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Mausbach begins work at BPPU general manager



Mausbach

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

There's a new face at Blooming Prairie Public Utilities (BPPU) department. New General Manager Jerry Mausbach just begun working in Blooming Prairie but, said he's truly enjoyed the experience thus far. Mausbach began work with BPPU on Jan. 4, filling a position formerly held by Rick Kittelson. Previously, Mausbach worked in operations at Noble's Co-op Electric, in Worthington, Minnesota. He enjoys his new leadership role, and said that the BPPU staff

and BPPU Commission has been very welcoming and helpful. "Mainly, I've been diving into things," said Mausbach. "I've been studying a lot of the management material, getting a lot of great feedback from Rick and the Commission. They're helping me up to speed." Although he enjoyed his previous work, Mausbach said that the position in Blooming Prairie offered a new opportunity. "I was ready for a change," he said. "It looked like a good opportunity." The Blooming Prairie community is a pleasant reminder of something that mat-

ters to Mausbach. "I'm a small-town kid," Mausbach admits with a smile. "I grew up in a town about half the size of Blooming Prairie." Mausbach grew up in a small town in South Dakota. Now, however, his family has moved to Blooming Prairie. Mausbach and his wife have three children: two boys, ages five and almost three, and a 1-year-old daughter. Blooming Prairie, he said, seems like an ideal place for his family. "It seems like a really nice community," he said. "It's a nice, small town."

Although he's often working, Mausbach has a wide range of interests. He once enjoyed scuba diving. He also likes deer hunting and fishing. In addition, Mausbach said he "likes to mess around with computers", too. There's no telling what challenges the future may bring but Mausbach said he has no plans to make any major changes within the department. "I'm just going to continue on and build on the foundation built by Rick and his predecessors," he said.

Plunging into winter fun for a good cause

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

On Jan. 30, over 140 people will jump into Owatonna's Lake Kohlmier on a winter Minnesota day. And, many of them are actually looking forward to it. These people are looking forward to it because they'll be doing something for a good cause; even though they may be a little chilly by the time they emerge from the water. Saturday marks the second annual Polar Plunge event in Owatonna. The event will raise funds for Minnesota Special Olympics. Last year, around 175 participants raised over \$36,000 at the first Owatonna Polar Plunge. Participants in this year's event may check in at the Plunge location Lake Kohlmier (Swimming Pool Road off Mosher Avenue, in Owatonna) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. Same-day registration is also welcome but, participants must bring a minimum of \$75 in pledges to the event. Spectators are also encouraged to attend. "I think it's important for people to be aware of the resources people with disabilities have," said Wendy Reller, Owatonna Parks and Recreation Department's Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator. "It's very beneficial for the local athletes to help out with expenses for the programs, and I think it's fun just to have people come out and do something like this. It's a fun event and it raises awareness." The Owatonna Plunge was organized by a committee that includes both local people and Plunge experts alike. The Planning Commission includes representatives from the Steele County Sheriff's Office Owatonna Law Enforcement, the Owatonna Parks and Recreation Department, the Owatonna Dive Team, the KRFO radio station and Minnesota Special Olympics.

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Staff file photo by Karen Jorgensen
Maybe these two participants in last year's Polar Plunge decided there was safety in numbers as they decided to jump into Lake Kohlmier in together. They were two of the nearly 175 people who braved the cold lake to raise money for Special Olympics.

Public meets new Boys & Girls Club unit director

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Approximately 50 Blooming Prairie Boys & Girls Club board members and local residents relished the opportunity to meet and greet Marcy Sundine as the new branch director on Wednesday, Jan. 20, in an open house setting. Sundine (formerly Marcy McCamy) began her duties Monday, Jan. 18, after spending the last year on the East Coast. The open house afforded visitors to make another tour of the club facilities, and many expressed satisfaction with several new refinements at the club. As one resident remarked, "This really is a nice place, and it seems to be a very welcoming organization. The kids look as though they are having a good time." In just the short time she has been on duty, Sundine also expressed satisfaction with the situation so far. "After only three days in charge, I already know everybody's name that has attended," she said. "In a week or so, I will also know most of the parents." Because she is a former resident, Sundine renewed acquaintances with several community residents already familiar to her. Many who attended the open house took advantage of the occasion to take a brief tour of the facilities, and most especially remarked on the new kitchen facilities recently completed after a \$40,000 fund-raising effort by the community over the last year.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

An open house was held at the Blooming Prairie Boys and Girls Club on Wednesday night, Jan. 20, to welcome its new director, Marcy Sundine. Marcy is shown visiting with board members, the Rev. Charlie Leonard, left, and LeMar Nelson, right.

Boys & Girls Club provides invaluable experiences and role models for youth

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Saturday, Feb. 6, is the first Boys & Girls Club Benefit Bash and, the organization hopes many people will come show their support. The Club, however, also gives back to the community in a multitude of ways. Club board members and supporters alike agree that the Club, among other things, offers local youth with positive role models. Board member the Rev. Charlie Leonard said that one of the Club's primary goals is to provide high-quality programs that will help youth learn and grow

'We just want to be seen as a positive place to be for children.'

— Angie Carlson, member of the Boys & Girls Club advisory board

in a safe environment, while also having fun. This is possible, said Leonard, because of the people who are dedicated to working with youth at the Club. "A big part of it is the leadership of adults and young adults who provide guidance to the youth," he said. "They are our first line of role models."

Angie Carlson, who is a long-

time member of the advisory board, agreed that the Club offers endless benefits for the youth who spend time there. "It's a great place for kids, especially for those kids that would just go home after school by themselves," she said. "For a small community, we're very lucky to have the Club in town."

The Club is open from 3 to 6

p.m. Monday through Friday during the school year, and also has expanded hours in the summer-time.

Carlson said that the youth can get help with homework, enjoy socializing and even eat a nutritious snack. In addition, they also participate in "breakout sessions" where they learn about different topics, such as the planets. This summer, Carlson said that the Club will offer a unique hands-on learning activity: gardening. "We will have a garden and learn

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Opinion

Our view

A new era beginning at the Boys & Girls Club

In the next two weeks, the annual Blooming Prairie Boys & Girls Club Bash will be held at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club on Feb. 6, starting at 5 p.m. In some sense, it could be considered the beginning of a new era with the local Boys & Girls Club.

The annual event includes both a silent and live auction. The proceeds raised will go to the Club. In addition, just recently a new unit director – Marcy (McCamy) Sundine – came on board.

The challenge moving forward for the Boys & Girls Club is to build up its reputation and bring more young boys and girls into the fold. Volunteers are also part of the equation. Without them, the Boys & Girls Club will have a tough time providing support to the youth.

In 2014, there were 153 youth served. The breakdown was 44 percent of the youth members being ages 10-12, 39 percent were ages 6-9 and 17 percent were ages 13-18. In addition, 54 percent were male and 46 percent were female. Also, 37 percent of the Club members attended two times or more per week.

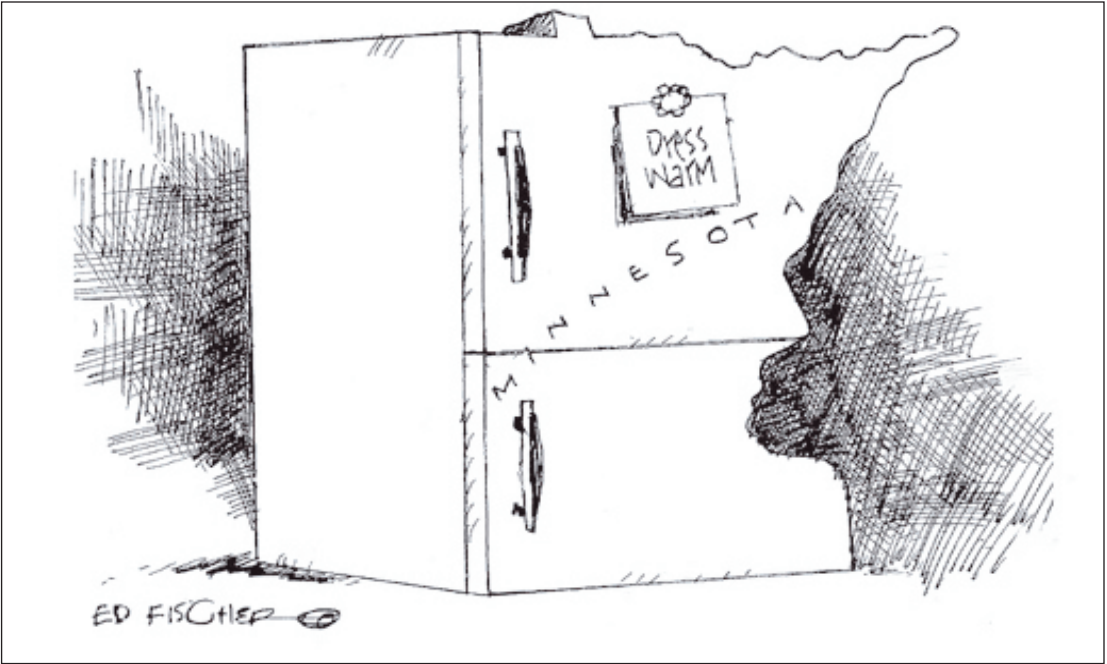
Building a strong reputation and looking at ways to bring more youth into the program has started. For example, the local board is starting a campaign to get input from Blooming Prairie businesses on what they know about the Club. It includes questions about both positive and negative images of the Boys & Girls Club.

The Board is also focusing on setting new program goals and increasing its family participation.

And that is good because there are some people around town that believe the Boys & Girls Club is mostly for those who are underprivileged youth. And that is just not so. That’s why it is important for board members to spread the word around of what the program has to offer.

Blooming Prairie educators see the value of the Boys & Girls Club. There are many elementary school students who head over to the Club after school and during the summer vacation. In addition, the school district believes in the Boys & Girls Club, supports the Club and hopes to continue to forge a strong partnership.

A strong partnership is important. But it takes the whole community, not just a few board members and an education system. Unless the whole community bands together for this worthwhile project, the Boys & Girls Club could go by the wayside. That would be tragic, because these kids need this kind of support to help build their future.



Hope begins with food

Food may sometimes get a little overrated, but as I found this week hope starts with food.

My youngest daughter and I found that out recently as we took advantage of a community service project to package food at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan. It is a non-profit Christian organization committed to feeding God’s children hungry in body and spirit.

What perhaps impresses me the most about Feed My Starving is its approach. Quite simply, the approach is simple. Children and adults hand-pack meals specifically for malnourished children and they are shipped to nearly 70 countries around the world.

We were a part of more than 50 volunteers who came together to roll up our sleeves and continue to work together to feed God’s starving children. In the course of less than two hours, we bagged and boxed enough food to feed 65 children for the next year. A single meal costs only 22 cents to produce.

After our mission was completed, organizers showed a video of little Nelson from Haiti. It’s something that certainly brought tears to my eyes. In the impoverished village of Old Letant, Haiti, Nelson’s mother was unable to feed all

Hot Pursuit

RICK BUSSLER

four of her children. With no other options, she would place him outside to sit among the pigs every day, where he was alone and exposed to the elements without food or water.

Feed My Starving came across Nelson in November 2013 at a time when Nelson was extremely malnourished, too weak to walk and eating dirt to quiet his hunger pains. His frail arms and legs protruded from a very swollen belly. He began eating the Manna Pack meals provided by Feed My Starving. After eight months of love, attention and nutrition, Nelson is healthy and thriving.

Last month Feed My Starving shipped more than 7 million meals alone to Haiti. That was the most any country received in the world from this

organization. It is a grim reminder of the world we live in to think that there are children who go without a meal day after day, month after month and year after year. Many of us can’t even begin to fathom what it’s like to go without food. It’s downright depressing to see some of these kids sporting only skin and bones to their physique.

Even as disheartening as it is to catch glimpses of malnourished children, it certainly warms my heart to know something is being done to help them and that my family had a small part in helping out.

If you’re ever looking for a community service opportunity, either as an individual or as a group, Feed My Starving is a great one to take in. It provides a great chance to teach young people how to become a generation of giving. The minimum age to volunteer is 5 years old. It is wonderful to see kids as young as kindergarteners smiling away as they package food.

Take it from me. There is just something special about giving that soothes the mind and soul.

I hope the new year will find you going in hot pursuit of helping others less fortunate than yourself.

Mailbag

When I saw the Tuesday edition of the Steele County Times I wanted to write and thank your newspaper for helping to get the word out about the dangers of impaired driving. Thanks for helping to get this important message out to your readers. The local TZD Coalition appreciates your support.

Karen Fountaine,
Steele County Towards Zero Deaths Coalition

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Guest column

The Minnesota Initiative Foundations: A greater Minnesota success story

2016 is a big year, not only for the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), but our five sister foundations, as well.

In 1986, at the height of the farm crisis, the Minneapolis-based McKnight Foundation was seeking a way to help revitalize Minnesota’s rural economies struggling to rebound from hundreds of farm foreclosures, layoffs in the Iron Range, outsourcing of manufacturing jobs, and the exodus

of young people looking for a brighter future elsewhere.

Thirty years later, the solution The McKnight Foundation developed after several regional conversations with concerned residents and rural leaders has proved an effective one: they created six separate Minnesota Initiative Foundations (MIFs) to individually serve the six non-metro regions of the state that could work collaboratively to share lessons learned and develop best practices for rural economic development.

One of the biggest needs during the 1980s was access to capital. Banks were hesitant to lend, but without access to capital and only 9 percent charitable dollars going toward philan-

thropic investments (compared to 66 percent in the metro), the MIFs were established not only to give grants, but to make loans. This was a unique permission granted to the MIFs, and to our knowledge, we are the only foundations in the U.S. that have this flexibility.

After three decades and a total of \$285 million investment from The McKnight Foundation to the six MIFs, we have collectively leveraged an additional \$270 million in investments from other foundations, corporations, government and individuals. These investments have helped diversify our rural economies beyond agriculture and manufacturing to areas such as biosciences, renewable

energy, tourism, and additional social services. Millions of dollars and hours of technical assistance have gone to strengthening early childhood development efforts.

To me, one of the most valuable aspects of the MIF model is the collaborative nature between the six foundations. I meet four times a year with the other MIF presidents to discuss new programs, recent research impacting our work, forecasted needs and success stories that could be replicated across our regions.

As we enter our thirtieth year, we are undergoing a strategic planning process to set our course and priority areas for the next several years. Early-stage

investments in new and growing businesses as well as in our youngest generation have been focus areas from the beginning; we anticipate this will continue to be the case. However, we realize that technology, demographic shifts in our region, and continued advances in the areas of education, agriculture and engineering necessitate that we remain flexible and responsive to the new needs going forward.

Part of going forward is learning from the past; throughout the year, we’ll be interviewing past stakeholders and those impacted by SMIF’s works - former presidents, Board members, loan clients, grantees and partners. I encourage you to learn how much southern Min-

nesota has been transformed by the hard work of many in the past three decades by following our 30 Voices for 30 Years story board, which will be updated monthly on SMIF’s website.

For a full history of the Minnesota Initiative Foundations and our impact, I encourage you to read the Initiative Foundation’s cover story in their latest IQ Magazine: 30 Years: A Model for Moving Forward . I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at timp@smifoundation.org or 507-455-3215.

Tim Penny is the President/ CEO of SMIF.

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2015
4 National Awards
7 State Awards

2014
3 National Awards
3 State Awards

2013
2 National Awards
7 State Awards

2012
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2011
4 National Awards

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The opinions of our readers in the form of Letters to the Editor are a vital contribution to the healthy exchange of ideas on the Steele County Times opinion page. All letters must be signed by the writer/writers and include a telephone number for verification purposes. Letters are accepted through personal delivery, by mail or by email at bptimes@frontiernet.net.

Opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Steele County Times and the editor reserves the right to edit letters when necessary. Please limit opinions to no longer than 350 words.

The Steele County Times encourages readers to write letters to the editor as a means of communicating ideas and opinions with others, with a goal being to make the community better for all people.

ETHICS

The Steele County Times editorial staff strives to present the news in a fair and accurate manner. Please bring any grievances against the Steele County Times to the attention of the managing editor.

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Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower....\$38
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Boys & Girls Club: A group who cares

By **LEMAR NELSON**
Staff Sports Writer

Although it is a lifesaver of kids across the country, the Boys & Girls Club is also alive and vibrant here in our own area. Both in Rochester and Blooming Prairie, lives are being changed on a daily basis, thanks to a host of caring club staff and numerous volunteers.

To say that the Club is a safe place for kids is an understatement, because it is so much more than that. The club, besides offering many fun activities and physical fitness programs, works with kids on homework, teaches good citizenship and provides a wide range of learning experiences that club graduates take with them in their adult life and into their future careers.

In the local Blooming Prairie and Rochester Clubs, no statistics are kept to judge the success of the organization, but national statistics quickly measure the worth of the organization. Club members who are highly engaged and have an optimal club experience skip fewer days of school, and have greater post-secondary aspirations. For example, 79 percent of members who attend Club more often and have a positive experience believe school is meaningful and important, compared to 65 percent of other Club members, a 14-point difference.

Generally, high school-age club members are more likely to abstain from high-risk behaviors than non-club counterparts nationally. Among Boys & Girls Club populations ages 13 or older, members who attend more often are less likely to smoke, drink alcohol and use marijuana, and engage in sexual activity.

Another telling statistic implies that 33 percent of Club members who attend regularly and have a good Club experience feel they have the skills needed to resolve conflicts, compared with 18 percent of others, a 15-point difference. Some other quick statistics gives



Some deep thoughts are registered by Nash Fawber, 9, at left as he ponders a move against Blooming Prairie Boys & Girls Club staff member Louis Jones at an open house on Wednesday night, Jan. 20.

credence to the worth of Club. Older teens are nearly 13 percent more likely to have volunteered in the community and 42 percent of younger teens are 42 less percent likely to have consumed alcohol in the last month. Youth that believe Club staff have high expectations for them are 15 percent more likely to be on track to graduate high school, are 29 percent less likely to have skipped school and 26 percent less likely to engage in physical fights. Members who have support from staff are physically active on 17 percent more days each week.

But these statistics barely scratch the surface in recounting the worth and successes of this very special place where kids can truly feel safe and are productive.

In Rochester, a young girl (age

8) joined the Reading Champions program. After a great deal of struggle and a lot of one-on-one time, she couldn't wait to share what she had learned after just one short month, she has grown the confidence even to read aloud and to improve her behavior and the way she fees about herself and others.

A 19-year old girl, Nichole Oesi, is a great example of how club can impact a person's life. She started attending at age 7, and it soon became her second home.

Through programs like Torch Club, she gained valuable leadership and speaking skills. She also learned the value of service to others through community service projects and recently received a scholarship to study culinary art in Colorado.

"Club helped me decide who I wanted to be," remarked the girl,

"and I gained confidence from my time as a Club member."

Here in Blooming Prairie individuals can also narrate feelings about their time in Club. Present club member Jordyn Sanchez will be entering sixth grade at Blooming Prairie Elementary School this fall and has been attending Club for five years already. "I joined club because I wanted to try something different," she remarked, "and I like it a lot. The staff is good, and I have learned to get along with others, as well as have fun at the same time. I have an A-average in school with power hour helping me complete my homework each day."

Jordyn lives with her grandparents, Alicia and Frank Lara, and added that in the courses offered at the Club she has learned Spanish and cooking.

"Club is really good," she



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud
The Sorenson siblings take time out from a game of dodge ball to pose for the camera at a Blooming Prairie Boys & Girls Club open house on Wednesday night, Jan. 20. Shown are twins Dustin and Madison Sorenson, both 9, and their older brother Dawson Sorenson.

concluded, "and I have learned to be nice to others and still have a fun time."

Dominick King, another Club member going into sixth grade this fall began club just last November when his mother, Priscilla Garcia suggested it. In the short time he has been a member, he has been part of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program and has also learned a lot.

"The Club is really nice," Dominick commented, "and I like the structured games and activities. I like math, and I like flag football and the other games."

Ask any of these kids about Club, and one comment all are ready to give is that Club gives them a safe place to be and a place where learning takes place

all the time.

It is not only present members who have appreciated the worth of the local Club. David Hansen, one of three members of the Jim Hansen family, who had attended Club regularly, commented, "The Club helped me learn leadership skills, and I have used these skills to find employment. In just the past year I have taken a supervisory role in the company for which I work, and I don't know if that would have been possible without support at Club."

These are just a few examples of the value and worth of a Boys & Girls Club. When advocates espouse the fact that this is one place where kids can go, yet feel safe in a comfortable learning environment no truer words could be spoken.

BENEFIT BASH

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about seeds, then the kids will eat the food they've grown," Carlson said. "The Club has different opportunities for learning, and maybe things kids wouldn't get to experience otherwise."

The Club, said Carlson, offers countless opportunities for youth. "We have a kids' fitness room with kids' size exercise equipment, a kids' computer lab, a library with books kids can check out, a huge awesome kitchen that was completed last year where kids can learn to make and prep meals, an activity room, and art room... there's a lot of different opportunities for different kids," said Carlson. "People think it's like a day-care, but the Club is so much more than that."

Blooming Prairie Elementary Principal Chris Staloch also feels that the Club is a huge asset to the community. "We have many students who attend the Club after school and in the summer time," Staloch said. "I believe that it is awesome to have a place like that for stu-

dents to go, especially in a small community like ours. As a school we want to support the Boys & Girls Club any way that we can and hope to continue to build a strong partnership moving forward."

Leonard and Carlson both said that the Club hopes to expand its enrollment. This summer, said Leonard, is a great time for youth to visit the Club. "We certainly want the Club to be open to all children who have time in their day, who want to be with other children in a safe environment and learn new things," he said.

At the Club, youth also learn about character traits, such as respect. "For younger children, we hope to be examples of good behavior," said Leonard. "We can also offer examples of many good choices, and how those choices make a difference in your life."

The Club allows youth to make new friends and interact with different age groups.

Boys & Girls Club Benefit Bash

Boys & Girls Club Benefit Bash
Saturday, Feb. 6
Begins at 5 p.m.

Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club
210 Fourth Street Northeast,
Blooming Prairie

Silent and live auction and games

Knowing that adults also care about them, said Carlson, often makes a huge difference in their lives.

"I've heard from kids that have gone there in the past about what a difference it made to have people in their lives that care about them, who want to help with homework, give them

a hug, or whatever they need," Carlson said. "They care about them."

Leonard adds that community members are encouraged to help at the Club. Anyone with a special skill or knowledge base can teach youth about their interests, and volunteers are always welcome to simply spend time

with the youth and assist with Club operations as needed. "We actively invite members of the community to teach a class or just spend time with the kids," Leonard said. "We hope to do more and more of that."

Members of the local business community, he added, are also welcome to share their experiences. "Perhaps a business in the community would like to come in and talk with the kids about the people who work for them and what they do," Leonard said. This, he explained, would help educate the youth about a business in their community while also allowing teenagers at the Club to get a sneak peek at a potential career opportunity.

As the Club looks ahead to the future, board members are excited about the new Blooming Prairie Unit Director, Marcy Sundine, and her efforts to help the Club continue to grow. Other community members have also expressed their excitement about Sundine's leadership and

willingness to help her. "I look forward to talking with the new director and finding out what we can do to best support them," said Staloch.

"We just want to be seen as a positive place to be for children," Carlson said. "I'd encourage people to stop in, see Marcy and just check it out and see what the Club is about. I think once people see it, they're going to appreciate that we have this in our community."

An ideal time to learn more about the Boys & Girls Club and to show support for its programs will be on Saturday, Feb. 6, during the first Boys & Girls Club Benefit Bash. The Bash, which begins at 5 p.m., will take place at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. There will be a live and silent auction, games and food specials. During the duration of the live auction, there will also be a kid's party at the Boys & Girls Club. Transportation and adult supervision will be provided at the kid's party.

POLAR PLUNGE

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The City of Owatonna and KAT Kountry 105 also helped make this event possible.

Reller said that representatives from Minnesota Special Olympics have been especially helpful during the planning process. "They have the information and knowledge about what we need for local people and the resources to find whatever is needed," she said.

Since this is the second year of the Plunge, Reller said the planning commission has also worked to make some improvements from last year. One of those improvements is a shuttle that will take people to and from the Plunge site.

"Shuttle buses will be available to take you between the Plunge site and the parking lot of Federated Insurance," said

Reller. Although disability parking will be available on-site, along with parking for volunteers, all others should park at Federated Insurance (located at 1929 South Cedar Avenue).

Another new aspect of the Owatonna Plunge offers another opportunity for people to give back to others. This year, there will be a concession stand, featuring chili, hot dogs, hot coco and coffee. Proceeds from the concession stand will benefit Owatonna Park and Recreation Therapeutic Recreation programs.

"This year, for the first time, they've also incorporated an option for schools to participate," said Reller. "Teams or individuals can plunge. Schools go online to get pledges and send a team out there to jump

in. They're really encouraging schools and students to become involved and form a collaboration with the Special Olympics."

The proceeds raised by school teams becomes a shared revenue, with 35 percent of their total going back to the school. The team can also designate the funds to benefit their school sports team or other school-related ventures.

Those familiar with Lake Kohlmier, said Reller, may not recognize the location upon their arrival to the Plunge site on Saturday. "If you've been to the beach before, it will look very different," she said, with a laugh. "The snow will be plowed off part of the beach so spectators can come and watch, there will be a hole for plungers to jump in and an inflated

Polar Plunge bear. There will be a warming tent for people to change in, and a registration tent for people who can still register there that day."

The Plunges will begin at 1 p.m. and Reller said that, once the fun begins, the event should move along quickly. Anyone planning to take the Plunge should bring towels, shoes and, of course, warm clothing. (Spectators should also dress in warm clothing.) Valuables should also be left at home, said Reller.

Last year, many people came to the Plunge from Owatonna, the surrounding area and even more distant communities. The Plunge, said Reller, is a great opportunity to have fun on a winter Minnesota day, while also benefiting a very worthy cause.

There will also be plenty of opportunities to volunteer. Persons interested in the event can learn more online at plungemn.org or by contacting Minnesota Special Olympics. To learn about volunteering at the concession stand, contact Wendy at

507-774-7360.

Or, simply show up at the event and ask what you can do to help. "If you want, come on out; we'll find something for you to do!" Reller said.

Correction

In last week's article, "Two advance in District spelling bee," Micah Donnelly, one of the third place winners is a fifth-grader, not an eighth-grader. Also, The Blooming Prairie Education Foundation has not been asked to sponsor the spelling bee the past two years. The school and Southeast Service Cooperative have paid for it. Finally, there is no "State Final Bee" in the spring. The region spelling bee is Feb. 9 and the semifinal event is on Feb. 23. The winner of the semifinal event goes on to the Scripps National.

Public Safety

Blotter spotlight:
Arson. At 9:07 p.m., an arson incident occurred in the 100 block of Main St. E. in Owatonna on Jan. 19

Claremont man charged with attempted first-degree murder

By **KAREN JORGENSEN**
County Staff Writer

A Claremont man is facing three felony charges, including first-degree attempted murder, following an incident at a Claremont apartment on Jan. 19.

Jorge Juan Rocha, 49, made his first appearance at a bail hearing in Dodge County District Court last Thursday before Judge Jodi Williamson where he was formally charged with first degree attempted murder while committing domestic abuse. In

addition to the attempted murder charge, he was charged with second-degree assault with a deadly weapon and terroristic threats.

According to the complaint against Rocha, Dodge County deputies were dispatched to an apartment at 232 Front St. in Claremont for an assault involving a stabbing. Dispatch had advised them that the suspect had fled on foot, Sheriff Scott Rose said. On arriving at the apartment deputies met with Desenia Rocha who told them that earlier in the day she and her estranged

husband, Jorge Rocha, got into a verbal argument about him returning keys to the apartment as he no longer lived there.

She told deputies Rocha refused to give her the keys and left.

She said she was sleeping on the couch that evening when Rocha entered the apartment, went into the kitchen and returned and stabbed her in the abdomen with a knife. Desenia Rocha said, at



Rocha

that time, her adult son, Christopher Maldonado came out of the bedroom.

The complaint goes on to say that Maldonado told the deputies that he had been in the bedroom sleeping when he heard a commotion, and when he entered the living room, he saw his mother running into the hallway with Rocha running behind her.

He said he asked Rocha what

was going on and Rocha then came after him with the knife. Maldonado told the deputies he locked the door to the apartment and called the Sheriff's Department.

Maldonado then said that shortly after he closed the door his mother was knocking on it so he let her back into the apartment. He described the knife to deputies as a "turkey-cutting knife."

Deputies searched the building and found Rocha in his brother's apartment across the

hall where he was arrested.

Desenia Rocha was transported to Mayo Clinic—St. Marys. She has since been released from the hospital, Rose said.

Williamson set bond at \$250,000 with conditions and \$500,000 without conditions and he was returned to the Steele County Detention Center.

Rocha's next court appearance was scheduled before Williamson on Jan. 27.

Rocha faces up to 20 years in prison and more than \$20,000 in fines if convicted on all charges.

Man pleads guilty in bank heist

By **RICK BUSSLER**
Publisher



Alvarez

The man charged with holding up a Steele County bank at gunpoint more than a year ago is admitting his guilt.

Alfredo Frias Alvarez, 40, of Waseca has entered a guilty plea to armed bank robbery in U.S. Federal District Court in Minneapolis. The judge has ordered a presentence investigation. No sentencing date has yet been set.

In federal court, Alvarez admitted that he entered the First National Bank in Hope on Dec. 19, 2014 brandishing a firearm and demanding money from the teller. He was wearing a multi-colored, plaid coat and had on blue latex gloves.

Court documents say in fear and in response to Alvarez's actions, the victim complied with his demands and provided him with currency. The bank determined Alvarez walked away with about \$1,910 in cash, according to court records.

The victim was unharmed during the robbery.

Alvarez fled the area in a black Dodge Charger. Police captured him after a high speed chase through parts of Oklahoma and Texas the next day. At the time of his arrest, he was wearing the same clothing from the robbery. Officers also found the cash from the heist in the vehicle, court records say.

As part of the plea agreement, Alvarez will receive a maximum sentence of 25 years in prison and supervised release of up to five years. He is expected to receive up to 78 months in prison.

His prior arrest record is clear of any significant prior conviction other than traffic and misdemeanor theft.

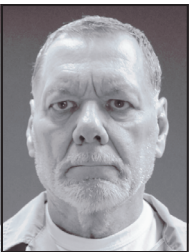
DOC seeks level 3 predatory offender with ties to Blooming Prairie and Hayfield

The Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) is seeking a level 3 predatory offender with ties to the Blooming Prairie area.

According to a press release from the DOC, Douglas Lynn Peterson, age 66, is no longer complying with the conditions of his release from prison. Peterson was released from prison on Nov. 5, 2014, and has been on fugitive status since Jan. 17, 2016.

Peterson had been living near the area of 27th Street and Fremont Avenue South, in Minneapolis, when he absconded from his supervision.

Peterson's criminal history includes felony criminal sexual conduct convictions. In 2001, he was sentenced to prison for criminal sexual conduct against juvenile males.



Peterson

The press release states that Peterson has ties to the Blooming Prairie and Hayfield areas, in addition to the Blaine, Golden Valley, Milaca, Minneapolis and Zimmerman areas. He's also been affiliated with Arcadia, Florida and Phoenix, Arizona.

Peterson is Caucasian, with brown hair and blue eyes. He's approximately 6 feet tall and weighs 182 pounds. The DOC's press release states that Peterson was last seen wearing a black coat with a gray hood and was carrying a backpack.

The DOC urges citizens not to approach or confront Peterson. Instead, anyone with information about Peterson's possible whereabouts should call 911 or the DOC's 24-hour tip-line at 651-603-0026.

POLICE BLOTTER

Steele County

Owatonna Police

Jan. 15
Juvenile. Police received juvenile complaints from the 300 block of School St. E. at 10:27 a.m. and at 12:04 p.m.

Hit and Run. A hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 700 block of Bridge St. W. at 8:11 a.m.

Assault. Police responded to an assault in the 300 block of School St. E. at 1:57 p.m.

Child Protection. Officers took seven child protection reports throughout the day.

Crash. Paramedics and police responded to a crash with injuries at Hoffman Dr. NW and North St. W. at 4:18 p.m.

Vandalism. At 10:43 p.m., property damage was reported in the 100 block of Main St. E.

Jan. 16
Domestic. Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of University St. E. at 1:27 a.m.

Burglary. At 9:03 a.m., police began a burglary investigation in the 100 block of Cedar Ave. N.

Vandalism. Officer took a property damage report at 46th St. NW and Frontage Rd. W. at 5:34 p.m.

Jan. 17
Harassment. A citizen reported being the victim of harassing communication in the 100 block of 20th St. NW at 10:53 a.m.

Criminal Sex. Police responded to a criminal sexual conduct incident in the 900 block of Elm Ave. N. at 2:10 p.m.

Jan. 18
Child Protection. Officer took a child protection report in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 9:31 a.m.

Shoplifting. Police arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 5:50 p.m.

Theft. A theft was reported in the 100 block of 18th St. SW at 7:56 p.m.

DWI. At 10:21 p.m., police made a drunken driving arrest in the 2000 block of Hartle Ave. SE.

Jan. 19
Suspicion. Police advised on a suspicious activity report in the

1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 1:31 a.m.

Fraud. Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 5:45 a.m.

Vulnerable Adult. At 11:02 a.m., a vulnerable adult report was taken in the 200 block of Pearl St. E.

Burglary. Police responded to a burglary in the 1500 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 3:51 p.m.

Arson. At 9:07 p.m., an arson incident occurred in the 100 block of Main St. E.

Jan. 20
Assault. Police responded to an assault in the 400 block of North St. W. at 4:26 a.m.

Theft. A vehicle was reported stolen from the 2000 block of Austin Rd. SE at 1:06 p.m.

Threats. A subject was taken into custody following a threats incident in the 1900 block of St. Paul Rd. NE at 1 p.m.

Drug. At 4:28 p.m., police made an arrest regarding drug court in the 500 block of Mound St. SW.

Jan. 21
Welfare. Officer completed a welfare check in the 600 block of Ridge Rd. NE at 12:05 a.m.

Criminal Sex. Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 4:30 p.m.

Theft. Thefts were reported in the 500 block of 15th St. NE at 6:23 p.m. and in the 400 block of Alexander Dr. SW at 10:21 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff

Jan. 15
Death. Deputies began a death investigation in the 8500 block of 40th St. NW at 7:35 a.m.

Juvenile. At 8:55 a.m., deputies received a juvenile complaint from the 700 block of 2nd Ave. NE.

Warrants. Deputies made warrant arrests in the 100 block of Main St. E. at 9:56 a.m. and in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 9:20 p.m.

Jan. 16
Arrest. Deputy arrested a motorist following a traffic stop in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW at 1:03 a.m.

Transport. At 7:24 p.m., deputy arrested and transported a subject to the county jail.

Jan. 18
Theft. Deputy took a theft report in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW at 8:07 a.m.

Jan. 19
Burglary. Deputies responded

to a burglary in the 2300 block of County Rd. 180 at 4:46 p.m.

Jan. 21
Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of a fraud incident in the 400 block of 2nd Ave. SE at 4:38 p.m.

COURT NEWS

Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 11 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Jonathan C. Rodd, 51, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony taxes-false or fraudulent returns-file with commissioner. Rodd was sentenced to \$181, 1 day in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, 240 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation.

Rebecca L. Stuber, 42, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony DWI and misdemeanor obstructing legal process. She was sentenced to \$206, 6 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, no contact with victim, 90 days of electronic alcohol home monitor and 7 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 11 – 15:

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Justin J. Compton, 33, Austin, suspended license, \$101; Nestor J. Jimenez Jimenez, 21, Austin, permit violation, \$131; Christian E. Miller, 25, Minto, ND, speeding, \$141.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Jennifer L. Adamowicz, 21, Racine, WI, speeding, \$221; Joseph D. Bateman, 59, Hendersonville, TN, illegal u-turn, \$131; Robert L. Brooks, 66, Memphis, TN, speeding, \$131; Paul E. Forst, 50, Greenwood, speeding, \$141; Kaelin R. Franklin, 18, Waunakee, WI, speeding, \$221;

Katarina R. Haimes, 18, St. Charles, speeding, \$131; Larry

M. Jarvis, 58, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Olivia R. Meyer, 23, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Lindsey M. Motzko, 23, St. Michael, window tint violation, \$131; Janet F. Olson, 63, Clearbrook, stop sign, \$131; Mitchel J. Pothen, 40, Minneapolis, speeding, \$131;

Rose M. Randolph, 56, Brooklyn Park, illegal u-turn, \$131; Jeffrey G. Reineke, 53, Faribault, speeding, \$221; Jesus A. Rocha, 39, St. Paul, speeding and no MN license, \$231; Tanner J. Svoboda, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Teza M. Vargas Jaramillo, 18, Faribault, permit violation, \$131;

Jacob M. Walker, 20, Newton, IA, speeding, \$131; Jerome V. Wernimont, 51, Carroll, IA, speeding, \$131; Scott A. Yoder, 40, Holland, IA, speeding, \$121.

Owatonna Police Department

Juan M. Barguiarena, 44, Austin, no MN license and no insurance, \$381; Darlene R. Blong, 45, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; Alexander J. Brown, 20, Owatonna, shoplifting, \$131, 27 days in county jail; Rylee L. Burns, 21, West Concord, revoked license, \$281; Marcy K. Busho, 30, Owatonna, shoplifting, \$207.97 and 1 year of supervised probation;

Travis D. Chadbourn, 33, Austin, speeding, revoked license and speeding, \$381; Lorenzo M. Cook, 24, Owatonna, assault, \$581, 90 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, psychological evaluation, domestic abuse evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, obtain GED, and 2 years of supervised probation;

Katherine J. Davis, 31, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Tai'rica C. Einfeldt, 24, Owatonna, shoplifting, \$131; Nyayul D. Gash, 19, Austin, shoplifting, \$131; Alexandria T. Gibbons, 24, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana, \$131; Dawn B. Gregor, 39, St. Paul, speeding, \$101;

John M. Groth, 47, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, 3 days in county jail, attend MADD impact panel, no alcohol or controlled substance use, and 1 year of supervised probation;

Kimberly K. Hanson, 38, Apple Valley, domestic assault, \$1,081, 3 days in county jail, domestic abuse evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, mental health screening, and 2 years of supervised probation;

Derek J. Kelling, 18, Owatonna, shoplifting, \$237; Nathan V. Martin, 22, Otisco, suspended license and no insurance, \$481; Ronald D. Mead, 50, Ellendale, DWI, \$406, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Wendell A. Miller, 62, Owatonna, stalking – intent to injure, \$581, anger management and 2 years of supervised probation;

Codie J. Moore, 23, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$481, 4 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, psychiatric evaluation, obtain GED and 2 years of supervised probation; Tricia R. Nichols, 29, New Brighton, expired tabs, \$111;

Andrew M. Niskanen, 40, Blooming Prairie, DWI, \$806, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, 224 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Dawn M. Remker, 45, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$131;

Michael A. Sorenson, 43, Owatonna, DWI, \$4,305.18, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend MADD impact panel, 216 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Kalil J. Aman, 23, St. Paul, speeding, \$131; Shawn R. Buck, 28, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Anthony C. Conlin, 25, Waterville, invalid license, \$281; Jessica R. Conway, 38, Chatfield, speeding, \$121;

Jeremy C. Decoux, 38, Coon Rapids, littering, \$181; Carson D. Field, 20, New Richland, speeding, \$100; Ryan M. Hanson, 25, Owatonna, invalid license, \$181; Patrick M. Jacobs, 17, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Amanda L. Kraay, 25, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281;

Jill R. Martin, 41, Ellendale, speeding, \$141; Susan M. Meyer, 53, Kenyon, speeding, \$141; Emily R. Mielke, 19, Courtland, speeding, \$131; Angela Q. Mosier, 36, Chaska, speeding, \$121;

Christopher J. Ryan, 37, Janesville, speeding, \$121; Heather A. Sathre, 35, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Matthew R. Summer, 17, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; Michael K. Thomas, 20, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$121.

POLICE BLOTTER

Dodge County

Jan. 13
Abandoned Vehicle. Deputies found an abandoned and unoccupied vehicle at 740th St. and State Hwy. 30 in Blooming Prairie at 9:10 a.m.

Environment. At 10:06 a.m., a bag of garbage had been dumped by the railroad tracks at 2nd St. SW and 3rd Ave. SW in Dodge Center.

Fraud. A Dodge Center resident reported being the victim of identity theft in the 17500 block of 635th St. at 1:39 p.m.

Probation Check. At 10:33 a.m., deputies tested a male party for a probation check on 6th St. E. in Mantorville. He tested positive and fled the scene.

Jan. 14
Suspicion. Deputies received a suspicious activity report that a male party was wearing a bright yellow coat that said gas company on it. He was walking up to homes around the area at 6th St. NW and 13th Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 11:51 a.m. Deputies spoke with the subject and he was with the gas company.

Jan. 15
Vandalism. Deputy took a report that a mailbox had been damaged in the 400 block of Front St. W. in Claremont at 6:19 p.m.

Fire. At 11:27 p.m., deputies responded to a snowmobile that caught on fire at 600th St. and 260th Ave. in Mantorville.

Jan. 16
Fraud. Deputy took a report that a Dodge Center woman's debit card account had been hacked into at 9:03 a.m.

Civil. Deputies assisted with a civil dispute regarding property in the 300 block of Front St. W. in Claremont at 11:34 a.m.

Probation Violation. At 8:04 p.m., deputies responded to a report of an intoxicated male in the 500 block of Main St. N. in Mantorville. He was found to be in violation of his probation.

PUBLIC SAFETY
Continued on Page 8A

The following individuals as they have active warrants in Steele County. The sheriff makes this information available as a public service.

Marco Valdez – DWI, child endangerment - \$6,000 bail
Alvaro Valdivia – revoked license - \$500 bail
George Vang – no license - \$500 bail
Reinaldo Vasques – DWI - \$1,000 bail
Eric Veith – theft, shoplifting - \$500 bail
Ashia Velarde – theft – no bail
Jose Villa Jr. – interfering with 911 call - \$6,000 bail

Jose Villaandrade – DWI - \$6,000 bail
Heather Villarreal – no insurance - \$500 bail
Rickson Waguk – DWI - \$12,000 bail
Anthony Walker – controlled substance - \$35,000 bail
Joseph Walsh – open bottle - \$500 bail
Desmond Walton – traffic - \$500 bail
Ihou Wateba – no insurance - \$500 bail
Santino Watson – aid and abet theft - \$20,000 bail

Tristan Watts – counterfeit currency - \$6,000 bail
William Waymire – theft by check - \$10,000 bail
Dennis Weber – no insurance - \$6,000 bail
Paul Wechter – stalking - \$3,000 bail
Eric Weiser – theft by check - \$3,000 bail

Disclosing active warrants promotes public safety and aids in the identification & apprehension of those individuals wanted on a warrant.

ACTIVE WARRANTS

Could you have COPD?

Dear Savvy Senior,
I have struggled with some shortness of breath for the past five years or so. I just thought I was getting older and out of shape, but a friend recently mentioned I may have COPD. What can you tell me about this?

Breathless Bob

Dear Bob,
COPD, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, is a serious lung disease that, over time, makes it hard to breathe. What's more, an estimated 24 million people have COPD today, but about half of them don't know it. Many people mistake shortness of breath as a normal part of aging, or a result of being out of shape, but that's not necessarily the case. COPD—a term used to describe a variety of lung diseases including emphysema and

chronic bronchitis — develops slowly, so symptoms may not be obvious until damage has occurred. Common symptoms include an ongoing cough or a cough that produces a lot of mucus; shortness of breath, especially during physical activity; wheezing and chest tightness. Those most at risk are smokers or former smokers over age 40, and people who have had long-term exposure to other lung irritants like secondhand smoke, air pollution, chemical fumes and dust. There is also a rare genetic condition known as alpha-1-antitrypsin, or AAT deficiency that can increase the risks. If you're experiencing any of the aforementioned symptoms, you need to get tested by your doctor. A simple breathing test

called spirometry can tell if you have COPD, and if so, how severe it is. Early screening can also identify COPD before major loss of lung function occurs. If you do indeed have COPD, you need to know that while there's no cure, there are things you can do to help manage symptoms and protect your lungs from further damage, including:

Quit smoking
If you smoke, the best thing you can do to prevent more damage to your lungs is to quit. To get help, the National Cancer Institute offers a number of smoking cessation resources at smokefree.gov or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW. Or, ask your doctor about prescription anti-smoking drugs that can help reduce your nicotine craving.

Avoid air pollutants

Stay away from things that could irritate your lungs like dust, allergens and strong fumes. Also, to help improve your air quality at home, remove dust-collecting clutter and keep carpets clean; run the exhaust fan when using smelly cleaning products, bug sprays or paint; ban smoking indoors and keep windows closed when outdoor air pollution is high (see airnow.gov for daily air-quality reports).

Guard against flu
The flu can cause serious problems for people who have COPD, so get a flu shot every fall and wash and sanitize your hands frequently to avoid getting sick. Also ask your doctor about getting the pneumococcal immunizations for protection against pneumonia.

Take prescribed medications
Bronchodilators (taken with



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an inhaler) are commonly used for COPD. They help relax the airway muscles to make breathing easier. Depending on how severe your condition, you may need a short-acting version only for when symptoms occur, or a long-acting prescription for daily use. Inhaled steroids may also help reduce inflammation and mucus and prevent flare-ups. For more information, visit the COPD Foundation at copd-foundation.org or call the COPD information line at 866-316-2673.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

History from the news archives

10 Years Ago
Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2006
Dan Evans, Publisher

The Blooming Prairie Education Foundation (BPEF), which was established in 1999 to enhance the educational opportunities for the students of IDS #756, held its annual banquet Saturday, Jan. 28. This year's banquet had over 100 people in attendance, the best turnout yet. Gary Lueth, the chairman of the event, welcomed everyone to the banquet and the Blooming Prairie High School Jazz Band played and set the mood during dinner. Tamzen Johnson gave a treasurer's report, Mary Wacek named the memorials that were given to the foundation, Becky Noble listed off the items they had purchased for the 2005 school year, Barry Olson gave an update on the schools and Holli Naatz reported on a scholarship program that will be started in 2006 thanks to donations from the local Jaycees.

Awards were given to Bob and JoAnne Nahlovsky for their support of the BPEF and Yvonne Walsh for drawing the BPEF logo. President Sue Zwiener closed the banquet by thanking everyone for coming and for their support. Throughout 2005, the BPEF gave over \$50,000 to the schools.

20 Years Ago
Tuesday, Jan. 30, 1996
Elsie Slinger, Editor

On Wednesday, Jan. 24, the Blooming Prairie High School One-Act crew's performance of "The Small World of Millie McIvor" was ranked first on all three judges sheets at the Sub-Section IIA contest. For second-year Director Rank Vorlicek, it was his first championship. One judge commented, "I hardly had time to write while just enjoying the play and laughing at the action." Another judge said, "You presented great stage pictures throughout, the costumes are great, and it is encour-

aging to see high school students do such a stylized show like this and do it so very well."

The cast included Joey Malherek and Jason Iacovino as the young men, Kathy Bonnema as Millie McIvor, Betsey Campbell as the young assistant, and Laurie Lillie, Tina Pirkel, and Fabian Pietsch as visitors to the dress shop.

50 Years Ago
Thursday, Jan. 27, 1966
Victor, Vernon and Vyrle Krejci, Editors

The Blooming Prairie High School Senior Band, under the direction of Clifford Jones, has been chosen as "WCCO Band of the Week" and will present a 40-minute recorded program over the Minneapolis radio station on Thursday night of this week. A representative of the radio station was at the high school last Tuesday for a special recording session. Dr. John Fischer announced this week that he will close his medical office in Blooming Prairie early next June and begin training on July 1 at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. This advanced training will extend for three years and will make Dr. Fisher a specialist in psychiatry. Chairman of the Civic Progress Club, Harold B. Hanson, announced that every effort will be made to obtain a doctor to locate in Blooming Prairie before next June. He requested the Times to express the deep appreciation of the Blooming Prairie residents for the 14 years of faithful service Dr. Fischer has given to this community and to wish him and his family much success and happiness after they leave Blooming Prairie.

75 Years Ago
Thursday, Jan. 30, 1941
Frank Krejci, Publisher

Seven of the eight Steele county draftees who were inducted into service last week left

Fort Snelling Wednesday afternoon for permanent encampment in California. Among the seven were Herb Jurgenson and Carl Ruzek, Blooming Prairie boys. The two were reported to be in jubilant spirits and looking forward to their trip to the west coast. All of the Steele county boys passed the final physical examinations and were either sent to camps in Louisiana, Missouri, or California. Herb's Beauty Salon in the Federated store building is to reopen. Miss Mae Mallric, Minneapolis beauty expert and operator, is in charge of the salon and is meeting customers this week. Herb Jurgenson, who left this last week for duty in the Selective Service, owns the salon. Local talent of the Cornington community will present a 3-act comedy drama Friday night at the Cornington school. A rag-ball social will follow the play. Ladies are asked to bring a rag ball with their name concealed within. The balls will be auctioned to the highest bidders.

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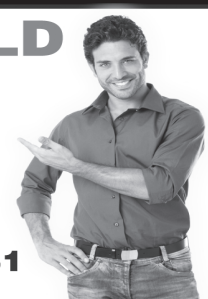
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Community

Obituary

Winifred Mae Hansen, 90, Eden Prairie

Winifred Mae Hansen, age 90, of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, formerly of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, died Friday evening, Jan. 22, 2016 at LuAnn's Place in Eden Prairie.

Winifred Mae Paschke was born May 3, 1925, the daughter of Ewald and Alma (Erdmann) Paschke in Blue Earth, Minnesota. She attended school in Blue Earth.

On September 18, 1943, she was united in marriage to Hervie Udstuen at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Blue Earth. The couple lived and farmed near Brice-lyn, Minnesota before purchasing a farm in Ripley Township, Dodge County, Minnesota.

Winifred was a devoted farm wife, helping with the farm

chores as well as taking time for crafts, crocheting, baking and sewing. She also enjoyed bowling and playing cards.

Hervie died on December 31, 1972. Winifred continued to live on the family farm and on June 3, 1974, married Calvin Quentin Hansen in South Dakota.

The couple lived on the farm until moving to Hayfield and later to Rochester, Minnesota.

Calvin died on April 5, 2006. In 2014, Winifred moved to LuAnn's Place, a residential care home in Eden Prairie, Minnesota to be near her daughter. She was a long time member of



First Lutheran Church where she served in circle and helped with the annual lutefisk dinners.

Survivors include, a son, Duane (Mona) Udstuen of Marana, Arizona; daughters, Karen Lehmann of Longville, Minnesota, Sherry Udstuen of Mountain View, California and Ranae (Charles) Noble of Eden Prairie, Minnesota; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren and many other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ewald and Alma Paschke; both husbands, Hervie Udstuen and Calvin Hansen; a son-in-law, Richard Lehmann; one brother,

Wilfred and one sister, Marion.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 29, 2016, at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota with Pastor Heidi Heimgartner officiating. Interment will follow the service in First Lutheran Cemetery. Visitation will be held for one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday, Jan. 29, 2016.

The Worlein – Blooming Prairie Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com. Memorials to First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota.

Death notice

Eunice E. Seykora, 90

Eunice E. Seykora, age 90, passed away surrounded by her family Jan. 17, 2016, at Homestead Hospice House in Owatonna. Funeral Mass was held at 10:30 a.m. Jan. 22 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, in Owatonna. Private interment will take place at Holy Trinity Cemetery, Litomysl.

For more information or to leave an online condolence message go to www.brick-megerfuneralhome.com.

Tax time at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library

BOOK NOOK



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

As if winter weren't hard enough to handle already, the first months of the year bring the dreaded Tax Time. Sorting through last year's receipts, gathering documents from several sources, and then completing the tax forms can bring anyone down.

Well, unfortunately, this year there is change that may further distress you. The State of Minnesota will no longer be providing state tax forms and instructions to libraries and counties. They officially state, "We are making this change in order to ensure our

customers are filing with the most up-to-date tax forms and instructions, which are on our website."

So, where can you get the state tax forms? Go online at www.revenue.state.mn.us and type Income Tax Forms in the search box. You can also call them toll free at 1-800-652-9094 and request the forms you need.

Some of the Federal Tax Forms will be available at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library. As of Thursday, Jan. 21, the forms have been shipped but not yet received.

Alternatively, you can download the forms at www.irs.gov or call their toll free number at 1-800-829-3676.

If you need more help, local AARP volunteers will be providing tax service free of charge Feb. 2 through April 15 at the Owatonna SeniorPlace. The volunteers are certified to complete federal and Minnesota tax returns. They can also complete the Minnesota homeowner and renter rebate forms for those that qualify. Please call SeniorPlace at 507- 444-4280 to schedule an appointment.

Blooming Prairie School menus

BPES Breakfast Menu
Jan. 26: Breakfast Pizza, Vegetable Selection, Juice, Milk
Jan. 27: WG Bagel w/Cream Cheese, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk
Jan. 28: Banana Loaf, Vegetable Selection, Orange Juice, Milk
Jan. 29: WG Muffin, String Cheese, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk
Feb. 1: not available
Feb. 2: not available

Feb. 3: not available
BPES Lunch Menu
Jan. 26: Soft Tacos w/Lettuce, Cheese, Salsa, Pasta Salad, Chicken Patty on WG Bun, Pasta Salad, Chopped Lettuce, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit
Jan. 27: Hot Dog on WG Bun, Tator Tots, WG Brownie,

Turkey BLT Wrap, Tator Tots, WG Brownie, Broccoli, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit
Jan. 28: Chicken Nuggets, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Dinner Roll, Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Dinner Roll, Kidney Beans, Cherry Tomatoes, Seasonal Fruit
Jan. 29: Pizza Parlor Pizza, Garlic Herb Broccoli, Hamburger on WG Bun, Garlic Herb Broccoli, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Seasonal Fruit
Feb. 1: not available
Feb. 2: not available
Feb. 3: not available

Chopped Lettuce, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit
Jan. 27: Philly Flatbread, Kettle Chips, WG Brownie, Broccoli, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit
Jan. 28: Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Dinner Roll, Spring Corn Salad, Kidney Beans, Cherry Tomatoes, Choice of Fruit
Jan. 29: Pizza Casserole, Garlic Herb Broccoli, Garlic Breadstick, Broccoli Florets, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Seasonal Fruit
Feb. 1: not available
Feb. 2: not available
Feb. 3: not available

BPHS Lunch Menu
Jan. 26: Tex Mex Bowl,

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Milestones

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays Jan. 26 Bruce Wolf Tom Blome Justin Ingvalson Melissa Machin Jan. 27 Lisa Vaith Lyla Swenson Jan. 28 Jennifer Shaw Katherine Kerrigan Jonathan Heimgartner Kathryn Johnson Jan. 29 Zenobia Haberman Kathleen Iversen Samantha Iversen	Nicholas Iversen Jan. 30 Julia Manges Michelle Krell Ken Behnken Jess Motl Norah Savage Feb. 1 Jon Vogt Nathan Arndt Cody Doerhoefer Kim Meiners Anniversaries Jan. 28 Craig and Rebecca Ingvalson
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Birth announcement



Anthony and Natalie Sorensen, of Waltham, are happy to announce the arrival of a daughter, Madeline Kaye. Madeline was born on Dec. 28, 2015, at Olmsted Hospital in Rochester, MN. She weighed 7 lb. 8 oz. and was 20 in. long. Madeline is welcomed with love by big brothers Max and Carter. Grandparents are Brian and Debra Sorensen and Clint and LuAnn Becker, all of Waltham.

SEMCAC senior menu

Jan. 26: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Dilled Carrots, Beet Pickles, Pears/Caramel Sauce
Jan. 27: New England Boiled Dinner, Alt: Sliced Turkey/Potato, Green Salad, Dinner Roll, Lemon Bar
Jan. 28: Swedish Meatballs, Baked Potato w/Sour Cream, Stewed Tomatoes, Banana
Jan. 29: Bar-B-Que Ribs,

Scalloped Potatoes, Corn, 7-Layer Salad, Carrot Cake
Feb. 1: Goulash, Coleslaw, Pineapple Slices, Dinner Roll, Coconut Crumb Delight
Feb. 2: Beef Stew, Seafoam Salad, Batter Bun, Baked Apple
Feb. 3: Chicken Chow Mein, Broccoli, Spiced Peaches, Craisin' Oatmeal Cookie

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Area Church Spotlight



Vibrant Life Assembly of God, Ellendale

Pastor's corner

'Jesus Did This!'

In the story of Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee (John 2:1-11), we are reminded of how amazing Jesus was as a guest at this wedding.

Jesus' Mother, Mary noticed that the wine supply for the wedding guests had run out, so she asks her Son to do something about it. We are not able to fully realize the impact of running out of wine at a wedding banquet like Mary did.

In her context, weddings were lengthy affairs, often lasting five days. These days were filled with celebrations and well wishing by family and friends. It was an extended blessing given to this couple, filled with tangible ways of showing support for their new commitment to each other.

However, there were lofty expectations

that the hosts of the wedding would be gracious and generous to these people who would give up days of their lives to bless and support this new couple. Therefore, when "the wine gave out" it would be a poor reflection on this couple, their family and perhaps, their marriage. I don't know that we can fully appreciate the crisis this was that Mary was observing.

But, knowing the crisis that was about to unfold, she looks to her Son for crisis relief. Jesus then guides the wine stewards to fill six stone jars with water and Jesus immediately turns this water into wine. St. John finishes this story with these words, "Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory."

How has Jesus revealed his glory in your life? I like to begin my answer with how Je-

Jesus forgives me of my sins and how his death and resurrection is the promise for my life now and forever. I can confidently say, "Jesus did this!" I encourage you, the reader, to think about how your belief in Jesus has made a difference in your life, perhaps with some kind of "crisis relief" and then say, "Jesus did this!"

Pastor Charlie Leonard
First Lutheran Church
Blooming Prairie, MN

Area Church Schedule

Lutheran

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 38th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
588 S.E. 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 633-9331
Sunday Worship 10:30
Sunday School 9:15

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Charles Leonard, Senior Pastor
Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor
(507) 583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com
Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
8953 S.W. 37th Ave., Hope
Pastor Sandy Miller
(507) 451-3854
Services: 9 a.m. Sunday School,
Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN—LCMS
2500 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna
The Rev. Mark Rosenau,
the Rev. Gregory Schlicker
(507) 451-4125
www.goodshepherdowatonna.com
Services: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. &
10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
9651 SW 75th Street Ellendale
(507) 465-8366
Family Choir 9:00-9:15 a.m.
Sunday School/Adult Education
9:15 a.m. Sunday, Worship 10:15 a.m.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN—ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Minister Dwight DoBell
(507) 567-2474
Service: 8:30 a.m. Sunday Sunday
School: 9:45 a.m.

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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
(507) 451-2720
www.redeemeroawatonna.org
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH —LCMS
4532 S.E. 84th Ave., Claremont
The Rev. Alan Broadwell
(507) 528-2404
sjloffice@frontiernet.net
www.peaceclaremont.otsnost.org
Weekly Church Service
Saturday Evening (Starts September
19th) 6 p.m. Sunday Morning
Services held at 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion Offered each
Saturday Evening Service and
2nd & 4th Sunday Service of each
month. Sunday School - starts
September 20th at 9 a.m. to 10:15
a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
28959 630th Ave., Sergeant
The Rev. Ronald Prigge
Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
104 First St. S.E., Hayfield
The Rev. Paul Hauschild
(507) 477-2248
www.trinityhayfield.org
Services: 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN—LCMS
57403 300th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272
Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN—LCMS
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272
Service: 8:00 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
106 Third St. S.E., Geneva
Pastor Krisin Venne
(507) 256-4288
Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor Patti Meyer
(507) 451-2165
Worship 8:30 AM
Sunday School 9:30 AM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
108 Third Ave S.W., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
(507) 451-0447
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education hour: 10 a.m.

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2781 S.W. 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor Patti Meyer
(507) 451-2165
Sunday School 9:15 AM
Worship 10:30 AM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor
Dean Smith, Associate Pastor
(507) 451-4520
www.tlcowatonna.org
9:00 am Worship
10:15 am Sunday School

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, AFLC
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Pastor Richard Sliper
Saturday - 8 a.m. Men's
Bible Study Sunday - 9 a.m.
Worship: 10:10 Sunday School;
10:15 Coffee and Fellowship
Tuesday - 6 a.m. Call to Prayer, open
to all Churches; 7 p.m. Call to Prayer
Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study;
6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:15 Hands
of Praise; 6:30 Confirmation;
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Catholic

ST. AIDEN CATHOLIC PARISH
Hwy 30 Ellendale
507-465-8217
The Rev. Raul Silva, Pastor
The Rev. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH
Rural Geneva
The Rev. Raul Silva, Pastor
The Rev. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 465-8217
Sunday Mass: 11:00 a.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NW Second St. Hayfield
The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 477-2256
Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Reconciliation: Before Mass
Adoration: Tuesdays 9 to noon

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 First St. SW., New Richland
The Rev. Raul Silva, Pastor
The Rev. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 465-8217
Services: 9:15 a.m.

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC PARISH
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 583-2784
stcolumbanuschurch.com
Reconciliation: 4:30 p.m. Saturday
Sunday Mass: Vigil 5:15 p.m. Saturday
and 8:30 a.m. Sunday.
Adoration: Mondays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Office hours: M-F, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer, Pastor
The Rev. Brian Sutton,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 451-1588
www.litomysl.webs.com
Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday
with Children's Church
Reconciliation: after Mass 1st Sunday
Family Faith Formation and Adult
Bible Study after Mass with noon
potluck; 2nd Sunday of month
Confirmation class: 2nd Sunday and

Wednesday evening

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer
The Rev. Brian Sutton,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Sunday Mass: Vigil 5 p.m. Saturday,
7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., & 10:30 a.m.
Spanish Mass: 1 p.m. Sunday
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Saturday
Adoration: Thursdays 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
515 E. Main St., Hayfield
The Rev. Emmanuel Sylvester
218-695-2641
Mass & Religious Ed: 11 a.m. Sunday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S Elm, Owatonna
507-451-4845
Rev. Edward F. McGrath, Pastor
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sunday Mass: Vigil Sat. 4 p.m.
8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Reconciliation 3-3:30 p.m. Saturday
Daily Mass Tues.-Sat. 8 a.m.
Adoration in Chapel - 24 hours each day

CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING
205 NW Second Ave., Medford
(507) 451-6353
The Rev. Edward McGrath,
Parochial Administrator
Sunday Masses: Vigil Saturday 5 p.m.,
10 a.m. Sunday
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday
10 a.m. Sunday
Monday Mass: 8 a.m.

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Sunday Mass: Vigil Saturday evening,
5 p.m., 10 a.m.
Monday daily Mass: 9 a.m.

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Christian

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422 W. North Street, Owatonna
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Methodist

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Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 Sixth St. N.W., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirksema
(507) 684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday
Free home style meal on the first
Sunday of the month through Dec.
2016. Worship is at 10:30 a.m.
followed by the free meal at 11:30
a.m. All are welcome.

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
815 E. University, Owatonna
Loren Olson, Pastor
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
(507) 451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Worship: Sunday 9 a.m. & 10:45
a.m.; Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.

Non-Denominational

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
303 North Cedar Ave, Owatonna,
Pastor Keith Haskell
507-215-2249
Sundays 10:00 AM
enter through Owatonna Fit Lab

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH
30 E. Main St. P.O. Box 224,
Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
(507) 477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

ELEVATION NORTH CHURCH
2002 Austin Rd.
Pastor Doug Jones
(507) 363-3099
www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com
Sun 10 a.m. English Service
10:30 a.m. Service & Kids Zone
2 p.m. Spanish Service
Wed. 7:00 Bible Study
Fri 7:00 Spanish Outreach

NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
332 14th St. N.E., Owatonna
Pastor Scott Peterson
(507) 213-9194
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Bible: 7 p.m. Wednesday

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Owatonna Campus
422 W. North Street, Owatonna
Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
507-254-8514
www.destinycc.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

SIMPLE CHURCH
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5661
Sundays 9:30
Meeting in the Country Goods
building across the
freeway from Cabela's.
Other gatherings? Please call.

Mennonite

PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH
13638 750th St., Blooming Prairie
Dennis Martin
(507) 583-2081 & (507) 477-3216
Services: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday
and 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Mormon

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
404 31st St. N.W., Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
(507) 433-9042
Service: 9 a.m.-10:10 a.m.

Presbyterian

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
109 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Vanessa Syvertsen
(507) 477-2631
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

Seventh-Day Adventist

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
2373 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna
Pastor Robert Brauer
(507) 340-7143
Service: 11 a.m. Saturday
Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m. Saturday

UCC

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
211 Main St. S., Medford
Pastor Louise Bender
(507) 451-4596
Confirmation: 9 a.m. Sunday
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10 a.m. Sunday

Assembly of God

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Pastor Patrick Stitt
(507) 684-3421
Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
vibrantlifeag.com

Baptist

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
104 First Ave. N.E.,
Blooming Prairie
Pastor Matt Fennell
(507) 583-2673
Services: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
and 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sunday



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www.kernelrestaurant.com

PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from Page 4A

Disorderly Conduct. Deputies received information regarding a past action assault on Main St. E. in Dodge Center at 11:19 p.m.

Jan. 17 Disturbance. Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 25400 block of 682nd St. in Kasson at 1:21 p.m. One male was transported to the Steele County Jail.

Jan. 18 Welfare Check. At 8:24 a.m., deputies completed a welfare check after receiving a report of a male party slumped over in a vehicle at U.S. Hwy. 14 and 150th Ave. in Dodge Center. They found that the subject had pulled over because he was tired.

Jan. 19 Juvenile. Deputies responded to a juvenile complaint in the 800 block of Hwy. St. W. in Dodge Center at 2:01 p.m.

Gas Leak. At 3:45 p.m., a Hayfield resident reported that there was a smell of gas in his garage and home in the 27700 block of State

Hwy. 30.

Search Warrant. Deputies executed a search warrant in the 400 block of East St. N. in Claremont at 4:34 p.m.

Assault. At 11:18 p.m., deputies responded to a stabbing in the 200 block of Front St. W. in Claremont.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Jan. 11 – 18:

Dodge County
Sheriff's Office

Grant A. Brossard, 37, Kasson, disorderly conduct, \$380, domestic abuse evaluation, and 1 year of supervised probation; Leonard J. Bush, 49, Harmony, disorderly conduct, \$180;

Kayla J. Eilenfeldt, 25, Roches-

ter, speeding, 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Jose F. Gonzalez Jr., 42, Austin, parking violation, \$32; Justin P. Grobe, 33, no license in possession, \$100;

Tyler J. Schacherer, 27, Rochester, cancelled license, \$980, 90 hours of community service and 2 years of probation.

Kasson Police
Department

Cody A. McKenzie, 27, Grand Meadow, parking violation, \$32; Christine R. Peterson, 47, Ortonville, parking violation, \$32; Steven R. Stone Jr., 34, Faribault, speeding, 3 days in county jail.

MN State Patrol
Rochester

Omar M. Carranza Martinez, 21, Dodge Center, speeding, \$220; Joshua K. Crews, 23, Stewartville, speeding and no insurance, \$320; Michael R. Dominguez, 36, Rochester, speeding, \$120; Donald D. Francis, 69, Nevis, speeding, \$130;

Dylan R. Hondl, 22, Owatonna, speeding, \$120; Colleen A. Moe, 56, Waltham, speeding, \$130; Caitlin R. Northway, 19, West Concord, speeding, \$140; Justin R. Onken, 25, West Concord, speeding, \$140; Jason S. Peterson, 43, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Benjamin A. St. John, 66, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$105; Ann M. Tloughan, 43, Byron, speeding, \$120.

Steele Arrests

Owatonna Police

Joshua Lee Miller, 27, arrested at 1:44 a.m. Jan. 16, domestic assault/assault, \$6,000 bail.
Brandon Mark Oreskovich, 29, arrested at 11:02 p.m. Jan. 18, DWI, held for court.
Richard Burnhardt Polesky, 68, arrested at 6:45 p.m. Jan. 21, DWI-test refusal, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Trevor Steven St. Martin, 36, ar-

rested at 1:45 a.m. Jan. 16, felony possession of controlled substance and intent to escape tax, held for court.

Faisal Mohamed Abdullahi, 26, arrested at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 16, warrant arrest, body only.

Nathan Daniel Mathiason, 34, arrested Jan. 20, warrant arrest, \$2,000 bail.

Michael William Martin, 46, arrested at 3:33 a.m. Jan. 21, drugs warrant arrest, \$5,000 bail.

Mitchell Joseph Wenker, 32, arrested at 1:38 p.m. Jan. 21, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.

MN State Patrol

Ashley Lynn Wick, 29, arrested at 10:12 p.m. Jan. 17, DWI, held for court.

James Elliot Cleary, 37, arrested at 10:57 a.m. Jan. 18, felony fugitive from justice (extradition matter – Florida warrant), held for court.

Conrad Cornelius Ginter, 40, arrested at 10:10 a.m. Jan. 20, DWI, held for court.

Owatonna Fire

Jan. 15

Crash. Fire personnel responded to an accident with no injuries on Hoffman Dr. at 4:20 p.m.

Jan. 17

Steam. At 12:32 p.m., fire fighters responded to steam, vapor, fog or dust that was thought to be smoke in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Jan. 19

Smoke. Fire fighters worked on removing smoke in the 100 block of Main St. E. at 9:08 p.m.

Jan. 20

Fire. At 12:03 p.m., a mobile property vehicle caught on fire in the 600 block of Bridge St. W.

Jan. 21

Cooking Fire. A cooking fire confined to a container occurred in the 300 block of 22nd St. SE at 12:57 p.m.

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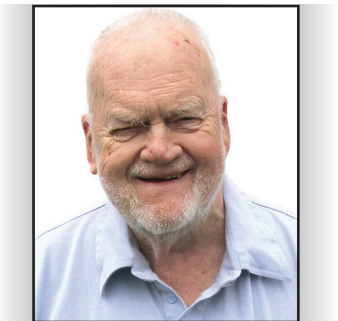
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OUTSIDE THE LINES



LEMAR NELSON

Activities pick up at end of week

Strangely the week in sports proved rather sparse until the end of the week, and then activity really picked up. The wrestling team won another team match, and a half dozen individuals again had success at a Saturday invitational. In the last three weekends, at least six and at one meet nine individuals placed anywhere from first to sixth. It is just too bad that the numbers out for wrestling continue to be a real problem for Coach Chad Gimbel and the team. Let's hope that enough kids in the lower grades find enough satisfaction in the sport to stick with it over the next ten years or so.

There isn't much doubt, but that Waterville-Elysian-Morristown is turning out good athletes in volleyball and basketball over the last few years. The Bucs upset Bethlehem Academy to win the state title in volleyball, and both of the basketball teams have handled the Blossoms with relative ease this year and last.

Most sports fans recognize that schools go through cycles, and the teams that represent those schools often find success for a relatively long period of competition. Right now the Bucs are in one of those cycles, and neighboring schools just have to keep building their own programs until they find success in one or more sports.

I still am surprised at the success of girls basketball. Without anyone who can consistently score a dozen or more points, the team is depending upon their defense, and they are doing a good job of it. The team almost has a dozen wins for the season, and, though they are frustrating to watch for me at times, they manage to stay together and play good position basketball.

The varsity boys are going through some rough times and playing without sophomore Jake Ressler didn't help them against WEM and Tri-City United. I don't see any quit in the team, though, and better times will come, I am sure. The sophomores who are starting are now almost juniors, and they will have to step up. I know they can do it.

My mystery solved

It probably doesn't make a bit of difference to anyone else, but with help of a couple of faithful readers, I have uncovered the year in which our community presented "Harvey" as a fundraiser for the AAUW. We presented the play in June of 1962, after several months of rehearsals, mostly at the home of Dr. John Fischer.

I had the privilege of playing Elwood P. Dowd, the owner of Harvey, an imaginary rabbit 6-feet tall. Dowd brought Harvey with him wherever he went, and the occasions generated many humorous moments

Wrestler earns 100th win despite injury that could have ended his career

By JESSICA NAFE
Steele County Times Intern

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva wrestler who feared he might never wrestle again just got his 100th win.

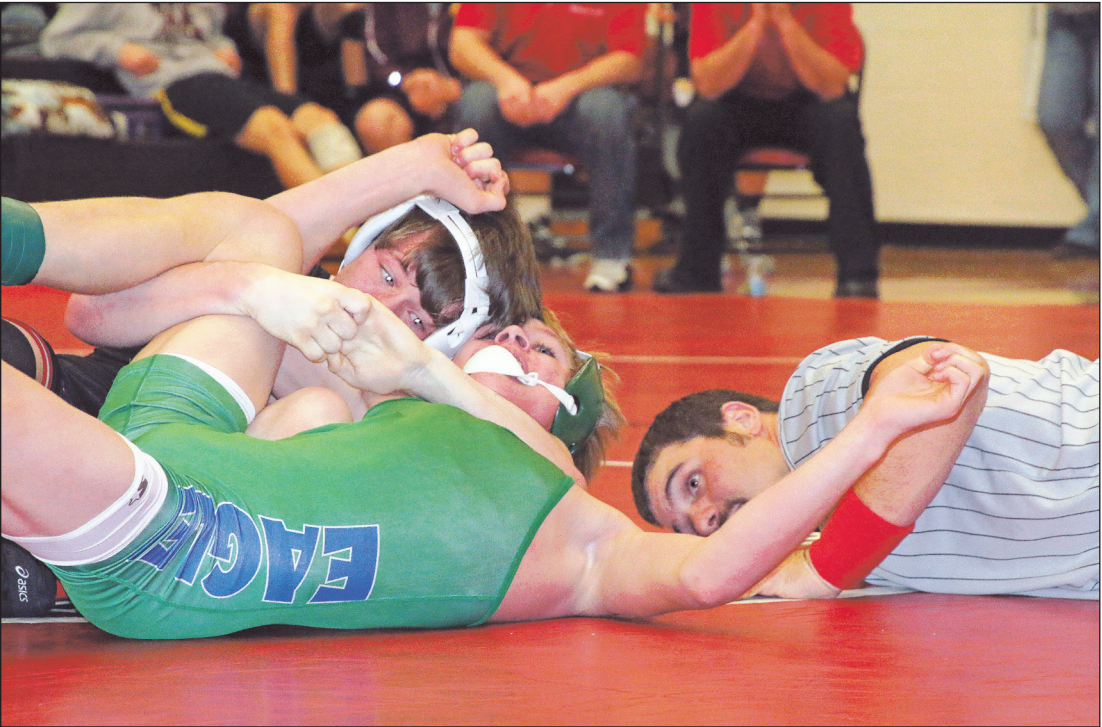
On Jan. 16, senior Cordell Peterson pinned his opponent within the first period during a team tournament in Lake Mills, Iowa.

"It feels pretty great, because not many people can say they ever get their hundredth win," Peterson stated.

Considering Peterson was out for some time last season with a serious back injury, pretty great is an understatement. During wrestling season last year, Peterson's chiropractor found a "boney bump" on his back during a checkup and suggested that he see a doctor. After getting checked out at the Owatonna Hospital and having an X Ray taken, he received his results over a frantic phone call.

"They were freaking out," Peterson recalled. "They said that if I kept wrestling I could be paralyzed."

The cause for panic was a hemi vertebrae. Peterson was missing 40 percent of the front



Cordell Peterson of New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva recently earned his 100th wrestling victory last week on the mat.

lobe on his L2 vertebrae, a condition he was evidently born with. Due to the serious threat of injury, NRHEG Varsity Coach Shawn Larson was forced to keep Peterson off the wrestling mat.

"It was kind of a scary thing,"

Larson commented. "The original X Ray showed that it was very dangerous for Cordell."

Peterson said he was worried at first because we didn't know anything about it. Having being told that he may never wrestle again, he was crushed.

"It was really depressing," he said. "If I could never wrestle again, I don't know what I'd do."

Hoping to receive a better diagnosis, Peterson headed to Children's Hospital for a second opinion. At the hospital Peterson

son had an MRI, which luckily brought better news. His vertebrae was found to be stable, allowing him to resume wrestling. The risk of injury is still evident and he experiences back pain from time to time, but he refuses to be held back by his injury. As soon as he was cleared, Peterson went back to the mat to finish out the season.

He is back in full action this year, with a record of 18-4 in his 126-pound weight class. "He's an exciting wrestler, so people want to come and watch him," Larson stated.

Although his record is great and he is a fan favorite, Peterson's biggest accomplishment this season is reaching his 100-win mark. That career-milestone is one that Larson reported only about 1 in every 30 wrestlers at NRHEG ever achieve. "As a coach, it's not about the stats, although they are impressive. I like to see that they're able to progress, and with 100-wins Cordell obviously can do that," Larson said.

Larson has been Peterson's

100TH WIN
Continued on Page 3B

BLOOMING PRAIRIE BOYS BASKETBALL

Week ends with two losses

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

It was a tough weekend for the Blooming Prairie boys basketball team. After a rout by Waterville-Elysian-Morristown on Friday night, the Blossoms lost a close game to Tri-City United, 63-57, outscoring the locals 9-4 over the last two minutes of play.

BP led at the break 27-26, after leading by nine with just over six minutes left in the half. But the lead quickly evaporated when Titan guard Keegan Oak made three treys in a row to open the second half. That went along with his 11 first half points and give him 23 points for the game to lead all scorers. After the three treys, the Blossoms never got closer than one point the rest of the way.

The locals shot just 32 percent for the game, while the visitors made just less than 40 percent. Billy Odenthal, Jackson Fedema and Devon Jacobson all made two free throws in the last two minutes. Anthony Nelson had 21 points for BP and Marten Morem contributed 20, but no other Blossom could count more than eight. Morem had seven rebounds, two assists and two steals in the game.

Tri City won the junior varsity

game, 56-50 in a well-played contest by both teams. The action went back and forth until the last minute when the Titans were able to cash in on free throws. Max Romeo scored 17 and Gabe Hagen added 12. The team record is 8-9.

WEM handles boys

With the score tied at 8-8 three minutes into the game WEM ran off 18 straight points to open up a 26-8 lead on the way to an 80-43 victory over BP on the Blossom court Friday, Jan.22. The Bucs led 43-23 at the half of the conference contest, and the last seven minutes of the game were played in running time, as the winners led by more than 30 points.

The Blossom defense had no answer to the Bucs' Zach Olson, who had 22 points by the break. At one point the WEM junior swished 4 three-pointers in a row, before missing. He finished with 31 points, but he had plenty of help, as three other Bucs had double figure scoring. For the Blossoms, Anthony Nelson worked hard to score 13 points, and Dawson Heuer and

BP BOYS

Continued on Page 2B



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
With the Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Buccaneers closing in, Blooming Prairie senior Dawson Heuer makes an attempt to score. That night, the Blossoms fell to the visiting team with a 80-43 loss.

NRHEG GIRLS BASKETBALL

NRHEG on three-game streak

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

A strong start in the first half led to a 42-23 first half lead, and good balance in scoring made a 73-57 victory possible for New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) over Bethlehem Academy (BA) on Jan. 22.

The win marked number 14 for the Panthers and improved the conference mark to 5-2.

A 10-point run by BA's Shelby Meyer opened the second half, but the winners regained control of the action quickly. Marnie Wagner scored 17

points, had 12 rebounds, four assists and a steal. Kayley Camerer counted 15 points and seven rebounds, and Maddie Wagner added 11 points and eight rebounds. NRHEG dominated the rebounds 44-20, and both teams shot just 33percent for the game.

The junior varsity team won the prelim, 52-19.

BEA falls to NRHEG

Being able to get out and run for some easy baskets propelled NRHEG to a 53-40 victory over Blue Earth Area on Jan. 19.

Marnie Wagner scored 18

points to lead the Panther attack and Maddie Wagner added 14. Maddie Wagner had nine rebounds, and Marnie Wagner contributed eight rebounds, two assists and four steals. Kayley Camerer pulled down eight rebounds, as the winners had a 39-31 edge in rebounds.

The JV team lost 49-43.

Panthers tip USC

NRHEG forged a tie for second in the Gopher Conference

NRHEG GIRLS
Continued on Page 2B

BLOOMING PRAIRIE GIRLS BASKETBALL

Weekend split for girls

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

In a game that had six ties and long stretches with a slim lead, the Blooming Prairie girls basketball team gained a split in two weekend games with a 58-50 victory over visiting Tri-City United Saturday, Jan. 23. The non-conference win upheld the BP record to 11-5 overall and stayed at 4-3 in conference.

"We earned a nice win tonight against TCU tonight," remarked Coach John Bruns. "They boast one of the quickest teams we play, and the defensive pressure really challenged us. We had

too many turnovers, but we defended well and made big plays in the second half when we needed them."

Neither team could mount a lead with their four first half ties, but the locals did score the last five points of the half to take their biggest lead at the break, 24-19. The Titans rallied briefly in the second half and actually led y two at the 12-minute mark, but two baskets and a free throw from Sam Wurst, and a trey from Kaci Gwilt took

BP GIRLS
Continued on Page 3B

Sports

NRHEG BOYS BASKETBALL

Panthers continue winning ways

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

The winning ways are continuing for the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva boys basketball team.

The Panthers earned their 12th victory with a 75-54 thumping of Bethlehem Academy. The game was close early, 7-6, before NRHEG pushed the lead to 20-9 and maintained a double digit lead throughout the contest. NRHEG led 30-15 at the half.

“We had four kids reach double figures, which is a good number for us,” Coach Pat Churchill said.

Oakley Baker scored 27 points, cleared 10 rebounds and dished out five assists.

“He was in a real nice groove tonight offensively,” Churchill said.

John Cole also had a double-double scoring 19 points and claiming 11 rebounds. Chad Agrimson added 13 points and Benji Lundberg had 10 points. Jack Clark had 20 and Avery Hunt contributed 12 to lead Bethlehem Academy.

NRHEG also won the junior varsity contest, 48-20

NRHEG wins slow-paced affair

NRHEG and Blue Earth Area were in a slow-paced game before the Panthers went on a run and built a 27-18 halftime lead on their way to a 61-44 win.

“They play a half court 1-3-1

to slow you down offensively,” Churchill said. “I thought we played solid defense in the first half as well.”

Baker led the way with 14 points, 10 rebounds and five assists. Cole added 12 and Agrimson had nine points and 10 rebounds. Bailey Olson led all scorers with 21 points for Blue Earth Area.

NRHEG won the junior varsity contest 37-21.

Panthers too much for JWP

The two teams battled evenly for the first 12 minutes of the game. The teams were tied 21-21 before NRHEG went on a run to take a 10-point lead on the way to a 69-57 win over Janes-

ville-Waldorf-Pemberton. The Panthers led 40-27 at halftime.

“I didn’t think we came out defensively the way we needed to,” Churchill said. “We got beat off the dribble way too much tonight. I felt we did some okay things against their zone when we were patient.

“If we attacked too quickly we turned it over, but if we swung the ball around a little bit we had some success,” he added. “We were able to keep the lead for most of the second half in double figures.”

Baker led the way with 14 points, while Cole had a double-double with 15 points and 11 rebounds. Josh Janike led JWP with 22 points.

NRHEG won the junior varsity contest, 54-17.

BP BOYS

Continued from Page 1B

Marten Morem added 11 and 10 points.

BP shot just 33 percent from the field, while the visitors were shooting at a plus 40 percent clip. The locals had only 26 rebounds for the game, as WEM took advantage of rebound baskets on the rare occasions they missed the first shot. Morem and Nelson had five rebounds each, and Morem added two assists and a steal.

Coach Brian Nelson’s JV team avenged an earlier loss to the Bucs with a 54-50 victory in the prelim. WEM had defeated BP by 23 points earlier in the season.

Photo by Laura Berndt
Wyatt Grundmeier prepares to shoot early in the game between the Blooming Prairie Blossoms and the Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Buccaneers on Friday night in Blooming Prairie. Blooming Prairie would ultimately lose the game 80-43.



OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued from Page 1B

in the action. Eleanor Fischer played Elwood’s mother, Peggy Concannon the daughter. The doctor at the mental hospital was played by y Lloyd Swenson, and the nurse by Joan James.

One of my readers remembered that it was in the summer of 1962, and the AAUW had been recently formed the year before. From that I was able to find the article in the Times about the production. All I remember about it was that it was a real lot of fun to be a part of it. Mystery solved! By the way, the Owatonna Little Theater group is presenting the production the third week in February.

Benefit Bash closer

I think the 50 or so people who attended the open house at

the Blooming Prairie Boys & Girls Club last Wednesday all received a favorable impression of the new director. Having lived here before, Marcy Sundine had a built-in advantage and a quick indoctrination into club and live members. One of her first big events will be the annual Benefit Bash that is the club’s major fundraiser of the year.

Plans for that affair on Feb. 6 are progressing nicely, and many new items for both the silent and live auctions will surprise and attract a lot of bidders. Cheri Krejci and Lianna Doocy have been in charge of planning, and I know they have some surprises in store.

By the way, there is no admission charge this year, and the only cost will be to buy a

bidding number. The Servicemen’s Club will have baskets of food for purchase and the club members will be going to the Club for a party of their own when the live auction begins. Raffle tickets are gong fast, but are still available from club directors or at the club itself.

Another musician gone

It seems that almost every week lately, the public loses another entertainer or musician. Last week Glenn Frey died from several medical complications in New York City. Only 67 years old Frey became well known as a singer, songwriter and actor, but his biggest claim to fame resulted from his reputation as the co-founder of the

Band, The Eagles.

Most fans of musical groups of the 80’s and 90’s probably have listened and sung to music by the Eagles. The band produced several top albums and songs after their inception-songs such as “Tequila Sunrise” and “Take it Easy.” The group earned six Grammys and three American Music Awards. They were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in the first year of their eligibility.

Let’s close this week with an admonishment to enjoy the warmer weather predicted later in the week. My editor tells me that space on the sports page is being limited. Go, Blossoms, and we’ll talk again.

Gopher Conference Standings

Girls Basketball		
	Conf.	Overall
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	6-0-0	14-3-0
NRHEG	5-2-0	14-4-0
United South Central	4-2-0	12-3-0
Blooming Prairie	4-3-0	11-5-0
Medford	2-4-0	2-12-0
Bethlehem Academy	1-5-0	7-9-0
Maple River	0-6-0	1-11-0
Boys Basketball		
	Conf.	Overall
Maple River	7-0-0	17-2-0
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	6-1-0	14-3-0
NRHEG	6-2-0	13-6-0
United South Central	3-3-0	9-7-0
Blooming Prairie	2-6-0	6-12-0
Bethlehem Academy	1-6-0	3-13-0
Medford	0-7-0	2-14-0
Wrestling		
	Conf.	Overall
United South Central	3-0-0	4-0-0
Maple River	2-1-0	3-3-0
WEM/JWP	1-1-0	2-6-0
New Richland-H-E-G H.S.	1-1-0	2-4-0
Blooming Prairie	1-3-0	1-7-0
Medford	0-0-0	1-3-0

Big 9 Conference Standings

Girls Basketball		
	Conf.	Overall
Rochester Mayo	10-2-0	14-2-0
Rochester John Marshall	10-2-0	12-4-0
Winona	10-2-0	14-2-0
Austin	8-4-0	8-5-0
Owatonna	7-4-0	9-6-0
Northfield H.S.	7-5-0	9-7-0
Rochester Century	6-6-0	8-8-0
Faribault	5-8-0	8-8-0
Red Wing	4-8-0	4-10-0
Mankato East	3-10-0	3-11-0
Mankato West	2-8-0	4-8-0
Albert Lea	0-13-0	1-16-0
Boys Basketball		
	Conf.	Overall
Red Wing	14-0-0	17-0-0
Rochester John Marshall	12-1-0	14-3-0
Austin	12-2-0	14-3-0
Mankato East	9-6-0	11-7-0
Owatonna	8-6-0	11-7-0
Northfield H.S.	9-5-0	12-6-0
Faribault	6-7-0	9-8-0
Mankato West	4-9-0	6-10-0
Rochester Mayo	4-10-0	4-13-0
Winona	4-10-0	6-12-0
Rochester Century	1-13-0	2-16-0
Albert Lea	0-14-0	0-16-0
Wrestling		
	Conf.	Overall
Albert Lea Area	7-0-0	24-0-0
Owatonna	8-0-0	14-5-0
Faribault	7-1-0	14-1-0
Northfield	6-4-0	9-4-0
Rochester Mayo	5-4-0	8-6-0
Rochester John Marshall	5-3-0	9-12-0
Mankato West	3-5-0	6-9-0
Austin	2-6-0	4-8-0
Winona/Winona Cotter	1-7-0	1-13-0
Mankato East	2-7-0	5-14-0
Rochester Century	0-9-0	0-16-0

Source: Minnesota Scores website

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Kylie Forystek

After seeing just spot action last year, Kylie Forystek this season has been entrusted to bring the ball down the court and then set up the offense for the Blossoms. The junior guard is not a great scorer, although she chipped in 12 points in the most recent two games. She has been given a great deal of responsibility, and for the most part, carried it out to the team’s satisfaction.



Riley Olson

Riley Olson began the season slow, but the senior wrestler has been on a roll recently. In a quadrangular early last week, Olson won all three of his bouts, and at a tough Invitational last Saturday at Lake City, he won two and lost two to earn fifth place in the event. Olson hopes his recent success can carry on once the tournaments begin.

NRHEG GIRLS BB

Continued from Page 1B

by upending United South Central (USC) 63-59 on Jan. 15.

USC, NRHEG and Blooming Prairie all stand with 4-2 conference marks behind unbeaten Waterville-Elysian-Morristown.

The Rebels used superior height to outrebound the Panthers 34-19, but the two-pronged scoring of Maddie and Marnie Wagner offset that advantage. Maddie Wagner exploded for 27 points in the game, including four treys and 7 of 10 at the charity stripe, and Marnie Wagner chipped in 18 to count 45 of the NRHEG total.

“We tweaked the defense to shut down their height advantage and the girls worked very hard inside, but we struggled boxing out their rebounders, which allowed them a lot of second chance points,” remarked Coach Onika Peterson. “Fortunately, our offense was clicking pretty good.”

The victory improved the Panther record to 12-4 overall for the

season with a non-conference game at Blue Earth on the sched-

ule tonight (Tuesday).

The JV team won its prelim 29-23 over the Rebels.

Women’s Bowling League	
TEAM STANDINGS: Week 1	
1. F&M Bank	3-1
2. Pizza Cellar/Cue Co.	3-1
3. Kosters’ Kar Corner	3-1
4. Epic Contracting	1-3
5. J&H Liquor/Dairy Queen	1-3
6. DOE	1-3
INDIVIDUAL STATS	
High Game:	
1. Alysa Alwes	179
2. Kristi Fiebiger	161
High Series:	
1. Alysa Alwes	504
2. Joann Nielsen	433

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Sports

Blossom matmen place in third tourney in a row

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

For the third weekend in a row the Blooming Prairie wrestlers competed at an invitational tournament, this time at Lake City on Jan. 23.

And for the third invitational in a row, the local matmen had at least six places in the event. This time they brought back a first, two seconds, a third and two fifths. St. Charles won the invitational, and Northfield finished second. The Blossoms placed

fifth of nine teams entered. Colton Krell earned a first at 160 pounds by taking an 8-3 decision from Josh Heyda of Faribault. In his first two bouts he pinned Edwin Vasquez (Le-Center) in 3:18 and then recorded a fall over Riley Olson of

Northfield in 2:34. Ethan Arett and Mitchell Oswald both finished second in the meet.

At 106 pounds, Ethan Arett lost the title bout to Drew Woodley (Northfield) by a 9-0 decision after taking two pins in his opening bouts in 1:11 and 2:16. Oswald lost the 195-pound title by a 4-2 decision to Colton Schmoker (WK) after a first round bye and a pin of Colton Pierson (St. Charles) at 1:17.

Jon Hansen won the third place match at 132 pounds with a 5-1 verdict over Ethan Johnson (Northfield). Earlier he had won by a pin at 28 seconds, lost a 10-0 decision and took a wild, 16-5 verdict over Anthony Lucca (Andover).

The fifth places went to Riley Olson at 182 and to Brad Staska at 285.

Olson lost his first bout by a fall at 3:53, but then pinned Nate McCarty (Medford) in 1:22 and lost by a fall at 3:07. Staska pinned Kevin Mullenex (Faribault) in 1:13 for his fifth. He had pinned Dirk Umban-hauser (Northfield) in 3:14, but had then lost the next two bouts by falls at 3:08 and 2:57. Simon also competed for the Blossoms, but did not place.

Matmen win one, lose two

Blooming Prairie wrestlers salvaged one win against two losses at a Triton quadrangular meet at Dodge Center on Jan.

21. BP defeated St. Clair 44-30, but dropped matches to St. Charles (50-44) and to Triton (42-38). Besides the St. Clair victory, the locals also won more bouts than the Cobras in that match, but too many forfeits for the Blossoms handed Triton the match victory.

Four of the Blossom wrestlers had a perfect 3-0 night, with Ethan Arett, Colton Krell, Riley Olson and Mitch Oswald all keeping the slate clean. Arett decisioned Tyler Mathison (St. Charles) 11-7 in his closest bout of the night. He pinned Danny Briand of St. Clair in just 1:11 and romped over Triton's Dylan Baker, 16-1, in his other bout.

Krell and Olson both pinned opponents in less than two minutes of the St. Charles match. Olson recorded pins in his other two bouts, and Oswald won two of his bouts by forfeit, and pinned Colton Pearson on 2:35 of the St. Charles match.

Jon Hansen and Seth Peterson both won two of their three bouts, and Payton Simon won one of his three events by a fall in the Cobra match. Peterson earned a pin and a 14-6 decision in his wins, and Hansen recorded two pins of the three bouts in which he engaged. All of the other points in the three matches resulted from forfeits.

Four win two duals

Blooming Prairie High School lost two dual wrestling matches

Jan. 19 at home, but four local matmen went undefeated in the two duals.

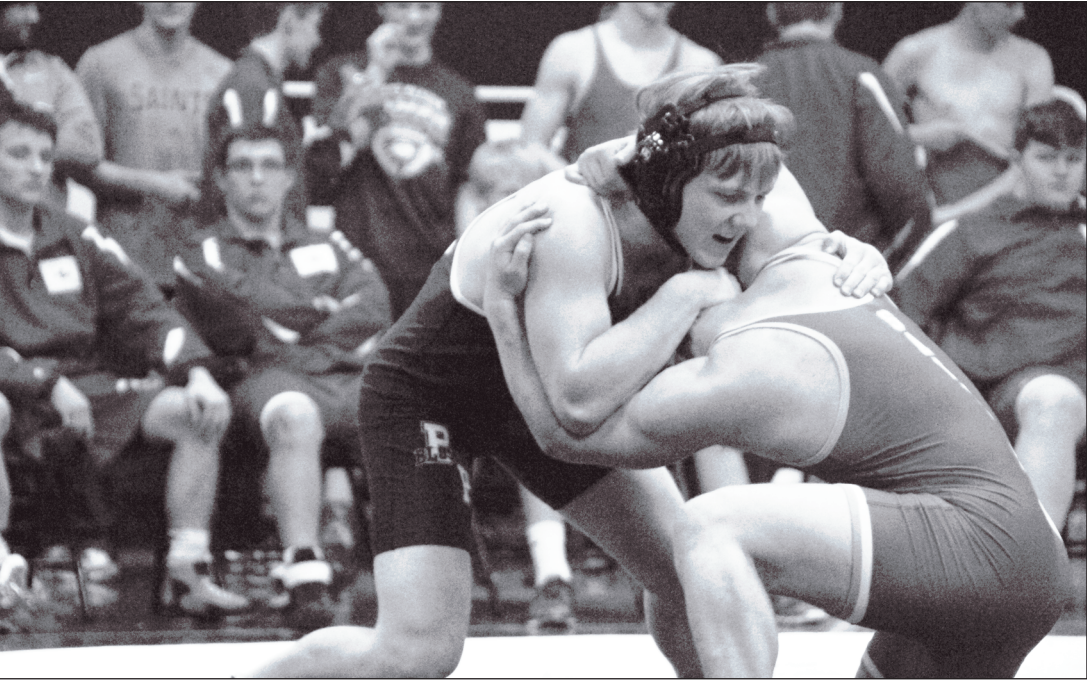
Ethan Arett, Seth Peterson, Colton Krell and Mitch Oswald all won their bouts. A conglomerate, GMLOKS, defeated the Blossoms, 60-20, while St. Ansgar took down the home team, 51-30.

In the match against GMLOKS, Arett, Peterson, Krell and Oswald all won their bouts, and all except Krell pinned the opponent. Krell outpointed Mike Stout 11-3 in his match. Arett pinned Jackson Hale in 43 seconds, Peterson took 1:19 to subdue Isaac Essinger and Oswald pinned Jeremy Hiller in 5:23.

The same four wrestlers won their bouts against St. Ansgar. Arett pinned Gabe Walk in just 10 seconds, Peterson took down Bryan Schmidt in 50 seconds, Krell took 1:45 to pin Parker, Hendrickson and Oswald used 5:28 to turn Garrett Koster over and finish the fall.

Krell's 11-3 decision in the GMLOKS match was the only bout in both matches that didn't end in a fall or was a forfeit. There were 15 forfeits from the two teams, as both teams left several holes in their lineups.

"The four wrestlers who won both bouts wrestled very well," indicated Coach Chad Gimbel. "We do fine when we have guys to fill the weights. We just need more wrestlers."



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Blooming Prairie's Colton Krell wrestles with St. Ansgar's Parker Hendrickson. Krell, who also won his first bout against GMLOKS' (Grand Meadow, Kingsland, LeRoy-Ostrander and Southland High Schools) Mike Stout, would ultimately pin Hendrickson.

BP GIRLS

Continued from Page 1B

the lead back for BP, and they never trailed again. Free throws from Lauren Larkoski and Gwilt sealed the victory.

"Gwilt had a strong game for us," concluded Bruns, "and sophomores McKenna Hein and Sam Wurst gave us some excellent minutes and good defense off the bench. Gwilt is getting stronger with each game now."

The team made 15-of-37 shots for 40 percent shooting, while good defense kept the Titans to just 26 percent from the floor. Joslyn Vargo led all scorers with 16 points for the losers. Cami Vargo and Caitlin Jindra each had 10. Gwilt led a balanced attack for BP with 13 points, but Larkoski chipped in 10, Wurst had nine, and Kalyn Naatz added seven.

Hannah Ahrens and Naatz had eight and seven rebounds and Kylie Forystek dished out four assists, had two steals and 4 rebounds. Larkoski made 8-of-10 free throw tries, and Wurst added three to her three baskets. The win put a good cap on a busy weekend.

The junior varsity team defeated the Titans, 50-31, with McKenna Hein and Rachael Oswald leading the way with

11 points each. Coach Cory Hendrickson commented that the team played two very good halves of basketball in this game. The team went above .500 at 8-7 with the win.

WEM pulls away late

Trailing by just eight points with over five minutes left, the Awesome Blossom girls watched WEM go on a late run and defeat the locals 61-43 at Waterville Friday, Jan. 22. The loss dropped the locals to 4-3 in the conference race.

WEM took a 31-19 lead at the half on some hot shooting by the home team, but BP climbed back into contention late in the game. The Bucs then made some plays to increase the margin and Blossom scrambling gave the winners some easy baskets at the end. The locals had trouble with their shooting, making just 26 percent. One bright spot for the Blossoms came when the team made 15-of-17 free throw attempts.

BP had trouble stopping WEM's Tierney Winter, who finished the game with 27 points, including 19 in the second half. BP had a good bal-

ance in scoring, but nobody could muster a great shooting night. Lauren Larkoski and Kalyn Naatz led the team with nine points, Kaci Gwilt had eight and Sam Wurst and Kylie Forystek both chipped in seven points.

BP pulled down 33 rebounds, with Naatz grabbing seven and Larkoski five. Naatz had five blocks and an assist for the game, Forystek dished out four assists, and McKenna Hein added two assists and two steals. Besides the cold shooting, the locals also had too many turnovers against the tough WEM team.

Both the JV and C squad teams lost to the home team. The JV's actually led 17-15 at the half, but way too many turnovers that resulted in layups for the winners resulted in a 51-36 loss. Rachael Oswald had eight points for BP, Sam Wurst counted six, and Hein and Asia Thostenson both contributed five points. The team evened its record at 7-7.

The C squad lost for the 10th time against one win in a 39-21 game. Lexi Olivo had seven points for the locals, and Oswald added five points.



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Ellendale Living

Local girls participate in ‘Hair Wars’ during Geneva Cancer Auction

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

With the help of a talented hairstylist, three local women found a unique way to give back to others during the 32nd annual Geneva Cancer Auction, which wrapped up on Saturday, Jan. 16.

Rhonda Hareid, of Looks Unlimited in Ellendale, has been cutting hair for 23 years. In the past, she’s cut hair for people who choose to donate their hair to worthy causes like “Locks of Love,” a charity that creates hairpieces for children who suffer from hair loss caused by a medical condition.

This year, when three different people approached her with a similar idea, Hareid decided to embrace the opportunity and attempt to raise as much money as possible for a good cause.

“One girl called two to three weeks ahead of the auction, another called two to three days ahead of time, and the other called the day before,” Hareid said. “I thought, ‘Star Wars is big out there, so why not ‘Hair Wars’? The more the merrier, and let’s make some kind of bidding war out it.”

The three brave girls who volunteered their hair for a good cause were Kate Quam, daughter of Steven and Karen Quam; Sophia Mrotz, daughter of Victor and Kelly Mrotz; and Elli Baker, daughter of Darian and Candy Baker.

Quam is a teacher at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) Elementary School, and Mrotz and Baker are students at NRHEG Secondary School in New Richland. Quam and Mrotz donated their hair to Wigs for Kids, a nonprofit that creates hairpieces for children suffering from hair loss as the result of a medical condition. Baker donated her hair to Pantene Beautiful Lengths, a nonprofit that makes wigs exclusively for adult women battling cancer.

The haircuts took place during the Geneva Cancer Auction, and the three women donated their hair to non-profits that will use the hair to make hairpieces for people in need. As part of the fun, Hareid also challenged audience members to bid for a chance to cut a section of the girls’ hair.

Hareid divided each woman’s

‘It was really fun. It was something different; it had never been done with three of them like that before, so it was kind of cool.’

— Rhonda Hareid, Looks Unlimited

hair into sections, separated by ponytails. The father of each girl had the honor of cutting off the first ponytail, but the men also bid against one another to see who would earn the opportunity to make the first cut. After each dad got to cut the first ponytail, the other ponytails were auctioned off, one by one, with the highest bidders earning chances to hold the scissors.

Friends, family and teammates of the women each took their turn cutting the ponytails, until only one remained. The last ponytail was reserved for the girl’s mother to cut. Once the haircuts were finished, Hareid took time to polish the haircuts and style each woman’s hair.

Before the event, some of the girls’ family members raised money for the Geneva Cancer Auction, and the Hair Wars event itself also brought in generous donations on the night of the auction. In total, Hareid believes Hair Wars raised around \$2,000.

Every dollar goes back to the Geneva Cancer Auction which, in turn, is donated to the Eagles Fifth District Cancer Telethon, held each year in Rochester. This year, representatives from the Geneva Cancer Auction presented a check in the amount of \$90,000 to the Eagles Fifth District Cancer Telethon, including all the funds raised during the previous year.

Hareid said that the girls were both nervous and excited to participate in Hair Wars, and that she’s happy to have an opportunity to help fight cancer. “The gals looked really good,” Hareid said. “It was really fun. It was something different; it had never been done with three of them like that before, so it was kind of cool.”



Kate Quam, Sophia Mrotz and Elli Baker show off their new haircuts with stylist Rhonda Hareid (far right.) The women participated in the first “Hair Wars” at Geneva Bar and Grill during the 32nd annual Geneva Cancer Auction.



Kate Quam enjoys her haircut during the “Hair Wars” fundraiser, as part of the 32nd annual Geneva Cancer Auction.



Elli Baker gets one of her ponytails cut during the “Hair Wars” fundraiser at the Geneva Bar and Grill on Saturday, Jan. 16.

NRHEG School menus

NRHEG Breakfast Menu
Jan. 26: Breakfast Pizza
Jan. 27: Mini Pancakes
Jan. 28: Egg-Sausage & Cheese on English Muffin
Jan. 29: Cinnamon Roll (No Salad Bar Ellendale)
Feb. 1: not available
Feb. 2: not available
Feb. 3: not available

NRHEG Lunch Menu
Jan. 26: Chicken Patty on a Bun, Chips, Cooked Carrots,

Cucumber Slices, Applesauce
Jan. 27: Turkey Gravy, Biscuits, Peas, Baby Carrots, Cranberry Sauce, Peaches, Cottage Cheese
Jan. 28: Hot Dog or Brat on a Bun, French Fries, Baked Beans, Fresh Fruit, Pears
Jan. 29: Pizza, Golden Corn, Celery Sticks, Mandarin Oranges, Ice Cream Treat
Feb. 1: not available
Feb. 2: not available
Feb. 3: not available

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TFN

Student of the Week

Jackson Lageson is this week’s New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva student of the week.

He is in Mr. Paukert’s fifth-grade class. Jackson lives in Geneva with his mom, Liz Lageson. He loves science, Fallout and Zombie games, Fallout toys, and bobble heads.

Jackson is an extremely hard working student who always puts his best effort forward. He shows respect to all his teachers and peers and he’s always first to volunteer to be a helper.

One thing that stands out with Jackson is his curiosity. He always wants to know more!

NRHEG staff said Jackson is a great example of Panther Pride in their school.



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MedfordLiving

Medford wears a hat of support for second-grade student

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

The Dut family felt the love of the Medford School community on Jan. 21 when students and faculty donated a bit of money to wear a hat to school that day. The Medford community wore hats to help a student and family that need their support.

Eight-year-old Daniel Dut has a brain tumor that has been

infected with Fiber Dysplasia, a rare bone cancer. He is in remission, but he has to undergo an 11-hour surgery this week to prevent the cancer from spreading.

According to Daniel's "GoFundMe" site, "We are now in remit stage and the cancer is not growing however he has to have his whole eye and frontal bone removed."

His second-grade teacher,

Ellen Hansen said that Daniel "remains incredibly positive despite the long road ahead of him."

From the hat day fundraiser, the school raised over \$1,800. The "GoFundMe" site that has already raised over \$2,240.

Hansen said that Daniel is "an amazing young boy who is full of happiness and joy." She said that he walks into the classroom with a positive attitude that brings a smile to his peers' faces.

"The school and community support has been truly unbelievable," said Hansen. "Everyone has been incredibly supportive and have generously made countless donations to help ease the financial burden this family is faced with."

Hansen said that the family was incredibly touched and grateful for the school's support.

"Daniel's father went to every single classroom (Pre K-12) yesterday and thanked the teachers and students for thinking of his family and supporting them during this difficult time," said Hansen.

Medford Elementary School Principal Mark Ristau was proud of the school and the support that it was able to provide the family. He commented that "it just goes to show what kind and caring families are here at Medford."

"It feels amazing to be able to help a family in need and to see everyone rally behind them and offer support," remarked Hansen. "It makes me so proud to be part of this amazing community!"

To support the family, donate at www.gofundme.com/3ghwq2wh. His family writes on this site "Thank you for your support with this amazing creative young boy who loves to read and write stories."



Submitted photos
Ellen Hansen's second-grade class, along with the rest of Medford School, wore hats on Jan. 21 to support their classmate Daniel Dut, who has a brain tumor that has been infected with Fiber Dysplasia, a rare bone cancer.



Second grade teacher Ellen Hansen smiles with her student Daniel Dut on Hat Day (Jan. 21.) Hat Day that raised money to help Daniel and his family with medical bills. Daniel has a brain tumor that has been infected with Fiber Dysplasia, a rare bone cancer.

Medford school menus

Medford School Breakfast Menu

- Jan. 26:** Mini Pancakes OR Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, Milk
- Jan. 27:** Chocolate Chip Loaf OR Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk
- Jan. 28:** Turkey Sausage Biscuit OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Orange Juice, Milk
- Jan. 29:** Ham-N-Eggwich OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk
- Feb. 1:** Breakfast Pizza OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Canned Fruit, Milk
- Feb. 2:** Cinnamon Roll OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, Milk
- Feb. 3:** Blueberry Bread Loaf, Tri Tator OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk
- Medford School Lunch Menu**
- Jan. 26:** Soft Tacos w/Lettuce, Cheese, Salsa, Potato Ole, Pretzel Bites w/Cheese, Deli Sub, Chopped Lettuce, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit
- Jan. 27:** BBQ Riblet on Bun, Potato Salad, WG Brownie, Chef Salad, Combo Sliders, Broccoli, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit
- Jan. 28:** Chicken Nuggets, Sweet Potato Fries, WG Bread Slice, Crispy Chicken Salad, Deli Sandwich, Kidney Beans, Cherry Tomatoes, Seasonal Fruit
- Jan. 29:** Tator Tot Casse-

- role, WG Dinner Roll, Turkey BLT Salad, Yogurt Pak, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Seasonal Fruit
- Feb. 1:** French Toast Sticks, Sausage Patty, Tri Tator, Chef salad, Crispy Chicken Wrap, Tomato Slices, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit
- Feb. 2:** Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Garden
- Vegetable Salad, Deli Sub, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Seasonal Fruit
- Feb. 3:** Cheeseburger on WG Bun, French Fries, Chicken Caesar Salad, Tuna on Wheat Bread, Broccoli, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

School Board attends MSBA Leadership Conference



Submitted photo
Members of the Medford School Board attended the Minnesota School Board Association Leadership Conference recently. Pictured front row are Anne Hemann, Jackie Berg and Jennifer Jones and, in the back row, are Bill Cronin, Gary Wiersma, Medford School Superintendent Rich Dahman and Jon Sutherland.

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Weekly crossword on Page 3D

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Holiday in Ecuador helping the natives

Group helped over 770 people, more than 250 were children

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

A Blooming Prairie High School graduate spent his Christmas holiday in Ecuador.

Matthew Worke may not have been with his family during the Christmas holiday, but he and other friends from Winona State University group provided a special week for families in Ecuador.

“One thing I took out of this was how lucky we are here and how wasteful Americans are,” Worke said. “They use every single natural thing that they can use to save them money. They are not very materialistic. That really struck me.”

Worke participated with the MedLife program, a national organization of volunteers that help people in other countries. During his trip, Worke worked in clinics, helped set up a mobile clinic and, one day, built a bathroom for a school.

Throughout the course of the week, the group was able to help more than 770 people including 248 adults and 252 children that received medical care. In addition, there were 166 patients (adults and children) that received dental care, and 271 children that learned how to brush their teeth.

“They were definitely the toughest and hardest working people I’ve seen in my life,” he said. “The bathroom project was the hardest work I have ever done.”

Worke, who graduated from Blooming Prairie in 2014, is now attending Winona State University. He is thinking of going into dentistry and the Ecuador experience convinced him that would be the route for him.

In the South American coun-



Matthew Worke works on a patient with the dentist in a mobile clinic in Tena, Ecuador.

try, he was involved with seven clinical stations, two doctors, a pharmacy, a triage and two brushing stations. The first day he was there, he had the opportunity to see a dentist in action.

“They all spoke Spanish and it was kind of hard to communicate with them,” Worke said. “I learned by watching. They did let me in on one patient and provided me an instrument to extract a tooth. I thought it was one of the most amazing experiences, especially because that is what I want to do. It kind of solidified what I wanted to do with my life.”

His Blooming Prairie education helped prepare him for the trip. Worke took Spanish in all four years of high school, but he will tell you he wished he had continued Spanish in college. “I could have had more conversations with the locals,” he said. “None of them speak English. It

was nice to have a basic Spanish background.”

At Winona State University, Worke is in a program with a group of friends. Over the last two years, members of this group have traveled to two South American countries. Last year the group went to Peru. Worke did not participate in that journey.

This year Worke wanted to do the trip because he wanted an experience to help provide good health care to underprivileged families in Ecuador.

The preparation wasn’t too stressful for Worke. He had paid his airfare and other pertinent things back in October. “It didn’t hit me I was going to Ecuador until on Christmas break a week before I left,” he said. “Packing was a little stressful. I definitely under packed.”

There were also some specific preparations including vacci-



Submitted photos
Matthew Worke shows kids how to brush their teeth at a mobile clinic in Tena, Ecuador.

nations that each traveler had to get. At the end of October, Worke had to get three vaccinations, but ended up with four. The vaccinations included typhoid, yellow fever, Hepatitis type A and he just happened to get a flu shot while he was getting the other three. He also grabbed some anti-diarrheal pills.

Worke’s flight left Minneapolis at 5 p.m. on Dec. 25. The group arrived at Houston and had a three-hour layover. Then it was a five-hour flight from Houston to Quito, Ecuador. The group’s MedLife guide met them at 7 a.m. on Saturday. Then came a five-hour bus ride from Quito to Tena, Ecuador.

“That was an interesting ride. We were already traveled out,” Worke said. “The roads aren’t

anything like the road here. They are bumpy. And, going up the mountains, the views from the bus were amazing.”

Worke added those living in Ecuador don’t have modern items. The children were always running and wrestling around. One time a group of kids pulled out a 5-foot snake out of their backpack, something that amazed him.

What he also thought was amazing was the scenery. It would rain off and on 10 times a day, he said. “Everything is fresh, bright green, vibrant and alive,” Worke commented. “Mountains are everywhere. The lower clouds are just so different. There are rivers every-

where.” Worke commented that one of his friends had said they have

rivers like we have lakes. “We went on a jungle trek with huge trees,” Worke said. “We had to walk through a kind of a door with bamboo wrapped around just to get to a waterfall.”

The difficult part was the language barrier. And Worke said if he would have kept going with his Spanish in school, it might not have been that difficult. “All of these Indian tribes have their own Indian language,” he said. “It is hard to communicate with them anyways and on top of that, they each have their own language.”

For Worke, the medical experience was tremendous. “But just to experience something different, there is so much I got out of it.”

Night work at Blooming Prairie High School suits him

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

To students who don’t participate in activities, he is unknown. To some students, he is that invisible man. But to the students involved in sports or other after-school activities, he is simply John, the night custodian at Blooming Prairie High School.

John Shoden begins his work when most students and staff are packing up and leaving for the day, but that is okay with John.

“I can get my needed duties

done on my regular shift when there aren’t people around.” His workday runs from 3 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., although he admits that it gets a little later on certain occasions.

“I get my work done,” John commented, “though I prefer some activity in the building to make the time go faster. It gets a little lonely in the hallways when I am here alone after ten or so. I have plenty to do, but some noise is all right, too.”

Shoden was born and raised in Austin and graduated from

Austin High School in 1986. A star baseball and basketball player, he was a good enough baseball pitcher to earn tryouts with both the Twins and the Kansas City Royals. He took a job after high school, which he admitted is one of his few regrets- that he didn’t go to college. His main duties on the job include cleaning classrooms and locker rooms and restoring



Shoden

the gym after activities.

In the summer months, outside work, such as mowing the grounds, helping line the football field for games in the fall and doing other outside maintenance work become part of his duties. He admits that during the school year, he

likes to have activities going on around the school. He gets his work done and still finds time to check on the activity taking place.

Shoden is an active supporter of the school and the students, and he has almost become a second father to some of the students.

Principal John Worke remarked, “John is really a great guy to have work for you. He will do any task, which is asked of him, and he seems to get along well with the students.

That is a big plus for someone in his position.”

One reason for his forgoing college could be that not only did he take a job right out of school, but a family appeared as well. His son is a good athlete who will graduate this spring, and he has a ninth-grade daughter who lives with her mother and goes to school in Kasson-Mantorville. She is a good volleyball player and an even better softball player, who will likely take the circle this spring for the KoMets.

Back in school at BPHS, Shoden admits that he really likes the school and the students. “I have become familiar enough with them that I feel comfortable in helping them learn life lessons. I detest bullying, and I am quick to admonish any evidences of that type of behavior. I find it part of my duties to encourage students to stand up for themselves and their classmates

and to show respect for their teachers and each other.”

This school is like any other school in that there are occasional problems, such as smoking or drug use, but overall this is a great school, and the student body, as a whole, is polite and respectful.

As office secretary Tammy Wurst commented. “We don’t see him a lot; he comes sailing through when he first comes on duty to pick up waste in the office. He always finds time to stop and say hello, and then he is gone on his rounds.”

It is difficult for anyone who has had dealings with John to say anything negative about him, and that means a lot to anyone involved in the education of our young people. Invisible or not, he is an important of the school staff at the local high school.

GET TO KNOW US

THE FACES BEHIND THE STORIES

LeMar Nelson

STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Born and raised in South Dakota. Undergraduate college at Dakota State University in Madison (formerly General Beadle State Teachers College). Masters degree at South Dakota State College in Brookings and Admin Certificate at the University of Minnesota.

Teacher and coach at Chester, SD for three years and 35 years at Blooming Prairie. Assistant football and basketball for 9 years, high school principal for five years, remainder of time English and Journalism instructor. Speech director annual and school paper advisor.

Directed several class plays. Was a teacher of the year top ten in 1966, state journalism advisor of the year, and Blossoms Forever distinguished service recipient.

Three daughters, all raised and educated here. My wife and I were married 45 years until her death from cancer in 2004.

Avid reader, coin collector and musical play attendee.

STEELE COUNTY Times

Always local, all the time.

Happy Valentine's Day

Emmitt Lee Christiansen, 2yrs old from Blooming Prairie MN Grandparents Sandra & Carl Wagaman Chuck & Susan Christiansen

Dear Mom, Dad, Grandpa and Grandma, here's a chance to show off the pride and joy of your family.

The Steele County Times will publish a Parade of Young Ones who have touched your heart, on Tuesday February 9th, 2016

Youngsters 10 and under are eligible.

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Hometown	
Parents	
Grandparents	

Sheriff awarded grant to help wandering people

By **RICK BUSSLER**
Publisher

A state grant has been awarded to a local law enforcement agency to help bring wandering loved ones home. The Steele County Sheriff's Office has received a \$4,000 Project Lifesavers grant from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. Sheriff Lon Thiele is in the initial stages of putting together the program, which he hopes to have fully

functional by this summer. "We have the opportunity to prevent any issues with a person who has autism, Alzheimer's disease or any mental impairment that causes wandering," said Thiele. He noted he came across the program at a sheriff's conference last year and wanted to adopt it locally. Current statistics indicate that 60 percent of persons suffering from Alzheimer's will wander at some point. Project Lifesaver has helped provide thousands

of families peace of mind daily knowing that their loved one has protection and safety in case they wander. Just last month, Mary Miller, 85, who suffered from Alzheimer's walked away from a private home in Twin Lakes south of Albert Lea. An extensive search took place, but it was too late and Miller was found dead. She reportedly was not equipped with the lifesaving device. A few years ago Steele County had a similar incident, but it ended on a hap-

pier note as the person was found several hours later. Thiele said deputies will be trained on Project Lifesaver in May. Once the training is complete, the sheriff's office will advertise for families who may be in need of such a program. Citizens who enroll in the program will wear a small transitor on their an-

GRANT
Continued on Page 3C

STEELE TALKIN'



JANE NYQUIST

Free cessation coverage for Minnesotans insured with MA or MN Care

As of Jan. 1, 2016, Minnesotans insured through Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare have free coverage for cessation counseling and smoking cessation medications. This change eliminates co-pays for cessation medications. Research has shown that removing barriers to accessing cessation treatment, such as co-pays, increases the likelihood that patients will use cessation medications and try to quit. Since Medical Assistance enrollees use tobacco at about twice the rate of the general population, this policy change has the potential to improve health and reduce health disparities due to tobacco use. Smoking is still the leading cause of preventable death and disease. In Minnesota, nearly 5,900 people die every year due to smoking, and it causes nearly \$2.5 billion annually in medical costs. And, despite declines in the overall number of Minnesotans who smoke, many communities still smoke at disproportionately higher rates. Low-income Minnesotans enrolled in Medicaid smoke at approximately twice the rate of the general population, and health care costs for smokers are 34 percent higher than for nonsmokers. "It is our hope that removing the cost barrier and improving access to smoking cessation medication will increase the likelihood that members in our communities will make the choice to quit smoking. Less people using tobacco will in turn create healthier communities. This change in coverage is a huge step in achieving this," says Amy Roggenbuck, Steele County Public Health Director. The good news is most Minnesotans want to quit, and behavioral interventions, such as in-person or telephone counseling and medications, including nicotine replacement therapies, can greatly improve the chances that a person will be successful. Steele County Public Health is working with its staff and community organizations to inform the community of this new benefit. According to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, clinicians should ask all adults whether they use tobacco and advise them to quit if they do. Patients who are interested in quitting are encouraged talk to their doctor about treatment options. You can find more information at <https://www.quitplan.com/services-to-help/medical-assistance.html>. QUITPLAN Services offer all Minnesotans free help to quit tobacco. They are available 24/7 and are tailored to meet your needs and can include coaching calls, text messaging, a starter kit (patches, gum or lozenges), emails, and a quit guide. For more information on QUITPLAN call 1-888-354-7526 or go online to www.quitplan.com.

Medford teacher seeking DFL endorsement



Cashman

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

Medford elementary school and high school choir teacher, Bev Cashman, is seeking the DFL endorsement to challenge Republican Rep. John Petersburg in District 24A. District 24A represents the cities of Owatonna and Waseca, as well as seven townships connected to the two communities. "I really think that I have a lot of energy, enthusiasm and work well with others," Cashman said when asked why people should vote for her over Petersburg. "I think you need those qualities to be in government today." She added she is pretty honest and transparent. "I haven't thought much of political posturing," Cashman said. "I would rather do what's right and what's best, and not worry about who gets political points." Cashman kicked off her campaign on Sunday with a small get together at former Steele County Administrator Tom Shea's home. She did get into the campaign in 2014, but got started in late June. This year she wanted to get her name out a little earlier. "I have pledged to door knock 450 hours," she said. "I think there are some people who would say it (District 24A) tends to be a Republican district. I think this district has shown before it can cross over. I did well in the last campaign. I have some name recognition, which is helpful." Cashman is in her 42nd year of teaching. She has also had leadership opportunities through her local teacher's union. She has been a president and is currently vice president of the teacher's union. She has worked a number of years as a negotiator. "The board members I have worked with and my colleagues would say I am pretty easy to get along with, am levelheaded, keep calm, can discuss issues, am knowledgeable and will work together to come up with solutions," she said. She vividly remembers a relative of her father's coming to visit them in the early 1960s. "I remember her saying you have to take a stand. You have to stand for something," Cashman said. "I feel working as a representative would offer a wonderful opportunity to help

BEV CASHMAN
Continued on Page 3C



Staff photos by Anna Segner

Over 100 people rode over 30 miles on their new and vintage snowmobiles in the annual David Rysavy Memorial Vintage Snowmobile Run on Saturday, Jan. 23, which took off from Finch's Pub in Hope.

Snowmobilers gather to remember David Rysavy

By **ANNA SEGNER**
County Staff Writer

It was the love of family, friends and snowmobiles that brought over a 100 people together for the Annual David Rysavy Memorial Vintage Snowmobile Run. Snowmobiles, new and old, took off from Finch's Pub in Hope at 11 a.m. on Jan. 23 for a ride approximately 30 miles long. The first stop was Geneva Bar and Grill. The second stop was Ellendale Liquor, and then they rode back to Finch's Pub by 4 p.m. for food, drinks, turkey bowling and door prizes. The ride honors David Rysavy, father to Ty Rysavy and Shannon Rhoades. David was



At the annual David Rysavy Memorial Vintage Snowmobile Run on Jan. 23, David's brother Mike Rysavy, son Ty Rysavy, daughter Shannon Rhoades, and sister Rita Wandrey were among the many family members that gathered to celebrate his memory by riding snowmobiles for about 30 miles.

MEMORIAL RIDE
Continued on Page 8C

Community Connect impacts about 100 homeless individuals

By **ANNA SEGNER**
County Staff Writer

There was one mission of Project Community Connect, and that was to connect those facing homelessness with the services that can get them up on their feet. On Jan. 21 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., about a 100 people that consider themselves homeless or in need of assistance visited Saint Joseph Church for Project Community Connect. Nearly 40 agencies and local organizations had booths with representatives ready to help. "How can I not try to improve my life when I look around this room and see so many people willing to help me?" said Arnie Robles. "There's no excuse for me now." Robles considers himself homeless and came to the event to seek some assistance. After struggling with destructive relationships, drugs and al-

'How can I not try to improve my life when I look around this room and see so many people willing to help me?'

— **Arnie Robles, attended Project Community Connect event**

cohol abuse, Robles continues to try and improve his life. He maintains that it is easier with a support system like that at Project Community Connect. When asked how the event helps the homeless, he smiled. "Look over at that booth handing out dental supplies. Would anybody want to interview a man with stinky breath?" he laughed.

COMMUNITY CONNECT
Continued on Page 8C



Staff photo by Anna Segner

David Gregory received a haircut from Sandie Kubista at the Community Connect event on Jan. 21 at St. Joseph Church. Gregory was very appreciative to the hairdressers giving free haircuts to those that consider themselves homeless or in poverty. He hopes that the haircut will help him with his job search.

Steele Talkin' is a column featuring various organizations around Steele County. Jane Nyquist is health educator for Steele County Public Health. Steele County Public Health can be reached at 507-444-7650.

HometownLiving

Community Calendar



James Danielson, age 6, plays a golfing game at the Wilson Elementary School on Saturday. This game was just one of many featured at the school's annual carnival, which has been a tradition for decades. The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and many other volunteers helped make the event possible, and it's estimated that as many as 500 people attend the carnival every year.

Staff photo by Laura Berndt

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WINE & WOMEN WED: 6-10 P.M.	"30" YEARS OF BUSINESS
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WINE CLUB: TUES. 7-8:30 P.M. JAN. 12, FEB. 9, MARCH 8, APRIL 12, MAY 3: SEASON FINALE	CRUISE FOR CANCER RIDE: JUNE 25TH
EUCHRE: JAN. 16, FEB. 20, MARCH 12 2 PERSON TEAM STARTS AT 1 P.M. SIGN UP AT THE BAR	STREET DANCE: JULY 2ND
	JULY 4TH: OPEN 10 AM TO CLOSE
	B.O.B RIDE "TOYS FOR TOTS" JULY 23RD

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Jan. 26:
BP Card Club & Luncheon
6 p.m. BPBL Book Club
6:30 p.m. Beginner Yoga, BP Community Education, BPHS Media Center
7 p.m. BP P&Z Brd Mtg
Jan. 27:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
Jan. 31:
3 p.m. BP Dairyland Donkey Basketball, BPHS
Feb. 2:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime
Feb. 3:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time

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- Taco Tuesdays every Tuesday at 5 p.m.

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TOAST #2 - EGG SALAD
SANDWICH & CHIPS

LUNCH SPECIAL (1/28 & 1/29):
CHILI CHEESE DOGS
& TATER TOTS

ELLENDALE/GENEVA

Jan. 26:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
Jan. 28:
5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
Feb. 1:
6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
Feb. 2:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl



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OWATONNA

Jan. 26:
4 p.m. OPU Utilities Commission, Utilities Plant Office
5:30 p.m. Owatonna Planning Commission, Council Chambers, City Hall
6 p.m. Autism Spectrum Disorder Parent Support Group, Associated Church, Owa
6 p.m. Steele Co Commission
7 p.m. Steele Co.: Co Brd Mtg, Administration Center BR
Jan. 28:
2 p.m. OPL Independent & World Films
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time
Jan. 29:
Big Band Event, St Co Historical Society
Feb. 1:
12:15 p.m. Four Seasons Public Skate
1 p.m. Owatonna, Womanâs Club bridge group, SeniorPlace
7 p.m. Hope Human Rights Comm Mtg, New Hope City Hall
Feb. 2:
Hope Curbside Recycling S of 42nd Av
Owatonna PS, Grds K-6 Conferences
9:30 a.m. OPL It's TALE TIME!
5 p.m. Owatonna Human Rights Commission, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall
7 p.m. Hope City Council Mtg, Hope City Hall, Council Chambers
7 p.m. Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall
Feb. 3:
Hope Curbside Recycling N of 42nd Av
4:30 p.m. Steele Co Joint Dispatch Powers Brd

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MEDFORD

Jan. 28:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
Feb. 1:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner

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SPOT LIGHT

Little Theatre of Owatonna's 'Harvey' cast announced

Little Theater of Owatonna announces is third show of its 50th Season with the hilarious comedy "Harvey" by Mary Case, presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play, Inc., New York.

"Harvey" was adapted into the iconic film in 1950 starring James Stewart. The story centers on Elwood P. Dowd and his dear friend Harvey. The only problem with Harvey is that no one but Elwood can see him, much to the distress of his family. His sister tries to check Elwood into a mental hospital and confusion ensues. This production was originally performed at LTO in 1972.

This Pulitzer Prize winning play is directed Shelley Whitehead and Brandy Wilker is the technical director. Sponsors of this production are Brenda Bednar (NMLS 286049), American Mortgage & Equity Consultants, Inc., Kathie Purdie, Berkshire Hathaway Advantage Real Estate.

Production dates are: Feb. 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 21 at 2 p.m. Show tickets are available at LittleTheatreofOwatonna.org or at the LTO Box Office on Feb. 15.

The Cast

Harvey, as himself
April Mae Spring will play Myrtle Mae Simmons
Vidette Ostermeyer will play Veta Louise Simmons
Jon Terrill will play Elwood P. Dowd
Arianna Wilker will play Miss Johnson
Jane Kittleson will play Mrs. Ethel Chauvenet and Betty Chumley
Deidra Jorgenson will play Ruth Kelly
Ron Hagar will play Duane Wilson
Timothy Abraham will play Dr. Lyman Sanderson
Bill Wood will play Dr. William Chumley
Howard Kittleson will play Judge Omar Gaffney
Pete Johnson will play E.J. Lofgren

OTHER COUNTIES

Freeborn

Jan. 28:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
10:30 a.m. Music & Movement, ALPL
6 p.m. Night-time Storytime, ALPL
Jan. 29:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
1 p.m. Red Cross Blood & Platelet Donation, Hollandale Reformed Church
6 p.m. Rock Climbing Open Gym, Albert Lea
Jan. 30:
ALPL Closed
6 p.m. Rock Climbing Open Gym, Albert Lea
Jan. 31:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
Feb. 1:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
3:45 p.m. LEGO Time, ALPL
Feb. 2:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
10:30 a.m. Storytime, ALPL
5:30 p.m. AL Planning Commission, City Hall
6 p.m. Rock Gym, Albert Lea
Feb. 3:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
7:30 a.m. AL Port Authority Mtg, AL EDA

Mower

Jan. 28:
10 a.m. Austin ArtWorks Gallery: Feisty Japanese Lady
2 p.m. Minnesota in the Civil War, Mower County Senior Center
2:30 p.m. Lifelong Learning, Mower County Senior Center
3 p.m. Free Cross Country Ski and Snow Shoe Rental, Jay C Hormel Nature Center
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
6 p.m. Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night (subject to change)
6:30 p.m. Twilight Tales: Evening Storytime, APL
Jan. 29:
10 a.m. Austin ArtWorks Gallery: Feisty Japanese Lady
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
12 p.m. Food and Friends Dinner Party, Mower County Senior Center
4:30 p.m. Public Skate, Packer Arena
7 p.m. ArtRocks Jam Session, Austin ArtWorks Center
Jan. 30:
Paint the Town Pink, Various locations throughout Mower County
10 a.m. Austin ArtWorks Gallery: Feisty Japanese Lady



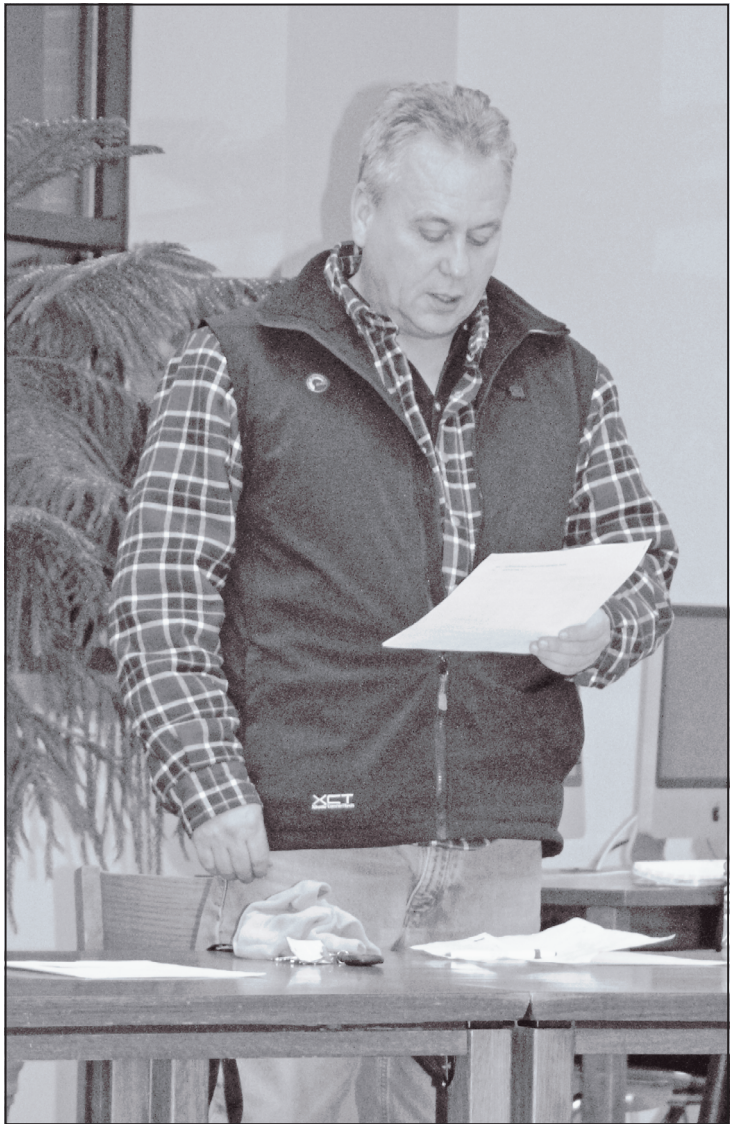
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Blooming Prairie Living

Blooming Prairie School Board welcomes new member, elects new board officers



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
New school board member Steve Ille takes the Oath of Office during last Monday's school board meeting. This January, Ille began his first term on the board.

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

The Blooming Prairie School Board welcomed a new board member during last Tuesday's meeting. Steve Ille, now occupying a seat formerly held by Kathi Peterson, has just begun his first term on the board.

Before Ille recited the Oath of Office, however, the board first heard from Robotics team members Luke De La Cruz and Riley Millam, who shared information about the team. The team is an extracurricular activity and has around 15 members and will build two robots for two separate challenges, or competitions.

The first competition took place in Austin on Jan. 16 at the "Do It. Dream It." Southern Minnesota VEX Robotics Tournament. De La Cruz and Millam agree the event was an excellent learning experience.

"Although we did not win any of the matches, it didn't really matter because Robotics is one of the greatest learning experiences I have had so far," said De La Cruz.

De La Cruz and Millam added that the recent competition gave them valuable knowledge they can use in their next competition. Armed with competition experience and new strategies, the team will continue to prepare

for its second competition, the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Lake Superior Regional in March. During the FIRST challenge, the students will also have an opportunity to collaborate with other teams. Board members commended the students for their work and wished them well in their next competition.

During the principals' reports, Elementary Principal Chris Staloch also stated that the elementary school is organizing a LEGO program, which is similar to the high school robotics program, but for students in grades 1 through 4. When the school handed out initial forms, they hoped about 30 students might take an interest in the program. As of Monday, however, 45 students had already returned the paperwork. Staloch explained that the school would hold two sessions of the program so that

all interested students could participate. The first group of students will begin its activities in February and the second group will assemble later in March.

Staloch noted that the program is designed to teach students problem-solving skills, among other things. "I think it will be a nice stepping-stone as we go into Robotics at the high school," said Staloch.

High School Principal John Worke said that the high school is making an effort to create more bonds between the school and local community. Worke shared a few examples, explaining that one of Bill Rinkenberg's classes had toured Metal Services and, in the spring, sophomore students will have an opportunity to tour local businesses, made possible by a partnership with the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's Student Ambassador program is also

another good example of school and community engagement, said Worke.

The board also elected new officers for the coming year. Board members used an anonymous ballot voting process to nominate board members for the different roles. Once the nominated board members indicated whether or not they would be willing to serve, the board members then voted again to determine who would fill the position. Rodney Krell was elected to serve as the new board chair, Jon Sunde will serve as the new vice chair, Pam Hameister was elected as the clerk and Jenny Thurnau will serve as the board's next treasurer.

The board will meet again at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 16 in the Blooming Prairie High School Media Center.

BEV CASHMAN

Continued on Page 1C

craft laws that have an impact on people's lives for the better."

Transportation is a key issue for her. She went to school in Winona and remembers a college classmate from Owatonna traveling on U.S. Highway 14 in 1974 and talking about the challenges of driving down the road. "Here we are forty years later, and Highway 14 is still an issue," Cashman said. "Can't we put our heads together and just

get this finished?"

Education is also important to Cashman. She was happy with Gov. Dayton's full-day kindergarten program. "I would say the greatest detriment to our students and their ability to succeed is that they come and are not ready for kindergarten," she said. "It is hard to catch up if you are already starting behind."

Cashman is looking forward to the DFL Caucus on March 1 to see what she can do to get the DFL endorsement. "Until I get the endorsement, as soon as that happens, I need to hit the floor running."

GRANT

Continued on Page 1C

kle or wrist, according to Thiele. The device will emit an individualized tracking signal, making it possible for public safety personnel to find someone quickly.

"What really caught my eye is that the Project Lifesaver reduces searches from hours and days to minutes," Thiele said.

Project Lifesaver has been in existence for more than 17 years. What makes this program unique is that it includes an entire education and training program, tracking techniques and technology.

There are 1,400 agencies throughout 48 states participating in the program. Project Lifesaver says 3,100 searches have been performed over the past 17 years with no serious injuries or fatalities ever reported.

Prairie Family & Sports Chiropractic, P.A. presents:



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With Dr. Chad

Scoliosis

It is thought that scoliosis is the result of a hereditary problem or a result of some type of trauma, such as the birth process, or an injury, such as falling off a bicycle. It usually starts with problems in the lower back. And because spinal bones continue to grow well into the early 20's, if left uncorrected, scoliosis often worsens.

Unfortunately, the most common treatment approach has been to wait and see how bad it gets, resorting to unsightly braces, or eventually surgery, if it progressed too far.

The chiropractic approach is to use specific spinal adjustments, often combined with corrective exercises. If detected early enough, chiropractic care has had excellent success with scoliosis cases.

To learn more about scoliosis and chiropractic, log on to our website at www.drchad.org. Feel free to e-mail Dr. Chad through the website with any questions. Prairie Family and Sports Chiropractic is here to serve you and your family with gentle and effective chiropractic care. We are located at 344 East Main Street, Downtown Blooming Prairie. Call us at 583-2271 or toll free at 1 (866) 5DR-CHAD to schedule an appointment.

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

Bio-Plastic Solutions LLC still growing after 15 years

By HOWARD LESTRUD

Staff Writer

Look Gary Noble in the eyes and you will find a glistening optimism about the growth of Bio-Plastic Solutions LLC, an industry leader in bioplastic engineering and the manufacturing of proprietary bio-based poly resins and products.

Noble, a Blooming Prairie High School graduate, is president and chief executive officer of Bio-Plastic Solutions, a company he purchased in 2000. He started the company, DiaServe, Inc., in July of 2000.

Check out the brand new Bio-Plastic Solutions website at www.bioplasticsolutions.com.

Bio-Plastic Solutions focuses on window and door components, architectural design components, industrial applications, building and trade materials, medical applications and any custom requirement. Bio-Plastic Solutions has three patents on products.

BPS counts more than 35 loyal customers nationwide and in Canada, India and even Australia. "We partner as deep as we can with our customers so they will keep us as suppliers," Noble said.

With some partners, he purchased the custom extrusion business from a local bank in Blooming Prairie. The business name was changed in 2009 to Bio-Plastic Solutions, LLC to better reflect the company efforts with the bio material and sustainable products offered.

Bio-Plastic Solutions is located on the northeast part of Blooming Prairie in three buildings totaling 27,000 square feet of space. Noble is quick to compliment the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation in helping him and his company the past 14 years.

Bio-Plastic Solutions innovative concepts and patented



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Gary Noble, president and CEO of Bio-Plastic Solutions, LLC, holds a plastic extruded product created at his plant located on the northeast side of Blooming Prairie. He has owned the company for 15 years.

materials offer a wide variety of product-ready and custom projects utilizing BioBest.®

Marketed under the BioBest trademark, BioBest® biopolymer provides for a "green friendly" option for many applications. BioPlastic Solutions primary BioBest® products and services focus on BioEdge Edgebanding and Custom Extrusion.

Noble is extremely proud of his industrial plant and is often accompanied on his tours by two of his canine friends, Izzy a 10-month-old labradoodle and Josie, a 4-year-old golden retriever. Mick, an 8-year-old yellow Labrador, often takes the tour, too. He belongs to Ron Langlie, vice president of operations at Bio-Plastic Solutions.

The latest in equipment is utilized at BioPlastic Solutions. Noble said the plastic dyes range in price from \$1,000 to \$28,000. He estimates the company has about 70 dyes.

A new tool department has been added to Bio-Plastic Solutions and emphasizes quality control. Noble points out that all materials not used are re-ground and used again, or sold

to another user for a specified use.

BPS has a state-of-the-art 3.5-inch Davis Standard single screw extrusion line with Baston calibration table, haul-off and hot knife cutter. The line can meet the most demanding of extrusion requirements.

Bio-Plastic equipment offers a vast array of standard and custom extruded profiles for exterior and interior moldings, trims, seals, splines, channels and glazing boots.

Much of Bio-Plastic Solutions corn-based polymer is focused currently for their BioEdge® edgebanding and are used on tables, work surfaces, office workstations and on cabinetry.

Noble is currently working with a customer in Scandia (located 10 miles east of Forest Lake) to produce a product called Easy Caulk and Insta Trim. The products come in strips and can be applied to surface corners very easily.

"We love having a business in a small community," Noble concluded, "because relationships are much closer and we all work together for a common cause."

RECIPE CORNER

Fluff Pie

- 1 graham cracker crust pie (they have light versions of these)
- 1 pkg. sugar free jello (any flavor)
- 1 regular size container of sugar free or lite cool whip
- 2 containers of light yogurt (any flavor)
- 1/4 cup water

Boil in microwave 1/4 cup of water (I usually do this in a big enough glass bowl to add everything else) stir in package of jello until completely dissolved stir in cool whip and yogurt pour into graham cracker pie crust cover and refrigerate for half an hour...then enjoy!

By Angie Carlson • BP Elementary Teacher

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Did you know?

More couples are utilizing their smartphones when planning their weddings, according to the The Knot 2014 Real Weddings Study. The study, which surveyed nearly 16,000 brides and grooms married in 2014, found that the use of smartphones to access wedding-planning websites nearly doubled from 2011 to 2014. In 2011, just 33 percent of couples surveyed acknowledged accessing wedding-planning websites via their smartphones. But that figure rose to 61 percent in 2014. Sixty-one percent of brides admitted to researching gowns on their smartphones, marking a substantial increase from 2011, when 27 percent acknowledged using their mobile devices to research gowns. Wedding vendors also can benefit from strong mobile sites, as 57 percent (up from 22 percent in 2011) of survey respondents in 2014 admitted to researching prospective vendors on their mobile devices.



Put a comfortable foot forward at your wedding

Some say shoes make the woman, but if they're uncomfortable, shoes very well may break the woman - especially at a wedding. From the bride to the guests, choosing the wrong shoes could sideline you from dancing or cause pain through the night. A smarter step is to put just as much thought into the shoes you will wear as you will into other parts of your wardrobe.

Unless you're wont to go anywhere without high heels, your feet may be unaccustomed to them for long durations of time. At a wedding, where it's all about mingling and dancing, comfort should be considered just as much as style.

That doesn't mean you have to forgo an attractive shoe just for something comfortable. It's possible to have the best of both worlds. Here are some considerations.

Wedge heels: Unlike other types of heels that put the brunt of the pressure on the ball of the foot, wedge heels distribute body weight evenly throughout the foot. Therefore, you might find these are some of the most comfortable types of heels around. Designers make them in all styles, including more formal versions

perfect for weddings and other special events.

Ballet pumps: Ballet pumps, once made famous by style icon Audrey Hepburn, can be worn with skirts or slacks. Their low profile helps keep feet comfortable, and they may come as flats or with a tiny heel. Embellished with bows, flowers or ribbons, these shoes will dress up any outfit.

Sandals: Particularly for warm-weather events, sandals can be quite comfortable and fashionable. Giving a peek of toe and ankle can be just as sexy as stilettos, without the pain.

Flip-flops: Many brides choose to don flip-flops under their gowns simply because they can be so comfortable. Flip-flops needn't be the run-of-the-mill rubber kind found in the discount bin. They can be dressed up to match your gown or purchased with gemstones and other decor already attached.

For those who prefer heels for photo ops and looking fabulous, consider bringing along a change of shoes just in case foot pain flares up later in the evening.



How to find the right wedding vendors

Weddings are a careful balance of many elements that culminate on one special day. Making all of the components of a wedding come together seamlessly requires a well organized bride and groom and the cooperation of professional wedding vendors who understand their unique roles.

Vendors, including florists, transportation companies, musicians, and dressmakers are essential to a successful wedding. Competent wedding vendors will remove much of the worry and work from a couple's shoulders.

But not every couple ends up with top-notch wedding vendors. Research, planning and verifying references are some ways to ensure your vendors make your wedding day that much more enjoyable.

Seek recommendations from trusted friends and family members. Talk to friends and family members whose insight you value about which wedding vendors they used. If you attend a wedding or another party and find the flowers or the music particularly well done, ask for the name of the florist or band. Word-of-mouth advertisement is a great way to find quality wedding vendors who will help make your dream wedding a reality.

Consult with a wedding planner. If budget allows, work with a wedding planner. He or she will have an extensive list of wedding vendors you can contact. A wedding planner wants the job to get done right and efficiently, and many wedding planners have already vetted and verified certain vendors as quality workers.

Always ask for references and don't ignore them.

Busy wedding vendors should provide you with a list of names of satisfied customers. Talk with couples who used the vendors' services in the past and ask the questions that are most important to your decision-making process. Unbiased feedback also may be available through online review sites, but direct contact with references may make you feel more comfortable. If a vendor fails to provide references, this should raise suspicions about the person's reliability.

Deposits should be a fraction of the total price. Avoid wedding vendors who insist on hefty deposits. A deposit is a good-faith agreement to hold the date

of the wedding, and it should be a small percentage of the overall cost of the services.

Do not pay balances too far in advance. Many wedding vendors require the balance be paid on the day of the wedding or shortly before. Good vendors realize couples will not want to pay the tally until they have received the products or services they signed up for. A photographer may ask for the final payment when albums are delivered.

The exception may be a caterer or reception site that needs the funds to order food and beverages a few weeks in advance. Paying off a vendor too early means you run the risk of that vendor having your money and then not coming through on the wedding day. It's difficult to track down a person for a refund, plus you're left with finding a replacement at the last minute.

Contracts are your friends. Every agreement

should be in writing. You have a better chance of fighting for a refund or restitution in court when you have a contract in writing.

Consider wedding insurance. Even the best-laid plans can go awry on a wedding day. Anything from freak weather events to illness to vendor absences can wreak havoc. The Better Business Bureau advises purchasing wedding insurance to protect yourself when weddings are especially costly. Such insurance may cover vendors who

fail to show up, cancellations, inclement weather, military deployment, medical emergencies, and travel delays. With wedding insurance, you won't lose money if plans change. A basic insurance policy that covers loss of photos, videos, attire, presents, rings, and deposits usually costs between \$155 and \$550, depending on the amount of coverage you want.

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Did you know?

Historically, June has been the most popular month for getting married. But some numbers now indicate that July and even October have begun to edge out June as the most popular months to tie the knot. The June wedding tradition may be traced back to the ancient Romans. Romans honored Juno, the goddess of marriage and childbirth, and the month of June was named after her, so it is fitting that weddings take place in her namesake month. As centuries passed, June remained a popular month to get married. June was a prime time for people to come out after a long winter and take communal baths in the fifteenth century. In addition, June weddings meant children conceived after betrothal would be born close to or during the following spring. This helped assure youngsters' survival during the rough and often lean months of winter. Spring births would not conflict with workers' demanding schedules during the autumn harvest, either. Even when weddings began shifting from pragmatic business transactions to romantic affairs, June remained popular.

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Improving office productivity

Productivity is paramount to a company's success. A productive staff tends to meet or even exceed its goals, strengthening a company along the way. As a result, business owners often find themselves looking for ways to increase productivity, which could be lagging for a number of reasons.

Though lack of morale is often assumed to be the reason behind a lack of productivity among staff, such an assumption is not always accurate. Poor productivity might be a byproduct of the office environment, which could be suffering. The following are a handful of steps business owners concerned about staff productivity can take to address those concerns and get their organizations back on the right track.

Upgrade hardware. Thanks to the prevalence of technology, men and women have grown accustomed to getting what they need and want a lot faster than the days of yore. For example, the social networking tool Twitter has revolutionized the way many people get their news. Top stories are now broken on Twitter, which has the ability to instantly share newsworthy items that once were relegated to nightly news broadcasts or morning newspapers. Many people have grown accustomed to that immediacy, so a lack of immediacy can be frustrating. Business owners should keep that in mind when examining their hardware. Older computers, for example, are considerably slower than newer models, and older machinery can compromise productivity and frustrate employees. Upgrading employee hardware can help business owners improve efficiency and productivity and make for a happier, less frustrated workforce.

Look into lighting. Lighting can have a significant impact on employee productivity. Adequate lighting helps employees stay alert throughout the workday, while poor lighting can cause fatigue as the day progresses. If the office is dimly lit, upgrade



Routine staff meetings in which employees are encouraged to offer their input on work flow can help improve productivity

lighting fixtures, even installing more fixtures in areas that are especially dark.

Help employees hone their skills. Employees who feel as though they have reached a plateau and opportunities to advance their careers have all but dried up are less likely to be productive than those who feel they can continue to move up within a company. In such instances, employee morale needs to be addressed, even if there are no immediate promotions to be had. Business owners may improve that morale by helping employees hone their skills, be it paying for coursework that allows them to improve existing skills or sending them to seminars where they can learn more about their field. Such efforts are relatively inexpensive investments for employers, but they show employees that their companies are willing to invest in them. Such gestures can improve morale and productivity.

Set targets and follow up on them. A sleepy

office environment or low employee morale is not always behind lower productivity. In some instances, employees simply need to have goals set for them in order to improve their productivity. Goals should be realistic but not too simple to achieve, as poorly set goals can give employees the wrong impression. When tasked with meeting easy targets, some employees may think their employer does not have much confidence in their abilities, while others may embrace easy goals and use them as an excuse to be unproductive. So while goals should be realistic, they also should inspire employees to do their best. Once targets have been established, don't forget

to follow up and ensure progress is being made. Setting targets but failing to follow up on employee progress can produce an environment in which employees feel as though their efforts are not valued.

Encourage employee input. Determining why productivity is sagging is not always so easy. But many times employees themselves are a business' best resource with regard to identifying why things have taken a turn for the worse. Business owners can create an environment in which employees know their input is valued. If necessary, instruct department managers to conduct monthly meetings with staff to address issues such as work flow, teamwork and responsibility. During these meetings, which can be valuable during periods of low or even exceptional productivity, managers can solicit suggestions from employees about improving productivity and efficiency.

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Owatonna Living

Owatonna honors Martin Luther King Jr.

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., approximately 70 people braved the below-zero cold early Monday morning, Jan. 18, for breakfast at Plaza Morena Campestre Grill and a presentation on segregation in the South during the 1950s.

The Owatonna Human Rights Commission has hosted the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Breakfast for the past 10 years, but this year’s speaker, JoAnn Magnuson, brought one of their largest volume of attendees.

Magnuson is the Curator of the Jewish-Christian Library Center in Brooklyn Park, and Chair of the Human Rights Commission. Fred Ventura shared that Manguson has led 66 tours to Israel.

In her presentation “Young Minneapolis Bride Discovers Segregation in the South in 1954,” Magnuson talks about her own awakening in herself to become a Civil Rights Activist.

Shortly after graduating high school, Magnuson got married to her husband, Dennis. He was drafted at the end of the Korean War before fighting in the Vietnam War.

Fresh out of high school and recently married, she moved with her husband to Camp

Chaffee, just outside of Fort Smith, Arkansas in 1954.

She noted that 1954 was the year of Brown vs. Board of Education, a milestone United States Supreme Court case in which the Court declared state laws establishing segregated schools for black and white students to be unconstitutional.

“It was really just the beginning of the pushback on segregation in the South,” she said.

While Magnuson said that she had read her history textbooks and knew a bit about the racial unrest in the South, nothing could have prepared her for the reality of the segregation.

“You don’t really know about things until you walk into them,” she commented.

She was job searching and got on to a city bus to go downtown. Many buses in the South during this time period had signs that read “colored in the rear.”

When Magnuson got on the bus, she hadn’t noticed the sign. Newspaper in hand, she mindlessly sat at the back of the bus because she always does. “I’m a people watcher,” she said. “I like to see what is going on.

“I never occurred to me that I was the most white person in the back, and it wasn’t a really crowded bus, so I sat and started looking at my newspaper.”

she said. “The bus took off and drove about a half a block and then the driver slammed on the breaks, and I thought ‘oh my goodness, something must have run out in the street.’”

The bus driver had not hit something. In fact, he was glaring at Magnuson. He shouted “You can’t sit there lady!” He thumped down the bus aisle and then asked her if she could read.

He grabbed her arm and dragged her to sit at the front.

“As he was dragging me past the side door of the bus, I had an epiphany. I thought if I just sit in the front of this stupid bus, I’m not really going to like myself tomorrow,” she said. “So I said ‘if I can’t sit where I want to sit, let me off,’ so he opened the door and pushed me out.”

She commented that the famous Rosa Parks “had a much different experience when she sat at the wrong part of the bus.” Parks was arrested after not giving up her seat to a white person when the “white section” was full in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955.

She said that this was the start of her identity as a Civil Rights Activist.

“I think I had always had the kind of tendencies that made me want to stick up for people who weren’t being treated right,” she

said. “There are so many times in life where we have to make a decision, and I have so often thought back at that moment and thought ‘boy’ we can have that nudge that tells us this isn’t going to a good place, I better get off the bus and start over again.”

The sign on the bus was not the only sign in the community segregating white and black people in the South in the 1950s. There were signs for drinking fountains, play grounds, rest-rooms, movie theater entrances and schools. Special marriage licenses were required for African Americans to get married. Difficult tests for African Americans were distributed to ensure less were able to vote.

While she said that racism is still very existent today, it has gotten better when compared to the South in 1954.

“I think what we should celebrate today is that we did get started. (There were) a lot of people that were slow to come, but we did make some progress,” she said about the fight against race injustices.

When Magnuson moved back to Minnesota, she did a lot of activist work. She was a stay-at-home mom but gave to the NAACP when she could scrape a donation together.

Rice Lake State Park hosts Candlelight event



Staff photo by Anna Segner
Peter, Nicole, Sophia and Charlotte Cook enjoyed a walk on the trails at the Rice Lake State Park Candlelight Event. To celebrate the near full moon, hundreds of people walked, snowshoed and skid on the mile or so of winter trails on Jan. 23. Fire roasted marshmallows, hot chocolate and treats were also available.

MEMORIAL RIDE

Continued from Page 1C

riding snowmobile near Blooming Prairie in 2010 when he was struck and killed by a truck as he was crossing the road.

David raced sleds and had a passion for the sport that he shared with his children. Ty recalled many hours toiling with antique snowmobiles in the garage.

Shannon was actually wear-

ing her father’s old racing jacket that he wore while racing as she rode in his honor that day. The ride was started by David as one of the original founders about 10 years ago, and they have continued it in his honor.

“He’d be happy that we all get together and ride,” she said. “He wasn’t a big crowd person, but he loved family. So he is smiling

today.”

The ride felt an awful lot like a large family get-together, as Shannon greeted most of the guests with hugs. Shannon said that even more family than usual were able to attend this year’s event because the family suffered the loss of their grandfather, Jerry Paul Rysavy, on Jan. 15.

Family members that now live in Chicago and Wisconsin were able to attend this year’s ride. With more family members present plus many people just looking to ride, the group hit one of its largest amount of participants ever.

“It has grown a lot. The first year, I think there were ten sleds,” said Ty. “Now a ton of friends and family come and

there are people here that we don’t even know.”

Katie and Jake Boyd of Owatonna rode this year for the first time ever. They were riding new sleds, but the other two members of their party were riding antique snowmobiles. Katie said that they heard about it from her brother.

“We haven’t had something to do on a Saturday for three

months or so,” said Jake. “It wasn’t so cold, so it was just something fun to do as a family.”

Shannon said that the weather probably also had a lot to do with the successful turnout. “It warmed up a little bit,” she said. “There have been years where it is just freezing, so we are really happy that we had good weather.”

COMMUNITY CONNECT

Continued from Page 1C

“Now look over at those hygiene bags. Would anybody want to hire a man that smelled horrible? You get the picture.”

Robles said that he had work lined up in a neighboring community to start soon. He admits that it is not always easy staying positive and sober, but his heart is in his future.

He could not say enough about the people in local agencies that have helped him get back on his feet time and time again.

“Now this situation is not about me anymore. When I can’t lift my spirits for myself, I lift my spirits for them,” he said about people like Gina Shepherd of Salvation Army and Joleen Sherrets of the Hospitality House.

The basement area of Saint Joseph Church was full of representatives of agencies ready to help. Agencies like Transitional Housing, Hospitality House, Crisis Resource Center, the Salvation Army and the Steele County Food Shelf among many were present.

Karla Tull of Steele County Employment Services is the main coordinator of Project Community Connect. She said that this year is the 8th annual community connect.

With a total of 38 booths, Tull said that the event has certainly grown over the years. It has also grown in the amount of individuals that seek help from the event. She said that in the community facing homelessness, news travels fastest via word of mouth rather than social media or news sources.

Karla said that the need is strong for agencies that help homeless and programs like Project Community Connect.

“People don’t realize that there are homeless people in Steele County,” said Tull. “They aren’t on park benches and in the public eye like they are in big cities. They are more hidden here, but they are here.”

A hot meal, a government aided cell phone, bus passes, handmade quilts and hygiene items were among many of the

giveaways collected by those in need at the event.

Flu shots, dental screenings and HIV testing were also being provided. Tull said that by far the most popular service is the free haircuts.

We’ve got a handful of hairstylists that give up their time to give free haircuts,” said Tull. “The haircuts are huge! Having a haircut just makes you feel better.”

David Gregory was one of many to receive a haircut from Sandie Kubista at Project Community Connect. It was Kubista’s fifth year giving haircuts at the event: “It just makes you feel good to give what you can.”

“Self-confidence helps you more than anything in life,” re-

marked Kubista.

Gregory had a few months of growth and chose a cut that was longer on top with a tighter cut on the sides of his head. “Having a haircut makes me feel better about myself,” he said. “She [Kubista] is making me look clean cut. See, I’m looking for a job.”

Due to experience with gang lifestyle, he hit a “rough spot” in his life, but he is working on earning his GED. He seeks a career utilizing his talents in writing, communications, or public speaking.

Many others felt empowered after leaving Project Community Connect. As Robles said, “How can I not feel empowered after this?”



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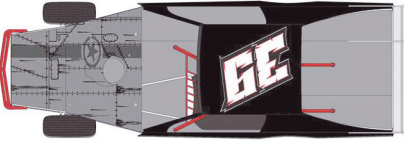
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WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to fitness.

KESBI

Answer: Bikes

Guess Who?

I am an American football player born in Louisiana on January 3, 1981. I have been named MVP of two Super Bowls, during which I led the New York Giants to two victories over the New England Patriots.

Answer: Eli Manning

Color by Numbers

1-light green 2-dark green 3-white 4-yellow
5-orange 6-pink 7-purple

Ribbon Snake

Slithering snakes are colorful creations for kids to make. Snips of leftover ribbon are randomly glued on the paper snake to add dimension and color. By placing the ribbon curled side down, the paper snake will develop a bit of an arched back and curl when completely dry.

Use this ribbon snake for a St. Patrick's day craft for kids, to use with a Bible lesson on Adam and Eve or to celebrate the Year of the Snake in the Chinese New Year. This craft helps children develop the ability to estimate, as the sections of ribbon do not need to be measured, just estimated to around 1".

Materials

Scissors
Colorful printer paper
Google eyes
Different colors and sizes of curling ribbon (including red for the tongue)
Craft glue
Paint brush (optional – used to smooth out the glue and to brush it in place)

Instructions

Have the children cut the cut the snake out. Cut the ribbon into small sections, approximately 1 in each. Apply a light coat of glue over the body of the snake. Randomly attach the ribbon sections to the snake. If possible, attach the ribbon curled side down. That way when the snake dries, the body will take on the same shape as the curled ribbon.. Once completely dry, trim the ribbon to the outline of the snake. Add google eyes and a curled tongue.

SUDOKU

6			8	3	9	2		
9			5			8		
	3	8		7				
	8				5			2
	4	9		8		5		7
1		5		4		9	8	
				9	1	3		4
			4	2		7	6	
	9		3		6			

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

8	2	1	9	9	8	7	6	7
6	9	7	8	2	4	1	9	8
4	9	8	1	6	7	9	2	8
8	8	6	7	4	2	9	9	1
7	1	9	8	8	9	6	4	2
2	7	9	9	1	6	8	8	7
9	6	4	2	7	1	8	8	9
1	8	8	4	9	9	2	7	6
9	7	2	6	8	8	4	1	9

ANSWER:

FIT FAMILY WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

WORDS

ABDOMINALS
ABDUCTOR
ACTIVITY
AEROBIC
ATROPHY
BARBELL
BICYCLING
BODY FAT
BURN
CIRCUIT
CONTRACTION
COOL DOWN
CORE
DAILY
DEHYDRATION
DELTOIDS
DUMBELL
ENDURANCE
EXTENSION
FAMILY
FLEXIBILITY
GLUTEALS
HIKING
ISOMETRIC
LIFESTYLE
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Southeast Minnesota corn, soybean farmers had good harvests

By KAREN JORGENSEN
County Staff Writer

Southeastern Minnesota corn and soybean growers had a good production year with per bushel yields above national averages.

Statistics released earlier this month by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s statistical service reported that Minnesota corn growers harvested an average of 188 bushels of corn per acre in 2015 compared to a national average of 168.4 bushels. Iowa farmers averaged 192 bushels per acre.

Nationally, 80.7 million acres of corn were harvested this past fall.

Iowa and Minnesota led the nation in per acre yield among the top corn producing states, the report showed.

Nationally, the average yield of 168.4 bushels per acre was down 0.9 bushel from the November forecast, and 2.6 bushels below the average yield of 171 bushels per acre.

The report also reported soybean production in 2015 totaled a record 3.9 billion bushels, down one percent from the November forecast, but up slightly from 2014. The average yield per acre was estimated at a record high 48 bushels. There were 80.8 million acres of soybeans harvested in the United



States in 2015, the report said. Again, Minnesota exceeded the national average with a yield of 50 bushels per acre. Iowa was the top producer with 56.5 bushels per acre.

Although not a player in southeastern Minnesota farming, wheat is also a major crop in some areas of Minnesota.

The annual report lists Minnesota’s wheat harvest as 88.3 million bushels total at 59.9 bushels per acre. Although the total number of bushels harvested in Minnesota was far less than in North and South Dakota and Montana; the per acre harvest was the highest of the four states.

Southeastern Minnesota definitely had a good growing season, Dodge County farmer Bruce Schmoll said recently.

“This year was good,” he said. “Soybean yields were at an all-time high and it was one of the best years to grow corn.”

Those record yields do not always translate into record profits however, he said.

Overall, he said, the profitability of a farming operation depends on a variety of factors. That, said Schmoll, also must take into accounts such things as cost of seeds and fertilizers, land costs, machinery, consumer trends, selling price of the crop and market factors.

Vilsack leading trade mission to Chile and Peru

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will lead a trade mission March 14-18 to expand export opportunities for U.S. agriculture in Chile and Peru.

“Thanks to existing free trade agreements, the United States enjoys strong trading relationships with both Chile and Peru,” said Vilsack. “In addition, both nations are part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which if implemented will boost the Chilean and Peruvian economies and tighten integration with the U.S. economy, helping further expand demand for U.S. agricultural products.”

The United States entered into a trade agreement with Peru in 2009 that slashed agricultural tariffs and improved market access for many U.S. products. As a result, U.S. farm and food exports to Peru have nearly tripled, reaching a record \$1.25 billion in fiscal year 2015.

In the Chilean market, all U.S. products enjoy duty-free access as of 2015, thanks to the free trade agreement enacted in 2004. Since 2004, U.S. exports to Chile have grown more than 500 percent, totaling \$803 million in fiscal year 2015.

“In both Chile and Peru, steady economic growth and an expanding middle-class population are fueling demand for high-quality, made-in-America food and agricultural products. Now that the United States enjoys open access to these markets, it’s a great time for U.S. companies – especially small- and medium-sized enterprises – to start or expand their exports there,” Vilsack said.

USDA trade missions open doors and deliver results for U.S. exporters, giving them the opportunity to forge relationships with potential customers and trading partners, interact with host government officials, and gather market intelligence that will help develop strategies to expand sales in key markets overseas.

Additional information about the Peru-Chile mission, including application materials, is available at www.fas.usda.gov/topics/trade-missions.

Women in Agriculture Conference slated for Willmar

University of Minnesota Extension is hosting a Women in Agriculture Conference on Feb. 18, at the Kelly Inn, St. Cloud.

This inaugural event will be a day of learning and networking for women involved in agriculture in the region. Registration begins at 9 a.m., with the conference convening from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Keynote Speaker for the day is Dr. Robert Milligan, Cornell Professor Emeritus and Senior Consultant with Dairy Strategies LLC. Milligan is a popular and frequent ag leadership speaker. His message for the day will challenge participants to proactively and aggressively address the future of their farm business.

Breakout sessions will feature farm communications and relations; farm transition and estate planning; farm payroll & tax planning; and the farm image. Topics throughout the day will encourage women to learn, lead, manage, and network – all which will benefit their farm operation.

Registration is required for the conference. The early bird registration fee is \$50 and is due by Feb. 12. Other registrations are accepted until Feb. 16 at a cost of \$65. Registration can be completed three ways: Online: \$45 – Save \$5!

Visit <https://www.regonline.com/WomeninAg> to register online. Mail to: University of Minnesota Extension, Willmar Regional Office 1802 18th St. NE Willmar, MN 56201 Call: (320) 235-0726 ext. 2001

For more information on the conference visit <http://z.umn.edu/agriwomen> or contact Pauline Van Nurdén at pvannurd@umn.edu or 320.235.0726 ext. 2008 with questions.

USDA expands microloans helping farmers purchase farmland and improve property

Agriculture Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will begin offering farm ownership microloans, creating a new financing avenue for farmers to buy and improve property.

These microloans will be especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations.

“Many producers, especially new and underserved farmers, tell us that access to land is one of the biggest challenges they face in establishing and growing their own farming operation,” said Harden. “USDA is making it easier for new farmers to hit the ground running and get access to the land that they need to establish their farms or improve their property.”

The microloan program, which celebrates its third anniversary this week, has been hugely successful, providing more than 16,800 low-interest loans, totaling over \$373 million to producers across the country.

Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating

costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment, and living expenses since 2013. Seventy percent of loans have gone to new farmers.

Now, microloans will be available to also help with farmland and building purchases, and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations.

Microloans provide up to \$50,000 to qualified producers, and can be issued to the applicant directly from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

This microloan announcement is another USDA resource for America’s farmers and ranchers to utilize, especially as new and beginning farmers and ranchers look for the assistance they need to get started.

To learn more about the FSA microloan program visit www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans, or contact your local FSA office. To find your nearest office location, please visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.



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DID YOU KNOW?

No-till farming used to be only about reducing soil erosion. Today, continuous no-till is the preferred tillage system in some areas. Why? It’s all about soil health.

The loss of organic matter in soil, which is the lightest soil component and the first to wash away, is the healthiest portion of our topsoil. It is the house where the biological systems in our soils live and includes everything from the tiniest organisms like bacteria, algae, fungi, and protozoa to the more complex nematodes, micro-arthropods (think tiny spiders), and the more visible earthworms, insects, small vertebrates, and plants. They are all part of healthy soil.

Tillage destroys soil structure, and is catastrophic to the populations of these beneficial and diverse organisms. Soil microbes help cycle nutrients that support plant and root growth, which in turn support soil microbes that support plant growth — it’s the underground circle of life.

With assistance from USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), farmers and ranchers are restoring healthy soils.

NRCS helps farmers and ranchers emulate nature’s way – to have something growing in the soil. That means implementing continuous no-till systems that include cover crops that keep living roots growing in the soil to support plant growth and biological activity.

Remember, nature built healthy and productive soils and didn’t till the soil.

Farmers interested in learning more about soil health and soil health management systems should visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted or a local USDA service center.

AgPower ENTERPRISES

Legal Notices

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: MORTGAGOR(S): Jason P. Fast and Alonna R. Fast, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation as nominee for Advisors Mortgage, LLC, a Minnesota limited liability company ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on April 11, 2012 as Document Number A000383998 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$155,406.00 DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 28, 2010 DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on June 3, 2010 as Document Number A000371493 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$180,014.35 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 12, Kubiadowicz Addition, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota. STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 355 NE 15TH STREET, OWATONNA, MN 55060 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Advisors Mortgage, LLC, a Minnesota limited liability company RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-224-0112 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100199600012386757 THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part. PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 1, 2016 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 1, 2016. THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED. MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: December 31, 2015

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
*Curt N. Trisko, Esq.,
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.,
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(15-2010-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

1/5, 1/12, 1/19,
1/26, 2/2, 2/9

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: June 15, 2005 MORTGAGOR: Curtis M. Christianson and Patricia Y. Christianson, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Blooming Prairie DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded June 24, 2005 Steele County Recorder, Document No. A000333009. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Merchants Bank, National Association. Dated June 15, 2005 Recorded June 24, 2005, as Document No. A000333010.

TRANSACTION AGENT: NONE TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: NONE LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Blooming Prairie RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Merchants Bank, N.A. MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1143rd Street Northeast, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 14.101.0109 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 8, Block 1, in Feeney's Addition to the Village of Blooming Prairie, Steele County, Minnesota COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$100,000.00 AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGOR: \$86,114.03

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; 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: February 23, 2016 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN to pay the debt then 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 six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

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 August 23, 2016, unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: December 21, 2015

Merchants Bank, National Association Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P. Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee 4500 Park Glen Road #300 Minneapolis, MN 55416 (952) 925-6888 94-15-009995 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

12/29, 1/5, 1/12
1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9

Foreclosure

15-101130

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 5, 2006 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$68,600.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Steven T. Gilman and Becky E. Hohenstein, both single MORTGAGEE: Aames Funding Corporation DBA Aames Home Loan LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Aames Funding Corporation DBA Aames Home Loan SERVICER: New Penn Financial, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 10, 2006, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000341133 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.; thereafter assigned to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP. Thereafter assigned to The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the benefit of the Certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-SD4. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: That part of the Southwest Quarter of Southeast Quarter of Section 25, Township 105 North, Range 19 West, described as: Commencing at a point on the South line of 5th Street of Village of Blooming Prairie, 475.6 feet West of the point of intersection of West line of Oak Street with South line of 5th Street, thence due West along the South line of 5th Street, 60 feet, due South 170 feet, due East 60 feet, due North 170 feet to point of beginning. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 2391st Street SE, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-025-2022 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$72,750.08 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: February 16, 2016, 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 August 16, 2016, or the next business day if August 16, 2016 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.

Dated: December 23, 2015

The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the benefit of the Certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-SD4 Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee
12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

12/29, 1/5, 1/12
1/19, 1/26, 2/2

Foreclosure

15-102238

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: February 6, 2004 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$252,000.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Paul A. Beiser and Virginia Beiser, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 100137510000066342 LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Lakeland Mortgage Corporation SERVICER: Seterus, Inc. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed February 25, 2004, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A 319624 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: MetLife Home Loans, a Division of MetLife Bank, N.A.; thereafter assigned to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association. Thereafter assigned to Federal National Mortgage Association. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 1, Block 3, Oakridge Bluffs Third Addition PROPERTY ADDRESS: 555 Oakland Path SE, Medford, MN 55049 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 16-114-0301 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$217,369.50 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: March 11, 2016, 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 September 11, 2016, or the next business day if September 11, 2016 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.

Dated: January 7, 2016

Federal National Mortgage Association ("FNMA") Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee
12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

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1/19, 1/26, 2/2,
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Answers on Page 5B

CLUES ACROSS

- Cathode-ray tube
- A leglike part
- Old world, new
- Sec. of Def. Panetta
- Greek god of E or SE wind
- Supervises flying
- In a way, bothers
- Federal savings bank
- Stout lever with a sharp spike
- F.S. Fitzgerald's wife Zelda
- Snakelike fish
- Scads
- Prophet
- Former "Daily Show" star
- Organized crime head
- Oil obtained from flowers
- 2X WWE Divas Champ
- Brine cured Canadian cheese
- Slow oozing

CLUES DOWN

- Applauds
- Actress Zellweger
- Obtained by addition
- Chief executive officer
- Flees
- Murres genus
- ___ Wong, spy
- Works well as a remedy
- Tripod
- A nautical unit of depth
- Most populous Native Am. people

- Volt-ampere
- Phenyl salicylate
- European defense organization
- Anglo-Saxon theologian
- Doctrine
- Soviet peninsula
- Large long-armed ape
- Protects from weather
- Mops
- Bridge expert
- Fabric woven from goat and camel hair
- Capital of Honduras
- Tell on
- Wooden clog
- Beloved
- Fed
- Decays
- Single Lens Reflex

- Genus Capricornis
- Universally mounted spinning wheel
- Spanish shawl
- Macaws
- No (Scottish)
- Takes dictation
- Spanish appetizers
- The Muse of lyric and love poetry
- Romaine lettuce
- Alias

- A way to beat
- Son of Jacob and Zilpah
- Amount of time
- Most guileful
- Younger US political party
- Electrical resistance unit
- Side way
- Milton's Cormus composer Henry
- Sheep up to age one
- Green algae
- Capital of Morocco

- S.E. French city on the Rhone
- Asian nation
- Great No. Am. RV Rally
- Culture medium and a food-gelling agent
- Inflamed lymph node swelling
- Native of Edinburgh
- Belonging to a thing

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Jay Braaten,
Financial Advisor

Legals

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: MORTGAGOR(S): Doreen R. Kruger, a single person MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$112,433.00 DATE OF MORTGAGE: September 16, 2009 DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on September 22, 2009 and memorialized upon Certificate of Title No. 12857 as Document Number T000064998 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota. THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$85,975.98 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Fifteen (15) in Block Two (2) in Luedtke Addition to City of Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota REGISTERED PROPERTY STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 704 CHERRY ST, OWATONNA, MN 55060-1949 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-150-0215 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part. PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 15, 2016 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 15, 2016.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED. MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: January 13, 2016
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee
SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

By: /s/Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq. Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq. N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. *Curt N. Trisko, Esq.* Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee The Academy Professional Building 25 North Dale Street St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (15-0322-FC03)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

1/19, 1/26, 2/2
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Foreclosure

15-102160

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 31, 2013 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$84,850.62 MORTGAGOR(S): Ronald C. Wesely, Unmarried MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed February 4, 2013, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000389530 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 10, Block 24, Original Town (now City) of Owatonna PROPERTY ADDRESS: 415 South Oak, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-100-2410 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$75,841.76 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: March 15, 2016, 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 September 15, 2016, or the next business day if September 15, 2016 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.

Dated: January 14, 2016
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP
BY Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559 Diane F. Mach - 273788 Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778 Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X Gary J. Evers - 0134764 Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X Attorneys for Mortgagee 12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200 Burnsville, MN 55337 (952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

1/19, 1/26, 2/2
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Foreclosure

15-102033

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: December 20, 2002 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$132,421.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Eric R. Erickson and Jodi L. Erickson, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed December 23, 2002, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T 51679, As modified of record by Document recorded on September 10, 2014 as Document Number T000071806 in the office of the Registrar of

Titles of Steele County, Minnesota LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 9, Block 1, Radel's Country Club Addition REGISTERED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 324 Meadow Lane SW, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-317-0109 COT#15898 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$119,408.23 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: March 15, 2016, 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 September 15, 2016, or the next business day if September 15, 2016 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.

Dated: January 14, 2016
Wells Fargo Bank, NA, successor by merger to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559 Diane F. Mach - 273788 Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778 Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X Gary J. Evers - 0134764 Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X Attorneys for Mortgagee 12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200 Burnsville, MN 55337 (952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

1/19, 1/26, 2/2
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: MORTGAGOR(S): Jolene M. Dahl, a single person MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$80,525.00 DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 5, 2012 DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on July 10, 2012 as Document Number A000385613 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$77,946.79 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lots 6, 7, 8 and 9, Block 29, South Park Addition to the City of Ellendale, except the North 20 feet of Lot 6, Steele County, Minnesota STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 620 JANSEN PLACE S, ELLENDALE, MN 56026 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 15-105-2906

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part. PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 15, 2016 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 15, 2016.

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

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

Dated: January 15, 2016
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee
SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

By: /s/Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq. Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq. N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. *Curt N. Trisko, Esq.* Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee The Academy Professional Building 25 North Dale Street St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (15-2210-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

1/19, 1/26, 2/2
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 24, 2006 MORTGAGOR: Roger R. Voll and Jeanne Karon Voll, husband and wife as joint tenants. MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.. DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded July 28, 2006 Steele County Recorder, Document No. A000343082. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Green Tree Servicing LLC now known as Ditech Financial LLC. Dated August 12, 2015 Recorded August 12, 2015, as Document No. A000403607. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 1 0 0 2 4 8 9 0 6 0 6 0 0 2 3 3 5 3 LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Rescue Mortgage Inc. dba Mortgage Depot RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Ditech Financial LLC f/k/a Green Tree Servicing LLC MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 740 South Oak Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060 TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 17.016.1148 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing 1 Rod North and 2 Rods West of the SE corner of Lot 18 in the NE 1/4 of Section 16, Township 107 North, of Range 20 West, running thence North 4 Rods, thence West 7 Rods, thence South 4 Rods, thence East 7 Rods to beginning COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$123,000.00 AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID

BY MORTGAGEE: \$117,965.15 That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; 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: March 18, 2016 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN to pay the debt then 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 six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07. 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 September 19, 2016 unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: January 13, 2016
Ditech Financial LLC f/k/a Green Tree Servicing LLC Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P. Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee 4500 Park Glen Road #300 Minneapolis, MN 55416 (952) 925-6888 8 - 15-010160 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

1/26, 2/2, 2/9
2/16, 2/23, 3/1



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Notice of Final Hearing Concerning the Redetermination of Benefits of Steele County Ditch #27, Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 103E.351

A Redetermination of Benefits was ordered by the Steele County Drainage Authority for CD#27. The Viewers have filed their report on the Redetermination of Benefits for County Ditch #27 which is available for inspection at the Steele County Auditor's Office located in the Steele County Administration Center, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, Minnesota, 55060.

That the description of the lands and properties which will be benefitted by the Redetermination of Benefits are as follows: Sections 33 and 34 of Somerset Township and Sections 3 and 4 of Summit Township.

The names of the property owners affected by the Redetermination of Benefits are as follows:

Gary D & Florence A Anderson, John F & Shirley Borchert, Clemmensen Family, Ltd Partners, Daniel G & Vickie K. Deml, Michael R Kasper, Kevin & Scott Noble, Thomas J & Dionette M. Polacek, Albert G & Margaret Marie Rysavy, Jerry & Mary Ann Rysavy, Joseph M & Cheryl K Rysavy, John P & Lynn R Schiller, Somerset Township, Steele County and David F & Janet A Vaith.

That a final hearing has been scheduled for Thursday, January 28th, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Steele County Administration Center located at 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, Minnesota. All interested parties are invited to attend. If you are unable to attend, written comments will be accepted at the hearing and by mail through the date of the hearing at the Auditor's Office located at 630 Florence Ave., Owatonna, MN

Dated this 8th day of January 2016
By Laura Ihrke,
Steele County Auditor
1/12, 1/19, 1/26

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-43

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Delores M. Perkins, Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on February 23, 2016, at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, August 17, 1988, and ("Will"), and for the appointment of Dennis D. Perkins, whose address is 4824 18th Street SW, Owatonna, MN, 55060 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minn. Stat. 501B.41, subd. 5.

Dated 2016.01.08

BY THE COURT

Duncan, Karen Judge of District Court

Sonia Kocher Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner David L. Einhaus Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A. 202 N. Cedar Avenue, P.O. Box 545 Owatonna, MN, 55060 Attorney License No: 26190 Telephone: (507) 451-3580 FAX: (507) 451-3532 Email: einhaus@owatonnaattorneys.com

1/26, 2/2

News/Legals

Foreclosure

15-101690

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 21, 2005 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$229,050.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Amado Mendez Solis and Lorna E. Mendez, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Town and Country Credit Corp. LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Town and Country Credit Corp. SERVICER: Specialized Loan Servicing LLC DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed December 7, 2005, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000337562 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Ameriquest Mortgage Company; Dated: December 2, 2005 filed: December 26, 2007, recorded as document number A000354323; thereafter assigned to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. dated December 2, 2005 recorded December 26, 2007 as document number A000354324. Thereafter assigned to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, successor in interest to Bank of America, National Association, as successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee for Certificateholders of Bear Stearns Asset Backed Securities I LLC, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-HE2 dated March 19, 2012 recorded April 9, 2012 as document number A000383927. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot6,Block3,Radel'sFrancisAddition PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1283 BellflowerLane,Owatonna,MN55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-437-0306 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$372,214.97 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: January 12, 2016, 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 July 12, 2016, or the next business day if July 12, 2016 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.

Dated: November 20, 2015

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, successor in interest to Bank of America, National Association, as Trustee, successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee for Bear Stearns Asset Backed Securities I Trust 2006-HE2, Asset Backed-Certificates, Series 2006-HE2 Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559 Diane F. Mach - 273788 Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778 Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X Gary J. Evers - 0134764 Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X Attorneys for Mortgagee 12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200 Burnsville, MN 55337 (952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The above referenced sale scheduled for January 12, 2016, at 10:00 AM, has been postponed to March 1, 2016, at 10:00 AM , and will be held at Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060, said County and State.

Unless the mortgage is reinstated under Minnesota Statute 580.30 or the property is redeemed under Minnesota Statute 580.23 the property must be vacated by September 1, 2016. If this date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the date to vacate will be the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Dated: January 7, 2016.

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, successor in interest to Bank of America, National Association, as Trustee, successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee for Bear Stearns Asset Backed Securities I Trust 2006-HE2, Asset Backed-Certificates, Series 2006-HE2 Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559 Diane F. Mach - 273788 Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778 Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X Gary J. Evers - 0134764 Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X 12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200 Burnsville, MN 55337 (952) 831-4060 15-101690 Attorney for Assignee of Mortgagee

1/12, 1/19, 1/26 2/2, 2/9, 2/16

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

1. Default has occurred in the conditions of the Mortgage dated June 6, 2013, executed by Ross L. Johnson, a single person, as Mortgagor, to First National Bank, as Mortgagee, and filed for record on June 17, 2013, as Document No. 391980, in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. The land described in the Mortgage is not registered land. 2. The Mortgage has not been assigned. 3. The original principal amount secured by the Mortgage was \$55,000.00. 4. No action or proceeding at law is now pending to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part thereof. 5. The holder of the Mortgage has complied with all conditions precedent to acceleration of the debt secured by the Mortgage and foreclosure of the Mortgage, and all notice and other requirements of applicable statutes. 6. At the date of this notice the amount due on the Mortgage and taxes, if any paid by the holder of the Mortgage is \$57,407.13: 7. Pursuant to the power of sale in the Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the land described as follows: The North Half of Lot One (N1/2 of Lot 1), and the North Half of the East Half of Lot Two (N1/2 of E1/2 of Lot 2), all in Block Twelve (12), First Railway Addition to the Village of Ellendale; will be sold by the County Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota, at public auction on March 17, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., at the Steele County Sheriff's Department, 204 E. Pearl St., 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.

8. The time allowed by law for redemption by Mortgagors or Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is 6 months after the date of sale. 9. THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND ARE ABANDONED.

Date: January 21, 2016

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, P.A.

By: /s/ Karie M. Anderson Karie M. Anderson, #393522

Attorney for Mortgagee 215 E Elm Ave., PO Box 249 Waseca, MN 56093 (507) 835-5240

1/26, 2/2, 2/9 2/16, 2/26, 3/1

BP students return to the alleys... bowling alleys, that is

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Aaron Ressler, owner of Bunkies Grille & Lanes of Blooming Prairie, couldn't stop smiling upon seeing young bowlers enter his establishment. "It's been about six years since we have had high school physical education students come here to bowl and I'm very excited about it," said Ressler. Physical education and health instructor Kevin Driessen was instrumental in returning sophomore students to the local lanes. "It was something about funding and busing but it's been worked out," remarked Ressler. Blooming Prairie 10th graders, 17 in total, bowled at the lanes over the noon hour, 45 minutes in all each of four days. Driessen said he will bring a larger class to the lanes, maybe in April.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Jack Abbe enjoys his time at Bunkies Grille & Lanes as part of his physical education/health class.

"It's really fun to show the kids some life sports like bowling, and I also want to get them involved in golf, another life

sport," Ressler said. "I hope they are having fun because that's the whole goal," he added. The students definitely were enjoying themselves and took the game seriously, for the most part. "You got robbed," Ressler yelled to Brad Staska as he missed a split down the middle. "You went left like Blair Walsh (Vikings)," teased a friend. All bowlers are given the chance to get a score, thus if they don't finish a game in the 45-minute time span of the class, Ressler keeps the score sheet and continues it another day. "I'm not very good, but it's fun," laughed Megan Grunklee. Most in the sophomore class have bowled, Driessen said, but most only occasionally. "Whoever put that gutter in the lane can take it out," said one disgruntled bowler. "This is really something to

look forward to in school," said Brittany Boyd. Lucas Noble was enjoying a good game and said he and his friends definitely plan to return to the lanes on their own time. "It's a place to hang out," said Kory Rafdal. Ressler, who has been a bowling rat since a young age, was impressed by the technique shown by some of the bowlers. "We're getting there," he said. He planned to give each student a certificate for a free game of bowling. Driessen, a teacher with 31 years of experience, said he and his students feel "very welcome" at the lanes. "I have missed coming down here as we did in the past," he said. He hinted that bowling could possibly be opened to other grade levels in the future.

Chili Cook-Off bound to be a (hot) competition

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

With approximately 50 different chili concoctions available at the 12th Annual Chili Cook-Off, hungry attendees shall not want for anything. The 12th Annual Chili Cook-Off will be held at Ritchie Brothers Auctioneers on Saturday, Jan. 30 from 4 to 8 p.m. With spoons in hand, attendees will walk from chef to chef trying each chili, white or red. Chili tasters will then vote for their favorite red chili and favorite white chili, and the chef with the most votes in each category will win "People's Choice Award." The chefs sample each other's chili and then vote for their favorite red and white chili, and the most votes qualify a chef for the "Chef's Choice Award." The restaurant has its own category for best chili as well. "The Flame Award" is granted to the chili that receives the most votes in the spicy category. Past chili cook-off champi-

ons will also be acknowledged. "Many chefs have done it before and all 12 years actually," said organizer Bill Lawrence. "Folks are always tweaking their recipes. The chili might start the same, but spontaneity in ingredient additions is the fun of it." Voting goes from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Then organizers quickly count all the votes to reveal the chili champions. If attendees can eat more after sampling about 50 different chili recipes, there will also be hot dogs, chips and salsa, cookies and bars available. There will also be drinks. The funds raised at the event go toward the Andrew Lawrence Memorial Scholarship Fund. Andrew is the son of Bill and Marie Lawrence and was a student at St. Mary's Catholic School, where he excelled in his classes and had many friends. The Lawrence family suffered a great loss when 11 year-old Andrew died from injury after being struck by a

car while riding his bicycle on Sept. 14, 2003. Lawrence said that their family received many generous dollar donations for a memorial for Andrew in 2003. They decided to use that to create the Scholarship Fund in his memory and provide students with a scholarship to go towards their education. Through the Chili Cook Off, the Andrew Lawrence Memorial Scholarship Fund has been sustained. Each year five \$1,000 scholarships are granted to incoming college freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors attending a 4-year college. After this spring, the Andrew Lawrence Memorial Scholarship Fund will have granted \$37,000 worth of scholarships. Students eligible for the scholarship must have involvement with the local Catholic community, whether they attended Saint Mary's School in Owatonna, Sacred Heart Church, Saint Joseph Church, or Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Students must have a grade point average of 2.8 or higher and must show community leadership. "It is a social event more than anything," he said. "The Chili Cook-Off has been incredibly supported by members of Owatonna and Blooming Prairie, but we also get people from Wisconsin and Iowa." This is the first year that the Chili Cook-Off will be held at Ritchie Brothers Auctioneers. The event is typically celebrated at the Owatonna National Guard Armory, but due to some ongoing renovations the space was not in shape for the over 800 people that typically attend the Cook-Off. "Ritchie Brothers was very gracious and offered up their facilities," said Lawrence. Tickets are \$8 per person in advance and \$10 per person at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased at Kottke Jewelers, Owatonna Shoe, Huntington's or the Knights of Columbus Hall.

Cast prepares for performances of SportsBall!

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Each year, the Blooming Prairie High School one act play cast practices and performs a new production. This season, however, Director Ross Reishus couldn't find a fitting play for the group – so he wrote his own. "SportsBall!" offers a sneak-peek into a live sports broadcast on 24 Sports channel news, which covers unique sports including chess and croquet. As anchors Dee Generate (Rose Johnson,) Biff Swiffle (Jake Hyland) and their correspondents delve into a series of stories, they encounter a number of surprises and quirky sports enthusiasts. "In an effort to include every student who tries out, I usually read a lot of plays until I find something that suits our cast but, this year, I decided to write one for them," said Reishus. The play has undergone some revisions, and Reishus said the experience has been enjoyable as the play and cast transform together. In the past, Reishus actually began writing four other plays, but SportsBall! is his first completed work. "The four I started to write were out of inspiration or frustration with what I was seeing commercially," he said. This year, he also wanted something that would meet the specific needs of this cast. "I've read a lot of plays and I just wasn't finding one that would work well with this group," he said, adding that some of the cast members are also new to



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
Above are the cast and directors of SportsBall! Pictured in front is Austin Christians. In the second row, from left to right, are Rylee Fawver, Erica Langanieri and Rose Johnson. In the third row are Director Ellie Jones, Jake Hyland, Michael Pape, Alec Ille, Bryan Fristedt and Director Ross Reishus.

the theatre world. SportsBall! also offers opportunities for each cast member to shine. "It's hard to get students to commit to a play when they only have three or four lines (or less), and so we are trying to avoid that this year," explained Reishus. Many cast members take on multiple roles, adding to the depth of the performance. With so many characters, the cast must work closely together to maneuver through multiple costume changes and personas to match. Since SportsBall! is a live show, there's plenty of room for something to go wrong. "Being a comedy, not all of the interviews go as planned, and there is usually some chaos that goes with them," Reishus said. "We also have interviews with

retired hall of fame-like characters who expound on their old sport and give silly advice to the viewers." This is Reishus' seventh season as one act play director. Along with Reishus, teacher Ellie Jones also serves as director for the play, and Reishus is quick to note that he's greatly appreciated Jones' assistance with directing this year. "She has brought some excellent guidance to the group and I am grateful to be working with her," said Reishus. "I enjoy working with students outside of the classroom," said Jones. In past years, the one act cast typically included between 12-17 students, as opposed to this year's cast of eight. In 2013 and 2014, the Blooming Prairie one act cast won the sub-section

competition and advanced to sections. Last year, the cast took third place at the sub-section event in Triton, earning an honorable mention. Although Reishus admits that it is fun for the team to advance, he also believes the students also benefit from the one act experience in itself. "From the artistic side, they grow more confident and they develop interpersonal skills, too," he said. "It really helps their social skills and they develop a lot of communication skills." In addition, Reishus said that the experience provides an outlet for students who are not involved in sports or other extracurricular activities. "We have all kinds of fun, too," said Reishus. As the students prepare for their performances, Reishus and Jones have enjoyed watching them grow in their respective roles. The one act crew will perform at the sub-section competition at United South Central School, in Wells, on Saturday, Jan. 30. If they win the sub-section event, they crew will get another opportunity to compete again at sections, held on Saturday, Feb. 6, at Jordan High School in Jordan. The state competition will take place the following week, on Feb. 11 and 12, at St. Catherine's University in the Twin Cities. There will also be a free home performance, open to the public, at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 1 at Blooming Prairie High School.

Owatonna District announces new middle school principal

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

As the Owatonna Junior High School (grades seven through eight) converts to a middle school (grades six through eight), the Owatonna School District wanted a strong principal to lead the change.

On Jan. 13, it was announced that current Wilson Elementary School principal Julie Sullivan accepted the Owatonna Middle School principal position starting July 2016—a year before the school will function as 6-8.

The release for Sullivan’s acceptance states that “administrators wanted to have the principal in place long before then—to plan programmatic changes, prepare for a new group of students and help transition staff.”

As part of a referendum change, the junior high will be undergoing a series of updates throughout the entire building and additions to be complete by August of 2017. District Superintendent Peter Grant said that the addition to the junior will be about 60,000-square-feet, as the building preps for approximately 400 more students plus faculty from Willow Creek.

The change will require that the current Willow Creek School, which currently functions as a sixth-grade to be transformed to an elementary school.

Sullivan has already began preparing herself for a year of construction. She laughed that retired Owatonna High School Principal Jim Herzog called working in a building under construction like “fixing a plane while it is in flight.”

However, she has already been working closely with a committee that has a main focus of preparing the transition to the middle school. She was also a member of the Community Task Force on Facilities that recommended plans to the school board.

“Julie has started her transition by meeting with OJHS and WC staff on Wednesday discussing initial programming needs for a new middle school,” said Grant. “Throughout this spring and through the summer, Julie will be working with staff, Amy LaDue and the architect to



Sullivan

discuss design and planning for the new middle school.”

Since the six through eight grade concept is new to Owatonna, Sullivan said that she has been meeting with junior high and Willow Creek teachers to discuss “the key components of a middle school.”

“The bottom line is that nothing is set in stone, and we are working with a great group of teachers and staff to make this the best that it can be,” she said.

As far as grade configurations, Sullivan said that joining the sixth-grade with the seventh- and eighth-grade eliminates one more transition from school to school for students to endure.

“When the position was proposed to me, I thought that this can be an exciting adventure,” said Sullivan. “How many principals get to say that they got to helped build a program from the bottom floor up?”

She said that the hardest part of her decision was leaving the families and staff at Wilson Elementary School. While she is doing extra work to prepare for next year, she explained that she still has her work at Wilson. “It’s kind of like having your feet in two worlds,” she said.

She actually started her teaching career as a junior high English teacher in Jackson, Minnesota for two years.

Sullivan has been in the Owatonna School District since 1992. She spent her first two years as an English teacher at the Owatonna Junior High School, and then she was an English teacher at Owatonna

High School for six years. She was also the head coach of the girls cross-country team.

She spent four years as assistant principal at the Owatonna High School before becoming principal of Wilson Elementary School in 2010.

“I enjoyed working with junior high-aged students when I taught it. Even when I taught English, I taught ninth-grade, so they were just coming off that energy,” she said. “Having been a principal at elementary and an assistant principal at the high school, I know where they are coming from and where they are going.”

While Sullivan is comfortable and excited to begin her new position in six months, she admits that moving to the junior high school as it transitions to a middle school is going to be a “learning curve.”

“If you’re passionate about the kids and learning, that is critical,” she said. “Getting out of the office and visit the classrooms is the best way for me to learn. I think that is integral to understanding the needs of the teachers and the students.”

“Julie Sullivan has shown us time and again that she is a talented school leader. We believe she can lead staff, families and students through this important transition,” said Grant. “Converting the junior high to a true middle school is one of the most exciting academic changes we’ve made in the district, and it’s critical we have the right person managing that process.”

As for current Owatonna Junior High School Principal Jason Hunt, he will be leaving his position with the junior high school on June 30, 2016 for an unannounced position within the school district. Sullivan said that current Willow Creek Intermediate School Principal Jim Kiefer will also have a position within the school district available once the transition eliminates the need for a separate sixth-grade principal.

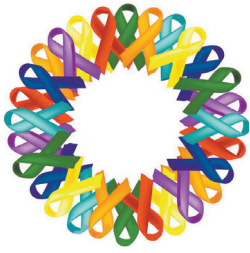
Willow Creek will serve as an elementary school eventually, as the district has

discussed closing Washington Elementary School for regular school but be kept in the district for sporting events. The Washington Elementary School principal is Beth Svenby.

Sullivan clarified that all current principals will, indeed, have a position available in the district despite the changes.

The release for Sullivan’s acceptance states that “the Wilson

Elementary principal position will be posted soon to ensure a new leader is on board by summer 2016.”



Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Cancer Corner

Support the fighters, Admire the survivors, Honor the taken.

Eagles Cancer Telethon breaks \$1 million mark for second year in a row

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

For the second straight year the Eagles Cancer Telethon has broken the \$1 million barrier to help with cancer research.

And two local organizations – Blooming Prairie Cancer Group and Owatonna Eagles, as well as many smaller groups or individuals throughout Steele County – helped raise \$1,047,097 over the weekend. The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group presented a \$73,000 check, while the Owatonna Eagles group provided a \$38,500 check.

Teresa Chapman, who along with her husband, Mike, heads the cancer telethon, said over the last six years there has been quite a jump in donations. In 1954, there was \$10,800 in donations for cancer research. In 2011, that number hit \$720,000, the next year saw an \$110,000 jump and in 2013, the cash reached \$903,000. The last two years donations have spiked over \$1 million.

The major reason is social media. “Getting social media going you have people touch-

ing people. The more stories shared the more inspired and passionate people become and the more involved they become,” Chapman said. “Years back we didn’t have social media, and now we do.”

Over the weekend there were also a couple of firsts.

The Green Bay Packers were playing a playoff football game meaning the telethon started on CW Rochester. Around midnight, the telethon was simulcast for the first time in history on CW Rochester and the normal station, KTTC.

“We reached a broader audience with that. It was nice,” Chapman said. “It was a change for everybody.”

In addition, the pledges that were called in and online increased. “People didn’t want to go out in the cold,” Chapman said.

In addition, members from the Owatonna Cancer Group usually mail in their checks. This time they drove to Rochester and presented their check. “When you walk in you have all of these people filling the floor, a whole hair cutting area, you have people performing and you are in an atmosphere of people wanting to



Submitted Photo
Mike and Teresa Chapman have been spearheading the Eagles Cancer Telethon over the past few years.

be there,” Chapman said. “You get involved in the excitement of it. Everybody starts sharing their stories. It motivates and inspired everybody around you in a crowd like that.”

As for those in Owatonna and Blooming Prairie, as well as others around the county, Chapman said they are creative and passionate about what they do. “They come up with some neat ideas,” she said. “Just to see the flags in Blooming Prairie, that is breath taking and brings tears. It reminds you of what you are doing.”

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TAX PREP GUIDE 2015

Make a last-minute estimated tax payment

If you didn’t pay enough to the IRS during the year, you may have a big tax bill staring you in the face. Plus, you might owe significant interest and penalties, too.

How could that happen? Withholding on your paycheck may be out of whack, or you may have

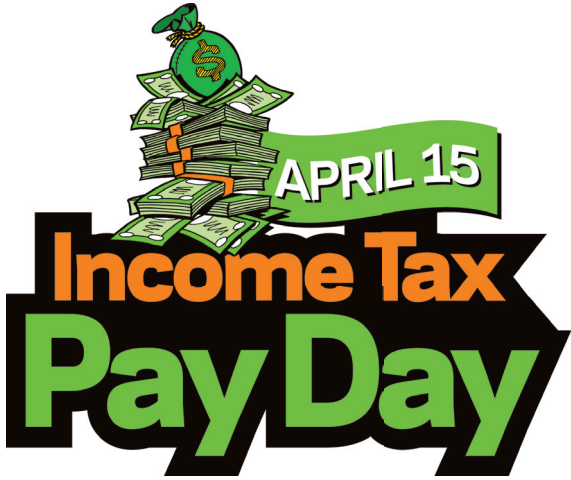
received a big gain from selling stock. According to IRS rules, you must pay 100 percent of last year’s tax liability or 90 percent of this year’s tax or you will owe an underpayment penalty. If your adjusted gross income for 2014 was more than \$150,000, you have to pay more than 110 percent of your 2015 tax liability to be protected from a 2015 underpayment penalty. If your tax

payments were a bit light, you may be stuck.

If you made an estimated payment by Jan. 15, though, you can erase any penalty for the fourth quarter, but you still will owe a penalty for earlier quarters if you did not send in any estimated payments back then. But if your income windfall arrived after Aug. 31, 2015, you can file Form 2210: Underpayment of Estimated

Tax to annualize your estimated tax liability, and possibly reduce any extra charges.

A note of caution: try not to pay too much. It’s better to owe the government a little rather than to expect a refund. Remember, the IRS doesn’t give you a dime of interest when it borrows your money.



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