the ways was for area residents and visitors to place items on a makeshift memorial located on the shoulder of the Highway 218 roadway where Noelani's body was found, wrapped in a blanket.

SEE GRIEF RELIEF, A6

A DARING, SWIFT MOVING RECOVERY



STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

About two dozen rescuers worked frantically to recover the body of a pick-up driver as well as the vehicle March 25 in the Straight River south of Owatonna. Ray Eldon Mudgett, 71, of New Richland went off Interstate 35, breaking through the guard rail in the median before entering the river and being swept away by the high waters. It took emergency workers about five hours to recover his body in about 10 feet of murky water.

Rescuers head under dangerous current to recover driver trapped in river

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

It proved to be a treacherous recovery effort under the fast moving currents of the Straight River that even put the lives of rescuers into danger.

On March 25, dozens of emergency rescuers from two counties converged on the Straight River south of Owatonna to recover the body of a driver who went off Interstate 35 and quickly got swept away by the high waters. After a recovery effort that lasted several hours, authorities identified the driver as Ray

Eldon Mudgett, 71, of New Richland. Rescuers initially didn't know how many people were in the vehicle, but it turned out that Mudgett was alone.

The State Patrol said Mudgett was traveling southbound on I-35 at about 12:43 p.m. when he left the

"Anytime you can't control Mother Nature, it is dangerous."

Sheriff Lon Thiele
Steele County

roadway, breaking through a guard rail in the median and entering the river. His vehicle was swept away several hundred yards from where it initially went into the river.

After receiving the initial call, sheriff's deputies quickly determined it would not be a rescue operation but rather a recovery.

Leading the recovery effort was Steele County Sheriff Lon Thiele, who suited up in a gumby suit himself to help in pulling Mudgett's body from the murky waters of the Straight River. Gumby suits are a

SEE CRASH, A3

Board sets contract for supt.

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Blooming Prairie School Board unanimously approved a three-year contract with new superintendent Chris Staloch on March 18.

Staloch, the Blooming Prairie Elementary School principal for the past eight years, was the replacement committee's top selection for the position after the top two candidates were interviewed by the BP administrative team, staff members and the school board on Feb. 27.

Staloch will take over on July 1 for retiring Superintendent Barry Olson and will be paid \$115,000 in the first year of his contract, followed by increases to \$118,000 and \$121,000.

Additional salary merit increases could be paid based on job performance at the discretion of the school board.

According the contract, the superintendent's duty's include: have charge the administration of the schools under of the direction of the school board; the chief executive officer of the school board; direct and assign teachers and other employees of the school; organize, reorganize and arrange the administrative and supervisory staff; select all personnel subject to the approval of the school board; suggest policies, regulations, rules and procedures deemed necessary for the school district; perform all duties incident to the office of the superintendent; abide by the policies, regulations, rules and procedures established by the school board and State Board of Education and serve as a ex-officio

SEE SUPERINTENDENT, A3



CHRIS STALOCH



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Sisters Emmerson Nelson, 8, and Raegan Nelson, 3, spin the wheel on one of the games featured at the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation's 16th Annual Auctions on Saturday at the Pizza Celler and Cue Company.

Huge crowd brings in \$76K at BP Ed Auctions

3rd highest total in 16 years

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Calculators were buzzing as bids were tabulated last Saturday night at the 16th Annual Blooming Prairie Education Foundation staged at the Cue Company and Pizza Celler.

Preliminary totals revealed earnings of \$76,500 for the 2019 auctions, which ranks as the third highest total in the history of the huge com-

munity fundraiser.

Last year's auctions brought in over \$68,000. This total was close to the previous year of 2017, which was \$70,000.

The record fundraising total was set in 2014 at \$83,800. The second highest auction total was recorded in 2016 at \$79,700.

"We are always super happy with the results and never set a goal before the annual auctions," remarked Julie Noble, past president of the BP Education Foundation and currently a board member.

"We never know what to expect each year, but we are always pleased with the efforts of many," said Karen Fouarge, auction

committee chair. Fouarge said 55 volunteers helped make this event another success.

Items were still being sold up until 12:30 a.m. Sunday. "It was a long night but we had a lot of hardy bidders left at the Cue," Noble said.

The live auctions began following a song performed by a group of 25 elementary and high school teachers.

Fouarge and Noble said this year's donation total was most likely the highest total ever. There were 211 live auction items and 203 silent items for a total of 414 auction items.

All items were donated, thus all

SEE EDUCATION FOUNDATION, A8

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OUR VIEW

Understanding the difference between advertising and stories

When someone opens up a newspaper, whether it be a local newspaper like the Steele County Times, or a large newspaper like the New York Times, they will find a variety of different things. Inside the paper, a reader will find news stories, sports, features, advertisements, obituaries, cartoons and many other things. One thing that people wonder about sometimes is what's paid for in newspapers and what is free. In our newspaper, things that are paid for include advertisements, legal notices, and obituaries. Things that aren't paid for are stories and press releases. Often times, one thing that people forget, is the fact that there is a difference between advertisements and stories written.

When a writer writes a story, they are getting all the facts and information given to them, and coming up with an interesting way to tell a story. This is something that is free for the person whose story is being told, the company, public entity, etc. The easiest way to tell if something is a story or not is the fact of whether or not it has a name after the headline.

When it comes to press releases, these are also something we don't charge for. The biggest point that we want our readers to understand is the fact that our editorial staff has complete control of headlines, cutlines and the story itself when it is published in our paper. We are not paid by the person or company we are doing a story about, and we don't share stories ahead of time to get any kind of "approval." When it comes to advertisements, that is different, and we generally send the customer, a "proof" before it is published as it is a paid service. As a community newspaper, we encourage any business, person, or entity to contact us about a newsworthy story, but with the expectation that you won't get to "approve" or see a story ahead of time, or make any editorial decisions about a story. If you want 100 percent control, of what is put in the paper on your behalf, or on the behalf of your company or entity, we encourage you to take out an advertisement in the paper. We hope you find this helpful in understanding the difference between advertising and stories. We strive to keep our readers educated on how their local newspaper operates in the best interest of the community.

Everybody likes a pat on the back, well, almost

I thought it was so that everyone loves a pat on the back. It's not so.

With a broken left arm, I am learning that a pat on the back or on the shoulder is not always welcome. I manage to "man up" and get through it, however.

Now, that I have shed my sling, nobody really can tell that my arm is in distress. Oh yeah, I do kind of carry it protectively and limply, but I still look almost normal.



Reflections HOWARD LESTRUD

I got my sling off (no surgery necessary) at six weeks and now I am in therapy. The arm is getting stronger but it is still weak.

It's nice to get out and about again but it is necessary to be in the protective mode at all times. Not everyone knows I broke my arm.

Leaving First Lutheran Church on the Wednesday of Lenten services, Fire Chief Dean Naatz, patting my left shoulder, said, "how's it going

Howard?" I just kept walking. On Saturday afternoon, I took photos at the silent auction of the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation fundraiser. The aisles were jammed and it was close quarters and dangerous.

It was my decision to navigate in close corners, thus it was one of those "you asked for it" moments.

Paul Heimgartner addressed me twice during the evening with a mild pat on the shoulder. Again, I did not let on that I was a hurting unit.

I should have worn my sling as some people suggested. That would have gained some sympathy,

or I could have put a note on my shirt saying, "Don't Touch!" It may sound like I am some type of baby but anyone who has suffered this injury, will know what it's like. My Courage Kenny therapist Derek is doing wonders with me. On the first session, he took my arm and raised it straight up. Wow! It didn't hurt as much as I thought it would. Blooming Prairie is indeed a caring community, and I am so grateful for the well wishes and cards. I also am thankful for the harmless pats on the back. "How ya doing?" I am asked. "Great, just don't touch me."

GUEST COLUMN

Bringing our resources to a Sprout! event near you

By TIM PENNY

At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) we sometimes joke that we are our region's "best kept secret." But it is true that despite the fact that we are regularly out in our 20-county region visiting with partners and facilitating trainings, we find that there are still many people who do not know about SMIF. Unfortunately, that could mean an entrepreneur who doesn't know about our financing opportunities, a school that might not know they can apply for free books, or a community organization that will miss out on funding for a project. The thing is, we don't want to be a secret. We want to make sure that people in southern Minnesota know that they can come to us for support in entrepreneurship, early childhood and community philanthropy. This is why we are launching our new Sprout! events this spring in the four corners of our region. The events will be held in Cannon Falls (April 23), Spring Valley (April 25), Kasota (April 30) and Fairmont (May 2). A late afternoon open-house event, this will be a great opportunity for people to talk to SMIF staff and our area partners about ways we can support you and your

community. As mentioned above, at SMIF we have three focus areas: Early Childhood, Economic Development and Community Vitality. In Early Childhood we offer training for child care providers, parenting classes for parents in the workplace, an annual conference attended by more than 400 early childhood professionals, an AmeriCorps school readiness program and early literacy support. In Economic Development we provide business financing, technical assistance for entrepreneurs, support for minority business owners and programs for local food businesses. In Community Vitality we provide support for the development of community foundations and other affiliate funds, free paint for community murals and facilitate asset-mapping for community visioning. This is just the tip of the iceberg. None of what we do could happen without our many partners and donors. At SMIF we have a culture of collaboration – in fact, our tagline is "collaborating for regional vitality." We work with cities, counties, state agencies, banks, non-profits, and many more partners, in order to do the best we can do for southern Minnesota. Many of those

partners will be at these events and will be extremely valuable to connect with. We also look forward to hearing from several people at each event who have participated in SMIF's programming, received funding, or have partnered in other ways. We will hear short speeches from teachers, AmeriCorps members, loan clients and community foundation board members. We hope these events will be an opportunity to meet new people and deepen existing relationships with those who are actively working to make southern Minnesota a great place to live. These events are open to all – we hope to see you there! For more information about the Sprout! events and to register, visit smifoundation.org/sprout. As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at timp@smifoundation.org or 507-455-3215.

Tim Penny is the president and CEO of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation in Owatonna. He represented Minnesota's First Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1982-1994.

YOUR VIEW

Timmay 5k Fun Run/Walk to raise awareness of organ donation

To-the-Editor: April is National Donate Life Month. On April 27, hundreds will gather in honor of Tim Rasmusson and National Donate Life Month for the fifth annual Timmay 5k Fun Run/Walk, at 9 a.m. at East Silver Lake Park in Rochester. At age 26, Rasmusson died from an ascending aortic aneurysm. Through his passing, Tim helped many people through tissue and organ donation, including two people that received the gift of sight. The inaugural 5k in 2014 was an idea by Rasmusson's cousin Karissa Wright in her Senior Year at Triton High School. She, together with many of Tim's friends and

his family, were motivated to honor Tim, and bring awareness to the importance of organ and tissue donation. The Tim Rasmusson Foundation was then established, and they continue to honor Tim's legacy long-term with a goal to "Target Donor Awareness." Money generated by the Tim Rasmusson Foundation, supports the Gift of Life Transplant House in Rochester. According to Donate Life America, currently there are nearly 114,000 individuals who are awaiting the gift of a lifesaving organ transplant in the U.S. today. In the Minnesota, North and South Dakota region, 3,400 people are wait-

ing for a gift of life. Now the good news, one donor can heal as many as 75 others. Please consider celebrating Donate Life month and take two minutes to register as a donor. It is easy to sign up, you can check the box when renewing your drivers, fishing or hunting license or go to https://registerme.org. For more about organ, eye, tissue and living donation, visit https://www.donatelife.net. For more information or to register for the 5k, visit https://www.timrasmusson-foundation.com. Thank you! KC and Anna Graner Timmay 5K Race Directors

Teaching has changed, facilities have not

To-the-Editor: In the fall of 1970, I moved to Owatonna where I started my career at North Junior High as a math teacher. I taught there for 21 years before moving to the high school where I taught math and eventually became the activities director at OHS. During that time and since I retired, the way education is delivered has changed significantly. Forty to 50 years ago we taught "to" the students aligned in orderly rows. Today, buildings are being designed to allow kids to study collaboratively in groups (a principle not just common in schools, but in "life" and "business" as well). The one thing that hasn't

changed much, at least in Owatonna anyway, has been the facilities our teachers are working in and students are learning in. Until recently, the Junior High that I first began teaching in over 49 years ago, hadn't changed much, and the High School, hasn't fared much better. We are continuing to limit the education our students should be receiving by not providing facilities that are commonplace in other communities. This includes not only the metro area but our own neighboring communities, which are outpacing Owatonna in this regard as well. We are in serious need of new facilities at the high school level to allow our kids to become college and career

ready and to also be able to recruit educators who expect to teach in 21st century facilities. In addition, the number of activities our students are given the opportunity to participate in today has increased dramatically, and our facilities for these various activities have not kept pace with the number of students participating. Please join me in voting "Yes" on May 14 to build a new high school and give our students and educators the opportunity to succeed to their maximum potential in both the classroom and co-curricular activities. Gary Ridge Owatonna

Let's share passion FOR education, not against it

To-the-Editor: Passion. The upcoming school referendum is a huge decision for this community with a lasting impact, and so it is not surprising that it is creating lots of passion. In anticipation of the upcoming vote, gathering information is critical. So after seeing a notice in the paper that COPE (Concerned Owatonnnans for Public Education) was holding a presentation to explain the mission of the organization, I decided to go and listen to the presentation to better understand their position. Their mission is to defeat the referendum. The presentation was relatively straightforward. The group's concerns about the financial commitment are certainly warranted. Certain individuals were clearly passionate, but not FOR public education as their name would suggest. I heard passion AGAINST public

education, AGAINST our teachers and educators, AGAINST our students, AGAINST our School Board and our superintendent, and AGAINST our community growing. In addition, I heard passion AGAINST many things that aren't even an issue in this referendum. Since the meeting, I've been reflecting on the contrast with other passion that I've seen FOR our community, FOR our teachers, and FOR our students. I've seen our Superintendent, Jeff Elstad, speak passionately about educating our community. If you have an opportunity, listen to his vision FOR the future. That is leadership that I want to support. I've seen great companies that are so vital to this community demonstrate commitment and passion FOR our community through unprecedented financial support. Thanks to Federated, Viracon, Wenger, and others to come, for such

a strong display of leadership FOR our shared future. I've seen several other friends, neighbors (many without kids who will ever set foot in a new high school), and local small businesses give time, money, and resources to passionately and tirelessly fight FOR this community in support of this referendum. Thanks to all of you. Finally, over the last 12 years, I've witnessed the passion and commitment that the teachers, administrators, coaches and trainers in the Owatonna Public School District have had FOR my own kids. The passion they exhibit on a daily basis FOR our students is inspiring. We are grateful. Please join me on May 14 in voting FOR something great for the future of this community.

Jeff Marks Owatonna

Citizens need to step up and support new high school

To-the-Editor: I have been involved in school bond and levy votes going back to the 1970s including my time on the school board in the 90s when we were faced with the need to expand classroom space at the high school. At that time the board studied the alternatives and drew the conclusion the "best value" for the communities' money was a new school. The survey told us the community wouldn't support it. Thus, we went underground to preserve the architecture and utilize the limited space of the grounds despite realizing this was not a long-term solution to our high

school's needs. It was all the voters would approve at the time. Due to space problems, we were forced to do what we felt had the best chance to pass at the polls. Today, some 20 years later, things are quite different. Yes, for some, increasing school taxes is very difficult and we need to be empathetic. But there are some that have fought school growth and funding for well over 20 years with the same rationale and we can't let that voice influence the "right thing to do" in 2019. The condition of the high school despite spending significant money each year for upkeep is deteriorating

and the costs for major refurbishment is not a good investment. In today's work world, our high school lacks the proper space, configurations, and equipment to properly prepare those students looking at going to work directly from high school or even some college programs in the STEM curriculums. Yes, college prep is still necessary and important but there is a growing emphasis to better prepare those students who chose a different career path to be able to walk into jobs in Owatonna right out of school; whether those jobs are in manufacturing, auto mechanics,

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2016—8 state and 6 national awards

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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)

CRASH: *Straight River* FROM A1

special type of waterproof dry suit that protects the wearer from hypothermia from immersion in cold water.

The State Patrol, Owatonna Fire Department, Gold Cross Ambulance, Owatonna Police, Minnesota DNR, Dean's Towing, the Rice County Sheriff's Office as well as members of the Owatonna Diving Club assisted the sheriff and his deputies.

"Anytime you can't control Mother Nature, it is dangerous," Thiele said of the rising waters from the recent spring thaw. He described the atmosphere as "fast, murky current," and he estimated the river was between 8-10 feet in the area where Mudgett's truck went under.

"One false move of slipping under the water, you could have been swept down the river and could have another rescue effort on your hands," he said.

What made the situation chaotic at first, Thiele said, was varying accounts of how many people were in the vehicle. Rescuers initially thought there were at least

two people in the vehicle, possibly a child. "We had many inaccurate stories, but we have to check everyone of them out," he said. "Investigators were able to figure out from relatives that he was by himself."

The sheriff strategically placed rescuers and boats both up stream as well as down stream during the recovery. Thiele said there were about 15-20 rescuers and dive team members in the water assisting with the recovery.

Thiele said all rescuers in the water were secured to safety lines during the entire recovery effort. The diving suits feature harnesses that can be secured to safety lines.

During the recovery, the rescuers worked in tandem with another rescuer. "You never want to go out there yourself," Thiele warned. "You're always with somebody just in case. We always had everyone looking out for each other."

Mudgett's vehicle, a 2013 Toyota Tundra pick-up, was fully submerged in the water

with Mudgett seat belted in the driver's seat, according to Thiele. He said one of the hardest challenges was the ability of rescuers to grab footings anywhere in the water. "The hardest part was not being able to hook onto the pick-up. We couldn't see what we needed to grab onto," Thiele added.

It took rescuers about five hours to recover Mudgett's body from the pick-up. The Southern Minnesota Regional Medical Examiner's Office planned to conduct an autopsy on Mudgett to determine the exact cause of death.

"It was a great team effort," Thiele said. "Everyone had a role and everybody knew what they had to complete."

Thiele was especially happy that everyone got out safely once the recovery was completed. "Unfortunately, we lost a life, but everyone else got out safely," he said.

Sheriff Thiele said such incidents are mentally challenging for rescuers. "The hardest part of a recovery effort is knowing it's no longer a rescue," he said.



STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A photo taken from a drone shows the recovery operation along the Straight River south of Owatonna March 25. The sequence of events that triggered the recovery effort included: 1.) Mudgett's vehicle was southbound on I-35 when it broke through the guard rail in the median; 2.) The vehicle went down the embankment and in between the bridge before entering the water; 3.) Vehicle went into the Straight River and was swept away to the west about several hundred yards; 4.) Emergency personnel spent five hours diving through murky water to retrieve Mudgett's body, which was trapped inside the pick-up.

Lessons from tragedy

Benefit luncheon features heartbreaking story

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

The Crisis Resource Center of Steele County offers unquestionably valuable services to those within the community, and during its 18th Annual Healing the Hearts of Our Children Luncheon on March 26 this fact was made apparent by Leigh Block, the guest speaker.

Block used her past tragedies to underscore the importance of organizations such as the Resource Center, which serves women and children and victims of abuse and domestic violence throughout the county.

While her story can be hard to listen to due its heartbreaking conclusion, Block was brave enough to share it with the audience.

It begins when she was young, and her parents would argue over money. Her mother, a victim of domestic violence, would divorce her father and remarry. She often argued with her new husband as well. "What happened in our home, stayed in our home," Block explained.

After getting sober, Block's stepfather became a much better man. In a way, she remembered him as a secondary father figure. Her mother would marry again later in life, and her father would come to stay with her and her own husband after getting ill in old age.

She first met her husband, John Tester, when she was in seventh grade, and the two had an on and off relationship for years. In 1998 their daughter Mikayla was born. The two got married, and that was when some of the trouble started.

"There were a lot of red flags back then," Block recalled. Soon Tester became verbally and mentally abusive to her and her daughter. Two to three months after her daughter's birth, she was afraid to leave her home with him, and rarely did. "She was like my right arm," she said.

Tester would threaten her, and bought a gun which he claimed was in order to protect their family. "I was getting more and more scared because John's threats to



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Leigh Block gives a heartbreaking testimony of her past struggles with domestic abuse, which culminated in a tragedy involving her 5-year old daughter. She spoke March 26 at the Owatonna Country Club as part of the Hearts of Our Children luncheon.

us were getting more and more frequent," Block said. "I knew that if anything happened to Mikayla that I'd be devastated."

The couple would end up getting separated and then divorced, and custody and child support became a matter of contention between the two parties. When Tester became unemployed in March of 2004, things began to further unravel.

Early that following September, Block received a phone call from Tester, who had visitation rights of their daughter. "My cellphone rang and it was John," Block said while choking back tears. "He apologized and then he put Mikayla on the phone. She said she was in a car."

After asking her daughter about her whereabouts, Block realized that something wasn't right. "She told me that they were going on a journey," she said. Block alerted the authorities, explaining the situation, but since there was no crime, there

was very little that they could do.

The following morning, just after 4 a.m., she woke to the sound of her buzzer ringing. She went to look out her daughter's window to see who it was and saw a police car. The police told her that John and Mikayla were in Wisconsin. "She's dead, isn't she?" It was all she could ask.

Tester had rented a car and drove from St. Paul to a rural part of Wisconsin where he pulled over and then fatally shot their 5-year old daughter Mikayla before turning the gun on himself. "Part of me died with her that day," Block said.

"I was not some crazy ex-wife, I was a protective mother," she explained. "That's what you're supposed to do is protect your kids." Block's story is now a cautionary tale for all those who share her struggles.

"Domestic violence can affect anyone, no matter of their socio-economic situation, race, background, or ethnicity," she told the audience. "Please remember that this could be your daughter, or sister, or niece, or neighbor, or friend."

For 14 years Block struggled to find a purpose in life following her daughter's murder. "I am now the voice for those who are unable to speak for themselves," she said of sharing her experiences. "I cannot express how important it is to listen to what kids have to say."

"I do this so that I can save other children's lives, because I could not save my own child's life," Block said at the end of her speech. For those in the audience, it was a tragic reminder of the presence of domestic abuse within society.

Since 1990, the Crisis Resource Center of Steele County has become a beacon of hope and salvation for those in similar situations as Block. This year they raised \$25,000, including a \$3,000 check from the Masonic Lodge of Owatonna. This total was well over their goal of \$15,000.

Executive Director Sara Colby was grateful for all the support. "I want to thank all of you for allowing us to do this work," she said. "We couldn't do it without you."

Girl Scout cookies are available



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

You know it is spring when the Girl Scout cookies go on sale. Kirsten Paulson, left, and Rachael Riley and their scout leader Michelle Riley found a good sales location across from the Blooming Prairie DQ. The girls are members of the Fields and Prairies Girl Scouts, which include those Girl Scouts from Hayfield and Blooming Prairie.

Becky Noble, Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce executive director, recently received a phone call from Jenny Thurnau regarding her Girl Scout Troop and their cookie sales.

Cookie Sales are done differently where they do not go out and get orders from people. Instead, Girl Scout troops have to order cookies by the case and hopefully sell them all so the girls get help going to camp.

Thurnau has several cases of cookies left and wants residents and businesses to be aware of this change in sales.

If you would like to order some cookies, but do not necessarily want them for yourself, she could take them to the BP Youth Club for the kids to have as a snack, or she could also deliver them to the BP Backpack Program, or even to the Prairie Manor Care Center.

The cookies could also be purchased them for employee break rooms.

If anyone is interested in this venture, please call Jenny Thurnau at 507-456-9148. Cookies are \$5 per box.

SUPERINTENDENT: *Staloch* FROM A1

member of the school board committees and provide administrative recommendations on each item of business considered by each of these groups.

The superintendent's duty year is for the entire 12 months (260 days) contract year and is obligated to be on duty during any emergency, natural disaster or unnatural, unless otherwise excused in accordance with the school board administrative policy.

Staloch will receive 12 paid holidays and 20 working days of annual paid vacation each contract year. Unused vacation must be taken within one year after the end of the contract year in which it is earned with a maximum of 40 days.

If the superintendent does work one or two of the paid holidays, the number of holidays worked may be taken as additional vacation days.

Earned paid sick leave at the rate of 1.5 days for each working month, which may be accumulated to a maximum of 175 days. He may be granted paid emergency leave granted bereavement leave for a death within the superintendent's immediate or close family or friends at the discretion of the school board.

The time utilized must be a reasonable amount and be determined after conferring with the school board. The first three days

NEW BP SUPT. CONTRACT AT GLANCE

3-year contract
Year 1: \$115,000; Year 2: \$118,000; Year 3: \$121,000
12 paid holidays, 20 vacation days
Sick leave: 1.5 days per month
Work schedule: 260 days per year

utilized will not be deducted from sick leave.

If unable to perform regular duties because of personal illness or disability and all accumulated sick leave has been exhausted, the school district will provide additional paid sick leave at a salary equal to 100 percent of the superintendent's regular salary until the expiration of the waiting period for long-term disability.

If unable to perform regular duties because of personal illness or disability and has exhausted all sick leave credit available or has become eligible for long-term disability compensation and has not been suspended or placed on a leave of absence, the superintendent shall, upon request, be granted a medical leave of absence, without pay, for up to one year.

Effective Jan. 1, 2014, district

group health insurance was made available. Currently, a superintendent may elect to choose from a BCBS aware \$3,000 or a BCBS aware \$6,000. A monthly contribution in the amount of \$708.34 (\$8,500 per year) will be in effect.

A superintendent whose district contributions in more than the cost of their insurance plan will have the remainder of the contribution placed into their individual Integrated HRA administered by Educators Benefits Consultants, LLC.

A superintendent having at least 12 continuous years of service to the school district is eligible to participate in the Health and Hospitalization Insurance of Retirees. The amount of contribution will be the same amount stated in the last of the teacher contract that is in effect the year of retirement. The benefit will be paid into a post-retirement HRA for a period of six years and placed in the account yearly.

The district will provide a group term life insurance plan providing \$200,000 of coverage, payable to the superintendent's named beneficiary.

The district will provide, at the school district's expense, a long-term disability coverage for the superintendent with the district's group plan and liability insurance naming the superintendent as an insured, along with the district,

in an amount not less than what is required by law.

Other benefits include compensation at the IRS rate of reimbursement for business use of a private automobile; all legally valid expenses and fees for the attendance at professional conferences and meetings with other educational agencies when attendance is required, directed or permitted by the school board; cost of taking university educational courses, including course tuition, lab fees, other fees, books and materials (six credits will be paid for during each contract year); eligible to participate in a tax sheltered annuity plan where the district will provide a matching contribution to selected plan in the amount of \$2,400 annually.

While the superintendent shall devote full-time and due diligence to the affairs and the activities of the district, the superintendent may serve as a consultant to other districts or educational agencies, lecture, engage in writing and speaking activities and engage in other activities if such activities do not impede the their ability to perform their duties. The superintendent shall not engage in other employment, consultant service or other activity for which a salary, fee, or honorarium is paid without the prior approval of the school board.

The superintendent is encouraged to belong to and participate in appropriate professional educational and civic organizations where such membership will serve the best interests of the district. Accordingly, the district will pay such membership dues for organizations as are required, directed, or permitted, by the school board. The superintendent shall present appropriate statements for approval as provided by law.

The superintendent shall have a comprehensive medical examination not less than once every two years. A summary document from the physician certifying the fitness of the superintendent to perform the duties of the position shall be provided to the school board chair. The cost of said examination, not to exceed \$800, not covered by the insurance program of the district, and shall be paid by the district.

If the school board decides not to renew the superintendent's contract, it shall pay an amount equal to \$5,000 times the number of years of his service to the district as its superintendent (not to exceed the amount allowable by law), plus half of the number of his unused sick leave days times the then current daily rate of pay. The amount of severance pay shall be paid on the last day of employment as superintendent.

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT **BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: Crash: At 3:55 p.m., paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Kenyon Road and 26th St. NE in Clinton Falls Township.**

Owatonna man sentenced in bus crash

BY ALEX MALM
STAFF WRITER

An Owatonna man has been sentenced in connection with a bus crash in Dodge County.

Leif Elijah Haugland, 36, was sentenced in Dodge County District Court last week after pleading guilty to one felony count of fleeing a police officer, and one gross misdemeanor count of third-degree DWI.

As part of his sentence, Haugland will be on probation for three years and will either have to pay a \$1,000 fine or serve 100 hours of community service.

According to the complaint, a Dodge County deputy was informed about a vehicle incident involving a school bus and minivan on Nov. 16. He was advised that the minivan left the scene at a high rate of speed, and witnesses were able to provide a description of the minivan, he plate number and the male driver.

The deputy was able to catch up to the vehicle when he activated his emergency lights and sirens, but the vehicle did not pull over and stop for several miles.

When the vehicle finally came to a stop, Haugland exited the vehicle and was placed into custody without incident.

The deputy observed that Haugland’s speech was slurred, his eyes were watery, and Haugland had difficulty standing on his own. Haugland also had a strong odor of alcohol on his breath and person. At this time a PBT was administered and registered .18.

The complaint said a Dodge County sergeant located a partially used bottle of Crown Royal Apple on the passenger’s front floor. The minivan had substantial damage to the left front end and a smashed windshield. It was also observed that the minivan had fresh yellow paint from the hood to the mid

windshield.

At that point the deputy transported Haugland to the sheriff’s office for further testing. During the transport, Haugland freely spoke about the incident, stating that he had too much to drink, having problems with alcohol, and stated that he had interest in pressing charges against the bus driver since his neck hurt during the incident where Haugland stated the bus pulled out in front of him.

Haugland submitted to a breath test, which showed his alcohol level at .16, which is twice the legal limit.

CRIME BRIEF

DEATH THREATS LAND MAN IN JAIL



HARLEY NORBERG

Several voicemail and text messages of a threatening nature have landed a man in jail facing felony charges.

An Owatonna man reported to police on March 23 that an acquaintance called him leaving threatening messages. The victim texted the suspect asking him to stop contacting him and his family members.

According to police, the victim received another voicemail and more text messages in which the suspect “threatened to execute, kill and have the victim raped.”

Police came across the man while he was walking on Elm Avenue on March 24. While speaking to him, an officer twice called the number the purported threats were coming from and twice, a phone began ringing in the suspect’s pocket.

Sunday Puot, 23, of Worthington has been charged with terroristic threats and stalking.

Steele County to take part in Severe Weather Awareness Week

Each year, Steele County participates in the Severe Weather Awareness Week with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, in partnership with the National Weather Service.

The purpose of the week is to inform, remind and prepare the citizens of Minnesota about the potential hazards of the upcoming severe weather season. Each day of the week focuses on a different topic. The highlight events are two statewide tornado drills conducted on Thursday of the week.

During the drills, local sirens and all NOAA Weather Radios in Minnesota will sound off with a simulated tornado warning for both afternoon and evening drills. This event was created to give everyone the opportunity to review their emergency plans and procedures, and practice emergency drills at work or at home.

Most local and statewide radio, TV and cable stations will be participating in the drills. Television viewers and radio station listeners and TV viewers should hear or see a simulated tornado-warning message at 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. The tornado drill warning should last about one minute. When the test is completed, stations should return to normal programming.

The first drill occurs on Thursday, April 11 at 1:45 p.m., when jurisdictions across Minnesota sound their outdoor warning sirens. Schools, businesses and other facilities are encouraged

to conduct a tornado drill at this time to practice their emergency tornado sheltering plans.

A second drill will occur on Thursday at 6:45 p.m. This is because severe weather, including tornadoes, occurs most often between 3 and 8 p.m. While the first drill allows institutions and day workers a time to practice their emergency procedures, it does not allow second-shift workers the same opportunity. More importantly, the 6:55 p.m. tornado drill also allows individuals and families the opportunity to practice their own emergency plans at home.

Mike Johnson, who is the emergency management director for the county, coordinates Steele County’s efforts.

COURT NEWS

Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 18 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

Cody L. Blaha, 21, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. He was sentenced to \$131, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, 60 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 18 – 24:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Cole J. Simons, 25, Owatonna, expired tabs and no insurance, \$311.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Kristen M. Carter, 24, Binghamton, NY, speeding, \$121; Gbelly Clarke, 37, Burnsville, driving through barricade, \$121; Jason L. Goodwin II, 28, Fountaintown, IN, warning devices for stopped vehicle violation, \$81 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Ridwan Omar Mohamed Ali, 34, St. Louis Park, speeding, \$181; Bryan J. Rivera-Rodriguez, 21, Faribault, suspended license, \$281; Joshe A. Sanchez Torres, 23, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Cory L. Smith, 57, Minnetonka, speeding, \$131; Nicholas E. Zarembinski, 32, Forest Lake, speeding, \$131.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Brett M. Baumgartner, 28, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, 7 days in county jail, substance abuse subtle screening inventory, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Douglas M. Bjorge, 31, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Jessica S. Brannen, 37, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Tina M. Cardenas, 35, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Juan R. Carrasco, 41, Owatonna, domestic assault and suspended license, \$181, 30 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, 168 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Jonathan F. Eggers, 32, Albert Lea, theft, \$195.78, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Casandra M. Eveillard, 38, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Alex J. Guerrero, 19, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Nathaniel T. Henderson, 32, Owatonna, cancelled

license, \$381, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of supervised probation; Christene M. Hettinga, 49, Owatonna, stop sign, \$106; Hunter S. Pender, 19, Owatonna, permit violation and expired registration, \$161; Joshua T. Rainone, 24, Owatonna, suspended license and no insurance, \$481; Bartolo Sosa Castillo, 53, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Desiree J. Strand, 19, Owatonna, criminal damage to property, stay of adjudication, \$9,120.38, 1 day in county jail, obtain GED, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, no contact with victim, psychological evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation; Joel M. Terry, 24, Owatonna, no license and seat belt, \$206; Raul Vargas, 31, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Tiffany A. Wadley, 36, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Olegario C. Barboza, 51, Claremont, speeding, \$121; Zachery L. Bongers, 26, suspended license, \$381; Amado Coronado, 37, Faribault, cancelled license, \$281; Bryna C. Garcia, 19, Waterville, speeding and failure to drive in single lane, \$171; Lorena Gutierrez, 37, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Amanda K. Huston, 32, McKenzie, TN, failure to drive in single lane, \$131; Anthony M. Ingram, 31, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$121; Deborah K. Johnson, 51, St. Peter, speeding, \$121; Ethan M. Kucera, 23, Ellendale, expired tabs and no insurance, \$311; David Moses, 41, Rochester, speeding, \$141; Laura J. Nagy, 26, North Mankato, speeding, \$141; Jeffrey J. Spatenka, 54, Ellendale, revoked license, \$281; Felix R. Trinidad-Velez, 25, West Des Moines, IA, no license, \$181; Forest A. Wright, 22, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131.

COURT NEWS

Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of March 17 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Nicholas M. Jen0, 31, Byron, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. Jen0 was sentenced to \$580, 2 days in county jail, 50 hours of community service, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, no possession of firearms and 2 years of supervised probation.

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

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jacob R. Alme, 20, West Concord, DWI, \$480, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of probation; Randy J. Dohrmann, 33, Dodge Center,

parking violation, \$32; Terri L. Duschek, 40, Hayfield, DWI, \$505, alcohol assessment and 1 year of supervised probation; Jonathan T. Ehmke, 23, Duluth, speeding, \$120; Nicole A. Gruhlke, 30, Stewartville, speeding, \$120; Myung H. Heins, 52, Waltham, parking violation, \$32; Tamera J. Laqua, 58, West Concord, parking violation, \$32; Mohamed M. Mohamed, 44, Hayfield, disorderly conduct, \$180, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Dusten T. Nicklay, 21, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; John W. Olive, 73, Mantorville, DWI, \$1,005, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment and 2 years of supervised probation; Logan J. Onken, 27, Dodge Center, revoked license, \$280; Gayle R. Perkins, 70, Austin, parking violation, \$32; Nichole M. Ruedy, 33, Dakota, receiving stolen property and possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, 95 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, psychological evaluation, 50 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation;

Brandon D. Schmoll, 23, Dodge Center, DWI, \$505, alcohol assessment and 1 year of supervised probation; Charles J. Smisek, 44, Dodge Center, DWI, stay of adjudication, \$75, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation and 3 years of supervised probation; Zachariah N. Tamez, 27, Dodge Center, sale of marijuana, \$180.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Kyle F. Burnes, 37, Stewartville, revoked license, \$280; Lori R. Christiansen, 38, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Bailey L. Daugherty, 21, Princeton, careless driving, \$380; Dillon L. Draper, 27, Lanesboro, revoked license, \$280; Isaiah J. Finger, 25, Kasson, unreasonable acceleration, \$100; Travis J. Fjerstad, 43, Mantorville, DWI, \$1,005, 3 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment and 2 years of supervised probation; David E. Fritts, 74, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Keaton J. Grendahl, 19, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Sarah C. Gunzenhauser, 34, Rochester, suspended license and texting while driving, \$555; Curtis E. Joyal, 19, Kasson, possession of pornography, stay of adjudication, \$130, 2 days in county jail, attend sex offender program, submit to polygraph examinations as directed, maintain employment and approved housing, no contact with minors, no access to Internet without approval, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation; Theodore J. Mattick, 48, Lyle, DWI, \$505, alcohol assessment and 1 year of supervised probation; David J. Moldenhauer, 56, Kasson,

parking violation, \$32; Brandon C. Nelson, 24, Minneapolis, revoked license, \$280; Mark D. Ray, 63, Claremont, cancelled license, \$280; Brendan M. Sagers, 21, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Jon W. Swanson, 43, Kasson, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$180; Cristian G. Zavala, 19, Goodhue, minor consumption and speeding, \$180.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Steven M. Idso, 44, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$105; Kyler D. Kelly, 19, Mantorville, speeding, \$120; Darwin G. Knott, 61, Kenyon, seat belt, \$105; Chloe M. Matter, 17, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Paige M. Wickert, 22, Rochester, speeding, \$120.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Paul C. Kaczor, 26, St. Cloud, speeding, \$220; Louis J. Robinson, 47, Rochester, theft of motor fuel from retailer, \$120.

POLICE BLOTTER

Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE March 23

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at U.S. Highway 218 and Dodge Mower Road in Udolpho Township at 10:55 p.m.

Hit and Run: At 11:49 p.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 100 block of 3rd St. NE.

OWATONNA POLICE March 22

Mental Health: Police responded to a mental health incident in the 100 block of Wilson Dr. NW at 7:12 a.m.

Assault: Officers responded to an assault in the 200 block of 24th St. NE at 3:30 p.m.

Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 4:48 p.m.

Theft: At 9:34 p.m., a theft

occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

March 23

Threats: Police responded to a subject making threats in the 1900 block of Greenwood Dr. NE at 8:31 a.m.

Crash: At 3:55 p.m., paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Kenyon Road and 26th St. NE in Clinton Falls Township.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 200 block of 21st St. NW at 4:05 p.m.

Juvenile: Police responded to a juvenile complaint in the 500 block of Mound St. SW at 11:06 p.m. They issued a citation at the scene.

March 25

Trespassing: Police arrested a subject for trespassing in the 100 block of 21st St. NW at 11:35 a.m.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 600 block of 11st St. SE at 1:40 p.m.

March 26

Fraud: At 10:44 a.m., a fraud incident occurred in the 600 block of Bridge St. W.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 1100 block of Bridge St. W. at 8:48 p.m.

Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of Elm Ave. N. at 11:53 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

March 27

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 200 block of Linden Ave. NE at 8:43 a.m. and the 600 block of Holly St. SW at 1:48 p.m.

Shoplifting: Police arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 4:07 p.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 4:27 p.m.

March 28

Fire: Police responded to a fire in the 2100 block of 3rd Ave. NW at 12:04 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 500 block of Mosher Ave. SW at 7:18 a.m.

Arkema Inc.

to Conduct Safety Drill

Saturday, April 6, 2019

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Arkema Inc. will conduct its annual Safety Drill, with participation from

the Blooming Prairie Fire Department, Police Department and Ambulance Service.

Please Be Aware – This is only a drill!

ARKEMA

INNOVATIVE CHEMISTRY

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago March 31, 2009

DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

The Blooming Prairie Band and Choir went on a trip to Nashville. The groups take a trip every two years, and this year they decided to hit the country music capital of the world. Band director Ross Reishus said the trip's purpose is not only music, but to experience a culture people can't normally. BP took a coach bus.

To raise money for their scholarships, the Lions Club of Blooming Prairie began selling calendars 30 years ago. Everyone who purchases one gets to add their special days of the year. The cost of the calendars is only \$5. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to scholarships. This year's chairman is Frank Henefield, local attorney.

The carnival is back. After a one-year break, the elementary carnival in Blooming Prairie returned last week. The carnival was taken over by Blooming Prairie High School FFA members, who were assisted by the fifth and sixth grade student council members.

20 Years Ago March 30, 1999

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Becoming branch manager of the local library wasn't that great of a switch in occupation for Darlene Grams, but working in Blooming Prairie has been a delightful career change so far. Grams started her new job Jan. 11, replacing Loretta Ingvalson, who resigned late last year to pursue other interests.

Continental Auctioneers School of Mankato announces the graduation of

Jody L. Kewatt of Blooming Prairie on Feb. 20. He received instruction in all phases of the auction profession and was awarded a diploma and the title of Colonel from Rich Haas, president of the school.

The Blooming Prairie FLA Chapter installed new officers for the 1999-2000 school year on March 23 in the high school commons. Kristen Thoen was named the new president, and Amanda Busho will take over the role of vice president.

50 Years Ago March 26, 1969

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Voters in Blooming Prairie approved a \$500,000 nursing home bond during a special election Tuesday. A total of 569 votes were cast at the election with 331 balloting "yes" on the question and 238 "no." The favorable vote means that the only remaining obstacle has been cleared and the nursing home project has the green light to proceed as rapidly as possible.

A capacity crowd of more than 300 persons attended the annual meeting of the Red Oak Grove Cooperative Creamery Association held at the YMCA in Austin March 24. The cooperative's manager is Elmer Enstad. He reported over \$4 million in sales, which is the highest sales in the cooperative's 76-year history.

The Otto T. Lund American Legion Post 52 of Blooming Prairie announced today that Douglas Betlach is the local representative to Boys' State in St. Peter in June. Douglas is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Betlach of rural Blooming Prairie. The alternate chosen was Greg Johnson.

Wallace Wilke, junior high industrial arts and social studies instructor, has

been selected as Blooming Prairie "Teacher of the Year for 1969." He has been a member of the faculty for the past six years. He will compete in the state competition.

75 Years Ago March 30, 1944

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Acceding to the government's request to make their creamery 100 percent in food for victory fight against the Axis, officers, directors and patrons of the fine modern Union creamery voted to install equipment for processing of whole milk, a movement taken by most all creameries in Steele County. At a special meeting held on March 23, at which Carl Dahlstrom, Owatonna, addressed the meeting, a business session followed and a vote was taken on the whole milk proposition. Tabulation of ballots showed 41 patrons favored the new program with only three recording their disapproval.

Without the shrill wailing of the siren or the clank, clank of the fire truck, the congregation of the Baptist Church under supervision of their popular and esteemed pastor, Rev. J.A. Brygger, staged a \$1,500 note fire at the church office Tuesday evening. Burning of the \$1,500 note cleared the church property of all outstanding indebtedness.

The Minnesota Supreme Court denied the appeal of Anton J. Meixner of Somerset Township, Steele County, who sought \$1,800 as treble damages from Oscar Bueckler and the Botsford Lumber Co. of Owatonna for trespass. Meixner contended that the defendants unlawfully cut approximately 73 trees on his property prior to building a fence and that he did not authorize the company or its agents to do so.

YOUR VIEW

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR FROM A2

medical technologies or office practices. To achieve that our space and curriculums need to be re-configured to achieve those objectives and that is one reason our business leaders and their companies have committed tremendous resources of money and talent to our schools. We need to be a better feeder system to our employers.

We need a competitive and progressive community

supported by a strong school system to attract and retain top-notch community members.

Through our business community's contributions and support to better school systems and the Vote Yes campaign; we also need to step up and support the vote as well.

Larry R. Haberman
Owatonna

Don't steal money meant to fix roads

To-the-Editor:

My parents taught me that stealing from the cookie jar is wrong, and I bet yours did too. However, when those in government do it, it somehow seems to be "okay."

Did you know that a large chunk of the 20-cent gas tax increase you're going to pay under the Democrat tax-hike plan will not fix a single pothole, increase highway lanes, or repair any bridges? That's because one-third of that tax increase (that you get to pay) will be used to replace funds ALREADY being dedicated to roads and bridges.

Two years ago, the legislature passed a law redirecting vehicle related sales taxes that people are already paying on things like car parts and auto repair to be used for statewide road and bridge repair needs. This common sense plan will bring in nearly \$420 million over the next two years alone (and continue on into perpetuity) for our roads and bridges - about the equivalent of a 7 cents per gallon gas tax increase - without raising taxes.

I greatly disagree with raiding these funds which have already been set aside for fixing our roads and bridges. While some government leaders want to take those dollars and dump them into the general fund to spend on pet projects, you who work hard to keep food on your tables and pay the bills will have to dish out more dollars at the pump - and all to replace money that was already there. It is simply not fair to taxpayers

who have already paid to fund the account and now must pay AGAIN to refill it.

I think of one of my former first grade students, Alyssa (name changed for privacy) and her family. I still stay in touch with them and they are very special to me. I know how hard Alyssa's parents work to put food on their table, pay the electric bills, and pay their rent. I watch how responsible they are, counting every penny. They, and many others like them (including seniors on fixed incomes), can't afford this gas tax-hike - and they certainly don't deserve to have to cough up more money to replace road and bridge funds that are already there which some legislators plan to pilfer. This is just not right!

I applaud Governor Walz for being concerned about the condition of our roads and bridges. There is much to fix and much to build. However, we can do this without hiking the gas tax, sales tax, and vehicle tab fees. Why do we have to increase these taxes and fees (which will never be reduced and will go on forever) when we have a budget surplus?

We can do this without putting more burden onto the backs of people who can't afford it, and we can definitely do it without stealing money meant for fixing our roads. We proved it could be done two years ago, and we can do it again.

Rep. Peggy Bennett
Albert Lea

Otto Bremer Trust awards grants of \$9M

The Otto Bremer Trust has awarded \$9,156,284 in grants to organizations in Minnesota, North Dakota, and western Wisconsin as part of its most recent grantmaking cycle. Among them are several to organizations from Steele and Mower counties.

"OBT made strategic investments in a variety of organizations across the region, each committed to addressing challenges and opportunities in their communities," said Brian Lipschultz, co-CEO and trustee, OBT.

The Otto Bremer Trust, based in St. Paul, is a private charitable trust established in 1944 by founder Otto Bremer; a successful banker and community business leader. OBT owns 92 percent of Bremer Bank and also manages a diversified investment portfolio. The mission of OBT is to invest in people, places, and opportunities in the Upper Midwest. Since its inception, OBT has invested more than \$700 million in organizations throughout the region.

The following are some of the organizations that have been awarded grants:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota, Owatonna, \$125,000. For general operations to provide one-on-one mentoring to at-risk children.
- City of Ellendale, \$50,940. To assist the volunteer fire department with the purchase of critical equipment used to suppress wildland and brush fires.
- Free Clinic of Steele County, Owatonna, \$20,000. For general operations to provide medical and dental care for underserved residents of Steele County.
- Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, Saint Paul, \$50,000. To provide services to address safety and stability for homeless youth in southeastern Minnesota.
- Parenting Resource Center, Inc., Austin, \$50,000. For general operations to provide resources, services, and prevention education programs to parents and guardians.

TURN OFF the television...

Encourage your children to make reading the newspaper a part of their everyday routine for lifelong learning.

Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner P.A.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

"we understand small business because we are a small business"

DANIEL E MINER, CPA TAMZEN R JOHNSON, CPA
AMY R DOERHOEFER, CPA

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Finding Health Insurance Before Medicare Kicks In

THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by:

Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus

220 3rd St. NW, Blooming Prairie
583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,

I will be retiring in a few months and need to get some health insurance for my wife and me until we can enroll in Medicare. What are my options?

About to Retire

Dear About,

There are several places early retirees can find health insurance coverage before Medicare kicks in, but the best option for you and your wife will depend on your income level and your health care needs. Here's where to look.

GOVERNMENT MARKETPLACE

If your yearly income falls below the 400 percent poverty level after you retire, the Affordable Care Act (ACA aka Obamacare) marketplace is probably your best option for getting health coverage because of the premium subsidies they offer, which will reduce the amount you'll have to pay for a policy.

ACA health insurance is major medical insurance that covers essential health benefits with no annual or lifetime coverage maximums. And they can't charge you more or deny you coverage because of a pre-existing health condition.

To qualify for the subsidies, your household's modified adjusted gross income for 2019 must be under \$48,560 for an individual, or \$65,840 for a couple.

If your income is just above these thresholds, you should talk to a tax advisor about perhaps making a larger IRA contribution or strategically timing retirement account withdrawals to help you qualify. To see how various levels of income might affect your premiums and subsidies, see the subsidy calculator on the Kaiser Family Foundation website at KFF.org/interactive/subsidy-calculator.

To shop for marketplace plans in your state, visit HealthCare.gov or call their toll-free helpline at 800-318-2596.

If you find that you are not eligible for the subsidies and the premiums seem unaffordable, look into ACA-compliant plans that you can purchase off the marketplace directly from the insurance carrier or through a broker. In some states, you might find plans with lower premiums, especially on silver plans.

To find off the marketplace policies, see health insurance shopping websites like eHealthInsurance.com, or contact a broker or agent to assist you. See LocalHelp.HealthCare.gov to locate someone in your area.

Short-Term Health Insurance

If you can't find an affordable ACA plan, you may want to consider short-term health insurance, which is much cheaper. These plans, which are not available in every state, are bare-bones health plans that provide coverage for three, six or 12 months - depending on state/federal rules. But be aware that short-term plans don't comply with the ACA so they can deny sick people coverage, they don't cover preexisting conditions and they can exclude coverage essentials like prescription drugs.

To shop for short-term health insurance, visit eHealthInsurance.com or contact a local broker or agent via LocalHelp.HealthCare.gov.

COBRA

If you need health insurance coverage for less than 18 months, another option you may want to consider is COBRA, which allows you to remain on your former employer's group health plan, but not every employer plan is COBRA eligible. Contact your employer benefits administrator to find out if yours is.

In most cases COBRA is expensive, requiring you to pay the full monthly premium yourself. But, if you've already met or nearly met your employer plan's deductible and/or out-of-pocket maximum for the year, and don't want to start over with a new plan; or if you find your employer's health plan to be better or more affordable than the other options, it makes sense to keep your current coverage under COBRA.

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.

Blooming Prairie FFA Spotlight

Tim Wolf

By Mariah Miller

Tim Wolf, son of Bruce and Tammy Wolf, is a senior at Blooming Prairie High School and is the acting President of the local FFA chapter.

Tim has participated in numerous FFA activities, including CDE's in General Livestock Evaluation, Farm Business Management, and Soils. Tim also has a Supervised Agriculture Experience in crop production, which is growing and harvesting crops.

Tim also works for his father, Bruce, on their family farm. He plans to attend the University of Wisconsin in River Falls majoring in Ag Business and a minoring in Agronomy. You will also find him playing college football for the Falcons.

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Art Competition announced for area students

The Office of U.S. Rep. Jim Hagedorn of Minnesota is currently accepting submissions for the 2019 Congressional Art Competition from high school students in Minnesota's First Congressional District.

The winning submission will hang in the U.S. Capitol Complex for a year, and the winner will earn a trip to Washington for an awards ceremony.

Students across the country submit entries to their representative's office, and a panel of district artists selects the winning entry.

More than 650,000 high school students have participated in the Congressional Art Competition since it began in 1982.

"It is always exciting to see the stellar submissions from the students each demonstrating a unique perspective and style for Members of Congress, staff and visitors to admire on a daily basis," said Hagedorn. "Minnesota's First District is home to countless talented students, and I encourage all students to consider participating."

Students must attend school or reside in Minnesota's First Congressional District to participate. The deadline for submissions to Hagedorn's Mankato or Rochester offices is Friday, April 19 at 5 p.m.

For any questions, contact Aaron Eberhart at 507-323-6090. Learn more about the competition at this website, including rules for students and teachers and a release form.

GRIEF RELIEF: *toddler murder* FROM A1

Another way to show its sharing of grief was to reach out to the Robinson family by sending cards, tokens, books and art to the Robinson family.

This idea was promoted by Pastor Heidi Heimgartner of First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie and BP Police Chief Greg Skillstad, also a First Lutheran member.

The collection of items was begun on March 20 and continued through March 27. Items were dropped off at First Lutheran Church and at the Blooming Prairie City Administrator's Office. The items were then mailed to the Robinson family in Milwaukee.

Pastor Heimgartner said "a few dozen folks responded by dropping off items. Some of the art was created by a first grade Sunday School class at First Lutheran.

"It seemed like people wanted to take action, and we wanted the Robinson family to feel the sense that Blooming Prairie is a caring community," said Heimgartner. People stopped by the drop points with sealed envelopes, she said.

In addition to the memorial on 218 and the collection of items to be sent to the Robinson family, prayers were offered in all area churches.

This type of community support was also transferred to the law enforcement community. "We are very appreciative of them and their efforts in



Pastor Heidi Heimgartner of First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie assembles a package of grief support for the Robinson family of Milwaukee. Noelani and her mother Sierra were both tragically killed. Noelani's body was discovered just outside Blooming Prairie on March 15.

dealing with this tragedy," Heimgartner pointed out.

"Grief is such a helpless feeling and these ways are avenues we can use to express our grief," Heimgartner remarked. These gestures can help both the families of the victims and caring residents of Blooming Prairie, she said.

Heimgartner said "we may never have a direct connection with the family" but they will know that these symbols of grief support come from the Blooming Prairie community.

Absentee ballots available for Owatonna special election

Absentee ballots for the upcoming May 14 school district special election are available at the county auditor's office through Monday, May 13 at 5 p.m.

The auditor's office will also be open on Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Voters may look up their sample ballot and polling place information online by

going to www.sos.state.mn.us. More information about the school district special election can be found on the school district's website: www.owatonna.k12.mn.us.

If you have any questions, you may contact the county auditor's office by calling 507-444-7410, or the school district by calling 507-444-8610.

Word Search Corner Ice Cream Flavors

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

MEAL IN A BOWL

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 c. sm. cooked macaroni shells
- 4 c. torn lettuce
- 4 med. carrots (2" thin sticks
- 1 (10 oz.) pkg. frozen peas, thawed
- 1 sm. red onion (rings)
- 2 c. cubed cooked ham
- 1/2 c. shredded Swiss or Cheddar cheese
- 1 1/2 c. mayonnaise
- 2 T. snipped fresh dill, or 1 1/2 tsp. dill weed
- 2 hard-boiled egg wedges

DIRECTIONS:

Layer in 3-quart glass bowl (lettuce, carrots, macaroni, peas, onions, ham). Sprinkle with cheese. Mix mayonnaise and dill; spread over top. Arrange eggs on top. Cover and chill for several hours; toss just before serving.

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Blooming Prairie, 583-2046

BOOK NOOK

Author to visit library on Thursday

NANCY VAILLANCOURT

A great benefit that the Blooming Prairie Branch Library has is our membership in SELCO (South East Libraries Co-operating). In addition to providing technological and professional services, SELCO also coordinates many of the Library Legacy programs given through the Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment. Thanks to the annual SELCO Author Tour, Nicole Helget will be speaking at the library on Thursday, April 4 at 7 p.m. The Friends of the Library will provide refreshments.

Nicole Helget is the acclaimed author of the middle grade novels *The End of the Wild* and *Wonder at the Edge of the World*, and *Horse Camp*.

The *End of the Wild* won the 2018 Minnesota Book Award for Middle Grade Literature. The book deals with fracking, but also with how one girl deals with the conflict around her.

Helget has also written three adult novels, *The Turtle Catcher*, *The Summer of Ordinary Ways*, and *Stillwater*. Growing up on a farm in Southern Minnesota, Helget received degrees from Minnesota State University, Mankato. She is a professor at South Central College in Mankato. Each author has their own story to tell and their own perspective to share. Please spread the word and join us next Thursday. See you at the library!



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Birthdays & Anniversaries

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APRIL 1
ROGER ANDERSON
MICHAEL RESSLER
HULIO RIVERA-ESCAÑON
NICOLE BLOCK
DAVYLL SMITH
MIKE ALWES

APRIL 2
LUKE MILLER
PAT WEHNER
DALE RAMSEY
BRIAN NELSON
LARRY LINDQUIST
NAOMI ERICKSON
MARK THOEN
WHITNEY ANN FARR
REID JENSEN
ISAAC CHESTER NELSON
HAROLD ULRICH
BRETT MOTL

APRIL 3
THOMAS SCHNEIDERIT
TARA LINDQUIST

APRIL 4
HANNAH GARCIA
ROBERT H. OLSON
MCKENNA HEIN

ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL 5
TAMORA KLEMMENSEN
GREG HACKENSMITH

APRIL 6
DICK KLEMMENSEN
ARLENE HELLECK

APRIL 7
DOROTHY JOHNSON
KAYLEE FARR
ETHEL CHRISTIANSON
PAYTON ESPLAN

APRIL 8
TAMARA LARSON
ANNIE ANDERSON

APRIL 1
PAT & TAMMY WEHNER

APRIL 2
BRIAN & LOIS NELSON
ALICIA & DEREK LEVON

APRIL 5
SAM & KRISTEN ROMEO
JEFF & BECKY SEVERTSON

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The love of the Merciful Father



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

When reading the parable of the Merciful Father, two lines of scripture stand out.

First, the wayward son in the depth of his separation from the father comes to his senses and returns home where he is embraced by the father causing him to say, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son (Luke 15:21).” The father sees beyond the son’s selfishness, listens to the sincere cry of repentance and showers upon him gifts of mercy, love and joy.

Second, the faithful son in the depth of working hard to please the

father and positioning himself in doing and saying the right things, becomes crestfallen at the generous outpouring of love for the son who squandered everything. It is to the older son that the father says, “My son, you are here with me always; everything that I have is yours (Luke 15:31).”

The freely offered love and mercy of the father in this parable challenges our notion of exactly how just is the love that God our Heavenly Father showers down upon His people. As St. John Paul II wrote, “The father of the prodigal son is faithful to his fatherhood, faithful to the love

that he had always lavished on his son. This fidelity is expressed in the parable not only by his immediate readiness to welcome him home when he returns after having squandered his inheritance; it is expressed even more fully by that joy, that merrymaking for the squanderer after his return, merrymaking which is so generous that it provokes the opposition and hatred of the elder brother, who had never gone far away from his father and had never abandoned the home.” It is the mind-boggling love of God the Father that is freely given to all of us who humble ourselves and ask. The Merciful Father

has been very patient with us in our times of sinfulness and disobedience. Take some time during this Lenten Season to reflect on the ways that God has been patient, kind and merciful with you.

Similarly, take some time to ponder who in your life might you need to forgive, because they have hurt you. Then offer a prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude for the generous mercy that God has gifted you with. Lent is a wonderful time to receive the love of the Merciful Father as well as to demonstrate this type of love with those who have hurt us.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

Education Hour:
10:15 a.m. Sun.

Sunday Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Sunday School and
Adult Bible Study

Reconciliation: 9 a.m.
First Friday & Saturday

507-215-2249

Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun.
Reformers Unanimous Meetings:
7 p.m. Friday

(see website for schedule)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

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

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

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

UCC

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

211 Main St. S., Medford
Rev. Richard Waters
507-451-4596
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST

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

FIRST BAPTIST (Owatonna's oldest church)

123 E. Main St., Owatonna
Pastor Cindy
507-451-2803
www.firstbaptistowatonna.com
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VICTORY LIFE

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

AURORA LUTHERAN

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

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA

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

FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC

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

FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA

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

FIRST LUTHERAN – LCMC

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS

2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna
Pastor Greg Schlicker
507-451-4125
goodshepherdowatonna.com
Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. &
10:30 a.m. Sun
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

MOLAND LUTHERAN – ELCA

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

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN – ELCA

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

EDEEMER LUTHERAN – LCMS

1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
507-451-2720
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS

28959 630th Ave., Sergeant
Pastor Collin Duling
507-251-5568
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA

30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Pastor Dwight DoBell
507-567-2474
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – LCMS

202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA

2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
507-451-2165
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m..

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA

Trinity Lutheran Church
609 Lincoln Avenue
Owatonna MN 55060
507-451-4125
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

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS

108 Third Ave. SW., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
507-451-0447
8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS

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

ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA

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

CATHOLIC

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Second Sunday of month:
Family Faith Formation
Litomysl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other month

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC

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

SACRED HEART PARISH

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

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC

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

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Deacon Patrick Fagan
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Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
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507-451-1032
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.

PENTECOSTAL

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

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST

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

ELLEDALE UNITED METHODIST

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

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST

815 E. University, Owatonna
Loren Olson, Pastor
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
Joyce Parker, Associate Pastor
507-451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship (Pathways): 9 a.m. Sunday

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Pastor Keith Haskell



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Owatonna
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Shooting for spring



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Even though there was snow on the ground during the first days of spring, Jaxon Studer, 10, of Blooming Prairie took advantage of the warmer temperatures to play some basketball. Spring is definitely in the air.

EDUCATION FOUNDATION: auctions FROM A1

proceeds are profit.

A quilt made by Blooming Prairie Elementary School secretary Julie Naats in memory of BP Elementary School first grade teacher Rachel Harberts and her daughter Emerson Harberts was the high ticket item for the evening, drawing \$2,400.

Both Rachel Harberts and her daughter Emerson, a third grade at BP Elementary School, died from injuries suffered in a car crash Sept. 7.

Four baskets in memory of the Harberts's were also auctioned.

Pick of the auction was won by Erik Vigeland. He chose a walleye fishing trip with Brett King.

Elementary school student Montgomery Mausbach won the raffle to be the poster child for the 2020 auction.

Auction chair Fouarge and Noble said this year's silent auction brought in \$11,000, the highest total ever collected on the silent auctions. Previous silent auction high was \$9,000.

The BP Education Foundation is a non-profit organization created by a group of fiscally conservative community members. Mission of the Foundation is "to enhance the educational opportunities for the students of ISD 756."

Funding for the Foundation is possible through the generous contributions of community members, alumni, business and other charitable organizations.

The Foundation uses its resources to fill voids in programs by adding to the education experiences of the students of ISD 756.

Proceeds from the auctions will be used to fund allocations requested from the BP School District and from teachers. The allocation requests are made twice a year. About 50 are allotted each year, Noble said.

The funds are used to support technology advances, field trips, robotics team at the high school, Lego project at the elementary school, purchase of 3D printers for the high school and elementary, etc.

Retiring BP Schools Superintendent Barry Olson has been part of all 16 BP Education Foundation auctions. "The support given the school by this Foundation is remarkable," Olson said.

Monies from the auctions help provide some unique programing including the Lego projects and Robotics, said Superintendent-designate Chris Staloch.

Staloch, currently serving as BP Elementary principal, said "the cool thing" about this fundraising by the BP Ed Foundation is that it shows "tremendous" community support. The community comes together as a group, he said.

Sue Zwiener of New York Life Insurance is founder of the BP Ed Foundation auctions. "She got it going and she is still a key supporter of the auctions," Noble said.

Many of the donated items are dropped off at New York Life. Agent Rachel Klemmensen helps with the inventorying of the items. "These are just two examples of the volunteerism in this community," Noble stated.

The auction committee includes Karen Fouarge, Julie Noble, Sue Zwiener, Becky Noble, Miranda Camery, Lori Arndt, Becky Braaten, Jennifer Walsh, Dave Hoffman, Pam Hameister, Karen Frank, Betti



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Superintendent-designate Chris Staloch, left, and current superintendent Barry Olson sold bid numbers to some over 200 bidders at the annual Blooming Prairie Education Foundation Auctions on Saturday, March 30.

Johnson, Rachel Klemmensen, Sue Helgeson, Mary Kittelson, Judy Bishop, Lori Lysne and Becky Hoffman.

Announcers, auctioneers and ring men helping during the evening were: Justin Krell, Josh Toquam, Mark Ditlevson, Steve Seykora, Robby Remker, Angie Carlson, Jeremy Simon, Mike Studer, Dustin Doocy, Jon Kraling and Dave Hoffman.

Current BP Education Foundation members are: Mark Larkoski (president), Karen Fouarge (secretary), Lori Arndt (treasurer) and fellow board members Julie Noble, Roger Sorenson, Josh Toquam, Isreal Wacek, Judy Bishop, Lisa Bruns, Barry Olson, Chris Staloch, Carrie Farr, Pam Hameister, Sue Helgeson, Barb Kaplan, Andrew Kasperek, Rachel Klemmensen, Rod Krell, Bill Rinkenberger, Payton Simon, Jenn Kelner and Viridiana Villarreal.

"It's always amusing to see what the items draw for bids," said Noble and Fouarge.

Check out the BP Ed Foundation Facebook page to see what price a particular item drew. Here's some examples:

- Favorite brunch, \$1,000 -- donated by Lori Lysne and Sue Helgeson and other donors.
- Buckets of shots, \$750
- Football memory quilt, \$1,000 -- Made by Lisa Bruns and others
- Redneck Yacht Club outing, \$1,050
- Tables for next year's auction -- 3 of those -- \$1,500 range for each
- H. Peterson painting, \$1,000 -- watercolor of wintry scene
- Petunia the Pig, auctioned off, business to business, \$875 three different times
- Authentic Mexican meal, \$500, donated by Andrea Kvalsten,
- Luau, \$800, Rick and Chris Klemmensen and Jay Klemmensen, Travelin' Picnic Tables, Superior Foods Catering.

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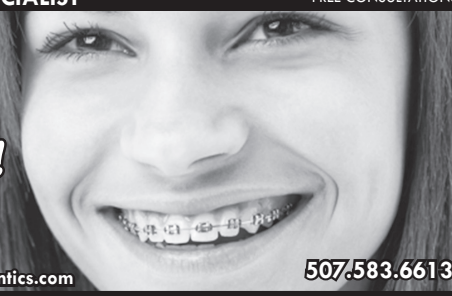
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Voters to decide fate of NRHEG bond referendum

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Voters in the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva will be heading to the polls next Tuesday to decide the fate of a \$9.1 million bond referendum.

The referendum would fund building improvements and upgrade safety and security across the district.

Anyone who is resident within the NRHEG School District is registered to vote on April 9 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Residents from Steele County, the city of Geneva, the city of Bath and the Geneva and Freeborn Townships of Freeborn County will vote at the elementary school at 600 School St. in Ellendale, while residents from Waseca

NRHEG BOND REFERENDUM

Tuesday, April 9
7 a.m.-9 p.m.

Polling takes place at:

NRHEG Elementary in Ellendale: Steele County and Geneva voters

NRHEG High School in New Richland: Waseca County and Hartland voters

County, the city of Hartland and the Hartland Township of Freeborn County will vote at the high school at 306 Ash Ave. in New Richland.

The NRHEG School Board plans to use to funds from the referendum to improve security district-wide, address physical conditions needs, achieve indoor air quality standards, enhance spaces to support curriculum standards and learning needs,

address space and safety concerns within career and technical shop area, achieve ADA compliance access and exit code requirements and provide school readiness to community members at no cost.

The redesign and construction of a new entrance and main office at the elementary school

SEE NRHEG REFERENDUM, B2

JUST IN THE LICK OF TIME FOR SPRING



The Blooming Prairie Dairy Queen opened its doors to lots of traffic on March 20, the first day of spring by offering free cones. Nick and Amanda Schiefert gave away over 500 vanilla cones to signify this important day. This group could be called the cone sisters as Harper and Bristol Hansen (front) and Alivia Schneider (middle) enjoy a free cone. Right: They came from afar to enjoy the cones and get a lick of spring. Brooklyn Knode, 4, of Riceville, Iowa, stopped by the Dairy Queen with her mom and friends.

STAFF PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUD



Board approves County 12 project

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

In what was a brief session for the Steele County Board of Commissioners on March 26, the board awarded a contract for the reconstruction efforts of CSAH 12.

“As you see, we received very favorable bids on the project,” County Engineer Greg Ilkka said of the matter. “We are recommending to award the contract to Mathiowetz Construction Company in the amount of \$3,378,702.42.” Mathiowetz was the lowest bid.

The board was pleased with the amount of bid. “I’d like to add that that’s a really good deal,” Commissioner Rick Gnemi said. “That’s 16 and a half percent under, that’s really, really good.” The project has been

in the Highway Capital Improvement plan for several years and was estimated to cost \$4,046,688.30.

County Board Chair Greg Krueger noted that the cost is below that of the State-Aid funds. “It’s almost 9 percent under that,” he said of the bid as it relates to the State-Aid funds for the project, estimated at \$3,700,000.

During the meeting, the board also approved a cooperative agreement with Rice County for pavement rehabilitation of CR 198 and authorized the chairman and county engineer to sign the agreement. “The project is about three miles on the county line with Rice County,” Ilkka explained.

According to Ilkka, the capital plan currently programmed the project at

SEE STEELE COUNTY BOARD, B8

We all play a role in strengthening families

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to highlight the importance of individuals and communities working together to keep kids safe and families healthy.

Here at Steele County Public Health (SCPH), we are marking the month by highlighting the resources available through Steel County Public Health to assist and strengthen area families. The following services are available:

- Car Seat education and assistance with proper car seat installation.
- Child and Teen Checkup (C&TC) Program, is a comprehensive health care program for children and teens, birth through age 20, who are enrolled in medical assistance or MinnesotaCare
- Family Connections Program is a home-based parenting program for expectant women and families with children 0-3 months. The program works with multi-stressed overburdened families of children until they graduate the program with their



Steele Talkin'
ANDREA MARSHALL

children, usually when the child reaches 3-5 years of age.

- Follow Along Program is a computerized developmental screening offered to children birth to 36 months.
- Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Program. Provides nutrition education and supplemental foods for pregnant or breastfeeding women and for infants and children up to 5 years of age. Eligibility is based on income and medical need.
- Maternal Child Health Program (MCH) offers counseling, nursing services, education for pregnant moms, new moms, babies,

SEE STEELE TALKIN', B2

Let the laughs roll in

Famed humorist draws large audience in Owatonna

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday night, Steele County residents packed into the Little Theatre of Owatonna to see a live performance of famed Minnesota humorist, author, voice actor, and radio personality Garrison Keillor. There was a meet and greet with Keillor at the historic Dunnell House in Owatonna prior to the event.

During the performance, Keillor regaled the audience with bits of local Minnesota history, humorous limericks, and stories from his own

childhood. The proceeds from the event went to the Steele County Historical Society.

At the start Keillor led the audience in several hymns and patriotic songs, setting the mood for what would be a fun night filled with laughter, limericks, and local history. “You are going to have to do the singing, and it’s in this key here,” he said, leading the audience in a rendition of “My Country, ‘Tis of Thee.”

“I was a poet, and I wanted to write dark poems about what was wrong in society,” Keillor recalled of when he was first starting out as young writer. Soon

after his teacher at the University of Minnesota, poet John Berryman, killed himself by jumping off the Washington Avenue Bridge in Minneapolis. Keillor realized that his calling lied in poems and writing of a different nature.

“This was a turning point in my life,” Keillor explained. “When you’ve been pretending to be depressed because you thought this was a sign of intelligence and now you realize that everything you pretended was fake.”

He went on to say that since

SEE KEILLOR, B8



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Garrison Keillor shares some of his thoughts, jokes, memories, and poems with those in attendance during the Garrison Keillor Live presentation March 28 at the Little Theatre of Owatonna.

STEELE TALKIN'
FROM B1

and chronically ill children.

- Family Support Specialist and Health Education Specialists offer educational opportunities for young parents.
- Family aid is offered for parents with special needs.
- Interpreting services are available when needed.

There is no cost to program participants for any of these services!

In addition, we want all community members to understand that one of the most effective ways to prevent child abuse from happening is to strengthen families, and that we can all play a role in doing just that.

According to the National Survey of Children’s Health, during the past 12 months, 1 in 5 parents reported there was no one they felt they could turn to for day-to-day emotional support in raising children. This does not have to be the case! Whether you are a neighbor, employer, mentor, spiritual leader, service provider or part of a local community organization, you can help strengthen families. Everyone can get involved, even individuals who aren’t raising a child or working with children or families every day. For instance:

- A family member can offer to babysit so parents can get a little break.
- A neighbor can organize a block party, so families can get to know each other.
- Shoveling snow or raking leaves for a young family can lighten their load.
- Flight attendants – or indeed just fellow passengers – can help a parent who is juggling kids and suitcases on an airplane.
- Recreation centers can host playgroups or other youth activities to give parents a needed break and offer kids outlets for their energy.
- Employers can promote a culture where it is okay for employees to reach out and ask for help.
- Spiritual communities can share articles, tips and/ or resources in the member newsletters about coping with parenting challenges.

Today, we ask you to consider how you might make a difference in the life of even one family in our community. It could be as simple as asking a parent in your neighborhood how they are doing – and then truly listening to their response.

Of course, anyone concerned about the safety and well-being of a child should never hesitate to call Steele County Human Services, MN Prairie 507-431-5725 or the National Hotline at 1-800-4-A-Child or 1-800-422-4453. **The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline** is dedicated to the prevention of child abuse. Serving the U.S. and Canada, the hotline is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with professional crisis counselors who—through interpreters—provide help in over 170 languages. The hotline offers crisis intervention, information, and referrals to thousands of emergency, social service, and support resources. All calls are confidential.

Calling to share concerns can provide the support a family needs to overcome difficult circumstances. SCPH has programs and services that strengthen families, prevent abuse and neglect, aid caregivers struggling with adversity and promote positive parenting. Anyone interested in learning more about our valuable services can visit the Steele County website or call 507-444-7650.

Bottom line is that we are in this together, parenting is one of the most challenging jobs we can ever have and we all need some help from time to time.

Andrea Marshall is a certified health education specialist with Steele County Public Health In Owatonna. Steele Talkin’ is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

This month’s regular Medford City Council meeting got underway with a review of the 2018 audit. Tom Olinger from Abdo, Eick & Meyers, a public accounting and consulting company, was there to present the council with the audit.

“Overall the general fund is pretty healthy,” Olinger said while the council reviewed the information. He also expressed that the city is in line with several similar municipalities, including those within the county, as it relates to tax rates.

Olinger noted that the tax rate has been on a relatively downward trend these past few years. “That’s certainly a good sign,” he told the council.

“The reserves are starting to build up,” Olinger said. “I know there’s some things on the horizon that are coming up.” The city will look to its reserves for upcoming projects, some of which are slated for the 2019 year.

During the meeting, the council also passed two city ordinances. The first, Ordinance 2019-02, amended the prohibition against off-parcel signs within the city code. This will allow the owners of the Outlet Center to advertise public service announcements, sporting events, and products on the digital sign.

The next ordinance passed by the council was Ordinance 2019-01, which regulates tree maintenance. While this had been brought

up before, the city needed to hammer out an ordinance that could address the issue properly.

According to City Administrator Andy Welti, the ordinance takes into consideration elements from three other ordinances of cities of similar size. Of the roughly 550 trees that are located within boulevards in the city, only 5-10 of them are likely to have been planted by the city.

This ordinance would specify responsibility and cost of maintaining boulevard trees. The city first considered this issue after the 2018 severe storm event. The ordinance will serve as a reference guide for city employees and residents when questions arrive during future events.

While the city has the right to maintain any trees, it is not its responsibility as laid forth in the ordinance. Rather, the owner adjacent to the boulevard tree carries financial and maintenance responsibility.

The ordinance also detailed cases in which the tree is interfering with lighting and stipulated that if an owner of a parcel of land does not comply with the provisions of a written notice telling them to prune their respective boulevard tree, then the city’s public works crew will step in and do the job. An accurate account will be kept and the owner will be billed for the work performed.

The council also reviewed the Orderly Annexation Agreement with Medford Township. In 2009, the city adopted the most recent

version of the annexation agreement with Medford Township. The agreement is to be reviewed every 10 years.

Medford’s Planning and Zoning Board made a few recommendations for modifications to the agreement moving forward. This included a proposed designated annexation area, and the capability to allow housing to be built within 1,000 feet of a horse barn, or a building used to house livestock or a farm animal.

The past agreement did not allow such construction, meaning that land annexed into the city designated as residential has gone undeveloped. “I think this has been outdated language for some time,” Mayor Lois Nelson said of the item within the prior agreement. “It’s something to look at there.”

Welti also recommended that two representatives from both the city and the township meet to discuss the potential modifications. “I think it would be good to have two representatives from the city and two from the township, rather than only attorneys,” he said.

After reviewing the recommended modifications, the council motioned to proceed in making an appointment with the township to discuss the items under consideration of modification.

The next regular Medford City Council meeting with be held on Monday, April 22 at 7 p.m.

U.S. Rep. Hagedorn to hold visit in BP

U.S. Rep. Jim Hagedorn is holding mobile office hours on Thursday in Blooming Prairie.

Representatives from Hagedorn’s office will be at the Blooming Prairie Council Chambers from 4-6 p.m. The chambers are located in the City Center at 138 Highway Ave. S.

Officials with Hagedorn’s office say the mobile office is an opportunity for constituents to seek help they need with a federal issue or agency. Mobile office hours are designed to bring constituent services to the doorstep



HAGEDORN

of the residents in need of assistance. Members of Congress frequently handle casework that helps people

solve problems with Social Security, passports, veteran benefits, USDA farm programs and more.

“We stand ready to assist you if you need help with a federal issue or agency,” said Hagedorn, who was elected to Congress last fall. “My top goal is serving you. You don’t have to wait to contact us until we’re in your community. Please reach out whenever we can help.”

Hagedorn represents Minnesota’s First District, which includes most of the southern part of the state. He lives in Blue Earth.

Somerset bridge closed for replacement

SW 32nd Avenue bridge over the Straight River in Steele County’s Somerset Township has been closed for construction beginning Monday. The bridge is located south of Owatonna.

According to Paul Sponholz of Steele County, SW 32nd Avenue from SW 68th Street to County Highway 31 will be closed to through traffic for the duration of the project. The road will be open to local traffic up to the bridge. Construction is expected to last about four months.

The project will replace the existing structurally deficient timber bridge

that was built in 1964. The new structure will be a 60-foot 3-span concrete slab structure.

All dates are subject to change due to weather or other factors.

Steele County advises motorists to drive with caution and slow down through work zones for their safety and for the safety of the construction crews.

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

NRHEG: Bond referendum

FROM B1

would allow staff to monitor and screen school visitors more efficiently and to guide visitors through the office before they would gain access to the main building. This project is estimated to cost \$450,000.

The biggest chunk of the funds, \$5.23 million, would go to supporting facility repairs like tuck-pointing, casework, water infiltration and moisture, air quality/HVAC and other maintenance.

Improvements to the electrical systems at the high school would reduce long-term construction needs and school-year interruptions.

Approximately \$300,000 would be used to renew code upgrades and compliance. This would make all entrances, restrooms and elevation changes ADA Code Complaint.

Enhanced indoor air quality would improve student performance and updates to HVAC systems for code compliance would ensure more efficient buildings that prioritize occupants comfort and health.

Another \$2.1 million would be used to provide classrooms that support curriculum requirements, increase instructional and storage spaces, foster collaborative opportunities between agriculture, family and consumer sciences and greenhouses and support career and college preparedness goals through agriculture, construction trades and culinary arts.

New science classrooms with additions and improvements of plumbing, natural gas and exhaust ventilation would open up more hands-on opportunities for science lessons.

Shop space expansion would create a safer space with more opportunities for students; students would have spaces necessary for agriculture-based learning and the space would facilitate education in the construction trades and students would gain access to modern commercial culinary arts equipment and appliances to reflect current culinary industry standards.

The proposed tax impact would increase property taxes from \$198.57 to \$231.95 on a \$100,000 residential home, a hike of \$33.38.

However, it would still be lower than many surrounding, similar sized districts.

By comparison, Maple River School District residents pay \$242.03, Blooming Prairie residents pay \$333.04 and United South Central residents pay \$384.14.

The tax impact would affect owners of commercial and agriculture property differently. You can calculate your estimated tax impact at bit.ly/NRHEGTaxImpactCalculator.

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Cancer Corner

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**

Staff Writer

always escorts spring into our lives.

Jacqueline Reiter Vorlicek, owner of Prairie Home Floral, Decor & Gifts, carried on a tradition of selling daffodils to benefit the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group.

Reiter Vorlicek last week presented a check totaling \$900 to Cheri Krejci, treasurer of the BP Cancer Group. That total represents the same amount as last year when Leanne Hanson, owner of A Touch of Charm, sold 120 bunches of daffodils.

The Hardware Guys at B to Z Hardware also got into the action by doing five bunches through a store promotion.

This year’s daffodil sales make the sixth straight year the community has supported this fundraiser for the BP Cancer Group.

The funds go directly to the BP Cancer Group’s Community Fund, reported Krejci. The BP Cancer Group Community Fund designates money for parking passes, gas cards and transportation.

Reiter Vorlicek says she is already looking forward to promoting the project again next year.

“We are so grateful to Jackie and to her mother, Barb Reiter, for promoting this special event,” said Krejci.

Reiter Vorlicek said she admires the efforts of the BP Cancer Group and wanted to help in any way she could.

Daffodils are hardy perennials that grow in most areas of North America, except southern Florida. Daffodil bulbs can be planted in the fall and will bloom in late winter or early spring.

Cheri Krejci, left, treasurer of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group, accepts monies made on the sale of daffodils this spring. Jacqueline Reiter Vorlicek, right, owner of Prairie Home Floral, Decor & Gifts, presented \$900 from daffodil sales to the BP Cancer Group. The funds are designated to the BP Cancer Group Community Fund. (Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)

They’re gone, all 120 bunches of daffodils. Spring has indeed sprung and the sight of daffodils

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

APRIL 4
6:30 p.m. – Nicole Helget
Author Visit, BP Library

APRIL 6
BP Cancer Group Designer
Purse Bingo

APRIL 9
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP
Library
6:30 p.m. – Public Hearing
to be followed by Planning &
Zoning Meeting

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

APRIL 11
4 p.m. – Police Commission
Meeting

APRIL 15
6:30 p.m. – Board of
Appeals Meeting
7 p.m. – City Council
Meeting

APRIL 16
2:30 p.m. – BPPU Meeting
4:30 p.m. – Fire Commission
Meeting
5 p.m. – Ambulance
Commission Meeting

APRIL 22
6:30 p.m. – Fire Relief
Association Meeting

APRIL 29
7 p.m. – Special City Council
Meeting



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ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

APRIL 4
3 p.m. – 4-H aMAZEing
Puzzles, Ellendale Cafeteria
6:30 p.m. – NRHEG Athletic
Awards Ceremony, NR HS
Gym

APRIL 5
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,
Community Building

APRIL 8
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,
Community Building
6 p.m. – NRHEG Band
Boosters Meeting, NRHEG
6 p.m. – ECFE Adventures in

Parenting Class, NR Preschool
Room

APRIL 9
6 p.m. – Pre-School
Registration Open House,
Ellendale Preschool Room
6:15 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do,
Ellendale Gym North

APRIL 10
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,
Community Building
6 p.m. – NRHEG After
Prom Meeting, NR HS Lower
Commons

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

APRIL 4
8 a.m. – Noble RV 13th
Anniversary Open House,
Noble RV
6:30 p.m. – History
Detectives, History Center
6:30 p.m. – Family Story
Time, Owatonna Library

APRIL 5
8 a.m. – Noble RV 13th
Anniversary Open House,
Noble RV
1 p.m. – Rose Ensemble -
Voices of Angels Performance,
Owatonna Library
7 p.m. – Rose Ensemble -
Voices of Angels Performance,
Trinity Lutheran

APRIL 6
8 a.m. – Noble RV 13th
Anniversary Open House,
Noble RV
8 a.m. – Fluff and Puff
Pillow Cleaning, Sacred Heart
Church Waseca
1 p.m. – Hops for Habitat
Beer Tasting, Four Seasons
Centre
6 p.m. – Auditions for Once
on This Island, Little Theatre of

Owatonna

APRIL 7
6 p.m. – Auditions for Once
on This Island, Little Theatre of
Owatonna

APRIL 8
4:30 p.m. – Owatonna Park
& Rec Board Meeting, City
Admin Building
7 p.m. – AAUW April
Meeting, Trinity Lutheran

APRIL 9
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. –
Tale Time, Owatonna Library
1 p.m. – So Many Books...So
Little Time, Owatonna Library
4:30 p.m. – Library Board
Meeting, Owatonna Library
5 p.m. – Steele County
Board Meeting, County Admin
Building
5:30 p.m. – Owatonna
Human Rights Commission
Meeting, City Admin Building
5:30 p.m. – Owatonna
Planning Commission Meeting,
City Admin Building
5:30 p.m. – Shade Tree
Commission Meeting, City
Admin Building

Dairy Banquet set for Saturday

The Steele County Dairy Association's annual Dairy Banquet will be Saturday, April 6 at the VFW Club in Owatonna.

Social hour will be begin at 6:30 p.m. with the dinner following at 7:15 p.m. Tickets

are available for \$12 and can be reserved at the door by calling Mary Schroeder at 507-213-9394. Children 5 years and younger are free.

During the banquet, the dairy ambassadors will be recognized.

Auditions set for LTO's summer show

Little Theatre of Owatonna (LTO) has announced auditions for its summer production of "Once on This Island."

The auditions will take place from 6-8 p.m. on Saturday, April 6, and at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 7, for the ADULT characters, at LTO, 560 Dunnell Drive in the West Hills Complex in Owatonna. Children's auditions will be Saturday, April 13 from 1-2 p.m.

The play is by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty. The artistic director is Heather Burke, the technical director is Victoria Bartkowiak, the music director is Michael Burke and the choreographer is Kyra Rahn.

Join in on a Calypso-filled journey of one small girl who finds love in the most unlikely of places. Her new-found love must be proved not only through the tests laid out by the pompous gods who preside over the island, but also by the trials and tribulations she must face as a lowly peasant. This Tony Award-winning musical is a highly original and theatrical

masihup of the classic tale of Romeo and Juliet, and the well-loved tale of The Little Mermaid. It's an exciting and energetic adventure for the whole family to enjoy.

The cast is comprised of 14 roles (six adult women, one female child: age 7-12, one male child: age 7-12 and six adult men) as well as an ensemble. Character descriptions and plot summary can be found along with the audition packets online. We encourage diversity in casting. Actors of all races and ethnicities are encouraged to audition.

Audition packets will be available at the Owatonna Public Library, and online at <http://littletheatreofowatonna.org/upcoming-auditions/>.

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. on June 20-22 and 27-29 with matinee performances at 2 p.m. on June 23 and June 30.

"Once on This Island" is presented with special arrangements through Music Theatre International (MTI) and is sponsored by Federated Insurance.

Owatonna native to speak at Woman's Club Thursday

"The Science of Climate Change" will be presented at the 1 p.m. Thursday, April 4 meeting of the Woman's Club of Owatonna at St. John Lutheran Church, 1301 Lincoln Ave.

Alan Anderson, a native of Owatonna, is the son of the late Dr. Frank Anderson and Sophie Anderson, who now lives in the metro area and was a long-time member of the Woman's Club. Born and raised here, Anderson is a 1968 graduate of Owatonna High School and a graduate of Gustavus, where he met his wife, Deborah.

After college, he owned and operated a book store in St. Cloud before becoming interested in Boy Scouting, first as a volunteer and then as a career. He worked as a Boy Scout executive throughout the United States until being relocated back to Minnesota where he lived, and still does, in Northfield. He was a Boy Scout executive for 34 years. After he retired, he attended a seminar about climate change at



Alan Anderson

Gustavus, became very interested in the subject and the work, and took a class and subsequently did extensive research on climate change.

He is a member of the Citizen Climate Lobby, a non-profit bipartisan organization. Its purpose is to inform the public and create legislation on the effects of climate change. For more information about climate change, Alan suggests the websites of NOAA and Skeptical Science.

Greeters on Thursday will be Phyllis Hegle and Linda Shaw. The tea committee is being chaired by DeeAnn Pettyjohn and includes Nijole Aaseth, Kathy Flint, Marilyn Pedersen, Patti Braasch-Turi, Jo Wolfigram and Jean Zinter.

Tickets for the May 2 spring luncheon that will feature entertainment by Lisa Rock, a tribute artist for the Carpenters, will be on sale starting at 12:15 in the church narthex. The cost of the lunch is \$11.

Election and installation of officers for the 2019-2020 year is also scheduled for Thursday.

Calling all artists for an exhibition

Visual Artist of Steele County is an opportunity for you to exhibit your creative talents with the community at the 67th Annual Steele County Art Exhibition.

The exhibition opens on May 5 and runs through May 26. The exhibition is open to residents of Steele County that are 18 years of age. Artists may submit three original works that have been created with in the past year. Works in the following media may

be shown: oil, watercolor, acrylic, pencil, pen and ink, charcoal, pastel, crayon and sculpture. All work must be original. All pictures must be ready to hang using the wire hanging method. All sculptures must be ready for display.

Entries accepted April 23 through May 2 during gallery hours of 1-5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Entry forms are available at the Owatonna Arts Center.

New exhibit at Owatonna Arts Center

"Every Kind of Maker's Tool" is the gallery exhibition from the Weavers Guild of Minnesota at the Owatonna Arts Center.

Beautiful handmade textiles will adorn the gallery and a variety of equipment, tools, and looms. On the opening day, Sunday, April 7 from 1-5 p.m., there will be Guild members demonstrating and answering questions. They will also do it again on April 28 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Each piece will be accompanied with information about the equipment used, to enhance the viewer's experience and understanding. The exhibition is work/equipment is part of the WGM 2019 grant-supported "Fiber to the People" Program. The Weavers Guild of Minnesota is apart of the Minnesota Textile Center. The Minnesota Textile Center, hosts exhibitions, Classes/workshops. Since its founding in 1940 by 26 individuals, including Hilma Berglund, the Weavers Guild of Minnesota has established itself as a nationally-recognized resource for the arts of weaving, spinning, and dyeing. WGM offers classes and events year round, serving nearly 700 new and experienced fiber artists each year. It was the catalyst in the formation of the Textile Center, where the Guild currently maintains classroom, retail, and library space.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 1-5 p.m. The center is closed on Mondays.

Spring Business Luncheon set for BP

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

After a one-year absence, the Blooming Prairie Spring Business Luncheon returns.

The luncheon, previously sponsored by the Blooming Prairie Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Auxiliary, will this year be sponsored by the BP Servicemen's Club at the club. It is open to businesses within the city limits of Blooming Prairie.

Date of this event, designed to allow business people an opportunity to treat their employees,

is Wednesday, April 24. Serving will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., buffet style.

Invitations to the luncheon are being circulated to BP businesses the week of April 1. Tickets costing \$12.50 each are available in advance.

More information about particulars for the day will be printed on the ticket.

"This luncheon provides a perfect chance for businesses to bring their employees together for lunch," says Doreen Blome of the Servicemen's Club.

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READ

STEELE COUNTY Times



Panther of the Week



Eli Hendrickson

This week's Panther of the Week is Eli Hendrickson. Eli lives outside of New Richland with his parents Eric and Heather, and his brother and sister Wyatt and Aubrey. A fun fact about Eli is that he's a triple! He is in Ms. Beenen's second grade class at NRHEG and is a wonderful role-model for all of his classmates!

Eli loves to help others and works hard each day in school. We can always count on Eli to be there for us! He has a wonderful sense of humor and always wears a smile on his face; way to go Eli!

Eli's favorite food is Alfredo and his favorite movie is "Stray." His favorite book is any "Magic Tree House" book. Eli loves to be outdoors and his two favorite hobbies are hunting and fishing. He is also involved in wrestling during the winter and another fun thing Eli loves to do is to climb trees! He definitely loves to be outside! Keep up the great work Eli, we are proud of you!



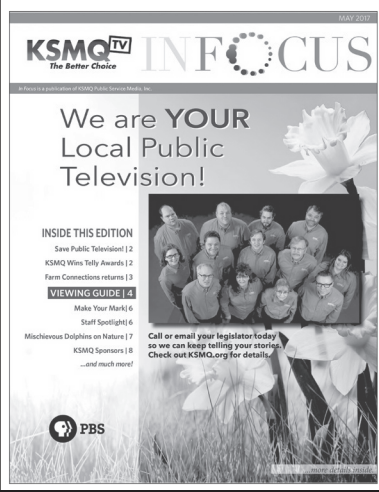
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R TOWN

BASKETBALL



Staff photo by Dennis Marshall
Blooming Prairie's Gabe Hagen sizes up a defender earlier this season.

Banquet honors Awesome Blossoms

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossom boys' basketball coach Nate Piller used the occasion of the season's awards program to honor the 2018-19 team, but also went back into the record books to compile statistics and accomplishments of Blossom teams over the last 45 years.

It made for some interesting results.

"I am proud of this group of athletes," Piller said. "We had a few low spots, but the high spots were much more frequent and the team established some lasting memories."

Blooming Prairie finished third in the Gopher Conference last season with a 9-5 record and an 18-7 overall mark. The Blossoms finished with their fourth highest percentage since 1970.

The team lost to Hayfield, 50-48, in the quarterfinals of the section tournament, after defeating Goodhue at home in opening round action.

Individually, Gabe Hagen was voted the team's Most Valuable Player. He was also named first-team All-Gopher Conference and also earned Academic All-Conference honors.

Hagen led the team in total scoring (13.9 per game), rebounds (7.5), assists (4.1) and free throws made (74). He also ranked second in steals (1.48), third in blocked shots (0.64) and finished a sparkling season for the Blossoms.

Junior Kaden Thomas made the All-Gopher Conference second-team and earned the team's Most Dedicated Player Award. He ranked first in steals (1.83), second in total points (13.7) and assists (3.1) and third in rebounds (3.9). He was also

fifth in blocked shots (0.46). Junior Karson Vigeland made the Gopher All-Conference honorable mention list and the All-Academic roster.

He ranked first in blocked shots

(1.21) and free throw percentage (65.4%), second in two-point field goals (83) and free throws made (29) and third in total points (8.7) and assists (1.8).

Junior Zach Archer received the Gopher Conference Sportsmanship

Award and was named the team's Defensive Player of the Year. He was first in 3-point field goal percentage (50%), third in steals (0.88) and fourth in blocks (0.44) and points (6.9).

SEE BP BOYS, B5



Photo courtesy of Pam Agrimson
Blooming Prairie's Kaden Thomas comes away with a monster block against NRHEG earlier this season.

COMING TOGETHER

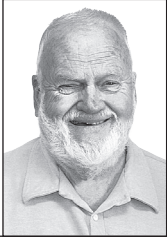
For the past 60-plus years I have made Blooming Prairie home.

I can't imagine any community that cares more about local education than ours. That fact became clear again last weekend with the annual Blooming Prairie Education Foundation Auction held Saturday. Final results of the occasion were still being tallied, but I can tell you that it will be a lot.

Bidders had no qualms about paying a little more, or a lot more, for an item than its actual worth, and a number of unique and handmade projects illustrated hours and hours of labor on the part of the maker. The willingness in donating many valuable items didn't seem to bother the donors either. And the best part of the entire event is the knowledge that every penny earned is used for projects at the schools that could not be justified within the regular budget.

Staff members are encouraged to apply for projects they deem educational, and through the years, many of those projects have benefited a large number of students. Just one example of the educational value of a project is the robotics. organized and funded just a few years ago.

The team has used a lot of creativity and



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

ingenuity to build unique and interesting machines and best of all, the project has placed high in the annual contest held in northern Minnesota each year and that is just one example of the variety of endeavors applied for and carried out.

There are dozens more that are carried out each year. All of the activity surrounding the yearly auction is simply indication of a community that comes together in support of local education. How many communities can boast of such support? A tip of the hat this week goes to auction organizers, volunteers, and bidders. Well done!

WEATHER STILL A TOPIC

Although it has settled into a more normal pattern in the last two weeks, and Mother Nature has been kind to most communities once threatened with major flooding, we are still affected by the weather. With the low temperatures in the last couple of days, the spring sports teams will still open seasons.

It will be a relief to compete for real, but we can hope that temps begin to climb a few degrees daily, and everyone can realize that it really is spring. The Minnesota Twins lucked out in their season opener, but then suffered

from a couple of games when cold breezes and low temps became the norm. Let's hope the high school teams don't have to cope with such conditions for very long..

WINTER SPORTS HONORED

A week ago we noted the success the basketball girls accomplished in their season, and the bright prospects ahead for the team. This week we pay tribute to the boys, as they also concluded a successful campaign, culminating in a two-point loss in the sub-section playoffs.

Several boys had career seasons and are optimistic with the realization that they still have a season in which to participate. Juniors Gabe Hagen, Kaden Thomas and Karson Vigeland all had excellent seasons.

Hagen claimed the team's Most Value Player award Gopher All-Conference first-team honors.

Both the boys and girls had winning records, and they brought to the court a winning attitude, a coachable disposition, and a strong sense of team unity first and individual second. They are to be commended for that. We wish them luck as they continue their athletic and high school careers.

MOVIE NIGHT

I have seen just one movie in a theater over the last 25 years, but I still enjoy watching them

on TV. Now, my daughters and a small group of friends have formed a movie-watching club and will gather weekly to watch a favorite movie.

We began our venture last night with my choice of classic movie, "The Greatest Show on Earth."

I must admit that it has not lost its appeal, at least for me. To see James Stewart as a circus clown, and the drama presented by a circus train accident will never lose its attraction for me. Now I will see if other choices by individuals in the group can catch and keep my interest, and it should keep us busy for a few weeks at least.

THE FINAL FOUR

Next weekend the NCAA will crown another national basketball champion when the Final Four comes to U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

Usually, my brothers and I have a friendly wager on the eventual champion, but this year I begged off. I have kept so little notice of college basketball this season that my choices would be best served by randomly sticking pins in the brackets.

This tournament rivals the Super Bowl, the World Series and the World Cup in popularity, and it will attract basketball fans around the country to pay attention to the final game. Continue to think spring, and we'll talk again.

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WRESTLING

Westfield youth wrestlers qualify for state

STAFF REPORT

The Westfield Razorbacks youth wrestling team had quite a successful season compiling a 16-2 overall team record and this past weekend the team had eight individuals qualify for the Northland Youth Wrestling Association [NYWA] state tournament April 4 through the 7 at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester.

Wrestlers had to finish in the top three of the respective class at the NYWA Region Tournament on March 22 and 23 at the Mayo Civic Center.

Razorbacks claiming gold were Bo Zwiener, Vincent

Hernandez and Knox Bartelt. Lucas Smith and Haden Simonson finished second, and Derek Miner, Bentley Miller and Alex Lea earned bronze.

Peyton Lembke (fourth) and Owen Gimbel (sixth) will wrestle in the invite tournament that runs in conjunction with the state tournament at Mayo Civic Center.

The Razorbacks finished sixth as a team at the team region on Sunday, March 24 at Eyota High School.

The team is coached by Scott Archer, Heath Lembke, Denny Zwiener, Doug Miner, Andrew Fort, Brandon Simonson and Kevin Bronson.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA SIMONSON

The Westfield Razorbacks youth wrestling team stands for a photo. The team includes Knox Bartelt, Devan Subbert, Peyton Lembke, Bentley Miller, Derek Miner, Kaden Ziegler, Gage Mullenbach, Jaxon Meier, Cannon Wacek, Evan Fyksen, Hunter Simonson, Breanna Subbert, Alex Lea, Bo Zwiener, Vincent Hernandez, Sawyer Bartelt, Colton Beaver, Owen Gimbel, Isaac Fort, Brayden Kraemer and Carter Murphy.

BP BOYS: Nine players are named to Academic All-Conference team

FROM B4

Senior Trent Swenson was second in blocks (0.65) this season, and fourth in rebounds (3.1). He did climb to 15th place all-time with 42 career blocks.

Swenson, Tim Wolf (senior), Archer, Hagen, Isaac Ile (junior), Jarrett Larson (junior), Parker Vaith (junior), Vigeland and Zach Weber (junior) were Academic All-Conference for maintaining a GPA between 3.5 and 4.0.

Vaith was fourth in team steals (0.72) and sixth in total points scored (4.5).

Matthew Pryor also made the list with the fifth most 3-point field goals made (4).



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Blooming Prairie's Trenton Swenson blocks a Hayfield shot during the quarterfinals of section tournament at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester.



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Blooming Prairie's Tim Wolf and Jarrett Larson look to trap an opponent.

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 mortgagor(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.

3/19, 3/26, 4/2
4/9, 4/16, 4/23

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 record-

ed 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 mortgagor(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

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT CIVIL DIVISION THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Case No.: 74-CO-19-385

Summons

Ultra Outlets of Minnesota, LLC,
Ian Robert Meister (Father)
Parent

Plaintiff,

Borzoo Faizy and Paneez Ent. Inc.
doing business as City Fashions,

Defendants

THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

1. **YOU ARE BEING SUED.** The Plaintiff has started a lawsuit against you. The Plaintiff's Complaint against you is attached to this Summons. Do not throw these papers away. They are official papers that affect your rights. You must respond to this lawsuit even though it may not yet be filed with the Court and there may be no court file number on this summons.

2. **YOU MUST REPLY WITHIN 20 DAYS TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.** You must give or mail to the person who signed this Summons a written response called an Answer within 20 days of the date on which you received this Summons. You must send a copy of your Answer to the person who signed this.

3. **YOU MUST RESPOND TO EACH CLAIM.** The Answer is your written response to the Plaintiff's Complaint. In your Answer you must state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the Complaint. If you believe the Plaintiff should not be given everything asked for in the Complaint, you must say so in your Answer.

4. **YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IF YOU DO NOT SEND A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT TO THE PERSON WHO SIGNED THIS SUMMONS.** If you do not answer within 20 days, you will lose this case. You will not get to tell your side of the story, and the Court may decide against you and award the Plaintiff everything asked for in the Complaint. If you do not want to contest the claims stated in the Complaint, you do not need to respond. A default judgment can then be entered against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.

5. **LEGAL ASSISTANCE.** You may wish to get legal help from a lawyer. If you do not have a lawyer, the Court Administrator may

have information about places where you can get legal assistance. Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still provide a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose the case. 6. **ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** The parties may agree to or be ordered to participate in an alternative dispute resolution process under Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice. You must still send your written response to the Complaint even if you expect to use alternative means of resolving this dispute.

Dated: September 27, 2018

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, P.A.

/s/ Perry A. Berg
Perry A. Berg (Atty. No. 135999)
Attorneys for Plaintiff
302 First Avenue NW
Faribault, MN 55021
507-332-7425
perry.berg@phblawoffice.com

3/19, 3/26, 4/2

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT CIVIL DIVISION THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Case No.: 74-FA-19-379
Case Type: Dissolution without Children

Summons Without Real Estate

In Re the Marriage of:

Delmira Ortega
Petitioner

and

Juan Carlos Ortega
Respondent

THE STATE OF MT\INESOTA TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

WARNING: Your spouse has filed a lawsuit against you for dissolution of your marriage. A copy of the paperwork regarding the lawsuit is served on you with this summons. This summons is an official document from the court that affects your rights. Read this summons carefully. If you do not understand it, contact an attorney for legal advice.

1. The Petitioner (your spouse) has filed a lawsuit against you asking for a dissolution of your marriage (divorce). A copy of the Petition of Dissolution of Marriage is attached to this Summons.

2. You must serve upon Petitioner and file with the Court: 1 written Answer to the Petition for Dissolution of Marriage and you must pay the required filing fee. Answer

forms are available from the Court Administrator's office. You must serve your Answer upon Petitioner within thirty (30) days of the date you were served with this Summons, not counting the day of service. If you do not serve and file your Answer, the Court may give your spouse everything he or she is asking for in the Petition for Dissolution of Marriage.

OR This proceeding does not involve real property.

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY RESTRAINING PROVISIONS

Under Minnesota law, service of this summons makes the following requirements apply to both parties to the action, unless they are modified by the court or the proceeding is dismissed:

(1) Neither party may dispose of any assets except (a) for the necessities of life or for the necessary generation of income or preservation of assets, (b) by an agreement of the parties in writing, or (c) for retaining counsel to carry on or to contest this proceeding.

(2) Neither party may harass the other party.

(3) All currently available insurance coverage must be maintained and continued without change in coverage or beneficiary designation. (4) Parties to a marriage dissolution proceeding are encouraged to attempt alternative dispute resolution pursuant to Minnesota law. Alternative dispute resolution includes mediation arbitration and other processes as set forth in the district court rules. You may contact the court administrator about resources in your area. If you cannot pay for mediation or alternative dispute resolution, in some counties, assistance may be available to you through a nonprofit provider or a court program. If you are a victim of domestic abuse or threats as defined in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 518B, you are not required to try mediation and you will not be penalized by the court in later proceedings.

IF YOU VIOLATE ANY OF THESE PROVISIONS, YOU WILL BE SUBJECT TO SANCTIONS BY THE COURT.

Dated: March 11, 2019

Steele MN
County and State where signed

Delmira Ortega
2126 3rd Ave tri #46
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-977-5844
delmiraortega22@gmail.com

3/19, 3/26, 4/2

NOTICE OF SALE

The personal property described as follows, to-wit: A 2008 Dodge Nitro automobile, VIN# 1D8GT-28KX8W104691 with 166, 367 indicated miles on 03.20.2019, will be sold at public auction by The Steele County Sheriff on the 2nd day of May, 2019 at 10:30am at Hometown Motors LLC, 1125 S Oak Ave, Owatonna, in the county of Steele, in the State of Minnesota, to pay and satisfy a lien which is claimed to be due thereon from Able Sanchez thereof to Hometown Motors LLC in the sum of \$10,267.35, computed to the last day of the sale, exclusive of the expenses of advertising, storage, impound fees and the making of said sale; and the grounds of said lien are as follows, to-wit: Repair invoice for materials, labor, sales tax, rental vehicle.

Dated: March 20th, 2019

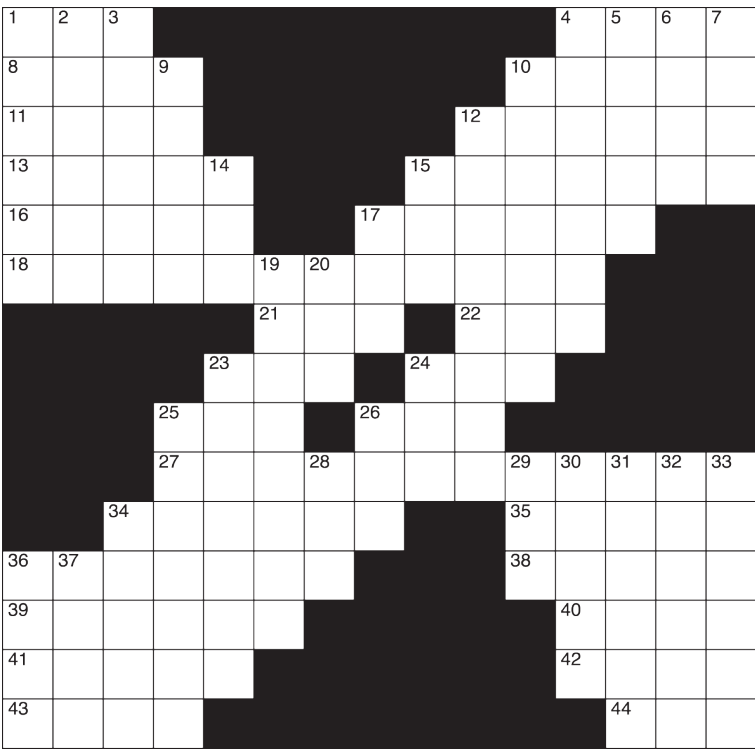
Signed and dated by:

Daryl Kubicek

Owner of Hometown Motors LLC
1125 S Oak Ave
Owatonna MN 55060

3/19, 3/26, 4/2

CLUES ACROSS
1. Administrative Review Board
4. Not worried
8. Rowan Atkinson played him
10. Stars
11. Indian city
12. North American nation
13. He partnered with Garfunkel
15. Understood
16. Foe
17. Jewish state
18. 2015 postseason hero
21. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
22. Goddess of the dawn
23. ___ Squad
24. Belonging to a thing
25. Food-related allergic reaction (abbr.)
26. Car mechanics group
27. Exceed in weight
34. Deserved
35. Singer Thicke
36. Clemencies
38. Critique
39. Resented
40. Type of tissue



41. Passages
42. It comes in a can
43. His heart is in San Francisco
44. Retirement account

CLUES DOWN
1. Belittled
2. Actress King
3. They pour drinks

4. Communicates
5. Take advantage of
6. Take on cargo
7. A stiff drink
9. Actress Watts
10. Natives of the American Southwest
12. Covered
14. The Science Guy Bill
15. Soviet Socialist Republic
17. Contraceptive device
19. Unfastened
20. ___ student, learns healing
23. Ties the knot
24. Actor McKellen
25. Optical phenomenon
26. Turf
28. Foot (Latin)
29. Flub
30. Birds settle here
31. Calculator
32. Herbal tea
33. Catch
34. Pitcher Santana
36. Not for vegetarians
37. Japanese novelist



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NOTICE

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT #756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE,
MINNESOTA 55917
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2019
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA
CENTER

PROPOSED TENTATIVE
AGENDA

6:00 a.m.
Thursday, April 11, 2019
Regular School Board Work
Session –High School Board
Room
7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 15, 2019
Open Public Forum–High
School Media Center
7:15 p.m.
Monday, April 15, 2019 **Reg-**
ular School Board Meeting–
High School Media Center

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

speaking.

- I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL – CLERK
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS
- VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED
 - A. Consent Agenda
 - Minutes
 - Bills
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Resignations
 - Donations
 - B. Employment
 - C. Volunteer Coaches
 - D. Resolutions Relating to the Termination & Non-Renewal of a Teaching Contract
 - E. Student Insurance Program
 - F. MSHSL Membership Resolution
 - G. Title I Resolution
 - H. Staff Development FY 20
 - I. Weather Days
 - J. Class Sizes/Sections
- VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
 - A. Committee Reports
 - B. Enrollment Data
 - C. Dates to Note
- VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

NOTICE

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD
MEETINGS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT #756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE,
MINNESOTA 55917
ELEMENTARY MEDIA
CENTER
APRIL 9, 10, & 11, 2019
4:00-8:00 P.M.
(Tentative Dates
and Time Range)

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGEN-
DA

I. CALL TO ORDER - CHAIR-
PERSON

II. ROLL CALL – CLERK
Jon Sunde, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Dean Meshke, Jenny Thurnau

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IV. ITEMS OF INFORMATION
AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
Interviews to be conducted for the Elementary School Principal position.

V. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY:
Jeremy Young,
Owner

Date:
March 27, 2019

Email:
Jeremydyoung184@gmail.com

4/2, 4/9

FOR SALE

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

MAPLE FUTON NEVER USED, folds down to double bed. Walmart \$214.00 They just don't need. Will take \$50.00 Call Bruce-in Blooming Prairie at 507-583-2904 (paid 13,14,15,16)

LAND FOR RENT

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

FOR RENT

UPSTAIRS SLEEPING ROOMS AVAILABLE. RENT WEEKLY OR MONTHLY AT 120 2ND ST NE in Blooming Prairie. If interested call 507-475-3915 for more details. (wk. 14,15,16 pd)
HAYFIELD-FOR RENT-GREAT Western Apartments. 1 bedroom apartment, includes all utilities, laundry onsite. Available mid-March. Call (507)796-0152 or (701)330-9788 (15,16,17)
UPSTAIRS SLEEPING ROOMS available. Rent weekly or monthly at 128 2nd St. NE in Blooming Prairie. Call 507-475-3916 for details. 16,17,18 pd

EMPLOYMENT

FARM WORKERS NEEDED: Seasonal positions available on a crop farm to operated tillage equipment or drive semi-truck. Must have a clean driving record. 507-438-3510 (14,15,16 chg)
DODGE CENTER AMERICAN LEGION is looking for a part-time bartender. If interested and for more details, please contact Melissa at 507-380-0983 (wk. 14,15,16 chg.)

NOTICE TO GRAVEL CONTRACTORS

The Berlin Town Board will receive quotes for crushing, loading and hauling gravel, 5,000 yards more or less, minimum 4 trucks to any place in Berlin Township for the year 2019.

The material should be Class 5 specification. A Certificate of Insurance is required with your quote. No quote will be accepted without an Insurance Certificate.

The Town Board reserves the right to reject any or all quotes. Quotes will be opened at the April 4, 2019 meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Ellendale Community Building. The accepted quote will be awarded at the May 13, 2019 meeting at 7 p.m. at the Ellendale Community Building.

Berlin Township Board
Richard Johnson, Chairman

4/2

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning & Zoning Board for the City of Blooming Prairie will conduct a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.** at the City Center located at 138 Hwy Avenue South.

The purpose of this hearing will be to consider an application to rezone parcel #14-130-0203 located along 4th Place SW. The parcel is currently zoned as R-1 Single Family Residence and the request is to rezone the parcel to R-2 One & Two Family Residence.

For more information, contact the City Administration office at 507-583-7573

4/2, 4/9

NOTICE

Minnesota Secretary of
State Certificate of Assumed
Name Minnesota
Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAMED:
Chrome Hammer
Transportation

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **204 1st St. NW,**
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917.

NAMEHOLDER(S):
Name:
Jeremy Young

Address:
204 1st St. NW,
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917.

I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/ her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable

4/2

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

- ♦**Resident Assistant**
- PT 10 p.m. - 6 a.m.
- ♦**Dining Assistant**
- FT 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.



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

OPPORTUNITY
High School Clerical
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BLOOMING PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL is seeking applicants for a part-time clerical position. Position includes various clerical duties along with willingness to be a team player. Computer knowledge a must.

Apply online at
<https://blossoms-portal.rschooldtoday.com/page/2818>.

Deadline for applications is April 15, 2019.

4/2, 4/9

Prairie Manor is looking for dedicated nurses to help us run our acclaimed 5 star facility!

As a nurse with Prairie Manor you would be providing care for up to 40 residents in our skilled nursing facility. Working alongside CNA's, med Aides, and other nurses this task will not be yours alone. LPN's in our company generally act as front line care givers both dispensing medication and doing a variety of treatments.

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The Union Cemetery Association of rural Blooming Prairie will hold their annual meeting on

Tuesday,
April 9, 2019
at 6:30 pm

at the Craig & Jan Nelson residence.

Gary Hansen,
President

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We are now hiring a

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The Steele County Times in Blooming Prairie is seeking an energetic person to take on the role of inside sales and light office work.

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STEELE COUNTY Times

KEILLOR: Owatonna performance

FROM B1

he was not at the point of jumping off a bridge, he decided to go in the direction he was going. “That’s what led me into radio,” Keillor explained. He remembered his first radio program at St. John’s University in 1969.

It was an early morning broadcast which he used to spread humor and cheer. “At six o’clock in the morning, people do not need to hear about your disappointments in life, they do not need to hear your critique of society. They need to be happy,” he said. “I discovered in radio that there are ways to make people happy.”

From there Keillor recounted many stories of his past, including moments from his childhood which stand out all these years later to those which led to his development as a person, and a writer. There was the story about him having to stay after school and read aloud because he was nearsighted and the teacher thought he couldn’t read well.

There was also the story about him singing in his grandparents’ barn –his mother used to send him there as punishment, although Keillor said that he actually enjoyed it –and as he was singing, he fell down through the loft and into the cow pen, where he landed on a Holstein and found himself covered in a pile of dung and facing a bull. His uncle ran in with a two-by-four and saved the young Keillor.

“Everyone claimed that I was never the same after hitting my head that day,” he joked to the audience. “But how would you know, you wouldn’t, or at least you would be the last person to know.” It was stories like this which got the audience rolling with laughter.

Keillor also included

“All history is **local and it starts with stories.**

The county historical society it part of the real grass-roots world that is threatened by the world of social media.”

Garrison Keillor
Famed Humorist

anecdotes of a more heartwarming nature, such as the time his father found him at a luncheonette after he’d swiped some coins from the family coin jar and was looking to go to downtown Minneapolis. His father was supposed to paddle him, but the two of them sat on the fender of his old Ford sedan and talked.

Ever the wordsmith, Keillor also recited several limericks to the audience, including one or two of a rather licentious nature. Among these were several from his childhood, particularly one which he recited for his speech teacher.

It was a night of laughter for all those in attendance, and an interesting glimpse of the formative years of one of Minnesota’s most renown living writers. Keillor ended the show with a rendition of “America the Beautiful” with the audience.

“All history is local and it starts with stories,” Keillor said in an interview prior to the event. “The county historical society is, to me, part of the real grass-roots world that is threatened by the world of social media, video, Facebook, Amazon, the world you can participate in without leaving your bedroom.”

Digging to repair water trouble



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUJ
As the calendar has turned to spring in recent weeks, there have been some definite signs of the change in seasons around the area. This time of the year often signifies flooding and water main troubles. In late March, Blooming Prairie city workers repaired a broken water main at the junction of 2nd Street SE and 1st Avenue SE.

Sheriff recognizes service of Ellendale's Otto

By DENNIS MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

Sheriff Lon Thiele presented the Ellendale City Council with a framed letter from the Steele County Sheriff’s Office thanking Maintenance Supervisor Josh Otto for his assistance during the unprecedented blizzard in February.

“We have said it before and we’ll say it again, Josh [Otto] has went above and beyond this winter,” Ellendale Mayor Russ Goette said after accepting the letter from Thiele. “He did an excellent job and should be very proud of the condition he’s kept all the roads in this town.”

Thiele said he just wanted the opportunity to thank Otto for all the support and assistance he provided to his deputies.

“I just wanted to recognize Josh [Otto] for doing such a great job of helping out public safety outside of his limits,” Thiele said. “We had squad cars that found the snow banks and couldn’t get out and his willingness to assist with road conditions that became life-threatening did not go unnoticed.”

Thiele said there are some more individuals around Steele County that he plans to thank personally.

“We haven’t had this kind of weather for quite some time,” he said. “It was nice to see the community pull together during this event.”

Thiele said there were 298 people rescued from vehicles or stayed at the emergency

shelters in Owatonna and the National Guard did an amazing job of helping with rescue efforts in the dangerous terrain.

“Out of the 298 people who were there or pulled from a vehicle, no one person injured,” he said. “You haven’t seen that type of snowfall for quite some time and we could have had some problems, but thankfully, we had zero injuries.”

Thiele went on to ask the council about the current events and happenings in to Ellendale and surrounding areas.

Neither the council members or mayor had any law enforcement concerns.

“No news is good news I assume,” council member Steve Engel said.

In other news, the council:

- Addressed but tabled discussion on the need for a new generator and upcoming street sweeping.
- Approved the purchase of a new window at the city hall building for \$169.
- Approved a sign additional for Casey’s General Store off Highway 25 in Ellendale.
- Discussed the upcoming Emergency Management Disaster Training on Tuesday, April 16 from 4 to 6:30 p.m.
- Addressed but tabled discussion on the Lester and Morton Buildings.
- Goette addressed a pair of abandoned homes in Ellendale and what the city can do about the properties.

STEELE COUNTY BOARD: Approves County 12 project

FROM B1

\$325,000 while the engineer’s estimate determined that Steele County’s cost share would be around \$482,859.28. “They’re opening bids next Thursday, and I anticipate their bids are probably going to be something under the \$482,000 and probably something over the \$325,000,” Ilkka said.

The board also awarded two contracts for the new Public Works Building. One for a fiberglass grate walkway, railings, and steps for a wash bay. The materials will be supplied by Ultra Fiberglass Systems at the cost of \$13,669 while the contract for installation was awarded to AllTech Engineering at the cost of \$6,280.

Another contract was awarded to LeRoy Signs for \$22,445. This contract is for installation and materials for all interior and exterior signs and plaques. Bids are also being considered currently for furniture within the building. The building is nearing completion on budget and on schedule.

Next month’s first county board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9 at 5 p.m.

We have the news you want to know and the hometown coverage you expect.

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STEELE COUNTY Times

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STEELE COUNTY Times

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STEELE COUNTY Times

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STEELE COUNTY Times

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