Homecoming Festivities
8D



STEELE COUNTY
Times



Cross country
1B

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Soybean harvest well under way with good yields



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Cooperating weather conditions have allowed Ingvalson Farms to harvest about half of their acreage by mid-week last week.

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Soybean harvesting continued in earnest last week under sunny skies and into the evening in the Steele County Times readership area that includes Steele, Dodge, Freeborn and Mower counties.

Dry weather conditions enabled farmers the opportunity to start soybean harvesting in mid-morning and continuing into the late nighttime hours.

Yields are also above average, hitting the 60 bushel to the acre mark, says Jerry Ingvalson. Even marginal fields are reaching the 60 bushel mark, he said. He and his sons, Jeff and Mike, farm more than 2,000 acres in the Blooming Prairie area. The Ingvalsons also do custom harvesting.

Some bean fields have reportedly been hit be white mold, a fungus that causes a soybean plant to die. Ingvalson said he has seen some of this mold in their fields but not a large amount.

The Ingvalsons harvest in tandem, with brothers Jeff and Mike, each operating a John Deere 660 combine. The brothers have their custom harvesting and spraying business called MJC Farms.

Jerry leaves the soybean harvesting to his sons and gets involved in the corn harvest. That will begin soon, he said.

"The weather has been great," said Mike Ingvalson, as he guided his combine down the soybean rows. He and brother Jeff can each harvest about 14 acres in an hour. The combine is set on automatic pilot with a GPS following the straight as an arrow bean rows. The bean platform head measures 30 feet in width.

Jeff and Mike are able to continue harvesting beans and dumping their loads "on the go" into a cart that is pulled alongside by a tractor driven by Ryan Hensel.

SOYBEAN HARVEST
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Banquet recognizes 2015 BPEF Honorees

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

On Friday, six people were formally recognized as the 2015 Blossom Honorees, joining 35 other community members who have made a difference in the lives of students and others.

This year's Blossom Honorees include Distinctive Service Honorees Clair Coughlin, Wayne Ruhter, Honored Educator Kenny Behnken and Hall of Fame Athletes Bill Underwood, Ken Esplan and Lisa Zwiener Bruns. These six individuals were nominated for the honor and chosen by a group of Blooming Prairie School District alumni and other community members.

The alumni group of the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation (BPEF) selects and honors individuals each year and, this year, the Honorees were recognized during Blooming Prairie's Homecoming festivities. The Honorees were invited to ride in the Homecoming parade, attend the Homecoming football game (and be introduced to the crowd at halftime) and attend a meet and greet event at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. The group was further honored at the annual banquet, held on Saturday, Oct. 3. In years past, the banquet took place in January, but was moved to October this year to coincide with the Homecoming celebration.

On Saturday night, the BPEF hosted the banquet at the Servicemen's Club, welcoming the Honorees, their families, friends and all interested community members to enjoy a social hour, meal and program.

FOUNDATION
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Probation officer's main goal is to help elicit change in the offender

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Steele County probation officers play a key role in helping elicit changes in domestic abuse offenders.

"It's most gratifying and pretty powerful to have a father, also known as a domestic abuse offender, sitting across from you and seeing that he realizes he was doing things the wrong way," remarked Tim Schammel, probation services director for Steele and Waseca counties.

In witnessing positive changes in the domestic abuse offender, Schammel said agents often observe positive changes in the whole house-

PROBATION
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Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Headquarters for the Steele County Probation Services is located in the Steele County Courthouse at 111 East Main St. in Owatonna.



taken more seriously

Incidents continue to increase

Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Steele County Attorney Dan McIntosh addresses the audience during Saturday's Promoting Peace Conference in Owatonna.

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

The judicial system is taking domestic violence more seriously than it has in the past generation or two, according to Steele County Attorney Dan McIntosh. However, he also said that domestic violence incidents continue to slightly increase.

"The perception of domestic violence is that it is just an internal matter or family matter, but we all realize there are some societal costs to domestic violence," he said.

Methods for collecting evidence continue to improve, according to McIntosh. There are now digital recorders and digital cameras that increase the ability to document what goes on at the scene. "Officers are more in-tuned to how to deal with victims, but all of us in the system can use more on that," he said. "It is a very difficult group because of the family dynamics and economic dynamics in the family."

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Opinion

Our view

Discussing mental illness issues is the key to solutions

Having discussions is always a good way to learn more about an issue. On Friday, a group of people will be doing just that – discussing the various issues dealing with mental illness.

Community Conversations will be held at the Owatonna Public Library from 1 to 3 p.m. and the group will be discussing mental illness.

Mental illness has had its stigma over the years, but those who have been dealing with this see it improving.

Carolyn Wheeler, executive director of South Central Human Relations Center in Owatonna, said there has been more openness about mental illness in terms of people being more comfortable talking about it, admitting that they need help.

But she also admits there is a ways to go.

Mental illness touches everyone. According to National Alliance on Mental Illness statistics, one in four adults experience a mental health disorder each year, one in 17 adults lives with a serious mental illness like major depression, bipolar disorder or schizophrenia and one in five youth, ages 13-18, experience a severe mental health condition each year.

And the cost is devastating.

The same report says that serious mental illness costs America $193.2 billion in lost earnings per year.

In 2013, a Minnesota Student Survey provided more data. For instance, students in eighth, ninth and 11th grade were asked several questions involving self-inflicted injury that includes suicidal thoughts and suicidal behavior.

Steele County students were asked "have you ever seriously considered attempting suicide?" An estimated 20 percent of eighth grade females and 20 percent of 11th grade females stated that they have considered it in the last year. An estimated 9 percent of the 11th grade females said they had actually attempted suicide during the last year.

These statistics are staggering. And it is important to continue conversations to find ways to help with this situation.

As Wheeler said, "kids are experiencing distress and need help."



Community newspapers matter



HOT PURSUIT

Rick Bussler

The power of the press is an amazing thing.

Each week thousands of people depend on their local newspaper to tell them the news and information they need to know about life in general. Sometimes it's good, sometimes it's not so good, while other times it's plain old indifferent.

When we think of power, we often think big. In the case of the media, it's the New York Times or the Washington Post that most likely comes to mind. Within Minnesota, we think of the Star Tribune of Minneapolis. But small community newspapers like the Steele County Times are also powerful and most relevant to the communities they serve.

The theme for this year's National Newspaper Week is "Power of the Press." Newspaper week is being recognized across the land this week, and it gives us a chance to remind readers about the powerful influence we play in their lives.

This year is the 75th anniversary of National Newspaper Week. Managers at the National Newspaper Association created the week in 1940 as a time to celebrate the newspaper industry.

Doomsayers have been talking about the demise of newspapers for many years. While many daily newspapers in major cities have struggled, it's a whole different story with community newspapers serving the small towns of America. Community papers are thriving!

Newspaper week is a chance to remind our readers of what newspapers mean to them, explaining our watchdog role, touting our coverage of local government and politics, and reiterating our commitment to providing reliable community information and public notice.

The Steele County Times is one of maybe a small handful of news organizations that care at all about what happens in Blooming Prairie, Owatonna and Steele County. The local newspaper is mighty important to those who call those places home.

Community newspapers have the mighty power to bring about great good and make profound differences in the communities they serve. At the Times, we're always trying to find ways to endure and prosper, but more importantly, we always strive to build trust with our readers. We want to be that powerful force within the community that people depend upon.

Readers often have a unique relationship with their local newspaper. One week the paper will be praised and then the next it may be despised and cussed with expletives we don't care to repeat. It is not only impossible to always be liked, but it is not really that important for us. What matters most to us is that we are respected and even more importantly trusted.

The secret to a successful community newspaper is to be trusted with readers. After all, that is the true Power of the Press. We all know the power of the press is still a force to be reckoned with across this nation.

It's time to get down to business and go in hot pursuit of showing readers the amazing power of the press.

Make your money matter; invest for impact

With our Annual Luncheon approaching in October, it's time to measure the impact of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation's (SMIF) dollars across our 20-county region. Through loans, grants, and hours of technical assistance, SMIF invested $5.5 million dollars in southern Minnesota this past fiscal year, up about a million dollars from fiscal year 2014.

Our growth was driven by gains across all of our program areas. For example, we added eight community-driven funds; six of SMIF's community foundations capitalized on a major gift match to build their endowment funds; SMIF's newly established equity fund supported four early stage business investments; we assisted over 35 small businesses through loans and technical support; loan volume to small businesses increased; and we greatly expanded our early childhood efforts through two new grants to help us build an Early Childhood Dental Network and our Quality Child Care Program.

None of these program gains would have been possible without our strong network of regional partners and stakeholders. While $5.5 million is a large number, our investments are relatively small. With harvest season upon us, I'm reminded how similar the work of SMIF is to that of a farmer. We plant small seeds through our incentive grants and small business loans and equity investments, then watch these seeds take root and thrive. In order to make these investments, we rely not only on our Foundation's endowment, but on the nearly 300 donors who make our work possible.

Local donations make up about 10 percent of the Foundation's annual revenue. While this may seem small, it's important to mention that for every dollar contributed locally, SMIF is able to leverage another $10. That is why the local donations by



community members, banks, businesses and government entities are so vital. The seeds we're sowing are a crucial part of our region's long-term sustainability. Our local donors also know that SMIF manages its budget prudently. At SMIF, we work to keep administrative costs low, which results in 90 percent of the money we receive going directly to our community-based projects and activities.

Whether or not you are a current SMIF donor, I urge you to spend a little time researching the many ways to align your values with your investments. If your passion is for supporting our next generation, donate to our Youth Trust Fund or consider becoming an AmeriCorps Member. Perhaps your passion is supporting small businesses; consider becoming a mentor through our SCORE Network or giving to our Entrepreneur Fund. If you're a farmer looking towards retirement, check out SMIF's Farmland Retention Program. If you are a local food enthusiast, consider supporting the upcoming Feast! Local Foods Marketplace event. To support our work across all programs, you can donate to our General Endowment Fund. Whatever your motivation for giving, we encourage you to become part of our collaborative network for regional growth.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at timp@smifoundation.org or 507-455-3215.

Tim Penny, President/CEO
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation

Weigh in with our online poll at
www.steeledodgenews.com

This week's question: How often do you read your community newspaper?

*I always read the local paper!
*I sometimes read the paper.
*I never read community newspapers.

Readers are encouraged to vote at steeledodgenews.com. This poll is not a pure scientific sampling of readers' views, but rather, is intended to create community discussion of issues.

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2015
4 National Awards
7 State Awards

2014
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(Awards presented by Minnesota Newspaper Association and National Newspaper Association)

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DEADLINES

News: Noon Fridays.
Advertising: 4 p.m. Thursdays.

LETTERS POLICY

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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower....$38
Elsewhere in Minnesota.....$40
Out of state..... $42



PROBATION

Continued from Page 1A

hold.

Probation officers get to know the domestic abuse offender during the time of probation and may meet with the offender on a regular basis up to three years.

Schammel was appointed probation supervisor in August. He supervises adult and juvenile agents in both counties and facilitates their duties. He also supervises the Steele/Waseca drug court employees. Prior to assuming his current position, Schammel was an adult probation officer, logging 12 years in the field.

Schammel, a native of Owatonna, said he initially was aiming to be a law enforcement officer. "I then decided I wanted to be on the other end of the spectrum, having a passion for helping and assisting people and getting them back on track," Schammel explained.

Graduating from Owatonna High School in 1998, Schammel went on to earn a degree in corrections from Mankato State University.

Even though probation services and other agencies are making progress in rehabilitating domestic abuse offenders, Schammel said domestic abuse cases are on the rise.

A 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence (NISVS) survey by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 684,000 Minnesota women will be subjected to rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

In 2011, the Minnesota Department of Health's Minnesota Injury Data Access System (MIDAS) recorded 1,064 patients (908 battery/maltreatment and 156 rapes) that received treatment for injuries at hospitals throughout the state. A total of 153 (97 percent) of rape patients and 767 (84 percent) of battery/maltreatment patients were women.

National statistics show that one in four women have been victims of severe violence by an intimate partner while one in seven men have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner.

County probation officers play a major role in helping the courts determine what type of sentencing and probation guidelines are assessed on the domestic abuser, Schammel said.

Probation officers are the lead professionals in putting together a pre-sentence investigation of the domestic abuser. The domestic abuse defendant must first complete a domestic violence inventory (DVI). It is designed for the adult male and female domestic violence offender assessment and is a state-of-the-art domestic violence perpetrator test.

The DVI has 159 items, takes about 30 minutes to complete and has six measures or scales. It is used in courts, probation departments, community corrections, clinics, treatment programs, etc. This test is appropriate for both misdemeanor and felony cases. The DVI evaluates violence (lethality) potential, assesses control issues, quantifies substance (alcohol and other drugs) abuse and measures stress handling abilities.

County probation officers receive cases from the court, whether a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor. The court determines conditions of probation after probation officers complete the Presentence Investigation Report.

The pre-sentence investigation involves an interview with the defendant. During this process the court is given background information on the offense and the defendant's risk is assessed on the basis of low-medium-high levels. The probation officers also screen defendants to determine if further drug or alcohol evaluation is needed.

Probation officers, during the presentence investigation, also touch base with the victims to see if victims' have any damages or concerns. Restitution may also be an issue and an affidavit for restitution and an impact statement is made an option for the victims in these cases.

It is important "to get their side of the story" when talking to victims, Schammel said.

Probation officers touch on the facts of the case, studying police incident reports and looking at the criminal history of the abuser.

When the presentence investigation information has been fully collected, information is submitted to the court for recommendations of supervision. Probation officers also provide the court with domestic abuse pre-trial evaluations. This information helps the court in setting bail and release conditions.

After sentencing the court places the offender on probation. A new chemical dependency assessment may be required as a part of sentencing. Some of the conditions may specify that the offender remain sober and not use chemicals. Testing may also be a condition and likely will be done on a regular basis.

Often a more in-depth Domestic Abuse Evaluation may be conducted by South Central Human Relations Center here in Owatonna. Individual or group sessions may be arranged with a referral to the South Central Human Relations Center as well. Schammel emphasizes that his



Schammel

department does no counseling, only the assessment of risk and need for the court and monitoring of conditions of a sentence.

Domestic abuse is a learned behavior, Schammel emphasizes. Most of the time the abuser has either witnessed abuse in the home or been a victim of abuse. "This is discovered during the presentence work and thus, we find the abuser a product of their environment," Schammel said.

Most of the abusers are males, Schammel pointed out. The abuse is learned through family, peer group and culture as a way of life, Schammel said. "We often see the end goal of the abuser as a process of manipulation and control," Schammel added. Offenders choose manipulation and control to achieve compliance from their victims, he revealed.

It's a revolving door type of an effect. Schammel believes domestic abusers' children witness abuse and thus become potential abusers themselves. Abuse becomes a way of solving issues or gaining compliance, Schammel said. He said the abuse may be learned as early as three years of age and more likely during adolescence as a teenager.

Assault may be committed against a first girlfriend or against brothers, sisters and parents.

"When we change the behavior of the offender and stop them from being a domestic abuser, we are affecting the abuser, their children and thus the whole household. This behavior change affects how the children will raise their families."

Probation agents get to know the offender and are well trained in the use of motivational interviewing techniques, Schammel said. It is the agent's goal to eliminate witnessing of abuse and victimizing others, Schammel said.

Agents are "very passionate" in their work, Schammel said "and that's why we do what we do in trying to promote restorative justice and rehabilitation. These cases can be very difficult but yet by far the most rewarding, because when we are helping an abuser, a lot of the times we are helping five or six family members as well."

Probation agents develop relationships with defendants through trust "and we help them not feel like we are an authority figure hovering over them," Schammel said. "This can take time," he concluded.

Domestic Violence Overview Steele County 2009-2015

2009	SCSO	OPD	BPPD
Domestic Incidents	24	86	1
Domestic Arrests	9	10	0
Interfere with 911 Arrests	2	13	0
Felony Strangulation Arrests	1	11	0
Other Domestic Disturbances	4	4	0

2010	SCSO	OPD	BPPD
Domestic Incidents	12	105	3
Domestic Arrests	0	18	0
Interfere with 911 Arrests	1	18	0
Felony Strangulation Arrests	1	9	0
Other Domestic Disturbances	4	3	0

2011	SCSO	OPD	BPPD
Domestic Incidents	12	118	1
Domestic Arrests	8	94	1
Interfere with 911 Arrests	2	15	0
Felony Strangulation Arrests	0	11	0
Other Domestic Disturbances	3	1	2

2012	SCSO	OPD	BPPD
Domestic Incidents	9	117	3
Domestic Arrests	7	87	2
Interfere with 911 Arrests	1	6	0
Felony Strangulation Arrests	0	7	1
Other Domestic Disturbances	3	6	1

2013	SCSO	OPD	BPPD
Domestic Incidents	49	109	4
Domestic Arrests	19	79	3
Interfere with 911 Arrests	1	12	0
Felony Strangulation Arrests	4	8	0
Other Domestic Disturbances	9	10	0

2014	SCSO	OPD	BPPD
Domestic Incidents	18	127	6
Domestic Arrests	15	102	2
Interfere with 911 Arrests	1	12	0
Felony Strangulation Arrests	4	8	0
Other Domestic Disturbances	16	8	1

2015 *(through September)*	SCSO	OPD	BPPD
Domestic Incidents	12	104	3
Domestic Arrests	9	78	2
Interfere with 911 Arrests	1	9	0
Felony Strangulation Arrests	2	4	0
Other Domestic Disturbances	1	0	0

Source: Steele County Law Enforcement Center Records

SCSO - Steele County Sheriff Office
OPD - Owatonna Police Department
BPPD - Blooming Prairie Police Department

ENFORCEMENT

Continued from Page 1A

A domestic violence program was held in Owatonna on Saturday that included an opportunity for professionals and members of the public to learn more about domestic violence. It included a scenario presented by Sixth Judicial District Court Judge Shaun Floerke with the hope of helping those present better support, safety and accountability for people and families.

"This helps give people the ability to approach their work with some freshness," Floerke said during an interview after the session. "It provides them the ability to look at it with new eyes or fresh eyes."

Many categories of crimes have slowly decreased over the years, however, domestic violence-related cases are on a slow increase. "It is kind of bucking national trends of lowering crime rates," McIntosh said. "All of our sentencing we try to strike a good balance between punishment and rehabilitation. We just don't seem to hit the sweet spot of what the balance is with these offenders."

Research also shows that there are usually a number of domestic violence incidents before there is a report. "There is usually an escalation of yelling and screaming, pushing and shoving and then a real serious assault," McIntosh said.

Chemical use also seems to be a factor in domestic violence.

Domestic violence laws have toughened since 2007 when the Minnesota State Legislature created a new felony crime by strangulation that doesn't require any prior conviction. "Just on its own, it is a felony," McIntosh said.

The legislature also created the domestic abuse on contact order that can be enhanced to a felony if there is a prior conviction. "The basic domestic violence case to get to a felony level still requires two prior convictions within 10 years," McIntosh said. "That is where you get some of the frustration from law enforcement and a prosecutor is it just takes a long time to get some real teeth in it."

The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women reported 37 deaths due to domestic abuse in Minnesota in 2013. Twenty-four were women and seven were men who's killer or suspected killer was a current or past intimate partner. The remaining six were men who were friends or family members killed in domestic violence situations. The youngest victim in the 2013 report was a 16-year-old girl killed by her 17-year-old boy friend.

Statistics compiled by the Coalition also date back to 2011 when Minnesota District Courts handled 27,288 domestic violence cases. Of that total, 2,853 were felony domestic assault, 2,863 were gross misdemeanor domestic assault, 10,607 were misdemeanor domestic assault and 10,965 were cases of family orders for protection.

Domestic risk factors considered during the pre-sentence investigation may involve these areas:

- Involvement of alcohol and drugs.
- Threats made.
- Level of abuse or type.
- Were children present?
- Police contact at the home.
- Have pets been injured or killed?
- Broken or damaged property in past incidences.
- Was a weapon involved?
- Was victim a witness to or a victim of abuse when growing up?
- Has an order for protection or harassment restraining order been issued in this or past relationships?

What are the characteristics of abusers?

- Verbally abusive.
- Abusers often minimize abuse.
- Abusers have substance abuse issues.
- Abusers often damage property because of anger.
- They have a history of anger, and/or violence.
- They project blame.
- They are cruel to children and animals.
- Jealousy.
- Controlling.
- They impose isolation on their victims, keeping them from the public and thus minimizing repercussions.

About this Domestic Violence Series

This Week:
Promoting Peace Conference

Next Week:
Offenders and police response

Oct. 20:
Shelters for abuse victims

Oct. 27:
How Courts handle domestic violence



Every minute 20 people are victims of intimate partner violence.

A women is beaten every 9 seconds in the U.S.

Domestic violence is the third leading cause of homelessness among families

SOYBEAN HARVEST

Continued from Page 1A

Mike stated. The carts each have a scale built in their design.

The carts, which hold about 1,000 bushels, are then unloaded into semi trucks. The trucks can haul 55,000 pounds of beans. The soybeans are hauled to three elevators: Blooming Prairie, Lansing and Hope.

Mike said he has his radio to keep him company during the harvest season but it is tough to stay awake sometimes when the sun sinews into the tractor cab.

Soybean harvesting usually starts at between 9 and 10 a.m. and continues until the dew sets in at midnight or 1 in the morning, Mike said.

The Ingvalsons were about half finished with the soybean harvest late last week. This harvest progress is normal, the Ingvalsons said. On a statewide basis, soybean harvesting is reported to be about nine days ahead of average.

Because of the good weather conditions, it has not been necessary for the Ingvalsons to dry their soybeans. "This speeds up the process when you don't have to use a dryer," Mike said.

Corn harvesting usually begins in mid-October but may be earlier this year. The Minnesota Crop Progress & Condition released by the United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service said corn was about eight days ahead of average maturity. Corn yield is predicted to be high and some area farmers are reporting moisture at 21 percent for corn, which is reported to be good at this time of the season.

With the soybean and corn crops coming in with good yields, area farmers hope the prices go upward. Beans are currently selling at $8.15 a bushel and corn is at $3.25 a bushel.

4-H grows in Steele County

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

This week is National 4-H Week, and 4-Hers across the nation are celebrating a program that's changed their lives and helped them to grow. Fittingly, this year's National 4-H Week theme is "4-H Grows Here."

According to Cathy Nelson, of the University of Minnesota's Extension Office (Steele County), approximately 1,500 youth were involved in 4-H in some capacity during 2015 thus far, including 575 youth involved in "traditional" 4-H (members who belong to a club that meets monthly and who participate year-round in 4-H project work and activities.) An additional 448 participants were involved through after school clubs in Ellendale, Blooming Prairie, Medford and Owatonna. Another 324 youth took part in "4-H on Wheels" this summer and 161 took part in "Splash into 4-H" in June.

The benefits of 4-H, Nelson said, are endless. "4-H gives youth a chance to grow in a wide variety of ways," she said. "Their interaction and cooperation with other 4-Hers and caring adults allows them to grow their social skills in a safe environment. Their project work helps them develop intellectually as they research, plan and produce their exhibits. Their talents are augmented by hands-on learning and working on projects throughout the year. Emotional growth is an integral part of their competitive experiences, such as county fair judging and softball, through which they learn to handle triumphs and disappointments in a balanced and healthy way."

Kalyn Naatz, a senior Blooming Prairie High School student, is involved in both 4-H and FFA. She lives on a farm and enjoys being involved with agriculture. Naatz enjoys showing beef, sheep, ducks and rabbits at both the county and state fair and is a member of the Merry Lane 4-H Club. "My life kind of revolves around 4-H and FFA," said Naatz, with a laugh. "It gives you opportunities you normally wouldn't get. It improves your talking abilities and gives you life lessons. And, it's fun to meet new people every day."

And, while 4-H does provide excellent opportunities for youth interested in agriculture, it also offers much more. "4-H provides youth with opportunities in over 60 project areas and even allows 4-Hers to develop their own 'self-determined' project if they don't find their interest in a standard project area," explained Nelson.

In 2016, Steele County 4-H will also offer an active shooting sports project for youth with state trained leaders.

Naatz said she would encourage others curious about 4-H to consider becoming a member. "I wouldn't be the person I am today without it," she said.

"4-H is a family friendly organization in which youth have a chance to grow in a safe environment through fun hands-on projects and activities," Nelson adds.

Youth in kindergarten up to one year after graduating high school can become 4-H members. It's easy to enroll online at https://mn.4honline.com. (A valid email address is required.) For more information about enrolling, families can also call the extension office at 507-444-7685 or visit the Steele County Extension's website at www.extension.umn.edu/county/steele.













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How to find a better Medicare prescription drug plan



THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by: Prairie Manor Care Center

Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus
220 3rd St. NW, Blooming Prairie
583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,
I recently received a letter from my Medicare drug plan provider notifying me that they are increasing my co-pays next year. I'd like to look for a better plan but could use some guidance. What's the easiest way to do this?
Need a Change

Dear Need,
Cost increases and coverage changes are an annual event for many Medicare Part D prescription drug plans. Fortunately, during the open enrollment period (which is Oct. 15 – Dec. 7), you have the ability to shop and compare plans and choose one that better fits your needs and budget. Your new plan will go into effect Jan.1, 2016. Here are some tips that can help with this process.

Shop online
If you have Internet access and are comfortable using a computer, you can easily shop for and compare all Medicare drug plans in your area, and enroll in a new plan online.

Just go to Medicare's Plan Finder Tool at medicare.gov/find-a-plan, and type in your ZIP code or your personal information, enter in how you currently receive your Medicare coverage, select the drugs you take and their dosages, and choose the pharmacies you use. You'll get a cost comparison breakdown for every plan available in your area so you can compare it to your current plan.

This tool also provides a five-star rating system that evaluates each plan based on past customer service records, and suggests generics or older brand name drugs that can reduce your costs.

It's also important to keep in mind that when you're comparing drug plans, don't judge a plan strictly by its monthly premium cost. Low-premium plans are often associated with higher prescription co-payments and may end up being more expensive. Look at the "estimated annual drug costs" that shows how much you can expect to pay over a year in total out-of-pocket costs – including premiums, deductibles and co-pays.

Also, be sure the plan you're considering covers all of the drugs you take with no restrictions. Most drug plans today place the drugs they cover into price tiers. A drug placed in a higher tier may require you to get prior authorization or try another medication first before you can use it.

Need Help?
If you need some help choosing a new plan, contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which provides free one-on-one Medicare counseling in person or over the phone. They also conduct seminars during the open enrollment period at various locations throughout each state. To find the contact information for your local SHIP visit shiptacenter.org, or call the eldercare locator at 800-677-1116.

Shrinking donut hole
You also need to know that Medicare's "donut-hole" – the coverage gap in which you must pay out-of-pocket for your drugs – continues to shrink. In 2016, you will get a 55 percent discount on brand-name drugs, and the federal subsidy for generic medications will rise to 42 percent.

The 2016 coverage gap begins when your total drug cost exceeds $3,310 (that includes your share and the insurer's share of the costs) and ends when your total out-of-pocket costs reach $4,850. After that, your Part D plan usually covers around 95 percent of your remaining drug costs for the year.

Low-income assistance
Also, be aware that if you're income is under $17,655 or $23,895 for married couples living together, and your assets are below $13,640 or $27,250 for married couples not counting your home, car or life insurance policy, you may be eligible for the federal Low Income Subsidy known as "Extra Help" that pays Part D premiums, deductibles and copayments. For more information or to apply, call Social Security at 800-772-1213 or visit socialsecurity.gov/extrahelp.

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, Oct. 11, 2005
Publisher Dan Evans

Cierra Coughlin, daughter of Mark and Bonnie Coughlin, gave her bike to the Cancer Benefit Auction on Sept. 10. Cierra also gave a length of her hair to the Eagles Cancer Telethon. This donation will be used to make wigs for children cancer victims.

The Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation presented its Ground Breaker Service Award to Ken Trom at its Regional Recognition Luncheon recently in Owatonna. Trom was a founding member of the Foundation's Board, serving from 1986 to 1994. Also receiving the Ground Breaker Service Award this year is Tom McCarthy.

20 Years Ago
Tuesday, Oct. 10, 1995
Elsie Slinger Editor

When the Blooming Prairie City Street Department dug out the sludge at the bottom of Pine Springs Pool over a week ago, Dan Nordman went at it again. Nordman, who found Julie Noble's class ring at the bottom of the pool after being missing for 17 years, took his trusty Garrett-GTA 500 metal detector right at the pile, just in case something valuable was in there. This time he found a 1968 men's ring, belonging to former Blooming Prairie student William Carroll. The ring, owner by Noble's mother, Marlene (Clark) Symes, and Carroll, were both identified using the initials engraved on the two rings. Lorraine Carroll, William's mother, still lives in town, so Nordman stopped by her main street house and told her. When she called her son to tell him, he was speechless. "He said he didn't believe it would ever be found," she said. "He also said he didn't think it would fit anymore." The ring cost $30 when it was purchased. Mrs. Carroll compared that to the price of her Blooming Prairie class ring in 1931, which cost $8. Today, a ring costs well over $250.

50 Years Ago
Thursday, Oct. 7, 1965
Victor, Vernon and Vyrle Krejci, Editors

Twenty residents of Blooming Prairie were among over 1,400 scout leaders and their wives in attendance at the annual Gamehaven Council, Boy Scouts of America Fellowship Banquet, held Thursday evening Sept. 30 at the Mayo Civic Center Auditorium in Rochester. One of the highlights of the program held following the banquet was the presenting of the coveted Silver Beaver Award to George Frederickson, Blooming Prairie scouting enthusiast. Mr. Frederickson has an outstanding record of Boy Scout service. He has been a cubmaster, scoutmaster, associate Explorer, advisor, district officer and council executive board member. He was also chairman of the council's 1964 National Jamboree delegation and is presently serving as Council Explorer Chairman.

The "Petal Tones," Blooming Prairie High School's Swing Band, will perform at the "Miss Minnesota Universe" pageant on Saturday, Oct. 16, in the Austin High School auditorium. The 16-piece band has been featured at the State Fair and numerous dances in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa. Not only is the group sharp musicians, dressed in red vests or jumpers and white shirts and blouses, but 75% of them are also on the school honor roll.

75 Years Ago
Thursday, Oct. 10, 1940
Frank Krejci, Publisher

2,000 farmers of Steele, Mower, Freeborn and Dodge Counties received invitations this week to attend a mass meeting Tuesday, Oct. 15 at the community hall in Blooming Prairie. The meeting has been called to expand interest in the new proposed soybean mill processing plant here. Farmers will be given an opportunity to express their viewpoints on the mill. A practical soybean mill operator of many years experience has been booked to speak at the meeting and tell the facts concerning the operation, profit and benefit derived from such a mill. Free coffee and doughnuts will be served to all. The meeting is open to everyone but farmers are especially urged to attend, regardless of where they live.

E.T Thompsons, the Chevrolet man, received definite proof this week that his sales ability has not been overlooked by the powers that be. From the General Motors Corp., Ernie has received a bonus check for $195 as a token of his good work in selling 1940 model Chevrolet cars the past year.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

Accountants

Johnson & Doerhoefer P.A.
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Tamzen R. Johnson
Certified Public Accountant
319 East Main • Blooming Prairie
888- 933-6828 • Fax: 507- 583-2389

Automotive

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Community

Obituaries

Tillie Ressler, 98, Blooming Prairie



Tillie C. Ressler, 98 of Blooming Prairie, died Friday, Oct. 2, 2015, at Prairie Manor Care Center.

Tillie Christine Risovi was born Jan. 8, 1917, in Hamberg, North Dakota, the daughter of Joseph and Mary (Barnett) Risovi, Sr. She grew up in Hamberg and graduated from high school in Maddock, North Dakota, in 1936.

Tillie moved to Blooming Prairie in 1938 and worked at various area businesses including the Cozy Inn, Josten's, Harriet's Dres-Wel and Ressler Lanes and Café. She married George B. Ressler on Feb. 14, 1946, at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie, where the couple remained members. Tillie was secretary of the CCW and belonged to the Bridge Club.

Other favorite pastimes included bowling, golfing, quilting, working in her flower gardens, as well as baking and cooking. She especially enjoyed spending time with her family and friends; she loved her grandchildren and great-grandchildren very much.

Tillie is survived by her husband George Ressler of Blooming Prairie; her children David Ressler of Blooming Prairie and Joanie (Harry) Muellner of Rochester; six grandchildren, Kristin (Jack) Holforty of Carmel, Indiana, Michael Ressler and Aaron Ressler, both of Blooming Prairie, Eric (Melanie) Ressler of Ackworth, Georgia, Brian (Sarah) Muellner of Rochester and Andrea (Chris) Peterson of Eden Prairie; seven great-grandchildren, Jackson and Taylor Holforty, Jake, Jessica, Connor and Kensley Ressler, and Broderick Muellner; her sister Lillie Neumiller of Spokane, Washington; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents Joseph and Mary Risovi; twin daughters Karen and Sharen Ressler; two brothers Joseph and Stanley Risovi; granddaughter Bethany Muellner; and great-grandson Jordan Ressler.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015, at St. Columbanus Catholic Church with the Rev. Tom Niehaus officiating. Visitation will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015, at the Blooming Prairie Funeral Home and one hour prior to the service at the church on Wednesday. There will be a parish rosary service at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

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

Clifford Bartsch, 86, Owatonna



Clifford J. Bartsch, 86, of Owatonna died on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015, at his home due to kidney failure.

Clifford was born on May 17, 1929, in Geneva, the son of Lawrence and Magdaline (Larson) Bartsch. He attended school through the eighth grade in Geneva and then graduated from high school in Ellendale in 1949.

After graduation Clifford worked at the Standard Oil Station in Geneva until he entered the military in January of 1951. He attended basic training in Fort Riley, Kansas. Then he attended heavy duty equipment school in Iwo Jima, Japan, for several months before serving in Korea. During his tour in Korea, he helped build roads, dams and the Kimpo Air Base. He received 19 months of combat pay for his military service in 1953. Upon returning from Korea, Clifford worked at a creamery in Clarks Grove for about a year before working for Sorenson Construction for several years.

On July 24, 1955, he married Darlene Jensen at the Aurora Lutheran Church in Havana Township. In 1957 he started working at the Steele County Highway Department until his retirement in 1987. During those years he had other jobs, including working on cars at a garage in Pratt, grading roads for Aurora Township and owning Bartsch's Oil Service where he fixed many tires and worked on cars.

Clifford was a member of Aurora Lutheran Church. He served on the church council for 25 years, was church janitor for 15 years and helped build the Aurora Diner. He enjoyed working at the diner during the Steele County Free Fair each year and did so for 40 years.

While his children attended District 71 Country School, he served on the school board. Clifford enjoyed old cars, going to car shows, travelling and playing cribbage. His greatest enjoyment was spending time with his family and friends.

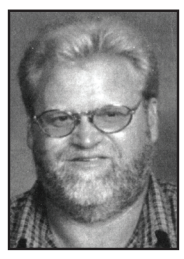
Clifford is survived by his wife of 60 years, Darlene, of Owatonna; children Steve (Christine) Bartsch of Owatonna, Barb (Mike) Bishman of Owatonna, Kayla (Brett) Paape of Owatonna, and Angie (Lee) Shaw of West St. Paul; grandchildren Jessie (Carlos) Bartsch, Jeremy (Caitlin) Bartsch, Melissa Spinler, Brittney (Cody) Bartsch, Corey (Melissa) Bishman, Casey (Kasey) Bishman, Cole (Lindsey) Bishman, Krystle (Travis) Johnson, Mandi (Shane) Hewitt, Emily Paape, Katelynn Paape, and Micah Shaw; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Also surviving are brother Harold (Bernice) Bartsch of Owatonna; sisters Jean Ahlstrom of Geneva and Mary (Paul) Groth of Ellendale; brother-in-law Wyman Jensen of Owatonna; and sisters-in-law Mavis Bartsch of Geneva; Betty Jensen of Owatonna and Kathy Jensen of Owatonna. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his son Michael Bartsch; his parents; sister Margaret; brother Donald; father and mother-in-law Lawrence and Nora Jensen; sisters-in-law Janet Jensen and Betty Pichner; brothers-in-law Raymond Ahlstrom, Roger Jensen, Orie Jensen and Eugene Pichner.

Visitation was at Aurora Lutheran Church on Oct. 5, 2015. Funeral services were held Oct. 5, 2015, with the Rev. Paul Nelson officiating. Interment will be in the Aurora Lutheran Cemetery. Military honors provided by the Steele County Military Funeral Unit. Michaelson Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

Michael Bartsch, 57, Claremont



Michael Dean Bartsch of Claremont passed away peacefully at Homestead Hospice House on Sept. 27, 2015, following an extended illness. He was 57.

Mike was born to Clifford and Darlene (Jensen) Bartsch on Oct. 12, 1957. He attended District 71 Country School through sixth grade and then attended Owatonna High School, where he graduated in 1976. He participated in FFA, 4-H and wrestling. After graduation he worked with various construction firms and auto body repair shops.

He served as a Special Deputy and volunteered with Civil Defense for many years. On Nov. 14, 1981, Mike married Renee Springer at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna; they later divorced. From 2000-2011 Mike served as the Animal Control Officer for the City of Owatonna where his love for animals was evident. He enjoyed fishing, hunting and had a love for nature.

One of his hobbies was finding and collecting antiques. Mike was a man of many talents and engineered anything and everything out of wood and steel. He enjoyed spending his free time working on projects and spending time with family and friends.

Mike is survived by his daughters Krystle (Travis) Johnson of Owatonna and Mandi (Shane) Hewitt of Rochester; granddaughter Ayla Hewitt; parents Clifford and Darlene Bartsch of Owatonna; siblings Steve (Christine) Bartsch of Owatonna and Barb (Mike) Bishman of Owatonna; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

May God rest his soul and bless those fortunate to have known him especially the caring staff of hospice.

Visitation was at Aurora Lutheran Church on Oct. 5, 2015. Funeral services were held Oct. 5, 2015, at Aurora Lutheran Church, Havana Township, with the Rev. Paul Nelson officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the family. Michaelson Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

Milestones

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Oct. 6
Gene Ward

Oct. 7
Linda Gravenish
Brad Klemmensen
Rebeka DeYoung

Oct. 8
Ethan Jenzen
Adam Trotman
Brandon Haubenschild

Oct. 9
Mark Coughlin

Oct. 10
Elisa Wright
Steve Vaith
Victor Peterson
Catelyn Bartlett
Anna Miller
Kristin Bishop
Jamie Klemmensen
Brad Bruggeman

Oct. 11
Samantha Nelson
Meinard Haberman
Patrick Jones

Oct. 12
J.R. Shawback
Ian Paulson
Travis Doocy
Alexa Miner
Aaron Anderson
Otto Ehlers
Candace Anderson
Candace Bartlett

Oct. 13
Isreal Wacek
Paula Ressler
Chad Forystek
Cody Burkhart
Rebecca Rogers

Anniversaries

Oct. 7
Davin and Jennifer Johnson
Lee and Karla Trotman
Jeff and Kim Erickson

Oct. 8
Carl and Kathi Peterson

Oct. 10
Sheila and Gary Wiese
Mark and Joan McDonald

Oct. 11
Scott Musel and Cathy Janning

Oct. 12
Maynard and Judy Johnson

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Blooming Prairie Public Utilities Celebrates
Public Power Week Oct 5 -9

A Few Public Power Facts

low cost
local control
reliable

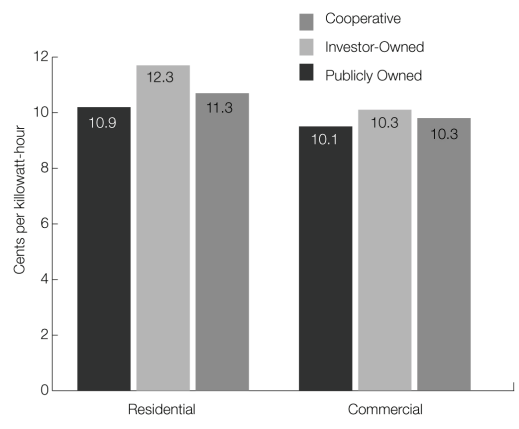
What is public power?
Public power is one of the oldest forms of electric utility ownership in the U.S. Public power utilities are not-for-profit local institutions that provide electricity as an essential public service at a reasonable cost. Public power utilities are supported by customer revenues, not taxes. In fact, public power utilities provide substantial payments in lieu of taxes to state and local governments.

Who does public power serve?
- Over 2,000 community-owned electric utilities serve 47 million people.
- Public power utilities serve small communities as well as large cities such as Los Angeles, San Antonio and Memphis.
- Every state except for Hawaii has a public power utility.
- Three million businesses receive their power from a publicly-owned electric utility.

So who is in charge of public power utilities?
- Public power utilities are owned and accountable to the people they serve.
- The governance structure for each utility varies. Some are governed by the city council and others are controlled by a utility board whose members may be elected or appointed by the city council or mayor.

What are public power's unique benefits?
- Public power is customer-focused. Public power means that customers have a voice in decisions made by their utility.
- Public power costs less. On a national basis, private power residential customers pay average electricity rates that are about 1.4 cents more per kilowatt hour.
- Public power is a good neighbor. Consumer-owned electric utilities are committed to conservation, environmental stewardship, and safety. Public power utilities work to meet the needs of long-term community goals.
- Public power is reliable. Consumer-owned utilities' rates pay for maintenance and reinvestments in important infrastructure needs.

Retail Electric Rates, 2012



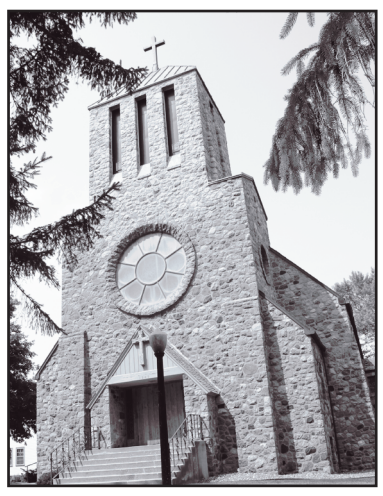
www.publicpower.org

Blooming Prairie Public Utilities invites their customers to stop by for coffee and cookies from 9-3 daily during the week of Oct. 5th through 9th.

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Area Church Spotlight



Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Litomysl

Pastor's corner

God's love in action



Agree or disagree: The devil hates sex. "What kind of question is that? Turn on the TV, read the movie reviews, count up the divorces in your church or family, or just walk through the mall. The devil loves sex! It's one of his best tools to tempt people to sin! And it's everywhere!"

But doesn't that prove just the opposite – that the devil actually does hate sex? Think about it. God created us as sexual beings; therefore sexuality is his good creation. God created sex and marriage to go hand-in-hand, so sex is his marriage gift to man and woman. Yet, whatever God creates, the devil hates. Whatever God gives as a blessing, the devil perverts and twists into something that harms us. If Satan can remove sex from its God-designed context, he can tempt people to use it to undermine marriage and disrupt the family, the very foundation of society. He can use it to shatter countless lives, married and unmarried alike. He's been at it since mankind fell into sin, and he's gotten exceedingly good at it over the past several thousand years.

No, the devil hates sex, but what he really hates is love. That's what marriage – or any relationship – is about. In fact, that's what all of God's commandments are about. The Apostle Paul reminds us, "The commandments, 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not covet,' and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law." (Romans 13:9,10) Sex is just one expression of love in marriage. If the devil can portray it as the essence of a relationship, it becomes his weapon of mass destruction.

We are not born with the love that's required to obey this or any commandment. Such love comes only from God, for God is love. We see God's love in action in the life of our Savior. In love Jesus fulfilled the entire will of God for us. In love he sacrificed his life so we could live free of the Law's condemnation. He rose from the dead to assure us that this is true. With his gospel message of victory, Jesus poured out his love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit so we could become children of God.

If you've given in to Satan's temptation and sinned against this commandment in thought, word, or deed, you are not doomed to carry around your shame and guilt. Jesus paid the full price for your sin. You are forgiven - believe the good news! Then rejoice that through Jesus you can live the good news by honoring his gift of sex with a thankful heart.

Pastor Dean Gunn
Our Savior Evangelical
Lutheran Church, Kasson

Area Church Schedule



Lutheran

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
5881 S.E. 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Interim Pastor David Hurtt
(507) 633-9331
8:30 a.m. worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday school 10:30 a.m. worship

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Charles Leonard, Senior Pastor
Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor
(507) 583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com
Summer Worship: 9:00 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.goodshephardowatonna.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.redeemerowatonna.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
sjlcoffice@frontiernet.net
www.peaceclaremont.otshost.org
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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., Sargeant
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 9:00 AM
Sunday School 10:00 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

Catholic

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC
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(507) 465-8217
Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
Hayfield
The Rev. Steve Peterson
(507) 477-2256
Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Reconciliation: 10:15 a.m. Sunday

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 First St. SW., New Richland
The Rev. Swamy Pothireddy
(507) 465-8217
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. Sunday.
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sunday

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC CHURCH
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
The Rev. Steve Peterson
(507) 583-2784
Reconciliation: 5 p.m. Saturday
Services: 5:15 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 a.m. Sunday.
Office hours: M-F, 9 a.m.-1 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
Family Faith Formation and First Communion class after Mass with noon potluck second Sunday of month.
Confirmation class after Mass second Sunday of month, and fourth Sunday of month at 6 p.m.
St. Isidore School - 451-5876, Preschool-fifth grade:
www.stisidoreschool.webs.com

SACRED HEART CHURCH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer
(507) 451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday, 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., & 10:30 a.m. Sunday Spanish Service: 1 p.m. Sunday

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
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sunday Mass: Vigil Sat. eve 4 p.m.
8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Daily Mass Tues.-Sat. 8 a.m.

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10 a.m. Sunday
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Monday daily Mass: 9 a.m.

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Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
507-254-8514 www.destinycc.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

Methodist

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Pastor Cindy Kennedy
(507) 835-8726
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Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 Sixth St. N.W., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirksena
(507) 684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Summer services: 9 a.m. Sunday

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Pastor Keith Haskell
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30 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
(507) 477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

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Pastor Doug Jones
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www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com
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10:30 a.m. Service & Kids Zone
2 p.m Spanish Service
Wed. 7:00 Bible Study
Fri 7:00 Spanish Outreach

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Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Bible: 7 p.m. Wednesday

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Owatanna Campus
422 W. North Street, Owatonna
Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
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www.destinycc.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

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507-451-5661
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Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

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Service: 9 a.m.-10:10 a.m.

Presbyterian

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(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

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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
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Services: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday and 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Sunday
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Harvest under way in Dodge, Steele Counties



Karen Jorgensen | Staff Photo

A Dodge County farmer unloads soybeans from his combine into a truck. The soybean harvest is well under way in southern Minnesota with corn next in line.

By
KAREN JORGENSEN
News Editor

The fall harvest season is under way in Dodge and Steele counties with combines moving through the fields.

As of late last week, most of the harvesting was involving soybeans, although corn is fast approaching the harvest stage.

Projections have been for near record harvests of both soybeans and corn and, so far, those projections seem to be accurate. The soybean harvest is now in its second full week in the area.

"These might be the best soybeans we've ever raised," Dodge County farmer Roger Toquam said. "We're 10 to 12 bushels higher than the 10-year average."

They are also being harvested earlier than usual. Last week's crop report from the United States Department of Agriculture reported that 89 percent of the soybean acreage statewide was dropping leaves or beyond which was eight days ahead of average and that the actual harvest was 34 percent complete, 10 days ahead of last year and five days ahead of average.

The first soybeans he harvested, Toquam said, were raised as "seed beans." These beans, he said, are grown for Monsanto and will be cleaned and dried over the winter and used for next year's plantings.

He has now begun harvesting the edible beans, most of which will first be taken to the bins on the farm and ultimately be transported to Mankato and sold.

The Toquam family has about two-thirds of their cropland in corn and one-third in soybeans, he said.

Harvesting the soybeans, he said, is a little trickier than corn because "soybeans are very finicky when harvested."

He explained that the beans can't be harvested when there is still dew or moisture on them so work cannot begin until a couple hours after sunrise when they have dried off. Again, harvesting must stop in the evening when the moisture begins to form.

So far, he said, he and his sons have been able to harvest 17 acres an hour.

That's different than corn, which can be harvested 24 hours a day, he said.

No matter the time of day, he said, the growing process, from planting to harvesting, is becoming highly computerized.

"We record everything we do," he said. During the planting season, different varieties were planted and these were all mapped by software in the computer. That mapping continued throughout the growing season and now during harvest, he said. The mapping is recording the condition and yield of each area of the field.

After the fall's work is completed, he said, they will overlay the maps on each other to get the big picture of each field. This information will be used in planning next year's plantings.

The corn harvest is also beginning with Toquam saying that he anticipates switching from one to another over the next few weeks. That's not as difficult as it might seem, he said, depending on the type of equipment a farmer has.

The heads on the combine are bigger for the corn, he said, but he is able to switch them on his equipment in about an hour. The yield for the corn harvest is also expected to be good in the southern Minnesota area, he said.

Last week's USDA report said that 67 percent of Minnesota's corn was mature, 10 days ahead of last year and two days ahead of the five-year average.

Corn is considered mature when the moisture content is down to 28 percent, although farmers prefer not to harvest until it gets below that level. The lower the moisture content at harvest time, the less it needs to be artificially dried in bins which results in lower costs to the farmer.

Toquam explained that checking for moisture levels is a simple process as all corn growers have moisture testers. It simply involves picking several ears of corn, shelling them by hand and using the testing device to determine moisture content.

For Toquam, transporting the majority of his corn is a simple matter as most of it goes to Al-Corn in Claremont where it is processed into ethanol for vehicles and several by-products including dried distillers grain for feed and corn oil.

Farmers' tight financial bottom line

ON THE FARM



Karen Anderson

Harvest season is in full swing and many farmers begin to crunch the numbers to see if all their inputs and expenses paid off to produce a bountiful crop. In times when the input costs remain high and commodity prices drop, it is essential to utilize available resources to manage our farming enterprises. The University of Minnesota Extension's Agricultural Business Management (ABM) website is available with a variety of different resources from business planning and the Farm Bill to estate planning and land rent.

In fact, the University of Minnesota Extension ABM team has been keeping a close eye on the shift in farmers' financial balance sheets. ABM Extension Educator, Don Nitchie recently published an article about liquidity and how it is measured. He indicates that liquidity is the ability of the farm business to meet its current financial obligations in the coming year. Strong liquidity also provided a business the ability to withstand short-term shocks and the flexibility to capitalize on opportunities. Please visit the Extension Agricultural Business Management website to view the full article entitled "Liquidity is Strength when Profits are Scarce, How should it be Measured?"

Another interesting article that was also published to the Extension ABM website is called "Crunching Corn and Soybean Budgets 2016" by Extension Educator David Bau. David writes that the 2016 corn and soybean budgets look unprofitable at projected input costs and current market prices available. Over the past 10 years, corn input costs have been increasing at rate of 9.8 percent per year while soybean input prices have be increasing at 8.5 percent. Using 180 bushels corn and 50 bushels for soybeans, the price necessary to cover direct cost would be $4.91 for corn and $10.74 for soybeans. For further information about the 2016 corn and soybean budget figures and ways to reduce inputs, please view the full article.

Now is the time to keep a close eye on your farm's financials. For more information, visit the University of Minnesota Agricultural Business Management website at www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/business/. Full articles can be found in the Agricultural Business Management news feed.

Karen Anderson is the Agriculture Extension Educator with the University of Minnesota Extension in Rice and Steele Counties. She can be reached at 507-444-7685 or ande9495@umn.edu.



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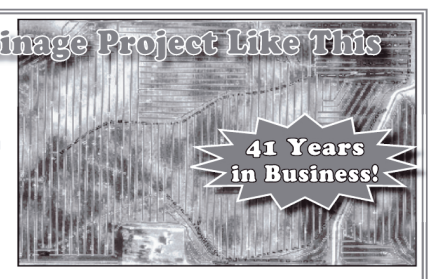


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Minnesota Crop Report

Minnesota farmers were able to harvest over one-third of both their soybean and sugarbeet crops during the 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending October 4, 2015, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. This was the most days suitable for fieldwork this crop season. Other activities for the week included fall tillage and fertilizer application on harvested fields.

Soil moisture levels decreased with the lack of rain during the week. Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 3 percent very short, 15 percent short, 79 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 2 percent very short, 14 percent short, 82 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus.

Ninety-one percent of Minnesota's corn acreage was mature, 2 weeks ahead of last year and 8 days ahead of the five-year average. Corn harvest was 9 percent complete, 10 days ahead of the previous year but 8 days behind normal. Corn condition rated 89 percent good to excellent. Corn harvested for silage was 93 percent complete, 2 days ahead of normal. With almost the entire soybean acreage dropping leaves or beyond, soybean harvest advanced 35 percentage points to 69 percent complete, 10 days ahead of last year and 5 days ahead of average. Soybean condition rated 82 percent good to excellent. Dry edible bean harvest was nearing completion, well ahead of average. Eighty-one percent of the potato crop has been harvested, just behind last year but 1 day ahead of normal. Advancing 35 percentage points from last week, sugarbeet harvest was 52 percent complete, 2 days ahead of last year and 1 week ahead of average. Sugarbeet condition rated 85 percent good to excellent. Twenty-five percent of the sunflower acreage has been harvested, and condition rated 58 percent good to excellent.

Pasture condition rated 71 percent good to excellent. Frost was reported in areas of east central Minnesota during the week.

Minnesota Crop Report is sponsored by

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Submitted Photo

Corn prices are below the price of production in Minnesota for the 2015 crop year.

Corn farmers working to overcome low prices

As Minnesota corn farmers prepare for what could be a record harvest this fall, the price farmers receive for the projected record crop remains low.

As recently as 2012, corn sold for $7 per bushel. Today, corn farmers are receiving about half that price when they sell a load of corn at the local elevator, shipping facility or ethanol plant.

"That's farming," said Noah Hultgren, a farmer in Raymond, Minn., and First Vice President of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association. "There are good years and there are challenging years financially. Farming is the best job in the world, but nobody said it was easy."

A record harvest nationally in 2014 led to a surplus of corn on the market, which played a key role in prices dropping. Minnesota corn farmers were hit especially hard in 2014 by a wet spring and summer drought that cut into yields. While the rest of the country was seeing record production, the bad weather caused Minnesota to lag behind.

This year, Minnesota corn farmers are projected to harvest a record crop. The increased production helps somewhat in coping with lower prices.

"We should have more corn to sell, so that will help a little bit in making up for the low price," said Doug Albin, who farms in Clarkfield, Minn., and chairs the Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council.

The main challenge for corn farmers is the cost of production. While corn prices have fallen, what farmers invest to plant, raise and harvest an acre of corn remains high.

According to a recent report from the University of Minnesota, it cost $4.57 to raise a bushel of corn in 2014, meaning it cost more to grow the corn than the price the farmer currently receive at market.

A USDA report released in late August projected farm incomes to fall by 36 percent this year, largely due to low corn and soybean prices.

"Land rents, fertilizer, seed, fuel, equipment – the input costs to grow corn haven't come down with the prices farmers receive," said Tim Wiersma, who farms in Wells, Minn., and serves on the Minnesota Corn Growers Association board of directors. "But corn farmers are a resilient group. We might get a little frustrated, but we keep on farming and working to turn things around."

Could this year's corn harvest be a record-breaker?

As combines begin rolling in the farm fields of Minnesota, this fall's corn harvest is shaping up to be a big one. Perhaps the biggest ever.

"I've been farming for 50 years, and I don't think I've seen a crop this good," said Dwight Mork, who farms in Bellingham, Minn., and serves on the Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council.

USDA projections released on Sept. 11 forecasted corn production in Minnesota at a record 1.42 billion bushels and 3 percent above the previous record set in 2012. Yields were projected at 183 bushels per acre, six bushels more than the previous high set in 2010.

This year's early spring allowed farmers to plant their corn on time. Mother Nature continued to cooperate during the growing season, bringing timely rains and providing an adequate amount of heat and sunshine as the crop progressed.

"It seemed like, whenever our corn crop needed a drink, we got rain," said Bruce Peterson, a farmer in Northfield and President of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association. "After the last couple of years, we were ready for some good weather."

In 2013 and 2014, corn farmers had to cope with long winters, delayed planting, excessive rains and early frost. Some farmers were prevented from even getting a crop in the group because of fields saturated by heavy spring rains.

The less-than-ideal weather significantly cut into yields. Last year, total corn production was just under 1.2 billion bushels and bushels-per-acre stood at 156.

Most farmers will tell you to never count the crop before it's harvested and in the bin, but it's hard not to be optimistic that this year's crop will be much more robust, maybe even the best ever.

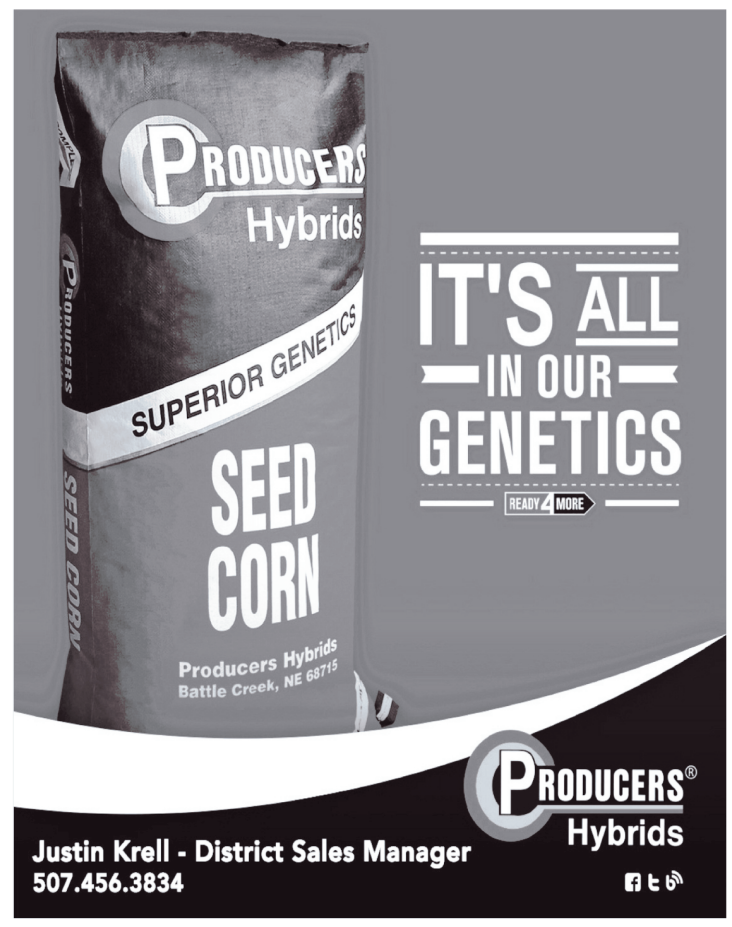
"We were due for a productive year," said Brian Thalmann, who farms in Plato, Minn., and serves on the Minnesota Corn Growers Association board of directors. "I think we're going to get it."



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What is all that corn used for?

The answers might surprise you:

•The majority of corn is used for animal feed. About 40 percent of the corn crop is consumed by cattle, pigs, turkeys chickens and other livestock.

•Corn also fuels your vehicle. About 30 percent of the crop is used to produce ethanol fuel. One 56-pound bushel of corn can produce nearly 2.8 gallons of ethanol fuel and 18 pounds of high-protein livestock feed.

•Other countries love Minnesota-grown corn almost as much as we do. About 13 percent of the crop is exported.

•Did you know that corn is an ingredient in more than 4,000 consumer products? Sneakers, lip balm, fireworks, glue and batteries are all examples of products that contain corn.

•Corn is also used to make sweeteners and other food-grade products.



Community conversations on mental health set for Friday

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Friday's community conversations will provide information about mental illnesses in Steele County.

Carolyn Wheeler, executive director of South Central Human Relations Center in Owatonna, said the hope is that this will be affirming and empowering to those people who have a mental illness. "And for family members to know that there is, first of all, hope that people can recover from mental illness," she said. "There are local solutions for achieving that recovery. With any illness or difficult situation, the loss of hope can be one of those factors that can be very devastating."

Community Conversations will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. on Oct. 9 at the Gainey Room in the Owatonna Public Library. "Make It OK" coordinator Abby Miller is the guest speaker.

"Make It OK" is a campaign to reduce the stigma of mental illnesses. The organizations have pledged their commitment to change the hearts and minds about the misconceptions of mental illnesses by encouraging open conversations and education on the topic.

This is not the first year for Community Conversations. After last year's event, Wheeler said they came away with good ideas and heard about different barriers including transportation and the need for child care.

"Over the years, close to 30 years I have been doing work, there has been more openness about mental illness in terms of people being more comfortable talking about it, admitting that they need help. But there is a ways to go," Wheeler said. "I think women still, more than men, are more willing to accept help and seek help. Yet, mental illness strikes men and women equally. I think we still have work to do."











OWATONNA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCT '15

OCTOBER: West Hills Tennis & Fitness Center Fall hours begin

October Special Challenge Yourself: Purchase a month fitness membership at normal rates and receive one free ½ hour personal training session with Trainer Aaron Halla

OCTOBER: Brooktree Hours 9am-7pm

Fall Special 18 holes for $30 or 9 holes for $20: Cart Included!

OCTOBER 9: Owatonna Park Passport Deadline

OCTOBER 9: Youth Basketball deadline

OCTOBER 11: SeniorPlace Pancake Breakfast at Owatonna VFW

OCTOBER 12: Owatonna Park Passport winners drawn and announced

OCTOBER 19: Strength Circuit Training Session 2 begins

OCTOBER 24: Learn to Skate Hockey Meeting at Four Seasons

OCTOBER 26: 3rd-6th Grade Basketball coaches meeting

OCTOBER 31: 2nd Annual Trick or Treat Trail

NOV '15

NOVEMBER 1: Last day for Minnesota State Public School Orphanage Museum audio tour stations

NOVEMBER 5: 3rd-6th Grade Girls Basketball first meeting at Owatonna Junior High School

NOVEMBER 5: 3rd-6th Grade Boys Basketball first meeting at Owatonna High School

NOVEMBER 5: Youth Basketball Clinic for grades 3-6

NOVEMBER 10: Sports Skills Session 1 begins

NOVEMBER 10: Basketball Coaches Clinic

NOVEMBER 12: SeniorPlace Mall of America trip

NOVEMBER 14: SeniorPlace Holiday Craft Fair

NOVEMBER 16: Winter 1 Ace Tennis Lessons Deadline

NOVEMBER 17: Deadline to register for the 3rd Annual Fall Pickleball Tournament

NOVEMBER 18: Winter 1 Jr. Tennis Lessons Deadline

NOVEMBER 20-21: 3rd Annual Fall Pickleball Tournament

NOVEMBER 27: Black Friday Sale at the Brooktree Club house with Breakfast Buffet

NOVEMBER 30: Strength Circuit Training Session 3 begins

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DEC '15

DECEMBER 1: Registration for Future Sports Stars Camp

DECEMBER 1: Winter Swimming Lessons Registration begins

DECEMBER 1: Registration for Owatonna Park & Rec Boot Hockey Tournament begins

DECEMBER 18: Kid's Night for Girls Basketball

DECEMBER 28: Therapeutic Recreation Celebrity Chefs Cooking Class Deadline

JAN '16

JANUARY-FEBRUARY: Cottage 11 closed

JANUARY 1: Therapeutic Recreation Membership Due

JANUARY 5: Future Sports Stars Camp Session 1 Begins

JANUARY 12: Sports Skills Session 2 begins

JANUARY 27: Owatonna Park & Rec Boot Hockey Tournament Deadline

JANUARY 30: 2016 Polar Plunge

FEB '16

FEBRUARY 2: Future Sports Stars Camp Session 2 Begins

FEBRUARY 5-7: Owatonna Winter Weekend Out

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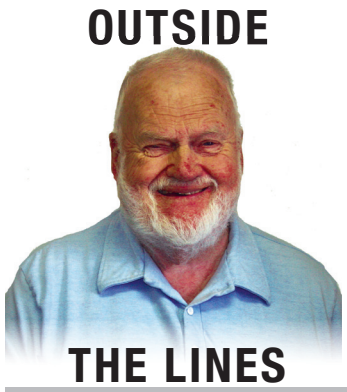




HometownSports

B Section | www.steeledodgenews.com | Tuesday, October 6, 2015

OUTSIDE THE LINES



LeMar Nelson

A memory earned

A big tip of the hat to the Homecoming king and queen Mitchell Jones and Margaret Jones and the other homecoming royalty. The group represented Blooming Prairie High School in fine fashion. Unless someone tells me otherwise, I believe this is the first time in school history that twins have been chosen as the Homecoming king and queen. That deserves a double tip of the hat.

Both of the royalty are involved in many school activities. Mitchell was a starter on the basketball team last year and is both a defensive and offensive star on this season's Awesome Blossom football team. His twin sister is an accomplished musician and is currently one of the leads in the all-school musical, "Peter Pan" this fall. The two siblings must make their parents Brian and Tara very proud.

Homecoming activities provided entertainment and a whole lot of school spirit to this special week of the school year. Despite the change in the route, I thought the Homecoming parade was the best it had been for several years. Like the rest of the activities during the week, the school spirit shone through the units of the parade, and some of the floats displayed real creativity. Of course, a win at the football game didn't hurt, either. A well done to all involved in the week's events.

Thus, another Homecoming celebration fades into history, but for most BPHS students, the week offered several moments to demonstrate that memories would be tucked into their heads, to be called up in reminiscing many years later. From the powder puff football game, which fittingly ended in a tie, through the football game and the annual dance, plenty of activities and special theme days occupied all students. Even for old people like me, it was a fun week.

More Blossoms wins

All the Blossom varsity sports teams enjoyed large measure of success last week. Although it was a tough battle with some uncharacteristic mistakes, the football team managed to keep their win streak going with the victory over USC in the Homecoming game. The team didn't play its best game of the season, but it was good enough to make the Homecoming celebration a good one.

In the only match of the week for the volleyball team, the girls got off to a slow start, but then took three straight games at Maple River. After a slow start to the season, the girls have almost climbed back to .500 in the conference and are playing pretty good volleyball. The team communication has been better, and the skills show continued improvement as the season progresses.

To top the week off, the cross-country boys earned second in their own invitational, and Alec Ille had an incredible week of running, after missing two meets with illness. Ille placed seventh in the Milaca Mega Meet a week ago last Saturday against some of the top runners in the entire state, and then he won the BP invitational, running 17 seconds ahead if the second place runner. The teams all deserve a tip of the hat this week.

OUTSIDE THE LINES
Continued on Page 2B

OWATONNA VOLLEYBALL



Staff photo by James Knoop

Senior Carli Langeland spikes the vollebyall against two Winona players on Thursday night. Owatonna was not quite able to contain Winona, falling 3-2 in the match. See more on Page 2B.

STEELE COUNTY CROSS-COUNTRY



Staff photos by James Knoop

Runners from Blooming Prairie, New Richland and several other schools begin the 5K race at Blooming Prairie. Alec Ille would go on to win the boy's race with a time of 16:28.

NRHEG and Medford compete at Blooming

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

Among several other teams, both New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva and Medford High School competed at the Blooming Prairie cross-country home meet.

The NRHEG girls took fifth out of eight at the event, with the Medford girls placing eighth. The NRHEG boys also took fifth of the eight teams, with Medford placing fourth.

NRHEG Coach Mike Weber was pleased with his team's performance, noting that three different runner's ran personal bests, including Josh Flemming with an 18:30, Zach Mely with a 19:19 and Jorey Fischer with a 21:53.

"I was happy with the team's placing and the boys did some of their best running," said Weber. "Three PR's in one meet is better than I could hope. For most races, a coach hopes there could be one runner having his best meet of his career."

For the NRHEG girls, Weber stated that this has been a season of steadily declining times, something he is glad to see. The meet at Blooming Prairie was no exception, with all four varsity runners finishing with a personal record.

"Although this is the first year in which Minnesota girls are running a 5K race, contributing to the fact that each will have a PR sometime this season, I was not expecting all of our varsity girls running a PR this evening," said Weber. "The girls ran beyond expectations. It was a fun meet."

Girls

Team results

1. Loy/Cle 44, 2. Pine Island 54, 3. Grizzlies 68, 4. Pacelli 87, 5, NRHEG 146, 6. BP 160, 7. Hayfield 164, 8. Medford 173.

Individual results

21. Katharine Lewer 23:44, 22. Jade Mely 23:46, 26. Mia Williams 24:33, 36. Marissa Mortenson 27:24.

XC RESULTS
Continued on Page 2B

Ille back from illness; BP hosts invite

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

After finishing seventh in the Mega Meet at Milaca, Blooming Prairie cross-country runner Alec Ille did even better at the Blooming Prairie Invitational on Sept. 29. He captured first place, leading the Blossom team to a second place in the eight-team meet. Mankato Loyola/Cleveland won both divisions of the meet.

"It was an almost ideal day for a race," commented Coach John Bruns, "and the boys ran their best times of the season. Both varsity girls timed their best run, as well, and it was a very good way to host our home meet."

In taking the first place spot, Ille ran the 5K course in 16:28, and Elijah Baker finished seventh with a 17:42 time. Ille's time was 17 seconds faster than the runner-up. Evan Doerhoefer, Isaac Baker and Jesse Schewe followed the two top runners with times of 17:47, 17:53 and 20:29. That put the three in ninth, 11th and 34th places.

Alison Pryor earned sixth place for the girls with a 20:45 time, and Anika Nowlan timed a 25:24. Ethan Grant placed sixth in the junior high boys' 3,200 race in 12:53, and Olivia Johnson ran third for the junior high girls in 14:52. Alison Krohnberg and Rose Michaud finished fifth and seventh in 15:37 and 15:40.

Milaca Mega Meet

Running against some of the best individuals in the entire state, Ille captured seventh place in the Milaca Mega Meet on Sept. 26. More than 150 teams competed at the event, and Blossom runners had a good experience competing against so many runners.

Ille led the boys to a 25th finish in their division, with four other local boys all finishing under 21 minutes in the race. Ille ran a 17:03 time for his seventh place, with Elijah Baker turning in a 19:37 time. Isaac Baker, Doerhoefer and Schewe ran 20:15, 20:18 and 20:41 respectively.

For the girls, Pryor ran a 22:41 (71st place) and Anika Nowlan timed a 26:23. Ethan Grant ran the 3,200 course in 13; 37 for a 59th place, and Bobbie Bruns ran the 3,200 course in 15:14 (69th). Other Blossom times included 16:04 for Olivia Johnson, 16:34 for Alison Krohnberg, 16:36 for Rose Michaud and 18:51 for Ashley Brown.



Blooming Prairie's Alison Pryor finishes the 5K in sixth place with a time of 20:45.

Sports

Owatonna sports roundups

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

Last week saw its share of wins in Owatonna sports, with the boys soccer team winning two, the girls team going 1-1 and the volleyball team splitting two.

Boys soccer

The boys continued their winning ways, defeating Northfield 3-2 on the road, as well as a 3-2 victory at home against Albert Lea.

The win lifted the boys' overall season record to 8-2-2 with three games remaining in the regular season. After the away game against Mankato East, scheduled for Monday, Oct. 5, the boys will play a home game against Red Wing on Tuesday, Oct. 6, at 7 p.m. The team will finish the regular season with an away game at Austin on Thursday, Oct. 8, at 7 p.m.

Girls soccer

The girls dropped a 1-0 home game last Tuesday against Northfield, but were able to come back with a 2-0 win on the road against Albert Lea.

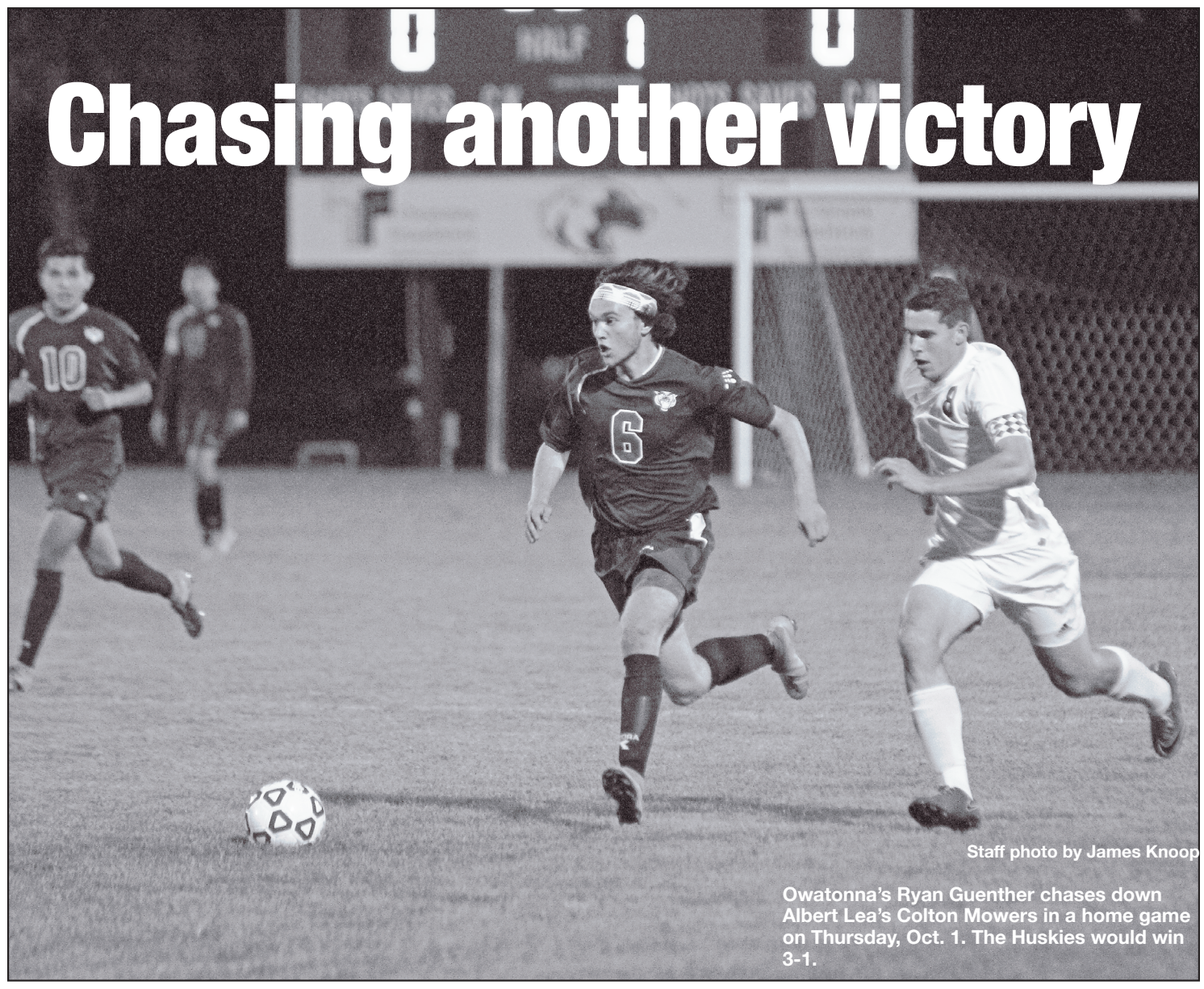
The win boosted the girls' record to 7-6-1 with two games remaining in the regular season.

After a game Tuesday in Red Wing, the Huskies will end the season against Austin on Thursday, Oct. 8, in Owatonna at 7 p.m.

Volleyball

The volleyball team won its first match of the week in a 3-0 win at Rochester John Marshall. All three games were close, but the Huskies gained the edge each time, winning 25-20, 27-25 and 25-23. The Huskies then returned home on Thursday for a match against Winona. In a back and forth match, the girls managed to make it to game five against Winona, but fell just short in front of the home crowd, losing the final game 15-13.

The 1-1 week brought the team to a 8-5 regular season record with five games remaining in the season. This week, the Huskies will play two games on the road, including a match at Faribault on Tuesday, Oct. 6, and a match in Northfield on Thursday, Oct. 8, at 7 p.m.



Staff photo by James Knoop

Owatonna's Ryan Guenther chases down Albert Lea's Colton Mowers in a home game on Thursday, Oct. 1. The Huskies would win 3-1.

Panthers lose two at home; finish 4-2 at tournament

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

With a 7-5 record going into regular season play last week, the Panthers dropped two home games to fall to an even .500.

The first loss came Tuesday night against United South Central, the girls losing a tough 3-2 match.

"We have been playing with so many ups and downs the last couple of games," said Coach Onika Peterson. "We need to keep the momentum on our side and be strong the whole game through."

The Panthers next game came against Waterville-Elysian-Morristown on Thursday where the Panthers lost a quick 3-0 match.

"Waterville is a good team," said Peterson. "I thought overall we did a nice job blocking against them, when we were able to hit, we got some good swings against them. However, we struggled across the board with our passing, serve receiving and digging."

The Panthers ended the week with a trip to Blue Earth for a weekend tournament.

The Panthers won their first four games, but dropped the last two against Martin Luther/Gran-Hunt-EC. The Panthers will host Bethlehem Academy this Friday at 7:15 p.m.



Staff photo by James Knoop

Panthers players leap for a block on the home court in New Richland.

Blooming Prairie junior high roundups

BY LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

7th football

In its best performance of the year, according to Coach Cory Hendrickson, the seventh grade Blooming Prairie football team defeated the Tigers at Medford on Sept. 29. BP took a 28-0 lead into the halftime break and went on to a 42-28 victory.

Mitchell Fiebiger tallied two touchdowns n the first quarter on runs of four and 20 yards, but the two-point conversion tries both failed. The Blossoms scored twice again in the second quarter, and this time the team made successful two-point conversions. Fiebiger ran six yards for the touchdown, and Chris Naatz passed to Cole Christianson for the first conversion. Naatz passed 10 yards to Christianson for the second score, with Fiebiger running in the conversion.

In the third quarter Luke Larkoski connected with Fiebiger for an 18-yard touchdown and ran the two-point conversion, and Medford got on the board with a touchdown and two-point conversion. Medford counted two touchdowns in the final quarter, and Fiebiger ended the scoring with a 20-yard run. Boone Carlson recovered a Medford fumble and Alex Miller had a nice long run on a pass from Jacob Naatz in another god play in the game.

As Hendrickson remarked, "This was a good win against a strong team, and a lot of credit goes to the kids who do the blocking - Charlie Heimerman, Larkoski, Aaron Brandt, Levi Ryks, Tim Loverink, Carlson, Lane Lembke, Alex Piller, Miller, Cole Graves Naatz, Brian Jiminez and Chrstianson. They don't always get enough credit they deserve."

The team record improved to 5-1 for the season.

7th volleyball

On Sept. 29, the Blooming Prairie seventh grade played four games against Alden-Conger at home. AC took game one 25-19, BP won the second game 25-17 and the Knights won games three and four, 25-18 and 15-10.

On Oct. 1, BP won one and lost three to Maple River on the home court. Maple River won 25-20 and identical 25-22 scores, while the Blossoms took the second game 26-24. All of the games were tightly contested.

8th volleyball

Against Aden-Conger the Blooming Prairie eighth grade lost all four games to the Knights 25-21, 25-22, 25-18 and 15-7. In the Maple River match, the Blossoms won three of the four sets. The Eagles won the second game 25-18, but the locals edged the visitors 29-27 in a marathon first game and then took games three and four 25-18 and 26-24 in another overtime contest.

XC RESULTS

Continued from Page 1B

Boys

Team Results

1. Loy/Cle 40, 2. BP 57, 3. Pine Island 70, 4. Medford 127, 5. NRHEG 138, 6. Grizzlies 141, 7. Pacelli 148, 8. Hayfield 208.

Individual Results

18. Josh Fleming 18:30, 22. Tyler Schlaak 19:10, 24. Zach Mely 19:19, 35. Braden Routh 21:30, 39. Jorey Fischer 21:53, 42. Aaron Fleming 23:08, 47. Aaron Seath 25:15.

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued from Page 1B

Trivia

It is sometimes hard to imagine, but the Main Street reconstruction is still reported to be on schedule, with completion by Oct. 31. Concrete did get poured on the two blocks west of U.S. Highway 218 last week, and the other intersections had a lot of preliminary work completed, so maybe the timeline isn't too far off. For sure, the weather last week should have contributed to serious work on the project.

I will be the first to admit that the Twins baseball team certainly tried its best to make the playoffs, but they came up just a game or two short. With the rookies that made such an impact this season next year should be better. That is, if a pitching staff can be assembled that can win its share of games. The team also finished the season with a hitting slump over the last half dozen games, and it is difficult to win while scoring only one or two runs a game. As we always say, "Wait til next year!"

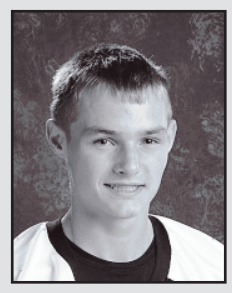
A busy and exciting week at the school and the community came to a climax on Saturday night when several inductees were honored into the Blossoms Forever Hall of Fame. Wayne Ruhter received the Distinguished Service Award posthumously and Clair Coughlin also received that honor. Ken Esplan, Bill Underwood and Lisa Zwiener Bruns all earned a place as Athlete of the Year, and Ken Behnken was recognized as the Educator of The Year. All of these individuals have made major contributions to the Blooming Prairie school system and earn a big tip of the hat this week.

I continue to believe that this community, an adopted one for me, continues to be a great example of one that does more than most to support the educational system and the activities in the school, and I am very proud to be a part of it

The football game at Kenyon Thursday night will determine the district champion, and so is vitally important to the Blossoms. If they can win, they will tie for the title, but if they lose, they will be relegated to second place. Either way, they will be in the playoffs next week.

Let' close this week with a few short anecdotes from church: Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-tempered. until you try to sit in their pew. A Bible that is falling apart probably belongs to someone who isn't. Finally, most of us spend the first six days of each week sowing wild oats; then we go to church on Sunday and pray for a crop failure. Ponder that for a week, and we'll talk again.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



WYATT GRUNDMEIER

Junior defensive player Wyatt Grundmeier had a big part in the Awesome Blossom football team's win over USC on the home field last Friday. Grundmeier made probably the biggest play of the game when he made a first down-saving tackle on BP's own four-yard line; he later intercepted a USC pass to clinch the victory. Grundmeier also had seven tackles on defense and has been one of the team's leading tackler in each game this season.



COURTNEY WOBSCHALL

Courtney Wobschall is developing into one of the best hitters on the Awesome Blossom volleyball team. In the only match of the week for the team, Wobschall patrolled the net to make seven kills and seven blocks, and she has been steadily getting better, as the season moves along. She also manages her share of digs in most matches, and in the spring is one of the better throwers on the track team.

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Ellendale Living

Possible community survey on the horizon for NRHEG School District

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

In an effort to gather more information about what patrons believe are needs within the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School District, details of a community survey are being discussed.

"One of the primary purposes from a survey is to gather more information from the community on the next steps regarding facility needs in the school district," said NRHEG interim school superintendent Dr. Dale Carlson. "I would say the more we can reach out and get input and feedback from the communities on how they believe the school district is doing is the right thing to do."

In June, 64 percent of the voters said "no" to a $14.5 million project that would have improved facilities at Ellendale and New Richland. In August, the NRHEG School Board held a work session. One of the focuses was discussing the results of the June referendum.

Carlson said a question is, what's next? "We still feel that there our facility needs," he said. "Where do we go? We need to listen to our communities. We would have never gone to our communities to ask them in the first place if we did not feel as a board there was a need."

He added that it is important to take the taxpayer's response and reflect on it. And that is where the conversation came up about a community survey. Currently, the school district is looking at firms to assist with the community survey and is considering a phone survey.

The goal is to have a draft at the regular board meeting on Oct. 19 and administer the survey in early November and look at the results at the November board meeting or a possible special board meeting, Carlson said.

Casey's General Store opens in Ellendale

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Steele County is home to several Casey's General Store locations and, last Wednesday, another location opened its doors for customers in Ellendale.

According to area supervisor Mike Harvey, the new Casey's location offers "a little bit of everything." Outside the front of the building, there are 12 gas pumps, in addition to four diesel pumps located behind the store.

The store also offers plenty of food, beverages, donuts and other meal and snack options, including pizzas, which can even be ordered online at www.caseys.com. This location also offers made-to-order sub sandwiches, along with other hot foods. Customers can also purchase household necessities and essential travel items at this location, making it an ideal "one-stop" shop.

"We're a hometown, friendly business, and we want to serve our customers the best we can with our core values," said Harvey. Casey's core values include the "four Ps:" positive, polite, professional and proud.

The store first opened on Oct. 1, and plenty of curious customers and others passing through the area paid a visit to the new store, located just off Highway 30 West. Although plenty of customers stopped by that day, Harvey said that the store's official grand opening celebration is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 13, and Saturday, Nov. 14. On both days, Casey's guests can enjoy fresh samples from the kitchen, free coffee, giveaways and other great deals.

Harvey encourages customers to visit the new location during the Grand Opening to take advantage of the great deals and to see all the store has to offer.

Harvey, who serves as supervisor for nine area locations, said that the Ellendale location is one of the largest in the area. There are also Casey's locations in Blooming Prairie, Owatonna, Hayfield, Austin, Dodge Center, Albert Lea, West Concord and Mantorville (just to name a few.) In total, there are over 1,865 corporate stores.

The Ellendale storefront enjoys an ideal location nearby a major highway. Harvey expects that many truckers will frequent the business, in addition to other travelers and, of course, the local residents. "We're hoping it will be a hit," Harvey said.

The newest Casey's General Store is located at 3959 Highway 30 West, in Ellendale. For more information, visit the business, or check out www.caseys.com.



Staff photos by Laura Berndt

The new Casey's in Ellendale is one of the largest in the region. The store is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and saw plenty of traffic on Oct. 1, when the store first opened for business.



Casey's employee Haley Longnecker helps customers on Wednesday, Oct. 1, which was the first day Casey's was open for business. Haley, a resident of Ellendale, says she is excited that the business is now open.

Weekly crossword

on Page 7C

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Medford Living

Medford Senior Care's expansion makes progress

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

While residents of Medford Senior Care enjoy watching the construction process of the addition, the project completion date is set for mid-November.

Construction began in late July, and owner of the facility, Julie Spronk, said that everything is on schedule.

"The rain has been a little challenging, but we have the four walls up, and the roof is up, though we haven't put up the roofing material yet," said Spronk.

The new expansion will be a wing of eight apartments with a separate bedroom, living room, kitchen and a large bathroom with a washer and dryer. The bathroom will be handicapped accessible and a call light system will be in place.

These new apartments are designed bigger than existing apartments to house married couples, though single residents are equally welcome.

"Many couples come in and want something a little bigger than the standard," said Spronk. "There are many cases where a spouse is providing care for the other, but sometimes that constant care can take a toll on the healthier one. So we are able to provide some care to the spouse that needs it, while the able-bodied spouse can live life a little more."

Spronk spoke to the importance of the concept of "aging in place" and allowing each resident to do that in a natural way. "Residents are able to pick and choose what they might need a la carte," she said. "We meet their needs medically."

There are currently 16 residents, and the eight new apartments bring potential for two in each apartment.

Spronk said that there has been a lot of interest from people from Medford and the surrounding area. Move in for new residents would be as soon as the project is complete, which is slated for mid-November.

"Even if we double to 30 or less, we are still a small establishment," she said. Spronk said that the current residents are positive about the change and even look forward to new faces. "People bring people, and residents really enjoy visiting with those new faces.

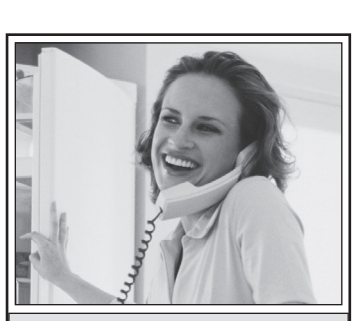
"The current residents are always interested in who might be coming, some of them might be old neighbors or they might have kids that were classmates," said Spronk.

Residents of the new area will have access to the beauty shop, Movie Theater, entertainment, and dining hall if they wish. The kitchen facility and dining area was designed to serve more people, so there will be no need for updating the kitchen.

Spronk said that they will certainly have to hire more staff, but some of the hiring will depend on the need of the new residents and will happen closer to the move in date. Like the existing apartments, the residents in these apartments may receive physical, occupational, and speech therapy.

"We are a privately owned facility, so we are able to adjust the pay scale to what we find is fair wage," said Spronk. "We try to keep staff long-term. That continuity between caregiver and resident is really important to us.

"We hear often that the elderly here treat the staff like their grandchildren, and vice versa," laughed Spronk. "That is something to be valued."



Telephone common cause of subluxations

Cradling the telephone between your head and shoulder is hard on your neck. If you need both hands free when you're on the phone, install a speakerphone or headset.

Prairie Family & Sports Chiropractic

City of Medford in negotiation with Ritchie Brothers

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

The Medford City Council is considering restructuring the $414,000 worth of trunk fees that Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers have due on July 30, 2017.

The ongoing negotiation stemmed from Ritchie Brothers request that the city consider forgiving all or part of the $414,000 in trunk fees.

According to Medford's city administrator Andy Welti's update for the Sept. 27 council meeting, forgiveness of the trunk fees was "highly unlikely given the investment that the City made in utilities and the payments required to make to the township for annual road maintenance because of the Ritchie Bros. development."

When Welti, Mayor Lois Nelson and council member Chad Merritt met with Ritchie Bros.' CEO Tim Kander, Kander requested consideration for the trunk fee payment to be broken into 10 payments beginning on May 10, 2016. This would be five years of payment aligning with property taxes.

Kander also asked Welti, Nelson and Merritt about negotiating the current 4 percent interest rate. This, as well as the other proposals, is being considered.

The initial intention based on the Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers Project Design Narrative was to initially develop 70 of the 120 acres. From there, Ritchie Bros. was going to develop the "additional display space within the remaining balance of the undeveloped areas."

"They're online market has increased dramatically over the past few years," said Nelson. "Their business climate has changed."

While Kandor inquired about selling the 50 acres of undeveloped land west of the building as agricultural land, the Ritchie Bros. site is currently zoned as C-3, meaning for commercial development. The city indicated to Kandor that it would not be in the best interest of the city to see this land rezoned as agricultural, and that it would like to see that land developed.

Therefore, City Council is in consideration of rezoning the 50 acres from C-3 to another commercial or industrial location. The land, as Nelson pointed out, is flat, which would be good for manufacturing. "I think we'd just plain like to see another business," said Nelson.

"The city wants to work with Ritchie Brothers because they have been beneficial to the community," said Nelson. "It is a four and a half million dollar property, which is the second largest next to the outlet mall. They've been good neighbors in how they take care of their property. They also have been good with hosting community events."

Welti said that at the next council meeting on Oct. 26, the council will re-evaluate concerns and write an agreement for Ritchie Bros. to consider.

Steele County Public Health will administer flu vaccinations

Steele County Public Health will be administering flu vaccinations in Blooming Prairie on Friday, Oct. 9, from 12 to 2 at the Blooming Prairie Senior Dining Center located at 134 3rd St SE. The flu shot clinic is open to anyone ages 18 and older. Steele County Public Health accepts Medicare, South Country Health Alliance, Medical Assistance, Humana, BCBS, UCare, Health Partners, Medica and Unicare insurance. Please bring all insurance cards with you to the clinic. Individuals who do not have insurance can pay $35.

If you're unable to attend this clinic, shots are also available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Steele County Public Health office located at 635 Florence Avenue in Owatonna. If a person's health plan does not pay for flu shots or you have an unmet deductible, Steele County Public Health has additional flu vaccine from the Minnesota Department of Health for these individuals and their family members.

If anyone has additional questions, please call Steele County Public Health at 507-444-7650.



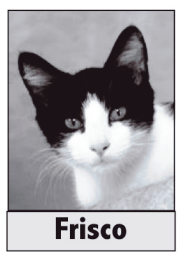




PETS of the WEEK

SCHS Humane Society

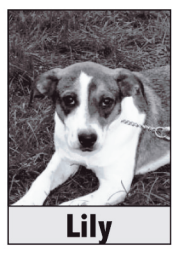
We speak for those who cannot speak for themselves



Frisco

Frisco is a handsome black and white feline born approximately April 16, 2014. He is a very social cat that loves his people. Frisco will need to go to a home that can continue to feed him special food to help him from getting an upset stomach. Frisco has a microchip, is litter box trained, has been vet checked, neutered, vaccinated (age appropriate), de-wormed, and tested negative for FIV/Feluk. Call 507-451-4512 to meet him in his foster home. . (C&AL)

Frisco's adoption fee is $100.



Lily

Lily is a 31 pound Foxhound mix, born approximately March 24th, 2015. Lily is a sweet, gentle, easy-going dog who gets along well with other dogs. Lily has been vet checked, spayed, vaccinated, de-wormed, and micro-chipped. (CE)

Lily's adoption fee is $200.

Call 507-451-4512 to meet Lily or Frisco

PETS OF THE WEEK IS SPONSORED BY THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS



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RECIPE CORNER

Million Dollar Sugar Cookies

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- 1 beaten egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 c. flour
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By Mrs. E. O. Habberstad

Roll in balls. Dip tops in sugar and press with a glass. Bake at 350° to 375° for 10 to 12 minutes.

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fall... ON THE ROAD



October is Fall Car Care Month:

Ten steps to keep your car up and running

• Check all fluids, including engine oil, power steering, brake and transmission as well as windshield washer solvent and antifreeze/coolant.

• Check the hoses and belts to make sure they are not cracked, brittle, frayed, loose or showing signs of excessive wear.

• Check the battery and replace if necessary. Make sure the connection is clean, tight and corrosion-free.

• Check the brake system annually and have the brake linings, rotors and drums inspected at each oil change.

• Inspect the exhaust system for leaks, damage and broken supports or hangers if there is an unusual noise. Exhaust leaks can be dangerous and must be corrected without delay.

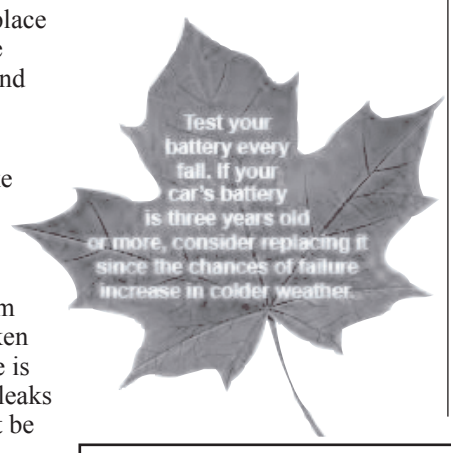
• Check engine performance to make sure it is delivering the best balance of power and fuel economy and producing the lowest level of emissions.

• Check the heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system, as proper heating and cooling performance is critical for interior comfort and for safety reasons such as defrosting.

• Inspect the steering and suspension system annually including shock absorbers, struts and chassis parts such as ball joints, tie rod ends and other related components.

• Check the tires, including tire pressure and tread. Uneven wear indicates a need for wheel alignment. Tires should also be checked for bulges and bald spots.

• Check the wipers and lighting so that you can see and be seen. Check that all interior and exterior lighting is working properly and replace worn wiper blades so you can see clearly when driving during precipitation.



What you need to know when buying new tires?

Buying new tires ranks pretty far down on the list of things most people want to do with their time and money, right next to replacing a failed water heater. While you might overspend on your next water heater, at least there will be a flow of warm water to wash the pain away.

Not so with tires. A poor choice of replacement rubber will haunt you every driving day for the next three to six years. The wrong tires will pound your neck, assault you with constant whining, cause your beloved sporty car to handle worse than a pickup, or scare you witless when it rains. Plus, buying new rubber is intimidating for the unprepared: Tires appear identical. Each manufacturer claims all its tires are superlative in every area. All cost more than you'd budgeted, which was "nothing." And newer vehicles require replacement components for their tire pressure monitoring system (TPMS).

But this process doesn't have to be so painful. These are our simple tips to make the tire-buying experience a little better.

If you were happy with your old tires

If you like the way your car performs, the answer is easy: Buy the exact same model you had. There's a good reason—the tire and car companies spend nearly $1 million to develop a tire with the attributes that make you like your car. The original equipment tire was selected to highlight the vehicle's good features and, often, smooth over weaknesses. If you're satisfied with your car, go with tires that exactly match the original equipment tires. Tell the counter person that close isn't good enough.

If your complaint is that your vehicle lacks traction in the rain, especially in deep water, think back to when the car was new. Did it handle well in the rain back then? If so, your problem is probably low tread depth, which means you don't need different tires, just new ones.

(Not sure whether it's time to replace the tires? There's no consensus among car- and tiremakers on acceptable tire life, but keep a close eye on tires that have been on a vehicle, used as a spare, or stored in a hot or sunny location for more than six years. For a tire's "born on" date, check the sidewall for an alphanumeric series that begins with "DOT." The last four digits are the week and year the tire was made: "1209" means the tire was built in the 12th week of 2009.)

When you try to replace your tires with the same model that came on the car, you might run into sticker shock—original equipment tires can be expensive. However, carmakers offer every vehicle with at least two brands of tires. Some Web surfing will reveal the alternate brand. Keep in mind, though, that tires developed for a different trim level of your vehicle likely will be very different from those on your model. The tires for the sporty edition will ride harsher and have little traction in snow. If you want to save money by putting tires from the base model on your sporty version, they may make it handle like, well, the base model.

You'll also need to take tire life into account. If you drive a sporty car, 20,000 miles is about all you can expect. Short tire longevity is one of the prices you pay for driving a vehicle with power and handling once reserved for full-on race cars. Today, even conservative cars, crossovers, and sport utility vehicles boast horsepower once unmatched by ultrahigh-performance cars.

NEW TIRES
Continued on Page 6B

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Deer season is upon us

Dawn and dusk are the times you are most likely to encounter deer along the roadside.

Deer breeding season runs from October through early January, and during this time they are highly active and on the move. This is when deer-vehicle collisions are at their peak.

Though deer may wander into suburban neighborhoods, they are most frequently found on the outskirts of town and in heavily wooded areas.

As pack animals, deer almost never travel alone. If you see one deer, you can bet that there are others nearby.

Preventive techniques

The two most important ways to avoid a deer-vehicle collision are: slow down and SLOW DOWN. If you are driving through an area known for high deer populations, slow down and observe the speed limit. The more conservative you are with your speed, the more time you will have to brake if an animal darts into your path.

Always wear a seatbelt. The most severe injuries in deer-vehicle collisions usually result from failure to use a seatbelt.

Watch for the shine of eyes along the roadside and immediately begin to slow.

Use your high beams whenever the road is free of oncoming traffic. This will increase your visibility and give you more time to react.

Deer can become mesmerized by steady, bright lights so if you see one frozen on the road, slow down and flash your lights. Some experts recommend one long blast of the horn to scare them out of the road, as well.

Pay close attention to caution signs indicating deer or other large animals. These signs are specifically placed in high-traffic areas where road crossings are frequent.

If you're on a multi-lane road, drive in the center lane to give as much space to grazing deer as possible.

Encountering a deer

Never swerve to avoid a deer in the road. Swerving can confuse the deer on where to run. Swerving can also cause a head-on collision with oncoming vehicles, take you off the roadway into a tree or a ditch, and greatly increase the chances of serious injuries.

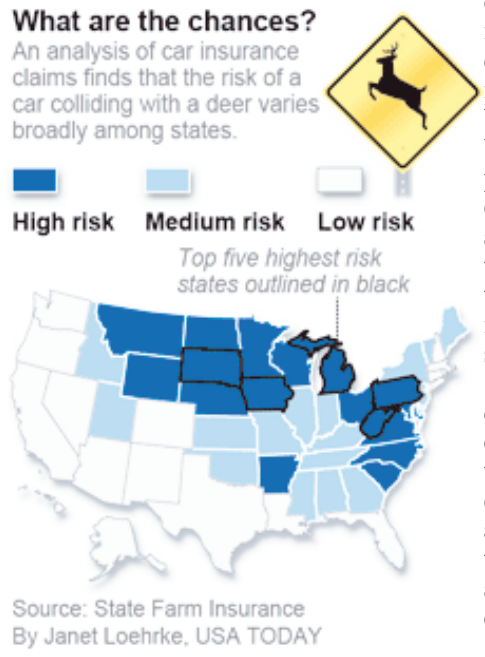
Deer are unpredictable creatures, and one that is calmly standing by the side of the road may suddenly leap into the roadway without warning. Slowing down when you spot a deer is the best way to avoid a collision. However, if one does move into your path, maintain control and do your best to brake and give the deer time to get out of your way.

Don't rely on hood whistles or other devices designed to scare off deer. These have not been proven to work.

If you do collide with a deer (or large animal), call emergency services if injuries are involved, or the local police if no one is injured, but damage has been caused to your property or someone else's. Never touch an animal that is in the roadway. Report the incident to your insurance company as soon as possible.

Unlike that fictional driver from the car commercial, knowing what to do when you encounter a large animal on or near the roadway can be a life-saver. Keeping calm and driving smart improve your chances of avoiding a collision and staying safe on the road. Safe travels!





NEW TIRES

Continued from Page 5B

In addition, safety, comfort, and entertainment features have added hundreds of pounds to the average vehicle. Unleashing those extra horses—and stopping and turning all that weight—takes its toll on tires.

If your original equipment tires are not available, both online tire stores and the tire manufacturer will suggest reasonable facsimiles. They will not duplicate your experience exactly, but simply having new tires, much like a fresh hair style, will likely overcome the differences.

If you want something new

There's hope for those who are unhappy with the way their car rides or handles. The trend of large-diameter wheels and low-profile tires has many accidental performance buyers complaining about ride comfort. A switch from ultrahigh-performance tires to those labeled "grand touring" or "touring" might soften the ride a bit. Check the consumer reviews at online tire sellers. Know that the change unavoidably will make handling less precise and reduce grip.

It's easier if you want more performance from your car: Switch from the original all-season tires to summer ones (or, as they should be called, three-season tires). They'll provide a lot more grip, wet or dry, at the expense of a harsher ride and no traction in the snow.

The most important rule: Do your research before you show up. Your trip to the tire store will be far less intimidating if you first assess your situation and budget, and then spend an evening surfing the sites of tire manufacturers, online tire sellers, and especially your local tire store.

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Public Safety

Blotter spotlight:

Drunkenness. Officers responded to a report of intoxication in the 400 block of State Ave. NW at 6:43 p.m. A citation was issued.

More changes coming to sheriff's office

SHERIFF ROSE



Scott Rose

As we progress through Dodge County's remodel and building projects for the year, things are starting to look at little different here at the Sheriff's Office.

If you haven't been to the courthouse in Mantorville for a while, you'll find that County Administration, Driver's License, Tax, Planning and Zoning are now all at the new Government Services Building (old Mantorville School). For those of you like myself who attended that school, it's pretty amazing to walk in there now and see the new building.

We will be moving our Records Department and our Dispatch Center into their new areas in the courthouse annex the first part of October. This will be the first time we've expanded these offices in almost 25 years. When this move takes place, our public window will be the Records Department window, not at Dispatch. This means all inquiries at the Sheriff's Office including burn permits and general information will be available at the Records window between 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Dispatch will now be in a secured area with no access to the public for security purposes.

Once that move is complete they will start remodeling in the Sheriff's Office East wing. This includes expanding evidence storage and intake, adding a third investigator office, adding a training/conference room, and adding a secured sally port for in custody transports and processing.

Finally, we'll be working on completing the new security screening area in the annex and staffing it once the courthouse remodel is completed, which will provide security screening for all staff and visitors of the Sheriff's Office, County Attorney's Office, Probation, and Court Administration. We are very fortunate to have a board of commissioners who recognize that our building safety and security needs have dramatically changed over the years – and that it's time to implement a carefully developed plan to ensure the safety of our county employees and all visitors to our facility.

In 1991 we moved into our current Sheriff's Office space with just over 20 full and part-time employees. We now have over 50 employees working in the same area, so we are really looking forward to the extra room for growth.

The staff here at the Sheriff's Office has worked hard this year to be as transparent as possible with everything we do. With that in mind, we are planning on having an open house in the spring of 2016 so we can show the citizens of Dodge County our facilities and our improvements, and share some of our accomplishments from this past year.

Developing and improving new building security and safety programs here has been a focus for our staff this year. We recognize the immense responsibility we have to ensure the safety of all of our county employees and visitors to the court house – and take that responsibility very seriously.

Thanks to everyone in advance for being patient during this phase of our remodeling project.

Scott Rose was elected as sheriff of Dodge County last November, defeating incumbent Jim Jensen. Rose took office in January.

Police blotter
Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police

Sept. 25

Arrest. Police made an arrest following a traffic stop in the city at 9:02 a.m.

Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of a fraud incident at 3:58 p.m.

Sept. 28

Vandalism. Officer took a property damage report at 9:09 a.m.

Owatonna Police

Sept. 26

Medical. Paramedics and officers responded to a medical emergency in the 400 block of State Ave. NW at 10:29 a.m.

Child Protection. At 2:11 p.m., officer took a child protection report in the 600 block of 16th St. SW.

Shoplifting. Police arrested a subject following a shoplifting incident in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 5:46 p.m.

Domestic. At 11:54 p.m., officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of 20th St. NW.

Sept. 27

Curfew. Officer issued a citation for a curfew violation in the 400 block of North St. W. at 1:47 a.m.

Drunken Driving. Police made DWI arrests in the 1500 block of Mosher Ave. SW at 2:46 a.m. and at Bridge St. W. and Interstate 35 northbound at 10:23 p.m.

Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 400 block of Rose St. E. at 11:30 a.m.

Burglary. Police began a burglary investigation in the 2200 block of 7th Ave. NE at 11:25 a.m.

Obscenity. At 6:17 p.m., officers responded to an incident of indecent exposure in the 400 block of Mineral Springs Rd. NE. They arrested a subject.

Traffic. Police arrested a motorist following a traffic stop at 11th St. NE and Elm Ave. N. at 6:42 p.m.

Hit and Run. A hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 200 block of 21st St. NW at 6:18 a.m.

Weapon. Police responded to a report of shots fired in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 8:19 p.m. A citation was issued.

Sept. 28

Domestic. Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Vine St. E. at 2:07 a.m.

Burglary. At 7:46 a.m., police responded to the 500 block of Dunnell Dr. NW for a burglary.

Child Protection. Child protection reports were taken in the 100 block of Broadway St. W. at 9:15 a.m. and in the 200 block of School St. E. at 3:21 p.m.

Drunkenness. Officers responded to a report of intoxication in the 400 block of State Ave. NW at 6:43 p.m. A citation was issued.

Drugs. Police issued a citation for drug activity in the 1100 block of 18th St. SW at 9:38 p.m.

Sept. 29

Fight. At 1:41 a.m., police responded to a fight in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N.

Arrest. Officer arrested a motorist following a traffic stop in the 200 block of Main St. E. at 5:29 a.m.

Juvenile. Police received a juvenile complaint from the 300 block of School St. E. at 12:58 p.m.

Shoplifting. At 4:40 p.m., officer issued a citation for shoplifting in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

Restraining Order. Police arrested a subject for violating a restraining order in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 5:12 p.m.

Warrant. At 9:20 p.m., police took a subject into custody for an outstanding warrant in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Rd. NE.

Sept. 30

Warrant. Officer made a warrant arrest at Oak Ave. S. and School St. W. at 12:45 a.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 100 block of Rose St. W. at 7:33 a.m. and in the 300 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 8:43 p.m.

Hit and Run. A hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 200 block of Main St. E. at 10:07 a.m.

Arrest. Police arrested a motorist following a traffic stop in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 3:23 p.m.

Shoplifting. At 6:03 p.m., officer issued a citation for shoplifting in the 400 block of North St. W.

Domestic. Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1000 block of Grove Ave. S. at 10:16 p.m.

Oct. 1

Domestic. A domestic disturbance occurred in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Rd. NE at 3:51 a.m.

Obscenity. Police responded to an indecent exposure incident in the 400 block of Mineral Springs Rd. NE at 12:59 p.m.

Warrant. Officer made warrants arrests in the 100 block of Main St. E. at 2:53 p.m. and in the 400 block of St. Paul Place NE at 5:17 p.m.

Weapon. Shots were heard fired in the 100 block of 20th St. NW at 5:27 p.m.

Animal. At 8:04 p.m., police responded to an animal call in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW.

Steele County Sheriff

Sept. 25

Welfare. At 7:15 a.m., deputies completed a welfare check in the 100 block of 1st Ave. NE.

Domestic. Deputies responded to domestic disturbances in the 6800 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 12:56 p.m. and in the 3100 block of 168th St. SE at 8:02 p.m.

Sept. 26

Criminal Sex. Deputies began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 2900 block of 74th Ave. SE at 1:15 a.m.

Sept. 27

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 300 block of 5th Ave. W. at 11:58 a.m.

Domestic. At 4:19 p.m., deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 5300 block of Crane Creek Rd.

Sept. 29

DWI. Deputies arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated on Interstate 35 northbound at 2:23 a.m.

Oct. 1

Domestic. At 9:37 a.m., deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 900 block of 44th Ave. SE. A subject was taken into custody.

Court news
Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Sept. 21 with Judge Gerald Wolf presiding:

Raymond L. Brown, 45, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony terroristic threats. Brown was sentenced to 119 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no contact with victim, no alcohol or controlled substance use, mental health evaluation and 4 years of supervised probation.

Brandon C. Froid, 29, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony domestic assault and felony controlled substance crime. He was sentenced to $131, 210 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no contact with victim, domestic abuse evaluation, chemical dependency evaluation and 5 years of supervised probation.

Andrew J. Kramer, 27, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault-dangerous weapons. Kramer was sentenced to $81 and 27 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

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

MN Dept. of Natural Resources

Montasir M. Ahmed, 39, Plymouth, hunting migratory game birds violation, $131.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Anthony J. Anderson, 47, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Beth A. Arends, 59, Long Lake, speeding, $141; Danny D. Baker, 49, Rochester, speeding and expired registration, $411; Jerome A. Berge, 52, Waseca, no current medical certificate in possession, $181; Jacalyn G. Burgoon, 50, Crystal, move over law violation, $131; Thomas E. Burt, 42, Omaha, NE, speeding, $281; David C. Butzin, 31, Osakis, speeding, $131; Ken Chen, 20, Irvine, CA, speeding, $221; Margarita M. Crabtree, 27, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; David W. Dawson, 67, Stanford, IL, seat belt, $106; Ricardo Esquivel, 41, Owatonna, failure to maintain parts and ac-

PUBLIC SAFETY
Continued on Page 8B

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

for more than 35 years proudly serving

Austin Utilities · Blooming Prairie Public Utilities · Fairmont Public Utilities · Grand Marais Public Utilities · City of Lake City Public Utilities · Litchfield Public Utilities · Mora Municipal Utilities · New Prague Municipal Utilities · North Branch Municipal Water & Light · Owatonna Public Utilities · Preston Public Utilities · Princeton Public Utilities · City of Redwood Falls Public Utilities · rpu we pledge, we deliver · City of Saint Peter Public Utilities · Spring Valley Utilities Light & Water Department · Waseca Utilities · Wells Public Utilities

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Flu Vaccine Clinics

Austin
1000 First Drive N.W.
507-433-8758
Sept. 19, 26 & Oct. 10 from 8 a.m. to noon.
Sept. 16, 23, 30 & Oct. 14 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Oct. 15 & 16 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Appointments are required.

Adams
908 W. Main
507-582-3547
Oct. 8 from 1 to 4 p.m. and Oct. 15 & 16 from 2 to 4 p.m.
Appointments are required.

LeRoy
671 E. Main St.
507-324-5305
Oct. 7 from 8 to 11:45 a.m.
Appointments are required.

Flu vaccine appointments are also available during regular clinic hours, call for an appointment. Insurance will be filed. For more information call our Flu Information Phone Line at 866-221-1852.

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MAYO CLINIC HEALTH SYSTEM



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Owatonna Public Utilities www.OwatonnaUtilities.com

Speak up about buckling up: extra seat belt enforcement on Steele County roads

Not wearing a seat belt was a deadly choice for the half of the people killed in car crashes in Minnesota during the first six months of 2015. Of those people who died in crashes from January through June, 50 percent were not wearing a seat belt, according to preliminary data.

To continue educating motorists that seat belts save lives, The Steele County Towards Zero Death Coalition along with more than 300 law enforcement agencies across the state, will be participating in the statewide Click It or Ticket campaign Oct. 9 through 25.

Nothing macho about an unbelted motorist

Men lead the way when choosing not to buckle up.

• Fifty-four percent of men killed in the first six months of 2015 were unbelted, compared with 40 percent of woman, according to preliminary figures.

• Preliminary numbers show 48 percent of men seriously injured in a car crash from June through July were unbelted, while 26 percent of women failed to buckle up.

• Of the 183 men killed in 2014 car crashes, 89 were not buckled.

• Of the 95 women who died in 2014 car crashes, 33 were not belted.

"The first line of defense in a crash is your seat belt," said Deputy Nicholas Donahue, Steele County Sheriff's Office. "Those not buckled up during a crash can be tossed around like a ping pong ball, thrown from the vehicle into oncoming traffic or even risk their own car rolling over them. These violent deaths are preventable with one simple click."

Join the Crowd by Buckling Up

More Minnesotans than ever are getting the message that belts save lives. Minnesota's 2015 seat belt survey shows 94 percent compliance when it comes to wearing a seat belt, compared with 87 percent nationally according to the 2013 National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS).\

Seat belt realities

In 2014, 44 percent of motorists who died statewide were not buckled up, compared with 58 percent in 2005. When comparing to the lives lost those years, 440 motor vehicle occupants died in 2005 in Minnesota traffic crashes compared with 278 in 2014, a 37 percent decrease. People includes non-motorists, such as bicyclists and pedestrians.

It's the law

Minnesota law states that drivers and passengers in all seating positions must be buckled up or seated in the correct child restraint. Officers will stop and ticket unbelted drivers or passengers. Seat belts must be worn correctly — low and snug across the hips and shoulder straps should never be tucked under an arm or behind the back.

Minnesota child car seat law and steps

• In Minnesota, all children must be in a child restraint until they are 4'9" tall, or at least age 8, whichever comes first.

• Rear-facing child seats - Newborns to at least 1 year and 20 pounds; recommended up to age 2. It is safest to keep a child rear-facing as long as possible.

• Forward-facing seats - age 2 until around age 4. It's preferable to keep children in a harnessed restraint until they reach the maximum weight limit.

• Booster seats - Use after outgrowing a forward-facing harnessed restraint; safest to remain in a booster until 4 feet 9 inches tall, or at least age 8, whichever comes first.

• Seat belts - Use when children can sit with their back against the vehicle seat and have their knees bent comfortably over the edge with their feet touching the floor.

Toward Zero Deaths

The Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement and education is a component of the state's Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) program. A primary vision of the TZD program is to create a safe driving culture in Minnesota in which motorists support a goal of zero road fatalities by practicing and promoting safe and smart driving behavior. TZD focuses on the application of four strategic areas to reduce crashes – education, enforcement, engineering and emergency trauma response.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from Page 7B

cessories in safe condition and tire defects, $281; Mustafa J. Farah, 22, Hopkins, speeding, $131; Andrew N. Fitzgerald, 30, Janesville, failure to update information on license, $101;

Ismael E. Flores-Perea, 27, no MN license, $181; Preonna L. Harrington, 22, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Allison R. Helget, 23, Mankato, speeding, $131; James D. Hoggard, 23, Owatonna, window tint violation, $131; Karen L. Hruska, 38, Waseca, speeding, $121; Amy K. Jacobson, 36, Owatonna, speeding, $381;

Terri L. Johnson, 19, Owatonna, failure to yield, $131; John F. Klukas Jr., 58, Faribault, inspection decal violation, $181; Frank D. La Vance, 20, Houston, TX, speeding, $381; Anthony C. Lamaack, 37, Austin, seat belt, $106; Bryan C. Larson, 35, Springfield, seat belt, $106; Ada C. Luna, 21, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Brenda L. Mullins, 47, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Joanne L. Nahlovsky, 62, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $121; Hayley J. Olson, 19, Burnsville, speeding, $121; Scott D. Olson, 58, Owatonna, seat belt, $106;

Vladimir Orbidan, 43, Indianola, IA, speeding, $131; Christopher J. Podgorski, 40, Farmington, speeding, $121; Nicollette E. Ramos, 28, Superior, CO, speeding, $131; Dilen D. Rippentrop, 30, Albert Lea, speeding, $221; Constantine G. Saites, 35, Rochester, speeding, $221; Ricky L. Shelton, 48, Ellendale, seat belt, $106; Wade L. Sjomeling, 41, Medford, speeding, $121; Michael A. Smith, 57, Faribault, speeding, $221; Matthew J. Strampe, 46, Austin, expired registration, $111; Bradley M. Westrom, 21, Elbow Lake, window tint violation, $131; Colleen M. Yerhot, 40, Owatonna, speeding, $131.

Owatonna Police Department

Triston C. Armstrong, 19, Owatonna, no insurance, $281; Alyssa J. Bethke, 21, New Richland, shoplifting, $75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring with conviction; Aaron E. Bishop, 30, Owatonna, speeding, $141;

Benjamin L. Carlson, 45, Owatonna, DWI, $1,006, 30 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 224 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Ryan A. Close, 28, Owatonna, shoplifting, 52 days in county jail; David A. Degroot, 43, Faribault, suspended license and no insurance;

Andrew C. Ehrich, 26, Owatonna, shoplifting, $75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Jade F. Forehlich, 23, Owatonna, DWI, $181, 1 day in county jail, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation;

Amanda M. Hobgood, 33, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana, $181; Jon D. Ingvaldson, 46, Owatonna, stop sign, $131; Taylor R. Jacobs, 21, Owatonna, theft, $131 and 51 days in county jail; Debra A. Korthals, 59, Blooming Prairie, expired tabs, $111; Jason W. Kubicek, 30, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Priscilla R. Mendoza, 20, Faribault, minor consumption, $181;

Nicholas P. Nelson, 31, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, $281, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Allison R. Owen, 45, Owatonna, careless driving, $181; Michael E. Payne, 23, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, $131, 1 day in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of supervised probation; James R. Rongve, 31, Claremont, DWI, $1,011, 90 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, psychological evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 3 years of supervised probation;

Nataly Sanchez-Paredes, 28, Minneapolis, suspended license, $281; Phillip J. Schweisthal, 32, Blooming Prairie, revoked license and seat belt, $306; Johnathan D. Siebold-Deml, 33, Owatonna, invalid license, 4 days in county jail; Nicole M. Strong, 29, Mankato, shoplifting, $131; Jennifer M. Villafan, 33, Owatonna, theft, $75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Shayla T. Walters, 20, Owatonna, shoplifting, $75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Jonathan S. Aase, 26, West Concord, speeding, $121; Salad M. Ali, 51, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Richard J. Andrews, 41, Minneapolis, speeding, $131; Wayde H. Bishop, 66, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $131; Delmer A. Borwege, 63, Medford, speeding, $141;

Edward A. Buretta, 65, Owatonna, driving through barricade, $40; Zachary J. Clausen, 22, Fort Dodge, IA, speeding, $141; Jose D. Colin-Tovar, 43, Wells, no MN license and speeding, $221; Joseph C. Dama, 28, Austin, seat belt, $106; Michael L. Duffy, 60, Dodge Center, speeding, $141; Roxanne R. Evans, 42, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Katelynn S. Grunklee, 17, Claremont, speeding, $221; Ashley R. Hasz, 20, Lakeville, speeding, $141;

Roland D. James, 56, Owatonna, careless driving, $281; Connie J. Johnson, 68, New Richland, speeding, $111; Ashley M. Kasper, 25, Austin, speeding, $221; Aimee M. Krukouski, 20, Morristown, underage drinking and driving and possession of Marijuana, $381, chemical assessment, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Joshua P. Langerfeld, 33, Faribault, speeding, $141;

Brandon V. Lawhead, 44, Austin, speeding, $131 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Patrick J. Levine, 29, Apple Valley, speeding, $121; Brandon J. Lewis, 37, Claremont, speeding, $131; Mikayla D. Malchow, 25, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Shanell D. Mardis, 22, Coon Rapids, shoplifting, $281 and 2 days in county jail; Terry J. Mikesell, 37, Ellendale, speeding, $221; Christopher L. Neste, 26, Waseca, speeding, $131;

Shane N. Radke, 35, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Travis W. Roberts, 22, Pengilly, speeding, $121; Ashley E. Robinson, 28, Blue Earth, speeding, $131; Clayton J. Simonette, 64, Lonsdale, speeding, $221; Machaela P. Spear, 16, Waseca, speeding, $121; Kelli L. Strom, 44, Hollandale, speeding, $121; Moises M. Velazquez, 39, Chaska, no MN license, $181; Zachary E. Weichert, 19, Rochester, speeding, $131; Daman C. Zimbelman, 21, Rochester, speeding, $141; Daniel Zimmerschied, 30, Maplewood, speeding, $141.

Police blotter

Dodge County

Sept. 24

Hit and Run. Deputies received information regarding a past action hit and run in the 500 block of Hwy. St. E. in Dodge Center at 1:11 a.m.

Child Abuse. At 4:11 a.m., deputies began an investigation of child neglect in the 68200 block of 260th Ave. in Kasson.

Vandalism. Deputies received a vandalism report that a large section of a playground slide was broken in the 400 block of Central Ave. N. in Dodge Center at 11:15 a.m.

Suspicious Activity. At 2:16 p.m., a Dodge Center resident reported that three subjects climbed over a fence and left in a vehicle on 2nd St. NW.

Animal Neglect. Deputies received information regarding dogs not having any food, water or proper shelter on 2nd Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 3:40 p.m.

Sudden Death. Deputies responded to a sudden death in the 72000 block of 240th Ave. in Hayfield at 10:11 p.m.

Sept. 25

Harassment. A citizen reported being the victim of harassment in the 200 block of 2nd St. SE in Hayfield at 1:45 p.m.

Sept. 26

Larceny. A Blooming Prairie resident reported that a part of an auger was missing in the 12100 block of 730th St. at 9:26 a.m. It had happened sometime in the last 10 months.

Animal. Deputies received a complaint of a barking dog in the 400 block of 2nd St. W. in Claremont at 8:53 p.m.

Noise. At 9:56 p.m., a citizen made a noise complaint regarding loud and offensive music in the 500 block of Central Ave. S. in Dodge Center.

Suspicious Activity. At 11:42 p.m., a Dodge Center citizen reported that he was walking home and was threatened at Hwy. St. W. and 5th Ave. NW.

Sept. 27

Suspicion. A Hayfield woman heard suspicious noises in back of her home in the 200 block of 2nd St. SE at 12:09 a.m.

Disturbance. At 4:53 p.m., a male was refusing to allow a female leave a residence in the 200 block of Julia St. in Claremont.

Crash. A motorcycle accident with injuries occurred in the 19900 block of 595th St. in Dodge Center at 5:24 p.m. Deputies, West Concord Police, West Concord Ambulance and Mayo One responded. One male was transported to St. Mary's Hospital.

Mental Case. Deputy took a mental health report in the 200 block of 2nd St. SE in Hayfield at 5:50 p.m.

Sept. 28

Suspicious Activity. At 1:35 a.m., suspicious subjects were found to be in a yard in the 400 block of Church St. in Claremont.

Noise Complaint. Deputy responded to a complaint that a car horn had been going off for over an hour in the 600 block of 4th St. SE in Dodge Center at 12:33 p.m.

Animal. Deputies received an animal complaint from Meadow Lark Lane and 7th St. in Dodge Center at 12:36 p.m.

Narcotics. At 9:38 p.m., a narcotics incident occurred in the 400 block of 4th Ave. NW in Dodge Center.

Sept. 29

Sex Offense. Deputies began an investigation of a sex offense in the 800 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 8:51 a.m.

Shoplifting. A Claremont business requested deputies to look at a security video of several shoplifting suspects in the 100 block of Front St. W. at 10:43 a.m.

Probation Violation. Deputies transported a subject to the Olmsted County Jail for a probation violation at 4:07 p.m.

Vandalism. At 5:41 p.m., a Mantorville woman reported that her house was egged twice in the 1000 block of Chestnut St.

Court news

Dodge County

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

Peter J. Martini, 29, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of Marijuana. He was sentenced to $1,075, 3 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

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

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Robert W. Baker, 47, Kenyon, careless driving, $180; Favian C. Campos, 21, Austin, invalid license and speeding, $240; Lance G. Cariveau, 46, Oronoco, railroad crossing violation, $50 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Cody W. Carlson, 30, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $380; Lyndsay J. Carlson, 23, New Richland, speeding, $140; Alicia A. Claseman, 28, Mantorville, DWI, $555, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 40 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Earlene L. Duranceau, 51, Kasson, speeding, $220; Heather A. McKee, 44, Shakopee, damage to property, 90 days in county jail; Jake T. Mindrup, 24, Waltham, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, $280; Evan A. Prendez, 19, Byron, disorderly conduct, $300; Steven J. Ranvek, 30, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $300; Jacqueline K. Svenby, 52, Medford, speeding, $140.

Kasson Police Department

Greysen S. Deblaay, 20, Kasson, unreasonable acceleration, $180; Sammie H. Hershberger, 28, Dodge Center, parking violation, $32; Sarah J. Underwood, 18, Kasson, tampering with motor vehicle, $180.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Lance L. Blackford, 37, Sioux Falls, SD, speeding, $130; Steven J. Brown, 22, Mantorville, speeding, $120; Giuseppe R. Curry, 18, Rochester, speeding, $130; William H. Grinde, 24, Rochester, speeding, $140; Randy G. Janes, 56, Hayfield, speeding, $140; Amber M. Mills, 30, Kasson, speeding, $130; Travis A. Schleusner, 24, Dodge Center, speeding, $130; Chelsey L. Ulferts, 18, Waseca, speeding, $140.

West Concord Police Department

Evan J. Florez, 19, Inver Grove Heights, speeding, $220; Jessica M. Paulson, 20, Dodge Center, speeding, $140.

Steele Arrests

Owatonna Police

Trace Michael Stanley, 18, arrested at 3:03 a.m. Sept. 27, felony possession and DWI, held for court.

Sallie Mae Wilson, 33, arrested at 6:55 p.m. Sept. 27, warrant arrest, $1,000 bail.

Jesus Ortiz, 27, arrested at 2:27 a.m. Sept. 28, domestic assault and disorderly conduct, held for court.

Dustin David Craft, 24, arrested at 5:37 p.m. Sept. 29, order for protection violation, held for court.

Damion Lee Andrews, 39, arrested at 12:55 a.m. Sept. 30, warrant arrest, $500 bail.

Mark Andrew Halberg, 53, arrested at 3:28 p.m. Sept. 30, cancelled license, held for court.

Derek James Kelling, 18, arrested at 2:54 p.m. Oct. 1, warrant arrest, body only.

Steele County Sheriff

Alexander Jay Brown, 20, arrested at 10:07 a.m. Oct. 1, felony domestic assault, interference with 911, and possession of controlled substance, held for court.

Dean Donald Drager, 29, arrested at 6 p.m. Oct. 1, warrant arrest, $5,000 bail.

Owatonna Fire

Sept. 25

Trash Fire. Fire personnel responded to a trash or rubbish fire that was contained in the 300 block of School St. W. at 7:22 p.m.

Sept. 26

Crash. At 12:45 a.m., fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries on Hwy. 14 W.

Leak. A natural gas leak occurred in the 4300 block of 45th St. N. in Clinton Falls at 5:27 p.m.

Sept. 27

Grass. At 12:57 p.m., some brush and grass caught on fire in the 2600 block of Hoffman Dr. NW.

Carbon Monoxide. Fire fighters responded to a carbon monoxide incident in the 1200 block of Kast Ave. at 2:16 p.m.

Sept. 28

False Call. A malicious, mischievous false call happened in the 1300 block of Lincoln Ave. SE at 1:51 p.m.

Ellendale man injured in rollover

Michael J. Foster, 41, of Ellendale, received non-life threatening injuries after a rollover at 8:22 a.m. on Monday, according to Minnesota State Patrol reports.

Foster was driving southbound on Interstate 35 near Geneva when he lost control, entered the ditch and rolled over.

He was transported to Mayo Clinic Hospital in Albert Lea. The report shows that he was wearing a seatbelt, but it is unknown if there was alcohol in his system.

The Freeborn County Sheriff assisted in the incident.

Mason's ID program scheduled for Oct. 13

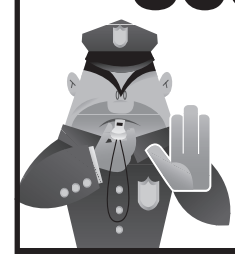
The Blooming Prairie Masonic Lodge 123 will be sponsoring a Kid's ID program during student conferences at the elementary school from 1:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 13.

The ID program will include cheek swabs, digital photos and digital fingerprints.

For more information contact Jeff Gwilt at 507-456-1504.

SHERIFF'S TIPLINE

866-878-7964



If you have information about any crimes in Steele County, call the sheriff's tipline. You may remain anonymous.

The following individuals as they have active warrants in Steele County.

The sheriff makes this information available as a public service.

ACTIVE WARRANTS

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

Saul Gonzalez – registration violation - $25,000 bail
Darin Goodsell – no license - $500 bail
Alexandra Gray – warrant - $1,000 bail
Felicia Green – theft - $500 bail
Douglas Greier – worthless check - $1,000 bail
Alma Guajardo – no insurance - $1,000 bail
Bashi Guled – no insurance - $1,000 bail
Steven Gustafson – contribute - $2,000 bail
Edgar Gutierrez – assault, theft - $2,000 bail
Cardenas Gutierrez – revoked license - $500 bail
Roger Halbach – DWI - $3,000 bail
Michael Hale – theft - $3,000 bail
Brandon Haley – theft – no bail
Anthony Hall – civil warrant - $1,567.21 bail
Dean Hall – motor vehicle theft – no bail
Brian Hambly – theft, shoplifting - $500 bail
Andrea Hammer – no insurance - $1,000 bail
Cassidy Hammer – open bottle - $300 bail
John Hammond – DWI - $1,000 bail
Lori Hanson – DWI - $3,000 bail

Education

FOUNDATION

Continued from Page 1A

BPEF President Julie Noble thanked everyone for attending the event and for supporting the Foundation, which strives to enhance the educational opportunities for Blooming Prairie School District students.

Noble shared information about the BPEF, noting that the group has been able to help support the school district in a variety of ways, providing funding for educational field trips, technology and other programs and further supporting school staff and students throughout the year. Noble also encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Pride of Blooming Prairie Charitable Auction.

Blooming Prairie Schools Superintendent Barry Olson also addressed the audience, expressing the district's gratitude for the BPEF. He stated that the Foundation typically contributes between $70,000 to $80,000 toward school efforts and initiatives each year. "The Foundation is very, very important to us," Olson said.

Noble also read the list of Legacy donations that have been gifted to the Foundation from January of 2014 to June of 2015. She also stated that there is a "Giving Tree" at the high school, featuring the names of donors on its leaves.

Each honoree was also invited to share a few words with the audience before accepting their award. First, Clair Coughlin spoke about the events in his life that have shaped him into the person he is today. Coughlin served as an educator and has also been active on educational boards of all kinds. Coughlin said that the atmosphere of the rural area and being a part of the Blooming Prairie community influenced him to make a difference in the lives of others. He recalled the Blooming Prairie staff, who inspired him, and then spoke highly of the community as a whole. "I don't think I've ever run into a Blossom I didn't immediately like," he said.

Coughlin also said that he was happy to join the other honorees and become a member of this group. "I am indeed honored to be honored," Coughlin said.

James Schlichting also spoke about Wayne Ruhter, who passed away in 2006. Ruhter was a renowned nuclear scientist who spent time in China and made over 30 trips to Russia, working to ensure that nuclear materials worldwide were well secured. His accomplishments were recognized across the world and Schlichting said that Ruhter's work might have even saved lives. Schlichting also said that he believes Ruhter's time in Blooming Prairie helped him become the type of person who was passionate about making meaningful contributions in the lives of others and society as a whole.

Honoree Bill Underwood, an accomplished athlete and incredibly engaged community member, was unable to attend the banquet, but his nieces Karen Beede and Sheila Fuller read a letter to the audience on his behalf. One passage read, "I have so many great memories here and I have remained friends with many of my classmates." The letter also offered a few words of wisdom Underwood had learned during his athletic career and closed with a quote from Babe Ruth: "Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game."

Ken Esplan then recalled fond memories from his time as a Blooming Prairie athlete and student. Esplan played football, ran track and was the first Blooming Prairie athlete to earn a spot at a state tournament (in wrestling.) Esplan spoke highly of past and current school staff and coaches and shared that his love of sports truly began in Blooming Prairie. "You get to love sports and I absolutely, positively did," he said. "I enjoyed every minute of it."

Esplan, like the other honorees, also said the he's thoroughly enjoyed his experiences as a 2015 Blossom Honoree. "It's been one great time to be nominated and it's something I'll cherish for the rest of my life," he said.

Lisa Zwiener Bruns, another highly successful athlete and current Blooming Prairie kindergarten teacher, recalled the support she received from her family. "I can't help but think how lucky I am to have their support, not just in athletics, but in every aspect of my life," she said. Zwiener Bruns added that she also greatly appreciates the BPEF for their efforts and for supporting the students, teachers and community, as well.

Last, but not least, was Kenny Behnken, who entertained the audience as he quizzed them on different elements from the periodic table. Behnken began his teaching career in Claremont and later taught for 34 years in the Blooming Prairie School District. During this time, he also served as a coach, accompanying multiple teams to state tournaments. In both the classroom and on the track, said Behnken, he tried to inspire his students and teach them life lessons. He also expressed his gratitude to his family and the BPFE for the honor.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

The 2015 Blossom Honorees accept their awards at Saturday's banquet. Pictured from left to right are Lisa Zwiener Bruns, Kenny Behnken, Ken Esplan, Karen Beede and Sheila Fuller (on behalf of Bill Underwood), Clair Coughlin and Natalie Larson and David Ruhter (on behalf of Wayne Ruhter.)

How did a teacher change your life?



With the new school year kicking into full gear, the Steele County Times is searching for stories about teachers.

Specifically, we're looking for area teachers who've made an impact on their students. We want area residents, young or old, to share stories about the teachers who have made a difference in their lives.

We are confident that everyone has someone who did something or said something or believed something about them that changed the way they thought, or learned, or felt. The one who made such an impact on our lives that 10, 20, 30, 40, even 50 or more years later, these people stand out.

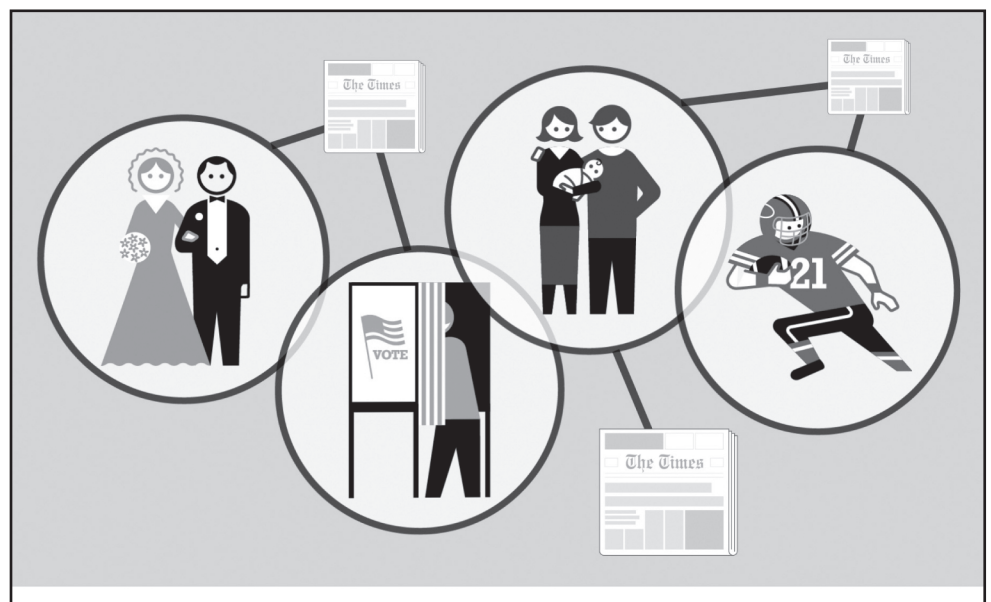
We would like residents to submit a story (300 words or less) about their teacher experience. We plan to publish the stories during the month of November as part of American Education Week, which is celebrated Nov. 16-20.

Please submit your stories by emailing to bptimes@frontiernet.net or mail to Steele County Times, P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 or they can be brought to our office in person.

Publisher Rick Bussler







NEWSPAPER MEDIA HAS THE POWER TO INFORM, ENTERTAIN AND CONNECT.

When you hold your local newspaper in your hands – whether in print or on a mobile device – you hold a powerful tool to inform and inspire.

For centuries in towns and cities across North America, local newspapers have served as watchdogs for the public good and as a powerful connection between citizens and the communities around them.

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Submitted photo

Steele County Times publisher Rick Bussler (left) accepted four awards on behalf of the Times during the National Newspaper Association convention in St. Charles, Missouri.

Times captures top national awards

More journalistic awards for excellence are making their way to the Steele County Times.

Last week the Times captured four national awards during the National Newspaper Association's annual convention in St. Charles, Missouri. Publisher Rick Bussler accepted the honors during a breakfast awards ceremony Saturday morning.

The Times won two second place awards, one third place and one honorable mention.

Bussler received a second place award for best business feature story in the category of weeklies with less than 6,000 circulation. The judges commented, "Interesting story with multiple angles for development. Good flow to effectively communicate with readers." Bussler wrote a story about the Krejci Ford dealership for the Progress Edition in 2014.

Another second place award came for best headline writing for the entire newspaper. The judges wrote, "Nice, well-rounded use of headline-writing techniques throughout publication. Good mix of typefaces for variety."

The newspaper won a third place award for best use of photographs.

Bussler also picked up an honorable mention for best photo essay. In that category, the judges said: "Nice choice of photos." Bussler's winning entry was a photo story of the Steele County Fair from 2014.

The Times was one of only a few newspapers in Minnesota to win national awards. The other newspapers that won were from the northern part of the state.

"It's a great honor to be recognized by your peers for providing outstanding journalism," said Bussler. "We are continuing a high level of excellence for our readers."

The awards, Bussler said, are a reflection of the high caliber of work done by the entire staff. "I'm proud of the work my staff does on a regular basis," he said. "We have some hard working employees who are committed to providing quality journalism."

Bussler noted the Times has won national awards in four out of the past five years. In 2014, the Times earned three awards while the paper picked up two in 2013. The best year came in 2011 when the Times received four awards, including two first place honors.

The Times has also picked up numerous state awards over the past five years.

Blooming Prairie High School crowns Homecoming royalty



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

The 2015 Blooming Prairie Homecoming Court poses for a photo following Monday's coronation ceremony. Seated in front are Queen Margaret Jones and King Mitchell Jones. Standing in the second row are, from left to right, Jon Hatch, Ethan Strunk, Riley Olson, Kevin Eischens, Katelynn Grunklee, Alyssa Krohnberg, Kallie Klemmensen, Lauren Larkoski, Masters of Ceremony Hannah Ahrens and Kalyn Naatz.

St. Mary's makes the best of relocation

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

While temporarily displaced from its school on Cedar Street, St. Mary's School is making the best of its relocation to Pillsbury Campus. With a month of school in their new location, the St. Mary's community is remaining positive.

The school relocated to Pillsbury Campus after uneven flooring and possible concern of floor collapse was announced on Aug. 13, less than a month before the start of the school year.

As an engineer and architect are drawing up a solution to fix the flooring in the St. Mary's School building, St. Mary's teachers and students are conducting the school day in Pillsbury Hall. They walk outside to the cafeteria building for lunch and across the campus to the gymnasium for gym class. They

RELOCATION
Continued on Page 6C



Staff photo by Anna Segner

St. Mary's elementary students participated in the Minnesota Marathon for Nonpublic Education on the morning of Friday, Oct. 2, by walking around the block surrounding Pillsbury Campus several times.

Unique marathon for St. Mary's students

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Every year for the past 10 or so years, St. Mary's School participates in the Minnesota Marathon for Nonpublic Education. Due to the school's unique circumstances, the marathon consisted of all 320 students walking around the block surrounding Pillsbury Campus.

The marathon took place on Oct. 2, and it began at 9 a.m. Most, if not all, K-8 students

MARATHON
Continued on Page 9D

Firefighter of the Year: Darin Brown

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Though Darin Brown is not one to enjoy the spotlight, he was deeply honored when he found out that he was deemed Firefighter of the Year through the National Exchange Club's Firefighter of the Year program.

A banquet is being held for Brown at 6 p.m., Oct. 8, at the Eagles Club in Owatonna.

To Brown, the call to fight fires runs in the family. Brown followed in the footsteps of his father, Ralph Brown, and his brother, David Brown, by joining the Owatonna Fire Department 29 years ago on Oct. 1, 1986, as a teenager.

When he thought about nearly three decades of service as a firefighter, Brown said "it went fast, a lot faster than I thought it would."

Frank Anderson was the fire chief that hired him, and Brown laughs that he does not think Anderson ever knew his first name, as he always addressed him as Mr. Brown in his "broken German accent."



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Darin Brown was recently named Firefighter of the Year through the National Exchange Club's Firefighter of the Year program.

Brown spent his first seven years as a part-time fireman that slept in the upstairs living quarters of the fire department where there was one room full of 15 beds. He laughs that his brother could not get rid of him even after leaving the house.

"After years of living and fighting at home together, he still couldn't get rid of me," laughed Brown. "We ended up with beds like two feet away from each other."

Brown remembers his first call was a house fire, and he stood buckled into the back of the firetruck. It was not until

FIREFIGHTER
Continued on Page 6C

STEELE TALKIN'



Patty Hocking

Medications for your mental health

Mental illness, not unlike physical illness, can affect you or your loved ones quality of life if left untreated. As with treating most medical illnesses, mental illness can also be successfully treated and is a part of taking care of your overall health. People understand they cannot treat diabetes or a lump in their breast on their own, but that same understanding often does not extend to mental illness. You will not have a healthy body if you do not take care of your mind.

If you or a loved one is struggling with symptoms of persistent sadness, anxiety, experiencing unwanted, frightening, obsessive or ruminating thoughts, are hearing voices, have lost the ability to perform self- cares, have an eating disorder, have addictive behaviors or thoughts of self-harm, are unable to regulate your emotions or behaviors, you may be exhibiting symptoms of a mental illness. There is a wide range of mental illnesses and they have their own specific pattern of symptoms and can vary in severity. Chances are, in order to improve your mental health, you may need to seek professional help and may also require a prescribed medication to help reduce or alleviate your symptoms.

Medications can play a very important part in the treatment of mental illness and are often the most helpful when they're a part of an overall treatment program that may include Psychotherapy, Rehabilitative and/or Community Services. Psychiatric medications work by regulating the brain chemicals, as it is believed that symptoms of mental illness come from these chemical imbalances in the brain. A person may need to take medication(s) for a short period of time or may require long term or a lifetime of treatment. Some medications may work better for one person than for another. It is often difficult to predict who will respond to what medication, but prescribers usually will review your clinical records and gather a family and medical history in determining one medication over another. Some psychiatric medications tend to work very quickly, while others may work slowly and you may need to be on a medication for several weeks before you see any improvement.

Medications for mental illness fall into the following categories:

Antidepressants -Work to improve symptoms of sadness, depressed mood and anxiety and thoughts of self-harm. Medications for depression impact the brain chemicals associated with emotion, such as serotonin, norepinephrine and dopamine.

Antipsychotics- May reduce or eliminate symptoms of psychosis such as hearing unwanted voices or having fearful thoughts. These medications can help you have clear thoughts, stay organized and calm. Antipsychotic medications impact the brain chemical called dopamine. Antipsychotics may also be used to treat depression as they work on the brain differently than antidepressants and may

STEELE TALKIN'
Continued on Page 3C

HometownLiving

Community Calendar



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Carson Deml plays a game of "Plink-O" with a little help from his grandpa, Brian Deml, during the Duck Bash last Thursday evening. The event served as a fundraiser for Steele County Ducks Unlimited, and proceeds will help benefit their wetland conservation and preservation efforts.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

BAR BINGO: MONDAY @ 6:30 P.M.
WINE & WOMEN: WED. 6-10 P.M.
MEAT RAFFLES: FRIDAY @ 5:30 P.M.
WINE CLUB: TUES. 7-8:30 P.M. @ J&H SEPT. 15 & OCT. 6 (NOV. - MAY DATES AVAILABLE LATER)
HOLIDAY DAZZLE WINE & BEER TASTING: THURS. NOV 5
HOLIDAY DAZZLE DOWNTOWN FESTIVITIES: FRIDAY DEC. 4
HARVEY'S HOLIDAY CHEER: SAT. DEC. 12
NEW YEAR'S EVE: MUNCHIES & CHAMPAGNE
EVENT DETAILS *AVAILABLE AT J&H*

Blooming Prairie

Oct. 6:
7:30 p.m. BP Eastern Star
Oct. 7:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
6:30 p.m. BP Lions Club
Oct. 8:
4:30 p.m. BP Police Comm Mtg
6 p.m. Make 'N Take Evening for all Childcare Providers, Blooming Prairie City Center
7 p.m. BP AAUW, HS GYM
Oct. 10:
St. Columbanus Fall Dance & Raffle
Oct. 12:
5 p.m. BP Education Foundation, HS Library
7 p.m. BP City Council Mtg
Oct. 13:
BP Card Club & Luncheon
2:30 p.m. BPPU Comm Mtg
4:30 p.m. BP Fire Comm Mtg
7 p.m. BP VFW
7 p.m. BP VFW Auxiliary
7:30 p.m. BP Prairie Lodge Masons
Oct. 14:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time

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- Raffle drawing first Saturday of every month
- Happy Hour 3 p.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday
- Taco Tuesdays every Tuesday at 5 p.m.

"BURGER NIGHT" SPECIALS
#1 - CHEESY TORTILLA SOUP
#2- CHEF SALAD

LUNCH SPECIAL (10/8 & 10/9):
HOT HAM & CHEESE SANDWICH & TATOR TOTS

Ellendale/Geneva

Oct. 6:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
Oct. 8:
5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
7:30 p.m. Ellendale City Council Mtg (2nd & 4th Thurs), Training/Mtg Rm
Oct. 12:
6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
Oct. 13:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

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Owatonna

Oct. 6:
Owatonna PS Conferences ALC
9:30 a.m. LTO When We Are Married-add to 10/13 and all of Oct editions
5 p.m. Owatonna Human Rights Commission, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall
6:30 p.m. Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness Peer Support Group, Hospital
7 p.m. Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall
Oct. 7:
Wilson Vision & Hearing Screening
Oct. 8:
Owatonna PS Conferences OJHS
2 p.m. OPL Independent & World Films
5:30 p.m. Owatonna Airport Commission, Airport Lounge
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time
Oct. 12:
Owatonna PS Conference K-6
12 p.m. Owatonna Noon Rotary Club, Country Club
4:30 p.m. Owatonna Park & Rec Brd, Council Chambers, Brooktree Golf Couse or City Park
6:30 p.m. Owatonna PS Schl Brd Wrk Sssn
Oct. 13:
Owatonna PS Conferences K-6
Owatonna PS Conferences OJHS
Steele Co Commission
1 p.m. Steele Co SDA Mtg
6:30 p.m. Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness Peer Support Group, Owatonna Hospital
7 p.m. Steele Co: Co Brd Mtg, Admin Center, BR
7 p.m. Veterans Open Roundtable, Good Shephard Lutheran Church, Owa

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Medford

Oct. 7:
7 p.m. Medford Park Brd
Oct. 8:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
Oct. 12:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
Oct. 14:
4 p.m. Medford Veterans Committee Mtg

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SPOT LIGHT

Catholic Daughters of America to hold gummi bear fundraiser

Minnesota Catholic Daughters of the Americas and Habitat for Humanity have launched a partnership to build homes and support the effort of a Habitat for Humanity Affiliate. Each year a house is built within the State of Minnesota with an estimated annual grant of $10,000. Grants have been given to assist in building homes in Owatonna, Faribault and Marshall. The funding of this Catholic Daughter Grant is through their annual fall Gummi Bear Fundraising project conducted by the local Courts. The local Court, The Owatonna Court #1180 of the Catholic Daughters of America will be distributing Gummi Bear Candy this Friday, Oct. 9 in the afternoon and on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Hy-Vee, CashWise and Fareway Foods in Owatonna.

Other counties

Mower
Oct. 6:
Farmer John's Pumpkin Patch
10 a.m. ArtWorks Gallery Show: Jean Formo and Mary Singer
10 a.m. Hearth and Home Series: Buggy Rides and Parlor Visits, Hormel Historic Home
1 p.m. Mower Co Brd of Commissioners Mtg
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
6 p.m. Cotillion Social Dance Club, Austin Country Club
6:45 p.m. Public Skate, Riverside Arena, Austin
Oct. 7:
Lyle 1st Responders Meeting
Farmer John's Pumpkin Patch
LeRoy PS FFA Corn Drive
LeRoy PS Midquarter Picture Retakes
10 a.m. ArtWorks Gallery Show: Jean Formo and Mary Singer
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
2 p.m. Austin PS Early Release
2 p.m. Kids' Intro to Glass Fusing, Austin ArtWorks Center
5:30 p.m. Izaak Walton League Steak Cookout, Todd Park
5:30 p.m. Medicare ABCD's, Mower County Senior Center
5:30 p.m. Uncork & Create, Austin ArtWorks Center
7:30 p.m. Into the Woods, Riverland Community College
Oct. 8:
Autumn Leaf Collection, Austin Cook Farm Site

Freeborn
Oct. 6:
8:30 a.m. RAIN DATE Walk A Thon at Sibley, ALPS
9 a.m. Picture Retake Day, AL Senior HS
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
12 p.m. Red Cross Blood Driver, North Bridge Mall, AL
5:30 p.m. AL Planning Commission, City Hall
Oct. 7:
7:30 a.m. AL Port Authority Mtg, AL EDA
Oct. 8:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
5:30 p.m. AL Council Workshop, City Council Chambers
6 p.m. ALPL Night-Time Story time
Oct. 9:
1 p.m. Red Cross Blood Driver, Calvary Baptist Church, AL
Oct. 12:
NHS Induction, ALHS
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
3:45 p.m. ALPL Book Pals (Gr 5 & 6)
5:15 p.m. AL Human Rights Commission, City Council Chambers
Oct. 13:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time

Dodge
Oct. 6:
10 a.m. WCPL Story Time/Crafts
2:30 p.m. Kasson EDA
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center American Legion, Taco Tuesdays
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center EDA
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center Planning & Zoning Commission
6 p.m. Triton Adult ESL Class, ES Media Center
6:30 p.m. Claremont Planning & Zoning (1st Tuesday)
Oct. 7:
7:30 a.m. Hayfield Chamber Mtg, Uncle Mony's/Spare Time Lanes
5 p.m. Hayfield EDA Mtg, City Hall
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center American Legion, Pizza & Bear
Oct. 8:
9:30 a.m. WC American Legion Mtg

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Blooming Prairie Living

STEELE TALKIN'

Continued from Page 1C

help those who have not been relieved by other treatments.

• Mood Stabilizers- Reduce extreme mood swings and have been proven effective in treating Bipolar Disorder. Mood stabilizers can also be used to treat depression.

• Anti-Anxiety- Reduce the physical and emotional symptoms of anxiety, can help with social phobias and panic attacks and can aid with insomnia and help to make you feel more relaxed.

• Stimulants and related medication- Can be helpful in reducing the symptoms of Attention Deficit Disorders such as hyperactivity and impulsiveness and may improve concentration and attention spans.

Before starting a medication:

• Talk with your prescriber and be honest about all the symptoms you have been experiencing.

• Tell your prescriber about any and all drugs, alcohol, herbal supplements, over the counter or other prescription medications you are or have been taking.

• Discuss your concerns and ask about your options to create a plan that works well for you.

• Ask about the potential benefits, as well as potential side effects, and ask whom you should contact should you experience unpleasant side effects.

• Be persistent until you find the medication or combination of medications that work for you.

• Work with your prescriber if you wish to discontinue your medication as stopping abruptly can often lead to unpleasant side effects or withdrawal symptoms.

• Take your medication as prescribed even if your symptoms improve unless your physician discontinues them.

Work with your prescriber so you can decide which medication may be best for you. Remember that it is very important to treat your mental health as a part of your overall health. Your mental health affects your physical, emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing. Managing your mental health can lead to better quality of life and no one's illness affects only the individual, but can affect your loved ones, your job and other aspects of your life. Take care of yourself!

Steele Talkin' is a weekly column featuring officials from various organizations throughout Steele County. Patty Hocking RN, is Director of Nursing at South Central Human Relations Center, Owatonna Minnesota. The agency has a nursing team of nine staff, and four prescribers who include psychiatrists, clinical nurse specialist, and nurse practitioner.

Lutefisk lovers have a special day at First Lutheran on Oct. 20

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Lovers of lutefisk often call the annual Blooming Prairie First Lutheran Church Lutefisk Dinner the event of the year.

This year's dinner will be served late morning and early evening settings on Tuesday, Oct. 20.

Serving begins at 11 a.m. and continues to 1 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome for the 11 to 1 serving. Tickets will be sold all morning. The church opens at 8 a.m. The evening settings (advanced sale only) are at 5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

More than 1,400 dinners were served last year.

The menu for the day includes: Lutefisk and lefse, Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, buttered corn, cranberry salad, Norwegian pastries, coffee and milk.

Tickets cost $18 for adults and $6 for children ages 5-12. Children under five are free.

Carry-out is by reservation only and costs $18.

Other activities planned the day of the dinner include a Used-A-Bit Shop, a Youth Candy Sale and a General Store featuring crafts and quilts.

All proceeds go to benevolence.

More information may be obtained by contacting Danielle Hein at First Lutheran at 507-583-6621 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays.

Rick Kittelson receives MMUA Honorary Lifetime Membership Award

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Blooming Prairie Public Utilities manager Rick Kittelson has received an Honorary Lifetime Membership Award from the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA).

"It is an honor," said Kittelson. "It's not something the MMUA gives away to everyone."

Kittelson began working for Blooming Prairie Public Utilities in 1973 and was named manager of the department in 1985. He's also been involved with the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA), which supplies wholesale power for Blooming Prairie Public Utilities. Kittelson served on the SMMPA board and even served as its president for multiple terms. Kittelson plans to retire later this year.

Kittelson believes that he's the third person from Blooming Prairie Public Utilities to receive this award. He knows that Konard Wold and Robert Dandelet, of Blooming Prairie, have also received this honor.

"That puts me in good company," he said. Kittelson adds that both Wold and Dandelet completed a great deal of community service, and that he hopes he, too, has been able to serve his community well.

According to a MMUA press release, "The prestigious MMUA award symbolizes a long professional life dedicated to the advancement of municipal utilities locally, and also for the betterment of the industry on a statewide basis."

This year, three Honorary Lifetime Membership Awards were presented at the MMUA's annual meeting in August.

In a letter to the MMUA, Kittelson expressed his gratitude to the MMUA for the recognition. "MMUA has played a great role in the history of Blooming Prairie and also SMMPA, of which we are a proud member," he wrote.

"It's always nice to have other people in your field recognize you," Kittelson said, of the award. "It feels good."



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Pictured: Frank Henefield, Jason Iacovino,

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Wayne Ruhter '64

Athletic Hall of Fame
Bill Underwood '50
Ken Esplan '66
Lisa Zwiener Bruns '96

Outstanding Educator
Kenny Behnken
longtime teacher and coach

'BLOSSOMS FOREVER' PAST HONOREES

Past Distinctive Service Members

2008
Millie and Bud Hansen
LeMar Nelson
2009
Marian Amundson Lehman
Bill Underwood
2010
Janis Ingvalson Leuth
Chuck Halstenson
2011
Kelly Magnuson
Roger Ingvalson
2012
Sister Franchon Pirkl
Dr. James Oleson
2013
Dr. Jerry Hanson
Kathy Thorson Gruhn
2014
Eunice Basness Coughlin
Dr. Stanley Diesch

2008
Margaret Zwiener Hogan
Dean Brudwick
2009
Allan Wold
Jeanne Kruckeberg Ide
2010
Don Morrison
Roger "Moose" Johnson
2011
Dick Anderson
Tom Walsh
2012
Coach Jim Poole
John Peterson
2013
Barb McDonald McWhirter
Lyle "Ike" Turner
Norm Turner
Ronald "Laddie" Turner
Larry "Shorty" Turner
Denny Turner
Dean Turner
Jim Turner
2014
David Tonolli
Janet Pesch

2011
Bob Ackerwold
2012
Harold "H" Peterson
2013
Renee Felchle Burns
Frank Vorlicek
2014
Maurice McFarlin
Long time BPHS Superintendent



18 USC 707

Parade of Champions 4-H WEEK 2015 The Steele County Fair

What is 4-H?

4-H is the nation's largest positive youth development and youth mentoring organization, empowering six million young people in the U.S. In partnership with 110 universities, 4-H life changing programs are research-backed & available through 4-H clubs, camps, afterschool & school enrichment programs in every county & parish in the U.S. 4-H is the youth development program of our nation's Cooperative Extension System & USDA.

4-H Mission

4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.

October 4-10

4-H programs includes

Science • Healthly Living
Citezenship • Mentoring

The 4-Hs

Head, Heart, Hands, and Health are the four Hs in 4-H, and they are the four values members work on through fun and engaging programs.

Head - Managing, Thinking
Heart - Relating, Caring
Hands - Giving, Working
Health - Being, Living



AG SCIENCE CHAMPIONS: Front row – Tristan Simon, Carson Krenke, Lucy Paschke, Matthew Bartness Back row – Lexie Ignaszewski, Ryan Haberman, Madison Prokopec



ANIMAL SCIENCE CHAMPIONS: (Left to right) Alexis Ripka, Logan Stenzel, Jason Gerdts, Allie Kelien



BEEF CHAMPIONS: Front Row – Ava Kyllo, Cassidy Worrell, Bennett Wray-Raabolle, Leif Michaelson, Katelyn Rypka, Grace Lewison. Back row – Ethan Arett, Alivia Kubista, Jacob Katzung, Joseph Stransky, Amelia Manderfeld.



CREATIVE EXRESSIONS CHAMPIONS: Front Row – Journey Utpadel, Joshua Bluhm, Leif Michaelson, Hannah Schull, Courtney Kath. Back Row – Lexie Ignaszewski, Cole Ignaszewski.



DAIRY CHAMPIONS: Front row – Jarrett Larson, Mitchell Seykora, Jerome Stransky, Kelton Erler, Emma Klejeski, Brianna Klejeski, Maggie Bruns, Arica Kath, Taylor Jirousek Back row – Lacey Nelson, Sarah Manderfeld, Zach Stransky, Ryan Haberman, Abby Haberman, Annika Harper, Samanth Fredin, Anthony Manderfeld, Amelia Manderfeld, Georgia Jirousek



DOG CHAMPIONS: Front Row – Josie Lorenz, Tristan Simon, Beth Ann Hanson, Madilyn Styndl, Amelia Manderfeld Back Row – Bailey Purrier, Kayla Crawford, Anthony Manderfeld, Marisa Wagaman,



ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CHAMPIONS: Front row – Charlie Tucker, Noah Honsey, Hannah Schull, Bailey Keck, Back row – Emily Keck, Logan Stenzel, Courtney Kath, Triston Simon.



GOAT CHAMPIONS: Front Row – Kallen Hoffmann, Lynn Larson, Alexis Ripka, Carter Jensen, Zach Finholdt Back Row – Greta Jacobson, Sarah Manderfeld, Mikayla Spinler, Jacky Skalicky, Beth Ann Hanson



HOME & LEISURE ARTS CHAMPIONS: Front row – Charlea Underwood, Katelyn Rysavy, Nicole Behne, Bennett Wray-Raabolle, Elizabeth Karl, Melanie Winzenburg, Madison Jaster Back row – Beth Ann Hanson, Amelia Manderfeld, Abigail Bendorf, Logan Stenzel, Brody Jensen, Lauren Arthur



HORSE CHAMPIONS: (left to right) Gabrielle Trenda, Marissa Larson, Lauren Sommers, Journey Utpadel, Alexa Sommers, Grace Wolf, Olivia Spatenka, Brooke Purrier, Katla Michaelson, Ava Wolfe, Mckinley Schneider.



LAMA CHAMPIONS: Aaron Dahlin & Cameron Deml



MECHANICAL SCIENCE CHAMPIONS: Front Row – Andrew Skov, Mitchell Seykora, Matthew Seykora Back Row – Jace Katzung, Tommy Pfeifer, Samuel Bendorf.



POULTRY CHAMPIONS: Front Row- Josie Lorenz, Tristan Simon, McKenna Melby, Evan Melby Back Row – Grace Logan, Brandon Peeters, Justin Johnson, Parker Aase.



RABBIT CHAMPIONS: Front row – Nicole Behne, Mariah Larson, Lila Ann Carlson, Charlea Underwood, Lexie Ignaszewski Back row – Marissa Larson, Jarrett Larson, Holly Larson, Bo Noble, Cole Ignaszewski, Parker Aase



SOCIAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHAMPIONS: Front row – Charlie Tucker and Anton Schroeder Back row – Kiara Gentz, Jacob Pheifer, Sarah Manderfeld, Brandon Peeters & Kalyn Naatz



SHEEP CHAMPIONS: Front row - Charlea Underwood, Kaden Nelson Grace Arthur, Kalli Nelson, Lynn Larson, Casey Chambers, Back row – Cole Ignaszewski, Josie Lorenz, Lanie Rieck, Holly Larson, Lauren Arthur, Lynn Larson, Noah Loveless, Riley Arthur



SWINE CHAMPIONS: Front row – Kalli Nelson, Mariah Schroht Back row – Mitch Dinse, McKenna Schroht, Jenna Zeman, Miriam Buck (standing in for Elisabeth Buck) Ezra Buck



4-H Dairy Stars Award Winners: Arica Kath, Samantha Fredin Anthony Manderfeld, Lacey Nelson, Georgia Jirousek, Amelia Manderfeld, Taylor Jirsousek

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Owatonna Living

FIREFIGHTER

Continued from Page 1C

the late 1980s when firefighters were no longer allowed to ride strapped in to the back of fire trucks for safety purposes.

When Brown started, the training was minimal, so his first fire call was eye-opening.

"I remember looking at it, and thinking 'oh boy,'" he said. "We didn't have the training that they do now. New guys get live-fire training and experience. We didn't really have any procedures then. The old guys just kind of said 'this is how we're going to do this.'"

Other memorable fires for Brown have been the Red Owl grocery store fire many years ago. He also remembers the challenge of evacuating a man through a window with fellow fireman Ron Segner (now retired).

"When you are involved in a firsthand rescue, you forget about everything else, and you let your training kick in," he said. "People call us because it is quite possibly one of the worst days ever, and while we might not be able to change that, we can help."

Brown said that an accident that will forever stand out to him was when a boy was killed in an accident on Highway 14. "I would much rather go to 100 fire calls than one accident," he said. "For the most part, we can control fires and rescue the people involved. That is not usually the case for accidents."

Brown said that helping others and being a part of the community are the main reasons why he enjoys being a fireman. "The guys down here too… There's a camaraderie," he said. "They become a second family."

Fellow firefighter Jared Schmoll said that Brown was deserving of the honor of firefighter of the year. "He is a good firefighter," said Schmoll. "He is very knowledgeable and very experienced."

He admits that the unpredictability of calls can be taxing on family life. "It's definitely a sacrifice for families," he said. "It can be a birthday party or Thanksgiving and the pager goes off."

Brown works full-time as an electrician for the City of Owatonna, which he said has worked well for him. However, he said that for some part-time firefighters, it can be difficult to switch gears from one job to another in a matter of minutes.

When Brown found out that he was deemed firefighter of the year, he asked our chief (Mike Johnson) what he thought about it, he said 'I think you are well deserving,'" he said. "It's an honor."

RELOCATION

Continued from Page 1C

also walk a few blocks to St. Joseph Church once a week for mass.

St. Mary's Principal Kathleen Segna said that the students have "absolutely loved" all of the green space that Pillsbury has to offer so far. "Our students get to know what college is like, since we have to walk so much," she laughed.

"Recess has been fun. It is fun just to watch them running and playing in all of this space," said Segna. "The one downfall is that we do not have our play equipment, but again the kids don't have this much play space over there (St. Mary's School on Cedar), so there are positives."

St. Mary's shares the first floor of Pillsbury Hall with a couple students of Pillsbury College Prep and 50 or so students of Choice Technical Academy. St. Mary's kindergarteners and first-graders utilize four classrooms on the first floor, and St. Mary's has a large vestibule area with a "front desk" area.

The second floor was completely unfinished when St. Mary's decided to take on the space, which Segna considers an advantage, as they were able to customize the space to their needs. The City of Owatonna, Owatonna Police Department and Fire Department all helped to make sure that the space was up to all safety codes.

The second floor of Pillsbury Hall is approximately 10,000 square feet, and with that St. Mary's managed to create about 18 classrooms with partitions. There are two "wings" for grades 2-5 and grades 6-8.

"Some classrooms are definitely bigger than others," said Segna. "And not all classrooms get windows. Many teachers had to get creative with space."

While all classrooms maintain the feel of a classroom with chalkboards on the wall and projects hanging from the ceiling, Segna admits that some spaces are snug. The religious education classroom for junior high students is so small that students sit at chairs only with no desks or tables. Segna said that this is a discussion based classroom with little need for a writing surface, and students are using alternate space for small group activities.

The two second grade classrooms are at an interesting angle, as the building is triangular. However, both teachers Lori Connor and Lori Haarstad have transformed those unique spaces as reading nooks for their second-graders.

There is a media lab and library space, which houses many computers. "We are very happy that we were able to have our computers here, all our Macs, plus a little library," said Segna. "Plus, we even have a reading nook. We thought we were going to have to have the library on a cart at first, so this is a bonus."

The second floor is also home to the music room. The music space is one larger room that is partially separated by a partition for a vocal area and a band area. Of course, the two music teachers have coordinated classroom times so that there are not competing musical acts.

As one could imagine, Segna said that the second floor can get very noisy, especially since the partitions separating classrooms do not reach the ceiling.

"It's about communication. Teachers have to work together and coordinate," said Segna. "Let's say a teacher has an activity planned that could get noisy, they have to communicate that with other teachers."

Segna pointed out a few small spaces and corners that were utilized for small groups or even one on one band lessons.

"Creativity has definitely originated from our scenario," she laughed. "I think teachers, parents and students have really pulled together. We offer everything that we offered before."

Segna said that parents have gone above and beyond to help out. "They (parents and families) have shown gratitude to the teachers in different ways," commented Segna. "Twice so far this year, a group of parents threw a social to show appreciation for all the extra work teachers are putting in.

"Those kind gestures really warm the hearts of the faculty," she said. Segna said that all of the teachers are going above and beyond to make this a positive experience for the students.

For now, the St. Mary's community is waiting on the plan from the architect and engineer. Once the plan is drawn, it will go for bid, and preparation for the project will begin.

"We are trusting architects and engineers for the best solution. We want it to be long lasting," she said. "Here we are and it's already the end of October, so we really do not have a set timeline. It is an emergency to us, but it is not necessarily an emergency to everybody else."

While the original site is on the mend, the St. Mary's community plans to continue on with school like normal.

"We've said it before, and it's true. St. Mary's has a sense of community that goes beyond walls," said Segna. "If there is a will, there is a way."

GRIEF RELIEF



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Legals/Classifieds

Order to Show Cause

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
IN DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File Number: 74-CV-15-1404

In the Matter of the Petition of FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE for an New Certificate of Title After Mortgage Foreclosure Sale.

TO: CARLOS A. AZHAM AND LETICIA AZHAM:

Upon receiving and filing the Report of Examiner of Titles in the above entitled matter, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that you and all persons interested, appear before this Court on the 19th day of October, 2015, at 9:45 a.m., Steele County Courthouse, 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, and then, or as soon thereafter as said matter can be heard, show cause, if any there may be, why this Court should not enter an Order as follows:

That the Registrar of Titles, upon the filing with him of a certified copy of this Order cancel Certificate of Title No. 15601 and enter a new Certificate of Title for All that part of Lot 21, of Block 1, Country Club Addition No. 1 to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota, described as follows:

Commencing at a point on the Northwesterly line of said Lot 21, which point is 90 feet northeasterly of the west corner of said Lot 21; running thence southwesterly along said northwesterly line to the west corner of Lot 21; running thence southeasterly 120.05 feet to the south corner of Lot 21; running thence northeasterly along the southeasterly line of said Lot 21 a distance of 90 feet; running thence northwesterly to the point of commencement in favor of Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation free of the memorial of the following documents:
#T000043806; #T000046936; #T000049034; #T000049035; #T000049036; #T000049338; #T000049484; #T000056929; #T000056997; #T000057038; #T000059810; #T000059845; #T000067514; #T000072150; #T000072213; #T000072340; #T000072586; #T000072592; and #T000072638;
and free of the memorial of this Order, but subject to all other memorials and recitals appearing on Certificate of Title No. 17100.
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order be served:
(a) at least 10 days prior to such hearing upon the above named parties residing in this State in the manner provided by law for the service of Summons in a civil action;
(b) it shall be served at least 14 days prior to such hearing upon any of the above named non-residents by sending a copy of this Order to such non-residents their post office address, by registered or certified mail, with a return receipt requested;
(c) it shall be served upon any party who cannot be found by two weeks published notice and by sending a copy of this Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing by first class mail to their address as stated on the Certificate of Title if an address is so stated.
(d) upon a dissolution, withdrawn or revoked business entity governed by Minn. Stat., Chp. 302A, 303, 317A, 322A, 322B or 323 in the manner provided by Minn. Stat. 5.25. (Note: return date on the Order to Show Cause must be at least 30 days after the date of mailing by the Secretary of State). YOU NEED NOT APPEAR IF YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED.

Dated: 08/21/2015

BY THE COURT

Karen Duncan
Judge of District Court

Kris Schmitz
Judicial Senior Court Clerk

Attorney for Petitioner:
Schiller & Adam, P.A.
Sarah J. B. Adam
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102
Approved as to form:
By: David L Einhaus,
Examiner of Titles

9/29, 10/6

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No 74-PR-15-1909

Estate of
Elizabeth D. Wolf,
Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on October 27, 2015, 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, September 27, 1996, and ("Will"), and for the appointment of Roberta Wolf Halverson, whose address is 1180 Havana Road, 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: 09/15/2015

BY THE COURT

Joseph Bueltel
Judge of District Court

Sonia Kocher
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
David L. Einhaus
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Ave.
PO Box 545
Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 26190
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: einhaus@owatonnalawyers.com

9/29, 10/6

Assumed Name

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State Certificate of Assumed Name Minnesota Statutes, 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business. ASSUMED NAME: The Hohenstein Agency PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 3095 South County Road 45 Owatonna MN 55060 USA NAMEHOLDER(S): Name: Edel Insurance, LLC Address: 3088 NorthridgeLaneNEOwatonnaMN55060 By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY:
David L. Einhaus
MAILING ADDRESS:
None Provided
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES:
kedel@hohensteinagency.com

9/29, 10/6

BP Schools

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 55917
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2015
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

6:00 a.m.
Thursday, October 15, 2015
Regular School Board Work Session–High School Board Room

7:00 p.m.
Monday, October 19, 2015 Open Public Forum–High School Media Center

7:15 p.m.
Monday, October 19, 2015
Regular School Board Meeting–High School Media Center

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

I. CALL TO ORDER - CHAIRPERSON

II. ROLL CALL – CLERK

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IV. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

V. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED
A. Consent Agenda
Minutes
Bills
Treasurer's Report
Resignations
Employment
B. Family Leave
C. MSHSL Foundation
D. Election Canvassing Date
E. BPTA Master Contract

VI. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
A. Committee Reports
B. Enrollment Data
C. Dates to Note

VII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

10/6

Items Needed

Please contact Tammy Johnson at 583-7528 if you have these items to use for the BPHS Fall Play. Needed by 10-12 and use through November 8. Sewing basket, Sewing thimble, Hobby horse, Large children's wooden blocks, Bow and arrow – 10 sets, Teddy Bear, Ball of yarn and Knitting needles, Rocking chair, Tricycle, Hockey stick, Indian Peace pipe, Old fashioned bath tub, Rope – heavy for a pirate ship rigging, Old Row boat, 3 bed comfortors with pillows and dust ruffles, Dresser (simple – 3 drawers) 10 empty, plastic Folders coffee cans


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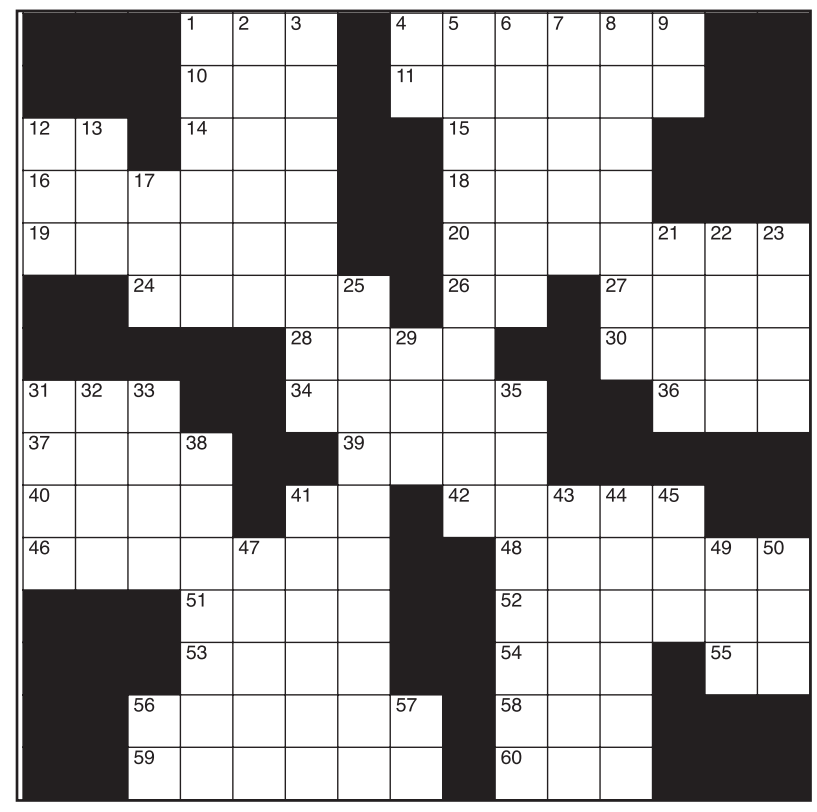
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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Answers on Page 3B

CLUES ACROSS

1. Mythological bird
4. Norwegian sea inlets
10. Military mailbox
11. Curved span
12. One hundred grams
14. Chest muscle (slang)
15. Old Portuguese pennies
16. Remove connection
18. Gas storage container
19. Conakry is the capital
20. Erstwhile
24. W. Australian capital
26. Dr. Laura's initials
27. Death notice
28. Irtysh River city
30. So. Am. country
31. Last in an large series
34. Term for alternative musical passage
36. 12
37. A nestling hawk or falcon
39. Vice president
40. Detailed criteria for a piece of work
41. Six
42. Gossipy
46. Relating to the body
48. Incendiary liquid used in firebombs
51. Plunder
52. Niger capital
53. Game of chukkas
54. Genus Hedera
55. Government prosecutor
56. Plural of genus
58. Born of
59. Livebearers tropical fishes
60. Doctor of Education



CLUES DOWN

1. Plundering
2. Can-_____, kitchen tool
3. Crested Australian parrot
4. 4th tone of scale
5. Author of "The Rings"
6. Mains
7. Major European river
8. PC publishing
9. 40th state
12. A tight embrace
13. Large African antelope
17. Impertinence
21. Wild Eurasian mountain goat
22. City in Malaysia
23. Small ornamental bag
25. Nelson's ship
29. Point midway between S and SE
31. "Untouchables" Elliot
32. Misprint
33. Heme
35. Italian mountain range
38. Surgical knife
41. Purple
43. Forfeited
44. Fixed a female cat
45. An edible tuberous root
47. Formerly included in genus Cedrela
49. Headed up
50. Soft shelled clam genus
56. Country doctor
57. Equally

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Legals

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Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Alan Van Ormer, PO Box 247, Blooming Prairie MN 55917
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Alan Van Ormer, PO Box 247, Blooming Prairie MN 55917
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
Bussler Publishing, Inc.	PO Box 247, Blooming Prairie MN 55917
Rick L Bussler	PO Box 247, Blooming Prairie MN 55917
Theresa J Bussler	PO Box 247, Blooming Prairie MN 55917

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box → ☐ None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
Daniel A Evans & Joyce M Evans	PO Box 89, LeRoy MN 55951

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
☐ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4 (see instructions page 4)) PSN: 7530-01-000-9931 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com.

13. Publication Title: Steele County Times
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 10/06/2015

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation			Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)			4,242	2,520
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1)	Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	537	536
	(2)	Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	3,376	1,628
	(3)	Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	339	356
	(4)	Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))			4,252	2,520
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1)	Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	42	51
	(2)	Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	11	13
	(3)	Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	0	0
	(4)	Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0	0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))			53	64
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)			4,264	2,580
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))			54	68
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)			4,318	2,648
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)			98	97

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® **Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)**

16. Electronic Copy Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies	3	3
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	4,042	2,552
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	4,264	2,582
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c × 100)	98	97

☐ I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership
☐ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the _____ issue of this publication. ☐ Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Publisher, The Times. Date: 10/06/2015

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 6, 2006 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $48,000.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Sean Hughes, a single person; Carol Sue Ahlborn, a single person; and Ruth M. Ahlborn, a single person MORTGAGEE: Community Bank Owatonna DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: January 17, 2006, Office of the County Recorder for Steele County, Minnesota, as Document #A000338484 MODIFICATIONS OF MORTGAGE: Modification of Mortgage dated February 17, 2009, filed March 6, 2009, as Document No. A000362530; and Modification of Mortgage dated March 12, 2012, filed March 28, 2012, as Document No. A000383726. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: N/A LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The NW 1/4 of Section 3, Township 106 North, Range 20 West, EXCEPT: Commencing at the Northwest corner of said NW 1/4; thence North 90° East 1061 feet along the north line of said NW 1/4; thence South 0° East 306 feet; thence North 82°42'05" West 771.40 feet to a point 208.00 feet South of the North line of said NW 1/4; thence South 0° East 105.06 feet; thence North 90° West 295.85 feet to the West line of said NW 1/4; thence North 313.06 feet to the Northwest corner of said NW 1/4 being the point of beginning. TAX PARCEL NO.: 05-003-4000 STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 5049 S. County Road 45, Owatonna, MN 55060 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $25,894.63 THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes; 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: October 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060 To pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the date of sale. Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on October 20, 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."

Dated: August 24, 2015

COMMUNITY BANK OWATONNA
By: /s/ Mark J. Rahrick
Mark J. Rahrick
SMITH, TOLLEFSON, RAHRICK & CASS
108 W. Park Square, Suite A
P.O. Box 271
Owatonna, MN 55060
Phone: (507) 451-6540
Attorney Reg. No. 252402

ATTORNEYS FOR COMMUNITY BANK OWATONNA, MORTGAGEE, AND ON BEHALF OF COMMUNITY BANK OWATONNA

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

9/1, 9/9, 9/15
9/22, 9/29, 10/6

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: 2391 st Street SE, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-025-2022 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $72,057.44 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: October 27, 2015, 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 April 27, 2016, or the next business day if April 27, 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: September 3, 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

9/9, 9/15, 9/22
9/29, 10/6, 10/13

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 25, 2002 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $98,696.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Tracy L. Crouse and Jonathan M. Oeltjenbruns, a single woman and a single man MORTGAGEE: Timberland Mortgage Services, Inc., a Minnesota Corporation DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on November 26, 2002 as Document Number A304824 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc., a California Corporation n/k/a Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. successor by merger to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. by assignment recorded on January 17, 2003 as Document Number A306644 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: North 1/2 of Lot 3, Block 2, E. Abbott`s Addition to the Town (now City) of Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 117 NORTH GROVE, OWATONNA, MN 55060 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $82,003.39 TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR (LENDER): Timberland Mortgage Services, Inc., a Minnesota Corporation RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17.107.0203 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE ID NUMBER (MERS NUMBER): None

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes; 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: November 17, 2015 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. 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 May 17, 2016. MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Tracy L. Crouse and Jonathan M. Oeltjenbruns

"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: September 18, 2015

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

By:
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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

9/22, 9/29, 10/6
10/13, 10/20, 10/27

BP ISD

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA August 17, 2015

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center at 7:15 p.m. (Open Forum at 7:00 p.m.).

OPEN FORUM – No comments.

I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON

II. ROLL CALL - CLERK Pam Hameister, Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Kathi Peterson, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten
ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools; Elementary Principal; High School Principal; Member of the Press
MEMBERS ABSENT: None

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Rodney Krell to approve the agenda as submitted with the employment of golf coaches as a separate motion. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

IV. PRINCIPAL REPORTS
Reports given by Mr. Staloch and Mr. Worke.

V. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED
A. Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Employment
Motion by Rodney Krell and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to approve minutes, bills, treasurer's report, and employment. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve Carl Peterson and Cory Hendrickson as co-head golf coaches (assistant and head coach steps to be combined and divided by 2; step 5 for Carl Peterson and step 0 for Cory Hendrickson). Motion carried. (6 Aye/0/Nay/1 abstention-Peterson)
B. LTFM Plan
Motion by Kathi Peterson and seconded by Rodney Krell to approve the ten-year Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Plan as presented. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
C. Adult Meal Prices
Motion by Rodney Krell and seconded by Kathi Peterson to approve adult meal prices for the 2015-16 year. The adult breakfast price at $1.70 per breakfast and the adult lunch price at $3.50 per lunch. This is the minimum as required by the Minnesota Department of Education. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
D. Resolution Relating to the Election of School Board Members and Calling the School District General Election
Motion by Kathi Peterson and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to approve the resolution relating to the election of School Board Members and Calling the School District General Election. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
E. Annual Policy Renewals
Motion by Kathi Peterson and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve annual policy renewals as follows with no changes: Bloodborne Pathogen (Exposure Control), School Medication, Student Transportation Safety, Harassment, Automated External Defibrillator Management Plan, Wellness Plan, Out-of-State Travel by School Board Members, and Bullying Prohibition. The following was changed regarding the iPad policy: if an iPad is damaged or lost you will incur up to the full replacement cost. Some of the more common costs are: charger $20; cord $20; $40 case; and the full replacement cost of the iPad can run approximately $450. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
F. Permanent Transfer
Motion by Rodney Krell and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve a permanent transfer from Fund 01 to Fund 02 in the amount of $9,182.33 to eliminate the deficit in Fund 02 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
G. Alternative Bonding
Motion by Rodney Krell and seconded by Kathi Peterson to approve continuing the process of seeking "Alternative Bonding". Bonding would be for approximately 1.8 million dollars and spread over twenty years. The bond would fund a new HVAC system and windows at the Elementary School. Alternative bonding is being pursued at this time due to future funding changes at the Minnesota Department of Education. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

VI. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
A. Committee Reports
A report update was given by the following committees: Building and Grounds/Facilities, MSBA & MSHSL, Negotiations, and Technology.
B. Enrollment Data
Enrollment for the 2014-15 school year as of May 29, 2015, was 412 at the elementary school and 297 at the high school (286 attending BPHS and 11 attending PSEO). The PSEO number consisted of 8 seniors and 3 juniors which will all attended full-time.
C. Dates to Note.
The Board noted dates of importance.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS
1. District-wide breakfast to be held for staff on August 31st (teacher workshop).
2. Annual audit is complete with the exception of GASB 45 reporting that may affect the final report timeline.
3. Administrative staff is working cohesively.
4. Conference coaches meeting will be held on August 20th.
5. Trapshooting will be held one time during the year which will be in the spring.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Rodney Krell and seconded by Kathi Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
Tentatively, a School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday, September 17, 2015, at 6:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the High School.
Tentatively, the next regular meeting of the School Board will be Monday, September 21, 2015, at 7:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center (Open Forum begins at 7:00 p.m.).
A complete copy of the official minutes may be found in their entirety in the official minute book located in the superintendent's office at the high school; however, they will not be available until approved by the School Board.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Hameister
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

10/6

BP City

Proposed
City of Blooming Prairie
City Council Meeting Agenda
October 12, 2015
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of September Regular City Council Meeting

Financial Report

Committee/Commission Reports
1. B.P. Public Utilities
2. E.D.A.
3. B.P. Planning & Zoning
4. B.P. Fire Commission
5. B.P. Ambulance Commission
6. B.P. Police Commission

Business
1. Final Pay Request – 4th Street SE Extension
2. Lease Agreement – City Farm
3. Set Date For Public Hearing – Street Reconstruction Plan
4. Set Date For Assessment Hearing – Main Street Services
5. Payment Request – 6th Street NW
6. Request for an Exempt Gambling Permit – Blooming Prairie Recreation Association
7. Request for an Exempt Gambling Permit – Blooming Prairie Cancer Group
8. Update Blooming Prairie Comprehensive Plan
9. Approve Signature Resolution – MGA Access

City Administrator's Report
1. Main Street Project Update
2. Manufacturer's Week & Luncheon
3. 3rd Street SW Watermain Replacement
4. League of Minnesota Cities Regional Meeting – Austin

City Attorney's Report

Council Members' Reports

Adjourn

This Agenda is Subject to Change

10/6



Legals/News

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No 74-PR-15-2044

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of
Richard L. Johnson,
Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on 11/17/2015, 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, December 22, 2009, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Stephanie J. Ritter and Steven J. Johnson, whose addresses are 2050 Willow Ridge Place NE, Owatonna, MN, 55060 and 2445 Riverview Heights Drive NE, Rochester, MN 55906, respectively as Co-Personal Representatives 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 Co-Personal Representatives 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 co-personal representatives or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated:
09/30/2015

BY THE COURT

Joseph Bueltel
Judge of District Court

Sonia Kocher
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Mark R. Carver
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Ave.
PO Box 545
Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 0276133
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: carver@owatonnalawyers.com

10/6, 10/13

Advertisement for Bids – House to be Moved
Close Monday October 26, 2015
Steele County, Minnesota

Sealed bids will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Steele County, Minnesota, until 10:00 AM on Monday, October 26, 2015, at the Office of the County Auditor, Steele County Administration Center, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060, for the contract listed below at which time the bids will be opened and read publicly: LOCATION: 1123 44th Ave SE, Owatonna, MN 55060

TYPE OF WORK: House to be moved off the property

Contact the Steele County Highway Department for bid documents at 507.444.7670.

Publish: October 6, 2015
October 13, 2015

Affidavit of Publication Required

10/6, 10/13

NOTICE TO FARMERS

Sealed bids will be received by the Steele County Auditor, Steele County Administration Center, 630 Florence Avenue, P.O. Box 890, Owatonna, Minnesota, 55060, until 1:00 p.m., October 19, 2015, for lease of approximately 77 acres of farmland located in the E 1/2 of Section 28, Aurora Township (County Landfill property) in Steele County for the 2016 and 2017 seasons. The farmland consists of 51 acres of grassland and 26 tillable acres.

Contact the Landfill Supervisor, Bruce Holland, with questions regarding this lease opportunity at the landfill (9420 SE 64th Avenue, Blooming Prairie, MN), telephone: (507) 402-1719.

The County Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any technical defects and to award the lease to other than the highest bidder, or move than one bidder if, in their discretion, the interest of the County will be best served thereby.

Laura Ihrke
Steele County Auditor

10/6, 10/13

MARATHON

Continued from Page 1C

and faculty were wearing the same gray St. Mary's shirts to show school pride. Little ones chanted "SMS" with excitement as they walked around the block.

Volunteers at all corners and driveways along the block patrolled the marathon route.

Each grade set an age-appropriate walking goal. The marathon is one of the school's fundraisers. Each classroom set a goal of how much they want to try and raise. The students collected pledges to sponsor them in the marathon.

Students had incentive to fundraise, as there were various prizes. Prizes include: day off of school, gum day and a hat day.

St. Mary's Principal Kathleen Segna said that the marathon is a lot of fun because everyone is together. "This year is unique for SMS, because we are here (Pillsbury Campus)," laughed Segna. "I love the support that we have gotten from family, friends, and the community."

St. Mary's had a goal of raising $30,000 this year. One hundred percent of the money raised goes toward St. Mary's School.

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REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
August 13, 2015

A regular school board work session was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 13, 2015, in the Board Room at the High School.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pam Hameister, Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Kathi Peterson, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools
DISCUSSION ITEMS: General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the August 17, 2015, regular school board meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Hameister
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

10/6

Employment CONNECTION

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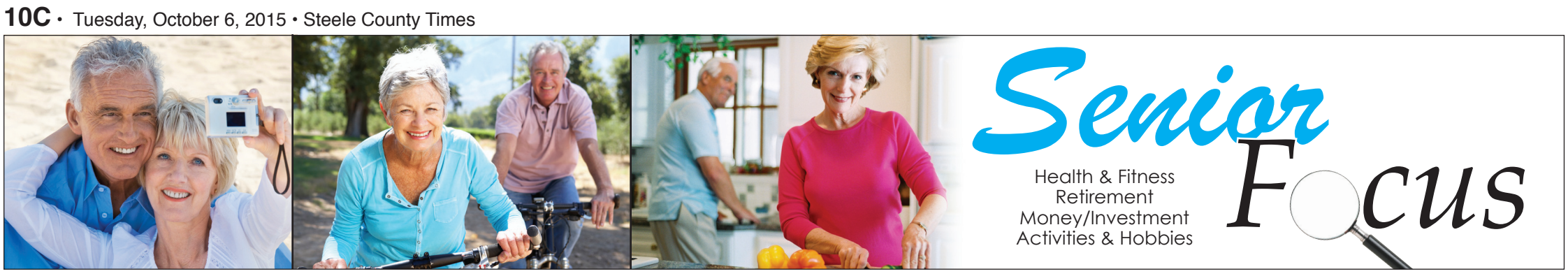
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2. Be wary of requests for information by phone
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3. Secure your information
Don't carry more personal documents than necessary with you when you leave the house. Leave Social Security numbers, checks, extra credit cards, Medicare cards, and financial statements in a locked security box at home or another secure location.

4. Shred it
Shred anything you don't need to keep, such as documents that contain account information, Social Security numbers, PINs, or sensitive information -- including credit card statements, other bills, credit card receipts, unused checks, canceled checks, and credit reports.

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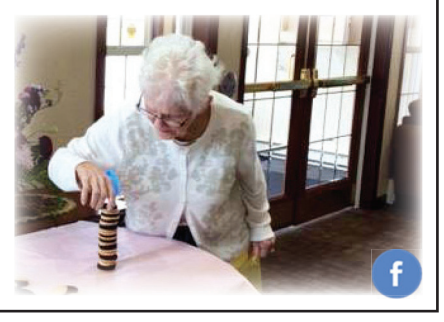
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Owatonna	52	Blooming Prairie	18	NRHEG	24	Medford	20
New Prague	0	United South Central	6	LCWM	6	St. Clair	37
	Page 2D		Page 3D		Page 5D		Page 4D






THE HIGHLIGHT REEL

James Knoop

Swimming last

Most young people who dream of being an athlete imagine being the most valuable player.

They imagine shooting the final shot in the NBA Finals as the buzzer sounds. They dream of throwing the touchdown pass in the finals seconds of the Super Bowl or hitting a homerun in the bottom of the ninth inning of the seventh game of the World Series.

I get it. That was me. As a youngster, Michael Jordan was my idol. I remember watching him score the winning shot in the 1998 finals against the Utah Jazz. I reenacted that shot so many times at our driveway basketball hoop. It's a good goal. It's a good dream.

But what about the other four players on the basketball court? What about Dennis Rodman, who played extraordinary defense to help the score be close enough so Jordan could score the winning shot? What about Scotty Pippen, Toni Kukoc, Ron Harper, Steve Kerr and Luc Longley? Who dreams of being them?

Going for gold - again

One of the greatest sports moments of my entire life came during the 2008 Summer Olympics. Perhaps you remember Michael Phelps striving to break the record for most gold medals won in an Olympics.

When I think of these Olympics, the first thing I think of is carrying our small television up the stairs and into the kitchen, because that was the only place the rabbit ears antenna could get NBC reception. The second thing I remember is watching Michael Phelps.

Phelps had eight events at those Olympics. He needed to win the gold in all of them to break the all-time record. In his second event, the 4x100-meter freestyle relay, Phelps not only needed to perform at his absolute best, but he relied on three other swimmers to make his dream come true. With the final swimmer left, Phelps watched helplessly as Jason Lezak dove in to the water - nearly a full body length behind the leader.

All of America watched with bated breath as Lezak did the impossible, catching up to France's Alain Bernard and defeating him by .08. Lezak's split broke the world record, as did the team's overall time. I jumped up and down. My siblings jumped up and down. Michael Phelps jumped up and down. Lezak jumped up and down.

The highlight

But at the end of the day, who was it all about? Michael Phelps winning the gold. This happened again in Phelps final race of the 2008 Olympics. Again it was Lezak anchoring the 4x100-meter medley, this time holding the half-second lead, assuring Phelps his eighth and final gold to break the all-time record.

We all cheered on Lezak, but only, or mostly, for Phelp's sake.

THE HIGHLIGHT REEL
Continued on Page 3D

STEELE COUNTY FOOTBALL



Staff photos by James Knoop, Laura Berndt and Anna Segner

Owatonna, Blooming Prairie and NRHEG are all on significant winning streaks, each standing with a 6-1 record going into the final game of the season. Read full game reviews through the rest of this section.

MEDFORD

Tigers drop to 0-7

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

The Medford Tigers dropped another game Friday night, falling to 0-7 this season with a 37-20 road loss to St. Clair.

The loss drops the Medford Tigers football team to 17-straight losses dating back to the 2013 season. The last win came on Friday, Oct. 4, 2013, against Waterville-Elysian-Morristown.

Despite the loss, students and fans still made the trek to St. Clair, cheering on their squad for the full four quarters. The team, in turn, gave the fans something to cheer about, scoring two touchdowns in the fourth quarter, to make the final score to a more tolerable 17-point deficit.

The 37 points given up is the second-lowest score the Medford defense has given up all season, the lowest coming against Bethlehem Academy in an 18-13 loss. The 20 points scored is also Medford's second-highest scoring game of the year.

Medford will end the regular season this week with an away game against United South Central. The Rebels are 3-4 coming off a 18-6 loss against Blooming Prairie. Medford's

TIGERS FOOTBALL
Continued on Page 4D



Staff photo by James Knoop

Medford's Ian Gillis is pulled to the ground by his neck against St. Clair in a 37-20 loss.



Owatonna



Staff photos by Laura Berndt

Owatonna's senior wide receiver Jake Borchert and New Prague's Will Halloran both get underneath a long pass. Ultimately, neither one would secure the ball.

Huskies trounce Trojans in Homecoming win

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

The homecoming game in Owatonna was never in question, as the Huskies destroyed the New Prague Trojans 52-0.

The second-to-last game of the season shutout boosted the Huskies to 6-1, while New Prague fell to 0-7.

"[It was a] beautiful night for it, and a nice Homecoming crowd, so I'm glad the kids could put together a couple of decent quarters of football for the home crowd," said Huskies Coach Jeff Williams.

For an Owatonna team that has been all about the run this year, Friday's game was no exception, as the team amassed 445 rushing yards off 52 carries from seven different players.

"I thought our lines, both offensively and defensively, controlled the line of scrimmage," said Williams. "That's really where it begins and ends for us. We ran the ball well. We did a good job of stopping their run game and forced them to throw the ball more than they probably wanted to. I really liked that."

The Trojans were 5-16 passing for 19 yards. The running game managed 99 yards for a total of 118 offensive yards, well below the Huskies' 498.

The early lead also gave some backups opportunities to play, and Williams noted specifically the exceptional running of junior Bryce Goodwin, who ran for a 58-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter.

"It was fun to watch," said Williams. "He's got a lot of speed," adding that it was good to see members of the second team step up and make plays.

Despite the many positives of the game, Williams still noted some sloppy play which the team will need to fix before the postseason.

"We took a few too many penalties [and] put ourselves in second and third and long, which really isn't our game," said Williams. "So, we've got to clean some things up. You know, it was a little bit sloppy, particularly in the first half. So, we'll get that cleaned up though."

First half play still allowed Owatonna to go up 28-0 on the Trojans, adding seven more in the third quarter and 17 in the fourth.

> *"I thought our lines, both offensively and defensively controlled the line of scrimmage. That's really where it begins and ends for us."*
>
> **— Jeff Williams, Owatonna football head coach**

Senior quarterback Alex Emanuelson finished the game 6-16 with 53 yards and a touchdown. Senior running back Sam Hylle ran for over 200 yards for three touchdowns in limited play.

The win over New Prague puts postseason placing in Owatonna's hands with one game to go, and a win over Rochester Century next week would ensure a sub-district title for an Owatonna team that currently sits a 4-0 in the Red Division.

Facing the 2-5 Panthers, Williams doesn't see the team as a massive threat, but he also stated that the game shouldn't be taken lightly.

"It could be one of those games where we just have to make sure that we come and take care of business [and] do our jobs.," said Williams.

Despite an 0-5 start, the Panthers won their last two games over Northfield and New Prague. The final regular season game will take place in Owatonna on Friday, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m.

Owatonna 52
Austin 0
Friday, Oct. 2
At Owatonna

	1	2	3	4
OWA	21	7	21	17
AUS	0	0	0	0

Scoring
First quarter
OWA- Jake Borchert 27-yard interception return (Aidan Buryska kick is good), 9:22
OWA- Sam Hylle 33-yard runn (Buryska kick is good), 4:13
OWA- Hylle 48-yard run (Buryska kick is good), 2:18
Second quarter
OWA- Hylle 13-yard run (Buryska kick is good), 6:55
Third quarter
OWA- Dalton Kubista 6-yard pass from Alex Emanuelson (Buryska kick is good), 5:56
Fourth quarter
OWA- Buryska 26-yard field goal 11:56
OWA- Griffen Thorn 5-yard run (Buryska kick is good), 5:19
OWA- Bryce Goodwin 58-yard run (Buryska kick is good), 2:46

Statistics
TEAM: *Total yards*: OWA 498, NPR 118. *Rushing*: OWA 4445, NPR 99. *Passing*: OWA 53, NPR 19.
INDIVIDUALS
Owatonna
Rushing: Hylle 22-204-, Wiese2-5, Emanuelson 7-40, Westphal 2-9, Mensink 5-39, Goodwin 6-85-1, Thorn 8-63-1. *Passing*: Emanuelson 6-15-1. *Receiving*: Kubista 1-6-1, Budach 1-7, Westphal 3-10, Hylle 1-30.

Information used in this article gathered by News Editor Laura Berndt.



Junior Aidan Buryska gets some advice in between plays during Friday's home game.



Senior wide receiver Jake Borchert leaps into the air after earning another Husky touchdown during the 52-0 Homecoming win.

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Staff photo by Anna Segner

Blooming Prairie players gather during their Homecoming game against United South Central.

Defense key in Homecoming victory

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

A stout defense bailed out a sputtering Blooming Prairie offense in an 18-6 Homecoming victory at McFarlin Field on Oct. 2.

Though not pretty by any means, the win upped the Blossom record to 6-1 for the season and set up a district title game at Kenyon on Oct .8.

"We didn't play our best by any means," commented Coach Chad Gimbel, "but we made enough plays to win, and that is what counts. We overcame a number of mistakes against a tough USC team to come out on top."

Two fumbles lost and two passes intercepted stopped BP drives in the game and left it up to the defense to help the offense, The locals stopped two Rebel drives inside the 15, once on two incomplete passes from the BP 11-yard line and once on a Wyatt Grundmeier tackle on a fourth down play inside the Blossom five.

"We didn't play our best by any means, but we made enough plays to win, and that is what counts."

— Chad Gimbel, Blooming Prairie head football coach

USC used 20 plays on its second possession in the first quarter, before two incomplete passes turned the ball back to the blossoms on the four. BP took just seven plays to break the scoreless tie, when Lucas Noble connected with Kevin Eischens for 45 yards and the touchdown. Three runs by Max Romeo, two short gains from Noble and Anthony Nelson's 14-yard burst set up the touchdown pass.

After a USC punt, the Blossoms struck again, this time with just 22 seconds left before half. Two passes to Romeo and another to Nelson advanced the ball to the five, and Nelson ran the end for the last five yards for a 12-0 halftime lead. During the break, five individuals were presented shirts as honorees selected for awards at the Ed Foundation banquet the next night.

Fumbles and interceptions were traded in the third quarter, but the Blossoms did finally score on a 26-yard pass from Noble to Romeo with 1:22 left in the quarter. The Rebels counted a touchdown on a seven-yard pass from Tyler Stenzl on the first play of the final quarter. After a Blossom fumble on its own 31, the visitors mounted another drive. The local defense again stepped up, however, and got the ball back when Wyatt Grundmeier stopped a fourth down run on the four.

"I don't even remember the play," said Grundmeier. "I just remember a pile of players around me when the whistle blew." Grundmeier later sealed the win for BP on an intercepted pass at the 43.

Defensively, Nelson and Riley Olson led a stout effort with nine tackles each. Grundmeier had seven tackles and Jon Hatch and Jones chipped in with five each.

BP	**18**
USC	**6**

Friday, Oct. 2
At Blooming Prairie

	1	2	3	4
BP	0	12	6	0
USC	0	0	0	6

Statistics

TEAM: BP: *Total yards*: 444. *Rushing*: 238. *Passing*: 206. *Receiving*: 149.

INDIVIDUALS

Blooming Prairie

Rushing: Romeo 94, Nelson 92, Noble 58. *Passing*: Noble 11-20-206. *Receiving*: Mitchell Jones 25, Nelson 70, Eischens 54.

JV ends strong with two wins

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Quarterback Seth Peterson threw for five touchdowns, and the Blooming Prairie junior varsity team ended the season with a convincing 42-0 win over NRHEG at New Richland on Oct. 1.

The squad finished with a 3-3 record for the year.

Peterson threw for the five touchdowns and added two two-point conversions. Colin Lerum caught three touchdown tosses for 17, six and 64 yards and added a two-point conversion pass; Kory Rafdal and Calo Kubista caught scoring passes of 14 and 58 yards; Kristianson Hamersma ran 54 yards for a score. The defense helped the offense by snuffing out any Cardinal threat, and had the best overall varsity experience.

Payton Simon and Colton Ivers had two-point conversions. Jacob Gwilt had an intercepted pass and the defense would shut the Panthers down time after time.

"I thought the boys ended their season playing their best football," commented Coach Nathan Piller. "They all contributed positively, and several of them had the best games of their young careers. There were certainly a lot of smiles on the faces of the kids."

Blossoms vs. Tigers

After leading 28-0 at the half, the Blooming Prairie junior varsity team defeated Medford on the home field, 34-0 on Sept. 28. The win improved the locals' record to 2-3 for the season.

BP struck for two touchdowns in the first quarter for a 14-0 lead. On its first possession, quarterback Seth Peterson passed to Ethan Arett for 30 yards, found Marten Morem for 40 yards and then hooked up with Morem again for eight yards and the score.

"I thought the boys ended the season playing their best football."

— Nathan Piller, Blooming Prairie JV football coach

On the next possession Peterson connected with Arett, but he fumbled the ball, and Collin Lerum caught the ball in mid-air and reached the end zone. Lerum caught a two-point conversion pass for the 14-0 margin.

Two more touchdowns in the second quarter expanded the lead. Peterson passed to Morem for 48 yards and a score, with Arett catching the two-point conversion. Peterson found Arett for another touchdown, after Caleb Kubista had intercepted a Medford pass. Neither team could score again in the half.

Peterson opened the second half with a 51-yard jaunt on the first play from scrimmage, and the defense did the rest to preserve the shutout. Blossom defenders sacked the Tiger quarterback four times in the second half, and the offense stayed on the ground to eat up the clock.

As Coach Nathan Piller acknowledged, "Overall, this was a terrific game from the guys. Everyone got lots of playing time and was rewarded for the effort. We did some good things in all phases of the game, and Peterson had a great game passing in this one. We played pretty well, but there is still plenty upon which to improve."

THE HIGHLIGHT REEL

Continued from Page 1D

We knew the name Jason Lezak for a couple of hours. We're still talking about Michael Phelps, and rightly so. He won the gold in every event he entered, breaking a world record in all of them except the 100-meter butterfly stroke, and even then he broke the Olympic record.

No one dreams of being Jason Lezak, at least no one I know. But without Lezak's seemingly impossible comeback, world-breaking split, the is no world record for Phelps.

The lesson

Some of us are meant to be Michael Phelps. We're going to be Michael Jordan, Tiger Wood, President Obama, Brad Pitt, Johnny Cash and Martin Luther King Jr. types.

But most of us, whether we like it or not, were meant to play the background.

We are the Jason Lezak's. We are the educators, the ministers, stay-at-home mothers, policeman, firefighters and nurses. Neither is more important than the other, but some receive far less recognition and less pay than they should. Quite frankly, I've never known anyone all that famous, but my teachers, pastor (also my dad) and camp counselors impacted my life in ways they'll never know.

Mrs. Randall believed in my ability to excel in English and writing when I was just in third grade. Mr. Stutzman, my seventh grade teacher and basketball coach, taught me confidence. My mom, a stay-at-home mom and educator, is the reason for any ACT score I reached and every college and scholarship acceptance letter I ever received.

These are just three of the many people in my life who chose to play the background, and who played it exceptionally well.

Like Mrs. Randall, Mr. Stutzman and Mom, Jason Lezak may never be household names, but he made an impact in my life. When I think back on how sports have impacted my life, his name comes to mind.

You may not ever win a gold medal. You may never be the Michael Phelps of your occupation, but you never know whose life you will impact - will change forever - because you chose to do everything you do to the best of your abilities.

Football weekend forecast

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

Once again, Steele County football teams went 3-1 this week, with the only loss coming from the Medford Tigers.

Blooming Prairie won a defensively-fought battle during its Homecoming game against United South Central on Friday, defeating the Rebels 18-6. The win boosted the Blossoms overall record to 6-1 going into their final week of play. The Blossoms final regular season battle will come against 6-1 Kenyon -Wanamingo. The Knights only loss of the season came in week one against Goodhue. The game will be played on Thursday, Oct. 8, in Kenyon at 7 p.m.

Medford dropped their seventh-straight game, losing in St. Clair 37-20. Medford scored 12 of those points in the fourth quarter. The 0-7 Tigers will end the regular season at United South Central. The 3-4 Rebels fell to Blooming Prairie, and the team poses as Medford's final opportunity for a regular season win. The game will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 8

Owatonna took care of business at its Homecoming game, crushing the New Prague Trojans 52-0. The win gave the Huskies a 6-1 record and the chance to secure a sub-district title with a win over Rochester Century this Friday. Rochester Century is 2-5 this season. The game will take place in Owatonna on Friday, Oct. 9, at 7 p.m.

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva spoiled the Homecoming game for Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial on Friday, winning 24-6 on the road. The Panthers also stand at 6-1 and will battle fellow 6-1 Maple River at home. The game will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 8.

Mid Southeast-West

	Div.	Overall
Kenyon-Wanamingo	6-0-0	6-1-0
Blooming Prairie	5-1-0	6-1-0
Bethlehem Academy	5-1-0	6-1-0
Mankato Loyola	2-4-0	3-4-0
United South Central	2-4-0	3-4-0
St. Clair	3-3-0	4-4-0
JWP	1-5-0	1-6-0
Medford	0-6-0	0-7-0

South Central-Blue

	Div.	Overall
Waterville-E-M	6-0-0	7-0 -0
NRHEG	6-1-0	6-1-0
Maple River	5-1-0	6-1-0
Mayer Lutheran	5-2-0	5-2-0
Lester Prairie/Holy Trinity	3-3-0	3-4-0
Sibley East	2-4-0	2-5-0
Norwood Young America	2-4-0	2-5-0
LeSueur-Henderson	2-4-0	2-5-0
Lake Crystal-Wellcome	0-6-0	0-7-0
Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop	0-6-0	0-7-0

Sig Southeast-Red

	Div.	Overall
Owatonna	4-0-0	6-1-0
Rochester Mayo	3-1-0	5-2-0
Rochester John Marshall	2-2-0	4-3-0
Northfield	1-3-0	2-5-0
Rochester Century	2-2-0	2-5-0
New Prague	0-4-0	0-7-0

Football State Rankings

Class 1A
1. Minneota
2. Mahnomen
3. Braham
4. Minneapolis North
5. Browerville
6. Pine River-Backkus
7. Goocdhue
8. Upsala/Swanville
9. Tracy-Milroy-Balaton
10. Canby

Blass 2A
1. Caledonia
2. Pipestone Area
3. Waterville-Elysian-Morristown
4. Breckenridge
5. Lewiston-Altura
6. Ottertail Central .
7. Moose Lake-Willow River
8. Maple River
9. Minnewaska
10. United North Central

Class 5A
1. Mankato West
2. Spring Lake Park
3. Moorhead
4. St. Michael-Albertville
5. Monticello
6. St. Thomas Academy
7. Rogers
8. Robbinsdale Cooper
9. St. Paul Central
10. SMB

Source: mnfootballhub.com
Rankings as of Sept. 30

Steele County Football Schedule

Blooming Prairie
Aug. 22… at Mankato East L 19-52
Aug. 28... vs. Maple River L 15-54
Sept. 4…vs. St. Clair W 24-3
Sept. 11… at JWP W 39-23
Sept. 18… vs. Mankato Loyola W 48-8
Sept. 25...at Medford W 53-16
Oct. 2…. vs. United South Central W 18-6
Oct. 8… at Kenyon-Wanamingo

Medford
Aug. 22… vs. Lewiston-Altura L 61-7
Aug. 28... vs. JWP L 41-28
Sept. 4…at Mankato Loyola L 41-14
Sept. 11… vs. Bethlehem Academy L 18-13
Sept. 18… at Kenyon Wanamingo L 40-8
Sept. 25...vs. Blooming Prairie L 53-16
Oct. 2…. at St. Clair L 37-20
Oct. 8… at United South Central

NRHEG
Aug. 22… at Mayer Lutheran W 14-7
Aug. 28... vs. Lester Prairie W 34-6
Sept. 4… at WEM L 13-7
Sept. 11… vs. G-F-W W 28-0
Sept. 18… at Sibley East W 34-19
Sept. 25... vs. LeSueur-Henderson W 35-14
Oct. 2…. at Lake Crystal-WM W 24-6
Oct. 8... vs. Maple River

Owatonna
Aug. 22… at Mankato West L 28-6
Aug. 28... at Rochester JM W 27-21
Sept. 4… vs. Faribault W 55-0
Sept. 11… vs. Northfield W 34-23
Sept. 18… at Austin W 77-41
Sept. 25... at Rochester Mayo W 35-14
Oct. 2…. vs. New Prague W 52-0
Oct. 8… vs. Rochester Century

Medford

TIGERS FOOTBALL

Continued from Page 1D

opponent is averaging less than 11 points a game.

Though Medford's average points allowed per game is over 41, if the Tigers can keep the low-scoring Rebels to their usual 11 points, or close to, Medford's offense may have an opportunity to score enough points to come away the victors.

Destined to play a top tier team in the postseason, this may be Medford's last chance to break the losing streak in 2015.

The game against United South Central will take place Thursday, Oct. 8, at 7 p.m.



Staff photos by James Knoop

Medford's Tye Devoe brings Sam Schruin of St. Clair to the ground after a reception.



Junior running back Marcus DeLeon scans the defense during an offensive play against the Cyclones. The Tigers lost in St. Clair 37-20.



A host of Medford defensive players tackle a St. Clair runner during Friday night's game.



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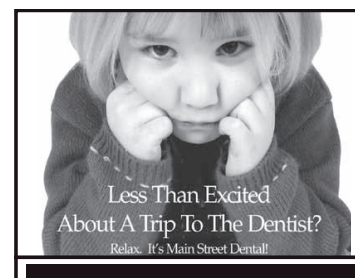
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NRHEG



Staff photos by James Knoop

NRHEG quarterback Palmer Peterson finds a hole in the defense en route to a 24-6 road win at Lake Crystal. Peterson ended the night with 43 yards rushing and 32 yards passing against the Knights.

Panthers advance to 6-1 against Knights

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

The Panthers found a slow start against the boys from Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial, but controlled the second half, shutting down the Knights 24-6.

Guests of the Knights' Homecoming game, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva made a grand entrance with a 17-yard touchdown run by Jason Jongbloedt to go up 7-0. The Knights were able to score late in the first half, but were unable to connect on the extra-point. The booming sound from an untimely firework from the previous touchdown seemingly disrupted the snap and hold of the extra point, and the Knights would not score again.

The Panthers managed a quick drive to end the first half, with Sam Prigge hitting a 26-yard field goal with 33 seconds left in the second quarter. From there on out, it was all Panthers, at the boys from NRHEG scored another 14 points in the second half to secure the 24-6 victory.

"Once again our offensive and defensive lines controlled the game," Panthers Coach Dan Stork noted after the game. "Jason and Perry [Peterson] ran well again."

Now at 6-1, the Panthers sit in second in the Blue Division, under only 7-0 Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, which handed the Panthers their only loss of the season. Also sitting at 6-1 is Maple River, who NRHEG will end the season against in a home game on Friday.

"We are building steam for a playoff run, but first and foremost we can't wait to play Maple River," said Stork. "Our kids have had this game circled on the schedule since last year."

Like NRHEG, Maple River's single loss came in a 20-7 defeat against WEM. Both team's have shown good offense and defense, but NRHEG statistically tops Maple River in both allowing only eight averaged points a game to Maple River's 11 and 27 points scored a game to Maple River's 21.

The game will take place Thursday, Oct. 8, at 7 p.m. in New Richland, and the winner will take second place in the sub-district.

NRHEG 24
LCWM 6
Friday, Oct. 2
At Lake Crystal

	1	2	3	4
NRHEG	7	3	14	0
LCWN	0	6	0	0

Scoring
First quarter
NRHEG- Jason Jongbloedt 17-yard run (Sam Prigge kick is good), 2:47
Second quarter
LCWM- Matt Sheetz 3-yard run (Caleb Broker kick is no good), 4:28
NRHEG- Prigge 26-yard field goal, 0:33
Third quarter
NRHEG- Jongbloedt 6-yard run (Prigge kick is good), 7:46
NRHEG- Trey Hoppe 2-yard run (Prigge kick is good), 5:14

Statistics
TEAM: *Total yards*: NRHEG 310, LCWM 224. *Rushing*: NRHEG 278, LCWM 113. *Passing*: NRHEG 32, LCWM 111.
INDIVIDUALS
NRHEG
Rushing: Jongbloedt 25-122-2, Perry Peterson 7-83, Palmer Peterson 8-43, Hoppe 5-30. *Passing*: Palmer Peterson 2-5-32. *Receiving*: Perry Peterson 1-23, Karter Sletten 1-9.



Jason Jongbloedt hits Knights' quarterback Mac Graupman near the sideline during Friday night's game.



Senior John Cole shoves Nick Saucier of LCWM out of bounds after a short reception.



Jason Jongbloedt finds room to run against the Knights on Friday.

Steele County Times 2015 Football Contest

Football Contest Rules

Contest: There will be 30 games each week during the contest, which begins on Sept. 2 and runs for 12 weeks.

How to Win: Pick the team you think will win in each game listed in the below advertisements. Write the team's name in the blank with the corresponding number. Cut out the entry blank and enter Steele County Times, 411 E. Main St., P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN, 55917. You may enter in person, mail or by e-mail to bptimes@frontiernet.net. It must be postmarked no later than 5 p.m. Friday. You must enter a score in the Tie-Breaker game or you will be disqualified.

What you Win: The Times will award $10 Blooming Prairie or Owatonna Chamber Bucks to the person correctly predicting the most winners from the games listed. The person with the most correct games throughout the 12 week contest will be awarded a Chanhassen Dinner Theatre ticket. An additional $10 BP or Owatonna Chamber Bucks will be awarded if the winner correctly predicts the outcome of all 30 games. Ties will be broken by the score of the Tie-Breaker game. All decisions by the judges are final. The contest is open to anyone age 15 and above, excluding staff and family members of Bussler Publishing, Inc.

This week's winner is Connie Lembke. She had 5 wrong

ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

1		16	
2		17	
3		8	
4		19	
5		20	
6		21	
7		22	
8		23	
9		24	
10		25	
11		26	
12		27	
13		28	
14		29	
15		30	

*Tie-Breaker Score _____ *

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2 - Maple River @ NRHEG

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OWATONNA HOMECOMING 2015



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Owatonna Homecoming Queen Maria Goldberg and King Austin Abbas are surrounded by the rest of the Homecoming court at Coronation on the evening of Monday, Sept. 28.



Staff photo by Anna Segner

While the crown hovers over the heads of the Homecoming king candidates, only one received the crown. Congratulations to Austin Abbas for the honor of Homecoming King!



Staff photo by Anna Segner

The Owatonna robotics team proudly rolled along in the Homecoming parade. While some walked, others like this robotics member and cuddly pup were fortunate enough to enjoy a leisurely ride along the parade route.



Staff photo by Anna Segner

The Owatonna football team float received a lot of cheers from crowds lining the street for the Homecoming parade on Friday afternoon, Oct. 2.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

The cheerleaders performed their routine during Friday night's football game, which the Huskies won 52-0.

Pheasants for Hospitalized Veterans auction is Oct. 10 at the VFW

By ANNA SEGNER
County staff writer

This time of year brings a particular taste to the mind of a pheasant hunter or a veteran that is no longer physically able to pheasant hunt. Thanks to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion, pheasant meals are being enjoyed by hospitalized veteran across Minnesota.

These meals are made possible by the "Pheasants for Hospitalized Veterans" annual auction. This year the auction will take place on Oct. 10. The silent auction is from 5 to 7 p.m., and the live auction kicks off at 7 p.m. and goes until 10 p.m. Food, drink and an abundance of community chatter will also be at the event. Only those over age 21 are admitted.

In the past years, the funds raised from the auction has fed approximately 1,850 hospitalized veterans a meal of pheasant with wild rice and trimmings. The meals are served in about 15 veteran's living facilities across Minnesota, including facilities in Minneapolis, St. Cloud and Hastings.

The meals are served at the different living facilities for veterans across Minnesota. Funds also go to programs like Trolling for Troops, Disabled Veterans Deer and Turkey Hunts and Venison dinners.

Beyond the cost of the dinners, the funds raised are used to address needs of facilities that serve veterans. In the past, this has paid for a lift to a bathtub or an overhang for the outside of a building.

Lead organizers Mike and Trudy Pierce say that the pheasant dinner is the biggest fundraiser of the year. They often raise anywhere from $18,000 to $20,000, which is split evenly between VFW and American Legion.

The auction items depend every year on items donated. Mike and Trudy Pierce always put forward the preparation of meals for couples, and they also donate a trip up north to Lake Vermilion, where they prepare meals for the guests.

Trudy Pierce said that the auction also includes many home items that would be good for a young person starting a home or anyone looking to replace old items.

The live auction has been so successful in the past that one jar of horse radish raised over $600. Trudy and Mike Pierce agree that people have been very generous in the past because the community sees it as a "more than worthy" cause.

"The veterans sometimes receive no company and never get to look forward to anything, so we are providing them with something to look forward to," said Trudy Pierce. "It is a way to donate and help your less fortunate veterans."

Trudy Pierce said that so many veterans used to be pheasant hunters themselves, so the taste of their meal brings back memories. "That's their fall thing," she said. "For many of them, their world revolved around pheasant hunting in the fall."

The auction does take days of preparation. Trudy Pierce and others spend at least three days before the auction grouping items together. Mike and Trudy Pierce admit that putting on the auction is a lot of work, but they believe it to be worth the effort.

Mike Pierce is a veteran of the Vietnam War, and Mike and Trudy Pierce have two grandsons that are in the Marine Corps.

While many often picture older veterans in the veteran's living facilities, there are young veterans utilizing the space too.

"Many veterans come home from Iraq and Afghanistan with injuries or a missing limb," said Mike Pierce. "In previous wars, you just didn't come home. Medical advancements are saving a lot of these young guys."

Mike and Trudy Pierce said that veterans home from Iraq or Afghanistan are too often faced with major mental issues, which might require rehabilitation in a facility with care. They say that these are some of the changes that these facilities are coping with. Helping the facilities and the veterans that inhabit the facilities is the goal of the Pheasants for Hospitalized Veterans auction.

"We help because you never know, it could be you or someone you love might be in the veteran's facility someday too," said Mike Pierce.

Short-term rehabilitation: a closer look



Vandergon

Howie, our Human Resources Manager caught me in the hall a couple days ago, and in response to my quest for a good marketing tag line, announced while grinning from ear to ear, 'Koda Living Community - Not your Grandmother's Nursing Home (pause)… But it ought to be!' While it has not won the contest yet, it does a good job sharing the point that skilled nursing facilities are not what they used to be, and that if a loved one needs nursing and/or therapy services this is the place to be. These days most residents admitted to Koda are here for less than 30 days prior to returning home. That is because typically doctors refer their patients to us to regain their independence with written orders for physical, occupational or speech therapy services. Our therapist guide and motivate patients with up to three sessions per day, while our nursing and culinary associates assist our patients with other aspects of the healing process.

The term "short-term rehab" refers to specialized transitional care provided after hospitalization and before the individual is able to resume living independently. Short-term rehabilitation might follow hospitalization for major surgery, significant injury or emergency trauma, or it might be required after a life-threatening injury or illness. You can expect to find continuing medical assistance, help with daily living tasks, emotional and psychological support, and rehabilitation services — all in the interest of recovering independence.

Effective rehab helps a person function again with little or no assistance:

- Move confidently.
- Communicate effectively.
- Self-manage dressing, eating and personal hygiene.

Short-term rehabilitation is usually delivered in a skilled nursing or post-acute care setting. The comprehensive plan for the patient's recovery includes the individual's clinical status and personal preferences, and integrates logistics, family and patient education, and the health care provider network. Key to the treatment plan is continuity, as the individual moves between levels of care – from more dependent to greater independence.

The length of short-term rehab is likely to be measured in days or weeks, not months. Pain management, rehabilitation and coping with emotional stress all figure prominently in the individual's progress toward goals of self-determination and independence.

There are many misconceptions about nursing homes. Myths persist going back to the poor farms of decades ago. One can almost hear an aged parent saying as they drive by a nursing home, 'I hope they never put me in there!' While no one can imagine saying anything similar about the hospitals of today knowing how life-saving they are, there was a time at the turn of the 20th century when the same comment would have been made! Progress in the medical field and the oversight of government agencies have dramatically improved care provided in nursing facilities. Area communities are very fortunate to have a beautiful new skilled nursing facility connected with walking links and located on the Owatonna medical campus. If you or a loved one is anticipating surgery in the near future I would like to invite you to visit Koda Living Community, take a tour, visit with our business office about your insurance coverage, and visit with our guest services. This will get you on our priority list should you need a room after the surgery. Also, most who come over for a tour bump into a friend or an associate who works here they know, and are mutually blessed by an impromptu visit!

Submitted by
Dave Vandergon,
Administrator/CEO – Koda Living Community

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Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

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BID NOTICE

ISD 756 Blooming Prairie Public Schools is seeking proposals from Qualified Contractors for purpose of Single Prime Contractor Services for the Elementary site HVAC Upgrades set for summer 2016. Project site location: 123 2nd St NW, Blooming Prairie MN 55917.

Contractors will be selected based on the Performance Information Procurement System (PIPS), Best Value Process, and all Pre Qualified Bidders are required to attend the Bid Tour of the site.

Project Description: Elementary HVAC Upgrades - General Contract: Replace existing identified units located within the Elementary areas of Gym, Admin Office, Kitchen, Cafeteria, Vestibule, Special Education and Kindergarten rooms and associated mechanical/ boiler rooms and exterior louver wall panel systems. Estimated project costs are $1,475,000.00. A 10% Bid Bond will be required for the work to assure the selected contractor enters into the Contract with the District. Responsible Contractor ACT Verification Form: Per MN State Statue 16C.85, the Prime Contractor shall complete the form and submit with Bid.

Contractor Qualifications: Owner's pre-qualification process requires that new Bidders (Prime Bidders who have not worked with the Owner on projects within the last year shall be pre-qualified) submit a completed AIA A305 Statement to Owner's representative at aaron@districtreps.com for the bidding process. Interested parties must obtain the AIA form. Only those approved by the district shall enter into the Best Value Bid Tour/Process. Best Value Selection Criteria for award shall be weighted at Price 25%, Interview 40%, Level of Expertise 15%, Risk Assessment 10%, and Value Added 10%

Proposal Timeline - Pre Qualification Timeline is set to expire on October 19, 2015 3:00 p.m.

Qualified Contractors will receive Bid Packets at the Bid Tour. Bid Tour Date is set for October 21, 2015, at 3:30 p.m.

Proposals shall be due on November 12, 2015 12:00 p.m.

All Proposals for Single Prime Contractor shall be received on or before Noon at the District Office Location: 202 4th Ave NW Blooming Prairie MN 55917 - Attention Barry Olson and shall read "BLOOMING PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS - ELEMENTARY HVAC REPLACEMENT PROJECT 2016".

Qualification Statements/Bids accepted after established dates and times will not be accepted.

The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids, accept any bid it deems to be in its best interest, to waive any informalities or irregularities in bids submitted and waive minor irregularities or discrepancies in bidding procedure.

10/6, 10/13

Booming Prairie Homecoming 2015

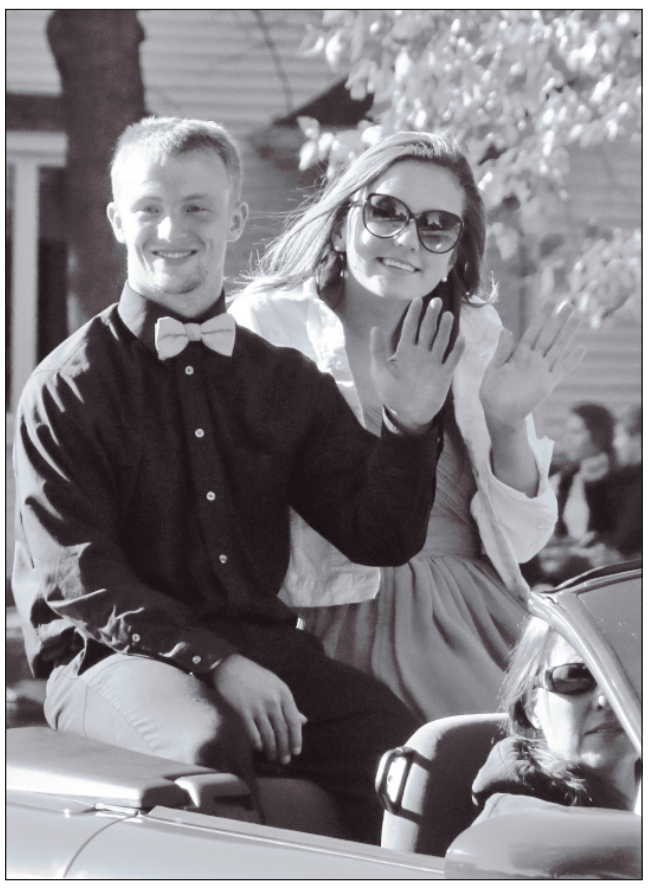


Staff photos by Laura Berndt

Blooming Prairie High School students show their Blossom pride as they cheer during Friday's Homecoming pep fest.



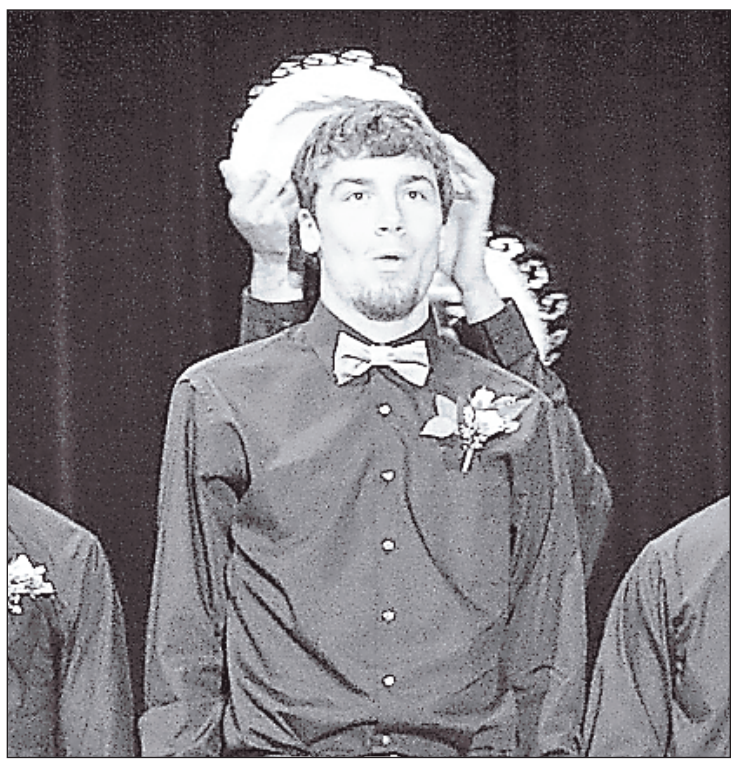
Students enjoy some friendly competition between grade levels during the pep fest as they challenge another grade in the tug-of-war. In front are Brad Staska and Nick Thompson. Behind them are Ethan Arett, Max Romeo, Jake Ressler and Mitchel Oswald.



John Hatch and Alyssa Krohnberg ride in the Homecoming parade on Friday afternoon.



Members of the band perform during Friday afternoon's Homecoming pep fest at Blooming Prairie High School.



2015 Homecoming King Mitchell Jones reacts with surprise as he is crowned king during last Monday night's coronation ceremony at Blooming Prairie High School.

Seeing double: *twins crowned Homecoming Queen and King*

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Margaret and Mitchell Jones aren't just best friends; they're also twins. Last week, their Homecoming celebration became doubly meaningful when the two were crowned Blooming Prairie's Homecoming Queen and King together.

"We thought it might be close between a few people," said Margaret, referring to the number of votes for queen and king candidates. "But we're definitely glad we got to do it together."

The two were crowned King and Queen during a coronation ceremony on Sept. 28 at Blooming Prairie High School.

Although it was somewhat of a surprise to receive the crown, Margaret admits she knew quite a few people had voted for her and Mitchell to reign as queen and king.

"A lot of younger classmen came up to me and said, 'Oh, I voted for you and Mitchell,'" Margaret said.

And, while it was an honor to be named king and queen, the twins admit it was also a strange experience, as well. "People would come up to us this week and bow in the hallway," laughed Margaret.

The twins have attended school in Blooming Prairie since kindergarten, and have enjoyed growing up in the community. Their parents are Tara and Brian Jones, and they have an older brother Garrett (age 27.) There's also another set of twins in the family: Taya and Spencer, age 22.

While Margaret and Mitchell were somewhat surprised to be crowned king and queen, they still took advantage of the experience and enjoyed every moment. Margaret said she especially enjoyed the dress-up themes throughout the week, while Mitchell said he enjoyed the mischief that comes along with Homecoming week.

Throughout the week, the twins participated in the coronation ceremony, games during the Friday afternoon pep fest and rode together in the Homecoming parade later that afternoon.

Margaret and Mitchell said that they also enjoyed being royalty alongside the other candidates, which included Jon Hatch, Ethan Strunk, Riley Olson, Kevin Eischens, Katelynn Grunklee, Alyssa Krohnberg, Kallie Klemmensen and Lauren Larkoski.

"It will be a fun story we can tell our kids someday," Mitchell said, with a smile. "It was fun while it lasted."



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Margaret and Mitchell Jones ride in style during the Blooming Prairie Homecoming parade held on Friday afternoon.

Tax Forfeited Land

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF TAX-FORFEITED LANDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on October 19, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the office of the Steele County Auditor in Owatonna, I shall sell to the highest bidder those parcels of land described in the list contained herein, which have been classified as non-conservation lands and appraised as provided by law. This sale will be governed by the provisions of Sections 282.221 to 282.226 of the Minnesota Statutes and by the Resolution of the Steele County Board of Commissioners authorizing such sale, which Resolution reads as follows: BE IT RESOLVED, that the parcels of tax forfeited land listed on the List of Tax-Forfeited Land be classified as non-conservation land; that the basic sale price of each parcel on the List of Tax Forfeited Land, which is on file with the Clerk of the County Board, be approved and authorization for a public sale of this land be granted, pursuant to M.S. 282.01; that the sale will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, October 19, 2015 by the Steele County Auditor at the Steele County Auditor's Office in the Steele County Administration Center, for not less than the basic sale price; and that all sales shall be full payment or on the terms set forth on the List of Tax-Forfeited Lands. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the terms of the sale shall be for CASH OR APPROVED CHECK.

Information about buying tax-forfeited land can be obtained online at www.co.steele.mn.us or at the office of the County Auditor, Steele County Administration Center, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060. Telephone (507) 444-7410.

Lands to be sold are as follows:

Township or City	Description of Property for Sale	Basic Sale Price	Assessment Before Forfeiture
Lemond Township 10479 92nd Ave. SW New Richland, MN 56072	06-032-3401 Beginning at a point on the W line of the SW¼, Sec 32, T 106 N, R 21 W, which point is 1,542.32' N of the SW corner thereof; thence N 359.35', on said W line of said quarter section; thence E 363.66', at a right angle; thence S 359.35', at a right angle, thence W 363.66' at a right angle, to the point of beginning, being part of the NW¼ of SW¼, Sec 32, T 106 N, R 21 W, subject to a highway easement on the W 50' thereof, Steele County, Minnesota.	$ 5,000.00	$ -0 -
City of Ellendale 204 5th Ave. W Ellendale, MN 56026	15-100-0714 Lot 14, Block 7 in Village of Ellendale, MN	$ 1.00	$8,116.75
City of Ellendale Outlot A, Block 2 CountryView Estates	15-115-0001 All that part of Outlot A, Block 2, Country View Estates, as the same is platted and recorded in the office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota, except: Commencing at the NE corner of said Outlot A; thence S 00°31'06" W a distance of 384.30', on the E line of said Outlot A, to the SE corner of said Outlot A; thence N 89°20'01" W a distance of 91.31', on the S line of said Outlot A, the NW corner of Lot 2, Block 2 in said Country View Estates; thence N 13°53'32" E a distance of 394.77', to the Point of Beginning.	$ 50.00	$ -0 -
Lageson Ct. City of Ellendale Lageson Ct. City of Ellendale Lageson Ct. City of Ellendale Lageson Ct. City of Ellendale Klemmensen Ct. City of Ellendale Klemmensen Ct. City of Ellendale Klemmensen Ct. City of Ellendale Dale Ct. City of Ellendale Dale Ct.	15-115-0101 Block 1 Lot 1 Country View Estates Addition. 15-115-0102 Block 1 Lot 2 Country View Estates Addition. 15-115-0103 Block 1 Lot 3 Country View Estates Addition. 15-115-0104 Block 1 Lot 4 Country View Estates Addition. 15-115-0105 Block 1 Lot 5 Country View Estates Addition. 15-115-0106 Block 1 Lot 6 Country View Estates Addition. 15-115-0108 Block 1 Lot 8 Country View Estates Addition. 15-115-0110 Block 1 Lot 10 Country View Estates Addition. 15-115-0111	$ 6,000.00 $ 2,000.00 $ 2,050.00 $ 2,000.00 $ 2,000.00 $ 2,200.00 $ 2,000.00 $ 2,000.00	$ 480.64 $ 480.64 $ 480.64 $ 480.64 $ 480.64 $ 480.64 $ 480.64 $ 480.64
City of Ellendale Dale Ct. City of Ellendale Dale Ct. City of Ellendale Dutton Dr. City of Ellendale Dutton Dr. City of Ellendale Dutton Dr. City of Ellendale Dutton Dr. City of Ellendale Dutton Dr. City of Ellendale	Block 1 Lot 11 Country View Estates Addition. 15-115-0112 Block 1 Lot 12 Country View Estates Addition. 15-115-0114 Block 1 Lot 14 Country View Estates Addition. 15-115-0205 Block 2 Lot 5 Country View Estates Addition. 15-115-0206 Block 2 Lot 6 Country View Estates Addition. 15-115-0207 Block 2 Lot 7 Country View Estates Addition. 15-115-0208 Block 2 Lot 8 Country View Estates Addition. 15-115-0209 Block 2 Lot 9 Country View Estates Addition.	$ 2,000.00 $ 2,000.00 $ 2,000.00 $ 2,000.00 $ 2,000.00 $ 2,000.00 $ 2,000.00 $ 2,000.00	$ 480.64 $ 480.64 $ 480.64 $ 480.64 $ 480.64 $ 480.64 $ 480.64 $ 480.64
SW corner of lot West of 1st St. NE City of Medford	16-101-0101 Lots 1 & 2, excepting Railroad right of way, in Block 1 in Johnson & Company's Addition to the Village (now City) of Medford, MN	$ 500.00	$ - 0 -
Bubba's Bar 224 N Cedar Ave. Owatonna, MN 55060	17-100-0917 Sublot 1 of Lot 17 in Block 9 of the Original Town (now City) of Owatonna, also described as the N 1/3 of Lot 17 in Block 9, Original Town (now City) of Owatonna	$ 8,000.00	$ - 0 -
Skyview Townhouses 175 22nd St. NW Owatonna, MN 55060	17-411-0106 Lot 6, Block 1, Skyview Townhouses, Steele County, MN	$ 8,000.00	$ 225.00

Given under my hand and official seal at Steele County, Minnesota this 22nd day of September, 2015.

Laura Ihrke

Steele County Auditor
Steele County Administration Center
630 Florence Avenue
Owatonna, MN 55060
Telephone: (507) 444-7410

9/29, 10/6

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3:00 to midnight
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good food and a bonfire
All Hallows Eve - October 31 for the kids
12:00pm - 4:00pm - pumpkin carving, farm fun before the trick and treats
Farmamerica - Minnesota's Agricultural Interpretive Center

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