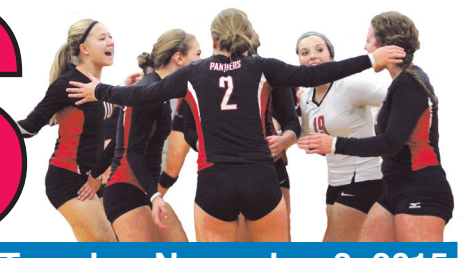


Halloween Fun 10C

Steele County Times

Volleyball 1B



$1

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893

It's finished!



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Ryan Kleinbeck and Ryan Taylor, of Nietz Electric in Eagan, install one of Blooming Prairie's new light posts on Main Street last Thursday afternoon. The light posts were one of the finishing touches on the Main Street construction project. The street was open once again on Saturday, Oct. 31.

Main Street project complete in Blooming Prairie

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

It was quite a trick and even a treat that the massive County State Aid Highway 42 reconstruction project on Main Street in Blooming Prairie was complete on Halloween, Saturday, Oct. 31.

The reconstruction has included complete removal of the existing roadway and sidewalks; installation of a new water main, sanitary sewer, water and sewer services and storm sewer; placement of new concrete curb and gutter; roadway pavement and sidewalks and installation of new street lighting.

Construction on Main Street began east of Highway 218 on June 15. The project moved west of 218 on Main Street on July 6.

The completion date of Oct. 31 was set months ago for the project, a joint endeavor between Steele County and the City of Blooming Prairie. Elcor Construction Co. of Rochester held the $2.7 million construction contract.

Stefan Gantert, assistant county engineer, said all road barricades were removed and traffic resumed on Main Street on Saturday, Oct. 31.

Some cleanup and maintenance work will continue beyond Oct. 31, however the roadway will remain open during this work. Cleanup and maintenance work will include items such as cracked concrete panel replacements and sealant along building/sidewalk joints.

Street lights were installed on Thursday and Friday of last week by Nietz Electric of Eagan. Blacktop patching was also completed on intersections last Friday. Street

CONSTRUCTION
Continued on Page 10A

Getting ready to fly with 'Peter Pan'

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

As cast members of Blooming Prairie's fall musical prepares for their performances, they've continually received support from their community.

Director Tamzen Johnson said she's also witnessed the seasoned theatre student's help out their less experienced peers.

"Peter Pan" performances are scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 5, and Friday, Nov. 6, both at 6:30 p.m. A special dinner theatre event is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 7, with the meal beginning at 6 p.m., followed by the performance at 7 p.m. This year's cast features around 25 to 30 students, who are currently polishing their lines and busily rehearsing for the upcoming shows.

In smaller schools like Blooming Prairie, Johnson notes that it's rare to find students with extensive backgrounds in theatre. "Very few kids that I have ever directed have had lots of play experience," she said.

Many of the students in the play, however, chose to stay involved with the theatre program throughout their four years of high school.

"I think that a lot of the kids that have been out for the play have been in the play for all four years and, when they're a senior, they know how we operate and what's expected," Johnson said. "So, they tend to be a calming influence. Even though they don't realize it, the younger kids look up to them, just because they are upperclassmen. There is that dynamic there; that they're the older kids, the cool kids and the leaders."



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Cast members of "Peter Pan" rehearse a scene at Blooming Prairie High School last week. From left to right, standing, are Camden Heimerman, Max Romeo, Clint Peterson, Emily Tynjala, Nate Erickson and Margaret Jones. Kneeling in front is Erica Langniere. The performances are scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 5, and Friday, Nov. 6, at 6:30 p.m. A special dinner theatre event is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 7, with the meal beginning at 6 p.m., followed by the performance at 7 p.m.

This year, the cast includes just two senior students, Margaret Jones and Anthony Nelson, in addition to about 15 juniors. "They're strong, they're into it and they're definitely leaders," Johnson said, of the seniors and juniors.

Johnson admits that any high school theatre production faces several challenges. For the less experienced cast members, Johnson explains that it can be difficult to get up in front of an audience,

PETER PAN
Continued on Page 4A



Medford students prepare for upcoming fall play

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

"Nancy Drew – Girl Detective: The Clue of the Dancing Puppet" will soon come to life at Medford High School.

Performances are scheduled for Friday, Nov. 13, and Saturday, Nov. 14, both at 7 p.m., and for 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 15. Tickets will be available to purchase starting on Monday, Nov. 9, and can be purchased in the District Office or prior to the performance.

"This is based off the book, 'The Clue of the Dancing Puppet,' but the writer does make it a little more of a comedy, in theatre-talk, more 'farcical' and over the top," said director Shelley Fitzgerald. "It really lets our imagination have fun and go above and beyond what we typically do."

Fitzgerald is aided by technical director Rebecca Mohr and Kevin Steinbauer on sound and lights. She also notes that there are many other volunteers who help "work the show," taking tickets and helping with other tasks. She's also very happy with the student cast members, adding that they have worked hard on the production.

"I have a great group of kids," Fitzgerald said.

NANCY DREW
Continued on Page 4A

Quilts of Valor: a tangible token of appreciation

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Three veterans were gifted handmade quilts as a token of appreciation from the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

Quilter Martha Waddell of Northfield not only worked on the quilts herself, but she was able to wrap the finished quilt around the shoulders of the three veterans at the VFW Auxiliary meeting on Oct. 20.

The name of the veteran recipient is stitched into each quilt, but it also has a label on the back with the name and hometown of the person who pieced the quilt and the quilter. The quilters that participate in quilts of valor are volunteers. The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is "to cover service members touched by war with the comforting and healing Quilts of Valor."

Each quilt reads: "May this quilt keep you safe from harm. May it be your good luck charm. I do not know your name, nor the mountains you face, but what you hold in your arms is a quilter's embrace."

The quilts are also symbolic, as Waddell told the veterans and their families.

Each quilt has three layers. "First, the top, which is made up of many pieces, colors and shapes. That represents the many communities that we are," she said. "Second, the filling, which gives warmth and hope that this quilt will comfort you and keep you warm. Third, the backing that is the strength that supports the layers as you are the strength as well as the family and community that support you."

She also gave symbolism to the stitching. "And finally the stitching that holds the layers together that represent the love and gratitude that we have for you."

Earle Taylor from Elysian, Minnesota, was one of the quilt recipients. Taylor is a World War II veteran. He served in the 9th Division, 9th Signal Corp, in Germany. As he exited the VFW, he hugged his quilt closely. His family said that he was deeply moved by the gesture.

"It means a lot to me what they did," said Taylor. In fact, quilting has a special significance to Taylor, as he remembers that his grandparents made and sold quilts during the winter months. When his daughter Lynette Spurgin heard about Quilts of Valor Foundation, she imme-

QUILTS OF VALOR
Continued on Page 3A



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Quilter Martha Waddell wrapped the quilt she made for veteran Earle Taylor around his shoulders at the presentation of the Quilts of Valor at VFW on Oct. 20. Waddell is one of 10,000 volunteers of the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

INSIDE
A: 4A .....Education; 10A .....Cancer Corner
B: 4B...Football Contest; 5B.....Legals
C: 4C ....Public Safety; 10C .....Halloween
D: 2D.....Veterans; 6D.....Classified

Vol. 122, No. 73 www.steeledodgenews.com 507-583-4431

Opinion

Our view

Paying tribute to those living and passed

Veterans Day on Nov. 11 will be a special day for the veterans in the region and around the world. It is a day where it is not uncommon to hear someone say to a veteran, "Thank you for serving our country."

Several communities always have special events that pay tribute to the many veterans, living and passed. Many youth are also involved in these special tributes to the veterans. For example, three classes of Blooming Prairie fourth-graders will visit the Servicemen's Club on Wednesday at 10 a.m. to see a presentation that explores the true meaning behind Veterans Day.

On Veterans Day, many people recognize and honor veterans through various celebrations. Veterans Day is also about the pageantry of the different events that take place. Veterans Day is a day for learning more about those who have served our country.

It is not uncommon to see a veteran acknowledged throughout the year. In fact, it is nice to know that our veterans are remembered throughout the year, rather than just on one special occasion like Veterans Day. And it is especially gratifying to see the honors that are provided to those who are returning from most recent excursions around the world.

We, at the Steele County Times, are proud to be part of the recognition that is truly deserved to our men and women who braved the rigors of the battlefield throughout our history. In today's issue, we have listed the names of all those who have served in the Armed Forces in Steele County. We couldn't have put this into our newspaper without the help of the Steele County Veteran's Services Office. The Veteran's Services Office is the one that compiled all the names.

Veterans Day is all about remembering those who fought and died for our country, as well as those who fought and survived and those who are still fighting so that we can have the freedoms that we enjoy. So, once more, we ask that you thank these men and women who served their country on their own accord not only on Veterans Day, but any other time you have the opportunity to do so.

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

This week's question: Do you plan to attend local Veterans Day events?

*I always attend events in observance of Veterans Day.
*I attend events if they work with my schedule.
*I never attend Veterans Day events.

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.



We all deserve true justice with Jacob's disappearance



Rick Bussler

Like many Minnesotans, my ear was glued to the radio last week when federal and state authorities announced a new development in the decades-old disappearance of Jacob Wetterling.

It's a shocking crime that captivated the hearts of the entire state back in 1989. And now, 26 years later, it still haunts everybody, as Jacob remains missing.

I have interviewed Jacob's mother, Patty Wetterling, several times over the years, including one time back in the early 1990s when I worked at KAAL-TV and she spoke in Blooming Prairie about child safety.

Patty is one of the most humble, yet anguished mothers I have ever known. She just wants what we all want for our children—live life without the fear of being kidnapped and abused.

I can't even begin to imagine what Jacob's family has endured since he went missing after making a run to a local store by St. Joseph in October 1989. A masked man who snatched Jacob out of the thin air abducted him at gunpoint. He has never been seen since and the identity of the gunman has remained a mystery.

Last week authorities announced a man who had first been questioned about the disappearance 26 years ago has re-emerged as a "person of interest" in the chilling kidnapping. The man was arrested at his Annandale home on charges of receiving and possessing child pornography.

Investigators may finally be one step closer to unraveling the crime of the century.

While authorities stressed that the Annandale man has not been charged with any crime related to Jacob's disappearance, I found it interesting that when pressed about whether he was a suspect, they responded, "We'll let you draw your own conclusions." I have to believe police are finally a step closer to solving this case.

I hope for the family's sake that closure can finally come about. The family has suffered enough.

If this never was a federal case before, it may very well be now. And that's a good thing. The federal laws have more teeth than state statutes.

It has always struck me how strong Patty has been throughout this entire ordeal. She is a fighter for the underdog. Her advocacy focuses on protecting children from abduction and abuse.

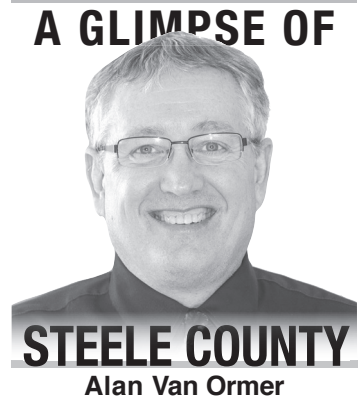
In recent years Patty has become one of the most vocal critics of current sex offender registry laws pointing them as overly broad and unnecessarily causing tremendous harm to many. She has been raising awareness in Minnesota, in the nation, in the world.

Through it all, the Wetterlings have been standing strong hoping Jacob will come home alive.

The Wetterlings, their loved ones and all of us deserve true justice. If the Annandale man is the one with the answer as to what happened, I hope his conscience will finally get the best of him and he'll let it out. It may be our only hope in bringing an end to the nightmare that has blanketed the entire state for far too long.

My desire is for last week's development to put authorities in hot pursuit of bringing justice to the person responsible for one of the most evil acts to ever happen in Minnesota.

Week of leadership training was beneficial



Alan Van Ormer

In October I was fortunate enough to be one of 24 people from Blooming Prairie, Ellendale and Medford to participate in the Blandin Community Leadership program in northern Minnesota.

There were many things that stick out to me about the week-long activities.

While I knew a majority of the people that participated, not only did I learn more about them, but I was also able to meet some new people. It always amazes me the true nature of people when you are in a setting like that. The most important thing for me was that the people do care about their communities. And just as important is that each one of them has their own set of talents that can help communities grow.

I was also able to find out a bit more about myself. There were things that I knew about myself that were reiterated, but there were also things I found out about myself through individual and group discussions that will be beneficial for me in the future. I'm sure many of those attending the retreat feel the same way.

The most important concept that comes from this type of leadership program is that this group, along with others that participated in past Blandin programs, continues to use the knowledge to help build better communities in Steele County.

One of the last parts of the session dealt with how we were going to use all the information to help better our communities. On my part, as the managing editor of the Steele County Times, I hope to incorporate more in-depth, detailed stories that help push community issues that are important to the people that live in Blooming Prairie, Ellendale, Medford and even Owatonna and other communities that have an impact on Steele County.

That is what I can help do to help strengthen our communities. Each one of those attending the event have or are developing ways of their own to build better and stronger communities. I can't wait to see how all of this turns out. It should be exciting.

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2014
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3 State Awards

2013
2 National Awards
7 State Awards

2012
2 State Awards

2011
4 National Awards

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

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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

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Elsewhere in Minnesota.....$40
Out of state..... $42

Second Front Page

Veterans Day fundraising kickoff date for Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Sandy Jones of Blooming Prairie is responsible for this attractive display that has been used to promote the proposed Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial. A fundraising campaign will be kicked off at the Servicemen's Club on Veterans Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11.

The special Veterans Day observance on Wednesday, Nov. 11, at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club will be marked by the kickoff of a fundraising campaign for a Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial that will be constructed just east of the Servicemen's Club.

Tom Peterson, chairman of the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial Committee, said the first phase of identifying the purpose of the memorial is complete, and the second phase of raising funds will begin on Veterans Day.

The memorial project is spearheaded by the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #52 and the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial Committee. "We are very excited about our mission ahead," Peterson said.

The idea of a Blooming Prairie veterans memorial has been promoted by many community members over the years, Peterson related.

Funds have already been coming in and more were received on Saturday, Oct. 17, at Sons of the American Legion Oyster and Chili Feed at the Servicemen's Club.

Peterson said there are two ways everyone can help advance the memorial project. One is to honor a veteran by purchasing a wall paver that will be engraved with a veteran's name, branch of service and conflict/dates of service. The other way is by making a financial donation.

As a reminder, Phase I of this project was to determine "who" the memorial was designed for; "what" the memorial will be and "where" the memorial will be located.

Peterson explained the "who" part of Phase I by sharing the mission statement:

"It is the purpose of the Blooming Prairie Veteran's Memorial to honor all the men and women throughout our nation who have served, are serving and will serve in the armed forces of the United States of America. We are dedicated to encourage and foster patriotism and provide recognition to all veterans for their courage and willingness to give all for their country." The "what" part of the Phase I is found in a sketch of the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial. The sketch was done by Owatonna Granite and Monument.

The "where" of Phase I speaks to the location of property just to the east of the Servicemen's Club building. "It is with gratitude that the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #52, the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial Committee and the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial Corporation thank the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club Inc. for the gracious dedication of .23 acres to the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial," Peterson said.

With Phase I completed, Peterson said it is imperative that money be raised to make the memorial a reality. "We ask everyone to generously support the fundraising for the memorial," he added.

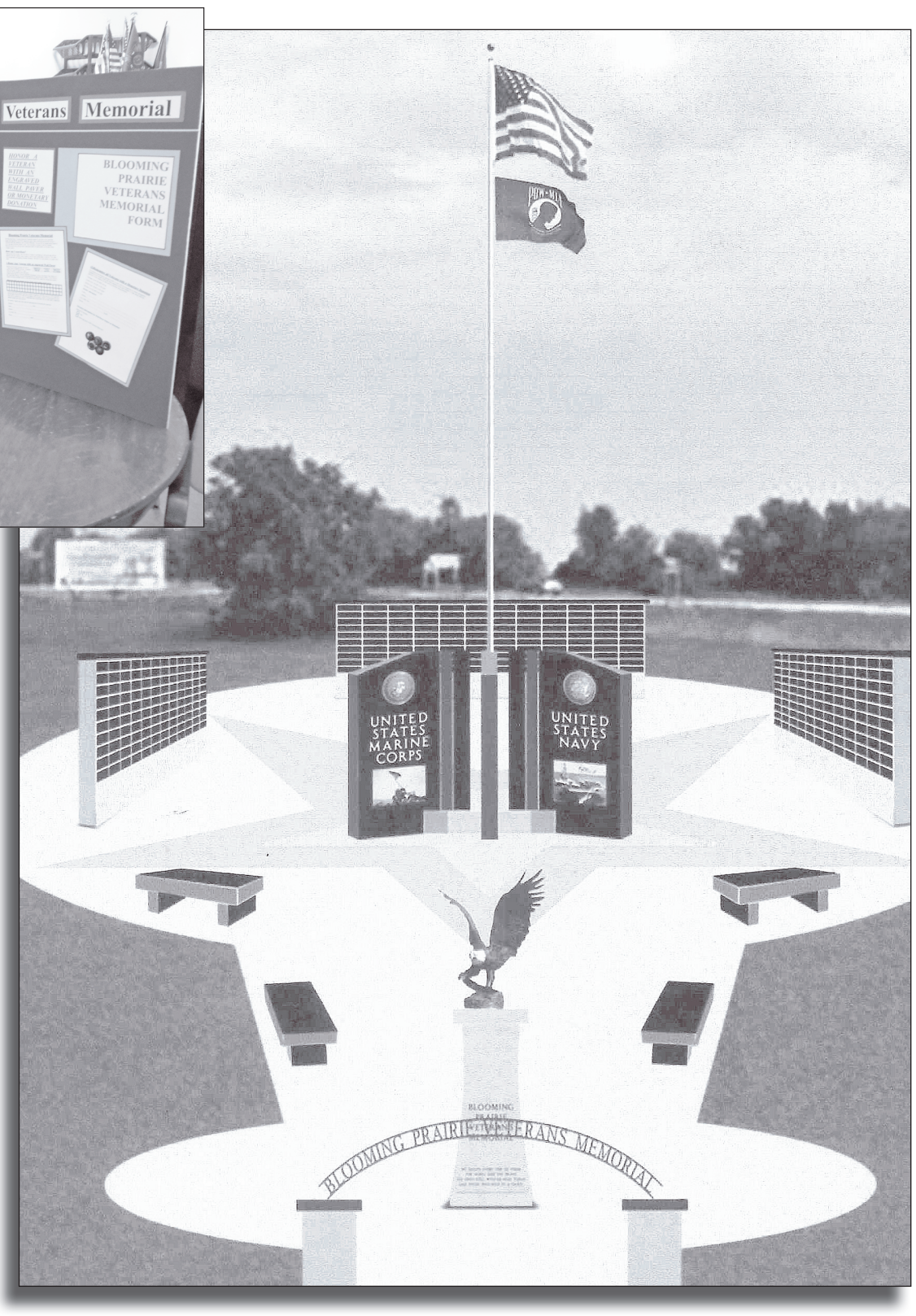
Committee members will be on hand at the Servicemen's Club Veterans Day to answer any questions and to review how to purchase a wall paver for a veteran or to make a contribution. A special display created by Sandy Jones will be featured at the Servicemen's Club on Veterans Day.

Committee members include: American Legion, Tom Walters; American Legion Auxiliary, Sandy Jones; Sons of the American Legion, Fred Vokoun; Veterans of Foreign Wars, Ken Vermilyea; VFW Auxiliary, Marilyn Meshke; Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club, Doug Miner and chairman Tom Peterson.

The fund raising goal is $250,000, Peterson said. If interested in a wall paver, contact Tom Peterson, 6731 158th St. SE, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917. Call him at 507-456-2017. Wall paver forms are available at the Servicemen's Club. Correspondence can also be addressed to Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial, P.O. Box 432, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917.

The wall pavers will measure 3.5 inches tall by 11 inches wide. A named person must be a veteran, living or deceased, of any branch of the U.S. military, serving during peacetime or wartime in any conflict. Cost is $350 for each paver.

The memorial will include the following design:



Submitted photo

The proposed Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial would recognize all men and women who have served, or will serve, in the United States Armed Forces.

- Granite archway to the memorial.
- Solid granite pedestal with adorning bald eagle. Language on the pedestal recognizes the POW/MIA veteran.
- Single flagpole adorned with the United States flag and POW/MIA flag.
- At the base of the flagpole are five solid granite tablets recognizing five branches of service.
- Surrounding the flags and granite tablets are three walls with wall pavers to recognize the veterans.

Veterans Day ceremonies, programs finalized for Nov. 11

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Veterans Day on Wednesday, Nov. 11, will be a special day in Blooming Prairie. It will be a day for many to pay tribute to our many veterans, living and passed.

Joyce Johns, president of the VFW Post #878 Auxiliary, said the day will be filled with meaningful activities.

Bars and coffee will be served beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Servicemen's Club.

Three classes of fourth-graders from the Blooming Prairie Elementary School will visit the Servicemen's Club at 10 a.m. and will see a presentation in the Liberty Room that will explore the true meaning behind Veterans Day.

The students will then join the public in front of the Servicemen's Club for a raising of the American and POW flags. The Pledge of Allegiance will be recited. The flag will be raised, rain, shine or snow, by Vietnam veteran Ken Esplan of Blooming Prairie. Taps will also be sounded and the closing will be said by a chaplain from one of the local military service organizations.

Following the outdoor ceremonies, people will be invited back into the Servicemen's Club for more socializing. Students will return to school.

An evening program is also planned at the Servicemen's Club with a social hour at 5:30 p.m. followed by a Veterans Day supper at 6:30 p.m. Frontier Communications is donating desserts at the event.

The meal will be followed by a program featuring a message by American Legion Auxiliary Girls Stater Brinnon Kubista. She will speak on her experiences at Girls State.

A presentation of Quilts of Valor will then be made to many local veterans.

The day's activities are sponsored by American Legion Post #52, VFW Post #878, Legion Auxiliary, VFW Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion.

QUILTS OF VALOR

Continued from Page 1A

diately thought to sign her father up.

Susan Branstad of Owatonna also thought about her father when she found out about the quilting project. Her father, Luverne Schlobohm of Owatonna, also received a quilt. He is a veteran of World War II. He served in the South Pacific as part of the Navy.

Robert Dub of Owatonna also received a quilt. He served in Iraq with the Army. His wife signed him up with Quilts of Valor.

Waddell has been quilting for over a year, but this was her first time presenting the quits. "It's just being able to say thank you, thank you for your service," she said. "It's our way of doing something." She was initially interested in quilting because her own father was a World War II veteran.

Quilts of Valor began as a grass roots effort in 2003. Since then, more than 125,700 quilts made by more than 10,000 volunteers have been awarded to veterans touched by war.

Anyone can sign a veteran up for a quilt. If interested, visit www.qovf.org. To request a quilt of valor for themselves or someone else, one has to fill out the application on the website. It is a single lifetime award.



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Susan Branstad signed her father Luverne Shlobohm of Owatonna up to receive a quilt of valor. Schlobohm is a World War II Veteran. He served in the South Pacific with the Navy.



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Education

School menus

BPES Breakfast Menu

Nov. 3: Long John, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, Milk

Nov. 4: WG Bagel w/Cream Cheese, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Nov. 5: Breakfast Bread Loaf, Vegetable Selection, Orange Juice, Milk

Nov. 6: WG Muffin, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Nov. 9: Yogurt , Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Canned Fruit, Milk

Nov. 10: Cinnamon Roll, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, Milk

Nov. 11: WG Bagel w/Cream Cheese, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

BPES Lunch Menu

Nov. 3: Chicken Nuggets, Cheesy Broc Mash, Roll, Pulled Pork Flatbread, Cheesy Broccoli Mash, Cauliflower, Baby Carrots, Beets, Seasonal Fruit

Nov. 4: Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Hot Ham & Cheese, French Fries, Broccoli, Garbanzo, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

Nov. 5: Beefy Nachos w/ Cheese Sauce, Mexican Corn, Hamburger on WG Bun

Mexican Corn, Romaine Lettuce, Green Onions, Tomatoes, Seasonal Fruit

Nov. 6: Cheesebread Dunkers, Coleslaw, Sweet & Sour Chicken Bites over Fried Rice, Green Peas, Baby Carrots, Garbanzo Beans, Seasonal Fruit

Nov. 9: Walking Taco, Firenze Corn Salad, BBQ Riblet on WG Bun, Firenze Corn Salad, Baby Spinach, Black Beans, Radishes, Seasonal Fruit

Nov. 10: Corn Dog, Garlic Herb Broccoli, Chicken Alfredo, Noodles Garlic Herb Broccoli, Green Peas, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Seasonal Fruit

Nov. 11: Chicken Tenders, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Bread, Meatballs & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Baby Spinach, Black Beans, Pepper Medley, Seasonal Fruit

BPHS Lunch Menu

Nov. 3: Pulled Pork, Flatbread, Cheesy Broccoli Mash, Cauliflower, Baby Carrots, Beets, Seasonal Fruit

Nov. 4: Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Broccoli, Garbanzo Beans, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

Nov. 5: Fish Tacos, Slaw, Romaine Lettuce, Green Onions, Tomatoes, Seasonal Fruit

Nov. 6: Sweet & Sour Chicken over Rice, Green Peas, Baby Carrots, Garbanzo Beans, Seasonal Fruit

Nov. 9: Meatballs & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, WG Bread Slices, Baby Spinach, Black Beans, Radishes, Seasonal Fruit

Nov. 10: Chicken Alfredo Noodles, WG Breadsticks, Green Peas, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Seasonal Fruit

Nov. 11: Apple Cider Pork Loin, Baked Potato, Dinner Rolls, Baby Spinach, Black Beans, Pepper Medley, Seasonal Fruit

Medford School Breakfast Menu

Nov. 3: Cinnamon Roll OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, Milk

Nov. 4: Pancakes OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Nov. 5: Coffee Cake OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Orange Juice, Milk

Nov. 6: No School

Nov. 9: Breakfast Pizza OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Canned Fruit, Milk

Nov. 10: Pancake on a Stick OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, Milk

Nov. 11: WG English Muffin Sandwich (Egg, Cheese) OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Medford School Lunch Menu

Nov. 3: Chicken Nuggets, Cheesy Broccoli Mash, Roll, Harvest Chicken Salad, Deli Sub, Cauliflower, Baby Carrots, Beets, Seasonal Fruit

Nov. 4: Beef or Chicken Chili, Honey Glazed Corn Bread, Chicken Caesar Salad, Yogurt Pak, Broccoli, Garbanzo, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

Nov. 5: Beefy Nachos w/ Cheese Sauce, Corn, Buffalo Chicken Pasta, Deli Sandwich, Romaine Lettuce, Green Onions, Tomatoes, Seasonal Fruit

Nov. 6: No School

Nov. 9: Chicken Tenders, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Bread, WG Chips, Salsa, Cheese, Chicken Caesar Salad, Baby Spinach, Black Beans, Radishes, Seasonal Fruit

Nov. 10: Pizza Parlor Pizza, Kettle Chips, Turkey BLT Salad, Deli Sub, Green Peas, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Seasonal Fruit

Nov. 11: Chicken Alfredo, Noodles Green Peas, Egg Salad on Wheat, Chef Salad, Baby Spinach, Black Beans, Pepper Medley, Seasonal Fruit

NRHEG Breakfast Menu

Nov. 3: Cheese Omelet

Nov. 4: PB & Jelly Sandwich

Nov. 5: Long John

Nov. 6: No School

Nov. 9: No Breakfast, 2 Hour Late Start

Nov. 10: Pancakes

Nov. 11: Banana or Cinnamon Bread

NRHEG Lunch Menu

Nov. 3: Italian Dunkers w/ Marinara Sauce, Green Beans, Grape Tomatoes, Diced Pears

Nov. 4: Nachos Supreme w/ Toppings, Golden Corn, Baby Carrots, Applesauce

Nov. 5: BBQ or Plain Pork on a Bun, Potato Smiles, Baked Beans, Mandarin Oranges

Nov. 6: No School

Nov. 9: Chicken Strips, Peas or Cooked Carrots, Whipped Potatoes, Diced Pears, Fresh Fruit

Nov. 10: Hot Ham & Cheese on Bun, Baked Beans, Chips, Fresh Veggies, Mandarin Oranges

Nov. 11: Corn Dog, Baked Potato w/ Toppings, Green Beans, Diced Peaches

United Way mails over 10,000 books to children



Submitted photo

Since last fall, United Way has mailed over 10,937 books to preschool children in Steele County.

When the November Imagination Library books hits mailboxes in Steele County in a few weeks, the United Way Women's Leadership Council will be celebrating an important milestone. Since the first books started arriving in mailboxes last fall, 10,937 books have now been mailed out to preschool children in Steele County!

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is a program that sends an age appropriate book each month to the home of every enrolled child in Steele County, from birth to age five. The project was launched in August of 2014 by the United Way Women's Leadership Council in partnership with the Owatonna Rotary Club, Owatonna Early Edition Rotary Club, Owatonna Public Library Foundation and the gifts of many community members and businesses. It is a partnership with the Dolly Parton Foundation, as well. Dolly Parton pays for the cost of all of the books and the local partners raise the $25 per child per year that it costs to ship the books to the child's home each month.

United Way co-chair Nancy Keller said that the Women's Leadership Council has received wonderful feedback from the community and from parents whose children are enrolled to receive the books. According to Nancy, a local mom recently told her, "The only thing more fun than getting a new book is getting one in the mail. We have to read it immediately when one comes."

The Imagination Library program is a compliment to the work that many others do in our community to support literacy and the love of reading. "United Way is committed to removing barriers to academic achievement," said Tanya Paley, Director of Strategic Operations at the United Way and co-chair of the United Way Women's Leadership Council. "Research shows that children who are reading or ready to read when they enter kindergarten, are less likely to drop out of high school and more likely to be prepared for success in college or in the job market."

The mission of the United Way of Steele County is to change lives by mobilizing and optimizing the caring power of our community. For additional information about enrolling a child in the Imagination Library or supporting the program, call the United Way of Steele County at 507-455-1180.

NANCY DREW

Continued from Page 1A

The play itself is also something a little different than previous Medford High School productions. "It's one nobody's done around here," said Fitzgerald, adding that the play also has an interesting comedic element. "Even though it's a mystery, and there are some 'spooky' elements, hopefully the audience still gets a few giggles out of it."

Of course, with a unique play come unique challenges. During the show, four cast members are "transformed" into marionette-looking, automated puppets.

> 'There's always that magic that happens when the audience walks into the auditorium.'
>
> *Shelley Fitzgerald*
> *Director*

Fitzgerald's relative, who does special effects make-up, will be on hand to help make the students' faces and bodies look like they are made of wood. The students, in turn, also had to learn to move like wooden puppets.

This play also features what Fitzgerald calls "a bit of magic" using a scrim, which is a tool that helps make elements of the play disappear and reappear at will.

"I always look forward to it every year," said Fitzgerald, of the play. She's especially looking forward to seeing the students perform in front of the audience.

"Something always just happens in front of an audience," she said. "I always get to a point where I'm happy with it and, yet, there's always that magic that happens when the audience walks into the auditorium. I just like seeing what they pull out of their hat; there's that extra inspiration."

PETER PAN

Continued from Page 1A

especially one that includes a number of their own classmates.

"The kids involved (in theatre) are very good kids but there's still a tremendous amount of peer pressure," she said. "It's not easy to stand up in front of your classmates and be silly. Now, for some kids, that's natural; other kids… that comes really hard."

For students who are new to the theatre world, it can also be tiring to review the same scene or the same number again and again.

"Some of them don't understand the parallels between doing this over and over and over again," said Johnson. "It's boring doing the same thing over and over again, just like running the same football play or running the same volleyball drill. So, bridging that understanding sometimes is challenging."

This, she says, is where the more experienced theatre students are able to step in and shine, providing a strong example for their peers. Johnson hopes that the students will continue to work hard, and that all cast members, regardless of what role they may play, will continue to give the play their best effort.

"When the lights are on and grandmas are in the audience, you don't get a second try," said Johnson. "What I tell the kids in this play is that we are only as good as the least of us. The person with the least experience or the smallest part is what the audience is going to remember. They expect leads to know their lines, to know their songs and to act like the character they've been cast as. It's the minor players with the minor parts that make it sparkle and make performances memorable."

In addition to the strong student leaders involved with the play, Johnson is also grateful to many other community members who are also working hard to help prepare for the play. Music director Kari Bottin is always a big help and, many parents are also willing to step up.

"At the adult level, we've got a good nucleus of parents, although we are always looking for more," Johnson said. "They do an awful lot: they work with costumes, they provide food and clean up during MEA and help backstage, help with make-up, help with props…"

A number of students also assist with the production, including those who will help with the spotlights and other projects.

"The administration and the fall sports coaches have been fantastic, too, and very, very supportive of our program," said Johnson.

Johnson said that, one day when both she and Bottin were unable to attend rehearsal, school staff member Allison Mach attended the rehearsal and read lines with the students.

Although it can be a challenge for the cast members to balance their full schedules, Johnson said that this is just one of the benefits they'll receive from their involvement in theater.

"The nice part, most of the time, is that the kids that are involved in the play are some of the top students in high school, so they have learned life balance, even though they don't realize that's what they're learning," explained Johnson. "To juggle being in three activities and still get good grades that, too, is a benefit, with any extra-curricular program."

Johnson also believes that the students will gain other skills through their involvement in theatre, as well. "It's not easy to get up and sing a solo or recite a long speech in front of your peers or an audience, and these kids make it look easy," she said. "It's not. I think that kids who are involved in theatre interview well at a job, and they have poise and grace and confidence because they've been in this environment. So, all of those things make for a good college application and a good job interview."

As opening night approaches, Johnson hopes that community members will consider attending the performances to show their support for the students, and other community members, who have been working hard to bring the story of "Peter Pan" to life.

Holiday gift ideas from the library

Library Book Nook



Nancy Vaillancourt

Although it seems a bit early to be thinking about the Christmas holidays, the Friends of the Blooming Prairie Branch Library are doing just that. Through a special arrangement with the Barnes & Nobles store in Rochester, the Friends group will be offering a Holiday Book Sale. New books, including best sellers and children's books, will be available to purchase at the library. A generous portion of those sales will be returned to the Friends group.

The sale will begin on Friday, Dec. 4th during the Holiday Dazzle celebration and continue through Thursday, Dec. 10. However, if you have a specific book that you would like to purchase as a gift for someone or for yourself, contact the library at 507-583-7750 by Nov. 15. The book you would like will be ready for you to pick up during the sale, with the profit used to help the Friends and the Blooming Prairie Branch Library.

Our Friends of the Library group consists of community members who support the library through volunteer time and fund raising. The funds have been used to provide children's programming during the summer, author visits, furniture, and library materials – some of the extras that make our library unique. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the library or Friends President Linda Christianson for more information.



How to choose a good nursing home



THE SAVVY SENIOR

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Dear Savvy Senior,
Can you give me some tips on picking a good nursing home for my mother who has Alzheimer's disease? I've been taking care of her at home, but she's gotten to the point where she's too much for me to handle.
Overwhelmed Daughter

Dear Overwhelmed,
Choosing a good nursing home for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease is a very important decision that requires careful evaluation and some homework. Here are some steps that can help you find a good facility and avoid a bad one.

Make a list.
There are several sources you can turn to for referrals to nursing homes in your area: Your Area Agency on Aging (call 800-677-1116 for contact information); your mom's doctor or nearby hospital discharge planner; or friends, family or neighbors who may have had a loved one in a nursing home. Ideally, the nursing homes should be close to family members and friends who can visit often, because residents with frequent visitors usually get better care.

Compare nursing homes.
To research and compare the nursing homes on your list, use Medicare's nursing home compare tool at medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare. This tool provides a five-star rating system on recent health inspections, staffing, quality of care and overall rating.

You should also contact your local long-term care ombudsman. This is a government official who investigates nursing home complaints and can tell you which ones have had problems in the past. To find your local ombudsman, call your Area Agency on Aging or see ltcombudsman.org.

Contact the facilities.
Once you've narrowed your search, call the nursing homes you're interested in to verify that they have a dementia unit that can facilitate your mom's needs. Also, find out if they have any vacancies, what they charge and if they accept Medicaid.

Tour your top choices.
During your nursing home visit, notice the cleanness and smell of the facility. Is it homey and inviting? Does the staff seem responsive and kind to its residents? Also be sure to taste the food and talk to the residents and their family members, if available. It's also a good idea to visit several times at different times of the day and different days of the week to get a broader perspective.

Also, find out about their staff screening (do they do background checks) and training procedures, staff-to-patient ratio, and the staff turnover rate.

To help you rate your visit, Medicare offers a helpful checklist of questions to ask at medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare/checklist.pdf, as does the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org/visitinganursinghome.pdf. Print these lists from your computer and take them with you on your visit.

Paying for care.
With nursing home costs now averaging $250 per day nationally for a private room, paying for care is another area you may have questions about or need assistance with. Medicare only helps pay up to 100 days of rehabilitative nursing home care, which must occur after a hospital stay.

Most nursing home residents pay for care from either personal savings, a long-term care insurance policy, or through Medicaid once their savings are depleted.

The National Clearinghouse for Long-Term Care Information website (longtermcare.gov) is a good resource that can help you understand and research your financial options. You can also get help from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which provides free counseling on all Medicare and Medicaid issues. To find a local SHIP counselor visit shiptacenter.org, or call 800-677-1116.

For more information, see Medicare's online booklet "Your Guide to Choosing a Nursing Home" at medicare.gov/publications/pubs/pdf/02174.pdf.

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, Nov. 8, 2005
Dan Evans, Publisher

Local clinic physician, Keith Kleis, D.O., will be leaving the Blooming Prairie Clinic in the next few months in order to move his practice to the Austin Medical Center. "I decided to move my practice to Austin because the need for a family physician came up in the Austin Medical Center. I realized that, by practicing in Austin, I had a chance to be close to my home and my family," said Kleis. Kleis said the Medical Center has assured him that the Blooming Prairie Clinic will not close. They are actively searching for a replacement and will hopefully have someone hired by the end of the year.

For the first time in the history of the 113-year-old newspaper we have color photos this week.

Two academic teams representing Blooming Prairie High School competed in the first Melarian Mind Game at the local high school on Oct. 24 and both teams did very well. Team A took the runner-up spot and Team B placed fourth among the seven teams from three schools that competed. Stewartville and Kasson-Mantorville also entered the competition. The word "Melarian" is an original word to denote the name of the competition and it revolves around current events and alphabetical knowledge of all kinds.

20 Years Ago
Tuesday, Nov. 7, 1995
Elsie Slinger, Editor

The new Christmas decorations have arrived and are ready for installation, due to the great public and business response to the Relight Blooming Prairie campaign. The decorations cost almost $10,000 with almost that much raised. Proceeds from the Harvest Dance, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, will go to pay for any additional expenses. "We've heard from almost every sector of the community," said Chamber President Rick Kittelson. "And they've responded with overwhelming success for the new lights. When we started we didn't know what to expect, but we are very, very pleased by the response."

Jane Bau of Blooming Prairie had put it off long enough; this year she was going to make a difference. So, when National Make-a-Difference Day came around on Oct. 28, her plan was already underway. A few days earlier, she started calling friends and acquaintances to collect food for the Blooming Prairie Food Shelf. In less than a week, 90 pounds of food was collected, either at local churches or dropped off at the food shelf building itself. She had made a difference.

50 Years Ago
Thursday, Nov. 4, 1965
Victor, Vernon and Vyrle Krejci, Editors

Nearly 480 children in grades one through nine attended the Halloween parties sponsored by the Blooming Prairie P.T.A., Saturday, Oct. 30. Prizes were donated by the P.T.A., Civic Progress Club and Modern Woodmen of America Insurance Co. The elementary grades party featured costume judging and a movie, followed by refreshments. Costumes were judged at each grade level.

Interest in Blooming Prairie's town government surged upward Tuesday evening of this week with the announcement that Robert Dandelet had been filed for mayor by petition containing the signatures of interested residents of Blooming Prairie. The Times also learned that a filing will be made for trustee, however, the name of the candidate had not been released as of press time. The only other filing for office up to late Tuesday was that of Charles Ellis, who is a candidate for reelection to a two-year team as justice-of-peace.

75 Years Ago
Thursday, Nov. 7, 1940
Frank Krejci, Publisher

The 70th anniversary of the First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie will be observed Sunday night at a special celebration arranged by the congregation. With a full day of activities, guest speakers, special music and a noon luncheon, hundreds of Lutherans, congregation members and visitors are expected to take part in the celebration. A special anniversary booklet has been printed and will be distributed Sunday.

Armistice Day, celebrating the signing of the armistice in the World War I will be observed here Monday, Nov. 11, with a program at the high school auditorium.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

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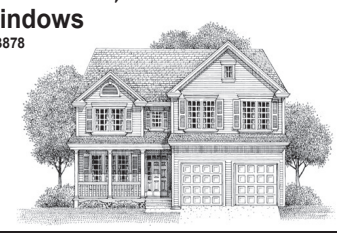
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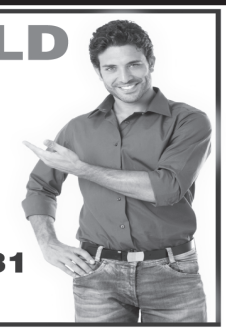
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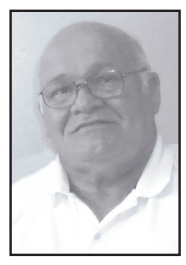
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Community

Obituaries

Richard Green, 70, Blooming Prairie



Richard "Dick" Clyde Green, 70 of Blooming Prairie, died Saturday afternoon, Oct. 31, 2015, at the Owatonna Hospital.

He was born March 25, 1945, in Braham, Minnesota, the son of Ron and Lucille (Thomann) Green. He attended school in Ellendale, graduating in 1963. On June 26, 1965, he married Dorothy Plunkett at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie.

From 1966 to 1970, Richard served with the United States Air Force, attaining the rank of Sergeant. After his discharge, the couple returned to Blooming Prairie, where Richard continued his employment with Farmstead Foods in Albert Lea.

After the plant closed, Richard worked for Arkema in Blooming Prairie for 10 years, at Prairie Manor Nursing Home and for a few years as a custodian at the Albert Lea High School, retiring in 2010.

He was a member of St. Columbanus Catholic Church, where he served as a lector, and the VFW Post of Albert Lea. He enjoyed golfing, hunting, playing "500" and woodworking. He was a faithful fan of the Minnesota Twins and Minnesota Vikings.

Survivors include his wife Dorothy Green of Blooming Prairie; four sons Jeff (Nadia) Green of Guam, Brian (Jennifer) Green of Rochester, Chad (Jodi) Green of Blooming Prairie and Cory (Lisa) Green of Alden; fourteen grandchildren Matt, Hayley, Christian, Brianna, Casaundra, Alexandra, Colton, Annika, Lukas, Anthony, Dakota, Zach, Bryce and Ericka; as well as many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Ron and Lucille; and one brother Galen.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015, at St. Columbanus Catholic Church with the Rev. Tom Niehaus, officiating. Interment will follow the luncheon at the Geneva Cemetery with Military Honors by American Legion Post 52 and VFW Post 878 of Blooming Prairie. Visitation will be held from 4 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2015, at the Worlein – Blooming Prairie Funeral Home in Blooming Prairie and for one hour prior to the service at the church on Wednesday. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Theda Morton, 87, Blooming Prairie



Theda Louise (Harms) Morton, 87 of Blooming Prairie, died Monday, Oct. 26, 2015, at Mayo Clinic Hospital Rochester, St. Mary's Campus.

She was born April 6, 1928, to Dick and Louise (Dohrman) Harms in Latimer, Iowa, the oldest of six children: Bertha, Clara, Richard, Walter and Alice.

After moving to Minnesota, they worked in the potato, onion and cabbage fields in Hollandale where Theda graduated from eighth grade. She met Alan Morton and married him on July 9, 1950.

Theda worked at Contel Phone Company as an operator, Farmers and Merchants Bank, United Telephone and drove school bus while Alan was in the service. Theda also worked at First National Bank, People's Natural Gas, drove school bus again and did book work at T.S. Morton & Son while managing the apartment buildings they built in 1965, 1972 and 1973.

In 1984 they opened Alan Morton Plumbing, Heating and Pump, Inc. Theda and Alan raised three active children together. They loved traveling, going on cruises together, hunting and camping out west. They took many children with them on their family camping trips to St. Croix River and many other places. Theda was also a great cook.

Survivors include husband Alan T. Morton of Blooming Prairie; son Kerry T. (Mary) Morton of Faribault; daughter Tamra L. (Jerry) Bissell of Blooming Prairie; granddaughters Heather Joe Morton of Tempe, Arizona, Melissa May (Chris) Nussbaum of St. Louis Park; grandson Tyler Jerry Jay Bissell of Blooming Prairie; great-grandsons Bradyn Thomas Ellingson of Austin and Mayson Richard Nussbaum of St. Louis Park; other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents Dick and Louise Harms; son Jan Morton; parents-in-law Ward and Lucille Morton; sister-in-law Ann (Morton) Christenson; and nephew Mitchell Myers.

Funeral services were held Oct. 30, 2015, at First Baptist Church in Blooming Prairie with Pastor Matthew Fennell officiating. Interment will be in Blooming Prairie Cemetery. Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Loren Williamson, 89, Blooming Prairie



Lorene P. Williamson, age 89 of Blooming Prairie, died peacefully on Monday, Oct. 26, 2015, surrounded by her loving family at Homestead Hospice House in Owatonna.

Lorene Pearl Madson was born March 9, 1926, in Westfield Township, Dodge County, to Peter and Laura (Nelson) Madson. She grew up in Westfield Township, where she attended grade school, and then Blooming Prairie High School.

On June 13, 1944, Lorene and Orville Williamson were married in Blooming Prairie. The couple raised four children. Lorene worked at Hormel Foods Corporation and as a cook at a restaurant and at the high school.

After the birth of their first son, she stayed at home to raise her family. After Orville retired, the couple started going to flea markets. Lorene's main hobby was refinishing furniture. She took great pride in her work, and it brought her much joy.

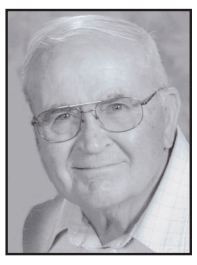
Lorene is survived by her sons Gary Williamson of Stewartville, Wayne (Connie) Williamson and Dean (Barbara) Williamson, both of Blooming Prairie; nine grandchildren Scott, Sarah, Jason, Jody, Tim, Renee, Laura, Kallie and Jack; twelve great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; sisters-in-law Sylvia Swenson of Blooming Prairie and Syrlene Williamson of Austin; many nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Her parents Peter and Laura Madson, her husband Orville Williamson in 1999, her daughter Pam Heil, her son-in-law David Heil, four sisters and one brother preceded her in death.

Funeral services were on Oct. 31, 2015, at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie, with Pastor Charles Leonard officiating. Interment will be in First Lutheran Cemetery.

Memorials can be directed to Westfield Church, Homestead Hospice or recipient of donor's choice. Services prearranged and performed by Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Donald George Hope, 85, Austin



Donald George Hope, 85, of Austin passed away on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2015, at St. Mark's Lutheran Home after a lingering illness. He was born June 29, 1930, at home in Freeborn County, the son of Theodore and Mary (Hjelman) Hope. Don attended District 1 Country School and graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1948. On June 24, 1953, he was united in marriage to his wife of 62 years, Janet Sauke, in Geneva. The couple raised two children, Randy and Lyn. A lifelong dairy farmer and avid Minnesota sports fan, Don was also a member of the Newry Township board and Community Lutheran Church in Geneva, where he served on the church council. Bowling and gardening were two of his favorite pastimes. After retirement, Don was happiest helping other farmers and spending time with his grandchildren. He lived his 85 years in the same house where he was born.

Donald is survived by his wife Janet Hope of Austin; daughter Lyn (Mike) Bolster of Kasson; and son Randy (Rosalyn) Hope of St. Paul; four grandchildren Sam and Margaret Hope, Brennan and Ben Bolster. He was preceded in death by his parents Theodore and Mary Hope; brother Russell Gilde; and sister-in-law Eva Gilde.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 6, 2015, at Community Lutheran Church, 106 3rd Street SE, Geneva, with Pastor Kristen Venne officiating. Visitation will be held from 10 to 11 a.m., preceding the service. Interment will be in the Geneva Cemetery. Memorials can be directed to Geneva Community Lutheran Church or recipient of donor's choice. Worlein Funeral Home of Austin is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Milestones

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Nov. 3
Braxton Ramsey
Todd Nelson
Howard Butler
Neil Horn

Nov. 4
Wayne Gullickson
John Bruns
Abbey Johnson

Nov. 5
Kyle Severtson
Chris Mans
Brett Zimmerman
Tim Bass
Madison Lea

Nov. 6
David Hagen
Ardis Krejci
Linda (Larry) Knutson

Nov. 7
Claire Loverink
Mark Hinzmann

Nov. 8
Brandy Thompson

Nov. 9
Marti Snider
Linda Klemmensen

Nov. 10
Julie Eischens
Matt Machin
Savannah Farr
Sarah Bumgarner
Ken Trom
Daniel Coleman
Ryan Cremeans

Anniversaries

Nov. 3
Donald and Karen Kaplan

Nov. 4
Carl "Jr." and Diane Swenson
Rod and Michelle Krell

Nov. 5
Kevin and Robyn Iversen

Nov. 7
Gloria and Robert Salinas

Nov. 10
Clint and Adeline Christianson

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Nov. 3: Beef Stew, Seafoam Salad, Batter Bun, Baked Apple

Nov. 4: Chicken Chow Mein Over Rice, Broccoli, Spiced Peaches, Craisin Oatmeal Cookie

Nov. 5: Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Baked Squash, Mixed Green Salad, Banana Fruit Cup

Nov. 6: Chili Con Carne w/ Crackers, Pear Half w/Grtd Cheese, Corn Muffin, Chocolate Yum Yum

Nov. 9: Smothered Chicken, Sweet Potatoes, Beets, Pudding

Nov. 10: Swiss Steak, Baked Potato, Dilled Carrots, Blushing Pears

Nov. 11: Closed for Veterans Day

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Area Church Spotlight



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ellendale

Pastor's corner

Let your light shine



One of the "fun" adventures in Owatonna this fall has been the need to relocate St. Mary's School from their building to a new site so that we can deal with some structural issues in the floor. We needed to find a new location, make the necessary structural changes to the new site and move books, desks, equipment and students to the new building. We were fortunate to find space in Pillsbury Hall on the former campus of Pillsbury Bible College. It is working fairly well. It has meant that we need to rethink many of the ways that we do things. Among them is where to gather the children for our weekly Mass. This week, with the advent of cold, rainy weather, we decided to have Mass for a portion of the student body in the cafeteria building. We were honoring two of the disciples, Simon and Jude, at the Mass. I spoke to the students about the amazing ways that the disciples were able to spread the Good News without cell phones, computers, Facebook, tweets, texting, TV or radio or any of the other modern means of communication on which we rely. I shared my belief that they were able to do so because they were on fire with the Gospel. They had encountered Jesus, and that had changed their lives. They could hardly hold in the message that they had to share. So, they endured many hardships to be true to the Lord's command to "Go and make disciples of all the nations." Since Halloween was just around the corner, I invited them to be like jack-o-lanterns, which are only beautiful when we put a light inside. For us, that is the light of Christ, which burns within. When we let that light shine out, then people will be attracted to us and ready to listen to our message about the love and mercy of God. Isn't it true that jack-o-lanterns are also most beautiful in the dark? When the sun goes down and we light the candle within, the glow lights up the night around it. Today, lots of people live in darkness. Some are challenged by life's uncertainty. It is for these people especially that we let the light of Christ shine through us. So, I invite you, as I did with our students, to be a human jack-o-lantern and let the light of Christ shine from you.

Fr. John Sauer,
Sacred Heart, Owatonna
and Holy Trinity, Litomysl

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
Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN—LCMS
2500 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna
The Rev. Mark Rosenau,
the Rev. Gregory Schlicker
(507) 451-4125
www.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
Weekly Church Service
Saturday Evening (Starts September 19th) 6 p.m. Sunday Morning Services held at 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion Offered each Saturday Evening Service and 2nd & 4th Sunday Service of each month. Sunday School - starts September 20th at 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
28959 630th Ave., 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
Rural Geneva
The Rev. Swamy Pothireddy
(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.

CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING
205 NW Second Ave., Medford
(507) 451-6353
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday
10 a.m. Sunday
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Monday daily Mass: 9 a.m.

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(507) 835-8726
Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday

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

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
815 E. University, Owatonna
Loren Olson, Pastor
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
(507) 451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Worship: Sunday 9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.

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

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

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Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
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422 W. North Street, Owatonna
Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
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www.destinycc.org
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Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Mormon

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404 31st St. N.W., Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
(507) 433-9042
Service: 9 a.m.-10:10 a.m.

Presbyterian

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

Seventh-Day Adventist

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

UCC

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

Assembly of God

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

Baptist

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

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Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

It was threshing time on the farm earlier this month. Here, Jim Bennett and Paul Brekke feed a threshing machine with shocked grain. Ivan Witt was manning the Farmall tractor that powered the threshing machine. The action was on Highway 218, about five miles south of Blooming Prairie. The farm is owned by Jeff and Diana Witt.

Area farmers await buffer information

By KAREN JORGENSEN
News Editor

Area farmers are playing a waiting game regarding new state requirements for vegetative buffers around waterways as they wait for additional information from the state.

Earlier this year, Gov. Mark Dayton signed into law legislation that will establish new perennial vegetation buffers of up to 50 feet along rivers, streams and ditches to help filter out phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment.

Before farmers know details over what kind or size of buffers they will need, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources must produce buffer maps that show all the public waterways affected.

"We understand people have questions about the buffer initiative," said DNR Project Manager Dave Leuthe.

In response to those questions, the DNR last week provided a timeline and details about the production of the maps.

"Production of those maps is important," said Doug Busselman of the Minnesota Farm Bureau, "because they will determine where the buffers are and what size and type they are."

Everyone is anxiously waiting for the DNR," he said.

The DNR timeline is that local governments will provide information on ditches that the state agency will integrate with information on public waters to develop preliminary buffer maps. The DNR is scheduled to produce final maps by July 2016.

Phase I of the mapping project, which is being done this fall, involves using existing digital data to identify public waters that require a buffer averaging 50 feet. Through the winter the DNR will be adding the local data regarding ditches that require a buffer of 16 one-half feet.

Busselman said that although the Farm Bureau initially opposed the new legislation, the group is now encouraging compliance with the law working to inform farmers about the legislation and also what alternatives are available.

The definition of ditches within a drainage system is defined in state law, he said, although what it means is "somewhat up in the air." He added he expected the DNR to make the meaning as broad as possible.

During the legislative session, Busselman said the Farm Bureau "fought tooth and nail" not because it was opposed to buffers, but because the state would be taking private property without compensation.

Land enrolled in the federal CRP, he said, is subject to a wider buffer width and additional restrictions but the landowner is compensated for keeping that land out of production.

"Buffers are a tool," he said. "There is nothing wrong with buffers."

Buffer lands must remain in perennial vegetation, he said, but that vegetation can take varying forms. The land can be used for haying or grazing, he said, and there are also alternative practices that can meet the criteria, such as no-till.

When the maps are completed, the DNR said there will be "public engagement opportunities."

The maps will help landowners identify whether they need to create a buffer and, if so, whether they need a 16 one-half foot or 50 foot average buffer width. Local soil and water conservation districts will work directly with landowners and help them use the maps to create the right size buffer or help them select an alternative water quality practice in lieu of a buffer.

The law requires that buffers on public waterways be in place by Nov. 1, 2017. Buffers for ditches must be in place by Nov. 1, 2018.

UMN Agricultural Extension Resources

ON THE FARM



Karen Anderson

Field work is coming to an end as farmers finish harvest and move on to tillage and equipment maintenance before winter. Many farmers across the region saw high crop yields throughout harvest due to the tremendous growing season. Higher yields will be helpful for many as lower commodity prices and high input prices limit profit margins.

University of Minnesota (UMN) Extension can truly be a valuable resource in critical issues such as these by connecting university resources to address community needs. This goal is ultimately achieved by providing timely, unbiased education through many different outlets. Some of these outlets include newspapers, radio, email, workshops, websites and social media, to name just a few.

Often during the months of November through March, Extension hosts a number of different types of workshops. Land rental meetings, private pesticide applicator training and winter crops days are most common in our area. By utilizing this timeframe, we hope to capitalize on producers' slower time of the year, after harvest and before planting, to showcase research and educational resources that aid in farm decision making. Through the local Extension offices, we encourage the public to share topic ideas and insight on how to improve Extension workshops and the resources provided. Free feel to share your thoughts with me at the Steele County Extension office.

Another resource, available 24-7, is the University of Minnesota Extension website. Simply type www.extension.umn.edu into your browser to have unlimited informational resources at your fingertips. There are a number of different icons across the top of the Extension webpage to help guide you toward the information you may be looking for. Outside of agriculture and the well-known 4-H youth development program, there are several other areas such as community, environment, family, food and gardening that showcase resources available on the Extension website.

The last way to access resources is by visiting your county Extension office. Stop by the Steele County Extension office at 635 Florence Ave, Owatonna, MN, call 507-444-7685, or email us at mnextsteele@umn.edu.

Contact Karen Anderson, Rice and Steele County Agricultural Ext nsion Educator for any of your agricultural assistance needs. Workshop inquiries, agriculture questions, and topic suggestions are always welcome!

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.

Agricultural career opportunities abound

A career in agriculture can prove richly rewarding. While it's common to envision overalls and tractors when imagining careers in agriculture, the opportunities to work in the agriculture industry stretch beyond the farm and into the corporate world. The following are a few of the paths men and women with a passion for agriculture can pursue.

•Business: Farmers and producers of agricultural products need someone to draft contracts for their agreements with the large corporations who distribute those products. In addition, purchasing agents and agricultural financiers are just two of the many career opportunities that enable men and women to work on the business side of agriculture.

* Social service: The agricultural industry also has positions of social service. In addition to food inspector, who ensures agricultural products are safe for human consumption, social service positions within the agricultural industry include environmental consultant and conservation officer.

•Production: Of course, the agricultural industry has a host of careers for those who want to get their hands dirty. Farms need to be plowed, seeds must be planted and fertilized and farms need to be well-maintained to continue operating efficiently and effectively.

•Education: Those who want to share their love of agriculture with others can put their skills to work in the classroom. Agricultural instructors can train the next generation of agriculture professionals at the university or high school level, ensuring today's farms are left in good hands tomorrow.

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Minnesota Crop Report

Minnesota farmers were able to harvest one-tenth of their corn for grain acreage during the 4.0 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending November 1, 2015, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. In addition to harvesting, field activities for the week included fall tilling and terrace work. Some farmers in northern areas of the State were applying anhydrous. There were scattered reports of calves being weaned.

Rain during the week helped replenish topsoil moisture levels. Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 17 percent short, 79 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 4 percent very short, 18 percent short, 76 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus.

Corn harvest for grain was 91 percent complete, 9 days ahead of the previous year and almost 1 week ahead of the five-year average. Nearly all the State's sunflower acreage has been harvested, over 3 weeks ahead of both last year and average.

Minnesota Crop Report is sponsored by:

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Health of farm land provides benefits



Farmers know the value of their soil. And soil organic matter is a key piece of a soil profile that farmers are working to protect. But when different industries, researchers, organizations and agencies differ in their opinions about what elements should be included in soil organic matter (SOM), it can be a daunting element to focus on.

But all parties can agree that SOM is very complex, deserves attention and is one of the least understood component of soils. Researchers point out that it has been directly and positively related to soil fertility and agricultural potential.

The Soil Science Society of America defines SOM as the organic fraction of soil after removing undecomposed plant and animal residues. In most agricultural soils, organic matter is increased by leaving residue on the soil surface, rotating crops with pasture or perennials, incorporating cover crops into the cropping rotation, or by adding soil organic residues such as animal manure.

Jodi DeJong-Hughes, Extension educator out of the Mid-Central Research & Outreach Center in Willmar, has dedicated a lot of time and effort in researching and educating on soils. As DeJong Hughes points out when speaking with farmers, SOM is a complicated puzzle.

"Soil organic matter improves the structure of the soil, which ultimately aids in water infiltration, water retention, bulk density of soil, defense against compaction damage and reduces the potential for erosion by wind or water."

DeJong-Hughes said there are a lot of things going on in the soil that cannot be seen or measured. "Out of sight is not out of mind." Organic matter is also known to maintain nutrients in the soil longer so they don't leach through the soil profile. Three agricultural practices DeJong-Hughes points out that have a big impact on SOM include tillage, cropping rotations and fertilization.

"Building soil health is so important, and probably every farmer could improve the health of their soil," DeJong-Hughes said. "Lots of farmers are really up on equipment technology or corn and soybean hybrids, but soil is still fairly unknown to us. We're just hitting the tip of the iceberg in what the soil does and can do for us."

DeJong-Hughes has also worked closely with Dr. Abbey Wick, North Dakota State University Extension Assistant Professor of Soil Health. Wick has been a big proponent of cover cropping utilized in crop rotations. She points out that using a cover crop mix can increase organic matter through root turnover in the soil. This can ultimately lead to taking inorganic forms of nutrients that can leach and turning them back into an organic form that can be retained for the following year.

"The Conservation Technology Information Center with funding from Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education has done several cover crop surveys the past couple years. They are finding that soybean yields can be increased by an average of 2.19 bushels per acre, or 4.2 percent, following a cover crop," Wick said. "But reasons for utilizing cover crops on one's farm are different for every farmer."

Wick said that even with this data, most farmers are using cover crops for other reasons besides boosting yields, like erosion control for example. And while cover crops do have their benefits, it would be naïve to say there are not any disadvantages she said. Time for establishment needed, herbicide residual and the learning curve to figure out cover crops and how to incorporate them are a few she sees with farmers.

"Other than those, I have not seen a whole lot of disadvantages to using cover crops," Wick said. "The inadvertent inclusion of a third crop in rotation to use cover crops is such a good thing that I don't see that as a disadvantage."

Farmers know that how they farm has an effect on their soil and how much soil organic matter is available to their crops. That's why the Minnesota Research & Promotion Council has funded research and efforts to learn more about soil health and management, and knows a focus on healthy soil means cleaner water, a better use of nutrients and ultimately a healthier and more profitable soybean crop.

Tips to Improve Your Soil Organic Matter & Health

Use reduce-tillage techniques including no-till, strip-till or ridge-till. Leave as much residue as possible on the soil surface and prevent extreme losses of SOM through mineralization of carbon due to breakdown of soil aggregates & changes in temperature and moisture regimes.

Apply livestock manure or incorporate cover crops, adding organic residue to the soil surface can restock needed carbon to the soil.

Include perennial or companion crops into rotation. Will increase organic matter content over time, reduce pest and disease pressure, reduce fertilizer inputs and help control erosion. Crop rotations can include perennial grasses and legumes.

Carefully manage fertilization and soil nutrients. Will directly and indirectly affect soil microbial community, ultimately affecting increased production of plant biomass to serve as microbial food source. There is still no clear answer to how fertilization does effect SOM levels since vegetation, soil type, climate and present types of SOM are also factors that must be considered.

Benefits of Improving Soil Organic Matter

1. Get into field sooner after rainfall
2. Less plant stress during the dry months
3. Break up pest cycles
4. Potential for higher nitrogen mineralization
5. Less compaction
6. Less erosion
7. Less fuel, labor and parts cost
8. Soil and nutrients stay in field with less leaching or erosion

Remember: Soil health is specific to soil type and geography.

What is a Fair & Profitable Farm Rental Agreement?

By DAVE BAU, EXTENSION EDUCATOR
University of Minnesota Extension

Landlords, Farmers, and Agri-Business Professionals should make plans to attend one of the informative meetings being held across Central and Southern Minnesota. These free meetings are being provided by the University of Minnesota Extension. Farm land rental rates have never been higher and determining a fair farm rent agreement is a challenge in today's economy with current significantly lower corn and soybeans prices in 2014, 2015 and 2016 compared to recent record corn and soybean prices and record farm land values.

Negotiating a fair rental agreement that satisfies the land owner and the farmer is a challenge. David Bau, Pauline Van Nurden, and Gary Hachfeld, Extension Educators in Ag Business Management, will provide several ways; by examples, factsheets and worksheets, to determine a fair farm land rental rate for both parties.

Topics covered at the meetings will include local historic and projected farmland rental rate trends, current farm land values and sales, a worksheet that will help determine a fair and profitable rental agreement. Input costs for 2016 will be presented along with current 2016 corn and soybean prices. Worksheets will examine 2016 costs and what is affordable rent that a farmer will be able to pay in 2016, the rate of return to the landlord at current market values and examine flexible rental agreements.

Make plans to attend one of these meetings now. Attendees will receive several informative worksheets and factsheets that will help to determine what is a fair 2016 farm land rental rate.

Meetings will be held in locally at the following locations:

Nov. 9 – 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at UCR Heintz Center, Room HB117, 1926 Collegeview Road East, Rochester, MN 55904

Dec. 2 – 9:30 a.m. at Fairlane Community Center – Freeborn County Fairgrounds, 1029 Bridge Avenue, Albert Lea, MN 56007

Dec. 3 – 9:30 a.m. at Blooming Prairie City Center, 138 Hwy Avenue South, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Dec. 3 – 2 p.m. at Steele County Community Center, 1380 South Elm Street, Owatonna, MN 55060

Dec. 10 – 10 a.m. at Fillmore County Office Building, 902 Houston Street NW, Preston, MN 55965

Dec. 10 – 5:30 p.m. at Criminal Justice Center, 306 South Marshall Street, Caledonia, MN 55921

Dec. 11 – 2 p.m. at St. Charles City Hall, 830 Whitewater Avenue, St. Charles, MN 55972

Additional dates and locations can be found on the UM Extension website:
http://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/business/land-economics/

Developing skills for the next generation of leaders in the pork industry

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor



Brenda Clark Hamilton

Next week's Minnesota Pork Board workshop is all about developing the skills it takes to be a leader in the pork industry.

"Once you advance to a management role or even within different aspects of the farm, the role is just as much managing people as it is managing pigs," said Jill Resler, director of education for the Minnesota Pork Board. "It (this workshop) helps provide the skills necessary to have what it takes to manage people."

The workshop conference had been rescheduled from an earlier date. Now it is being held on Nov. 10 at the Country Inn and Suites in Mankato. The first session starts at 9:30 a.m. and the conference adjourns at 3:30 p.m. Registration is at 9 a.m.

It will include three workshops: "Respecting and Appreciating Generational Differences in the Workplace," "The Common Swine Industry Audit: What's All the Hype About" and "Creating a Culture of Satisfied Employees and Continuous Improvement."

Brenda Clark Hamilton will handle two of the sessions. Resler said that Hamilton does a nice job of engaging the people that are listening. Her first piece will involve respecting and appreciating generational differences.

Resler said the session will help provide an appreciation for what each generation needs out of a career. "We can make better co-workers because we can understand those needs," she said.

In addition, Hamilton will talk about creating a culture of satisfied employees. Today, the farm employ anywhere from one employee to more than a dozen on any given site, Resler said. "It is important that we have appreciation for working with each other, managing people and creating the culture that people want to come to work every single day," she said. "We want to make sure the individuals working within pig farming every day also have that same drive to seek continuous improvements on their roles in farms."

A large part of the agenda involves common swine industry audit. This session will discuss collaboration by farmers and by packers in the industry to come together to develop one common audit to be used across the board in the pork industry, Resler stated.

The workforce conference started several years ago with an objective to bring together individuals who are managers or have the potential to be managers in an effort to help develop skills for the next generation of leaders.

"Managing pigs is easy. Managing people is hard," Resler said. "This workshop is all about providing them the skills, providing them the environment that it is going to take to manage people."

It has been found that engagement in any given career is directly correlated to any relationship people will have with their managers, Resler added. "It is critical to provide managers with the skills it takes to engage the people they work with on a day-to-day basis."

In the past, because there were a number of people working on farms, the pork industry was able to reach out to a young man or son of a farmer working down the road. "We were fortunate to have people on rural farms," Resler said. "Today, the necessity is to look outside of agriculture to find people passionate and passionate about raising food for the world, because that is what we do every day in the pork industry."

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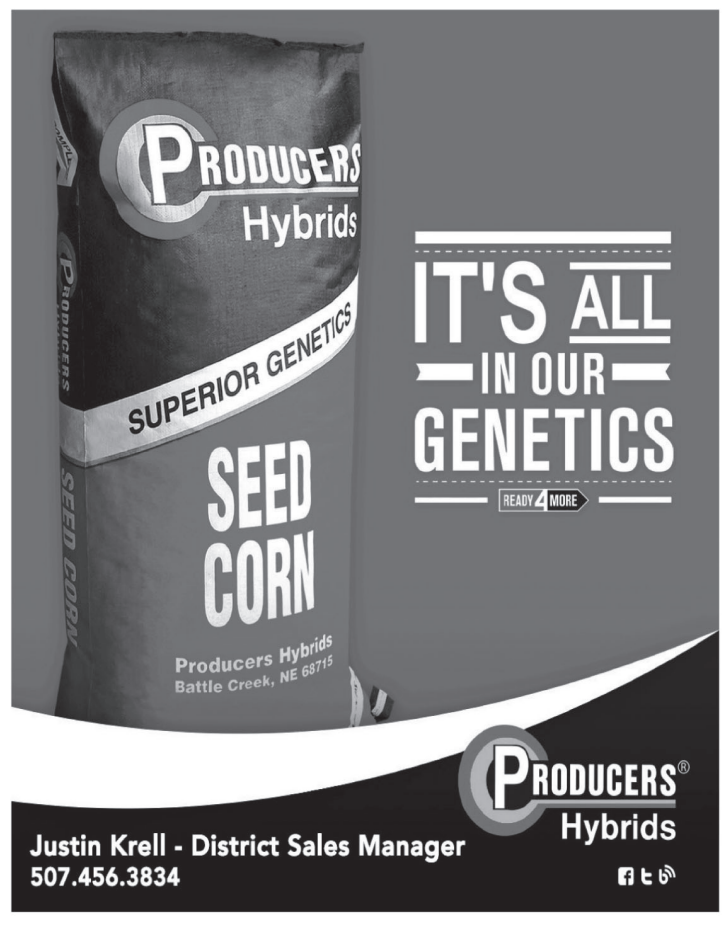


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Steele County Toys for Tots kicks off toy drive

The Steele County Toys for Tots Program is kicking off its annual Toy Drive starting the week of Nov. 2. Volunteers will be delivering Toy Collection Bins to over 60 participating businesses in Steele County. New unwrapped toys may be placed in the available boxes through Tuesday, Dec. 15. Toys will be distributed to children ages 15 and younger on Dec. 17 to 19. For a full list of Steele County Toys for Tots Toy Donation Sites go to: http://owatonna-mn.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/donate-toys.aspx.

Applications for the Steele County Toys for Tots Program are available at the following locations:

- Blooming Prairie Public Library
- Ellendale Post Office
- Medford City Hall
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern MN
- Churches in Steele County
- Crisis Resource Center
- Owatonna Public Library
- Owatonna Workforce Center
- Salvation Army
- Steele County Clothesline
- Steele County Food Shelf
- Minnesota Prairie County Alliance (former Steele County Human Services)
- Steele County Public Health

Parents/guardians must complete an application that is available from locations within the county. They are contacted by mail about the time and location of the pick up where they will select toys for their children, and, if they meet income qualifications, will receive a food card. The application deadline is Nov. 18.

Toys for Tots of Steele County has been in existence for more than 30 years. It operates within the national U.S. Marine Corp Reserve Toys for Tots program, which began in 1947. Its objective is to collect and distribute new and unwrapped toys to Steele County children in need at Christmas. Cash and gift cards received are used to purchase toys as per directives from our national organization.

Family to Family of Steele County has been in existence for more than 35 years. It is a local organization run through the Steele County Department of Human Services. Its objective is to provide food cards for families in need who meet Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. Cash received by us is used to purchase food cards.

Toys for Tots of Steele County and Family to Family of Steele County work jointly to provide a Christmas for children, 15 and younger and families. All donations to these two programs, either money, gift cards or toys, remain under local control and are used for local families. All children of school age must be attending school or home schooled.

For more information about Steele County Toys for Tots visit their website http://owatonna-mn.toysfortots.org or "Like" Steele County Toys for Tots on Facebook.

CONSTRUCTION

Continued from Page 1A

signs were scheduled for installation last Friday and Saturday. This work did not interfere with the opening of the street.

"Everything went pretty smoothly with our biggest obstacle being some early summer rains which stalled construction," remarked engineer Gantert. "Workers took two steps forward and then backward with the underground pipe work because of the rain."

An agreeable fall met workers in September and October and allowed them to ramp up their work schedules, Gantert said. "The workers should be commended for their speed to accomplish the completion date," he added.

"Overall, we are very pleased with the way the project went down," said Elcor superintendent Dave Adamson. "The nice fall really helped us."

Main Street definitely has a new look with new street surface, new sidewalks and new lights. Parking will also change on Main Street with angle parking on the north side and parallel parking on the south side.

The sidewalk has also taken a different look with two shades of gray.

"The contractors met their target," said a pleased Blooming Prairie Mayor H. Peterson. "It's just beautiful."

"It was a huge project and took a lot of coordination between the state, county and city to get it done," Peterson said. All businesses survived the disruption, he added.

The Steele County Highway Department and City of Blooming Prairie expressed appreciation to the public for its patience with the construction process.

Gantert said special thanks from the Steele County Highway Department and City of Blooming Prairie go to Elcor Construction Inc., Doyle Conner Co., Ellingson Co., Geyer Signal, Hathaway Tree Service, Traffic Marking Service, Midstates Reclamation, Nietz Electric, Empire Pipe Services, Stantec, Stonebrooke Engineering and to county and city staff.





Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Cancer Corner

Support the fighters, Admire the survivors, Honor the taken.

Fun for all with turkey bingo

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

There are a couple of surprises in store for this year's Blooming Prairie Cancer Group Turkey Bingo.

Cheri Krejci, one of the organizers, wouldn't reveal what these surprises are but did say that each year everyone continues to enjoy the event.

"It is family fun and supports a great cause," she said. "People that come to it love to yell 'Bingo.'"

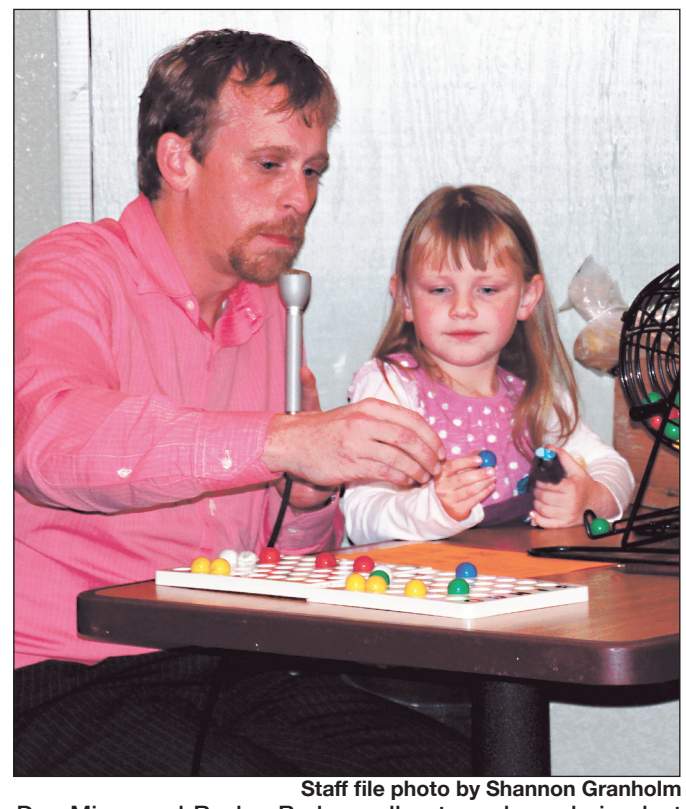
Turkey Bingo will start at 7 p.m., Nov. 12, at the Pizza Cellar Party Room in Blooming Prairie. There will be 25 games. Each card costs $1. All the proceeds will benefit the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group. Jennie-O Turkey donates the turkeys. There will also be Hope Butter prizes and meat raffles.

"As an organization, we think it is important to support our local communities," said Pat Solheid, vice president of human resources and administration. "For a number of years we have provided the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group with a product to use for a turkey bingo."

This year Jennie-O Turkey has donated 80 pounds of turkey burger patties, two flavors of tenderloins and ground turkey.

This is the fifth year for turkey bingo in Blooming Prairie. Each year, Krejci said the event becomes larger. "The community has been very supportive of us," she said. "It raises money for us and it is a profitable event."

The money is especially needed because within the last couple of weeks at least three people have needed help through the cancer group's community fund, Krejci said. "The events that we do help people in our area," Krejci said. "It also helps with the research."



Staff file photo by Shannon Granholm

Dan Miner and Raylee Barber call out numbers during last year's Turkey Bingo event at the Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie. This year's event is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m. at the Pizza Cellar.

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OUTSIDE THE LINES

LeMar Nelson

Season winds down

Except for the cross-country accomplishment of Alec Ille, the fall sports season wound down when Hayfield ended the Blossom volleyball season. The locals gave the Vikings a good fight in the sub-section semifinal loss, winning one game in overtime and dropping anther overtime set in game three. The Blossoms finished the season with a 9-16 record, but the team showed great improvement over the course of the year.

As Coach Ranell Kittelson exclaimed, "It was my first year of coaching, and I couldn't have been more satisfied with the results. I will remember these girls forever for their attitude, their work ethic and their togetherness. We had great leadership from the seniors, we made a great amount of improvement through the season, and it was a great experience."

A last tip of the hat is due Coach Kittelson and assistants Mary Worke and Jennifer Wayne.

The cross-country teams ended their seasons at the Section meet in Rochester last week, with the exception of Ille, who finished eighth individually and qualified for the state meet. He will be the first cross-country athlete to run in the state meet since Ian Campbell competed in 2006.

Ille ran the course in Rochester in 17:04 last week and advances to the state at St. Olaf College this coming Saturday, Nov. 7. He already holds the school record in the 3,200-meter run in track, and it will be fun to watch his latest endeavor. A tip of the hat to Ille for his accomplishment in cross-country.

Tough for sports fans

It was a tough week for Minnesota sports fans, with three stories of great significance. The first dealt with the death of Flip Saunders last weekend from cancer complications. Everyone knew that he was battling Hodgkin's lymphoma, but hardly anyone had been made aware of the side effects that eventually ended his life.

Fans around the state and even around the country knew of him and his outstanding status as a true hero in Minnesota sports. The Ohio boy who starred as a guard on the Minnesota Gopher great basketball teams of the 70's later became coach of a Golden Valley junior college team that never lost a home game in his tenure. He then moved to the CBA Association and coached several teams in that league.

Saunders coached the Timberwolves to the NBA finals, before being fired later. Now he was back coaching the team, recruiting draft picks to help the team regain respectability in the league and also holding the position of president of basketball operations plus a part ownership in the team.

I think his standing in the state was exemplified by the fact that the Monday Star Tribune news-

OUTSIDE THE LINES
Continued on Page 3B

BLOOMING PRAIRIE CROSS-COUNTRY

Ille earns state berth: boys place 6th at sections

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Blooming Prairie High School sophomore Alec Ille earned a spot in the state cross-county meet, after finishing 8th individually at the Section 1A meet on the Northern Hills golf course at Rochester on Thursday, Oct. 29.

The state meet will be held at St. Olaf College Saturday, Nov. 7.

Ille ran the course in 17:09.6 and led the Blossom boys to a sixth-place team finish out of 23 teams in the meet. LaCrescent and Lake City took the top two places in the annual event. Three other Blossom runners placed in the top 35 individuals. A young Blossom girls team finished 19th, with Lanesboro and Lake City running first and second in the girls' division.

Behind Ille, Elijah Baker ran an 18:01.3 (17th), Evan Doerhoefer counted an 18:34.69 (32nd) and Isaac Baker timed an 18:35 for 34th place. Ethan Grant and Jesse Schewe also ran for the locals.

"I thought we had a real strong showing today," remarked Coach John Bruns. "A sixth-place against that tough opposition was a tribute to the hard work the athletes have displayed this season. The girls also ran well, despite the fact that three of the runners are just seventh-graders. This is the first time since 2006 that a BP runner has qualified for the state meet."

Alison Pryor led the girls to their spot in the team standings. She Finished 28th in a 21:36.5 time. Seventh-grader Olivia Johnson ran a 24:39.8, Anika Nowlan a 24:56, Alison Krohnberg a 25:55.1 and Rose Michaud a 26:03.8.

OWATONNA VOLLEYBALL

Something to cheer about



Staff photo by James Knoop

Owatonna senior Karissa Hilstad celebrates after Owatonna scores a point during its third game against Rochester John Marshall. The Huskies defeated John Marshall 3-1 and won 3-2 against Farmington later that week.

Owatonna advances to semifinals

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

With a home win against Rochester John Marshall under their belts, an Owatonna 3-2 win at Farmington propelled the Owatonna volleyball team to a section semifinal bout against Rochester Mayo.

The week began with a home match against Rochester John Marshall, where the Rockets gave Owatonna a run for its money in the opening round of sections. Game one went to the Huskies with a 25-22 win. Game two came even closer, but the Huskies held on again for the 27-25 win. In game three, the Rockets finally bested the Huskies, edging them 26-24. The Huskies, however, put all thoughts of a comeback quickly behind their guests with a 25-16 win to defeat Rochester John Marshall.

The win propelled the Huskies to the second round of

OWATONNA
Continued on Page 2B

NRHEG VOLLEYBALL

Panthers back on track with section win

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva [NRHEG] volleyball team looked questionable in Thursday's section opener, but the team rebounded from a first game loss to defeat Waseca 3-1 in New Richland.

Receiving a #2 seed, the Panthers entered Thursday's game coming off a disappointing 3-0 shutout against Blooming Prairie. Although hosting a #7 seed in Waseca, the Panthers continued to struggle at home, dropping the first game 25-19 against the Blue Jays.

"We came into tonight playing stiff, almost like we were second-guessing everything," said NRHEG Coach Onika Peterson after the game. "Waseca came ready to play. They moved the ball well, and [Kaitlyn] Kummerfeldt is a heck of a player."

Though grabbing an early lead in game two, the Panthers allowed a big run by the Blue Jays in the latter half. Ultimately, the Panthers held on for the win, grabbing the 25-21 win.

"The win of two gave us some momentum to push us into [game] three," said Peterson. "We talked to the girls and told them that they have to play and fight for one point at a time."

The win and words seemed to give the Panthers a necessary boost of confidence the rest of the night, as they nabbed the 3-1 win over Waseca, winning games three and four 25-17 and 25-22, respectively.

The Panthers had 10 players contribute to the stats sheet Thursday night. Marnie Wagner nabbed 18 digs and nine

NRHEG
Continued on Page 2B



Staff photo by James Knoop

Panthers players celebrate after scoring a point in a close game.



Sports

THE HIGHLIGHT REEL



James Knoop

Missing the 20-yard shots

In some circles in the Northland, I am referred to as the deer slayer.

They say I was born with a rifle in my hand and a 20-point buck on my mind. Still, becoming the best didn't come easy, and it certainly did not come without practice and dedication.

I began hunting at the youngest age allowed in Minnesota, which was either 12 or 13. Like most children, I'd grown up with those silly Disney movies "Bambi" and "Fox and the Hound" that tried to convince young children that hunting was no good, but they couldn't sway me. I was out for some venison.

Practice

After passing firearm safety, I began to sight my rifle for the upcoming season - my first chance to spend time in the wild with a 30-gauge rifle in my hand. I stepped onto our back porch with my dad and aimed at the paper plate dangling from one of the trees on our 20 acres. Slowly applying more and more pressure to the trigger, the gun sounded, a POW! filling my ears as the bullet sped toward its target - or somewhere in the vicinity. I'm not really quite sure where it landed because I was too occupied writhing in pain from the kick of the rifle. Embarrassed, I decided I could not show such weakness in front of my dad again. So, excusing myself briefly, I ran to the kitchen, grabbed three hot pads, and placed them inside my shirt. I'm sure Dad didn't notice the massive bulge next to my right shoulder.

Sunrise

The day of my first hunt arrive. Dad woke me up and some point before the sun rose. I'm not sure what time it was because I was fully unaware that time existed before the sun rose. Checking the thermometer outside, I was greeted with a charming 10 degrees. What the thermometer did not show me was the foot of snow and the steady wind.

So, like a true hunter, I went to my room and put on the typical hunting uniform, including thermal pants, jeans, sweat pants, orange snow pants, three pairs of sock and one pair of wool socks, a short sleeve shirt, long sleeve shirt, light jacket, heavy jacket and orange winter jacket, boots and a hat. By the time I got upstairs, I was already sweating. I thought it would be nice to be hot while entering the frigid temperatures. Instead, as my dad had warned me, the sweat quickly turned to icicles hanging from my nose. Still, Dad and I were on the hunt and nothing was going to get in our way.

Stealthily walking towards my tree stand, I suddenly felt a tug on my arm. Turning to dad, I saw him put a finger to his lips.

"What?" I whispered.

Dad shook his head and pointed to my feet.

"Is there something on my feet?" I whispered even louder.

Again my dad brought a finger to his lips. "Don't talk, James. Walk more quietly."

Apparently, stealthy walking includes some sort of an attempt to not crunch through the snow like Big Foot.

Finally, arriving at my deer stand, I climbed to the top, sat down, watched Dad walk down the trail a ways and waited for my trophy buck.

THE HIGHLIGHT REEL
Continued on Page 3B

BLOOMING PRAIRIE SPORTS

Blossoms win at home: fall to Hayfield in quarterfinals

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

The No. 2 seeded Hayfield Vikings defeated the Blooming Prairie volleyball team 25-17, 25-27, 27-25, 25-18 and will play No. 3 Medford in Mayo Civic Center in Rochester 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

Hayfield is now 17-10 for the season, while the Blossoms end their year 9-16.

After dropping the first set 25-17, the Blossoms seized momentum in the second set when it rallied back from a 10-3 deficit to win in overtime 27-25. Alyssa Krohnberg, who had 12 kills in the match, had a kill to put BP up 25-24 and she added another kill to put her team up 26-25.

Lauren Larkoski had four serving points, and Rachel Kubicek added five points in the win.

The third set also went to overtime, before a Savanna Cordle kill won the set.

Hayfield won the deciding game with a well-balanced attack. The Vikings got a big lift from its seniors in the match as Savanna Cordle had 15 kills and five blocks, Maggie Streightiff had 12 kills, 26 assists and eight digs, and senior hitter Katelyn Bjornson had nine kills.

BP made life difficult for Hayfield's hitters early on as they stepped up with some big blocks, but the Vikings were able to adjust. BP received a spark from Sam Wurst, who had eight kills and 13 blocks in the match.

"I am extremely proud. If we were to go out with a loss, this is the way to do it," BP Coach Ranell Kittelson said. "The girls gave it all. I told them not to go out with any regrets, and we gave it an awesome fight. It was my first year coaching, and I'm going to remember this group forever. They improved amazingly this year."

Cordle had 15 kills, five blocks and Maggie Streightiff added 12 kills, 26 set assists and eight digs for the winners. For BP Alyssa Krohnberg had 12 kills, two blocks, Larkoski and Wurst each had eight kills, and Abby Wayne had 27 set assists and 16 digs. Leah Inwards and Bria Baldwin scrambled for 30 and 23 digs respectively.

Girls advance

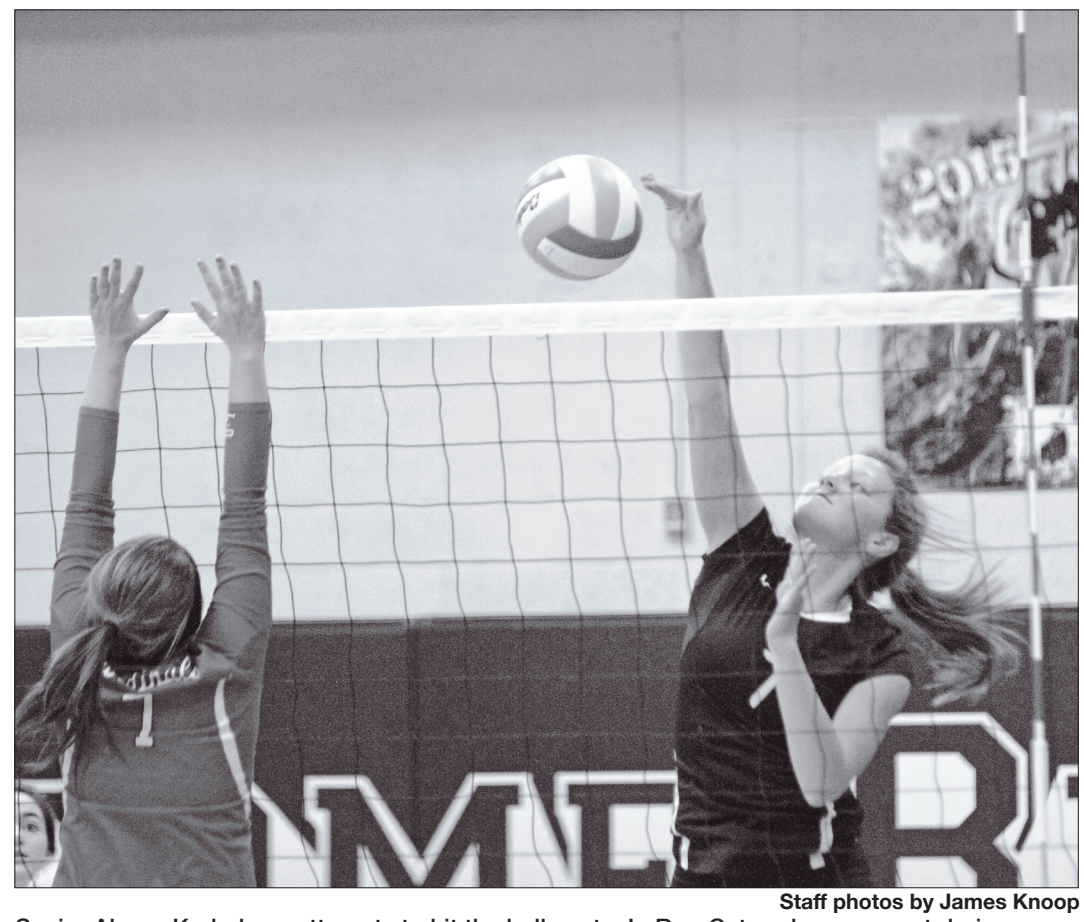
The Awesome Blossom volleyball team swept the No. 10 seeded LeRoy-Ostrander Cardinals on the home court Monday, Oct. 26, in quarterfinal action of Section 1A West. The No. 7 seeded Blossoms trailed just twice in the 25-15, 25-13 and 25-22 games, and that was early in sets one and three.

Some strong play at the net by Alyssa Krohnberg, Lauren Larkoski and Courtney Wobschall offset some good hitting by Sam Siskow and Rochelle Hovde of the Cardinals, but BP gradually wore down the losers. A little comeback in game three kept the visitors close, but serves by closed out the game and the match.

"I thought we started out a little flat," commented Coach Ranell Kittelson, "and the Cardinals got some good hits at the net, but we gradually took over the match. We earned the chance to meet Hayfield for a second time this season."

Senior hitter Lauren Larkoski added, "We played much better this time than we did in the Hayfield tournament, when [LeRoy-Ostrander] beat us."

BP led only 19-15 in game one when Alyssa Krohnberg served six straight points, including the set point. She had five points in both games two and three as well. LeRoy-Ostrander used some balanced scoring to keep game three close all the way, but Krohnberg and Courtney Wobschall each had a block to tally the final two points for the Blossoms. Krohnberg and Larkoski each had nine kills in the match, Wobschall added seven kills and three blocks, and Abby Wayne piled up 22 assists for the night.



Staff photos by James Knoop

Senior Alyssa Krohnberg attempts to hit the ball past a LeRoy-Ostrander opponent during a sections game. The Blossoms won the match 3-0.



Alyssa Krohnberg and junior Courtney Wobschall jump for a block.

Ladies Bowling League

TEAM STANDINGS

1. F&M Bank	12-4
2. DOE	9-7
3. Pizza Cellar/Cue Co.	9-7
4. Epic Contracting	8-8
5. Kosters Kar Corner	5-11
6. J&H Liquors/DQ	5-11

TEAM STATS

High Team (Scratch): F&M Bank, 565
High Team (HDCP): Epic Contracting, 525
High Team Series (Scratch: F&M Bank, 1,581
High Team Series (HDCP): Epic Contracting, 1,545

INDIVIDUAL STATS

High Game:

1. Judy Esplan	168
2. Becky Noble	160

High Series:

1. Becky Noble	424
2. Judy Esplan	412

Blooming Prairie runner reaches state goal

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

After narrowly missing out on a state berth as an eighth-grader and again as a freshman, sophomore Alec Ille finally claimed that prize with an eighth-place finish in the Section 1A cross country meet in Rochester last Thursday, Oct. 29.

Ille will compete in the state meet Saturday, Nov. 7, at St Olaf College in Northfield.

"It was a good feeling to finally get the chance at state," commented Ille. "I couldn't train as much last summer because of a stress fracture I got in track last spring, so this made the accomplishment a little sweeter."

Ille was limited in his training, while he normally runs four to eight miles a day in the summer

In addition to the running, he also has a summer exercise regimen that he follows all summer. As far as dietary restrictions are concerned, he does avoid pop, but has no other specific requirements.



Ille

Ille holds the school record in the 3,200-meter run with a 10:05 time, and next spring he is going to concentrate on breaking the school 1,600 mark as well. His cross-country time at the section was 17:04 but he did time a 16:38 earlier in the season.

Aside from running, Ille likes drawing and is in Mr. Piller's art class. He enjoys reading, but avoids chemistry if he can, and also does cross-country skiing in the winter as part of his training.

He is the son of former BPHS graduates Steve and Holly Ille and lives in rural Blooming Prairie.

As his coach, John Bruns commented, "It was exciting finally for Alec to attain that goal, after a couple of near misses in other seasons. He works extremely hard and follows a strict training regimen. For him to reach the state is truly awesome."

OWATONNA

Continued from Page 1B

sections where they travelled to Farmington to take on the Tigers. Having met earlier this season, the Tigers defeated the Huskies 2-1. With a 25-7 loss in the first game of the section match, it looked as though Owatonna might not have what it took Saturday night. The Huskies were able to respond, however, defeating the Tigers 25-16. Immediately after, Owatonna suffered a 29-27 heartbreaker to Farmington. Down 2-1 and a loss away from the season ending, the Huskies banded together and won the next two games 25-17 and 15-12, respectively.

The comeback win resulted in a 3-2 victory, propelling the Huskies to the semifinals against Rochester Mayo. Mayo received a first-round bye in the tournament and easily took care of Rochester Century in three games at home. The Huskies won their first game against Mayo this season but lost the next three to lose 3-1 having been outscored 94-71.

The semifinals game will take place on Thursday, Nov. 5, at Rochester Mayo High School.

NRHEG

Continued from Page 1B

kills against the Blue Jays. Ana Lundberg contributed 14 assists, one kill and two ace serves and Rachel Collins added 15 assists, three digs, a kill and two ace serves and Sophia Fischer had 10 kills, four digs and two ace serves.

The section win boosted the Panthers to 13-12 overall this season, and the team was scheduled to travel to Mankato East to take on the # 3 seed St. Peter. New Richland defeated the 12-15 Saints in two games earlier in the season, beating St. Peter 25-15 and 25-14. A win would ensure another game this week for NRHEG against either #1 Kenyon-Wanamingo or #4 Tri-City United.

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Sports

Strong participation in Minnesota athletics

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Every so often a discussion arises about the differences in sports participation as organized high school teams as opposed to the club activities outside of school hours. There may be advantages to each practice, but here in our nation, organized participation is certainly predominant.

With that in mind, it is interesting to look at and compare numbers here in our country. Minnesota ranks 10th in the country for participants in organized school activities and the state has held that position for seven consecutive years. According to the figures released by the NFSHSA (National Federation of State High Schools Association), Texas and California rank one and two, with New York, Illinois and Ohio next in line. Considering the bigger populations of those states, the 10th rank for Minnesota is pretty good.

Student participation in Minnesota ranges from 105 in adapted bowling to 25,487 in football. Boys track numbers 16,664, 15,594 in girls track, 16,241 in volleyball and 13,394 in baseball. Nationally, boys activity participation dropped in the 2014-15 school year, but girls participation increased for the 20th consecutive year.

Six of the 10 girls sports registered increases, with track and field remaining at number one for girls, but volleyball edging out basketball for the number two position. For the boys, soccer showed the biggest increase in participation, while wrestling and football both showed decreases.

Minnesota is very strong in non-sports participation also. The total number of students involved in speaking skills stands at 9,185, with 3, 398 in one-act play and 5,215 in contest speech. In the music field, 31,254 students are in band and 37,383 in vocal music. Another 3,406 participate in cheerleading.

For the 2014-15 school year the total participation by students in the nation numbered 235,243. The peak year happened in 2010-11, when 238,363 students were involved, and the least number occurred in 2008-09 when the number was just 224,220.

And so, while most countries in the world depend upon club sports after school for their participation, the U.S. continues to sponsor those many activities as part of the regular school schedule. Arguments can be made for each philosophy, but it is most unlikely that American schools will change their philosophy any time in the near future. Play on!

Medford falls to Hayfield in section semifinals

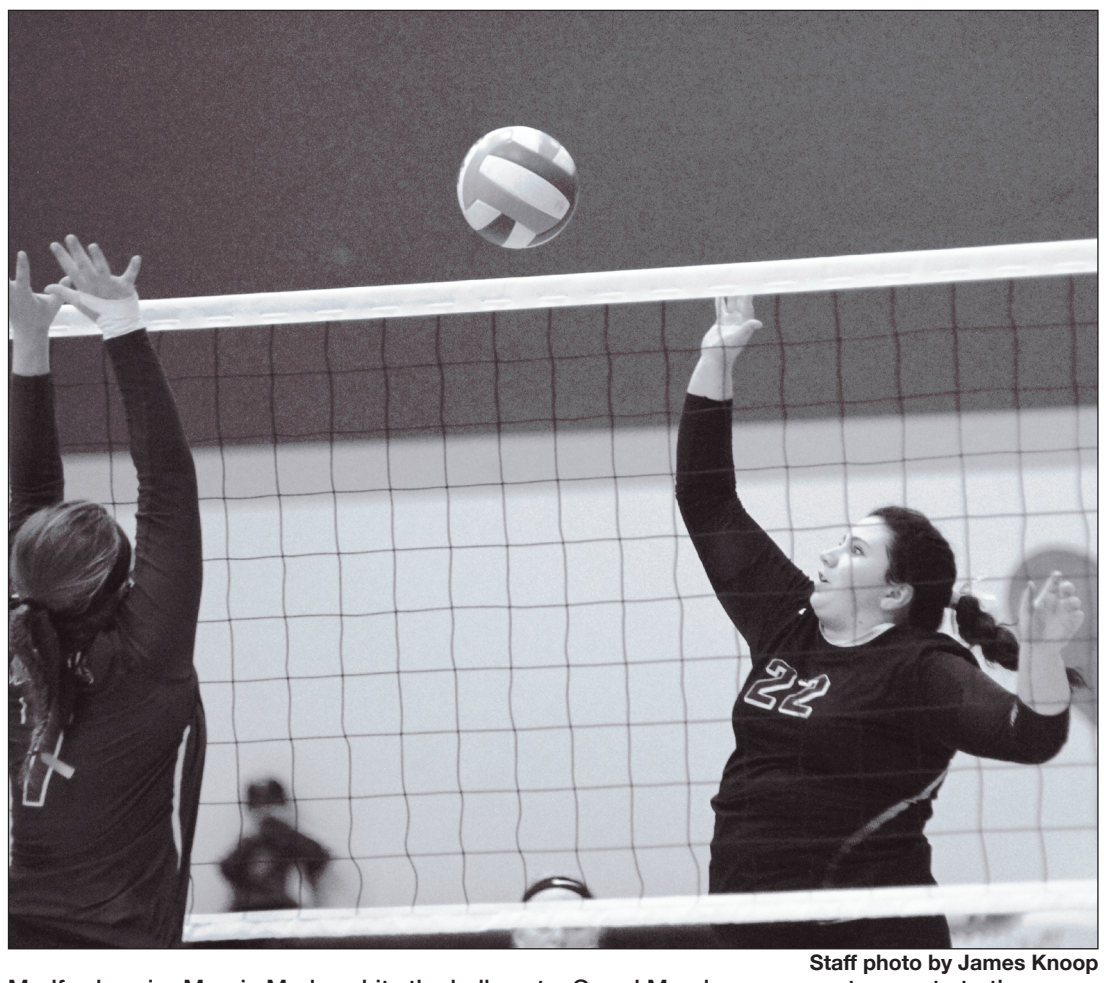
By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

Though defeating Grand Meadow 3-0 in the second round of section volleyball, the Medford Tigers could not contain Hayfield on the road, falling 3-0 in the season-ending match.

Receiving a first round bye to begin the section playoffs, the Medford Tigers entered the second round hosting #6 ranked Grand Meadow. The Tigers were ready and poised for the home game on Tuesday, defeating the visitors 25-21, 25-13 and 25-18. The 3-0 win advanced the Tigers to the semifinals in Hayfield on Thursday night.

Though losing to Hayfield in the first game of the season, the Tigers did keep things close, never losing by more than five and pushing game two to a close 26-24 finish. The semifinals performance would be similar, the Tigers not finding a way to nab a win against Hayfield.

The Tigers ended the 2015 season, 16-11, a large improvement from last season losing-record.



Staff photo by James Knoop

Medford senior Marnie Madsen hits the ball past a Grand Meadow opponent en route to the Tigers 3-0 win the section quarterfinals.

THE HIGHLIGHT REEL
Continued from Page 2B

The sighting

I sat in my deer stand, thanking the Lord for a beautiful crisp morning to be alive. Dad always spoke about the wonderful times he had talking to God in the woods, so I thought I would start. So, I talked to God for a while. After that, I daydreamed about being warmer. Then, I admired a bird that had landed on a branch next to me, proof that I was indeed being very still. And then I heard it, the loud crunching noise coming from behind me. This was my time. The crunch grew louder and louder and faster and faster. I imagined an enormous beast so great that it would be called the Moby Dick of the forest. Holding my gun tightly, I slowly turned and looked down to face the monster.

It was a squirrel.

After all these things had happened, I decided to look down at my watch. Maybe it was almost time for lunch. The time was 7:48 a.m. Disappointed, I convinced myself that the day would start going by more quickly, and it did, because I fell asleep.

The deer

I woke to another crunching sound coming from behind me, but this time it was much softer. I tried to think of animals smaller than squirrels. Was there a family of ants crossing the snowy forest? Sleepy from my nap, I didn't use quite the same caution turning to spot the animal. It was a deer, a beautiful doe standing at the exact angle my instructor had called "the perfect shooting angle."

Hands trembling from nervousness and frostbite, I raised my gun. Rifle now raised, I could not remember if the gun was cocked or not. I thought not, so I began to do so as slowly and quietly as possible. Halfway through this action, I realized I had indeed already cocked the gun. Now, the two bullets were jamming, and I couldn't figure out how to remove the first bullet. So fully removing my gloves, I began to work on this dilemma, the deer watching the entire scene unfold from below.

At last I removed the first bullet, cocked the gun, turned to the deer and aimed at her heart. Still, she simply stood there at the perfect angle only 20 yards away, as if she knew I was a hunter. Perhaps this deer had lost the will to live. With my sights on her heart, I slowly applied pressure to the trigger. POW!

I hoped the deer would fall over, or at least take a couple stumbling steps before doing so. Instead, it just stood there, as if confused how the hunter had missed at 20 feet. I'm fairly sure I saw her shrug her shoulders as she pranced 20 more feet away. But then, she stopped and turned, again at the perfect angle. Again I shot. Again I missed.

The lesson

When Dad came to see how I'd done, I told him what had happened. Being the great dad he is, we "tracked" the deer for a while, but I'm pretty sure he knew I'd missed. Despite the valiant efforts of Dad to make me a hunter, it just wasn't for me and that was my one and only season. There's just something about purposely exposing yourself to wind and cold and boredom that doesn't appeal to me.

Still, I look back fondly on that day, and not just because it's a funny story that reminds me to stay humble.

That wasn't the last time I would miss something in life that was a sure thing. It wasn't the only time I'd be so close to something, only to lose it or mess it up myself. I would miss plenty of 20-yard shots in my lifetime, sometimes in sports and sometimes in life.

I guess the not-so-original lesson here is that that's just life. Sometimes you make the shot and sometimes you don't. Sometimes you get back on your feet and try again and sometimes you just enjoy the memory.

OUTSIDE THE LINES
Continued from Page 1B

paper devoted almost 75 percent of their news articles in offering remarks and reflections from players, friends, basketball rivals and family. A shining light lost its brilliance with his death. Maybe coincidentally, the team won its first two games on the road, before attending a family memorial service for Saunders on Sunday

The next happening left a good feeling in the hearts and minds of fans, when Tori Hunter announced his retirement last Tuesday. Hunter concluded an outstanding 19-year career, most of those years spent as a Minnesota Twin.

He played in 3,372 games, had had 353 home runs and 1,391 runs batted in. Although most Twins fans would have liked to watch him play one more year, he decided to retire on his own terms, and I would guess that he would still have some job within the organization. A well-done and good luck to Tori Hunter. Hopefully, the Twins can find a place for him to remain in the organization.

The final event was another sad one. At a very emotion-filed press conference last Wednesday, Gopher football coach Jerry Kill abruptly announced his immediate retirement as the Gopher coach, due to health reasons. Kill had suffered from seizures for a number of years, and they had returned after a couple of seizure-free years.

In his five years as coach, he brought the football program from extreme mediocrity to an eight-win season and an appearance at a major bowl game last January.

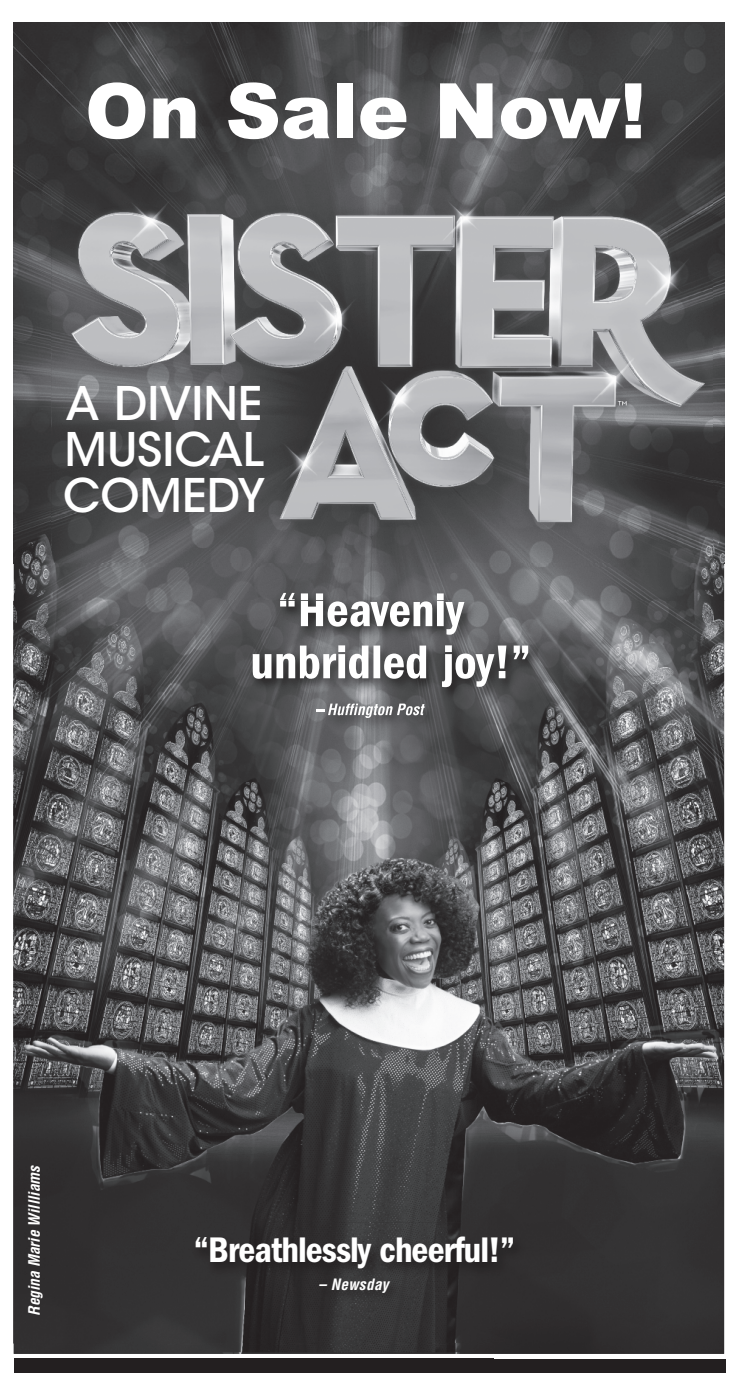
As Coach Kill said himself, "When I walked off the practice field last night, I felt as if a part of me had died." All Minnesota sports fans knew him as the consummate football coach, a decent human being, and a friend to all, and fans universally admired him. He not only succeeded on the football field, but his players became good students as well, and graduation rates rose to an all-time high. We can only hope that he can control his health and that the university can find some position for him. We wish him nothing but the best after a very tough week for sports fans around the state.

Add to that the non-sports news late last week about a possible break in the 26-year old Jacob Wetterling abduction case, and most Minnesotans will remember last week as a gut-wrenching experience and certainly a most unusual one.

Let's close this week with a not so gentle reminder that "Peter Pan," the all-school musical, will take the stage for three performances this weekend, beginning Thursday. I urge all community residents to enjoy at least one of the presentations Thursday, Friday or Saturday evening. Do that, and we'll talk again.

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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 weeks winner is Jerry Besser. He had 3 wrong.

ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

1		11	
2		12	
3		13	
4		14	
5		15	
6		16	
7		17	
8		8	
9		19	
10		20	

*Tie-Breaker Score _____ *

Because the regular season for the high schools is now complete, and playoff games are being played, the football contest for the last three weeks of its duration will consist of ten college and ten NFL games. Good Luck!

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Legals

Foreclosure

15-101346

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 12, 2005 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $83,640.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Andrew J. Brose, a single man MORTGAGEE: Brier Mortgage Corporation LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Brier Mortgage Corporation SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 16, 2005, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000331925 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N. A.; Dated: May 12, 2005 filed: May 16, 2005, recorded as document number A000331926 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing at the SE Corner of Lot 14, in Block E in Creamery Addition to the City of Ellendale, running thence due North 5 feet, thence East 30 feet more or less to the East line of said Addition, thence South on said East line of said Addition 5 feet, thence West to the point of beginning. Lot 15, and the South 5 feet of Lot 14, in Block E, Creamery Addition to the City of Ellendale; and beginning at the NE Corner of Lot 15, Block E, Creamery Addition to the City of Ellendale, running due East 30 feet more or less, to the East line of said Addition , thence South on the East line of said Addition 50 feet, thence West to the Southeast Corner of said Lot 15, thence North to the point of beginning. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 701 School St S, Ellendale, MN 56026 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 15-104-0515 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $74,855.58 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: December 1, 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 June 1, 2016, or the next business day if June 1, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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Dated: October 5, 2015

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Assignee of Mortgagee

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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
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THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

10/13, 10/20, 10/27
11/3, 11/10, 11/17

Foreclosure

13-091088

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 12, 2009 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $202,991.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Arlan L. Brase, and Deloris J. Brase, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 1001337-0003482677-9 LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Countrywide Bank, FSB SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed January 16, 2009, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000361558, Thereafter modified by Loan Modification Agreement dated April 22, 2014 recorded June 16, 2014 as document number A000397465 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Bank of America, N.A.; Thereafter assigned to Nationstar Mortgage, LLC. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing at the Southeast corner of the SW 1/4 of Section 27, Township 108, Range 20 West; thence North 410 feet; thence West 660 feet; thence South 410 feet; thence East 660 feet to the point of beginning AND Commencing at a point which is 410 feet North of the Southeast corner of the SW 1/4, of Section 27, Township 108 North, Range 20 West; thence North 165 feet; thence West 660 feet; thence South 165 feet; thence East 660 feet to the point of beginning. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 3650 Saint Paul Rd, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 12-027-3203 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $157,840.19 THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: January 7, 2016, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on July 7, 2016, or the next business day if July 7, 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: October 14, 2015

Nationstar Mortgage LLC
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

10/27, 11/3, 11/10
11/17, 11/24, 12/1

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No.: 74-PR-15-2173

NOTICE OF AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRS, FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In Re: Estate of
William L. Wolke, aka,
William Louis Wolke
Decedent.

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on December 1, 2015 at 10:45 a.m. , a hearing will be held in this Court at Steele County Courthouse, 111 East Main, Owatonna, Minnesota, on a petition for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of decedent's heirs, and for the appointment of Jane M. Wolke , whose address is 3518 Douglas Drive North, Crystal, Minnesota 55422 as personal representative of the decedent's estate in an unsupervised administration.

Any objections to the petition must be raised at the hearing or filed with the Court prior to the hearing. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with the full power to administer the decedent's 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 decedent's estate.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

2015.10.19

BY THE COURT

Joseph A. Bueltel
Judge of District Court

Sonia Kocher
Court Administrator

SMITH, TOLLEFSON, RAHRICK & CASS
Stephen J. Smith (MN#102799)
108 W Park Sq., Suite A
P.O. Box 271
Owatonna, MN 55060
Telephone: (507) 451-6540
Facsimile: (507) 451-1846

10/27, 11/3

Summons

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEELE

Case Type: 14 – Other Civil

Bank of America, N.A.,

Plaintiff,

SUMMONS

vs.

Tracy Smith Vulcan and Troy Vulcan,

Defendant.

THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO THE ABOVE NAME DEFENDANTS:

1. YOU ARE BEING SUED. The Plaintiff has started a lawsuit against you. The Plaintiff's Complaint against you is attached to this Summons and is on file in the office of the Court Administrator of the above-named Court. Do not throw these papers away. They are official papers that affect your rights. You must respond to this lawsuit even though it may not yet be filed with the Court and there may be no court file number on this Summons. **2. YOU MUST REPLY WITHIN 20 DAYS TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.** You must give or mail to the person who signed this summons a written response called an Answer within 20 days of the date on which you received this Summons. You must send a copy of your Answer to the person who signed this Summons located at: Melissa L. B. Porter Shapiro & Zielke, LLP 12550 West Frontage Road Suite 200 Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 **3. YOU MUST RESPOND TO EACH CLAIM.** The Answer is your written response to the Plaintiff's Complaint. In your Answer you must state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the Complaint. If you believe the Plaintiff should not be given everything asked for in the Complaint, you must say so in your Answer. **4. YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IF YOU DO NOT SEND A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT TO THE PERSON WHO SIGNED THIS SUMMONS.** If you do not answer within 20 days, you will lose this case. You will not get to tell your side of the story, and the Court may decide against you and award the Plaintiff everything asked for in the Complaint. If you do not want to contest the claims stated in the Complaint, you do not need to respond. A default judgment can then be entered against you for the relief requested in the Complaint. **5. LEGAL ASSISTANCE.** You may wish to get legal help from a lawyer. If you do not have a lawyer, the Court Administrator may have information about places where you can get legal assistance. Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still provide a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose the case. **6. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** The parties may agree to or be ordered to participate in an alternative dispute resolution process under Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice. You must still send your written response to the Complaint even if you expect to use alternative means of resolving this dispute. **7. THIS LAWSUIT MAY AFFECT OR BRING INTO QUESTION TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY** located in Steele County, State of Minnesota, Legally described as follows:

All that part of the SW 1/4 of Section 29, Township 105 North, Range 20 West, Steele County, Minnesota described by: Commencing at the Northwest Corner of said SW 1/4; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes East assumed bearing, 1679.03 feet along the North line of said SW 1/4 to a point on the centerline of County State Aid Highway 3, last said point being the True Point of Beginning; thence South 2 degrees 17 minutes 46 seconds West 1826.85 feet along said highway centerline; thence South 89 degrees 47 minutes 46 seconds West 495.29 feet to the centerline of a drainage ditch; thence Northerly along said ditch centerline and along a nontangential curve concave to the West, central angle 22 degrees 48 minutes 33 seconds, radius 400.00 feet, chord North 14 degrees 03 minutes 24 seconds East 158.19 feet, arc length 159.24 feet; thnce North 2 degrees 39 minutes 07 seconds East 698.16 feet along said ditch centerline; thence Northerly along said ditch centerline and along a tangential curve concave to the West, central angle 13 degrees 04 minutes 55 seconds, radius 1500.00 feet, arc length 342.48 feet; thence North 10 degrees 25 minutes 48 seconds West 646.00 feet along said ditch centerline to the North line of said SW 1/4; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes East 637.88 feet to said True Point of Beginning.

The object of this action is to determine that the legal description listed above does not consist of separate and distinct farms or tracts under Minn. Stat. §580.08. If you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, judgement by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in said Complaint, together with plaintiff's costs and disbursements. 557.03 NOTICE OF NO PERSONAL CLAIM Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 557.03 you are hereby served with notice that no personal claim is made against you and that any defendant upon whom this notice is served who unreasonably defends this action shall pay full costs to the plaintiff.

Dated: August 4, 2015

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP
By Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Attorney for Plaintiffs
12550 West Frontage Road
Suite 200
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

10/27, 11/3, 11/10

BP City

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756 BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 55917 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2015 HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

6:00 a.m.
Thursday, November 12, 2015
Special School Board Meeting Held in Conjunction with the Regular School Board Work Session-High School Board Room

7:00 p.m.
Monday, November 16, 2015 Open Public Forum-High School Media Center

7:15 p.m.
Monday, November 16, 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. General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds
D. Awarding Bids for Elementary Project
E. Health Insurance
F. SASS Contract

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

VII. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

11/3

BP ISD

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756 BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 55917 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015 BOARD ROOM AT THE HIGH SCHOOL 6:00 A.M.

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

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. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED
Canvass of November 3, 2015, General Election Results

V. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
Review and discussion of items on the November 16, 2015, regular meeting

VI. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

11/3

Lost Dog

Black & Tan male Terrier mix wearing distinct color. Last seen in Bixby area. Answers to Spud. Call Gary 507-475-1989

BP City

Proposed
City of Blooming Prairie
City Council Meeting Agenda
November 9, 2015
7:00 P.M.

Assessment Hearing – Main Street Assessments 6:30 P.M.
Call to Order
Presentation by Brett Grabau of Stantec
Public Comments
Adjourn

Public Hearing – Street Reconstruction Plan 6:45 P.M.
Call to Order
Presentation by Michael G. Jones
Public Comments
Adjourn

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Approval of Agenda
Approval of Minutes of October 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. Payment Request – 6th Street NW
3. Street Closing – Holiday Dazzle
4. Hire Ice Rink Employees
5. Certification of Assessment Rolls

City Administrator's Report
1. Main Street Project Update
2. 3rd Street SW Watermain Replacement Update
3. Pedestrian Yield Sign Update

City Attorney's Report

Council Members' Reports

Adjourn
This Agenda is Subject to Change

11/3

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Call Shauna today!
507-583-4431
bpshauna@frontier.com
Steele County Times
Always local, all the time.
Place your ad today

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
September 17, 2015

A regular school board work session was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 17, 2015, in the Board Room at the High School.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kathi Peterson

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools

DISCUSSION ITEMS: General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the September 21, 2015, regular school board meeting.

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

11/3

STEELE COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: that on Tuesday, November 17th, 2015 starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Steele County Administration Center, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, Minnesota, the Steele County Board of Adjustment will hold Public Hearings on the following variance applications:
Jake Abbe has request to construct a solar energy system three feet from a rear property line on property located at 8791 SW 18th St. in the NE ¼ of the NE ¼, Section 20, Meriden Township.
Kristen Olivo and Marian Mast have requested to reduce a non-conforming lot by transferring a strip of land from one lot to another for the purpose of correcting lot lines. These properties are described as Block 1, Lots 12 and 13, and Block 1, Lots 14 and 15 T.H. Kelleys addition, Village of Bixby. The properties addresses are 10196 and 10182 Bixby Place.
All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing or contact the planning and zoning office to be heard on this matter.

STEELE COUNTY BOARD
OF ADJUSTMENT
Dale Oolman
Steele County Zoning Director
630 Florence Ave. P.O. Box 890
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-444-7482

11/3/15

Legals

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
September 21, 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 – The School Board received an update from the agriculture teacher/FFA advisor regarding upcoming activities. A school patron, voiced concerns regarding changes to the Sadie Hawkins Dance and the discontinuation of snow royalty and dance.

I. CALL TO ORDER –CHAIRPERSON

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

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Kathi Peterson to approve the agenda as submitted with the addition of a resolution addressing concurrent enrollment. Motion carried. (7 Aye/
0 Nay)

IV. PRINCIPAL REPORTS
Reports given by Mr. Staloch, Mr. Worke, and Ms. Mach.

V. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED
A. District Audit
Motion by Rodney Krell and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve the fiscal year '15 district audit as presented by Kim Hillberg, CliftonLarsonAllen. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
B. Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Resignations, Employment
Motion by Kathi Peterson and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve minutes, bills, treasurer's report, resignations, and employment. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
C. Family Leave
Motion by Rodney Krell and seconded by Kelly Braaten to approve maternity/family leave for an elementary teacher for a period of approximately twelve weeks commencing sometime during the month of December. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
D. Election Judges
Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Kathi Peterson to approve the appointment of five election judges for the November 3, 2015 General Election. Motion carried. (7 Aye/
0 Nay)
E. Resolution Establishing a Ballot Board
Motion by Kathi Peterson and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to approve a resolution establishing a Ballot Board. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
F. Homecoming DJ
Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Kathi Peterson to approve the hiring of DJ PEPS as the DJ for the Homecoming Dance. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
G. Student/Teacher/Athletic Handbooks
Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Kathi Peterson to approve the handbooks as presented. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
H. Property Levy Limitation Certification 2015 Payable 2016
Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to approve the "maximum" for the property levy limitation certification 2015 payable 2016. Motion carried. (7 Aye/
0 Nay)
I. Property & Casualty/Workers Compensation Insurance
Motion by Kathi Peterson and seconded by Rodney Krell to approve a bid from Wright Specialty/RAM Insurance. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
Bids were also received from EMC and Liberty Mutual/RAM Insurance.
J. Steele County Children's Mental Health Collaborative Service Agreement
Motion by Rodney Krell and seconded by Kathi Peterson to approve the Steele County Children's Mental Health Collaborative Service Agreement annual funds towards the funding of the school social worker. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
K. Mandatory Policy
Motion by Kathi Peterson and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve MSBA/MASA Mandatory Policy 427, Workload Limits for Certain Special Education Teachers, which meets the updated requirements of Minn. Rule 3525.2340, Subp. 4.B. Motion carried.
(7 Aye/0 Nay)
L. Update on LTFM Plan
The District's ten-year LTFM (Long-Term Facilities Maintenance) Plan has received MDE approval. No School Board action required.
M. Authorizing Resolution for Facilities Maintenance Bonds
Member Pam Hameister introduced a resolution relating to the issuance of $2,010,000 general obligation facilities maintenance bonds. Motion was seconded by Member Kathi Peterson. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 7 Aye/0 Nay.
N. BPTA Negotiations
A progress update from the Negotiating Committee was given.
O. 2015 MSBA Legislative Resolution
Motion by Rodney Krell and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to approve a resolution relating to "concurrent enrollment". 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 2015-16 school year as of September 16, 2015, was 411 at the elementary school and 304 at the high school (298 attending BPHS and 6 attending PSEO). The PSEO number consisted of 2 seniors and 4 juniors which will all attend full-time.
C. Dates to Note.
The Board noted dates of importance.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS
1. Superintendent Olson informed the School Board on dates he would be out of the district.
2. Pam Hameister commented on how well vision and hearing screening had gone as her and Michelle Vigeland were two of the volunteers that assisted with the screening.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT
Motion by Kathi Peterson and seconded by Rodney Krell to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
Tentatively, a School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday, October15, 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, October 19, 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

11/3

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 10/13/2015
Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
1. Glynn/Brady to approve the Agenda. Ayes all.
2. Ebeling/Schultz to approve the minutes of September 22, 2015. Ayes all.
3. Schultz/Ebeling to approve the personnel actions. Upon the vote being taken four Commissioners voted in thereof, Commissioner Brady voted against.
4. Glynn/Schultz to approve the Southeast Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Joint Powers Agreement. Ayes all.
5. Ebeling/Schultz to approve the Law Enforcement Center HVAC System and roof in the amount of $129,735 to be split by the City of Owatonna and Steele County. The County's portion will be $64,867. Ayes all.
6. Brady/Schultz to approve the 2016 Health Insurance Contribution rates. Ayes all.
7. Ebeling/Brady to approve MetLife as the carrier for voluntary Dental Group coverage. Ayes all.
8. Ebeling/Glynn to approve the updated AWAIR (A Workplace Accident and Injury Reduction) Policy and Program. Ayes all.
9. Schultz/Glynn offered a Resolution that Steele County desires to complete its project named: Four Seasons Centre R-22 Refrigerant Replacement (West Arena) Project at Four Seasons Centre located at: 1525 South Elm Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voting in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.
10. Ebeling/Brady offered a Resolution that Contract No. 151502 to Rocon has in all things been completed, and the County Board being fully advised in the premises, now then be it resolved; that we do hereby accept said completed project for and in behalf of the Steele County Highway Department and authorize final payment as specified herein. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voting in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.
11. Schultz/Ebeling to appeal the District Court's ruling, granting MnDOT's motion to dismiss, to the Minnesota Court of Appeals and directing Justin Weinberg and his firm to take all steps necessary to file and pursue the appeal. Ayes all.
12. Commissioners Reports:
Schultz reported on his attendance at the MN Public Health Conference.
Glynn reported on his attendance at the MN Prairie meeting.
Ebeling reported on his attendance at the SE MN Emergency Management and the SCCL meeting.
Brady reported on his attendance at the Weed management meeting and the Cannon River Partnership Solid Waste meeting in Rice County.
Huntington reported on her attendance at the MNPrairie Staff Appreciation, South Country Health Alliance, SCCL, Highway 14E expansion and MNPrairie Board meeting.
13. Brady/Ebeling to approve the following listing of bills. Ayes all.

LISTING OF BILLS
10/13/2015

180 Degrees, Inc.	6,595.87
30th Place, LLC	17,387.70
A'viands, LLC	15,707.71
Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc.	7,942.75
Ag Power Enterprises, Inc.	2,260.99
Bureau of Criminal Apprehension	6,780.00
Central Valley Cooperative	4,845.06
CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP	19,500.00
Computer Professionals Unlimited, Inc.	4,309.72
Dakota County Financial Svc	8,096.00
Dorsey & Whitney, LLP	20,167.25
FFF Enterprises	16,380.64
Harlands Tire & Auto Center	3,259.17
Houston Engineering, Inc.	4,000.00
Innovative Office Solutions, LLC	2,267.85
Integra Telecom	2,766.40
Intereum, Inc	5,263.24
LEO A Hoffman Center Comfrey	7,992.25
Local Government Information Systems	23,903.25
Loken Excavating & Drainage	4,779.00
Mathiowetz Construction	19,236.00
MCCC MI 33	5,615.00
MCF STW	5,115.00
Medford Sand & Gravel, LLC	23,788.22
MN Dept of Labor & Industry	2,064.49
Office of MN IT Service	2,280.74
Owatonna Motor Company	3,333.04
Owatonna Public Utilities	29,615.83
Revize, LLC	10,178.00
Schultz Excavating	5,070.50
Seykora Group, Inc.	16,735.10
SHI International Corp.	53,016.00
Southern MN Construction Co. Inc.	5,895.67
Steele County Auditor	5,616.94
Steele County Revenue	2,352.56
Stonebrooke Engineering, Inc.	32,987.90
Superior Jetting, Inc.	10,440.00
Turnkey Corrections	16,756.50
Uniforms Unlimited, Inc.	4,706.32
University of MN Regents	46,250.34
Waste Management of WI-MN	51,354.10
194 Warrants under $2,000	73,973.54
Total:	**$610,586.64**

14. Glynn/Brady to adjourn to the call of the Chair at 7:18 p.m. Ayes all.

11/3

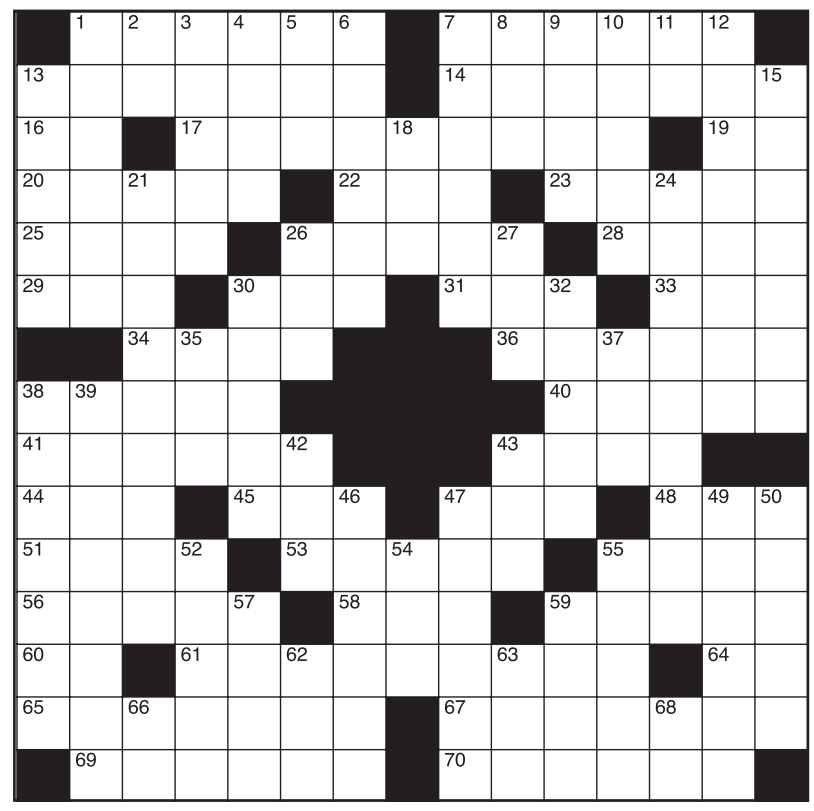
LAND AUCTION
181.21± Acres • Mower County, Minnesota
Farmers National Company
Selling in Four Tracts!
3% Buyer Premium
Tuesday, November 17, at 10:00 AM
Austin Holiday Inn
1701 4th Street Northwest • Austin, Minnesota
- Tract 1 has an excellent location
- Tracts 2, 3, and 4 offer possibility of future development

For Property Details, Contact:
Doug Bergemann, AFM/Agent
Austin, Minnesota
(507) 434-7985 or (507) 420-8328
DBergemann@FarmersNational.com
www.FarmersNational.com/DougBergemann
Lowell Gabriel, Agent
Albert Lea, Minnesota
(507) 383-0295
LGabriel@FarmersNational.com
www.FarmersNational.com/LowellGabriel
Auctioneer: Eric Mueller, Lic # 40271268
L-1500756
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ADVANCE NOTICE
AFTER HARVEST AUCTION
Sat. Dec. 12th, 2015 • 9:30 am
Located: Hamilton Auction Co.
off Interstate 90 at Dexter, MN exit #193 then 1/4 mile east of Hwy 16
Consign your farm machinery, tractors, tillage equip., construction equip., grain trucks, trailers, semi-tractors & pickups by the 20th of November to have items listed on sale bill. **NO TIRES**
Limited amount of small items accepted
To consign call:
HAMILTON AUCTION COMPANY
Ph. 507-584-0133 office
130 State Hwy. 16
Dexter, MN 55926

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Answers on Page 6C



CLUES ACROSS

1. Owed
7. Shawl
13. Slow tempo
14. Bodily structure
16. Sun-god
17. Franklin or Eleanor
19. Degree
20. Norwegian poet
22. Local school organization
23. Consumer
25. Brews
26. Hero
28. To clear or tidy
29. 9th month
30. Hit lightly
31. Pinna
33. DoD computer language
34. One Direction won at 2014 awards
36. No. Am. peat bog
38. Clear wrap
40. Napped leather
41. In a way, takes
43. Transported
44. Back muscle
45. Unhappy
47. Wrong
48. Chit
51. Epic poem
53. Capuchin genus
55. ____traz: The Rock
56. Weight unit
58. Foot (Latin)
59. Egg-shaped nut palm
60. A radioactive element
61. Roosevelt V.P.
64. Railroad track
65. More dense, less liquid
67. Block, Fire & Reunion
69. A set that is part of another set
70. Hair product

CLUES DOWN

1. Ineffective
2. 39th state
3. Skins
4. In a moment
5. Japanese Prime Minister Hirobumi
6. Tyrant
7. A cruelly rapacious person
8. Point midway between NE and E
9. Abnormal breathing
10. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers
11. Italian river
12. Fixed firmly into
13. Opera songs
15. Cloth measurement
18. 7th Greek letter
21. Extractor
24. For boiling water to make tea
26. Possesses
27. Edible tuberous root
30. Glass window sheets
32. Tactics
35. More (Spanish)
37. Our star
38. Makes a choice
39. Great Plains indians
42. Baglike structure in a plant or animal
43. Female sibling
46. Diverge
47. Adherent of Islam
49. Defer
50. Semitic gods
52. Indian term of respect
54. 10 decibels
55. Surface regions
57. Small amounts
59. Liberal rights organization
62. Teeny
63. Volcanic mountain in Japan
66. Atomic #71
68. Canadian province

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News

Niehaus enjoys serving area community

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Since July 1, the Rev. Thomas M. Niehaus has served the parishes of St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie and Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hayfield. So far, Niehaus said he's enjoyed the experience.

Niehaus estimates he serves roughly 300 families between the two parishes, but also says he hopes to connect with as many community members as possible. "We have our faith that unites us," he said. "We're united in Christ, and then our family unites us in a natural way. So, what's beautiful is how God brings families together in the community… small, big, medium, all families (and our single people) are welcome here."

Since joining the community, Niehaus has enjoyed welcoming people of different faiths and others who have been "away" for a while and returned to the churches. He noted that all are welcome and it's nice to see both familiar and new faces at church.

Before coming this area, Niehaus served parishes in Easton, Wells and Minnesota Lake. "There was a much more rapid pace in those parishes; they're about three times the size of the parishes here. So, the main difference is I haven't burned a hole in my running shoes here," said Niehaus. "But, I enjoy praying with the community. We have good youth, and family is important here in the community – I see that. And I am very delighted to see the respect and the dignity that's given to our elderly."

Niehaus has traveled far and wide through his journey serving God. "I think I received the call strongly as a high school student," he said. After graduating high school, however, he pursued another career path.

He earned a degree that prepared him for a career as a high school social studies teacher. He also became a track and cross-country coach, refereed high school basketball games and even drove a school bus. At night, he also worked to earn a master's degree in geography. During that time, though, Niehaus still felt the "pull toward priesthood."

"I had a great peace in my heart and I answered the call," said Niehaus. "When I said 'Yes' to God, He took me on quite the journey. I spent two years in Winona and six years in Rome, Italy, from there came back and served at Winona State for a full year, and then four years at Wells, Easton Minnesota Lake, and then now here to Hayfield and Blooming Prairie. It's been good; it's a great life."

Niehaus now lives in Owatonna and hopes that he can provide a valuable service to the communities he serves. He hopes to "serve as a beacon of hope. To serve as a leader in prayer, particularly for families in our communities. (In) good times, bad times, to be present in times of tragedy or loss. But, I really see my overall role here as being present in the midst of the communities as a leader in prayer, pointing to God and encouraging people on their journey of faith."

He also has many messages he hopes to share with the people he meets and prays with. He hopes that one message in particular will resonate with others. "God has everything for you," he said. "Don't refuse Him anything. Just say yes."



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

The Rev. Thomas M. Niehaus speaks with residents at Maple Manor Nursing Home in Blooming Prairie during their Wednesday mass.

Wish Tree applications now available

It is that time of year again when area residents start gearing up for the holiday season. Beginning Nov. 2, Wish Tree applications were available in the Blooming Prairie Post Office lobby. Gifts are for families residing in the Blooming Prairie area and children must be students in Blooming Prairie schools. Children from newborn to 18 years old are eligible for gifts from the Wish Tree.

Applications must be returned to First Lutheran Church by Tuesday, Nov. 17.

Gift tags will be in Sportstitch for these families on Nov. 19. Gifts need to be returned unwrapped to Sportstitch by Dec. 10. Volunteers will sort and distribute the gifts on Dec. 11 at First Lutheran Church.

The Wish Tree is sponsored by Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce, Blooming Prairie Ministerium and Santa Anonymous.

Minimizer shipping is quicker and more accurate than ever

Minimizer's shipping numbers are so good that its customers will soon get their Tested and Tortured products faster than ever before.

Minimizer CEO Craig Kruckeberg announced his company is switching from a five-day shipping window to a four-day shipping window.

"We've been shipping on time more than 99 percent of the time," Kruckeberg said. "We need to challenge ourselves."

Minimizer experienced just one late shipment in the third quarter of 2015.

"It was a mud flap order that took a little bit longer," Kruckeberg said. "Other than that single order, we've been perfect."

The change will take place during the first quarter of 2016.

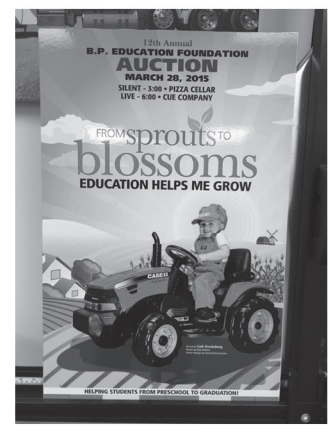
"This initiative is yet another way Minimizer continues to push ourselves to exceed our customers' expectations," Minimizer VP of Operations Jim Richards said. "We will continue to look at improving our customer satisfaction in the future on this and other customer-oriented objectives."

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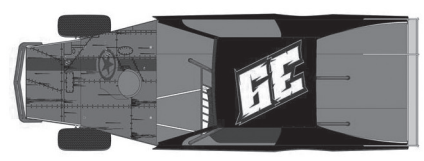
Annual FFA Fruit Sales
The Annual FFA Fruit Sales is in progress and continues thru Friday, Nov. 13.
This year we are offering many varieties of
APPLES, PEARS, ORANGES, GRAPEFRUITS.
Other Items that will be part of the fruit sales will be the ever popular
BUTTER BRAIDS, MEAT AND CHEESE STICKS, HERRING, CHEESE CURDS, GOURMET POPCORN, BEEF AND TURKEY JERKY, CHEESES, SUMMER SAUSAGE, CHOCOLATES, AND NUTS.

The products will be arriving to the BP High School the week of December 11. These products would make perfect Christmas Gifts.
If you have any questions, or would like an FFA member to stop by your home or place of employment, please feel free to contact Mr. Rinkenberger at the BPHS Ag Dept. at (507) 583-4426 ext. 468

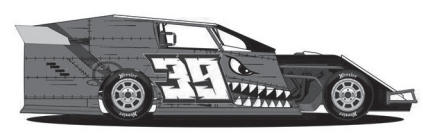
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RECIPE CORNER

Beef Stroganoff

- 1 1/2 to 2 lb. round steak
- Lots of chopped onion
- 1 scant tsp. salt
- 1 can golden mushroom soup
- 1 can of water
- 1 (4oz.) pkg. cream cheese
- Pepper

By Debbie VanRavenhorst

Cut steak into bite-sized pieces. Brown with lots of onion, salt and pepper. Add soup and water. Simmer until tender. Before serving, cut up and blend in 1 package of cream cheese. Serve over rice or noodles.

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Kids trade 'Candy for Cash' in Owatonna

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

For kids like Aza, Ryan and Liam Lewis of Owatonna, the opportunity to cash in Halloween candy the day after trick-or-treating was welcomed. In fact, the siblings have something bigger in mind—a Lego set.

The third annual Halloween Candy Collection at the Owatonna Hospital on Nov. 1 attracted many entrepreneurs like the Lewis kids. The hospital paid $1.50 per pound of candy, with a limit of three pounds of candy per child. The candy gets shipped to the Operation Gratitude headquarters in California.

According to Owatonna Hospital's Director of Communication Natalie Ginter, Operation Gratitude ships the candy in care packages to U.S. troops overseas. Ginter said that the candy might be enjoyed by soldiers or shared with local people to build relationships.

While the candy is being put to good use, Ginter said that the Candy Collection is also to support healthy eating and living.

"Quite honestly, this event helps get the candy out of the home," said Ginter. "We even have adults just donate extra candy to get it out of the house.

"Owatonna Hospital cares about community health and an important part of that is encouraging our kids to limit sweets, which helps prevent cavities and weight gain," said Ginter.

This year is the third annual candy collection at the hospital. Ginter said they plan for 100 to 150 kids, and they typically collect 150 pounds of candy.

In promotion of healthy eating, kids that came to the event got a goodie bag with healthy snacks and information about healthy living. The pack also included dental care items donated by Wottreng Family Dental.

This year also, Breast Cancer Superheroes artist Barbara Porwit led superhero-themed activities and coloring with the kids.



Staff photo by Anna Segner
Ryan and Aza Lewis of Owatonna cashed in the candy that they trick-or-treated for on Halloween at the Candy Collection event at the Owatonna Hospital.

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Pictured: Frank Henefield, Jason Iacovino,

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- Christmas Wonderland
- Presley's Country Jubilee
- Brett Family
- Jonah the Play

November 16, 2015 is the deadline to sign up for this tour

Start of 2016

Arizona.....Jan. 30- Feb. 10.....$1899

- Grand Canyon
- Montezuma's Castle
- Tombstones Boot Hill
- O K Corral
- Bird Cage Theatre
- Crystal Palace Saloon
- Sonora Desert Museum
- Old Tucson movie sets
- Mission San Xavier Del Bac
- Pima Air Museum
- Superstition Mountain Museum
- Salt River Canyon Boat Cruise
- Oak Creek Canyon
- City of Sedona

Texas.....Feb. 20-Mar. 1.....$1619

- Mission San Jose
- San Antonio Riverwalk Cruise
- 1 night on the Riverwalk
- Buckhorn Saloon and Museums
- Historic town of Fredricksburg
- National Museum of the Pacific War
- Bullock Museum of Texas
- Johnson Space Center
- Guided tour of Houston
- Battleship Texas
- The Alamo
- Fort Worth Stockyards
- LBJ (Johnson) Ranch
- Kennedy Assassination Site
- Austin State Capitol tour

Florida.....Feb. 27-Mar. 8.....$1749
New Orleans.....March 12-21.....$1599
Washington, DC.....April 9-16.....$1189
Mystery Tour.....Apr.26-May 1.....$899
New York City.....May 16-23.....$1619

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More savings for bonds after county receives AA rating

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Steele County will see more savings during its bond refunding process because of a recent credit rating assignment of AA by Standards and Poor's.

"When a reputable agency such as Standard and Poor's assigns a credit rating of AA, it's a testament to the current management practices and financial strategies the Board of County Commissioners and management are utilizing to manage the county," said Steele County Board of Commissioners Chair Nina Huntington in a press release. "The rating assignment is confirmation that Steele County has successfully navigated the recession and maintained a high quality of life with responsible budgeting practices."

At the recent Steele County Board of Commissioners meeting, the board approved a resolution that authorized the issuance and awarded the sale of $9.7 million in general obligation refunding bonds to Janney Montgomery Scott LLC of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The average interest rate is 2.13 percent, meaning the county would be saving an estimated $1.17 million over a 10 year period.

According to Standard and Poor's, the county's strong budgetary performance and operating surpluses supported the assigned rating. In addition, Standard and Poor's cited the available fund balance and reallocation of funds to the unassigned fund balance as a positive credit factor.

The agency also cited that the overall debt is low at 1.2 percent of market value and approximately 93.3 percent of the direct debt is scheduled to be repaid within 10 years. Additionally, the report cited that the agency does not view the transactions with Steele County Communities for a Lifetime (SCCL) to be a liquidity risk as there is no legal obligation to provide any further support.

In September, the county board approved the refunding of Steele County's existing 2005 bonds issued to finance the Detention Center and the 2009 bonds issued to finance road equipment and road construction for $10 million.

Northland Securities County Financial Adviser Bill Fahey said during the October board meeting that on average the county would be saving about $130,000 a year. "That's far better than where we were," Fahey said. "It makes me feel really, really, really good because that really blows away anything that we talked about in the past."

Fahey said the reason for more savings during the refunding process is Steele County's assigned credit rating of AA by Standard and Poor's.

Area students celebrate being drug-free during Red Ribbon Week

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Since 1985, schools nationwide have participated in The Red Ribbon Campaign. Last week, area schools including Blooming Prairie, Medford, Owatonna and New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva also observed National Red Ribbon Week.

The Red Ribbon Campaign began as a way to honor the memory of DEA agent Kiki Camarena, who was murdered by drug traffickers in Mexico City. The campaign began with a simple display of red ribbons, symbolizing a united front in the movement to create a "drug-free America."

Since its beginnings, Red Ribbon Week has grown to encompass a number of activities and initiatives that help prevent drug use among the nation's youngest citizens. This year, the Steele County Safe and Drug Free (SDF) Coalition sponsored activities in the Blooming Prairie, Medford and Owatonna school districts.

"This is a community problem; we need to address it as a community," said SDF Coalition Project Coordinator Darren Reed. "That's why, as the Safe and Drug Free Coalition, we want to encompass all that are

RED RIBBON WEEK
Continued on Page 5D



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Ninth grade Students Helping Others Choose members Shyanne Nordquist and Jamie Lysne volunteered their time to teach kids about drugs and ways to say "No" to drugs at the Red Ribbon Week kick-off on Oct. 26.

Blandin community leadership attendees impressed by week-long retreat

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Making their communities better was a common goal shared by Blooming Prairie, Ellendale and Medford area residents recently as they participated in a five-day leadership retreat, the first segment of an intense program provided by the Blandin Community Leadership Program (BCLP).

"It was a fantastic week to be with a group of wonderful people," remarked Steele County Sheriff Lon Thiele. "We were able to see different philosophies from other people and by working with different filters, we saw how other people can think," he added.

The five-day leadership retreat was held at the Sugar Lake Resort, near Grand Rapids.

The goal of the BCLP is to develop and train a broad base of local leaders to build healthy communities.

Topics covered during the retreat included: identifying and describing community issues and opportunities, effective interpersonal communication, building social capital, appreciating personality differences, managing interpersonal conflict, understanding community power, mobilizing community resources, and goal setting.

The team from Blooming Prairie, Ellendale and Medford will now participate in three follow-up workshops. Dates are: Dec. 8, Feb. 16 and April 26. The Dec. 8 location will be the Steele County History Center, Owatonna.

A program of the Grand Rapids-based Blandin Foundation, BCLP has provided experiential leadership training for more than 7,000 community leaders from more than 425 rural Minnesota communities since it began in 1985. This is the first time these communities have participated in the BCLP leadership program.

Local residents participating in this training were:

Blooming Prairie - Mandy Doocy, Sarah Esplan, Tamzen

BLANDIN LEADERSHIP
Continued on Page 5C



Submitted photo

Participants in Blandin Community Leadership Program training Oct. 19 to 23 included residents and leaders from the Blooming Prairie, Ellendale and Medford area. From left to right in the back row are Mandy Doocy, Donnavon Eaker, Naomi Smith, Tom Monson, Waco Vandal, Malia Norton, Linda Dusek, Nancy Vaillancourt and Mary Jo Wimmer (trainer). In the middle row are Jeremy Wangen, Sarah Esplan, Dan Miner, Jackie Berg, Jaclyn Schlichter, Izzy Wacek, Alissa Blaha, Tamzen Johnson, Lon Thiele and Vic Klimoski (trainer). In front are Mark Ihlenfeld, Phil Heim, Julie Steiff (Trainer), Mary Cronin, Alan Van Ormer, Jerry Paschke, Mark Biebighauser and Rich Kucera.

STEELE TALKIN'



Karen Fountaine

Be prepared for influenza season

Have you and your family received your influenza (flu) vaccinations this year? Remember that influenza vaccinations are the most effective way for you to protect yourself and your family from becoming ill with the influenza.

Steele County Public Health has influenza vaccinations available at our office located at 635 Florence Avenue in Owatonna. The vaccinations are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

The influenza vaccinations are available for persons with private insurance and with Medicare coverage. We also have influenza vaccinations from the Minnesota Department of Health for both children and adults who do not have medical insurance, or have an insurance plan that does not include influenza vaccinations. No one will be turned away because of inability to pay for an influenza vaccination. Please bring all insurance cards with you. A flyer is posted on the Steele County homepage at http://www.co.steele.mn.us/ under the title "What's New."

Flu vaccination is recommended for everyone aged six months or older who do not have a contraindication to the vaccine. The Center for Disease Control emphasizes that vaccinations are especially important for people who are at higher risk for flu complications, such as children under four years of age, pregnant women, adults 50 years and older and people with underlying medical conditions such as asthma, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), diabetes and heart disease. These groups of people are at an increased risk for hospitalization if they become ill with the influenza. It is also important for persons who care for or live with these persons to receive influenza vaccinations. Because these targeted risk groups make up at least 85 percent of the U.S. population, it is very likely that you or a family member fall into one of these groups.

Here are some additional steps that you can take to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses like influenza:

1. Cover your nose and mouth with your sleeve or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
2. Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If you are not near water, use an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
3. Try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs often spread this way.
4. Antiviral drugs, such as Tamiflu, are a treatment option for certain people who become ill with the influenza. Check with your doctor promptly if you have a high risk condition and you have influenza-like symptoms
5. If you get influenza, stay home from work or school for at least 24 hours after the fever has ended.

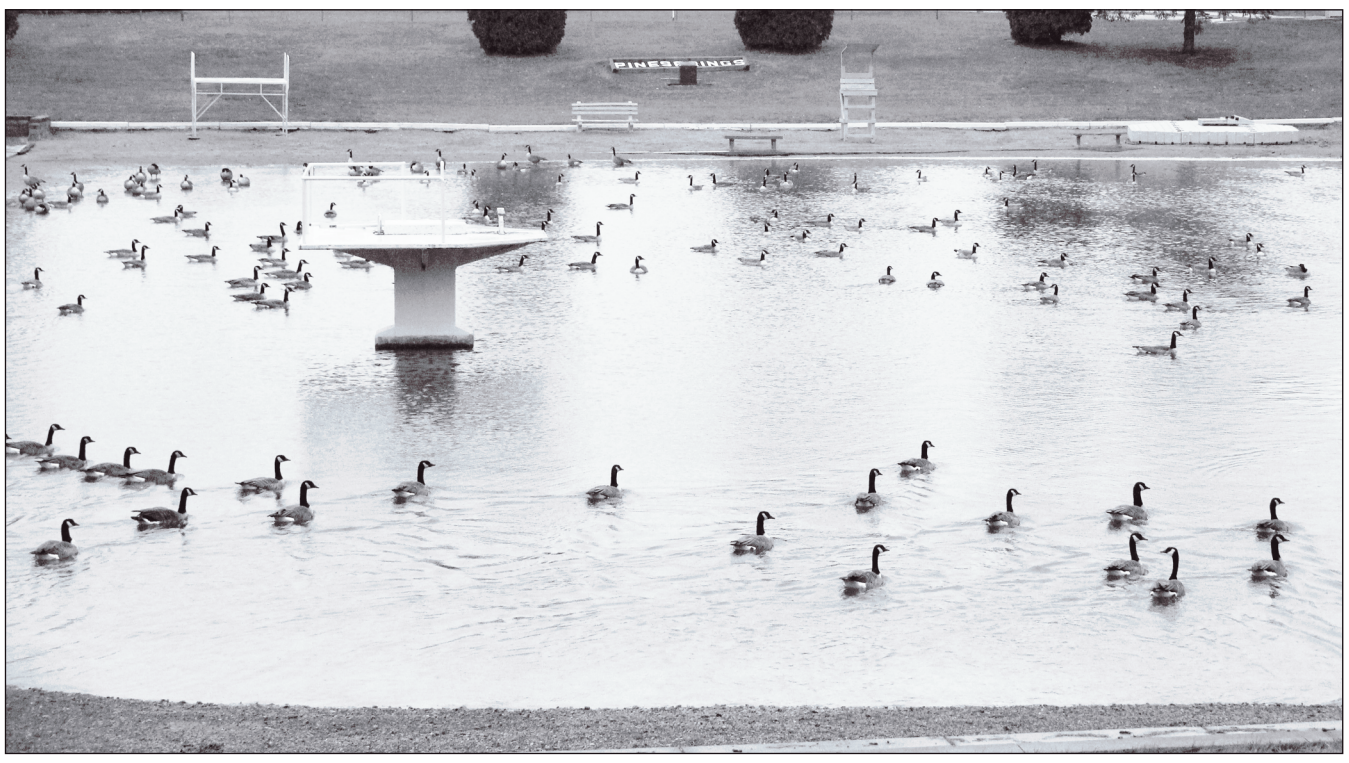
Protect yourself and those you love. Get an influenza vaccination this year.

If you have additional questions, call Steele County Public Health at 507-444-7650.

Steele Talkin' is a weekly column featuring officials from various organizations throughout Steele County. Karen Fountaine is the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator/Influenza Vaccination Coordinator for Steele County Public Health.

HometownLiving

Community Calendar



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Several geese found a nice spot to rest at the Blooming Prairie pool on last Tuesday afternoon. Although the afternoon was rainy, cool and windy, the geese found temporary shelter from the wind and rain at the pool.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

HOLIDAY DAZZLE WINE & BEER TASTING: THURS. NOV. 5 6:30-9 P.M. SERVICEMENS CLUB B.P.

TICKETS $12.00 IN ADVANCE $15.00 AT THE DOOR

AVAILABLE AT B.P. CHAMBER OFFICE OR J&H

BAR BINGO: MONDAY @ 6:30 P.M.

WINE CLUB: TUES. 7-8:30 P.M. NOV. 10, JAN. 12, FEB. 9, MARCH 8, APRIL 12, MAY 3

HOLIDAY DAZZLE DOWNTOWN FESTIVITIES: DEC. 4

HARVEY'S HOLIDAY CHEER: DEC. 12

NEW YEAR'S EVE: MUNCHIES & CHAMPAGNE

Blooming Prairie

Nov. 3:
7:30 p.m. BP Eastern Star
Nov. 4:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime
6:30 p.m. BP Lions Club
Nov. 5:
12 p.m. BP American Legion
6:30 p.m. BPHS Peter Pan
6:30 p.m. J&H Holiday-Dazzle Wine & Beer Tasting, BPSC
Nov. 6:
6:30 p.m. BPHS Peter Pan
Nov. 7:
6 p.m. BPHS Peter Pan Dinner Theatre
Nov. 9:
5 p.m. BP Education Foundation, HS Library
6 p.m. 55+ Driver Improvement Program, BPHS
Nov. 10:
BP Card Club & Luncheon
1 p.m. Red Cross Blood Driver, BPHS
7 p.m. BP VFW
7 p.m. BP VFW Auxiliary
7:30 p.m. BP Prairie Lodge Masons
Nov. 11:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime

Servicemen's Club
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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 - TUNA HOTDISH
#2 - BLT & FRIES

LUNCH SPECIAL (11/5 & 11/6):
MEATBALLS, GRAVY, MASHED POTATOES & ROLL

Ellendale/Geneva

Nov. 3:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
Nov. 5:
5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
Nov. 9:
6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
Nov. 10:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

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Hayfield

Nov. 4:
5 p.m. Hayfield EDA Mtg
Nov. 11:
7:30 a.m. Hayfield Chamber Mtg

Owatonna

Nov. 3:
9:30 a.m. OPL It's Tale Time!
10:30 a.m. OPL It's Tale Time!
3:30 p.m. Caregiver Support Group, OPL
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, Owatonna Hospital
7 p.m. Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall
Nov. 4:
12 p.m. Red Cross Blood Driver, St Joseph Chruch, Owa
3 p.m. OPL Adventure Club
Nov. 5:
OAC Pastimes Art & Fine Craft Sale
12 p.m. Red Cross Blood Driver, St Joseph Chruch, Owa
2 p.m. OPL Independent & World Films
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time
Nov. 6:
Hollandale Christian Schl Annual Fall Supper (St Co)
OAC Pastimes Art & Fine Craft Sale
8 a.m. Red Cross Blood Driver, St Joseph Chruch, Owa
9:30 a.m. Holiday Bazaar, Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary
Nov. 7:
OAC Pastimes Art & Fine Craft Sale

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Medford

Nov. 3:
7 p.m. Medford Park Brd
Nov. 5:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
Nov. 8:
5 p.m. Medford EDA
Nov. 9:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
Nov. 11:
4 p.m. Medford Veterans Committee Mtg

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SPOT LIGHT

Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary will host Holiday Bazaar on Friday, Nov. 6

The Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary is hosting its 53rd annual Holiday Bazaar on Friday, Nov. 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 7, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Owatonna Hospital (2250 NW 26th Street).

This year, the Holiday Bazaar will feature the following sales and activities:

· Books are Fun Sale, including books and games for all ages.

· Bake Sale, including homemade holiday treats, specialty breads, pies, Kolaches, fruitcakes and more.

· New & Nearly-new Sale, including a wide selection of items, featuring good deals on home décor, jewelry, kids' gifts, books, holiday décor and more.

· Sewing & Hand-crafted Items Sale, made by Auxiliary members, including embroidered dish towels, runners, placemats, blankets, pot holders and more.

· Informal Style Show on Friday and Saturday at 10:30 am, showing clothing and accessories from the Pink Pantry Coffee & Gift Shoppe.

· Unique gift items, jewelry and apparel available in the Pink Pantry Coffee & Gift Shoppe.

· Santa's Stocking Stuffer Room, most items just $6! Novelties and fun gift items also available.

Plus, stop at the Pink Pantry Coffee & Gift Shoppe for Caribou coffee and treats. Lunch for purchase at the Owatonna Hospital Prairie Meadows Café from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. each day.

Proceeds from this event helps support Owatonna Hospital's patient care mission and provide scholarships for students in nursing and health-related fields.

Other counties

Freeborn
Nov. 3:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
11 a.m. Red Cross Blood Driver, Alden Conger HS
5:30 p.m. AL Planning Commission, City Hall
Nov. 4:
7:30 a.m. AL Port Authority Mtg, AL EDA
Nov. 5:
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
Nov. 6:
AL No School
ACT Registration Deadline, ALHS
Nov. 9:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
11 a.m. Red Cross Blood Driver, Hy-Vee, AL
3:45 p.m. ALPL Book Pals (Gr 5 & 6)
5:15 p.m. AL Human Rights Commission, City Council Chambers
Nov. 10:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time

Mower
Nov. 3:
10 a.m. ArtWorks Gallery Show: Carol Bender and Barb Cafourek
11 a.m. Election Day Salad Luncheon, Austin Masonic Lodge
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 p.m. Silk Scarf Dyeing, Austin ArtWorks Center
Nov. 4:
Lyle 1st Responders Meeting
Lyle PLC 1 Hour Late Start
9 a.m. Defensive Driving Class, Mower County Senior Center
9 a.m. Walking Club, Mower County Senior Center
10 a.m. ArtWorks Gallery Show: Carol Bender and Barb Cafourek
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
1 p.m. Red Cross Blood Driver, Cmty Cntr, LeRoy
Nov. 5:
LeRoy FFA Bean Bag
10 a.m. ArtWorks Gallery Show: Carol Bender and Barb Cafourek
2 p.m. Red Cross Blood Driver, Emergency Srvc Bldg, Grand Meadow
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
5:30 p.m. Beginners' Wheel: Plates, Austin ArtWorks Center
5:30 p.m. Intro to Jewelry Making, Austin ArtWorks Center
6 p.m. Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night (subject to change)
6 p.m. Mower Co Historical Society, Annual Mtg
7 p.m. AHS Fall Prep Concert
7 p.m. Keepsake Quilters Guild Meeting, St John's Lutheran Church, Austin
7 p.m. Open Mic/Karaoke, The Way Cafe, Austin

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

Blooming Prairie Living

Construction begins on new BP Bus Company garage

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Construction began on Monday, Oct. 26, on a new school bus garage pole building.

The new garage building will be located on the site of the former garage, which was dismantled and torn down.

Construction of a 94-by-120 foot building is being done by Dahl & Sons of Blooming Prairie.

The new facility will garage all 14 buses in the fleet. Each bus can carry 77 passengers.

Kevin Christianson, general manager of the bus company, said construction should be complete in four weeks. The old building, which was built in 1958, held 12 buses.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Dahl & Sons of Blooming Prairie started construction Monday, Oct. 26, on a new pole building, which will house all 14 school buses in the Blooming Prairie Bus Company fleet. The new bus building is located on the southeast part of the city.

'Peter Pan' takes the stage

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Dress rehearsal is complete, and the cast and crew of the all-school musical are brushing up with last minute practice on songs, dances and dialog, as well as staging, costumes and props.

"Peter Pan" will take the stage on Nov. 5, for the opening performance, the first time in Blooming Prairie High School history drama that the very popular children's story has graced the local stage.

According to Director Tamzen Johnson, "We have had a few rough spots in rehearsing, but I can't say enough about the kids. They have been a joy to work with, and I am confident that we will present a high quality production."

Music Director Kari Bottin concurred, "I was surprised by the quality of the voices we have from the leads to the most minor character, and it will be a delightful entertainment."

Most people have had contact with or listened to the story of Peter Pan at some time in their lives. When Wendy Darling accompanies Peter to Neverland, many adventures befall the two and Wendy's two brothers. As in all good children's stories, the siblings eventually return home, thrilled at their adventures, but thankful to be safely home with their parents.

As was mentioned in an earlier article, the leads in this production all express happiness and satisfaction at the way practices went through the rehearsal schedule and now can't wait to show off their talents. The difficulty in learning the songs and dialog posed problems, but all seem to be prepared and eager to perform.

Bottin added, "It has been hard, but also a lot of fun to work with this group, and I am confident that everyone will do fine."

Swedish exchange student Erik Nillsson has the last word in his role as Captain Hook, the cultured, but evil Pirate leader, "Learning the songs and lines has been difficult, but the people at practices have been great, and I am surprised at the great talent my fellow actors possess. The show will be a fun one."

The opening performance will be Nov. 5, with a second performance on Nov. 6 and a dinner theater closing performance Nov. 7. The Saturday performance will begin at 6 p.m. with the first two nights at 6:30 p.m.

Melodrama to be presented Nov. 21

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

A classic community production of "Murphy's Wake" was presented in Blooming Prairie last spring by a troupe of local actors. The production drew 200 guests.

Another group of community thespians will perform a melodrama entitled "Misdeeds at Mistletoe Mine or . . .the Sanity Clause." The melodrama was written by Tim Koenig.

A single performance is planned at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club on Saturday, Nov. 21. Social hour is at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. The melodrama begins at 8 p.m.

Advance tickets at $25 each will be available in Blooming Prairie at Farmers & Merchants State Bank, Holman Insurance and the Servicemen's Club.

The dinner menu will feature appetizers, ham loaf, baked potato, salad, vegetable and dessert.

The production is sponsored by the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club, VFW and Auxiliary, American Legion and Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion. Karen Beede and Carol Holman are co-producers of the production.

Kari Bottin is director. Amelia Harthan will play the piano. Sandy Jones and Becky Noble are set directors.

The cast of characters includes:

• Stubby Nuggets, old prospector and narrator, played by Tom Blome,

• Diogenes, lung Stubby; desk clerk at the Yule Fall Inn; nonspeaking, played by Greg Skillestad,

• Redmond "Red" Wood, handsome hero with a scandalous secret, played by Jim Fiebiger,

• Rose Bush, beautiful heroine; pure as the driven snow, played by Jenny Hendrickson,

• Holly Hock, charming, young orphan girl, niece to Rose, played by Calista Lembke,

• William Z. Lucifer, Esq., evil mayor of Yule Falls; also a lawyer, played by Alex Johnson,

• Omiquita Rosarita Ricardo, brazen femme fatale, played by Loretta Ingvalson,

• Tucson Tessie, tough-as-nails sheriff of Yule Falls, played by Angela Carlson,

• Card Girl played by Kristi Fiebiger.

"Misdeeds at Mistletoe Mine" is a fun, versatile melodrama that is equally entertaining at Christmas-time or any other time of the year.

The setting is Christmas-time around 1850. The prologue and epilogue take place 40 years later.

The place is the Yule Fall Inn and Stubby's front porch in the town of Yule Falls.

The main stage depicts the Yule Fall Inn, which is run down (but still decorated for Christmas.) Stage left presents a sofa. Up left is a set of saloon doors leading outside. Immediately right of the saloon doors is a chair. Up center is a stool and check-in counter with a bell, a few rocks, a dusty guest register, a pen and ink well on it.

On the wall behind the counter are key/mail slots and room rates. Up right is a doorway leading to the rooms. A table and chairs are stage right. A rocking chair is forestage left to represent Stubby's front porch.

A synopsis of scenes includes:

• Prologue: Stubby's porch, around 1890.

• Scene One: Lobby of the Yule Fall Inn; a December afternoon about 1850.

• Scene Two: Later that afternoon.

• Scene Three: That evening.

• Scene Four: The next day.

• Scene Five: Christmas Day, several days later.

• Epilogue: Stubby's porch, 1890.

Spaghetti supper to benefit BP Boys and Girls Club

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Hungry for some tasty spaghetti?

The Blooming Prairie Knights of Columbus will sponsor its annual Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser on Saturday, Nov. 14 for the benefit of the Blooming Prairie Boys and Girls Club.

Serving will be from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.

The meal will include spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread, dessert and a glass of wine.

Tickets cost $20 each.

Entertainment will be provided by "Lights of Litomysl." The musical group is mainly assembled by members of the Holy Trinity Church of Litomysl.

Chamber Spotlight

Prairie Plumbing & Heating building given facelift

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

When traveling by or visiting Prairie Plumbing & Heating at 438 Highway Ave. S., be sure to note the new appearance of the building that is the home of the plumbing and heating business.

"It was time for a facelift," explained Larry Christianson, stating that new siding was needed. The project was contracted to Mark Anderson and son Erik, both of Blooming Prairie.

It's much more than the outside appearance of Prairie Plumbing & Heating that draws customers. It's nearly 40 years in the trade that brings in new customers and keeps returning established customers.

Prairie Plumbing & Heating is owned and operated by Larry and his wife, Sandy, who handles accounting and administrative duties. Both are lifelong area residents.

The Christiansons' technicians include Jim Prihoda, on board since 1989, and Joe Morgan, hired at Prairie Plumbing & Heating in 2002.

Christianson and his two tradesmen "try to do it all" in respect to providing plumbing, heating and air conditioning installation and repair. Their work is aimed at residential and light commercial needs. Christianson said his firm also specializes in new construction and remodeling.

Christianson learned the refrigeration and air conditioning trade in Albert Lea at the vocational school. He started Chrstianson Heating & Air Conditioning in 1979. He later partnered with Gene Myre from 1989-1998 and picked up the plumbing trade. The business name changed to Christianson & Myre Plumbing & Heating. In 1999 the business name changed again, this time to the present name.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Prairie Plumbing & Heating, Inc., Blooming Prairie, has a new outside look, thanks to a siding job completed by Mark and Erik Anderson of Blooming Prairie. Owner Larry Christianson (center) is shown with his experienced technicians, Jim Prihoda, left, and Joe Morgan, right.

Prairie Plumbing became an authorized Lennox Heating & Air Conditioning dealer in 1981. Appreciating the reputable image of Lennox, Christianson said, "It's good stuff."

Prairie Plumbing carries American Standard and Kohler plumbing fixtures. On the faucet side, Prairie Plumbing sells Delta and Moen, has books available for customers to review and also directs customers to faucet showrooms in Mankato and Rochester.

Technology has changed the business over the years, Christianson said. New furnaces are 35 percent more efficient than when he started his business, he says. Some air conditioning units are three times more efficient than in the 1970s, he added.

The fall season is a busy time for the Christiansons' business. "Everyone wants work done before winter sets in," Christianson said.

Prairie Plumbing & Heating supports Chamber projects, and Christianson has been active in the community, including 24 years as a fireman (retired 2008) and as a longtime member of the Blooming Prairie Lions Club.

"We try to treat each job as how you would do it in your own home," Christianson concluded.

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Public Safety

Blotter spotlight:
Stop arm. A school bus driver reported a stop arm violation in the 5400 block of 68th St. SW at 12:08 p.m.

Increase in burglaries in Owatonna

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Due to an increase in burglaries, local law enforcement officials are saying that now is a good time to start or continue locking doors and windows to vehicles, homes and garages.

Owatonna Police Department Captain Eric Rethemeier said that the increase in burglaries has been primarily in sheds and garages all over town and not in one concentrated area.

Steele County Attorney Dan McIntosh said that burglaries tend to come and go in streaks. "Typically it is younger males in their 20s," he said. "They feel like it is the thing to do at the time, and they typically know and expect to get caught eventually, as they don't act all that surprised when authorities contact them."

McIntosh said that the burglaries that these individuals are conducting are not "sophisticated operations," as they are usually looking for crimes of opportunity. He said that most of the burglaries involve little to no property damage.

Rethemeier and McIntosh said that burglaries can occur at any time, but most typically at night. As a result of the increase in burglaries, the Owatonna Police Department has been more vigilant in the evening hours, though Rethemeier emphasized how difficult it is "to catch a burglar in the act."

District Court Judge Karen Duncan said the majority of the burglary offenses she has seen in court over the past 15 years are crimes of opportunity where a car, garage/shed and sometimes even a home are left unlocked.

Other than locking up, both Duncan and McIntosh strongly recommended residents being vigilant in their neighborhoods and getting to know their neighbors.

"If people are observant and know their neighbors, they are more likely to (1) spot something that may seem out of place, and (2) report something odd to a neighbor, such as seeing an occupied car sitting in front of their house for an hour and then pulling away and/or (3) approach someone who seems out of place and ask if he needs help," said Duncan. "Chances are that most of these occurrences have simple and non-crime related explanations, but being observant and sharing information can ward off crimes."

There may be a perfectly-acceptable explanation for their position, but Duncan said that "if it turns out that the person was thinking about doing a crime, the fact they know someone saw them in the area and spoke to them will likely discourage them from following through on that bad idea."

Man sentenced for shooting in 2014

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

A man was sentenced to five years in prison after being charged with attempted murder last year.

Ricardo Kletschka, 64, of Owatonna, was arrested on May 17, 2014, after a two-hour standoff with the Owatonna Police Department. Reports state that Kletschka was accused of firing two gun shots out of his house at two family members fleeing his home on Elm Avenue.

Kletschka was charged with attempted second-degree murder, two counts of second-degree assault by dangerous weapon, possession of a firearm as a felon and reckless use of a dangerous weapon.

On Oct. 19, Kletschka was sentenced to 60 months in prison, with credit for 23 days served. Kletschka is also required to pay $1,065 in fines, fees and restitution for property damage.

The complaint states that the two family members were drinking with Kletschka at his home when he went upstairs and came down with a hand behind his back. Reports state that one of the victims stated that Kletschka "had a blank crazed look on his face and looked like he was going to kill somebody."

According to the complaint, the victim told police that they suspected Kletscka had a gun behind his back and told the other victim to flee. At this point, the report states that both victims fled the house with Kletschka behind, and one of the victims reported seeing a flash and hearing two gun shots.

Neighbors reported to officers both seeing and hearing Kletschka fire two shots from his deck as the two victims ran away. It was reported to police later that the bullets hit a nearby resident's storm door and a car.

Officers were dispatched to the scene at 11:30 p.m. According to reports, after Kletschka surrendered to police, officers issued several search warrants over the following days. The complaint states that 27 loaded and unloaded firearms were found in Kletschka's house. With a previous conviction of second-degree assault from 1986, Kletschka was not allowed to possess firearms.

According to Steele County Attorney Dan McIntosh, who handled the prosecution of the crime, Kletschka entered a plea hearing on April 6 of this year with a Norgaard plea to one count of second-degree assault. McIntosh explained that a Norgaard plea is when a defendant claims to not remember what took place; however, with a Norgaard plea, the defendant does not deny the actions and decide that the state has enough evidence to secure a conviction.

Kletschka previously testified to drinking considerable amounts of whiskey and gin, leaving him with no recollection of the events that led to his charges. In exchange for his plea, prosecutors dismissed the remaining charges, including the charge for second-degree attempted murder.

McIntosh expressed disappointment in that "his charges are very serious, and he ends up with only second-degree assault." McIntosh also said that the two victims were "completely uncooperative" when it came to testifying in court.

"What he did was awful!" said McIntosh. "It was his own dumb luck that bullets didn't go through a window and hurt someone."

Careless driver leads to drug charges



Roberts

Jeremiah R. Roberts, 29, has been charged with fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance.

Owatonna police officers received a report of a careless driver in the area of the 900 block of East Vine Street. A black truck was seen in the area traveling at an estimated 60-70 mph and was going so fast that the front wheels of the truck were airborne as it crossed over a railroad crossing. It was also seen running several stop signs before parking at an apartment complex, according to reports.

Officers investigated and found the truck parked and unoccupied. Later, a male matching the driver's description was seen in the parking lot. When officers went to speak with him he refused to show his hands and appeared to be hiding something. He later dropped a pipe and tried crushing it into the ground, the report said. The pipe tested positive for methamphetamine and the driver was arrested.

Man arrested for fleeing in a motor vehicle



Martin

Travis R. Martin, 31, has been formally charged with a felony of fleeing in a motor vehicle.

According to Owatonna Police reports, court records show that Martin was previously convicted in 2004 in fleeing in a motor vehicle.

Concerning the most recent event, on Oct. 25 at 1:27 a.m. an Owatonna officer observed a vehicle on West Bridge Street traveling 46 mph in a 20 mph zone. The officer turned to stop the vehicle and saw the car continuing at a high rate of speed. The officer caught the vehicle near State Avenue and Fairview. A pursuit ensued in which the suspect driver ran several stop signs and stop lights before pulling into a residence.

Reports state that officers approached the suspect vehicle and ordered the driver out, but he refused. Officers were forced to break the passenger and driver side window of the vehicle and deploy a Taser to take the driver into custody.

Police Blotter
Steele County

Owatonna Police

Oct. 23

Vulnerable Adult. At 10:37 a.m., officer took a vulnerable adult report in the 200 block of Pearl St. E.

Child Protection. Police received a child protection report from the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 10:41 a.m.

Shoplifting. Police issued a citation for shoplifting in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 2:30 p.m.

Warrant. Officer made a warrant arrest in the 800 block of School St. E. at 3:51 p.m.

Crash. Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at Bixby Rd. and School St. E. at 3:55 p.m. A citation was issued to a driver.

Shoplifting. Police arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 100 block of Broadway St. W. at 5:29 p.m.

Oct. 25

Vehicle Pursuit. A vehicle pursuit resulted in a subject being arrested at Cedar Ave. N. and Rose St. E. at 1:32 a.m.

Fight. Police responded to a fight at Grove Ave. N. and Rose St. E. at 1:18 a.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 900 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 2:31 a.m. and 5:28 a.m.

Child Protection. At 5:13 p.m., officer took a child protection report in the 200 block of 21st St. NW.

Theft. Police received a theft report from the 500 block of Riverside Ave. NW at 7:18 p.m.

Oct. 27

Vulnerable Adult. At 8:43 a.m., officer took a vulnerable adult report in the 200 block of Pearl St. E.

Child Protection. A child protection report was taken in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 2:04 p.m.

Shoplifting. Police issued a citation for shoplifting in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 6:51 p.m.

Drunken Driving. Officer made a DWI arrest at Barney St. SW and Oak Ave. S. at 7:36 p.m.

Oct. 29

Crash. Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 1700 block of Austin Rd. SE at 9:47 a.m.

Check Welfare. Police completed a welfare check in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW at 12:29 p.m.

Child Protection. At 1:10 p.m., officer took a child protection report in the 700 block of Willowbrook Dr. NE.

Burglary. Police began a burglary investigation in the 600 block of Prospect St. E. at 2:53 p.m.

Shoplifting. Officer issued a citation for shoplifting in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 5:07 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff

Oct. 23

Threats. Deputies responded to an incident of threats in the 8700 block of 86th St. NE at 9:11 a.m.

Theft. A theft was reported in the 3500 block of Hwy. 30 W. at 8:33 p.m.

Oct. 24

Disturbance. Deputies responded to a noise complaint in the 11000 block of 52nd Ave. SW at 4:38 p.m.

Oct. 25

Noise Complaint. At 10:26 a.m., a noise complaint was received from the 4700 block of Rose St.

Oct. 26

Theft. Deputy took theft report in the 4700 block of County Rd. 45 S. at 8:09 a.m.

Oct. 27

Drunken Driving. At 2:28 a.m., deputy made a DWI arrest on Interstate 35 southbound.

Threats. Deputies received a report of threats in the 700 block of 2nd Ave. NE at 2:15 p.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 500 block of 4th St. NE at 7:27 p.m.

Oct. 29

Disturbance. Deputies responded to a noise complaint in the 200 block of 2nd Ave. NW at 6:18 a.m.

Stop arm. A school bus driver reported a stop arm violation in the 5400 block of 68th St. SW at 12:08 p.m.

Animal Cruelty. At 7:29 p.m., deputies began an investigation of animal cruelty in the 1500 block of 69th St. NE.

Court News
Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Oct. 19 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Branden J. Robinson, 26, Fort Dodge, IA, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of Cocaine/Heroin/Methamphetamine. He was sentenced to $3,081, no possession of firearms, electronic monitoring, no alcohol or controlled substance use, maintain employment and 10 years of supervised probation.

Joleen A. Anderson, 52, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony endangerment of a child. She was sentenced to $81, no possession of firearms, no employment in caring for children, 200 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

Scarlett S. Tanner, 23, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony conspiracy to commit controlled substance crime – sale. The defendant was sentenced to $1,081, 79 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 20 years of supervised probation.

Kodie W. Swenson, 19, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony burglary. He was sentenced to $1,410.51, 30 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, write letter of apology, no contact with victim, no alcohol or controlled substance use, obtain GED, chemical dependency evaluation and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Oct. 19 – 23:

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Joshua S. Frazer, 25, St. Paul Park, speeding, $131; Jennifer M. Weller, 31, Owatonna, revoked license, $281; Trennedy D. Wells, 41, Austin, careless driving, $131.

MN Dept. of Natural Resources

Jeffrey E. Borgen, 20, Rochester, failure to have legal lifesaving device on board watercraft, $106.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Donald D. Ackerman, 55, Owatonna, gross vehicle weight of axle violation, $281; Wilmer N. Bautista-Valentin, 20, Anoka, speeding and no MN license, $221; Lucas J. Beck, 33, Austin, seat belt, $106; Christina A. Berry, 47, Ellendale, speeding, $121; Barbara A. Bishop, 47, Roeland Park, KS, move over law violation, $131; Leah D. Bittner, 37, Lamberton, speeding, $131; Rebecka N. Chuol, 44, Owatonna, speeding, $131; Christopher J. Evans, 32, Brandon, SD, speeding, $121; Cheryl L. Foster, 25, St. Paul, speeding, $141; Viral K. Gorawala, 28, Newark, DE, speeding, $121; Juan C. Hernandez-Mena, 44, Long Lake, expired registration and window tint violation, $161; Juan Hernandez-Perez, 24, Del Rio, TX, speeding, $221; Jon M. Jacobs, 50, Greenfield, speeding, $131; Timothy E. Kingstrom Aderhold, 24, Minneapolis, speeding, $131; Joseph M. Larson, 28, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Brandon J. Marquardt, 30, Fort Worth, TX, no MN license, $181; Tori L. Martin, 20, Waterville, speeding, $141; Benjamin A. Mattson, 34, St. Paul, speeding, $121; William H. Meis, 29, St. Paul, speeding, $141; Erin E. Moline, 38, Rochester, speeding, $121; Josephat C. Onuoha, 23, Brooklyn Park, speeding, $121; Robert W. Pagel, 48, Le Center, seat belt, $106; Robert A. Pannier, 48, New Hope, speeding, $141; Jacqueline K. Peterson, 58, Mora, seat belt, $106; Sitlaly B. Salinas, 20, Owatonna, speeding, $381; Kellen M. Schroeder, 25, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Teodoro Silva, 29, Owatonna, no MN license, $181; Ashley A. Smith, 28, Burnsville, speeding, $121; Yonaton A. Villegas-Portillo, 20, Salt Lake City, UT, no MN license, $181; Coleton D. Voneye, 19, Rapid City, SD, move over law violation, $131.

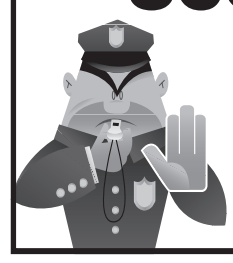
Owatonna Police Department

Molly J. Anderson, 37, Waterville, speeding, $121; Derek D. Bogenschutz, 33, Claremont, improper information on license and no license in possession, $121; Gerald K. Caffey, 37, Faribault, give peace officer false information, $381; Au-

PUBLIC SAFETY
Continued on Page 5C

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.

Troy Lientz – no insurance - $500 bail
Elliot Lightbourne – forgery - $10,000 bail
Juan Limon – theft - $10,000 bail
Bruce Lindberger – DWI - $1,400 bail
Herasmo Lino-Crisanto – false name – no bail
Chad Livernois – check forgery - $3,000 bail
Noe Longoria – DWI-refusal, revoked license - $12,000 bail
Andrew Lopez – contempt of court - $1,000 bail
Carlos Lopez – open bottle - $181 bail
Jose Lopez – domestic assault - $700 bail
Ramon Lopez – disorderly conduct – no bail
Rogilio Lopez – DWI, revoked license - $12,000 bail
Gregory Loudermilk – no license - $1,000 bail
Anthony Lucarelli – DWI – no bail
Sarah Luke – public nuisance - $300 bail
Robert Luna – DWI – no bail
Naykor Mabior – assault police officer - $10,000 bail
Juan Macas – no MN license - $500 bail
Jose Macias – revoked license – no bail
Shane Mack – theft – no bail

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

News

BLANDIN LEADERSHIP

Continued from Page 1C

Johnson, Dan Miner, Tom Monson, Jaclyn Schlichter, Naomi Smith, Lon Thiele, Nancy Vaillancourt, Waco Vandal, Alan Van Ormer, Izzy Wacek and Jeremy Wangen.

Ellendale - Donnavon Eaker.

Medford - Jackie Berg, Mark Biebighauser, Alissa Blaha, Mary Cronin, Linda Dusek, Phil Heim, Mark Ihlenfeld, Rich Kucera, Malia Norton and Jerry Paschke.

"It was a wonderful week to reflect and recharge," commented Tamzen Johnson, president of Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner, PA of Blooming Prairie. "There were added benefits I did not expect and now that I am a few days removed from the retreat, I find myself using some of these learned traits in my speech. It has had a positive effect."

Johnson said the Blandin sessions, structured in two-hour time blocks, were never the same. "Sometimes we would meet as a group of 24 and at other times groups would be reduced to smaller groups and even one-to-one," Johnson explained.

Waco Vandal, an owner of Vandal's Family Market in Blooming Prairie, said the retreat was "very cool, productive and successful." He said he was very impressed with the program and said it was a big accomplishment to identify community leaders and network them together.

"We were taught how to frame issues and social capital resulted from that," Vandal said.

During his group discussions, Vandal said he personally became concerned about the diminishing direction of the Blooming Prairie 4th of July celebration. "I'm going to try to help keep it going and we can do that only by getting more volunteers," Vandal stated.

Vandal also said he learned from attendee Izzy Wacek of Blooming Prairie that he has a goal of creating youth pride in the Blooming Prairie community by encouraging youths to paint a Blooming Prairie community sign. Vandal said he was also involved in discussion with Blooming Prairie Librarian Nancy Vaillancourt about increasing usage of the local library.

Linking communities together is up to community leaders, Vandal believes. "I now have contacts from Medford and Ellendale and it's up to us to stay connected." Vandal added.

"It was a very intensive week resulting in a lot of information given us," said Vaillancourt. "We were given time to practice some of the skills we learned in small and large groups. It was both theoretical and practical."

Vaillancourt said the sessions created momentum for implementing ideas to improve communities in Steele County.

Johnson gave two examples of how communities can work together. She said Medford representatives detailed the work their community had just completed in establishing a veterans memorial. "Our Sons of the American Legion group is working on a veterans memorial for Blooming Prairie; these cities can work together sharing ideas," Johnson said.

The other example again links Medford and Blooming Prairie. Medford representatives were curious to learn more about Blooming Prairie's Education Foundation. Johnson said she told Medford's people they could learn more information from her and from Sue Zwiener, co-volunteers on the project.

"Our focus should be on Steele County communities as a whole," said Sheriff Thiele. "Our common goal should be to make our individual communities better and when we do that, we make the county better," Thiele added.

"I feel honored to have been part of a such a great program," said Jeremy Wangen, New York Life of Blooming Prairie. Wangen added that he was provided knowledge of what it takes to be "great" leaders in the community.

"We also learned a lot about ourselves during the process. I plan on using what I learned to strengthen the organizations I am currently involved with and I hope to share what I learned.

"We were given an assignment where we can pick a topic or issue that we would like to address in our community. We were divided into groups of four and will meet a couple of times before our next organized session to put plans into action."

Wangen said it was a privilege to meet people from other communities who all share the same values and willingness "to make our communities stronger." He said he highly recommends the program to others who may have the opportunity to participate.

Blandin Leadership Retreat

By TAMZEN JOHNSON

My personal goals for the Blandin Community Leadership Program were to learn to lead and let go, to learn to reach out to sister communities and to learn the broader network of resources for my community.

Monday

Each of the 23 members of our class introduced themselves. We all listed our impressions of issues in our community and resources we currently knew of to try to address. We were taught the three core competencies, which are framing, building social capital and mobilizing. We studied quite a bit about the elements of interpersonal communication. My thought ending the day was this: the words I speak are filtered by the receiver and the receiver has the power to listen or not.

Tuesday

Today we dug deeper into the first core competency, which was framing. A simple way to describe this concept is to create shared meaning. It sounds easy enough, but I found this difficult, personally and feel I need to work on doing this skill. The greatest revelation to me was learning to listen intently and carefully. We spoke of social capital. This is the network of relationships we all have to get things done. In this application, in every community there are nine common dimensions of a healthy community: Lifelong learning, Inclusion, Recreational and Artistic Opportunity, Environmental Stewardship, Infrastructure and Services, Safety and Security, Community Leadership, Economic Opportunity and Spirituality and Wellness. My thought ending the day was this: I need to look for and engage others who are different than me to develop social capital in Blooming Prairie.

Wednesday

Today was an implementation day. We learned of the Power in a Small Community, Effective Small Groups and Developing a Mobilization Plan. Examples were designed to use all we have learned this far in real and practical applications. I was exhausted mentally but was absolutely delighted to see positive attributes in others and feel a large sense of connectivity between the group attending. My thought for today: I am overwhelmed with the volume of knowledge and how do I retain this, use this and try to teach others?

Thursday

A very structured day with four sessions: Leadership Coaching, which was one on one with a professional. Review by video tape a planning session we were involved in, Peer Coaching, which was sensitive and valuable feedback from our fellow attendees, and We Have A Dream Exercise, which was open-ended and creative. The evening we were invited to a formal banquet where each person attending received encouragement from our instructors. My thought ending the day was: Positive words transform people.

Friday

Going home day, so I had mixed emotions. The final day was packed with three sessions designed to equip the group to re-enter our communities. The last exercise before leaving was for us to write and verbally deliver to five of our peers what we have learned from them and what we appreciate about them. It was amazingly easy to tell these people things I had observed. This must be some of the phenomenon military groups feel when they come through a storm. I was touched and thankful for the words people said to me and I will treasure them in my heart.

Johnson was one of 24 people from Blooming Prairie, Ellendale and Medford that attended the Blandin Foundation Leadership Retreat.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from Page 4C

relio G. Cordova, 57, Fairmont, failure to obey traffic control device, $131; Maxwell Davis, 37, Brooklyn Park, speeding, $101; Amie C. Gens, 35, Kasota, theft, $131; De Andrea A. Gill, 21, St. Paul, minor consumption, $181; Jeffrey A. Grinnen, 34, Owatonna, expired tabs, $121; Ashlyn M. Guerrero, 18, Owatonna, underage possession of alcohol, $81; Gary K. Hegdahl, 33, Owatonna, improper information on license, $101; Ron C. Hill, 36, Owatonna, suspended license and no insurance, $481; Roberta E. Johnson, 71, Webster City, IA, seat belt, $106; Patricia A. Keller, 37, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Martin J. Klaustermeier, 20, Geneva, shoplifting, $149.99, and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Shawn R. Kleber, 46, Kasson, invalid license, $181; Tristan J. Klemer, 19, Minneapolis, give peace officer false information, $131 and 60 days in county jail; Raymond J. Kubat, 70, Medford, suspended license and railroad stop sign, $321; Christy M. Larson, 40, Owatonna, no insurance and expired tabs, $311; Jessie L. Lundquist, 33, Grand Rapids, obstructing legal process, $81 and 180 days in county jail; Douglas L. Meyer, 85, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Carla B. Mulari, 39, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; William T. Peavy, 24, speeding, $131; Virginia L. Roesler, 71, New Richland, text messaging while driving, $131; Ian J. Rubish, 16, Owatonna, speeding, $221; Mariah A. Sleeuwenhoek, 18, Medford, shoplifting, $181; Brandon L. Tate, 27, Owatonna, no MN license, $181; Denise D. Thompson, 33, Blooming Prairie, no license in possession, $101; Tiffany M. Van Riper, 27, Medford, speeding, $131; Hong X. Zheng, 45, Owatonna, failure to obey traffic control device, $131.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Kenneth J. Blomquist, 53, Apple Valley, speeding, $141; Douglas M. Blouin, 55, Ellendale, DWI, $181, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, 208 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Michael R. Brainer, 23, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Rebecca H. Charlson, 39, Brownsdale, open bottle, $81 and 66 days in county jail; Tyler J. Eldridge, 26, Rochester, speeding, $221; Michael S. Enright, 31, Dillon, CO, speeding, $121; Neil W. Falken, 54, Owatonna, DWI, $381, 1 day in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; David M. Farr, 58, Ellendale, speeding, $121; Collin M. Golberg, 19, Lyle, speeding, $121; Daniel D. Gonzalez, 25, Owatonna, speeding, $221; Raul R. Gonzalez, 20, Wells, speeding, $141; Valerie A. Griffin, 19, Elysian, speeding, $141; George Harty, 51, Waseca, speeding, $141; Aurelio D. Hernandez, 39, Austin, invalid license and speeding, $321; Jason J. Jongbloedt, 16, New Richland, speeding, $141; Nathaniel J. Kasper, 27, West Concord, speeding, $131; Kimberly D. Kilian, 56, Elysian, speeding, $141; Calleigh A. King, 21, Wayzata, speeding, $121; James H. Kingsley, 47, Lakeville, speeding, $131; Katrina E. Klocek, 31, Ellendale, speeding, $121; Zachary J. Koster, 26, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, $106; Richard A. Lassahn, 48, Ellendale, speeding, $131; Brittany A. Leese, 25, Owatonna, speeding, $131; Nay Ler, 28, Roseville, intentionally obstruct emergency vehicle, $181; Dawn R. Liverseed, 48, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Brenden J. Marzahn, 19, Waterville, underage drinking and driving, $381, chemical screen test and 1 year of supervised probation; Frederick D. Muegge, 64, Springfield, MO, speeding, $141; Todd M. Noble, 48, Owatonna, stop sign, $131; Mandy L. Possin, 39, New Richland, speeding, $221; Richard R. Rodriguez, 25, Owatonna, revoked license, $131; Aaron L. Roper, 29, Richfield, revoked license, $381, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Gail L. Schauer, 39, Faribault, speeding, $121; Paige N. Swiler, 21, Eau Claire, WI, speeding, $221; Jason J. Truax, 42, Northfield, speeding, $121; Ethan B. Whitney-Rothstein, 20, Owatonna, railroad stop sign, $121; Isaac B. Wuolleh, 36, Waterloo, IA, passing parked emergency vehicle and speeding, $181; Carlton R. Yanke, 41, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $141.

POLICE BLOTTER
Dodge County

Oct. 21

Restraining Order. At 1:25 p.m., deputies responded to a report that a man's daughter was leaving with a subject who she had an order for protection against in the 72300 block of 130th Ave. in Blooming Prairie. The suspect was located and arrested by Mower County Deputies.

Animal. Deputies received an animal complaint from the 400 block of Main St. N. in Mantorville at 5:06 p.m.

Suspicion. At 7:25 p.m., deputies checked on a suspicious vehicle in the 20900 block of 636th St. in Dodge Center.

DWI. Deputies pulled over a motorist in the 700 block of 2nd St. NW in Dodge Center at 9:24 p.m. He or she was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Oct. 22

Fire. A citizen was found to be burning leaves during a burn ban in the 200 block of 4th St. NE in Dodge Center at 2:27 p.m.

Fraud. A Mantorville man reported being the victim of a mail scam in the 800 block of Adams St. at 4:30 p.m.

Order for Protection. At 8:21 p.m., an order for protection was violated in the 200 block of Julia St. in Claremont.

Oct. 24

Suspicious Activity. Deputies responded to a suspicious activity report at a foreclosed home in the 500 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 3:26 p.m.

Oct. 25

Fire. At 9:04 a.m., a Claremont woman called deputies because she smelt smoke in her home but didn't see any fire in the 400 block of County Rd. 1.

Animal. Deputies received a report that cows were in the road at State Hwy. 57 and County Hwy. 22 in West Concord at 10:45 a.m.

Oct. 26

Bite. Deputies responded to a report that a subject was bitten by his or her cat in the 800 block of 1st Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 7:54 a.m.

Fire. At 2:49 p.m., deputies and Hayfield Fire responded to a cornfield fire in the 26200 block of State Hwy. 30 in Hayfield.

Juvenile. Deputies received a juvenile complaint from Hayfield High School at 4:05 p.m.

Oct. 27

Disturbance. Deputies responded to a disturbance where a couple was arguing in a parking lot on 2nd St. NE in Hayfield at 1:26 a.m.

Animal Bite. At 9:06 a.m., a juvenile was bitten by a family dog in the 25800 block of 520th St. in Pine Island.

Vandalism. Deputy took report of property to a fence by a car in the 100 block of 2nd St. NE in Hayfield at 9:49 a.m.

Threats. A Hayfield woman reported that she received threats in the 200 block of Center Ave. S. at 11:52 a.m.

Larceny. At 4:15 p.m., a subject stole a Dodge Center resident's phone charger in the 200 block of Highway

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following cases were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Oct. 19 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Shawn C. Northway, 37, West Concord, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault and terroristic threats. He was sentenced to $130 and 23 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

Thomas P. Ketchum, 43, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of Marijuana and misdemeanor open bottle. The defendant was sentenced to $1,075, 45 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, mental health screening, 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 Oct. 19 – 26:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Cole E. Baldwin, 29, Hayfield, no child passenger restraint system, $130; Aida Y. Beltran, 22, Rochester, speeding and no insurance, $340; James F. Benson, 24, Rochester, possession of Paraphernalia and Marijuana, $280; William G. Diercks, 49, Owatonna, DWI, $480, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, and 1 year of supervised probation; Jesse J. Edelbach, 18, Hayfield, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, $280; Terry P. Eggler, 21, Elgin, expired registration and speeding, $170; Landen A. Hill, 19, Dodge Center, disorderly conduct, $180; Blaine M. Jennings, 23, West Concord, DWI, $505, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment and 1 year of supervised probation; Adam G. Kronebusch, 30, Mankato, speeding, $140; Aurelio P. Lopez, 42, Kasson, expired registration, $110; Antwan L. Loving, 19, Claremont, invalid license, $180; Mitchell A. McBeain, 19, Prior Lake, careless driving and speeding, $380; Brandon M. Schuck, 32, Brownsdale, speeding, $220; Jacob C. Severson, 25, Hayfield, speeding, $220; Lee A. Vietor, 42, Kasson, disorderly conduct, $205, 4 days in county jail, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation.

Kasson Police Department

Darrell C. Abrahams, 59, Claremont, seat belt, $105; Melecio Bugarin, 39, Dodge Center, DWI, $1,010, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, 90 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Todd J. Fjerstad, 45, Dodge Center, collision with unattended vehicle – failure to notify and no insurance, $280 and 1 year of probation; Erik O. Gunhus, 51, Tampa, FL, seat belt, $105; Emily A. Riley, 21, Amboy, seat belt, $105; Lori A. Timmerman, 41, Rochester, speeding, $130; Lucas T. Torres, 27, Elm Grove, WI, speeding, $130; Meagan M. Valdez, 26, Dodge Center, no child passenger restraint system, $130.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Jackie Carroll, 52, Memphis, TN, speeding, $120; Robert J. Gullickson, 46, Kasson, seat belt, $105; Brandon R. May, 30, Rochester, speeding, $380; Nathanial J. Nelson, 26, Rochester, seat belt, $105; Marshall M. Rolfs, 17, Preston, speeding, $140; Shirley A. Roney, 43, Cedar Falls, IA, speeding, $380; Caitlyn E. Salmon, 16, Rochester, speeding, $140; Suzanne A. Sanders, 51, Faribault, speeding, $220; Aaron S. Tarasenko, 37, Dodge Center, speeding, $140.

West Concord Police Department

Mark A. Avery, 68, West Concord, animal running at large, $100; Blaine M. Jennings, 23, West Concord, revoked license, $100, and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction.

Steele Arrests

Owatonna Police

Victoria Lea Wilder, 36, arrested at 8:14 a.m. Oct. 23, probation apprehension and detention order, held for court.

Joseph Maurice Davis, 30, arrested at 4:16 p.m. Oct. 23, warrant arrest, $10,000 bail.

Jeremiah Michael Roberts, 29, arrested at 10:30 a.m. Oct. 24, felony possession, held for court.

Travis Ryan Martin, 32, arrested at 1:36 a.m. Oct. 25, felony fleeing in a motor vehicle, held for court.

Dustin David Craft, 24, arrested Oct. 26, felony controlled substance, $20,000 bail.

Jeffrey Neil Gamble, 26, arrested at 6:26 a.m. Oct. 27, felony theft of motor vehicle, held for court.

Lamario Juquan Sanders, 30, arrested at 7 p.m. Oct. 27, disorderly conduct/failure to appear, $500 bail.

Mark Eugene Minea, 31, arrested at 8 p.m. Oct. 27, DWI, Marijuana, B Card violation and paraphernalia, held for court.

Justin Lee Johnson, 25, arrested at 8:50 p.m. Oct. 28, probation warrant arrest, body only.

Steele County Sheriff

Bonnie Elizabeth Lewis, 30, already in custody, felony extradition hearing, held for court.

Heather Joy Marovich, 35, arrested at 9:57 a.m. Oct. 28, warrant arrest, body only.

Joshua Robert Drabek, 35, arrested at 3:28 p.m. Oct. 28, probation warrant arrest, held for court.

Sarah Jean Zamora, 38, arrested at 4:07 p.m. Oct. 28, warrant arrest, $500 bail.

MN State Patrol

Warsame Hussein Ismail, 31, arrested at 10:15 a.m. Oct. 27, felony narcotics, held for court.

Robert Carl Thoensen, 26, arrested at 10:15 a.m. Oct. 27, felony narcotics, held for court.

Owatonna Fire

Oct. 26

Smoke. Fire personnel assisted with removing smoke or odor in the 1700 block of Hemlock Ave. NE at 1:49 p.m.

Oct. 27

Medical. At 11:21 p.m., fire rescue responded to a medical emergency in the 2900 **block of 38th St. SE.**

No incident. Fire fighters responded to the 100 block of Broadway St. W. at 8:16 p.m. However, they found no incident on arrival.

Oct. 28

Alarm. An alarm system was unintentionally activated in the 200 block of Walnut Ave. S. at 1:06 p.m.

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Steele County Times

Ellendale Living

Updates from NRHEG's superintendent

It is a privilege to serve as your new superintendent. I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet many people throughout the school district and community since my start in July. Thank you for the kind and warm welcome.

Another change of seasons is upon us as we move through fall in preparation for the winter months that are not far away. The school district student activity calendar is in full swing with plenty of excitement, competition, and entertainment to enjoy. I hope you have the opportunity to observe our students in action throughout the school year.

Each day I have the good fortune of seeing the collective efforts being made by many school district employees, parents, and community volunteers to provide our students with wonderful learning opportunities. The success our students experience would not happen without your support. Your engagement in the life of the school district is essential in helping us fulfill our mission each day in "providing students with knowledge, skills and attitudes which enable them to succeed in a globally competitive society."



Carlson

Your involvement in providing input and feedback on how the school district is performing is also important to our overall success as a school district and to our commitment to continuous improvement. The school district is in the process of examining our strategic plan and determining opportunities for improvement. As part of our overall improvement plan focused on supporting and improving teaching and learning, public school boards in Minnesota are required to adopt the World's Best Workforce (WBWF) plan that is intended to be locally owned and developed with community involvement. The plan includes clearly defined goals in five WBWF areas:

- All students meet school readiness goals
- All third-grade students achieve grade-level literacy
- Close the academic achievement gap among all groups
- All students graduate from high school
- All students attain college and career preparedness

School districts are to seek public review and input annually on progress being made within the five areas. The NRHEG School Board will be holding a public hearing as part of the Nov. 16, 2015, regular school board meeting to be held at NRHEG Elementary School in Ellendale, in order to provide the community with feedback on the school district's 2014-15 World's Best Workforce (WBWF Plan) summary. Administration will first present a brief summary of the plan followed by a time for public input.

Residents are encouraged to review a draft of the WBWF plan summary prior to attending the Nov. 16 School Board meeting. The summary can be found on the school district's website at nrheg.k12.mn.us. The WBWF plan includes:

- Goals and benchmarks for student achievement
- Process for evaluating student progress toward meeting academic standards
- System to review and evaluate effectiveness of instruction and curriculum
- Strategies to improve instruction, curriculum and student achievement
- Practices that integrate high-quality instruction, rigorous curriculum, technology and collaborative professional culture that supports teacher quality, performance and effectiveness
- Annual budget for continuing to implement the plan

As previously mentioned above, the November School Board meeting will be held at NRHEG Elementary School in Ellendale. The regular meeting of the NRHEG School Board is held on the third Monday of each month. The meeting is rotated between the Elementary School in Ellendale and the Secondary School in New Richland. The December meeting will be held in New Richland and the January meeting will be held in Ellendale.

Thank you for your continued support and for the difference you make in the lives of our students.

Dale N. Carlson
New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva
Superintendent

Celebrating Halloween in Ellendale



Staff photos by Anna Segner

Starling Bird of Geneva received a piece of candy from Whispering Oak's Assisted Living resident Mary Louspurr.



Finly and Reed Buddach of New Richland showed off their costumes at Whispering Oaks Assisted Living in Ellendale.



NRHEG fourth grade student, Keira Lenort, dressed as a bucket of cheese balls for Halloween and visited Whispering Oaks Assisted Living in Ellendale.

School district hopes for more community involvement

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School District continues to find ways to connect with district members, as well as find out what these same members are thinking moving forward.

During the October school board meeting, School Superintendent Dale Carlson mentioned to school board members his vision of community chats, which is something he is interested in doing.

"The idea was received well by the Board," Carlson said during a phone interview on Friday. He said that the purpose and objective is to listen and allow the school district to share its vision with the district members.

"It is another potential way to share and communicate what's going on in the school district and receive feedback from the community," he said. "I'm a believer that the more opportunity you can provide and have ongoing conversation, we can really hopefully engage the community in different ways."

Carlson is currently working out the logistics including how often, the day of the week, time of day and location. It could also include board members. "I think it is meaningful to have the board involved in this," he said. "They are truly the representatives of the constituents out there."

At the September school board meeting, Carlson and the school board discussed details of a community survey. In part it came about from a defeated referendum over the summer.

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.

School Board President Rick Schultz said they were obviously disappointed and they misread the community. "We felt we gave them input throughout that process," he said. "We are looking for expectations out of the communities on what they can or can't support in this district."

On Friday, Carlson said he is still working with perspective consultants to help with the community survey. He hopes to have a decision on the consultant and moving forward by the Nov. 16 board meeting.

He also said the project timeline is being pushed back a bit. "I was hoping that, by the November meeting, we would have the survey created and ready to go," Carlson said. "We're not going to make that."

The survey's main focus is facility needs in the district, but the school board will also be looking at other issues in the school district. "We are re-examining the strategic planning process and where we're at," Carlson said. "This might be a good opportunity to reach out to the community and ask some other questions, learn as much as we can from the community and give the community an opportunity for input as well."

Schultz said he is proud of the district, the board and the administration, and he does value public input. "We are hoping this is a more comfortable situation to truly express their honest opinion," he said. "This a fact-finding mission."

One thing that has encouraged Schultz as a board member is that several community members have come back to him and said, "Please don't give up. There are things we want to see improved as far as facilities in our district."

Overall, Schultz said the board is trying to be respectful to the community and find out what are the needs of the community. "And that is what our objective is."

Weekly crossword

on Page 6B

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Medford Living

A year in the life of the City Administrator



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Late October marked Andy Welti's one year anniversary as Medford's city administrator.

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

October marked Andi Welti's one year anniversary as Medford's city administrator. Looking back on that first year, he admits that "not one day is ever the same."

His responsibilities are vast, as he answers to all of Medford's citizens in one way or another. Welti laughs that he receives at least 25-30 phone calls a day on average.

Welti is working directly with human resources issues and policies, analyzing budgets in order to make decisions, doing ordinance compliance, preparing information for economic development meetings and gathering information for the city council.

"Often times, the responsibilities of a city administrator require you to remain neutral by simply researching and providing background information and providing insight," he said. "This often involves talking with other city administrators from other communities."

When he began his position a year ago in late October, he had the goal to "engage in the community, help the community to realize its potential and do work necessary to reach that goal."

A major accomplishment achieved in Welti's first year was the creation of a zero to 20 year capital plan that lays out the major needs to be anticipated. "The capital improvement is in effort to put the city in a much better position in making decisions about the budget," said Welti. "It is a major accomplishment for the city."

Welti has focused on business retention and expansion, as he has been in the community learning about the businesses and their needs.

Welti identified the number one concentration for the future as the need for more housing.

"We are learning from residents, especially seniors in the community, that they want town house type options, something smaller and easier to maintain," said Welti. "The community is at risk of seniors moving out of the community to go to a community that offers that type of living."

The need is for more town home, apartment or rental-styled living. Welti identified seniors, young professionals and families in transition as the groups that have been seeking this style of housing.

The City of Medford is partnering with Owatonna Housing Redevelopment Authority. Welti said that the city is hoping to have a housing study completed by next year. The housing study will indicate the needs for developers working in the area.

Welti's diligence and analytical mindset is appreciated by all of the city staff and Mayor Lois Nelson. She appreciates that he has relieved some responsibility from all of the staff by increasing efficiency. Nelson, herself, admits that she probably works for the city five to 10 hours less a week, thanks to Welti.

"We were just working on something together yesterday, and I mentioned to him how much I appreciate his analytical and low key responses, especially compared to my responses, since I tend to be a high flyer," laughed Nelson. "The community is gaining a true respect for him. We are hopeful that we can keep him challenged and busy for many years to come!"

Welti said that he appreciates how welcoming the community has been toward him. He has found Medford to be positively similar to his hometown, Plainview, Minnesota. He looks forward to many more years as the city administrator.

Medford School District makes goals to improve MCA scores

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

In order to continue improvement, every year the Medford School District sets goals for student achievement. These goals are used at the elementary and high school as the basis for their school level goals.

The goals presented are based on improving percent proficient in reading and math for all students. There are also goals to lessen the gap between the overall student body achievement and students that receive free or reduced lunch, students in special education and English learners.

"These are district-wide goals that are focused on growth," said Superintendent Rich Dahman. "These goals are made based on two things. One, we have to make sure that the goals are a challenge. And two, the goals also have to be realistic."

The district saw some major areas of concern in the scores of the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA tests). Those concerns were primarily in reading and math, so the goals are catered to those needs.

The first goal of the plan is to "increase the percent of all students tested who are proficient as measured by the MCA III Reading Assessment to 62 percent in May 2016." An estimated 55.4 percent of students tested at Medford School were proficient on the MCA III Reading Assessment in May of 2015, compared to the Minnesota state average of 59.5 percent proficient.

The second goal is to "increase the percent of all students tested who are proficient as measured by the MCA III Math Assessment to 62 percent in May 2016." On the MCA III Math Assessment from May 2015, only 54.6 percent of all students tested at Medford School were proficient, compared to the Minnesota state average of 60.2 percent student proficiency.

The third goal regards increasing the percentage of students tested who are proficient as measured by the MCA III Reading and Math Assessments in May 2016 in the three student groups listed above.

Of the students that utilize the free or reduced price lunch program at Medford, 39 percent were proficient in reading and 39.4 percent were proficient in math, compared to the state average for this group at 40.4 percent proficient in reading and 40.8 percent in math. The district goal is to increase the proficiency for this group to 45 percent in reading and 45 percent in math.

An estimated 17.7 percent of special education students that took the MCA III Assessment in May of 2015 were proficient in reading and 12.7 percent in math, compared to the state average for special education students at 30 percent in reading and 30.9 percent in math. The district's goal is to increase these amounts to 30 percent in reading and 30 percent in math.

Close to 19.2 percent of the tested students that are English learners were proficient in reading, compared to the state average of 17.5 percent. In math, 19.2 percent were proficient, compared to the state average of 25.4 percent. The district goals increase percentage of proficiency to 30 percent in reading and math for these students.

Dahman develops the district goals with input from the principals. The goals were approved at the school board meeting on Oct. 19. From there, each school adopts the goals and they are developed by the school Site Leadership Team.

City in final stages of agreement with Ritchie Brothers

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Medford City Council members unanimously approved an agreement based on Ritchie Brothers Auctioneer's request to restructure the $414,000 worth of trunk fees that Ritchie Brothers have due on July 30, 2017, during their Oct. 26 meeting.

The City of Medford has denied Ritchie Brothers' request to forgive all or part of the $414,000 in trunk fees. Instead, the City will propose to Ritchie Brothers that the company may pay the $414,000 of trunk fees over a five year period, beginning in 2016.

According to Meford's City Administrator Andy Welti, it was communicated to Ritchie Brothers early on in negotiation that 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 Brothers development."

As part of the agreement, Council decided that Ritchie Brothers' payments may be incorporated with the company's property tax payments. Payments made on the outstanding balance after the original due date of July 2017 will be assessed a 4 percent interest rate, despite Ritchie Brother's CEO Tim Kander's inquiry about negotiating the interest rate.

While Ritchie Brothers has no intention of leaving Medford, they are in the process of growth and better utilization of space. Due to the increased success with online auctions, Ritchie Brothers has less need for all 120 acres that they currently own.

The initial intention based on the Ritchie Brothers Auctioneers Project Design Narrative was to initially develop 70 of the 120 acres. However, due to online markets and digital platforms, they have little need to expand into that space.

Kandor communicated interest in selling the 50 acres of undeveloped land west of the building as agricultural land. 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 they would like to see that land developed.

Upon the 50 acres of land being sold, the council decided that Ritchie Brothers must pay the remaining balance.

Welti said that the agreement drawn up at the October council meeting is in the process of being approved by Ritchie Brothers. From there, the final agreement will be up for approval at the November or December city council meeting.

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THE FACES BEHIND THE STORIES

Laura Berndt
NEWS EDITOR

ORIGINALLY FROM: Kasson-Mantorville, MN

FAMILY: Parents Dave and Sue

FAVORITE PAST TIME: Spending time with my family and friends

PETS: Kitties Rizzo and Molly

BEFORE THE TIMES: I've always been a writer.

WORD THAT DESCRIBES YOU BEST: Inquisitive

THREE WORDS FRIENDS WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE YOU: Thoughtful, dreamer, happy

FAVORITE BOOK: Anything by Diane Ackerman or Stephen King

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE MEAL FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE: Mom's homemade spaghetti (and Sprite)

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH A MILLION DOLLARS: Save what I need to pay my bills, buy a really nice car and give the rest to someone who needs it more than I do.

LAST MOVIE YOU WENT TO: Vacation

IF YOU COULD HIRE AN ASSISTANT, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE THEM DO: Be my chauffeur

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME FOR A WEEK, WHAT YEAR WOULD YOU TRAVEL TO? 1994



Steele County Times
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Owatonna Living

Sixteen years of auto detailing

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Keeping a business open for 16 years is no easy task, and Troy Lembke, owner of Elite Auto Detailing, is proud of the obstacles that his small business has overcome.

"I've faced a lot of adversities over the 16 years, and I'm proud of that," said Lembke. "I've seen a lot of small businesses come and go."

Lembke began Elite Auto Detailing in 1999. His friend Jon Held, owner of Held's Bus Service in Kenyon, recognized Lembke's talent and encouraged him to start the auto detailing business.

"I have always gotten a kick out of buying something and cleaning it up to look nicer than when I bought it," Lembke said. "I've always been detailed and fussy. I like to keep my stuff clean."

He does both interior and exterior auto detailing on all kinds of vehicles, occasionally even on motorcycles. He admits that the work is not always glamorous and often physically demanding.

"I like the work. I've always kept myself in good health, so I don't mind the labor," he said. "It is a lot of manual labor, using muscles all day, or down on your knees. I'm not rich by any means. I never had the intentions of being rich. This is an honest living."

Lembke has remained consistent in the quality of work that he promises customers. He is also proud to say that prices have remained nearly the same as they were in 1999. He has a general price, and if a vehicle might need extra attention, he notifies the customer prior.

He has many customers, like Lori Heslep, that have been coming to him since 1999. "I think we were one of his first customers," said Heslep. "Oh, we've had multiple cars done by Troy. He does such a good job. In fact, people sometimes will comment that we must have gotten a new car after he has worked on it."

"He is such a hard worker, and he does such a great job. He is very detailed from the inside-out, under the hood, all around, top to bottom," she said. "If you like to hang on to cars, like we do, it is a great deal."

As Lembke pointed out, the work he does is as his sign reads: "satisfaction guaranteed."

Lembke said that one of his favorite parts of the work is making people happy. "I like seeing the smile on their faces when they see how nice their vehicle can look," he said. "Being around all these years, you get to know people. I see people around town and they know me, and sometimes they'll stop me and tell me that they like the work I do."

He remembered fondly working on a Cadillac XLR with a retail value of over more than $100,000. He also enjoys working on cars for special occasions such as weddings or prom.

Another perk of being a small business owner and the project-based nature of auto detailing is that he can set his own hours, which has made spending time with family easier. Lembke has three children Macie, T.J. and Zachary, and he is overjoyed to be a grandfather to baby McKenna.

"I have so much in common with my kids. We just have a good time together," said Troy. "And McKenna. She loves grandpa. It's like having Macie all over again."

Lembke also recently got married to his wife Heather. "The best thing that has ever happened to me is meeting Heather," he said. "We just click. I like to keep my corner of life happy."

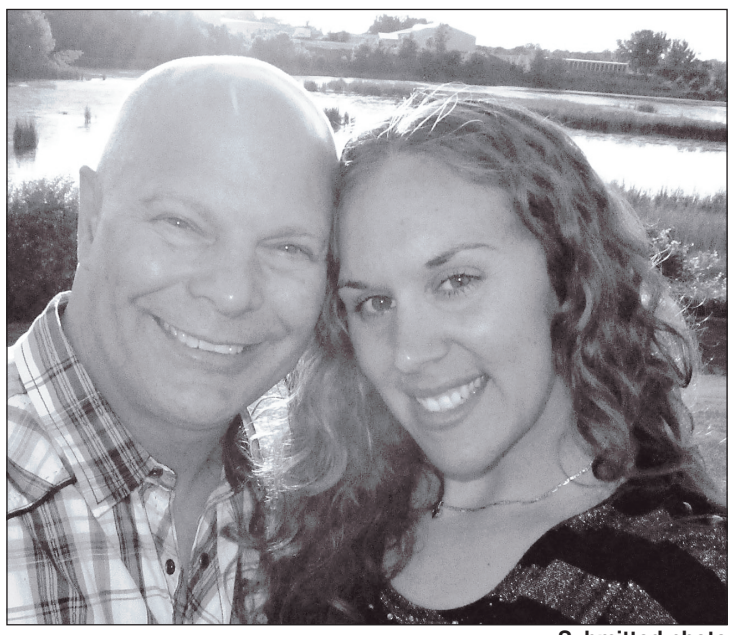
Heather said that she enjoys helping him out around the shop so that they can spend time together.

The hours for Auto Elite Detailing are by appointment only. One can set an appointment by calling 507-413-2287, and the shop is located at 1822 1/2 S. Cedar St.



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Owner of Elite Auto Detailing Troy Lembke is proud of 16 years of business.



Submitted photo

Troy and Heather Lembke got married in early October. Heather enjoys helping Troy in the shop of his business Elite Auto Detailing.

Grand opening for Farmers Insurance

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Farmers Insurance Agency Owner Lindsay Macht was all smiles when she cut the ribbon outside of her office location downtown Owatonna on Vine Street at the grand opening ceremony on Oct. 29.

While Macht has been working out of her office since June 1, she recently joined Owatonna Chamber of Commerce, and the Chamber was interested in celebrating with a grand opening. After the ribbon cutting ceremony, there was an open house at Macht's office.

The location of the office was ideal for Macht given that it has a first floor with great visibility and a large window.

Macht received her bachelor's degree in business administration from Minnesota School of Business and spent eight years working for Mayo Clinic. She decided that she wanted to sell insurance, so she took her insurance state license test over a year ago and joined the Farmers Insurance team.

Native to Owatonna, Macht is more than excited to be located in Owatonna. "I am excited about the opportunity to serve Owatonna and the surrounding area's insurance needs," said Macht.

Macht said that she sells home, auto, life and business insurance.

Farmers Insurance District Manager of Southern Minnesota Sam Kwainoe was present at the grand opening ceremony. He told the Chamber that Macht was a perfect fit for the opening an office in Owatonna.

"She knew that we were looking for a third person to be located here. We needed someone who works hard and wants to succeed," said Kwainoe. "We are excited for Lindsay. Congratulations!"

Macht's office hours are Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or after hours by appointment.



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Owatonna Chamber of commerce helped celebrate Lindsay Macht in the ribbon cutting grand opening ceremony to her Farmers Insurance office location on Oct. 29.

GRIEF RELIEF



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

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Owatonna Living

Ron Racek retires from Owatonna Township Board after 41 years



Submitted photo

After announcing his retirement, township board member Ron Racek was recently recognized for his 41 years of service to the Owatonna Township Board. Above, seated, is Ron Racek. Standing, from left to right, are current township board members Garrett Miller, Glen Nelson, Jerry Katzung, Dan Stursa and Lyle Meschke.

New Koda director of nursing wants to be part of the solution

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Director of Nursing at Koda Community Living Sharon McLane enjoys the positive impact of her career at Koda.

After 18 years of working in management for the Owatonna Hospital, Sharon McLane decided that she wanted a change, but her physical drive to work changed very little.

On June 1, she started as director of nursing at Koda Community Living, which connects with the Owatonna Hospital. Koda is a separate entity than the Mayo Clinic Health System and Allina Hospital in Owatonna, though Koda collaborates with both.

That collaboration was an aspect that attracted McLane to Koda. Since she worked at the hospital for more than 18 years, she thought that she could aid in the collaboration process. She also felt that Koda's core values in hospitality, stewardship, respect, justice and integrity suited her.

"I just decided that I wanted to be a part of the solution here. It's about doing what is right for the community," she said. "I have been in nursing for over 40 years, and I've worked full-time my whole life. I just want to be able to retire saying that I did something that made a difference."

Koda's CEO and Administrator Dave Vandergon said that he is overjoyed to have McLane as part of the team. "She is a great person to have on board with us," he said. "She has experience with acute and subacute skilled care, so she has that equal experience that we need here."

When McLane began with Koda, she announced that she would give it five years maximum before her retirement. McLane has a lot of goals to accomplish in those five years, not for herself but for the betterment of Koda's residents and employees.

When asked about the challenges of the position, McLane laughed and said "I don't call it challenges, I call it opportunities, and I have several opportunities." One of those "opportunities" is within staffing. She has been working with Vandergon on a tuition reimbursement program that helps people develop their career at Koda.

"We've been struggling with staffing, but we want them to be looking at employment here as a pathway to developing their career," she said.

McLane prefers to conduct all of the nursing interviews. "I get a sense of who they are. I hire them if I think that they care, not if they have the skills," she said. "You can teach skills, but you cannot teach someone to genuinely care. Nursing has turned into a lucrative position. It wasn't that in the past. People did the work to take care of people, so we are looking for people that want to take care."

Beyond the interviewing and hiring, much of McLane's work as director of Nursing is within policies and looking into "quality of care intervals." An example of quality of care might be making sure that residents are cared for, making sure that staffing levels are appropriate, or creating a game plan for a reduced work force.

McLane loves her work because it requires her to look at the big picture by enhancing the program and the staff. "I do not micromanage. Fear and creativity do not go hand in hand," she said. "You learn from your mistakes.

"My goal is to make this place a five-star facility," she added. "That is decided based on those quality of care indicators…such as re-hospitalization, skin care, resident's rehab or weight loss."

Talking with the residents and their families is the heart and soul of where McLane finds inspiration for her work. "I love the people here. I am an extrovert, and I need to have people around me," she said. "I love talking with the residents. They are like a wealth of information."

McLane has been in nursing for 40 years, and throughout those years, she has worked in long term care facilities.

"I think I like the challenge of nursing homes. I love elderly people, I do," she commented. Beyond her work as the director of nursing, McLane teaches a course for individuals living with chronic illness as part of community education.

Before she retires, she wants to build a program that works for her staff and "groom" the person that takes over her position so that it is a smooth transition for the whole staff.

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Flash mob strikes Owatonna men's clothing store

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

Keith Holman, right, of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce, toasts to Greg Krueger, left, during a surprise visit to Krueger's store, St. Clair's for Men, by some BP Chamber members on Thursday night, Oct. 29.

Was it a Flash Mob or Smart Mob gathering that unexpectedly struck St. Clair's for Men in Owatonna on a given Thursday night, Oct. 29?

What is a flash mob anyway?

According to Wikipedia, a flash mob is a group of people who assemble suddenly in a public place and perform an unusual and seemingly pointless act for a brief time before quickly dispersing. They are often used for the purposes of entertainment, satire or artistic expression, Wikipedia says.

Becky Noble, director of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce, hatched the idea of having a flash mob or gathering of BP Chamber members land at St. Clair's for Men to pay tribute to owner Greg Krueger who is retiring after 35 years in the men's clothing business.

Krueger is closing the store effective Dec. 19. He has been running a monster sale at the store at 117 Cedar Ave. N. in Owatonna since Sept. 30.

The Blooming Prairie Chamber troupe definitely surprised Krueger. Ten chamber members brought some wine, meat, crackers, cheese and cookies as an offering of celebration to Krueger.

Representing the BP Chamber were: Becky Noble, chamber director, and husband Mark; Keith and Carol Holman, Holman Insurance; Waco Vandal, Vandal's Family Market; Judy and Howard Lestrud; Cindi Hansen; Ron and Debbie Hensley, People's Press; and Laurie Johnson, Cedar Travel.

"I was told to be here at quarter after 5 and knew nothing about this," said a surprised Krueger. Answering a personal telephone call, Krueger cut it short saying, "My friends from Blooming Prairie are here."

Krueger said that he may now have more time to become involved, he will consider an affiliate membership to the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce. "This is pretty special," Krueger said with emotion. His business is also a member of the Owatonna and Faribault chambers.

"Thanks for dressing me over the years," laughed chamber member Keith Holman.

While mingling with his fellow chamber members, Krueger also found time to wait on a few customers. "We can shop, too," Holman offered.

The St. Clair's sale now features a 30 percent savings after the marked sale price. Krueger hired a company to help him line up the sale. "The results have far exceeded my expectations," Krueger said.

"On the first day of the sale, we were mobbed," Krueger related. He said he found himself torn by trying to help many of his customers at the same time even though he had other sales people on the floor. Customers wanted Krueger to fit them for a suit and others wanted him to pick out a shirt and tie for them.

"Greg knows what I should buy, and his absence will make a difference in the way I shop," admitted customer Holman.

"Our inventory is going down fast, and I can now spread out my suits on the racks," Krueger said. He said he started out with 1,100 suits and sport coats.

Krueger said his work will not be finished after Dec. 19. He said he has extended his lease for six more weeks following that date and will be sorting out window displays in the basement.

Looking toward the future, Krueger said he plans to work someplace. "My doctor has told me to get off my feet or it will only get worse," Krueger commented. Krueger and his wife Bonnie are also expecting their first grandchild in January.

It's been a busy year for Krueger at his store, first celebrating the store's 125th anniversary last May. "You don't look a day over 99," joked fellow chamber member Waco Vandal.

As his friends departed the store, Krueger said he would "clean up" the leftover goodies brought by them. "You are all amazing," he saluted his fellow chamber members.



Greg Krueger (center, white shirt and tie) of St. Clair's for Men of Owatonna was pleasantly surprised by members of the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce paying a "flash mob" visit to him last Thursday, Oct. 29. Krueger is retiring and will close his store effective Dec. 19. Shown from left to right are: Debbie Ensley, Mark Noble, Judy Lestrud, Becky Noble, Krueger, Cindi Hansen, Keith Holman, Carol Holman, Waco Vandal and Ron Ensley.

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SPOOKY SIGHTS ON HALLOWEEN



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Siblings Zoey (Luigi), Caliyea (monkey), and Nifaya (princess) Perkins of Blooming Prairie played many games together at the Blooming Prairie Serviceman's Club Halloween Party.



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Even baby Miles Halverson of Blooming Prairie suited up in his Halloween elf costume.



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Second-grader Justin Nease of Blooming Prairie enjoyed many of the "spooky" games at the Halloween Party at the Serviceman's Club.



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Second-grader Hope Mikesell of Ellendale enjoyed trick-or-treating at the Whispering Oak's Assisted Living Residence.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Four-year-old Isaac Stoen, also known as "Thomas the Train," enjoys coloring a pumpkin during the Blooming Prairie Branch Library's costume party.



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Fourth grader Adrian Trevino (left) of Owatonna enjoyed shooting hoops for treats at the Halloween Party at St. Mary's School.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Emma Kormann, age two, carefully adds some color to her artwork during the costume party. Emma dressed as a beautiful butterfly for the occasion.



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Regan Gruenzer, Annika S. and Miura Gruezner (front) enjoyed dressing up and attending the Knights of Columbus Halloween Party at St. Mary's School in Owatonna.



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Evan (first grade) and Isaac Westphal (preschool) took advantage of the photo opportunity at Blooming Prairie's Halloween Party at the Serviceman's Club.

HOMETOWN EXTRA
Owatonna



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Repurposed items of wood can be turned into creative pieces of décor, like the wooden pieces above. The "Twas the night before Christmas" piece is made from bits of wood and an old window screen.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Patty Hocking's creation, featuring a snowman, is just one example of the group's more current works. Each of the crafters have now branched out into different mediums or grown as painters.

Friendship keeps local craft show going strong for 20 years



Submitted Photo

After many happy years of painting and crafting together, the group still enjoys hosting their annual craft show. Pictured above, from left to right in the front row, are current group members Nancy Kepka, Patty Hocking, Mary Trautman and Deb French. In the second row are Mandra Peterson, Rose Halla and Melanie Teders. In the back row is Nancy Penning. Nancy Nelson, Katie Ladwig, Becca Penning. Kathy Grenier and Denise Running are not pictured.

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

What began with a shared love of painting has now grown into a multi-generational event that's garnered a loyal following.

This year, the Creative Crafts show celebrates its 20th anniversary.

The Creative Crafts event will take place on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Warsinski Chalet in Owatonna's Morehouse Park (350 West School Street). A group of friends hosts the event, and each person brings their own creations, which are all homemade, to share and sell. In addition to free coffee and bars, visitors will find an impressive assortment of crafts, ranging from painted pieces to jewelry, and a little bit of everything in between. The group also hosts a "make and take" class during the show, inviting guests of all ages to join them in making a fun craft that they can take home. There will even be hourly door prizes.

"Over the years, crafters have come and gone," said Patty Hocking, one of the original six crafters who began hosting the event. Five of the six original crafters still attend the event each year. The group has fun getting together, sharing their creations and simply enjoying one another's company.

"I can never remember any of us having arguments or words with each other, even after all these years," said crafter Nancy Penning, another original group member.

The original six women began meeting on a regular basis to take painting classes with artist Nancy Nelson around 1993. Some of the women were co-workers, while others had children who attended the same school. Together, the painters would practice "pattern painting," or painting wooden cutouts, step-by-step. Painter Eunice Seykora began to enlist help from her husband, Al, to cut out the wooden pieces they needed.

The group soon found that they enjoyed their monthly classes so much, they decided to continue meeting longer than they originally planned. The original group included Nancy Penning, Nancy Nelson, Deb French, Patty Hocking, Eunice Seykora and Denise Running.

"We would meet once a month at Nancy Nelson's house," said Hocking. "She had this small room in her basement with a painting table, and she would have all our cutout patterns for us and then she would show us how to make the brush strokes, shading, floating… all the different ways of painting. It was only supposed to go on for a short time, and all these years, we've never stopped getting together. We don't get together to paint projects any more, but we still get together to do craft shows."

After about two years of painting together, Nancy Nelson suggested that the group hold a sale together because they were producing so many nice things. (Patty and Nancy Penning, however, are quick to note that they still felt like novices when comparing their own work with Nancy Nelson's.)

The group hosted its first show in 1995 at the "community building" at the Steele County Fairgrounds. The group hosted the event there for around three years before relocating to the Chalet at Morehouse Park.

One year, a flood drenched the city, and the group held its event at a golf course, instead. The next year, the group returned to the Chalet once again, and have held the annual event there every year since. "The atmosphere of the Chalet is warm and wonderful," Hocking said. "It's cozy and rustic."

Over time, the painters progressed from "simple" pattern paintings (even the simplest patterns still require finesse and great attention to detail) to more elaborate works. Many of the original painters have now learned to paint freehand or have branched into new mediums.

Nancy Nelson now makes a variety of items, including blankets, aprons and jewelry. Patty Hocking and Nancy Penning enjoy repurposing pieces of wood and other items and turning them into new works of art. An old chair, box or even a discarded window screen might become a source of inspiration for the two artists, who are constantly taking on new challenges and projects.

> 'That is the bottom line: we love each other. We love each other's company.'
>
> -Patty Hocking

"What one person might throw away, we will be quick to grab to make it into something," said Hocking, with a laugh.

As the friends have grown in their craft, they've also worked to use their talents to help others. "We firmly believe in giving back to the community," Penning said, explaining that the crafters are happy to make pieces for silent auctions, benefits and other causes.

"Whether it's individual benefit for cancer or group, if there's a need and we know how to fill it, we'll help," said Hocking. "Our group is very giving." The group also volunteers its time to help with events, like the upcoming Festival of Trees, whenever possible.

Some members of the group are still working, while others have retired. Still, each crafter believes that it's important to devote time giving back to other people in need.

Over time, the group has also made other small adjustments to the show. At first, the ladies counted all the money by hand and later began using a cash register. Now, they can even accept credit cards, using technology that connects to their iPads or cell phones. Penning and Hocking reminisce about when their young children helped out with the cash register, adding that these children have since grown into adults.

Although the artists do sell their crafts, they also admit that the event's purpose isn't to make money. "I don't think, for any of us, that it's proven to be about the money," Penning said. "We just like to show our work and we love when people buy it." Admiring each other's new creations, she said, is just as much fun as sharing their art with the customers who visit the show.

This year's show takes place during "Widow's Weekend," or the firearm deer-hunting opener. Many other shows and events are also scheduled for this weekend in Owatonna. Hocking said the show is a great way to kick off the holiday gift-shopping season and encourages visitors to check out some of the other events happening in Owatonna that day, as well.

Over time, the original group has welcomed new members. Some are related to other group members, while others are co-workers, neighbors and friends. New group members include Nancy Kepka, Mary Trautman, Mandra Peterson, Rose Halla, Melanie Teders, Katie Ladwig, Becca Penning and Kathy Grenier.

At this time, Hocking and Penning believe their group has reached its maximum capacity, at least for now. Although they would love to welcome more artists to join the fun, they also admit that the Chalet is usually overflowing with items on the day of the show. Every nook, cranny and surface of the Chalet is adorned with crafts of all kinds, making for a unique shopping experience that's sure to offer a little something for everyone.

Still, the group adheres to one rule: all items at the sale must be hand-made. While they may incorporate a "manufactured" item into the artistic process, the finish product must be something they've created themselves.

Through the years, there's also one other aspect of the show that hasn't changed: the group still loves getting together. "That is the bottom line: we love each other," said Hocking. "We love each other's company. We've been there when there have been some tough times and some losses. It's just a wonderful pasttime."

The group also enjoys seeing familiar faces return to the show each year. The event's make and take class has also gathered a loyal following. As they celebrate their 20th year of the Creative Crafts show, the group hopes to see a few new faces visit the Chalet this Saturday, Nov. 7.

This year's show will feature garden art, sewn fabric snowmen, greeting cards, wine and cork button art, painted windows and screens, planters, many fall and Christmas decorations and much, much more. Every piece is one-of-a-kind and is hand-made by local crafters.

"We enjoy the day so much; it's so much fun all the time," said Penning.

Creative Crafts

Saturday, Nov. 7 • 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Warsinski Chalet, Morehouse Park
350 West School Street
Free refreshments, make and take classes, hourly door prizes and crafts galore



Submitted Photo

The original painters are pictured at their first craft show. Above, from left right, are Nancy Penning, Nancy Nelson, Deb French, Patty Hocking and Eunice Seykora. Denise Running is not pictured.



Submitted Photo

Nancy Nelson, who taught the painting class that brought the group together, is pictured above with one of her paintings. She's also wearing one of her handmade necklaces, another of her many talents.



War Periods:

WWI: April 6, 1917-Nov. 11, 1918 • **WWII :** Dec. 7, 1941 - Dec. 31, 1946 **Korea:** June 27, 1950 - Jan. 31, 1955 • **Vietnam:** Aug. 5, 1964 - May 7, 1975 **Desert Storm:** Aug 2, 1990 - June 7, 1991

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RED RIBBON WEEK

Continued from Page 1C

involved: the school, the community and parents. All together, we can really create a nice safety net. Classroom education for kids is just one part of it, but when we come at it from all angles, we can build a much better program."

In Blooming Prairie, elementary students each received pencils, purchased by the SDF Coalition, with positive messages about their character and proudly stating, "I'm Drug Free!"

In past years, Blooming Prairie K-12 school social worker Ranae Berg said that a grant was used to help purchase supplies for Red Ribbon Week. This year, the grant was unavailable, so she especially appreciates the Coalition's assistance. The Coalition also helped fund last year's Red Ribbon Week activities at Blooming Prairie Elementary School.

"I really do appreciate that, because I think it's nice for the kids to get something," said Berg. "I pick pencils that say something meaningful; hopefully they can look at the pencil and it will be a good reminder of this year and how important their character is."

The Blooming Prairie elementary students (and staff) also enjoyed participating in dress-up days.

In Medford, students also enjoyed participating in dress-up days, in addition to contests, creating posters and classroom discussions. This year's Red Ribbon Week theme in Medford was "Do Jobs not Drugs."

Owatonna students also participated in SDF Coalition sponsored activities during Red Ribbon Week, beginning with a special kick-off event in Central Park on Monday and wrapping up with the fourth grade prevention poster contest and pizza party on Friday at the Morehouse Chalet.

Although NRHEG activities were not sponsored by the Coalition, the school district also took part in Red Ribbon Week. The High School Ambassadors hosted a number of activities and encouraged their peers to sign a pledge promising to remain drug free.

For all students, the week served as a reminder about the dangers of drugs and the importance of staying sober and healthy. "Drug education and prevention is really important," said Berg. "It's not only teaching this at school, but in our homes and communities, as well. Parents need to have the conversations with their kids."

Reed said that he was happy to hear people talking about issues like drug abuse and prevention during Red Ribbon Week. "We had kids talking about it, being aware that drug use of any kind can lead to problems," he said. "What kind of results that will have down the road, we don't know, but at least it did its job to get people talking about it."

Reed also encourages parents to continue that discussion at home. Although students may learn about the dangers of drugs in school, he said it's also important for parents to talk with their kids. "Parents often assume their kids just know they should not use drugs," Reed said. "We want parents to actively talk with them about it."

The SDF Coalition has a number of resources on their website that can help parents start a conversation with their kids. The SDF Coalition's website is http://steelecountysafeanddrugfree.com/.

Owatonna's Red Ribbon week kick-off

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

It was a fun kick-off for Red Ribbon week at Central Park in Owatonna on Oct. 26, as families with students of all ages came out to celebrate choosing a drug free lifestyle!

Red Ribbon Week in Owatonna is hosted by Students Helping Others Choose (SHOC) and local Noon Kiwanis with support from local businesses.

There were games, rock wall climbing, face painting and fun educational activities at the kick off. The Owatonna Police Department was present to talk with the community, and there was even an opportunity to see how difficult it is to "walk the line" while wearing drunk goggles.

Students received red wristbands as symbol for their pledge to maintain a drug free life style.

"This is really about promoting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle," said SHOC faculty advisor Nancy Williams. "We want the younger kids to see artists, basketball players, carolers and older students and say 'oh, they're cool, and they don't drink beer or smoke weed.'"

SHOC officer and senior Anna Hagen said that the kick-off event was a success and that she thought it was "great to see all of the kids excited about a drug free lifestyle."

"I like that students can learn about and become aware of drugs in a safe environment," said Hagen. "They can go home and use that information in a safe way, and they can know how to approach situations and avoid peer pressure."

Each year SHOC hosts a Red Ribbon Week poster contest for fourth graders. The 2015 Red Ribbon Week winning posters were on display on the bandstand at the Kick-off and will be on display in the windows of local businesses. Other posters are displayed around the high school.

Winners from Wilson are Sam Sam Aweis Mohamed Ali, Henry Hilgendorf, Luke Schwabe and Monsetrrat Pimentel. McKinley poster contest winners are Justin Gronli, Mason Kaplan, Victoria Leon, Craig Doyon, David Timmerman and Lillian Hunst. Washington winners are Alex Sivret, Aurie Howe, Molly Achterkirch, Carsyn Brady, Sadie Fox and Ella Heyne. The Lincoln poster winners are Wyatt Newkirk, Norah Sletten, Jake Mensink, Payton Newkirk, Paytyn Struss, Riley Casper and Sierra Rocco. St. Mary's winners are Jacob Ginskey, Aleah Anderson, Kyra DeWitz, and Ruthy Weckman.

Poster contest winner received a pizza party on Oct. 30.

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Happy Hearts Daycare in Dodge Center has full time openings. M-F 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Call Theresa at 1-507-421-8416 46-47-48nc

Substitute Cook and/ or Food Deliverer for noon meal program in Owatonna.

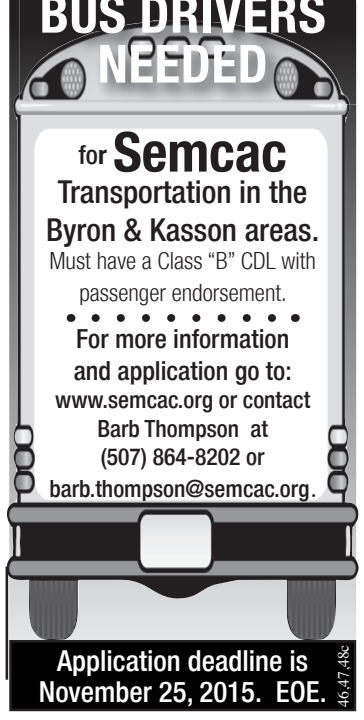


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Applications must be postmarked by is November 13, 2015. EOE. 46c

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MISCELLANEOUS

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (SEMMCHRA) will be held at the SEMMCHRA Main Office, 134 East Second Street, Wabasha, MN 55981 on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. The public is welcome to attend. 46c

Douglas United Methodist Church Annual Turkey Dinner with all the fixings, Nov. 7 4-7 p.m., adults $10, kids 5-10 yrs. $5, 4 yrs. and under free, take-outs available, 281-3526. 46c

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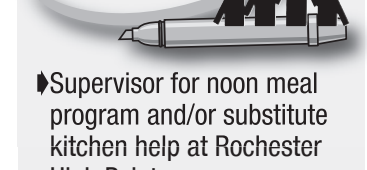


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The Calibration Technician provides gage calibration, repair, & servicing on our customers' gaging and measuring devices, including dimensional, electronic, torque, force, pressure, mass, and hard gaging. Work includes repairing of dimensional, mechanical, and/or electronic instruments, as well as on-site field service requiring some travel and occasional overtime.
This position would be primarily focused in the area of electronic calibrations, including defining procedures, equipment needs, training, trouble-shooting, repairs, etc. Other duties will include all types of calibration work and customer service support.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, & ABILITIES:

1. Formal electronics training and a strong electronics aptitude (required)
2. Attention to detail and accuracy of work. (required)
3. Communication, computer, interaction, planning, & organizing skills. (required)
4. Physical abilities to lift, stand/maneuver, take readings, etc, related to conducting calibration & repair activities, both in the lab and on-site in the field. (required)
5. Hands-on calibration experience, or ability to be trained in calibrations, including calibrations of O-scopes, HiPot, counters, power supplies, meters, thermocouples, etc with Fluke 5500 calibrator. (desired) (Military or PMEL training is a plus.)
6. Technical knowledge and experience in calibration operations, uncertainty analysis, proficiency testing, and general metrology. (desired)
7. ASQ Certified Calibration Technician certificate. (desired)

NORTHSTAR CALIBRATION
Gaging and Calibration Services

If interested, send resume to: John Moorhouse, President
Northstar Calibration, Inc.1045 26th Place NW Owatonna, MN 55060
john@northstarcalibration.com • www.northstarcalibration.com

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Agricultural Mechanic

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Seneca Foods Corporation, a local food packaging and distribution facility located approximately 35 miles southwest of the Twin Cities, currently has a full time employment opportunity for an Agricultural Mechanic.

Responsibilities will include maintenance of agricultural equipment, trouble shooting and seasonal staff supervision for a specific harvest crew. Qualifications should include two-year mechanical degree and/or equivalent work experience, good mechanical repair and trouble shooting skills, strong attention to detail and accuracy, and willingness and ability to work and function in a team environment. Proficiency in at least one mechanical skill area is strongly preferred: hydraulics, diesel mechanic, etc.

Seneca offers a competitive wage, excellent benefit package and a flexible work schedule October-May. If interested please apply in person or call for an application at:

Human Resources Department
Seneca Foods Corporation
600 5th Street SE • Montgomery, MN 56069
507-364-8641 • 507-364-8273 Fax
ssherman@senecafoods.com

Seneca Foods is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or veteran status.

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Electrician

SENECA

Seneca Foods Corporation, a local food packaging and distribution facility located approximately 35 miles southwest of the Twin Cities, currently has a full time employment opportunity for an Electrician.

Responsibilities include installing and maintaining plant equipment to meet specifications, repair and trouble shooting of electrical wiring, PLC's controllers, lighting controls and electrical motors in a production environment and maintaining cost control over equipment and supplies for budget.

Qualifications should include an Electrical Degree, Journeyman or Master Electrician, good trouble shooting skills and ability to work and function in a team environment.

Seneca offers a competitive wage, excellent benefit package and a flexible work schedule October-May. If interested please apply in person or call for an application at:

Human Resources Department
Seneca Foods Corporation
600 5th Street SE • Montgomery, MN 56069
507-364-8641 • 507-364-8273 Fax
ssherman@senecafoods.com

Seneca Foods is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or veteran status.

Maintenance Mechanic

SENECA

Seneca Foods Corporation, a local food packaging and distribution facility located approximately 35 miles southwest of the Twin Cities, currently has a full time employment opportunity for Maintenance Mechanics.

Responsibilities include: Repair and maintenance of production equipment, employee relations, and other duties as assigned. Qualifications should include two-year mechanical degree and/or equivalent work experience, good mechanical repair and trouble shooting skills, strong attention to detail and accuracy, and willingness and ability to work and function in a team environment.

Seneca offers a competitive wage, excellent benefit package and a flexible work schedule October-May. If interested please apply in person or call for an application at:

Human Resources Department
Seneca Foods Corporation
600 5th Street SE • Montgomery, MN 56069
507-364-8641 • 507-364-8273 Fax
ssherman@senecafoods.com

Seneca Foods is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or veteran status.



On Veterans Day, we salute the brave men and women of our Armed Forces for their past and continued service to our country. Their courage, dedication and patriotism make us proud to be Americans. Thank you, veterans, for defending our freedom and our ideals.

Blooming Prairie Veterans

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