

OUR VIEW

We support nurses

Last week a video went viral when a Washington senator, Maureen Walsh, made comments during a hearing, to the effect that nurses have time during their shifts to sit around and play cards. The hearing was on a bill that would protect nurses’ lunch and rest breaks in the state of Washington who work 12 hours or more during their shifts.

Since that video went viral, people on social media across the country have rightfully been at the defense of the nursing profession and have criticized what the senator had to say.

As a news organization located outside one of the most prominent medical centers in the world, we understand how hurtful those words are for those who dedicate their lives to helping heal and save others.

In our community, many of our neighbors, parents of our children’s friends, fellow church members and members of our community work as nurses or in other roles in the medical industry.

As a community, we see these people sacrifice family time, watching their kids or grand-kids sporting events. We see these hard working folks work day in and day out to help all of us during our often most difficult times. When someone goes to the hospital, it is not often they are there for something that is pleasant, and nurses are there to help with anything they can to make our experiences better.

In our community and communities across the country, we should be standing up in support of nurses whether we know one personally or not because, at the end of the day when the times get tough, they are there to help whether you’re in the hospital or someone you know is.

Thank you nurses for all you do!

YOUR VIEW

Doesn’t make sense to move voting for referendum

To-the-Editor:

I hope that all the eligible voters of District 761 vote on May 14 regarding the School Bond referendum.

For many years, the voters outside of the city of Owatonna voted at the Four Seasons Building. It is centrally located for the voters of the rural area. It is handicap accessible and convenient with ample parking places.

What is the rational for the polling place to be moved to the Clinton Falls Township? It is a good facility, but is located on the northern edge of District 761. However, the voters of the Meriden, Lemond, Hope, Somerset, Aurora, Havana and Merton areas will have to drive 5 to 15 miles one way to vote at the Clinton Falls Town Hall. This makes it more inconvenient for the voters and does it promote voter turnout having to drive this far? We hope the School Board will change this problem.

Lester and Betty Oeltjenbruns
Owatonna

Who does this?

On Wednesday, April 10, it was the dreaded tax appointment day for Donald Dokken of Austin.

His appointment was in Blooming Prairie at the office of Tamzen (Tammy) R. Johnson CPA partner of accounting firm, Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner P.A., which he always had pleasant visits with. But on this day he had a lot on his mind and not being able to walk very well the 15-mile drive to the unknown outcome in the name of Tax Preparation was not on his preferred list of things to do.

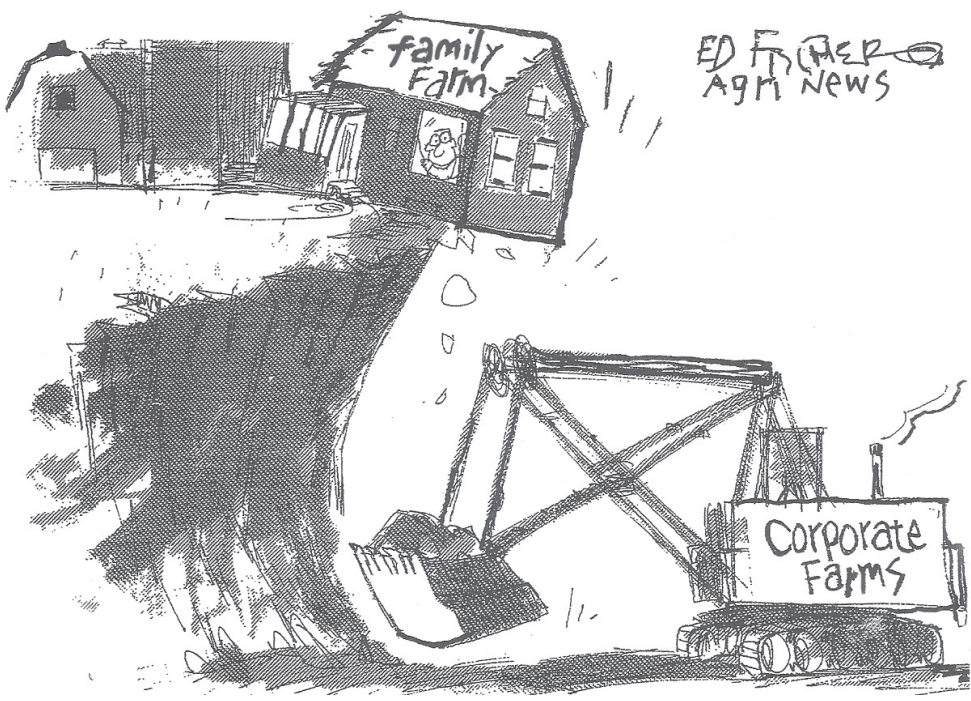
The appointment went well but the weather was brewing a bad snow storm. The accounting office was having a potluck lunch, and Tammy had invited Donald to sit and eat with them as she had concerns for Donald having to drive back to Austin when the sheriff posted that driving was not advised.

Tammy contacted her husband Doug and son Alex, who drove Donald’s vehicle back to Austin, shoveled a pathway to his house and made sure he was safe while they themselves faced a poor visibility drive back home. This joint effort done by the Johnson family was over and beyond the call of duty!

In the sometimes cruel and self-centered world, this act of kindness is all too often thought of as “who does this?”

Donald Dokken and his three children who live in distant Rochester, Mobile, Ala., and Atlanta, Ga., cannot thank the Johnson family enough for their thoughtfulness and kindness that day.

Audrey Matranga
Mobile, Ala.



Realities of dairy farming go viral

It’s no secret that Minnesota’s farmers, especially dairy producers, are struggling to stay afloat. But what came out last week in a Facebook video may have taken some by surprise.

At a time when smaller dairy operations are shutting down all over the country as they lose out because of larger-scale dairy farms and volatile milk prices, Berg put a voice to the plight facing many family-owned operations in Minnesota.

In the video, Mark Berg unloaded the realities of how his family is struggling with their Pine Island area dairy operation. His parents, Tom and Penny Berg, own Trailside Dairy, which milks about 200 cows. Berg, 26, passionately described the struggles facing his family.

The video, which has been viewed more than 441,000 times, was reportedly prompted after Berg had an argument with his father.

“Just got done arguing with my dad, just yelling screaming back and forth, you know it never used to be that way, it never did. And it’s not our fault. It isn’t. It isn’t our fault. It isn’t fair. But you know the comment that he ended with was, ‘I’ve worked here 40 f----- years’ and I have less than what I started with.’ And it’s true, you know. My parents work harder than anyone I know, I can’t keep up with them.”

As Berg explains as he wipes tears from his eyes, his family isn’t looking to be rich, just sustainable. Here are a few excerpts from Berg’s video:

“You know because people don’t realize the world doesn’t revolve around money. We’re not asking to make a million you know we don’t need to be rich, life isn’t about being rich, it’s not about having money. But when you literally work day in and day out all the time for nothing, we gain nothing. We are taking loans just to



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

pay bills, and that’s the current situation for dairy farming.

“We’ve got literally farmers committing suicide all the time, it’s not like a few ... wives coming home to their husbands dead in the house because they’ve lost everything they had and they feel like they’ve failed every generation before them.”

“It’s not just dairy farming, crop farming’s crap, pigs are crap everything is crap. Everything farm related is just a

waste of your time. Nobody realizes that nobody gets it. Because they just go to the grocery store and they get food and it’s there. They don’t realize that people are literally losing their lives because they’re working for nothing.”

Berg’s mother Penny, 60, wrote to Land O’ Lakes to explain the plight facing their family. She received a call back from CEO Beth Ford suggesting they could help them find another job.

“That made my mom feel useless – what you’re doing isn’t going to make you money so you might as well try something else,” Mark Berg said. “This isn’t about making money, this isn’t about money. I just want a fair cut. I just want my family to be happy.”

Minnesota dairy farms just experienced their worst year, with a University of Minnesota report finding that the median income at dairy farm in the state dropped from \$43,000 in 2017 to just \$15,000 in 2018.

I have interviewed other dairy farmers over the past year around the region so that I have a greater understanding of what they are facing. The pain in the country for farm families is very real. And it’s also going to have a ripple effect on rural communities.

Now more than ever the government needs to step in and intervene to go in hot pursuit of finding a solution to better times for what has been the backbone of Minnesota’s economy for generations.

Yes, there are starving children out there

The community of Blooming Prairie led by First Lutheran Church has another mission in mind.

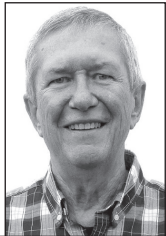
That mission identified by the Rev. Mike Walerius of First Lutheran several months ago stresses help for starving children around the world.

In fact, the project is called Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack.

My enthusiasm about this project is spiked as it is with many other First Lutheran members and community residents. Pastor Mike has been at First Lutheran for only nine months and is hyped about this project.

Funding is needed before the project can be accomplished, and already First Lutheran is close to its goal of collecting \$22,000 in funding. The mark is at \$19,000.

Much of the credit for the funding success is due to using



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

fundraisers that worked last year for the First Lutheran and Red Oak Grove Lutheran Youth Gathering trip.

A few weeks ago, volunteers sold meat to earn funds and pushed that total closer to its goal.

Another fundraiser is on tap from 4:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday,

April 25 at the Austin Pizza Ranch. Volunteers from Blooming Prairie will be wait staff and will be given tip money and a portion of the revenue earned this night.

Pastor Walerius said the goal of a Blooming Prairie community project is to pack 101,000 meals in two days and send them to the needy in all parts of the world.

The work project will take place in the Luther Rooms of First Lutheran Church on May 10-11 of this year.

Friday, May 10 will be the set-

up day for the project. A semi load of dry food will arrive on that day. A crew from the Twin Cities will set up the food lines.

Six to eight packing stations will then be created in the Luther Rooms for both days.

The dried food will consist of rice, dried vegetables and vitamins. The scientifically designed food is placed in mana packs and is aimed at malnourished children or people in poverty-stricken countries including Haiti, Tanzania and South America.

The community project will not only involve First Lutheran Church. It will also involve St. Columbanus Catholic Church, Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church and Holy Trinity Catholic Church of Litomysl.

“We are still looking for 400-450 volunteers to help with the actual packing of the food,” Pastor Walerius said. Two-hour shifts will be arranged.

More than 200 have signed up already, says Pastor Walerius.

Go the Feed My Starving Children web site and read:

“As a Christian non-profit organization, Feed My Starving Children is called to feed God’s starving children hungry in body and spirit.

“You will hear us say this again and again: “We want to reach everyone, until ALL are fed.” We truly mean this. This means reaching the hard-to-reach people and places, the “least of these.” They will be found, and they will be fed.

“With God’s help we will work together with organizations and ministries across the globe to end hunger.

Blooming Prairie is always taking care of its own but also is proud to help others on the global scene.

If interested in joining the My Starving Children Mobile Pack, contact Pastor Walerius, the Rev. Heidi Heimgartner or members of the committee: Ruth Johnson, Cheri Krejci, Lindsey French, Michelle Southworth, Monica Anderson, Emily Heimer, Ron Kubista, Amy Staloch and Michelle Vigeland.

GUEST COLUMN

It takes a Village

BY JEROLD IBBERSON

While I would consider Ellendale a small town and not exactly village status, it does point out an interesting point about small towns and the saying, that “It takes a village.”

In the modern context of “it takes a village,” it is a proverb, which means that it takes an entire community of different people interacting together to accomplish a common goal. In our community we have experienced two serious situations already in 2019. The big Blizzard of late February that stranded about 50 travelers in Ellendale and the recent three day power outage caused by a spring ice storm.

In both incidents, I was always amazed how my community comes together to take care of not only our citizens but the strangers that chance upon our community. Ellendale is small enough that it does not have the infrastructure to care for a lot of people in times of need, but the community always seems to come together and provide the much needed assistance.

During the February blizzard, Vibrant Life Church opened a shelter for stranded travelers before I was even aware that we had a serious situation. With help from shelter residents, I was able to provide cots and blankets for our City emergency supplies to make their stay a bit more comfortable. Ross at Lerberg’s Grocery was happy to open up and provide food supplies and emergency hygiene items for the people stranded in Ellendale.

April 11 and 12 greeted us with a coating of ice and high winds causing power poles to snap like toothpicks and leaving thousands without power in southern Minnesota. When I was contacted for sheltering some of our area residents, I knew where to start calling. United Methodist Church responded with an immediate yes to send people in for shelter. They provided housing meals and assistance to some area people that would have been left with nowhere to stay but a cold home or car. Andy from the Ellendale Lions even provided a hospital type bed for one of our disabled residents. When I had a contact from people looking for a place to shower so they could continue with their jobs I contacted Vibrant Life Church as I thought they might have showers available next to their gymnasium. Pastor Stitt said they would be available to anyone in need.

I should also mention First Lutheran Church. They are our Emergency Tornado shelter during times of severe weather for anyone that does not have a safe area to seek shelter in.

There are just too many people to mention when it comes to saying, “Thank You,” and I know I will overlook the many people that make my job easier.

It truly takes a Village in times of need and it makes me proud to be a resident of Ellendale.

Jerold Ibberson is the emergency manager for the City of Ellendale.

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A state and national award winning weekly



**MINNESOTA
NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION**

2019—7 state awards
2018—6 state and 4
national awards
2017—2 state and 3
national awards
2016—8 state and 6
national awards

2015—7 state and 4
national awards
2014—3 state and 3
national awards
2013—7 state and 2
national awards
2012—2 state awards
2011—4 national awards

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

8 couples will show some fancy dance moves

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

A culmination of over two months of practicing their dance moves will be on display Saturday, April 27 when the 9th Annual Dancing With Our Steele County Stars goes on stage.

The Medford High School auditorium will be the site of this popular fundraising event sponsored by the Healthy Seniors of Steele County.

Dance competition begins at 7 p.m. Social hour, sponsored by Hy-Vee, starts at 6 p.m. with guests being able to bid on many tantalizing silent auction items.

A bucket raffle will be hosted with tickets costing \$10 each. Prizes include \$300 cash, Apple air pods, HP laptop, family fun basket, gift certificates, spring cleaning, etc. A drawing will be held the evening of the dance contest.

Guests will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite dancers during the evening. Intermission is planned for 8:15 p.m. with cupcakes and refreshments sponsored by Hy-Vee. During intermission, dance contestants mingle with those in attendance for the dance event.

Last year’s dancing spectacle drew 550 guests.

Tickets cost \$30 and are available from dancers and from Healthy Seniors of Steele County.

New this year is theatre seating. The ticket guests purchase are the seats for the evening. Also, new this year is Livestream for \$20 – form your own viewing party and you can even text in your vote.

Last year’s event set a record in raising just over \$50,000, a combination of cash and in-kind donations.

Eight couples will be on stage, vying for some prestigious awards, says Edna Ringhofer, executive director of Healthy Seniors of Steele County.

Healthy Seniors of Steele County helps seniors in need who are 65 and older, live healthy, safe and independent in their own homes and to prolong the length of spending down into Medical Assistance and to divert nursing home placements.

Contestants for this year’s competition are: Shelby Zempel and Scott McCauley; Dana and Bill Miller; Sarah and Greg Schlicker; Elizabeth and Ryan Hedlund; Margaret (Peggy) and Stephen Nelson; Rebecca and Will Moore; Anel Beascochea and Mike Gassett and Kelly and Derreck Lamotte.

IF YOU GO...

Dancing with Our Steele County Stars
Saturday, April 27
7 p.m.
Medford High School



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The Heimgartners of Blooming Prairie proudly displayed their trophies won in the 8th Annual Dancing with Our Steele County Stars last year at Medford High School. Heidi and Paul are shown with sons Jonathan and Luke.

becca and Will Moore; Anel Beascochea and Mike Gassett and Kelly and Derreck Lamotte.

A ninth couple had to withdraw from the competition because of a broken toe.

Couples have been practicing since Feb. 10. All contestants receive 10 weeks of free lessons, practice at Kids Korner, VFW and at the

Medford High School. Choreographers are Brian and Lynette Dawley, Bessie Peterson and Steve and JoAnn Caron.

Karen and Dave Legault are emcees. They danced in the second annual Dancing with Our Steele County Stars and have been emcees for five years.

Judges for the 2019 Dancing With Our Steele County Stars competition are: Paul Smith, Dave Schlobohm and Jim Qualley.

All contestants for this year’s competition will participate in an introductory dance. Some past dance participants will take part in a group number at the end of competition.

Senior Spotlight will focus on Linda Galea and Harold Olesen.

Dancers Brandi and Ryan Evers were

named overall winners of last year’s contest. This couple also took first in total fundraising, bringing in \$10,198.50. Brandi and Ryan also won the judges award.

Heidi and Paul Heimgartner of Blooming Prairie earned six trophies during last year’s night of dancing in the eighth contest. Heidi and Paul placed first in the category of audience choice with 118 votes. Heidi and Paul placed second overall.

In total fundraising, the Heimgartners each earned a trophy for bringing in the third highest total of donations, \$6,000.

Heidi Heimgartner is senior pastor at First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie. Paul works as an education specialist in a clinical laboratory at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

Blooming Prairie dancers have done quite well over the years. Craig and Janie Bishop were winners in past years contests as were Greg and Allyson Skillestad.

More information is available by calling 507-456-6541.

The Steele County dancing show is patterned after the popular national television series that has aired for 13 years.

GUEST COLUMN

Hands-free has proven to be effective

By JOHN PETERSBURG

Legislation that would make it illegal to have a cell phone in your hand while driving is set to become law.

The Minnesota House of Representatives approved compromise hands-free legislation crafted by a joint House/Senate conference committee recently and Governor Walz has signed it into law. I was privileged to serve as one of the three members of the House on that conference committee, and I think we put together a very good bill.

So for those who may not understand all the ins and outs of the hands-free bill, here is a quick synopsis. Very simply, if you’re driving your car, in traffic or on the roadway, you can’t have a cell phone in your hand at any time.

The legislation allows voice activated cell phone use only, along with one-touch or headsets. But it cannot be in your hand.

Hands-free laws have proven to be effective. Twelve of 15 states that implemented similar legislation saw a decrease in fatalities within two years, and six of those 12 states saw a more than 20% decrease in fatalities.

This bill truly is about safety and keeping a driver’s focus on the road. The hands-free law will take effect on Aug. 1.

Omnibus bills in all the major areas of state government are moving through various committees. In the taxes committee in which I serve, we’re hearing the transportation, K-12 Education, and health and human services finance proposals, just to deal with their tax implications.

After Easter, we’re expected to see all of these omnibus finance bills come up on the House floor. The busy season will soon be arriving at the Minnesota House.

John Petersburg is a state representative for District 24A serving Steele and Waseca counties. He lives in Waseca.

BARN COLLAPSE: *New building* FROM A1

weighed its options and discussed the other five bids before voting on the executive committee’s recommendation.

The bid by Wick Buildings to build a single, larger barn to replace both old barns is for \$255,450. This price also includes demo work. With \$138,000 in estimated damages to be received through an insurance payment, the new building will cost around \$118,450 out of pocket for the board.

“The way I see it this is a long-term investment for the next 50 years,” Deml said of committing to the construction of a new building. The new building will be 114-feet-by-152-feet giving the fair 17,328 square feet to house livestock or off-season storage. It will be designed with the aesthetic of the neighboring show arena in mind.

By moving storage from the Radel Pavilion to the new building, the fair could free up enough room for an additional \$3,000 of rental space within the Radel building. Also, by storing its own equipment in the new building, the board will not have to commit to roughly \$70,000 in order to build a sprinkler system for the new barn until further



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

This is one of the two cattle barns that will be replaced prior to the start of this year’s Steele County Fair. The action has been initiated after the roof collapsed on one of the cattle barns this winter. The fair board has decided to take down not only the collapsed building, but also the adjacent barn. Both were built in 1958.

down the road.

The newer building will carry the added benefit of opening up more room between the Show Arena and the itself since it will take up less space than the two barns combined. It will also give them more flexibility due to the large interior space a single building provides verse two smaller barns.

With the fair already steadily approaching, director Doug Meier mentioned that the board should consider adding a deadline for construction to

the contract. “There should be an end day set, because we need so many days to get our stuff done,” Meier said.

The board was in agreement that building one barn to replace both older buildings was the right decision and voted to move forward with the recommended bid with the stipulation that Wick Buildings put forth a deadline within writing so that this year’s fair can go off without a hitch. The fair is scheduled for the week of August 13.

DANCING COUPLE: *Backgrounds* FROM A1

“We must **balance our schedules** to fit this commitment.”

Derrick LaMotte, Dance Competitor

deep commitment. “It takes a lot of time and effort, more than expected,” says Derrick.

“It’s worth it,” Kelly affirms.

The commitment began on Sunday, Feb. 10 when Kelly and Derrick began their weekly regimen of taking lessons and practicing at Kids Korner in Owatonna.

Kelly and Derrick have been coached by JoAnn and Steve Caron of Faribault. Lynette and Brian Dawley are choreographers for the show.

As contestants, Kelly and Derrick and the other seven couples are assigned the task of raising funds by gaining sponsors and by selling dance tickets.

Sponsors and donors for Kelly and Derrick are: Blooming Prairie Veterinary Clinic, Farmers & Merchants State Bank, Krejci Ford and Hometown Insurance.

“We’ve learned a lot about each other during this time commitment,” volunteers Kelly. “We have also met a lot of good people along the way,” she added.

The Blooming Prairie entrants will be doing a Latin dance called the cha-cha-chá, simply cha-cha in the U.S. It’s called Perhaps! Perhaps! Perhaps! It is done by the Pussycat Dolls.

According to Wikipedia, it is a dance of Cuban origin and is danced to the music of the same name introduced by Cuban composer and violinist Enrique Jorrin in the early 1950s.

This rhythm was developed from the danzón-mambo. The name of the dance is an onomatopoeia derived from the shuffling sound of the dancers’ feet.

For the night, Kelly and Derrick will be dressed colorfully. Kelly will wear a royal blue, sparkling dress from Amazon. She will wear black heels. Derrick will wear a blue button up shirt, black pants with suspenders and black dress shoes.

“I’m really excited about this opportunity,” Kelly smiles. “I’m a little nervous,” adds Derrick.

It’s all about relationships and communication, Kelly said, in explaining the dance routine practices. “We must balance our schedules to fit this commitment into our routines,” Derrick explained.

“We’re having fun with one another and it’s like going out on another date,” Kelly comments.

Kelly and Derrick both say there are times when they ask themselves, “why are we doing this?” With the support and encouragement from family and friends, both confirm that the efforts are rewarding.

Practice at home happens when their schedules are balanced and allow time for dancing. “Lake dances with us and Jaxon is our judge,



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Kelly and Derrick LaMotte have been practicing rigorously since Feb. 10 and now it will all come down to the actual competition in Dancing With Our Steele County Stars on Saturday, April 27 at Medford High School.

giving up 10 out of 10,” Kelly says.

Appreciating the support from their kids, Kelly said she just hopes daughter Lake doesn’t decide to go on stage.

“This dance competition is something I never thought I would do,” Derrick says. “It’s an opportunity we may never have again,” Kelly said.

Kelly and Derrick practiced performing in front of a large crowd when they entered a lip sync competition on a recent cruise. They placed second, lip syncing to “I’m a Barbie Girl” and “Summer Night” from Grease.

“I have to keep him on his toes,” Kelly said, stating that the lip sync contest gave Derrick the confidence he needs on stage.

Kelly and Derrick are welcoming the challenge of the dance contest and realize that some other Blooming Prairie dancers in the past have “set the bar pretty high.”

“We’ve **learned a lot** about each other.”

Kelly LaMotte, Dance Competitor

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR: *Kim Hansen* FROM A1

across the state.

What does earning this recognition mean to Hansen?

She responded to this question:

• It means that the State of Minnesota values and recognizes great education. We are lucky to live in a state that makes education for its citizens a high priority.

• It provides validation that I have been doing something right all of these years. It also indicates that I have kept up with the ever-changing needs of students as technology has changed the format of education and access to it. It reminds me that continual improvement has been a key factor.

• It confirms that I have chosen a profession which I am passionate about. I feel very lucky to have the unique opportunity and responsibility to make a difference in the

lives of many.

• It means that my teachers instilled a love of learning in me. I am forever grateful to the wonderful educators who I had at BPHS who inspired me then and now, as I can still hear many of their words.

In an awards booklet provided for the celebration of education excellence, it states that Hansen uses “a knowing why and asking why” approach with her students in accounting.

Hansen said she is honored by the award and feels fortunate to teach at Riverland Community College.

Her comments concluded with these words: “It is indeed a privilege to be part of an educational system, which improves the lives of individuals, families and communities.”

Hansen is licensed as a

certified public accountant and as a chartered global management accountant. She holds a B.S. in Accounting and an M.S. in Multidisciplinary Studies from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

While at BPHS, she was a cheerleader for football, basketball and wrestling. “I loved high school,” she says with appreciation.

Hansen will return to BPHS on May 9 to teach a BestPrep class on “Tax Matters.” Her presentation is on financial literacy and money management skills.

On their farm located 20 miles southeast of Mankato, Hansen and her husband Ron train horses in timed events and dogs in agility. The Hansens have five Quarter horses and three dogs, two border collies and a golden retriever.

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: Fight: Officers responded to a fight in the 100 block of Rose St. E. at 12:21 a.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Mayo urges citizens to dispose of drugs safely

Mayo Clinic Health System encourages community members to prevent drug addiction and overdose deaths by expanding your spring cleaning to your medicine cabinet in honor of National Take Back Prescription Drug Day on April 27.

“Patient safety is a top priority and while we often talk about the importance of safely using medications as they are prescribed, disposing of them properly is equally important,” says Rick Knoll, R.Ph, pharmacy manager at Mayo Clinic Health System –

Albert Lea and Austin. “Unused or expired prescription medications can be disposed of correctly utilizing the free local drop box programs in your community.”

Instructions for dropping off unused prescription medications:

- Leave drug in its original container
- Use a marker to cross out your name and personal information on the container
- Keep the name of the drug visible
- Drop the drugs into the drop box at your local law enforcement center

Drop offs can be taken at the Steele County Law Enforcement Center at 204 E. Pearl St., Owatonna; Freeborn County Law Enforcement Center at 411 S. Broadway, Albert Lea or the Mower County Law Enforcement Center at 201 1st St. NE, Austin. Steele and Freeborn accept drop offs every day 24 hours a day while Mower takes them from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

CRIME BRIEF

POLICE FIND LARGE AMOUNT OF METH IN TARGET LOT



JASON OLSON

A suspicious vehicle in the parking lot of a local retailer led to a substantial drug seizure.

Owatonna Police responded to the Target lot on April 15. When officers arrived, they found a vehicle with its hood up and a man and woman standing outside.

While speaking to the man, an officer noticed a massive amount of money sticking out the front of his pocket. The officer also detected that the man was becoming nervous and it appeared he didn’t want police to know his identity.

Police discovered that Jason Olson, 47, of Faribault had an outstanding felony warrant. Officers called in a Rice County K-9 unit, which alerted on the vehicle to the presence of drugs.

A search of the vehicle revealed almost 12 ounces of methamphetamine concealed in the engine compartment. In addition to the drugs, \$10,934 in cash and a 1999 Cadillac Deville were seized.

Olson also faces a new charge of felony first-degree possession of meth.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of April 8 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Joshua A. Geary, 25, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault. Geary was sentenced to \$100, 90 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance, do not enter liquor establishments, no contact with victim, predatory offender registration, obtain permission to leave the state, psychiatric evaluation and 5 years of supervised probation.

Shawn P. Kadlec, 35, Ellendale, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of firearm-conviction or adjudicated delinquent for crime of violence. The defendant was sentenced to \$181, 90 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

Carlos Nieves, 37, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony motor vehicle theft and misdemeanor DWI. He was sentenced to \$181, 2 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, obtain permission to leave the state, attend MADD impact panel, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation and 3 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of April 8 – 14:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Krystal M. Crape, 25, St. Louis Park, no insurance, \$281; Cole J. Simons, 25, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Nabil S. Ashour, 36, Thornton, CO, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$181; Noah D. Geyer-Hoff, 20, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Jeremy J. King, 41, Janesville, speeding, \$121; Micah J. Larsen, 21, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Michael J. Neisen, 33, Tonawanda, NY, speeding, \$221; Clint D.

Peterson, 18, Austin, speeding, \$121; Jessica L. Shackelford, 33, Mankato, speeding, \$121; Phillip N. Shipp, 34, Chicago, IL, no child passenger restraint system, \$181; Amy L. Strand, 41, New Richland, speeding, \$121; Allyson D. Thompson, 30, Stewartville, speeding, \$121; Antoinette C. Williams, 30, Waseca, revoked license, \$281.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Abdirahman D. Abi, 25, Blaine, speeding, \$221; Kaylee C. Chavez, 25, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$141; David J. Emanuelson, 57, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Jasmine J. Gallagher, 26, Waseca, assault, stay of adjudication, diversion program and 1 year of supervised probation; Alberto Garza, 35, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Marlin D. Gieseke, 71, Faribault, stop sign, stay of adjudication, \$75 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Alonso Hernandez, 64, Owatonna, no child passenger restraint system and no insurance, \$331; Tyreese A. Johnson, 26, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Domico I. Kelly, 29, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Heron N. Martinez, 28, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Mark A. Newman, 58, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, substance abuse subtle screening inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Cody J. Parkos, 22, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Edilser J. Ramos Perez, 25, Owatonna, failure to stop for traffic control signal, \$121; Ashley A. Schultz, 33, Faribault, domestic assault, stay of adjudication, attend MADD impact panel, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Keya G. Smith, 27, Waseca, expired tabs, \$111; Travis E. Stier, 40, Waseca, revoked license, \$281; Jennifer M. Villafan, 36, Medford, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Renae A. Weatherley, 49, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Leighton T. Wradislavsky, 22, Owatonna, domestic assault, stay of adjudication, diversion program and 1 year of supervised probation.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Mark H. Ammann, 35, Owatonna, speeding, \$100; Wesley J. Baldwin, 43, Overland Park, KS, speeding, \$121; Brian L. Berg, 37, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Derrick J. Berg, 32, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Lorraine A. Bray, 21, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$121; Tiffany L. Clark, 29, Ellendale, domestic

assault, stay of adjudication, diversion program and 1 year of supervised probation; Taylor M. Cornelius, 22, Farmington, DWI, \$381, 29 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Ryan G. Good, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Eric A. Hamer, 41, Ellendale, speeding, \$231; Casey M. Hanson, 25, Faribault, speeding, \$121; Aaron M. Heim, 29, Ellendale, equipment violation, \$121; Scott T. Jyrkas, 41, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Patrick J. Kabrud, 60, Faribault, failure to yield to emergency vehicle, \$181; Michael P. Langstaff, 24, Austin, speeding, \$131; Jean P. Otindo, 31, Minneapolis, speeding, \$121; Jeffrey T. Reiland, 55, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Jason F. Simons, 43, Kasson, speeding, \$121; Chad M. Tuma, 43, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$141; Blas O. Varela-Santos, 43, Owatonna, invalid license, \$181; Kris T. Walters, 48, Austin, speeding, \$121.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE April 12

Fight: Officers responded to a fight in the 100 block of Rose St. E. at 12:21 a.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 1800 block of Austin Road SE at 6:22 a.m.

Shoplifting: At 10:12 a.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 600 block of El Dorado St. SE at 12:38 p.m.

Hit and Run: At 8:13 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 800 block of Elm Ave. S.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest at Broadway St. W. and Park Square W. at 11:55 p.m.

April 13

DWI: Police arrested motorists for driving while intoxicated at Lincoln Ave. S. and 15th St. SE at 12:16 a.m. and the 100 block of Rose St. E. at 11:35 p.m.

Hit and Run: At 1:02 a.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 300 block of 18th St. SE.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 1400 block of Austin Road SE at 8:38 a.m.

Thefts: Police took theft reports in the 100 block of

Fremont St. E. at 7:39 p.m. and the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 10:47 p.m.

April 14

Theft: Officer received a theft report from the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW at 3:52 p.m.

Disturbance: Police responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of 22nd St. NW at 11:33 p.m.

April 15

Suspicion: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 10:59 a.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Domestic: Police arrested a subject following a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of School St. E. at 12:45 p.m.

Restraining Order: At 3:05 p.m., officers arrested a subject for violating a restraining order in the 1100 block of School St. E.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 3:08 p.m.

Arrests: Police assisted other agencies with arresting subjects in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 4:20 p.m. and the 300 block of Bridge St. W. at 4:34 p.m.

Shoplifting: At 5:37 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S.

April 16

Shoplifting: Shoplifting incidents occurred in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 12:36 p.m. and the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 7:14 p.m.

April 17

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of School St. W. at 11:35 p.m.

April 18

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 400 block of Pine Ave. NE at 8:05 a.m.

Trespassing: At 8:24 a.m., police issued a trespassing citation in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE.

Restraining Order: Officers responded to a restraining order violation in the 500 block of School St. E. at 12:37 p.m.

Drugs: Drug activity was reported in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 12:45 p.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 2100 block of 3rd Ave. NW at 8:26 p.m.

DWI: Police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 9:49 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff April 12

Theft: Deputy took a theft report on Interstate 35 in Somerset Township at 7:13 a.m.

April 13

DWI: Deputies arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 4000 block of County Road 180 in Havana Township at 10:35 p.m.

April 14

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 8:30 p.m.

April 16

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 2:25 a.m.

April 17

Shoplifting: At 12:04 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 6700 block of Frontage Rd. W. in Medford.

April 18

Littering: At 7:35 p.m., deputies responded to a littering incident in the 2400 block of 44th Ave. NE in Havana Township.

ARRESTS Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

James Joseph Rademacher, 31, arrested at 12:03 p.m. April 15, felony controlled substance crime, held for court.

Jason William Olson, 47, arrested at 12:03 p.m. April 15, felony controlled substance crime and gross misdemeanor obstruction, held for court.

Christine Kay Mazurek, 23, arrested at 12:09 p.m. April 15, felony drug possession, held for court.

Chris Anthony Vruno, 32, arrested at 10:55 p.m. April 17, felony fleeing on foot, obstruction, revoked license, controlled substance and warrant arrest, held for court.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of April 7 – 14:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sarah A. Broskoff, 32, Dodge Center, stop sign, \$130 and 5 hours of community service; Rebecca A. Johnson, 41, Dodge Center, no insurance, \$280; John Jones, 51, Owatonna, license not in possession and speeding, \$220; Gerald B. Lee III, 29, Dodge Center, revoked license, \$280; Sierra D. McKee, 23, Black River Falls, WI, disorderly conduct, \$280; Joshua M. Momany, 20, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Carlos E. Ruffo, 42, Yankton, SD, speeding, \$220; Zebadiah I. Tamez, 20, Dodge Center,

possession of marijuana, \$130; Cassandra R. Waldner, 25, Hayfield, no insurance, stay of adjudication, \$200 and 6 months of probation.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mitchell A. Albrecht, 24, Dodge Center, stop sign, \$130; Richard J. Born, 25, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Nicholas M. Chilson, 28, Mantorville, speeding, \$380; Noe Fariasgomez, 32, parking violation, \$32; Joseph K. Foss, 50, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Lisa M. Hufstedler, 32, Plainview, parking violation, \$32; Garen L. Nieneyer, 36, Kasson, suspended license, \$280; Ana S. Pulido Garcia, 34, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Riley T. Schwenke, 20, Mantorville, texting while driving, \$130; Carl M. Stephenson, 61, Rochester, registration violation, \$180; Aaron J. Thompson, 45, Kasson, texting while driving, \$130; Justin J. Ulrich, 24, Kasson, parking violation, \$32.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Aden M. Abdi, 33, Faribault, speeding, \$120; Justin G. Annis, 30, Mantorville, revoked license, \$280; Daniel F. Froelich, 35, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Kent O. Roberson, 61, Zumbro Falls, seat belt, \$105; Ryan S. Wetzstein, 21, West Concord, speeding and suspended license, \$340.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jennifer A. Lee, 48, West Concord, parking violation, \$32; Lamar McCain, 36, Rochester, revoked license, \$280 and 1 year of probation.

OWATONNA FIRE

April 12

Crash: At 6:30 a.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred in the 1800 block of Austin Rd. SW.

April 15

Gas Leak: Firefighters responded to a gas leak in the 100 block of Oak Ave. N. at 1:20 p.m.

April 17

False Call: At 2:39 p.m., a malicious, mischievous false call occurred in the 300 block of School St. E.

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

1. Corey Tollefson – violation of order for protection – no bail

2. Jesse Tollefson – motor vehicle theft – no bail

3. Richard Tople – DWI – no bail

4. Enrique Torres – theft - \$300 bail

5. Julio Touchet Campos – criminal sexual conduct - \$250,000 bail

6. Jaime Tovar – DWI – no bail
7. Santos Trevino – suspended license, no insurance - \$1,000 bail

8. Kile Trevithick – DWI - \$1,000 bail

9. Dragan Trkulja – traffic - \$1,000 bail

10. Arnut Tungsununt – drugs - \$10,000 bail

11. Scott Tuomala – drugs - \$10,000 bail

12. Nyatiem Tut – false name - \$500 bail

13. Peter Uhlig – DWI - \$3,000 bail
14. Marco Valdez – DWI, child endangerment - \$6,000 bail

15. Andres Vargas – criminal vehicular operation – no bail

16. Reinaldo Vasques – DWI - \$1,000 bail

17. Eric Veith – theft, shoplifting - \$500 bail

18. Nathan Vigil – motor vehicle theft – no bail

19. Jose Villa Jr. – interference with 911 - \$6,000 bail

20. Jose Villandrado – DWI - \$6,000 bail

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

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Trikes for Grown-Ups



THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by:
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583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,
What's the best, environmentally safe way to dispose of old and unused medications? My mother has a medicine cabinet chocked-full of pills, some of which haven't been touched in 25 years, and I'd like to clean it out for her.
Protective Daughter
Dear Protective,
Cleaning out the medicine cabinet is a chore that most people don't think about, but it's an important task that can help prevent medication problems, and protect children who may have access to these old, unused drugs. Here's how you can clean out your mother's medicine cabinet so it's safe and useful.
RETURN THEM
Your local pharmacy, as well as hospitals, clinics, long-term-care facilities, and narcotic treatment programs, might accept your mom's unused medications, often as part of programs that collect and destroy unused drugs. Search for an authorized facility near you at [DisposeMyMeds.org](#).
You can also drop off her unused meds at designated police departments, fire stations, and other sites on National Prescription Take Back Day, Saturday, April 27. To find a collection site near you, visit [TakeBackDay.dea.gov](#).
USE A DISPOSAL KIOSK
Many Walgreens and CVS stores have free, anonymous, and secure kiosks where you can dispose of any medication. Remove your

personal information from the packaging and drop unwanted medication, including opioids, in the slot.
MAIL THEM
Costco, Rite Aid and CVS pharmacies sell postage-paid envelopes for customers to mail any prescription, including opioids and over-the-counter medications, to a disposal facility.
THROW THEM OUT
If mailing them in or getting to one of the drop-off sites is not an option, you can dispose of them yourself, but do so carefully. The Food and Drug Administration recommends taking the medications out of their original bottles and putting them in a sealable plastic bag with an undesirable substance like coffee grounds, dirt or kitty litter. Then seal the plastic bag and throw it in the trash. This will make the medication less appealing to children, pets or other people who may fish through your trash.
But don't do this with dangerous drugs, such as opioids, which can be abused. For these, the FDA says flushing them down the toilet is OK. But trace amounts of drugs can end up in the water supply so this should be done only as a last resort. To see the
FDA list of medications that should be flushed when they are no longer needed, go to [FDA.gov](#) and type "flush list" into the search box.
Or, another option is to purchase some medication disposal bags like the Medsaway Medication Disposal System. These are carbon pouches that are designed to neutralize all medication including narcotics, liquid medication, transdermal patches and controlled substances so you can just add water, and toss them in the trash. You can find medication disposal bags at some local pharmacies or online at [Amazon.com](#) for around \$15.
You'll also want to make sure to scratch out all your mom's personal information on the empty medicine bottles or other packaging before throwing it away to protect her identity and privacy.
If you have other questions about proper drug disposal, talk to your pharmacist.
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.

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago April 21, 2009

DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

The Bloomington Police Department has switched to E-Tickets in its squad cars. The new program allows for the increased efficiency on every aspect of ticket-writing and issuing. The department received a grant from the Third District Courts.
Coming off a season where he has broken Bloomington High School basketball records, including the all-time scoring record, Senior Matt Zellmer was chosen to play for Team Minnesota in the Tri-State All-Star Game. He was nominated by his coach, John Bruns.
Rachael Schneider opened Rachael's Hair and Tanning last Tuesday and loves being back in Bloomington. Her shop is located in the old 218 Meats right on U.S. Highway 218. She previously worked in Owatonna for three years.

20 Years Ago April 20, 1999

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

After six inches of rain during the first week of April, the Bloomington Prairie City Council heard first-hand about the potential problems in handling such a water load at the waste water treatment plant.
Berniece Richardson has been handling the scheduling for almost 30 years for Bloomington's feather pillow cleaning service. She has made sure that the stops are taken care of faithfully at First Lutheran Church in Bloomington. Others who have been faithful in helping her are Arlene Helleck, Ruby Miller and Doris Halstenson.

50 Years Ago April 16, 1969

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

General obligation bonds to finance the new nursing home in Bloomington will be sold on April 30. The bonds of \$510,000 will be used to finance the construction of the nursing home. The bonds will be dated June 1, 1969.
Jennifer Christianson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Christianson of Bloomington was the winner of the local Voice of Democracy contest sponsored by the VFW Post 878 and Auxiliary.
With emphasis on the need for regular check-ups for cancer, the Minnesota Division of the American Cancer Society launched its annual educational and fundraising crusade on Monday of this week. In Bloomington, a house-to-house canvas will be made for funds to this worthy cause. Mrs. Bruce Lamp is crusade chairman for Steele County.
Over 130 people were in attendance at the 25th anniversary banquet of the VFW Auxiliary April 12 at the Servicemen's Club in Bloomington. Mrs. Joyce Trom, president of the Auxiliary, was toastmistress at the program followed by a dinner.

75 Years Ago April 20, 1944

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Shortage of instructors confronts Bloomington's board of education and Superintendent Emil Estenson as nine vacancies must be filled before school opens next September. Like in all other professional vocations, the problem of securing experienced school instructors is most acute and will no doubt cause the superintendent many sleepless nights before he completes his faculty before the next term starts in fall.
Keeping in line with other towns in the state size of Bloomington, the Board of Education has granted salary increases to members of the instructional staffs and janitor for next year. The pay boost will amount to well over \$4,000 for the ensuing school year which starts next September. The raise was necessary in order to secure teachers and because of the increase in the cost of living.

Junior Achievement donates to We All Play

Recently sixth grade students from Owatonna Middle School and St. Mary's School participated in the Junior Achievement (JA) Biz Town program.
JA is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating students about financial literacy, college and career readiness, and entrepreneurship through experiential, hands on programs. Through the philanthropic spirit of many local volunteers, donors, and businesses, and with programming that utilizes the principles of financial literacy, market based economics, and entrepreneurial thinking to teach youth about the global economy, consumerism and employment JA has touched thousands of students in Owatonna.
One of the lessons taught as part of the Biz Town program is about Philanthropy, and the Owatonna Foundation has been a proud participant in the teaching of the lesson. Trustees, staff, and volunteers met with the students and as part of the lesson each group of students got to choose where they could make a donation to a

local charity. The donations are sponsored by the Owatonna Foundation and a total of \$500 was made available.
The students unanimously chose the "We All Play" Inclusive Playground and Miracle Field project.
"We are thrilled to participate in the JA program and to sponsor this donation to a very worthy project! All of us at the Owatonna Foundation understand the importance of teaching children about the spirit of philanthropy and the positive impact it will have for our community in the future," said Betsy Lindgren, president of the Foundation. The all inclusive playground and miracle ball field will be accessible to people of all ages and abilities, featuring areas that will facilitate children's play through sensory experiences, gross motor play, cognitive play, as well as social and emotional interactions.
We All Play Committee Co-Chair Amanda Gislason said this about the donation: "We have been so blessed with the support from our community. I am so

proud of our young community members; they have really stepped up to help make this dream a reality. One day soon we will be able to walk onto our new playground and Miracle League field and say that we all made this happen together."
Fundraising for We All Play is ongoing and the public is invited to make a donation at the We All Play website: [http://www.weallplayowatonna.com](#).
The Owatonna 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 Owatonna Foundation has invested more than \$11.9 million dollars in grants to Owatonna projects and annually awards \$30,000 in scholarships for both traditional and non-traditional students.
For more information about the Owatonna Foundation, please visit our website at: [www.owatonnafoundation.org](#), or call our office at 507-455-2995.

Area realtor earns national designation

Matt Gillard, broker/owner of RE/MAX Venture, is proud to announce that Grady Strand was recently awarded the highly acclaimed national Graduate Realtor Institute (GRI) designation. In completing the required curriculum, Strand joins other top realtors in the residential real estate industry from across the nation who hold this designation.
"I'm a big believer in constantly learning within my profession, always striving to be a better REALTOR® so I can better serve my clients," said Strand. And Gillard added, "Grady has the dedication to be constantly learning and growing as a real estate professional. Earning his GRI designation is an example of his desire to represent his clients and their interests to the very best of his ability."
Strand earned the GRI designation by attending a specific, intensive series of classroom instruction, covering a variety of subjects including professional standards, legal issues, sales and marketing, finance and risk reduction, technology and social media.
With this achievement, Strand has made the commitment to provide a high level of professional service by securing a strong educational foundation of knowledge and skills to better



Grady Strand, right, of RE/MAX Venture in Owatonna has received an award from the Graduate Realtor Institute. Strand is shown with Matt Gillard, owner of the realty firm.

navigate the real estate market and serve prospective clients and customers.
The Institute is designed to educate practitioners about local, state and national real estate practices that affect them, their clients and customers. Only members of the REALTOR Association may earn the GRI designation. The REALTOR Institute is

more than 25 years old and has graduated thousands nationally.

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Farm safety class set for youth

Youth who want to learn more about farm and tractor safety or would like to work with equipment with over 20 horsepower off of their family farms, have an opportunity to participate in U of M Extension's Tractor and Farm Safety Certification program in Owatonna this June.

This hybrid program combines online learning with hands-on activities and is designed for students 14 years and older. Upon completion of the program, students receive a certificate of training from the U.S. Department of Labor.

The cost to take this course is \$25. Once registered, students can work at their

own pace for the online portion over a one to two-week period. The in-person portion of the training is two days long. It includes a written exam and educational talks by Extension Educators and experienced community members. The hands-on portion covers practice time working with the equipment. The final exam includes a driver skills test on a marked course and a demonstration of the student's ability hitching and unhitching an implement.

The curriculum for this course has been adapted to Minnesota laws and online learning with permission from Penn State Extension's

National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program.

This curriculum has six modules, which will be covered online and in-person:

1) The Background: This first module covers health & safety regulations, worker compensation laws, and protection standards and environmental regulations.

2) Basic Safety: Students will learn to assess and respond to hazards on the farm by learning appropriate age-related tasks, review safety equipment and common injuries involving youth and how to perceive risks. They will also learn how to respond

to emergency situations with training in first aid and CPR.

3) Agricultural Hazards: Awareness of hazards is the first step to safety. This module will cover multiple hazards found on a farm such as mechanical, respiratory, electrical, and chemical and fire, as well as confined spaces and age appropriate tasks working with livestock.

4) The Tractor: General characteristics and operating a tractor are covered in both the online and in-person trainings. Tractor hazards such as overturns, runovers and PTO entanglements are emphasized in this module. The North American

Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT) Operations chart will be covered.

5) Implements: Learning how to hitch and unhitch implements, as well as maneuvering a tractor forwards and backwards while pulling an implement will be covered in the online lessons as well as the in-person driving skills test.

6) Telehandlers: This lesson covers other types of equipment that youth could be asked to use including telehandlers, and ATV's and utility equipment, plus auger, silage and elevator safety. Proper loading and towing

of equipment will also be covered.

An in-person is scheduled for June 26 and 27 in Owatonna at Kibble Equipment. Students will get to learn from community members and Extension Educators and get hands-on experience driving a tractor. Learn more about the training at: <https://z.umn.edu/48wj>. For registration information, visit: <https://z.umn.edu/48vz>. If you have any questions, contact Extension educator Claire LaCanne at 507-444-7691 or lacanne@umn.edu.

Lawn care checklist: spring edition

The April snow has melted and our turfgrass is finally revealing itself again, reminding us that we have some work to do to prepare our lawns for the growing season.

We are lucky that the cool-season turfgrasses we use in our Minnesota lawns can survive harsh

winters, because this past winter was a doozy. Our turfgrasses endure the changing seasons because they grow rapidly during the cooler temperatures of spring and fall and then become less active during the heat of summer and frigid cold of winter. Our lawn care routine should support this natural life cycle of cool-season grasses to ensure that our lawns stay healthy.

Cool-season grass root growth is stimulated by soil temperatures above 32°F, and is optimal with soil temperatures between 50 and 65°F. In early spring, grass roots are long and full of nutrients stored from the fall. Shoots, or the aboveground parts that what we call blades of grass, use this stored energy for growth. In the warmer summer temperatures, shoot and root growth slow down. Plants rest during times of heat and drought.

Keeping the biology of our grasses in mind, there are ideal times of the season to perform different lawn care practices. Your spring to-do list should include crabgrass control, sodding and seeding if necessary.

Pre-emergence control of crabgrass is most effective, so try to target this weed before it comes out of the ground this spring. Mid-April to mid-May is the best window for controlling crabgrass with an herbicide. If you miss that window, you can target it post-emergence when the



On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

crabgrass is small. This usually falls between mid-May to early July. If you have broadleaf weed issues, May through June is an okay time to target them, though fall is better. In the fall, weeds are allocating their resources to their roots, making herbicides more

effective during that time.

Early May through June is the best time to lay sod, and it is okay for seeding grass, too. This way, you'll get some root growth before the grass slows down in the summer. It is actually better to seed grass in August through September or mid-November, but if you missed those timeframes, then you can seed in the spring.

Note that adding fertilizer too early may encourage grass to grow when it should be slow or dormant – wait until May to start fertilizing. The best time to fertilize is August through October, but May or June are okay times as well.

Mowing also begins in the spring. Proper mowing practices contribute to a healthy lawn and minimal weeds, and, if you leave grass clippings on your lawn, contribute to lawn nutrition. For a typical residential lawn, maintain a height of 3 inches or higher. Taller grass shades out weed seeds and keeps soil cooler. As a rule of thumb, don't remove more than 1/3 of the leaf tissue when you mow.

It is important to schedule your lawn care maintenance during times that match the grass' life cycle.

On the Farm is written by Claire LaCanne, agricultural educator with the University of Minnesota Extension in Steele and Rice counties. She writes for this newspaper regularly.

Mower seeks more walk-in access from landowners

Mower County landowners for the second-straight year can earn extra revenue by signing up by April 30 with the state to allow their private land to be open for public hunting nine months of the year.

Interested landowners should contact the Mower Soil & Water Conservation District office in Austin to discuss the state's Walk-In Access (WIA) program, which is offered in 47 counties by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). If approved, landowners allow their enrolled land to be open for public hunting between Sept. 1 and May 31.

Under the DNR program, landowners must have at least 40 acres of private land or it must be contiguous with another WIA parcel that is at least 40 acres. Priority is given to land enrolled in a conservation program, such as the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or the state's Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM).

In 2018, Mower Soil & Water Conservation District entered into an agreement with the DNR to add Mower County to the Walk-In Access (WIA)

program. This led to two parcels totaling 185 acres of private land being enrolled near Adams and Racine.

Minnesota's WIA program provides public hunting on private land while compensating landowners for allowing access to hunters. Through WIA, nearly 27,000 acres of private land have been open since Sept. 1 for public hunting at about 230 sites in western and south-central Minnesota and will remain open through May 31.

While most enrolled WIA parcels are grassland and wetlands, some river bottom and other forested parcels have been accepted by the DNR for the program, providing an opportunity to harvest deer, turkey and other woodland species on WIA land.

Payments to enrolled landowners – who are provided liability protection by the state – are based on number of acres enrolled, length of agreement and proximity to state Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) or Waterfowl Protection Areas (WPA).

Land not enrolled in a conservation program might

be eligible if high-quality, natural cover exists and is maintained by the landowner. Property within 500 feet of a home or corral occupied by livestock cannot be enrolled in WIA, unless they are occupied by the cooperators or his/her livestock.

Enrolled parcels must be accessible from a public road; their habitat must be maintained through the WIA enrollment period; and landowners or the state may terminate the WIA contract at any time (effective 30 days after written notice is received).

To legally access WIA land, hunters must have a Walk-In Access Validation, which is available for purchase \$3. The fee does not cover costs associated with purchasing access, installing boundary signs or providing online or printed maps of the enrolled WIA properties. The validation fee's purpose is to help the DNR monitor how many hunters are using WIA land.

Only small inclusions of cropland or hay land may be present in WIA parcels.

Rules for the WIA program include:

- WIA sites are for public hunting only.
- Motorized vehicles are not allowed on WIA properties.
- Individuals with a WIA validation can hunt from 30 minutes before sunrise to 90 minutes after sunset during open hunting seasons, with no landowner contact necessary from Sept. 1 to May 31.
- No target practice, trapping, dog training, camping horseback riding or fires are allowed by the public.
- WIA landowners retain the right to engage in or give written permission for another individual to engage in, those activities listed above and other limited activities that do not impede public hunting, at any time of the year.
- Parking is along roads or in designated parking areas. Vehicles must not block field entrances.
- All hunting rules and regulations apply on WIA land and will be enforced by DNR conservation officers.
- For more information, landowners can contact Mower SWCD at 507-434-2603, ext. 5, or go online at: mndnr.gov/walkin.

Soil & Water offers summer internship

Applicants need to apply by April 26 for a summer internship position being offered by the Austin-based Mower Soil & Water Conservation District office.

This paid internship for up to 15 weeks – scheduling is flexible – will involve 40-hour work weeks aimed at assisting Mower SWCD staff in its efforts to work with farmers and partners to implement conservation and wildlife habitat measures on the ground throughout Mower County. The intern also will participate in and lead various water-monitoring programs that assess the conditions of local streams and land.

“We think this is a great opportunity for someone to gain a great deal of

experience and knowledge through the numerous conservation projects our office is involved in on both the land and water,” Mower SWCD district manager Justin Hanson said.

Applicants do not need to have prior experience or knowledge in the position's work duties that will include soil-health data collection; water monitoring; field work assistance; training and personal development; and office and administrative assistance. Mower SWCD staff will train and assign duties based on the intern's experience and abilities.

Work under the internship will be performed in the Mower SWCD office, outdoors and at various sites throughout

Mower County. Applicants must be able to lift at least 75 pounds on an occasional basis. The position will include exposure to outdoor conditions during fieldwork, such as walking cropland fields in all temperatures and humidity and exposure to construction noise.

Those interested can find more details on the internship along with an application on the Mower SWCD website at: www.mowerswcd.org/summer-internship.

Applications are due by April 26, by mailing or bringing the application to the Mower SWCD office at 1408 21st Ave. N.W. in Austin or sending it via email to justin.hanson@mowerswcd.org.

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Blooming Prairie FFA Spotlight

FFA Alumni

By Mariah Miller

The local Blooming Prairie FFA Alumni chapter met for the first time in almost 5 years. The goal of the meeting was to restructure the chapter with new leadership with the intention to be more active. In the past, the chapter raised money through events such as the Toy Show. The Alumni currently offers scholarships to graduating students in FFA who are pursuing careers in agriculture.

Alumni members are collectively interested in supporting and promoting agriculture, agricultural education, and the FFA at the local, state, and national level. Members can help support their chapters through volunteering their time, talents, and resources. This enables the FFA Advisor, Mr. Bill Rinkenberger, more time and freedom to teach students. The new leadership is (from left to right) Kathy Finley- Treasurer, Kalyn Naatz- Vice President, Justin Krell- President, and Tammy Wolf- Secretary.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact any one of the board members.

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Wrench Warmers enlighten Arkema CAP meeting

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

“It’s OK to get stuck, to fail and to eventually get through it,” said Blooming Prairie High School robotics coach Sarah Oelkers when addressing the Arkema CAP (Citizens Advisory Panel) group.

Oelkers, her assistant coach (Brandon Oelkers) and Wrench Warmers team members Riley Millam, Viridiana Villarreal and Baylee Sorensen came to a recent meeting of Arkema CAP members to inform the group about the Wrench Warmers success during the past season.

Millam was on the Drive team and served as a programmer. Villarreal served on the Build team and Drive team. Sorensen was part of the public affairs team.

This year marked the third year of competition for the BP robotics team.

This year’s team counted 24 members, the largest contingency ever for a BP robotics team.

In regional competition this year, the Wrench Warmers ranked 36th out of 63 teams. The team won two significant awards in competition: winner of the Imagery Award and winner of the Safest Pit in the regional.

The Wrench Warmers compete in the Lake Superior region. Schools come from all sizes.

This season, robotics teams including the Wrench

Warmers had to develop a robot in order to load cargo into a rocket and cargo ship.

In order for the cargo to stay in its carriers, hatch panels also had to be loaded to prevent the cargo from spilling out. At the end of the match, teams can climb the levels of the hab for additional points.

Due to a pounding rainstorm, Wrench Warmers team members were unable to bring their robot to the CAP meeting. Team members provided highlights of team competition, showing actual competition on a video taken at the regional competition in Duluth.

Competition involves alliances working with two rockets, one cargo ship and a habitat.

“Some kids come up with some **really good ideas.**”

Sarah Oelkers
Robotics Coach

New robotics games are created each season. All teams are given six weeks to design, engineer, program and build a robot to meet the needs of the game.

This year’s robot was programmed by the Wrench Warmers’ first female programmer.

“Our goal was to make the rocket very tall,” said Millam. It ended being about seven feet tall.

Sorensen said the Wrench warmers had two mascots this year, male and female. She used social media to tell people more about the Wrench Warmers.

Out of 62 teams, the Wrench Warmers were second in competition with the balls.

The three team members said it costs money, about \$5,000, to actively be involved in team competition.

Sorensen pointed to six sponsors as being forces behind the Wrench Warmers. Sponsors include: Blooming Prairie Education Foundation, Minimizer, Metal Services, BS Solidworks, Boeing and Zellmer family.

Villarreal said all team members are challenged to come up with a robot design.

“Some kids come up with some really good ideas,” said Coach Oelkers.

All robots are inspected through a rigorous process before competition, said assistant coach Brandon Oelkers.

“I think you guys are amazing,” observed CAP member Betty Behnken.

“It’s neat to see how other teams approach the competition,” said Oelkers.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
The Wrench Warmers robotics team competed in the Lake Superior Region recently and continued to see growth in the robotics program. Shown from left to right are: Row 1: Riley Millam, Reese Millam Row 2: Matt Steiner (Mentor), Brandon Oelkers (Coach), Halle Strunk, Payton Simon, Tommy Donnelly, Mackenzie Madsen, Sarah Oelkers (Coach), Wendy Anderson (Mentor) Row 3: Gavin Halverson, Devontae Freese, Chris Shepard, Baylee Sorensen, Charlie Heimerman, Isaac Arnold, Cole Graves Row 4: Seth Peterson, Kisha Aquino, Jillian Wigham, Viridiana Villarreal, William Cardenas Row 5: Carson Wacek, Ian Wayne, Adam Larson, Jack Matson, DJ Stender.

PUBLIC RECORDS

Steele County Births July 2018

Morgan Kay Miller, Parents: Alexandra and Brian, July 6.
Levi Luke Schmidt, Parents: Laurie and Luke, July 6.
Maverick Scott Petersen, Parents: Christine and Kyle, July 7.
Amelia Junie Misgen, Parents: Sara and Mark, July 9.
Aria Jo Nankivil, Parents: Natasha and Jordan, July 12.
William Jon Wiersma, Parents: Melissa and Jon, July 14.
Cecilia Ann Rose Geiger, Parents: Kathrine and Mitchell, July 15.
Ruben Salcedo, Parents: Martha and Ruben, July 16.
Ashtyn Marie Arndt, Parents: Brittney and Nicholas, July 19.
Camila Milena Burciaga, Parents: Parents: Jennifer Weller and Tony Burciaga, July 19.
Emerson James Ness, Parents: Jill and Matthew, July 19.
Tucker Jon Tlusty, Parents: Jenna and Colten, July 19.
Kieran Curtis Radel, Brooke and Alison, July 20.
Jackson Evans Peake, Parents: Allison and Nicholas, July 23.
Karlie Abigail Wenzl, Parents: Amanda and Kyle, July 23.
Zuhayb Mohammed Abullahi, Parents: Dahabo Abdulle and Mohammed Sharif, July 25.
Zayn Sakriye Mahamud, Parents: Nasteho Jama and Sakriye Mohamed, July 27.
Griffin Robert Ulrich, Parents: Jennafer and Dale, July 27.
Isabelle Rose Scheller, Parents: Amy and Jonathan, July 28.

Steele County Deaths July 2018

David Schirmacher, 78, Owatonna, July 1.
Michael Stenzel, 67, Owatonna, July 1.
Susan Johnson, 59, Rochester, July 4.
Judith Supalla, 79, Owatonna, July 4.
Ida Dolan, 99, Owatonna, July 7.
Frances Janous, 86, Owatonna, July 7.
David Lindberg, 64, Owatonna, July 8.
Penny Christianson, 60, Austin, July 9.
Jeanne Knutson, 60, Owatonna, July 10.
Gertrude Bartsch, 96, Owatonna, July 11.

Barbara Klecker, 67, Owatonna, July 11.
Michael Gjerdahl, 80, Owatonna, July 12.
Cindy Hovland, 61, Owatonna, July 12.
Janice Ebert, 81, Owatonna, July 14.
Richard Johnson, 77, Owatonna, July 17.
Leona Pogones, 88, Owatonna, July 17.
Magdalyn Bocker, 78, Medford, July 18.
Wayne Gullickson, 83, Blooming Prairie, July 19.
Curtis Goodmanson, 65, Owatonna, July 21.
Donald Schmudlach, 51, Owatonna, July 21.
Gregory Spence, 54, Ellendale, July 22.
Arthur Froehlich, 92, Austin, July 23.
Theresa Schmidt, 51, Albert Lea, July 23.
Robert Meier, 67, Owatonna, July 24.
Richard Kniefel, 89, Owatonna, July 25.
Raymond Guttormson, 96, Austin, July 26.
Regina Wacek, 93, Blooming Prairie, July 27.
James Wobschall, 66, Owatonna, July 27.
Rose Mills, 81, Blooming Prairie, July 29.

Steele County Marriages July 2018

Jeremy Scott Milton and Vicki Lynn Taylor, July 6.
Dakota Lee Froehlich and Tabitha Annette Bennett, July 6.
Alexander Jon Perrine and Kristen Elizabeth Shaw, July 7.
James Richard Young Sr. and Jeannette Fuentes, July 7.
Jayden Kristine Webster and Wesley Alvin Schultz, July 7.
Madison Jo Eggermont and John-Rudolph Hatcher Smith, July 7.
Ethan Douglas Wightkin and Amy Ellen Neidich, July 8.

Khader Ahmad Khader Safi and Nancy Feigh Barnett, July 13.
Sabrina Lynn Shouse and Dustin Allen Eenigenburg, July 14.
Luis Octavio Rios Pastrano and Rosa Irene Solorio, July 14.
Chelsea Nicole Fleitman and Michael Scott Kunz, July 14.
Matthew David Clark and Macie Lynn Lembke, July 14.
Mia Harmony Cain and Dylan Daniel Hohenstein, July 14.
Andrew William Jewison and Kaitlin Jean Demuth, July 21.
David Alan Hofmaster and Amy Rachelle Elmore, July 21.
Andrea Jean Tomschin and Daniel Timothy Larson, July 21.
Jay Kevin Copp and Leona Margaret Kaiser, July 21.
Jason Howard Vorlicek and Jacqueline Jo Reiter, July 21.
Robert Clifford Stoen Sr. and Brianna Renee Seitz, July 21.
Patrick Allen Ingvaldson and Jennifer Lynn Hoffman, July 24.
Anne Elisa Erickson and Anthony Walter Cloud, July 28.

Steele County Divorces July 2018

Lorie Lee Suarez and Jorge Suarez.
Jessica Lee Martinez and Victor Hugo Martinez Villalobos.
Catherine Ann O'Brien and Matthew Stanley O'Brien.
Amy Marie Cockram and Timothy James Cockram.
Ryan Charles Webinger and Theresa Eileen Webinger.
Skye Ashley Toast and Britten Ken Quam.
Melissa Ann Christy and Jack Lee Christy.
Shirley Ilene Schneidereit and Thomas Schneidereit.
Joel R. Hershberger and Valenchia Lee Hershberger.
Deborah Christine Michelle Peterson Hondl and Michael James Hondl.
Jessica Mae Brandenburg and Phillip Jon Schweisthal.

A touching reunion



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
It was a reunion that touched the hearts of Burton and Ardis Knutson as they hosted German exchange student Thomas Kiehlborn and his family recently. Kiehlborn was a foreign exchange student in 1990-91 at the Knutsons' home. He was very active in sports, competing in basketball and baseball. Shown from left are: Alena and Thomas with Burton Knutson and Kiehlborn's sons Tim, left and Jan, right. The Kiehlborns reside in Kassel, 150 miles north of Frankfurt.

Women of First Lutheran Church Blooming Prairie

Extend a welcoming invitation to

GUEST DAY

Wednesday, May 1
9:30 - 11 a.m. with Brunch

Speaker Heidi Becker
Founder of Warrior Wagons

Come join us for a morning of fellowship!

RSVP to 507-475-0830
or email
firstluthoffice@yahoo.com

Panther of the Week



Blake Klimmek



This week's Panther of the Week is Blake Klimmek.

Blake is the son of Harley and Amy Klimmek. He is in Mr. Beynon's third grade class. Blake is one of the hardest workers in class. He's improved so much in reading and excels in math. He's always kind and respectful to adults and his peers alike.

Blake loves playing football with Sean, Lukas, and Calvin. He also is an excellent center in hockey.

Blake's favorite food is steak and his favorite book series is Diary of a Wimpy Kid.

Keep up the great work Blake!

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STEELE COUNTY TIMES
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PASTOR'S COLUMN

Jesus does not shy away from despair



Rev. Stephanie Wood
AURORA LUTHERAN,
OWATONNA

Notre Dame is burning. As I write, this famous cathedral that began construction in the year 1160 has been engulfed in flames. Watching this landmark and place of worship with flames reaching beyond the roof and kissing the sky, I am reminded of many churches that have burned. Some suffered from lightning strikes, accidents, hate crimes or arson. It is jarring to watch a place with so much history – weddings, baptisms and funerals. A place where the community gathers to support one another and talk to God, go up in flames. Suddenly, the communities and individuals whose lives were touched by Notre Dame and other parishes impacted by fire are turned upside down by the unexpected.

In the late 90s, the church I grew up in

suffered from fire damage as a result of arson. Between the damage from the fire, smoke and water, only our sanctuary remained open. However, our Sunday school classrooms needed significant remodeling. I remember that didn't leave us deterred. On our first day back, the Sunday School walked as if on parade from the church to a nearby Lutheran school that allowed us to use their rooms for classes. It was an adjustment and a challenge. However, as someone sprayed on the plywood covering a window, "Our Faith was Fired Up." This tragedy fanned the flames of faith within our community and I believe we came out stronger.

Following the death of Jesus, the disciples lives were destroyed by the unthinkable,

not by fire but by a cross. The dreams they had for a savior who would liberate them from an oppressive power. The wisdom and guidance they looked forward to receiving. The friend and teacher they expected to follow forever. All this and more was changed by the death of Jesus. The lives they imagined were ripped at the seams.

When all hope seemed lost, the women went to the tomb expecting death. Only to later find Jesus living and breathing among them. Death no longer had the final word but had been destroyed in his death and resurrection. In the many places in our lives where the unexpected has left our lives in shambles. The relationships broken, the jobs lost, the chemo treatments that failed

or the death of a loved one. Jesus enters into all places that seem hopeless. He does not shy away from despair.

Where we expect to find death we may discover new life. Life may not look the same as before just as Notre Dame will never again have the beautiful arching buttresses created centuries ago. Even Jesus' resurrection didn't result in a return to business as usual. The challenge is to not lose hope in the midst of the fire and remember the risen Christ walks with us through it all. When the floor was covered with the ashes of the famous arches and spire, the cross remained standing and the candles lit with people's prayers continued to burn. With echoes of the past, a new life, a new chapter awaited to be revealed.

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. Bible Study;
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
Pastor Mark Neumann
507-451-4125
goodshepherdowatonna.com
Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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

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

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

10:15 a.m. Sun.

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

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
28959 630th Ave., 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
Father Raul Silva
Fr. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
507-465-8217
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday

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

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

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

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

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

CHRISTIAN

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

PENTECOSTAL

FIRST UNITED 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
507-215-2249
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.

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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

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

UCC

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

BAPTIST

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

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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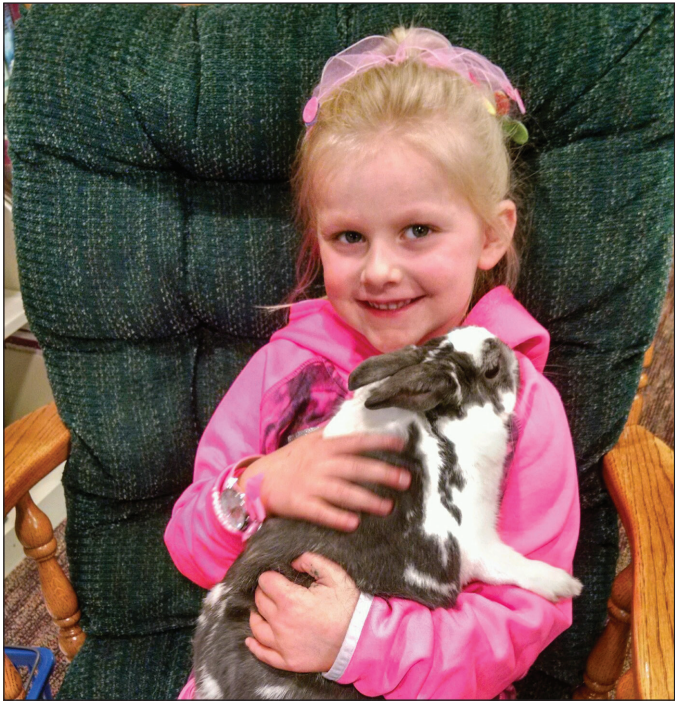
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Story time with the bunny

The Blooming Prairie Public Library has been featuring a Barnyard series for story time. Librarian Nancy Vaillancourt saved the bunnies for the days leading up to Easter for kids to enjoy. Brecklynn Trostem enjoys an opportunity to cuddle with a bunny. Vaillancourt has her own pet rabbit and also fosters rabbits.

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BP buys a new plow

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

It was a short but sweet meeting for the Blooming Prairie City Council on Monday, April 15.

The council approved the purchase of a 2006 Sterling L8500 Plow Truck from FM Truck Sales for \$27,500 and the sale of the city's current plow truck, a 1994 Ford, during the meeting that lasted only about 15 minutes.

City Administrator Andrew Langholz gave his monthly report to the council and mayor. He said the ditch cleaning around town has nearly been completed.

Langholz notified council members that the Pine Springs Pool has 13 life-guards for the coming season. The pool is scheduled to open from June 10 to August 11.

He plans to attend the Minnesota City Manager Conference at the Grand View Lodge in Nisswa from May 1 through 3.

Blooming Prairie has a new Community and Economic Development (CEDA) representative, Nicholas Ouellette, according to Langholz.

In other news, the council:

- Held the annually Board of Appeal and Equalization before the city council meeting. One member of the public attended the meeting. "We accepted the recommen-

SEE BP PLOWS, B3

Vibrant to feature man who lost family

Vibrant Life Assembly of God in Ellendale invites the public to an upcoming event featuring a man who lost his family.

Over Labor Day weekend in 2003, Robert Rogers and his family consisting of his wife and four small children were sharing joy with other family at a wedding for most of the day. On their way home from the wedding, they were caught in a flash flood and all members of the family perished except for Robert.

His story made national news and most were simply amazed at how "at peace" he appeared to be even though he lost his entire family.

"We feel that Robert's story and the peace he found after going through it would likely be an inspiration to many in our communities," said Timothy Gassmann, one of the organizers of the event. "We want to really bless both Robert, and we want to minister to as many people in this area as possible with his story."

Gassmann pointed out there is a happy ending to the story. Roberts remarried in 2006, and he and his new wife now have five children. "God has fully restored, and then some, everything Robert lost and he is using him mightily for the kingdom," Gassmann said.

Rogers will appear at Vibrant Life over three days beginning May 3.

There will be a youth event at 7 p.m. on May 3. The public is welcome to come, but the

SEE VIBRANT, B2



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Farce of Habit opens Friday night at the Little Theatre in Owatonna. Organizers of the show promise the new comedy will produce lots of laughs and smiles.

It's such a farce

Little Theatre to bring laughs to stage

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

The Little Theatre of Owatonna's newest production has all the ingredients of a good comedy. There's an uptight businessman, a policewoman with a bold personality, a nun, a husband and wife who run a fishing lodge, their son and daughter-in-law, and an axe murderer on the loose, all thrown together to create a southern-fried farce.

"Farce of Habit" takes place in the Reel 'Em Inn, a fishing lodge situated on a lake in the Ozarks where the cast of characters are all looking for a little vacation, something the owners could use as well.

"My character owns an inn in Arkansas and he loves to hunt and fish, mostly fish, and he gets roped in by the wife to help run the inn," Tim Fitzgerald, who plays D. Gene Wilburn said. "He's not really a businessman, he's more of an outdoorsman who has a business."

Sandee Hardy-Hagen helming her seventh production at the Little Theatre finds a lot of fun in the story. "We have two people, D. Gene and Wanelle, they live in Arkansas and they own a cabin and business really isn't what they want it to be," she said. "There's a retreat for nuns and the owners have a son and daughter-in-law and the son is acting sort of strange."

"We also have a guest who's hiding from someone, and a man who has been in an office for 30 years and he's not very social," she said of some of the other characters passing through

the inn. "They find out there's an axe murderer there and D. Gene has a sister who's a cop and she seems to be the one that tries to calm everyone down and all these people interact with each other."

Despite the presence of the axe murderer, the play is a romp filled with eccentric characters. "It's fast paced compared to some other plays, and it's fun," Hardy-Hagen said. "Farce is making fun of different things and all the owner D. Gene wants to do is go fishing out on his boat and he never gets to, too much stuff keeps happening."

"His wife also has a bad habit of drinking too much coffee and that's not good for her so they're trying to quit habits with all this other stuff going on," she explained. "It's not what you would want a vacation to be like. There's a lot of laughs here."

One of Hardy-Hagen's favorite aspects of the play is the character of Maxie Wilburn Suggs, D. Gene's policewoman sister. "Maxie is a police officer who's in her 60s and is just really holding on to get her pension," Kathy Rush Vizina who portrays the character explained.

"She does basically whatever the chief asks her to do because she wants to get to her pension," Vizina said. "She has a big heart. She loves her family and she'll do whatever she can to help the family."

Vizina explained that there's a lot of excitement in the play for the audience. "There's a lot of little twists and turns," she said. "It's really funny, and when I read the script, I fell in love with it. The audience is really going to have a blast."



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Comedy ensues as an ensemble of eccentric characters spend a crazy vacation in an Arkansas fishing inn in the new comedy "Farce of Habit" showing at the Little Theatre of Owatonna.

Ron Hager plays the character of Huddle Fisk, an introverted office worker there on vacation. "He's never really taken any chances and he's looking to expand on that," Hager said. "He realized that the only thing he's ever done is work and realized that there should be more to life and so he comes to this place and realizes that yes there is more to life."

"The play is about making people realize that not all habits are bad, and there's a reason why things happen," Hager said. "There's something at the end that people will be surprised at. Prepare to laugh, and laugh a lot."

There is a lot of fun to be had in putting on a comedy like this one. "Everybody wants to smile, and everybody wants to laugh,"

actor Tim Fitzgerald said. "I love making people smile and making people laugh."

Anyone looking for a good comedy to pull them out of any remaining winter doldrums should look no further than "Farce of Habit." The play will be showing at the Little Theatre of Owatonna on April 26 and 27, and May 3 and 4 at 7:30 p.m. Sunday matinees will be performed on April 28 and May 5 at 2 p.m.

The play features actors Elisabeth Wadman, Tim Fitzgerald, Kathy Rush Vizina, Tim Abraham, Abigail Barnes, Craig Haverich, Ron Hager, Lisa Biwer, and Lisa Cochran. The technical director is Kimberly Keck and Sandee Hardy-Hagen serves as artistic director.

Kibler takes on new role

The Board of Directors of the Freeborn County Historical Society is pleased to announce the



STEPHANIE KIBLER

hiring of Stephanie Kibler as the executive director of the Society.

Kibler has made a career out of working for nonprofit membership organizations ranging from health and human services to historical societies. She has an extensive background in membership development, marketing, programming and fund development.

Most recently, she worked as the manager of meetings and events with the Steele County Historical Society in Owatonna.

Kibler currently serves as a City Council member in Ellendale and is on the Board of Directors for the Community Foundation of Ellendale.

"I am excited about this new chapter in my life," said Kibler. "I am confident my experience with other nonprofits will be an asset to the Society. I am looking forward to meeting all the volunteers and members that are the heartbeat of the organization."

The Freeborn County Historical Museum, Library and Village are part of the Freeborn County Historical Society, a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1948. Initially, rooms in the basement of the courthouse were used for collection storage. During the late 1950s, the log cabin and schoolhouse were moved into place as the Village was formed. In 1961, a school tour was given to students at the Fairgrounds location and the courthouse rooms. Construction of the Museum building began in 1965. The Society collects, preserves and tells the story of Freeborn County's past through museum exhibits, research, collections, tours, and educational programs.

Steele County 4-H salutes volunteers



Steele Talkin' TRACY IGNASZEWSKI

Each year, thousands of volunteers in Minnesota donate their time and energy to make their communities a better place to live. One group that relies heavily on volunteers is the University of Minnesota Extension's 4-H Youth Development Program.

Minnesota 4-H supports nearly 11,000 adult volunteers annually who engage young people in a variety of hands-on learning experiences. Volunteers are critical to the success of 4-H programs and making a difference in the lives of youth. In Steele County, over 225 youth and adults volunteer in our county 4-H program. Volunteers, both youth and adult, serve as club leaders, project leaders, committee members, and in advisory capacities for the 4-H Youth Development Program.

SEE STEELE TALKIN', B2

Snow relief bill helpful to BP Schools

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Blooming Prairie students will not have to make up anymore additional days, thanks to the "Snow Day Relief Bill" that Gov. Tim Walz recently signed.

The bipartisan compromise gives schools more flexibility when it comes to making up all the days they canceled. Minnesota normally requires public schools to hold 165 days of classes per academic year, but the new law lets districts make an exception this year.

Superintendent Barry Olson informed the school board the district will have to appeal and petition the state during its monthly meeting on Monday, April 15.

"We are still working out, but I think overall it will be fine," Olson said. "There is no good answer. Obviously the best thing is to have school with kids in the classrooms and teachers teaching, but you all know the what we have dealt with this winter."

Blooming Prairie was on

track to hit 165 days until winter weather caused the district to cancelled school on April 11 and 12. The district has had to cancel school 11 days this school year due to weather related issues.

"People ask if that is record and it's the record by a long shot," Olson said. "I think the record was five days before that."

The final day for students will be Friday, May 31.

"We just felt, administratively and hearing from our staff, that those days in June

just would not accomplish what we wanted to," Olson said. "If we miss further days in April or May due to weather then we might have to petition for more. This weather has just been amazing to me. It's incredible."

Teachers are responsible to make up four full days between the dates of June 3 and August 9.

"We had to add two more staff days during the summer," Olson said. "We are working closely with the administration to find the best and fairest way to do that."

SEE SNOW RELIEF, B2

Unsung Hero nominations sought for Ellendale

Ellendale is looking for unsung heroes.

The Ellendale Community Action Group (ECAG) will have nomination forms out this coming week for the 2019 Ellendale Days “Unsung Hero” at several area businesses. Area residents are encouraged to nominate someone who lives in the Ellendale area (both city or country), and who has done a lot of volunteer work in our community area in recent years. Perhaps they have done a random act of kindness for others and they love our community and want to make it a better place to live for everyone.

The winner of this contest will be named and honored at the 2019 Ellendale Days Summer Celebration kick-off event on Friday evening June 21 during the ECAG Bingo event at the Ellendale Community Building and they will be riding in Ellendale Days Parade the following afternoon.

All forms must be completed and turned in to any ECAG member or the site where the form was picked up at by May 31. The nomination forms will be at the following businesses in Ellendale: 1st National Bank, Floor 4-U, Steve’s Meat Market, Lerberg’s Foods, and the Ellendale Municipal Liquor. The final decision of this years “Unsung Hero” will be made by the members of the ECAG.

ECAG is a non-profit organization made up of Ellendale area community volunteers who are making differences both small and large to make the community “The Best there is to be” for all younger and older citizens. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Ellendale Community Center and new members are always welcome.

Fair searches for top senior volunteers

Nomination forms are now available for the 2019 Steele County Citizen Volunteer of the Year.

The award is sponsored by the Steele County Exchange Club in Cooperation with the Steele County Free Fair. A Steele County male and female senior citizen aged 70 and over will be selected and honored on Senior Day at the 2019 Steele County Free Fair.

Nomination forms are available at Senior Place in Owatonna, the SCFF office and from Bruce Kubicek at 507-451-6616 or on line at mnstatefair.org/recognition programs.

Deadline for nominations is July 1.

The award recognizes outstanding male and female senior citizens who have contributed time and talent to benefit their community and its citizens after reaching the age of 65. Nominees must be 70 by June 1.

The recognition program at the SCFF will take place in Fair Square Park on Senior Day, Thursday, Aug. 15 beginning at 11:30 a.m. The Steele County winners will also be honored at the Minnesota State Fair.

STEELE TALKIN' FROM B1

Volunteers spend numerous hours working on tasks, such as mentoring a child with a 4-H project, leading a project with youth to serve the community, or helping organize an event at the county fair.

Steele County is honored to work with youth and adults who give their time and talents to make “the best better” and grow opportunities for youth to explore projects, careers, and hands on learning. This year we thanked our adult volunteers at the beginning of April with a meal and teambuilding fun at the Game Show Battle Room, giving them a chance to make connections with other volunteers and staff here locally in Steele County. 4-H is growing in leadership with youth and adults leading the way to build a better community and we thank everyone who gives their time.

The work of 4-H volunteers is continuous. Every day volunteers lend a helping hand to make 4-H programs more beneficial to the residents of Steele County.

Those interested in joining the team of 4-H Volunteers are invited to contact the University of Minnesota Extension-Steele County at 507-444-7685, or through <https://local.extension.umn.edu/local/steele>.

Tracy Ignaszewski is the 4-H program coordinator for Steele County. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

SNOW RELIEF FROM B1

In other news, the board:

- Accepted the rescinded resignation of high school custodian John Shoden. He had resigned last month.
- Approved Kristin Romeo to the position of school social worker for the 2019-20 school year.
- Approved Darren Pauly to the position of special education teach at the high school effective for the 2019-20 school year.
- Approved Sara Reinke to the position of middle school teacher at the high school effective for the 2019-20 school year.
- Approved Briana Groskesen to the position of math teacher at the high school effective for the 2019-20 school year.
- Approved a resolution relating to the termination and non-renewal of the contract for two probationary staff members. The resolution passed 6-0 during the mandatory roll call vote.
- Approved participation in the “Student Assurance Services, Inc.” voluntary insurance coverage for the 2019-20 school year.
- Approved a resolution for membership in the Minnesota State High School League.
- Approved and adopted a resolution appointing Chris Staloch as the LEA representative for the 2019-20 school year.
- Approved the two percent general education staff development set-a-side for 2020.
- Discussed the class sizes and enrollment of the district.



COURTESY MARILYN MESHKE

During a flag raising project April 20, members of the Sons of the American Legion raised the tall pole at the Veterans Memorial in Blooming Prairie on April 20. Johnson Tree Service supplied its bucket truck to help with the project.

Flag pole raised at BP Vets Memorial

On a beautiful day on Saturday, April 20, Squadron #52 of the Blooming Prairie Sons of the American Legion, took full advantage to raise the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial Flagpole at the Memorial site.

Fifteen members from the squadron and several committee members from the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial Committee, met to help raise the 38 1/2-foot Independence Model flagpole into the air.

The job was made much easier with the help of Brayton Johnson and his lift truck from Johnson Construction and Tree Service of Blooming Prairie.

Johnson donated his time and the cost of the lift truck to the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial.

The flagpole was gently lowered into a 3½-foot galvanized sleeve and filled with fine silica sand.

The wind rating for the pole and flags is 97 mph!

The Memorial will be formally dedicated on Veterans Day 2019, Nov. 11, but the 6 foot by 10 foot U.S. Flag and 4 foot by 6 foot POW-MIA Flag will be raised on Memorial Day and Fourth of July to honor all veterans.

In other exciting news, the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial Committee is meeting this week to consider a bid for concrete curb and sidewalk at the Memorial.

The goal is to have the curb, sidewalk, electrical, and landscaping completed for the “Open House” to be held on June 15.

Another ambitious goal is to raise money to black top the parking lot immediately around the Memorial. “We will be looking for more of the great support from the Community to get the job done,” said Tom Peterson, chairman of the Veterans Memorial Committee.

VIBRANT FROM B1

target audience is junior high and high school ages.

On Saturday, May 4, a men’s breakfast will take place at 7:30 a.m. All men are welcome, but they are encouraged to RSVP to 507-363-4561 so food arrangements can be made.

At 6:30 p.m. on May 4, the church will host a community event where Rogers will share his story and some music. People are encouraged to RSVP by noon on May 3. Ages 8 and older will benefit from his story. There will be nursery available for children under 8.

On Sunday, May 5, Rogers will be preaching at both worship services at 9 and 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

There is no charge, but a love offering will be taken. Books and CDs will also be available for sale.

Vibrant is located at 702 3rd St. S. in Ellendale.

Dedication for quilts



A special dedication ceremony for quilts made at First Lutheran Church was held on Sunday, April 14 at the church. One of the quilters, Phyllis Peterson, participates in the service. The women of First Lutheran made 237 quilts for Lutheran World Relief over the past few months.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUJ

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MnDOT sees \$7M benefit from Adopt a Highway volunteers

Volunteers helping with the Adopt a Highway program picked up nearly 36,000 bags of litter and cleaned up almost 9,000 miles of state roadways in 2018, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Statewide more than 3,500 volunteer groups, ranging from four to 25 people, spent an estimated 282,000 hours cleaning roadway ditches across Minnesota last year, which translated into an estimated \$7 million benefit for the state. In southeast Minnesota, 595 groups participate in cleaning state highways in 11 counties.

“When our volunteers are picking up litter along the roadways it shows that Minnesotans care about their state and it is a win-win for all involved,” said Ann McLellan, statewide Adopt a Highway manager.

The program has been part of MnDOT’s maintenance operations since 1990. More than 4,400 segments of state roadways are currently adopted in Minnesota by volunteers representing schools, businesses, faith-based groups, families and individuals.

“We still have at least 700 segments available for adoption, most of them in Greater Minnesota. In the Twin Cities area, there are 28 segments available,” said McLellan.

Individuals and groups who want to volunteer should go to www.mndot.gov/adopt/ to find their local area program coordinator. In southeast Minnesota, there are 63 sections available for new volunteer groups to adopt. Groups interested in adopting a highway can call 507-286-7508 to inquire about available sections.

MnDOT provides safety training, trash bags and safety vests, and picks up the filled bags that volunteers leave at the side of the road. MnDOT also posts signs along the adopted segments of roads with the names of the volunteer groups.

Volunteers are asked to commit to the program for at least two years and pick up litter on both sides of the roadway at least twice a year. The average length of an adopted roadway is two miles.



BP BUYS A PLOW FROM 81

dation set forth by the county in a motion,” Langholz said.

- Approved two temporary liquor licenses to the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club to operate a Bloody Mary Bar during a bean bag tournament on Sunday, April 28 and for a Celebration of Life and Cinco de Mayo event on Sunday May, 5.
- Approve the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal. Every five years the city needs to update its permit with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The standards established by the NPDES permit regulate the treatment and disposal of waste gathered from the sanitary sewer system.
- Approved the recommendation from Planning Commission to rezone a parcel on Fourth Place SW from an R-1 (single family dwelling) to a R-2 (multifamily dwelling). Nolan and Linda Christianson plan to build a twin home on the property.
- Tabled a \$5,000 request from the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce Langholz said the funds were requested to purchase brochures and for the creation of a website, but the city didn’t have the funds in the budget, so it was tabled until next year.
- Approved the 2019 Sealing Coating Project, not to exceed \$35,000. Seal coating is a technique which preserves the condition of a street by sealing the surface and small cracks within the existing asphalt pavement. This type of preventative maintenance on a timely basis can significantly improve the life of the street and it helps prevent pot holes.

Feeding the hungry



Abram Moran distributes bread during the Children’s Good Friday Journey at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna. Moran and others shared bread with those in attendance to show what it was like for Jesus to feed the 5,000. There were 10 scenes depicting Jesus’ journey to the cross to die for others.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

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MEDFORD HIGH HONOR ROLL

Grade 7
Mia Amberg
Riley Babcock
Ava Clark
Abigail Cloutier
Ava Cottrell
Omar Guerrero
Sadie Kern
Annette Kniefel
Isabel Miller
Liliana Murphy
Hunter Perdue
Carolina Perez
Mataya Roos
Kynnedie Schauer
Ethan Solomon
Kourtney Stoneking



Tessa Underdahl
Grade 8
Andrea Bock
Samantha Buecksler
Casey Chambers
Rian Cloutier
Landon Driscoll
Abigail Fitzgerald
Dylan Heiderscheidt
Tate Hermes
Connor Jones
Grace Keller
Preston McCarty
Jack Meyer
Riley Norland
Payton Ristau
Tyler Steffen

Reagan Sutherland
Mackenzie Zacharias
Grade 9
Logan Buecksler
Isabel DeLeon
Clara Kniefel
Jacob Kucera
Samantha Miller
Julia Niles
Elizabeth Peterson
Erika Thurnau
Ava Jae Westbrock
Jeancarlo Zuniga
Grade 10
Jenna Berg
Kinsey Cronin
Garrett Fitzgerald

Johanna Grant
Lizbeth Gutierrez
Brock Merritt
Mason Nagel
Brooke Purrier
Lily Roehrick
Isabella Steffen
Tyler Stursa
Miya Weber
Grade 11
Jordan Edel
Taylor Fette
Zachary Finholdt
Veronica Gonzalez
Hailee Homeier
Shawn Johnson
Emma Kniefel



Kiley Nihart
Mackenzie Paulson
Kevin Robles
Jordyn Stadler
Grade 12
Andria Archibald
Mary Braasch-Turi
Bailey DuChene
Rachael Luebbe
Noah Pirk
Claire Stewart
Austin VonRuden
Kelsey Walock

HONOR ROLL

Grade 7
Maizee Alberts
Jacqueline Arriaga
Mya Borwege
London Caron
Kelsie Casper
Jacquelyn Cole
Presley Condon
Grant Cuevas
Avery Dressen
Dakota DuChene
Tyler Ernste
Lily George
Broderick Goodnature
Hannah Hansen
Savannah Larson
Beau Lawson
Emely Lazaro
Luis Lopez
Rachel Miller
Olivia Mullenberg
Darrion Rech
Peyton Snow
Lauren Stinocher
Grade 8
Autumn Bender

Joshua Bluhm
Kylie Dusek
Jacob Esch
Alex Helgeson
Josephine Homeier
Morgan Jones
Lydia Krenske
Beau LaCroix
Adalia List
Carter Luebbe
Jenesis McGuire
Kael Neumann
Cohen O’Connor
Martina Smith
Paige Stadler
Isis Walters
Josephine Witter
Grade 9
Jacob Andrews
Gabrielle Bennerotte
Carter Blome
Caydon Budde
Jordan Capello
Payton Caron
Reed Cumberland
Jazmyne Duncan

Jacob Ernste
Cheyenne Fedder
Ryllei Federly
Henry Grayson
Nicole Harfmann
Johnathan Houston
MacKenzie Kellen
Megan Klein
Lynn Larson
Bridgette Lemke
Journey Palluck
Jack Paulson
Justin Ristau
Scott Scholljegerdes
Nicole Schrot
Hannah Schull
Anna Sobrak
Jayme Stransky
Malachi Sutcliffe
Amelia Thompson
Rosie Tobar
Jared Zuniga
Grade 10
Braden Barbeau
Brayden Beede
Emily Chadwick

Isaac Enzenauer
Alissa Freeloove
Gavin Hermes
Catrina Herr
Madison Jaster
Matthew Knutson
Ernesto Lazaro
Angela Lippert
Sierra Lustig
Alexander Oatway
Luz Peralta
Jesse Phillips
Peyton Seiler
Alex Vandereide
Haley VonRuden
Hanna VonRuden
Gunner White
Halli Zumbunnen
Grade 11
Jade Arriaga
Cayden Benton
Conrad Blome
Wyatt Brewer
Jerone Chavis
Emily Cloutier
Kylie Cumberland

River Disher
Sebastian Duncan
Devon Federly
Yazmin Gonzalez
Sierra Larson
Reilly List
Isabel Reuvers
Makayla Smith
Carson Sobrack
Dylan Stenzel
Jeremiah Sutcliffe
Abigail Tellijohn
William VonRuden
Lanaya Wacek
Grade 12
Zackariah Andrews
Tanner Barbeau
Isaiah Chavis
Natalea De Alba
Jason Domstrand
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SOFTBALL

NRHEG's Stork dazzles, strikes out a dozen Blossoms

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva pitcher Sophie Stork twirls a no-hit game as the Panthers (5-1, 3-1) defeated Blooming Prairie in New Richland by a 6-1 score on Thursday, April 18.

Stork struck out 12 Blossoms, walked just one and had an earned run average (ERA) of zero.

Sarah Johns led the Panthers with a 2-for-4 attack at the plate. She

drove in two runs and scored another. Cloie Arndt also scored twice for the Panthers.

BP made five errors in the game.

NRHEG scored four runs in the first inning. The Panthers scored single runs in the second and fourth.

The Blossoms (3-3, 2-3) scored their lone run in the sixth inning.



STORK

BP's Riauna Bishop pitched six innings allowing six runs on four hits with two earned runs.

PANTHERS ROUT TIGERS

Stork allowed just three hits and two earned runs as NRHEG won 14-4 at Medford (0-5, 0-4) in a five inning game.

The Panthers scored eight runs in the second-inning, and three in the third to put the game safely out of reach early.

Arndt had four hits in the game,

including two doubles. She drove in three runs.

Stork added two hits, including a double and a triple and also had three RBIs.

"This was a good team win," NRHEG head coach Wendy Schultz said.

"Arndt continues to be a terror at the plate and Stork also hit well, going for extra bases on two of her hits. The girls played pretty good defense, allowing just two errors to mar their play."

TRACK AND FIELD

Blossoms set 32 PRs at Stewartville

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Blooming Prairie traveled to Stewartville on Tuesday, April 16 for the Glenn Amundsen Invitational.

Stewartville was victorious in boys' and girls' competition with scores of 58 and 47. Byron (47) and Triton (30.5) rounded out the top three boys teams while Grand Meadow/LeRoy-Ostrander/KIngsland/South (41) and Byron (38) did so for the girls.

BP's boys placed sixth with seven points, but set 15 personal records. The Blossoms' girls finished seventh and had PRs.

"The key moving forward is to stay healthy and find the right line up that is going to maximize our numbers," BP head coach Chelsea Van Roekel said. "We want to give each athlete and our all-around team the best chance to succeed."

The Blossoms did not have individual winners, but showed a lot of improvement.

Van Roekel said Mitchell Fiebiger and Gabe Hagen are important veterans in the sprints, but are supported by a very talented and integral group of eighth and ninth graders.

Fiebiger placed fourth in the 100-meter and 200 with times of 12.29 seconds and 24.99, respectively. He was also fifth in the pole vault with a eight-foot jump.

Hagen continues to perform well in the throwing events. He was third in the shot put and seventh in the discus with throws of 43-10 and 111-08. Other top boys finishers for the boys team were Isaac Ille, who was third in

SEE TRACK AND FIELD, B6



Blooming Prairie competes during the Glenn Amundsen Invitational at Stewartville High School on Tuesday, April 16.

STAFF PHOTOS BY MARY NELSON

TENNIS



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Owatonna's Ethan Engel returns a serve in his 6-1, 6-2 defeat of Mankato East/Loyola's Matt Wedzina on at the Owatonna Tennis Center during the 2018 season.

Owatonna building momentum

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Owatonna boys' tennis improved to 4-0 overall and 3-0 in the Big 9 Conference this young season with two impressive conference wins this past week.

The Huskies won 7-0 at Winona on Monday, April 11 and 5-2 against Rochester John Marshall on Thursday, April 18.

"Winona is a young team," Owatonna head coach Curt Matejcek said. "We played well and were only pushed at No. 1 doubles.

"[The match against] John Marshall was a nice conference win for us," he continued. "It's an important win for section seeding. We played well throughout our lineup and I thought our doubles teams had their best day so far. We felt that it was important to sweep doubles because they have a strong singles line up. We were able to split the singles points to come away with the 5-2 victory."

OWATONNA 5, ROCHESTER JOHN MARSHALL 2

SINGLES—No. 1: Anish Singh (JM) defeated Evan Huemoeller 6-4, 7-5. **No. 2:** Lincoln Maher (O) defeated Max Milbrandt 6-1, 6-4. **No. 3:** Glen Erickson (JM) defeated Caleb Schuler 6-3, 6-4. **No. 4:** Mac Pilcher (O) defeated Enoch Kim 2-6, 6-1, 6-1. **DOUBLES—No. 1:** Ethan Engel/Spencer Intrress (O) defeated Marco Kokie/Milan Lecic 6-1, 6-1. **No. 2:** Brendan Kath/Leo Gantert (O) defeated Henry Larson/Johnny Tran 6-4, 6-2. **No. 3:** Collin Pederson/Tyler Harris (O) defeated Stephen Lange Pierson/Anthony Harpsted.

OWATONNA 7, WINONA 0

SINGLES—No. 1: Evan Huemoeller defeated Ian Cross 6-0, 6-0. **No. 2:** Lincoln Maher defeated Drew Lechler 6-0, 6-0. **No. 3:** Caleb Schuler defeated AJ Appacelli 6-0, 6-0. **No. 4:** Mac Pilcher defeated Owen Ping 6-1, 6-0. **DOUBLES—No. 1:** Ethan Engel/Spencer Intrress defeated Lleyton Monk 7-6 (7-4), 6-2. **No. 2:** Brenden Kath/Leo Gantert defeated Andrian Brietzke 6-2, 6-0. **No. 3:** Tyler Harris/Zach Noyce defeated Jared Loos/Will Wisniewski 6-3, 6-1.

SOFTBALL

Blossoms reign supreme at home

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

BP outfielder Marti Snider catches a deep hit during the Blossoms' 5-1 victory over Maple River on Tuesday, April 16.

The Awesome Blossom looked sharp and poised in, perhaps, their best outing so far this season on Tuesday, April 16, when they defeated Maple River 5-1 at BPHS.

The Blossoms (3-3, 2-3) scored three runs in the first and scored their final two in the fifth in earning the victory.

Riauna Bishop pitched five innings, struck out six without any walks and allowed no earned runs.

Allison Krohnberg pitched the final two innings, walking two and allowing three hits and one run. The Blossoms made just one error in the game.

"The Blossoms definitely had their best night on offense," said BP head coach Jenna Volgarino.

SEE SOFTBALL, B6



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

BP outfielder Bobbie Bruns runs out a hit on Tuesday, April 16.

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BP's first baseman Trent Swenson makes a catch during Maple River's 4-0 win on Tuesday, April 16.

Panthers down Blossoms

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva baseball scored four times in the seventh-inning to safely defeat the Awesome Blossoms, 10-6, at Blooming Prairie on Thursday, April 18.

The Panthers (2-4, 2-2) used eight hits and made just two errors in getting the victory.

NRHEG had trio of players score two runs apiece and Spencer Tufte drove in three runs.

The Panthers scored first on an RBI single by Quiten Arndt, and extended their lead to 6-0 when Nick Staloch and Kordell Schlaak scored on a double by Spencer Tufte.

The Blossoms scored a single run in the fourth, three in the fifth, and single runs again in the sixth and seventh to make the game close.

Staloch earned the win on the mound.

“He pitched well in his first start,” NRHEG head coach Drew Paukert. “We were able to piece together the last few innings with Sawyer VanMaldeghem, Tory Christenson, and Addison Deyle.”

NRHEG's Graham Kyllö made a great play going back on a ball to record the last out of the seventh inning with the bases loaded.

BP (1-5, 0-5) had eight hits and two errors.

The Blossoms' Colin Lerum, Tim Wolf and Luke Romeo had two hits each. Romeo added two RBIs.

Payton Simon took the loss for the Blossoms.

A SHUTOUT FOR MAPLE RIVER

BP's Luke Larkoski pitched a strong game, but the offense lagged behind in a conference loss on Tuesday, April 16 when Maple River shutout the Blossoms, 4-0, at BPHS.

Larkoski, a sophomore right-hander, scattered three hits and allowed just one earned run while striking

out eight in the tough-luck decision.

The Eagles (2-4, 2-2) scored single runs in the first and fourth and two more in the sixth to go along with seven hits and one error in picking up the win.

The Blossoms managed just four hits in the game and made three errors to help the Eagles.

Lerum, Karson Vigeland and Larkoski each had one hit. Austin Rickiel pitched the seven innings for Maple River to pick up the victory.

BUCS SCORE DOUBLE-DIGITS

Water-Elysian-Morristown (4-1, 2-0) began last week with a dominating 13-1 victory over the Blooming Prairie.

The Buccaneers had just seven hits in the game but Blossoms made six errors to let them take a 9-1 lead after four innings.

A four run fifth closed out the game on the 10-run rule.

WEM had 13 runs, seven hits and two errors while BP only had one run on three hits.

Wolf had two of the three Blossom hits and drove in their only one run.

Grant McNamara had two runs, two hits, and two RBIs for WEM. Jayson Schneider picked up the win with four innings of work, while Ian Wayne took the loss for the Blossoms, even though he allowed just three hits.



BP's Payton Simon throws out a Maple River runner on Tuesday, April 16.



BP pitcher Luke Larkoski throws a strike against Maple River on Tuesday, April 16.

GOLF



Owatonna's Brody Homan hits a shot at the Owatonna Country Club during the 2018 season.

Huskies come up short at Mankato

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Mankato East had the supreme boys' golf team on Tuesday, April 16 as they defeated Owatonna in a Big 9 Conference dual meet at Mankato Golf Club.

The Cougars finished the meet with a score of 331, while the Huskies walked away with 397.

“It was a great day to be on the course after seeing snow on the course for the last week,” Owatonna head coach Mark Langlois said. “The course was in good shape and the wind was down. We have a young, inexperienced team this year, but I have been excited about our never

give up attitude on the course so far.”

Brody Horman had Owatonna's best score of a 86. Sam Snitker shot a 94, Bradyn Larson a 106, Joey Brueggemeier a 111, Sam Sampson a 112 and Nolan Jacobson a 131.

“Brody Homan had a solid score of 86, two [shots] better than his first meet last week,” Langlois said. “He hit an 8-iron tight on the par 3 16th hole. With Mankato Golf Club being tree lined on each hole, our fairways were down from last week, and we continue to struggle with our short game.

“I am confident with a major focus on our putting now that we can putt outside on real greens, we will see improvement in this area.”

Eagles fly high at Gopher meet

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Maple River girls' golf team shot an excellent 257 to win a Gopher Conference Invitational at Riverview Course in New Richland on Thursday, April 18.

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva's girls finished second at 280, and United South Central came in third with 292.

The Eagle's Lauren Maas claimed medalist honors, with a sparkling 55, while her teammate Isabella Nelson claimed the runner-up with a 59.

Stewartville's Mackenzie Walters came in third with a 61 and USC's Ari Schepper finished with a 63 to claim fourth.

REBELS CLAIM GOPHER CONFERENCE WIN

The United South Central boys' golf team fired a 184 round to win the Gopher Conference Invitational at Riverview Course in New Richland on Tuesday, April 16.

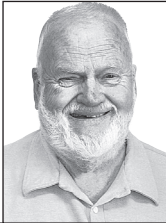
The Rebels edged the Bethlehem Academy Cardinals by three strokes.

Maple River claimed third just one stroke behind at 188. Hayfield, Blooming Prairie and New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva trailed with 202, 208 and 218, respectively.

BA's Khrystian Peterson claimed medalist honors in the meet with an excellent 38. Maple River's Andrew Hoppe took runner-up honors with a 40, Maple River's Mason Sohre and USC's Nolan Magnuson finished tied at third with a 43.

Colin Jordison led the Blooming Prairie golfers with a 45, and David Cartes shot a 51. Sam Pirkel and Ethan Grant came in with 55 and 57, respectively. The Blossoms had six golfers toured the course.

SPRING IS HERE



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

In a week that, for once, was not dominated by weather problems, the Blooming Prairie baseball, softball and the golf teams managed to get some contests in.

Hopefully this week will continue some pleasant weather so they can carry on with their schedules.

Softball had one great game in defeating Maple River while losing contests to Waterville-Elysian-Morristown and New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva.

Baseball suffered two losses for the week. The golf team competed in a conference meet with Colin Jordison having a pretty good round.

Action for all the teams was suspended to recognize and commemorate Easter Sunday. That day is generally turned over to religious celebrations and this last week was no exception. It was a usual time of family get-togethers and spiritual observances during week. It is good that families take time for these traditions.

DRAMATIC EVENTS

Among other things last week, the news was dominated for a couple of days by the fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. It is sad to think that hundreds of years of that traditional building disappeared in just a matter of a few hours.

To save some of the towers and many of the valuables inside proved a bonus for the whole dramatic event. Already a great deal of money has been donated to the rebuilding of the Cathedral and the French have vowed that it will be rebuilt within five years. That will be a good thing.

Of course Easter couldn't pass without some radical group doing their best to disrupt life in general. Eight bombings in the country of Sri Lanka killed 207 people and injured hundreds more. It came as a result of continued fighting and upheaval by splintered groups aiming to destroy normal life in that country.

OUT AND ABOUT

A couple of upcoming events are worth noting. On April 24, a luncheon will be held at the Servicemen's Club for all employers and employees of local businesses. That is a good gesture on the part of the community to see and recognize residents.

That same day the Blooming Prairie Youth Club will be holding an open house and it, too, gives residents of the community another chance

to visit the club and discover all of the good things that happen at that organization. Too often the community is unaware of what does go on at the club and we should be thankful that such an organization still exists and thrives in our town.

Plans are well under way for the big Fourth of July celebration and committees are hard to work making preparations. There are still a number of opportunities available for groups who would like to make some money by sponsoring a game or project of some sort. The more activities the community can provide, the bigger and better celebration it is.

People are also already making plans for the annual golf fun day sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce on July 17. That day provides a very entertaining day for golfers of all ability. In fact, the less ability the golfer has the more fun there seems to be. I am not sure what the theme of this year's event is, but I do know that Becky Noble, from the Chamber of Commerce, will come up with something clever.

PERSONAL HEALTH UPDATE

After a brief stay in the hospital I am now in a transitional care facility working on getting strength enough back to be released. It has been a problematic three or four last weeks but I am also positive that things will evolve to a more normal condition of life.

Technology is an amazing thing and I am still able to keep up with the coverage of local Blossoms so keep those stats coming.

THOSE MINNESOTA TWINS!

So far this season, the Minnesota Twins have been a rather pleasant surprise and I anticipate that they are going to be a strong enough team that they will be able to keep it up throughout the season.

The pitching has been much better and the hitting has certainly been a boon, mark the eight home runs they hit in one game last Saturday. I think it will be a fun season in which to follow the baseball team, and I am also looking forward to seeing the Minnesota Lynx back in action. It should be an exciting year.

With better weather on hand we should continue to enjoy plenty of sports action and that is a good thing. Enjoy the weather, root for the Blossoms, and we'll talk again.

SOFTBALL: Bucks top BP FROM B5

“The team played solid defense to back up the pitchers and BP had command of the mound throughout all seven innings.”

Maggie Bruns and Julia Worke led the Blossom attack with two hits each. Worke had a triple, drove in two runs and scored twice. Bruns also scored a run.

Krohnberg knocked a double and drove in a run.

BP had five runs, eight hits and one error while Maple River (3-4) had two runs, five hits and no errors.

BUCS SCUTTLE BLOSSOMS

Waterville-Elysian-Morristown (3-0) sent BP to an early week defeat of 8-2 on Monday, April 15.

The Bucks had eight runs, 10 hits and six errors, while BP managed just two runs on only three hits and committed three errors in the game.

Bishop pitched three innings with five strikeouts and two walks, and seven earned runs. Krohnberg pitched the final four innings with three strikeouts, allowing three walks, one hit and one run.

Bruns, Maren Forystek and Worke all had one hit. Bruns had a double and one RBI and Worke scored one run.



BP third baseman Maren Forstek makes a throw on Tuesday, April 16.

HOCKEY

Blades' Colagiovanni committed to Trine

SUBMITTED
BY NICK ADAMEK
SPECIAL TO THE SCT

The Steele County Blades are proud to announce that Matt Colagiovanni has committed to play college hockey at Trine University in the fall.

Colagiovanni recently finished his first and only season with the Blades.

The Marcellus, New York, native played in 43 total games for the Blades after being traded from the Kasson Vipers in October.

“He played a hard two-way game and was a great teammate,” said Steele County Blades head coach Nick Adamek. “Matt came in early in the season and had a great attitude and a strong desire to work to be better in hopes of landing a college opportunity.

“I am proud to say that his hard work paid off,” he continued. “Trine is getting a committed player who will excel not only on the ice, but in the classroom as well. We couldn't be happier for him.”

Colagiovanni scored four



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICK ADAMEK

Matt Colagiovanni

goals with an accompanying 37 penalty minutes.

“I'm proud to announce my commitment to the

Trine Hockey Program,” Colagiovanni said. “I would like to thank my family, friends, and teammates that I have had

throughout my hockey career that have pushed me and helped me get to this place.

“I especially want to thank Coach Adamek, my billets, Mike and Marge Steinbauer, and my teammates last season for an awesome experience,” he added.

“I had a great time in Owatonna, improved as a player, and as a person. I am excited to start my college education at Trine and look forward to playing at a higher level with the Thunder Hockey Program.”

Trine University is located in Angola, Indiana, near the border of Michigan and Ohio.

The Thunder have two hockey programs which compete in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) at the NCAA Division III level and the Great Midwest Hockey League (GMHL) at the ACHA Level.

Colagiovanni is the first Blade from the 2018-19 season to make his college commitment.

More information on where other Blades will be headed will be available shortly.

LACROSSE

Eagles walkover Huskies in opener

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Owatonna boys' lacrosse feel short in its season opener 11-4 on Thursday at Apple Valley.

“It was good to get out and play our first game,” Owatonna head coach Scott Seykora said. “Some of these players that played tonight were getting their first varsity experience, so we will look to build on the good things we did and work on some of the fundamental things.”

The Eagles (1-0, 0-0) dominated the time of possession and the Huskies will look to improve in the aspect of the game.

“We need to get better at possessing the ball and we only cleared 38 percent from our defensive zone to offense,” Seykora said. “We will look to improve on those things for our next game.”

Owatonna senior attacker Dawson Ringhofer had two goals. Senior midfielders Tommy Wall and Nick Anderson each scored a goal. Wall added an assist too. Senior midfielder Mason Oland had two assists, senior attacker Dom Wondra added a single assist and freshman goalie Korban Stricklin made seven saves.

Owatonna (0-1, 0-0) hosts Mankato (1-0, 1-0) on Tuesday, April 22, Rochester Century (1-1, 1-0) on Thursday, April 25 and Blooming Kennedy (2-1, 1-0) on Saturday, April 27.

TRACK AND FIELD: 32 PR's

FROM B5

the 1,600 with time of 1:12.52 and Xavier Rennie, who was fourth in the 110 and 300 hurdles with times of 18.19 and 46.85.

“Isaac Ille had a personal best in the 800 in the last meet and continues to perform well for the middle distance events,” said Van Roekel. “Xavier Rennie is a consistent point scorer in the hurdles.”

Gemini Johnson had the Awesome Blossoms' highest finish. She was second in the pole vault and the long jump with leaps of 8-06 and 14-11.5.

“She's been doing well in the pole vault and long jump,” Van Roekel said. “She is a talented, versatile athlete who consistently does well in the field events for the girl's team.”

Van Roekel said BP eight-grader Sierra Larson has shown promise in the sprints. She was fifth in the 200 with a time a 29.23. Other top girls finishers were Micalyn Trihus, Anna Kittelson and Asha Lighthizer. Trihus was sixth in the shot put and discus with tosses of 29-06.5 and 81-08. Kittelson was sixth in the 400 with a time of 1:13.15 and Lighthizer was third in the 3,200.



STAFF PHOTOS BY MARY NELSON

Blooming Prairie competes during the Glenn Amundsen Invitational at Stewartville High School on Tuesday, April 16.



Glenn Amundsen Invitational

Tuesday, April 16 at Stewartville High School

BOYS

Team Results: Stewartville 58, Byron 47, Triton 30.5, GMLOKS 26.5, Kasson-Mantorville 14, Blooming Prairie 7, Hayfield 3.

100-meter dash: 1, Elton Myhre (Stewartville) 11.92; 4, Mitchell Fiebiger (BP) 12.29; 9, Ezra Kiley (BP) 12.66.

200 dash: 1, Anthony Avery (Triton) 23.64; 4, Fiebiger (BP) 24.99.

400 dash: 1, Avery (Triton) 52.72; 7, Samuel Skillestad (BP) 57.93; 15, Carson Brennecke (BP) 1:04.66.

800 run: 1, Isaac Threinen (Kasson-Mantorville) 2:09.47; 10, Hosea Baker (BP) 2:31.76; 16, Tyler Forystek (BP) 2:39.57; 17, Alex Riley (BP) 2:51.32.

1,600 run: 1, Alexander Lawrence (Stewartville) 4:59.49; 3, Isaac Ille (BP) 5:12.52.

3,200 run: 1, Lawrence (Stewartville) 10:34.21; 7, Adam Larson (BP) 12:56.10.

110 hurdles: 1, Lucas Birch (Byron) 16.65; 4, Xavier Rennie (BP) 18.19.

300 hurdles: 1, Ethan Lau (Triton) 44.95; 5, Rennie (BP) 46.85.

400 relay: 1, Byron (Dylan Olive, Dylan Nickrenz, Mitchell Reynolds, Austin Freerksen) 46.26.

800 relay: 1, GMLOKS (Luke Speer, Christian Hjelman, Lucas Howard, James Howard)

1:41.00.

1,600 relay: 1, GMLOKS (Blake Ludemann, Jacob Kerrins, James Howard, Lucas Howard) 3:40.33; 4, Blooming Prairie (Ille, James Wohlfred, Kiley, Skillestad) 3:55.16.

3,200 relay: 1, Stewartville (Christopher Remling, Scott Boelman, Jakob Ratelle, Trent Einertson) 9:07.41; 6, Blooming Prairie (Riley, Isaac Arnold, Forystek, Baker) 19:59.91.

Shot put: 1, Shane Byrne (Stewartville) 46-07; 3, Gabe Hagen (BP) 43-10; 14, Jack Matson (BP) 31-03; 19, Jacob McHenry (BP) 26-08.

Discus: 1, Byrne (Stewartville) 154-00; 7, Hagen (BP) 111-08; 15, Matson (BP) 84-10; 17, Adam Walsh (BP) 78-04.

High jump: 1, Colton Douglas (Byron) 5-10. Pole vault: 1, Trevon Schaefer (Stewartville) 13-00; 5, Fiebiger (BP) 8-00.

Long jump: 1, Titus Christofferson (Byron) 19-01.5; 10, James Wohlfred (BP) 16-08; 18, Ezra Kiley (BP) 15-04.

Triple jump: 1, Jake Braaten (Byron) 38-01; 10, Rennie (BP) 34-04.

GIRLS

Team Results: Stewartville 47, GMLOKS 41, Byron 38, Kasson-Mantorville 29, Triton 12, Hayfield 10, Blooming Prairie 8.

100-meter dash: 1, Kinsey Koebele (Kasson-Mantorville) 13.48; 13, Madi Lea (BP) 15.25; 18, Sophie Thomas (BP) 15.85; 21, Madison Thurnau (BP) 16.15.

200 dash: 1, Anika Reiland (GMLOKS) 26.32; 5, Sierra Larson (BP) 29.23; 10, Abby Braaten (BP) 31.30; 15, Josie Lorenz (BP) 33.03.

400 dash: 1, Maia Peterson (Stewartville) 1:02.24; 6, Anna Kittelson (BP) 1:13.15.

800 run: 1, Neil Graham (Triton) 2:26.31; 12, Isabelle Sunde (BP) 3:04.36; 14, Taylor Wurst (BP) 3:13.11.

1,600 run: 1, Whittney Deno (Kasson-Mantorville) 5:34.67; 10, Abby Smith (BP) 6:44.41; 11, Ashleigh Alwes (BP) 7:19.28.

3,200 run: 1, Emma Arteaga (Byron) 13:50.66; 3, Asha Lighthizer (BP) 15:42.01.

100 hurdles: 1, Hailey Hindt (GMLOKS) 16.29; 8, Greta Sunde (BP) 18.61; 9, Rachael Oswald (BP) 18.89; 14, Grace Krejci (BP) 21.78.

300 hurdles: 1, Hindt (GMLOKS) 49.4; 10, Rachael Oswald (BP) 54.42; 14, Greta Sunde (BP) 59.16; 17, Megan Oswald (BP) 59.36.

400 relay: 1, GMLOKS (Lauren Buchholtz, Hindt, Isabelle Olson, Riley Queensland) 51.85; 6, Blooming Prairie (Krejci, Lea, Larson, Abby Hefling) 58.57.

800 relay: 1, Byron (Claire Graham, Hannah Coleman, Payton Sampson, Olivia Amundson) 1:51.05; 6, Blooming Prairie

(Gemini Johnson, Braaten, Lea, Larson) 2:02.80.

1,600 relay: 1, Stewartville (Kailee Malone, Laura Pedelty, Gracie Waltman, Maia Peterson) 4:24.86; 7, Blooming Prairie (Anna Kittelson, Braaten, Lorenz, Hefling) 5:07.29.

3,200 relay: 1, Stewartville (Pedelty, Malone, Waltman, Olivia Field) 10:23.98; 5, Blooming Prairie (Wurst, Megan Oswald, Isabelle Sunde, Smith) 12:15.89.

Shot put: 1, Maggie Beach (Stewartville) 35-06.5; 6, Micalyn Trihus (BP) 29-06.5; 13, Viridiana Villareal (BP) 25-03.5; 16, Anna Pauly (BP) 23-10.

Discus: 1, Makenna Theobald (Stewartville) 114-04; 6, Trihus (BP) 81-08; 15, Vallareal (BP) 67-06; 25, Marquette Millam (BP) 48-05.

High jump: 1, Queensland (GMLOKS) 5-02. Pole vault: 1, Emma Johnson (Byron) 8-06; 2, Johnson (BP) 8-06; 12, Isabelle Sunde (BP) 6-00.

Long jump: 1, Payton Sampson (Byron) 15-05.5; 21, Lea (BP) 11-11; 24, Rachael Oswald (BP) 9-09.5.

Triple jump: 1, Kelli Schneider (Kasson-Mantorville) 34-03; 16, Greta Sunde (BP) 26-06.5; 17, Megan Oswald 26-02.5.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

APRIL 25
6:30 p.m. – Family Fun Night, BP Library

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

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

MAY 1
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library



Dr. Deborah J. Lien
ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST
DDS, MBS

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ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

APRIL 25
7 a.m. – Ellendale EDA Meeting, Community Building
7:30 p.m. – Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building

APRIL 26
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
5:30 p.m. – Community Ed-Bingo & Pizza, NR HS Lower Commons

APRIL 28
3:30 p.m. – Prairie Fire Theatre, Ellendale Elementary

APRIL 29
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
3:30 p.m. – Prairie Fire Theatre, Ellendale Elementary

APRIL 30
3:30 p.m. – Prairie Fire Theatre, Ellendale Elementary
6:15 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do, Ellendale Gym North

MAY 1
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
3:30 p.m. – Prairie Fire Theatre, Ellendale Elementary

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

APRIL 25
2 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library
6:30 p.m. – Family Fun Night, Owatonna Library
7 p.m. – History Uncorked: Beware of the Horseless Carriage, History Center

APRIL 26
Noon – Arbor Day Tree Planting, City Admin Building
7:30 p.m. – Farce of Habit, Little Theatre of Owatonna

APRIL 27
Munchkin Market, Four Seasons Centre
8 a.m. – Owatonna Senior High Tour, OHS
11 a.m. – Dog Days, Cabela's
6 p.m. – Dancing with Our Steele County Stars, Medford High School

7:30 p.m. – Farce of Habit, Little Theatre of Owatonna

APRIL 28
10 a.m. – Celebrating 100 Years of Trinity Lutheran, Four Seasons Centre
2 p.m. – Earth Day Park Clean Up, Mineral Springs/ Morehouse/Dratts Parks
2 p.m. – Farce of Habit, Little Theatre of Owatonna
2 p.m. – Shattuck-St. Mary's Concert, Arts Center

APRIL 30
10:30 a.m. – Tale Time, Owatonna Library

MAY 1
1:30 p.m. – Village of Yesteryear Tour Season, History Center
5:30 p.m. – Signing Day To Recognize Seniors Starting Jobs, OHS

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.

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.

Cedar River Watershed's photo contest returns

Weekly prizes offered with kayak as grand prize



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Corey Kreutzbender, center, won a free kayak sponsored by Austin Runnings when his name was drawn in October 2018 from all who submitted photos for the Cedar River Watershed District's Cedar Scenes weekly photo contest. CRWD outreach coordinator Tim Ruzek, left, and Austin Runnings manager Everett Hackensmith awarded the kayak along the Cedar River State Water Trail at Ramsey Dam.

With an emphasis on getting people out on or near local waters, the weekly Cedar Scenes photo contest is returning for a third season. Cedar River Watershed District is starting its first of 23 weeks for the contest that will run through Sept. 29, concluding in October with a drawing from all who submitted photos for a free kayak sponsored by the Austin Runnings store.

Cedar Scenes is starting earlier than usual to coincide with the upcoming We Are Water MN statewide traveling exhibit coming to the watershed from April 27 to June 16 at Austin's Jay C. Hormel Nature Center, with CRWD as a co-host.

"Our staff has a great time seeing all the beauty and creativity that comes in through the Cedar Scenes photos, and we also have learned a lot about the watershed in the process," said Tim Ruzek, CRWD's outreach coordinator. He said, "With smartphones, it's really easy to take photos of water scenes when you're outdoors and send them in."

In 2018, Cedar Scenes attracted 335 photos of local water-related scenes (an increase of 45 images from the

inaugural year in 2017) submitted by 55 individuals (down by four from the prior year).

Corey Kreutzbender, who submitted 23 photos for the contest, had his name drawn by Runnings staff for the free kayak.

Cedar Scenes showcases the local waterways within Minnesota, including the Cedar River State Water Trail, Dobbins Creek, Rose Creek and others. This year, CRWD also will accept photos of other waterways outside of its political boundaries if they are in the greater Cedar River Watershed in Minnesota. This includes Turtle Creek and the Little Cedar River.

Cedar Scenes will run weekly (Monday to Sunday) through Sept. 29. To qualify, each photo entered will count as one entry for the kayak drawing in October. Weekly prizes will be about \$10 in value, such as Chamber Bucks to use at most local businesses, with the week's winning photo picked by CRWD staff.

Photos for Cedar Scenes can be new or old but must showcase a water-related scene – with or without people – in the CRWD's boundaries.

Aside from the Cedar River – which includes Austin Mill Pond and Ramsey Mill Pond – other streams that have been photographed for the contest include Dobbins Creek (flows through the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center and is part of East Side Lake); Wolf Creek (Todd Park area); Rose Creek; and Orchard Creek.

All photos entered for Cedar Scenes will be shared on CRWD's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cedarriverwd and can be used by CRWD for future public uses. Submitted images must be the person's own photo or have been approved for submission by the photographer. Entries must include the submitter's name, photo location and date. All ages can participate.

Photos also can be submitted via email to tim.ruzek@mowerswcd.org or by bringing them to the CRWD office at 1408 21st Ave. N.W. in Austin behind Runnings.

Weekly winners will be announced on CRWD's Facebook page, with prizes picked up at the CRWD office.

The grand prize winner of the kayak needs to be at least age 18 or come with a parent or guardian to get the kayak.

Meatball dinner set for Geneva church

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 Vandenheuvell. 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.

Shattuck musicians to perform at Arts Center

The Owatonna Arts Center is honored to present students from Shattuck St Mary's pre-conservatory program on Sunday, April 28, at 3 p.m. The concert is open to the public. Shattuck's students come from all over the world and are very

accomplished. One of their students has won an award with the Rochester Music Guild Compation and will be performing earlier that day. The program will include a repertoire including Anton Arensky, Anton Dvorak, Jacques Ibert, and

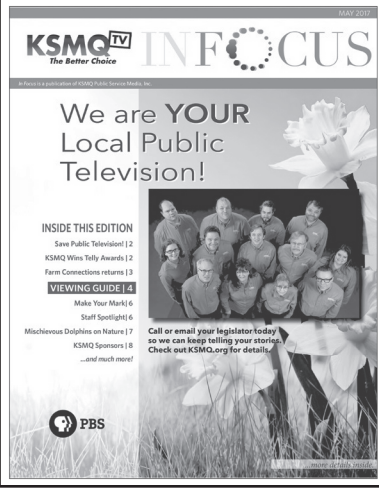
Mozart. The performers include: Cate Carson, Daniela Castillo, Esquivel, Ana Dinis Perez, Angela Dinis Perez, John Lee, Juntak Lee, Kirill Nazarov, Vinh Nguyen, Harrison Oh, Jeremiah Samuels James Thompson and Isabel Toe.

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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 mortgag-

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 PROPERLY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

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

Dated: March 6, 2019

PINGORA LOAN SERVICING, LLC
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

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

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: March 20, 2008
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$103,000.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Larry M. Jarvis, single person
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on March 25, 2008 and memorialized upon Certificate of Title No. 15747 as Document Number T000062717 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: All that part of Lot 2 in Block 1 in Luedtke Addition

to the City of Owatonna described as follows: Beginning at a point in the line between said Lot 2 and Lot 3 in said Block 1 in the Westerly line of Maple Drive (formerly Larch street); thence Southerly along the Westerly line of said Maple Drive 7 feet; thence Westerly parallel to and with the line between said Lots 2 and 3 approximately 85 feet to a point in the center line of Maple Creek as shown by the plat on file; thence Northerly along the said center line of Maple Creek to the line between said Lots 2 and 3, and thence Easterly along the line between said Lots 2 and 3, 86.19 feet to the place of beginning.
Also all of Lot 3 in Block 1 in Luedtke Addition to the City of Owatonna, excepting therefrom the following: Beginning at a point in the line between said Lot 3 and Lot 4 in said Block 1 in the Westerly line of Maple Drive (formerly Larch Street); thence Southerly along the Westerly line of said Maple Drive 12 feet; thence Westerly parallel to and with the line between said Lots 3 and 4 approximately 107.62 feet to a point in the center line of Maple Creek as shown by the plat on file; thence Northerly along the said center line of Maple Creek to the line between said Lots 3 and 4; and thence Easterly along the line between Lots 3 and 4, 110.86 feet to the place of beginning.
All the above described real estate is conveyed subject to and together with all riparian rights.
REGISTERED PROPERTY
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 510 MAPLE DRIVE, OWATONNA, MN 55060-1967
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$68,139.24
TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-150-0103
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None
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: June 11, 2019 at 10:00 AM.
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota.
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the date of sale.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) 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 June 11, 2020.

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: April 16, 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
(19-0350-FC01)

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4/23, 4/30, 5/7
5/14, 5/21, 5/28

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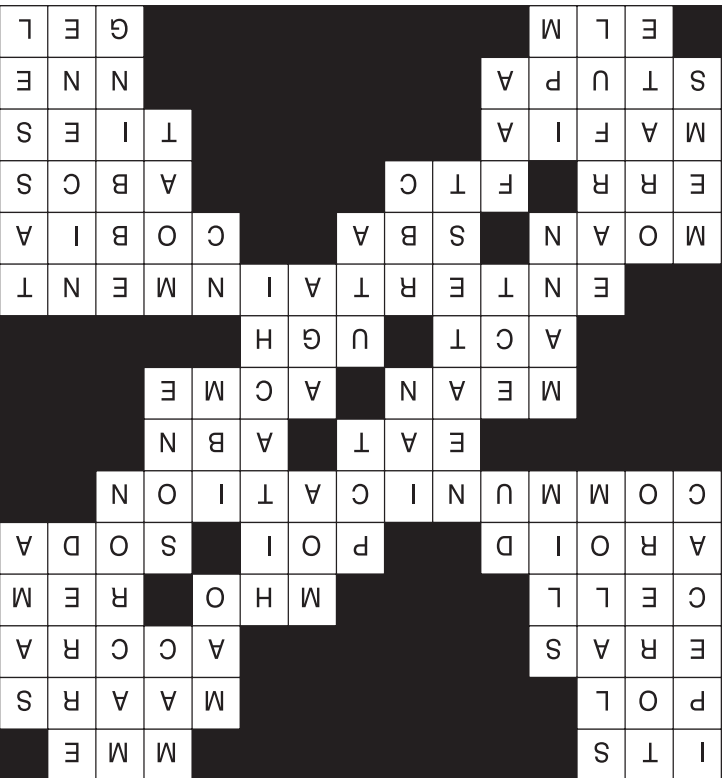
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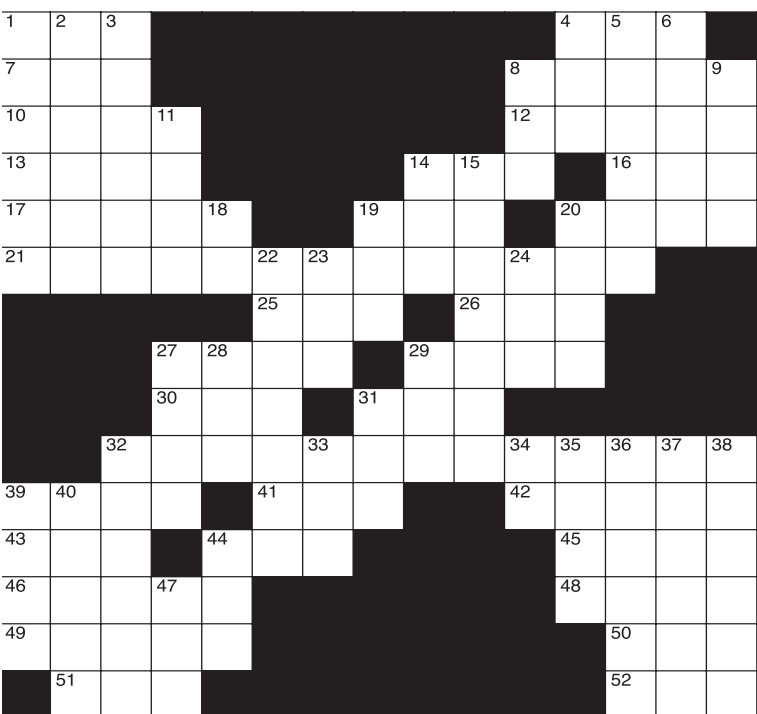
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CLUES ACROSS
1. Belonging to a thing
4. Woman (French)
7. "Incredible" TV veterinarian
8. Volcanic craters
10. Geological times
12. Ghana's capital
13. Any small compartment
14. Conductance unit
16. Athens, Georgia, rockers
17. Plant of the arum family
19. Hawaiian dish
20. Pop
21. Imparting of information
25. Take in solid food
26. Dutch banking group (abbr.)
27. Contemptible
29. Peak
30. Play a role
31. Yuck!
32. Diversion
39. ___ and groan
41. Helps little firms
42. Large, edible game fish
43. To do so is human
44. Supervises interstate commerce
45. Basics
46. La Cosa Nostra
48. Mens' neckwear



49. Buddhist shrine
50. Midway between north and northeast
51. Wood
52. Hair product

CLUES DOWN

1. Induces vomiting

2. Matador
3. A way to travel on skis
4. ___ and cheese
5. Indicates long vowel
6. Made a mistake
8. Chinese chairman
9. Indigenous people of the Philippines

11. Slender
14. Extinct, flightless bird
15. Japanese conglomerate
18. Of (French)
19. Rate in each hundred (abbr.)
20. Unit of loudness
22. Most organized
23. 007's creator Fleming
24. Computing giant
27. American singer Aimee
28. Shock treatment
29. Ottoman military commander
31. Urban Transit Authority
32. Too much noise
33. Type of blood cell
34. Home of football's Panthers (abbr.)
35. Fortifying ditch
36. Receding
37. Christian creed
38. Tuft of hanging threads
39. Microelectromechanical systems
40. Speak
44. Supervises flying
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FOUND IN PARKING LOT OF Carriage House Animal Hospital. Clicker brand garage door opener. Please call (507) 634-6781 (free)

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

2 BD ~ CLAREMONT Open May! Rent from \$555 p/mo + elec. Month to month leases and deposit pay plans. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.life-styleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity Wk 17- WK 21

2 BD ~ DODGE CENTER Open May & June! \$755 p/mo + elec. Smoke free, one year leases & no pets. Included blinds, 1½ baths & central air! Garages also open! 507-633-2178 or 507-451-8524 or www.life-styleinc.net/greystone.asp tdd 507-451-0704 EHO

FOR SALE

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

JOHN DEERE 4430 TRACTOR WITH 5560 hours, 1 owner. John Deere 8285R Tractor with 135 hours and a John Deere 980 30' Field Cultivator. Excellent shape. Retired Farmer. Call 641-425-9300

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

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

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

NICK'S LAWN MOWING SERVICE 50% off first mowing with a contract for 1 year. Weekly or vacation, residential or commercial, yard cleanup, mowing and trimming, satisfaction guaranteed 10 years experience. Free estimates. Please call 507-696-3849 and leave a message. Tfn

BRIANNA'S LAWN CARE SERVICES Mowing, trimming, complete yard cleanup. Weekly or on call. Satisfaction guaranteed Free estimates. Call 507-421-7945

TWO RESPONSIBLE TEENAGERS are looking for lawn mowing jobs, learning experience. Father supervised. \$20.00 hr./minimum Please call 507-634-2141 and leave a message. (pd 19,20,21)

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

EMPLOYMENT

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

DODGE CENTER AMERICAN LEGION is looking for a part-time bartender. If interested and for more details, please contact Melissa at 507-380-0983 (wk18,19,20 chg.)

THE DODGE CENTER LIBRARY is looking for a part-time Library Aide to assist with shelving, processing, and service to the public. Applicants must have a high school diploma, enjoy working with people, be tech savvy, and able to multi-task. Some evenings and weekend hours. Previous library or customer service experience preferred. Applications available at the library's website dodgecenter.lib.mn.us or at Dodge Center City Hall. Send cover letter, resume, and application to dc_dir@selco.info or mail to PO Box 430, Dodge Center MN 55927. For more information contact Ingild Herfindahl at 507-374-2275. WK 19,20,21



507-635-5507
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PART-TIME HELP WANTED Fun environment Day-time hours only - No nights or Sundays Barista and Kitchen Help Apply in Person

GARAGE SALE

COME and SEE-Huge Sale. 800 WEST FIELD COURT NW KASSON (in garage in case it rains). War books, Western books and other books. Small Metal Soldiers, Music boxes, birdhouses, a lot of Jewelry, doll buggies, old valentines, antique toys, Budweiser Mirror. (pd)

YARD AND GARAGE SALE: 8 am- 6 pm April 27th One mile north and one mile east of Oslo. Many items from the Luther and Opal Larson Estate: John Deere 4300 w/ belly mower, John Deere D100 garden tractor, 2 boats, Johnson 9.9, metal scaffolding, Red Wing Crocks, round tables (2), rustic wood furniture, fishing/boating gear, glass/cooking ware, many

FREE items. (18 pd)

ANNUAL ELLINGSON GARAGE SALE Saturday, April 27, 2019 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. West Concord American Legion Hall. Double stroller, Highchair, Infant walker, Cabela's Hub-style fish house, Stadium seating recliners, Little Tikes inflatable bounce house, Little Tikes climber, Electronics, Infant – Adult clothing (exc. cond.), Toys, Household, bedframes and box springs and Much Misc. NO EARLY SALES! (pd)

RUMMAGE SALE Saturday April 27th from 8 am- 3 pm, 409 5th St. West Concord Boy baby clothes, kids to adult clothes, strollers, swing, pack-n-play, toys, books, craft and much misc. (pd)

GARAGE SALE 60712 254th Ave -Mantorville April 24 7-4, April 25th 7-4, and April 26th 7-noon Play castle, Grill, Bowcase, ice fishing cases, clothes: men's and women's, girls 12-14, boys 4T and 3T, Dvd's, cd's Vhs, books, misc kitchen, printer, prints, crafts, fabric and more.

BABY SALE: Trinity Lutheran Church-301 Highland Street West Concord. Saturday April 27th, 8 am-12 noon No clothes. (pd)

BARGAIN HUNTER

LIGHT BROWN OVER STUFFED love seat, like new-didn't use. Purchased at Fleet Farm \$200. Selling for \$50 Also, a side chair for \$10 If interested please call 507-583-2904 (pd 18,19,20,21)

Library Assistant

The City of Kasson is accepting applications for the position of full time Library Assistant. Minimum qualifications include an Associate Degree and one year of library experience or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the requisite knowledge and abilities for the position. Ideal candidate will have experience providing excellent customer service and working with a variety of technologies.

Applications are available at Kasson Public Library. **Deadline for submission of application is Friday, May 3, 2019**

Questions: Call Art Tiff, Library Director 507-634-7615
607 1st St. NW, Kasson, MN 55944



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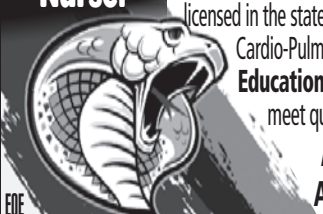
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INDEPENDENT

TRITON PUBLIC SCHOOLS will be hiring a **K-12 Student Support Services School Nurse.**



Triton Elementary is seeking an professional standard nurse practitioner who collaboratively works with health care providers, students parents, school district staff and community agencies to ensure access and continuity of care for students.

Position Purpose - To provide assessment, screening, planning, intervention, evaluation, counseling, management and/or referrals concerning the health and medical care needs of students and creating a healthy school climate.

Qualifications - Certification/License: Registered professional nurse, designated as R.N. as defined and determined by state law, and currently licensed in the state and School Nurse certification. Current certification in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

Education - Master's degree in related field preferred. Must meet qualifications of a school nurse as defined in state reg.

Applications will be accepted until Friday, May 31, 2019.

Apply now at: www.triton.k12.mn.us

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CDL driver, Class B, Route Driver

Need Class B license. Applicant must be personable, dependable and willing to go the extra mile for customers.

No phone calls please.

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Wound experience, Infection Control/QAPI experience RNs · LPNs · TMAs · CNAs

Full and Part-time Hours Available

Work Every Other Weekend and Holiday; Flexible Schedules. Scholarship program including: Tuition, Books, Mileage, & childcare. Group Health Insurance and Group Dental Insurance

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Now accepting applications for the spring season for cashiers and customer service.

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507-634-7113

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Resident Assistant

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

Dining Assistant

- PT 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.



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FULL TIME Housekeeper



Position requires:

- day shift hours

Please stop in for an application to apply or at: **stewartvillecarecenter.com** or email a resume to: **KSchwartz@stewartvillecarecenter.com**
120 4th St NE Stewartville, MN *Affirmative Action Employer*

NOW HIRING

Stewartville Care Center is seeking a qualified individual to join our Nursing Department as a Scheduler!

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.

A comprehensive benefits package is available. Stewartville Care Center wants to maintain its Five-Star Staffing rating for nursing homes set by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. We are dedicated to serving older adults by providing skilled nursing, comprehensive therapies and residential services to Stewartville and the surrounding areas.

To apply visit: www.stewartvillecarecenter.com and apply via web application or come into the Business Office and grab an application. You can also email resumes to: kschwartz@stewartvillecarecenter.com.



STEWARTVILLE CareCenter

120 4th St NE
Stewartville, MN

Stewartville Care Center and affiliates are an Affirmative Action employer.

HOPPING ALONG THE BUNNY TRAIL

Staff photos by Rick Bussler



Skylar Valek, 4, of Blooming Prairie, reaches out to slap a high five to the Easter Bunny during the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Central Park in Blooming Prairie Saturday morning. More than 300 kids dashed around the park to find Easter eggs and line up to get cozy with the Easter Bunny.



Not to be outdone by the Easter Bunny, some children like Ila Raffelson, 6, of Austin, show that the Easter Bunny isn't the only one with bunny ears. Ila wore pink bunny ears as she scrambled around the park to collect eggs and candy.



More than 4,000 eggs were scattered throughout Central Park on Saturday as 300 children went in search of finding them. Jacquelyn Schieck, 5, of Blooming Prairie shows a yellow egg she found on the ground.

Easter fun excites more than 300 kids during annual Egg hunt

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The weather for Saturday's Blooming Prairie Easter Egg Hunt at Central Park was a far cry from the frigid temperatures seen last year. Temperatures hovered over 60 degrees as the egg hunt commenced at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 20.

The Women of Today sponsored the popular event attended by over 300 kids in search of 4,000 eggs that had been hidden throughout the park.

Saturday's hunt was the 11th annual in Blooming Prairie. More than 15 volunteers helped with the event and scattered eggs around the park awaiting some eager hunters.

Volunteers recorded more than 200 labor hours in hiding the eggs and arranging the prizes to be given away.

After hunting for 12 eggs, the kids turned in their eggs and received a goodie bag with a cookie from The Bakery.

Once they got their goodie bag, they picked an egg for a prize. Every child received a prize, either a toy, basket, blizzard, ice cream cone or a gift

certificate.

The Easter bunny worked his magic by putting smiles on the faces of many of the kids.

Here's a list of the donors of prizes: Tandem Products, Dairy Queen, The Bakery, B to Z Hardware, Casey's, Target, Hy-Vee, Vandal's and the Pizza Cellar.



After children found eggs hiding in the park, they also got the chance to pick out one lucky egg from the basket for a special prize.



Tucker Schneider, 4, of Blooming Prairie reaches out carefully to grab onto several Easter eggs so that he can load up his bucket during the annual hunt. The weather was ideal with temperatures hovering around 60 for children to have some Easter fun in the park.