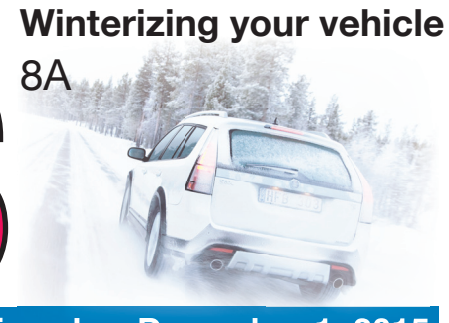
Ornament Making
3C



STEELE COUNTY
Times

Winterizing your vehicle
8A



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Moving forward despite losing 'the ultimate' volunteer

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

This year's Hospice Star of Hope Lighting Ceremony will be without Phyllis Rowe, a mainstay that has enjoyed each and every event she participated in. She passed away on Nov. 17.

"I think she enjoyed or was appreciative about how the Owatonna community and surrounding communities would come together to remember loved ones, to do that in a creative way with poetry, music and prayer," said Sister Franchon Pirkl.

This year's Hospice Star of Hope Lighting Ceremony will start at 5 p.m., Dec. 6. A program will be held at Daybreak Community Church on Harvest Lane across from the Homestead Hospice House. The program includes music, a ritual of remembrance, prayer and a message of hope shared by Pat Buretta, Hospice/Home Care manager.

The Ellendale United Methodist Church Choir, Owatonna High School carolers and Owatonna High School String Ensemble will provide the mu-

THE ULTIMATE VOLUNTEER
Continued on Page 4A

Star of Hope Lighting Ceremony

- Sunday, Dec. 6 at 5 p.m.
- Program at Daybreak Community Church, 2515 Harvest Lane, Owatonna

A turkey feast



Staff photos by Alan Van Ormer

Dr. John Henry (retired) serves slices of turkey during the annual Thanksgiving Day meal at the Owatonna VFW.

Enjoying a traditional Thanksgiving meal

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Last year, it was estimated that more than 1,100 people packed into the Owatonna VFW on Thanksgiving Day. This year, that number was easily reached and possibly surpassed as family members enjoyed a turkey meal.

"It is normal to have a lot of people," said Jim Gasner of Owatonna, who along with his wife, Lauretta, was enjoying a traditional turkey meal that includes turkey, potatoes and gravy, sweet potatoes and dessert. "Last year it didn't die off until around 1 p.m."

Dr. John Henry (retired) has been volunteering at the event for at least 20 years. On Thurs-



Jim and Lauretta Gasner of Owatonna enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal of turkey, potatoes and gravy, sweet potatoes and a dessert.

A TURKEY FEAST
Continued on Page 3A

Businesses are illuminated with holiday cheer

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

As the Holiday Dazzle celebration approaches, local businesses are gearing up for the first annual business holiday lights contest.

Aaron Ressler, Owner/Operator of Bunkies Grill & Lanes in Blooming Prairie, said he helped come up with the idea, entirely by accident. "It was more of a joke, at first," Ressler said. "I said, 'Let's have a light-off challenge,' to see if anybody would take me up on it." And they did.

Thus far, around six businesses have formally committed to decking their doors and windows for the holidays. This year, Ressler said the competition is strictly for the buildings' exteriors, but hopes that the light-off contest will grow to encompass more businesses and that the businesses may even decide to decorate inside their buildings next year.

This, said Ressler, would offer an extra incentive for families to stop inside the businesses, as well. He also hopes that the lights may help boost the Holiday Dazzle celebration, too.

Typically, there is a residential lighting contest in Blooming Prairie each year, but this year the contest is strictly for businesses. While there will be an official contest "winner," Ressler said his main goal was to simply make the holidays a little brighter.

"You watch those Christmas specials on TV, see the small town Christmas, and it's just cool," he said. "Who's to say we can't have that here?"

As for Ressler, he's already got big plans in the works. Along with the help of Greg Johnson, owner of B to Z Hardware, Ressler plans to decorate the alleyway between the two businesses, creating a sort of "winter wonderland."

The alley will feature several lighted attractions and Ressler also hopes to set up a festive bench, where families could stage impromptu family photos. Ressler said that he would love for the spot to become a place that families would visit each holiday season, returning to recreate the photo opportunity each holiday season.

"It might be something where we try to start kind of small this year, but then try to grow it every year," he said.



Find the Medallion

The 2015 Medallion Hunt is under way.

The first clue is: "Find a medallion Is the main goal Check back next week Another clue will be told."

Shaken teller surprised with honor in Hope bank robbery

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

When sheriff's deputies converged on the First National Bank in Hope Nov. 25, Marie Dobberstein got a little unsettled feeling, especially with what had taken place nearly a year prior.

On Dec. 19, 2014, a man allegedly stuck a gun in Dobberstein's face and robbed the bank.

This time, though, it was still related to the bank robbery, but officers came back to honor Dobberstein for her fast action in helping them catch the suspected robber. Led by Sheriff Lon Thiele, local authorities presented her with a Medal of Commendation through the Minnesota Sheriff's Association. Bank officials, sheriff's deputies and a state trooper surrounded Dobberstein as she was honored in the bank's lobby.

"It's a big surprise," said Dobberstein, who had no idea she was getting the honor when deputies showed up at the bank. "It's very touching."

As the sheriff handed her the award, Dobberstein wiped tears away from her eyes. "Almost a year ago, something struck

HONORING BRAVERY
Continued on Page 3A



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

Some of the law enforcement officers involved in the Dec. 2014 bank robbery in Hope gathered Nov. 25 to honor bank teller Marie Dobberstein as she was given a Medal of Commendation. Pictured are trooper Scott Crabtree, Sgt. Chad Forystek, deputy Kari Woltman, Sheriff Lon Thiele, Dobberstein, Steele County Commissioner James Brady and Sgt. Gary Okins.

INSIDE
A: 2A .....Opinion; 8A .....Winter driving tips
B: 4B.....Senior Focus; 5B.....Public Safety
C: 2C ...Blooming Prairie; 3C.....Owatonna
D: 2D.....Farm Living; 4D....Employment

Vol. 122, No. 77 www.steeledodgenews.com 507-583-4431

Opinion

Our view

‘Irreplaceable’ relates to volunteers

The ultimate compliment to any person would be the word ‘irreplaceable.’ And that was exactly the word used in an article in today’s paper about Phyllis Rowe, a volunteer extraordinaire. The word ‘irreplaceable’ could also be used for any of the many people that volunteer in our communities.

Rowe recently passed away in her Owatonna home. What made her so special was that she spent most of her life volunteering to help wherever she could. The last 20 plus years was spent volunteering with the Owatonna Home Care and Hospice, as well as the Star of Hope Lighting ceremony that is slated for this weekend.

While she will be missed by many people, it is important to remember if it wasn’t for volunteers like Phyllis, many of the events that we enjoy, such as the Star of Hope Lighting ceremony, may not be possible. Most of the work is done by volunteers.

That is especially true during this holiday season. Many volunteers are sitting outside businesses – rain or snow – ringing bells for the Salvation Army. On Thanksgiving Day there were dozens of volunteers providing a traditional Thanksgiving meal for the estimated more than 1,000 people that filled the Owatonna VFW.

Volunteers are an important part of our society, but also at times difficult to find for various projects. That is surprising because there are so many benefits to volunteering.

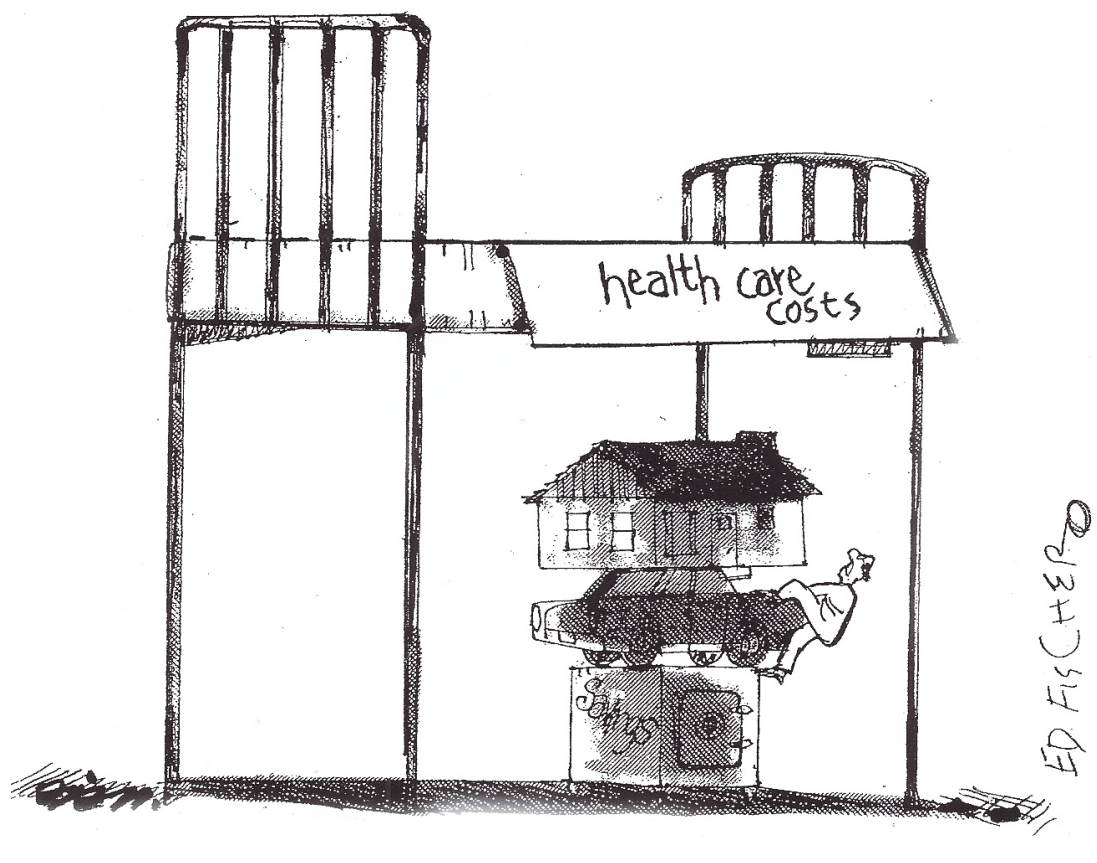
One benefit is that you are providing a service for those who are less fortunate. Prime example for that is the many people that came to the Owatonna VFW on Thanksgiving Day for a meal. Without the volunteers many of those people would have been without maybe one of the first decent meals in a few days.

Another reason is that volunteering provides you an opportunity to stay active in your life. And this is true for many of those who have retired and have always been involved in something during their lives.

A third reason may be that it just makes you feel good to do something for someone else.

Whatever your reason is for volunteering, always remember that there are people out there that wouldn’t have many of the little pleasures that we enjoy without volunteers doing much of the hard work needed to make an event or project successful.

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



Bank teller deserves honor of bravery

HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

The spirit of cooperation and recognizing those efforts were alive and well last week in the tiny little Steele County community of Hope.

Amidst a half dozen or so law enforcement officers and bank officials, the star of the show was a shaken bank teller who almost one year ago had a gun shoved in her face demanding her to hand over the cash.

Veteran teller Marie Dobberstein did exactly what she was trained to do. She remained calm and complied with the robber’s demands. “I followed through with what I was trained to do,” she said, pointing out she receives video and classroom training every year. She added that she was definitely prepared when the robber struck.

But she didn’t stop once the suspect fled out the door. She went above and beyond and made several key observations about the suspect’s identity and the vehicle he was fleeing away in that helped authorities with their initial investigation.

Dobberstein’s efforts to catch a violent robbery suspect have earned her a Medal of Commendation through the Minnesota Sheriff’s Association. Last week Sheriff Lon Thiele presented Dobberstein with the honor commending her on her bravery.

Thiele said without Dobberstein’s keen observations, the robbery may not have been solved as quickly as it was, if at all. Less than 24 hours after the robbery, police in Texas had the suspected robber in custody after a wild chase through two states.

Dobberstein’s cooperation is exactly what law enforcement needs from the public at times. They need citizens who are willing to get involved to take a stand against crime. In this particular case, she went the extra mile to get authorities on the right track of nabbing the alleged robber.

This also illustrates how the public and law enforcement can work together in solving crime. Police officers can’t do the work on their own. As is often the case, it takes teamwork between both sides to ensure the public’s safety.

Last week’s ceremony was a bit emotional for Dobberstein, who had to wipe away tears several times. Not only did she help catch the suspected robber, but she also had to deal with her own emotional aftermath.

“It’s traumatic,” Dobberstein said of going through such an experience. “It’s something you will never forget,” she said, adding it’s something no one should ever have to experience.

Luckily, no one was hurt in the ordeal. It had the potential of being a volatile situation at the bank and later that day several states away as authorities chased the suspect.

It wasn’t until later in the day after the robbery took place that reality began to set in for Dobberstein.

“I started thinking about what could have happened,” she said, adding she is thankful everyone came out alive.

Dobberstein took the honor in stride and was quite humble about her involvement. She felt the real stars of the show were the sheriff’s office and FBI. “They need to be commended for the jobs they did,” she said.

Which brings us back to the unique partnership that needs to exist between law enforcement and the public. Without it, crime would run rampant and police would be in hot pursuit of possibly chasing potential leads that may come up empty handed. Fortunately, in the Hope case, that did not happen.

Good luck James!

A GLIMPSE OF STEELE COUNTY



ALAN VAN ORMER

This week will be sort of a sad week for the staff at the Steele County Times. Our County Sports Editor, James Knoop and his family will be leaving us for a new job in Oregon.

While it is a sad week in that we will be losing James, it is also a special week for him, Meredith and their son, Elijah. They will be on a new adventure doing something that James loves even more than writing sports. And that I am thankful for. He has the opportunity to do something that he is passionate about and that will make he and his family happy.

James has been a great help for LeMar Nelson with covering sports in Steele County. LeMar will always be a Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossom, but James expanded our sports coverage to horizons that we have not seen in the three years that I have been here.

We have had gathered some sports stories at Medford and New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, but he was an every day presence at those schools. And as for Owatonna, he took us to levels that we have never been to. He consistently provided coverage for the Owatonna sports teams.

But for us, it was not just his sports coverage. For us, it was the way James handled himself in any type of situation. He is quiet and you can never tell if he’s up or down in the office. James comes in, does his job, doesn’t complain and gets his work done. He is always available to help in any situation, even if it does not involve sports coverage.

And that is what makes James a special person. He genuinely cares about the people that he works with and wants whatever he’s doing to be the best it can be. And that is why James will go far in life. He will be missed.

Good luck James and thank you for what you’ve brought to us at the Steele County Times.

Mailbag

Looking at November differently

In November, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Meriden looked at the month differently because of its Turkey Dinner project.

A large turkey is painted on tag board and colored feathers are placed on it. On the feathers are written items that are needed for the dinner. Items include green beans, corn, pickles, cranberries, gravy, potatoes, corn and candy. Also included is a gift card for meat and dessert.

The congregation is encouraged to “pluck” the feather and buy the needed item, return it and then it will be packed into boxes to be delivered to Owatonna and Waseca food shelves.

This project started three years ago and was coordinated by Sandy Dinse. The first year was for 40 families and this year enough items came in for 52 boxes to be filled – with 26 going to Owatonna and 26 to Waseca families.

On Wednesday, Nov. 18, Lori Osmundson brought her schools’ young people’s group out and packed the items in the boxes and also delivered them. The total pounds of food donated were 967.

If we were short any money our church participated in the bazaar at the community center and bought the items needed to fill the boxes. All of the bazaar money was used on this project.

Thank you.

Carol Raetz
Owatonna

Enough is Enough! Coliform Bacteria in Dodge County water supply

My wife and I have been feeling sick for several weeks, so we had our private well tested. Recent test results show the presence of Coliform bacteria in addition to E. coli bacteria, high Nitrate-nitrogen levels and other contaminants.

According to information provided by the Olmsted County Environmental Health Services Department, “Coliform bacteria are living organisms found in the intestines of humans and animals and in the soil. Their presence in well water indicated direct contamination by sewage, animals or surface water. Coliform bacteria are a signal that disease-causing bacteria and viruses may be present in the water supply.”

The test results conclude that my water may not be safe to drink.

I suppose I shouldn’t be surprised. Over 30,000 pigs in a two-mile radius surround our farm in rural Dodge County. These large factory farms create huge environmental problems and have contributed to our well going dry, which was the subject of a DNR sweep earlier this year. Not only are the pigs sucking up the water, the estimated 15 million gallons of pig manure has also contaminated our well.

But, Dodge County continues to approve factory farms. There is a current application pending for construction of yet another factory farm in Hayfield Township, which will house 3,300 pigs. The county has never denied an application for a feedlot.

A hearing is scheduled Dec. 2 at 1 p.m. in Mantorville.

Dodge County – enough is enough! How many more people are you going to poison with your irresponsible actions?

Dale Schmeling
Hayfield, Minnesota
On behalf of Dodge County Concerned Citizens

Steele County Times
Always local, all the time.

Bussler Publishing Inc.
USPS 058-340
Published weekly on Tuesdays
Postmaster: Send address changes to: Steele County Times
P.O. Box 247
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
Phone: (507) 583-4431
Fax: (507) 583-4445
bptimes@frontiernet.net

A STATE AND NATIONAL AWARD WINNING WEEKLY

2015
4 National Awards
7 State Awards

2014
3 National Awards
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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News: Noon Fridays.
Advertising: 4 p.m. Thursdays.

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

ETHICS

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

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Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower....$38
Elsewhere in Minnesota.....$40
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Second Front Page

Making the link:

Mental health services help students reach goals

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Thanks to a new initiative in the Blooming Prairie School District, students in need are working to learn more about their mental health and to address mental health issues at a critical age.

Youth spend hours with their teachers in the classroom and, it's often teachers and other school staff who realize that some students need help addressing mental health issues. This places them in a unique position to help them identify students who may be struggling with mental health issues inside and outside their classrooms.

Recently, School Linked Mental Health (SLMH) therapist Susan Arnold began working with Blooming Prairie students and staff, connecting the youth with the resources and assistance they need to live healthier lives.

"There are a lot of students who have been seeking mental health services and they have to leave the Blooming Prairie community to be able to do that," Arnold said. "And so they're missing a large portion of the school day. So, this is helpful because they still miss an hour of class, but it's in the school and there's some flexibility. They also have the support of their teachers and their administrators."

The SLMH program is made possible in Blooming Prairie by collaboration between Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center, South Central Human Relations Center and the Blooming Prairie Schools. The collaboration allows the SLMH therapist to meet with students who could benefit from working with a mental health professional during school hours. In addition, the SLMH therapist is also available to work with students one evening per week.

"If we can provide opportunities for students in house, so they don't have to travel, I think that would just be a benefit for our community," said High School Principal John Worke. Worke adds that Arnold tries to be flexible with her schedule, so students are not continually missing the same class.

The SLMH referral process entails several steps to ensure that school linked therapy is a good fit for the student. A teacher or other school staff member can initiate the process after observing concerning student behaviors or a change in a student's personality, or after the student begins to struggle academically.

Arnold said that there are a few warning signs that a child may be struggling with a mental health issue. They include a loss of interest in their favorite activities, anxiety, edginess, excessive sleeping, changes in eating habits, excessive worrying, prolonged periods of sadness and/or aggression.

The school social worker or counselor then has a conversation with the students' family, to see if SLMH therapy is a good fit for the student. If SLMH therapy could benefit the student, a network develops, including the student, their family, the SLMH therapist and school staff, to help ensure the experience is a beneficial one.

"As we problem solve to make things better for everyone, it's been a great process," Worke said. Although all new programs take time to establish and may come with a few challenges in implementation along the way, Worke said the SLMH program has gone very well at the high school so far.

Arnold has been working in the Blooming Prairie school district, serving students in kindergarten through 12th grade, since Oct. 5. So far, said Arnold, she's thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to help students. School staff and administration, she said, have been very supportive and are dedicated to helping the students achieve success through SLMH therapy.

With past experience as both a teacher and therapist, Arnold said it's been a dream come true to combine her two passions. "Education has always been very important to me," she said. "And so, tying mental health and education together has been a really exciting opportunity for me."

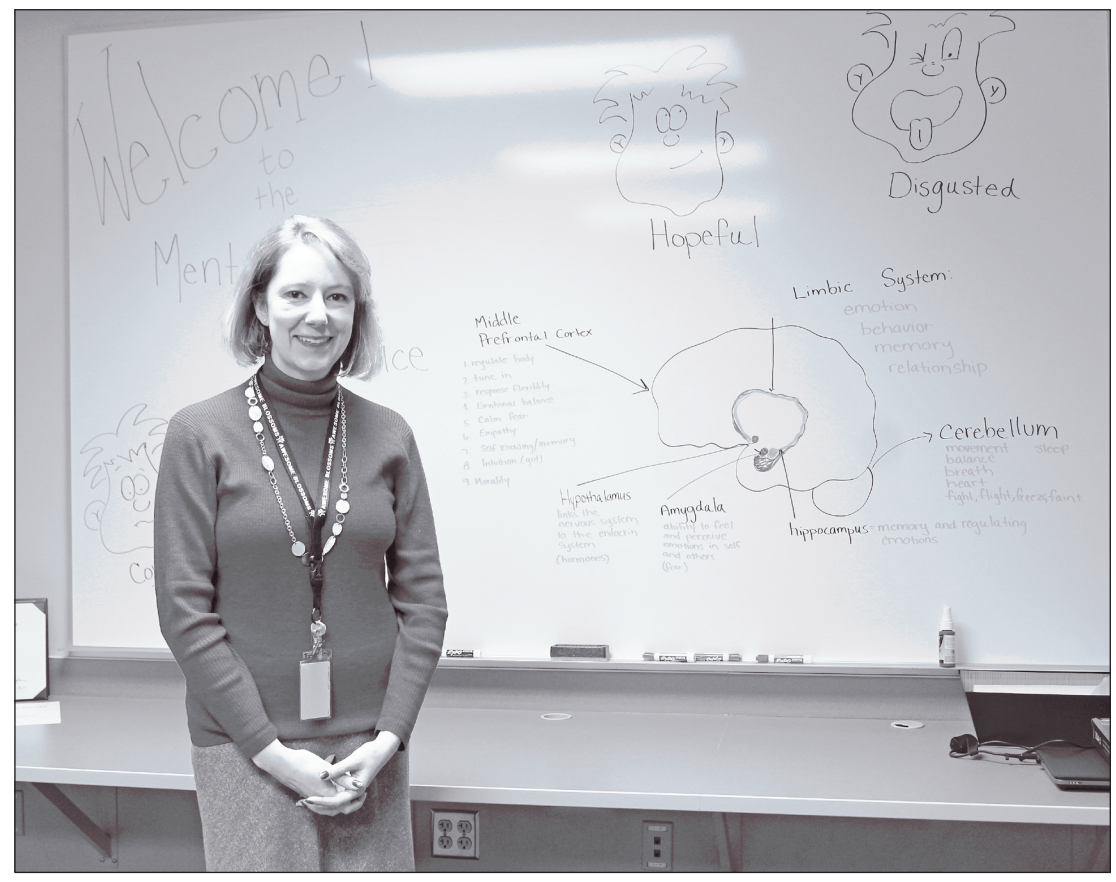
Worke adds that Arnold has fit in well with the other school staff and been an excellent resource to students thus far. "She just has a great personality and it seems to fit well in our school culture," he said. "She's a nice resource for our staff members."

While individual cases are confidential, Arnold is able to share general mental health resources with school staff and help staff find ways to raise mental health awareness in their classrooms.

The SLMH therapy, explained Arnold, is different for every student and every situation. In addition to an array of specific topics and concerns, Arnold said that many students experience generalized anxiety. "They worry about school and home," said Arnold. "Some of that is developmentally appropriate and some of it is causing them to get behind in their school work."

Some students may be able to work through their issues more quickly than others, but Arnold said that she hopes the end result will be the same with every student: she wants to help the students reach their own individual goals while also ensuring they stay on top of their schoolwork.

"My ultimate goal is to get them back out in the school with as few interruptions as possible."



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Susan Arnold is a School Linked Mental Health therapist at Blooming Prairie Public Schools. She works with students in kindergarten through 12th grade to help them address a variety of mental health issues.

According to data compiled by Mark Sander, PsyD, one in five children have a diagnosable mental health disorder, but between 70 and 80 percent of those students receive inadequate levels of treatment – or no treatment at all. Sander is also the Mental Health Coordinator for Hennepin County/Minneapolis Public Schools and a passionate advocate for SLMH.

"Mental health is just becoming more and more evident in all aspects of people's lives," said Worke. "We need to have support services in place to aid families and students."

Arnold also believes that connecting with students and helping them address issues at an early age can be extremely beneficial. "If I meet with a child, it goes much faster than in the past when I've worked with adults, and they're very entrenched in the skills that they're using that were once very helpful that have become less and less helpful as the years have gone by. It has a life-long impact."

Using a variety of techniques, Arnold helps the students learn about their brains and what causes them to behave the way they do. "It just helps give them a little bit of understanding that it's not always a choice," she said. "Sometimes, this is why therapy's important: to learn how to change our habits and what's really going on inside."

As she continues her work in Blooming Prairie, Arnold hopes to help families be more involved and to help provide more education about mental health and depression. "I want to help break the stigma," she said. "I want to help advocate for students, especially those that don't know how to advocate for themselves."

Arnold also hopes to help parents understand what typical behavior is and what behaviors are cause for concern.

"I believe our school year has been off to a great start, and having this program on board with us can only help students," said Worke.



Staff photos by Alan Van Ormer

Ken Schiller puts a turkey into the oven. Since its inception, he has been volunteering for the traditional Thanksgiving meal at the Owatonna VFW.

A TURKEY FEAST

Continued from Page 1A

at least 20 years. On Thursday he was serving the turkey.

"I enjoy it, and it is important to give back a little bit," he said. "Serving turkey I enjoy seeing the smiles on their faces. For some it is probably their best meal in months."

Another volunteer, Lloyd Kaplan, has been helping for more than 10 years. "It is a great feeling," he said. "So many people need it and it is a good community event where they can come and socialize."

As for the Gasners, they have been eating a Thanksgiving meal for several years at the VFW on Thanksgiving because they enjoy not having to fix a meal and cleaning up after. "I think it is great for people who are alone or who have family out of state," said Lauretta.

Correction:

In the Cancer Corner article in last week's issue, there is estimated to be 35 percent (rather than 80 percent) of the hospice patients that are battling some form of cancer.

HONORING BRAVERY

Continued from Page 1A

pretty heavy here at the Hope bank and the Hope community," Thiele said. "We unfortunately had an incident that brought a little bit of nervousness and havoc to this small community."

Thiele credited Dobberstein's intelligence of providing descriptions of the suspect and his vehicle for helping police make a quick arrest. Within 24 hours, officers had the suspected robber in custody in Texas after a lengthy police chase.

"Without her brave act of being able to give us the initial intelligence, it would have taken a lot longer to get the suspect and he may have even gotten away," Thiele said.

Dobberstein, who has been employed as a teller since 1997, credits her yearly robbery training provided by the bank for her response. "We're trained to keep calm and do as they ask," she said.

It wasn't until after the robbery when reality set in for the bank teller. "It was traumatic," Dobberstein said. "It's something I will never forget. I don't ever want to experience it again."

Bernie Gaytko, bank president, joined in the celebration for Dobberstein. "It's a wonderful acknowledgment of a job well done," Gaytko said. "She stayed calm and did everything by the book. She was utilizing all the training that has been given to our staff."

Gaytko also praised law enforcement for the quick arrest. "We haven't seen you work in an effort like that before, but it definitely gave us a confidence in law enforcement and Steele County and the work you do," he said. "It gave us a tremendous sense of comfort to have a quick resolution," he added.

Alfredo Frias Alvarez of Waseca is facing federal bank robbery charges in connection with the incident.

For Dobberstein, the robbery is the worst thing she has ever experienced. She hopes it is something she'll never face again.

"It was uncalled for," she said. "It's something you should never have to go through."

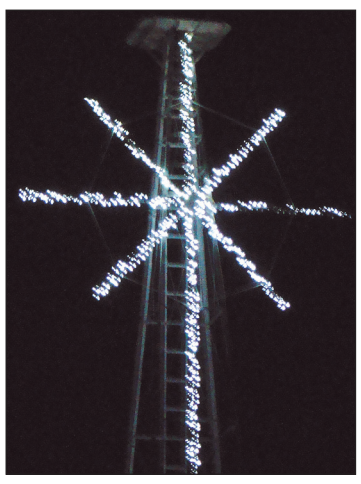


Staff photo by Rick Bussler

It was an emotional time for Hope bank teller Marie Dobberstein as she wiped away tears after accepting a Medal of Commendation from Steele County Sheriff Lon Thiele Nov. 25. Dobberstein provided critical information to authorities that led to the arrest of a Waseca man after the December 2014 robbery. Looking on with the sheriff are deputies Kari Woltman, Sgt. Gary Okins and chief deputy Scott Hansen.

THE ULTIMATE VOLUNTEER

Continued from Page 1A



Submitted photo
The Star of Hope program begins at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6, in Owatonna.

sic.

Following the program, the Star of Hope will be lighted and will shine from the top of the Homestead Hospice House windmill throughout the Advent and Christmas season.

This year's event will move forward without Rowe, who served on the Hospice Inc. Board, was a member of the Star of Hope Task Force, delivered meals to the Homestead Hospice House and did additional volunteer duties related to the Homestead Hospice House.

Her sons, Kelly and Scott, with their families, were on hand last week to honor their mother and their children's grandmother. Her husband, Harold, a former Medford School Superintendent, died in January 1988.

Kelly said his mother died peacefully. "A number of lady friends were to pick her up for coffee that morning. They came to pick her up, but she didn't answer the door," Kelly said. "They thought she had went on her own, but she wasn't there. One of the gals with an adjourning home found her. It was a peaceable way to go. She had no sign of trauma or other issues."

As for her participation in the Star of Hope, Kelly said that's the one thing he knew the least about. "I don't know what it is. Mom had her fingers in many things," he said. "The passion we heard about 95 percent of the time was her passion for the Homestead Hospice House."

He added that part of it was that his mother didn't want to feel like she wasn't contributing. "She always liked to be busy. She enjoyed being busy," he said. "I think once she got into the idea of the hospice house it seemed to be a natural fit."

Wayne Klinkhammer, chair of the Hospice Board, said Phyllis was one of a kind and is very close to being irreplaceable. "She did everything for the hospice," he said, adding that included keeping the group's books and handling the minutes. "I don't know how you replace someone like that when they did everything."

Klinkhammer said the purpose of the Star of Hope is for all of us to remember those who we've lost. "It was important to Phyllis because she enjoyed working with the people on the Star of Hope. It consisted of her friends," he said. "She was just involved with everything we did. I don't know how to describe someone like that."

Pirkl knew Rowe and worked with her for more than 20 years on the hospice staff. She was a staff member of the Owatonna Home Care and Hospice when Pirkl started there as the spiritual leader.

She remembers Rowe as a woman of many talents. "She enjoyed life," Pirkl said. "She was very clear and direct of what she thought about things. She usually offered good advice, was a clear thinker and very generous."

Rowe was also a presence that was always there contributing in helpful ways with the hospice board, with hospice volunteers and as a friend. "She saw the larger vision of what hospice meant to patients and their families and to be of service for folks when they were facing some of the hardest part of their lives," Pirkl added.







STEELE COUNTY TIMES PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

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How much you'll pay for Medicare in 2016



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Dear Savvy Senior,
I know there won't be a cost-of-living increase in Social Security benefits next year but what about Medicare? I've heard some beneficiaries will get hit with a big Part B monthly premium increase in 2016. What can you tell me, and who will this affect?
Planning Ahead

Dear Planning,
*A*ll things considered, the news regarding your Medicare costs next year is pretty good. For about 70 percent of the nation's 52 million Medicare beneficiaries, there will be no Part B premium increase in 2016. And thanks to the 2015 Bipartisan Budget Act that was signed into law by President Obama on Nov. 2, the other 30 percent will pay much less than previously projected. Here's what you can expect.

Part B premiums

Because the Social Security Administration will not be giving out a cost of living increase (or COLA) in 2016, the Medicare Part B premiums for most current beneficiaries will not go up either. Thanks to the "hold harmless" provision in the Medicare law, which prohibits Part B premiums from rising in any year that there's no COLA, the 2016 monthly premium will remain at $104.90 for most current Medicare participants.

However, this provision does not protect new Medicare enrollees (those who enroll in 2016), beneficiaries who are directly billed for their Part B premium, or current beneficiaries who have deferred claiming their Social Security. This includes people 65 or older who are still working but have signed up for Medicare because their employer doesn't offer health insurance. It also hits people who have filed and suspended Social Security benefits to allow a spouse to claim.

If you fit into any of these categories, your Medicare Part B premium will increase to $121.80 a month in 2016 – which is much lower than the $159.30 that it would have been, had the budget deal fell through.

The hold-harmless rule also does not protect high-income Medicare beneficiaries who already pay higher Part B premiums because their annual incomes are above $85,000 for an individual or $170,000 for a couple. If you fit into this category, here's what you'll pay for your Part B premium next year, based on your 2014 tax returns.

•Individuals with incomes of $85,000 to $107,000, or married couples filing joint tax returns with incomes of $170,000 to $214,000, will pay $170.50 per month.

•Individuals earning $107,000 to $160,000 (couples $214,000 to $320,000) will pay $243.60.

•Individuals with incomes of $160,000 to $214,000 (couples $320,000 to $428,000) will pay $316.70.

•Individuals over $214,000 or couples above $428,000 will pay $389.80.

Another increase high-income beneficiaries (those with incomes over $85,000, or $170,000 for joint filers) need to be aware of is the surcharge on Part D premiums. Affluent seniors that have a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan will pay an additional $12.70 to $72.90 per month, depending on their income, on top of their regular Part D premiums.

Deductibles and co-Pays

Other changes you need to know about that will affect all Medicare beneficiaries include the Part B deductible, which will increase to $166 in 2016 (it's currently $147); and the Part A (hospital insurance) annual deductible which will go up to $1,288 (it's currently $1,260) for hospital stays up to 60 days. That increases to $322 per day for days 61-90, and to $644 a day for days 91 and beyond. And the skilled nursing facility coinsurance for days 21-100 will also increase to $161 per day (it's currently $157.50).

For more information on all the Medicare costs for 2016 visit Medicare.gov and click on "Your Medicare Costs" tab at the top of the page, or call 800-633-4227.

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, Dec. 6, 2005
Dan Evans, Publisher

'Tis the season of giving, and there may not be a better way to do so than to give blood to save a life. This is especially important during times of recent disasters. A few weeks ago, the Blooming Prairie chapter of the National Honor Society and the Senior High Student Council teamed up with the American Red Cross to pull off yet another successful blood drive. The chapter's goal was to have at least 40 people come in to donate. By the end of the night, at least 54 people successfully donated, which exceeded the previous goal by 14 people.

The Blooming Prairie Holiday Dazzle celebration was another huge success this past Friday night as the BP Chamber, area business and organizations had many events and activities available for everyone. Throughout the night, there was entertainment with the Kix groups, the "Iron Man" contest, horse rides, a Christmas tree auction and more. The Iron Man Contest lasted a little longer than expected, but City Administrator Mike Jones held strong and toughed out the block of ice to win the event. Several groups were out singing Christmas carols and braving the very cold weather to make Holiday Dazzle a little more special this year. Despite the cold weather, many braved the cold weather and enjoyed a great night of fun.

20 Years Ago
Tuesday, Dec. 5, 1995
Elsie Slinger, Editor

As Christmas decorations adorned downtown and Highway 218, the first nativity statues from St. Columbanus Catholic Church were set out Saturday, amidst unusually mild temperatures. The nativity scene in front of the St. Columbanus Catholic Church portrays the real meaning of Christmas to travelers driving by– day or night. Although it's only been displayed since 1991, it's become a very popular scene to drive by or visit.

"Christmas on the Prairie" has events for everyone, starting this week. There are concerts, church programs, rides, parties, contests, shopping giveaways and a medallion hunt. As you shop downtown and Highway 218 businesses in Blooming Prairie, listen to the Christmas music playing. Also, take a look at the new decorations, hanging above the stores.

50 Years Ago
Thursday, Dec. 2, 1965
Victor, Vernon and Vyrle Krejci, Editors

A large crowd was on hand in Blooming Prairie's business district Friday night, Nov. 26, for the first in a series of pre-Christmas drawings sponsored by the Civic Progress Club. Twice-a-week "giveaways" and special children's drawings have been scheduled on Main Street through Dec. 22 with a total of $600 in "script" money to be awarded.

With interest mounting daily in this year's town election, an unusually heavy vote is expected to be cast in Blooming Prairie next Tuesday, Dec. 7, for village officials. With contests for both mayor and trustee on the ballot, supporters of the various candidates are busy campaigning this week for their "favorites" and this accounts for the added interest being displayed in the election by local residents. Election judges appointed by the council are: Mrs. O. E. Peterson, Ardell Birgin, Peg Birgin, William Starz and Charles Ellis.

Miss Sharon Ramsey, capable bookkeeper for the Public Utilities Commission for the past seven ½ years, has resigned her position effective Dec. 15. Miss Ramsey announced that she plans to accept a position with a local firm and will continue to be employed in Blooming Prairie.

75 Years Ago
Thursday, Dec. 5, 1940
Frank Krejci, Publisher

Christmas shoppers in Blooming Prairie this year will be having a lot of fun! The Commercial Club has laid plans and subscribed over $300 Tuesday night to finance a 12-day trade extension to plan here, starting next Wed., Dec. 11. Included among the many activities of the program between now and Christmas will be the appearance of Santa Clause, who will distribute hundreds of pounds of candy to children on the streets. Free movies for the kiddies will be another feature of the holiday schedule in Blooming Prairie.

Workmen are installing an automatic coal stoker in the boiler room of the school plant here this week. The new stoker eliminates all hand firing and increases the efficiency of the heating plant. The stoker is made especially for use with the boilers installed at the school plant.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

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Certified Public Accountant Tamzen R. Johnson
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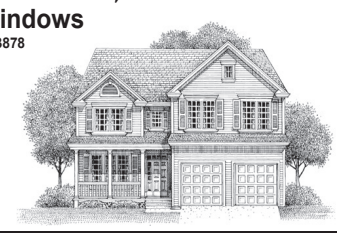
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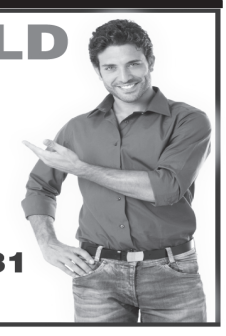
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Community

Water aerobics all-star

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer



Staff photo by Anna Segner

74 year-old Jeanette Raichle is up for National Aerobics Instructor of the Year Award. She teaches several water aerobics classes at the Owatonna Fitness Center throughout the week.

Seventy-four-year-old Jeanette Raichle is up for National Aerobics Instructor of the Year award. She swears by the importance of fitness, and she is walking, swimming, dancing and hiking proof of the long-term benefits of an active lifestyle.

"Not bad for 74, huh?" said Jeanette Raichle after giving away her age. "If you don't use your strength, you'll lose it. I stay very active."

She said that she was surprised and happy when she found out that she was in the running for National Aerobics Instructor of the Year award. The contest is hosted by Greatmats, a Wisconsin-based specialty flooring company.

The women in her water aerobics class on the morning of Nov. 19 teased Raichle about her local celebrity status, as she has also received many polka honors, including being crowned "Polka Queen" at a polka festival in Duncan, Iowa.

It is not unusual on any given day for Raichle to spend seven to eight hours exercising. Between polka dancing, teaching water aerobics, hiking, running a mile a day and biking 10 miles a day, she easily fills up her time with fitness.

She teaches three water aerobics classes a day during the week and two classes on Fridays at the Owatonna Fitness Center at West Hills. She first tried it when she was in between jobs and her daughter gifted her two months of water aerobics classes in 2003.

"I tried it, and I liked it. Eventually I was asked to teach," said Raichle. "A lot of people don't know about water aerobics. If people tried it I think they would really like it."

She explained that water aerobics is unique in that all ages can excel at water aerobics. The water lifts people up and takes much of the weight put on joints throughout exercise.

Raichle currently has two class participants that are over 90. She also had a man that could not walk because he was not maintaining his body. After routine water aerobics, he was able to live a mobile lifestyle again.

"I truly believe that if people would just try it, they'll feel better," she said. "People always ask me 'where do you get all of your energy?' Well the truth is that teaching strengthens my muscles and bones. It just makes me feel good."

A typical water aerobics class begins with stretching with noodles. Then, the class would use the boards for some work outs. The bar bells are used for 15 minutes of higher impact aerobics.

While Raichle is excited about her nomination as one of the four individuals up for National Water Aerobics Instructor of the Year, she hopes to create more of an interest in water aerobics and fitness, especially within the elderly community.

To learn more about joining a class, call the Owatonna Fitness Center.

Milestones

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Nov. 30
Andrew Kasperek
Nanner Kruckeberg
Tyler Carlson
David Easton

Dec. 1
Andy Krebs
Marilyn Meshke
Stephanie Emanuel
Kelly Lamotte

Dec. 2
Fran Coughlin
Nicole Leigh Greene

Dec. 3
Jessica Ressler
Aurora Musel
Ryan Weinberger
Dennis Schaefer
Carter Sorensen
Carl Peterson
Dick Hoveland

Dec. 4
James Jerdet
Judy Johnson
Diane Nelson
Jay Johns

Dec. 5
Scott Anderson
Gary A. Christiansen
Pat Smith

Dec. 6
Harriet Severson

Dec. 7
Karen Kaplan
Marilyn Heinz
Kyle Rossow
Mark Lembke
Lance Lembke
Roger L. Hanson

Anniversaries

Dec. 1
Luke and Anna Miller
Jeff and Andrea Butler

Dec. 2
Mr. and Mrs.
Tom Trotman

Dec. 3
Brad and Wendy Hines

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SEMCAC senior menu

Dec. 2: Ham Balls, Alt: Beef Pattie, Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Fresh Fruit

Dec. 3: Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Parslied Carrots, Coleslaw, Pudding

Dec. 4: Beef Pot Roast w/ Vegetables, Cinnamon Applesauce Salad, Dinner Roll, Pumpkin Crisp

Dec. 7: Pork Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Rice Krispie Bar

Dec. 8: Potato Crusted Pollock, Wild Rice Pilaf, Italian Blend Vegetables, Romaine Salad, Carrot Cake

Dec. 9: Hot Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Broccoli, Fresh Fruit Cup



Nancy Vaillancourt

A new library drop box is on the way

For those of you who have visited the Blooming Prairie Branch Library within the past week, you may have noticed that our outside book drop is gone! A vehicle ran into it last week and damaged it beyond repair. Thanks to our efficient city employees in the Street Department and the City Administrator's office, the damaged book drop was taken away, the remains cleaned up, and was a new unit ordered. The delivery of the new book return will take about two weeks.

In the meantime, please use the book drop that is located inside the west doors of the City Center. The outside doors are open 24 hours a day allowing people to return library books on the north side, or unwanted medicines on the south side. It is not as convenient as being able to drive right up to the book return, but the inconvenience will only be temporary.

Just a reminder that we will be open until 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4, as we take part in the Holiday Dazzle festivities. Come take a look at the books that the Friends of the Library are offering for sale that night, and the following week. See you at the library!

Christmas Wish Tree
There is still time to get your Christmas Wish Tree Tag at Sportstitch.
All gifts need to be brought back to Sportstitch by Dec. 9. So please hurry in and help someone else to have a brighter Christmas!

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Area Church Spotlight



First Lutheran Church, Ellendale

Pastor's corner

The missing Thanksgiving



As followers of Jesus Christ and his Word, we know that we are to show that attitude of gratitude in all times and circumstances, not just during November. Jesus modeled his gratitude for the material provisions of loaves of bread and fishes prior to his feeding the 5,000 and 4,000. Jesus also gave thanks for the bread and cup at the Last Supper. We can learn from Jesus' example to give thanks for our daily bread. Jesus expressed his thanks to his Father for hearing his prayer at the tomb of Lazarus (see John 11:41). When we know that our prayers are heard, there is the potential for action by God. If our prayers are never heard, nothing can happen. Then there is the healing of the ten lepers by Jesus in Luke 17. It is a classic text illustrating thanksgiving by one from a despised background, despised at least from the perspective of the Jews. And the ones who should have known and acted better – didn't.

It is interesting to note that in the Bible, God the Father is the recipient of thanksgiving, but he does not give it. When Jesus told the story of the master and a slave in Luke 17:7-10, the slave was simply to do his duty. He was not the recipient of thanks by the master. The slave did what was expected by the master. Jesus was like that slave. Jesus did the work of his Father – dying on the cross for our sins. Jesus stated from the cross, "It is finished" as a testimony to the fulfillment of his work. God expected it and because of Jesus' redemptive works we have lots of reasons to give thanks to God. But God the Father expresses no words of appreciation, no words of gratitude, and no words of thanksgiving in the Scriptures. Jesus' obedience didn't depend on the expression of thanks by his Father. We can be thankful that Jesus made possible our redemption. Will we give thanks?

Pastor Dave Breederland
Faith Community Church
West Concord

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
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Sunday School 10:00 AM

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Education hour: 10 a.m.

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

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Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor
Dean Smith, Associate Pastor
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www.tlcowatonna.org
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10:15 am Sunday School

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Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
Hayfield
The Rev. Steve Peterson
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Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Reconciliation: 10:15 a.m. Sunday

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Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sunday

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The Rev. Steve Peterson
(507) 583-2784
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Services: 5:15 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 a.m. Sunday.
Office hours: M-F, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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The Rev. Brian Sutton,
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(507) 451-1588
www.litomysl.webs.com
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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.
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Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday

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200 Sixth St. N.W., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirksena
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Loren Olson, Pastor
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
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Pastor Aaron de Neui
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Pastor Doug Jones
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www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com
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2 p.m Spanish Service
Wed. 7:00 Bible Study
Fri 7:00 Spanish Outreach

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Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
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UCC

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WINTER DRIVING
Safety Tips

How to stay safe on wintry roads

Many people will remember the winter of 2013-14 for all the wrong reasons. Record low temperatures and heavy snowfall were the story last winter. With winter now on the horizon once again, many motorists are looking for ways to ensure their daily commutes or holiday trips to visit family and friends are as safe as possible.

When wintry conditions, including snowfall, compromise driving conditions, it's best for motorists to stay home. But avoiding roadways altogether is not always an option, so motorists who simply must venture out onto the roadways this winter can employ the following strategies to ensure they safely arrive at their destinations.

Consider winter tires. Many drivers are unsure if they need winter tires. All-season tires may suffice for those drivers who live in regions where heavy snowfall is uncommon. But winter tires are designed to perform when the temperatures are especially cold and in driving conditions featuring ice, slush and snow. Drivers who live in regions where snowfall is significant or even expected to be significant may want to install winter tires just to be on the safe side.

Some drivers mistakenly believe that vehicle features such as anti-lock braking systems and traction control make their tires more capable of handling wintry roads. But such features do not provide more traction. ABS and traction control only prevent drivers from over-braking or overpowering the traction of their tires. Only better tires will improve traction.

Drive slowly. Many drivers mistakenly believe they only need to drive slow when snow is falling. But winter weather can make roadways unsafe even in areas that have not witnessed a single snowflake fall from the sky. Wet winter roads can quickly turn into icy winter roads, and no ABS system or traction control device can prevent a car that's traveling too fast from skidding out. Poor visibility is another reason to drive slowly in winter. Peripheral vision is often compromised when driving in winter, as dirt, salt or sand buildup on windshields and side windows and mirrors can make it hard for motorists to fully view their surroundings. Even if your vision is not compromised, a fellow motorist's might be. So ease up on the gas pedal in winter so you have more time to react to potentially adverse conditions.

Don't drive too closely to other motorists. In addition to driving slowly, motorists also should leave extra room between their vehicles and the vehicles in front of them. In such conditions, for every 10 miles per hour drive a minimum of four car lengths behind the motorist in front of you. So if you are driving 50 miles per hour, be sure to leave 20 car lengths between you and the car ahead of you. This gives you ample time to react and builds in some extra response time should your visibility be compromised.

Maintain your vehicle. A vehicle should be maintained regardless of the season, but it's especially important that your vehicle perform at its peak in winter. A vehicle's battery and windshield wipers are a winter driver's best friend, but only if they are operating at optimal capacity. Being stranded on a roadside in winter is more dangerous than in any other time of year. That's because driver visibility is more compromised in winter, and it can be hard for motorists to see or avoid vehicles on the side of the road. Maintain proper fluid levels and make sure your battery is charged and the gas tank is full before making any winter trips.

Wintry conditions often make driving especially hazardous. But drivers who adopt certain habits when driving in winter can greatly reduce their risk of accidents.



Winterizing your vehicle

The three P's of safe winter driving: PREPARE for the trip; PROTECT yourself; and PREVENT crashes on the road.

Maintain your car: Check battery, tire tread, and windshield wipers, keep your windows clear, put no-freeze fluid in the washer reservoir, and check your antifreeze.

Have on hand: flashlight, jumper cables, abrasive material (sand, kitty litter, even floor mats), shovel, snow brush and ice scraper, warning devices (like flares) and blankets. For long trips, add food and water, medication and cell phone.

Stopped or stalled? Stay in your car, don't overexert, put bright markers on antenna or windows and shine dome light, and, if you run your car, clear exhaust pipe and run it just enough to stay warm.

Plan your route: Allow plenty of time (check the weather and leave early if necessary), be familiar with the maps/ directions, and let others know your route and arrival time.

Practice cold weather driving!
* During the daylight, rehearse maneuvers slowly on ice or snow in an empty lot.
* Steer into a skid.
* Know what your brakes will do: stomp on antilock brakes, pump on non-antilock brakes.
* Stopping distances are longer on water-covered ice and ice.
* Don't idle for a long time with the windows up or in an enclosed space.

Protect yourself
* Buckle up and use child safety seats properly.
* Never place a rear-facing infant seat in front of an air bag.
* Children 12 and under are much safer in the back seat.

Prevent crashes
* Drugs and alcohol never mix with driving.
* Slow down and increase distances between cars.
* Keep your eyes open for pedestrians walking in the road.
* Avoid fatigue – Get plenty of rest before the trip, stop at least every three hours, and rotate drivers if possible.
* If you are planning to drink, designate a sober driver.

Winter survival kit

-A shovel
-Windshield scraper and small broom
-Flashlight with extra batteries
-Battery powered radio
-Water
-Snack food including energy bars, raisins and mini candy bars
-Matches and small candles
-Extra hats, socks and mittens
-First aid kit with pocket knife
-Necessary medications
-Blankets or sleeping bag
-Tow chain or rope
-Road salt, sand or cat litter for traction
-Booster cables
-Emergency flares and reflectors
-Fluorescent distress flag and whistle to attract attention
-Cell phone adapter to plug into lighter



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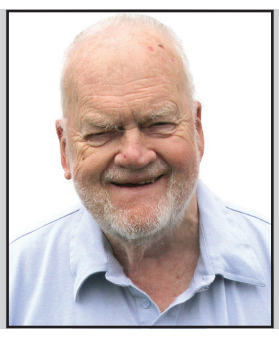
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OUTSIDE THE LINES



LEMAR NELSON

Winding up fall

Before we forget fall completely, both New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva [NRHEG] and Blooming Prairie High School had reports from last fall sports- the Panthers releasing their fall awards in all three sports, and the Blossoms summarizing the volleyball season.

NRHEG Athletic Director Dan Stork noted that many student athletes compiled some outstanding accomplishments, particularly in football, although volleyball, cross-country and even cheerleaders earned several honors.

Blooming Prairie Volleyball Coach Ranell Kittelson also released her summary for the volleyball season, and she displayed pride in the improvement her squad made over the season. Of particular note was the accomplishment of Abby Wayne, who had more than 500 assists in her first full year as the setter. Bria Baldwin also had a lot of success in digs, as she finished with more than 300 for the year. Two of the top four hitters were underclassmen, and fans will likely hear more from them in the future.

Both of the schools involved in the reports were thankful for the respective fan base and support, and it should be noted that the Times is attempting to expand sports coverage for our other area schools, besides our own Awesome Blossoms. We hope that fans from all communities take interest in their various schools' sports programs.

Sports takes a rest

With just one contest last week, local sports fans took most of last week and the weekend off. Instead, TV football remained the order of the day, and Thanksgiving had plenty of that to offer, both at the college and professional level.

I thought the basketball boys looked pretty good in the basketball home opener, even though they lost the game to a very good St. Clair squad. The Cyclones had a couple of good three-point shooters, and their 6-foot-5-inch sophomore center was almost unstoppable under the basket in the second half.

After a split in the two tourney contests at Triton, the team could be somewhat heartened for the coming season. A few penalties late in the Cobra game may have made a difference between a loss and a possible win.

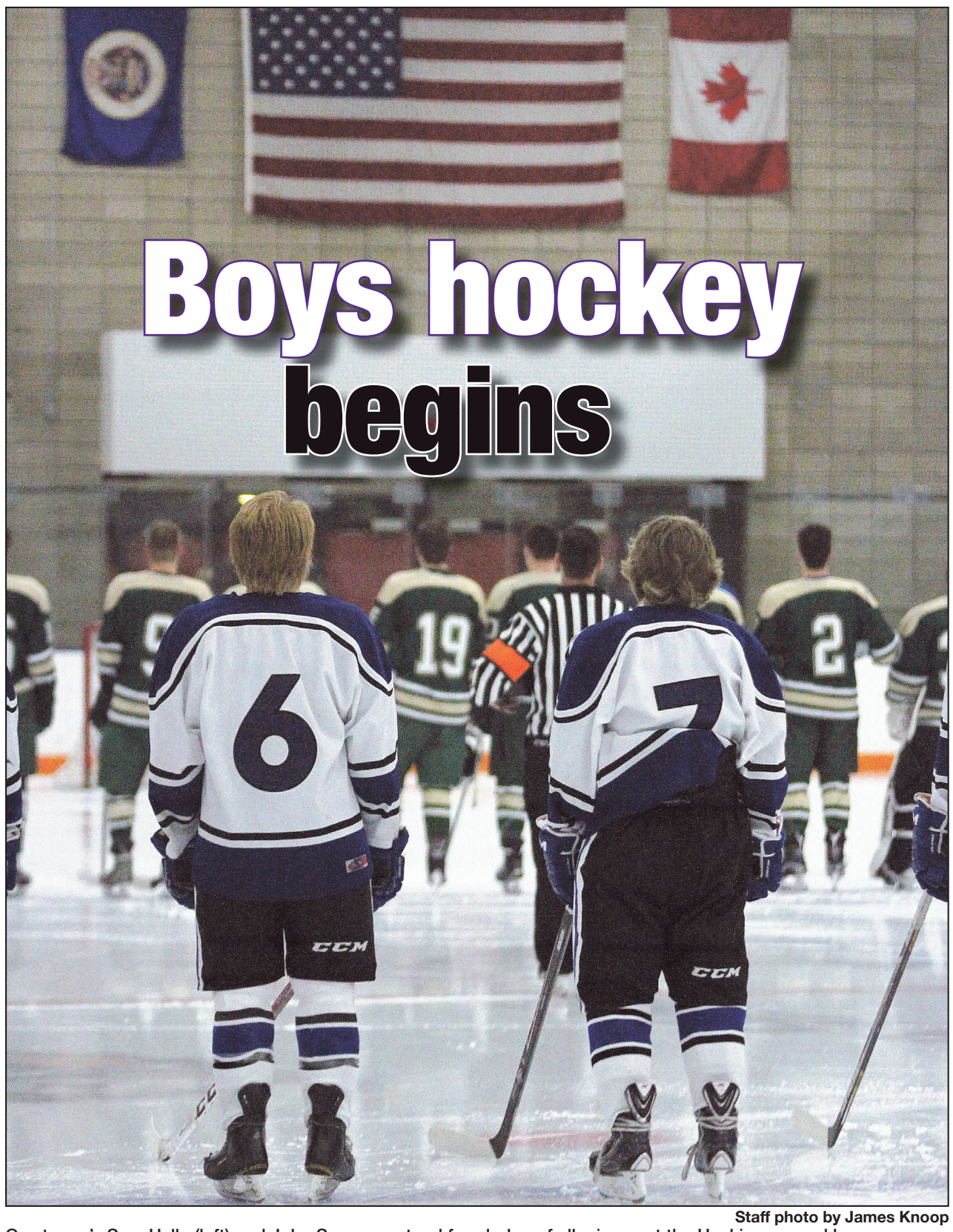
Anthony Nelson continues to play inspired basketball, and the sophomore contingent of the Blossom team will improve with each game. So far the team has performed better, than some fans anticipated, which is an optimistic outlook. I think the team has had a good start, despite two losses in three games.

Still much to appreciate

For the first time in many years Mother Nature put a scare into my plans for Thanksgiving, and I spent that special holiday by myself. I used to chuckle at those people who let possible inclement weather persuade them to opt out of traveling any distance for a family gathering. Now I am one of those people, as I let the threat of freezing rain and snow in our immediate area

OUTSIDE THE LINES
Continued on Page 3B

OWATONNA BOYS HOCKEY



Staff photo by James Knoop

Owatonna's Sam Hylle (left) and John Swenson stand for pledge of allegiance at the Huskies second home game of the season on Tuesday, Nov. 24. The boys went on to lose 3-2 against Rochester Mayo.

Boys 1-2 after 3-game homestand

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

The boys found their first win of the season in the third home game, defeating Rochester Century 3-0 on Saturday, Nov. 28.

Owatonna goalie Jacob Dub had little action against the Panthers, facing only eight shots compared to the 38 of the Owatonna offense. Dub saved all eight.

Senior Kade Friedrichs scored first for Owatonna, nabbing a short-handed goal at 6:38 mark in the first period. Senior Alec Holcomb added a second goal at 2:03 in the second period with an assist from sophomore Mithell Wiese. Friedrichs added his second goal of the night late in the second period with an unassisted goal.

Tyler Wencl ended the night's scoring in the third period with a goal assisted by junior Kodey Kiel and senior Noah Scheid.

Owatonna played a physical game as well, sending five to the penalty box compared to Century's one.

The win was the first of the year for the Huskies, who fell to an early 0-2 record after losses to St. Paul Academy and Rochester mayo. Owatonna will now play two games on the road, including a Thursday game at 7:30 p.m. against Rochester John Marshall and a Saturday matchup against North St. Paul at 3 p.m.

Rochester Mayo

Scoring in both the second and third period, the Huskies nearly completed a comeback against Rochester Mayo on Tuesday, Nov. 24, but a late power play goal in the third period secured the win for the Spartans.

Though managing only five shots on goal in the first period, the Spartans were able to capitalize on two of them, going up 2-0 on the Huskies. Owatonna would dominate the second period, amassing seven shots on goal to Mayo's three. Carter Broton was able to slip one past Mayo's goalie at 10:34 in the second, closing the gap to a single goal.

Kade Friedrichs completed the comeback, scoring on a power play at the 9:14 mark in the final period, but a power play goal by Veikko Weckman sealed Owatonna's fate, as the Spartans grabbed the 3-2 victory.

NRHEG SPORTS

Panthers honored at local awards ceremony

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Athletic Director Dan Stork recently released the fall sports awards, and as is evident from the honors, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva [NRHEG] competitors had plenty of which to be proud.

The various awards were presented at a ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 19.

Several cross-country athletes were first up for honors. Josh Fleming and Jade Mely took home the Most Valuable Player awards for their respective teams and Tyler Schlaak and Katherine Lewer were honored as Panther award recipients. Daniel Nydegger reached the 100-mile plateau, and Zach Mely and Katherine Lewer were honored with captain awards.

In volleyball, Abby Wacholz and Abby Christopherson were awarded Most Valuable offense and defense honors, respectively. Maci Suari earned the Panther player award and Anna Lundberg, Haley Schuller and Abby Wacholz received the captain awards.

Cheerleaders also received honors at the awards ceremony. Nicole Edon was the Spirit Award recipient, Torrie Stenzel the Most Valuable Back, Nicole Wallin the Most Valuable Flyer and Lizzy Hagen the Most Valuable cheerleader for the full season.

Football had more than its share of honors for the pro-

PANTHERS HONORED
Continued on Page 3B



Staff photo by James Knoop

The NRHEG girls volleyball team poses for a photo after the fall sports awards ceremony.

MEDFORD BASKETBALL

Free throws doom Medford in home opener: Tigers fall to 0-2



Staff photo by James Knoop

Medford senior Wyatt Volkmann dribbles past Mayer Lutheran's Cole Hagen in the Tigers' home-opener. The Tigers lost 55-46.

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

The Medford boys basketball team scored only 23 in a dismall 82-23 loss at St. Peter to begin the season, but managed a much closer 55-46 loss in their home opener.

Travelling to St. Peter for their first game of the year, the Medford boys gave a forgetable performance against a stout St. Peter defense. Holding the Tigers to just 12 first-half points. They would score even fewer in the second half, while the Saints amassed 62 first-half points and 21 in the second.

Aiding the Saints victory was outstanding shooting, with the boys from St. Peter hitting 67 percent of their shots, including 60 percent from the three-point line.

Coming off the difficult loss, the Tigers showed up at home, giving the boys from Mayer Lutheran a run for their money in a 55-46 loss on Tuesday, Nov. 24.

Trailing 26-23 at halftime, the Tigers would score another 23 in the half but allowed 29 in the nine-point loss. Despite the points allowed on defense, Medford had a chance to win the game at the free-throw line, but missed a disappointing 12 of 28 freethrows, leaving 16 free points unscored. Mayer Lutheran, on the other hand, shot 81 percent, missing only four of 21 attempts.

Senior Wyatt Volkmann led the scoring for the Tigers, scoring nearly half of the team's total points with 20. Senior Cody Rehman scored the second msot with eight and senior Alex Goetze scored five.

The Tigers were scheduled to play a home game against Glenville-Emmons on Tuesday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m., with four-straight road games to follow. Those game include matchups against Cleveland, Blooming Prairie, Jordan and Triton.

Each road game is scheduled to take place at 7:30 p.m., with the exception of Blooming Prairie, which is scheduled for 7:15 p.m.

Sports

BLOOMING PRAIRIE BOYS BASKETBALL

Late surge not enough as boys lose home-opener

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Another hard-fought game effort fell just a bit short for the Blooming Prairie boys basketball team. St. Clair held on for a 72-63 win in the home opener on Tuesday, Nov. 24.

The loss dropped the Blossoms to 1-2 over the first three games.

Three-point shooting by the Cyclones' Brandon Goebel in the first half and 6-foot-5–inch sophomore Mitchell Weber's dominance under the basket in the second half provided two good reasons for the St. Clair victory. Both teams traded baskets early, with the visitors taking a slim early lead. A 9-2 run near the 11-minute mark, however, put the winners up by 10 points, and they maintained that lead into the break, holding a 41-33 margin at that point.

"I certainly can't fault the effort or the energy," remarked Coach Nathan Piller. "We have to have more consistency in possessions and in finishing those possessions with points or a rebound to take another step forward."

BP kept pace with the Cyclones in the second half, but the team just couldn't find a way to eliminate the first half margin. Too often the visitors kept a possession alive with a second or third chance underneath and the Blossoms continually had to fight to keep the game within reach.

Anthony Nelson scored the last nine points for the Blossoms on the way to a 32-point game, but the Cyclones were able to respond to every attempt from the locals. Marten Morem and Jake Ressler, two of the BP sophomore contingent, scored 12 and 10 points in the losing effort.

"Nelson continues to impress with his scoring, leadership and will to compete and we will get better as the season progresses," added Piller.

Jake Ressler, one of the sophomores, added, "I thought we played pretty well for the first time at home. It was a fun game, despite the fact that we lost."

The team shot 47 percent from the field; Nelson went 13 of 24 for 54 percent from the field and four of five at the free throw line. St. Clair outrebounded BP by a half dozen, with the locals pulling down 27. Ressler had eight boards for BP and Nick Thompson and Morem had five and four, respectively. The locals turned the ball over 13 times.

The junior varsity team stands at 1-2 also, as it splits a pair of games at the Triton tourney and lost to St. Clair in the home opener last week. The locals trailed the Cyclones 24-18 at the break, but BP came back in the second half and actually led by 28-25 with five minutes left in the game.

The visitors then took control, thanks to local turnovers. Nick Thompson had nine points, and Cameron Kubista and Connor Getchgell had eight and seven points respectively. Eighth-grader Caden Thomas added six.

After a really half that put the Blossoms up on Triton 26-20 at the break, the home team rebounded to make the second half a heart stopper. The Cobras led by three points, with just seconds left, but BP stole the ball and Kory Rafdal hit a basket, but it was just a two-pointer for a final score of 42-41 for Triton. Nick Thompson had nine points and Cameron Kubista and Trent Swenson each had eight.

The Blossoms led Kenyon-Wanamingo just 18-16 at the half in the earlier game, but the locals outscored the Knights 20-12 in the second half to pull away for the win. Kubista led the scoring with 19 points, and freshman Swenson chipped in 11 for the Blossoms. BP made seven free throws in the second half.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Blooming Prairie's defense presses against St. Clair's offense, but ultimately falls 72-63 in the Blossom's home-opener.

OWATONNA GIRLS HOCKEY



Staff photo by James Knoop
Sophomore Jamie Davison passes to a teammate from behind the Huskies net during a home game earlier this season.

Still perfect: Huskies unbeat in away games

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

A three-game road trip for the girls hockey team proved no problem last week, as the Huskies defeated Eveleth-Gilbert, Orono and Rochester Mayo to move to 5-2 this season.

The first road game took the girls to Eveleth on Friday, Nov. 20, to face the 1-2-1 Golden Bears. The Huskies would jump on top early with an even strength goal by Jessica VonRuden (Chloe Schmidt) at 1:54.

The girls remain undefeated on the road with a perfect 4-0 record. Just two minutes later, Meghan Rethemeier (Jessica VonRuden) would add a second goal to put Owatonna up 2-0. The two teams exchanged goals in the second period, Jessica VonRuden scoring unassisted. Up 3-1 going into the third, Owatonna poured on the heat, managing 15 shots on goal compared to the Golden Bears' six. Eveleth-Gilbert would score once in the third, but Owatonna put the game easily away with three more goals from Reagan Schallau (Kiley Friedrichs), Margo Achterkirch and Jamie Davison.

Orono

One day later, the Huskies traveled to Orono to take on the 1-2 Spartans. The Spartans proved a better match for the Huskies, holding Owatonna to a single goal in both the first and second period and shutting them out in the third. Owatonna's goalie, Laura Ebeling, proved a wall for the Huskies, saving 27 shots on goal. Ebeling allowed a single goal in the third period. Owatonna goals were scored by Margo Achterkirch and Shannon VanReeth (Jamie Davison).

Rochester Mayo

On Tuesday, Nov. 24, the girls faced the Spartans of Rochester Mayo. In another close bout, the Huskies once again came out on top, securing the 4-3 win and their third-straight victory.

Though allowing one goal in each period, Owatonna managed to score twice in both the first and second periods, all four goals coming from the stick of Jessica VonRuden, with assists by Jenna VonRuden and Meghan Rethemeier. Owatonna dominated shots on goal in Rochester, outshooting the Spartans 29-17.

The three road wins kept the Owatonna Huskies undefeated on the road with a perfect 4-0 record. The girls, however, will stay home this Thursday as they host Rochester John Marshall/Lourde. The Rockets are 4-3 and will be a test for the Huskies looking to break a two-game home losing streak.

About leaving: Gone by not forgotten

THE HIGHLIGHT REEL



JAMES KNOOP

I played basketball for Cloverdale Christian School, a small Mennonite school with about 30 students.

My siblings and I are not Mennonite, but the school district we were in would have required an hour and half bus ride both ways to school every morning, and that just wasn't cool.

I grew a lot in my time at Cloverdale as a person, a basketball player and a follower of Jesus. Despite the differences of denominational views, my siblings and I thrived at the school, and with the addition of my brother Jonathan, the basketball program thrived.

Jonathan was a leader in every sense of the word. He was one who went first. He was confident in his play because he practiced year-round. He wasn't afraid to take control of a game. He trusted his teammates. He motived them, and they respected him. We respected him. I respected him. I may not have practiced as much as he instructed, but I respected the effort he put into improving himself.

Karlstad

I remember very little about our first tournament of the year, except that as a sixth-man freshman, I played better than I would play all my next three years. The reason? I simply played better when Jonathan was on the court. I thrived on his presence and seemed to have no lack of energy.

We took third place at that tournament, and Jonathan and I both made all-tournament team. It's something I'll never forget.

Granite City

About a month later, we played our last three games of the season at the Granite City tournament in St. Cloud. We came to the tournament having won the previous year's championship and favorites to win again.

We would win the first two games handedly, and the freshman were already talking about being champions. Jonathan was not. At halftime, we trailed 38-18. Our offense was in shambles, and our defense couldn't make a stop to save our lives. Our coach Rick Rhodes wasn't much for speeches. I only remember him asking one question.

"Do you want to win?"

Jonathan did, and just as we were walking onto the court to begin the second half, our assistant coach Bob Ellis pulled Jonathan aside and said, "Get the ball. Don't pass - just shoot. You take every shot for the rest of the game."

Jonathan listened.

I don't have access to our stat sheet for that game, but I imagine Jonathan scored 90 percent of our second-half points, and was the assistor of the other 10 percent. Still, with three minutes to play, we trailed by 11.

After a final timeout, our team called 1-2-3-HEART. It's what we always chanted, and it told every fan and opponent that our team never gave up. We left everything on that court.

The clock ticked down. 2:59-2:58-2:57...

Jonathan stole the ball, sprinted down the court, stopped at the three-point line and swish – down by eight. Pressing, we stole the ball again. Pass to Jonathan – swish – down by five. We played back on defense. Jonathan stole the ball and again pulled up for a wide-open three-point shot swish – down by two.

Less than a minute remained. Again Jonathan stole the ball. Anticipating this, I'd made a break for the other end, and firing a bullet pass past two defenders, he put the tying layup in my hands. Backboard-in. Tie game.

Our opponents called time-out. I have no idea what our coach said. My heart was pounding, ears ringing with mad cheering from our fans. 1-2-3-HEART. We got in our 2-3 defense. They inbounded the ball, passed it down low, shot, missed. Peter Hoppe rebounded and passed to Robin Yoder. Covered tightly, Robin held on to the ball, hoping for the buzzer to send us to an unthinkable overtime.

"Robin!" Jonathan called out. Robin passed him the bal. Three seconds left. Two seconds. Jonathan pulled up at half-court. One second. Jonathan let go a perfect-arcing ball. Buzzer. The ball fell, hitting the backboard and falling beautifully through the net.

We'd won and chaos ensued.

My oldest brother, Jeremiah, who had been sitting at the top of the bleachers was somehow the first one to reach Jonathan. I have no idea how.

In the moment, I'm sure I was too exhilarated to fully grasp what had just happened, but that's the beauty of highlights. You can go back to them over and over again – even if only in memory.

In the moment, I embraced fellow-freshman Kirby Yoder. We laughed and cried, jumping and hugging in disbelief. A scene we would repeat at our next championship as seniors.

But looking back, I mostly remember Jonathan. I remember how hard he'd practiced every summer throughout high school. I remember him overcoming a terrible sprained ankle mid-way through the season and playing through it. I remember the way he led, and the way he trusted his little brother to make the tying shot. I remember him shooting the buzzer shot, and I think he knew it was going in.

I miss playing basketball with Jonathan. It was a privilege playing with him. It is still a privilege being his brother.

The lesson

When Jonathan left after his senior year, along with all the other seniors, our team took a major hit. It wasn't until we freshman were seniors that our team was back to that caliber of play. But although Jonathan was 200 miles away at college, he'd never really left. As Kirby and I took over as captains, Jonathan's confidence became mine (at least in part). I tried to lead the way he'd led, practice with the intentionality he'd had and compete with the heart he'd given.

Dec. 7 of this month will be my last day with the Steele County Times, and the Dec. 8 issue my last column and stories. After that, I will be leaving with my family for a position in Oregon.

As I complete final stories, pack boxes and change my address, my biggest hope is that I never really leave Steele County. I hope the lessons in this column have impacted people. I hope the excellence I have strived for in my sports coverage has set a bar. I hope the conversations I have had will make a difference.

The thing about leaving is that it is constantly happening. If a student doesn't transfer, they will most likely leave high school after four years. They will leave college after four years, and, statically, they will leave their job after four years. We are constantly leaving things.

The question is rarely, "Will I leave?" The real question is, "What do I choose to leave behind?"

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Sports

NRHEG WRESTLING

Panthers 4th in tough Rochester Duals: prepare for home match

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

After some tough competition at the Rochester Duals on Saturday, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva [NRHEG] wrestling coach Shawn Larson knows what his team needs to work on heading into Thursday's match at home against Blooming Prairie.

"All together we were not ready to compete physically or mentally," Larson said. "As a coach my priority for the upcoming weeks is to work on getting our team started in these areas. I was impressed with the competition at this tournament as every school seemed to be competitive, especially for the first event of the season."

The Panthers wound up fourth in the 7-team event. NRHEG defeated Pine Island in the first round, 40-36, then dropped a 51-20 decision to Stewartville in the semifinals. In the third place match, Rochester John Marshall won 51-27.

Larson stated that there were many Panther wrestlers who have not had much experience at that type of level. "This was a great opportunity to show them how intense wrestling can be at the varsity level," he said. "It is my job now to get them to prepare themselves to be competitive. A day like this, although frustrating, is a great teaching point. In any situation, your setbacks teach you far more than your successes."

One positive during the day was the wrestling of Cordell Peterson. He wrestled in the 126-pound weight class; a class Larson stated had a formative opponent on each team. One included defending state champion Noah Bauer of Pine Island. Bauer won by an 8-5 decision.

"Although Cordell went 1-2 on the day, he wrestled well and was competitive in every match," Larson said. "Overall our team reacted to this day in a way becoming of young gentlemen facing adversity, and I feel are going to look at this day as a way to find their faults and look to improve. As a coach, that is all that I am expecting from them, getting better in every situation, and giving their best at all times."

NRHEG 40 - Pine Island 36

1. (106 lbs.) Dawson of Pine Island pinned Mason Okland of NRHEG in 13 seconds.
2. (113 lbs.) Austin Hill of NRHEG won by forfeit against Pine Island.
3. (120 lbs.) Jack Williams of Pine Island pinned Brett Kubiatowicz of NRHEG in 1 minute and 20 seconds.
4. (126 lbs.) Noah Bauer of Pine Island beat Cordell Peterson of NRHEG 8-5 (Decision).
5. (132 lbs.) Tyler Jacobson of NRHEG beat Mason Pike of Pine Island 15-6 (Major Decision).
6. (138 lbs.) Trai Wicks of NRHEG won by forfeit against Pine Island.
7. (145 lbs.) Brayden Burkhalter of Pine Island pinned Brendon Strand of NRHEG in 2 minutes and 43 seconds.
8. (152 lbs.) Bryce Okland of NRHEG won by forfeit against Pine Island.
9. (160 lbs.) Lucas Herrmann of NRHEG pinned Noah Koening of Pine Island in 1 minute and 47 seconds.
10. (170 lbs.) Trevor Turner of Pine Island pinned Chad Erickson of NRHEG in 2 minutes and 58 seconds.
11. (182 lbs.) Trey Hoppe of NRHEG pinned Matt Riley of Pine Island in 1 minute and 34 seconds.
12. (195 lbs.) JJ Douglas of Pine Island beat Alex Buckmeier of NRHEG 7-4 (Decision).
13. (220 lbs.) Zeke Erickson of NRHEG won by forfeit against Pine Island.
14. (285 lbs.) Alex Aarsvold of Pine Island pinned Wyatt Fitterer of NRHEG in 5 minutes and 47 seconds.

Stewartville 51- NRHEG 20

1. (106 lbs.) Riley Schwirtenberg of Stewartville beat Forfeit of NRHEG by forfeit.
2. (113 lbs.) Brett Kubiatowicz of NRHEG pinned Hudson Dyke of Stewartville in 1 minute and 09 seconds.
3. (120 lbs.) Brody Olson of Stewartville beat Forfeit of NRHEG by forfeit.
4. (126 lbs.) Joey Thompson of Stewartville beat Cordell Peterson of NRHEG 9-7 (Decision).
5. (132 lbs.) Ross Lenort of NRHEG won by forfeit against Stewartville.
6. (138 lbs.) Eric Sistad of Stewartville pinned Tyler Jacobson of NRHEG in 2 minutes and 48 seconds.
7. (145 lbs.) Ryan Clark of Stewartville pinned Trai Wicks of NRHEG in 3 minutes and 02 seconds.
8. (152 lbs.) Bryce Okland of NRHEG beat Ethan Meyer of Stewartville 12-0 (Major Decision).
9. (160 lbs.) Derek Woltman of Stewartville pinned Chad Erickson of NRHEG in 1 minute and 04 seconds.
10. (170 lbs.) Shawn Curtis of Stewartville pinned Lucas Herrmann of NRHEG in 5 minutes and 37 seconds.
11. (182 lbs.) Troy Bailey of Stewartville beat Trey Hoppe of NRHEG 6-2 (Decision).
12. (195 lbs.) Shad Curtis of Stewartville pinned Alex Buckmeier of NRHEG in 2 minutes and 44 seconds.
13. (220 lbs.) Adam Gehling of Stewartville beat Zeke Erickson of NRHEG 9-2 (Decision).
14. (285 lbs.) Wyatt Fitterer of NRHEG beat Kyle Lypkie of Stewartville 10-2 (Major Decision).



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

NRHEG's Wyatt Fitterer has a leg up on Alex Aarsvold of Pine Island during a 285-pound matchup at Saturday's wrestling tournament at John Marshall High School in Rochester. Fitterer led throughout the match but Aarsvold rallied to pin Fitterer with only 13 seconds left in the match.

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued from Page 1B

give me cause not to attempt travel to my grandson's home in Minneapolis for the Thanksgiving feast.

My family has always managed to celebrate Thanksgiving at some point in that weekend, not always on Thursday. But as I get older and travel becomes less attractive, staying home on that special day is not nearly so unappetizing as it once was.

And so I fried some boneless turkey breast, made some stove top stuffing, opened a can of jellied cranberries and served myself a Thanksgiving meal before tuning in to football. It made a simpler, but satisfying substitute to the mounds of food with which I would have indulged, but it probably was a little more healthy.

Don't get me wrong. I would rather have been with family, but the weather conditions made my stay at home much more attractive, and I had plenty of other activities to occupy the time. I have so much for which to be thankful for, anyway. I have a close and faithful family, I have had a relatively healthy year, and I have been allowed to see many sports events and continue to write about those events in our weekly paper.

Add to all of that, very entertaining trips to the theater, and one will hear no complaints about life. From me, I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving and can look forward to the remaining days of 2015 with hope and appreciation for all we have been given. That would be my belief and my hope going forward.

Coming up

Wrestling matches don't start quite yet, but the girls begin play tonight (Tuesday), at Triton (the boys are home to Lyle-Pacelli) and then both basketball teams will be busy until Christmas. It seems like a long wait for the girls, but that is mainly because the boys started early this year. It will be an interesting few weeks until Christmas vacation interrupts play for a couple of weeks.

The annual Holiday Dazzle night comes along this Friday, Dec. 4, and I have always been a little disappointed by the turnout at this great affair. It has been true that for some odd reason, the celebration almost always takes place on the coldest night of the early winter season, but last year wasn't too bad weather-wise, and this year should be okay.

This is a great opportunity for families to take advantage of some special deals on Main Street and also to partake of special treats and entertaining activities. Young children get the chance to have pictures taken with Santa Claus, and free rides are available throughout the evening. It is another activity sponsored by the BP Chamber of Commerce, and it is a great introduction to the Christmas Season. See you there. Enjoy the days approaching Christmas, and we'll talk again.

PANTHERS HONORED

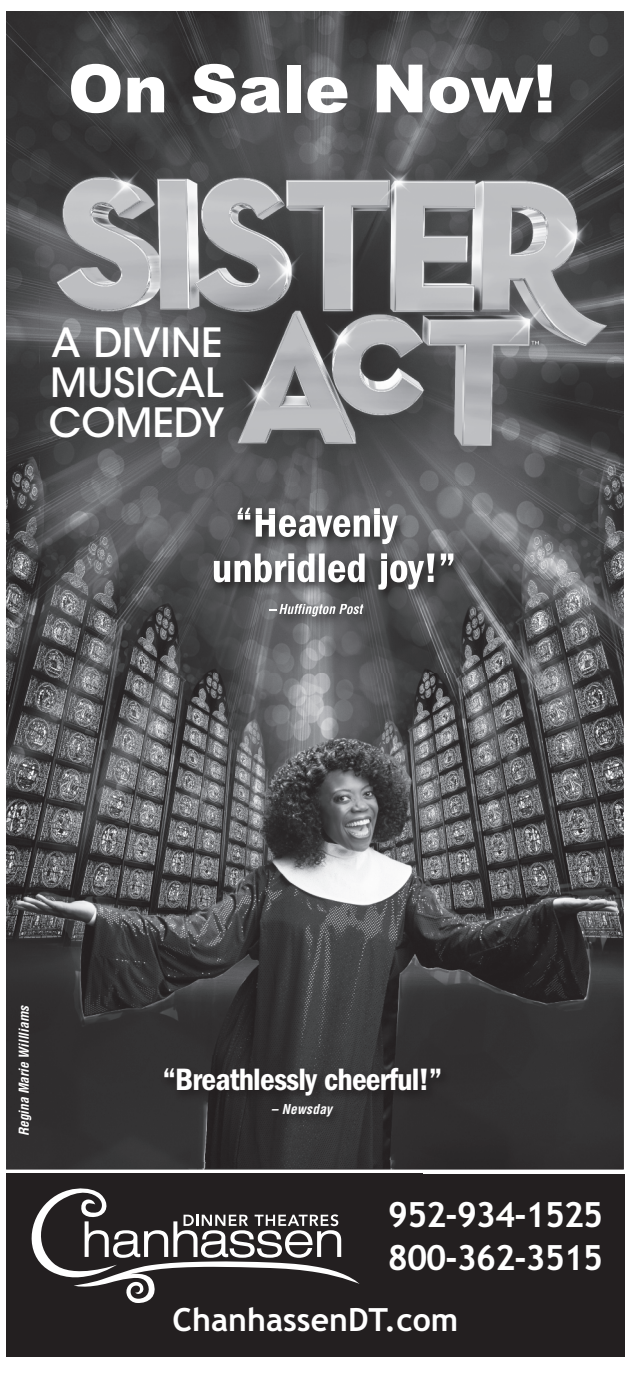
Continued from Page 1B

gram, as well. Captain awards went to Trey Hoppe, Zeke Erickson and Wyatt Fitterer. Erickson was named Most Valuable Player. Hoppe gained the "Lunch Pail" award.

Erickson also earned Most Valuable Defensive player, Palmer Peterson and John Cole as co-honorees as Most Valuable Offensive player and Erickson gathered his third award as most valuable lineman.

The awards didn't stop there. Outside school honors belonged to Erickson, Hoppe, Jack Schultz and Fitterer, who all earned All-District picks; and Palmer Peterson and Cole made the honorable mention list.

Abby Wacholz earned a spot on the Gopher Conference All-Star Team and Marnie Wagner was an honorable mention pick. All in all, it was quite an evening of honors, and, as Stork remarked, "These student athletes accomplished a great deal during this fall sports season, and they are to be commended for it."









Senior Focus

Health & Fitness
Retirement
Money/Investment
Activities & Hobbies

Gifts for grandchildren of all ages

1. Baby's first year
It's easy to get carried away buying gifts for the new grand baby. Families can be overwhelmed by too many toys, however, so you'll want to choose your gifts wisely. This list of baby toys includes some that are versions of classics and some that are delightful innovations. Many will be treasured possessions long past the first year, or will prove sturdy enough to hand down to a sibling or a cousin.

2. Toddlers 1 to 3
One reason toddlers are so much fun is the joy they take in new skills and discoveries. These toddler gifts are geared to helping little ones develop and grow. They're also sturdy to stand up to a toddler's rough play and designed to provide a whole lot of fun. Some, like the Duplo blocks and the Radio Flyer wagon, will provide play time for years to come

3. Preschoolers 3 to 5
Preschoolers gain new skills every day, so the selection of appropriate toys opens up to include those that encourage sports, artistic pursuits, fine motor skills, language and problem solving. Grandparents also like to give value, but it can be hard to find toys that will stand up to a 3-, 4-, or 5-year-old. The preschool toys in this list meet that test.

4. School-age grandchildren 5 to 9
School age grandchildren are among the most fun to buy for. The items on this gift list are mostly gender neutral, and the prices range from budget to moderate. Many of these items are suitable for solo use but are also fun to share, sometimes allowing Grandma and Grandpa to get in on the action. This is a great time for puzzles, building toys and board games.

5. Tweens 9 to 12
As grandkids get older, gift-giving gets a bit more difficult. You'll need to find something that will meet their personal definition of cool. Talk to your tween grandchildren and learn their likes and dislikes, as well as seeking the counsel of their parents and siblings. But don't forget that tween grandchildren still need some gifts that are just fun.

6. Teens and young adults
Choosing gifts for teenage grandchildren, like dealing with teens in general, requires a grasp of what's hot and what's not, as well as knowing the individual. Technology has a strong presence, of course, but so do so low-tech items. These gifts for teen grandchildren should fill the bill and may even be popular with the young adults on your list.

Gift ideas for the special seniors in your life

With lifetimes of experiences and seemingly everything they could ever want or need in life already at their disposal, seniors can be difficult to shop for come the holiday season. Many even insist that their family members save their money and not buy them anything for the holidays.

But if the thought of Grandma or Grandma not having something to open come the holidays is simply unacceptable, consider the following gift ideas.

Activity assistance devices
The realities of getting older often mean the body slows down and activities may not be as easy as they used to be. Many active seniors are not ready to live sedentary lives, nor should they be forced to do so. Plenty of products exist that can make life easier and more comfortable for older adults.

Television amplifying headphones are one product that can be a great fit for seniors, particularly those having difficulty hearing their televisions. The headphones amplify the sound of the programming without disturbing others in the room, and many such headphones even allow users to mute their televisions. This feature is perfect for someone who likes to watch TV while a spouse is sleeping or reading in the same room.

Other devices that can make life easier for seniors include magnifying products or bookholders. In addition, gel seat cushions can take pressure off of the spine in the car or at home.

Food
Food is always a handy gift because it doesn't take up much room and can be enjoyed at a recipient's leisure. Perhaps there is something the senior in your life used to enjoy as a child but now finds hard to come by. A search of the Internet may uncover that special treat. You may be able to ship a specialty soft drink or favorite cookie that is not available in a nearby store. Otherwise, ask a store manager if a particular item that's not in stock in the store can be a special order.



Photos
What grandparent does not enjoy looking at his or her family members? Computer-savvy men and women can use photo software to design personalized photo books, calendars, mugs, and other photo-related gifts. Just about anything can be emblazoned with a photo, including tote bags and pillows.

Another idea is to collect old photos and compile a memory book. Scan the images so they are preserved digitally and then print out the images in a book that includes the family history.

Time
Seniors who truly do not want or need anything probably will likely jump at the opportunity to spend time with loved ones. Treat a friend or family member to a meal out or simply spend a few hours chatting at his or her home. Sometimes the company of a new face and good conversation is the ideal gift.




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Healthcare professionals are on duty 24 hours per day to assist you with any healthcare needs.


Public Safety

Blotter spotlight:
Theft. A vehicle was reported stolen at 8:10 a.m. on Nov. 25 in Blooming Prairie.

MnDOT ready for winter, asks motorists to be responsible, too

With the potential of winter weather in the forecast this Thanksgiving weekend, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is ready to make highways safe for the traveling public.

"Winter weather is forecasted for southeast Minnesota, and our 113 snowplows are ready," said Jeff Vlaminck, district engineer for the 11-county MnDOT region in southeastern Minnesota. "Our goal is to return roads to normal driving conditions as quickly as possible after a winter event."

After last week's snow in southeast Minnesota, MnDOT maintenance crews spent time earlier this week cleaning, servicing and repairing equipment. They have been working on calibrating sanders and training new employees in snow and ice procedures.

All plows and sanders will be hung on trucks and ready for the holiday.

MnDOT works year-round on training staff, making sure sand and supplies are adequate and improving its technology, but the agency is also asking that the traveling public be prepared for winter driving.

"In Minnesota, we know that weather conditions can change quickly, so it's important for drivers to know what the conditions are before they depart to help them make smart decisions about whether they want to travel," Vlaminck said.

MnDOT urges motorists to use the 511 traveler information system website and phone app to plan their travel. The system provides road and winter driving conditions for the entire state and links to National Weather Service information. The system is available at www.511mn.org or by dialing 511. Motorists can also download the free 511 app on their smartphones and other mobile devices.

For safe winter driving, MnDOT asks motorists to take responsibility to:

• Avoid distractions; stay off cell phones and mobile devices.

• Don't crowd the plow. Stay back at least five car lengths, and preferably 10, from the snow plow.

• Obey the law by turning on headlights and wearing seat belts.

• Turn off cruise control.

• Make sure vehicles are in good operating condition for winter driving.

For more winter driving information, visit www.mndot.gov/workzone/winter.html

Blooming Prairie residence damaged in fire

An early-morning structure fire damaged a residence in Blooming Prairie on Monday.

At 4:03 a.m., the smell of smoke woke Jeff Peterson, a resident in the 300 block of Second Street Southeast. Upon investigation, he discovered a fire in his attic and called the Blooming Prairie Fire Department. "I put the ladder up around the back and could see the fire in back," Peterson said.

Peterson exited the home without injury. He was the only person inside the home at the time of the fire.

According to Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad, the state fire marshal investigated the scene and determined that there was no foul play. According to Skillestad, the fire began as a result of an electrical problem. Sparks ignited in the attic and rafters and beams started on fire, likely the result of sparks.

Peterson said that the damage was not extensive.

Things aren't always as they seem

Justin T. Hoag, 29, has been charged with providing a false name to a police officer and fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance after an investigation of a vehicle crash.

When Owatonna Police Department officers arrived at a one-vehicle crash at the 1200 block of North Elm Avenue, they found two apparent females pushing a truck that had hit a utility pole.

According to reports, an officer made contact with the females and much to his surprise, learned one of the females was actually a male dressed as a female. When the officer tried identifying the male, he was given some name that did not match the spelling. The other dressed female was asked the male's name and she provided his real name.

The officers learned that the male was wanted on Olmsted and Mower County warrants and was placed under arrest. At the time of his arrest, the male was carrying a pink purse and a search of the purse revealed a number of loose pills identified as Trazadone, a Schedule IV controlled substance, according to the report.

The driver of the vehicle, Sonia V. Macias, 38, was charged by citation with careless driving.



Hoag

Level III meeting set for Dec. 3

A Level III Community Notification meeting will be held at 6 p.m., Dec. 3, at the Steele County History Center in Owatonna.

Sean Patrick McKee, 30, has been convicted of a criminal sexual conduct and will be residing in the vicinity of 44th Avenue and U.S. Highway 14 East in Owatonna, according to the Steele County Sheriff's Office.

McKee is not wanted at this time and has served his sentence. He has a history of sexual contact with a 14-year-old female. In addition, the report said he has additional behavioral issue including chemical dependency.



McKee

Commercial business theft investigations underway

The Owatonna Police Department is investigating several incidents involving thefts from commercial business locations that resulted in the loss of construction equipment, trailers, a skid steer and a semi-tractor. There were also attempted thefts of an ATV and an ATM machine.

According to reports, all incidents appear to be related. The incidents have taken place within the city limits since Nov. 18 between 1 a.m. and 5:30 a.m.

The police department is notifying local business owners and asking everyone to report suspicious activity.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Owatonna Police Department at 507-774-7207.

Police blotter
Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police

Nov. 24

Property Damage. Officer took a vandalism report in the city at 8:49 a.m.

Nov. 25

Theft. A vehicle was reported stolen at 8:10 a.m.

Owatonna Police

Nov. 23

Alarm. Police responded to an alarm in the 2400 block of Bridge St. W. at 1:30 a.m.

Theft. Vehicles were reported stolen from the 1100 block of Park Dr. NW at 9:46 a.m. and at 52nd Ave. NW and 8th St. SW at 2:09 p.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 100 block of 18th St. SE at 9:58 a.m.

Warrant. At 6:25 p.m., officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 200 block of 24th Ave. NW.

Drunken Driving. Police made a DWI arrest at 18th St. SW and 39th Ave. SW at 11:28 p.m.

Nov. 24

Trespassing. At 6:30 a.m., police arrested a subject for trespassing in the 1000 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 11:58 a.m.

Stop Arm. A school bus driver reported a stop arm violation in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 3:56 p.m.

Death. Police began a death investigation in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 4:06 p.m.

DWI. At 9:36 p.m., officer arrested a juvenile for driving while intoxicated at Mineral Springs Rd. NE and St. Paul Rd.

Child Protection. Officer took a child protection report in the 400 block of Kelly St. NW at 9 p.m.

Nov. 25

Warrant. Officer made a warrant arrest in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 3:23 a.m.

Burglary. Police began a burglary investigation in the 300 block of Pearl St. E. at 8:02 a.m.

Child Protection. At 9:33 a.m., police received a child protection report from the 200 block of Pearl St. E.

Arrest. Officer arrested a motorist at North St. W. and State Ave. NW at 12:38 p.m.

Fraud. A fraud incident occurred in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 12:48 p.m.

Theft. A vehicle was reported stolen from the 2800 block of Bridge St. W. at 2:55 p.m.

Shoplifting. Officer issued a citation for shoplifting in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 5:55 p.m.

Traffic. A traffic stop resulted in an adult being arrested at 12th St. NE and 3rd Ave. NE at 11:05 p.m.

Nov. 26

Domestic. Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 2300 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 2:01 p.m.

Theft. Officer took theft report in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 8:04 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff

Nov. 23

Harassment. At 10:07 a.m., a citizen reported being the victim of harassment in the 700 block of 2nd Ave. NE.

Warrant. Deputy arrested subjects for outstanding warrants at the detention center at 1:41 p.m. and at 11:11 p.m.

Theft. A vehicle was reported stolen from the 100 block of 1st Ave. NE at 7:19 p.m.

Nov. 24

Crash. At 4:14 p.m., paramedics and deputies responded to a crash with injuries in the 400 block of Central Ave. W.

Nov. 25

Crash. Deputies responded to a personal injury crash at 69th St. NW and Frontage Rd. W. at 5:04 a.m.

Fraud. A fraud incident occurred in the 1800 block of 44th Ave. SE at 2:57 p.m.

Nov. 26

Accident. At 5:09 p.m., deputies responded to a crash with injuries in the 6400 block of County Rd. 45 S. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Court news
Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Nov. 16 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

Heather J. Marovich, 35, Montgomery, previously appeared and was convicted of felony controlled substance crime. She was sentenced to $50, 58 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training and 80 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Nov. 16 – 20:

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Nicolas R. David, 35, Faribault, disorderly conduct, $381, 7 days in county jail, obtain employment and 1 year of supervised probation; Brian O. Martin, 36, Austin, revoked license and no insurance, $481; Ashley F. Schlichter, 30, Blooming Prairie, suspended license and no insurance, $481.

MN Dept. of Natural Resources

Matthew D. Buckingham, 18, West Concord, migratory birds violation, $181.

MN State Patrol

Rochester

Jared L. Aas, 41, Claremont, revoked license and failure to change information, $301; Mariah K. Allard, 23, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $121; Danielle M. Andrusko, 21, Lakeville, speeding, $101;

Dillon C. Baehm, 26, Detroit Lakes, stolen plates and possession of Marijuana, $431; Stephanie A. Bice, 27, Faribault, no MN license, $181; Julie L. Caldwell, 47, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Christopher S. Casey, 42, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Eliana J. Davis, 16, Madelia, seat belt, $106;

Shawn L. Farrenkopf, 26, Waseca, suspended license and seat belt, $306; Saul Garcia-Gonzalez, 33, Albert Lea, window tint violation, $131; Cody W. Grunwald, 22, Waseca, speeding and failure to display current registration, $171; Seifu S. Hassen, 22, Minneapolis, speeding, $141; Susan R. Hodge, 54, Austin, expired license, $181;

Carlos G. Ibarra Gomez, 41, Franklin, seat belt, $106; Norman B. Jacobson, 40, Hastings, speeding, $131; Emily J. Kahnke, 25, Ellendale, speeding, $121; Anthony J. Krogh, 26, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Jerry L. Lisowski, 49, Ellendale, unsafe equipment, $121; Eran M. Miller, 20, Wells, speeding, $131;

Michelle R. Nget, 29, Rockford, speeding, $131; Anika E. Nowlan, 17, Ellendale, speeding, $281; Katherine C. Osorio Martines, 25, Faribault, no MN license, $181; Gary J. Pavlovec, 43, Fort Atkinson, IA, speeding, $121; Jacmin M. Quintana, 33, Rochester, seat belt, $106;

Eliut Rocha, 27, Owatonna, inattentive driving, $81; James W. Schneider, 47, Sioux Falls, SD, speeding, $141; Samuel O. Schwartz, 36, Blooming Prairie, criminal vehicular operation, $1,585.17, 2 days in county jail, write letter of apology, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, 30 days of home monitor and 3 years of supervised probation;

Tanner R. Smith, 22, Hartland, no insurance, $281; Lei Thongvivong, 40, Worthington, speeding, $141; Sworup Vaidya, 26, St. Paul, speeding, $221; Paige A. Vander Weide, 19, Altoona, IA, speeding and no license, $221; Brian D. Vargas Jaramillo, 20, Faribault, speeding, $131;

Garth L. Willhite, 32, Pine City, revoked license, $281.

Owatonna Police Department

Mayra Barajas, 33, Owatonna, operation without registration, $181 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Nicole A. Condon, 31, Waseca, shoplifting, $381 and 1 year of unsupervised probation;

Constance E. Crosby, 25, Owatonna, invalid license, $181; Alex W. Diel, 29, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Shannon M. Fedder, 30, Owatonna, theft, $681, and 1 year of unsupervised probation;

Jeffrey C. Forbes, 47, Owatonna, rear lamps violation, $181; Glenn A. Gaunt, 57, Owatonna, DWI, $406, 1 day in county jail, attend MADD impact panel, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation;

David M. Gregory, 35, no insurance, $281; Josue Gutierrez, 20, Owatonna, underage consumption, $181, 5 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation;

Jordan M. Heyer, 22, Minneapolis, fleeing peace officer, $131 and 39 days in county jail; Abdirisaq M. Hussein, 27, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Kevin Jackson, 50, Owatonna, assault, $181 and 30 days in county jail; Taylor R. Jacobs, 21, Owatonna, theft, $131 and 60 days in county jail;

Lance E. Krueger, 46, McAllen, TX, speeding, $131; Sean A. Ridley, 39, Robersonville, NC, shoplifting, $181; Sara J. Schlueter, 36, Faribault, invalid license, $181; Glen A. Schultz, 51, Waseca, seat belt, $106;

Scott A. Simon, 42, Owatonna, theft by swindle, $181; Antonio Taylor, 34, Owatonna, careless driving, $281; Heriberto Vazquez Delgado, 23, Kenyon, careless driving, $181; Denny E. Willcox, 46, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, $181.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Billy R. Bass, 33, Mankato, speeding and no insurance, $181; Angela J. Blouin, 42, Ellendale, speeding, $141; Rodney A. Bramstedt, 47, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $121; Cassandra M. Brandon, 26, Kenyon, speeding, $221; Carter A. Broton, 16, Owatonna, stop sign, $131;

Jim D. Brown, 61, Ellendale, seat belt, $106; Casey Q. Burke, 49, Waseca, speeding, $141; Ruth S. Crenshaw, 79, Miramar Beach, FL, speeding, $221; Timothy D. Disher, 45, Owatonna, speeding, $131; Jessica N. Eischens, 31, Claremont, speeding, improper information on license and no insurance, $341; Kristin S. Emrich, 47, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, $106; David C. Engbard, 61, Medford, seat belt, $106; Dreux E. Evans, 24, Eagle Grove, IA, speeding, $121;

Cheyanna R. Flaherty, 23, Minneapolis, DWI, $406, 3 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, and 2 years of supervised probation;

Ryan J. Hering, 25, Blooming Prairie, expired tabs and speeding, $161; Jasin K. Hershberger, 31, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Steven W. Larose, 46, Owatonna, burning of prohibited materials, $281;

Tina L. Lattimore, 32, Northfield, improper information on license and windshield violation, $141; Nathaniel J. Lefebvre, 32, Bloomington, speeding, $131; Kevin A. Leintz, 28, Eagle Lake, expired tabs, $111;

James L. Linderoth, 34, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Nicholas S. Malis, 35, Waseca, speeding, $131; Gabriel D. Maya Ramirez, 23, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Jessieanna Mireles, 34, Owatonna, speeding, $141;

Michael N. Olson, 30, New Brighton, cancelled license, $381, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of supervised probation; Ruben Parra Jr., 27, Weslaco, TX, no insurance and speeding, $331; Guadalupe C. Perez, 21, Owatonna, invalid license and speeding, $321;

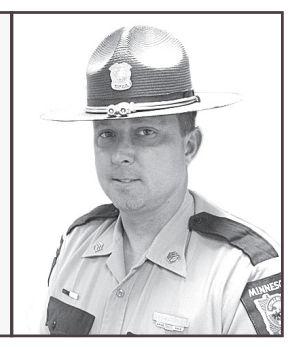
Kristie A. Purfeerst, 44, Waterville, suspended license, $281; April C. Ramsey, 35, Brooklyn Park, suspended license, $281; Luis M. Reyes Valenciana, 28, Faribault, speeding, $141; April M. Seitz, 25, Shakopee, speeding, $381;

Sean A. Seykora, 42, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Donald D. Smith, 54, Owatonna, revoked license and speeding, $341; Sulma M. Soto, 45, Faribault, speeding, $131; Amber J. Warnemunde, 35, Faribault, speeding, $131; Kyle L. Young, 18, Rochester, speeding, $381.

PUBLIC SAFETY
Continued on Page 6B


SMELL GAS?
GET OUT! THEN CALL OPU • 24 HRS •••• 507.451.1616 ••••
• Smell gas? (odor is like rotten eggs)
• Can't immediately find the source?
• DO NOT turn on a light switch or use the phone because the potential spark could ignite the gas and cause an explosion!
• Get out and call OPU from your mobile phone or a neighbor's house.
OWATONNA PUBLIC UTILITIES
www.OwatonnaUtilities.com

Ask a Trooper: Winter weather driving tips



Sgt. Troy Christianson
MN State Patrol

Question: Can you talk about winter driving safety?

Answer: This is a great time to talk about it and remind drivers about the dangers of driving on slippery roads and reducing chances of being involved in a crash.

• Avoid unnecessary travel if conditions are poor.

• Buckle up, and make sure child restraints are tightly secured.

• Drive at safe speeds according to road conditions, and provide for plenty of travel time.

• Increase safe stopping distance between vehicles.

• Use extra precautions when driving around snowplows by keeping at least five car-lengths behind plows.

• If skidding, remain calm, ease foot off the gas, and turn the steering wheel in the direction you want the front of the vehicle to go.

• If vehicle has an anti-lock braking system (ABS), apply a steady firm pressure to the brake pedal. Never pump ABS brakes.

• Clear snow and ice from vehicle windows, hood, headlights, brake lights, and directional signals.

• Headlights must be turned on when it is snowing or sleeting.

• Do not use cruise control on snow/icy/wet roads. Conditions can change over every hill and around every curve. Be very aware of bridge decks and overpasses as they become icy.

• Equip vehicles with a scraper/brush, small shovel, jumper cables, tow chain, and a bag of sand or cat litter for tire traction. Blanket(s), heavy boots, warm clothing, and flashlights are also important, as are storing high-energy foods such as chocolate or energy bars.

• Be sure cell phones are charged for long trips, and inform family of destination plans and schedule.

• If stranded, stay in the vehicle.

• Parents of teen drivers should make sure new motorists experience snow and ice driving in a safe environment, such as an empty parking lot.

• Slow down and move over for emergency vehicles parked at a scene.

• Have good winter-type tires on your vehicle.

• Have a good set of windshield wipers on your vehicle.

• For weather-related road condition information, call 5-1-1 or visit www.511mn.org.

• Remember that you can't control how other drivers are driving, but you can reduce your chances of being involved in a crash if you follow basic winter driving safety tips.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson – Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)

With fire deaths on the rise, Fire Marshal asks for public's help

Social media campaign will focus on ways Minnesotans can help to prevent fires

2014 Fire deaths by month

January: 5
February: 9
March: 8
April: 4
May: 5
June: 2
July: 0
August: 1
September: 3
October: 1
November: 3
December: 3

The number of fire fatalities in 2015 has already surpassed last year's number — a concerning statistic with some of the historically most deadly months ahead for residential fires.

Minnesota State Fire Marshal Bruce West is asking Minnesotans to help make this a holiday season without heartache. His goal? No more residential fires or fire fatalities this year.

"We need people to be part of the solution by taking fire prevention seriously," West said. "We do not want anyone else to suffer the heartache that comes along with a house fire."

Forty-six people have died in fires so far this year in Minnesota compared 44 in all of 2014. There were 41 fire deaths at this time last year.

Why can the holiday season and winter months dangerous for fires? The three leading causes of Minnesota fires last year — cooking, heating and open flame — are holiday staples. West offers the following tips to keep your home and family safe this holiday season:

Cooking

• Never leave a hot stovetop or oven unattended.

• Smother a stovetop grease fire with a pan lid and turn off the burner.

Heating

• Keep space heaters three feet from anything combustible.

•Do not leave space heaters unattended and turn them off while you're sleeping.

Open flames

• Leave three feet between a candle and anything that can burn; use flameless candles.

• Holiday decorations are combustible. Keep them three feet from any fuel source.

• Never burn gift wrap in a fireplace; it burns too fast and hot to be controlled.

Be part of the solution

The SFMD is asking people to share what steps they're taking to prevent fires in their homes using the hashtag #FireFree on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Do you test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms every month? Snap a photo and show us on social media. Do you have a quick and easy way to remember to practice your safe escape plan? Share it. Your tip or photo could help save someone's life.

Since 1990, there has been an average 81 residential fires over the

Thanksgiving holiday weekend and 187 residential fires between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day.

Last year, 20 of Minnesota's 44 fire deaths occurred cold-weather months.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from Page 5B

Police blotter
Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 203 complaints for the week of Nov. 18-24. Some of them included:

Nov. 18

Theft. Deputy took a report of a gas drive off in the amount of $19 from the Casey's Store in Hayfield at 11:09 a.m.

Nov. 19

Suspicion. A citizen on 170th Avenue by Dodge Center reported at 4:55 p.m. a white van with pipestone delivery on the side pulled into the driveway. A man came up to the house and asked for the boss of the house and left again.

Noise. The sheriff's office responded to a noise complaint on 270th Avenue in Hayfield at 10:16 p.m. A citizen reported a vehicle with loud exhaust was driving up and down the neighbor's driveway.

Nov. 20

Domestic. At 2:11 a.m., deputies responded to a domestic disturbance on 1st Street SE in Hayfield.

Car vs. Deer. A vehicle hit a deer on 250th Avenue in Hayfield at 7:30 a.m. The injured deer needed to be put down.

Detention Order. A woman was arrested on 2nd Street SE in Hayfield for a detention order related to chemical use. She was taken to Steele County Jail.

House Fire. Smoke was reportedly coming from a basement on 117th Avenue near Blooming Prairie at 12:46 p.m.

Crash. A motor vehicle crash was reported at 9th Street SE and 6th Avenue SE in Hayfield at 7:44 p.m. A vehicle ran off the road and no injuries were reported.

Nov. 21

Threats. A woman on 3rd Street in Claremont reported at 1:56 p.m. that her ex-husband made threats against her.

Sudden Death. Police and medical responders went to a residence on 250th Avenue by Hayfield for a medical emergency. They found an 80-year-old woman was deceased.

Hit and Run. At 9:09 a.m., a citizen on 1st Avenue NE in Hayfield reported a hit and run of a vehicle.

Nov. 22

Traffic. A deputy stopped a vehicle at 120th Avenue and 585th Street by Claremont at 10:16 a.m. The driver was issued a citation for speeding.

Nov. 24

OFP Violation. A woman reported an Order for Protection violation on Front Street E. in Claremont at 10:46 a.m.

Court news
Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Nov. 16 – 23:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Seeta J. Conley, 36, LeRoy, revoked license, $280; Kimberly J. Jensen, 25, Austin, cancelled license and no insurance, $480; Leslie R. Kunz, 59, Pine Island, seat belt, $105;

Adam K. Mackendaz, 41, Kasson, suspended license, $280; Eduardo D. Merced-Hernandez, 24, Dodge Center, invalid license and speeding, $230; Kaitlin B. Murphy, 26, Kasson, parking violation, $70; Garrett S. Rath, 18, Kasson, seat belt, $105;

Kim M. Richards, 60, Byron, parking violation, $32; Juan J. Rivera, 29, Rochester, revoked license, no insurance and speeding, $530; Mary K. Ryan, 18, Kasson, speeding, $130; Nikolas C. Steinbacher, 32, Faribault, speeding and no insurance, $340.

Kasson Police Department

Anthony Bermea, 30, Hayfield, revoked license and no child passenger restraint system, $330; Kaleb G. Boettcher, 22, Rochester, seat belt, $105; Tyler J. Eldridge, 26, Rochester, speeding, $140; Micah Hinck, 17, Stewartville, speeding, $120;

Cory W. Kleeberger, 24, Austin, revoked license and seat belt, $305; Andrea M. Noble, 28, Mantorville, speeding, $130; Shawn D. Plotnik, 31, theft by swindle, 1 year in county jail; Justin S. Prondzinski, 33, Kenyon, possession of Marijuana, $130; Tanor D. Quam, 22, Kasson, suspended license, $280; Daniel D. Rappe, 17, Kasson, seat belt, $105.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Tammy S. Bernatz, 52, Mantorville, speeding, $130; Lyndsay C. Borchardt, 23, New Ulm, speeding, $140; Maria D. Floriano, 35, Kasson, no MN license, $180; Patricia A. Kast, 50, Kasson, speeding, $130; Philip G. Kueffer, 54, Sun Prairie, WI, speeding, $120; Daniel D. Rappe, 17, Kasson, speeding, $130; Matthy C. Van Tonder, 26, Dexter, speeding, $120.

West Concord Police Department

Mayra M. Flores Donis, 51, Leroy, invalid license and no insurance, $380.

Steele Arrests

Owatonna Police

Crystal Dawn Horner, 24, arrested at 12:05 p.m. Nov. 20, warrant arrest, body only.

Anthony Eugene Wadley, 40, arrested at 4:11 a.m. Nov. 21, apprehension and detention order, held for court.

Alyssa Marie Sorenson, 24, arrested at 10:15 a.m. Nov. 21, domestic assault, interference with 911 and DWI, held for court.

Brad Curtis Brugger, 48, arrested at 4:51 p.m. Nov. 21, cancelled license, held for court.

Latjor Biel Gatkuoth, 19, arrested at 12:56 p.m. Nov. 22, false name, revoked license and no insurance, held for court.

Jordan David Lindeman, 18, arrested at 2:45 p.m. Nov. 22, tampering and criminal damage to property and warrant arrest, held for court.

Justin Ryan Kremmin, 27, arrested at 11:50 p.m. Nov. 23, DWI, speeding and possession of Marijuana, held for court.

Justin Timothy Hoag, 31, arrested at 3:16 a.m. Nov. 24, felony possession of controlled substance and false name, held for court.

Sonia Vazquez Macias, 38, arrested at 8:37 a.m. Nov. 24, felony theft, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Emmanuel Alejandro Mata, 21, arrested at 1:51 p.m. Nov. 21, probation warrant arrest, $5,000 bail.

Joseph Jacob Wallin, 19, arrested at 11:10 p.m. Nov. 23, warrant arrest, $3,000 bail

Owatonna Fire

Nov. 20

Elevator. Fire Rescue responded to a victim who was stuck in a stalled elevator in the 600 block of Florence Ave. NW at 3:51 p.m.

Nov. 24

Medical. At 11:06 p.m., the fire department assisted with a medical emergency in the 900 block of ElDorado Street SE.

Nov. 25

Smoke. The fire department responded to a smoke odor in the 500 block of 14th Street SE at 10:14 p.m.

Nov. 26

Crash. A rescue response was needed on County Road 45 south at 5:10 p.m. for a motor vehicle crash. Personnel assisted with extrication of a person from a vehicle.

Medical. Fire personnel assisted with a medical emergency in the 7000 block of Crane Creek Road at 10:42 p.m.









SHERIFF'S TIPLINE

866-878-7964



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

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

The sheriff makes this information available as a public service.

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

Michael Niles – disorderly conduct - $500 bail
Brandon Nisly – soliciting without permit - $500 bail
Jason Nolan – theft by check - $5,000 bail
Pedro Nolasco – revoked license - $500 bail
Neil Norris – DWI - $750 bail
Gracie Nunez – theft - $10,000 bail
Joan O'Quist – FTA-obey order - $3,000 bail
Kelley Oelker – worthless check - $500 bail
Willie Olivo – writ of attachment - $2,300 bail
David Olivo-Santana – unauthorized use – no bail
Janice Olmo-Munoz – theft, shoplifting - $500 bail
Bobby Olseth – property damage - $400 bail
Nicole Olson – traffic - $2,000 bail
Rodger Olson – DWI – no bail
Omot Oman – DWI - $12,000 bail
Authoro Ortega – DWI – no bail
Manuel Ozornia – DWI - $1,400 bail
Guillermo Padron Jr. – criminal sexual conduct – no bail
Marcelo Palacio – traffic - $300 bail
Jorge Pani – DWI - $1,000 bail

HometownLiving

Community Calendar



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Derik Kubicek, Reed Kath, Dakota Kath and Emily Kubicek made sock snowmen at the Owatonna Arts Center ornament making marathon on Nov. 21.

J&H LIQUORS
340 E. Main St. Blooming Prairie • 507-583-7557
JOIN US FOR THE HOLIDAYS
BAR BINGO: MONDAY @ 6:30 P.M.
WINE & WOMEN WED: 6-10 P.M.
MEAT RAFFLES: FRIDAY @ 5:30 P.M.
WINE CLUB: TUES. 7-8:30 P.M. NOV. 10, JAN. 12, FEB. 9, MARCH 8, APRIL 12, MAY 3
HOLIDAY DAZZLE DOWNTOWN FESTIVITIES: DEC. 4, 5-7 P.M. WINE TASTING • BAKE SALE CHAIR MASSAGES • MEAT RAFFLES
HARVEY'S HOLIDAY CHEER/ 60TH BIRTHDAY DEC. 12, 4-8 P.M. (NO CARDS OR GIFTS)
DEC 24: OPEN 10 A.M.- 5 P.M.
DEC 25: CLOSED MERRY CHRISTMAS
DEC 31: NEW YEARS EVE MUNCHIES & CHAMPAGNE
JAN 1: NEW YEARS DAY: OPEN 10 A.M. - CLOSE HAPPY 2016

Blooming Prairie

Dec. 3:
12 p.m. BP American Legion
Dec. 4:
5 p.m. BP Main Street Ribbon Cutting
6 p.m. Ladies' Night Out, BPSC
Dec. 6:
9:30 a.m. St. Columbanus CCW Nativity Brunch and Bake Sale, St. Columbanus Church, BP
Dec. 7:
12 p.m. 55+ Driver Improvement Program, BP City Cntr
7 p.m. BPWT General Mtg, Lutheran Church
Dec. 8:
BP Card Club & Luncheon
7 p.m. BP VFW
7 p.m. BP VFW Auxiliary
7:30 p.m. BP Prairie Lodge Masons

Servicemen's Club
210 Fourth St. N.E. • Blooming Prairie • 507-583-7884
• 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.
Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club will be closed next Thurs/Friday 11/26 & 11/27 for Thanksgiving

Ellendale/Geneva

Dec. 3:
5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
Dec. 5:
11 a.m. 31st Annual Wild Game Feed, Geneva Bar & Grill
Dec. 6:
Free Meal Sunday's at Ellendale United Methodist Church, Ellendale
7 a.m. Arianna Hansen Benefit, New Richland City Hall
Dec. 7:
6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
Dec. 8:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

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Owatonna

Dec. 3:
8:30 a.m. Steele Co Land Use/Records Policy Committee, St Co Admin Cntr
9 a.m. Steele County Historical Society Announces December History Detectives and Time Travelers Program, Lange Theatre in the History Center, Owatonna
2 p.m. OPL Independent & World Films
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time
6:30 p.m. Steele County Historical Society Announces December History Detectives and Time Travelers Program, Lange Theatre in the History Center, Owatonna
Dec. 4:
Christmas in the Village, Village of Yesteryear
7 a.m. Trinity Lutheran Church Christmas Concert
9 a.m. Steele Co SEMREX Joint Powers Brd Mtg, St Co Brd Rm
12:15 p.m. Four Seasons Public Skate
4:30 p.m. Christmas in the Village, Village of Yesteryear
7:30 p.m. LTO "A Christmas Carol"
Dec. 5:
10 a.m. Christmas in the Village, Village of Yesteryear
7:30 a.m. Hollandale Brd Pancake Breakfast, Hollandale Christian Schl
7:30 p.m. LTO "A Christmas Carol"
Dec. 6:
Christmas in the Village, Village of Yesteryear
5 p.m. Star of Hope Lighting, Daybreak Cmty Church
7:30 p.m. LTO "A Christmas Carol"
Dec. 7:
12 p.m. Owatonna Noon Rotary Club, Country Club
1 p.m. Owatonna, Woman's Club bridge group, SeniorPlace

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Medford

Dec. 2:
7 p.m. Medford Park Brd
Dec. 3:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
Dec. 7:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
Dec. 9:
8 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Ritchie Bros Auctioneers, Mdfrd
4 p.m. Medford Veterans Committee Mtg

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Check us out on Facebook!

SPOT LIGHT

Snowmobile Safety classes scheduled

Snowmobile Safety classes will be held Dec. 19 or Jan 9. Pre-registration is required by Dec. 15 and classes will be limited to 60 students each class. Students must be at least 12 years old by Mar. 1, 2016. Registration forms are available at your local school or Sette Sports Center in Owatonna. The cost is $10 and a special thank you to the Allan and Randee Radel family for their generous donation to the Snowmobile Safety Training Program in memory of their son, Scot.

Other counties

Hayfield
Dec. 2:
5 p.m. Hayfield EDA, Hayfield City Hall
6:30 p.m. Training, Hayfield Fire Station
Dec. 3:
3 p.m. Chess - Elem Library, Hayfield Elem Library
6:15 p.m. JFK - Elem Lunchroom, Hayfield Elem Lunchroom
7 p.m. Elem Concert, Hayfield West Gym
Dec. 6:
1 p.m. Open Gym - East/West Gyms, Hayfield
Dec. 7:
3 p.m. JFK - Elem Lunchroom, Hayfield Elem Lunchroom
6 p.m. Truth in Taxation, Hayfield HS Library
7:30 p.m. HHS Choir Concert, Hayfield West Gym
Dec. 8:
6:30 p.m. Zumba, Hayfield Elem Gym
Dec. 9:
7:30 a.m. Hayfield Chamber Mtg
7 p.m. Adult Open Gym, Hayfield East Gym

Freeborn
Dec. 3:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
4 p.m. Conferences, ALHS Gym
5:30 p.m. AL Council Workshop, City Council Chambers
6 p.m. ALPL Night-Time Story time
Dec. 4:
6 p.m. Rock Climbing Open Gym
7 p.m. Live Drive through Nativity, New Life Christian Church, AL
Dec. 5:
ALPL Closed
6 p.m. Rock Climbing Open Gym
7 p.m. Live Drive through Nativity, New Life Christian Church, AL
Dec. 7:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
3:45 p.m. ALPL Book Pals (Gr 5 & 6)
3:45 p.m. LEGO Time, ALPL
7 p.m. Band/Orchestra Concert, ALHS Auditorium
Dec. 8:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
6 p.m. Rock Gym, Albert Lea
7 p.m. Shell Rock River Watershed

Mower
Dec. 3:
Annual Dobby Drive, APL
LeRoy FFA Contests @ K-W
10 a.m. All Members Gallery Show, Austin ArtWorks Center
3:30 p.m. Holiday Book Fair, APL
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
4 p.m. Christmas in the SW, SW Austin
5:30 p.m. Bob Ross Landscapes, Austin ArtWorks Center
6 p.m. Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night (subject to change)
6 p.m. Christmas Crafts Class, Jay C Hormel Nature Center
7 p.m. Keepsake Quilters Guild Meeting, St John's Lutheran Church, Austin
Dec. 4:
Annual Dobby Drive, APL
10 a.m. All Members Gallery Show, Austin ArtWorks Center
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
12 p.m. Holiday Book Fair, APL
7 p.m. Ken Lonnquist, Tom Pease and Friends in Concert, Jay C Hormel Nature Center
Dec. 5:
Annual Dobby Drive, APL
9 a.m. Christmas Crafts Class, Jay C Hormel Nature Center
9 a.m. Holiday Shopping Spree, Brownsdale Elementary School
9 a.m. Masonic Pancake Feed, Austin Masonic Lodge
10 a.m. All Members Gallery Show, Austin ArtWorks Center
10 a.m. Holiday Book Fair, APL
10 a.m. The Artist's Way, Austin ArtWorks Center
11 a.m. Christmas in LeRoy, LeRoy Public School Commons area
11 a.m. Merry Tuba Christmas Concert, Historic Paramount Theatre
12 p.m. Christmas Count-Down, 4th Avenue Northeast, Austin

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SUPER COUPON

EARN 15¢ OFF PER GALLON

SAVE 15¢
Tuesday, December 7 - Sunday, December 13

ON $20 PURCHASED IN MEAT, SEAFOOD OR DELICATESSEN

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SUPER COUPON

EARN 15¢ OFF PER GALLON

SAVE 15¢
Tuesday, December 14 - Sunday, December 20

ON $20 PURCHASED IN DAIRY OR FROZEN

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SUPER COUPON

EARN 15¢ OFF PER GALLON

SAVE 15¢
Tuesday, December 21 - Sunday, December 27

ON $20 PURCHASE IN BAKERY, PRODUCE OR SALAD BAR

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HometownLiving

C Section | www.steeledodgenews.com | Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Folk songs narrate lives that have overcome odds

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

The Owatonna Arts Center was crowded on Nov. 21 for the Twin Cities-based folk artists Curtis Teague and Loretta Simonet's debut performance of their new album "When There's Good to be Done."

"This whole album is about real people that have gone through huge obstacles," said Loretta about the individuals that have inspired the musical content.

Two former wards of the Minnesota State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children, Peter Razor and Harvey Ronglien, were inspiration for two of the folk melodies and spoke before Curtis and Loretta played their songs.

As Ronglien pointed out, the music filled the room where Razor and he would consider their childhood dining hall. The Arts Center is located in the historical building that was part of the orphanage's campus.

While Ronglien and Razor were both wards of the Minnesota State Public School, they had entirely different experiences that have shaped their lives.

As a Native America, Razor suffered racial discrimination and cruel abuse by some or-

NARRATING LIVES
Continued on Page 3C



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Curtis Teague and Loretta Simonet played tunes from their album "When There's Good to be Done" at the Owatonna Arts Center on Nov. 21.

Hats for a Winter Wonderland

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

The fun-natured Sharon Bishop of Owatonna took up crocheting 16 years ago when her daughter was two years old. It started as a relaxing hobby, and now nearly 100 hats later, she is happily keeping up with the demand.

Her crocheted hats range from the natural-toned bomber hats to the colorful animal hats. She also has Santa hats, elf hats and other seasonal themed caps. Her focus is baby hats.

It takes her one night cozied up with yarn and her crochet needles to make a hat.

She nonchalantly stated that some of the caps are made by her own patterns, while others are patterns found online. Her owl hats are by her own design, and all the colors are also part of the vision. "I try to think of popular colors or I observe the colors of kids' coats," she said.

She now sells her flawlessly crocheted baby hats, scarves, boot cuffs and other items on her Etsy website. Her online Etsy shop is called Binky's Things, Binky being her late father's nickname. She has sold more than 70 hats on her Etsy site. Oddly enough, she has sold many hats to Michigan, California and Connecticut.

In her transition to the high-demand for her crocheted caps, she admits it can be overwhelming.

Thankfully she is able to let loose with a community of like-minded-crocheting women that humorously call their get-togethers Stitch-and-Bitch. The core group has been getting together to crochet for more than 15 years.

"We just sit, crochet and talk. There is something about food, yarn and women," she laughed. "We form friendships and help each other out with ideas."

Much of the work that occurs in between chit-chat is about giving back. The Stich-and-Bitch group has crocheted camouflage scarves for soldiers and they've done charity work for the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women.

She recently began selling at craft sales, such as the Flaky Bunch craft sale on Nov. 21-22 at the community center. "These women have been so nice and so welcoming," said Bishop. The timing of the sale was perfect for buying hats, as the first snow fell and the temperatures dropped.

The Flaky Bunch has been hosting its craft sale in the community center for the past 10 years. This year was Bishop's first year participating with the Flaky Bunch.

Diane Wheelock of Owatonna has been involved in organizing the sale throughout the years. "We asked Sharon because her work is so cute. She had a niche with the hats and baby stuff, it fit well with the show. It is just so fun to give a homemade gift," she said. "Plus, she is such a fun, thoughtful person to hang around with all weekend."

Bishop is less concerned about sales and more excited to be a part of a family's memories. Many of her hats have been used as props for baby photos. Her favorite part of crocheting baby caps is seeing a child wearing it.

"These hats are made with a lot of thought and hope," said Bishop. "It is my hope that they help create a picture or memory. There is just something about babies in these hats that I love."

If interested in browsing Bishop's collection, visit her Etsy site at www.etsy.com/shop/BinkysThings.



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Sharon Bishop's sold her crocheted baby hats at the Flaky Bunch Craft Salt on Nov. 21.

Steele County EDA in the works

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

A county Economic Development Authority might be in Steele County's near future. On Nov. 24, the Steele County Board of Commissioners adopted the motion to go forward with the creation of a committee that will make recommendations for a county economic development service provider.

The first meeting is slated for January.

Commission Chair Nina Huntington and Commissioner James "Corky" Ebeling have volunteered to be on the committee with representatives from the following: Steele County Township Association, City of Owatonna Community Development Director, City of Owatonna Housing Coordinator, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce, Riverland Community College, Minnesota Prairie County Alliance and the City of Medford, Blooming Prairie, Owatonna and Ellendale.

The committee will comprise of 11-15 members. Volunteers would run the EDA.

From the first meeting date, the EDA committee has 60 days to create a report of recommendations for potential EDA options.

The report must indicate the current economic development status, housing and community development programs and services provided by local agencies, existing gaps in programs or services and an assessment of capacity of existing agencies.

Essentially, the report will recommend an organizational option for providing economic development services in the most efficient and effective manner.

Possible organizational options for an economic development service are establishing a County EDA, requiring an existing County Housing and Redevelopment Authority or multicounty HRA to operate under the EDA Act, pursuing special legislation; or not changing to the existing structure.

While each city has an EDA or a community economic development, the county has been careful not to step on the toes of individual city's EDAs.

Commissioner John Glynn was particularly concerned about potential competition between the county and individual city EDAs.

The county reached out to the Medford, Owatonna, Blooming Prairie and Ellendale EDAs. The commissioners indicated that they only heard back from Medford and Owatonna EDA representatives. It was reported that they not necessarily opposed but were curious about the possible collaboration opportunities.

"I think they viewed it as another set of tools for the toolbox," said Huntington. The effort of the county EDA would be to work alongside with city EDAs and not to compete with them.

"It just gets us more involved in economic development county wide," said Ebeling. "I think it is worth looking in to."

STEELE TALKIN'



MISSY KOCH

Shop with Santa

It seems like Halloween was just here and now, today, we are about to have our big Thanksgiving feast! It is hard to believe we are in the midst of the holiday season already!

The Christmas lists and ideas are starting to come at our house from my children as they see the holiday ads. With my daughter being the shopper that she is, and with so many people to buy for, I am starting to feel overwhelmed! It's hard to find very much these days for a couple of bucks. If you are trying to find that extra special gift for every person on your list while managing a tight budget, Steele County 4-H has just the thing for you, "Shop with Santa"!

Shop with Santa will be held on Saturday, Dec.5 at St. John Lutheran Church, 1301 Lincoln Ave. S. in Owatonna. Numbered bags will be distributed from 7 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Shopping will begin at 8 a.m. and go until noon.

For those of you who don't know what Shop with Santa is, it is a GREAT opportunity for children sixth grade and under to do their very own Christmas shopping (without parents) in a safe, easily accessible location, and at a very reasonable cost, too!

Thousands of gifts will be delivered to St. John Lutheran Church in Owatonna. These gifts are made by Steele County 4-H'ers, their leaders, parents, friends and grandparents. The gifts are all priced at $5 or below with most ranging between $1 and $2. In the past, there have been wooden puzzles, squirrel feeders, aprons, dish towels, wall hangings, country craft items, and the list goes on and on!

The best part of Shop with Santa is that the children get to shop without parents trying to peek. When the little shoppers arrive at 8 a.m., they are given a shopping bag with a number on it. While they are waiting for their number to be called, they may fill out nametags for gifts, watch movies and participate in other fun activities. Each shopper will be assisted by one of "Santa's helpers" who are available to aid the shoppers with their selections.

With so many tables and gifts, it can take some shoppers a while to make their final decisions, but we want them to be satisfied and happy with the gifts they have picked out for their special people. Their gifts will be wrapped with name tags attached before they exit the store to meet Mom or Dad who are always patiently waiting.

Parents: while you are waiting for your child to pick out just the right gift, you can finish that gift you thought you would never have time to finish, write out your Christmas cards, or just relax and enjoy the atmosphere!

Last year, hundreds of children filled their shopping lists. It never ceases to amaze us! Our 4-H'ers and their families are some of the most generous people! They purchase the materials, spend hours making the gifts, and donate them so many small shoppers can experience that wonder-

STEELE TALKIN'
Continued on Page 4C

Blooming Prairie Living

Blooming Prairie Holiday Dazzle

Friday, Dec. 4, 2015
Ribbon Cutting 5 p.m. Come and celebrate the new main street!

A Touch of Charm
Holiday gifts & decorating ideas 20 percent storewide 50 percent off backroom bargains

B to Z Hardware
Shop the holiday specials.

BP Fire Department
Fire Truck Downtown
Winter Safety Tips
Cookies

BP Ambulance & Police Departments
Ambulance and police car downtown
Thank those who keep us safe!

BP Servicemen's Club
3-6 p.m. Drink Specials
6-9 p.m. Ladies Night Out/ Local crafters/vendors

Bunkies Grille & Lanes
Family Bowling Special $10 per person (up to 8 bowlers), per hour, per lane
6 p.m. 10 Free Games of Family Bingo

"Steele County Times"
3-5 p.m. Enter drawing for 2 Chanhassen Dinner Theatre tickets
Give a gift of a year subscription for $38 and receive six months FREE for yourself

BP Cue Co/Pizza Cellar
Serving "Happy Hot Chocolate" and BBQ ribs
Sign up for door prizes

Dairy Queen
Free samples of "Candy Cane Oreo" Blizzard

Farmers & Merchants Bank
5-7 p.m. Pictures with Santa and free chocolate milk and cookies

Floor Tech
Serving wine and cheese

US Bank
9-4 p.m. Open House with refreshments

Holman Insurance, Rachel's Hair, and Home Sellers
9-5 p.m. Stop at the end of Christmas Lane to sign up for a prize

Johnson/Doerhoefer PA AND Superior Financial, LLC
Serving Glogg & Christmas Treats
Register for golf simulator certificate

Hometown Insurance
Stop and register for prizes 9-5 p.m.

Miner's Outdoor & Recreation
All in stock Castle Gear 25 percent off

Prairie Family & Sports Chiropractic 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Cider and Christmas treats/20 percent off all retail items/massage gift certificates available. Sign up for holiday drawings!

Sportstitch
20 percent off Nov. 30-Dec. 4. See store for details. Sign up for holiday drawing. Check out the BP Wish Tree.

New York Life
Drop off your children's Christmas picture for a treat 5-7 p.m.

Prairie Manor
4th Annual Bake sale and Chili feed 4-7 p.m. at Prairie Manor Chapel. Warm up for the downtown festivities. Assorted holiday baked goods for sale. Proceeds go to Prairie Manor residents.

Subway
Buy any 6" sub w/medium drink and get a free 6" sub

Blooming Prairie Public Library
2-6 p.m. Friends of the Library/Barnes and Noble/Book Sale for Christmas gift giving/BP Library

Blooming Prairie Vet Clinic
Free Puppy & Kitty treats 8-5 p.m.

J & H Off-Sale
Holiday Wine Tasting, chair massages, bake sale, meat raffle

Holman Insurance, Rachel's Hair, and Home

Women of Today Santa House: 2-6 p.m.
City Center- Wagon Rides: 5 p.m.
Main Street: Announce the 2015 Scrooge 5:30 p.m. next to B-Z Hardware
Snowball Toss: Main Street at 5:45 p.m. Check with B-Z Hardware for more details.
Kix Dancers: On Main Street at 6 p.m.
Carolers and instrumentalists strolling Main Street
4 Bars of Holiday Cheer/adults/trivia: 8 p.m. starting at the Servicemen's Club

Pack 260 keeps busy with winter events



Submitted photo

Members of Blooming Prairie Pack 260 have stayed busy this winter with a number of activities. Earlier this season, the pack collected 475 pounds of food during their "Scouting for Food" food drive, which goes back to local families in need. On Sunday, Nov. 22, the group also held their Raingutter Regatta event. First grade participants include Brice Spinler (first place), Evan Westphal, Max Thoen, Connor Cooke, Riley Johnson, Zachary Green and Hayden Miller. Second graders include Noah Graves, Colby Johnson (first place), Bradley Boyd, Drew Reinke, Riley Spinler and Lance Lembke. Third graders include Kohen Miller, Spencer Hoogenraad and Cooper Cooke (first place.) In fourth grade, Ben Riley, CJ Coleman (first place), Valanchie Garcia, Maxmar Ogren and Dylan Anderson participated. Fifth graders included Alex Riley (1st place), Tyler Miller, Lucas Schammel, Aiden Holmes and Paul Sunde.

St. Columbanus CCW hosting Nativity brunch and bake sale

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

This Sunday, the St. Columbanus Council of Catholic Women (CCW) will host its annual bake sale and brunch, while also offering a unique look at Nativity scenes from around the world.

The event begins on Sunday, Dec. 6, at 9:30 a.m. and continues until noon at the St. Columbanus Catholic Church, located at 114 East Main Street in Blooming Prairie.

The meal includes breakfast burritos, hash browns, monkey bread, sliced oranges, milk, juice and coffee.

The bake sale will also feature a variety of sweets and treats for guests to take home for their enjoyment.

A free will offering will also be accepted, which will benefit the CCW Fund.

The fund is used upon request throughout the year and also helps benefit a number of organizations that the CCW donates to each year.

Judy Esplan, who helps organize the event, said that she especially enjoys viewing the Nativity scenes.

Joanne VanWyck collected the Nativity scenes and, after she passed away in 2012, her sister Margaret Noble decided to display them at the church each year for all to enjoy.

"We have many of them set up," said Esplan. "The displays are from all over the world and they are all so different. They are for people to enjoy them."

The displays adorn the tables in the church basement, where they remain on display throughout the month of December.

Esplan said that the Nativity scenes also add to the atmosphere during the church's weekly coffee and roll traditions, which take place every Sunday at the church.

Esplan encourages all to come enjoy the event and help support the local CCW.

Hit and run incident damages library drop box beyond repair

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Blooming Prairie Branch Library patrons will have to walk a few steps farther to return their library materials in the coming weeks after a hit and run accident that damaged the library's drop box beyond repair.

According to Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad, the incident occurred around 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 24. An individual inside Blooming Prairie City Hall heard a loud bang, which sounded like a snowplow bucket hitting the ground. There was no snow at the time, however, so the individual looked out the window and saw a lifted, white truck with a chrome muffler driving away, leaving behind a trail of debris where the library's book-drop dispensary once sat. The impact was forceful enough to destroy the box. The drop box will be replaced but, as a new box had to be specially manufactured, the replacement will not arrive for at least 25 days.

"We do not have any suspects," Skillestad said on Monday morning. If anyone does have more information about this incident, Skillestad urges him or her to call the Blooming Prairie Police Department at 507-583-7885. Callers with further information may remain anonymous.

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Steele County Times

Are you having a hard time finding a Christmas present?
Consider purchasing BP Bucks at F&M Bank or US Bank. Blooming Prairie Bucks can be spent anywhere in Blooming Prairie for gifts, groceries, gas, or even utility bills.
Support Blooming Prairie businesses by purchasing BP Bucks

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS
There will be no Lighting Contest for Blooming Prairie residents this year.
We will be having a
Christmas Light Up Contest
for Main Street businesses this year.

Need some presents for under your tree?
Come see us at:
Express Pressure Washers, Inc.
15880 SE 74th Ave Blooming Prairie
507-583-2703
EXP VAL6 ALKOTA
Open Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm and Saturday 8:30 to 12:00 noon
Merry Christmas!

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With Dr. Chad



Stress

Stress is the anxiety that one experiences everyday in reaction to events, both mentally and physically. It becomes a problem when one cannot relax after meeting those challenges. This stress can be hazardous to your health and well-being if not managed properly. Stress can increase symptoms of many diseases and postural difficulties as well as slow the healing process. Controlling your stress level is an important part of your health care that you can do yourself. Here are some tips for managing and reducing stress:

- Take a warm bath.
- Meditate for 15 minutes.
- Perform gentle static stretches for 15 minutes.
- Take breathing breaks. Do 4-6 deep cleansing breaths throughout the day.
- Close your eyes and daydream.
- Read a calming novel.
- Talk to a friend and unload your problems.
- Take a slow walk.
- Go see a soothing movie.
- Take up a relaxing hobby.
- Play with your pet.
- Participate in regular exercise workouts.
- Prepare for upcoming stressful situations.
- Eat more nutritious meals.
- Watch a comedy or read a funny book, and LAUGH!
- Take a stress management course or get a book on stress management
- Slow down, Say NO if you have to, and take time to enjoy the world and people around you.

Prairie Family and Sports Chiropractic, P.A., is committed to your health care needs. We offer a stress free chiropractic experience, and want to help you achieve your optimum health care status. Our office is located at 344 E. Main St., Downtown Blooming Prairie. You can call to schedule an appointment at 1-866-5Dr-Chad (toll free) or 583-2271, and our friendly staff will be more than happy to help you and answer any questions you may have. Check out our website at: www.drchad.org

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Owatonna Living

Oh, Christmas tree

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

'Twas Nov. 21 and the Owatonna Arts Center (OAC) gallery was full of giddy artisans making homemade holiday ornaments for their Christmas trees.

The first Ornament Making Marathon was a hit, gathering at least 30 adults and children per session. OAC board member Naomi Jirele said that she was "thrilled with all of the people, especially for the first year of the event."

Jirele has been on the OAC board for almost a year, and she has been excited for more interactive activities such as the Ornament Making Marathon.

"Kids just don't have that opportunity for additional art, so this is a fun time with holiday cheer," laughed Jirele. "There is just something about homemade ornaments."

There were five stations set up, with opportunities to make a different ornament at each station. Jirele helped make folk-art spoons with a Christmas or holiday scene painted at the round of the spoon area.

Other ornament crafts included sock snowmen, elf ornaments made of pinecones and cork reindeer.

"We are pretty much guiding the crafts by supplying the supplies, showing samples and giving techniques," said Jirele. There was also Christmas cookies and treats to enjoy.

Though the event came before Thanksgiving, Jirele said that they wanted to dovetail off of the other community holiday events, since there was the holiday lights parade on Thursday and Festival of the Trees on Friday.



Staff photos by Anna Segner

Mother and daughter Kim and Madi Murphy of Owatonna made ornaments to grace their Christmas tree at the Owatonna Arts Center ornament making marathon on Nov. 21.

Mother and daughter, Kim and Madi Murphy of Owatonna, decided to join in the crafting. They took a class in clay last weekend, heard about the ornament-making marathon and decided to arrive. "We'll see what we get and put the ornaments on the tree," said Kim.

There were also participants from Big Brothers Big Sisters. Big Sister Ariel McGinnis was there with little sister Amanda Riecke. Riecke joked that she was going to put her homemade ornament next to her fish tank to spread holiday cheer to her slippery pet.



Nicole VanGen of Owatonna concentrates on painting the round of her folk-art spoon ornament at the Owatonna Art Center.

Fair board reaches out to community mailboxes

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Friends of the Steele County Free Fair can expect a mail-out from the fair office before the end of the year. The letter is a new attempt to fundraise and cover some of the expenses of past and upcoming undertakings.

The fair board states in the letter that it is in need of additional funds to pay off the loans that the fair received from the county for the construction of the Radel Pavilion.

Fair Board President Dan Deml called rounding up the funds for the loans "a long, slow process."

Deml also stated that looking ahead to the next few years, the fair will need to replace the two remaining livestock barns that were built in 1958.

"They're still functional, but they are not attractive buildings to be proud of," said Deml. "The way that they were constructed do not justify significant upgrades. That's not even really much of an option. They are low and the doors are small, which severely limits off-season rental.

"The barns need to be replaced, and that's very expensive," he said. "We are using the letter as an opportunity to generate funds and to put the idea of the upcoming projects in people's minds."

About two years ago, the Steele County Free Fair was deemed a 501 C3 organization, which prompted the idea for a mail out. All donations are tax deductible.

Fair Secretary and Manager Jim Gleason said that the letters are being sent out to three groups of people: the Agriculture Society, the local 4-H community and friends of the fair. Letters to the Agriculture Society have already been mailed out, and Gleason said that donations are already "trickling in."

The fair accepts donations of all amounts. The letter lists $100 as the threshold to have a name added to the donation plaque in the Radel Pavilion. "We take any kind of donation, and we appreciate it," said Deml.

The letter has potential to take the place of a fundraising event. "Fundraisers are a lot of work by a lot of people, and they've been pretty successful," Deml stated. "We hope that the letter will start to help us out long-term. Things really cost a lot, so we're trying this because we've never tried it before.

"The fair is the social event of the county, and people know that. We view the fair as everybody's fair," Deml remarked. "I think people take ownership of the fair through their involvement… If one feels inclined to donate a few bucks, it's not necessary, but we'd appreciate it."

If one does not receive a letter in the mail but would like to make a donation, feel free to contact the fair office at 507-451-5305.

NARRATING LIVES

Continued from Page 1C

phanage staff members. Despite being beat by a hammer in his youth, he stated "I don't have any scars, maybe on my mind, but not on my back."

Curtis and Loretta's song about Razor, called "Where the North Wind Blows," describes his life. He was abandoned at 10 months old and grew up at the state orphanage. His case number was 9164.

The song lyrics talk about the lies and omissions of abuse in Razor's official records discovered in the 1990s. In those records, it became clear that Razor's grandmother wanted to raise him, but she was denied custody.

Prior to the song, Razor chose his words carefully as he spoke before the audience: "When you are raised like that, you don't look back. You look forward."

He now lives in Tomah, Wisconsin. His daughter encouraged him to push through his demons and write a memoir, "While the Locust Slept." He received the Minnesota Book Award for Autobiography & Memoir in 2002.

Without racial discrimination aimed at him, Ronglien has a different perspective of growing up at the state orphanage during the Depression. He spoke of appreciation for three meals a day and a warm bed, yet he still endured a loveless upbringing.

He had difficulty adjusting to life after the orphanage, and suffered and overcame alcoholism. Ronglien spoke of thanks to his wife, Maxine, for sticking with him. "I wouldn't amount to a hill of beans without Maxine."

Curtis and Loretta's song about Ronglien is called "Case 9164," his case number as a ward of the state and also the name of his memoir book.

Also present at the album debut and inspiration for Curtis and Loretta was Habibo Haji. She was raised reluctantly by her grandmother in Balcad, a small primitive village in Somalia.

Like Razor and Ronglien, she suffered from abandonment and a loveless childhood. By age six, she worked as a shepherd, a harsh chore primarily done by teenage boys. She suffered molestation and other hardships in that position.

Her life changed when at about age 17, she had the opportunity to come to the United States. She is now a registered nurse at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. She too wrote a memoir called "Conquering the Odds: Journey of a Shepherd Girl."

Her positive attitude stole the attention of the room when she got in front of the audience.

"It is a long journey throughout everything, loneliness and rejection," she said with an American accent learned from hours of listening to National Public Radio. "But my inner faith never ended. I turned to praying. We don't always know who we are praying to when we pray, but we still pray."

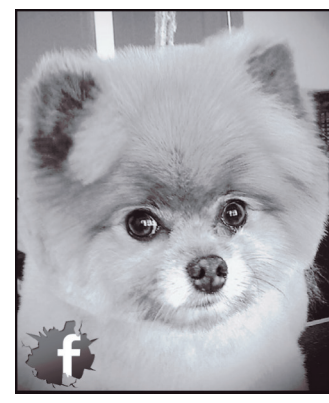
Haji now has three children, and she said that she never goes a day without telling them that she loves them, a luxury she did not have as a child.

She said that it was the love of strangers that made her fall in love with America. "I've learned that unless you give someone a reason to dislike you, they love you," said Haji. "When people see you smile, people gravitate towards you."

Her song began with a harp chord reminiscent of the grasslands of her childhood and brought tears to a few audience members.

Haji, Ronglien and Razor are inspiration for three of the 12 songs. Others that have overcome hardships inspire the other nine songs. As Loretta said, the three individuals "practically wrote these songs themselves with their lives."

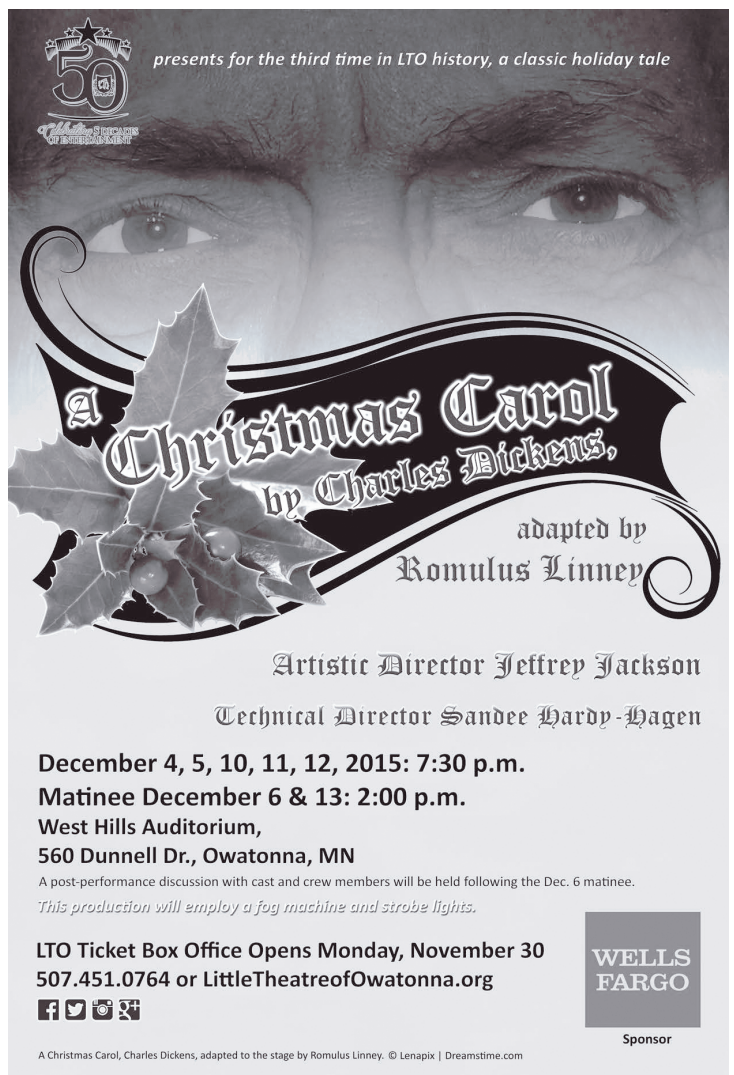
To delve into more details of the folk artists or their inspirations, visit www.curtisandloretta.com.



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Owatonna Living

Owatonna man coins an idea

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Heads or Tails? That is a decision that Alan Fritze does not leave to up to chance when he transforms coins into rings for jewelry.

Fritze's artisan rings are as unique as the coin that they were made from, as the exterior of each ring displays a piece of the coin's decorative pattern.

He began this project three months ago when his wife sent him a YouTube tutorial video of how to transform coins to rings. Fritze had some coins passed down from his father stashed away in the drawer.

"I just thought why just have them sit in the drawer?" he said. "I wasn't going to sell them, so I didn't feel like I was losing anything."

He has made rings out of a coin his wife acquired in the mid-60s from Knott's Berry Farm and kept all these years. Fritze's father's coins included some coins from the Philippines and New Zealand.

Fritze began with some less valuable coins and he eventually worked his way to coins with more value; however, he is very cautious not to work with rings of high value. He laughed that he has a jar of coins or rings that are flawed.

He is primarily driven by coins with aesthetic beauty and sentimental value.

When Fritze makes the rings by heating the metal, punching a hole through the middle and folding the soft metal, he has to choose which part of the pattern will be the exterior of the ring. Once he has formed the ring he uses his ring sizer to fit it.

"Then, it is a matter of aesthetics," explained Fritze. "I have to decide to patina it or use polish. It is the time consuming part."

Fritze certainly has his favorites. He is fonder of silver rather than copper. Of course, the ring metal depends on the metal of the coin, which could be silver, copper, brass, clad or bronze.

His favorite coin to make a ring out of is the 1941 Walking Liberty half dollar. "I just love the detail," he exclaimed. "I also just like to think of what was going on in 1941, so let's see, it would have been somewhere at the start of World War II."

He wears his 1941 Walking Liberty ring daily: "It's like wearing a bit of history really."

His other favorite coin for rings is the Canadian penny large cent, as it has "the most beautiful design on the back that gives the outer part of the ring a nice pattern." He finds many coins at auctions or flea markets.

Fritze does not consider himself a history buff, but he certainly enjoys dabbling in it. "When I see a coin, I think about what was going on in history during that time," he said.

The years of coin displayed on the ring might also function to remember a significant life event, such as graduations, births or anniversaries.

For now, Fritze is looking for ways to expand his hobby. Though he was born and raised in Owatonna, he is now living in Willmar. He came back to Owatonna to show his coin rings at the Flaky Bunch craft sale on Nov. 21, where he was surprised at the interest in his rings.

He is considering getting an Etsy shop, but for now, he is just enjoying the craft. "It keeps me out of trouble," he laughed.

If interested in Fritze's coin rings, contact him at willmarcoinrings@gmail.com.



Staff photo by Anna Segner
Owatonna man Alan Fritze decided to take his coin rings to the Flaky Bunch craft sale at the community center on Nov. 21.

STEELE TALKIN'

Continued from Page 1C

ful feeling of giving during the holiday season. The gifts are always kept at a very reasonable price and there is something for even the smallest budget. The proceeds from the sales of the gifts support youth programming in Steele County 4-H.

So, shoppers, start making your shopping lists! We hope to see you at "Shop with Santa" on Dec. 5 at St. John Lutheran Church located at 1301 Lincoln Ave. Owatonna, from 8 a.m. until noon! Oh yes, "Mrs. Claus' Coffee Shop" will have donuts, juice, milk and coffee available for those patiently waiting parents and exhausted shoppers.

Steele Talkin' is a weekly column featuring officials from various organizations throughout Steele County. Missy Koch is a 4-H Program Coordinator with University of Minnesota Extension in Steele County.

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Steele Waseca Co-op employees loyal to United Way of Steele County



Submitted photo

Steele Waseca Co-op and their employees made generous donations to the United Way of Steele County 2015 Campaign. Above are Debbie Eby and Kathy Friedrichs.

Steele Waseca Co-op and their employees made generous donations totaling $1,300 to the United Way of Steele County 2015 Campaign. Debbie Eby, Steele Waseca's Workplace Campaign Leader, led the campaign for her coworkers.

"Year after year, General Manager Syd Briggs and the employees of Steele Waseca Co-op demonstrate their commitment to our community through their generosity," said United Way director, Kim Schaufenbuel. "We are proud to count them among our partners."

The mission of the United Way of Steele County is to change lives by mobilizing and optimizing the caring power of our community. This year's goal of $670,000 will fund 24 critically needed programs operated by local nonprofit agencies. To make a contribution go to www.unitedwaysteelecounty.org or mail a check or pledge to United Way, Box 32, Owatonna, MN 55060.

Tickets available for 'A Christmas Carol'

Little Theatre of Owatonna (LTO) has announced its upcoming holiday show, "A Christmas Carol," the second production in LTO's 50th anniversary season.

Based on the classic novel by Charles Dickens and adapted for the stage by Romulus Linney, the play tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an embittered, miserly old man whose name has become synonymous with greediness. But then, one Christmas Eve, Scrooge — who typically responds to the holiday with his familiar "Bah! Humbug!" — is visited by a series of ghosts, led first by the spirit of his long-since-dead partner Jacob Marley, who is followed by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come.The experience, all taking place in one night, transforms Scrooge forever.

This production, under the artistic direction of Jeffrey Jackson and the technical direction of Sandee Hardy-Hagen, marks the third time in LTO history that "A Christmas Carol" has been performed. Leading the cast of more than 40 actors will be Larry Pierce as Ebenezer Scrooge.

Show dates will 7:30 p.m. Dec. 4, 5, 10, 11 and 12 with 2 p.m. matinees on Dec. 6 and 13 at the Little Theatre of Owatonna, 560 Dunnell Drive in Owatonna. A post-performance discussion with cast and crewmembers will be held following the Dec. 6 matinee. Show tickets are available online at littletheatreofowatonna.org as well as at the LTO box office, which opened for ticket sales at 4 p.m. Nov. 30.

Sponsored by Wells Fargo, "A Christmas Carol" is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc. of New York. A fog machine and strobe lights will be used during the show.

Little Theatre of Owatonna invites the public to join the theater in its historic season of "Celebrating 5 Decades of Entertainment."

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OWATONNA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DEC '15

DECEMBER 1: Learn to Skate Hockey Registration Open
DECEMBER 2: Tikes/Squirt Coaches Meeting
DECEMBER 2: Therapeutic Recreation annual KC Bing Party-must be a registered member
DECEMBER 7: Lifeguard Training Class Begins
DECEMBER 8: Therapeutic Recreation Traveling Bowling Trip to Wow Zone
DECEMBER 18: Kid's Night for Girls Basketball
DECEMBER 23: Deadline to register for SeniorPlace MN Gophers Women's Basketball Game
DECEMBER 23: Deadline to register for Learn to Skate Hockey
DECEMBER 28: Therapeutic Recreation Celebrity Chefs Cooking Class Deadline

JAN'16

JANUARY-FEBRUARY: Cottage 11 closed
JANUARY: Learn to Skate session 2 begins
JANUARY 4: Therapeutic Recreation Monday Bowling League registration deadline
JANUARY 5: Future Sports Stars Camp Session 1 Begins
JANUARY 6: Therapeutic Recreation Memberships Due
JANUARY 12: Therapeutic Recreation Leisure Swim begins
JANUARY 12: Sports Skills Session 2 begins
JANUARY 20: Tennis Winter 2 Deadline
JANUARY 27: Owatonna Park & Rec Boot Hockey Tournament Deadline
JANUARY 30: 2016 Polar Plunge

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

This fund helps support programs for all youth in Steele County and Adult Therapeutic Recreation Programs. Forms are available at the Park & Rec Office. Participants must pay 25% of program fees, any late fees, and must show verification of one of the qualifications:
*Current recipients of Free or Reduced Lunch Program
*Current recipients of SSI or Social Security Benefits
*Current recipients of Medical Assistance Program
*Other circumstances (will need to explain)

SCHA: Members of South Country Health Alliance can now receive $15 off Parks & Recreation youth activities and classes. Therapeutic Recreation activities are also included. Maximum of 3 classes per calendar year. A Scholarship form must be completed and current SCHA membership card must be presented at the time of registration.

TENNIS & FITNESS

***December Special:** "Spirit of the Season": Purchase a Tennis or Fitness membership and get upgraded to a combo membership free!

***January Special:** "New Year's Resolution": Purchase a year membership and receive two free ½ hour personal training sessions with Aaron Halla!

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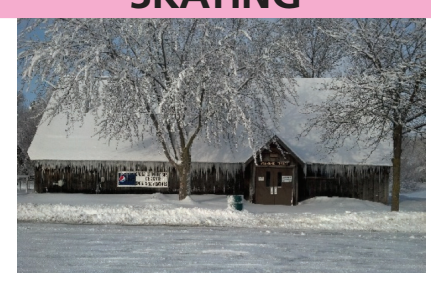
FEB '16

FEBRUARY 2: Future Sports Stars Camp Session 2 Begins
FEBRUARY 5-7: Owatonna Winter Weekend Out: NEW!!
FEBRUARY 6: Owatonna Boot Hockey Tournament
FEBRUARY 23: Spring Brochure

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Ellendale Living



Do you think it's Elvis?

Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Dean's Smoke Shack of Geneva used some creativity in promoting deer processing. A deer hunter in bright orange stands outside the meat processing store. The hunter just has a little resemblance to Elvis Presley. Don't you think so?

Hometown Pizza & BBQ adds flavor

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Hometown Pizza & BBQ, in Ellendale, is a family-owned restaurant that offers a family-friendly atmosphere for its guests.

The restaurant opened in late September and offers its namesake pizza and barbecue platters, in addition to pastas, sides, sandwiches and more. Located at 301 East Fifth Avenue in Ellendale, the establishment also makes a welcome addition to the city's main street. With both the option to dine in or carry out meals, Hometown Pizza & BBQ makes an ideal place to gather for a home-style meal or to grab a meal en route to the next destination.

The Helle family, including brothers Jon and Joe, own the business. Their parents, Dion and Carol, also help operate the business, making the business truly family-owned and family-oriented.

Jon explains that it's a big responsibility to own a business and that the experience offers plenty of unique challenges. It's also, he said, rewarding to be able to build and grow the business.





Staff photos by Laura Berndt

Hometown Pizza & BBQ, located at 301 East Fifth Avenue in Ellendale, opened in late September and serves a variety of pizzas, BBQ platters and other meals.
LEFT: Libby Nelson serves a pizza at Hometown Pizza & BBQ in Ellendale.

"We offer pizza and pastas," Helle said. "We're only open at night. We're trying to give people another choice so they don't have to leave town as much to go out to eat."

Helle adds that he and his family enjoy being a part of the Ellendale community.

So far, Helle said the restaurant has had some good traffic. "Thanks to the customers for supporting it," he said. "It's been a good start."

One popular menu item has been "The Ellendale," a pizza piled high with sausage, pepperoni, mushroom and onion. There also several other specialty pizzas and favorite, classic ingredients to choose from.

Helle adds that Hometown Pizza & BBQ also offers several other dishes for customers to try, from melts to pastas and ribs to pulled pork. Most recipes, he said, are family recipes, and receive rave reviews from customers.

"A lot of people really like the barbecue," Helle said.

The business, he said, also provides a good place for family and friends to gather. "It's a place where they can eat together," said Helle.

Hometown Pizza & BBQ is open on Tuesday and Sunday from 4 to 8 p.m. and Wednesday through Saturday from 4 to 9 p.m. For more information, call 507-688-1050.

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Weekly crossword on Page 6D

PUZZLE SOLUTION

T	Z	A	R	S	■	■	S	K	R	■	D	R	A	M
E	A	G	A	N	■	U	L	N	A	■	E	A	S	E
P	R	A	G	■	M	N	I	U	M	■	L	I	S	A
A	F	R	I	K	A	N	E	R	■	S	I	D	E	D
■	■	■	S	O	L	A	R	■	H	O	N	■	S	E
P	A	D	■	B	E	T	■	C	O	R	E	S	■	■
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A	B	B	E	■	A	C	E	D	■	D	I	R	A	C
L	E	S	S	■	D	K	R	■	■	P	U	L	S	E



This is a day where all the local businesses are open for your shopping pleasure.

Community building Santa Bingo at 2 p.m.

Floors 4 U will be previewing some of the new styles that will be coming out for 2016. Stop in for a homemade treat and cider.

Whispering Oaks will be hosting a stroll through Christmas Wonderland. Take a walk through and enjoy refreshments and Christmas treats. They are also hosting the Wish Tree for Adopt a Family.

Cloe's Attic Pictures with Santa from noon - 1 p.m.

Craft and Vendor Show at the Refuge from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Lerberg's Foods will be having their annual 2 day meat sale. Don't miss out!

The Ellendale Muni will have drink specials and lunch specials from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. along with gifts from Daisy Blue, Mary Kay, Avon and Jams and Jellies.

Country Charm Ceramics will be having ornament painting for $1.

Steve's Meat Market will be open from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Cloe's Attic will be open for your shopping pleasure, Stop in for a Christmas treat and sign up to win a door prize. We ask that you bring a donation for the food Shelf.

Hometown BBQ & Pizza will open at 10 a.m. for lunch specials.

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Medford Living

School district reviews, sets annual goals

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Each year, a Medford District Advisory Committee prepares a World's Best Workforce long-term strategic plan to maintain excellence and improve in areas that might need work.

The five World's Best Workforce goals are part of the 2015-19 strategic plan, as Superintendent Rich Dahman explained that the goals are intended to be met and be maintained long-term.

The goals are kindergarten readiness for all students, Grade 3 literacy proficiency for all students, closing the achievement gap by 50 percent in all student groups, all students graduate from high school and all students graduate with preparation for college or career.

The school district reviewed that in the 2014-15 school year, three of the five above goals were met and are intended to: build kindergarten readiness for all students, help all students graduate from high school and help all students graduate with preparation for college or career.

Dahman called kindergarten readiness for all students a "tricky World's Best Workforce Goal," because pre-kindergarten are not in the building and are difficult to track.

Twenty percent of kindergarten students were proficient in the ESGI Kindergarten Assessment in the fall of 2015, and therefore, the goals were met. The goal for the fall 2016 assessment is loftier, aiming for 90 percent of kindergarten students were proficient in the Educational Software for Guiding Instruction (ESGI) Kindergarten Assessment.

Strategies for this goal are maintaining the assessment procedure, gathering baseline information about upcoming students and having response to interventions in place for non-proficient students. Tools to indicate when intervention might be necessary are preschool screening, preschool enrollment rates, preschool work sampling checklist, Minnesota Early Learning Standards and parent surveys.

By February 2016, the goal is to give all day-care providers in the community kindergarten entrance expectations in order to establish effective communication.

The all students graduating goals means a 90 percent four-year graduation rate for the 2014-15 school year, with no student groups below 85 percent goal. The goal was met for the 2014-15 school year, as the four-year graduation rate for all students was 90.74 percent, with every measured student group above 89 percent.

To ensure college or career readiness for all students, Medford is looking closely at the eighth-grade Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) math test scores as an indicator.

Grade 3 literacy proficiency for all students and closing the achievement gap by 50 percent in all student groups was not met in the 2014-15 school year, but the goals are part of a five year plan. The goal is for 53 percent of the students tested are proficient in May of 2016.

The goal was 46.5 percent proficiency as measured on the eighth-grade Math MCA in spring 2015. This goal was met had 47.4 percent proficiency and educators are hoping for more improvement this spring.

Two goals were not met in the 2014-15 school year, Grade 3 literacy proficiency for all students and closing the achievement gap by 50 percent in all student groups.

The goal for MCA is for the percent of third-grade students tested who are proficient to be at or above 68 percent on the Reading MCA tests.

Reports state that this goal will be reached by implementing a Teacher Development and Evaluation plan to ensure that Tier 1 instruction meets the needs of at least 85 percent of students. Another strategy is to provide specialized instruction and additional time in reading groups.

Assessment tools for Grade 3 literacy proficiency for all students are Reading Optional Local Purpose Assessment (OLPA) and MCA testing, core curriculum classroom assessments, standards-based grading and other.

The other goal not met in the 2014-15 school year is closing the achievement gap by 50 percent in all student groups, which means increasing proficiency in math and reading for students currently not making annual progress on MCA test scores.

One goal is to increase the percent of students that receive free or reduced-price lunches tested who are proficient as measured by MCAs Math and Reading Assessments in May of 2016 to 45 percent. For special education students and the limited English proficient student group, the goal is to reach 30 percent proficient in the MCA Math and Reading Assessments.

These goals are to be reached through analyzing student group data, implementing Teacher Development and Evaluation plan, implementing specialized instruction, integrating technology, offer summer math and reading options for the special education students and the limited English proficient student group.

These goals are a work in process and joint effort of the entire educational community. The World's Best Workforce goals were approved by the school board at the Nov. 16 meeting.

Goals are intended to live the school's mission statement: "The mission of Medford School is to provide quality education, preparing our children, and the community, for the future."



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

Medford networking event recognition

The Medford community held a networking event recently at the Medford Muni. During the evening, three businesses were recognized, as were members of the Veteran Services Office. Pictured left to right is Katy Kreutter, Medford Bus Company, Medford Mayor Lois Nelson, Jill Buffie and Lynn Dotseth of Logistics Health Ink. Not pictured are Joe Maas of Maas Restorations and Angie Knutson of Knutson Photography.

Main Street reconstruction discussion

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

After a continuous conversation about the existing city water main network along Main Street, Medford City Engineer Joe Duncan presented some preliminary information about the water main system to the Medford City Council on Nov. 23.

According to Duncan's report, the water main runs from 5th Ave. S to 2nd Ave. N. A dual network water main of both four-inch and six-inch diameters exist south of Central Avenue.

He announced that based on city records, the installation of the water distribution system was constructed in 1951. Those records also indicate that the mains are cast iron.

According to Duncan's report: "Cast Iron (CIP) as a water main was very common for this time period and is generally considered in the industry to have a design life of 50–70 years. However, this material is more brittle and therefore more prone to breaks when compared to products commonly installed today."

That being said, Main Street has had its share of water main breaks. "Over the past eleven years, there have been half a dozen recorded water main breaks," said Duncan.

Duncan listed products used today as ductile iron pipe (DIP) or polyvinyl chloride (PVC), which are typically more flexible and "susceptible to corrosion."

He stated that these reasons alone give cities reason to replace cast iron as part of the reconstruction project.

Bury depth was another concern brought to the attention of city council members. Duncan's report suggests that the bury depth should be at least 7.5 feet deep in this part of the state. There is no exact indicator of depths of current water mains; however, he estimates that they might be 5-6 feet deep in certain areas due to excavations in past years.

Fire flow of the water main is also a major consideration, as the current diameters of Main Street "cannot support" current standards of adequate fire flow.

Duncan's report states "Replacement with a single, large-diameter water main along this central corridor offers an excellent opportunity to achieve the fire flow standard over a large area of the community."

The information about the water main system is to be considered upon the upcoming reconstruction project, which has a potential date of 2019/2020.

"This was talked about in the early 2000s and it's been delayed all these years," said Mayor Lois Nelson.

Board receives fall sports rundown

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Now that the fall sports are wrapped up, Medford School Activities Director Kevin Werk shared an overview of team success and participation within each sport at the Medford School Board meeting on Nov. 16.

Football, he admitted, saw a rough year for the second year in a row. The Tigers ended with a 0-9 record for the season.

"It was a good year regarding production, you know. We did good things, there just weren't a lot of wins. We could play with good teams but fell short," said Werk. "The kids remained positive and walked away with positive attitudes."

Individual highlights were shared. Leading rusher, Marcus Deleon, scored 11 touchdowns and ran 813 yards total during the season. Leading receiver, Alex Gengler, caught 29 pass receptions and ran 350 yards.

Leading passer, Javis VonRuden, scored seven touchdowns and ran for 906 yards. Leading tackler, Nick Masso, had 102 tackle assists and 32 solo tackles (134 total).

Preston Hanson was selected as an All-Conference player, and Marcus Deleon, Ian Gillis, Nick Masso and Nate Meixner received All-Conference honorable mention.

Participation in football is strong with high numbers of interest in junior high.

Werk expressed pride in team's GPA of 3.02, which earned them the Academic All State Gold Standard. This is the first time in as long as Werk can remember that the football team was eligible for this honor.

The cross-country placed eighth out of 10 teams at the conference meet, and they placed 18th out of 22 teams.

"There is a big jump between this year and last year," said Werk. "The team did really well."

Werk acknowledged Alex Goetze as an outstanding runner and the first Medford boys cross-country runner to earn All-Conference honors.

With a team of 14, boy's participation in cross-country was as high as it has been since 2012. They were able to fill a full varsity team.

Girl's participation in cross-country, however, needs improvement. Only two girls participated in cross-country this year at the ninth-grade and seventh-grade levels. "On the girl's side, we are still struggling with finding numbers," said Werk. "It has been a struggle to create an interest."

Werk called the volleyball season "outstanding." The team placed third in the Gopher Conference, seeded third in the subsection and placed first at the Southland Tournament.

Taya Sexton and Callie Nagel received the All-Conference honor, and Marnie Madsen and Danielle Morgan were honorable mention All-Conference.

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- 1/2 tsp. salt

By Mrs. E. O. Habberstad

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Ellendale UMC Choir to sing during Star of Hope service

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Each year, the Star of Hope, in Owatonna, shines in honor of memory or honor of local people. This year, the Ellendale United Methodist Church (UMC) Choir will also sing during the lighting program.

The choir will be directed by Allie Larson and accompanied by Maryalice Hanson, who has accompanied the choir for many years.

Larson said that Sister Franchon Pirkl invited the choir to sing at the program back in May and that the choir has been practicing for the event since this fall.

"All of us are very involved with the Star of Hope," said Larson. "It is a beautiful service. Everyone knows someone who has passed away. It is a wonderful way to remember those who have gone." Larson adds that the choir is honored to be a part of the event and adds that the event actually took place in Ellendale about five years ago.

The Ellendale UMC Choir has about 22 members total, although Larson isn't sure if all members will be able to attend the Star of Hope ceremony. "We generally play in church," Larson said.

> 'Everyone knows someone who has passed away. It is a wonderful way to remember those who have gone.'
>
> *Allie Larson*
> *Ellendale United Methodist Church Choir Director*

This weekend will be especially busy for the choir, as it is also holding its 12th annual Christmas Cantata performances.

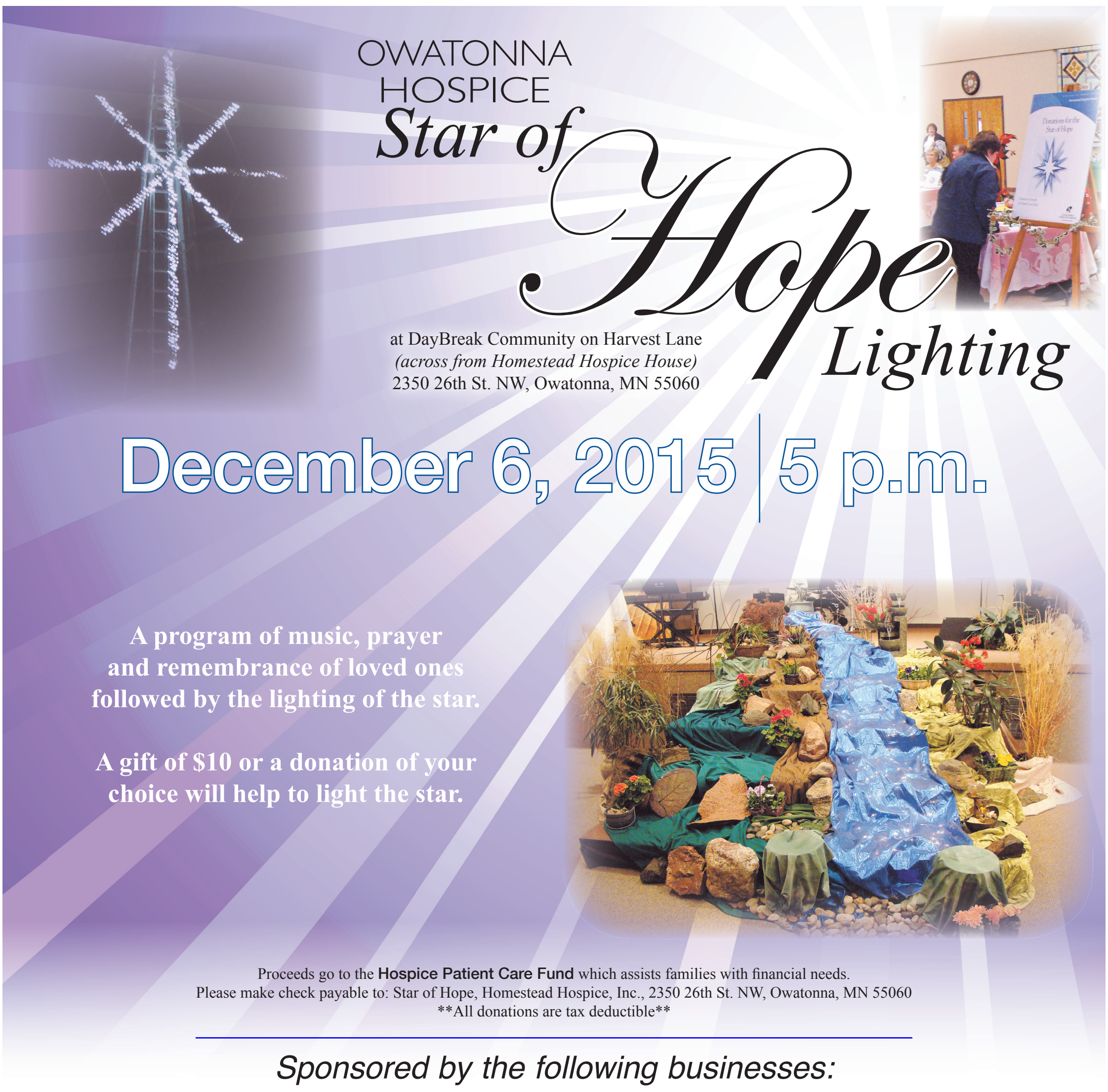
Each year, the choir performs its Christmas Cantata, with the First Baptist Church of Clarks Grove Choir. This year's first performance is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 5, beginning at 11 a.m. at the Steele County Historical Society in Owatonna. A second performance of the Christmas Cantata is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 6, at 2 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Clarks Grove, prior to the Star of Hope service.

"We will be busy," said Larson, with a laugh.

The Owatonna Area Hospice and Community Friends sponsor the Star of Hope. Gifts are accepted to help benefit the Patient Care Fund at Homestead Hospice to help families with limited resources. This year's program is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6, at Daybreak Community Church, located on Harvest Lane, nearby the Homestead Hospice House.

Pat Buretta, Hospice/Homecare manager, is scheduled to offer a message, in addition to music by the Ellendale UMC Choir, the Owatonna High School Carolers and the Owatonna High School String Ensemble.

After the program, the Star of Hope will be lit and will shine throughout the Advent and Christmas season. Refreshments will also be provided following the service.



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Minnesota Farmers Union re-elects Doug Peterson president



Doug Peterson

By HOWARD LESTRUD
County Staff Writer

The Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) held its 74th annual state convention on Saturday, Nov. 21 and Sunday, Nov. 22 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Bloomington.

President Doug Peterson and Vice President Gary Wertish were re-elected to serve another two years of office. Policy and special orders were also debated in unanimous ballots and passed and delegates were elected for the National Convention in Bloomington, MN March 5-8, 2016.

"Minnesota Farmers Union is about bringing solutions to the table when discussing agricultural policy and important key issues that are affecting Minnesota family farmers." said Peterson, Minnesota Farmers Union President. "Our grassroots organization makes sure that there is a voice from every part of the state and policy that is derived from the heart of agriculture in MN, our members."

The MFU delegates debated special orders of business addressing the concerns with the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), and the buffer legislation. Delegates went through the Minnesota Farmers Union policy and debated other hot topics including wolves, biofuels, COOL, and WOTUS.

During the convention, speakers included: Sen. Amy Klobuchar; Sen. Al Franken; Dave Frederickson, Department of Agriculture Commissioner; Roger Johnson, National Farmers Union President; Congressman Tim Walz and Congressman Collin Peterson.

Several awards were given out at the banquet Saturday night, including: Al Withers, Distinguished Service Award; Dori Klein, Excellence in Youth Education Award; Merlyn Hubin, Lifetime Achievement Award; Paul Johannes, Superior Service Award and Paula Mohr, Outstanding Agricultural Reporting Award.

Delegates were chosen to represent Minnesota Farmers Union at the National Farmers Union convention, which will be held March 5-8, 2016 in Bloomington. National delegates elected are:

District 1:
Delegate: Darin Narum, Polk County
Alternate: Richard Moen, Clearwater County

District 2:
Delegate: Ann Schwagerl, Big Stone County
Alternate: Mike Jorgenson, Big Stone County

District 3:
Delegate: Brent Imker, Cottonwood County
Alternate: Jacob Yost, Nicollet County

District 4:
Delegate: Mark Thell, Carlton County
Alternate: Brian Rohrenbach, Dakota County

District 5:
Delegate: Trevor Jensen, Steele County
Alternate: John Larsen, Olmstead County

Minnesota Farm Bureau outlines focus areas for 2016

During a comprehensive discussion on Nov. 20, voting delegates at the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation's (MFBF) 97th Annual Meeting voted on and adopted policy positions for 2016.

Based on those actions, the MFBF Board of Directors identified six major focus areas that will serve as the roadmap for public policy: water, agricultural production practices, taxes, transportation, education and energy.

Water

MFBF will work hard to achieve appropriate recognition of voluntary conservation practices already responsibly carried out by Minnesota farmers. Agriculture's role in meeting water quality challenges can best be fulfilled through site-specific actions addressing actual problems where they occur and not through a top-down process that applies restrictions and limitations through the use of statewide mandates, regulations or permit requirements.

Adjusting production practices need to be based on realistic consideration which take into account variability of options, agronomic impacts, economic impacts and proactive solutions. State agencies dictating centrally-planned land-use requirements will neither be effective in improving water quality nor accepted by cooperative partners.

Agricultural Production Practices

Minnesota farmers are committed to providing safe food for families. Minnesota farmers have adapted and continue to adopt ever-improving production methods, techniques and technologies. Not all farm families select the same production methods, but they still demonstrate their commitment to care for their livestock, manage and improve the quality of their environment and enhance the quality of the food and fiber they produce.

The ability to voluntarily determine the best production practices that fit their farms/ranches result in sustainable futures for farm families and yield ecological benefits. MFBF will promote the necessity for property rights and avoidance of negative restrictions by government agencies seeking to force their land-use agenda.

Taxes

Property tax burdens are threatening family farms that are struggling to generate revenue from the land to pay required taxes. The present property tax system and cost requirements to support capital improvements for local government and educational facilities in rural portions of Minnesota is not equitable nor viable on a long-term basis.

County Farm Bureaus will partner with their neighbors to be aware of how expenses of local government translate to property tax loads and work with their local government and school boards to maintain responsible spending limits. MFBF will continue to be involved in legislative actions necessary to address the range of issues associated with escalating property taxes.

Transportation

MFBF's transportation emphasis will stress rural Minnesota transportation infrastructure needs being equitably addressed. Significant attention needs to be given to the funding needs of local roads and bridges without automatically implying tax increases as the solution. Bonding and a variety of other options need to be included.

Education

Agricultural education and finding workable solutions for adequate funding are priorities for MFBF. Continued attention is needed to maintain and build strong youth programs like FFA and 4-H and effective farm business management assistance for farmers. Strengthening farm safety education and training is also a priority area for Farm Bureau.

Energy

Minnesota farmers are key producers of vital renewable energy and highly dependent on reliable and affordable energy for their farms and homes. MFBF will join others to press for federal actions to honor Congressional intent for Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS). Important land use and tax ramifications will require attention as additional alternative energy projects take shape.

Al-Corn board continues to study options

By KAREN JORGENSEN
County Staff Writer

Following a narrow rejection in October by shareholders of a proposal that would have allowed expansion of the Al-Corn Clean Fuel plant in Claremont the plant's board of directors continues to study their next step.

In September the cooperative's board sent out ballots to the more than 450 shareholders asking them for approval to sell new shares and also reduce the par value of current shares. The additional shares would bring in more capital for expansion and also guarantee more corn to meet the expanded capacity.

"We don't have an official plan," said Board Member Roger Toquam. "By mid-December we should have official direction."

He said the vote was extremely close and the board has been polling all shareholders to get a feel as to why it failed.

At a shareholder meeting before the ballots were sent out, the proposal was explained to members and some indicated they were unhappy with the idea of offering new shares at $.50 each and reducing the par value of the current shares.

After the vote Al-Corn CEO Randall Doyal said he believed there was some misinformation circulated that may have caused some to vote against the proposal.

Toquam said there were some concerns expressed by older, retired shareholders because of Al-Corn's requirement that a shareholder deliver one bushel of corn for each share they hold.

As an example, a shareholder who has 10,000 shares is required to deliver 10,000 bushels of corn each year to the plant. To ensure year round availability, one-quarter of the total is delivered each quarter.

For a shareholder who is no longer raising corn this means that individual must buy corn to deliver to the plant.

Al-Corn was one of the first ethanol plants in Minnesota, Toquam said, and as a cooperative that was one of the requirements of the state at the time. The situation is different now as many of the ethanol plants are not co-ops.

The ethanol industry has changed since Al-Corn started, he said, and they need to keep growing and adopt new technologies to remain competitive.

The plan presented to the shareholders in September would have allowed a $146 million expansion that would have expanded and upgraded the current facility.

When completed the cooperative would have increased the annual capacity from 17.5 million bushels of corn to 42 million bushels and it's output from 50 million gallons of ethanol to 120 million gallons.

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In the winter, a grain farmer usually:

1. Hauls away the previous years crop from his grain bins to be sold at the elevator.
2. Works tirelessly on paperwork, closing out the year before and beginning the New Year.
3. Attends meetings offered by Agricultural based companies in efforts to learn to be better at his/her job.
4. Completes all of the maintenance needed on his/her equipment to make sure its ready for the following year.

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Minimizer expands to 16 territories across North America

Minimizer, best known for its line of Tested and Tortured heavy truck products, continues to grow more than three decades after its inception.

Since the beginning of 2015, the company has added four new territories to its distribution map, bringing the total number to 16.

"We train our distributors to sell Minimizer products, but we've got so many distributors now that we need more territory managers to make it manageable. So we broke up our map into smaller territories," Minimizer CEO Craig Kruckeberg said. "We've also brought on board two regional managers. It's exciting, because our team is growing all the time."

Minimizer started in 1984 with Dick Kruckeberg selling the company's now-infamous poly fender out of the back of his truck. Today, the Minnesota-based business offers numerous heavy truck products, and is once again on pace to break its own sales records.

"We're proud to be an American family-owned company for more than three decades, but we're even more proud to hire American workers, which are the backbone of our country," Kruckeberg said.

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Submitted photo

Above is the Minimizer headquarters, located in Blooming Prairie.

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507-463-2679
KECK ENTERPRISES, INC OF OWATONNA is looking to hire several OTR reefer truck drivers. Class A driving experience is a must. We are currently offering a $7,500 Sign-on Bonus. Earn up to 47 cents/mile on all dispatched miles. Vacation Days & Holiday Pay. Driving schedule is open to your needs, just let us know.

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To place your ad
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Steele County Times

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Gopher Sport has several exciting career opportunities available:
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• Inside Sales
• Support Desk Technician
• eCommerce Marketing Coordinator (Edina location)
To view the full position description and/or to apply, visit us at http://careers.gophersport.com Click on "Current Openings"
About Gopher Sport:
Gopher Sport is the leading direct-marketing company of unique, high-quality, innovative sports, physical education, fitness and early childhood products in the industry today. Since 1947 Gopher Sport has provided unsurpassed service to our customers and backed all of our products with an unconditional 100% satisfaction guarantee. We are headquartered in a 100,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art office and distribution center in Owatonna, MN, with a secondary office location in Edina. It is our mission at Gopher Sport to help people of all ages lead active and healthy lives!
Why join the Gopher Sport Team?
Our Team Members enjoy a competitive compensation and benefits package, 18-days of PTO year one, plus (8) company paid holidays; company-wide performance bonuses; 401K; ESOP; tuition reimbursement; product discounts; wellness programs; stand-up work stations; an onsite fitness center and so, so, so much more!
Gopher Sport is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer Male/Female/Disability/Veterans

Classifieds

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Dodge County ADvantage
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EMPLOYMENT

PT Property maintenance position available in Hayfield. General repair and maintenance experience preferred. Please send resume to hayfieldmidtownmanor@gmail.com 22tfc

Immediate openings for Direct Care Staff for 4 bed group home in West Concord. PT PM positions and float positions available. Must be 18, have current MN drivers license & pass background check. Higher starting wages/shift differential for PM sifts. Call Heidi or Karla at (507)527-2456 or apply at 205 Southview Street, West Concord. EOE 50-1c

FOR SALE

4 Bridge Stone snow tires: B4122 AK W570 19565 R 15, on rims hub caps for VW Beetle $300 call 635-5511 48-50p

1993 Crown Victoria, no rust, no dents, good engine and running gear, power steering, windows and seats, very good shape. $1800, or will trade for full size pickup or small RV. (507)527-1014 leave a message. 48-50p

Lt1280csn Loar semi hollow body electric guitar with fitted case, $650, Johnson square neck Dobro $265. Kona Kifncen blond acoustic electric $250, microphones amplifiers, etc. West Concord (507)527-1014 49-51pd

FOR RENT

Apartments for rent, 1, 2 & 3 BR, gas & elec. included. 507-273-7386. 50-1p, 2tfc

Mobile Home lot and mobile homes for rent at Southside Mobile Home Park in Hayfield. No Pets. Call JMC for details. 507-536-0000. 43tfc

1 BR Senior Apt available in Hayfield. Rent based on income. Heat, water/sewer, trash paid. Elevator, community room, laundry on site. (62+ or handicapped/disabled) Equal Housing Opportunity. 507-477-2316 or 507-634-4188. 1tfc

An 1880's renovated hotel with spacious rooms, hardwood floors, microwaves and an ambiance that is quiet small town living. Get out of the traffic. Look here! We have the 1,2, or 3 bedroom apartment you want. Utilities included in rent. Call 507-796-0152 or 507-884-9706. 4tfc

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Dodge Center, 2 story, 3 bedroom home. Full basement, bath and a half. Kitchen and bath recently remodeled. Double attached garage, large yard. Non smokers. $950 dep. & $950 rent. (507)374-6392 or (507)374-6747 47tfc

West Concord: 2 BR Apt., NS, NP, utilities, inc., $575 per mo. 1 BR Apt., NS, NP, utilities inc., $500 per mo. (507)358-6293 48-49, 50nc

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 Office, 134 East Second Street, Wabasha, MN 55981 on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. The public is welcome to attend.50c

SERVICES

TUTORING. Learning can be fun! All grades - most subjects. Linda L. Greene 507-374-2363. 38tfc

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Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

HELP WANTED

UNITED QUALITY COOPERATIVE at Parshall/New Town ND is seeking a qualified CEO/General Manager. This is a multi-location energy, grain, agronomy, and farm retail cooperative with sales of $350 million. Business degree and or successful agricultural business management experience desired. To Apply: http://tinyurl.com/o3yxchx For more info contact Larry Fuller, 701/220-9775 or Email larry.fuller@chsinc.com

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truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3 day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 800/439-1735

MISCELLANEOUS

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Back Pain? Shoulder Pain? Get a pain-relieving brace -little or no cost to you. Medicare patients call health hotline now! 800/755-6807

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Get more for less! Starting $19.99/month (for 12 months), plus bundle & save (Fast Internet for $15 more/month.) Call now 800/297-8706

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Will do daycare in my home for ages 1 and under. Mon.-Fri.; 6 a.m.-6 p.m. If interested please call (507)775-6516 and ask for Sherry 50, 51pd, 52nc

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For more information please contact
Jane Hill @ 507.374.2198 or 507.319.5134 20tfc

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Krueger Trucking
Austin, MN
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49-51c

The City of Kasson
Public Works Director

Plan, organize, manage and continually evaluate all assigned public works functions in a manner which is consistent with directives of the City Administrator and which facilitates the provision of efficient utilities and a safe, usable and expandable infrastructure throughout the City.

Perform difficult administrative work, planning, organizing and directing streets, drainage, water and wastewater utility, electrical utility and related public works and public utility functions, coordinating work with other departments and the City Administrator, maintaining records and files, preparing reports, and related work as required. Work involves setting policies and goals under the direction of the City Administrator. Departmental supervision is exercised over Electric, Water and Wastewater, Parks and Recreation and subordinate personnel. Salary Range: $35.18-$42.62.

Application materials are available from the "employment" page of the City of Kasson website (www.cityofkasson.com).
Completed application and resume are to be sent to:
Linda Rappe, City Clerk, City of Kasson
401 SE 5th St., Kasson, MN 55944.
Applications will be accepted until the position is filled; however, interested applicants are strongly encouraged to apply not later than noon, Tuesday, December 15, 2015.
Review of applications begins on December 16, 2015. 50-51c

Office Assistant



The Dodge County Independent newspaper, along with its printing operation, Dodge County Printing, is accepting applications for a part-time office assistant to handle general office duties and be the point of contact to the public.

Ideal candidate should have strong customer service skills for in-person contact, email and phone; exceptional organizational skills, computer skills and ability to stay focused and pay attention to detail.

Position will be at least 25 hours per week and may grow into full-time. If interested please send resume and letter of interest to Publisher Rick Bussler at

bprick@frontier.com

DODGE COUNTY INDEPENDENT

GOODWILL JOB FAIR

For our new store located by Costco
Monday, December 7th, 2015
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Rochester Workforce Center
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Please use Door H8
Apply online before the event:
JobsGoodwill.org
3928 10/15 50p

MOWER COUNTY
EMPLOYMENT **OPPORTUNITIES**

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE / REGISTERED NURSE (FT AFSCME union position) Minimum requirements at entry include licensure as a Registered Nurse and a valid driver's license. A Bachelor's degree in nursing and Public Health certification is preferred. Focus is for Community Health Long Term Care. Foreign language (Spanish) skills desirable. Starting wage/hr for a Registered Nurse: 2015: $20.27-22.70 (2016 $20.87-23.38) and Public Health Nurse: $23.69-26.54 (2016 $24.40-27.33) dependent upon experience. Open until position is filled; applications received by 3:00 p.m. on December 9, 2015 will be given priority consideration.
To apply complete the Merit application online at http://agency.governmentjobs.com/mnmeritsystem/default.cfm

DETENTION DEPUTY (ROSTER for future openings - Male full-time LELS union position primarily 2nd Shift 2p-10p or 10p-6a). Responsible for supervising inmates in the jail and ensuring the safety and well-being of the inmate population and other jail staff. Requirement: High School Diploma or (G.E.D.)
& 1 yr of general work experience. Starting Wage/hr: 2015: $16.84-$18.69; 2016: $17.35-$19.25 based on training and experience.
To apply qualified applicants may obtain job description, application and supplemental application at the Mower County Government Center, 201 1st Street NE, Suite 9, Austin, MN 55912 or online at www.co.mower.mn.us.
Resumes will not be accepted in place of application forms.

Mower County offers for full-time employees an excellent benefit package including health, life, disability, retirement, and paid time off.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER 49-50c

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mmeats@kmtel.com 50-52c



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Cancer Corner

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

Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

A continuing presence in the cancer community

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer
Dan Miner hopes the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group will continue to provide a support system for those battling cancer.

Members of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group pride themselves on helping find ways to cure those battling cancer. Dan Miner isn't any different.

"I've had a grandpa and two uncles pass away from leukemia," he said. "(I'm involved with the cancer group) to help in a small way to finding a cure for all those battling cancer."

Miner is a partner at Johnson, Doerhoefer and Miner PA in Blooming Prairie. He was born and raised in Blooming Prairie, moved away to the metro area for 14 years and moved back to Blooming Prairie in 2011.

The ultimate goal for the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group is to find a cure, Miner said, but he adds the group hopes to help those in the community who are affected by cancer through the community fund. Over a two-year period, 2013-2014, more than $11,000 was provided to those associated with cancer for transportation, purchase of a ramp for a wheelchair, purchase of a bed, for utility bills and parking passes for appointments in Rochester.

Miner hopes that the cancer group has meant a lot to people battling cancer. "They aren't alone and have a support system in place to help out."

In the future, Miner stated that the cancer group would continue to be a presence in the community and as a support system for those battling cancer and the loved ones supporting them while continuing our efforts to raise money through our many fun events.

Sponsored by

KREJCI Ford

Santa Claus to visit the Veterans Memorial in Medford Dec. 5

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Santa Claus is taking a break from his busy schedule to visit the Medford's Veterans Memorial on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 1 to 2 p.m.

Since the two black granite stones were set at the corner of Third Street Northeast and County Road 12 (Second Avenue Northeast) in early October, the veteran's committee thought it would nice to spread some holiday cheer and show off the success of the project.

Keith Maas of the Veteran's Committee said that years ago, Santa Claus used to ride around town on top of a firetruck. That tradition ended years back, and the committee thought it was time to bring Santa back.

Kids are welcome to stop by and visit with Santa Claus and receive some candy and treats.

"People can come and take pictures with Santa and the family," said Maas. "We just thought it would be a nice holiday deal."

Comfortable and familiar.



When a cure is no longer possible, Hospice provides quality of life addressing the total physical, emotional and spiritual needs of individuals, while assisting their loved ones in providing care and support in comfortable, familiar surroundings.

For more information, call
507-377-6393 (Albert Lea) or 507-434-1415 (Austin).

MAYO CLINIC HEALTH SYSTEM



The Great Christmas GIVEAWAY



Vandal's FAMILY MARKET

Gift Baskets, Stocking Stuffers including Dollar Items, Christmas Candies, and Locally Made in BP Inzane Fishing Lures and Goatsmilk Soap! And of course, all your favorite holiday foods including VALLEY MAID HAMS, hand-made, local Lefse! Only at Vandal's!
Merry Christmas and Thank You for choosing local!

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Register at Vandal's Family Market
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Address _____
_____
Phone _____

This weeks Vandal's winner is:
Ms. Sandra Christenson

These five businesses will be giving away $10 BP Bucks every week for four weeks, beginning the week of Nov. 24. All you have to do is register at the locations listed below! The four drawings will take place each Friday: Nov. 28, Dec. 5, Dec. 12 and Dec. 19. Winners can pick up their prizes at the Steele County Times office.

There will also be a drawing with all the entries from the last four weeks on Monday, Dec. 22, for one lucky reader to win the ***GRAND PRIZE*** of two tickets to Chanhassen Dinner Theatre!

The more you shop, the more chances you have to win!

Steele County Times
Always local, all the time.

Enjoy this holiday season with many laughs and smiles!

411 E. Main Street • Blooming Prairie
507-583-4431

Register at the Steele County Times Office
Name _____
Address _____
_____
Phone _____

This weeks Steele County Times winner is:
Ms. Sandra Christenson

"Safety First! Be On Time!"
Happy Holidays
from the
Blooming Prairie Bus Co.
507-456-3200

Register at the Steele County Times Office
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Address _____
_____
Phone _____

This weeks BP Bus Co. winner is: Lois Nelson

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Owatonna
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Register at the Steele County Times Office
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Address _____
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Phone _____

This weeks Cashwise winner is: Amanda Schumacher

Need some presents for under your tree?
Come see us at:
Express Pressure Washers, Inc.
15880 SE 74th Ave Blooming Prairie
507-583-2703
EXP VAL6 ALKOTA
Open Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm
and Saturday 8:30 to 12:00 noon
Merry Christmas!

Register at the Steele County Times Office
Name _____
Address _____
_____
Phone _____

This weeks Express Pressure winner is: Deb Motl

Legals

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

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of that certain mortgage, dated the 3rd day of December, 2008, executed by Harley S. Randall and Marcella P. Randall, husband and wife, as mortgagors, to Wells Federal Bank, fsb n/k/a Wells Federal Bank, as mortgagee, filed for record in the office of the County Recorder in and for the County of Steele, and State of Minnesota, on the 10th day of December, 2008, at 3:54 o'clock p.m., and recorded as Document No. A000361005; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all notice provisions and conditions precedent as required by law; and that the mortgagee or assignee has elected to declare the entire sum secured by the note and mortgage to be immediately due and payable as provided in the note and mortgage; That the original or maximum principal amount secured by the mortgage was Seventythree Thousand and No/100 DOLLARS ($73,000.00); That there is due and claimed to be due on the mortgage, including interest to date hereof, the sum of Sixty-three Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-two and 45/100 DOLLARS ($ 6 3 , 9 2 2 . 4 5) ; And that pursuant to the power of sale therein contained, said mortgage will be foreclosed and the tract of land lying and being in the County of Steele, State of Minnesota, described as follows, to-wit: Lot 3, Block 1, Radel's Southtown Addition, Owatonna, Minnesota; The real property's street address is: 1825 Elm Ave. S., Owatonna, MN 55060. The real property's identification number is: 17-356-0103 Transaction agent: N/A Transaction agent's Mortgage identification number: N/A Mortgage originator: Wells Federal Bank, fsb n/k/a Wells Federal Bank. will be sold by the sheriff of said county at public auction on the 28th day of January, 2016, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at 204 East Pearl Street in the City of Owatonna in said county and state, to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage on said premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law, subject to redemption by the mortgagors, their personal representative or assigns within six (6) months from date of sale. 2 1854990.1 TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owneroccupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagors 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 28, 2016.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED." THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 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.

Dated this 12th day of November, 2015.

WELLS FEDERAL BANK,
Mortgagee
/s/ Jennifer G. Lurken
Jennifer G. Lurken #347516
GISLASON & HUNTER LLP
Attorneys for Mortgagee
Landkamer Building, Suite 200
124 East Walnut Street
P. O. Box 1268
Mankato, MN 56002-1268
Phone: 507-387-1115
Fax: 507-387-4413

11/17, 11/24, 12/1
12/8, 12/15, 12/22

Foreclosure

15-101570

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE |FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: December 21, 2006 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $116,000.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Joseph L. Erler and Barbara R. Erler, Husband and Wife; Jeremy J. Erler and Brittany L. Erler, Husband and Wife and Jeff T. Evans, a single person MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 100021278104668400 LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Rochester Mortgage Company SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed December 22, 2006, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000346604, thereafter re-recorded March 28, 2007 as document number A000348663 to add additional mortgagors

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association; Dated: July 27, 2015 filed: August 3, 2015, recorded as document number A000403434 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 9 and the East 6 feet of Lot 8 in Block 23 of the Original Town (now City) of Owatonna, Minnesota; Excepting the South 55 feet to the above described premises. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 404 Elm Ave S, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-100-2310 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $107,927.01 THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: January 12, 2016, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on July 12, 2016, or the next business day if July 12, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: November 17, 2015

JPMorgan Chase Bank,
National Association
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

11/24, 12/1, 12/8
12/15, 12/22, 12/29

Foreclosure

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That Default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: 09/23/2004 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $100,700.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Dale L. Louks and Bonjonette Louks, Husband and Wife; and Lanny R. Louks MORTGAGEE: ¬Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Heartland Home Finance, Inc. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: 10/12/2004 as Document Number A000326422 in the Office of the County Recorder, Steele County, Minnesota ASSIGNMENT OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to Ventures Trust 2013-I-H-R by MCM Capital Partners, LLC its Trustee DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: 03/05/2015 as Document Number A000401080 in the Office of the County Recorder, Steele County, Minnesota TAX PARCEL I.D. NO.: 17-016-1153 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing Ten (10) rods West of the Southeast corner of Lot Four (4) of Lot Eighteen (18) in the Northeast Quarter (1/4) of Section Sixteen (16) in Township One Hundred and Seven (107) North of Range Twenty (20) West, running thence North Ten (10) rods, thence West Four and one-half (4 1/2) rods, thence South Ten (10) rods, thence East Four and one-half (4 1/2) rods to the place of beginning. A B S T R A C T STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 240 Northview, Owatonna, MN 55060 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Heartland Home Finance, Inc. RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: BSI Financial Services Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 1 0 0 3 1 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 4 1 2 THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE AS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE: $103,796.01

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes. Pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the mortgaged premises will be sold by the Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota at public auction as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: 01/19/2016 at 10:00AM PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, 204 E. Pearl, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said Mortgagor(s) or Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is six months from the date of sale. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23, the mortgagor must vacate the mortgaged property by 11:59 p.m. on 07/19/2016, or the next business day if 07/19/2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: 11/24/2015
Ventures Trust 2013-I-H-R by MCM Capital Partners, LLC its Trustee, Mortgagee/Mortgage Assignee
Klatt, Odekirk, Augustine, Sayer, Treinen & Rastede, P.C., By Brian G. Sayer, Attorney for Mortgagee/ Mortgage Assignee
925 E 4th St., Waterloo, IA 50703

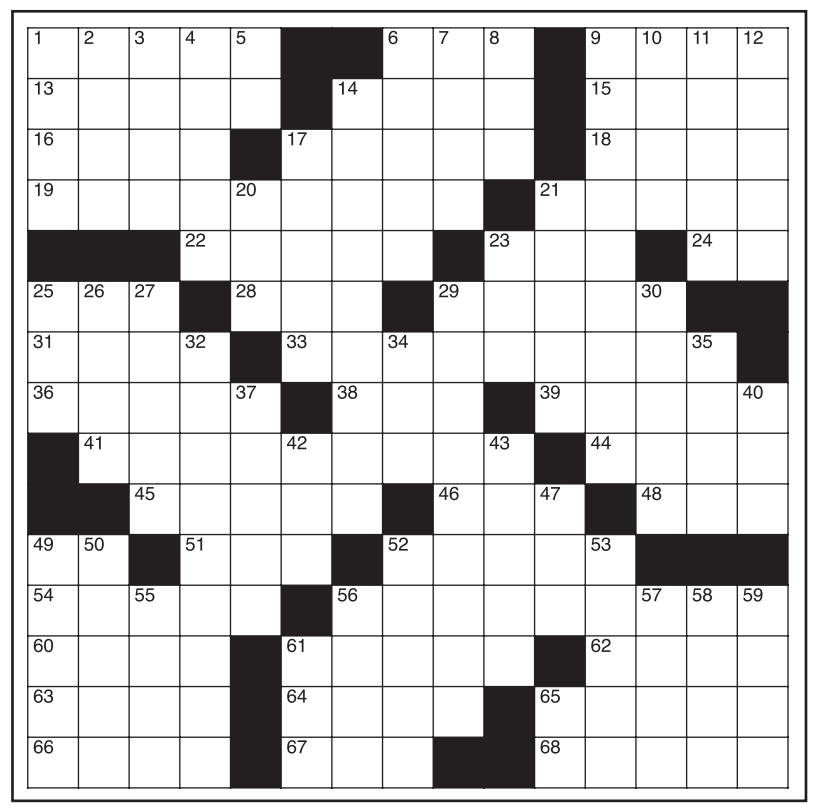
THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

11/24, 12/1, 12/8
12/15, 12/22, 12/29

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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Answers on Page 6C



CLUES ACROSS

1. Russian rulers (alt. sp.)
6. Swedish krona
9. Apothecaries' unit
13. MN 55121
14. Longer forearm bone
15. Prosperous state of well-being
16. Largest Czech city (alt. sp.)
17. Moss genus larger than Bryum
18. ____ Marie Presley
19. White native of Cape Province
21. Took the same position
22. About Sun
23. Respectful (abbr.)
24. Southeast
25. Rocket launching platform
28. Stake
29. Innermost parts
31. Bowfin genus
33. Past it's prime
36. Valleys on moon
38. Cheer
39. Abrupt response
41. Leave in disgrace
44. Israeli politician Abba
45. Of an ecological sere
46. Former Kansas Sen. Dole
48. Very fast airplane
49. Blood group
51. This moment
52. Body cavity
54. Patrician
56. Exposing to ridicule
60. Beowulf's people
61. Gooseberry genus
62. Ali __ & the Forty Thieves
63. A French abbot
64. In a way, nailed
65. His equation predicted antimatter
66. Smaller quantity
67. Danish krone
68. Heartbeat

CLUES DOWN

1. Used for insect sterilization
2. Arabian coffee cup
3. Culture medium & a food gelling agent
4. Finger millets
5. Tin
6. More guileful
7. Tree gnarl
8. Force into place
9. Drawn
10. Sudden attack
11. Donkeys
12. George Gordon __
14. Behaving in an artificial way
17. Moundbird
20. Orange-brown antelope
21. Flocks of mallards
23. Hall of Fame (abbr.)
25. Golf score
26. Friends (French)
27. Pickling herbs
29. In a way, dwelt
30. Pierces forcefully
32. Estranges
34. Shooting marble
35. Amounts of time
37. Register formally
40. Explosive
42. Kanza people, ____ Nation
43. Symbolize Shakti
47. Burdock seed vessel
49. Wild sheep of central Asia
50. Am. naturalist Charles Wm.
52. A fencing sword
53. Romanian city straddling the Cibin River
55. Small talks
56. Not well
57. Astronomer Sagan
58. Overgarments
59. Twist together
61. Radioactivity unit
65. Double play

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Legals

Foreclosure

15-101819

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: April 21, 2008 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $159,101.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Lee Mullerleile and Christy Mullerleile, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 100249120000143128

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Marketplace Home Mortgage, LLC SERVICER: CitiMortgage, Inc. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed April 25, 2008, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000356812 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: CitiMortgage, Inc. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 8, Block 6, Re-Plat of Highland Park Addition to the City of Owatonna, together with the North Half of the vacated alley lying directly South of said Lot. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 627 E Academy St, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-136-0608 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $159,226.97 THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: January 12, 2016, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on July 12, 2016, or the next business day if July 12, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated:
November 20, 2015

CitiMortgage, Inc.
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

11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29

Foreclosure

15-101690

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 21, 2005 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $229,050.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Amado Mendez Solis and Lorna E. Mendez, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Town and Country Credit Corp. LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Town and Country Credit Corp. SERVICER: Specialized Loan Servicing LLC DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed December 7, 2005, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000337562 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Ameriquest Mortgage Company; Dated: December 2, 2005 filed: December 26, 2007, recorded as document number A000354323; thereafter assigned to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. dated December 2, 2005 recorded December 26, 2007 as document number A000354324. Thereafter assigned to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, successor in interest to Bank of America, National Association, as successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee for Certificateholders of Bear Stearns Asset Backed Securities I LLC, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-HE2 dated March 19, 2012 recorded April 9, 2012 as document number A000383927. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 6, Block 3, Radel's Francis Addition PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1283 Bellflower Lane, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-437-0306 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $372,214.97 THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: January 12, 2016, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on July 12, 2016, or the next business day if July 12, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: November 20, 2015

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, successor in interest to Bank of America, National Association, as Trustee, successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee for Bear Stearns Asset Backed Securities I Trust 2006-HE2, Asset Backed-Certificates, Series 2006-HE2 Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 11/10/2015
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. Ebeling/Glynn to approve the Agenda. Ayes all.
2. Glynn/Brady to approve the minutes of October 27, 2015. Ayes all.
3. Ebeling/Schultz to approve the personnel actions. Ayes all.
4. Schultz/Glynn to appoint Commissioner Brady as MCIT delegate and Commissioner Ebeling as alternate. Ayes all.
5. Ebeling/Glynn to approve the application to Conduct Off-Site Gambling for the Owatonna Wrestling Association at the Monterey Ballroom. Ayes all.
6. Schultz/Glynn to authorize the Board Chair to sign the letter of support, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, of the City of Owatonna Parks & Recreation Department (Senior Place) applying for the Aging Mastery Program (AMP) grant. Upon the vote being taken, 4 Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Ebeling abstaining.
7. Ebeling offered a Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Brady for the Minnesota Trails Assistance Program Maintenance Grant Agreement in the amount of $56,100. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voting in favor thereof, none absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Auditor's office.
8. Ebeling/Schultz to approve the quote from All Systems for the Access Control/Surveillance Project in the amount of $73,214. Ayes all.
9. Brady/Glynn to approve the request to advertise for the open position in the Auditor's office. Ayes all.
10. Glynn/Ebeling to approve Conditional Use Permit #399 for David & Christy Mulert to build and operate a kennel in Section 27-107-20 of Owatonna Township with condition per the Planning Commission and to approve the Findings of Fact. Ayes all.
11. Ebeling/Schultz to set the date for adoption of a Solar Energy Ordinance for December 15, 2015 at 7:15 p.m. Ayes all.
12. Brady/Ebeling to authorize the Planning & Zoning Director to submit the 2016 Project Priority List Worksheet (PPL) to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA) for the community of Pratt. Ayes all.
13. Ebeling/Brady to set January 12, 2016 for Board of Equalization training at 4 p.m. Ayes all.
14. Ebeling/Glynn to set the date for the 2016 Board of Equalization Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 5 p.m. with the reconvene date of June 28th at 7:15 p.m. Ayes all.
15. Glynn/Schultz to approve the quote from Block Plumbing & Heating for replacement of the Water Heater at the Detention Center in the amount of $12,400. Ayes all.
16. Ebeling/Glynn to approve the lease, and permit the County Attorney to sign, of the residence connected to the County Attorney's office and to approve of material costs to be deducted from the rent for the cost of paint. Ayes all.
17. Brady/Ebeling to approve the Request for Proposal for Audit Services and to accept proposals until 4 p.m. on November 30, 2015. Ayes all.
18. Ebeling/Schultz to approve the debt forgiveness of advances to the Four Seasons in the amount of $2,314,000. Ayes all.
19. Ebeling/Brady to set the meeting dates for December Board meetings at December 15, 2015 and December 22, 2015 (if needed) at 7 p.m. with Committee of the Whole at 4 p.m. Ayes all.
20. Commissioner Reports:
Schultz reported on his attendance at the Ag Society annual meeting, the Joint Fair Board meeting and SEMCAC meeting.
Glynn reported on his attendance at the Cannon River Partnership and MnPrairie meeting.
Ebeling reported on his attendance at the Jt. Steele/Rice Dispatch meeting, Southern Minnesota Tourism and Joint Fair Board meeting.
Brady reported on his attendance at the JD 7 & 11 meetings and the SE Mn Water Resources Board.
Huntington reported on her attendance at the MnDOT tour of old Highway 14, Criminal Justice meeting, Mn. Association of County Feedlot Officers, SCHA, Joint Fair Board
meeting and MnPrairie meeting.
21. Glynn/Ebeling to enter into closed session at 7:28 p.m. to discuss a Property Acquisition. Ayes all.
22. Ebeling/Brady, to close the closed session at 7:53 p.m.
23. Schultz/Glynn to approve the following listing of bills. Ayes all.

LISTING OF BILLS
11/10/2015

A 'viands, LLC	9,843.34
Asbostrol, Inc.	7,350.00
Computer Professionals Unlimited, Inc.	4,062.72
Crane Creek Asphalt	2,363.53
Dakota County Financial Svc	7,590.00
Eaton Corporation	10,942.10
Four Seasons Centre	4,001.25
Freeborn County Treasurer	6,725.82
H & L Mesabi, Inc.	15,162.13
HM CRAGG	3,303.20
Integra Telecom	2,772.60
J R's Advanced Recyclers, Inc.	6,731.10
Kwik Trip, Inc.	3,858.27
Local Government Information Systems	24,507.00
Matejcek Implement Co.	74,912.50
Mathiowetz Construction	5,950.00
Mayo Clinic	8,124.50
MN Pollution Control Agency	67,049.49
OpenGov, Inc.	29,750.00
Owatonna Public Utilities	13,665.77
Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.	2,584.47
Southeast Service Cooperative	7,936.56
Southern MN Construction Co Inc.	4,504.97
Turnkey Corrections	3,488.14
157 Warrants under $2,000	51,191.75
Total:	**378,371.21**

24. Brady/Schultz to adjourn to the call of the Chair at 7:54 p.m. Ayes all.

12/1

Assumed Name

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business. ASSUMED NAME: **Supercuts** PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **1100 Frontage Road West Owatonna MN 55060 USA** NAME HOLDER(S): Name: **TenNineteen LLC** Address: **300 S. 2nd St., Apt. 500 Mankato MN 56001 If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment. By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.** SIGNED BY: **Andrew A. Willaert** MAILING ADDRESS: **None Provided** EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **awillaert@gislason.com**

11/24, 12/1



GET TO KNOW US
THE FACES BEHIND THE STORIES

Alan Van Ormer
MANAGING EDITOR

ORIGINALLY FROM: Yankton, S.D.; settled in Sioux Falls

FAMILY: Wife Susan, sons Justin (Kayla) and Jeremy

FAVORITE PAST TIME: Traveling and spending time with the family

PETS: Buddy and Fallon

BEFORE THE TIMES: I have been in the journalism field my whole life. Was a U.S. Marine!

WORD THAT DESCRIBES YOU BEST: Lovable

THREE WORDS YOUR FRIENDS WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE YOU: Nice

FAVORITE BOOK: Any Louis L'Amour or Charles West westerns

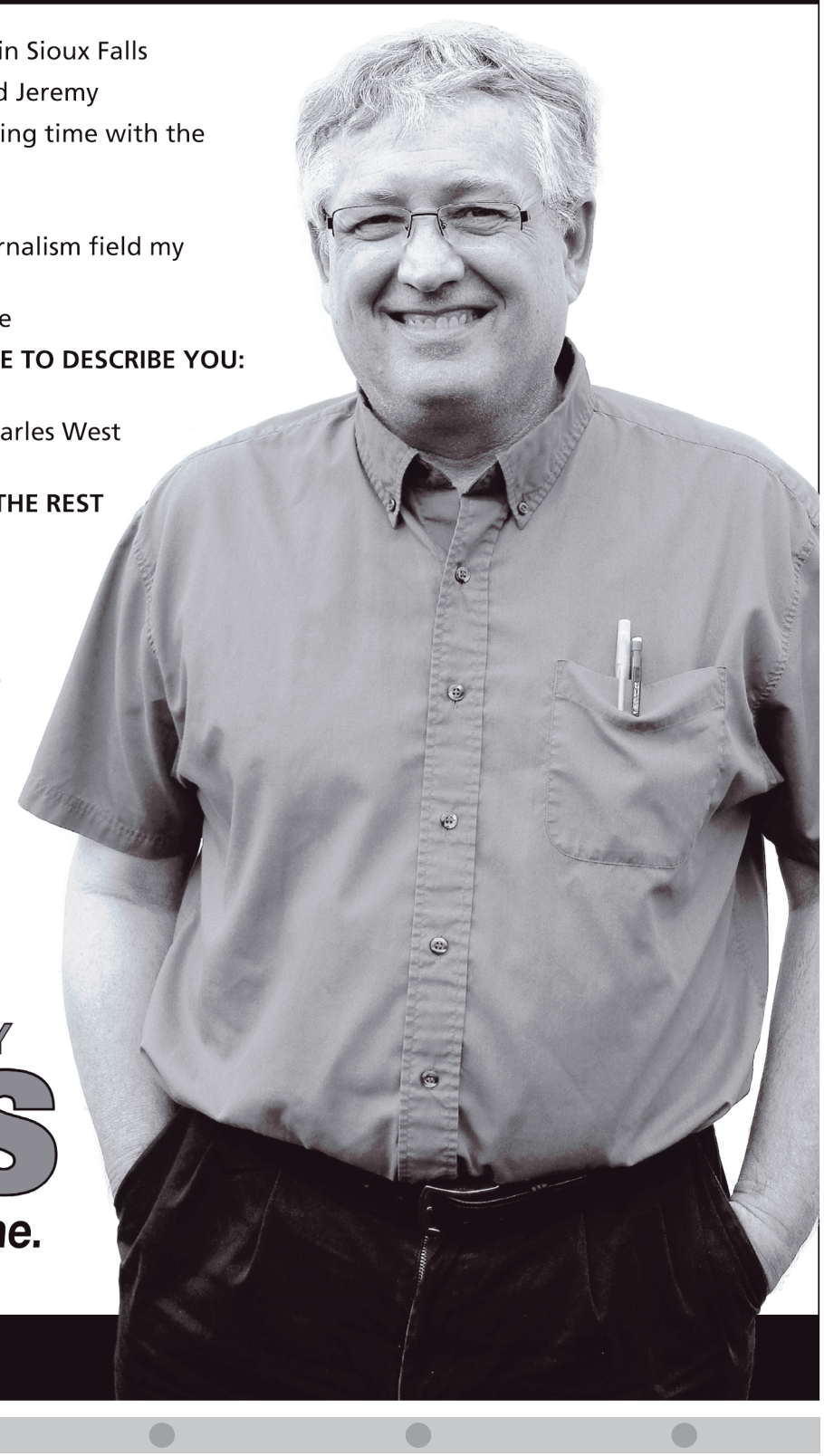
IF YOU COULD EAT ONLY ONE MEAL FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE: Pizza

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH A MILLION DOLLARS: Retire and travel

LAST MOVIE YOU WENT TO: San Andreas

IF YOU COULD HIRE AN ASSISTANT, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE THEM DO: Download my interviews

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME FOR A WEEK, WHAT YEAR WOULD YOU TRAVEL TO: 1860s



STEELE COUNTY Times
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The 85 employees of Minimizer wish you Happy Holidays and a wonderful 2016.

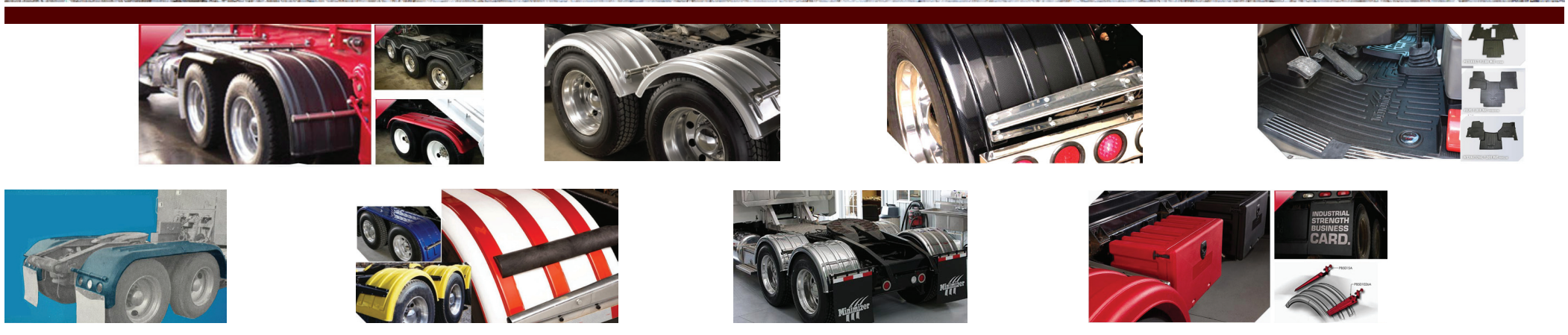


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