



STEELE COUNTY Times

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www.steeledodge.com TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019 Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

'Epiphany moment' for senator leads to hands-free law

Governor signs legislation allowing only hands-free devices while driving

By RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The tragic deaths of a Blooming Prairie school teacher and her daughter last fall proved to be enough for Sen. Dave Senjem, R-Rochester, to work feverishly to bring a new law

Legislature," he said.

The work of Senjem and his fellow lawmakers paid off Friday morning when Governor Tim Walz signed a new law limiting drivers to using hands-free cellphone technology on Minnesota roadways beginning Aug. 1. Walz signed the bill with relatives of distracted driving victims surrounding him at the Capitol in St. Paul. Senjem was one of the co-authors of the bill in the Senate.

Rachel Harberts and her daughter, Emerson, were killed on U.S. Highway 14 in Dodge County by a motorist

allegedly on his cellphone using a banking app at the time of the crash. Rachel's son, Jaxon, was also seriously injured in the crash.

"The Harberts accident changed me," Senjem admitted last week. "You can't stand in front of those two caskets without knowing as a legislator you have some control over it. It had a demonstrable effect on me."

While Senjem pointed out the Harberts tragedy destroyed two families, he hopes if any good can come out of it, it will be this particular hands-



SEE LAW, A3

MISSION POSSIBLE



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Above: Nine mission workers from Minnesota spent one week in Puerto Rico in late March helping families get their lives back in order after a deadly hurricane slammed the country in 2017. The workers included, from left: Theresa Brinkhaus of Plymouth, Steve Mundy of Owatonna, Mareen Trepp of Minneapolis, Pastor Loren Olson of Owatonna, Mary Olson of Owatonna; Denise Wieman of Owatonna (back), Vicki Beech of Cedar, Carl Wieman of Owatonna and Sue Zietlow of Plymouth. Below: Denise Wieman of Owatonna chisels away during a mission relief effort in Puerto Rico in late March. Several people from Owatonna United Methodist Church helped rebuild homes devastated by Hurricane Maria in 2017. Pastor Loren Olson led the local group.

Owatonna church group helps devastated Puerto Rico

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A deadly natural disaster thousands of miles away has turned into a good will venture for a group of Owatonna church members.

Five people from Owatonna and four others from the Twin Cities area spent a week in late March in Puerto Rico trying to help families devastated nearly two years ago by Hurricane Maria. Pastor Loren Olson of Owatonna United Methodist Church

led the group, which consisted of Carl and Denise Wieman, Steve Mundy and Mary Olson of Owatonna.

The Minnesota delegation stayed at Camp Cumbres del Calvario, Arecibo, which is about 60 miles west of San Juan. They worked on houses located in the mountains.

"When you fly into San Juan, its blue tarp city all over the place," said Carl Wieman referring to the devastation still noticeable across the region. "It's

hard to believe. It was bad in the mountain areas," he added.

Hurricane Maria was a Category 5 hurricane that devastated Dominica, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico in September 2017. It is regarded as the worst natural disaster to affect those islands and is also the deadliest Atlantic hurricane since Jeanne in 2004. Total losses from the hurricane are estimated at upwards of \$91 billion, mostly in Puerto Rico, ranking

SEE MISSION TRIP, A4



NRHEG voters approve \$9.1M levy

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The New Richland-Hartland-El-lendale-Geneva school district's \$9.1 million referendum to make improvements and update security and safety was approved by voters on April 9.

The single question referendum asking voters to authorize general obligation school building bonds not to exceed \$9.1 million to provide funds for the acquisition and betterment of the school sites and facilities passed with 696 votes for yes and 420 votes for no.

"Thank you to the many residents who voted," NRHEG Superintendent Dale Carlson said. "As the district continues forward with next steps, we will be sharing the process and updates with the community. The release of the \$9.1 million will directly impact our districts ability to provide safe and enhanced learning spaces for students throughout the district."

The funds will be used 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 would allow staff

SEE NRHEG, A4

BioPlastic Solutions finds a new home

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

BioPlastic Solutions has found a new home.

The industry leader in bioplastic engineering and the manufacturing of proprietary bio-based poly resins and products, has moved from Blooming Prairie to just outside Ellendale.

"We are really encouraged about the opportunities afforded us in the new building that totals 64,120 square feet," remarked Gary Noble, president and

CEO of the company.

BioPlastic Solutions employs 24 people and operates 24 hours a day Mondays through Thursdays and until 3 p.m. on Fridays. No weekends are worked with the exception of necessary overtime.

BioPlastic Solutions was based in Blooming Prairie for more than 15 years. It's bio-based innovations are designed to provide alternative solutions for governments, organizations and businesses that are committed to publicly utilizing environmentally sensitive products and processes, Noble explained.

"We've enjoyed our stay in Blooming Prairie but believe the new facility will provide for better efficiencies and will open the doors for further expansion," Noble said.

Business partner Ron Langlie was responsible for targeting these buildings as the new home for Bioplastic Solutions.

Langlie, vice president of operations, designed and built the buildings when he was part of North Central Plastics, manufacturer of fencing insulators and

SEE BIOPLASTIC, A4



Two special assistants to Gary Noble, left, and Ron Langlie, right of Bioplastic Solutions are these two canine friends, Josie, an 8-year-old golden retriever and Izzy, a 3-year-old labradoodle.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

\$1.00 Volume 127, No. 38		INSIDE		AREA DEATHS		Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893
		Opinions.....A2	Hometown Living.....B1	Community Calendar.....B7	Taylor Zylstra-Sletten, 16, West Concord	
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		Earth Day.....A6	Sports.....B5	Classifieds.....B9		
		Faith.....A9		Easter Services.....B10		

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OUR VIEW

Roads to become safer starting in August with hands-free legislation

Last week Gov. Tim Walz signed into law a bill that should have been signed many years ago. The bill, which will go into effect on Aug. 1, will require drivers to have their cellphones in hands-free mode while their vehicle is moving. During the signing ceremony, families and friends who lost loved ones over the years due to distracted driving in Minnesota surrounded the governor.

The sad reality is that all of those tragedies shouldn't have happened and could have been prevented if people decided to put down their phones and concentrate on driving.

One of the things that we are proud to point out is the fact our local legislators have been working hard on this for many years and worked across the aisle to make it happen. In particular are a couple of local lawmakers: Sen. Dave Senjem, R-Rochester, who serves Dodge and Olmsted counties, Sen. John Jasinski, who represents Steele and Rice counties and Rep. Peggy Bennett, R-Albert Lea, whose district covers parts of Steele and Dodge counties.

Working across the aisle is something that isn't always the easiest for lawmakers, especially in today's climate for many reasons, but in a situation like this, where real lives are at stake, we are lucky that our local representatives so the need to do so and did just that.

One of the chief authors of the bill was Senator Senjem, He said the September 2018 crash that killed a school teacher and her daughter on U.S. Highway 14 by Claremont was "my epiphany moment," to get the laws changed in Minnesota. Rachel Harberts and her daughter, Emerson, were killed allegedly by a motorist who was on his cellphone operating a banking app at the time of the crash.

"It did not have to happen," Senjem says. And now he's glad he has been able to do something to bring some good out of the tragedy.

For far too many years, Minnesota, along with over 30 other states across the Union, has been behind the times when it comes to prohibiting cellphone usage while driving.

We applaud our local legislators and lawmakers across the state for finally passing the hands-free law. We specifically applaud our lawmakers for doing so in a bipartisan way. More of this is needed with other key pieces of legislation.

It means people like district neighbors Sens. Senjem and Jasinski and Rep. Bennett putting aside their political differences and coming to the negotiation table to make a law that will make all Minnesotans a little safer.

We need more of it! And now let's all put our phones down and drive hands-free for the safety of every motorist on our roadways.

YOUR VIEW

Let's invest in a new high school

To-the-Editor:
A little over eight years ago, my wife and I moved to Owatonna from Sacramento due to a job transfer with my work. We brought with us two small kids and were expecting a third, which we were blessed to introduce to our family in 2012. The very first thing we reviewed, while evaluating our move was the quality of life in Owatonna compared to that in Sacramento. This may seem like a pretty easy decision for most, but the part of Sacramento we lived in had a flourishing community, a robust economy and state of the art facilities for our kids to grow into. As such, a critical part of our "Owatonna research" was not only job-related but centered on community commitment, housing availability, religious opportunity and the quality of schooling that Owatonna had to offer.

Owatonna graded highly on most, if not all of these core items, and my wife and I were especially thrilled with the testing results within our school buildings, but I can honestly say that from an outside vantage point the school buildings themselves were less than impressive. Some eight years later, things have changed, in that, we have wonderful elementary schools and a beautiful middle school. The reason for this change was each of us committing ourselves to education and our community.

As we consider this upcoming vote, I would urge anyone reading this, to re-engage and commit once more. We can't stop now. The Owatonna High School remains in dire need of replacement. With the support of so many, the Community Task Force, local business partners, organized committees and each voter we can make this happen.

So as you consider your decision, I'd ask that you support our educational facilities so that Owatonna can continue to produce quality educated young people. These facilities will not only educate but help attract young families, workers and new employers to our great city and help contribute to our ever thriving community. As Benjamin Franklin once said, "An investment in knowledge



To the point of beyond frustration

I went into a state of beyond frustration, if there is such a thing, the other night while trying to help out my parents.

A few Sundays ago, the DirecTV service at my parents' house went out. Somehow, I got the lucky task of trying to help them resolve the issue.

Knowing what was ahead of me, I elected to wait until the next night to try and get it done. Simple fix, right? Won't take long to get this taken care of, right? Quick call and all will be good, right? For some reason, I knew I was in dream world thinking it would be a smooth process.

First of all, it took about 20 minutes to even get a live person at DirecTV to pick up the phone call. Once I finally got someone, we had to conference call my mom in on the call because she was in a different location than me. That took a little finagling, but we soon had a three-way conversation going to attempt to figure out why their TV went black with a message coming up, "No service available."

Within minutes of getting a service associate on the phone, the pass the buck game began in earnest. For nearly the next three hours, we were transferred to various departments. One after another assured us that the next transfer would be the one that would be able to resolve the issue. Well, guess what? Nothing got resolved. I only grew more irritated and frustrated with each passing minute of being on the phone with these goons.

At one point during one of the transfers, I kept hearing a recording of Spanish. I didn't think much of it at the time. But after about 15 minutes, you wouldn't guess what happened next. We had a Spanish associate on the phone who couldn't speak English. And, of course, I



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

couldn't speak Spanish. So, you know where that all went. No where!

Finally, I was able to convey enough to get the Spanish associate to transfer me once again to someone who could help, preferably someone who speaks English.

I lost count but I think we were transferred at least 10 different times. Even near the end of the call, an associate advised us to hang up and call back the same number that we started with three hours previously. I'm like "Oh, no you're going to deal with us now or else."

After three hours of frustration and blood pressure raising to the point of no return, I hung up and let my mother deal with the rest on her end. She spent another 30 minutes or so with an associate before they finally made an appointment to come out on Saturday to deal with their DirecTV issue. Why couldn't that have happened more than three hours ago instead of wasting our evenings getting more and more annoyed.

The best part of it all was I went on a 5-mile brisk walk, came home and took a break for 20 minutes, then went to a store to purchase some items for my daughter and came back home to begin editing the newspaper. All of this happened while I was on the phone dealing with the lack of customer service from DirecTV.

To top it off, DirecTV sent me a customer survey the next morning wondering how its service was. Well, let me tell you! You can imagine what I said.

Making matters worse for my mother was that she somehow misplaced her hearing aid while she was on the phone. Last I heard she's still in hot pursuit of tracking down her hearing device. Life is never dull, is it?

can tell those big brown eyes, "the community of Owatonna stepped up and WE DID IT!"
Samantha Hartman
Owatonna

Swallow misgivings, disregard negativity

To-the-Editor:
There comes a time when it is prudent to start over.

This is that time for Owatonna School District 761. The Owatonna High School needs to be replaced and you can make that happen with a yes vote on the bond referendum on May 14.

It's not easy to swallow voluntarily raising your own taxes but it is the right thing to do for the future of Owatonna. Good schools make good communities. We have a great community and we have dedicated educators teaching students. The elementary schools and the middle school have been updated and made more secure.

OHS has been added on to, remodeled, and refocused. The deferred maintenance program hasn't worked out and truly wasn't the best plan. But those deferrals were not the decision of today's administration.

Spending an estimated \$30 to \$40 million to fix the worse problems is not cost effective or smart. We'd be putting lipstick on the pig and the lipstick would have to be replaced in a relatively short time for another \$30 to \$40 million. Lipstick doesn't last.

I don't have children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren in the Owatonna School system. Somebody paid for me to have a great public education here, and I have never resented paying school taxes for that reason, even when I lived in Arizona, Pennsylvania and South Dakota. It's now more personal. It's my community as it is your community.

Vote on May 14. I urge you to swallow your misgivings, disregard the negative comments, ignore the unknown details and vote yes.
Jan Mittelstadt Tippet
Owatonna

GUEST COLUMN

The road to no more victims

BY COLLEEN SHEEHEY-CHURCH

My son Dustin had unforgettable, fiery red hair and a huge, goofy grin. He loved to make people laugh. One summer night shortly after graduating high school, Dustin got a ride with a 19-year-old driver who had alcohol and drugs in her system.

Seat-belted and sober, Dustin was riding in the back seat when the driver lost control of the car, ran into an embankment and launched the car into a river. The driver and front seat passenger escaped. Dustin could not, and he drowned.

As the immediate past president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), I represent hundreds of thousands of people like me whose lives have been tragically, irreversibly changed by someone else's decision to drive while impaired. To end impaired driving, we need to talk about it, and since April is Alcohol Awareness Month, there's no better time to have this discussion.

Impaired driving is a complex issue that grows more urgent by the day with the increasing prevalence of drug-impaired driving. Drugged driving is finding its way into the evening news and morning headlines across the country as a growing number of Americans get high and sometimes even overdose behind the wheel. Even more troubling, these drivers often combine substances like alcohol, marijuana and opioids, which exponentially increases their impairment and the likelihood of causing a fatal crash.

Our response to this issue must be comprehensive. The United States has been successful over the past three decades in drastically reducing the number of impaired-driving fatalities through effective legislation, increased enforcement, stepped-up education campaigns, changing societal norms and a greater recognition of the need for addiction treatment. Impaired-driving fatalities dropped for years but have recently begun to tick back up. Far too many Americans—10,874 in 2017—lose their lives each year to completely preventable crimes.

DWI courts are uniquely positioned to have one of the greatest impacts on impaired driving in our communities because they specialize in targeting and treating the population that poses the greatest threat to our safety: repeat impaired drivers with a substance use disorder.

We know that the first arrest is rarely the first time someone has driven impaired. In fact, studies estimate that an impaired driver has done so more than 80 times before getting caught. We also know that for many of these high-risk, high-need individuals, punishment alone simply will not change their behavior. DWI courts combine evidence-based treatment to address their substance use disorder with structure and strict accountability to change the behavior that attends it, including close supervision and tools like ignition interlock.

Research confirms that this approach significantly reduces impaired driving: participants in DWI courts are up to 60 percent less likely to reoffend than those sentenced to jail or standard probation.

As a nation, we must have a greater sense of urgency. We must wage an unrelenting battle on the devastating, 100-percent preventable crime of impaired driving on our roadways. Clearly, our work is far from finished. But together, with your help, we can create a world with no more victims.

Colleen Sheehey-Church is the immediate past National President of Mother's Against Drunk Driving.

CORRECTION

In last week's front page story on Trinity Lutheran Church closing its doors, the Times inadvertently reported that Trinity's sister congregation, Aurora Lutheran Church, has broken away from the ELCA Synod. Aurora is still a member of the ELCA. The Times apologizes for this misinformation.

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LUCKY NUMBER 13

Lutheran World Relief benefits from First Lutheran's 237 quilts

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The number 13 is lucky for some and not so lucky for others. For First Lutheran Church women quilters, the number 13 is lucky. It took women of the church 13 Mondays to fabricate 237 quilts. Every year Lutherans across the U.S. sew quilts and assemble kits of supplies that Lutheran World Relief sends to partners around the world that request them to meet the needs of people affected by poverty and disaster.

Mission Quilts were one of the earliest forms of aid that Lutherans sent through LWR to reach out to people in other parts of the world. Lutheran World Relief, partnering with other agencies, reports that 305,490 quilts were shipped to the warehouses of St. Paul and Maryland in 2017.

Most of the quilts go to Africa while many others go to Angola, Georgia (Russia), Mauritania, Niger and South Sudan. The tradition of Lutheran World Relief quilt making started just after World War II with quilts being sent to refugees in Europe.

In addition to quilts donated to Lutheran World Relief, blankets, school kits, personal care kits, fabric kits, baby care kits and soap are collected and sent to LWR. First Lutheran quilters spend about seven hours each Monday, working on quilts that are sent to Lutheran world Relief. The talented quilters, led by Kaye Toquam, coordinator of the project, began their project on Monday, Jan. 7 and finished their work on Monday, April 8.

“It’s a fun project and gives us an outlet for sociability,” remarked quilter Dona Gullickson. Marilyn Heinz and Phyllis Peterson are longtime quilters, both logging around 25 years of quilting experience at First Lutheran. “These quilters bring our community together,” Toquam says. Each Monday, the quilters work on fabric that measures 60 by 80 inches. Lucille Peterson has donated much of the material used to craft the quilts. Memorial monies are also used to purchase supplies. Fabric squares brought to the church by the quilters are part of the process, which may include 12 21-inch squares or 48 11-inch squares. No pattern is used during the work project. The quilt bottoms are made of old sheets. “The ladies turn scraps into a thing of beauty,” Toquam observed. The top is donated fabric sewn together and hand tied. The tops are taken home where one of the quilting steps is completed. Two sewing machines are in action most of the days and on the final day of quilting March 19, Bev Hoveland and Doreen Blome were operating the sewing machines. Only one Monday was missed by the quilters during the Jan. 7 to April 8 timeline. And, that was due to a nasty blizzard on Monday, Feb. 25. Quilting was called off for that day. As many as 25 quilters can show up on any given Monday. Quilters usually work from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. All quilts are sent to Lutheran World Relief with the exception of 10 that are kept back. One is kept for the BP Cancer Group auctions in September, one for the BP Education Foundation auctions in March, one for the BP Youth Club auction in February and one for the Good Earth Village Bible Camp fundraiser. Five are also designated to be sold at the Country Store during the day of the BP Lutfesk Dinner in October. The homemade quilts were displayed by the church women on Palm Sunday, April 14. These beautiful quilts were attractively draped over church pews and over the front altar railing. The quilts were dedicated during a special ceremony at church services on Palm Sunday. On the Monday after Palm Sunday, the quilts were boxed and ready for shipment to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in St. Paul. Local trucker Rick Hansen, also a member of First Lutheran, transports the quilts free of charge. Upon arrival in St. Paul, the quilts are removed from the boxes, bailed and labeled for shipment to wherever Lutheran World Relief finds a need, Toquam said.



First Lutheran Church quilters have spent every Monday since Jan. 7 until April 8 working on making 230 quilts. The quilts were displayed and dedicated at the church on Palm Sunday. The quilters include: back row, from left— Diane Boullion, JoAnn Sorenson, Marilyn Heinz, Connie Habermann, Doreen Blome, Vicki Wacek, and Austra Hanson; front row— Donna Maixner, Margaret Delger, Nancy Peterson, Bev Hoveland, Ramona Jacobson, Jan Nirk, Phyllis Peterson, Gwen Kubista, and Dona Gullickson. Absent from the photo: Joyce Johns, Marilyn Meshke, Marilyn Witzel, Kay Toquam, Carol Kirkebon, Lucy Boyd, and Nancy Hansen.

ing this year as senior class president. The Society recognizes top scholars who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, scholarship and community commitment. Peterson is an honor student and, in addition to his sports involvement, this past winter he became involved in the Blooming Prairie robotics program, the Wrench Warmers. The announcement was made by NSHSS founder and chairman, Claes Nobel, senior member of the family that established Nobel Prizes. “On behalf of NSHSS, I am honored to recognize the hard work, sacrifice and commitment that Seth has demonstrated to achieve this exceptional level of academic excellence,” said Nobel. “Seth is now a member of a unique community of scholars -- a community that represents our very best hope for the future.” “We are proud to provide

lifetime membership to young scholars to support their growth and development,” stated NSHSS President James W. Lewis. “We aim to help students like Seth build on their academic success by connecting them with unique learning experiences and resources to help prepare them for college and meaningful careers.” NSHSS members automatically become lifetime members at the time of their initial membership. At each step along the way -- from high school to college to career -- NSHSS connects outstanding young scholars with the resources they need to develop their strengths and to pursue their passions. Key NSHSS benefits include: • NSHSS provides a lifetime membership, based on academic achievement, to individual students. • Lifetime benefits include scholarships, leadership devel-

opment programs, study abroad opportunities, events connecting members with university admissions officers, and access to internship and employment opportunities. • Resources are focused on helping NSHSS members successfully transition from high school to college, and from college to their professional lives. Formed in 2002 by James W. Lewis and Claes Nobel, senior member of the family that established the Nobel Prizes, the National Society of High School Scholars recognizes academic excellence at the high school level and helps to advance the goals and aspirations of high-achieving students through unique learning experiences, scholarships internships, international study and peer networks. Currently, there are more than 1.5 million Society members in over 170 countries. For more information about NSHSS, visit www.nshss.org.

“These quilters bring our community together.”

Kaye Toquam, Quilting Coordinator

BP standout earns national honor

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS) recently announced Blooming Prairie High School senior Seth L. Peterson being selected to become a member of the esteemed organization.

Peterson is the son of Tara Gimbel and Paul Peterson. He plans to attend St. Thomas University on an academic scholarship this fall. His study will be chemical engineering. Peterson has been very active in sports at Blooming Prairie High School, being a three-sport star in football, wrestling and baseball. He suffered a torn ACL last fall in football and thus could not continue participation in sports this year. Peterson has also been serv-

ing this year as senior class president. The Society recognizes top scholars who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, scholarship and community commitment. Peterson is an honor student and, in addition to his sports involvement, this past winter he became involved in the Blooming Prairie robotics program, the Wrench Warmers. The announcement was made by NSHSS founder and chairman, Claes Nobel, senior member of the family that established Nobel Prizes. “On behalf of NSHSS, I am honored to recognize the hard work, sacrifice and commitment that Seth has demonstrated to achieve this exceptional level of academic excellence,” said Nobel. “Seth is now a member of a unique community of scholars -- a community that represents our very best hope for the future.” “We are proud to provide

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Millam inducted into Inaugural Class

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER



RILEY MILLAM

Blooming Prairie High School senior Riley Millam was recently informed that he will be inducted into the Inaugural Class of “100 High School students America Needs to Know About.” Millam, son of Jamie and Michelle, was chosen from thousands of students. He is extremely talented and bright in many areas, stated a prepared press release from Workforce Career Readiness. Most of Millam’s strengths are demonstrated in his work with computers. He is well known at BPHS for his computer programming skills. He designs websites and programs robots. Millam said the award “means a lot” to him because it indicates that the workforce is recognizing that he has worked hard already in programming and coding. He plans to attend Iowa State University at Ames, Iowa, holding a double major in electrical and computer engineering. Following are some of the coding projects Millam has accomplished:

- He created a Spanish app that has been professionally published.
 - Millam designed an app that keeps track of points in the Magic card game.
 - He wrote codes to make a drone fly and do other maneuvers.
 - He created a switch box to make Christmas lights blink to Christmas music.
 - Millam helped in experimentation with the high school’s 3D printer.
 - He has also been a member of the Wrench Warmers, the Blooming Prairie High School robotics team.
- Millam, an A Honor Roll student, said he has self-taught himself about computer programming. He said he knows six program languages. Looking ahead to his future plans, Millam said he likely will target a computer engineer career. “I can’t imagine sitting at a desk,” he said, adding he enjoys working with graphics in creating programs. The senior hopes to develop more apps in the future. He’s working on one now that will help users search for a word by using a built-in camera. “It’s kind of a weird idea,” he admits. This procedure will help find a word in a large file. He recently received an internship with IBI Data in Brownsdale. He will work with programing and website development. His robotics involvement helped him get the internship following an interview. Millam is a student member of the Arke-ma, Inc. Citizens Advisory Panel (CAP) that meets monthly to discuss the chemical plant industry developments. He recently gave a presentation creating computer applica-tions.

LAW: hands-free FROM A1

free law. “Car accidents happen,” Senjem said, “but these kinds of things can be avoided.” Senjem said it’s time for Minnesota drivers to create a different culture on the roadways. “It will inconvenience each one of us, but we can learn to go hands-free,” he said, adding such a law is owed to the driving public. “Cellphones have invaded our lives,” Senjem said. “We can’t be texting while driving. It’s not fair to the other drivers. We all realize we can do better in how we drive in terms of cellphones.”

“The Harberts accident changed me. You can’t stand in front of those two caskets without knowing as a legislator you have some control over it.”

Sen. Dave Senjem
Co-Author Hands-Free Law

As of Aug. 1, Minnesota will join 16 other states in limiting drivers to using phone devices with voice commands or single



Minnesota governor Tim Walz signed the hands-free cellphone law Friday at the State Capitol in St. Paul surrounded by families of distracted driving victims. Senator Dave Senjem, who represents Dodge and Olmsted counties, was one of the co-authors of the legislation in the Senate.

touch activation. The law provides exceptions for emergencies. The law is the state’s most expansive measure yet to curb distracted driving since families began lobbying at the Capitol as far back as 2001. Most states that adopted hands-free laws saw traffic fatalities drop by an average of 15%, according to the National Highway Traffic

Safety Administration. That was enough to earn the support of Rep. Peggy Bennett, R-Albert Lea, whose district covers portions of Dodge and Steele counties. “I looked at the data,” Bennett said. “I don’t just want to pass feel-good laws like we often do.” Bennett looks at the hands-free law as having the same effect over time as enhanced drunk

driving laws have had over the years. “This is going in that same direction,” she said. “This law is a good step in the right direction,” she added. Opponents of hands-free argued that this legislation is a waste of law, according to Bennett. “We had to do something,” she said. “There were too many dying and getting injured.” Bennett is excited about the law taking effect later this summer. “I do believe it will help,” she said. “It’s not too much to ask people to keep their hands off the phone and eyes on the road.” Senjem knows hands-free is going to cause disruption for drivers. But he’s also confident of one very important fact. “It will save lives,” he says.

HANDS-FREE LAW AT GLANCE
Prohibits holding and using cellphones or other wireless devices while driving
First offense: \$50
Subsequent offenses: \$275
Law takes effect Aug. 1
Expected to save lives on Minnesota roads

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago

April 14, 2009

DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

LuAnn Becker of rural Blooming Prairie won a seven day all expenses paid trip to New Orleans. She entered to win on the Live With Regis and Kelly Show that airs weekdays from New York City. The show is Becker's favorite one to watch.

Blooming Prairie High School graduate Russell Plunkett has come full circle in his career and is currently the president of the St. Paul Postal Employees Credit Union. He graduated from BP in 1967.

Pastor Trevor Janich of the Ellendale Assembly of God Church recently returned from sandbagging in North Dakota. His in-laws live in the area, and he knows first-hand the costs of flooding in the Red River Valley. Janich is now organizing a trip to help with the clean-up.

20 Years Ago

April 13, 1999

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

After a one-year absence from the state speech contest, the Blooming Prairie High School contest speakers rebounded in a big way, advancing four students to this year's festival in Cottage Grove. Winning entries included: Ryan Ashton in Humorous Interpretation, Lindsey Carlson in Serious Poetry and Jason Harber in Creative Expression. Luke Severson placed second in the Creative Expression division behind Harber.

Customer Appreciation Day will be held at J&H Liquors in Blooming Prairie

on April 17. The bar is featuring drink specials, hors d'oeuvres and prizes will be given away. Harvey and Nancy Farr have owned the establishment for the past 13 years.

50 Years Ago

April 9, 1969

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Miss Judy Kay Beckman will represent Blooming Prairie in the 1969 Miss Owatonna pageant to be held at Owatonna High School April 26. Miss Beckman, daughter of Mrs. Alice Beckman, is presently employed at Josten's in Owatonna.

Vandals broke 19 panes of glass at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School last Saturday evening. The windows were broken in the elementary gymnasium and classrooms on the north side of the building. Blooming Prairie Police are investigating.

David Randall, 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Randall, and two companions were killed last Saturday morning when the car in which they were riding was struck broadside by a Rock Island freight train at a township crossing about three miles south of Owatonna. The other teenagers killed were from New Richland and Rochester.

Arrangements for proceeding with the nursing home in Blooming Prairie were completed at the Village Council held Monday. A motion was approved for architect Keith Lorenzen to meet with the building committee to prepare plans for the nursing home.

The Blooming Prairie Fire Department

responded to 51 fire calls during 1968 and four rescue unit calls. The department is planning its annual benefit dance on May 2 at the Terp Ballroom in Austin.

75 Years Ago

April 13, 1944

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Fred L. Hendricks, driver of a truck for the Central Bakery of Owatonna, met instant death on April 7 at 11:25 when his truck was struck by a southbound Milwaukee train. The terrific impact caused by the fast-traveling train that does not stop at Bixby when it struck the ill-fated bread truck, squarely in the middle, was so great that the vehicle literally torn to pieces.

A train-car crash that resulted in the death of George Henry Johnson and miraculously spared the life of 9-year-old Darrell Iverson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Iverson, occurred at the south edge of Blooming Prairie Sunday about 4:12 p.m. George Johnson, 22, operator of Johnson's dairy, was making his daily afternoon milk deliveries and had asked Darrell Iverson to accompany him.

The fire department was called to the Pat Meehan residence on Tuesday afternoon when sparks from the chimney started a small blaze on the roof. The fire was extinguished in quick order with the truck equipment. The loss was negligible.

According to information given to the Times, Westfield Township made a most creditable showing in its Red Cross War fund drive. The total contribution of the township reached \$398, or \$39 over the quota given by the Red Cross state headquarters.

Grants deadline nears for Owatonna Foundation

The Owatonna Foundation, now in its 61st year of serving the Owatonna community, announces its next grant application deadline on May 1.

The Foundation was established in 1958 with the goal of improving the quality of life for present and future generations of Owatonna residents. Since then, the Foundation has committed more than \$11.9 million dollars in grants and scholarships to local organizations and students.

Owatonna-based 501 C3 nonprofit organizations that are working on capital projects in the areas of community, arts, recreation, and education may apply.

“The mission of the Owatonna Foundation is to improve the quality of life for present and future generations by supporting Owatonna projects that focus on community, arts, education, and recreation. We are thrilled to offer grant opportunities to the community again this spring,” said Laura Resler, Foundation director.

Recently, the Foundation has awarded grants to many community projects including funding for a new scoreboard at the OHS athletic field, a scoreboard for the Swimming Association, monies allocated to the new Soccer Complex, new roofs on the two cabins at the Village of Yesteryear, monies towards a kitchen remodel at Senior Place and the indoor tennis facility at West Hills, a co-registration desk for the Steele County Food Shelf and Clothesline, a new HVAC system for the Steele County Free Fair, basement remodel at the Hospitality House, and an electric Zamboni ice machine for the Four Seasons Centre.

Complete grant guidelines and applications can be found at the Owatonna Foundation website at www.owatonnafoundation.org or by visiting the Owatonna Foundation office at 108 West Park Square in Owatonna. For more information call Resler at 507-455-2995 or email at info@owatonnafoundation.org.

Compcare opens in Owatonna

Compcare, a new medical urgent care and occupational medicine clinic, has opened in Owatonna. Compcare caters to everyone, including employers seeking healthcare services.

Compcare improves access to healthcare in southern Minnesota while offering a one-stop solution to evaluation and treatment of common injuries and illnesses. From caring healthcare providers to online scheduling and short wait times, Compcare understands what patients want and knows how to expedite your visit.

Testing for strep throat, influenza, pink eye and mononucleosis are performed in the office laboratory along with other common lab work. An onsite-pharmacy saves you additional trips after your visit and x-rays are available in the radiology suite. Common vaccinations and orthopedic braces are also available. For those with concerns for sleep apnea, a comfortable home testing solution is available. Phone and tablet based visits coming soon.

If you have a high deductible or no insurance, a self-pay option provides transparent affordable pricing with the average visit costing less than \$200. Compcare is in-network with many insurance companies including blue cross and health partners. FSA/HSA cards are accepted.

Employer services include: worker's compensation injury management, drug and alcohol testing, physical exams, DOT services, military services, audiometric testing, pulmonary function testing, x-ray, mask fit testing, vaccinations, lift testing, military contracting, mobile onsite services and more.

Compcare is now open at 1232 S. Oak Ave., Suite 130 in Owatonna, just three blocks north of Hy-Vee. The business is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Customers may schedule online at www.compcareclinics.com.

Trikes for Grown-Ups



THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by:

Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus

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

Dear Savvy Senior,

What can you tell me about three-wheeled bicycles? I'm 65 years old and would like to start cycling again but I have some occasional balance problems and don't trust myself on a two-wheeler. What can you recommend?

Ready to Ride

Dear Ready,

Three-wheeled bikes – also known as adult trikes – are a great cycling option for older adults, especially those who have concerns with their balance or stamina. Here's what you should know, along with some tips to help you shop for one.

SAFER CYCLING

If you'd like to take up, or continue bike riding, but worry about falling, adult trikes are a smart option to consider because of the stability they provide. With a trike, you can ride as slow as you want without ever losing your balance and you can put both feet on the ground while seated, which is very reassuring for many older riders.

In addition, adult trikes are also made with a low “step through” design making mounting and dismounting easier; they typically come with big tires that ensure a smooth ride; have ergonomic handlebars that are easy to reach and grip; and offer oversize seats (some even have backrests) for comfort and support. And, other than the frame, tricycles use the same standard components as traditional bikes do, so replacement parts are readily available, and repairs are not an issue.

There are dozens of different types of adult trikes to choose from with prices ranging anywhere from a few hundred to several thousand dollars. To help you figure out the right kind of trike that meets your needs and budget, here's a breakdown of the different styles and costs, along with some popular models to check out.

UPRIGHT TRIKES

If you're primarily interested in a leisurely ride around the neighborhood for pleasure, fitness or running errands, upright trikes are a good choice. These are traditional upright-positioned tricycles that come with rear cargo baskets and limited gear options, usually ranging from one to three-speeds.

A great choice in this category is the Sun Traditional Trike (see Sun.bike/trikes) that cost between \$440 and \$550. Or, for a less expensive option consider the Schwinn Meridian Adult Tricycle sold at Walmart, Target or Amazon.com for around \$300.

RECUMBENT TRIKES

These are the low-to-the-ground, stretched-out frame trikes that allow you to recline with your legs positioned in front of you. Available in various styles, recumbent trikes are very comfy, easy on the back and aerodynamic which make them ideal for longer rides.

TerraTrikes (Terratrike.com) and Catrike (Catrike.com) are two of the biggest U.S. companies that make tadpole-style (the two wheels are in front) recumbent trikes. Or, see Sun Seeker (Sunseeker.bike), which sells several Delta recumbent trikes (two wheels in back) that offer a higher seat level. But be aware that recumbent trikes are much more expensive, typically ranging between \$1,000 and \$4,000.

E-TRIKES

If you want a boost from time-to-time, electric trikes are a great option too. These trikes are hybrids that have pedals and a battery powered electric motor, so you can exercise when you want, or when you need a boost, you can let the motor assist you. A great place to find these is at ElectricTrike.com, which offer a variety of options ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000. You can also find them on e-bike sites like PedegoElectricBikes.com, ProdecoTech.com and Evelo.com.

FOLDING TRIKES

If you like to travel or if you have limited storage space, trikes that are designed to fold up to fit in tight spaces are another option. The Kent Adult Westport Folding Tricycle and Mantis Tri-Rad Folding Adult Tricycle sold at Amazon.com for around \$300 are two popular options to check out.

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.

PUBLIC RECORDS

Steele County Births June 2018

Marley May Clayton, Parents: Cassandra-Lea and Casey, June 2.

Cole Allan Riewe, Parents: Breauana and Tyler, June 3.

Hayden Joseph Busch, Parents: Melanie and Joel, June 4.

Isla Carolyn Butler, Parents: Allison and Matthew, June 4.

Kayden Mario Ornelas, Parent: Erica Rainone, June 6.

Harlin William Borchert, Parents: Stephanie and Tyler, June 7.

Orlin Randall Borchert, Parents: Stephanie and Tyler, June 7.

Leo Christian Mohr, Parents: Rebecca and Jeremy, June 8.

Thomas William Daudelin, Parents: Victoria and Travis, June 12.

Paisley Grace Hurrle, Parents: Meredith and Robert, June 12.

Brooke Isabelle Hensley, Parents: Miranda and Kellie, June 13.

Reid Michael Moen, Parents: Andrea and Alex, June 14.

Lo Ann Svoboda, Parents: Kristine and Jonathan, June 15.

Sullivan Jett Gleason, Parents: Carley and Eric, June 17.

Adam James West, Parents: Hannah and James, June 17.

Macie Rose Adams, Parents: Jeanee and James, June 20.

Addison Grace Wobschall, Parents: Jessica and Tanner, June 20.

Willow Christina Reuvers, Parents: Grace and Robert, June 22.

Tucker John Van Osdale, Parents: Karissa and Andrew, June 23.

Andrea Eileen Zylstra, Parents: Cynthia and Thomas, June 25.

Santiago Gael Carmona, Parents: Maria and Jose, June 27.

Deacon Gabriel David Kofstad, Parents: Laurel and Gabriel, June 27.

Megan Lynn Paulson, Parents: Katelyn and Michael, June 27.

Alia Abdiqadir Abdillahi, Parents: Fowzia Kulmiye and Abdiqadir Ahmed, June 28.

Rikki Karis Prange, Parents: Kirby Bemis and Jeffrey Prange, June 28.

Weston Thomas Wagner, Parents: Sarah and Thomas, June 28.

Emilio Sandoval Pliego, Parents: Marisela Pliego Leana and Luis Sandoval Palma, June 29.

Renae Ellyn Trom, Parents: Libby and Benjamin, June 29.

Steele County Deaths June 2018

Darlene Kniefel, 81, Owatonna, June 1.

Lillian Wesely, 91, Owatonna, June 4.

Donald Schiller, 89, Owatonna, June 5.

Ronald Swenson, 76, Owatonna, June 5.

Lawrence Wiuff, 78, Owatonna, June 5.

Betty Kellett, 91, Owatonna, June 6.

Patricia Krause, 60, Owatonna, June 7.

Charles Sallee, 83, Owatonna, June 7.

Kathleen Driscoll, 70, Faribault, June 8.

Judith Miller, 76, Owatonna, June 10.

Darlene Fosness, 83, Owatonna, June 14.

Aaron Lindekugel, 48, Owatonna, June 16.

Richard Swenson, 84, Owatonna, June 19.

Robert Nicklin, 78, Le Center, June 24.

Mataleen Eastman, 81, Owatonna, June 27.

Phillip Evenson, 82, Owatonna, June 28.

James Slifka, 79, Medford, June 30.

Steele County Marriages June 2018

Lynzie Leigh Trively and Brady Ryan Shimp, June 1.

Ryan Patrick Noble and Shelby Ann Bailey, June 2.

Joshua Richard Clemens and Jennifer Christine Senger, June 2.

Heather Anne Johnson and Beau Gerard Lammers, June 2.

Benjamin Andrew

Mueller and Rosie Denise Perez, June 9.

Christina Mae Fuller and Jeffrey Lenocho Vietor, June 9.

Lindsey Marie Kramer and Daniel J. Schwartz, June 14.

Kylee Ann Subliskey and Cody Ryan Tyler Weise, June 15.

Kristian James Buecksler and Renee Allyn Kern, June 15.

Brandon John Noble and MacKenzie Marie Meixner, June 16.

Travis Daniel Carroll and Stephanie Gail Kranda, June 16.

Tyler Mark Fossen and Hailey Amber Skiba, June 16.

Hannah Noel Vogt and Austin Jordan Lager, June 16.

Dale Eugene Levy and Donna Sue Dominguez, June 22.

Alaura Danna Patrick and Justin Michael Porter, June 22.

Martin Garza and Carissa Marie Lewis, June 23.

Rissa Michelle Herman and Adam Arthur Thomas, June 23.

Christopher John Haakonson and Katie Ann Friesen, June 23.

Justin David Gruenwald and Jessica Ann Meeks, June 23.

Joshua Richard Berggren and Maya Danielle Rhodes, June 23.

Kent David Phelps and Joleen Kay Pond, June

23.

Brandon Michael Miller and Hannah Jo Wallace, June 28.

Charles Robert Johnson and Krystal Lynn Plut, June 30.

Claire Ellyse Borgman and Clifford Thomas Elmore III, June 30.

Andrew Duane Hardecopf and Samantha Jo Wacek, June 30.

Matthew Jon Reich and Tara Ann Watson, June 30.

Eric Lee Carpenter and Tessa Jacqueline Gollinger, June 30.

Steele County Divorces June 2018

Heather Elizabeth Quast-Delcourt and Christopher John Quast-Delcourt.

Brooke Ashley Schroht and Aaron Jon Schroht.

Melissa Ann Meixner and Jason Charles Meixner.

Amber Jo Green and Edward Pratt Green.

Cassie LaVonne Blevins and Gerald William Blevins.

Joni Renee Maas and Michael Duane Maas.

Terri Lynn Smith and Douglas Alan Smith.

Jessica Leigh Johnson and Derek Bradley Johnson.

Jaime Mae Bellomy and Matthew Jon Bellomy.



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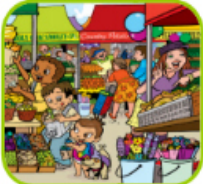
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Earth Day
It's a Great Time to Start New Healthy Lifestyle and Healthy Earth Traditions

New Beginnings:
Take advantage of this day to appreciate nature with your kids and to begin some new healthy habits as a family.

Visit the local farmer's market.
• Take the time to walk through and look at the colorful array of fruits and vegetables. • Allow your kids to talk to the farmers and ask questions about the produce. • Encourage your kids to pick out a new fruit or veggie to try at home. • Ask the farmer about his favorite way to prepare the fruit or vegetable.



Let your kids get cooking!
Cooking with your kids is a great way to get them interested in whole foods. Try out recipes using the new produce you get from the farmers market!

"Happy Face-Pizza"
1. Buy or grow your favorite veggie pizza toppings. 2. Cover a whole grain tortilla with tomato sauce and low fat cheese. 3. Decorate with veggies to make a happy face using olives, spinach, peppers, mushrooms, or your favorite veggies of choice. 4. Bake, eat and enjoy!



"Go Green" Dip:
1. Thaw a bag of frozen peas and mash in a bowl with a ripe avocado, a splash of lime juice, salt, and pepper. 2. Dip carrot sticks or blue corn tortilla chips in your yummy green dip!

© www.superkidsnutrition.com



On Earth Day and every day, our natural resources are our greatest resources. At NextEra Energy Resources we are committed to the protection and stewardship of our environment for this and the next generation.



Name _____

Color By Number

1 = green 2 = brown 3 = skin
4 = blue 5 = yellow 6 = pink
7 = red 8 = orange

STEELE COUNTY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY



HOURS:

Open from May 2 – Sept. 28
Every Thursday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
1st and 3rd Saturdays 9 a.m. - Noon

Free to Steele County residential households
Steele County residents can also drop off paint products year-round at Sherwin-Williams, 125 Oakdale St., Owatonna, 451-1304

Located at the Steele County Landfill off Hwy. 218
9420 64th Avenue SE • Blooming Prairies • 583-7766



HELP YOURSELF STAY TORNADO PROOF

Tornadoes are among the most devastating and awesome local storms that occur on Earth!

SURVIVAL GUIDE:

- AT HOME**

Get in the basement or under some sort of sturdy protection, like a table, or cover yourself with a mattress or a sleeping bag.
- WHAT TO AVOID**

While taking shelter, stay away from windows and use your arms to cover your head and neck.
- WHILE OUTDOORS**

Seek shelter in a sturdy building if possible. If not, lie flat and face-down on low ground, protecting the back of your head with your arms, away from cars and trees.
- IN AN OFFICE BUILDING OR STORE**

Go directly to an enclosed, windowless area in the center of the building—away from glass and on the lowest floor possible.
- ON THE ROAD**

If you are driving and are able to flee the tornado, do so by driving away from its path by moving at right angles to the tornado. Otherwise, park the car as quickly and safely as possible, get out, and seek shelter in a sturdy building.



Most dangerous time:
Late spring to early Summer
between 2-9 p.m. However,
tornadoes can and do occur at
any time of the day or night!

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Your ad could be here!

STEELE COUNTY

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OBITUARIES

Taylor Cierra Zylstra-Sletten, 16, West Concord

Taylor Cierra Zylstra-Sletten, 16, of West Concord, died Thursday, April 11, 2019 at her home.

She was born May 21, 2002 in Owatonna, the daughter of Christine Janke and David Zylstra. Taylor attended Blooming Prairie Schools through sixth grade at which time she transferred to Kenyon-Wanamingo School District. She played softball for K-W and loves to work on her car and build and drive derby cars.

At the age of 14, Taylor was already an accomplished welder and at age 16, Taylor proved over and over again that there was nothing she couldn't fix or build. Her



passion and determination on any given project was relentless, making her take her projects to new heights.

Taylor is described as vibrant, full of life, charismatic, choosy, talented, beautiful and siblings. LOUD. She always put others first and had an engaging smile. Most of all, she was caring and loving of others before herself; especially her siblings.

She is survived by her mother, Christine (and Dustin) Sletten of West Concord; father, David (and Abby) Zylstra of Blooming Prairie; siblings, Mason (14), Kole (12), Bristol (7), Parker (4), Miles (11mths),

Savanna (7), Silas (5), Skylar (3); maternal grandparents, LeeAnn (and Greg) Lunning, Dan (and Sandy) Janke, Tim and Nancy Sletten; paternal grandparents, Cindy (and Rodney) Pittman, Kenneth Zylstra, Jan (and Gary) Medgaarden, Randy Heimer; maternal aunts and uncles; Kim Larson, Katie (and Dean) Hoffman, Amy (and Greg) Young, Michael (and Allison) Janke, Aaron Sletten, Shannon (and Christine) Sletten, John (and Michelle) Stoltz, Amy (and Brett) Stoltz, Alicia (and Chris) Hermes; paternal aunts and uncles, Derek Resler, Tristan (and Dan) Wiechmann, Jesse (and Kristin) Medgaarden, Jacob Medgaarden, Aaron (and Emily) Heimer, Adam Heimer,

Andy (and Amber) Prange, Shanon (and John) Shoden, Jeremy Heimer; great grandparents and many cousins.

She was preceded in death by her uncle, Steven Zylstra.

Visitation will be at Michaelson Funeral Home on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 from 4 to 8 p.m. and at St. John Lutheran Church on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 from 9 to 10 a.m. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 10 a.m. at St. John Lutheran Church with Rev. Craig Breimhorst officiating. Interment will be in the St. John Cemetery in Owatonna.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna.

BOOK NOOK

Surprises show up at the library

One of the joys of working at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library is never knowing what each day will bring. Surprises come often here, whether an adult who used to frequent the library as a child, but who now appears with children in tow, or even a library blogger who stops to critique Minnesota libraries.



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

rie on it! The trunk had been purchased at a sale, possibly in Waseca County, and then was given to this couple about 20 years ago. As they are downsizing they felt that the trunk needed to return home, so they made a trip from Northern Minnesota to do so.

Last month a woman walked in saying that she had something to return to Blooming Prairie. She returned with a man, and I thought he was an alumni of the school coming to visit. No, what was returning was an immigrant trunk with the address of Blooming Prai-

The name on the trunk is Mr. L. Christensen. I have found a Lars Christensen in Blooming Prairie in the early 1900s, but am still doing more researching. If you have information on this family, please let me know. Updates will be posted in the paper. I love a good mystery. Stop in at the library to see the trunk and check out your own mysteries!

COLLEGE NEWS

Local student named to Dean's List

Riley Schmidt of Owatonna has earned the distinction of being named to the Dean's List for the 2018 fall semester at the College of Saint Benedict.

Schmit is a first-year biology major at St. Benedict. To be included on the dean's list, students must have a semester grade-point

average of at least 3.80 and have completed 12 credits for which honor points (A, B, C, etc.) are awarded. Students included on the dean's list cannot have any "unsatisfactory" or "incomplete" grades for that semester.

Schmidt is the daughter of Craig and Kelly Schmidt of Owatonna.



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THE BOLD LOOK
OF
KOHLER

Honored as a Triple A winner



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ryan Hansen, a senior at Alden-Conger High School, has been awarded the Minnesota Triple A honor. Hansen, who was the Region 1A winner, represented Alden-Conger during the Minnesota High School Boys Basketball Tournament last month. The Triple A honor is given to a male and female from each of the 1A and 2A regions in Minnesota for outstanding achievement in academics, arts and athletics. There are 32 outstanding seniors across the state. Hansen is the son of Bob and Tonya Hansen and the grandson of Nolan and Linda Christianson of Blooming Prairie.

Recipe Corner

French Apple Dessert

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 c. diced, peeled apples**

2 c. sugar

1/2 c. oil

2 c. unsifted flour

1 tsp. salt
- 2 eggs**

2 tsp. cinnamon

1/2 c. chopped nuts

2 tsp. baking soda

DIRECTIONS:

Place apples in mixing bowl. Break eggs over apples and stir well. Mix sugar and cinnamon. Add to apples along with oil and nuts. Mix well. Sift flour, baking soda and salt. Add to mixture and mix well. Put into greased and floured 9x13 inch pan. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes. Cut into squares and serve with caramel sauce. Yield: 12 servings.

CARAMEL SAUCE:

- 1 c. packed brown sugar**

2 T. flour

1/2 c. butter
- 1 c. heavy cream**

1 c. sugar

2 tsp. vanilla

DIRECTIONS:

Put sugars, cream, butter and flour into heavy saucepan. Bring to boil, stirring constantly. Cook and stir until thickens. Stir in vanilla. Serve hot over squares.

Sponsored by

Krejci Ford

15th Presidents Award Winner
Blooming Prairie, 583-2046



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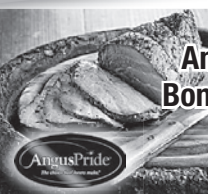
Green Giant Idaho Russet Potatoes
10 lb bag \$1.99



Kemps Ice Cream
48 oz 2/\$6



Choice AngusPride® Boneless Beef Prime Rib
\$9.99 lb



Folger Coffee Can
24 oz to 31 oz \$6.99



Happy Easter



PRE EASTER STOCK-UP SALE! Prices good - 4/16 - 4/22

Birthdays

April 17
Kathryn Piller
Timothy Adam Green
Matt Braaten
Angie Avery
Jessie Christiansen
Mary Beth Swenson

April 18
Ty Forystek
Brian Wencil
Marc Braaten
Rachel Pirk
Dale Underwood

April 19
Pam Doerhoefer
Grady Steckelberg
Donald L. Bakke
Rachel Winzenburg
Hazel Trom

April 20
Rose Rivera-Escandon

April 21
Ken Esplan
Ron Janning
Peter Vogt
Mary J. Demmer
Kyle Spinler
Shawn Sundine

April 22
Cindi Hansen
Elizabeth Miner

April 23
Jan Miner
Miles Miller
Kari Steckelberg
Luke Heimgartner
Diane Jensen

Anniversaries

April 24
Peter & LeAnn Vogt

April 25
Jason & Debbie Williamson

April 27
Linn & Shirley Thoen

April 28
Ron & Diane Nelson
Dale & Mary Ramsey
Greg & Betty Johnson
Christopher & Rena Anderson

April 29
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PASTOR'S COLUMN

Easter is all around us



Rev. Lindsay Brennan
RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH, AUSTIN

Editor's Note: This is Rev. Brennan's last column for the Steele County Times. She is leaving her call at Red Oak Grove and moving from the area. Best wishes to Pastor Brennan!

Hundreds of Easters ago, Martin Luther is known to have said: Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf of springtime.

On Easter, in every year, we hear the story of the empty tomb, the proclamation of new life, the promise of the resurrection. On this particular Easter, I will gander that many of us will be looking as Martin Luther did – to the leaves of springtime.

Springtime has played some mighty tricks on Minnesota this year that we are ready for the leaves of springtime. But before the last winter wallop, I noticed my rhubarb plant beginning to pop through the soil. Resurrection! I noticed the day lilies beginning

to emerge. Promise! I continue to watch as the community of Blooming Prairie comes together to offer an opportunity for service towards others with the Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack. New life!

Easter is all around. The promise, the love embodied in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is not reserved for a single service on a single day. The promise of the resurrection is in every leaf of springtime and in an infinite number of other places.

Here's your Easter homework: As you gather with friends or family, as you go to church or watch from home, continue to watch, name, and share the places you see Easter. In the empty tomb? Yes. In the leaves of springtime? Certainly. In the love shared between neighbors? Of course. Watch, name and share.

Easter blessings – this season and in all seasons – be with you and yours.



GETTY IMAGES

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

- AURORA LUTHERAN**
6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696
Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.
- COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA**
106 Third St. SE., Geneva
Pastor Kristen Venne
507-256-4288
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
- FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC**
503 Radel Ct., Ellendale
Pastor Richard Sliper
507-684-2451
Saturday: 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation
Tues.: 7 p.m. Call to Prayer, open to all churches
Wed.: 9:30 a.m. BibleStudy; 3:30 – 5 p.m. Jesus and Me; 6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:30 p.m. Youth Group
- FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA**
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Senior Pastor:
Rev. Heidi Heimgartner
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Mike Walerius
507-583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com
Worship Service- 9 a.m.
Sunday School- 10 a.m.
- FIRST LUTHERAN – LCMC**
8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope
Pastor Sandy Miller
507-451-3854
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School, Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
- GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS**
2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna
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.
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sun.

- RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA**
30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin
Pastor Lindsay Brennan
507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000
www.rogllutheran.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. JOHN LUTHERAN-- ELCA**
1301 Lincoln Ave. Owatonna
Pastors Dave Klawiter and Jacie Richmond
507-451-7293
stjohnowatonna.org
Worship: 5 p.m. Thursday & Saturday; 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Summer Services: 8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Sunday
- ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA**
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Pastor Dwight DoBell
507-567-2474
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
- ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – LCMS**
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
- ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA**
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
507-451-2165
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m..
- TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA**
Trinity Lutheran Church
609 Lincoln Avenue
Owatonna MN 55060
507.451.4520
tlcowatonna.org
Worship: Saturday: 5 p.m.
Sunday: 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.
tlcowatonna.org/worshipschedule
Pastor Todd Buegler
Pastor Amanda Weinkauff
Deacon Kris Oppegard
- TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA**
104 First St. SE., Hayfield
Pastor Paul Hauschild
507-477-2248
www.trinityhayfield.org
Worship: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun.

- Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
- TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS**
108 Third Ave. SW., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
507-451-0447
8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study
- TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS**
57043 300th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
- ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA**
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
Worship: 8:30 a.m.
- CATHOLIC**
- CHRIST THE KING**
205 Second Ave. NW, Medford
507-451-6353
Father James Starasinich
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat.
Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.
- CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS**
307 SW First St., New Richland
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Fr. Adam McMillan, Parochial Vicar
507-465-8217
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday
- HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL**
9946 SE 24th Ave. Owatonna
Father John Sauer, Pastor
507-451-1588
www.litomysl.webs.com
Sunday Mass:
9:30 a.m.c with Children's Church
Reconciliation:
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Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.:
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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
Reconciliation: 9 a.m. First Friday & Saturday
- ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH**
512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna
Father James Starasinick
Deacon Patrick Fagan
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat.
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- CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT**
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507-451-1032
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.
- PENTECOSTAL**
- FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL**
230 Locust Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
507-363-2240
Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
- METHODIST**
- BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST**
43089 180th St., Medford (Seven miles west of Medford on CR 23)
Pastors JJ & Stefanie Morgan
507-835-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
- ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST**
200 Sixth St. NW., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirkse
507-684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
- OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST**
815 E. University, Owatonna
Loren Olson, Pastor
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
Joyce Parker, Associate Pastor
507-451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship (Pathways): 9 a.m. Sunday

- NON-DENOMINATIONAL**
- BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY**
130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna
Pastor Keith Haskell
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Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun.
Reformers Unanimous Meetings: 7 p.m. Friday
- CEDAR CREEK**
30 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
507-477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
- DESTINY CHRISTIAN**
2515 Harvest Lane NW Owatonna
Pastors Joe & Vicki Braucht
www.destinyc.org
Worship: 6 p.m. Sat.
- ELEVATION NORTH**
2002 Austin Road, Owatonna
Pastor Doug Jones
507-363-3099
www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com
Worship (English): 10 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Worship (Spanish): 2 p.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Spanish Evangelism & Prayer: 7 p.m. Friday
- NEW BEGINNINGS**
332 14th St. NE., Owatonna
Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson
507-413-0209
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
- SIMPLE CHURCH**
4515 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna (Country Goods building across the freeway from Cabela's)
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5661
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday

- MENNONITE**
- PRAIRIE MENNONITE**
13638 750th St., Blooming Prairie
Bishop Dennis Martin
507-583-7532
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Wed.
- MORMON**
- THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**
404 31st St. NW, Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
507-433-9042
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

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- www.associatedchurch.org
office@associatedchurch.org
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. (Fellowship, Church School, and Adult Discussions follow)
Wednesday Activities: Sept – May (see website for schedule)
- FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**
109 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Kirk Johnston
507-477-2631
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
- FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**
P.O. Box 66, Claremont
507-528-2320
Pastor Douglas Walters
10 a.m. Worship
- SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST**
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2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Brian Beavers
507-340-7143
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sat.
Bible Study: 11 a.m. Sat.
- UCC**
- CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
211 Main St. S, Medford
Rev. Richard Waters
507-451-4596
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

- ASSEMBLY OF GOD**
- VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**
702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Pastor Patrick Stitt
507-684-3421
www.vibrantlifeag.com
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
- BAPTIST**
- FIRST BAPTIST**
104 First Ave. NE, Blooming Prairie
Pastor Matt Fennell
507-583-2673
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. & 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Bible Study: 11:30 a.m. Sun.
- FIRST BAPTIST (Owatonna's oldest church)**
123 E. Main St., Owatonna
Pastor Cindy
507-451-2803
www.firstbaptistowatonna.com
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
- ASSEMBLY OF GOD**
- VICTORY LIFE**
105 2nd St NE
Geneva
Pastor Diane Butler
507-402-0960
Worship on Sundays
Prayer Service: 7:30 a.m.
Church Service: 9:30 a.m.
Children's Church: 9:45 a.m.

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Let the bidding begin at Night of Knights Auction

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

After an invocation and a choir performance, the 33rd Annual Night of Knights Auction got underway. Over the years it has become one of the largest local fundraisers.

People packed into the St. Mary's School gymnasium for the live auction and prior to that perused items in the cafeteria during the silent auction.

"It's been amazing," auction co-chair Marie Olinger said of this year's turnout. "We're at a rate that's better than last year, it's been really good." It is Olinger's last year on the auction committee, having served for three years with her husband Tony.

All of the proceeds of the auction go to benefit the students and the school. This

year there were 40 live auction items and over 300 silent items for bidders to choose from. "We've had a ton of generosity from the community," Olinger said of all those who have pitched in to donate and volunteer.

"It's absolutely amazing how the community comes together this weekend," auction co-chair Karen Spielman said. "There's so much support for the St. Mary's auction, and the Young Life Cake Auction, and the Big Brothers Big Sisters event. The individuals and business alike that have supported us have just been huge."

Throughout the years the community has continued to respond to these fundraising events. "It's a blessing. We wouldn't have the success we do without their support," Spielman added. Like Olinger,

her and her husband Josh have been on the committee for three years and capped off their tenure by serving as co-chairs.

"That's what it's all about, coming together and giving thanks and gratitude," Spielman said. "We had our priest give a prayer and he did a wonderful job, and the Knights of Columbus Men's Choir performed the National Anthem."

"This is a huge event and it's of huge importance to our school," Spielman said of what the community's support means. "We absolutely would not be doing this at all without all the volunteers, and donors and the supporters -both individuals and business -that donate ahead of time, and also the people that show up to bid on items."

Another highlight of the evening is the Spirit of the Knight portion, which occurs partway through the live auction. During the Spirit of the Knight, people are asked to donate for a certain cause, this year St. Mary's is looking for donations to improve their bleachers.

"To actually be here and experience it live, I get goosebumps," Spielman said. "The Spirit of the Knight is incredibly emotional and it's an incredible blessing that people are so generous to support us and we're very, very grateful for it."

"The gym is packed and it's a fantastic night," Spielman said of this year's turnout. "We have a great, great appreciation for the community and everyone that supported us along the way."



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Live auction bidding gets underway Saturday night as auctioneer Cary Aasness shouts out bids during the 33rd Annual Night of Knights Auction held at St. Mary's School in Owatonna.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Blooming Prairie Elementary School offered a Lego engineering program for students recently. Some of those who participated in the program included, from left: Kristi Fiebigger, instructor; Mason Reeder, fourth grade; Kim Lea, coordinator; MaKenna Reeder, third grade and Devon Loth, fifth grade.

Legos spur variety of skills for area students

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

In an effort to integrate more technology into the classroom, Blooming Prairie Elementary School has been offering students a unique program involving Lego engineering.

Second grade teacher Kim Lea is coordinator of the program, which involves all grades at the elementary level. Each grade has had at least one week of Legos for one hour a day, Lea said.

Kristi Fiebigger, a science resident, has been teaching the program for three years.

She says her interest in the program has developed out of a love for science and to top it off, two of her children are engineers.

"Lego engineering lets kids exercise creativity while learning the fundamentals of engineering," Fiebigger said. She

added that math and physics concepts are built into every project.

Lea said students come away with so many skills from Lego engineering, including reading, analyzing and problem solving. "Any time you can do hands-on learning and technology for these kids, it's another hook and way to keep them involved," she said.

The integration of technology into the classroom is important for all students, Lea noted. "Technology is not going away any time soon in their lives," she said.

Lea explained that the focus on Lego engineering stems out of a "fantastic program" offered by Blooming Prairie's Arkema Company. Lea and a colleague, the late Rachel Harberts, were involved in a program at Arkema and decided to create a curriculum for the school.

Both Lea and Harberts worked together on implementing the program in the local school.

"We wanted to give the kids a kick start to what it's all about," Lea said. "This feeds into the robotics program at the high school."

Community support has been crucial to the success of the program, according to Lea. Arkema and the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation provide Lego kits for all the students. The local PTO organization pays for Fiebigger to teach the program. KIK Graphics also helped by providing banners for the competition at the end of the program.

"A lot of people came together to make this a reality for the kids," Lea said. "Other schools don't have the support that we do through the PTO, Arkema and BP Ed Foundation. This is pretty unique and pretty special," she

added.

Lea admitted it was difficult to get through this year's program as teachers and students alike have been forced to deal without the presence of Harberts. She was tragically killed in a car crash during the first week of school last September.

"It was a big gap to think about it without her," Lea said. She noted that they received help from Rachel's son, Jaxon, and his father, Brandon. Lea said Brandon has "such an engineering mind."

Lea said Harberts felt passionate about Lego engineering. "It was a pretty good legacy for her," Lea said. "This year was a special tribute to Rachel and Emerson (Rachel's daughter who was also killed)."

For Fiebigger, it's special to be involved in such a unique program. "I get lots of hugs from the kids," she said.

County denies leave for detention worker

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

A Detention Center employee who has been on a leave of absence since November 2017 after being assaulted by an inmate was given a denial to a new leave of absence request during the Steele County Board of Commissioner's meeting on April 9.

While this is a difficult issue for all involved, the Internal Service Committee determined that the county should deny Justin Hebel's leave of absence during its April 3 meeting. The stated reasons for denial include: staffing hardship on the Detention Center, increased overtime costs, and the precedent that would be set for holding a position for an employee.

"Justin is a longtime employee at the Detention Center, he is a correctional sergeant," Steele County Human Resources Director Julie Johnson told the board during the meeting. "Unfortunately, he sustained an injury in the course of his work in November of 2017."

Having taken a leave since the injury occurred, the employee had used his paid leave and had requested an additional six-month leave of absence. "This is a very hard situation for all involved, and we don't bring this to you lightly," Johnson said to the board of the matter.

Johnson noted that Hebel is a longtime dedicated employee for the county and that he

SEE DETENTION WORKER, B2

It may not be what you think

Typically, spring is a time of renewal, hope, and anticipation of good things to come. It can have a positive effect on mental health. Unfortunately, for some, particularly those with clinical depression, it could have the opposite effect. Depressed individuals may not get that same boost in mood. In fact, the change in season may make things worse.

When a person has clinical depression, they may notice that others are feeling happier, but they are not. The thought, "What is wrong with me that I cannot feel good like others" can be very discouraging. Thinking that you cannot enjoy what others are experiencing can give a sense of deprivation. Guilt may be an issue. "I should be able to be happy."

What seems to be obviously a good thing may not be that way at all. There could be a sense of disconnect that can result in an alienation from others, leading to isolation. People with depression are often thinking of the negatives and cannot connect with others around the positives. At least when something negative is going on, people can commiserate. For example, everyone can relate to depressing aspects of winter.

Depression can be a confusing condition. Regardless of the circumstances, it alters how we view ourselves, others, and the world around us. It can occur when we may least expect it. This can be confusing yet it should not deter one from getting or continuing treatment. When treated successfully, enjoyment in life returns in all the seasons of the year.

David Moll is a licensed psychologist at South Central Human Relations Center in Owatonna. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors from various organizations around Steele County.



Steele Talkin'
DAVID MOLL

Ellendale's public works go-to man nabs top award

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Ellendale residents have an award-winning maintenance worker keeping the city in line.

On March 29, Ellendale Maintenance Manager Josh Otto received the Wastewater Treatment Facility Operations Award from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency at the

annual Wasterwater Operations Conference at Minneapolis Marriot Northwest in Brooklyn Park.

The award recognizes exceptional compliance with its permit conditions for the past review year (Oct. 1, 2017 through Sept. 30, 2018).

"The Ellendale facility had no permit limit exceedances, all required samples were taken, all

required reports were submitted, and there were no violations of permit conditions or rules," MPCA representative Michael Rafferty said.

The Ellendale facility is considered a Type D facility.

This marks the second time in the past month that Otto has been recognized for excellent work. At a city council meeting last month, Steele County Sheriff Lon

Thiele presented the City Council with a framed letter thanking Otto for his assistance during the unprecedented blizzard over the weekend of Feb. 23 and 24.

"We have said it before and we'll say it again, Josh [Otto] has went above and beyond," Mayor Russ Goette said. "He did an excellent job and should be very proud of the condition he's kept all the roads in this town."

Ellendale becomes pollinator friendly city

By DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Ellendale joined Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Owatonna and more than 30 other Minnesota cities by declaring itself “pollinator friendly.”

The city council approved a resolution that encourages and promotes a healthy environment for pollinating animals and insects at its bimonthly meeting on Thursday, April 11.

Council member Stephanie Kibler originally brought up the idea at last month’s meeting.

The resolution provides and maintains vegetation on the city property in a fiscally responsible manner that considers the health of people, plants and pollinators.

It also says the city will continue to provide pertinent city staff with current integrated pest management training. When the city deems it necessary to use pesticides, the city will direct its staff and contractors to use pesticides

in a manner that minimizes potential adverse impacts on people and pollinators.

On city property, the city and its contractors shall limit the use of systemic pesticides, such as neonicotinoids, that negatively affect pollinators. The city shall undertake its best efforts to purchase and plant vegetation on city property favorable to pollinators, in particular, the city shall strive to purchase native plants grown in the region that have not been genetically engineered to have herbicides or pesticides in their DNA.

The resolution also says where practicable and desirable, the city should strive to convert actively managed non-native or degraded landscaped areas to native habitats that include pollinator-friendly plants and continue to provide pollinator-friendly areas to the city that can help educate the public about pollinator-friendly practices. The city shall continue to make available to residents and property

owners information on the importance and benefits of creating and maintaining pollinator-friendly habitats and where appropriate and practicable, incorporate pollinator-friendly plants into the landscapes of city property and encourage private property owners and other to incorporate pollinator-friendly plants into their landscapes.

In other news, the council:

- Approved \$59,793 for Uland Brothers to do a mill and overlay project on 4th and 6th Avenue. This process includes grinding the old surface to make the pavement uniform, then adding a new hot-mix overlay. An overlay is a structural improvement which renews the street surface and extends the life cycle of the original pavement.
- Approved a new stainless steel spreader for the snowplow truck at \$900.
- Discussed placing the city’s tractor and F250 up for bid to be sold when the new truck arrives.
- Discussed replacing some

light fixtures with new LED lights. Steele Waseca Co-op Electric recently replaced some of the city’s light fixtures with new LED lights and the council was interested in having some more replaced.

“There is possibility money available in a project that will allow us to have them put up the poles in Crown Ridge and add a couple of additional ones in Country View Estates at no cost to the city,” Hojberg said.

“But they’re still working on their end and it hasn’t been totally improved at this point, but it is something they’re looking into and working with us on.”

- Discussed an issue the city had last September where some heavy rain led to a backup and some flooding in a residents’ basement. “Our insurance denied the claim, but ServiceMaster continues to send us a bill,” Hojberg said. “So we are going to have the city attorney send a letter to ServiceMaster letting them know that we are not liable for that, and hopefully that will take care of it.”

- Approved the consumer confidence report. “It’s a drinking water report that gets sent to each city by the Minnesota Department of Health,” Hojberg said, adding that the city had no violations and was completely in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Discussed structural concerns of a commercial building at 204 5th Ave. “The building inspector was in there, but he could not deem the building as unsafe because he was not a structural engineer,” Hojberg said. “We were just talking about what way we want to go and if we do need to do something. It sounds like we are going to have the city attorney send letters to the owner about it and try to get the building back up
- Discussed an abatement proposal. “Mayor Goette has been talking with Marty Walsh, who is our Community and Economic Development representative,” Hojberg said. “We have some open lots in town and it’s an

incentive to come in and build. The proposal is that someone would be able to a 10-year tax abatement. So the first four years you would pay taxes as if the lot was unfinished, then years five through 10 they would pay one-sixth of appraised taxes and then at year 10 they would start paying the full taxes on the property.”

- Approved changing the Municipal Liquor Store’s establishment category from two to three. Hojberg said the change was necessary in order for the MLS to make fresh soups and serve hamburger patties. The city found out about the need to make the change after a recent visit from the Minnesota Department of Health inspector.
- Ellendale opened up an emergency shelter at the United Methodist Church on April 10 for the spring storm. “It was for anyone who might have needed some shelter or warmth,” Hojberg said.

State allows schools to forgive snow days

By ALEX MALM
STAFF WRITER

It was without a doubt a historic year in Minnesota between the snow, high winds and as recently as last week, a thunderstorm during a winter storm.

One of the entities that had the biggest impact from the historic weather is schools across the state.

That’s what prompted lawmakers to come up with a bipartisan bill to help school districts who have racked up many snow and cold days this year.

The bipartisanship bill will allow local Minnesota school boards, by board resolution, to count snow days taken during the 2018-19 school year as regular school days for purposes of meeting

the state’s school calendar requirement.

The bill was one that was compromised on after both the house and senate passed separate bills.

Senator Carla Nelson, from Rochester and the chair of the K-12 Education Committee, said that the number one priority is students’ safety.

“Our number one priority is student safety. While superintendents rightly prioritized the safety of students in cancelling school due to unprecedented winter weather circumstances, they faced a struggle to meet Minnesota’s calendar requirement,” said Nelson. “This bill gives local school boards the option to forgive days to ensure full and stable funding for their district, avoid the possibility

of jail time for their superintendents, and prevent unreasonable scheduling disruptions for students and families,” she went on to state.

The bill also contains a provision that requires school districts who take the option of forgiving snow days to offer its hourly-paid employees and of contractors, such as bus companies, additional work hours or compensation to make them whole.

Nelson explained that this will help hourly employees from losing pay.

“This protects hourly employees and contractors from facing financial hardship by offering them additional work or compensation to make them whole,” Nelson said.

The “Snow Day Relief Act” only applies to days missed

during the 2018-19 school year and allows local school boards to determine the number school days cancelled “due to health and safety concerns” they want to forgive, if any. It is also completely voluntary, meaning if a school district does not need the law or has already made calendar adjustments, they can ignore it in its entirety.

During the bill signing, Gov. Tim Walz, a former teacher for many years in Mankato, said that he is very proud that both sides of the aisle could come together to make the important bill happen.

“I am proud to sign a bipartisan bill so schools aren’t penalized for snow or cold days,” Walz said.

Village of Yesteryear tour season opens May 1

The Village of Yesteryear tour season will open May 1.

Guided Village tours are held Tuesday through Sunday, May 1 through Sept. 30 at 1:30 p.m., or by appointment. Knowledgeable tour guides will lead you through the Village highlighting a wide range of items in the 19 historic buildings.

The 2019 tour season opens with a new exhibit in the Dunnell House, Six Decades of Wedding Gowns. The exhibit showcases six decades of wedding dresses. Twelve gowns dating from 1888 to 1948 display the various styles, materials and colors selected by brides for their walks down Steele County aisles. While white became a dominant color following Queen Victoria’s wedding in 1840, these brides often chose cream, tan, green, and even black. Included are some familiar local names as Carrie Josten (Mrs. Otto), Mary Ressler (Mrs. Joseph), Tina Nelson (Mrs. Nels), Silvia Panzer (Mrs. Ervin), Irma Dinse (Mrs. Ewald), and Joyce Pribyl (Mrs. Silvin) among others.

In 1962, the Society was offered the Saco Church originally located seven miles southwest of Owatonna, and with the support of the Steele County Agricultural Society, the Society permanently leased a portion of the southeast section of the fairgrounds to begin a pioneer village. The village layout is similar to

the center of Owatonna and its Central Park, which was originally circular. Thus was established the Village of Yesteryear. The Village has grown in the years since and become a full campus with 19 historic structures and the newly added History Center.

The History Center Exhibit Hall currently features Over Here, Over There: The Great War, students can read first-hand accounts by Steele County residents, experience warfare through sites, sounds and smells, sing along with WWI songs, and more! In addition Toys and Play, 1970 to Today, is open and allows kids of all ages to see and experience play in the 1970s. The exhibit covers childhood memories, how we learn from play, the history of marketing to children, and figuring out what exactly toys tell us about the world we live in. This exhibit is packed full of educational tidbits and there’s plenty to play with, too.

The Steele County Historical Society is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1949. Its mission is to preserve and share Steele County history today for tomorrow. The Society collects, preserves and tells the story of Steele County’s past through museum exhibits, research, collections, tours, educational programs and book publishing. The Society is located at 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna.

Historical Society seeks nominations for preservation awards

The Steele County Historical Society (SCHS) is seeking nominations for its 2019 Preservation Awards.

Each year two Steele County buildings or properties are recognized for their outstanding preservation and/or restoration efforts. Honorees in the past have included Otto Wanous, Jeffs Hall @ Pillsbury, Kottke Jewelers, KIK Graphics, Lerberg’s Store, Owatonna Public Utilities, the First Baptist Church, the Zamboni

Building, the Alexander home, and many others.

For a property to be considered, it should accurately reflect the architecture of the time it was built, be as close in its original detail as possible, and be in above average condition. Historical significance of the property and provenance are also desirable when choosing a nominee. Nominations may include homes, businesses, farmsteads, or other rural properties.

“Preservation of historic structures is important to local history. Many people have made a significant effort to preserve their homes and businesses, and SCHS looks forward to recognizing their efforts throughout Steele County,” said SCHS Executive Director James Lundgren.

All nominations must be received at the SCHS office by May 3. Awards will be announced in May during National Preservation Month. To nominate a property, please

submit a letter explaining why you have chosen this property, some background information, the property’s historic significance, a photograph, and a contact to call. Nominated properties will be visited by a selection committee. For more information please contact Lundgren at 507-451-1420. To submit a nomination, you can e-mail it to james.lundgren@steelehistorymuseum.org, or mail it to SCHS 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna, MN 55060.

DETENTION WORKER: *Leave denied* FROM B1

sustained his injury while carrying out his duties there, but that the recommendation from the ISC would be to deny his request seeing as he has been gone since November of 2017.

She cited staffing shortages as a key reason for denying the request. “That has really been creating burnout and morale issues and difficulty out there,” Johnson said. She also mentioned the significant impact the leave has had on overtime costs.

“The Detention Center has tried to get this inmate moved and housed at another facility but no one will take this individual,” Johnson explained of the inmate who assaulted Hebel. “So, we don’t know how long this

individual will continue to be at the Detention Center. He’s been there two years and it could be another two years for all we know.”

Although it was a tough decision, the board followed the recommendations from human resources, the ISC, and jail administration to deny the employee’s leave of absence request. “It’s unfortunate,” Commissioner John Glynn remarked of the situation.

“It really is sad,” Commissioner Rick Gnemi added. For all those involved it had become a bad situation, but one that needed to be handled with clear eyes in order to help stabilize the Detention Center’s staffing issues.

Also, during the board meeting contracts were awarded to AAA Striping Service in the amount of \$118,113.85 for pavement markings paint work and JJD Companies in the amount of \$165,201.01 to replace a bridge in Lemond Township. Both contracts were awarded to the lowest bids received on Wednesday, April 3.

The project to the replace the Lemond Township bridge will be funded with local Township levy funds in the amount of \$20,000 and the remainder will be funded by State-Aid Township Bridge funds.

The next Steele County Board of Commissioner’s meeting is scheduled for April 23 at 5 p.m.

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BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: Hit and Run: Paramedics and officers responded to a hit and run crash with injuries in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 7:22 p.m.

Preventing child abuse

Groups across the county work together to prevent child abuse

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

In 1983, April was declared National Child Abuse Prevention month. Since then, it has been a time for communities and families to recognize, work together, and raise awareness to prevent child abuse.

Shari Kottke, Child and Family Social Services manager at Minnesota Prairie County Alliance, which serves Dodge, Steele, and Waseca counties, noted that the organization receives around 1,500 calls a year for possible cases of child abuse and neglect.

“We have seen an increase in the number of calls to the agency to report possible child abuse over the last four years,” Kottke explained. “Social services look at those and make a decision on how to respond.”

Every morning a screening team comprised of MN Prairie employees, members of law enforcement, and members of county attorney offices review the calls and make a determination on whether or not to act, and what the appropriate response should be.

Some calls are referred to voluntary child welfare, others to community organizations, and some are handled internally by MN Prairie. “We respond in mu=ltiple ways,” Kottke said. Criminal cases are handled by area law enforcement.

“I think we do a really good job of working together,” she said. “Coming together in partnerships to make decisions and to think through the issues.”

Kottke also explained their close working relationship with area law enforcement. “They attend our family screening, and we’re in constant contact with them,” she said. “There’s some specific investigations that

require interviews with children, so we work closely together in some situations.”

Detective Sgt. Josh Sorensen with Owatonna Police is currently assigned to investigations relating to child abuse and credits organizations like MN Prairie and the community for a continued awareness.

“I think there’s a lot more awareness for us to detect it with different counselors and programs,” he explained. “That’s a credit to a whole realm of things.”

Sorensen believes that the public has a role to play in child abuse prevention. “To prevent child abuse, the public being open to seeing some signs that something may be going on with the child is vital,” he said. “A lot of those can be non-verbal.”

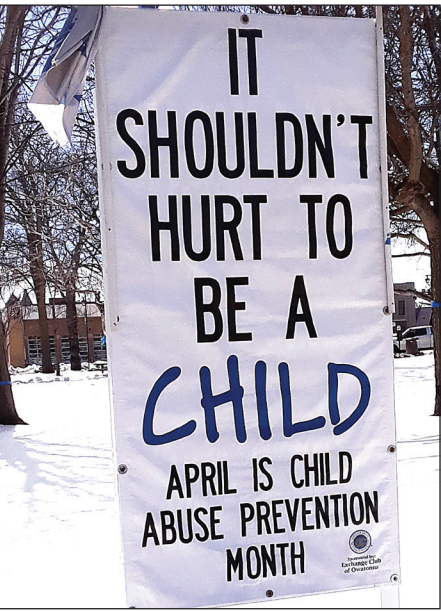
Kottke explained that some obvious signs include bruises, or children who are left alone, also certain behaviors by the parents can be a sign that something may not be right. “Sometimes there’s a good explanation and sometimes it’s a concern,” she said. “If you see something and are concerned, say something. It never hurts to call and have a conversation with us.”

“There’s a lot of different programs that do a good job of helping people,” Sorensen said of organizations like MN Prairie or the Crisis Resource Center. “It’s nice to have those resources in town to help people. We handle the criminal side of things so they can do a lot more long-term work and guide them more.”

He also preaches the importance of people within the community reaching out to organizations or law enforcement if they have concerns over a child’s welfare. “There’s times when people are hesitant to get involved, maybe they have an idea but are not sure, or feel it’s none of their business.”

“If it turns out to be nothing that’s fine, that’s why we do the due diligence to make sure the child is safe,” he said. “We’re there for the right reason, we’re there to protect.”

It is work that is both rewarding,



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

A sign is on display in Owatonna's Central Park raising awareness for National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The sign was provided by the Exchange Club of Owatonna and blue ribbons were tied on the trees to commemorate the month.

and disheartening. “It can be taxing on a person the more you investigate,” Sorensen said. “We deal with the worst of the worst, and you’re dealing with children, but we do it for the right reason.”

“That’s what helps drive us, is knowing we’re making a difference,” he explained. “It can be hard to see how bad a child’s life has been in the short time they’re on this earth. In my job I can be the voice for that child, some of the kids we deal with can’t even talk. It’s rewarding to know that my job can affect the rest of their lives.”

Kottke confirms that post-secondary trauma is often the result of the job. “Our staff are exposed to trauma of children and adults, and sometimes we see things or hear things that are difficult and touch you emotionally,” she said.

“During the time you’re with the family you handle yourself and listen but when the day comes to a close and you’re not with the family you might have to lean on someone else,” Kottke explained. “We’re very aware at the supervisor level to talk to the staff on what they see and hear.”

Despite the heartbreak that sometimes comes with the job, it is work that Kottke is proud to do. “I find it amazing, really. This for me is not a job, it is a calling,” she said. Kottke noted that she has been working in child management for 30 years.

“I’m honored to work with families who are struggling and bring hope to lives,” she said. “If there are things that are happening that are difficult for you what can we do to partner with you to help you raise your child as best you can.”

Those who work with families know that it often comes with challenges. “It does take a village to raise a child,” Kottke said. “One of the keys to prevention is to support families at risk. Parenting is a really tough job and the stronger that support system they have the better they will do.”

Both Kottke and Sorensen stress the importance of community awareness and involvement in these issues. “Pay attention to kids within the community and get to know your neighbors,” Kottke said. “Meet them and talk to them and listen and be present and offer to help. There’s so many ways to offer to be present.”

By raising awareness and understanding the importance that communities, law enforcement, organizations, and families have in curbing this problem, preventing child abuse becomes an attainable goal within the community.

For those looking to report on children at risk, emails can be sent to childprotection@mnprairie.org, or concerned individuals can call MN Prairie’s child and family service intake at 507-431-5725. For serious or emergency cases people are asked to alert the authorities by dialing 911.

CRIME BRIEF

LOCAL DETECTIVE HELPS IN FINAL FOUR SEX STING

Owatonna Police assisted in a human trafficking sting connected to the Final Four in Minneapolis last week.

Detective Christian Berg partnered with 32 other task force agencies in an undercover operation that took place in several Twin Cities communities. During the operation, suspects chatted on several social media platforms with undercover agents and investigators who posed as minors or sex buyers.

Investigators arrested the suspects as they arrived at an arranged meeting place for an encounter. During the operation, 47 people were booked on probable cause felony solicitation of a minor or solicitation of prostitution under 16 years old, 11 people were booked on probable cause sex trafficking and promoting prostitution and 28 victims were rescued from trafficking situations, including one minor.

Owatonna Police has been a member of the Human Trafficking Investigators Task Force since last June. The task force targets traffickers and those exploiting children for sex.

COURT NEWS

Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of April 1 with Judge Robert Birnbaum presiding:

Michael P. Newcombe, 60, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony sale of cocaine or meth. He was sentenced to 21 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend support groups, obtain permission to leave the state, cognitive skill training, 100 hours of community service and 20 years of supervised probation.

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

Peggy S. Wallin, 41, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony sale of 10 grams or more of a narcotic other than heroin. Wallin was sentenced to \$381, 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 and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of April 1 – 7:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Benjamin Banda, 59, Blooming Prairie, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Jessica D. Mendez, 27, Austin, revoked license, \$331. MN Dept. of Natural Resources

Michael J. McClatchey, 45, Owatonna, fishing extra line, \$131.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Tyler J. Beckius, 19, Albert Lea, speeding, \$141; Jordan E. Burns, 19, Mankato, speeding, \$121; Patricia T. Bursik, 65, Faribault, speeding, \$131; James T. Cooley, 50, Hayfield, speeding and revoked license, \$331; Kalina M. Flores-Capocasa, 20, St. Paul, speeding and no license, \$221; Brian A. Gallagher, 56, Olney, MD, speeding, \$121; Reynaldo V. Gonzalez, 42, Owatonna, move over law violation, \$131; Seth A. Hallstrom, 20, Maple Grove, speeding, \$181; Tayah A. Hoffman, 18, Owatonna,

red turn arrow violation, \$131; Abby J. Lundquist, 29, Mason City, IA, speeding, \$221; Andrea M. Mallery, 36, Oak Park Heights, speeding, \$121; Lucas W. Polivany, 24, Buffalo, speeding, \$121; Jeffrey G. Reineke, 57, Faribault, speeding, \$121; Shannon R. Wisness, 44, Elk River, vehicle weight violations, \$1,481; Qilin Yang, 24, Ames, IA, speeding, \$221.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Lanie A. Ahlman, 25, Medford, texting while driving, \$131; Abram E. Albee, 33, Rochester, speeding, \$121; Jose M. Arriga, 47, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$381, 3 days in county jail, maintain employment, domestic abuse evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 1 year of supervised probation; Mohamed A. Awale, 32, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; Gregg C. Finch, 32, Janesville, revoked license, \$281; Gage T. Gillard, 20, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$131; Wrik G. Grunwald, 26, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Vincent F. Guggisberg, 27, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Richard D. Hegquist, 43, Lino Lakes, damage to property, \$131, 90 days in county jail and 30 days of probation; Michael J. McClatchey, 45, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Ashley L. Myers, 28, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Natasha Reyes, 25, Waseca, texting while driving, \$131; Shandra M. Saufferer, 47, Claremont, possession of marijuana, 8 days in county jail; Cody P. Schwartz, 20, Owatonna, muffler violation and erratic driving, \$171; Mariah A. Sleeuwenhoek, 22, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; Jilliani M. Swedberg, 31, Owatonna, speeding, \$141.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Maribel S. Bermudez Dominguez, 40, Medford, cancelled license, \$281; Conrad J. Blome, 17, Medford, speeding, \$121; Bradley P. Burton, 54, Madison Lake, speeding, \$221; Vanessa L. Dicus, 38, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Daniel G. Ebenhoh, 68, Claremont, speeding, \$281; Joshua D. Elvestad, 36, Waseca, suspended license and no insurance, \$481; Carson D. Field, 23, speeding, \$121; Maria A. Izaguirre, 54, Pharr, TX, speeding, \$121; Megan M. Johnson, 16, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Jace S. Matthees, 42, West Concord, careless driving, \$181; Katlyn J. McCarty, 21, Wanamingo,

stop sign, \$131; Adam J. Miller, 26, Blooming Prairie, DWI, \$581, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 28 days of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Kevin D. Morrow, 40, Faribault, DWI and controlled substance, \$406, 37 days in county jail, do not enter liquor establishments, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 2 years of supervised probation; Austin L. Olson, 39, Cottage Grove, speeding, \$121; Erin M. Peterson, 19, Eau Claire, WI, speeding, \$121; Kyle D. Schulz, 21, Medford, stop sign, \$131; Sergio Sierra, 20, Waseca, speeding, \$281; Rebecca A. Smith, 58, Independence, MO, speeding, \$131; Jason R. Sweet, 30, Eden Prairie, speeding, \$141; Avery E. Thompson, 22, Kasson, invalid license, \$181.

POLICE BLOTTER

Steele County

April 5

Hit and Run: At 3:28 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 500 block of Elm Ave. N.

April 6

DWI: Police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at El Dorado St. SE and Austin Road SE at 12:57 a.m.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 1:26 p.m.

Hit and Run: Paramedics and officers responded to a hit and run crash with injuries in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 7:22 p.m.

April 7

Warrants: Police made warrant arrests in the 700 block of Riverwood Dr. SW at 7:52 a.m. and the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 11:17 p.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 100 block of Rice St. W. at 4:59 p.m.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 9:15 p.m.

April 8

Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 2100 block of Bigelow Ave. NE at 8:26 a.m.

Theft: At 8:51 a.m., a citizen reported being the victim of identity theft in the 1900 block of Woodcrest Dr. NE.

Weapons: Officers responded to a weapons-related incident in the 100 block of Fremont St. E. at 10:38 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage

was reported in the 100 block of 22nd St. NW at 11:10 a.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 3:05 p.m.

Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 400 block of North St. W. at 10:14 p.m.

April 9

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop in the 200 block of Main St. E. at 1:14 a.m.

Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 3:57 p.m.

April 10

Crash: At 2:06 p.m., a motor vehicle accident with injuries occurred at 26th St. NE and Lamada Place NE.

Arrest: Officers assisted another agency with arresting subject in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 4:42 p.m.

April 11

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 1200 block of Bellflower Lane NE at 7:03 p.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 11:03 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff

April 6

Burglary: Deputies responded to a burglary in the 3200 block of 18th St. SE in Owatonna Township at 12:44 p.m.

April 7

DWI: Deputies arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated on Interstate 35 in Summit Township at 12:36 a.m.

Crash: At 7:43 p.m., a motor vehicle accident with injuries occurred in the 5600 block of 46th St. NE in Merton Township.

April 8

Fraud: Deputy took a report of a fraud incident in the 4700 block of 48th St. SE in Aurora Township at 2:56 p.m.

April 9

Crash: Deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at 123rd St. SE and 89th Ave. SE in Blooming Prairie Township at 5:43 p.m.

April 10

Crashes: Deputies responded to six motor vehicle accidents throughout the day.

ARRESTS

Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Ricky Scott Steele, 44, arrested at 8:16 p.m. April 3, felony probation violation, held for court.

Esperanza Marie Pena, 22, arrested at 11:29 p.m. April 7, warrant arrest, body only.

Tony Terrence Fisher, 41, arrested at 5 p.m. April 11, probation violation warrant arrest, body only.

Brian Joseph Maestre-Reavis, 31, arrested at 12:10 a.m. April 12, probation violation warrant arrest, body only.

Christian Joel Montero Coss, 29, arrested at 12:25 a.m. April 12, felony controlled substance crime, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Ronald Thomas Waller, 52, arrested at 2:57 p.m. April 5, warrant arrest, body only.

Benjamin David Fratzke, 43, arrested at 2 a.m. April 7, warrant arrest, body only.

Dequan Williamson Carnell, 39, arrested at 2:37 p.m. April 11, probation violation warrant arrest, body only.

COURT NEWS

Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of March 31 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Eric J. Ondler, 54, Duluth, previously appeared and was convicted of felony non-support of spouse or child. He was sentenced to \$130, 22 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, obtain and maintain employment, mental health evaluation, be current with child support, chemical dependency evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation.

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of March 31 with Judge Lisa R. Hayne presiding:

Julio Baez, 52, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony criminal sexual conduct. He was sentenced to \$30 and 27 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of March 31 – April 7:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Maria D. Arrequin Tapia, 34, Dodge Center, invalid license and no insurance, \$380; David A. Bingham, 41, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Ronald E. Cureton, 47, West Concord, parking violation, \$32; Sabrina P. Decker, 26, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Mer T. Gach, 22, Austin, disorderly conduct, stay of adjudication, \$50, 2 days in

county jail and 6 months of probation; Travis M. Galtney, 34, St. Paul, possession of paraphernalia, \$130; Wilma J. Jensen, 88, Kasson, failure to yield, \$130; John W. Kirlin, 53, Faribault, speeding, \$140; Siobhan M. McKee, 26, Claremont, parking violation, \$32; Britta A. Miller, 24, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Joshua M. Momany, 20, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Larry G. Mundy, 68, Dodge Center, failure to yield, \$130; Kayla L. Nash, 27, Dexter, parking violation, \$32; Kevin L. Nawrocki, 61, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Samuel H. Olive, 23, Hayfield, parking violation, \$32; Robi M. Quick, 20, Rochester, revoked license and no license in possession, \$300; Anthony J. Ramer Jr., 35, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Phil K. Rechtzigel, 53, Lewiston, parking violation, \$32; Devon Sackett, 41, Dodge Center, cancelled license and obstruct legal process, stay of adjudication, \$50, write letter of apology and 2 years of probation; Connor M. Tapp, 19, Holmen, WI, parking violation, \$32; Michael P. Wood, 36, Owatonna, parking violation, \$32; Isnelda Zamarripa, 29, Coon Rapids, parking violation, \$32.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Marco A. Garcia, 41, Kasson, invalid license, \$180; Arisela E. Garza, 18, Mantorville, no insurance and invalid license, \$380; Sarah C. Gunzenhauser, 34, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Ellis M. Inman, 35, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Vicky L. Kroll, 48, Kasson, texting while driving, \$130; Dallas J. Laqua, 24, Claremont, parking violation and expired tabs, \$130; Matthew C. Schleich, 23, Kasson, registration violation, \$180.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Roger L. Oelkers, 72, Brownsdale, vehicle weight violation, \$1,080, Brandon P. Ormsby, 26, Rochester, possession of marijuana, \$130; Ian S. Ovrebo, 18, Byron, speeding, \$280; Benjamin R. Peterson, 35, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Chase L. Spatenka, 18, Dodge Center, speeding, \$280; West Concord Police Department

Jeffery M. Greenslade, 48, West Concord, disorderly conduct, \$380, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Graciela Mata, 49, Faribault, speeding, \$220.

Ag Safety Day to teach youth farm safety basics coming to Austin

Mower County 4-H, Riverland Community College, and the Center for Agricultural and Food Science Technology are excited to host a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day in Austin this summer.

This is event is planned for Wednesday, June 26, at the Mower County Fairgrounds, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The event is free and open to any area youth who completed grades 3-6 in 2019. In case of rain, activities will be moved indoors.

Local funding and donations have been provided by Mower County Farm Bureau, Mower County American Dairy Association, Compeer Financial, Thrivent Financial, and Read's Brown Swiss. A special thanks to these organizations and businesses for their support!

During the Progressive Agriculture Safety Days, children participate in interactive activities that reinforce the importance of taking responsibility for their own safety, respecting parents' safety rules and sharing safety tips with their family and friends.

Hands-on demonstrations teach participants lifesaving first aid techniques and reveal the hidden hazards of farm surroundings. Topics include ATV/Bicycle Safety, Tractor Safety, Fire Protection, First Aid, Grain Bin Safety, Chemical Safety, Electrical Safety and more.

"Children often see farm and livestock operations as exciting playgrounds providing endless hours of fun and adventure. But these facilities and the livestock and equipment on them can also set the stage of tragedy," said Nick Schiltz of Riverland Community College who is serving as the lead coordinator for the event.

According to Progressive Agriculture Foundation's Education Content Specialist, Jana

Davidson, "Nearly 400 Progressive Agriculture Safety Days are hosted annually across the U.S., Canada, and American Samoa reaching more than 80,000 youth participants with the help of close to 20,000 local volunteers. The program aims to teach children living in farming and rural communities about how to prevent and reduce the risk of farm-related injuries and incidents."

Brian Kuhl, CEO of Progressive Agriculture Foundation, says they are excited to celebrate this milestone, knowing the program has impacted more than 1.7 million children and adults since starting nearly 25 years ago. "The program's success and growth is largely thanks to generous program sponsors, loyal supporters, and dedicated volunteers who are coordinating Progressive Agriculture Safety Days and delivering vital safety messages in their local communities," he said.

To register, you may download a copy of a registration form at <https://z.umn.edu/ProgressiveAgSafetyDayRegistrationForm2019> or by calling the Mower County Extension Office at 507-437-9552. Completed registration forms can be mailed or dropped off at: Mower County Extension, 1105 ½ 8th AVE NE, Austin, MN 55912. ProgressiveAgSafetyDayRegistrationForm2019 or by calling the Mower County Extension Office at 507-437-9552. Completed registration forms can be mailed or dropped off at: Mower County Extension, 1105 ½ 8th AVE NE, Austin, MN 55912. ProgressiveAgSafetyDayRegistrationForm2019 or by calling the Mower County Extension Office at 507-437-9552. Completed registration forms can be mailed or dropped off at: Mower County Extension, 1105 ½ 8th AVE NE, Austin, MN 55912.



Through hands-on demonstrations and activities, youth learn about a variety of topics at Progressive Agriculture Safety Days. Mower County is set to host a local Progressive Agriculture Safety Days on Wednesday, June 26 at the Mower County fairgrounds in Austin. Registration is currently underway.

Prepare to address volunteer corn hit by 2018 tornadoes

Aside from volunteer labor perhaps, farmers typically do not welcome "volunteers" in their fields. Volunteer corn, or other crops that you hear nicknamed with the "volunteer" prefix, are essentially weeds; corn left out in the field from 2018 will grow in places you don't want it this year. The downed corn left in the aftermath of the 2018 tornadoes causes a high potential for the occurrence of volunteer corn in these areas in 2019. I wrote an article about volunteer corn last fall, but as farmers are preparing for planting, I wanted to address the topic again.



On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

only concern with volunteer corn in soybean, however. Volunteer corn can act as a bridge between corn crops for corn rootworm. This can encourage the development of resistance to Bt-corn rootworm hybrids because exposure to sub-lethal doses of the Bt toxin has the potential to accelerate development of resistance to Bt-corn rootworm traits. It's recommended to control volunteer corn as best as possible to battle the potential corn rootworm problem.

Controlling volunteer corn in continuous corn is more difficult. If only a Roundup Ready corn hybrid was planted the previous year and Roundup Ready + LibertyLink hybrid corn is planted this year, Liberty can be applied for control of the glyphosate-resistant volunteer corn. Remember that Liberty will not be effective if Roundup Ready + LibertyLink hybrid corn was planted last year. Another option is using Enlist corn with an "FOP" herbicide like Assure II. Enlist corn is a new multiple herbicide-resistant corn which is resistant to 2,4-D choline, glyphosate, and aryloxyphenoxypropionates (FOPs). If Enlist corn is grown in 2019 in a field that was under conventional or Roundup Ready/LibertyLink corn in 2018, volunteer corn can be controlled by applying Assure II.

Fortunately, there are several options available for managing volunteer corn, it just takes some brainstorming and planning ahead. If you'd like to discuss what would work best for your operation, please feel free to call me at 507-332-6165. For an extended version of this article visit: <http://blog-crop-news.extension.umn.edu/2018/10/managing-potential-for-volunteer-corn.html>.

Public comment open for amended Cedar River Watershed District rules

Amended rules for the Cedar River Watershed District are open for public comment through mid-May as part of an extensive effort to improve the regulations that protect local waters.

First approved in 2011 and adjusted in 2015, the CRWD's rules program covers areas related to storm water, flood plains, waterbody alterations, erosion control and enforcement.

"These changes are intended to better fit the rules with the district's goals while making them easier to understand and implement," said Justin Hanson, CRWD administrator. "These updates will help us deliver a program that's more effective and consistent with the way we want to work with the public," he said.

Updating of the district's rules is a transparent process that is best done when the community gives input, Hanson continued. All comments will be considered as part of the evaluation process.

Revised rules are highlighted and easy to view online at the CRWD's website – www.cedarriverwd.org.

"Our rules mainly are aimed at assuring better communication on projects that affect water quality and water quantity," Hanson said. "Since the start of CRWD's rules, we have worked with landowners and local road authorities to improve public safety and protect water resources," he added.

Key changes in the amended rules include:

- Required buffer – CRWD proposes to remove its 16.5-foot vegetative buffer

requirement on private ditches, which do not have a requirement under the new state buffer law. This CRWD rule was a prescriptive width and does not assure the avoidance of erosion. Under the amended rule, CRWD would require steps be taken to assure the stabilization of disturbed areas and the growth of vegetation after construction. This typically will apply to ditch cleanouts.

- Enforcement rule – CRWD has issued fines to anyone who completed land/water work in the district without a permit, such as changing a culvert or cleaning a ditch. CRWD staff has been conflicted by that "blanket-fine program," Hanson said. The amended rule maintains fines but allows CRWD staff to take context into consideration before assigning fines, providing flexibility for extenuating circumstances.
- Permit fees – CRWD is proposing no more fees for permit applications, which had been a \$10 permit fee for the public. Extensive permit reviews, however, might have an associated cost charged only when staff need to commit unusually large amounts of time to review or respond to a permit or violation.
- Miscellaneous – CRWD edited language in the rules where there was a need for more clarification. Staff

also adjusted its standards for seeding and erosion control.

CRWD staff and a subcommittee of the CRWD Board of Managers have worked extensively on reviewing the rules for potential improvements. That work also has involved the CRWD's newly revamped Citizens Advisory Committee that provided three members for a special subcommittee that met twice with district staff.

All watershed districts in Minnesota are required by state law to implement rules to accomplish their purpose. Watershed district rules are intended to fill gaps in existing federal, state and local regulations, not duplicate them.

In 2011, the CRWD board approved the district's first rules following almost two years of work. Those rules became effective late that year of the 2011 construction season.

Comments on the amended rules should be sent to CRWD's Justin Hanson at: justin.hanson@mowerswdc.org.

Blooming Prairie FFA Spotlight

Mr. Bill Rinkenberg



By Mariah Miller



The Blooming Prairie FFA Chapter is led by Mr. Bill Rinkenberg or "Rink" as the students call him. He is originally from Fosston, MN, and graduated in 1991. He was raised on a small dairy farm with 4 other siblings. After high school, he attended the University of Minnesota in Crookston and graduated with a Associates Degree in Dairy Science. Rink soon re-enrolled to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Industries Management. For the following 4 years, he was the assistant herd manager at 5-Star Dairy in Milnor, ND. He again re-enrolled in college to earn his Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Education.

Mr. Rinkenberg started employment at the Blooming Prairie High School in 2003 and has been there since. Although, he took a year off from 2006-2007 to pursue a different career path, he returned in the summer of 2007. He went on to earned his Master's Degree in Teaching, Learning, and Leadership in 2010. This year is his 15th year of teaching and being the FFA Advisor. Mr. Rinkenberg says he chose this career due to the fact that he loves agriculture and working with teenagers who also share the passion for agriculture. His favorite part of his job is the fact that he has a front row seat to watch kids grow up right in front of him.

He states, "I get students in my classroom as 8th grade, and I get to watch them grow up for the next 5 years right in front of my eyes!! I get to watch they gain confidence in themselves either within the classroom, shop or in FFA!"

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TRACK AND FIELD



NRHEG's Brady Agrimson and Mason Ferber compete in the hurdles at the Hayfield Vikings Invitational on Tuesday, April 9. Agrimson and Ferber placed 1-2 in both hurdles events.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM AGRIMSON



Blooming Prairie's Megan Oswald competes in the triple jump at the Hayfield Vikings Invitational on Tuesday, April 9.

STAFF PHOTO BY MARY NELSON

Panthers, Tigers and Blossoms compete at Hayfield Invitational

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

High school track and field teams from around Steele County made the short trip to Dodge County for the Hayfield Vikings Invitational on Tuesday, April 9.

Pine Island finished first in both divisions. Pine Island's boys won

outright with 198.5 points, while the girls tied tied GMLOKS for first place with 113.5 points each.

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva's boys came away second with 123 and their girls finished fifth with 65.

NRHEG hurdlers Brady Agrimson and Mason Ferber claimed first and second, respectively, in the 110-meter and 300 hurdles. Agrimson clocked

times of 15.22 seconds and 41.44, while Ferber came in at 16.56 and 43.41. Agrimson set the NRHEG school record with his time in the 110 hurdles.

Agrimson won his third individual gold in the high jump with a hop of 5-foot-10-inches.

The Panthers also won the 1,600

SEE HAYFIELD INVITATIONAL, B6

BASEBALL



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Blooming Prairie's Payton Simon catches a pop fly last season for the Awesome Blossoms.

Medford tops Blooming Prairie

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Medford's A.J Vandereide scattered seven hits and struck out ten batters, as the Tigers improved to 2-1 with a 9-2 victory over the homesteading Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossoms on Monday, April 8.

The Tigers led 5-1 before a three-run uprising in the sixth inning pretty much decided the contest.

"Vandereide did a great job of moving the ball in and out and making his pitches, Medford head coach John Chappius said. "To strikeout ten in any game is quite a feat, and he did it in five innings."

Willie VonRuden led the Tigers' offense with three hits, two of which were doubles and a RBI. VonRuden was also walked once, Jack Paulson and Zack Wetmore each had a double, Jordan Edel had two singles and

two RBIs and Vandereide had two hits and sparked the Tigers by stealing home in the first inning.

Payton Simon took the mound for the locals and pitched the first 5.2 innings, allowing eight runs on nine hits, with three errors and three strikeouts.

Ian Wayne finished the game for the Blossoms.

The BP offense provided seven hits by seven different players, with Karson Vigeland and Wayne each driving in one run and Trent Swenson recorded the clubs only extra base it (2B).

Maple River shut down the the Blossoms 5-1 at BPHS. Wayne took the loss after pitching six complete innings. He allowed five runs on five hits, walked four and struck out three. Tim Wolfe had two of the Blossoms' five hits, all singles, and Collin Lerum had the team's lone RBI.

SOFTBALL

BP wins second straight

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossom softball team won its second straight game away from home with an 8-7 nail-biting win over Medford on Monday, April 8.

What was a humdrum contest for six innings turned into a game in which the Blossoms had to hang on for dear life.

BP built an 8-0 lead with seven hits. Maya Lembke led the offense with three

hits, including a double, and two RBIs. Julia Worke had two hits and an RBI. Allison Krohnberg walked three times and scored two runs and Melanie Winzenburg scored three runs as a pinch runner. Riauna Bishop pitched another complete game, with four strikeouts and just one earned run. She allowed six hits, half of them in that hectic seventh inning when the Tigers counted all seven of their runs and had the tying run on base when the last out was made.

BLOSSOMS DROP GAME TO EAGLES

Maple River's softball team blanked Blooming Prairie 5-0 on Tuesday, April 9.

BP's Riauna Bishop pitched five innings, with three strikeouts and two walks. She allowed five runs on seven hits.

Allison Krohnberg pitched two innings with two strikeouts, a walk, a hit and zero runs. The Blossoms committed three team errors. BP's Maren Forystek had a double and Marti Snider has a single.

ACTIVITIES

Owatonna Parks and Recreation upcoming events

STAFF REPORT

- Summer registration begins April 25 for track, summer camps, summer swim lessons and learn to skate hockey. Register begins online at 6 a.m. at <http://owatonnaparksrectest.maxgalaxy.net/Home.aspx> and in person at 7 a.m. at 540 West Hills Circle or by calling (507) 444-4321. Registration is currently taking place for t-ball and squirt ball with a deadline of May 9. For a complete listing of dates and times for each summer program check Owatonna Parks and Recreation website at <http://ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation>.
- Adult softball managers meeting is April 29 at 6 p.m. at the Owatonna Knights of Columbus. Schedules will be available and players fees can be paid at the meeting.
- Both adult and youth sellers are wanted for the

upcoming Munchkin Market on April 27. Kids (ages six through 15 years old), do you have toys you are no longer using? Rent a table at the Four Seasons Centre to sell some of your old toys, games, books, sporting goods, video games and anything else you can think of (no food). Please make sure electronics are working properly. We will provide you with an eight-foot table to sell what you wish. Everyone is invited to shop, but only children ages six through 15 years old can rent space. You must have an adult with you the day of the sale. Only one adult and one child per table. Mark your own prices on your items and keep the profits. Please keep items at \$10 or less. You must provide your own start up cash and change. Register on line at <http://owatonnaparksrectest.maxgalaxy.net/Home.aspx> in person at the Parks and Recreation Office 540 West

Hills Circle, or by phone at 507-444-4321. We are also looking for 10-15 adult vendors to sell family type/kids products during the youth sale. Due to the limited availability for the adult vendors, we will only be taking registration by phone 507-444-4321 or in person at 540 West Hills Circle beginning. The event will take place on Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to noon. It cost \$10 for youth rentals and \$25 for adults.

- Earth Day Park Clean Up will take place on Sunday, April 28 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Choose between Darfts, Mineral Springs or Morehouse Park to help do some spring clean up. All citizens are welcome to participate in this event and supplies (gloves, rakes, garbage bags, etc.) are provided. After the clean-up,

SEE RECREATION, B6

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SNOW WRAPS UP, FAST MELT

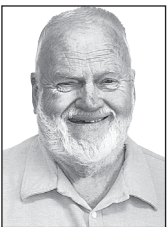
Let’s start with the weather once again. As any resident in Minnesota can tell you, winter is not complete until the last snowfall flake has fallen in the month of April. This month we have been blessed with two such events, and it is easy to see why residents are finally giving in to the feeling of discouragement because of the continuous snow problems.

Add to that problem the recent phenomenon of brown snow caused by the very strong winds from Oklahoma and Texas. If snow wasn’t enough of a problem Mother Nature has to add insult to injury with the strong gales.

I think, though, finally, that this last weekend should have bene the harbinger of better weather to come. Residents, high school ball teams, and everyone else has earned some better weather and maybe spring is finally on its way. We will hope so.

Most people are aware of the mythical story of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table who lived in the court of Camelot. A favorite feature of that myth was the stories that originated with Monty Python and the Holy Grail. Last weekend, I had the good fortune to see one of their productions, which this time was named Spamelot.

Spamelot is a spoof of the legend



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

of King Arthur and the search for the Holy Grail and it has some of the most humorous lines in any play produced.

This is just one of many examples of the humor that the play generated:

Arthur: God be praised. We have a quest: to find the grail!

Sir Robin: The quail!

Arthur: No, the grail. The vessel used at the last supper.

Sir Robin: They had a boat at the last supper? Was it a sort of dinner cruise?

Sir Galahad: The grail is a cup.

Sir Robin: God the almighty and all-knowing has misplaced a cup?

It’s been kind of a rough road for the Minnesota Twins as they attempt to get their season under way.

There have been bad weather postponements and some games that have been bad luck more than anything where the game has gotten away from them and led to a loss. But overall, it is good to see that they have a winning record and are playing pretty good ball but they, too, would hope that the weather would turn around and playing conditions would be a little more optimum for the team. So far, so good for the Twins.

A small group of my daughters and friends have been holding a classic movie night each Monday. So far we have seen the Greatest Show on Earth, and now Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. Times have really changed and technicolor just doesn’t seem to be quite the same when these movies were first produced, but it is enjoyable to watch and I am appreciating the opportunity to revisit old and very familiar presentations. The movie is a good illustration of the activities and problems of siblings entering into adult relationships and also how times have changed in getting properly “hitched” and dating protocol.

We celebrated Palm Sunday in anticipation of another meaningful and religious Easter service next week. Palm Sunday has always been a popular precursor to the Easter week and this week local churches will have services at least two or three times during the observances. And besides the religious connotations, the week is also a time to concentrate on relationships between family and friends and these events become some of the most meaningful times.

Several comments made by Chamber of Commerce administrator Becky Noble highlighted the coming events for the local community.

Our community is a busy one and there is hardly a weekend that goes by without some activity of

one sort or another.

Last weekend, we had the baseball team sponsored spaghetti supper at the Servicemen’s Club and there is going to be a luncheon on April 24 for Servicemen’s Club employers and employees.

Plans are also being activated more strongly for July 3 and 4 activities to celebrate our good old fashioned Fourth of July and we also like to publicize the golf Fun Day which is approaching in the middle of July.

That Fun Day is one of the two most important fundraisers for the local Chamber, and it is hoped that many local residents will take advantage of the day to play some golf and have a lot of fun. People can enjoy themselves and still support the local Chamber of Commerce.

My personal life took a little setback last week with the discovery that I am dealing with some health issues which forced a short hospital visit. But hopefully I’m on the mend and it will not be too incapacitated for any length of time.

With all the snowstorms, the brown snow and the everyday experiences of the last couple of weeks, it will be a real pleasure to deal with some seasonal weather such as rain and mild temperatures soon. Enjoy the coming week, root for the Blossom teams, spend time with your loves ones, and we’ll talk again!

RECREATION:

Swim, water park passes now available

FROM B5

there will will a cookout and games at Mineral Springs Park at 4 p.m.

- 2019 River Springs Water Parks season passes are now available. An individual pass is \$85 and a Family Pack (includes three people) is \$180 with a \$20 option for each addition person.

- West Hills pool open swim passes are also now available. Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6 a.m. to 7:15 a.m.; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. It costs \$4 per session on weekdays and \$5 on the weekends. Additional hours may be available during school breaks. Not available on April 21; May 26, 27; July 4 and September 2.

- Early morning lap swimming is now available at the Owatonna Middle School on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. It costs \$3 per session or 20 punch pass available for \$45. The pool will not be available on April 19 and May 27 or when Owatonna schools are closed or have a two-hour late start due to inclement weather.

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

- Registration for water safety instructor courses is also now available. The course costs \$225 (no refunds will be issued if you do not pass). The course will take place May 12 through 22.

HAYFIELD INVITATIONAL: Medford boys 3rd, girls 4th; BP girls 5th, boys 6th

FROM B5

relay. The team of Agro Gushwa, Teddy Gushwa, Daniel Nydegger and Ferber finished the race in 3:46.74.

Nydegger also claimed two individual silvers in the 800 and 1,600 with times of 2:18.19 and 5:10.66 and Alex Buckmeier placed second in the shot put and discus with a throws of 43-10.5 and 121-11.

NRHEG’s Tori Vaale was second in the 3,200 run with a time of 14:25.32. The Panthers also had four third-place finishers in the 800 relay of Charlie Nissen, Agro Gushwa, Teddy Gushwa and Max Seltun; Journey Utpadel in the 800 run (2:43.08); Raquel Fischer in the 200 (30.26) and Agro Gushwa in the high jump (5-6).

Medford’s boys placed third and their girls were fourth.

The Tigers’ 400 relay team of Devan List, Noah PirkI, Jerone Chavis and Gunner White claimed gold with time of 46.74. Chavis also won the 100 in 12.08 and List tied for first in the long jump (18-9).

Racheal Luebbe won the Medford girls’ only gold in the high jump with a leap of 5-feet.

The Tigers had seven second-place finishers in Clara Kniefel in the 400 run (1:07.91); Austin Erickson in the 3,200 run (11:59.01), Mackenzie Kellen in the pole vault (7-6), Brett Johnson in the pole vault (12-0), PirkI in the triple jump (40-9), Kinsey Cronin in the shot put (34-6) and the girls 400 relay team of Brooke Purrier, Kiley Nihart, Emma Kniefel and Luebbe (54.91).

The Medford boys’ 3,200 relay team of Tyler Stursa, Johnson, Cohen Strusa and Garrett Fitzgerald earned bronze with a time of 10:02.87. Tyler Stursa also placed third in the 1,600 run and Emma Kniefel was third in the triple jump (32-5).

The Blooming Prairie boys finished sixth and the girls were fifth.

The Awesome Blossoms boys’ 800 relay team of Gabe Hagen, Mitchell Fiebiger, Sam Smith and James Wohlferd claimed gold with a time of 1:38.95. Hagen also claimed gold in the shot put with a heave of 46-0.

BP’s Gemini Johnson won the pole vault (8-0) and was second in the long jump (15-5) and Sierra Larson claimed silver in the 200 with a time of 29.85.

The Blossoms girls’ 400 relay team of Grace Krejci, Madi Lea, Sierra Larson and Abby Hefling (57.91), Fiebiger in the 100 dash (12.20) and Isaac Ille in the 800 run (2:20.39) placed third.

HAYFIELD VIKINGS INVITATIONAL

(Editor’s Note: Full results for Blooming Prairie, Medford and NRHEG)

Boys

Team Results: Pine Island

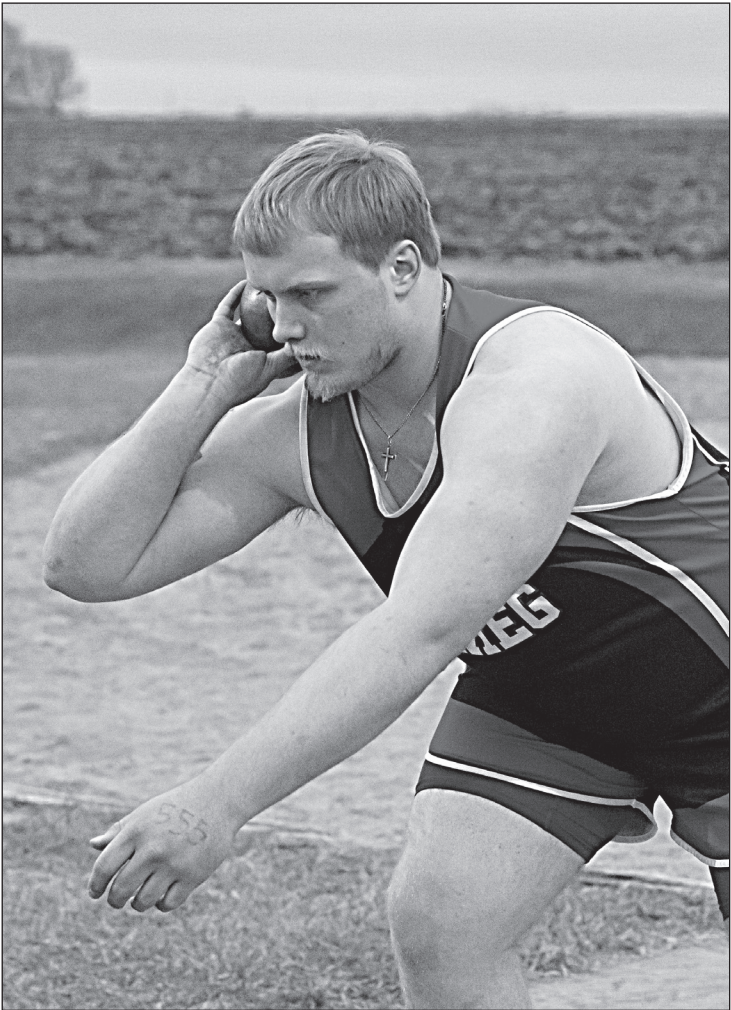


PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM AGRIMSON

NRHEG’s Alex Buckmeier competes in the shot put at the Hayfield Vikings Invitational on Tuesday, April 9.

198.5, NRHEG 123, Medford 92.5, GMLOKS 81, Blooming Prairie 55.5, Hayfield 29.5, Bethlehem Academy 18, Lyle-Pacelli 3.

3,200-meter relay: 1, Pine Island (Connor Bailey, Lucas Williams, Andy Kroll, Mark Quintero-Bungert) 9:04.60; 3, Medford (Tyler Stursa, Brett Johnson, Cohen Stursa, Garrett Fitzgerald) 10:02.87; 4, Blooming Prairie (Hosea Baker, Isaac Ille, Devontae Freese, Tyler Forystek); 5, NRHEG (Eric Arvis, Nikolas Petsinger, Ralph Roesler, Conner Nelson).

110 hurdles: 1, Brady Agrimson (NRHEG) 15.22; 2, Mason Ferber (NRHEG) 16.56.

100 dash: 1, Jerone Chavis (Medford) 12.08; 3, Mitchell Fiebiger (BP) 12.20; 6, Devan List (Medford); 7, Gunner White (Medford); 8, Ezra Kiley (BP); 11, Max Seltun (NRHEG); 13, Charlie Nissen (NRHEG); 21, Carson Brennecke (BP).

800 relay: 1, Blooming Prairie (Gabe Hagen, Mitchell Fiebiger, Sam Smith, James Wohlferd) 1:38.95; 3, NRHEG (Nissen, Agro Gushwa, Teddy Gushwa, Seltun) 1:42.29; 4, Medford (Brayden Beede, Ernesto Lazaro, Devon Federly, Henry Grayson).

1,600 run: 1, Danny Langworthy (Pine Island) 4:58.86; 2, Daniel Nydegger (NRHEG) 5:10.66; 3, Tyler Stursa (Medford) 5:15.74; 5, Hosea Baker (BP), 6, Fitzgerald (Medford); 10, Freese (BP).

400 relay: 1, Medford

(Devan List, Noah PirkI, Jerone Chavis, Gunner White) 46.74; 4, Blooming Prairie (Wohlferd, Xavier Rennie, Smith, Kiley); 5, NRHEG (Nissen, Porter Peterson, Sawyer Prigge, Matthew Mueller).

400 dash: 1, Lucas Howard (GMLOKS) 54.69; 4, Agro Gushwa (NRHEG); 7, Samuel Skillestad (BP); 8, Henry Grayson (Medford); 10, Tanner Barbeau (Medford); 16, Braden Barbeau (Medford); 17, Jaxon Beck (NRHEG).

300 hurdles: 1, Agrimson (NRHEG) 42.44; 2, Ferber (NRHEG) 43.41; 5, Rennie (BP) 47.28.

800 run: 1, Bailey (Pine Island) 2:11.91; 2, Nydegger (NHREG) 2:18.19; 3, Ille (BP) 2:20.39; 4, Cohen Stursa (Medford); 6, Tyler Buck (Medford); 11, Roesler (NRHEG); 12, Isaac Arnold (BP); 13, Alexander Riley (BP).

200 dash: 1, Jarod White (Pine Island) 23.99; 4, Teddy Gushwa (NRHEG); 6, Federly (Medford); 10, Wohlferd (BP); 11, Smith (BP); 16, Mueller (NRHEG); 17, Isaiah Chavis (Medford).

3,200 run: 1, Eric Wittlief (Pine Island) 10:55.01; 2, Austin Erickson (Medford) 11:59.02; 4, Conner Nelson (NRHEG); 6, Gavin Anderson (NRHEG).

1,600 relay: 1, NRHEG (Agro Gushwa, Teddy Gushwa, Nydegger, Ferber) 3:46.74.

High jump: 1, Agrimson (NRHEG) 5-10; 3, Agro Gushwa (NRHEG) 5-6; 5, Federly



STAFF PHOTO BY MARY NELSON

Blooming Prairie’s Greta Sunde competes in the hurdles at the Hayfield Vikings Invitational on Tuesday, April 9.

(Medford); 10, Beck (NRHEG).

Pole vault: 1, White (Pine Island) 13-6; 2, Brett Johnson (Medford) 12-0; 5, Fiebiger (BP); 7, Riley (BP).

Long jump: T-1, Jacobo Weber (Pine Island) 18-9; T-1, List (Medford) 18-9; T-1, Steele Tebay (Hayfield) 18-9; 5, Chavis (Medford); 6, White (Medford); 7, Wohlferd (BP); 14, Kiley (BP); 17, Graden Karl (NRHEG); 18, Conner Nelson (NRHEG).

Triple jump: 1, Josh Navratil (Pine Island) 41-2; 2, Noah PirkI (Medford) 40-9; 4, Agrimson (NRHEG); 5, Rennie (BP); 8, Lazaro (Medford); 9, Tanner Barbeau (Medford).

Shot put: 1, Hagen (BP) 46-0; 2, Alex Buckmeier (NRHEG) 43-10.5; 6, Kael Hermanstorfer (Medford); 9, Mason Nagel (Medford), 10, Jacob Gasner (Medford); 15, Michiah VanSyckel (NRHEG); 17, Jack Matson (BP); 19, Adam Walsh (BP); 21, Brandon Howieson (NRHEG).

Discus: 1, Navratil (Pine Island) 154-9; 2, Buckmeier (NRHEG) 121-11; 5, Gasner (Medford); 7, Hagen (BP); 8, Hermanstorfer (Medford); 12, VanSyckel (NRHEG); 13, Matson (BP); 16, Nagel (Medford); 18, Walsh (BP); 21, Howieson (NRHEG).

Girls

Team Results: GMLOKS 113.5, Pine Island 113.5, Hayfield 87, Medford 83, NRHEG 65, Blooming Prairie 57, Bethlehem Academy 44, Lyle-Pacelli 40.

3,200-meter relay: 1, Lyle Pacelli (Rory Bickler, Kayla Christopherson, Abby Christopherson, Kendahl Lewis) 11:06.94; 4, NRHEG (Michaela Vaale, Tori Vaale, Olivia Kofstad, Annabelle Petsinger).

100 hurdles: 1, Hailey Hundt (GMLOKS) 16.28; 5, Rachael Oswald (BP); 6, Natalie Johnson (NRHEG); 7, Greta Sunde (BP); 12, Grace

Krejci (BP).

100 dash: 1m 1, Kassidy Kirtz (GMLOKS) 13.89; 6, Faith Borchert (NRHEG); 7, Isabel DeLeon (Medford); 8, Josie Strom (NRHEG); 9, Madi Lea (BP); 10, Abby Hefling (BP); 11, Eliana Tobar (Medford); 15, Madison Thurnau (BP); 18, Ashley Wobschall (NRHEG).

800 relay: 1, GMLOKS (Ellie Buchholtz, Lauren Buchholtz, Madison Hindt, Anika Reiland) 1:51.85; Medford (Brooke Purrier, Rachael Luebbe, Emma Kniefel, Kiley Nihart) 1:55.51; 4, NRHEG (Jayna Finseth, Caitlin Goette, Elsa Gushwa, Raquel Fischer).

1,600 run: 1, Kayla Christopherson (LP) 5:50.49; 5, Abby Smith (BP); 6, Micaela Vaale (NRHEG); 10, Kelsey Walock (Medford); 12, Olivia Kofstad (NRHEG).

400 relay: 1, GMLOKS (Lauren Buchholtz, Hindt, Kirtz, Anika Reiland) 51.64; 2, Medford (Brooke Purrier, Nihart, Kniefel, Luebbe) 54.91; 3, BP (Krejci, Lea, Sierra Larson, Hefling) 57.91; 5, NRHEG (Evelyn Nydegger, Kyra Spies, Strom, Borchert).

400 dash: 1, Kendra Kundert (Pine Island) 1:06.56; 2, Clara Kniefel (Medford) 1:07.91; 4, Evelyn Nydegger (NRHEG); 5, Finseth (NRHEG); 11, Spies (NRHEG); 12, Josie Lorenz (BP); 14, Natalea De Alba (Medford).

300 hurdles: 1, Hindt (GMLOKS) 50.53; 4, Natalie Johnson (NRHEG); 5, Mackenzie Kellen (Medford); 6, Rachael Oswald (BP); 8, Sunde (BP); 9, Megan Oswald (BP).

800 run: 1, Bickler (LP) 2:38.79; 3, Journey Utpadel (NRHEG) 2:43.08; 5, Clara Kniefel (Medford); 9, Sunde (BP); 10, Taylor Wurst (BP).

200 dash: 1, Abby Stasko (Hayfield) 29.84; 2, Sierra Larson (BP) 29.85; 3, Raquel

Fischer (NRHEG) 30.26; 5, Goette (NRHEG); 8, Abby Braaten (BP); 9, Gushwa (NRHEG); 13, Sophie Thomas (BP); 18, Nicole Schrot (Medford).

3,200 run: 1, Aubrie Schneider (GMLOKS) 14:11.34; 2, Tori Vaale (NRHEG) 14:25.32; 4, Asha Lighthizer (BP) 5, Ashleigh Alwes (BP).

1,600 relay: 1, Pine Island (Taylor House, Megan Gerhart, Kiley House, Alexis Matzke) 4:43.01; 5, NRHEG (Finseth, Johnson, Utpadel, Nydegger); 6, Blooming Prairie (Hefling, Lorenz, Megan Oswald, Wurst).

High jump: 1, Luebbe (Medford) 5-0; 3, DeLeon (Medford) 4-6; 5, Goette (NRHEG), 6, Finseth (NRHEG).

Pole vault: 1, Gemini Johnson (BP) 8-0; 2, Kellen (Medford) 7-6.

Long jump: 1, Jaci Newman (Pine Island) 16-10.5; 2, Johnson (BP) 15-5; 5, Nihart (Medford); 7, Kellen (Medford); 13, Elsa Gushwa (NRHEG); 15, Lea (BP); 18, Fischer (NRHEG); 19, Oswald (BP).

Triple jump: 1, Sawyer Gorman (Pine Island) 34-2; 2, Emma Kniefel (Medford) 32-5; 5, Luebbe (Medford); 6, Kellen (Medford); 10, Sunde (BP); 14, Maggie Maloney (NRHEG); 15, Megan Oswald (BP).

Shot put: 1, Lila Gronseth (Hayfield) 34-8; 2, Kinsey Cronin (Medford) 34-6; 5, Darian Pearson (NRHEG); 6, Micalyn Trihus (BP); 8, Jenna Berg (Medford); 9, Hannah Budach (NRHEG); 11, Virdi Villarreal (BP); 13, Diamond Woollard (NRHEG); 16, Anna Pauly (BP).

Discus: 1, Gronseth (Hayfield) 106-8.5; 4, Pearson (NRHEG) 84-6; 5, Cronin (Medford); 6, Trihus (BP); 7, Budach (NRHEG); 8, Woollard (NRHEG); 12, Jenna Berg (Medford); 17, Anna Pauly (BP); 18, Villarreal (BP).

BLOOMING PRAIRIE
APRIL 22
6:30 p.m. – Fire Relief Association Meeting
APRIL 23
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
APRIL 24
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library

11 a.m. – Business Luncheon, Servicemen’s Club

5 p.m. – BP Youth Club Open House

6:30 p.m. – Minnesota Honor Society Banquet, BPHS Commons

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



Dr. Deborah J. Lien
ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST
DDS, MBS

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ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA
APRIL 18
Noon – Red Cross Blood Drive, Ellendale
APRIL 19
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
APRIL 22
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

APRIL 23
6:15 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do, Ellendale Gym North
APRIL 24
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD
APRIL 18
11:30 a.m. – Business Boot Camp, Owatonna Public Utilities
4 p.m. – Owatonna Annual Charter Commission Meeting, City Admin Building
6:30 p.m. – Family Story Time, Owatonna Library
APRIL 22
4 p.m. – HRA Meeting, City Admin Building
7 p.m. – Medford City Council Meeting, City Admin Building

APRIL 23
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Tale Time, Owatonna Library
4 p.m. – OPU Meeting, Public Utilities
5 p.m. – Business After Hours, Carroll Seating & TPS
5:30 p.m. – Owatonna Planning Commission Meeting, City Admin Building
5:30 p.m. – Volunteer Appreciation Event, Arts Center
7 p.m. – Local Board of Appeal & Equalization Meeting, City Admin Building

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday in BP
The Blooming Prairie Women of Today will sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt at Central Park in Blooming Prairie on Saturday, April 20.
The hunt begins at 11 a.m.

What a farce at Little Theatre

Little Theatre of Owatonna has announced its spring comedy production of “Farce of Habit” that opens April 26. Comic fireworks explode in Farce of Habit, an absurdly funny Southern-fried romp that takes us to the quaint Reel ’Em Inn, a fishing lodge in the Ozarks. Proprietor D. Gene Wilburn looks forward to a peaceful weekend on the lake. But only two chances of that happening: slim and none. Why, for example, has his wife, Wanelle, picked these three days to white-knuckle her way through caffeine withdrawal? Is his son Ty’s marriage to Jenna falling apart due to the French can-can costume Ty is wearing? Why would D. Gene’s feisty sister, Maxie, allow herself to get caught up in such a bizarre undercover police assignment? And that’s just his family.

Thwarting D. Gene’s weekend plans is a gaggle of nuns converging on the Inn to experience a nature retreat revealing D. Gene’s chronic fear of anything in a habit? Add the colossal ego of Jock McNair, nationally known relationship guru who threatens everyone’s sanity; a shy retiree anxious to cut

loose and embrace his “inner caveman;” throw in the storm of the century quickly bearing down on Mayhew, Arkansas, and D. Gene has no prayer of baiting a hook any time soon. Oh, and did we mention there’s an axe murderer on the loose? If you enjoy gloriously preposterous hilarity, then laughing your way through the take-no-prisoner’s lunacy of a Jones Hope Wooten comedy is one habit you’ll never want to break!

Farce of Habit is by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten. The artistic director is Sandee Hardy-Hagen and the technical director is Kimberly Keck.

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. on April 26-27 and May 3-4 with matinee performances at 2 p.m. on April 28 and May 5. Online tickets will be available at www.LittleTheatreofOwatonna.org for members on April 6 the general public on April 13. The LTO Box Office opens April 22.

Farce of Habit is presented with special arrangements through Dramatists Play Service and is sponsored by Old Town Bagels.

Give blood with the Red Cross during National Volunteer Month

The American Red Cross encourages eligible donors to give blood during National Volunteer Month this April. Eligible donors of all blood types – especially type O – are needed to help ensure blood products are available for patients this spring.

Nearly half of the public knows someone who has been helped by a blood transfusion. For many volunteer blood donors, like Gail Wright, that personal connection serves as inspiration to give.

Wright’s brother was involved in a serious motorcycle accident in 1982 and needed several blood transfusions during his four-month recovery. She lived over 120 miles away at the time. Unable to be near him, she decided she could help by donating blood. Wright has continued to donate and recently completed her 11th gallon of donated blood – 88 lifesaving blood donations.

Volunteer donors are the only source of blood products for those in need of transfusions, and the Red Cross salutes the volunteer blood donors who help fulfill its lifesaving mission. While donors of all blood types are needed, the Red Cross currently has a severe shortage of type O blood donations and urges type O donors to give now.

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

HBO and Red Cross invite Game of Thrones fans to Bleed #ForTheThrone

To celebrate the final season of Game of Thrones, HBO and the American Red Cross have partnered to encourage fans and donors to show their bravery and valor by bleeding #ForTheThrone.

Many answered the call to give earlier this year, and much like the show, embarking on its final season, the fight for the living isn’t over.

Those who come to donate by April 30 will be automatically entered for a chance to win a full-size Iron Throne from HBO’s Game of Thrones. Terms and conditions apply and are available at RedCrossBlood.org/HBOGameofThrones. * Additionally, all presenting donors April 11-30, 2019, will receive a commemorative Bleed For The Throne poster, while supplies** last, and automatically be entered in the above-mentioned sweepstakes.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities April 16-30:

STEELE Ellendale
April 18: 1-7 p.m., Ellendale Community Center, 505 2nd St.

Owatonna
April 29: 1-7 p.m., United Methodist Church, 815 E. University St.
April 30: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Owatonna Community Education Building, 122 E. McKinley St.

FREEBORN Albert Lea
April 22: 1-7 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 501 S. Washington Ave.
April 26: 1-7 p.m., Bridge Community Church, 2016 Bridge Ave.
April 30: 12-6 p.m., Grace Lutheran, 918 Garfield Ave.

MOWER Austin
April 22: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Austin Utilities, 1908 14th St. NE
April 22: 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Mower County Senior Citizens Center, 400 3rd Ave. NE

History uncorked in Steele County

Beware the horseless carriage! Beware the child running into the street! Who is at fault when the two collide? You decide. It’s the case of the unlucky sevens.

The Steele County History Center in Owatonna will present a special drama at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 20.

Eugene P. Ring was the 77-year-old driver of the car; J.B. Roberts was the 7-year-old boy attempting to cross South Cedar from the courthouse block to the Pantheon Theatre, located next to the Fire Hall.

A sum of \$20,000 is what the boy’s father sued Ring for in 1917. And just why did the Minnesota Supreme Court get involved?

Are you a Law and Order fan? Enjoy Criminal Minds? If you answered yes, boy do we have a series for you. History Uncorked offers a fun and innovative approach to historical court cases while enjoying a glass of wine, beer or soda.

The evening begins with a brief overview of a local crime committed in the late 1800s early 1900s.

Attorneys Ben Cass and Jim Cole, under the guidance of the Honorable Karen Duncan, walk attendees through the criminal case and trial.

Once all the facts have been presented, each table of attendees becomes the jurors deliberating the case to determine if the accused is guilty or not.

The cost for the evening is \$10 for SCHS members, \$15 for non-members.

Tickets can be purchased at the History Center at 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna or online at <https://steelehistorymuseum.wildapricot.org/event-3352441>. the door the day of the dinner.

Meatball dinner set for Geneva churcha

If you have a hankering’ for a meatball dinner, put Sunday, April 28 on your calendar.

It’s on that date that the Community Lutheran

Church of Geneva will be sponsoring this popular community dinner.

Worship service is at 9:30 a.m. Serving for the 17th annual dinner starts at 11 a.m. and continues to 1 p.m.

The menu includes: meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, coleslaw, buns, assorted pies for dessert, coffee and water.

A freewill offering is asked for the dinner.

A quilt raffle is also planned, the quilt being made by Joan Vandenheuvel. Quilt raffle chances are \$1 each and may be purchased in advance from WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) women, or at the door the day of the dinner.

Albert Lea Community Theatre to perform comedy ‘Bedroom Farce’

Albert Lea Community Theatre (ACT) continues its 54th season with the comedy “Bedroom Farce” at the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center, April 18–28.

Trevor and Susannah, whose marriage is on the rocks, inflict their miseries on their nearest and dearest: three couples whose own relationships are tenuous at best. This comedy takes place sequentially in the three beleaguered couples’ bedrooms during one endless Saturday night of codependence and dysfunction. Beds, tempers and domestic order are ruffled – leading all the players to a hilariously touching epiphany.

Cast members are Mark Place, Michelle Supalla, Kristi White, Luke Zacharias, Christy Compton, Kyle Nelson, Logan Petersen and Raquel Hellman.

“Bedroom Farce,” directed by Kris Bartley, will be performed at the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center in downtown Albert Lea on April 18-20 and 24-28. Shows start at 7:30 p.m., with the Sunday, April 28, matinee, at

2 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased by calling 1-877-730-3144 (toll-free), online at actonbroadway.com or at the box office, which opens weekdays at 9 a.m. Tickets are also available at the Albert Lea Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Celebrate Earth Day by cleaning up in Owatonna

Want to help the earth? Owatonna Parks & Recreation has the perfect solution for you to accomplish this. On Sunday, April 28 from 2-4 p.m., Parks & Rec is sponsoring Earth Day, Park Clean Up in Owatonna.

Clean up will take place at Mineral Springs, Morehouse and Darts Parks. The event not only helps the environment, but promotes community involvement and fellowship, cookout and games.

Organizers encourage people to come to one of the three parks to help clean up. All supplies will be provided. After the clean up at 4 p.m., there will be a cookout and games at Mineral Springs.

Celebrate Earth Day with the first annual park clean up.

“Every Kind of Maker’s Tool” opens at Arts Center

Ever wonder how cloth is made? Curious about the different types of tools and looms used to weave?

This exhibit showcases the creations of members of the Weavers Guild of Minnesota with a specific focus on the equipment used to create it! See woven and spun art made with a variety of tools, wheels, and looms, including everything from a backstrap loom to rigid heddle, pin looms to tapestry, and yarn spun on a wheel. Each piece is accompanied with a bit of information about the equipment used, to aid in the viewer’s experience and understanding.

The exhibit is on display

at the Owatonna Arts Center through Sunday, April 28. The gallery is open Tuesday-Sunday from 1-5 p.m.

Members of the Weavers Guild of Minnesota will be on-site April 28 from 1-5 p.m. to answer questions and offer demonstrations.

Exhibiting Weavers Guild of Minnesota members include: Robbie LaFleur, tapestry weaving; Margaret Stump, pin loom weaving; Christen Pentek, spinning on a spinning wheel; Becka Rahn, small loom weaving; Jan Hayman, floor loom weaving; Dan Brevia, table loom weaving and rigid heddle loom weaving; Keith Pierce, tablet weaving and backstrap weaving; Karen Mallin, floor loom weaving; Connie Kos, tapestry weaving; Carol Delak, potholder loom weaving; Bonnie Buzza, pin loom weaving and circular loom weaving; Kelly Marshall, bobbins lace and floor loom weaving and Kala Exworthy, floor loom weaving.

The Owatonna Arts Center is located at 435 Garden View Lane.

School hosts info session on upcoming referendum

The Owatonna Public School District would like to invite the residents of Owatonna to the Public Information Session to learn more about the upcoming May 14 Building Bond Referendum.

The session will be presented by Superintendent Jeff Elstad and will provide the facts about the upcoming building bond referendum and will also give participants an opportunity to get their questions answered.

The next session will be Monday, April 29 at 6:30 p.m. at the high school.

To learn more about the public information session and the referendum visit www.owatonna.k12.mn.us.

SALES/OFFICE SUPPORT

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

Ideal candidate

- friendly,
- pleasant over the phone
- works independently
- achieves sales goals.

Position

- Part-time
- 20-30 hours per week depending on sales projects load
- Hourly plus commission.

Please contact Publisher **Rick Bussler** for additional information at **952-224-6331** or email at **bprick@frontier.com**.



J&H LIQUOR

Bar Bingo: Mondays @ 6:30 p.m.
Bloomin’ Grapevine Club: Tuesdays @ 7-8:30 P.M. April 16
Wine Tasting Gala: May 7 @ 9 P.M. Benefits BP Youth Club
Tickets: \$15 Advanced \$20 Door
Customer Appreciation: April 6 • Drink Specials • Appetizers • Lottery Promotion
33 years of Business • Thank you for your patronage



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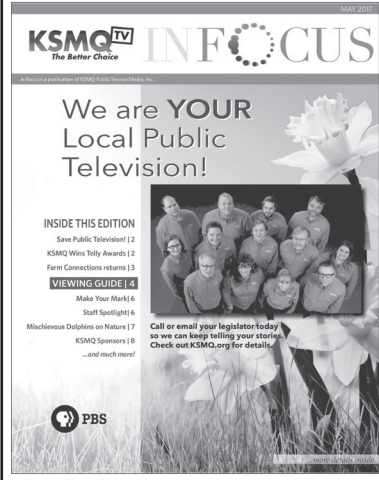
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FORECLOSURE

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 mortgagee is six (6) months from the date of sale.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

or(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 PROPERTY 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 recorded

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 mortgagee 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 PROPERTY 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

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No: 74-PR-19-244

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND INFORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In Re: Estate of

Barbara Ann Strand, a/k/a Barb Strand, Barbara A. Strand, Decedent

Notice is given that an Application for informal Probate of Will and Informal Appointment of Personal Representative was filed with the Registrar, along with a Will dated, March 11, 2008. The Registrar accepted the application and appointed Diane strand, whose address is 3825 Cedar Grove Pkwy, Eagan, MN 55122, to serve as the personal representative of the decedent's estate.

Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Any objection to the appointment of the personal representative must be filed with the Court, and any properly filed

objection will be heard by the Court after notice is provided to interested persons of the date of hearing on the objection.

Unless objections are filed, and unless the Court orders otherwise, the personal representative has the full power to administer the estate, including, after thirty (30) days from the issuance of letters testamentary, the power to sell, encumber, lease, or distribute any interest in real estate owned by the decedent.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. section 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the decedent's estate are required to present the claims to

the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

Kris Schmitz Registrar March 8, 2019

James A. Terwedo & Associates, P.A. James A. Terwedo MN# 016513X 115 South Broadway Suite 100 Jordan, MN 55352 Telephone: 952-492-2800 Facsimile: 952-492-2806 e-mail: jim@terwedolaw.com

4/9, 4/16

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- Shallowest of the Greats
- Sheathe
- Frightened
- Brews
- Relates
- Atomic #52
- Up the ante
- The "Kings's" initials
- Lepton
- Cornmeal mush (British)
- One who analyzes synthetically
- Algonquian tribe
- Systems, doctrines, theories
- Herb ___, San Francisco columnist
- Informed about the latest trends
- Seven
- Morocco's capital
- What a doctor practices
- Beaks

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- Settled upon
- Common frog genus
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NOTICES
WANTED SOFTBALL PLAYERS: Ages 50 to 80 Plus, you will be Drafted to one of 8 Sponsored Teams, Bats are supplied. League Play Starts May 6th through Sept. 25th. Start anytime, Price \$48.00 then prorated. Games played at McQuillan Fields in SE Rochester MN., Mon. & Wed. at 9:30AM. Call Randy 507-424-9801. www.rochmnss.com

FOR RENT
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
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BARTENDERS SERVING & KITCHEN Staff Wanted! Experience not necessary but pay is based on experience. Apply directly at the Hubbell House 502 N Main St Mantorville, MN 507-635-8997 wk. 18,19,20 pd
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Position Part-time 20-30 hours per week depending on sales projects load Hourly plus commission.
Please contact Publisher **Rick Bussler** for additional information at **952-224-6331** or email at rbprick@frontier.com.
STEELE COUNTY Times

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The successful candidate will have high ethical standards, sound judgment, excellent communication skills and a desire to make a difference for our residents. Responsibilities include maintaining current nurse scheduling process with utilization of ShiftHound and the coordination of contracted nursing (pool) for the Care Center. The applicant will preferably have an RN/LPN license with computer knowledge; or have 2 years of office experience.
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Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday- 7 p.m.

Good Friday- 3 p.m.

Easter Sunday- 7 a.m. & 9 a.m.

Easter Breakfast- 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

*Coffee between services

Pastors:

Heidi Heimgartner

& Mike Walerius

434 First St. SW

Bloomington Prairie

507-583-6621

firstlutheranbp.com

Holy Week Mass Schedule

Holy Thursday-April 18

7 p.m.- Sacred Heart in Hayfield

Good Friday-April 19

12 noon- St. Columbanus in Bloomington Prairie

3 p.m.- St. John Baptist de la Salle in Dodge Center

Easter Vigil-April 20

8 p.m.- St. John Baptist de la Salle in Dodge Center

Easter Sunday-April 21

8 a.m.- Sacred Heart in Hayfield

10 a.m.- St. Columbanus in Bloomington Prairie

St. Columbanus- Bloomington Prairie

St. John Baptist- Dodge Center

Sacred Heart- Hayfield

Father Tom Niehaus

Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday - April 18

12:00 pm (lunch to follow)

6:00 pm (dinner, 4:45 pm-6:30 pm)

Good Friday - April 19

Children's Service: 11:00 am

A visual worship event for children of all ages, from toddlers to senior citizens (held indoors)

Tenebrae Worship: 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil - April 20

Worship: 5:00 pm

Easter Sunday - April 21

Sunrise Worship: 6:00 am

Festival Worship: 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional

10:00 am - Contemporary

tlcowatonna.org/worshipschedule

TRINITY

Lutheran Church

609 Lincoln Avenue

Owatonna MN

507.451.4520

tlcowatonna.org

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday

Worship Service with Holy Communion 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday

Whorship Service 12:00 p.m. Noon

Contemporary Easter Vigil

Saturday 5:00 p.m. with Holy Communion

Easter Sunday

Worship Service with Holy Communion 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Pastors Dave Klawiter and Jacie Richmond

St. John Lutheran Church

1301 Lincoln Avenue, Owatonna

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Holy Week & Easter

1500 18th St. SE Owatonna, MN 55060 507-446-5850 www.cornerstoneowatonna.com

Maundy Thursday

Soup Supper at 5:30 PM

Service at 6:30 PM

Good Friday

Service at 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday

Pancake breakfast at 8:00 AM

Service at 9:00 AM

Maundy Thursday April 18

Worship with Hymns 5:30pm

Worship with Praise 7:00pm

Good Friday April 19

Easter Sunday April 21

Sunrise Worship with Hymns 6:30am

Contemporary Worship 8:30 & 10:30am

Breakfast between all services

2500 7th Ave NE 507-451-4125

goodshepherdowatonna.com

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday

7:30 p.m. with Holy Communion

Good Friday

7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Easter Sunday

8:15 & 10:45 a.m. with Holy Communion

Pastors:

Rev. John Weisenburger & Rev. Lisa Carlson

Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1909 Saint Paul Rd., Owatonna 507-451-4853

CELEBRATE THE EASTER TRIDUUM

SACRED HEART CHURCH AND ST. JOSEPH PARISH, OWATONNA

HOLY TRINITY, LITOMYSL CHRIST THE KING, MEDFORD

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 18

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

5:00 pm Christ the King, Medford

5:30 pm Sacred Heart Church

7:00 pm Holy Trinity, Litomysl

7:00 pm St. Joseph Parish

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 19

CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

12:10 pm St. Joseph Parish

1:00 pm Sacred Heart Church

3:00 pm Holy Trinity, Litomysl

3:00 pm Christ the King, Medford

5:30 pm Sacred Heart Church

EASTER VIGIL, APRIL 20

EASTER SERVICES IN THE EVENING

8:00 pm Sacred Heart Church

8:00 pm Holy Trinity, Litomysl

8:30 pm St. Joseph Parish

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

7:30 am Sacred Heart Church

8:00 am Christ the King, Medford

9:00 am Sacred Heart Church

9:30 am Holy Trinity, Litomysl

9:30 am St. Joseph Parish

10:30 am Sacred Heart Church

11:00 am St. Joseph Parish

12:30 pm (Español) Sacred Heart Church

