



STEELE COUNTY Times

GRADUATIONS **C4-C5** BREAKFAST ON THE FARM **D1**

www.steeledodgenews.com TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018 Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

'IT'S THE HAND OF GOD'



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

With a look of dread and despair in his face and clutching a single turkey in his hands, Sidney Schultz walks away from the twisted wreckage of a camper that nearly took the life of his mother and grandmother May 29 east of Geneva. It took emergency rescuers about 30 minutes to free them. They were both transported to the hospital. The grandmother remains in intensive care at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester. Sidney rescued one turkey from the rubble. Nearly 8,000 other turkeys perished during the thunderstorm that produced 80 mph straight-line winds.

Trapped women survive Mother Nature's wrath

By **RICK BUSSLER**
PUBLISHER

One of the survivors of a furious storm that decimated a turkey farm outside of Geneva says it's a miracle that her family survived. "It's the hand of God," said Cindy Schultz, who had just been discharged over the weekend from St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester after being trapped in the wreckage of her temporary home. Schultz normally lives by Meriden in Steele County, but had been staying in a camper with her mother and son on their turkey farm east of Geneva when the storm barreled in around 4:30 p.m. May 29. Her 72-year-old mother is still fighting for her life in the intensive care unit at St. Mary's. "It breaks your heart to see her in that condition," Schultz said. Freeborn County Sheriff Kurt Freitag said the elderly woman has experienced significant swelling of the brain, broken ribs and collapsed lung. "She's not in danger of dying, but has a long road to recovery," he said. Schultz is convinced that God kept them alive as they were being whipped around the trailer during a storm that was later determined by the National Weather Service

SEE STORM DAMAGE, A4

IT'S A GO

Highway 14 finally funded after decades of battling

By **RICK BUSSLER**
PUBLISHER

As Minnesota's governor signed the bonding bill last week, a cloud of uncertainty that loomed for more than 25 years had finally been lifted off southern Minnesota. U.S. Highway 14 will finally become a continuous four-lane stretch

"It's a good day for **southern Minnesota** and transportation."

Senator Dave Senjem
R-Rochester

between Rochester and Mankato. The last part of the highway project between Dodge Center and Owatonna is slated to begin construction next spring when it will become four lanes. Governor Mark Dayton approved a \$1.5 billion bonding bill that includes about \$400 million in additional funding for the state's Corridors of Commerce project. The ink had barely dried from the governor signing the bill when the Minnesota Department of Transportation turned around and immediately announced three additional projects, including Highway 14, would begin construction as early as next year. The project to expand Highway 14 is expected to cost around \$160 million. Bids will be let out on the project next March with construction likely starting in the spring of 2019. The project will likely take two or three years to complete. "We are excited and grateful that Gov. Dayton has signed the 2018 bonding bill into law," said Karen Foreman, president of the U.S. Highway 14 Partnership. "Highway 14 has caused us a great deal of heartbreak over the years. The funding in this bonding bill turns some of that heartbreak into hope and opportunity," she said.

SEE HWY 14, A8

Red Oak prepares for berry delicious festival

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
STAFF WRITER

Busily processing strawberries for the 77th Annual Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church Strawberry Festival on Tuesday, June 12, women of the church enjoyed their working assignments. A table was set up for women volunteers to remove the stems from the strawberries and then they sent the strawberries to the kitchen to be mashed. Event organizers said 200 pounds of strawberries were ordered for this year's festival. More than 400 attended last year's festival. Two women over 90 years of age proudly claimed they had been helping with the strawberry festival for most of its time in existence. "I guess we are the senior members of the work crew," said Doris Draayer, 92. Orlie Grant, 90 joined Draayer as the eldest worker on the team of volunteers. Grant said she used to work at the church's lutefisk supper. "It's an acquired taste," she said about liking the lutefisk. The lutefisk dinner tradition has since been carried on by First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie. Everyone is welcome to attend the Red Oak event, says organizer Linda Christianson, one of many volunteers. A noon luncheon will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Residents of area care centers and assisted living sites will be slotted into specified times of serving. Christianson said residents from Prairie Manor Care Center and Heather Haus of Blooming Prairie will be at the special strawberry day as will senior



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church volunteer Linda Christianson pulverizes some of the 200 pounds of strawberries to be served at Red Oak Grove's 77th annual Strawberry Festival next Tuesday. There will be two serving times: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-7 p.m.

living residents of the Cedars and Oaks in Austin. Sacred Heart Care Center and assisted living residents will also be enjoying the Church festival. St. Mark's Care Center and assisted living of Austin will also be represented at Red Oak Grove. The serving line will be opened again from 4 to 7 p.m. On the menu will be pulled pork, hot dogs, beans and cole slaw. Of course, the dessert will be strawberries over shortcake or served with ice cream.

A bazaar and bake sale will also be held during the day with quilts made by the Red Oak Grove quilters being placed on sale. A quilt raffle is planned once again with church member Diana Magnuson creating the quilt. The quilt measures 108 inches by 108 inches. The quilt features an interacting diamond design, teal blue and gray on one side and gray, black and white roses on the back side. The quilt raffle brought in over

\$460 in funds. The festival earns about \$3,000. Judy Wambeam handles the quilting projects as Mission Growth chair. "I've been sewing since I was eight," said Wambeam who was very active in 4-H. She said her grandmother was a quilter for many years. Seventeen quilts are donated for the strawberry festival. Four of them go to Blooming Prairie High School seniors.

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AREA DEATHS

James Johnson Sr., 78, BP

Serving
Blooming Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW

A long awaited facelift to ‘horror highway’ wins praises across region

Some people were convinced it would never happen. In fact, just a few years ago a prominent lawmaker told U.S. Highway 14 advocate Beth Hodgman, who lost her husband on the deadly roadway near Dodge Center in 2012, that the expansion would never happen. But Hodgman and others didn’t give up. They battled strong and kept pressuring lawmakers to take care of the “horror highway” that has led to more than 100 fatalities since the 1980s. Last week the Highway 14 battle came to a victorious ending that will eventually benefit every single motorist traveling on that stretch of roadway. Governor Mark Dayton signed the state’s bonding bill, which had money earmarked for the Corridors of Commerce, a program designed to improve Minnesota’s highway infrastructure. Construction on the four-lane expansion from Dodge Center to Owatonna is expected to start next spring. Hodgman is a tireless warrior whose efforts are to be commended for the hard work displayed in educating the public and lawmakers about how important the Highway 14 expansion is to Dodge and Steele counties. We want to commend Senators Dave Senjem, R-Rochester, and John Jasinski, R-Faribault for their hard work and diligent efforts during this past legislative session to get Highway 14 expansion funded. For Senjem, it’s been 16 years in the making. “I couldn’t be more happy to finally get it off the list,” said an elated Senjem last week. “I’d like to drive on it having it off the list than have it on the list and look at it,” he said. “It’s a good thing for southern Minnesota.”

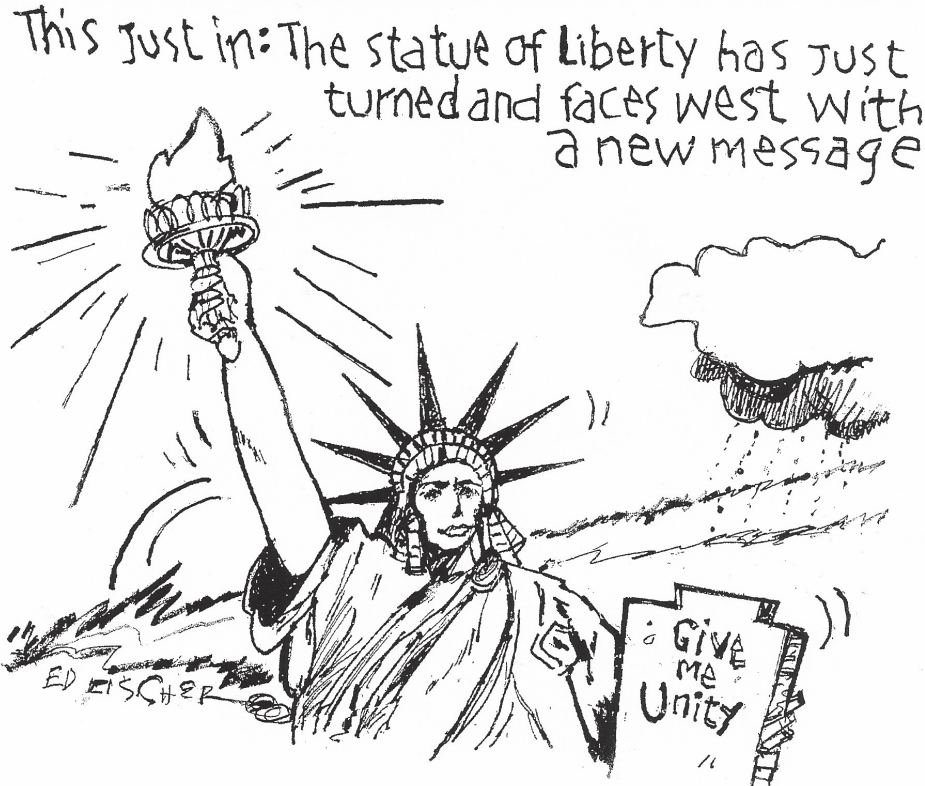
During a legislative session that didn’t get much done otherwise because of partisan bickering, it’s ironic that Highway 14 got pushed through after decades of battling. It didn’t seem like the political climate would allow for such a feat. But lawmakers found a way to get it done and now it’s winning praises all across this region of the state. For once motorists of Highway 14 will be able to breathe a sigh of relief knowing that a safer road is just around the corner. And perhaps a little faith has been restored in knowing that lawmakers can actually get something accomplished when they put their minds to it.

GUEST COLUMNS

Governor's vetoes are senseless

BY JOHN PETERSBURG
Disappointing news to report from the State Capitol as Governor Dayton has let Minnesotans down once again. Despite the approval of a bipartisan supplemental budget bill and legislation that addresses tax conformity and school funding, Governor Dayton chose to veto these proposals for basically political reasons. Because of this veto decision, Minnesotans will not only have a difficult time filing their income taxes next year but millions of them have now lost tax relief, some of which will see tax increases. He has also eliminated school safety funding for districts, along with up to \$225 million that could have been made available to schools statewide. But there’s more than taxpayers and schools who are impacted. Our budget bill contained many provisions that needed approval this year. For example, our disabled residents and their caregivers will now be leveled with a seven percent cut to the Disability Waiver Rate System. Schools that need to fund special education are also out of luck. We also had provisions that addressed elder abuse and opioid addiction. Farmers who were expecting equipment depreciation will now have to wait another year for it. And the deputy registrars who have been financially devastated by the failings of MNLARS were also left hanging out to dry. Lawmakers tried. The governor demanded ‘emergency’ education funding just a couple of weeks before adjournment, and he once again refused to seriously engage in the negotiating process until it was far too late, yet we worked within the parameters he handed us and sincerely tried to send him proposals that he would sign. Despite the Legislature’s best efforts, Governor Dayton has disappointed Minnesotans again. Because he didn’t get everything he wanted, he has left Minnesotans with nothing. As always, please contact me if you have questions, comments, or concerns. Reach me by email at rep.john.petersburg@house.mn or call my office at 651-296-5368. I look forward to hearing from you!

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



GUEST COLUMNS

Focus needs to be on root cause in finding solutions for school shootings

BY JAMES FIEBIGER
In response to your editorial concerning school shootings in the United States, I have a child of school age and my wife works in the school system, I agree that it is insanity. However, being a pro-second amendment citizen, I would like to address a few of my concerns. I agree that this is a very complex issue and it requires careful contemplation. It is human nature to want to blame the gun, in this instance the “assault rifle.” However, this is nothing more than an inanimate object, unable to cause damage on its own. The old cliché “Guns don’t kill people, people kill people” is true. I can put my gun on a table next to my cell phone and stare at it all day and not one child will die. Put that gun into the hands of a mentally disturbed person and we have the potential for carnage. The cell phone in the hands of a teenage driver can cause many more deaths than a gun ever will. In 2015, 476 teenagers died from phone usage while driving vs. zero deaths from an active shooter in an elementary school and/or high school setting. From 2015 to today, there has been 36 elementary and high school student deaths from an active shooter, 27 of these from 2018 alone. If the real intent is to save teenager’s lives then the logical course of action would be to ban cell phones until the age of 21. The lives saved would dwarf any gun legislation. I am not suggesting the banning of cell phones. I am saying that you can’t say that the goal is to save student’s lives under the pretense of gun control, when logic and fatality numbers suggest other options would save many more lives. I believe our founding fathers were incredibly intelligent to have created a document 240 years ago that remains fundamentally sound today. I also believe that our founding fathers wrote the Bill of Rights in order of importance, at least the first two. The First Amendment, “Free Speech,” without a doubt is the most valuable and important right that we have. Without it, I believe, the United States of America wouldn’t exist, at least not the way we know it. The Second Amendment, “Right to Bear Arms,” was put in place to

forever protect the First Amendment! There are hundreds of state and federal laws regarding the purchase and ownership of guns. Many of which, if actively and strictly enforced, could potentially save many lives. However, to simply put a law, ANY law, into effect purely for the illusion of “doing something” is not only wrong but extremely short sighted. I don’t believe the problem lies in an inanimate object, namely the “evil” assault rifle, or AR. No one inanimate object is “more evil” than any other inanimate object. It is easy to point fingers at the AR platform weapon but it is simply foolish to think that everything will change by banning an inanimate object. The assault rifle and high capacity magazines were banned from 1994 to 2004 with no statistically significant drop in gun-related deaths. What we need to focus on and have open discussions about is the reasons why. Why are young people choosing to do active shootings in schools? When I was in school (Class of 1979, Blooming Prairie), Mrs. Bruns taught speech. In her class we gave “How to...” speeches. It was not uncommon for someone to bring their shotgun to school and demonstrate how to properly clean and maintain the gun to ensure proper operation. No one was concerned that a classmate brought a gun to school. No one needed to check that the gun was properly chambered and posed no threat. We just knew! Mrs. Bruns was not concerned and the principal authorized the student to take the shotgun to the classroom. No one ever would have imagined a shooting! What has happened to our youth since 1979? Is it video games that are continually played by our kids that encourage more and more violence on a massive scale, games where you win by killing more? I don’t know. Is it TV and movies that show violent acts every 30 seconds, rapes, murders, robberies? I don’t know. Is it Rap music that curses every other word and lyrics that promote violence against cops, women and people in general? I don’t know. Is it the drugs that we give our children for

SEE SCHOOL SHOOTINGS, A3

Robert F. Kennedy (1925-1968)

Robert F. Kennedy was in contact with ordinary people



SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY

may have come the 37 president of the United States. Young people, open up your American History textbooks and learn more about Bobby Kennedy. Individuals older than 50, put your memories

It seems like yesterday. The year 1968, 50 years ago, marks the 50th anniversary of the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King and of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. In actuality, it was April 4, 1968 when Dr. King was killed and June 6, 1968 when Sen. Kennedy was killed. As we, who are old enough to remember when Sen. Kennedy was shot, we reflect on the qualities of this man who

together about the Kennedy Brothers (Joe, John, Bobby and Ted). I never met Bobby Kennedy but I feel like I somewhat knew him through my involvement in the Kennedy Political Items Collectors group. founded in 1974. This group was formed to network Kennedy collectors throughout the world. I joined the club in 1978 and have been a member ever since. I have been to a couple of KPIC conventions, one in Boston at the JFK Library and the other in Chicago. One of my most respected Kennedy collectors is Harvey Goldberg, the editor of the Hyannisporter sent to all members four times a year. He also met Bobby Kennedy. Goldberg, a resident of New Jersey, is a retired educator. He taught industrial arts. I have communicated with Goldberg often and recently asked him some questions about Bobby Kennedy. I have collected mainly President John F. Kennedy Items.



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

Here’s some reflections on RFK by my friend Harvey Goldberg: “It all started when a friend of mine phoned and asked if I wanted to make a few bucks during the summer of 1964. I was 19 at the time. His father’s company was contracted to wire the Atlantic City Convention Hall for telephones for the Democratic National Convention. We were “go-fers” - go for coffee, go get that big roll of wire, etc. Anyway, we both got passes to the convention and I was at the August 27 session where RFK got a 22 minute standing ovation and introduced a memorial film for JFK. We were sitting in “Pigeon City” - the

SEE REFLECTIONS, A3

Some wisdom for graduates



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

Let the caps fly and the celebrations begin. That’s exactly what is happening around the area. Seniors have finished their school work and now have diplomas in hand for the next venture in their lives. I can’t believe how it has been 32 years since I graduated from high school. I can assure you that time passed by quickly. For once I wish time would slow down, but as you get older, I think it goes even faster. With graduation season upon us once again, I thought I would offer some advice to this year’s graduating seniors. A little graduation wisdom, if you will. One motto that sticks out in my mind back from when I graduated is “If you want to be best, you’ve got to give more.” This is something that has rung true for me throughout my life. I think we always need to aim to do better no matter what we’re tackling in life. Life is going to bring many challenges, some exciting and happy ones and others perhaps not so pleasant. It’s important to find yourself grounded with a strong support system that can pull you through the difficult times. I can assure you that there will be tough times whether it’s personally, professionally or just life in general. It can be a lonely road traveling down the path of life and even worse without strong people around you to help. Undoubtedly you’re going to make mistakes along the way. We all do. But what’s most important is how you handle those mistakes and what you learn from them. If you mess up in some way, don’t despair and find a way to make it right. Even though your high school days are behind, don’t forget that learning never stops. Life is an adventure, and there are always new things to learn. Be open to learning and embrace it. You’re not going to get ahead in life if you think that you know everything and can’t learn something new. I always encourage young people to focus on their work ethic. For some reason it seems like our younger generation has gotten away from a strong work ethic. Blame it on video games, ipads, computer screens, cell phones or whatever you want. The fact is young people need to realize that not everything is going to be handed to them on a silver platter. You need to work for it. And the harder you work, the greater chance you’ll have of succeeding. Respect is another area that I would encourage you to pay attention to as venture out. It’s imperative to show respect to police, political leaders (even though you don’t agree with them), elders and others in leadership positions. We have become a very divided nation. Your generation can play a key role in helping to repair the damage that has been done along the way. Don’t be afraid to take a few risks along the way. Just remember that every failed experiment is one step closer to success. Be prepared for failures because you will fail at some point in your life. As you venture out with that diploma in hand, stay true to yourself by following your passion and never someone else’s path. Success is to live life with lots of integrity and not give in to peer pressure to be something you’re not. With a little wisdom in mind, I wish you the best of luck as in go in hot pursuit of venturing into adult life.

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Sports Editor.....Dennis Marshall
Advertising Director.....Annie Anderson
Staff Writer.....Howard Lestrud
Staff Writer.....LeMar Nelson
Graphic Designer.....Molly Urban
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Bookkeeper/Sales.....Jaye Adams
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Foundation receives gift from former teacher

Former Owatonna School Teacher, Ron Harten, has made a Living Legacy donation to the Owatonna Foundation.

Although Harten now resides in Arizona, his passion for Owatonna and his commitment to our community was evidenced when he returned to Owatonna to host a reunion of the Indianettes Dance Line that he helped to organize in 1965.

“We are very appreciative of Ron’s gift to the Foundation. It is his hope that others will follow his lead and support the Foundation’s mission of improving the quality of life for present and future generations by supporting Owatonna projects that focus on community, arts, recreation, and education.” said Laura Resler, Foundation executive director. To become a Legacy Society member a donor can make a Living Legacy gift of \$10,000 or more during their lifetime, or promise a gift in any amount as a bequest in their will.

The Owatonna Foundation, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, was established in 1958 with the goal of improving the quality of life for present and



Ron Harten has made a Living Legacy donation of \$10,000 to the Owatonna Foundation. Harten, third from left, gave his check to Foundation trustees, Jerry Deetz, Todd Hale and Matt Kottke.

future generations of Owatonna residents. Since then, the Owatonna Foundation has invested more than \$11.8 million dollars in grants for capital projects to support Owatonna

projects in the areas of community, arts, recreation, and education, and annually awards \$30,000 in scholarships for both traditional and non-traditional students.

Arkema program allows kids to explore

By HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Science seems to be an automatic interest for most elementary school youngsters.

“Let the kids explore, and they will learn independently and cooperatively,” said Carol Thompson, a fifth grade teacher at the Alden-Conger Schools.

Thompson and fellow elementary teacher Shelly Sipple, fourth grade, appeared before the Arkema Citizens Advisory Panel Wednesday night, May 16, to provide a demonstration on the value of science in the every day curriculum.

They were also present to say “thank you” to Arkema for providing learning materials for young students.

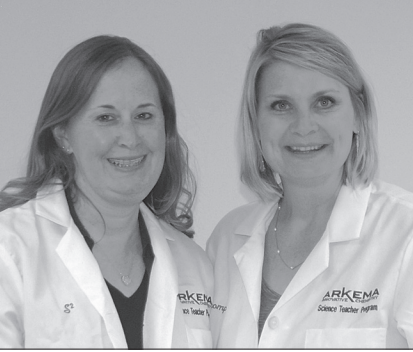
Sipple and Thompson were two of four teachers participating last August in the annual Arkema Science Teachers Program workshop at the Arkema plant located on the north side of Blooming Prairie. Arkema is a global chemical company.

Two Blooming Prairie elementary teachers also attended last year’s Arkema science camp.

The Arkema program brings life into the classroom. It recognizes providing a strong science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education program.

Arkema’s Science Teachers Program has been offered by many Arkema sites, including the Blooming Prairie plant since 1996. The program has benefited hundred of teachers and thousands of students across the United States.

Each participating teacher in the program chooses a science kit that contains teaching aids and tools related to a specific topic. Each kit includes materials and instructions for classroom science



Alden-Conger elementary teachers Shelly Sipple (fourth grade) at left and Carol Thompson (fifth grade) demonstrated some of their teaching aids provided them this past school year by Arkema. Wearing their Arkema laboratory coats, the teachers thanked Arkema for the donated materials and gave a demonstration on energy.

demonstrations that engage students and bring concepts to life.

Sipple and Thompson spoke on energy materials used in their classrooms.

Wearing their official Arkema laboratory coats, Sipple and Thompson provided some visual evidence of how energy is generated.

Energy appears in different forms, said Sipple as she talked about magnets, conductors and insulation and how energy can be transferred.

Sipple’s demonstration showed how electric magnets can generate energy. “I’m a free exploration type of person,” Sipple explained as she said kids love to have “hands on” experiences when talking about science and energy.

Sipple divided her 20 fourth grade students into eight separate groups.

“You’re all welcome to mess around with these materials if you wish,” Sipple challenged the 13 CAP members in attendance.

Sipple further explained how electricity is generated by demonstrating various magnets.

In her presentation, Thompson spoke about forces and motion. She explained how velocity, speed and acceleration can be calculated.

“How do you think speed depends on the distance an object travels?” Thompson asked, using her teacher’s approach.

Thompson then explained Newton’s laws of motion. They are three physical laws that, together, laid the foundation for classical mechanics.

The laws reportedly describe the relationship between a body and the forces acting upon it, and its motion in response to those forces.

More precisely, according to Wikipedia, the first law defines the force qualitatively, the second law offers a quantitative measure of the force, and the third asserts that a single isolated force doesn’t exist.

Thompson used a tube she calls a “half pipe” and some marbles to explain how work and energy are connected. She said using the “half pipe” analogy made it easier for the young students to understand.

She said kids take ownership of what they learn from one another. Academic games and the kids’ own lingo help them more easily understand the concepts of science, said Sipple.

Thompson said her students “love to design and experiment” with science projects. “Energy cannot be created or destroyed, it can only change forms,” she stated.

“As teachers, we could not be more appreciative,” of the Arkema investment in education, Thompson said.

The next Arkema CAP meeting will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 13 at the Blooming Prairie City Center.

DAVID RIESS MURDER INVESTIGATION

Alleged killer takes a pass on court appearance

By RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER



RIESS

Blooming Prairie murder suspect Lois Riess took a pass on showing up in a Florida courtroom last week as she skipped her scheduled appearance.

Lois Riess waived her right to appear for an arraignment hearing May 29. The judge has set her next court date for case management on July 11 at 8:30 a.m.

The case has been assigned to Assistant State Attorney Lanna Belohlavek with the homicide unit.

Riess has been charged with second-degree murder in Fort Myers Beach for allegedly killing Pamela Hutchinson while the two of them were vacationing. At the time of Hutchinson’s murder, Riess was on the run from Minnesota authorities after being suspected of killing her husband at their rural Blooming Prairie home.

U.S. Marshals arrested Riess on April 19 in South Padre Island, Texas. A nationwide manhunt had been underway for Riess’ capture at the time of her arrest. She has since been sent back to Florida to face murder charges in Hutchinson’s death.

In addition to homicide, Riess also faces several counts of grand theft, identity theft and grand theft auto in Florida.

Last month Riess entered a not-guilty plea in writing to the court.

Dodge County authorities still have not charged Riess with her husband’s murder. Sheriff Scott Rose has previously said his office is awaiting lab results from the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension in St. Paul before charges would be filed in Dodge County.

The 56-year-old grandmother has been charged in Dodge County for allegedly snatching \$11,000 in checks from her husband’s business account within days of his murder.

Riess will be returned to Minnesota to face charges once the proceedings after finished in Florida.

Local company donates for autism programming

The Hormel Historic Home of Austin has accepted a \$5,000 donation for its Autism Programming from Tony Delhanty, senior engineer-Quality/QMS & ISO Manager and his team at the Oshkosh Corporation, a division of the McNeilus Companies.

Delhanty was recognized for his success at work and for his selection of the Hormel Historic Home during the ASD/Caregiver Network Event held at the HHH Monday. The event featured presentations about what parents/caregivers can do to prepare their child with disabilities for adulthood. Topics included Guardianship and Conservatorship and Special Needs Planning in the areas of Medical Assistance, SSI benefits/strategies, Supplemental and Special needs trusts and ABLE accounts.

The donation was made possible through the Oshkosh Excellence Award program through which Delhanty participated. The award was granted based on Delhanty’s project focused on improving employee engagement within his company.

“We are proud of Tony’s team success with his company, and we are grateful that they chose our programming in which to make an impact,” said Holly Johnson, executive director of HHH. Delhanty and his wife Allissa have a son with autism so the donation is a personal one for them. “The more we can do to improve services and awareness for those on the autism spectrum the better lives those with autism can lead and the more engaged they can be in the community as employees and consumers,” Johnson added.

HHH would like to thank the McNeilus Company and Oshkosh Company for their commitment to serving those around them through this program.

The Hormel Historic Home began offering summer camp for youth on the spectrum in 2010. There are three unique camps today as well as monthly respite activities. Autism Friendly Austin is an initiative for the community sponsored by the Hormel Historic Home.

McNeilus Trucking operates in Dodge Center with the parent company, Oshkosh Corporation, based in Oshkosh, Wis.

SCHOOL SHOOTINGS: guest column

FROM A2

Attention Deficit Disorders—drugging our children to the point that they are lethargic and barely functioning? I don’t know.

Is it the complete disrespect toward law enforcement, teachers, the president of the United States and others in leadership positions as presented by the media, celebrities, athletes and social media? I don’t know.

Is it the continuous attacks against Christianity by any number of sources? I don’t know.

Is it the fact that 31 percent of all children live in a single-parent home, 23 percent do not have a father in the home? I don’t know.

Is it that today’s children are incapable of coping with stressful situation, such as bullying and failure? I don’t know.

Is it that we, as parents, are not monitoring our children, watching their actions, what they are wearing, who their friends are, teaching them respect? I don’t know.

What I do know is it is not the gun. It is not any inanimate object. It is easy to point a finger and say the gun is the “evil one!” The fact is, this is a more complex matter than that. The problem is much deeper, and I believe that we need to look inward and focus our attention on the root cause. Why are these shootings occurring? When that question has been answered, then, if needed, create laws that will actually stop, or at least decrease these actions.

James F. Fiebigler is the president of Farmers and Merchants State Bank in Blooming Prairie. He resides in Blooming Prairie.

REFLECTIONS: JFK

FROM A2

absolute last row of the top section of the hall. You really needed binoculars to see the people on the podium. But we did see them.

“At that time you could walk up and down the Boardwalk and get tons of campaign material at kiosks all around - all of it free... buttons, pennants, bumper stickers, etc. etc. All of it was LBJ-HHH stuff. But we grabbed what we could because it was free.

“A month later a different friend asked me if I wanted to go into NYC, and we both walked into the RFK for Senate HQ in Manhattan and volunteered. We were stuffing envelopes when who walked into the storefront - RFK himself. He said hello to everyone and went into the back office. When he came out he walked around, shook hands with everyone there, thanked us, and left.

“What impressed me most about RFK was that of the three Kennedy brothers, he was the most in contact with ordinary people. JFK had the charisma, and I personally think EMK was the best US Senator in 100 years, but Bobby knew PEOPLE. Bobby went to all the neighborhoods and spoke to the people living there. His father was opposed to the whole thing. I later heard from the late Dave Powers that Papa Joe thought that Bobby had no business with “those kind of people” or something

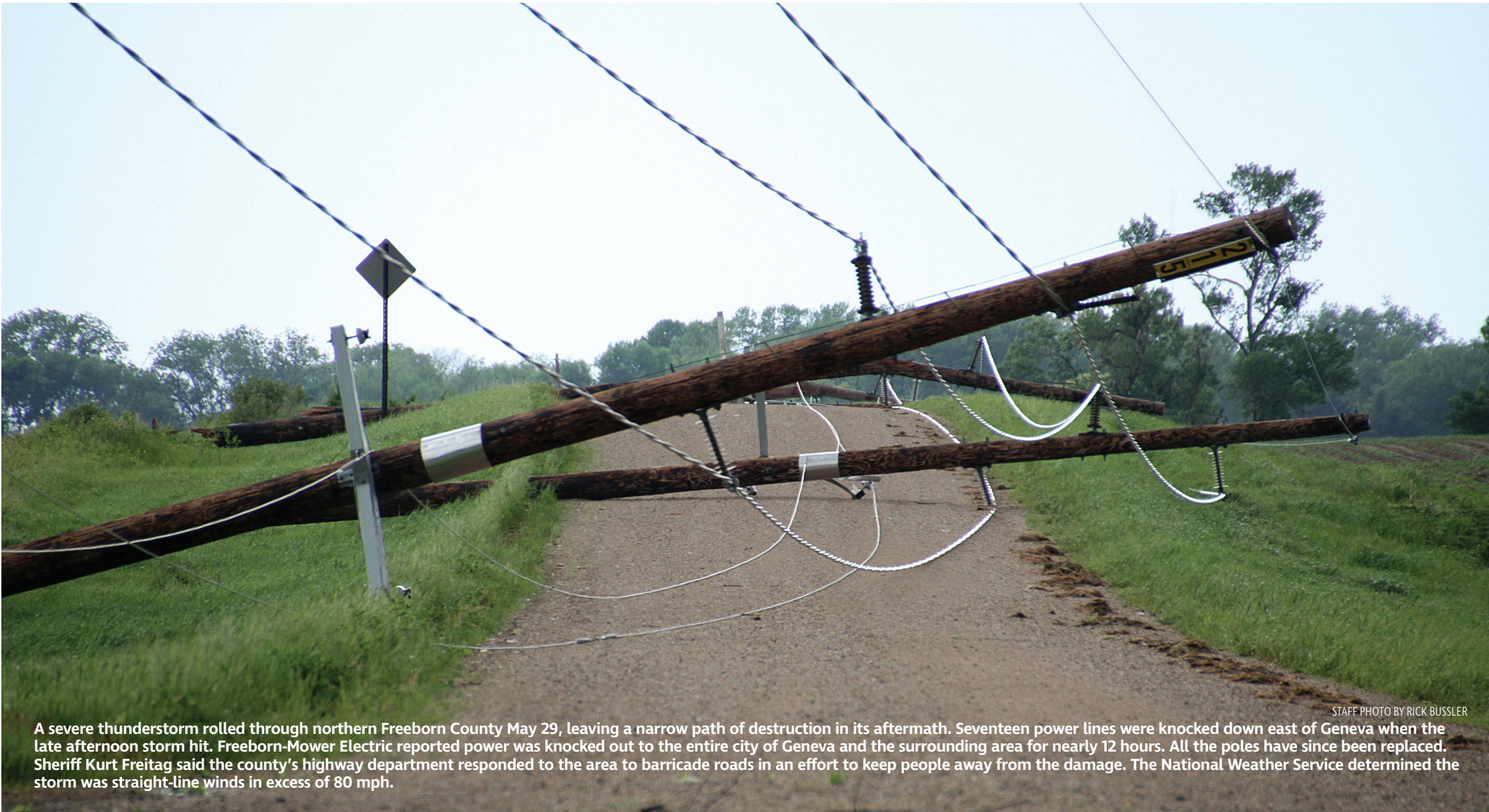
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A severe thunderstorm rolled through northern Freeborn County May 29, leaving a narrow path of destruction in its aftermath. Seventeen power lines were knocked down east of Geneva when the late afternoon storm hit. Freeborn-Mower Electric reported power was knocked out to the entire city of Geneva and the surrounding area for nearly 12 hours. All the poles have since been replaced. Sheriff Kurt Freitag said the county's highway department responded to the area to barricade roads in an effort to keep people away from the damage. The National Weather Service determined the storm was straight-line winds in excess of 80 mph.



Larry Schultz, standing, peels through the rubble of his family's camper that was on a turkey farm he operates east of Geneva. His son, Sidney, is kneeling to his left and surveying the damage. Larry's wife, Cindy, and her mother were seriously injured during the storm. The storm destroyed the turkey barn shown in the background. Nearly 8,000 little turkeys perished after the severe thunderstorm hit.

STORM DAMAGE: *Survivors*

FROM A1

to be straight line winds of 80 mph, and not a tornado as officials initially thought. "If you're not a believer in God, you should be," Schultz says. "His hand was on every inch of that accident." Both Schultz and her mother were pinned in the trailer and unable to move. During the entire ordeal, Schultz said she remembers her mother asking for God's help to get them out alive. "My mom calmly prayed the whole time out loud," Schultz said. She recalls the rain pouring inside the trailer. "We tried to hear each other, but rain was pouring in my ear," Schultz said, adding that the wind was "so loud" making things difficult for them to communicate. Throughout the entire ordeal the storm kept trying to pick up the trailer and launch it as a missile. "The trailer was lifting off the ground, but we weren't airborne," Schultz said. "We just tumbled along the ground." She described the movements as "condensed, compact rolls." Schultz said there was twisted metal and wreckage surrounding them in every direction. "I couldn't believe we didn't lose our heads," she said. "There was so much damage around our heads." She said she knew they were in trouble when a turkey feeder from the nearby barn ended up between her and her mother in the camper. To make matters worse, Schultz had no idea what had happened to her 13-year-old son, Rod. Schultz said he doesn't want to talk about the incident much even with family members. "He's scared," she said. "He thought we were dead." Somehow Rod ended up landing on top of the camper. "I remember

rolling," he said. "I hit my butt on everything." Added his father, Larry Schultz: "It sucked him out of the trailer." At one point, Schultz saw her son clutching his brother's pillow over his head to block the hail, rain as well as flying debris from pounding him. "The pillow protected me," said Rod, who was clearly shaken by the ordeal. "It was like a shield to everything," he added. Frightened and dazed, Rod panicked even more when he discovered the storm flattened the turkey "The pillow protected me. It was like a shield to everything."

Rod Schultz
Storm Survivor

barn and whipped it around. "I was about to run into the barn, but there was no barn there," he said. "When I didn't see the barn, I panicked." Miraculously, Rod walked away from the wreckage unharmed. But it was a difficult story for his mother and grandmother. Rod eventually reached into the twisted trailer to grab a cell phone from his mother to call 911 as well as his father. "He's a brave little boy," his mother said. Emergency rescuers from Geneva and Hollandale responded to the scene to rescue Schultz and her mother. It took emergency personnel a while to respond because of several power lines down in the area, according to Sgt. Keith Bolinger of the Freeborn County Sheriff's Office. Once they got on the scene, it took at least 15 minutes

to free them from the wreckage. Asked how they got Schultz and her mother out, Bolinger responded, "as carefully as possible." Rescuers utilized special tools to brace the trailer so the victims could be lifted out to safety. Gold Cross Ambulance transported the victims to Mayo Clinic Health System in Albert Lea. They were later transferred to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester. "They are just extremely lucky," Sgt. Bolinger said shortly after the harrowing rescue. Nearly 8,000 young turkeys perished in the storm when their barn was leveled. The Schultzs had brought the turkeys to the farm just four days earlier. Only a handful survived. One of the EMT's with Ellendale Ambulance carried a funnel with six turkeys from the scene in hopes of keeping them alive at her place. Schultz's son, Sidney, rescued one turkey, who at last reports was doing just fine.



An EMT with Ellendale Ambulance holds a funnel of little turkeys that she rescued. She took them home hoping to keep them alive. These turkeys, along with one other recovered by the owner, are the only ones of nearly 8,000 to survive the storm.

"He takes him out in the grass to graze," Cindy Schultz said of her son and the lonely turkey he rescued.

"It breaks your heart to see her in that condition."

Cindy Schultz
Storm Survivor

Schultz returned to the scene for the first time Sunday afternoon. "It's pretty astonishing. It's amazing," she said. "When you see that mess, it's the hand of God. There is no other answer for it." Knowing things could have ended more tragically, Schultz said it was God alone who kept them alive. "I'm just very thankful God protected us," she said. Schultz said she will never go back again to the farm to raise turkeys. "I've weathered so many storms out there," she said. "I don't want to go back. I've never felt real safe there."



Ken Behnken, chairman of the First Lutheran Church (Westfield) Cemetery surveys damage caused on May 29 by strong winds that whirled through Dodge County. Several trees were uprooted and caused some damage to gravestones.

Strong winds knock down trees at BP cemetery

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Straight line winds on Tuesday, May 29 knocked down seven large trees at the First Lutheran Church Cemetery of Blooming Prairie. The cemetery, often referred to as the Westfield (Township) Cemetery, is located about 2 1/2 miles southeast of Blooming Prairie in Dodge County. Johnson Tree Service of BP was called to remove the trees. Five were ash trees and two were pine trees. Several gravestones were taken down by the falling trees. Most of the damage occurred in the oldest part of the cemetery. Ken Behnken, chairman of the Westfield Cemetery Board, said he received a phone call from fellow First

Lutheran Church member Wayne Bishop, who alerted him about the tree damage on Tuesday afternoon. Behnken said he checked out the damage later that day and said the cemetery looked like a lake after absorbing torrential rains. Other cemetery board members and the Rev. Heidi Heimgartner also visited the cemetery and decided to have a tree service help with the tree removal. In addition to Behnken, cemetery board members are: Rick Hansen, Julie Peterson, Jennifer Wayne and Dave Hagen. Asked to assess the damage, Behnken said he had no idea of the value of the trees, or the amount of damage done to some gravestones.



Several huge ash trees at the First Lutheran Church Cemetery of Blooming Prairie were uprooted by straight line winds that whipped through Dodge County on Tuesday, May 29.

History from the
News Archives

10 Years Ago

June 3, 2008

DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

The Blooming Prairie City Council addressed the problems that have been happening with the Senior Center. No improvements have been made to the building since 1999. The city is going to look into bids to repair the roof problems.

Ten years as the owners of the Blooming Prairie Dairy Queen has been good for the Schieferts. Nick and Amanda became the owners of the DQ on Mach 23, 1998.

A Rumble in the Jungle was held at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. The event was the brainchild of Blooming Prairie juniors Kassie Lueth, Sara Sorenson, Reisha Koster and Ashley Hueman. They decided to hold the event as a project for their World Cultures Class on rain forest deforestation.

20 Years Ago

June 2, 1998

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Forty Steele County families have contributed \$35,250 toward the construction of a new Four Seasons Centre in Owatonna. A fund drive is underway to raise \$750,000 in private donations. So far about \$380,000 has been raised.

BP Small Engine Repair opened for business on April 1, 1998. It is located in the North end of NAPA Auto Parts. The owner, Roger Smith, has been doing engine repair all his life.

Travelin' Picnic Tables is the brainchild of Craig Kruckeberg, founder and current president. The company covers a 60 square mile radius of Blooming Prairie where the home office is located.

Sixty-seven seniors graduated May 31 from Blooming Prairie High School. The valedictorian was Ian Rausch while the salutatorian was Haudy Kazemi.

50 Years Ago

May 30, 1968

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJOI, PUBLISHERS

Members of the Blooming Prairie Garden Club planted petunias in the planters on Main Street last Friday. Mrs. Kenneth Brakke is the chairman of the project.

Arnold Thompsen, well-known trucker throughout this area, died at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 26, at a hospital in Rochester from injuries sustained in an accident the previous evening. Thompson, 54, was traveling west on Highway 30 when a short distance from the Anderson Garage his truck went out of control and into the ditch.

Prairie Manor, Inc., a nonprofit, non-sectarian organization sponsored by eight area churches, held its first annual meeting on Monday night of this week. The founding directors are Arthur Ingvalson, Donald Morrison, W.E. Thiede, Harold B. Hansen, Neil Ingvalson, Robert Kubista, Howard Butler and Robert Hanson. Morrison was elected president and Hansen vice president. Dr. T.E. Nealy was elected as director-at-large and G.S. Thorson as an ex-officio member of the board.

75 Years Ago

June 3, 1943

FRANK KREJOI, PUBLISHER

The every increasing list of Blooming Prairie men in the armed forces of their country has four more names added to it this week. Henry Rockne, son of Mr. and Mrs. H.B. Rockne, was selected for the U.S. Navy and left Fort Snelling last Thursday. This makes for three sons the Rocknes now have in the armed forces. Others leaving for service are John J. Shaw, Donald W. Estenson and Ronald Sweet.

A great admiration for
war correspondents

By HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Who was Ernie Pyle?

"He's everybody's favorite war correspondent," said author/historian Michael Eckers when speaking at a Blooming Prairie Friends of the Library event on Wednesday night, May 16.

Eckers, who owns a wealth of knowledge on World War II correspondents, has visited the BP Friends of the Library group in the past. He also was in town last week speaking to Blooming Prairie High School social studies classes of Cory Hendrickson.

In his presentation on World War II war correspondents, Eckers tells about the lives and deaths of these brave Americans who shared trials and victories of the American armed forces.

He admired war correspondents, he said, because they remembered everyone they met.

Eckers has studied the history of America and its military for more than 50 years. He is retired from federal service, including four years in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam era.

Residing in southern Minnesota for most of his life, Eckers recently began traveling the country, speaking and writing. He is an active supporter of numerous historical and veterans groups in the Midwest and Florida.

Eckers has written three books on the American Civil War. He's also written a Colors war series based on his own family history.

His newest project is a novel, released in the summer of 2017, entitled "Five for Freedom." It is a story of a young war correspondent searching for his four high school basketball teammates. All were serving in different military branches during World War II, scattered around the world.

In most of his writings he combines history and fiction together, calling it "faction." He uses real history and illustrates it with fictionalized characters.

In "Five for Freedom," Eckers writes about five basketball team members from Mason City, Iowa. He changes the characters and puts them in Ames, Iowa.

Using an organized, speedy speaking delivery, Eckers traced some well-known war correspondents of World War II.

He spoke at length about Ernie Pyle, saying his writing became legend as he covered the fighting in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. "He wrote in a homey style and was writing what soldiers wanted to write," Eckers said.

Other war correspondents he characterized included: Ruth Cowan, Dickey Chapelle, Robert Capa, Robert Read, Lee Miller, Eric Sevareid, Joe Rosenthal, Home Bigart, Marguerite Higgins, Edward R. Murrow, Andy Rooney and Walter Cronkite.

Eckers said there were about two dozen American war correspondents who were killed during World War II. Pyle was one of them.

"I take actual experiences and boil them down to one character," Eckers said as he detailed his writing style.

American history with the war correspondents' help, "ties everything together so nicely," Eckers believes.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
An authority on military history, Michael Eckers spoke to a Blooming Prairie Friends of the Library group last Wednesday, May 16 at the library. He spoke mainly about World War II correspondents. Some of them included Edward R. Murrow, Walter Cronkite and Andy Rooney, all pictured on the screen behind Eckers.

How to Make a Living Will



THE SAVVY
SENIOR

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Dear Savvy Senior,
What's the best way to go about making a living will? I recently retired and would like to start getting my affairs in order, just in case. ~Approaching 70

Dear Approaching,
Preparing a living will now is a smart decision that gives you say in how you want to be treated at the end of your life. Here's what you should know, along with some resources to help you create one.

ADVANCE DIRECTIVE
To adequately spell out your wishes regarding your end-of-life medical treatment you need two legal documents: A "living will" which tells your doctor what kind of care you want to receive if you become incapacitated, and a "health care power of attorney" (or health care proxy), which names a person you authorize to make medical decisions on your behalf if you become unable to.

These two documents are known as an "advance directive," and will only be utilized if you are too ill to make medical decisions yourself. You can also change or update it whenever you please.

DO-IT-YOURSELF
It isn't necessary to hire a lawyer to complete an advance directive. There are free or low-cost resources available today to help you write your advance directive, and it takes only a few minutes from start to finish.

One that's completely free to use is Caring Connections, a resource created by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. They provide state-specific advance directive forms with instructions on their website (CaringInfo.org) that you can download and print for free. Or you can call 800-658-8898 and they will mail them to you and answer any questions you may have.

Or, for only \$5, an even better tool is the Five Wishes living will. Created by Aging with Dignity, a nonprofit advocacy organization, Five Wishes is a simple do-it-yourself document that covers all facets of an advance directive that will help you create a more detailed customized document. It is legally valid in 42 states and the District of Columbia. To learn more or to receive a copy, visit AgingWithDignity.org or call 888-594-7437.

For convenience, there are even resources – like DocuBank.com and MyDirectives.com – that will let you and your family members store your advanced directive online, so you can have immediate access to them when you need them.

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.

★ STARS OF STEELE ★



Christianson

BLOOMING PRAIRIE'S Emma Christianson was a key member for the Blossoms' softball team this past season. Christianson, along fellow seniors McKenna Hein and Linnea Sunde, were leaders and important contributors for the team.



VonRuden

MEDFORD'S SOPHOMORE Willie VonRuden was a very valuable member the Tigers' baseball team that finished 6-5 this past season. VonRuden will be relied on heavily the next two seasons.

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OBITUARIES

James Johnson Sr., 78, Blooming Prairie

James J. Johnson Sr., 78 of Blooming Prairie, died Thursday, May 31, 2018 at his home.

He was born Nov. 25, 1939 in Austin to Alvin and Grace (Fille) Johnson. James was a 1957 graduate of Austin High School and received his Associate's Degree from Riverland Community College.

In 1959, he married Bonnie Fosness in Dodge Center. The couple made their home in Blooming Prairie, and later divorced. James remained a lifelong Blooming Prairie resident. After farming and running a welding shop, James worked for the Minnesota Department of Transportation for over 33 years. He enjoyed fabricating items from steel, welding,

tinkering with motors, and mowing his yard.

James' family and friends will miss him dearly.

Survivors include his children James Jr. (Cindy) of Claremont, Jeff (Angie) of Rochester, Jackie (Al) Thiemann of Byron, Jill Johnson of Hastings; 10 grandchildren Kelcey, Kristy, Blair, Kylie, Taylor, Jaden, Justin, Anna, Evan and Maya; 8 great-grandchildren; brothers Robert (Linda) Johnson of Rochester, Douglas Johnson of Blooming Prairie, and Lyndon (Ruth) Johnson, also of Blooming Prairie; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

James was preceded in



death by his parents, his sister Sharon Lundahl, his son John, and his grandson Ross.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie with Pastor Heidi Heimgartner officiating. Interment was at the Blooming Prairie City Cemetery.

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

LIBRARY BOOK NOOK

Library to host Legacy programs



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

In November 2008, Minnesota voters approved a constitutional amendment to dedicate funds for Minnesota's Outdoor Heritage, Clean Water, Parks and Trails, and Arts and Cultural Heritage. Through this

amendment each of the state's 320 public libraries can offer educational opportunities that would otherwise not be affordable.

This summer we will have four Library Legacy funded programs at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library. Two of them take place this week: Chione Storytime concert will be held on Wednesday, June 6 at 10 a.m. The quintet will use their musical instruments to tell stories for all ages. The next day, Thursday, June 7 at 1 p.m., CLIMB Theater will present the play The City Mouse and the Country Mouse: the Mousical.

Another Library

Legacy program will occur on Thursday, June 21 at 1 p.m. when we get to hear and participate in Siama's Music of the Congo. The final Legacy-funded program will be on Thursday, July 19 when the National Eagle Center in Wabasha introduces us to eagles and their habits at 1 p.m.

If you are pleased that we can offer these enriching programs here in Blooming Prairie, thank your elected representatives and your fellow citizens for their support of Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage. See you at the library!

COLLEGE NEWS

Area students at SDSU named to Dean's List

Five students from Owatonna have been named to the Dean's List for academic excellence after the spring 2018 semester at South Dakota State University.

They include: Collin Lee Bruns, College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences;

Nathan David Deason, College of Arts and Sciences; Gavin Jacob Glynn and Brian Russell Kidd, College of Engineering and Kayla Jeanne Kniefel, College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions. Deason, Glynn, Kidd and Kniefel all had

perfect 4.0 GPAs.

To earn Dean's List distinctions, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credits and must have earned at least a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale.



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GRIEF RELIEF



What is grief like? Grief is like a series of waves that come and go, feelings that vary in intensity over a long period of time as we are constantly reminded of changes that result from the death of our loved one. We need to take time to face our emotions and feelings. Then make careful plans for our new lives without the deceased. Our feelings and grief may seem unpredictable and confused at times, but that is perfectly normal.

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Cory Michaelson



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Recipe Corner

Finger-Lickin' Shrimp

Yields 12 bites

3/4 cup best-available olive oil
2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 tablespoons minced

fresh Italian parsley
2 teaspoons minced fresh oregano or thyme or 1 teaspoon dried
12 colossal shrimp, shells on
1/2 cup kosher salt or coarse sea salt

Preheat grill to medium-high heat. In a small bowl, prepare dipping sauce by whipping together 1/2 cup of the olive oil, the lemon juice, garlic, parsley, and oregano. Save. Using a paring knife, make a 1/4-inch incision down the backs of the shrimp. Devein them, but do not remove the shells. In a medium bowl, add remaining 1/4 cup olive oil and the shrimp. Toss the shrimp in the oil, then sprinkle salt ovetop, and toss thoroughly so that the shrimp are coated in salt. Grill shrimp directly over the heat or pan cook for approximately 3 minutes per side, or until shrimp are opaque throughout. Serve with dipping sauce.

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

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MAREN FORYSTEK
CODY CREMEANS
TROY ANDERSON
BAILEE KLEMMENSEN
KIM STINEHART

JUNE 7
LORETTA INGVALSON
LEIGH YENTSCH
VERONICA BROWN
MONICA LEA
KEVIN TOCKO
DORIS LEA

JUNE 8
JIM SRSEN
ELLA KLEMMENSEN

JUNE 9
CLARENCE BOYD
CHERYL COUGHLIN
BOB NAHOVSKY
KARI ANN LUETH
CHERYL HERNANDEZ
JULIE PETERSON
BECKY BRAATEN
DAVE HOFFMAN
ALLEN VANDAL

ANNIVERSARIES

JUNE 6
MR. & MRS. BILL SCHABERT

JUNE 8
BRYAN & CHERYL HERNANDEZ
CLETUS & SHARON GLYNN

JUNE 9
JOHN DEAN & JACKIE OLSON
HEIDI & BRETT ZIMMERMAN
MARTY & ROBIN SHAW

JUNE 11
DAN & BECKY MINER
JOHN & MARY WORKE
JOEL & DAWN INGVALSON

JUNE 12
PAUL & LAURA IVERSEN

JUNE 13
MAYLON & MARILYN HEINZ
BRANDON & STEPHANIE EMANUEL

JUNE 14
NOLAN & LINDA CHRISTIANSON

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God has our backs on life’s journey

*“I lift up my eyes to the hills
– from where will my help
come?” (Psalm 121:1)*

I just returned from a trip to Israel, where a buddy of mine and I walked the “Jesus Trail,” a 45 mile hike from Nazareth to Capernaum (on the Sea of Galilee). Nazareth is the hometown of Jesus and Capernaum was his ministry center where he called several of his disciples. Along the way we stayed in in Cana, where Jesus performed his first miracle of

changing water into wine. We also stayed in a rustic cabin in Arbel, which is near the high cliff that beautifully overlooks the majestic Sea of Galilee. We had a wonderful time! However, it was tough. It was in the upper 90s and low 100s. The terrain was rocky and extremely hilly. We crossed over dangerous creeks, climbed over barbed wire fences, crossed busy highways, walked through cow and goat pastures, and got lost several times. There are markers along the way we are supposed to follow, but it was so easy to get mixed up and turned around.

The sun was oppressive at times, and I ran out of water each day. I knew it would be an adventure, but I didn’t realize how out of shape I was! As we were hiking out of a valley I could see our destination village on top of a steep hill, but it seemed so far away and I was so tired and run down. I thought of Psalm 121:1 – “I lift up my eyes to hills – from where will my help come?” I wondered how the people of Israel, including Jesus, were able to walk this country side so often. The Psalmist appears to be a weary traveler who sees his city, probably Jerusalem, on the hill and wonders if

he can make it. He’s tempted to give up, but then through his faith he says: “My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth” (vs. 2). Sometimes our lives are rocky and difficult, and the heat of stress and struggle beats down upon us. But on our journey we know we can depend on God who has our backs. He loves us and promises to get us through. Our home on the hill is the “New Jerusalem,” which is Heaven, and we journey in the forgiveness and grace of Jesus until we get there. Praise be to God!

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN					
AURORA LUTHERAN 6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna Pastor Stephanie Wood 507-676-5696 Joint Summer Worship with Trinity Lutheran Blooming Prairie Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m. June 10, June 24, July 8 (Joint Summer Picnic, 10:30 a.m. at Blooming Prairie Gun Club), July 15, July 29, Aug. 12 and Aug. 26	507-465-8366 Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sun.	REDEEMER LUTHERAN – LCMS 1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna Pastor Kirk Griebel 507-451-2720 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sun.	507-451-4520 www.tlcowatonna.org Worship: Saturday: 5 p.m.; Sun.: 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 6 p.m. Sunday School: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.	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.	www.ellendaleumc.org Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 106 Third St. SE., Geneva Pastor Kristen Venne 507-256-4288 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.	RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA 30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin Pastor Lindsay Stolen 507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000 www.roglutheran.org Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday School (Sept. – May): 10:15 a.m.	TRINITY LUTHERAN – 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 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.	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	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
FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC 503 Radel Ct., Ellendale Pastor Richard Sliper 507-684-2451 Saturday: 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation Tues.: 7 p.m. Call to Prayer, open to all churches Wed.: 9:30 a.m. BibleStudy; 3:30 – 5 p.m. Jesus and Me; 6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS 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.	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 Cheryl D. Indehar 507-451-2165 Worship: 8 a.m. Sun.	ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH 512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna Father Kevin Connolly 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	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
FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA 434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie Rev. Heidi Heimgartner, 507-583-6621 firstlutheranbp.com Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sundays Education Hour: 9:30 a.m. Sun.	ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA 30450 570th Ave., Waltham Pastor Dwight DoBell 507-567-2474 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.	CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS 307 SW First St., New Richland Father Raul Silva Fr. Adam McMillan, Parochial Vicar 507-465-8217 Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday	HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL 9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna Father John Sauer Fr. Jose Morales, Weekend Presider 507-451-1588 www.litomyssl.webs.com Reconciliation: 8:45 a.m. 1st & 3rd Sundays Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Children's Church for Preschool – 1st Grade began Sept. 24 Faith Formation for Kindergarten – Confirmation: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays Adult Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays	CEAR CREEK 30 E. Main St., Hayfield Pastor Aaron de Neui 507-477-2255 www.cedarcreekchurch.org Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.	DESTINY CHRISTIAN Owatonna Campus 422 North St., Owatonna Pastors Tyler & Jessica Braucht 507-254-8514 www.destinycc.org Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
FIRST LUTHERAN – LCMC 8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope Pastor Sandy Miller 507-451-3854 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday School, Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m. Sun.	ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – LCMS 202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale Pastor Jesse Krusemark 507-567-2272 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.	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	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	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 507-721-1366 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. Gateway Connection: 6 p.m. Sun.
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS 2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna Rev. Mark Rosenau, Senior Pastor Rev. Greg Schlicker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4125 www.goodshepherdowatonna.com Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.	TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar 507-451-2165 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.	HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL 9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna Father John Sauer Fr. Jose Morales, Weekend Presider 507-451-1588 www.litomyssl.webs.com Reconciliation: 8:45 a.m. 1st & 3rd Sundays Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Children's Church for Preschool – 1st Grade began Sept. 24 Faith Formation for Kindergarten – Confirmation: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays Adult Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays	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.	FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL 230 Locust Ave., Owatonna Pastor Eliazar Talamantes 507-363-2240 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday	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
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.	TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna Rev. Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor Rev. Dean Smith, Associate Pastor Rev. Amanda Weinkauff, Associate Pastor	SACRED HEART CATHOLIC 150 NE Second St., Hayfield Father Thomas Niehaus 507-477-2256 Mass: 8 a.m. Sun. & 8:30 a.m. Thursday Reconciliation: 7:30 a.m. Sun.	ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST 200 Sixth St. NW., Ellendale Pastor Randy Cirkse 507-684-2731	MENNONITE	PRAIRIE MENNONITE 13638 750th St., Blooming Prairie Bishop Dennis Martin 507-583-7532
PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN – ELCA 9651 SW 75th St., Ellendale Pastor Mike Walerius					

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A contingency of Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church women work on processing strawberries for the upcoming Strawberry Festival on Tuesday, June 12. Removing berry stems are, from left: Orlie Grant, Suzanne Hammersma, Marilyn Helleck, Doris Draayer, Marlys Peterson, Cheryl Helgeson, Linda Christianson, Cindy Hingeveld, the Rev. Lindsay Stolen and Judy Wanbeam.

HWY 14: funded FROM A1



Senator Dave Senjem, left, pops open the cork from a bottle of champagne as fellow Senator John Jasinski cheers on in celebration of the legislative victory for funding of U.S. Highway 14 from Dodge Center to Owatonna. It has taken decades of battling, but Highway 14 will finally be expanded to four lanes beginning next year.

Foreman said Highway 14 has become synonymous with deaths, injuries and impeded economic growth. “While our work is not done until we can drive on four lanes all the way from Rochester to New Ulm, the incredible progress this bill will make is vital and sorely needed,” she added.

At a press conference May 31 at Al-Corn Ethanol Plant located next to Highway 14 in Claremont, legislative leaders popped the champagne in celebration of their long-last victory. “It’s a good day for southern Minnesota and transportation,” said Senator Dave Senjem, R-Rochester, who played a key role in getting the funding through the legislature. “It’s a dream that has been waiting a long time. I’m just elated,” he said.

Highway 14, Senjem said, has been on his to-do list during his entire political career, which spans 16 years. “To finally complete it is a pretty fulfilling accomplishment,” he said.

Senjem, along with other area Republican lawmakers, worked feverishly within the past few months to figure out funding for Highway 14. The initial funding package failed in the closing weeks of the session, but Senjem came right back to find another creative way of getting it to the governor’s office.

Senjem isn’t the only lawmaker feeling relief over Highway 14’s victory. “As a private citizen, I remember feeling discouraged by the numerous failed attempts to get this done by previous state senators,” said Senator John

Jasinski, R-Faribault. “That’s why when I was elected two years ago I made it my highest priority. I am beyond thrilled. The Highway 14 expansion will save countless lives.”

State representative John Petersburg, R-Waseca, said, “An improved Highway 14 is so critical to our region. Not only is it a good way to help with commerce flow—whether it’s bringing crops to market or goods to communities—but it better ensures the safety for the thousands of drivers who use the road every day.”

“The Highway 14 expansion will save countless lives.”

Senator John Jasinski
R-Faribault

Senator Senjem applauded Jasinski for his efforts with finally getting Highway 14 funded. “It seems like every third word in Senator Jasinski’s vocabulary is Highway 14,” Senjem said. “Hardly a day went by that I didn’t get a call from John pressuring me about it. He has been a strong and powerful voice. It would not have gotten done without Senator Jasinski’s persistence.”

The bonding bill also included \$178 million for asset preservation, \$123 million for water-related projects, \$208 million for higher education construction, \$32 million for veterans homes in Preston and elsewhere and \$28 million for mental health crisis centers.

Henry! You’re late again!

Children’s books author visits NRHEG School in Ellendale



Children’s book author Mary Bleckwell of Northfield visited New Richland Hartland Ellendale Geneva Elementary School on Wednesday, May 23 and encouraged students to write. She is shown with fifth graders Gavin Sletten and Georgia Zimtrich who helped her portray two of her characters from “Henry! You’re late AGAIN.”

By HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Want to be an author? Take something unexpected in your life and turn it into something good, children’s book author Mary Bleckwell challenged New Richland Hartland Ellendale Geneva (NRHEG) Elementary School students.

The Northfield author visited over 400 NRHEG Elementary School students just before school was to be let out for the summer.

She spent an entire day speaking to the respective elementary classes. Her mission was to promote literacy, reading and writing.

Bleckwell’s appearance was made possible by third grader Dominic Olson who attended a writing workshop last March and signed up for an opportunity to have Bleckwell come to his school. She typically charges for her presentations but this one was free, courtesy of Dominec.

School media specialist Sara Misgen helped arrange Bleckwell’s visit to the media center.

A former elementary teacher and school administrator, Bleckwell utilized her teaching techniques to tell students what goes into the process of writing a children’s book.

This writer sat in on Bleckwell’s presentations to three classes of fifth graders totaling 75. Her talk centered around three children’s books she has authored, “Henry! You’re late AGAIN!” “Henry! You’re hungry AGAIN!” and “Claire’s Hair.”

During her presentation, author Bleckwell made certain she involved her listeners in her chronology of becoming an author.

She talked about “all of life” having unexpected moments. “I did not plan on being an author,” she confessed. She then asked fifth graders “to turn and talk” to their neighbor and relate something unexpected in their lives that turned into something good.

A student shared having broken an arm and having the cast taken off before a family wedding. Another student talked about taking an infant to a hospital and being treated successfully.

Bleckwell told of her experience of going on a family vacation to Hawaii. She said the trip was interrupted in Hawaii when she was hospitalized to have an emergency appendectomy.

During her hospitalization, Bleckwell had time to read and write. This is when she used her imagination and love for writing to create some ideas for a children’s book.

On her website, Bleckwell’s biography reads: “As a child growing up on a dairy farm in northeast Iowa, Mary loved school but had nightmares about not getting up in time to make the bus.

“She did make it to school every day and has created Henry, an imaginative first grader, who-in Bleckwell’s first book, is in a predicament every morning as his family just

can’t seem to get him to school on time. . .”

In Bleckwell’s second book, Henry has a new problem. He is hungry so he eats and wonders why he doesn’t feel big and strong after eating all that junk food.”

Bleckwell uses years of teaching experiences and stories from children, to create “touching tales that will resonate with every child from 3 to 93,” her biography continues.

Grabbing a magic wand, Bleckwell illustrated that writing doesn’t just happen using some magic words to create a book.

“I practice writing and you should practice writing often,” Bleckwell told the engaged fifth graders.

She said her first book on Henry took her six years to write. Her hospital stay in Hawaii forced her to write down her ideas. “Ideas are never wasted and no idea is worthless,” Bleckwell believes.

“Great ideas come from our own ideas and experiences,” Bleckwell explained. Being a farmer’s daughter, she said she had many experiences from which to draw.

The author said she writes her manuscripts on the computer but does all her editing by hand. She then sends out a query to see if a publisher is interested in putting her ideas into print.

After finding a publisher, Bleckwell says she sends her writing to an editor who makes suggestions for changes. From there, the book goes to an illustrator. Her books are illustrated by Brian Barber of Duluth.

Bleckwell said her first Henry book won six awards for humor and illustrations. “Claire’s Hair,” her third book, was released last January.

Some of her book characters are her nieces and nephews. She now has plans for a new Henry book. “I concentrate on the characters when writing a book,” she said.

Bleckwell asked for volunteers to help her develop her characters. Georgia Zimtrich dressed up as Miss Timberlane, a Henry book character and Gavin Sletten played the role of Henry.

Students listened intently as Bleckwell told about developing a book design, proofreading the text and then sending it to a printer. She showed students what the printing plates looked like and how she uses four colors of ink: black, blue, yellow and red.

“The results are a miracle,” she said. Most kids picture books have 32 pages, she said. She continued to explain the process involving dummymy the layout, folding and gathering it, trimming it and boxing it up for the publisher.

“Happy reading, happy writing and happy summer,” Bleckwell concluded her talk, inviting students to have books signed by her.

Bleckwell’s appearance in Ellendale was her finale for the school year. She soon will be contacting other schools seeking interest in her career as a writer.

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BASEBALL

Farmington blanks Owatonna

Huskies eliminated from postseason

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna baseball team's season came screeching halt on Saturday in Dundas.

The Huskies lost two games in the Section 1AAAA Tournament and were eliminated from the postseason.

Lakeville North defeated Owatonna, 8-3, to start the day.

The Huskies fell behind early on a fielder's choice in second inning and couldn't come back.

Owatonna had no extra base hits. Parker Westphal, Brady Schuster, Dawson Leer and Ben Zappa each had singles.

Schuster took the loss for the Huskies after pitching three innings and surrendering three runs on three hits. He struck out one batter and walked two. Matt Segler pitched 2.1 innings and allowed fours hits, two runs, while walking] three and striking out one. Tyler Sackett pitched 1.2 innings. He allowed three runs on three



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Owatonna's Nolan Malo meets his teammates at home plate after hitting a walk-off home run to defeated Rochester Century, 3-1, on Thursday at Darts Park.

hits. He struck out one and walked none.

Farmington shut out Owatonna 5-0 in the second game of the day to eliminate the Huskies.

Leer had the Huskies only extra base hit (double). Nolan Malo had Owatonna's only other hit.

Jon Klecker took the loss for the Huskies after pitching 1.2 innings. He allowed four runs on five hits while walking one and striking out two. Tucker Alstead and Noah Budach pitched in relief.

MALO HITS WALK-OFF HOMER
The Huskies defeated

Rochester Century, 3-1, on Thursday, thanks to a walk-off home run by Malo.

"Oh man, I'm just happy," Owatonna coach Tate Cummins said. "'Malo one of those basketball kids. He's going to school to play hoops. We are losing hoopster left and right because they are



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Owatonna's Noah Budach throws a pitch against Rochester Century on Thursday at Darts Park.

playing year-round. I love the kid because he stuck it out and he's playing multiple sports.

"He gets up in a clutch position and the [Century pitcher] hangs a slider and Nolan just pummeled it."

Malo was a starter for the Huskies state championship

football team and was selected to play in 36th annual Minnesota High School All-Star Basketball Series.

He said the walk-off ranks among his highest athletic accomplishments.

"This is definitely up

SEE **HUSKIES, B2**

BASEBALL

Falcons' no-no ends Blossoms' year

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Wabasha-Kellogg baseball team edged the Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossoms, 1-0, in the section game at Austin on Saturday, thanks to the Falcons' Max Kuntz stroking a single in the bottom of the seventh.

Wabasha-Kellogg's Tanner Sanderson and Cooper Holtorf combined to toss a no-hitter in the victory.

It was a tensely played game throughout, as neither team could mount much of a scoring threat. Ian Wayne pitched a great game for the Blossoms. The Falcons struck out eight batters, while Wayne struck out four, scattered five hits, except for that final single.

Wabasha-Kellogg had one run on five hits and a single error. BP had no runs, no hits and zero errors

Zach Kjerseth had two of the five Falcon hits.

Kuntz delivered the big one



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Blooming Prairie's Payton Simon attempts to catch a pop-fly during the Blossoms 3-2 victory over Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton on Wednesday, May 23.

for the victory.

BP ended the season with a 12-7 record and the first trip to the section in several years.

BP EDGES USC FOR SECOND

Along with the rain, the Awesome Blossom baseball team washed away several

years of futility by edging United South Central 11-10 at Riverland College in Austin on Tuesday, May 29.

The game was a continuation of one that began on May 26, but wasn't finished until Tuesday.

It looked rather bleak for the Blossoms, after the Rebels



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Blooming Prairie's Dylan Nirk smashes a line drive against JWP on Wednesday, May 23.

scored three times in the top of the seventh for a 10-8 lead, but BP didn't quit. Colin Lerum doubled to drive in one run with one out to narrow the deficit to 10-9

With a chance similar to one he had earlier in the playoffs against Lyle-Pacelli, Seth Peterson didn't miss this time, stroking a base hit to send two runs home, including the winning marker by Payton Simon. The run ended several years of frustration for the Blossoms, as they had struggled for three seasons with underclassmen.

BP had counted four runs in the first inning on a pair of doubles by Simon and Max Romeo, three walks and a Rebel error. They added two each in the fourth and fifth to set up the three-run rally in the final inning.

BP had 11 runs, 10 hits, and a single error. USC had 10 runs, 13 hits, and three errors.

The maturity in the boys came into play in the sub-section, as they battled back after a very tough loss to Lyle-Pacelli to upset No. 1 seed Hayfield and earn the

chance to upend USC.

BP TAKES DOWN HAYFIELD

After suffering a heart-breaking defeat to No. 3 seed Lyle-Pacelli, 3-2, the Awesome Blossoms keep hopes alive for a second place finish in the sub-section playoffs. BP had the No. 2 seed in the playoffs.

The two games on Saturday, May 26, were played at Marcusen Park in Austin, and the win over Hayfield advanced the Blossoms to a runner-up contest against United South Central. That contest was

SEE **BLOSSOMS, B3**

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

The latest BPHS graduating class walked the high school gymnasium floor for the final time as students on Sunday, and it was a proud, yet bittersweet occasion for most of them.

Those students comprised the smallest class in school history, but they had every reason to be just as proud as any other class.

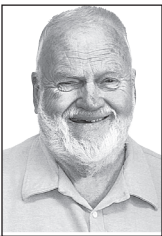
Although small in number, the group left some singular and distinguished accomplishments to be added to the school history, and they are to be commended for their entire student careers.

Congratulations to the class of 2018 and the best of luck in future undertakings.

SPRING SPORTS COMPLETE

Most of the spring sports are now complete, with a notable exception. The golf team repeated as the Section 1A champions and will compete in the state meet.

Alec Ille and Sam Wurst both



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

placed in the section meet.

Finally, the baseball team played Wabasha-Kellogg in the section baseball playoffs Saturday and lost a heartbreaking game to Falcons 1-0 on a no-hitter by the Falcons.

The softball team finished its season just a game under .500 and played hard throughout the season.

The girls made up for their lack of consistency with a great attitude and a continuing desire to play the best they could play.

They never gave up and played the game with fun and teamwork. It was a good season for the team.

The track teams also had interesting seasons, with Ille leading the way for the boys, and Wurst piling up points for the girls. A relay team and the two leaders all competed in the section meet and performed well.

ARKEMA AWARDED

A big tip of the hat this week goes

to local company Arkema for being recognized for excellence in workplace safety and health at the Governor's Safety Awards Luncheon several weeks ago. This is the second consecutive year Arkema has received that honor, and it is a mark of the importance the local employees place on their obligations.

The community is fortunate to have a manufacturing company like them in the area.

THE BIG SHOW

Plans now are well underway now for that annual community celebration, the Old Fashioned Fourth of July.

Many old favorites and several new attractions will be part of the annual event, and another two days of fun and activities are on the schedule. It will all culminate as usual with Fourth of July parade and the big fireworks display the evening of the fourth.

This past year the local chamber of commerce sponsored a cemetery walk, and this year that same group will be hosting a Main Street tour.

The affair will consist of a lei-

surely walk along the downtown businesses and will include a brief history or timeline of each business. There is some fascinating history connected with some of the old building, and the tour should be a very interesting stroll.

One other different sidelight to this year's festivities will be that the morning Awesome Blossom run will wend its way through the town's alleys rather than just the streets.

That is just another way that makes the local Fourth of July celebration truly unique and strictly old-fashioned. Make plans now to attend some or all of the events and remember to buy a Fourth of July button. That sale goes a long way to defraying the many expenses of the celebration.

Among other events on the horizon, the BP Youth Club is already making plans for its annual Ribfest on June 30. More details on that affair will be forthcoming in the next couple of weeks.

ANOTHER YEAR GONE

After a few summaries of the spring sports season, sports news at

the local high school will be complete for another school year.

I always have a definite feeling of nostalgia when that time in the yearly calendar approaches.

On one hand, it does give me a chance to sit back and contemplate the events of the past school year. On the other hand, it also gives me an opportunity to rejuvenate these tired old brain cells and prepare for another year.

It hardly seems possible that next fall I will be starting my 27th year as a writer for the local paper, and I must say that I have enjoyed almost every minute of it.

Some championships, some disappointments and many individual success stories have populated the seasons.

I remember each of them with fondness.

Add to that the years of writing my weekly column, and it truly has been a memorable time for me.

I would hope that it has also held some memorable times for the reader. Enjoy summer, and we'll talk again.

BOYS LACROSSE

Cougars second half scoring outburst dooms Huskies

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna boys' lacrosse team's season came to end at Lakeville South, 11-6, on Saturday.

The Huskies mounted a 5-4 halftime lead, thanks to goals from Josh Nelson (two), Tyler Johnson, Walker Nelson and Landon Thurnau, but the Cougars exploded offensively in the second half to out-scored Owatonna 7-1.

Despite the loss, Huskies' coach Scott Seykora said he was proud of what the team accomplishment this season.

"Sports are a game of momentum and anything can happen on any given night," Seykora said. "Our starting goalie went out with an injury from a hit in the third quarter and it just changed the game a little.

"We got the pipes like six or seven times in the second half and if a few of those would have went in it could have changed the game.

The boys worked very hard all season and even though we came up a little short of our goal we were Big 9 champs, scored the most goals out of any team in Owatonna history and finished with 12 wins, which is a record for us too."

Josh Nelson added the Huskies final goal in the second half. Josh Nelson, Thurnau and Tyler Johnson each also had an assist.

Kenneth Johnson allowed four goals off of four shots on goals in the first half, and Ryan Johnson allowed seven goals on 18 shots of goals in the second half.

HUSKIES STORM PASS SPARTANS

Owatonna defeated Rochester Century on Wednesday, May 30 in the opening round of the section tournament.

The Huskies dominated the second half after a slow start for a 13-4 victory.

The scored was tied 2-2 at halftime.

"We couldn't get a lot of things to click in the first half," Seykora said. "We made of some adjustments at halftime and the got the ball moving a little more. We just had to get a little bit more focused on catching first before they try to shoot. We had some trouble in the first half with guys trying to do something with the ball before they had it in their stick."

Josh Nelson scored four goals and had two assists, Walker Nelson had three goals and three assists and Thurnau scored four goals and had two assists.

Nate Smith had three assists, Noah Brandt had an assist and Mason Oland and Tommy Wall each had a goal.

Seykora said the Huskies' defense played phenomenally. "We played great," Seykora



Owatonna's Weston Wilson charges down the field during the Huskies 13-4 win over Rochester Century on Wednesday, May 30.



Owatonna's Noah Brandt snags the ball of the air during the Huskies first round section win on Wednesday, May 30.

said. "To go out there and only allow four goals against a team like Mayo was great. They definitely have improved as the season has went on and we had to make sure that we were ready for them."

Seykora said Thurnau, in particular, played "lights out" in the second half.

"He did a nice job of protecting the ball, passing it around and getting open when he had to," he said. "Walker Nelson also had a great game in the second half. Defensively, the boys just fought hard.

"Noah Brandt had another great game for us. Normally, a lot of the talk about him is that he is a face-off specialist, but today you can see on defensive side of the ball he had some takeaways, and on the offensive side, he actually kind of knocked some people over as he was dodging with

the ball. He got a little bit more physically, which was fun to see Noah do."

SEASON RECAP

The Huskies finished the season with an overall record of 12-3.

"This team was highly talented and the thing I will remember most is how they worked so well together," Seykora said. "They have all played together for quite a few years and we always there to pick each other up. They were selfless and the relationships built between each other and the coaches was remarkable.

"I miss every single player that leaves our team. We treat each other like family no matter who they are and that's why I coach. The relationships built are priceless and players can never be replaced. Everyone has a role

in the success of the team. Whether it's practice, filming, carrying equipment, every player plays a very important role."

Thurnau finished as the Huskies' leading goal scorer on the season (32), but Josh Nelson (30) and Walker Nelson (28) weren't far behind.

Other top scorers for Owatonna were Nate Smith (21), Tyler Johnson (20), Wall (10), Oland (9), Mitchell Wiese (8), Brandt (2), Dom Wondra (2) and Riley Becker (1).

Walker Nelson was the Huskies' leader in assists with 32. He was followed by Nate Smith (24), Thurnau (22), Tyler Johnson (13), Josh Nelson (10), Wall (6), Wiese (5), Brandt (5), Oland (3), Wondra (2), Kady Mulert (1), Jacob Dub (1) and Braeden Meier (1).

Kenneth Johnson allowed 23 goals on 94 shots on goal during the season while playing goalie. Brody Veach allowed 30 goals on 70 shots on goals while playing goalie.

Seykora said he miss the players who have graduated, but he confident in what the Huskies will return.

"We have a good group of players coming back," he said. "I feel our program is strong and we have a very good youth program with great coaches there as well. Each year the dynamics of a team may change a little but I know we will have plenty of players to step up next year and be the best they can be. So it's not a matter of replacing players but just restocking the pond for the next group to represent Owatonna lacrosse."

GIRLS HOCKEY

Murray is named new Owatonna girls hockey coach

STAFF REPORT

Shattuck-Saint Mary's alumna Sarah Murray has been named the new Owatonna High School girls hockey coach.

Murray is no stranger to the hockey world. She grew up in a hockey family and has been around the sport her entire life.

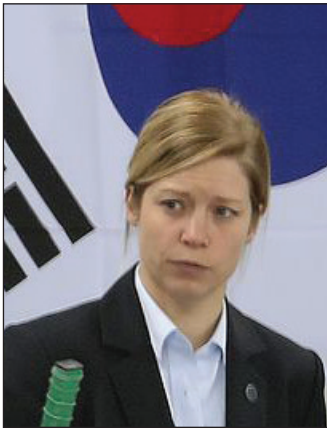
She won two national championships while attending Shattuck-Saint Mary's. Murray then moved on to play at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, where she won two NCAA Championships and also earned a spot on the Western Collegiate Hockey Association All-Academic Team.

She earned her degree in education and went on to play professional hockey in Lugano, Switzerland.

Murray was the head coach for the Korean Women's Hockey National team when they competed in the 2018 Winter Olympics.

"Owatonna High School is extremely excited to have coach Murray as our new girls head hockey coach," Owatonna Activities Director Marc Achterkirch said in a press release. "Murray brings a tremendous wealth of hockey knowledge and experience to our program. She will be an incredible role model to our student-athletes, both on and off the ice."

The upcoming season will bring eight returning var-



Sarah Murray speaks during press conference while she was serving as the Korean women's hockey coach.

sity players, including two All-Big 9 Conference selections from this past season squad that finished with a record of 16-9-0 and lost in the Section 1AA semifinals to Lakeville South.

Former coach Dan Paur stepped down from the position to focus his attention on the girls' lacrosse program and to have some more time to spend with his family.

"I'm excited to have the opportunity to be working with the girls in Owatonna this season," Murray said. "I'm hoping to share my knowledge and experience, both as a former NCAA player as an Olympic National Team coach. I look forward to helping the girls develop not only only as players, but as individuals."

HUSKIES: First HS homer

FROM B1

there," Malo said. "Rounding third base and seeing everyone at home plate is something that I will never forget."

Malo's first ever high school home run came in a big moment.

"He had gotten me with his slider in my first two at-bats," Malo said. "So I knew he was going to try to get me with it again.

"He had been hitting the outside half with it and I was just reaching at everything. He was throwing at the runner at first base and I think that kind of got his head out of the at bat. He kind of lost control of his last slider and hung one for me to turn on."

Malo said at first he didn't realize the ball went over the fence.

"I just thought it was going to get to fence," he said. "I was rounding first and I heard, 'It's gone.' That was just such a rush of emotions. A lot of adrenaline.

That was feeling that hard to put into words."

The pitching was strong for both teams. Owatonna tied the game 1-1 in the bottom of fourth inning when Schuster doubled on a 2-1 count.

Schuster also had single, as did Budach and Westphal.

Budach earned the win for Owatonna. He pitched 1.1 innings, allowing a single hit and no runs.

Sol Havelka pitched 5.2 innings. He surrendered five hits, one run, walked two and struck out two.

The Huskies were without Abe Havelka who suffered a leg injury.

"We are deep at one through nine," Cummins said. "We love Abe [Havelka] and you can't really replace him, but at one through nine we just battle. We did that today against a pitcher that had three pitches going, and we scored a couple late."

SOFTBALL

Cardinals end Blossoms' season



Blooming Prairie outfielder Marti Snider throws to a Blossom teammate at the Packer Dome in Austin earlier this season.

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Faribault Bethlehem Academy's softball team plated two runs in the third inning and held on for a 3-1 victory over Blooming Prairie at Todd Park in Austin Thursday, May 24.

Cardinal pitcher Tess Glenzinski held the Blossoms to three singles to record the sub-district knockout to the Blossoms.

BP took a temporary lead in the top of the third when Marti Snider walked, stole second and scored on a Linnea Sunde base hit, but Bethlehem came right back with two runs in the bottom of the inning.

The Cardinals used three singles and a walk to count the scores. They added an insurance run in the sixth inning on another single and a Blossom error.

Emma Christianson and Lila Carlson managed the other two hits for the locals.

Bethlehem had three runs, six hits and no errors; BP had a run on three hits and one error.

Riauna Bishop allowed six hits with no strikeouts and a walk in the game.

The Blossoms persevered all season to reach the .500 mark, but ultimately fell one game short of that at 9-10.

The team graduates three seniors in McKenna Hein, Emma Christianson and Linnea Sunde.

Those three have been great leaders all season for the underclassmen and they will be missed.

of the Week

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SOFTBALL

Giants pull out squeaker versus Panthers

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

LeSeuer-Henderson edged the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva softball, 1-0, to put an end to the Panthers' season in the section 2A tournament at Coswell Park in Mankato.

NRHEG had earlier lost to Saint Peter, but defeated Cannon Falls in the playoffs.

LeSeuer-Henderson counted the only score in the game against the Panthers when the Giants scratched a run home in the bottom of the sixth inning.

LeSeuer-Henderson pitcher Kelsey Berndt scattered seven hits and walked no one to earn the win in the circle.

Sophie Stork took the loss for the Panthers, allowing just three hits and striking out four, while walking three.

"The game could have gone either way," NRHEG coach Wendy Schultz said, "We had more hits, but we just couldn't get the big hit. Considering that we started just one senior and one junior, I am extremely proud of this group of girls. They played with poise and will use summer ball to keep improving."

Cloie Arndt and Grace Tufted had two hits each for the Panthers and Gabby Muri smacked a double. The team played errorless ball for the second game in a row.

PANTHERS SHUT DOWN BOMBERS

Stork scattered five hits, and the Panthers scratched out a run in the sixth inning to defeat Cannon Falls 1-0 in an earlier game.

Sarah Johns drove in the winning run, and Muri had a seeming home run taken away and labeled a double.

Stork struck out seven Bombers and had no walks in earning the victory. Abby Breuer took the loss for the home team, giving up just three hits and striking out five Panther batters. She walked two.

SAINTS MARCH BY PANTHERS

Saint Peter defeated NRHEG in second round sub-section playoff action 7-2 in Saint Peter on Thursday, May 24 to send the Panthers into a must



NRHEG pitcher Sarah Johns throws a strike for the Panthers earlier this season at the Packer Dome in Austin.

PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

win situation on Saturday against Cannon Falls.

The score was tied briefly 1-1, but the Panthers broke on top 2-1 briefly in the fourth. However, Saint Peter went ahead with two runs in the bottom of the inning and then tacked on one and three more runs in the fifth and sixth innings, respectively.

Only five of the Saints' runs were earned, as Stork took the loss in the circle. She allowed eight hits and walked five in the contest.

"Again, we definitely had our chances," Schultz said. "Although the score doesn't reflect that. We trailed by only two going into the sixth inning, and we left a lot of runners on base in the game."

The team managed only five hits off two Saint Peter pitchers, with five different players getting one hit each. Sidney Schultz and Cloie Arndt scored the lone Panther runs.



NRHEG's Paige Knudson crosses home plate during the Panthers season-opener at the Packer Dome in Austin.

PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

BLOSSOMS: First playoff game was hard-fought win over JWP

FROM B1

stopped in the second inning, with the Blossoms leading 4-1.

Trailing 1-0 against the Vikings, BP exploded for all five runs in the fourth inning and made the margin stand up for the victory. Colin Lerum had the big blow in the inning with three RBIs. Lucas Noble and Simon also had big hits in the game. Wayne earned the win on the mound for BP, giving just five hits and no earned runs.

"Wayne pitched a great game," BP coach Matt Kittelson said. "We played good ball behind him for the most part, although we did have three errors."

BP had five runs on six hits and three errors. Hayfield had three runs, five hits and one error

ATHLETICS BEAT BLOSSOMS

In a tightly-played game between the No. 2 and No. 3 seeds, the Lyle-Pacelli Athletics scored a late inning run and edged the Awesome Blossoms 3-2 in the first game on Saturday, May 26, at Marcusen Park in Austin. The loss knocked the Blossoms into the losers' bracket of the sub-section tournament.

Taylor Arett and Jed Nelson each had two of the Athletic hits, and Arett starred both at the plate and on the mound. He led the offense by driving in two of the three Lyle-Pacelli runs, and scattered seven Blossom hits to pick up the win. BP counted a run in the third and another in the bottom of the seventh, but left the tying run on base in the loss

Lyle-Pacelli had three runs, seven hits and two errors. BP had two runs, seven hits and an error.

Arett got the win, while Peterson took the loss for the Blossoms.

BP BREAKS THROUGH VS JWP

The Awesome Blossom baseball team broke a long playoff drought with a hard-fought, close game 4-2 victory over the Bulldogs. The No. 2 seeded Blossoms had all kinds of trouble on the home field Wednesday, May 23, with the No. 7 seed in the playoffs, primarily because JWP's Andrew Fisel is a quality pitcher.

"We knew Fisel was a good pitcher," Kittelson said "We knew it would be a tough game. It is hard to square up the ball against his offerings."

The visitors tallied single runs in the third and fourth innings, mainly on throwing errors by the Blossoms, to take a 2-1 lead.

Peterson had doubled in the third inning, as the locals scored the first run, and they came back to tie the score in the fifth. An inning later Peterson and Brad Staska both singled, and Dylan Nirk got the biggest hit of the game by stroking a double that drove in the winning runs. Pitcher Ian Wayne took care of the rest.

"Wayne went the distance for us," Kittelson said. "That was big for us. He throws strikes, walks hardly anyone, and he keeps the ball down. He understands the situation and doesn't get rattled. Nothing seems to get to him."

Peterson led the BP offense with two hits, including a double, Nirk had a double and two RBIs, Arett added a double and Karson Vigeland's lone hit was a triple. Wayne pitched all seven innings, allowing just five hits and no earned runs. He struck out five batters and issued no walks.

BP had four runs, six hits and five errors; JWP had two runs, five hits and two errors.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Cougars clobber Huskies

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna girls' lacrosse team's season came to end on Wednesday at Lakeville South when the Cougars routed the Huskies 18-5.

Owatonna finished the season with a record of 6-5-1, and were co-Big 9 Conference Champions along with Mankato.

Skyler Eaton was the Huskies leading goal scorer this past season with 25 goals. She was also Owatonna's assist leader with six.

Other goal scorers for the Huskies were Jazz Stechmann (12), Laura Ebeling (11), Sophie Amundson (10), Jade Huseby (8), Lyric Broton (7), Kenna West (7), Cassie Bremer (5), Maylynn Prokopec (5), Taylor Woltman (3), Paige Boedecker (1) and



Owatonna's Laura Ebeling sprints past a Northfield defender.

PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Madi Bruessel (1). Huseby had four assists, Woltman, Ebeling and Taylor Szymanski had three assists each, Broton, Bremer and Prokopec had two assists each and Bruessel and West each had one assist.



PHOTOS BY DENNIS MARSHALL

At left, Owatonna's Sophie Amundson celebrates after scoring goal against Northfield. Above, Owatonna's McKenna West takes a shot versus the Raiders.

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TRACK AND FIELD

Huskies move on to state meet



Owatonna's Jason Williamson competes in the 800-meter relay for the Huskies.



Owatonna's Sydney Kretlow prepares to cross the finish line for the Huskies.



Owatonna's Sydney Schultz turns the corner while competing on the relay team for the Huskies.



Owatonna's Dalton Kubista leaps while competes in the long jump for the Huskies.

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Although the Owatonna track and field team had no individual winners, the Huskies had two relay teams and two individuals qualify for the state meet by finishing second. had two relay teams and two at the 1AA Section Meet on Thursday at Lakeville South. Both the boys and girls 800-meter relay teams took home silver. The boys team included Alex Raichle, Dalton Kubista, Brandon Schmidt and Jason Williamson and finished with a time of one minute and 31.08 seconds. The girls team of Ava Wolfe, Sydney Schultz, Sara Anderson and Margo Achterkirch finished with a time of 1:44.96. Kubista also qualified by finishing second in the triple jump with a leap of 44-feet-1.75-inches, and pole vaulter Colton Kamholz earned silver with a jump of 12-6.

1AA SECTION MEET RESULTS
BOYS

Team Results: Lakeville South 127, Rosemount 115, Winona 58, Rochester John Marshall 47, Lakeville North 45, Rochester Centu-

ry 43, Owatonna 43, Farmington 40, Rochester Mayo, Northfield/ARTech 32, Hastings 32, Austin 25, Kasson-Mantorville 22, Red Wing 21, Albert Lea 10, Faribault 6. **100-meter dash:** 1, Robert Warren (Winona) 10.79; 8, Jason Williamson (Owatonna) 11.38. **200:** 1, Warren (Winona) 21.64. **400:** 1, David Urke (Northfield) 50.33; 4, Alex Raichle (Owatonna) 51.25. **800:** 1, Cooper Jackson (Lakeville South) 1:56.35. **1,600:** 1, Luke Labatte (Rosemount) 4:25.82; 26, Logan Bauer (Owatonna) 5:04.38. **3,200:** 1, Labatte (Rosemount) 9:36.90; 18, Evan Steiger (Owatonna) 10:42.19; 20, Bryce Knutson (Owatonna) 10:44.22. **110 hurdles:** 1, Jonathan Mann (Rosemount) 14.74. **300 hurdles:** 1, Mason Iverson (Kasson-Mantorville) 39.32; 5, Kennon Young (Owatonna) 40.77. **400 relay:** Lakeville South 45.52; 9, Owatonna (Davian Rogers, Tyler Ackman, Nick Remker, Taylor Hall) 46.36. **800 relay:** Farmington 1:30.81; 2, Owatonna (Raichle, Dalton Kubista, Brandon Schmidt, Williamson) 1:31.08. **1,600 relay:** Lakeville South 3:25.24; 5, Owatonna (Raichle, Young, Zach Berrett, Schmidt) 3:31.53. **3,200 relay:** Lakeville South 8:07.96; 8, Owatonna (Caeden McCartney, Bauer, Brettton Ruiter, Fanta Omot) 8:32.67. **Shot put:** 1, Maxwell Otterdahl (Rosemount) 55-feet-2-inches; 21, Joseph Stransky (Owatonna) 37-8.5. **Dis-**

cus: 1, Otterdahl (Rosemount) 166-0; 16, Kalvin Hays (Owatonna) 120-0. **High jump:** 1, Shae Mitchell (Lakeville South) 6-3; 5, Scott Kingland (Owatonna) 5-10; 12, Andrew Jackson (Owatonna) 5-6. **Pole vault:** 1, Aiden Wilson (Austin) 12-6; 2, Colton Kamholz (Owatonna) 12-6. **Long jump:** 1, Zachary Wendt (Rochester Mayo) 22-3; 10, Williamson (Owatonna) 19-9.5; 13, Kubista (Owatonna) 19-4. **Triple jump:** 1, Marquis Tonsager (Lakeville South) 44-6.25; 2, Kubista (Owatonna) 44-1.75; 15, Jackson (Owatonna) 38-9.75;

GIRLS

Team Results: Rosemount 152, Northfield/ARTech 90, Farmington 85, Lakeville South 69, Lakeville North 66, Rochester Century 43, Red Wing 35, Faribault 33, Rochester Mayo 30, Hastings 29, Winona 27, Owatonna 23, Austin 11, Kasson-Mantorville 5, Rochester John Marshall 4.

100: 1, Kinga Mozes (Rochester Century) 12.29. **200:** 1, Mozes (Rochester Century) 25.0; 9, Sydney Schultz (Owatonna) 26.96. **400:** 1, Elizabeth Acheson (Northfield) 57.52. **800:** 1, Danielle Bellino (Lakeville North) 2:13.97; 4, Syd Kretlow (Owatonna) 2:23.20. **1,600:** 1, Lauren Peterson (Farmington) 5:06.56; 32, Sarah Kingland (Owatonna) 6:11.68. **3,200:** Peterson (Farmington) 11:07.73; 23, Delilah

Baedke (Owatonna) 13:09.11; 28, Laura Stevenson (Owatonna) 15:00.66. **100 hurdles:** 1, Shae Buchman (Rosemount) 14.43; 7, Ali Golberg (Owatonna) 16.49. **300 hurdles:** 1, Ava Cinnamo (Rosemount) 45.35. **400 relay:** 1, Rosemount 49.18; 6, Owatonna (Ava Wolfe, Schultz, Janessa Moore, Margo Achterkirch) 50.72. **800 relay:** Lakeville North 1:43.87; 2, Owatonna (Wolfe, Schultz, Sara Anderson, Achterkirch) 1:44.96. **1,600 relay:** 1, Lakeville North 3:58.90; 5, Owatonna (Anderson, Grace Wolfe, Kretlow, Nyakhor Godoar) 4:09.50. **3,200 relay:** 1, Lakeville South 9:32.33; 11, Owatonna (Wolfe, Emily Rahrnick, Sydney Hunst, Baedke) 10:35.27. **Shot put:** 1, Megan Gehrke (Faribault) 44-1.75; 24, Rille Wickman (Owatonna) 29-7.25. **Discus:** 1, Annalee Olson-Sola (Northfield) 136-2; 13, Wickman (Owatonna) 95-8; 25, Skylah Conner (Owatonna) 80-3. **High jump:** 1, Alex Wolf (Rosemount) 5-4; 7, Lindsay Bangs (Owatonna) 5-0. **Pole vault:** 1, Karissa Ricks (Northfield) 11-0; 12, Heidi Lundberg (Owatonna) 8-6; 17, Erica Svenby (Owatonna) 8-0. **Long jump:** 1, Buchman (Rosemount) 18-5; 13, Anderson (Owatonna) 15-7.25; 14, Schultz (Owatonna) 15-7. **Triple jump:** 1, Arianna Passeri (Rosemount) 37-3.75; 19, Emma Dahnert (Owatonna) 31-6; 24, Kingland (Owatonna) 30-10.

Section 1A track results

STAFF REPORT

Individual qualifiers from the Blooming Prairie and Medford track teams took part in the 1A Section Meet on Thursday at Plainview. Stewartville won the boys' division with 98 points, while Byron claimed the girls' division (80.5). The Awesome Blossoms and Tigers boys finished 24th and 25th, respectively. The Medford girls were 20th and the BP girls were 28th. The Tigers' Luke Johnston was the only individual winner from Medford or Blooming Prairie. Johnston won the wheelchair shot put with a toss of 20-feet-5.5inches and the wheelchair discus with a throw of 46-7.

1A SECTION MEET RESULTS
BOYS

Team Results: Stewartville 98, Plain-Elgin Millville 80.5, Pine Island 66, La Crescent 64, Saint Charles 50, Lewiston-Mazeppa 50,

Byron 47, Triton 44, Dover-Eyota 43, Lanesboro/Fillmore Central/Mabel-Canton 33.5, Rushford-Peterson/Houston 33, Caledonia/Spring Grove 27, Cotter 26, Lake City 26, Grand Meadow/LeRoy-Ostrander/Kingsland/Southland 24, Rochester Lourdes 22, Wabasha-Kellogg 22, Rochester Area Christian Educators 20, Chatfield 18, Bethlehem Academy 18, Hayfield 12.5, Schaeffer Academy 8, Blooming Prairie 7, Medford 6.5, Cannon Falls 4, Kenyon-Wanamingo 2. **100-meter dash:** 1, Derrick Cannon (Plainview-Elgin Millville) 11.15. **200:** 1, Cannon (PEM) 22.54. **400:** 1, Jake Chilson (Byron) 51.00. **800:** 1, Evan Ouversen (Rochester Area Lourdes) 2:00.07. **1,600:** 1, Matt Steiger (La Crescent) 4:14.39; 7, Alex Ille (Blooming Prairie) 4:45.28. **3,200:** 1, Steiger (La Crescent) 9:23.30; 6, Ille (Blooming Prairie) 10:07.22. **110 hurdles:** 1, Drew Lewison (GMLOKS) 15.50. **300 hurdles:** 1, Lewison (GMLOKS) 40.78. **400 relay:** 1, Stewartville 44.19. **800 relay:** 1, Plainview-Elgin Millville 1:31.86. **1,600 relay:** 1, Rochester

Lourdes 3:27.98. **3,200 relay:** 1, Stewartville 8:14.34. **Shot put:** 1, Shane Byrne (Stewartville) 48-feet-4-inches. **Wheelchair shot put:** 1, Luke Johnston (Medford) 20-5.5. **Discus:** 1, Byrne (Stewartville) 145-0. **Wheelchair discus:** 1, Johnston (Medford) 46-7. **High jump:** 1, Conner Christenson (Byron) 6-3. **Pole vault:** 1, Jacob Munsch (PEM) 12-5; 5, Brett Johnson (Medford) 11-5. **Long jump:** 1, Jacob Niebuhr (Zumbrota-Mazeppa) 21-4.5. **Triple jump:** 1, Avery Hunt (Bethlehem Academy) 42-8; 10, Greg Larson (Medford) 40-2.5.

GIRLS

Team Results: Bryon 80.5, Plainview-Elgin Millville 69.5, Lake City 69, Lanesboro/Fillmore Central/Mabel-Canton 67, Rochester Lourdes 66, Cotter 65, Grand Meadow/LeRoy Ostrander/Kingsland/Southland 55, Stewartville 53, Triton 49, Hayfield 33, Zumbrota-Mazeppa 32, La Crescent 23, Lyle-Pacelli 25, Cannon Falls 23, Rushford Area Christian Educators 21, Bethlehem Academy 20, Pine Island 19, Saint Charles 18, Medford 14.5, Kenyon Wanamingo 14, Lewiston-Altura 14, Caledonia/

Spring Grove 12, Schaeffer Academy 10, Chatfield 5, Wabasha-Kellogg 4, Dover-Eyota 4, Blooming Prairie 3.5.

100: 1, CJ Adamson (Rochester Lourdes) 12.70. **200:** 1, Adamson (Rochester Lordes) 25.76. **400:** 1, Nell Graham (Triton) 58.35. **800:** 1, Grace Ping (Cotter) 4:57.33. **3,200:** 1, Ping (Cotter) 10:40.58. **100 hurdles:** 1, Emma Weatherly (Byron) 15.80. **300 hurdles:** 1, Emma Breitsprecher (Lanesboro/Fillmore Central/Mabel Canton) 45.74. **400 relay:** 1, Rochester Lourdes 50.66. **800 relay:** Grand Meadow/LeRoy Ostrander 1:44.54. **1,600 relay:** 1, Stewartville 4:00.63. **3,200 relay:** 1, Stewartville 9:41.26. **Shot put:** 1, Kristi Fett (Lyle-Pacelli) 37-6, 9, Kinsey Cronin (Medford) 31-11.5. **Discus:** 1, Makenna Theobald (Stewartville) 123-2. **High jump:** 1, Ashley Veronen (Lake City) 5-4; 2, Rachael Luebbe (Medford) 5-2; 6, Samantha Wurst (Blooming Prairie) 4-10. **Pole vault:** 1, Kalli Jo Klocke (Hayfield) 9-11; 5, Jenna McCarthy (Medford) 8-5. **Long jump:** 1, Lana Yeakel (Zumbrota-Mazeppa) 17-0. **Triple jump:** 1, Kaly Banks (Cannon Falls) 35-5.75;

Ille earns victory at sub-section

BY LEMAR NELSON

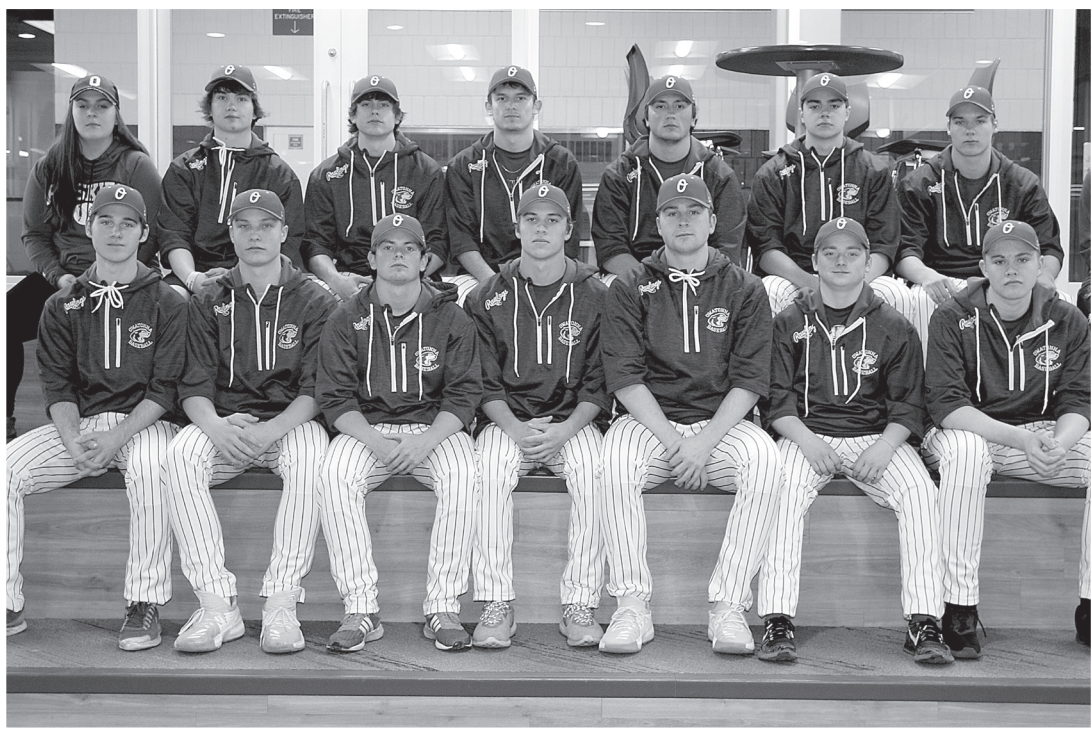
Blooming Prairie's Alec Ille took op honors in the 1,600-meter run at the 1A Sub-Section meet at Triton High School Thursday, May 24. He also placed second in the 3,200 and two other Blossom boys and a relay team advanced to the section meet. Sam Wurst represented the girls in two events. Gemini Johnson came up just short in the pole vault, and a girls' relay team for the girls narrowly missed qualifying. Stewartville won the boys' division, with Triton second, and GMLOS and Stewartville placed first and second for the girls. BP boys finished fourth in the 7-team meet, and the girls trailed the field. In taking first in the 1,600, Ille ran a 4:54.21 time, and he ran 10:53.91 in the 3,200. Zach Weber ran third in the 400 dash in 56.54 and Gabe Hagen placed third in the 100 dash with a 12.01 time. Wurst qualified with thirds in both the high jump and the 400. She leaped 4-feet-11-inches in the high jump and ran the 400 dash in 1:05.7. Coach Chelsea Van Roekel expressed disappointment over the relay's narrow miss, but she complimented the students who advanced to the section meet.



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It's official!

Hwy. 14 funding is passed and signed!





Sen. Dave Senjem

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Feedlot operation pushes forward as lawsuit dropped

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The lawsuit aimed at blocking a feedlot operation from being constructed in Dodge County has been dismissed, paving the way for the project to go on as planned. In February, Lowell and Evelyn Trom of rural

Blooming Prairie filed a lawsuit in Dodge County against Ripley Township and Timothy and Jennifer Langdon of Cannon Falls. The Troms were seeking to prevent a 12th swine factory



SONJA TROM EAYRS

farm from being built within a three mile radius of their farm. Judge Jodi Williamson dismissed the lawsuit on April 18 after the Troms agreed to withdraw the legal action.

Attorney Jack Perry, who represented the Langdons in the suit, said there was no legal basis for the lawsuit in the first place. He called the suit “frivolous” and “improper.” Perry referred further comment to the township’s attorney, Paul Reuvers, who was unavailable to talk. Sonja Trom Eayrs, who

spearheads Dodge County Concerned Citizens and a daughter of the Troms, disagrees with Perry’s assessment of the suit. “We had a good faith basis to bring that lawsuit,” she said. Trom Eayrs said the only reason the suit was dismissed

SEE FEEDLOT, C7



Two county offices to be contested in fall election

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

At least two contested races for local offices in Steele County will be taking place in this fall’s election.

Candidate filings for elected offices have been open since May 22 and close today (Tuesday) at 5 p.m.

Incumbent sheriff Lon Thiele has filed for re-election. He is being challenged for his position by deputy sheriff Darrin Helget.

For county commissioner in District 1, James Brady has filed for re-election. Sylvia Archer of rural New Richland has filed to run against Brady.

As of late last week, no race had been shaping up for commissioner in District 2. John Glynn, who currently holds the seat, was the only person to file.

Joe Heegard of Owatonna has filed for Minnesota State Representative District 24A seat, which is currently held by John Petersburg.

Other filings as of late Friday include: Daniel McIntosh for county attorney, Laura Ihrke for county auditor, Cathy Piepho for county treasurer, John Glynn for District 2 county commissioner, Kyle Wolfe of Owatonna for District 3 soil and water supervisor, Scott Tuchtenhagen of Owatonna for county surveyor, Judge Ross Leuning for District Court Judge Seat 5 and Judge Christine Long for District Court Judge Seat 12.

The primary election, if needed for races, will be Tuesday, Aug. 14. The general election is Tuesday, Nov. 6.

Men need to be aware of health risks



Steele Talkin’
ANDREA MARSHALL

Happy Father’s Day! The week leading up to Father’s Day, June 11th-17th, is declared “National Men’s Health Week.”

The purpose of Men’s Health Week is to heighten the awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and

treatment of disease among men and boys. To quote Congressman Bill Richardson, “Recognizing and preventing men’s health problems is not just a man’s issue. Because of its impact on wives, mothers, daughters, and sisters, men’s health is truly a family issue.”

Because the men in my life, like many men, do not tend to make their health a priority, I am hoping this article makes everyone aware of the health risks facing men and how to prevent and treat them so they can live long, and healthy lives.

The following screenings can help detect many life-threatening illnesses. Discuss these with your Primary Care Provider:

- An abdominal aortic aneurysm screening is a one-time screening by ultrasonography in men aged 65 to 75 who have ever smoked. An aneurysm is a bulging in a blood vessel that can burst without warning.
- An alcohol misuse screening can indicate if you may have a problem with alcohol. You may not meet the criteria for dependency or abuse but may be drinking at levels that place you at risk.
- If you are aged 50 to 75 be screened for colorectal cancer. If there is a family history you may need to be tested before age 50.
- More than 6 million men in the U.S. have Depression each year, according to WebMD. Depression is a treatable disease so get screened.
- If your blood pressure is higher than 135/80, consider being tested for Diabetes. Diabetes is a serious disease that can affect your heart, kidneys, feet, nerves, and eyes.
- Normal blood pressure is less than 120/80. Have your blood pressure checked every two years. High blood pressure increases your chances of having a heart attack, kidney disease or stroke. If your blood pressure is high and you are prescribed medication, take it.

SEE STEELE TALKIN’, C3

CULTIVATION AND COOPERATION

Detention Center staff and inmates partner with community for gardening

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Inmates at the Steele County Detention Center have been gardening since 2003 when former Assistant Jail Administrator Jennifer Pfeifer first championed the program.

Since then, Program Coordinator Cindy Fowler has marshalled the program into its current iteration thanks to partnerships with local community organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Others have helped along the way, including Public Health, who were instrumental in securing a SHIP grant to aid the program’s growth and Tom VanBinsbergen, who helped donate the seeds and plants to the gardens provided by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Each year at harvest’s end, the Detention Center donates its pumpkins to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota to use for Halloween events. During the summer season other crops are grown, including cabbage, radish, peas, and watermelon.

These crops will all be donated to the Good Shepard Lutheran Church, who then ferries them to the Steele County Food Shelf. The watermelons this year will be kept and served to the inmates, many of whom helped in their cultivation.

“They get excited because they want to give back to the community,” Fowler explains of the participating inmates’ willingness to take part in the program. According to Fowler, the inmates have to pass a



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Mayor Tom Kuntz teams up with Avery Thompson, an inmate from the Steele County Detention Center to water the recently tilled and planted garden located next to the jail. Thompson participates in both work release and the Good Shepherd Lutheran garden.

“They get excited because they want to give back to the community.”

Cindy Fowler

Jail Program Coordinator

background check and are often those that are enrolled in the Detention Center’s work release program as well.

With the economy getting stronger, Fowler says that she has often lost several of her gardeners to outside work. But there are still those who want to be out in the sunshine doing a little garden work this summer.

Avery Thompson, who is

SEE DETENTION CENTER GARDENING, C5



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Some of the workers involved with the gardening program at the Steele County Detention Center are Mayor Tom Kuntz, Program Coordinator Cindy Fowler and Good Shepherd Lutheran volunteer Tammy Johns.

A sticky mess

NRHEG students duct tape principal to wall

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

“Let’s duct tape our principal to the wall.” That’s a desire some kids might have about their principal. Well, it happened last Tuesday (May 29) when New Richland Hartland Ellendale Geneva Elementary School Principal Doug Anderson was duct taped to the wall.

Fifty-two students in grades K-5 were given the opportunity to use some duct tape to fasten their favorite principal to the wall.

This opportunity was afforded the students and staff members to celebrate PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support), a Panther Pride program.

As he was just hanging around the gymnasium, Anderson coyly answered questions like: “Will you stick to the wall?” He smiled, “It’s a good possibility.”

He also was told he might not be let down. “I hope that’s not true,” he responded.

During the taping process, Anderson stood on a short step stool. When the taping was finished, the stool was kicked out and PRESTO! the principal stuck to the wall.

Students in grades K-5 were given slips at the beginning of the school year and asked to return them. Anderson said if over 2,000 slips were collected, he would agree to being duct taped to the wall.

This fun event was staged to reward students for making good choices.

All of the action happened the day following Memorial Day. Teachers and staff brought students into the gymnasium to watch all of the excitement.

Eight rolls of duct tape were used to hold Anderson to the wall.

The fun ended for the students and began for Anderson when kids were allowed to pull their principal off the wall.

Yes, it’s true, Anderson is really off the wall.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

New Richland Hartland Ellendale Geneva (NRHEG) Elementary School Principal Doug Anderson is just hanging around on one of the last days of school. He is duct taped to the wall. Jean Underwood and Judy Christianson took his foot stool away from him.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Principal Doug Anderson could still muster a smile as he is duct taped to the wall at NRHEG Elementary School in Ellendale.

Seasonal help to aid in public works shortage in Medford

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to curb a shortage in the public works area, the Medford City Council has taken a step to bring on extra seasonal help.

At last month’s city council meeting members approved the listing of a part-time, seasonal public works employee.

City Administrator Andy Welti had been petitioning the council to accept the posting for some time in order to help shoulder the influx of summer work while housing a limited staff.

Medford’s public works department has been dealing with the staff shortage since March when Public Works Supervisor Fernando Gonzales resigned. This came on the heels of the resignation of another public works employee.

With the workload increasing as the temperature warms up, the city is hoping to add temporary help while they continue to search for a candidate who can fill the Public Works Supervisor vacancy.

The posting for the new, seasonal job, is for 10-20 hours a week, but Welti expressed to the council that this could be altered depending on the hiring. “We can always increase the hours,” Welti said. “This flexibility allows us to look for the candidate, or combination of candidates, to get the hours we need.” The pay has yet to be determined, and will be based on the potential applicant’s experience.

Although the council has delayed posting this position in hopes of finding a more suitable contender that could fill in the need at supervisor, many felt that now was the time to look for extra help. “I just want somebody in here so we can move forward on some of these projects,” council member Marie Sexton opined.

During the meeting, the council also motioned to accept the proposal to reimburse lifeguards and WSI employees for up to half the cost of their certification training.

In order to receive the reimbursement, all pool staff have to work the entire season, and it will only cover their initial certification. The estimated total cost for this year’s reimbursement is \$750.

Mike Bubany of David Drown & Associates was

also present to go over some of the final specifics for the city’s loan of \$308,000 to cover the cost of the street improvement project currently in the works, plus interest.

The council accepted Resolution 2018-11, which authorized the issuance, sale, and delivery of the amount. This will go towards the city’s street project, which is currently estimated to cost \$288,674.55 based on the lowest bid from R.A.W. Construction.

A lot combination was also discussed after Andrew Nevils requested that the council approve his request for the combination of Lot 7, Block 40, Johnson & Company’s Addition and Lot 1, Block 3, Jones First Addition. After a brief discussion the council approved Nevils’ request.

Also on the agenda was the approval for the Medford Fire Department to go ahead and authorize a bid on new SCBA packs. SCBA packs provide breathable air during rescue situations that are dangerous or hazardous. The bid will be fortified by a FEMA grant which will cover 95 percent of the cost.

The council quickly reviewed an additional municipal upgrade while discussing the need for a new public works pickup truck. The city staff recommended that the council approve the purchase of a half-ton pickup truck, which can fit more staff and be used to pull their trailer.

While the council understands the need for a replacement truck, the numbers and recommended vehicle will be officially addressed during June’s council meeting, as city staff are still reviewing the state bid list to determine which truck will fit their needs at a reasonable cost.

Another item on the agenda concerned the cost of three easements in the city’s signage project. In order to help pay for the drafting of the three easements at an estimated total of \$1,000 for the Community Growth Initiative Sign Project, the council motioned that the EDA board will pick up the expenses.

“What I will do is let CGI know that it was the council’s recommendation that the money come from the EDA,” Welti explained to the council.

The Medford City Council will hold its next meeting on Monday, June 25 at 7 p.m.

The board also accepted the donation of \$250 from the Medford Fire Department for the school’s color run. The color run is a 5k marathon which involves runners being showered with colored powder at various stations along the way.

This year’s color run will raise money for the school’s Physical Education department, which is looking to get heart rate monitors to use in its classes.

After the meeting, Ristau also commented on the school’s land sale and logo project. Ristau confirmed that the land sale with Timbercrest LLC is looking like a done deal, barring any final unexpected hiccups.

The new logo project is also moving forward swiftly. “We’re ready to start putting the paint on the walls,” Ristau offered. According to Ristau, they have managed to raise \$10,000 so far for the new project.

With the school year coming to a close, and a few projects in the works over the summer season, the board is continuing to look for additional funding for its rebranding initiative. Having several plans in the works for alterations and aesthetic improvement, it’s looking like the Tigers will pounce back in style for the 2018-2019 school year.

Medford seniors celebrate graduation

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

On Friday, May 25 Medford seniors walked up on stage to grab their diplomas, and traced their way back through memories and moments from their school career.

This year’s graduating class totaled 75 students, including 26 honor students, 13 graduating with distinction, and five national honor society members.

“It was a privilege getting to know you this year and I wish we had three more years together,” High School Principal Kevin Babcock remarked to the eager graduates. “Everyone here has their own unique memories of you, so let’s keep the positive ones rolling.”

Babcock delivered the evening’s welcome before handing it off to several graduating students and teacher Joe Melles. But before ceding the mic he added, “don’t forget, once you’re a tiger, you’re always a tiger.”

Then it was time for Colton Havelka, the student welcome

address speaker, to take the stage. “No matter the obstacles, we have always been a class that has stood side by side,” Havelka said to his peers. “This is only the beginning of many reunions to come.”

Havelka regaled his fellow graduates with a trip down memory lane, recalling humorous or memorable moments along the way. “In the end,” he told the crowd packed into the Medford School gym, “don’t be sad because this isn’t the end of the class of 2018, it’s the beginning of a new chapter in our lives.”

When it came time for Social Studies teacher Joe Melles to deliver his own remarks, it was to the sound of several passionate cheers from his students. Melles is in his second year of teaching at Medford Public School and coaches Junior High Football.

Melles said that he was immediately overwhelmed when he was chosen as the commencement speaker, and decided to use his time at the podium to talk about one of his pet subjects: history. “My favorite part about history is you can learn from the past and make changes.”

In his speech, Melles mentioned several key examples from history, citing Winston Churchill as a prime example for not changing who you are in the face new challenges and environments.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN
Medford seniors enter the gym in pairs before taking their seats.

He also discussed humanism, and early humanist Petrarch. “All humans have potential, and everyone deserves a chance to fulfill theirs.”

But in discussing the past Melles hoped to inspire a generation of the future. He used American Inventor Thomas Edison as an example of someone who strived for greatness despite several failures along the way.

Melles said that Edison knew to never give up his own pursuit of greatness. “Failure is just an opportunity to learn and grow as a person.”

His final example was an anecdote from his own history. Melles recalled sitting at a Wendy’s drive thru with his father, who told him, “it doesn’t matter if you’re a CEO, or a lawyer, or a fast-food worker, as long as you’re doing something productive you will have my respect.”

Smiling out at the crowd of students Melles finished by saying that, “I can’t wait to see the success of each and every one of you.”

Isabel Brady, who delivered this year’s student farewell address, utilized a metaphor of life as a race to underscore her speech. Brady graduated with distinction and will be attending the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

During her speech she thanked all of those who

helped them get to where they are today, including teachers, family, and friends. “Without them cheering us on, the finish line would seem unattainable.”

“The most challenging stretch of the race is when we can see the finish line,” Brady explained to her fellow graduates. Like Melles, she also placed emphasis on learning from ones mistakes and embracing the obstacles in life.

“Do not fear failure, use it to motivate you to move on,” she said. “After today we will all be starting on a new race and a new finish line.”

After Brady’s farewell address, the Medford seniors were treated to a slide show presentation of their journey through school and life. This drew both cheers and tears, and students fondly recalled all the hard work and fun along the way.

Finally it was time to award the diplomas. Principal Kevin Babcock proudly announced his students as they each took the stage to receive their diploma, and receive well wishes and congratulations from the Medford School Board.

With their marathon through life nearing a crucial time, Medford’s graduating class of 2018 will look to their experiences in life and in school and know that the future is in their grasp.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN
Members of the Medford School Board present Medford graduates with their diplomas and offer them a word or two as they make it across the stage.

Poppe to seek another term as state rep

Incumbent Jeanne Poppe filed last week seeking another term as state representative for District 27B, a seat she has held since being elected in 2004.

At the May 6 DFL endorsing convention, Poppe received unanimous support to seek her eighth term. District 27B includes Vernon Township on the southern end of Dodge County, most of Mower County and London Township in Freeborn County.

“It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the State Representative for District 27B, and to be an advocate for our region at the state level,” said Poppe. “As a legislator, I consistently take a district-first approach, supporting legislation that strengthens our communities, families, farmers, and small businesses. Minnesotans want legislators who work to find common ground, who

value problem-solving, and who look past labels.”

Poppe said over the past 14 years she has proven her ability to reach beyond party lines and get the job done. “I hope to once again receive the support of my constituents in November’s election,” she added.

In her seven terms as state representative, Poppe has been named the Minnesota Milk Legislator of the Year (2013), received an Honorary State FFA Degree (2015), and been named Outstanding Ag Mentor from MN Agri Women (2017).

Poppe is currently Minority Lead on the Agriculture Finance Committee, and also serves on the Agriculture Policy, Capital Investment, and Ways and Means Committees. She previously served as the Chair of the Agriculture Policy Committee.



JEANNE POPPE

SALUTING AREA VETERANS

Frank Richard Williamson

Branch:	U.S. Coast Guard
Special Training:	Earned a gunner's rate aboard ship.
Service:	1942 into boot camp in New York. I was in three years (ashore for one year riding horse patrol at Hilton Head, an island in the Atlantic.
Discharged:	Nov. 1945 from St. Louis
Area Served:	Boot camp in New York, then Hilton Head Island, then on the USS Harveson Ship. I was a destroyer escort. I was on it for two years and escorted ships from the U.S. to Europe.
Unit Served:	U.S. Navy

My Story:

We escorted 23 convoys across the Atlantic so I crossed the Atlantic 46 times. We had trouble with German submarines and sank one and crippled a few. England bombed any submarines that surfaced.

The food wasn't so "hot," and there was no refrigeration available. We usually had dried foods for our meals.

Once we were rammed by one of our own ships. I almost cut us in half. I was sleeping at the time. We returned to the New York Navy Yard and repairs were made. There were 235 on our ship.

I was seasick the first six weeks. I finally got over it. Eventually, I got tired of looking at water.

I married Margaret Watson in August 1944. We were in port and I had a five day leave. She returned home to Illinois, and I went back out to sea. We moved to Blooming Prairie in 1968. Land was cheaper in Minnesota. We sold our land/farm in Illinois. I milked cows in Illinois and crop farmed. In Minnesota, we crop farmed and raised pigs.

I joined the American Legion after we moved to Minnesota. I was also in the Honor Guard. Margaret and I were married 72 years.

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

Exchange Club of Steele County honored as top club in district

The Exchange Club of Steele County was recognized, May 19, as the Lakes & Prairies District Exchange “Outstanding Club of the Year” during the district’s convention in Cedar Falls, Iowa. The district includes Exchange clubs in Minnesota, Iowa, and Omaha, Nebraska.

Nominees for Exchange club of the year were evaluated by club activities, growth, retention, and earning their National Service Award with programs of service in Americanism, Youth, Community, and the national project: the Prevention of Child Abuse.

The Exchange Club of Steele County also had individuals honored for their years of service including Vern Wilker, who earned the All-American Volunteer Award. This is awarded to the individual who has attended at least 75 percent of their club’s meetings and participated in at least 80



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Exchange Club of Steele County was honored as “Outstanding Club of the Year,” during the Lakes & Prairies District Exchange Convention Awards Banquet, May 19, in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Club members in attendance to accept the traveling banner include (left to right): Randy Sobrack, board director and installed as 2018-19 district president; Lowell Miller, board director; Kathleen Miller, club secretary and installed as 2018-19 Division 4 director; and Mike Brown, club president.

percent of their club’s projects. Mary Wencil earned an Exchange Hall of Fame Award for being a member of Exchange for at least 25 years, and contributions toward Exchange at the club, district, and national levels. For those wishing to learn more about Exchange, please visit nationalexchangeclub.org, or visit the Steele County club at 7 a.m., Friday mornings at Valleyview Assisted Living in Owatonna behind Perkins Restaurant.

Foundation to partner with flower basket program

The Owatonna Foundation is pleased to announce a marketing partnership with the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism (OACCT) for the 2018 Flower Basket Program.

The Owatonna Foundation is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year and as part of recognizing that historic milestone the Foundation will be helping to sponsor the flower baskets. Owatonna is one of seven Minnesota cities that is an accredited MainStreet Community. The Minnesota Main Street Program is administrated by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota and it focuses on preserving and enhancing downtown communities through four primary areas: economic vitality, design, organization and promotion. The Flower Basket Program began in 2004 as part of Owatonna’s Main Street initiatives and 50 baskets were put up the first year.

Brad Meier, president of the OACCT stated: “This program shows the pride our community takes in the look and feel of our downtown. The Flower Basket Project is part of how we showcase our City to attract people to work and live here. Having it funded each year through private and corporate donations really tells the story of a true grassroots effort to show our community’s pride in Owatonna and partnering with the Owatonna Foundation allows the program to be one year ahead in its fundraising to ensure its long term continued success. In return, twelve banners will go up around Central Park. This unique partnership shows how committed the Owatonna Foundation is to the continued enhancement and vitality of this community.”

Shirley Schultz, MainStreet director, said the flower basket program is run by volunteers and exists because of the good will and donations from citizens and businesses. “One hundred percent of each donation is for the flowers,

watering, fertilizer, and maintenance of the baskets. Tax deductible donations, gifts and memorials come from people both in town and out of state, businesses and non-profits-all from folks that love Owatonna or love flowers,” she said.

As part of this year’s fundraising efforts the Flower Basket Committee has conducted meat raffles at the Elks Club, did a “round-up” at Fareway Foods, and has donation jars out at many of the downtown businesses. Along with the Foundation, other partners of the 2018 baskets include: the City of Owatonna Economic Development Authority, Cedar Valley Services, Souba Greenhouse and Garden Center, Owatonna Chamber Foundation along with in-kind service from Owatonna Public Utilities, Owatonna Park & Recreation, the OACCT, and MainStreet.

The fundraising goal for this year is to raise funds for 125 baskets in 2019. May 22 is the target date for having the baskets up. For more information about the Flower Basket Program or to make a donation, please contact Schultz at 507-451-7970.

“We are thrilled to be a part of the Flower Basket program this year,” said Betsy Lindgren, president of the Foundation, “The baskets add so much beauty to our community and make Owatonna a welcoming City to tourists and a place we can all be proud to call home. We’re excited to see the twelve banners that will be put up on downtownlight poles in recognition of our support. The banners will help us to create more awareness of the Foundation’s proud history and the on-going legacy it is for our community, and will also help to promote our mission of “improving the quality of life for present and future generations by supporting Owatonna projects that focus on community, arts, recreation and education.”

BLUES AND BBQ

Smokin’ in Steele brings out Blues fans

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

For 11 years Smokin’ in Steele has been raising money while treating locals to good music, good food, and good fun. The annual BBQ competition and blues festival was held this past weekend at the Steele County Fairgrounds with live music and more barbeque than you could shake a stick at.

“Its absolutely an art form,” David Ellis of Machete Boys BBQ explained. “It’s a combination of time, good wood, good meat, and flavor.” Ellis and his team took first prize in ribs and second in chicken at this year’s backyard competition. He and his team hail from Edina.

When it comes to barbeque, Ellis has a thing or two to say about preparation. “Don’t prepare the day of the event. All the work has to be done before hand, and that way you can just get the food cooking,” he said.

This is Ellis and his team’s first year at Smokin’ in Steele. “It’s a good event, and a beautiful day,” he said while enjoying some music. Ellis’ team cooked a variety of meats, including chicken, ribs, pork loin, and wings.

Having competed at events like this in the past, Ellis spent a year on a pro team to learn the ropes and now feels like he has his method down. “I feel like this is a culmination of all of the work I put into it,” he said, noting this year’s rub was neither sweet nor hot, preferring a nice neutral variety to entice the judges.

“I did a hot rub at a few events last year, and I don’t think it turned out as well as this one,” Ellis said. He also had a few extra tricks of the trade to share. “You’ve got to control your heat because you don’t want your meat getting elastic, or rubbery, and you’ve got to know what the judges are expecting, and then the rest is flavor.”

Ellis debuted his new barbeque technique at Minnesota in May at the State Fairgrounds in St. Paul. He and his team will be vying for a place in the Minnesota BBQ Society this year, and as such are required to compete at events like these.

The scrumptious food wasn’t the only attraction at this year’s Smokin’ in Steele. For many, it’s the music that brings them out. “It’s the one true and original American art form and its where rock and jazz come from,” local blues fan John Hammer explained.

Hammer is a member of the Knights of Columbus and helps put on the event each year. In 2013 he was voted into the Minnesota Blues Society Hall of Fame for his work promoting the genre. “It used to be the Knights of Columbus’



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Nothin’ but the blues. Boom Boom Steve V and the Knockouts perform in Park Square at the Smokin’ in Steele BBQ and Blues festival at the Steele County Fairgrounds.

Spring into Summer event, and this grew out of that.”

The idea for Smokin’ in Steele first came about when some of Hammer’s fellow Knights mentioned that they should do something like this. Now its grown into a festival that brings people from all over the country.

“There’s people from all over,” Hammer said. “We have some from Florida, California, we had a musician from Oregon,” he said. Hammer hosts a blues program for KOWZ Radio and relishes the chance to share his passion for a good cause.

“It’s nice to do something to give back and have fun, and most of it is free,” Hammer said.

Although the money raised will be donate to several local charities, this year’s primary beneficiary is the Minnesota Special Olympics. Tracy Clark, who manages the Craig Clark Band, feels it’s a wonderful cause. “I think it’s awesome!” said Clark, who is a special education teacher in Coon Rapids.

Clark and Dee Miller Band manager Sue Bujold are definitely fans of the blues. “Each band has their own take on things,”said Bujold a choir teacher in West St. Paul.

When asked whether she gives any of the performers some insight or advice, Bujold joked that she might tell them her thoughts on their singing, or their bass playing. “We both love music,” her and Clark revealed.

Other events available at the festival include a Kids Q contest where kids can



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

First prize! Machete Boys BBQ wins first prize for ribs in the backyard competition. They also took home second for their chicken. Pictured left to right are: Jason Hayden, Fareway meat manager, David Ellis, leader of Machete Boys BBQ, Kristen Spain, member of Machete Boys BBQ, and Brian Speas, Fareway manager. Fareway Foods helped match some of the weekend’s cash prizes.

try their hand at the art of barbequing, a 5K walk/run, and an antique car, tractor and big rig display.

Smokin’ in Steele has been proclaimed by Governor Mark Dayton as a state championship BBQ contest and is sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society. It is presented by the Knights of Columbus Council No. 945.

Hammer and his crew are grateful for all of the community support and their sponsors. This year Fareway Foods helped match the cash prizes for some of the weekend’s winners. “We can’t do this without the support of the community and the support of all our sponsors,” Hammer said.

Little Theater gives out scholarships

Little Theatre of Owatonna is pleased to announce its 2018 Veta Alexander Little Theatre of Owatonna Scholarship winners. They include 2018 Owatonna High School graduates:

- Nick Hagen, son of Robert and Erin Hagen, Owatonna;
- Jessica Hager, daughter of Ron and Brenda Hager, Owatonna; and
- Caroline Nelson, daughter of Stephen and Peggy Nelson, Ellendale.

Recipients were chosen based on their academic record, community

involvement, leadership quality, school activities, and involvement in LTO and/ or other drama productions. Funds for this scholarship are provided by LTO patrons as 4 percent of each show’s earnings are earmarked for this scholarship as well as individual donations and memorials made to the Veta Alexander Scholarship Fund. Recipients will use these scholarships to further their education. Hagen plans to study Art Management and Entrepreneurship at Gustavus Adolphus

College. Hager will attend Bethany Lutheran College or Morningside College to study nursing. Nelson will study music and humanities/ education at St Thomas University. Recipients were acknowledged at the Owatonna High School

Academic and Scholarship Awards Night May 23. A formal presentation took place at the OHS One Act Festival on May 31. Recipients will also be recognized on opening night of the LTO’s summer production, Seussical July 12.

STEELE TALKIN’: FROM C1

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can help you quit. These screenings and visits with your Primary Care Provider when things just don’t feel right can save lives! We love you dads, brothers, grandpas, sons, and grandsons and want to celebrate MANY future Father’s Days together, so please take care of yourselves by doing some simple, but incredibly important screenings!

Andrea Marshall is a health educator with Steele County Public Health. Steele Talkin’ is a weekly column featuring authors representing various groups and organizations throughout Steele County.

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Smiles radiate as Owatonna seniors receive diplomas

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Follow the story of the Vietnam WWith a graduating class of 336 students the Owatonna High School celebrated its 142nd annual commencement ceremony.

This year's ceremony was dedicated to two students who passed away during the year, Brandon Beman and Shawn Robb.

Principal Mark Randall addressed the adversity his students faced. "You persevered through difficult times, you lost two classmates outside of school, and you pulled together during those tough times," he said.

Randall was proud of the hard work each and every one of his students exhibited. "You've set the bar high," he said to the crowd of eager graduates. "Thank you, class of 2018, for all you have done to make OHS a great place to be."

He also took the time to thank the OHS staff, saying, "thank you for all that you do for our students," before handing the podium over to the afternoon's two student speakers.

Lydia Weisenburger, who graduated with high distinction and plans on attending Carlson School of Management at U of M Twin Cities, was the first student to take the mic.

She spoke about the ways in which they were molded by each other. "Now we are all going off to find new connections, which could be really exciting or really scary," Weisenburger said.

Weisenburger reminded her peers to , "remember these special moments." She also told her fellow graduates that, "on stage you will realize just how special the people around you are."

"We have been weaving together the fabric of our lives, so don't worry, and remember to weave together new connections," she said.

Another student speaker, Braedon Meier,

shared about understanding that life is not perfect, and that while "we make mistakes, they are only a part of life, and something to learn from." He graduated with distinction and plans to attend Wittenberg University in Ohio.

"If senioritis were in the dictionary, there would be a picture of me next to it," Meier joked to those in attendance while regaling the many mistakes or hiccups he faced throughout the year.

But looking back, Meier intoned that he wished he would have stayed positive. "Instead of worrying, I should have been remembering all the good times."

"I should have remembered all of the life lessons, both from our teachers, and from each other," Meier said. "Perfection is not a human quality," he said, adding that graduates should have high aspirations and low expectations, which will lead to success.

Meier knows that life will have many hurdles along the way. "We will all make stupid mistakes in our future, but stupid mistakes make us human, and

help us learn." In closing, Meier told his classmates, "Your effort will always be worth something."

"Graduation is your time and no one else's, this moment is yours and once its over the rest of your life will be yours as well. The messiness and craziness of life is so much better than trying to be perfect," he said.

After the student speakers, Principal Randall and the Board of Education presented their students with well-earned diplomas, inviting them on stage and congratulating each one of them.

This year's graduating class included three foreign exchange students who stayed to receive their diplomas. Hannes Gohlke from Germany, Beatrice Abruscato from Italy, and Ana Teira-Oyjo from Spain. Several other exchange students had already returned home prior to the ceremony.

There were 51 students graduating with distinction and 39 graduating with high distinction. For the graduating class of 2018 the future is one step closer.



Principal Mark Randall congratulates graduating senior Omar Mohamed Ahmed. Randall and Superintendent Jeff Elstad were there to greet each student as they stepped off the stage.



Smiles abounded from Owatonna seniors as they took a final march to pick up their long-awaited diplomas Sunday afternoon.



Senior Braedon Meier delivers his commencement speech. Meier's speech focused on not letting mistakes deter you from pursuing greatness.



Principal Mark Randall delivers his opening remarks during the OHS commencement ceremony as seniors listened intently.

NRHEG grads say heartfelt goodbyes, hopeful for future

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Many fought back tears as the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva seniors received their diplomas during the school's commencement ceremony Sunday.

NRHEG Secondary Principal David Bunn said the Class of 2018 is a talented group of students that will be remembered fondly.

"They were very personable," he said. "A lot of them really cared about the school and their accomplishments. We will really miss them."

"It's a great honor and privilege to release this group out into community and let them spread their wings. They will do great."

The ceremony started with a welcome from NRHEG Superintendent Dale Carlson, which was followed by the Panthers' band playing "Bloom" by Steven Bryant.

Seniors Ben Lewer, Justin Mortenson and Emily Crabtree were elected by their classmates to be the commencement speakers.

Lewer spoke of the past. He mentioned elementary school memories, trying times and the moments of triumph.

"It was just things that we all remembered and would laugh about," he said.

Lewer, who will attend the University of Wisconsin and major in political science and communication, also took the class on a stroll down memory lane to when they visited the ironic SPAM Museum in Austin.

Lewer said the underlining message of his speak was, "Even though we might be going different directions, we spent time together and made some great memories that we can hold on to and reflect on for the rest of our lives."

Mortenson spoke about the present in his speak, and reminisced about events from the past year including homecoming, the week students had no school due to snow and few other key moments from throughout the past year.

"Basically [my message] was that you should really anticipate your classmates," he said. "Senior year everyone became really close and we all started to realize that we would be leaving each other."

"So you just don't want to waste any time. You want to enjoy being with them while you still can."

Mortenson plans to attend the University of Minnesota-Duluth and major in teaching communication arts and literature.

"It honest doesn't even feel real," he said. "I just feels like we all dressing up and having fun."

Mortenson said he will always remember how great it was to grow up in a community like the one he did.

"This community is great," he said. "We all have each others backs. If anything goes wrong we all will support each other. We are just really close. We are small-town community."

Crabtree said she was excited and nervous about the future, but she was sad about leaving all her friends.

She looked ahead to the future during her speech, about plans for a five-year reunion to some funny prophecies for the yearbook that might come true.

"[My message] was don't be scared for the future because you're going find new friends and fit in," Crabtree said. "Don't be nervous because it will be okay."

Crabtree said she will always remember the lifelong memories she made with her classmates.

"They are really one of a kind," she said.

Solveig Stafford and Emma Tollefson thanked all the parents for all their dedication and sacrifice they made for the Class of 2018.

Each senior then presented their parent or guardian with a rose.

That was followed by Betsy Schoenrock and Emily Prigge being presented as the school's co-valedictorians.

Schoenrock plans to attend Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter where she will major in elementary education and play basketball for the Golden Gusties.

Prigge will attend the University of Minnesota-Duluth and major in graphic design.

Schoenrock said she'll never forget the valuable life lessons she learned during her time at NRHEG.

"It doesn't really feel real yet to be honest," Prigge said. "But give it a little time and I think everything will start to hit and it will be gone. Right now it doesn't feel like it's gone yet."

Both students said it was nice to see their hard work pay off.

"It's feels really good," Prigge said. "I did not think I would make it through all of those college classes with a 4.0 [GPA] still. I guess the studying and the hard work really does pay off in the end."

NRHEG Class of 2018's motto was "A journey begins not with the first step, but a desire to go where you have never gone."

Their class color was light blue and white and their class flower was the White Calla Lily.



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Tears of joy and achievement filled the NRHEG gymnasium Sunday afternoon as members of the Class of 2018 received their diplomas.

Hospital Auxiliary awards scholarships

The Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary recently awarded scholarships, totaling more than \$14,000, to 14 area students who are attending or will attend an accredited educational institution and have declared a healthcare-related major.

The Donald Sanford Nursing Scholarship program is for those individuals who have declared a nursing major and are entering their first year or more of school. The Auxiliary Health Related Career Scholarship program is for those individuals entering or currently attending school and have declared a healthcare-related major.

Recipients of the Donald Sanford Nursing Scholarship are:

- Elena Bueltel – attending University of Minnesota; majoring in nursing.
- Kathryn Dufrene – attending University of Minnesota; majoring in nursing.

Recipients of the Auxiliary Health Related Career Scholarship are:

- Caitlin Anderson – attending Winona State University; majoring in nursing.
- Kristine Boubin – attending Winona State University; majoring in nursing.
- Ryan Emanuelson – attending University of Minnesota-Duluth; majoring in doctorate of medicine.
- Ryan Hagen – attending Winona State University and is majoring in nursing.

- Halie Higgins – attending Bethel University; majoring in physician assistant studies.
- Tammy Jarvi – attending Capella University; majoring in nursing (RN to BSN).
- Michelle McMurphy – attending Southern New Hampshire University; majoring in nursing (RN to BSN).
- Meagan Nowariak – attending Gustavus Adolphus College; majoring in biology (pre-medicine).
- Deborah Orchard – attending South Central College in North Mankato; majoring if medical assisting.
- Margaret Schlicker – attending Valparaiso University; majoring in physician assistant studies.
- Britt Schultz – attending Augsburg University; majoring in nurse practitioner studies.
- Grace Valen – attending Augustana University; majoring in biology (pre-medicine).

Proceeds from Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary's Festival of Tables go towards the funding of these scholarships.

To be eligible for an Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary scholarship, students must have declared a major and live within Steele County.

‘It was worth it’

BP graduate dedicates diploma to his daughter

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
STAFF WRITER

With family surrounding him, Kristian Alan Hamersma agreed that it was a big day for him, graduating Blooming Prairie High School with 36 classmates.

One of the first persons to congratulate him was his one-year-old daughter, Ivey Fawver.

“She’s my world,” Hamersma, 18, proudly said as he held his daughter and allowed her to wear his commencement hat.

Hamersma agreed that it was a challenge and responsibility for him to finish school and graduate from high school while also being a father. “It was worth it,” he confessed.

Hamersma is working for contractor Lyndon Johnson this summer and said he hopes to continue working and supporting his kid.

It was indeed a celebration for the 37 Blooming Prairie High School members of the Class of 2018.

“We finally did it,” exclaimed senior McKenna Hein while offering closing remarks. “We did not do it alone, our parents, teachers and friends pushed us to

“We finally did it.”

McKenna Hein
BP Graduate

be the best we can be,” she added.

“As we go off on our separate ways, we take on the real world,” Hein said. “This is our chance to make something of ourselves. Once a Blossom, always an Awesome Blossom,” she continued.

The Blooming Prairie graduates entered the gym in pairs with the BPHS Band leading the processional music. The band was directed by Ross Reishus.

Seniors Emma Christianson, McKenna Hein and Linnea Sunde sang the National Anthem.

Graduate Max Romeo offered opening remarks and thanked the parents and teachers while congratulating his fellow graduates. “Blooming Prairie High School helped teach us to meet challenges of the future,” remarked Romeo.

Ethan Arett and Mitchell Oswald were introduced as co-valedictorians.

“It’s quality over quantity,” said Arett as he explained that in seventh grade the class included 55 students. On graduation day, the total was 37.

“We are all Awesome Blossoms,” Arett proudly said. He talked about he and his co-valedictorians being pointed to a career in agriculture. “Farming is something we love,” said Arett.

“Find your passion and the choice is up to you,” Arett challenged his classmates.

Arett joked about teacher Cory Hendrickson who said the Class of 2018 when they were seventh graders was the worst class he had taught. Arett encouraged his classmates to be respectful persons.

“Each one of us has the ability to succeed in the future,” believes Arett.

“It’s with a bit of sadness that we say goodbye on this day,” commented co-valedictorian Mitchell Oswald. “Look for a bright tomorrow but we can make a difference right now,” Oswald said.

Quoting former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, Oswald said, “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

Oswald said the 2018 Blossom graduates should have faith in themselves.

“Strong friendships are built on strong relationships,” he said. “Every choice has an outcome, so seek advice before making that choice,” he said.

Oswald praised the Blooming Prairie community, saying that the community never ceases to offer a helping hand. He said he was proud to be an Awesome Blossom and said “the flower power will

“We are all Awesome Blossoms.”

Ethan Arett
BP Graduate

go wherever we go.”

Blooming Prairie is a community that builds leaders rather than followers, Oswald claims. Pointing to his fellow classmates, Oswald said this community “has invested in you.”

Samantha Wurst delivered the salutatorian address. She complimented her fellow classmates for developing some strong skills over the 13 years in school in Blooming Prairie.

“Your success has come from critical thinking and hard work,” she said.

Mary Worke, school counselor, said 48 percent of the Class of 2018 plans to attend a four-year school, 19 percent will attend a vocational-technical school, 3 percent will join the military and 30 percent will be part of the work force.

Presenting diplomas were: Barry Olson, superintendent; John Worke, principal; Ali Mach, associate principal; Mary Worke, counselor and board members Steve Ille, Jon Sunde and Jenny Thurnau.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Kristian Hamersma proudly kisses his one-year-old daughter Ivey after he graduated with the Blooming Prairie High School Class of 2018.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Mitchell Oswald and Ethan Arett prepare to march into the Blooming Prairie High School gymnasium as co-valedictorians. This was the 116th Blooming Prairie graduation.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Jake Ressler and Max Romeo may be a few inches apart in height but they have been close friends during their enrollment at Blooming Prairie High School. Ressler and Romeo were part of the Class of 2018 which included 37 graduates.

New officers chosen for area school foundation

The Board of Directors for the Independent School District 761 Foundation recently named its officers, elected a new member and accepted the resignation of a long-time board member.

The Foundation is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization that administers scholarships and funds opportunities and programs not usually supported by tax dollars. It provides curriculum support for agriculture, language arts, math, science, social studies, music, art, and career and technical education, to name but a few areas.

Officers of the 24-year-old organization are Bruce Paulson, chair; Jan Tippet, vice chair; Greg Stroik, treasurer; and Mary Larson, secretary.

The newest elected member of the board is Samona Grubish, a graduate of Owatonna High School, a former member of the Owatonna School District, and an active volunteer throughout the community.

Paulson is a divisional vice president of Evapro and has served on the foundation board since 2012. Tippet, a retired newspaper publisher and editor, has served on the board since 2016. Larson is a founding member of the Foundation board. She served on the Board of Education from 1971-1986. She and her husband, Bruce, were dairy farmers until they retired in the 1990s. These three officers are all graduates of Owatonna High School.

Stroik has served as the treasurer of the board since its inception. He retired as the CFO of Federated Insurance in 2013.

The resignation of Steve Stansberry was accepted with regret at the May 30 meeting. Stansberry is a retired school administrator and served as the Lincoln Elementary principal from 1995-2004. He was also the energy czar for the school district, was the principal of St. Mary’s, and has involvement with chess clubs and the car museum. He served on the foundation board since 2009.

Re-elected for three year terms were Larson, Paulson, Barbara Judd and Sara McKay. The continuing members of the board are Mark Dietz, Mark Sebring, George Dow and Charlie Herrmann.

The Independent School District 761 Foundation has provided nearly \$3.4 million for programs and scholarships over the last 25 years. It was established a quarter-century ago to manage funds donated to the 761 School District. Its goal has been, and still is, to provide resources for programs not funded by tax dollars and to provide for post-secondary

scholarships.

This spring, over \$100,000 in scholarships was granted to high school seniors. In 25 years, nearly \$1.4 million has been distributed to graduating students. The other major portion of fund distribution has been for “mini-grant” requests from 761 school staff for special projects, equipment and training, as well as scholarships and grants for agriculture programs in all the Steele County Schools These grants have totaled almost \$2 million over 25 years and will equal about \$90,000 this year.

More information about the Foundation and its grants and programs may be found at 761foundation.com or by calling 507-444-8610. The Foundation provides the opportunity for individuals, community groups and businesses to make contributions to make a difference in the lives of students in the Owatonna School District. It is a separate legal entity from the school district.

Officers of the Independent School District 761 Foundation for 2018-19 are (left to right, standing), Jan Mittelstadt Tippet, vice-chair, Greg Stroik, treasurer, and Mary Larson, secretary. Seated is Bruce Paulson, chair. In the last school year, the Foundation presented \$119,713 to the Owatonna School District for a variety of grants and program support.



New board member Samona Grubish, right, is with Barbara Judd, appointed to the board in June 2012. Judd has accepted a third term.



Retiring trustee Steve Stansberry, left, stands with long-time board member George Dow. He is an original trustee of Independent School District 761 Foundation and has served 25 years. Stansberry has served since 2009 and is a retired school administrator.

CULTIVATION AND COOPERATION:

Staff and inmates partner

FROM C1

currently serving a 90-day sentence and spends time working at Truth Hardware under work release, is one of several inmates who help oversee the garden’s progress.

“It’s good to be out in the sun,” Thompson said while watering the garden. He feels that the program helps to build trust and understanding with the guards. “Trust is key,” he added.

Some of the duties Thompson and his fellow inmates take part in consist of watering, tilling, planting, spreading manure, and fertilizing. “It feels good knowing that this is for charity,” Thompson said.

He is also grateful for the Detention Center’s work release program, which allows him to afford hygiene products and other amenities while serving out the rest of his sentence. “I definitely appreciate work release,” Thompson said.

Among the many volunteers from the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is Mayor Tom Kuntz, who helps whenever he can with the garden. Mayor Kuntz also credits Marla and Larry Kunkel, who he says helped organize the garden and get it up and running.

Kuntz sees a lot of promise in the program, which has expanded in recent years, including adding more plots for extra crops. “It gives them an opportunity to be outside, and to see what they’ve done,” he said regarding the reward of seeing the fruits of the gardeners’ labor.

Both Mayor Kuntz and Cindy Fowler report that the food shelf is always grateful for their donations. “Absolutely, the food shelf loves it,” Fowler said.

Fowler also feels that it carries the extra benefit of letting the inmates involved with the program interact with volunteers from

Good Shepherd Lutheran, which helps to build patience and responsibility in the inmates and better prepares them for re-entry. “Anytime they get to work with the community that’s good, and it helps with their re-entry.”

“It’s a really great partnership,” she said. “It’s cool that the mayor is involved too.”

Fowler and Mayor Kuntz credit many people and organizations from the community with the continued success of the program.

This year several pairs of Bigs and Littles from BBBS also helped out by planting seeds. Come October, those who helped will get to see the final product when the pumpkins come rolling in.

Despite all the success, the garden is not without its hurdles. Fowler explains that they use hair cut from barbers within the Detention Center to line the gardens in the hopes of keeping away jack rabbits and other pests.

Overall, the program has moved forward through the years with continued help and support from the community. Fowler thinks that it will only expand, and hopes that this year will provide them with enough rain to get their crops growing healthy.

“Pray for rain is all I can say,” she said as she walked the garden’s edge. With the help of Good Shepherd’s congregation, there will be a lot of prayers sent their way.

The Detention Center offers a host of classes and programs aimed at helping smooth the inmates’ re-entry. Some of them include: parenting class, GED program, Bible study, pet therapy, work release, and a domestic violence program.

According to Fowler, the Detention Center is always on the lookout for additional programs to help inmates with their re-entry back into the community.

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

Blotter Spotlight: Murder: On March 23, deputies conducted a welfare check and found a dead body in the 75800 block of U.S. Hwy. 218 in Blooming Prairie at 5:32 p.m. The victim was later determined to have been murdered.

Police investigate home invasion robberies

Man armed with shotgun involved in one case

BY RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

Police in Owatonna are looking for help in solving a pair of home invasion robberies over the Memorial Day weekend. In one of the incidents, a man suffered serious facial injuries.

On May 27 at 12:46 a.m., a home invasion was reported at a residence in the 400 block of E. Main Street. According to Sgt. Andy Drenth, two residents were in the basement of the home when a single masked individual entered a bedroom and pointed a shotgun at the victims.

The victims described the suspect as a black man wearing a black mask, black “Member’s Only” type jacket and black basketball/wind pants. The suspect demanded money and cell

phones from the victims. He escaped the residence with two cell phones.

The second home invasion took place on May 28 at 9:34 p.m. in the 1100 block of E. Rice Lake Street, police said. The victim heard a knock at his door. When he unlocked and answered the door, two or three black men forced their way into the home.

Drenth said the victim was punched in the face and rendered unconscious. The victim suffered substantial injuries as a result of the assault.

Because of the victim’s condition, he was unable to provide any physical description of the suspects. The men took off from the home with a large screen TV, cash and coins.

Sgt. Drenth said no arrests have been made in either case. Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 507-774-7207.

CRIME BRIEF

IMPROPER PLATES ON VEHICLE LANDS DRIVER IN JAIL

A vehicle with improper license plates led a police officer to arresting a driver for intending to escape tax.

A police officer noticed a vehicle in the parking lot of the Holiday station in Owatonna one morning recently. While in the store, the officer asked about the driver when he was told he ran out of the store to avoid the officer.

The officer ran a check on the vehicle and found out the registration did not match. Upon stopping the vehicle, police found it had plates from another vehicle on it, no insurance and a revoked driver.

Police arrested Mohammed A. Abusbeih, 26, of Faribault. He has been charged with a gross misdemeanor of intending to escape tax on a motor vehicle. He also faces several misdemeanors.



Abusbeih

COURT NEWS

Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 21 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

Andrew J. Bogenschutz, 36, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony attempted assault – great bodily harm. He was sentenced to \$131 and 42 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

Michael J. Hambrick, 33, Bettendorf, IA, previously appeared and was convicted of felony domestic abuse no contact order violation. He was sentenced to \$131, 26 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain and maintain employment, chemical dependency evaluation, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

Carlos Hernandez, 34, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony burglary. Hernandez was sentenced to \$1,174.35, 180 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, psychological evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, write letter of apology and 5 years of supervised probation.

William W. Kilwy, 54, Waseca, previously appeared and was convicted of felony engage in electronic communication relating of describing sexual conduct with child and felony criminal sexual conduct (stay of adjudication). He was sentenced to \$381, 180 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend sex offender program, no possession of pornography, no contact with victim, submit to polygraph examination as directed, obtain permission to leave the state, remain 500 feet from places where minors congregate, comply with internet monitoring software and 10 years of supervised probation.

Joshua D. Watkins, 31, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony fleeing in motor vehicle. Watkins was sentenced to \$131 and 17 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 21 – 25:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

James P. Zylstra, 63, Blooming Prairie, public nuisance, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Milton T. Bartlett, 60, Springs, GA, vehicle width violation, \$181; Elizabeth Dalaska, 33, Kasson, suspended license, no insurance and failure to change address, \$501; Juana N. Garibay, 34, Blooming

Prairie, speeding, \$121; Noah A. Holland, 21, Chillicothe, MO, speeding, \$121; James E. Jackson, 42, St. Paul, speeding, \$131; Rachel N. Lindgren, 18, Huntley, seat belt, \$106; Brittney D. May, 34, Woodbury, seat belt, \$106; Yue Men, 21, Iowa City, IA, speeding, \$281; Lisa R. Neidermeier, 48, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$106; Roger A. Noble, 57, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Teriann Powell, 35, Owatonna, speeding and revoked license, \$581; Ashlee M. Ouast, 33, Braham, no insurance, \$131, 90 days in county jail and 30 days of unsupervised probation; Christopher M. Rettman, 31, Champlin, driving through barricade, \$121; David M. Seykora, 54, Claremont, inspection decal violation, \$181; Jazmyne A. Shinabarger, 25, New Richland, careless driving and possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$281; Alexander R. Vereide, 16, Owatonna, unsafe change of course, \$131.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Aaron P. Agen, 27, Meriden, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Felipe A. Becerra, 27, Hartland, no insurance and expired tabs, \$311; Izach A. Berg, 19, Owatonna, no front plate, \$111; Joseph A. Curry, 37, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, 1 day in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 2 years of supervised probation; John D. Dahle, 55, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$381, 12 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, no contact with victim, obtain permission to leave the state and 1 year of supervised probation; Kylen G. Engbard, 34, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$281, 1 day in county jail and 2 years of supervised probation; David F. Fitzgerald, 54, Owatonna, failure to yield and no insurance, \$331; Ahmed G. Harun, 22, Faribault, stop sign, \$131; Davina L. Herron, 26, Owatonna, no child passenger restraint system and no insurance, \$381; Manuel Hinojosa, 17, Owatonna, texting while driving, \$131; Tederian C. Hughes, 34, St. Cloud, give peace officer false information, \$131 and 54 days in county jail; Carrie A. Larson, 27, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Bobbi L. Maday, 35, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Lucas W. Maxon, 20, Waseca, impeding traffic, \$131; Shawn P. McDowell, 39, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Collin W. Orth, 29, St. Cloud, order for protection violation, \$81 and 270 days in county jail; Gary L. Padilla, 38, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$131, 11 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, no contact with victim, no possession of firearms, domestic abuse evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 1 year of supervised probation; Alicia H. Perez, 18, Hope, passing school bus, \$181; Alicia M. Price, 33, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Erica L. Rainone, 29, Waseca, suspended

license and no insurance, \$481; Gabriel Rodriguez, 35, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Josh E. Soukup, 43, Cedar, trailer violation, \$181; Austin J. Stowe, 19, Owatonna, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$181; Devin T. Weimer, 24, Owatonna, school bus, \$231; Tisha N. Whitcomb, 36, Northfield, revoked license, \$381 and 20 days in county jail; Christina K. Wittrock, 35, Shakopee, trespassing, \$81, 4 days in county jail, substance abuse subtle screening inventory and 6 months of supervised probation; William J. Yanchulis, 37, Owatonna, no license and no insurance, \$381.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Michael G. Appel, 47, Middleboro, MA, speeding, \$141; Robert L. Bryant, 25, Johnston, IA, speeding, \$121; Eder Castillo, 24, Chaska, speeding, \$101; John R. Henkels, 47, Limerick, PA, speeding, \$141; Lennie A. Marshall, 41, Coon Rapids, revoked license; Samuel D. McPhall, 23, St. Cloud, expired tabs, \$111; Nada R. Mulvey, 60, Rochester, speeding, \$121; Autumn S. Pena, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$181; Ryan D. Peterson, 42, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Derek R. Shaw, 24, Medford, disorderly conduct, \$231; Collin R. Standke, 20, Owatonna, failure to signal for turn, \$131; Pamela J. Stromley, 32, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Hope E. Stubbles, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$281; Jacob S. Sylvara, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Griffin A. Thorn, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Keith G. Werness, 57, Edina, speeding, \$121.

POLICE BLOTTER

Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE May 27

Restraining Order: Police responded to a restraining order violation in the 300 block of Center Ave. N. at 1:26 p.m.

OWATONNA POLICE May 25

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 11:52 a.m.

Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Oak Ave. S. and Mill St. W. at 12:05 p.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct at 1:21 p.m.

May 26

Fraud: At 10:10 a.m., police took a report of a fraud incident in the 800 block of Havana Road SE.

Theft: Police received a theft report from the 100 block of Clark Dr. NW at 12:33 p.m.

Shoplifting: A shoplifting incident occurred in the 400 block of North St. W. at 3:02 p.m.

May 27

Robbery: Police responded to a robbery in the 400 block of Main St. E. at 12:47 a.m.

Domestic: At 1:29 a.m., officers responded to a domestic assault in the 1000 block of Cedar Ave. N. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Arrest: Police assisted

another agency with arresting a subject in the 400 block of State Ave. NW at 10:48 a.m.

Drugs: Police responded to drug activity in the 1500 block of Mosher Ave. SW at 1:10 p.m.

Burglary: Police began a burglary investigation in the 600 block of Country View Ave. NE at 8:19 p.m.

May 28

Theft: At 6:06 a.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 200 block of Barney St. W.

May 29

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 700 block of Ridge Road NE at 12:43 p.m. and the 500 block of Elm Ave. S. at 6:19 p.m.

May 30

Restraining Order: Police arrested a subject for violating a restraining order in the 400 block of 16th St. NE at 12:37 a.m.

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop in the 1500 block of Elm Ave. S. at 1:22 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 100 block of Rice St. W. at 10:47 a.m.

Thefts: Officers took theft reports in the 200 block of Main St. E. at 12:43 p.m. and the 500 block of State Ave. NW at 11:51 p.m.

Arrest: Police assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 500 block of Florence Ave. NW at 5:49 p.m.

Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 700 block of Minnesota Ave. SE at 6:38 p.m.

May 31

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 200 block of Northview St. SW at 10:34 a.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct on 3rd Ave. NE at 12:01 p.m.

Assault: Officers responded to an assault in the 400 block of School St. E. at 2:23 p.m.

Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 400 block of North St. W. at 7:37 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF May 25

Littering: Deputy issued a littering citation in the 2300 block of Clinton Falls Road in Clinton Falls Township at 5:50 p.m.

Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 63000 block of 89th Ave. SE in Aurora Township at 9:43 p.m.

May 26

Arrest: Deputies arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Interstate 35 southbound and 26th St. NW in Clinton Falls Township at 10:49 p.m.

May 27

Thefts: Deputies took theft reports in the 2400 block of County Road 45 S. in Owatonna Township at 12:06 p.m. and the 4100 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township at 12:46 p.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 500 block of 4th St. S. in Ellendale at 2:01 p.m.

DWI: Deputy made a DWI arrest at Interstate 35 southbound and 46th St. NW

in Clinton Falls Township at 10:11 p.m.

May 28

Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 5500 block of County Road 45 N. in Clinton Falls Township at 2:44 p.m.

May 29

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 2:46 p.m.

May 30

Suspicion: Deputies responded to suspicious activity in the 94000 block of 64th Ave. SE in Aurora Township at 11:33 a.m.

Warrant: At 1:30 p.m., deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center.

May 31

Warrant: Deputies arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 100 block of Main St. E. at 11:18 a.m.

ARRESTS

Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Dustin Lee Laroque, 25, arrested at 12:20 a.m. May 19, drugs, held for court.

Aana Elizabeth Garner, 31, arrested at 7:23 p.m. May 20, order for protection violation, held for court.

Jonelle Suezette Hill, 37, arrested at 6:46 p.m. May 16, apprehension and detention arrest, held for court.

Christopher Andrew Hondl, arrested at 3:13 a.m. May 21, felony terroristic threats, assault and domestic assault, held for court.

Glenn Alan Weidendorf, 29, arrested May 21, assault and domestic assault, held for court.

Richard Ramirez, 20, arrested at 11:12 a.m. May 21, warrant arrest, held for court.

Beau Patrick Wanner, 30, arrested at 11:02 p.m. May 21, warrant arrest, held for court.

Juana Eva Nin, 37, arrested at 10:23 p.m. May 21, warrant arrest, held for court.

Mohammad Abdelkader Abusbeih, 26, arrested at 5 a.m. May 22, tax evasion, revoked license, no insurance and illegal use of plates, held for court.

Josue Gutierrez, 22, arrested at 2:53 a.m. May 27, domestic assault and assault, held for court.

Mathew Lee Lozano, 35, arrested at 2 a.m. May 30, felony order for protection violation, held for court.

Jacob Ross Knutson, 42, arrested at 5 a.m. May 30, warrants arrest, held for court.

Noah Andrew Bremer, 35, arrested at 9:25 p.m. May 31, felony aiding an offender/ obstruction, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Nathaniel Thomas Henderson, 31, arrested at 11:35 p.m. May 17, apprehension and detention arrest, held for court.

Jacob Olien Seltun, 30, arrested at 12:01 a.m. May 19, DWI-test refusal, \$12,000 bail.

Larry Dean Haberman, 46, arrested at 5:45 a.m. May 22, fleeing on foot, held for court.

David Valentino Morris, 31, arrested at 3:45 a.m. May 23, false name and cancelled license, held for court.

Dylan Mitchell Ahles, 28, arrested at 10:13 p.m. May 23,

controlled substance crime, held for court.

James Christopher Schmidt, 22, arrested May 23, DWI and controlled substance crime, held for court.

Charles Vontreal Hamilton, 31, arrested at 10:36 a.m. May 24, warrant arrest, body only.

Raymond Keith Scott, 39, arrested at 7:35 a.m. May 25, warrants arrest, body only.

Tanya Ann Artmann, 43, arrested at 11:50 p.m. May 26, DWI, held for court.

Hugo Hernandez-Rojas, 30, arrested at 10:31 p.m. May 27, DWI, held for court.

Christopher Ray Thissen, 34, arrested at 5:30 p.m. May 31, warrant arrest, held for court.

David Roger Voracek, 48, arrested at 11:16 a.m. May 31, warrant arrest, held for court.

MN STATE PATROL

Wyatt Michael Varnum, 27, arrested at 2:02 p.m. May 28, DWI, held for court.

COURT NEWS

Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of May 21 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Larry D. Haberman, 46, Blooming Prairie, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault-dangerous weapon. He was sentenced to \$130 and 33 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of May 21 – 28:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jose E. Arreguin Tapia, 20, Dodge Center, cancelled license and speeding, \$330; Colten M. Corcoran, 22, Sargent, registration violation and invalid license, \$210; Ouandell Curtis, 35, New Orleans, LA, speeding, \$120; Jacob A. Davidson, 27, Rochester, revoked license and no insurance, \$480; Jessica M. Dean, 36, Hayfield, cancelled license, \$280; Dongell T. Roberts, 30, St. Paul, brake violation and speeding, \$320; Sarah C. Wasmund, 34, Claremont, parking violation, \$32; Bruce A. Winter, 31, Kasson, motorcycle violation, \$130; Kellie S. Zubke, 54, Sargent, speeding, \$130.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrick D. Burnes, 27, Kasson, disorderly conduct, \$180, 4 days in county jail, domestic abuse evaluation, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Larry N. Johnson, 76, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$105; Jasmine A. Lentz, 30, Kasson, speeding, \$220; Christi A. Patten, 55, Oronoco, parking violation, \$32; Vincent J. Trombley, 26, Grand Rapids, parking violation, \$32.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Nicholas A. Bendik, 30, Rochester, speeding, \$120; Richard F. Lilla, 27, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Nicole J. Nichols, 24, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120.

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

- William Waymire – theft by check - \$10,000 bail
- Dennis Weber – no insurance - \$6,000 bail
- Paul Wechtuor – stalking - \$3,000 bail
- Eric Weiser – theft by check - \$3,000 bail
- Jesse Welsh – controlled substance – no bail
- Jeremy Werchowski – DWI – no bail
- Jonathan Werstein – traffic - \$500 bail

- Charles West – theft - \$20,000 bail
- Levi Westling – warrant – no bail
- Cabbott Weyker – warrant – no bail
- Darnell Whitner – drug possession - \$200 bail
- Joshua Wiedemann – drugs – no bail
- Calvan Wiggins – theft - \$300 bail
- Danny Wiles – DWI - \$12,000 bail

- Destiney Willage-Solano – aid and abet theft – no bail
- Bernice Williams – driving without license - \$1,000 bail
- Erika Williams – shoplifting - \$500 bail
- Kelly Williams – theft - \$500 bail
- Robert Williams III – domestic assault – no bail
- Theodore Wilson – DWI, no license - \$3,000 bail

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

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

JUNE 6
10 a.m. – Chione Musical Storytime, BP Library
2 p.m. – Pony Tales, BP Library

JUNE 7
1 p.m. – CLIMB Theater, BP Library

JUNE 11
1 p.m. – Movie Monday, BP Library
7 p.m. – City Council Meeting

JUNE 12
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library

2:30 p.m. – Public Utilities Meeting
4:30 p.m. – Fire Commission Meeting
7 p.m. – Planning & Zoning Meeting

JUNE 13
4:30 p.m. – EDA Meeting

JUNE 14
4 p.m. – Police Commission Meeting

JUNE 19
5:30 p.m. – Ambulance Commission Meeting



Dr. Deborah J. Lien
ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST
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ELLENDALE/GENEVA/HOPE

JUNE 12
10 a.m. – Community Ed (Father's Day Craft), NR HS Art Room



Minimizer
Blooming Prairie
800-248-3855
www.minimizer.com

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

JUNE 6
9:30 a.m. – Garden Time, Owatonna Library Garden
3 p.m. – Rec on the Go, Willow Run Townhomes
6 p.m. – Grand Opening, North Straight River Parkway

JUNE 7
9 a.m. – Junior History Detectives, History Center
10 a.m. – CLIMB Theater, Owatonna Library
6:30 p.m. – History Detectives, History Center
6:30 p.m. – Steele County Free Fair Board Meeting, Mother's Rest
7 p.m. – 11 @ 7 Concert Series, Central Park

JUNE 9
National Day of Service for Veterans, Aspen Dental
7 a.m. – Farmer's Market,

Central Park
10 a.m. – Grand Re-Opening, Dream Day Bridals by Marcia

JUNE 11
6 p.m. – Groovy Game Night, Owatonna Library
6:30 p.m. – Downtown Walking Tour, Downtown Owatonna

JUNE 12
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Summer Story Time, Owatonna Library
1 p.m. – So Many Books... So Little Time, Owatonna Library
5 p.m. – Steele County Board of Commissioners Meeting, County Admin Building
7 p.m. – Veteran's Open Roundtable, Good Shepherd Lutheran

Scholarships available for students in technical careers

The Owatonna Foundation is pleased to make available \$15,000 to assist students who are preparing for a technical career by attending non-four year programs at technical/ community colleges. Applications for nontraditional scholarships are due June 25.

Eligibility requirements include that recipients have an Owatonna mailing address or have worked at an Owatonna business for at least the past two years. You must also hold a GED or graduated from high school prior to or with the class of 2017. Scholarship awards range from \$500 to \$3,000 each.

Some of the fields that previous award recipients have pursued include accounting, automotive service technician, business, administrative assistant, carpentry, child development, construction electrician, cosmetology, culinary arts, dental hygiene, EMT/paramedic, law enforcement, medical administrative assistant, medical lab technician, nursing, radiography, and veterinary technician.

Applications must be submitted by June 25 and are available at the Foundation's website at <http://www.owatonnafoundation.org/> Grants/Scholarships, and Apply for a Scholarship; from Jill Holmes at 507-455-3059, and at the Foundation's office at 108 West Park Square, Owatonna.

EMS Ambulance Open House



Jesse Cardenas attended an open house recently at the Blooming Prairie Ambulance garage in honor of National EMS Week. He has his blood pressure checked by Karissa Fawver of the BP Ambulance crew. Several hundred people came out for the open house.

New stage to kick off Berne Pizza's summer season

Let the Wednesday night pizza pilgrimage to Berne begin!

The official start to Berne Wood-Fired Pizza's seventh season of pizza and concerts will take place Wednesday when the grounds open at 5 p.m. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 6:15 p.m. to unveil a new performance stage made possible through the support of both local businesses and individuals.

Berne's previous stage, which was over 50 years old, was in disrepair, according to Angela Organ, coordinator of Berne Pizza. The organization, which has raised funds for nearly 50 local nonprofit organizations over the past six summers, reached out to community businesses hoping to raise enough money to replace the aging stage. The new structure will provide performers with a roof and lighting as well as improving acoustics for guests. Other outdoor events, including weddings, will also make use of the stage. The response from local businesses was tremendous.

"When the checks started to arrive, it was truly humbling. Sponsors repeatedly expressed their support of what we're doing in Berne and wanted to be a part of our mission of giving back. We are extremely grateful to every business and individual who contributed," said Organ.

David Derby of Derby Builders and Brian Hale of Thrivent Financial - Zumbro-Cannon Valley signed on last fall as inaugural sponsors of the new stage project, each donating \$5,000.

When asked why they decided to get involved, Derby responded, "What this organization has done, completely with volunteers, makes it easy to want to get involved. Not only do they support worthy causes, but they've created a family-friendly event that everyone seems to love. We're extremely proud to be part of this project."

Brian Hale of Thrivent Financial showed an equal passion for Berne Wood-Fired Pizza's mission of giving back. "This was a no-brainer for us to get behind, an all summer long gathering of friends and neighbors to enjoy great pizza and entertainment. And then the missions—both local and abroad—that are supported by the funds that are raised. Great atmosphere to back great causes. What's not to like?"

Other major sponsors included Farmers State Bank of West Concord, McNeilus Steel, R&M Steel, Ellingson Companies, Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes & Crematory, and Citizens State Bank of

Hayfield.

What else is new in Berne this summer? After the success of last summer's artisan market, Berne will host two art fairs on June 13 and Aug. 1. Vendors from across southeastern Minnesota will converge on the rural village to display and sell art of all kinds. In addition, lovers of classic cars will enjoy "Classic Cruise-In Night" on June 20.

July will bring the first ever Tuesday pizza night, as they will be open on July 3, but closed July 4. "We're excited about being open on a Tuesday," said Organ. "Every year we have people tell us that they'd love to come but work Wednesday or play on a softball league. This will allow these individuals the rare chance to experience a night in Berne!"

Craft activities for children will be another new addition each week all summer.

What draws the crowds to this unincorporated hamlet? "Word of mouth," said Organ. "Once people visit, they usually come back and bring a friend. Most guests know everything that happens here occurs as a result of the hard work of volunteers—over 400 of them."

Pizza is served picnic style Wednesday nights in June, July, and August from 5-8 p.m. Concerts begin at 5 p.m.

and 6:30 p.m. each night.

This year's concert lineup brings a wide variety of local talent from many different musical genres, all of whom also donate their time and talents.

Berne Wood-Fired Pizza is hosted by Zwingli United Church of Christ and held on the church grounds outside of Berne in northern Dodge County. Funds raised support the church and its chosen nonprofit beneficiaries.

Berne Pizza Concert Series Line-up	
June 6:	Les Fields and the Turkey River All-Stars; LP & the 45s
June 13:	The Vintage Tones of Spielzeiten Und Pausen; Old Country Boys
June 20:	After School Special; Retro Soul & the Westside Horns
June 27:	Cabin Fever; Branded
July 3:	The Reunion Band; Nite Shift
July 11:	The Lost Faculties; Hair Metal Radio
July 18:	KnuFunk; JT & Gunslingers
July 25:	Smash & Grab; Incognito
Aug. 1:	Kris & the Riverbend Dutchmen; Berne Alphorn; Quintet & Flag Throwers
Aug. 8:	Parks & Kleist Band; FABBAlouls – A Tribute to ABBA
Aug. 15:	The Gopher Tones; Good Morning; Bedlam
Aug. 22:	Colt 45; Ventura Highway
Aug. 29:	Hair of the Dog; Six Mile Grove

RIPLEY TOWNSHIP FEEDLOT UPDATE: Operation pushes forward

FROM C1

boiled down to financial reasons. "We decided that it was a very difficult and expensive process to unravel the mess created by the township board," she said. "We could have proceeded with the lawsuit, but how much money do we want to throw to another lawsuit."

Asked what mess was created, Trom Eayrs said: "Their failure to act on a timely basis." The issue involving the Langdon feedlot proposal flared up in December when Ripley Township met to consider the plan. However, it was revealed at that meeting the board failed to act on the application within 60 days as set by state law. The original request had been filed on July 5, 2017. Trom Eayrs is now left

wondering why the township never acted right away. "I don't know if it was negligent or intentional," she said.

During the most recent process, Trom Eayrs said she has uncovered some disturbing revelations. She found copies of emails between a township supervisor and a lawyer representing the pork industry. "Why is an industry lawyer providing advice to a town board member?" she wonders. "It raises a lot of serious questions." Even though it was hard for the Troms to drop the suit, Trom Eayrs says they're not discouraged. She views cases like this as having two courts—court of law and court of public opinion. "We are clearly

prevailing in the court of public opinion," she said. "We are educating the public about what is happening. People are saying enough is enough."

Through the efforts of DCCC, Trom Eayrs said she is humbled by the positive reaction they have received in the community. "People are asking good questions, questions related to public health concerns," she said.

DCCC is a grassroots organization that has been committed to good governance, promoting clean water and clean air and putting people before profits. The group also advocates for legislative changes.

She said when the group was formed about four years ago, they had difficulty

gaining any traction for the cause. "We were the skunk at the garden party," Trom Eayrs said, adding people would be surprised at how the sentiment has changed in recent years. "Clearly the tide is changing," she said.

Trom Eayrs said her group will not give up in its battle against feedlots as it is considering options for further actions down the road. "There may be better avenues for us to pursue," she said. There will be another chapter, she added, growing philanthropy and leading change to improve the Ellendale community.

The Foundation board plans special activities on Saturday, June 23. It is called the Community Foundation FUND Zone.

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2018 EVENTS
• **June 23:** Cruise for cancer ride
• **July 3:** Street dance (21 and over only)
"Red Dirt Road Band" 8 p.m.- Midnight • Cover \$5 • ID Required
• **July 4:** Open 9 a.m. to close
• **July 21:** B.O.B. ride: "Toys for Tots"

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ALL EVENT DETAILS AVAILABLE AT J&H LIQUOR

13 Quilts of Valor given during BP Memorial Day Service



Gen Peterson, a former U.S. Army nurse, attended Memorial Day ceremonies in Blooming Prairie at the BP Servicemen's Club. She is 101 years young.



The family of Larry Rowe celebrates his selection for a Quilt of Valor. The special presentation was made at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. Shown from left are: Madison Thurnau, Amy Yanke, Ken Thurnau, Jenny Thurnau, Dean Rowe, Katie Hoffmann, Mike Yanke, Dylan Yanke, LuAnne Rowe and Larry Rowe (Quilt of Valor recipient).



They came all the way from Superior, Wisconsin to see Memorial Day ceremonies in Blooming Prairie on Memorial Day, Monday, May 28. Showing their patriotic colors are siblings Hunter Sidorowicz, 10 and his sister, Madden, right.

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
STAFF WRITER

The total now stands at 138. Including 13 Quilts of Valor given during a Memorial Day program Monday, May 28, the total has grown to 138. These honors were first bestowed on veterans on Veterans Day 2014.

Quilts of Valor are now presented at Veterans Day and Memorial Day programs at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.

Women of the local veterans auxiliaries and of the Servicemen's Club have sewn the quilts for veterans and their families who request them. Chris Butler has led the local drive for Quilts of Valor.

The presentation of the Quilts of Valor proved to be the highlight of the local Memorial Day ceremonies, which started in the morning with coffee at the Servicemen's Club and then moved to the Blooming Prairie City Cemetery.

Marchers of the VFW Post 878 and American Legion Post 52, their auxiliaries and the Sons of the American Legion gathered at Prairie Plumbing and Heating and marched on Highway 218 to the City Cemetery.

A Blooming Prairie High School marching band also participated in the local parade honoring veterans and played patriotic music at the City Cemetery.

American Legion Post 52 Commander Karl Luiken asked the more than 200 attending the special services to bow their heads in honor of those who fought for our freedoms.

Joyce Johns, president of VFW Auxiliary Post 878, offered an opening prayer and closing prayer at the City Cemetery. "Teach us to honor our veterans and to cherish their ideals," she said.

Jaclyn Schlichter sang "God Bless America."

The Rev. Thomas Niehaus delivered the Memorial Day message, emphasizing that "Freedom is the cornerstone of our beliefs." He paid tribute to the many veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Father Niehaus said the community, parents and relatives of veterans offer their support to them with their prayers. He mentioned the observance of the 100th anniversary of the ending of World War I. He said 10 million soldiers lost their lives in this war.

"We know that wars have not ended," Niehaus remarked, pointing out that freedom is not free. "Peace must be our aim," he said. Veterans and their families were then invited to the BP Servicemen's Club for lunch and presentation of Quilts of Valor and recognition of Blooming Prairie High School students participating in Patriotic Art and Voice of Democracy contests.

The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation according to its website is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation began in 2003 with a dream of founder Catherine Roberts. Her son Nat was deployed in Iraq at the time.

ACCORDING TO ROBERTS:

"The dream was as vivid as real life. I saw a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night, hunched over. The permeating feeling was one of utter despair. I could see his war demons clustered around, dragging him down into an emotional gutter. Then, as if viewing a movie, I saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from one of despair to one of hope and wellbeing. The quilt had made this dramatic change. The message of my dream was: Quilts = Healing."

Marilyn Meshke introduced all of the Quilts of Valor recipients and named those who pieced and quilted the Quilts of Valor. Families of the recipients accompanied them to the stage where they received their quilts.

Meshke thanked the Quilt of Valor recipients for their sacrifice, valor and service to country. Each quilt took about 20 hours to create, Meshke said. Value is listed at \$200 per quilt. Veterans of all ages and all branches of service are eligible to receive a quilt.

Recipients were: Karl Luiken, pieced by Shirley Nelson and quilted by Bev Wacek; Sterling Himle, pieced and quilted by Deb Mather; Michael G. Jones, pieced by Diane Anderson and quilted by Pine Needles and Roger Syverud, pieced by Chris Butler and quilted by Bev Wacek;

Robert D. Oswald (accepted by his mother Gerry Oswald), pieced by Marty Walters and quilted by Cathy Lightly; Nick Hansen (accepted by his mother Leanne Hansen), pieced by grandmother Gerry Oswald and quilted by Cathy Lightly; James Hoffmann, pieced by Judy Bishop and quilted by Bev Wacek; Frank Sachanek, pieced by Carol Prokopec and quilted by Joan Correy; James Hansen, pieced by Shirley Nelson and quilted by Bev Wacek;

Roy Olson, pieced by Marilyn Meshke and quilted by Bev Wacek; Merle Anderson, pieced by Diane Anderson and quilted by Pine Needles; Larry Rowe, pieced by Chris Butler and quilted by Bev Wacek and Eugene Spindler, pieced by Lori Spindler and quilted by Lori Spindler.

Following the presentation of Quilts of Valor, Tom Peterson, chairman of the BP Veterans Memorial Committee, introduced Erne Betlach, the only World War II veteran attending Monday's Memorial program.

Peterson then recapped highlights of the Memorial groundbreaking on May 19 and said the project is progressing. He said \$170,804.12 has been collected thus far, 68.3 percent of the \$250,000 goal. "Help us get to the goal," Peterson challenged.

A drawing was then held for a quilt made by Marilyn Meshke. The quilt was quilted by the Calico Hutch of Hayward.

Meshke reported 500 tickets sold with all profits, \$2,500 going to the Veterans Memorial. Carol Holman won the quilt. Second prize of \$100 was won by Chris Butler and Eric Larue won the third prize of \$50.

BP students honored by VFW and Auxiliary



The Blooming Prairie VFW Post 878 Auxiliary sponsored a patriotic art contest and presented prizes to winners. Representing the VFW Auxiliary during a Memorial Day program were Joyce Johns, far left and Carol Holman, far right. Student winners were, from left: Taylor Wurst (second), Maren Forystek (first) and Greta Sunde (third).

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
STAFF WRITER

Six Blooming Prairie High School students were honored by the Blooming Prairie VFW Post 878 and Auxiliary as winners of the local Patriotic Art and Voice of Democracy contests.

Scholarship awards were presented by Carol Holman and Joyce Johns of the VFW Auxiliary at a special Memorial Day program Monday, May 28 at the BP Servicemen's Club.

Each year, more than 3,500 high school students from across the country participate in the VFW Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. The contest began in 1979 to recognize up-and-coming artists and encourage patriotism in youth.

Eleven BP students participated in the patriotic art contest.

Maren Forystek placed first and won a \$100 scholarship award. Taylor Wurst was second and received \$75. Finishing third was Greta Sunde who won \$50. All are sophomores. The VFW Voice of Democracy contest was established in 1947.



Voice of America winners for Blooming Prairie VFW Post 878 Auxiliary were given special awards by Joyce Johns, far left and by Carol Holman, right. Winners were: Viridiana Villarreal (third), Jackie Hyland (first) and Kesha Aquino.

The Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay.

Each year, nearly 40,000 9-12 grade students from across the country enter to win their share of \$2.1 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

Winners of the Blooming Prairie Voice of Democracy contest were: Jackie Hyland, first, \$100 scholarship; Kesha Aquino, second, \$75 scholarship and Virdiana Villarreal, third, \$50 award.

Owatonna observes Memorial Day despite the heat

Remembering the fallen

By **CHRIS BALDWIN**
STAFF WRITER

On a hot and muggy Memorial Day morning Owatonna residents took refuge inside the Four Seasons Centre after braving the heat to celebrate and remember the heroism and sacrifices of our nation's veterans.

The ceremony kicked off just after the parade finished. This year the parade got underway on East School Street before continuing to the Four Seasons Centre located at the Steele County Fairgrounds. There were three divisions marching, with the first division hosting the day's Marshall, Leonard Johnson.

Johnson enlisted in the Navy in 1945 and served four years in the Pacific as a member of the 7th Fleet. He was just one of many veterans there to remember the courage and valor of their fallen brothers. Johnson has been a resident in Owatonna for all 91 years of his life, except the four years he served in the Navy.

As a member of the VFW, he served

the community in multiple capacities, and even drove the veterans van for 10 years, helping his fellow servicemen reach their hospital appointments.

Owatonna Middle School student Lileigh Nguyen, who gave a speech at this year's ceremony as the winner of the Patriot's Pen contest, said she was inspired to write her presentation by the sacrifices men like Johnson have made for our country.

"I wanted people to know that what they were given wasn't always something that was freely received," Nguyen said when addressing her speech. "It is something very special." That something is freedom.

During her speech Nguyen used the metaphor of a box to demonstrate the cohesiveness of our country manifested by those who serve. "It's about America's gift to my generation," she said.

"When there's teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be accomplished," she told the audience. "In times of crisis, we build each other up."

Nguyen explained that "veterans are like our nation's box, in that they hold all of us together and protect us, the pieces inside." She added, "We are strong together, because all the pieces matter."

Celebrating the gift given to us by our nation's heroes, Nguyen said, "our gift gives us strength, strength

in ourselves, and strength in each other."

"The gift to my generation is not something that can fit inside a box," she said. "It is strength in the thing that keeps us all together."

Dave Thul read off the names of the deceased veterans from this past year. "They have stepped into the clearing at the end of the path," he said.

In closing Thul paraphrased General George S. Patton, saying, "Do not mourn the men and women who have died, rather, let us thank God that they have lived."

Gene Kispert, the Memorial Day chaplain, gave the benediction. Finishing with the truism that, "we are thankful for their lives and inspired by their remembrance."

During the ceremony, Marshall of the Day Leonard Johnson placed a wreath in commemoration of all those we've lost, and all those who've served and continue to serve. Johnson has proven that for many veterans, service continues even after their duty is up.

At the end of the ceremony the American Legion and VFW Color Guard firing squad exited the Four Seasons Centre to fire off a few rounds in tribute to our nation and its service members.

Berlyn Staska and Dan Brewster performed "Taps" before the Owatonna High School Band under



Marshall of the Day Leonard Johnson lays a wreath during the Memorial Day Program at the Four Seasons Centre in Owatonna. Johnson served four years in the Navy after the end of World War II.

the direction of Peter Guenther closed with the National Emblem March. Despite such heat, all those in attendance were more than happy to spend time remembering our nation's great heroes.

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE 18-108522

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: May 22, 2007
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$280,000.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Timothy J. Nelson and Stacy A. Nelson, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 100024200017549680
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: American Brokers Conduit
SERVICER: Specialized Loan Servicing LLC
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed June 26, 2007, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000350611
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP; Dated: October 23, 2009 filed: November 20, 2009, recorded as document number A000367871; thereafter assigned to Specialized Loan Servicing LLC dated February 2, 2018 recorded February 9, 2018 as document number A000416923.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 2, Block 2, Emerald Acres No. 3
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 618 Birchwood Ln SE, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-593-0202
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$309,989.03
THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;
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: July 6, 2018, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060
to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on January 6, 2019, or the next business day if January 6, 2019 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.
"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 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Approval of Agenda
Approval of Minutes of May Regular City Council Meeting
Financial Report

Committee/Commission Reports
1. B.P. Public Utilities
2. B.P. Economic Development Authority
3. B.P. Planning & Zoning
4. B.P. Fire Commission
5. B.P. Police Commission
6. B.P. Ambulance Commission
Business
1. 2017 Audit Presentation
2. Final Pay Request – Municipal Pipe Tool
3. Promotion to Public Works Director
4. Application for Liquor in the Park – Baby Shower
5. Request for Street Closing – B.P. Youth Club Rib Fest
6. Request for Street Closing – B.P. Cancer Research Auction
7. Request for Temporary Liquor License – B.P. Cancer Group

City Administrator's Report
1. Seal Coating Project
2. Large Street Patch
3. WWTP/Public Works Position Interviews June 13-14, 2018
4. Administrator Applicants
5. Pine Springs Pool
6. WWTP Problems
7. Senior Center Basement Issue

City Attorney's Report
Council Members' Reports
Adjourn

This Agenda is Subject to Change

6/5

NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
April 16, 2018

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center at 7:15 p.m. (Open Forum at 7:00 p.m.).

OPEN FORUM – Diane Pfiefer informed the School Board that five staff members will be receiving their Master's degree on April 21 through the SW MN State Cohort with the ceremony to be held at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School.

I. CALL TO ORDER –CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL - CLERK

Rodney Krell, Pam Hameister, Dean Meshke, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille
ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools, Elementary School Principal, High School Principal, Associate Principal, Members of the BPTA
MEMBERS ABSENT: Kelly Braaten

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the agenda with additions for the April payroll amount and an additional resignation. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Principal reports given by Mr. Staloch, Mr. Worke, and Ms. Mach.

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

A. Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Resignations, Donations

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Pam Hameister approve the minutes, bills, treasurer's report, resignations, and donations received. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

B. Employment

None at this time.

C. Volunteer Coaches

Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve McKenzie Besel as a volunteer for track. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

D. Student Insurance Program

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve voluntary insurance coverage be offered to students for the 2018-19 school year from Student Assurance Services, Inc. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

E. MSHSL Membership Resolution

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve a Title resolution for ensuring compliance for the 2018-19 school year. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

F. Title I Resolution

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve a Title resolution for ensuring compliance for the 2018-19 school year. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

G. Staff Development



SUMMER FUN

FESTIVALS • FAIRS • 4TH OF JULY • SERVING DODGE AND STEELE COUNTY COMMUNITIES • PARADES • PICNICS • FIREWORKS • SWIMMING

JUNE

Berne Wood-Fired Pizza Summer Concert Series
5-8 p.m. Every Wednesday through August (except July 4 when it will be Tuesday, July 3)—Zwingli United Church of Christ, 23148 County Highway 24, West Concord. Wood-fired pizza (\$22 cost) is served picnic style with free concerts at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. each night. Bring your own refreshments and lawn chairs.

Straight River Days
June 14-16— Medford. Since 1971, Medford residents have enjoyed this festival. Enjoy a weekend celebration in Medford with fun events for all ages. Some past favorites include the Miss Medford Pageant, city-wide garage sales, parade, music in the park, 5k run/walk, volleyball tournament, Younglife sponsored Kid’s Zone, Muni street dance, and more. For details, visit www.straightriverdays.com

Harry Wenger Marching Band Festival
11 a.m. June 16—Downtown Owatonna. Sit back and enjoy the 9th Annual band festival. 12 bands from around Minnesota will perform their summer routines. Visit www.owaton-nabandfestival.com

June Bloom
10 a.m.-4 p.m. June 18— North Park, Dodge Center. The community’s local artists and musicians are showcased in this celebration of the arts. Many art and craft forms are featured, including a community mural, live music performances, handmade décor, paintings, re-purposed furniture, and other creations. The Dodge Center Royalty will be named at beginning 11 a.m.

Ellendale Days
June 21-24— Ellendale. This annual old-fashioned country town celebration of Ellendale history is a family favorite. Polka music will be heard, and good food will be enjoyed. Event information will be posted at www.ellendaledays.com.

Stagecoach Days
June 25-26—Mantorville. Visit the Minnesotan frontier town and reminisce on the Victorian era through this celebration. Includes a pie baking contest, music, historical demos and displays, costume contests, art show, food and wine tasting, a tractor pull, and a visit from best-selling author Erica Vetch. More information can be found at www.mantorville-tourism.com.

JULY

Old Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration
July 2-4—Blooming Prairie. Famous for the largest Independence Day celebration in Southern Minnesota, the inviting city of Blooming Prairie welcomes all sorts of visi-



tors again this year. Over 35 thousand people will come to take part in festivities such as viewing antique tractors and tractor pulls, car shows, run/walk events, competitions, and many other forms of entertainment, all with plenty of food and drink. Contact the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce at 507-583-4472 for more details

Fourth of July Fireworks
10 p.m. July 4—Owatonna Fairgrounds. Wrap up your celebration of Independence Day with free seating for fireworks at the Steele County Fairgrounds (Sponsored by the Early Edition Rotary Club).

Eco-Blitz Waste Week
July 9-14—J.C. Hormel Nature Center, Austin. Learn about the importance of environmental care through a week of different daily activities such as family composting classes, waste facility tours, music for all ages, guided nature walks, kayaking, canoeing, and a service day to clean local water. Participants must RSVP for individual events by calling 507-437-7519. A full schedule for the week can be found at www.hormelnaturecenter.org

Steele County Historical Society Extravaganza
July 15—Village of Yesteryear, Owatonna. The 32nd annual extravaganza is a fun day to relive and celebrate Steele County’s history for a day with historic demonstrations, music, theater, games, food and fun.

Bike for MS “Tour De MN” July 17—Steele County Fairgrounds, Owatonna. Owatonna will be a host city for the 2018 Ride Across Minnesota to fundraise for those who suffer from MS. Over 600 cyclists will arrive in Owatonna on the 17th, greeted with entertainment and great food. Bikers will spend the night in the city until moving on the following morning. To get involved with this honorable ride, visit www.main.nationalmssociety.org

Dodge County Free Fair July 18-22, Kasson. The oldest fair in the state of Minnesota will be a fun event for all once again this year. The fair will include many old favorite events, such as great food, livestock displays, and carnival rides, but will also feature new events that the whole family will be sure to love. For more information, visit www.dodge-countyfreefair.com, contact dodgecountyfair@kmtel.com, or call the fair office at 507-213-9950.

Steele County Relay for Life July 20, Steele County Fairgrounds, Owatonna. Help raise money for the American Cancer Society and honor those who have been diagnosed by participating in an assortment of Relay for Life Events. To get involved, contact Joel Holst at joel@steelecountyrelay.org or 507-213-9950

Gus’ Station Car Show and Breakfast
8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. July 21—Steele County Historical Society, Owatonna. The 4th annual historical car display in the Village of Yesteryear is a enjoyable morning of history. \$5 registration fee per vehicle being displayed. Cars will be on display from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. where participants can vote on vehicles. The top 15 cars will be awarded with trophies. A \$10 breakfast will be served, including breakfast burritos, fresh fruit, rolls, coffee, orange juice and milk. At 12:30 p.m., cars will depart to the Ellendale Muni where there will be life music, food, and drink specials. Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the restoration of Gus’ station.





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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Free tours will provide a look at innovative cancer research underway at The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota.

Meet scientists and learn the latest in cancer prevention.

SUMMER OPEN HOUSES
Friday, June 29, 2-4 pm
Saturday, June 30, 11 am-1 pm
Friday, Aug. 24, 2-4 pm
Saturday, Aug. 25, 11 am-1 pm

801 16th Ave NE, Austin 507-437-9604
www.hi.umn.edu

THANK YOU BLOOMING PRAIRIE CANCER GROUP

Back for a 7th Season!



BERNE WOOD-FIRED PIZZA

Come join us for a summer filled with fun, entertainment, and yes, pizza!

5-8 p.m. Every Wed Through Aug (except July 4, it will be Tues, July 3)

On the grounds of Zwingli United Church of Christ at Berne 23148 County HWY 24, W Concord	FREE MUSIC! Berne Summer Concert Series
---	--

June 6
Turkey River All Stars

LP & THE 45's

June 13
Artisan Market Event
The Vintage Tones
OLD COUNTRY BOYS

June 20
Classic-Car Cruise
After School Special
RETRO SOUL & THE WESTSIDE HORNS

June 27
Cabin Fever
BRANDED

July 3
Tuesday Night Event
The Reunion Band
NITE SHIFT

July 11
The Lost Faculties
HAIR METAL RADIO

July 18
KnuFunk
JT & THE GUNSLINGERS

July 25
Smash & Grab
INCOGNITO

Opening Band at 5 p.m. HEADLINER at 6:30 p.m.



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from MSAB thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts & cultural heritage fund.



SUMMER FUN

FESTIVALS • FAIRS • 4TH OF JULY • SERVING DODGE AND STEELE COUNTY COMMUNITIES • PARADES • PICNICS • FIREWORKS • SWIMMING



Riverbend Music Fest

August 24-25—Owatonna. Come out and enjoy two days of camping, food, beer, and music. Purchase a one day pass for \$50/ person, or a two day pass for \$70/person. For a band schedule, visit www.riverbendmusicfest.com.

ArtWorks Festival

August 25-26—Austin. This free two-day event is a celebration of all types of art forms in the Austin community. Visual, performing, and literary arts will all be included.



Activities will run 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Corn and Brat Feed

4-7 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 25—Blooming Prairie. This annual event attracts nearly

Marigold Days

September 8-9—Mantorville. A beautiful celebration of the marigold with an assortment of events and activities will take place in the fall. The events will take place in various places around town and include the antique and flea market, the flower show, the quilt show, the car show, melodrama performances, music, 5k run, a baseball tournament, fireworks, and a parade. A full schedule is available at www.marigolddays.com.

Harvest Fest

Dodge Center. The “People’s Celebration” in Dodge Center will have live music, tractor and car shows, games and activities, as well as food in drink. Information will be posted on the Harvest Fest Facebook page as this event comes up.

Zumbro Bend Rendezvous September 20-23—Riverside Park, Mantorville. Come with family and friends to reenact local history! Visitors have the opportunity to buy merchandise and food in “Trader’s Row.” Demonstrations from the Fur Trade Era will be featured. There are two education days for school groups and the public on September

500 people to support the Blooming Prairie Fire Department. The event will be held indoors at the fire station.

SEPTEMBER

Big Iron Classic

September 7-8—Kasson. The Big Iron Classic is the Midwest’s largest “working class” truck show, and it is the area’s largest charity contributor of toys. To find out more, visit www.bigiron-classic.com.



20 and 21. The camp is open to the public on September 22 and 23. The event will be open 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Culturfest

10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. September 22—Wilson Elementary School, Owatonna. Celebrate your heritage with dance, music, and craft from many cultures. Vendors will be selling food from various cultures as well. This event filled with great entertainment and food is not to be missed!



Spend the summer on the links!



BROOKTREE GOLF COURSE



Voted the best golf course in Southern MN in 2015 & 2016, 2017, this 18-hole public course is welcoming to beginner and experienced golfers of all ages. Memberships and Punch Cards available.

Try one of our programs!

- Youth on Course
- Wine, Women & Golf ~ Parent & Child Golf!
- Mommy & Me/Daddy & Me ~ Family Sunday Funday
- Free Birthday Rounds ~ and other pop-up events!

A great golf destination to play, relax & enjoy!

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at BROOKTREE GOLF COURSE

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1369 Cherry Street, Owatonna

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You don't need to be a golfer to enjoy great food at Master's Bar & Grille, featuring the best patio in town! Check out our exciting series this summer!



Faith Lutheran Church

Annual Salad Luncheon

Wed., June 13
11 am to 1 pm

Adult \$8
Children 6-12 \$4

Come to a garden party

308 2nd Street NW
Dodge Center

