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STEELE COUNTY Times

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Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893

The Boys & Girls Club Benefit Bash is here!



Submitted photos

This Saturday, Feb. 6 is the Boys and Girls Club Benefit Bash. The event begins at 5 p.m. at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club and includes both a silent and live auction. Above are just a few auction items, including a bat autographed by Minnesota Twins player Trevor Plouffe, an original jersey from the "all star game" at Target field and a camo "Castle" jacket.

County Commission prohibits public indoor use of e-cigarettes

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

The use of electronic cigarettes, or other delivery devices, in retail places, public areas and work environments is banned in Steele County, including the cities and townships.

The ordinance will be enforced by law enforcement, and a petty misdemeanor is the consequence of violation.

This decision was reached 4-0 by the Steele County Board of Commissioners after an active public hearing on Jan. 26. Commissioner James Brady was absent.

The approval of the ordinance prohibits the indoor use of devices like e-cigarettes where tobacco products were banned under the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act.

The approval essentially extends the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act to include the prohibition of e-cigarettes where tobacco products are banned.

Jane Nyquist and Amy Roggenbuck of Steele County Public Health first presented the changes to the board at the December meeting, where Nyquist said that the recommended changes were typical of what other counties were doing across Minnesota.

"The primary goal of us asking for this ordinance is to protect the health and safety in general welfare of people in Steele County from the adverse effects of electronic delivery devices, commonly known as e-cigarettes," said Roggenbuck before the public hearing portion.

She said that a goal of the ordinance is to also alleviate concern and make enforcement simpler as e-cigarettes appear similar. Another goal of the ordinance, according to Roggenbuck, was just trying to eliminate the renormalizing of the act of smoking with youth.

Nyquist defined an electronic delivery device as "any product containing or delivering nicotine lobelia, which is a plant product, marijuana, or any other substance intended for consumption used by a person to simulate smoking and delivery of nicotine or any other substance from inhalation."

A lobbyist representing a coalition of statewide businesses that manufacture and sell electronic cigarettes or vaping products, Cap O'Rourke, started off the public comment portion with suggestion that the board omit a section of the ordinance that prohibits the sampling of e-cigarettes within a tobacco shop.

O'Rourke said that the main target for electronic device are those trying to "get off of traditional tobacco products."

COUNTY COMMISSION
Continued on Page 2A

Giving back is important to Hocking

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

The Blooming Prairie Boys & Girls Club has meant the world to Blooming Prairie High School sophomore Jeremy Hocking.

"Going out into the real world it will help prepare me to become a greater person and a greater citizen in the community I live in and the things I do later in life," he said.

Hocking started going to the Boys & Girls Club during the 2007-2008 school year as a second-grader. Now, as a 16-year-old he still goes to the Club to help out the younger children that go there each day.

Growing up he remembers watering flowers on Main Street and as a treat, he and others were taken to a Minnesota Twins baseball game. "I will remember that forever," he said. "It's about the people and the way they leave an impact on our lives."

JEREMY HOCKING
Continued on Page 3A



Hocking

Communication is key to Boys & Girls Club success

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Marcy Sundine is happy to be back home in Blooming Prairie, accepting the reins as director of the Boys & Girls Club of Blooming Prairie.

The Boys & Girls Club is not new territory to Sundine. She worked with the club through channels at First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie when she first lived here several years ago.

Sundine has hit the road running, and has already targeted communication as a goal she plans to accomplish.

Her road map for continued success at the Boys & Girls Club includes a personal commitment. "I want to build on communication between the Blooming Prairie and Rochester Boys & Girls Clubs, between the Boys & Girls Club and the community, between the club and school and between the club and its members," Sundine says.

After only three weeks on the job, Sundine already knows the names of all club members and she is becoming acquainted



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Standing in front of a huge R-E-S-P-E-C-T sign, new Boys & Girls Club of Blooming Prairie director Marcy Sundine is on the job and ready to help continue the club's mission of helping young people become more responsible citizens and leaders.

with many of the parents.

"I love it," beams Sundine with enthusiasm in between hugs to her club members, as she talks about her new job and its responsibilities. "I just picked up some paint today," she explains about her personal project to paint over a purple tree on the wall and replace it with pocket displays for par-

ents. The displays will hold items of communication from the club, including a monthly letter.

"I am just amazed at the support shown the club by the community," Sundine comments.

It has been a balancing act

MARCY SUNDINE
Continued on Page 3A

More hardware for local paper

Times captures 8 state journalism awards

For the fifth year in a row, the Steele County Times came away a big winner after capturing several journalistic awards of excellence from the Minnesota Newspaper Association (MNA).

The Times earned eight awards at the MNA Banquet Thursday night in Bloomington. Of those honors, the local newspaper captured one first place, five second place and a pair of third place awards.

Publisher Rick Bussler garnered the paper's only first place award in investigative reporting. Bussler wrote an in-depth story,

"A Harrowing Ordeal," featuring a Medford man who was badly burned from a heated car seat. The judges commented, "This was an interesting, well written piece about a problem. It brought to light a real concern that could have been easily overlooked in a daily story. Good story."

The newspaper won second place in advertising excellence. In presenting the award, judges remarked: "This publication receives my second place vote is because they are experimenting with full page special sec-

tion themed layouts. One was a garage sale page with the map. Great idea! Continue to work with it and make it even better next year! Another similar full page layout I enjoyed was the home improvement section. Great idea with home layout numbering and referencing to each specific advertiser. Big graphics, full page layouts really make it interesting for the reader."

Another second place honor

MNA CONVENTION
Continued on Page 6A



Submitted photo

Staff from the Steele County Times and Dodge County Independent attended the 2016 Minnesota Newspaper Association Convention. Pictured above from left to right are a MNA representative, Rick Bussler, Laura Berndt, Ann Anderson, Karen Jorgensen, Shannon Granholm and Alan Van Ormer at the convention.



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4A PUBLIC SAFETY

B: 4B EMPLOYMENT
6B HEART MONTH

C: 2C CALENDAR
8C OWATONNA

D: 2D FARM LIVING
6D TAX GUIDE

Opinion

Our view

Communities are making progress

Now that the Minnesota Newspaper Association Conference is complete, newspaper leaders, including those with the Dodge County Independent and Steele County Times are trying to grasp all of the information heard during various sessions in the Twin Cities.

All of these newspapers will be taking this information and finding some way to incorporate the strategies and techniques from experts into their news organizations. Our two newspapers will be doing the same thing.

Needless to say, like with any major conference relating to your job, the MNA provided a lot of energy and excitement for those of us in the newspaper industry. It also was a two-day affair that provided an awards evening where newspapers across the state received various honors. The Steele County Times received eight awards. See the front page story in this issue.

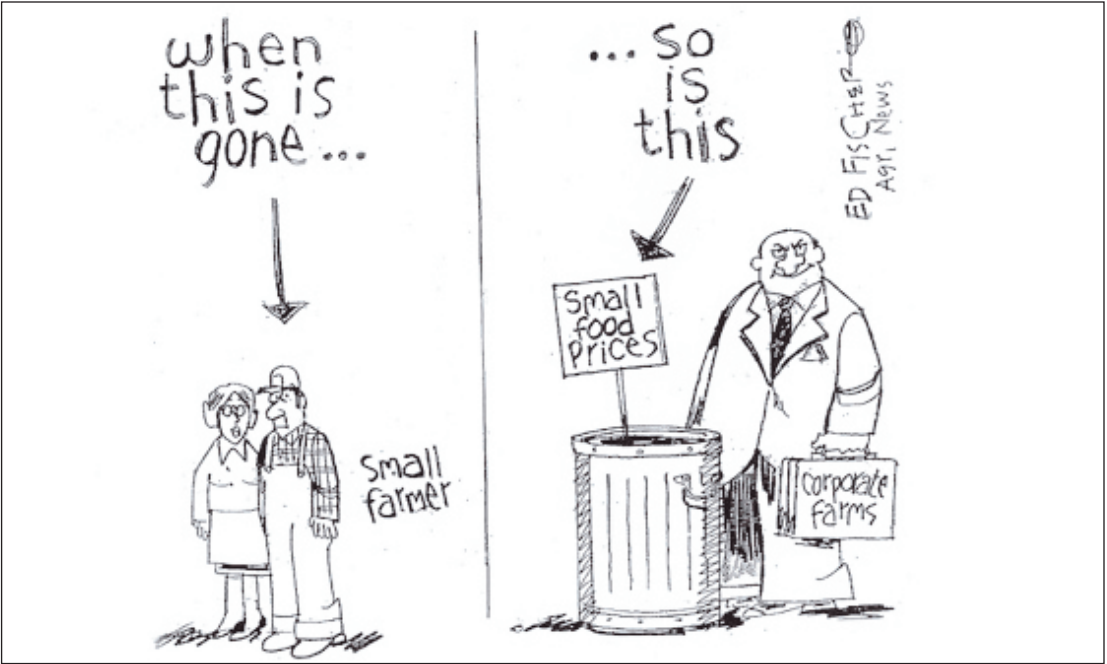
One of those awards involved the Steele County Free Fair Tab. And the first of many tabs will be coming out in the next few weeks. That will be the Progress edition. And after that will be the Spring Farm Tab.

We have done something a little different with this year's Progress edition. The title of the publication is "4 Communities, 4 Days." Editorial staff literally spent 12 hours each in Blooming Prairie, Owatonna, Ellendale and Medford.

It is quite interesting what you find in these communities when you're really not looking for anything specific. For example, attending a wrestling match one evening found a man handling the scoreboard who had been doing all Medford home matches for several years. Another example was in Blooming Prairie. Several of the writers had never been in Ebeling Antiques and we wondered what it all entailed. Howard Lestrud wandered in there on our Blooming Prairie day and found out about it. You can read about it in the Progress edition.

Currently, our sales staff is selling ads for this publication that is coming out soon. They are willing to more than help each of our four communities' businesses be part of this ground-breaking Progress edition for the Steele County Times.

In a way the MNA Convention and the Progress edition are the same. Both tell the story about what has happened in 2015. This year's Progress edition tells stories through the eyes of those who live in Blooming Prairie, Ellendale, Medford and Owatonna.



A call to help save someone's life

By now everybody has likely made their New Year's resolutions, which often end up being self-centered and all about me. But there is one resolution I hope people may consider yet for 2016 if they haven't already.

It's giving the gift of blood. I know it doesn't sound very glamorous or exciting, but it's something that can quickly become a lifesaving venture.

With National Blood Donor Month just getting over in January, it's a good time for all of us to think about how you can help out another fellow human being. By donating blood regularly, you're not only making a vital contribution to modern healthcare, but also helping to save a life.

I became a regular blood donor about 10 years ago. I certainly didn't start donating as early as I should have, but the important thing is I am now. I have found that I get the biggest rush from donating blood and knowing I've likely helped someone in need.

The importance of donating blood didn't become crystal clear for me until about 15 years ago in my former life as a police officer. One night I rolled up on a vehicle in the roadway when one man stabbed another man in the neck right in front of me. The victim came stumbling back to me with blood gushing out of his neck like a water hose.

I quickly applied direct pressure and first aide to the victim. By the time he arrived in the hospital, he had lost

HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

nearly every ounce of blood in his body. With such a traumatic wound, the victim obviously needed lots of blood. Fortunately, the man survived his near death experience. And I walked away with a new appreciation for giving blood.

Getting poked and having blood sucked out of your veins may sound a little unappealing and scary. But it really is pretty painless. A little discomfort is a small price to pay for someone who is facing a life and death situation and needs blood immediately.

The American Red Cross says your blood donation is so much greater than a pint of blood—it is a gift of hope to a patient in need like I found on a dark, lonely street corner many years ago. Imagine yourself, for a moment, being the person in need.

Life is full of many twists and turns. One never knows when you're going to be laying on the emergency room or operating table needing blood pumped into your body. It could be a car wreck, a heart attack or some other unex-

pected medical condition that lands you or a loved one in the hospital.

I don't know about you, but I hope to God there is blood awaiting me in the hospital if I need it. Perspective donors, take note. My blood type is O positive.

I encourage everyone to consider becoming a blood donor. There are nearly 4 million donors across the country dedicated to changing lives, one donation at a time.

The Red Cross is governed by volunteers and supported by giving individuals and communities. It is the single largest supplier of blood products to hospitals throughout the United States. While local hospital needs are always met first, the Red Cross also helps ensure no patient goes without blood no matter where or when they need it.

In addition to providing nearly half of the nation's blood supply, the Red Cross provides relief to victims of disaster, trains millions in lifesaving skills, serves as a communication link between U.S. military members and their families and assists victims of international disasters or conflicts.

It's reassuring to know that we have a service like the Red Cross to depend on in times of great need. Do yourself a favor, plan on donating blood this year. Being in hot pursuit of donating your blood could just save another person's life.

Election season will be busy

A GLIMPSE OF STEELE COUNTY



ALAN VAN ORMER

With the announcement that Bev Cashman is sticking her hat into the ring for the District 24A seat now held by Republican Rep. John Petersburg, it is safe to say that the election season is underway.

On March 1 the DFL and Republican caucuses will be held. After that we will have a better idea of what issues will be on the forefront this election season.

We already know that water is going to be on the table. Gov. Mark Dayton is making it a point to tell the state that there are water quality issues and something needs to be done to deal with it. He reiterated that during the Minnesota Newspaper Association convention last week.

Transportation issues will not go away. No matter who wins the Dist. 24A race, or any other race that has U.S. Highway 14 running through its district, the winner will be pushing for money to complete the four-lane project.

Add on seniors, education and agriculture, and the 2016 political year should lead to some fascinating discussions and for the Steele County Times, some interesting stories. We plan on doing our Voter's Guide later this year. But, before that happens, we will be keeping our eyes on the different issues that will be talked about during the election season.

Two years ago was my first time during the Minnesota election season and it seemed to be quite interesting just trying to learn what was happening. Now that I do know a little bit more about the issues, our writers will be doing our part to tell the stories to our readers about how the 2016 election will impact their lives.

COUNTY COMMISSION

Continued from Page 1A

"Our typical costumer has been smoking for 10 to 15 years and is 38 years old. They come in and have often tried the patch, the gum, the nicotrail inhaler...and to no success. These are now the most popular alternatives to traditional smoking in the state and actually in the world," said O'Rourke.

He said that initial cost of a deliver device is approximately \$55 to \$65. "Before they outlay that cash, they want to make sure that these products meet their need," he said. "Sampling is extremely essential in that process."

The sampling process allows for the clerk to explain the proper use, which requires the device to function. O'Rourke

claimed that this would bring the sampling process outdoors "in plain view of the public."

With that, O'Rourke urged the board to strip the section of the ordinance.

Roger Wacek of Owatonna expressed that O'Rourke made "an excellent point."

"Where are we going to go next? You can't have e-cigarettes in your own home?" Wacek said. "This is a private business and if I'm hearing correctly, no study has shown adverse effects, so who are we protecting?"

Owatonna High School students and members of Students Helping Others Choose Samantha Hager, Kelsy Wright, Matt Mason and Josie Muller repre-

sented youth at the public hearing when they said that "this clean air ordinance will protect young lungs and help reduce teen use of e-cigarettes."

She shared that one in four students in Minnesota have tried an e-cigarette. "Young people use e-cigarettes because they think it's harmless and e-cigarettes come in flavors that are appealing to us, like cotton candy, bubblegum, fruit loop and strawberry-kiwi," said Wright.

Advisor of SHOC Nancy Williams was also present and shared that the e-cigarettes have become more common and that the school resource officer has confiscated e-cigarettes at the Owatonna High School on "multiple occasions."

As a counselor at Beauterre Recovery Institute, Jessica Anderson said that "another concern is the possibility of putting other substances in these devices such as methamphetamine, marijuana, etc."

Anderson also spoke as an Owatonna mother when she addressed O'Rourke's comments about sampling outdoors: "Thankfully we live in Minnesota, it is only warm here about four months out of the year, so there really isn't much appeal to someone standing outside sampling anything. I think it looks silly, and I would hope that I could tell my child look at that silly person out there sampling a tobacco product and it is thirty below zero."

Erin Simmons of the American Lung Association in Mankato clarified that because e-cigarettes have been identified as a tobacco product and not an FDA-approved cessation device, and therefore should regulate it as a tobacco product. With that, she urged the commissioners to move forward with the ordinance.

At the close of the public hearing portion, Commissioner Mark Schultz expressed appreciation for the input from the high school students, commenting that "it carries a lot of weight."

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DEADLINES

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

LETTERS POLICY

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

2016
8 State Awards
2015
4 National Awards
7 State Awards
2014
3 National Awards
7 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)



Rink rats enjoy the outdoors in Blooming Prairie

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Give kids a day off school and what do they do on a balmy Monday afternoon? They go to the Blooming Prairie City Ice rink. That’s what.

“We had 40-50 kids at the rink on Sunday and the next day we nearly matched that figure,” said City Ice Rink Manager Jeremy Wangen.

The rink is located just one block south of Victory Field.

Wangen has managed the rink for the past three years. He’s often seen on the coldest of days, out flooding the hockey rink and also putting a sheet of ice on the basketball court adjacent to the city tennis courts.

“We opened the rink this winter just before it got cold,” Wangen said.

A few years ago, the city received a grant, which enabled it to provide ice skates and other gear for interested skaters free of charge. “We’ve been told that it costs \$6 to rent skates for two hours at a rink in Owatonna,” Wangen said.

Those who use the rink also donate equipment.

Wangen still laces up the skates and bumps heads with some of his friends in the 30s age category. His son Cole, 9 and daughter Makinzie, 5 both play hockey in Owatonna. Wangen took son Cole to the Blooming Prairie rink early in the day on Sunday, then took him to hockey practice in Owatonna and back to Blooming Prairie for more ice time.

“He skated nine hours on this particular day,” his dad said.

On a day of no school, cousins Cole Wangen and Alec Wangen met at the rink for some fun and enjoyment. “We fight like brothers,” laughed Cole. Cole has the



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud
Cousins Alec Wangen and Cole Wangen, both 9, fight for control of the puck during some fun time at the Blooming Prairie City Ice Rink.

edge, however, being on skates longer than Alec.

Blooming Prairie High School junior Evan Doerhoefer works at the rink, logging about 15 hours a week. “I watch the kids so nobody gets hurt,” he said. He also skates on the hockey rink to

keep an eye on all activities.

The BP warming house is open from 4-8:30 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays and from 1-9 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The rink is also open on days when school is not in ses-

sion. The Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce will sponsor its second annual broomball tournament on Feb. 13. Turkey bowling will also be featured.



Jeremy Wangen spends all of his spare time managing the ice rink in Blooming Prairie, just south of the high school. The rink opened in mid-January just before the cold weather. Weekends have been busy, he said.



Ice skates are available free of charge at the Blooming Prairie City Ice Rink, courtesy of a grant received by the city. Here, rink worker Evan Doerhoefer, a junior at Blooming Prairie High School, offers skates for rent.

MARCY SUNDINE

Continued from Page 1A

for Sundine in her new job and with her responsibility of being a parent to three-month-old Henry. Marcy, Henry and her husband, Shawn reside in a home near the Heather Haus in Blooming Prairie. Marcy has maintained ownership of the home while she worked for Ritchie Bros. in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Marcy Sundine (McCamy) grew up on a 45-acre hobby farm near Waltham. She is a 1999 graduate of Hayfield High School. Her parents, Steve and Paula, still reside in the Waltham area.

Marcy obtained a two-year liberal arts degree from Riverland Community College. She then worked in the optical business for several years in Austin, Mason City, Owatonna and the Twin Cities. She worked 2 1/2 years at Main Street Dental before joining Ritchie Bros. of Medford. She lived in Blooming Prairie from 2004-14. Her ties

with Ritchie Bros were in New Hampshire the past two years.

The opportunity to return to Blooming Prairie was promoted to Marcy by friends and family who learned of the director vacancy.

“I enjoy children and believe I can make a difference in their lives, so I applied right away,” Marcy says.

The transition to the director position has been smooth for Marcy who was previously involved with Boys & Girls Club of Blooming Prairie through First Lutheran Church. As a deacon of the church, she became familiar with the club’s mission by helping with cleaning, interior painting, finding funding for exterior painting and finishing work on the club parking lot.

It was a suggestion by Marcy to the Rev. Charlie Leonard of First Lutheran to become involved in a local organization rather than sending money miles away.

She said many members of the church have been involved in service to the Boys & Girls Club by supplying cookies, snacks and doing work around the club. “The church members have invested time to show the kids how to cook,” Marcy says.

The kids, ages kindergarten through junior high come to the club between 3-6 p.m. Marcy said, weather permitting, the kids play outside when they arrive to burn off energy. They then come into the club quarters to do homework.

A regimented program to monitor homework is done by the staff at the club: Mondays, math; Tuesdays, spelling; Wednesdays, reading; Thursdays, general homework and Fridays, fun activities. “Always first and foremost, we want to help the kids with their homework,” emphasizes Marcy.

Staff members at the club in addition to Sundine include Louis Jones, Rose Johnson and

Elly Magnuson. A half hour before the close of the day, staff supervises a “club scrub,” picking up everything in an organized manner. Judy Richard, custodian at First Lutheran, also cleans the club on a daily basis.

Marcy has been invited to the Blooming Prairie Elementary School by Principal Chris Staloch to meet staff members. She said meeting teachers will help her and staff be more able to meet kids’ needs at the club.

Boys & Girls Club of Blooming Prairie was established in July of 2005. It was founded to provide relevant, life-enhancing programs that promote the academic, social, physical and moral development of kids ages 6-18 in the impact areas of academic success, character and leadership and health and life skills.

More than 500 boys and girls in this community are club members. The club is open five days a week, 12 months a year.

A major project of the club and community was to install a commercial grade kitchen at the club and thus be the source of healthy meals. More than \$100,000 was raised by the community to build the kitchen which opened in November of 2014.

More fundraising is under way and will culminate with the Benefit Bash Saturday, Feb. 6 at the servicemen’s Club of Blooming Prairie. Auctions are

planned with many prize items featured. All funds raised go directly to youth programs.

A testament to the Boys & Girls Club existence is found in this statement: “We empower all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring community members.”

JEREMY HOCKING

Continued from Page 1A

He also enjoyed going to the pool every Friday and doing some art work when an artist came in to the Boys & Girls Club. There was also learning how to write a check and other things that would be needed when the youth get older, as well as money management and other discussion on how to better ourselves as persons.

In addition, especially over the summer months, those attending the Boys & Girls Club were not going into the ‘downward slide’ or forgetting what they had learned through the

school year. They were continuing to learn. Hocking remembers being taught a computer class and there was always reading throughout the summer.

Hocking decided to give back to the Boys & Girls Club because of the kids and the environment. “I want to give back what they gave me and that is an impact on my life that I will always remember,” he said. “It made me a better person.”

Because of the Boys & Girls Club, Hocking said he looks at life differently. His perspective used to be one-sided. Now he

sees things in a different way because of what he has learned there.

“As a child when I grew up, they were my big brothers and big sisters. They helped me get through the tough times,” Hocking said. “I knew I could always come back and count on them.”

Now, Hocking is the one that brings a smile to a young child’s face. “Just the excitement in their faces makes their day,” he said.

He helps with math because that is his strong suit. Hocking also can get the kids to listen

better and to calm them down when they are getting too rowdy.

Hocking recommends the Boys & Girls Club because it is a positive place for youth and it’s not like school. “It’s fun for them,” he said. “They teach, but it also gives them a time to have fun and be with their friends.”

He believes it is important to keep the Boys & Girls Club in Blooming Prairie because of all the benefits to youth. “It keeps kids out of trouble and gives some kids opportunities that they would not get,” he said.

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Public Safety

Restoring Trust

Dodge County Sheriff uses first year to rebuild office

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

After a tumultuous couple of years at the Dodge County Sheriff’s Office, things appear to be a bit calmer these days.

At least that’s how Sheriff Scott Rose feels as he wrapped up his first year of office focused on restoring trust. And he had his work cut out for him.

“It was a trust building year,” Rose said as he reflected back on 2015, the first of his four-year term after defeating the previous sheriff during a bitter and nasty campaign. Rose, 47, took over last January amidst negative publicity, including uncertainties and untruths, surrounding the sheriff’s office.

Asked how he went about building trust both within and outside the office, Rose responded: “By action. Following through with what we said we were going to do. Sharing our challenges and successes and being as transparent with the public as we can be.”

Maintaining trust with citizens is important in highly visible work like public safety,

About Sheriff Rose

- Grew up in Kasson
- Worked in broadcasting and sales prior to law enforcement
- Joined sheriff’s posse in 1996
- Elected Dodge sheriff in 2014
- Oversees 51 employees and \$4.5 million budget

according to Rose. “The more we can build the trust with the public, the more they are going to call us with issues,” he said.

It turned out to be a whirlwind of a first year for Rose and his office of 51 employees, which includes 31 sworn deputies. From assembling an administrative team to adding a key position and overseeing a major renovation of the office, Rose had a flurry of activity during his first year.

Rose didn’t waste time as he brought back Mike Leonhardt as chief deputy on the day he was sworn in as sheriff. The previous sheriff, Jim Jensen, fired Leonhardt for being disloyal, an act Rose has always maintained was unjust and without cause.

Rose said it was important to

bring Leonhardt back because of his extensive administrative experience, something Rose readily admits he did not have much of coming into office. “It was one of my most important accomplishments, but it was also my easiest accomplishment,” the sheriff said of rehiring Leonhardt.

Adding a third investigator to the office was another key accomplishment for Rose, who had been an investigator himself prior to getting elected sheriff. “We were stuck at two investigators for 10 years,” Rose said. “I saw first hand how short we were.”

And then there was the re-modeling project, which spanned throughout the entire year and now into 2016. It is the



Staff photo by Rick Bussler
Dodge County Sheriff Scott Rose reflected on his first year as the county’s top law enforcement officer last week in his office surrounded by a memorial for Loring Guenther, who died in the line of duty in 2013. Rose said it was widely known that Guenther, who served as a captain for many years, would have likely been the next sheriff.

first major renovation in a quarter of a century.

The 911 dispatch center has moved into the former county administration area in the annex. The records department also moved into the area, which previously housed the driver’s license center. Workers are putting the finishing touches on a weapons screening area for all

courthouse visitors.

“The improvements have been years overdue,” Rose said.

Through all the transition and changes, Rose has been committed to providing the highest quality of service to citizens. He said that’s important to him because he wants to maintain trust with the public. “It takes a short time to lose trust, but a long

time to get it back,” he added.

Rose wants to be known as a leader who is fair, approachable and honest. What excites him the most about being the county’s top cop is that he is helping the rest of his staff succeed. “It’s kind of like being a coach,” he said. “You can’t do it alone. It’s a team effort to do it effectively.”

He stresses that the office isn’t solely about him. “I never think of this office as me. It’s us or we, the staff,” Rose said. He added that he’s humbled by being the sheriff because there are deputies who have more experience than he does.

Rose expressed passion about making the office one that all employees will be proud to work at. “I look at my job as to develop tomorrow’s leaders,” he said.

Even though 2015 was a big learning year for Rose, he’s happy with how everything turned out.

“We had a great year,” he said. “We were really successful in accomplishing what we promised in 2014.”

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police

Jan. 22 Arrest. Police arrested a motorist following a traffic stop at 3:49 p.m.

Owatonna Police

Jan. 22 Stop Arm. Police received reports of stop arm violations at Cedar Ave. S. and McKinley St. E. and at Hayes Ave. SE and Jadden Lane SE at 8:49 a.m.

Fraud. Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 300 block of Cedar- dale Dr. SE at 11:37 a.m.

Domestic. Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 900 block of Vine St. E. at 12:19 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

Theft. A citizen reported being the victim of identity theft in the 400 block of Glendale St. NW at 3:09 p.m.

Jan. 23

Traffic. At 10:47 a.m., police arrested a motorist following a traffic stop in the 1900 block of Mineral Springs Parkway.

Domestic. Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of Rose St. E. at 1:55 p.m. They made an arrest at the scene.

Vandalism. Officer took a property damage report in the 1400 block of 21st Ave. NW at 2:52 p.m.

Disturbance. Police responded to a noise complaint in the 100 block of Broadway St. W. at 5:46 p.m.

Jan. 24

Domestic. At 1:13 a.m., police responded to a domestic disturbance on Interstate 35 northbound and Exit 42AB. They took a subject into custody.

Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 200 block of Mill St. W. at 1:27 p.m.

Jan. 25 Traffic. Police took a subject into custody following a traffic stop in the 800 block of Oak Ave. S. at 11:18 a.m.

Warrant. At 1:38 p.m., officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 400 block of North St. W.

Hit and Run.

A hit and run crash resulting in property damage occurred in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Rd. NE at 4:03 p.m.

Forgery. Police received a report of counterfeit money in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 6:03 p.m.

Shoplifting. Officers issued citations for shoplifting in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 6:01 p.m. and 6:25 p.m.

Child Protection. Police received six child protection reports throughout the day.

Jan. 26 Child Protection. At 10:59 a.m., officer took a child protection report in the 2000 block of 3rd Ave. NW.

Vandalism. Property damage occurred in the 100 block of 21st St. NW at 12:55 p.m.

Shoplifting. Officer issued citations for shoplifting in the 1400 block of 21st Ave. NW at 3:11 p.m. and in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 7:09 p.m.

Theft. Police received a report for theft in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 5:32 p.m.

Jan. 27 Arrest. At 12:48 a.m., police made an arrest in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Rd. NE.

Juvenile. Police received a juvenile complaint from the 500 block of 15th St. NE at 8:55 a.m.

Shoplifting. At 9:08 p.m., officer arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Jan. 28 Vandalism. Officer took reports of property damage in the 500 block of Elm Ave. S. at 9:02 a.m. and in the 200 block of University St. E. at 4:32 p.m.

Warrants. Police made four warrant arrests throughout the day – in the 100 block of Bridge St. W. at 3:07 p.m., in the 400 block of State Ave. NW at 6:23 p.m., in the 400 block of St. Paul Place NE at 8:41 p.m., and in the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW at 9:20 p.m.

Shoplifting. At 4:40 p.m., police re-

sponded to a shoplifting incident in the 1400 block of 21st Ave. NW. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Steele County Sheriff

Jan. 24 Drugs. Drug activity was reported in the 7100 block of 74th Ave. NE at 5:01 p.m.

Jan. 26 Crash. Deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident on Interstate 35 northbound at 2:07 a.m.

Warrant. At 10:37 p.m., a subject turned himself in for an outstanding warrant at the detention center.

Jan. 27 Crash. Paramedics and deputies responded to a crash with injuries in the 6000 block of Cedar Ave. at 3:07 p.m.

Jan. 28 Domestic. At 8:05 p.m., deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1000 block of 44th Ave. SE. They took a subject into custody.

Arrest. Deputy arrested a motorist following a traffic stop at 3rd St. SE and Hwy. Ave. S. at 11:24 p.m.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 18 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

John R. Bulver, 28, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of narcotics, felony receiving stolen property-firearm and felony possession of stolen property. He was sentenced to \$581, 270 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, cognitive skill training, obtain employment and 10 years of supervised probation.

David D. Kaderlik, 39, Faribault, previously appeared and was convicted of felony violating registration requirement as a predatory offender – provide false information. The defendant was sentenced to \$131 and 16 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 18 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Dammon D. Nailon, 34, Faribault, previously appeared and was convicted of felony domestic assault by strangulation and gross misdemeanor stalking. Nailon was sentenced to \$1,081, 120 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, domestic abuse evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, obtain permission to leave the state, mental health assessments and 3 years of supervised probation.

Joshua J. O’Brien, 36, Bloomington, previously appeared and was convicted of felony aid and abet theft. He was sentenced to \$685.63, and 15 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 18 – 22:

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Bonnie L. Cose, 48, Austin, speeding, \$121.

MN State Patrol Rochester

John C. Anger, 45, Mount Holly, NC, speeding, \$121; Maxwell T. Boyd, 21, Joplin, MO, speeding, \$141; Ashley N. Brooks, 31, Altoona, IA, speeding, \$221; McKenzie L. Brummer, 29, Elk River, speeding, \$121; Sharon K. Byro, 54, New Ulm, no MN license, \$100; Dyanira Y. Espeleta, 32, Medford, revoked license and no MN license, \$381; Robert W. Finch, 34, Austin, speeding, \$131; Cole S. Gangl, 19, Pierz, speeding, \$141; Devin G. Gillispie, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Ibrahim N. Gure, 24, Faribault, speeding, \$100; Devin C. Gwilt, 18, Blooming Prai-

rie, seat belt, \$106; Joseph R. Haberman, 49, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$106; Mohammad A. Hasan Khan, 25, Ames, IA, move over law violation, \$131; James D. Haun, 33, Owatonna, seat belt, brakes violation and no MN license, \$256; Ashley N. Holm, 24, Anoka, fail- ure to yield, \$131; Patrick M. Jacobs, 17, Owatonna, defrosting violation, \$121; Eric J. Jarnuz, 45, Byron, expired registra- tion, \$96;

Jay H. Jewell, 53, Owatonna, no MN license, \$181; Judie L. Kotek, 45, Owatonna, speeding, \$100; Cassandra V. Leetz, 30, Saint James, NY, speeding, \$221;

Alexander H. Lowe, 18, Duluth, speeding and possession of Mari- juana, \$181; Mackenzie E. Meier, 22, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Taylor L. Morgan, 26, Austin, possession of Mari- juana and Paraphernalia, \$181; Jenae A. Peterson, 38, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Roland Pierrot, 23, Austin, driving in center lane, \$131;

Genea L. Rissell, 35, Lonsdale, DWI, \$406, and 1 year of unsupervised proba- tion; Jeffrey R. Walther, 38, Mapleview, speeding, \$121; Lynette R. Williams, 41, Cape Girardeau, MO, unsafe lane usage, \$131; Jared R. Wirth, 32, New Prague, speeding, \$141; Joe N. Yankoon, 39, Urbandale, IA, speeding and no MN li- cense, \$241.

Owatonna Police Department

Ali M. Abdullahi, 24, Owatonna, open bottle, \$131; Hannah A. Ahmed, 23, Columbus, OH, open bottle, \$181; Lee A. Albertson, 45, Scarville, IA, prostitution in public place, \$1,081, no access to internet without approval and 1 year of supervised probation; Madis- son A. Arkadie, 28, shoplifting, \$131; Javier Barajas, 53, Owatonna, suspend- ed license, \$381; Marisol Barajas, 31, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281;

Brad C. Brugger, 48, Faribault, can- celled license, \$381, 3 days in county jail, and 2 years of supervised probation; Emmanuel T. Butler, 40, Minneapolis, no MN license, \$181; Peyton N. Crow, 22, cancelled license, \$281; Demitrice L. Davis, 27, DWI, \$606, 90 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, and 2 years of supervised probation;

Handy M. Escobar Hernandez, 20, Owatonna, no MN license, \$181; Chrys- tal L. Espinoza, 20, Owatonna, no MN license, \$181; Megan A. Federly, 34, Owatonna, speeding, \$181; Steven R. Fisher, 58, Swea City, IA, prostitution in public place, \$500, no access to internet without approval, complete court pro- gram and 1 year of supervised probation;

Randy J. Freiberg, 55, Owatonna, headlights violation, \$81; Sasha D. Garces, 18, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Latjor B. Gatkuoth, 19, Mankato, give peace officer false information and no insurance, \$581, 26 days in county jail, obtain GED, and 1 year of super- vised probation; Jessica L. Gonzalez, 25, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Megan L. Grunkle, 16, Claremont, seat belt, \$75; Preonna L. Harrington, 23, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Jonelle S. Hill, 35, Owatonna, theft, \$381; Justin L. Himle, 20, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111;

Christopher N. Hofmann, 27, Manka- to, possession of Marijuana and Para- phernalia, \$181; Valisha Y. Hogan, 28, Omaha, NE, speeding, \$121; Bryan G. Hughes, 41, Hollandale, revoked li- cense, no insurance and expired registra- tion, \$501; Ibrahim A. Hussein, 31, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Hussien H. Hussien, 24, Rochester, toxic substances violation, \$81, 53 days in county jail;

Craig K. Inglett, 54, Owatonna, fail- ure to yield to pedestrian, \$181; Andria J. Ites, 33, Owatonna, give peace offi- cer false information, \$181 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Kristin D. Just, 19, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Anthony J. Keck, 21, Owatonna, possession of Paraphernalia, \$131; Duane A. Kubat, 69, Owatonna, failure to yield to school children, \$331;

Jennifer L. Langton, 41, Claremont, suspended license and no insurance, \$481; Samantha O. Link-Lavoie, 39, Minneapolis, revoked license, \$281; Nathan D. Mathiason, 34, Faribault,

shoplifting, \$131, 12 days in county jail; Andrew J. Paulsen, 34, Owatonna, can- celled license, \$281; Juan Ramirez, 32, Claremont, open bottle, \$181; Kumar G. Shiva, 25, Hicksville, NY, speeding, \$141;

Darian O. Simmons-Williams, 19, Owatonna, underage possession of alco- hol, \$181; Jeffery A. Sipes, 55, Owatonna, stalking, \$581, 60 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation;

Kali A. Smith, 18, Faribault, no MN license, \$181; Timothy D. Thorn, 39, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, \$131; Nicole R. Urch, 20, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; Tuyet T. Vo, 43, Owatonna, shoplifting, \$381 and 1 year of unsuper- vised probation; Mitchell J. Wenker, 32, Brown Valley, shoplifting, \$195 and 2 days in county jail; James E. White, 34, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$101; Candy L. Wunderlich, 54, Owatonna, theft, \$181.

Steele County Sheriff’s Office

Dylan D. Adams, 25, Owatonna, re- voked license, no insurance and speed- ing, \$131, and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Ross A. Anderson, 50, Waltham, speeding, \$141; Deborah R. Bartholomew, 42, Rochester, speeding, \$141; Austin A. Bell, 19, Waseca, inval- id license, \$181, 1 day in county jail, and 1 year of supervised probation;

Sharon K. Byro, 54, New Ulm, rail- road stop sign, \$100; Kristi M. Cam- bas, 42, Morristown, speeding, \$141; Brent V. Christensen, 40, Ellendale, DWI, \$406, 2 days in county jail, at- tend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Sean M. Cicero, 35, Owatonna, cancelled license and no insurance, \$481; Tommie L. Cruz, 23, Owatonna, speeding, \$221;

Melissa G. Daily, 35, Faribault, no in- surance, \$281; Bryan C. Delbridge, 27, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$581, 30 days in county jail, obtain GED, chemi- cal dependency evaluation, psychologi- cal evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor estab- lishments, no possession of firearms and 2 years of supervised probation;

Geronimo Deluna Jr., 39, Bricelyn, cancelled license, \$581, 53 days in county jail, and 2 years of supervised probation; Dajae Z. Jennings, 18, Mil- waukee, WI, suspended license, \$281; Stephanie J. Jodell, 29, St. Paul, speed- ing, \$121; Keith J. Johnson, 55, Bloom- ing Prairie, railroad stop sign, \$121; Michael A. Mendoza, 27, Shakopee, speeding, \$131; Richard W. Nord, 52, Stewartville, speeding, \$121;

Aimee B. Paulson, 45, Waseca, speed- ing, \$121; Elizabeth K. Reeh, 23, Aus- tin, speeding, \$221; Darin L. Reese, 47, New Richland, failure to signal, \$131; Peter G. Rollingner, 39, no front plate, \$111; Ty D. Rysavy, 40, Owatonna, child passenger restraint system, no insurance and stop sign, \$331;

Ryan J. Saufferer, 23, Morristown, speeding, \$121; Darian O. Simmons- Williams, 19, Owatonna, possession of Paraphernalia, \$131; Garrett R. Taylor, 23, Medford, speeding, \$141; Nancy Torres, 41, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$131; Tracy L. Welsh, 50, Adams, sus- pended license and no insurance, \$481; James M. Willis, 38, Austin, revoked license, \$281.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

Jan. 20

Abandoned Vehicle. At 7:41 a.m., deputies found an abandoned snowmo- bile in the middle of a field on 3rd Ave. SW in Dodge Center.

Animal Neglect. Deputies responded to a report that horses were possibly not being fed in the 65500 block of 130th Ave. in Claremont at 10:20 a.m.

Disturbance. At 3:51 p.m., deputies responded to a domestic disturbance of a male and female fighting in the 100 block of Center Ave. N. in Hayfield.

Jan. 21

Warrant. Deputies arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant on 2nd Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 8:21 p.m. They transported him to the Steele County Jail.

Threats. At 9:05 a.m., deputy re- sponded to a threats incident in the 12700 block of State Hwy. 30 in Bloom- ing Prairie.

Civil. Deputies assisted with a civil matter regarding dogs in the 55600 block of State Hwy. 57 in West Concord at 11:12 a.m.

Juvenile. Deputies received a com- plaint regarding an unruly 17-year-old male in the 57500 block of 245th Ave. in Mantorville at 6:20 p.m.

Jan. 22 Suspicious Activity. Deputies found a vehicle going through a cemetery at 1st St. NE and 6th Ave. NE in Kasson at 1:21 a.m.

Tobacco. Hayfield High School re- ported that a student was in possession of a vape pen at school on 6th Ave. SE in Hayfield at 11:24 a.m.

Harassment. A woman reported that her ex was harassing her in the 300 block of Front St. E. in Claremont at 4:24 p.m.

Assault. Deputies received infor- mation regarding a past action fight on Main St. E. in Dodge Center at 10:17 p.m.

Jan. 23 Noise. At 1:46 a.m., deputies received a noise complaint from the 200 block of Front St. W. in Claremont.

Jan. 24 Fraud. Deputy took a report of check fraud in the 12700 block of State Hwy. 30 in Blooming Prairie at 11:43 a.m.

Suspicion. Deputies received a sus- picious activity report that three snow- mobiles went up to a vacant home in the 17800 block of 540th St. in West Con- cord at 2:23 p.m.

Jan. 25 Assault. At 2:13 p.m., a woman came into a home and started beating another woman and her boyfriend in the 100 block of 6th Ave. NE in Hayfield.

Larceny. Deputy took a report of the theft of video games and movies in the 100 block of 6th Ave. NE in Hayfield at 5:16 p.m.

Jan. 26 Harassment. A citizen reported being the victim of harassment in the 18300 block of State Hwy. 30 in Hayfield at 2:57 p.m.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and pet- ty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Jan. 18 – 25:

Dodge County Sheriff’s Office

John G. Baker, 35, Dodge Center, revoked license, \$280; Candace M. Blodgett, 33, Waseca, revoked license and no insurance, \$480; Steven M. Demmer, 56, Hayfield, speeding, \$380; Bridgett A. Donkers, 25, Owatonna, speeding, \$130; Adrian A. Garcia, 29, Claremont, invalid license, \$180; Na- than J. Gathje, 28, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Joseph M. Gerads, 32, Rochester, speeding, \$120;

Robby L. Gilliland, 22, Dodge Cen- ter, permit violation and speeding, \$250; Ronald J. Heard Jr., 23, Claremont, re- voked license, \$280; Luke E. Hottel, 34, revoked license, speeding and no insurance, \$520; Jasmine Jackson, 23, Kasson, invalid license, \$180; Kimberly J. Jensen, 25, Dodge Center, cancelled license, \$280; Dylan R. Kaiser, 25, Way- zata, invalid license, \$180;

Christopher S. McAbee, 20, Hayfield, speeding, \$220; Siobhan M. McKee, 23, Dodge Center, revoked license and possession of Marijuana, \$330; Aaron M. Pankratz, 23, West Concord, speed- ing, \$130; Tony M. Passe, 24, Austin, speeding, \$120; Brandon A. Pfeifer, 19, Blooming Prairie, no insurance, \$280; Juan Ramirez Jr., 32, Claremont, revoked license, no insurance and stop sign, \$530;

Mikala R. Schmitz, 20, Fort Atkin-

son, WI, speeding, \$120; Michael E. Schwering, 38, Claremont, suspended license, \$280; Leticia M. Solis, 40, Denton, TX, speeding, \$140; Randy L. Starkson, 55, West Concord, revoked li- cense, \$280; Eric W. Swiggum, 25, Can- non Falls, possession of Paraphernalia, \$130; Maria D. Tapia, 31, Kasson, park- ing violation, \$32; Sallie M. Wilson, 33, Owatonna, revoked license, no insur- ance and speeding, \$540.

Kasson Police Department

Brandon C. Allie, 40, Oronoco, re- voked license, \$280; Benjamin L. Beck, 21, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Cur- tis C. Boyum, 29, Kenyon, seat belt, \$105; Taylor E. Busch, 17, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Casey C. Cates, 35, Hay- field, speeding, \$130; Christopher K. Edwards, 35, Dodge Center, suspended license, \$280; Benjamin A. Hoebing, 27, Hayfield, seat belt, \$105; Andrew J. Ja- cob, 37, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Kendra S. Logghe, 24, Altoona, WI, speeding, \$130; Samuel E. Logue, 41, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Trevor E. Tom- linson, 24, Rapid City, SD, seat belt, \$105; Christopher T. Yoch, 35, Kasson, seat belt, \$105.

MN State Patrol

Rochester

Carey S. Ball, 43, Dodge Center, speeding, \$130; Andrew B. Collins, 35, Mantorville, window tint violation, \$130; Donald D. Francis, 69, Nevis, speeding, \$130; Randy J. Gladden, 57, Owatonna, speeding, \$130; Marjorie A. Hanson, 61, Blooming Prairie, speed- ing, \$120; Michael M. Hendrickson, 29, Chatfield, illegal use of blue lights and prohibited lights, \$160; Christopher L. Hotlen, 38, West Concord, suspended license; Abigail M. Lilledahl, 21, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120; Vanessa Marti- nez, 19, Dodge Center, speeding, \$140; Maranda J. Melton, 30, Kasson, speed- ing, \$140; Caitlin R. Northway, 19, West Concord, speeding, \$140; Brittney M. Preap, 20, Rochester, speeding, \$140.

West Concord

Police Department

Kasandra L. Redman, 18, West Con- cord, possession of Paraphernalia and Marijuana and underage possession of alcohol, \$280.

Steele Arrest

How to calculate your retirement number

Dear Savvy Senior,
Can you help me calculate about how much my wife and I need to save for retirement? We are both in our late-fifties and want to see where we stand.

Looking Ahead

Dear Looking,
Calculating an approximate number of how much you'll need to save for a comfortable retirement is actually pretty easy and doesn't take long to do. It's a simple, three-step process that includes estimating your future living expenses, tallying up your retirement income and calculating the difference. There are even a host of online calculators that can help you with this too.

Living expenses
The first step is the most difficult – estimating your living expenses when you retire. If you want a quick ballpark estimate,

figure around 75 to 85 percent of your current gross income. That's what most people find they need to maintain their current lifestyle in retirement.

If you want a more precise estimate, track your current living expenses on a worksheet and deduct any costs you expect to go away or decline when you retire, and add whatever new ones you anticipate.

Costs you can scratch off your list include work-related expenses like commuting or lunches out, as well as the amount you're socking away for retirement. You may also be able to deduct your mortgage if you expect to have it paid off by retirement, and your kid's college expenses. Your income taxes should also be less.

On the other hand, some costs will probably go up when you retire, like health care, and depending on your interests, you

may spend a lot more on travel, golf or other hobbies. And, if you're going to be retired for 20 or 30 years you also need to factor in the occasional big budget items like a new roof, furnace or car.

Tally income
Step two is to calculate your retirement income. If you and/or your wife contribute to Social Security, go to ssa.gov/myaccount to get your personalized statement that estimates what your retirement benefits will be at age 62, full retirement age and when you turn 70.

In addition to Social Security, if you or your wife has a traditional pension plan from an employer, find out from the plan administrator how much you are likely to get when you retire. And, figure in any other income from other sources you expect to have, such as rental properties,

part-time work, etc.

Calculate the difference
The final step is to do the calculations. Subtract your annual living expenses from your annual retirement income. If your income alone can cover your bills, you're all set. If not, you'll need to tap your savings, including your 401(k) plans, IRAs, or other investments to make up the difference.

So, let's say for example you need around \$55,000 a year to meet your living expenses and pay taxes, and you and your wife expect to receive \$30,000 a year from Social Security and other income. That leaves a \$25,000 shortfall that you'll need to pull from your nest egg each year (\$55,000 – \$30,000 = \$25,000).

Then, depending on what age you want to retire, you need to multiply your shortfall by at least 25 if you want to retire at



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60, 20 to retire at 65, and 17 to retire at 70 – or in this case that would equate to \$625,000, \$500,000 and \$425,000, respectively.

Why 25, 20 and 17? Because that would allow you to pull 4 percent a year from your savings, which is a safe withdrawal strategy that in most cases will let your money last as long as you do.

If you need some help, there's a bevy of free online retirement

calculators to assist you, like the ones offered by T. Rowe Price (troweprice.com/retirement) or Financial Mentor (financialmentor.com/calculator).

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, Feb. 7, 2006
Dan Evans, Publisher

The first Bloomington Prairie baby of the year, Mitchell Jerald Seykora, is announced. He was born to Brian and Mary Beth on January 17, at the Owatonna Hospital. Matthew, his two-year old brother, happily welcomed Mitchell to the family. Being the first baby of the year in the Bloomington Prairie School District, he will receive numerous presents from local businesses including a free hair cut, a new account with \$25 at from F & M Bank, a cake, and a personalized baby blanket.

Two Owatonna educators, Susan Connaker and Thomas Meagher, were among the nearly 120 teachers who have accepted nominations and completed the required candidate materials to become eligible for the honor of 2006 Minnesota Teach of the Year. This year's program

will name the 42nd Minnesota Teacher of the Year, celebrating the tradition of excellence in teaching in Minnesota. A panel of 22 members will pick semi-finalists, finalists, and one winner, who will be announced on Sunday, May 7.

20 Years Ago
Tuesday, Feb. 6, 1996
Elsie Slinger, Editor

Last week's record-breaking snowy, cold weather tested human spirit as it closed schools and businesses, worried farmers about livestock, stalled vehicles, and kept plows busy opening roads. Temperatures dropped to 35 degrees below zero on Friday, prompting Governor Arne Carlson to close school. Jim Hansen of Jim's Standard in Bloomington Prairie put 150 miles on his truck between jumpstarting vehicles and hauling those that refused to start due to the frigid temperatures. City snow-

removal budgets are beginning to be pushed, as equipment is being used to the max and room for plowed snow is rapidly decreasing.

Coach Jeremy Doerhoefer and the ninth Grade Bloomington Prairie girls have been compiling the best basketball record in the school. Since their losing their opening game of the season, the team has reeled off 13 straight wins, including two tournament titles along the way. Leading scorers on the team include Jana Peterson, Jenni Snider, Brenda Salinas, Katrina Olivo, and Misy Avery.

50 Years Ago
Thursday, Feb. 3, 1966
Victor, Vernon and Vyrle Krejci, Editors

The ninth annual Four-County Grain, Forage, and Home Improvement show attracted a large crowd of rural folks to Bloomington Prairie on Jan. 31, as

over 270 entries were recorded. James Ladlie of Albert Lea took grand champion honors at the show for his sample of shelled corn. FFA judging took place, with Albert Lea, Glenville, and Bloomington Prairie taking the top three honors. A total of 55 students, the largest participation ever recorded, judged in the FFA contest.

Dr. A. B. Magnusson, Bloomington Prairie, was elected president of the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association at the group's annual meeting held last week in Minneapolis, succeeding a doctor who held the post for eleven consecutive years.

75 Years Ago
Thursday, Feb. 6, 1941
Frank Krejci, Publisher

Steele will be among the comparatively few Minnesota counties to supply the February selective service quota with men on the volunteer list. The county

quota was announced yesterday for 19, and the Steele County Draft Board made simultaneous announcements that 23 young men have since passed examinations following volunteer enlistment and are prepared to leave. The Owatonna group will report to Fort Snelling on Feb. 25. Twenty-five from Waseca and 11 from Rice County will report at the same time.

Mrs. Anna Renchin, 81, resident of this community for 31

years, died here at the home of her son on Wednesday, Feb. 5. Mrs. Renchin was born in Ovina Orlice, Vekl Raltay, Austria in 1860, and came to America in 1878 with her parents. One brother had settled here five years before the family came to Owatonna. Mrs. Renchin married Anton Renchin and the two eventually moved their family to Bloomington Prairie to start a business, where they resided until their deaths.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Certified Public Accountant **Tamzen R. Johnson**

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Rochester 3110 Wellner Dr. NE. 507-536-7700	New Richland 132 Broadway Ave. N. 507-463-0502	

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Community

Obituary

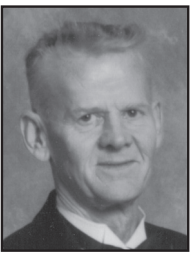
Darrel LeMar Iverson, 80, Blooming Prairie

Darrel LeMar Iverson, age 80, of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, died Thursday, Jan. 28, 2016 at his home.

Darrel was born June 11, 1935, in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, the son of Irwin and Ruth (Boysen) Iverson. He attended Blooming Prairie Schools. Darrel enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1952 and served as an airman during his tour in France. He also earned his GED before he was honorably discharged in 1956. He was united in marriage to Sandra Christensen on June 4, 1965. Over the years Darrel was employed with various area companies includ-

ing Red Cedar Inn of Austin, Weyerhaeuser of Austin, Hayward Lumber of Hayward, Gordon Electric of Austin, Associated Grocers of Blooming Prairie and, in 2003, retired from Truth Hardware of Owatonna. He was a member of First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie, and the Blooming Prairie American Legion Post #52. Darrel had a life-long interest in cars and also enjoyed playing cards, shooting pool and bowling.

Darrel is survived by his wife



Sandra of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota; children: Todd of Blooming Prairie, MN, Susan Steen of Austin, MN, Cindy (Rick) Jensen of Owatonna, Minnesota, Brian (Sara) of Austin, Minnesota; brothers Lyle Iverson of Randlett, Oklahoma, Irwin Jr. (Judy) Iverson of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, Larry Iverson of Rochester, Minnesota; grandchildren: Christopher, Ashley, Gabriel, Josh, Dana, Corey, Sage, Taryn; three great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He

was preceded in death by his parents Irwin and Ruth Iverson; daughter Tammy; sister Darlean (Richard) Magee and brother Rodney Iverson.

A private service will be held at the Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home with Pastor Larry Iverson officiating. There will be no visitation. Interment will be at First Lutheran Church Cemetery, Blooming Prairie. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred by the family. Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Arlan L. Brase, 75, Owatonna

Arlan L. Brase, age 75, of Owatonna, passed away Monday Jan. 25, 2016, at the Owatonna Hospital.

Friends greeted the family from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday Jan. 28 at the Brick - Meger Funeral Home (1603 Austin Rd.) and one hour prior to the funeral service at the church. The funeral was at 10:30 a.m. on Friday Jan. 29, at the Associated Church, Owatonna, with Rev. Jim Oberg presiding. Interment was at Owatonna Memorial Gardens.

Arlan was born Aug. 9, 1940, in Waseca to parents Anton “Tony” and Lillian (Ewest) Brase. He was confirmed at St. Paul Lutheran Church near Meridian. Arlan graduated from Waseca Agriculture School in 1958. In the summer of 1966, Arlan married Deloris Quaintance. He was a small business owner of AB Liquor and AB Trucking.



He enjoyed meeting new people and could always be seen striking up a conversation with anyone. Besides that, Arlan enjoyed his family and grandchildren, watching their sports, plays and dance recitals.

He is survived by his wife, Deloris; two sons, Ryan, of Owatonna, and Robb (Marne) of Littleton, CO; daughter, Michele (Arthur) Hanson, of Owatonna; four grandsons, Chase and Preston Hanson, Anton and Gaven Brase; one granddaughter, Kaylin Hanson; and many nieces and nephews. Arlan was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Bonnie Strong.

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

Gregory W. Quick, 64, Dazey, North Dakota

The funeral service for Gregory W. Quick, 64, Dazey, North Dakota, was 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016, at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, Dazey, with Pastor Terry Monson officiating. Burial will be later in the spring.

Greg died Friday evening at the VA Medical Center, Fargo, North Dakota, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Gregory William Quick was born Feb. 13, 1951, at Valley City, North Dakota, the son of William and Arlene (Berglin) Quick. He grew up and attended school until the 8th grade at Dazey. He then attended school in West Fargo until they moved

to Medford, Minnesota, where he graduated in 1969. He served in the United States Army for two years. Upon his discharge, Greg attended Mankato State University and Alexandra Technical Institute. He attained his Boilermaker Union status in 1973.

Greg was united in marriage to Ruth Undem on June 26, 1976, at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Valley City. They made their home in Medford, and he worked in the Tri-state area. They moved to Dazey in May of 1978 and he continued to work for the Boilermaker’s Union until retiring in 2009.

He was the Commander of the American Legion Post 149, Dazey, ND. Greg enjoyed riding his motorcycle and doing some gardening on the side. He usually had his dog, Copper, by his side.

Greg is survived by his wife, Ruth, Dazey; his children, Typhanny (Mike) Schuler, Sibley, ND, Tiera (John) Opatz, Enderlin, ND, Brittani (Bill) Reim, Bismarck, ND, William (Cassandra) Quick, Dazey, Kolyn Nelson (Marc Stockert), Valley City, Geoffrey (Samantha) Quick, Valley City, and Ariel Quick, Valley City; his parents, William and Arlene Quick,

Meford; a sister, Kathy Reese, Medford; his grandchildren, Macey and Jaden Schuler, Faith and John, Jr. Opatz, Roman and Elaina Reim, Devin, Kayden, Christopher, Madison and Wyatt Quick; and many uncles, aunts and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his maternal and paternal grandparents, and a brother, Kelly Quick.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel, Valley City. An online guestbook is available at www.oliver-nathanchapel.com.

MNA CONVENTION

Continued from Page 1A

came in the special section category for the paper’s Steele County Fair tab. The judges said, “This county fair guide is a cut above the usual. Its size is imposing, but the airy layout and use of white space is easy on the eye. Excellent use of photographs. Good value for advertisers; advertising well-related to content. Stories well written and to-the-point. Well designed, providing useful content.”

The Times’ on-going coverage of the Dodge County feed-

lot controversy earned a second place award for government/public affairs reporting. Judges said, “The newspaper did a very thorough job of following the feedlot issue locally and expressing information locals needed to know. I liked the use of a feedlot logo to tie the stories together.”

Bussler received a second place honor for human interest story featuring Lowell Trom, a Blooming Prairie farmer who is 86 years old and still farms. The

judges wrote, “Gives a good look at the subject’s thoughts and passions about his career. Quotes from others help tell the man’s story, too. That’s a must for feature writing. Design and art package made the story appealing, as well. Very readable.”

The final second place award was given to former county sports editor James Knoop for a sports story he wrote. Judges commented, “Great insight into this family’s motivation for running—something I’ve personally never been able to understand. Well done.”

Headline writing captured the Times a third place award. The judges remarked, “You did a good job using fewer words to make for bigger, better headlines. These give an idea of what’s coming but just enough to take a reader to the next level—reading the story! Nice job.”

Bussler won a third place award in the social issues story category for a story he wrote about Brad Trom’s connection to Brokeback Mountain. The judges said, “The story behind ‘Brokeback Mountain’ was very interesting.”

“We’re excited to continue our award-winning tradition,” said Bussler, noting the Times has won 27 state awards and 13 national honors since 2011. “I want our readers to know that we are committed to delivering journalistic excellence,” he added.

The Times competes with other weeklies in the circulation category of 1,501-2,500. There were more than 4,300 entries in this year’s contest, which recognizes outstanding work by both weeklies and dailies throughout the state.

The former News Enterprise of West Concord won five awards in the contest. The paper was a sister publication of the Times before it merged with the Dodge County Independent, which Bussler also owns, last fall. Awards given to the News Enterprise included recognition for the website, which is shared with the Times.

Journalists from Wisconsin newspapers judged the Minnesota contest this year.

Milestones

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays
Feb. 2
Mary Burr
Joe Farr
Brayton Ingvalson
Ayrah Sunde
Joseph Farr
David Clark
Mike Farr
Feb. 3
Natalie Winzenburg
Ryan Klemmensen
Jay Iverson
Sophie Thomas
Feb. 4
Justin Peterson
Samantha Abbe
Michael Thomas
Andi Klemmensen
Gabriela Salinas
Feb. 5
Josh Johnson
Melanie Winzenburg
Christopher Anderson
Feb. 6

Jena Lee
Rick Miller
Connie Trihus
Tony Glynn
Jacquelyn Schrieck
Feb. 7
Julie Horn
Pete Kittelson
Derek Miner
Lucas Swenson
Gloria Trom
Feb. 8
Jaxon LaMotte
Brent Weinberger
Janelle Morem
Rick Krejci
Anniversaries
Feb. 2
Tom and Nancy Peterson
Feb. 3
Alan and Melody Benson
Feb. 6
Ryan and Jenny Heimerman

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Wednesday - Turkey

Thursday - Your Choice
Friday - Beef

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from Page 4A

held for court.

David Alan Miller, 53, arrested at 12:41 a.m. Jan. 29, felony possession of controlled substance and possession of paraphernalia, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff
Benjamin Lloyd Carlson, 45, arrested at 10:46 a.m. Jan. 22, probation violation — apprehension and detention order, held for court.

Carla Ann Wieseler, 53, arrested at 5:04 p.m. Jan. 24, assault/domestic assault and disorderly conduct, held for court.

Darian Margaret Bohlman-Reyna, 22, arrested at 10:37 p.m. Jan. 26, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.

ers responded to a cooking fire contained to a container in the 600 block of El Dorado St. SE.

Jan. 25
Crash. Fire personnel responded to a motor vehicle accident with no injuries on Interstate 35 at 8:16 a.m.

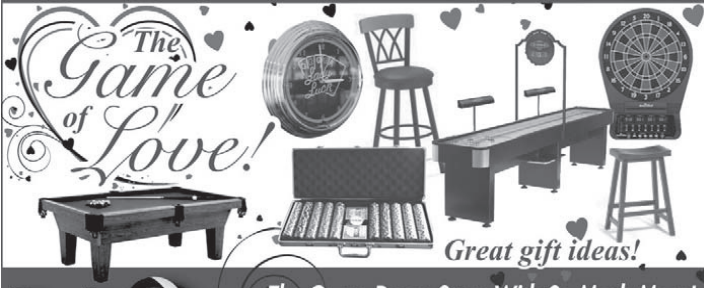
Jan. 26
Accident. A crash resulting in property damage occurred on Interstate 35 at 9:06 a.m.

Jan. 27
Smoke. Fire personnel assisted with smoke or odor removal in the 400 block of Adams Ave. NW at 1:15 p.m.

Jan. 28
Medical. At 10:23 a.m., fire rescue assisted with a medical emergency in the 100 block of 22nd St. NW.

Owatonna Fire

Jan. 22
Cooking Fire. At 4:56 a.m., fire fight-

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Area Church Spotlight



First Baptist Church, Blooming Prairie

Pastor's corner

How do you reboot?

Every once in a while, my computer gets tired, a little worn down and slow. To help with that, I reboot it. It needs a restart.

After a little reboot, it seems to run smoother with a little more energy. I think the same goes for us. We get tired and worn down with weight on our shoulders. We can easily lose energy, focus or purpose.

So, I wonder – what reboots you? What helps you find that restart button when you're feeling that way?

Here's my answer: I gathered with colleagues this past week and we worshipped together. That was my reboot. My restart. We sang together and shared

in bread and wine. We heard Scripture and greeted one another with the peace of the Lord. I felt reenergized afterwards, like my restart button had been hit. My focus and purpose had returned.

How important it is that we gather together in worship! Sunday mornings (or whenever you worship in your faith community) are like a reboot for the week to come. It's a chance to focus and renew our mission as disciples in the world. It's an opportunity for the weight on our shoulders to be lifted. It's a chance to taste and see that the Lord is good.

Gathering together in worship is so vital. My prayer for you is that you

are a part of a faith community where you can be rebooted; where you can begin the week with Scripture ringing in your ears and the taste of bread on your tongue, where you can be renewed in purpose and in faith, a place from which you can go in peace, rebooted, to love and serve the Lord.



Pastor Lindsay Stolen
Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church

Area Church Schedule

Lutheran

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN—ELCA
30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin
Pastor Richard Sliper
(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
sjloffice@frontiernet.net
www.peaceclaremont.otsnost.org
Weekly Church Service
Saturday Evening (Starts September
19th) 6 p.m. Sunday Morning
Services held at 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion Offered each
Saturday Evening Service and
2nd & 4th Sunday Service of each
month. Sunday School - starts
September 20th at 9 a.m. to 10:15
a.m.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Catholic

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesday evening

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

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

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

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

CHRIST THE KING PARISH MEDFORD
Sunday Mass: Vigil Saturday evening,
5 p.m., 10 a.m.
Monday daily Mass: 9 a.m.

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH
Deerfield
507-451-4845
The Rev. Edward McGrath,
Parochial Administrator
Sunday Mass 8:30 a.m.
Easter thru Christmas
Winter at Christ the King, Medford

Christian

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422 W. North Street, Owatonna
Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
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Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

Methodist

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
43089 180th St., Medford
(7 miles west of Medford on CR 23)
Pastor Cindy Kennedy
(507) 835-8726
Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday

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

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

Non-Denominational

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

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

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

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

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Valentine's Day

YOUR GUIDE TO A ROMANTIC NIGHT



Valentine's Day facts and superstitions

Every February 14th people around the world exchange gifts, chocolates and romantic greetings for a day set aside for lovers. Many traditions are followed, all in the name of St. Valentine. Still, people may not understand why such customs are upheld. Much of the history of Valentine's Day and St. Valentine himself is shrouded in mystery, and much of what's widely accepted is inaccurate. To set the record straight, here are some facts about the holiday.

Valentine's Day is believed to have originated from a celebration in Rome during the fifth century. This celebration paid tribute to St. Valentine, a Catholic priest. Other historians surmise it was a way to "Christianize" the pagan holiday of Lupercalia, which was a fertility festival. Included in the traditions were boys and girls drawing names from a box and exchanging gifts. The Catholic Church

acknowledges at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus.

All of the stories surrounding St. Valentine -- whether they are disputed or not -- paint him as a sympathetic and heroic individual.

Valentine's Day greetings have been popular from the Middle Ages onward, though they have been usually verbal in nature.

The oldest known written valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt.

Valentine's Day is celebrated in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia.

Valentine's Day and Mother's Day are the most popular holidays to give flowers.

According to Hallmark, women purchase 85 percent of

all valentines.

According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year behind Christmas.

Candy was among the earliest Valentine's Day gifts and remains a popular gift today.

Some tales suggest that the type of bird a girl watches on Valentine's Day predicts her future husband. A bluebird indicates a happy man, while a sparrow indicates a poor man.

In Medieval times, girls consumed unusual foods on Valentine's Day in the belief it would make them dream of their future husbands.

Did you know?

Valentine's Day is a time when men and women express their love and affection for one another, which can be accomplished in a variety of ways. For many celebrants, food and beverages are part of the festivities. According to the USDA and Gallup, in the United States Valentine's Day is the bubbliest occasion after New Year's Eve and Thanksgiving. That's because around \$9 million is spent on sparkling wine products. What pairs well with that bubbly? Why chocolate, of course. Fifty-eight million pounds of chocolate candy is purchased during the week of Valentine's Day, when the National Confectioners Association says 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate are sold.

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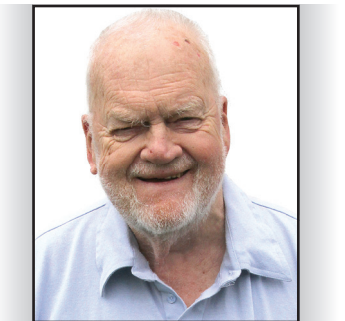
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OUTSIDE THE LINES



LEMAR NELSON

Losing to nemesis

Two schools that have given both the boys and girls' basketball teams trouble in the past couple of years are WEM and USC. Last week it was the Rebels' turn to frustrate the Blossoms, as both suffered losses to the nemesis.

The boys had all kinds of trouble in the second half and fell big to USC, while the girls missed some great opportunities to avenge a lopsided loss the team had suffered earlier in the season. A few more made free throws, a few more rebounds, and a couple fewer turnovers may have made the outcome of last Friday's home contest a different story.

Earlier in the week, both teams had defeated Medford, and the wrestlers had put up a good fight, before forfeits handed the Tigers a conference win. Match wins continue to be a rarity for the matmen, but the team has four or five wrestlers who are compiling enviable individual marks. We can hope that some of them will have success once the individual tournaments begin.

Benefit plans set

This is my final chance to inform residents about the big Benefit Bash for the Boys and Girls Club and urge everyone to attend this annual fund-raising event. The affair on Saturday, Feb. 6, promises to be the biggest and best yet to raise funds for the operation and the activities of this vital community organization.

The Servicemen's Club will again be the site, and activities will begin at 5 p.m. with the silent auction, followed by the live auction at 7 p.m. Hot dog and sloppy Joe baskets are available on the regular club menu, and the club members will adjourn to the club for a kids' party during the live auction portion of the evening.

There is no admission charge, but bidding numbers will cost \$5. Those numbers are good for both the silent and live auctions. Besides numerous baskets of items available on the silent auction, several outstanding items will be up for bids on the live auction: two first class airline tickets on Delta, an ice fishing trip, a "Murder Mystery Dinner for six, a Lansing Corners dinner for 6, and several casino packages are some of the highlights.

An autographed bat by Twins third baseman Trevor Plouffe and an All-Star game jersey will be on the agenda, as will three half hogs and assorted home-made goodies. Probably the most unique item will be a patio bar/serving counter. This piece of furniture is 72" long, 29; wide, and 42' tall, perfect for standing by and serving drinks and food for any outdoor party.

It is constructed of weather-resistant redwood, and the bar top and has a pull-out cutting board. It has a pullout liquor cabinet with a wine rack and a pullout beverage tub for bottled or canned drinks. Best of all, it is built on swivel casters for the convenience of moving it on the

Racing toward a dream

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Brayten Cisneros, age 14, already knows what he wants to do in life: he wants to race. His family has been supportive and, this winter, they found another creative way to show their support.

His grandfather, Ken Jensen, built a replica of Brayten's car, entirely out of snow. Ken even painted the car, which was no easy task. The car, in Ken's backyard, has attracted the attention of passersby, and serves as a testament to Ken's pride for his grandson.

Brayten is the son of Matt and Angie Cisneros and the grandson of Ken and Carol Jensen. He also has a younger sister, Rylie. Brayten's family lives in Blooming Prairie, and he is an eighth-grader in the Blooming Prairie School District.

Ever since Brayten was young, he enjoyed the idea of racing. "I grew up watching NASCAR with my dad and family. It's my dream," said Brayten.

He first began racing dirt bikes, then progressed to go-karts. "After dirt bikes, my dad brought me to a go-kart race



Above are Ken Jensen and Brayten Cisneros, a 14-year-old local racer. Ken built this car out of snow and designed it to look like Brayten's real car. Brayten races as "#4", like Ricky Carmichael.

and he asked me if I wanted to try it," recalls Brayten. "I said, 'Yeah let's do this!' So we got rid of the dirt bike and went to the go-kart. I've been on the four wheels ever since."

Matt remembers other people

sharing their concerns about his son's interest in racing. People told him that Brayten was too young to race and questioned if it was even legal for such a young person to race. Matt and the rest of the family, however,

know that Brayten was responsible, driven and determined, so they supported him every step of his journey.

Brayten remembers graduating from go-karts to a "real" car. "I come home from school and

there's a b-mod in our driveway," said Brayten, with a smile. "I was excited."

He also remembers the first time he drove the car. Although Brayten admits he was nervous, Matt said, "I think I was more nervous!"

"I didn't want to get out of the car," said Brayten.

When Brayten was 13, he began his first season racing the car. He competes in the Wisconsin Midwest Modified class, and usually races at Chateau Raceway. He's also raced at Deer Creek Speedway. Brayten said he's had "a lot of good luck," but his family knows his success can also be contributed to Brayten's hard work and talent.

"He exceeded our expectations going into this," Matt said. "We didn't really expect much. We just wanted him to finish and get some laps in and learn. He wanted more."

"By the third time he went out there he was running right with them," said Matt.

Brayten has already found success in racing. During his

BLOOMING PRAIRIE GIRLS BASKETBALL

Blossoms miss chances

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Missed opportunities may have cost the Blooming Prairie girls basketball team the chance for a big upset, but United South Central survived a 55-44 victory over BP on the Blossoms' home floor.

The locals managed just five points in the last four minutes, which included three turnovers, four missed shots and a deficit in rebounding.

Two of the missed opportunities came from the inability to make free throws. The girls had a chance to grab a lead at the half, but missed two free throws just before the buzzer. Five minutes into the second half BP had another chance to tie or go ahead, but again missed two straight free throws. USC prevailed from that point on.

"We played some of our best basketball of the season," commented Coach John Bruns, "but a few missed free throws, a few turnovers, and missed shots at inopportune times hurt us greatly tonight. We had chances to take control several times, but we missed the chances, and USC was able to counter."

The locals had no answer for the Rebels' Shianne Robertson, who was an unyielding force inside and finished the game with 23 points. Center Lauren Allis added 13 points for the winners. Kalyn Naatz led a balanced attack for the Blossoms with 13 points, and Kaci Gwilt and Lauren Larkoski each chipped in with eight.

USC shot 46 percent for the game, while the locals were making 35 percent of their attempts. The Rebels had a one-rebound edge 29-28, and both teams had 14 turnovers in the game. It was actually a much closer game than the final score would indicate, but it still went into then books as a loss for BP. The Blossoms dropped to 12-6 overall and 5-4 in conference play. USC improved to 13-4 overall and 5-3 in the conference.

Coach Cory Hendrickson's junior varsity team defeated USC, 48-30 in the prelim. The team played good defense, and 10 different girls scored on offense. Sam Wurst led the attack with



Blooming Prairie's Marissa Larson shoots for the Blooming Prairie Blossoms last Tuesday night in Blooming Prairie. During the game against Medford, the Blossoms earned a 35-30 win.

Staff photo by Laura Berndt

NRHEG BOYS BASKETBALL

Panthers roll past Medford

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

The inside play was the key to New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva's 68-45 win over Medford in boys high school basketball action last week.

The win raised the Panthers record to 14-7 overall. Medford fell to 2-15.

"John Cole did a good job sealing for position and we got him the ball," said Panther Coach Pat Churchill. "I thought we did a good job defensively in the first half and were able to take a 22-point lead into halftime."

NRHEG led 37-15.

The Panthers extended the lead to 30 points before Medford cut the lead late. Cole led the Panthers with 21 points, while Oakley Baker chipped in with 17. NRHEG was able to get 10 different players into the scoring column.

Wyatt Volkmann led the Tigers with 12 points, while Bryce McCarty added 10 points.

Medford squeaked by in the junior varsity contest, 56-52.

Panthers nudge Cobras in OT thriller

NRHEG and Triton went into overtime before the Panthers were able to survive, 77-75. Triton led at halftime, 37-29. The Cobras made one free throw with 8 seconds left to send it into overtime.

"NRHEG started slow and Triton shot very well to start the game," Churchill said. "We were down 10 points almost immediately and had to play from behind almost the entire night."

Triton led by 11 points with 3:43 to go before the Panthers were able to claw their way back into the game and take a 1-point lead with 20 seconds remaining in the regular period.

Baker hit a three-point shot and was fouled on another three-point shot, while Cole also made a big shot in the comeback.

"We forced them into a couple of turnovers to help the comeback," Churchill said.

NRHEG scored the first eight points in overtime. Benji Lundberg hit two shots, Baker hit a three-point shot and Cole added a free throw. Triton countered with three straight 3-point shots, but the Panthers made enough free throws to pull out the win.

Baker and Cole each had 22 points to lead NRHEG. Lundberg chimed in with 17 points. Isaiah Wannarka scored 20 points to lead Triton. Garrett Dahms added 19 points, Austin Gillund scored 12 points and Jax Bryngelson contributed 11 points.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE BOYS BASKETBALL

Boys wilt against USC

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

United South Central led the Blooming Prairie boys basketball team, 25-24 at the half, but the Rebels ramped up the defense and held the visitors to just 21 second half points in a 64-45 victory Friday, Jan. 29, at Wells.

BP shot the ball well for a 42 percent average, but the Awesome Blossoms only took 38 shots in the entire game, while the home team was getting more tries and a good percentage of its own.

Marten Morem led the Blossom scoring with 14 points, and Dawson Heuer and Anthony Nelson added 10 and nine, respectively.

USC had a wide edge in rebounding, as BP pulled down just 29 for the game. Morem had seven rebounds and a steal, and Nelson had five rebounds, an assist and a steal. The locals made just 5-of-12 free throw tries, and

had 14 turnovers in the game. The locals fell to 7-13 overall and 3-7 in conference play.

The junior varsity team played one of their poorer games of the season in a 44-40 loss to USC. Starters were held to six points, and foul trouble and injuries didn't help. Gabe Hagen managed 10 points, and Kaden Thomas contributed six.

Boys outlast Medford

After several games of subpar shooting, the Awesome Blossom boys made 45 percent of their shots and outlasted Medford 53-49 on the Tiger floor Tuesday, Jan. 26. It was the first conference win since Jan. 5 for the locals.

BP took a 28-20 lead at the break and had enough to preserve the win. The winners got consistent scoring from Marten

Sports

NRHEG girls roll along with wins

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

At times during the season, the New Richland-Hartland-El-lendale-Geneva girls basketball team has opened up a big half-time lead and then squandered it in the second half.

Such was not the case Friday, Jan. 29, as the Panthers routed Medford 72-43 on the Tiger court.

The visitors found four girls in double figures led by 15 points from Maddie Wag-ner and 13 each from Marnie Wagner and Rachel Collins. Betsy Schoenrock chipped in 11 points. The team shot 45 percent from the field, and Medford hit

43 percent of their shot attempts. NRHEG had a 33-17 over the Tigers in rebounding.

“The girls tonight pushed the whole game,” remarked Coach Onika Peterson. “We had lots of players subbing in and out, and putting out 100 percent effort. That is great to see.”

The team upped its record to 17-4 for the season and 7-2 in conference play.

NRHEG outlasts Maple River

After overpowering JWP a night earlier, the NRHEG girls had a much tougher time with Maple River, before coming away with 58-53 victory Tues-

day, Jan. 26. The Panthers de-feated JWP 84-48 Monday, Jan. 25.

The Eagles dictated play for much of the game and led until the 7-minute mark of the second half. Then the Panthers took over. Kayley Camerer led the scoring with 17 points, Maddie Wagner had 15 and Rachel Col-lins added 13. Marnie Wagner counted 11 points and pulled down 11 rebounds.

“Maple River came out strong,” remarked Coach Peter-son, “and we weren’t able to re-bound well. It was one shot and done in the first half. Maple Riv-er led the game until the 7-min-ute mark of the second half, and then we finally took the lead. We

made 15-of-21 free throws in the last half, which was a key in the win.”

Panthers claw Bulldogs

In the JWP contest, Marnie Wagner scored the 1,000th point of her career, and, after a rough first eight minutes, the winners took control. Marnie Wagner counted 11 points and whopping 16 rebounds, and Collins led the scoring with 21 points. Maddie Wagner had 17 points, four as-sists and two steals, and Kayley Camerer chipped in 15 points as well. NRHEG had a 45-22 mar-gin in rebounding.

A DREAM

Continued from Page 1B

first season alone, he won a heat race, even while up against some experienced racers. He also earned several spots in the top five and was even ranked third in points until the end of the season, when he was edged out of the ranking by just three points.

It’s obvious that is Brayten’s passion. He said that racing is fun, and that he enjoys the adrenaline rush each time he goes out on the track. He also enjoys the mental aspect of the sport. “I have to focus a lot,” Brayten said. “I get out there, and my whole mind is clear. It’s all I think about: what do I do to pass this guy, or how do I keep this guy from passing me?”

“(Other drivers) talk about him,” Matt said. “They’re notic-ing him.”

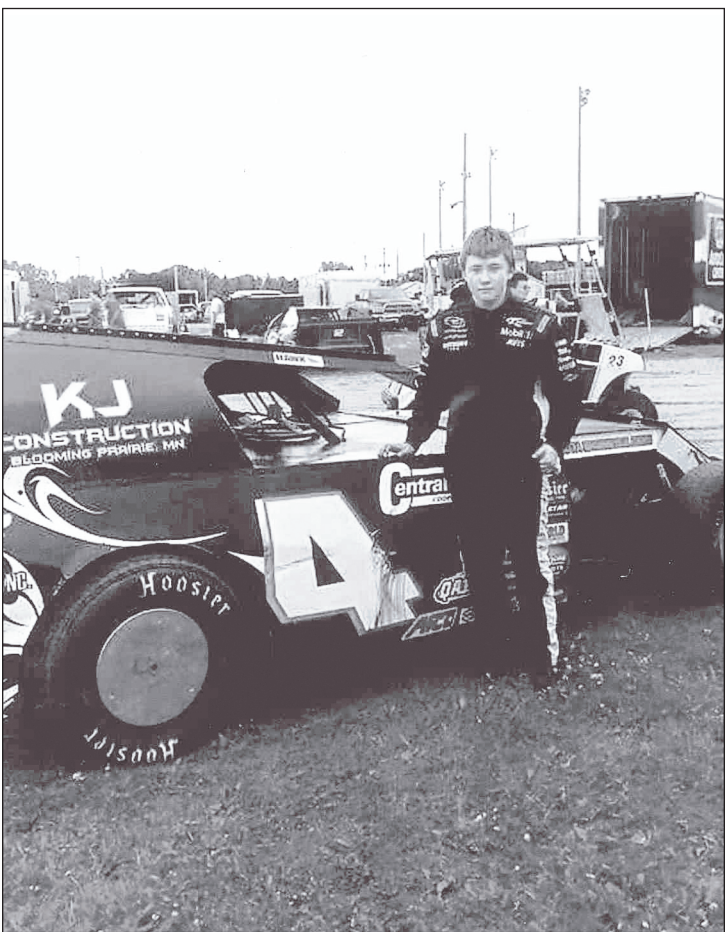
“They’re talking because it’s a huge accomplishment for some-body just starting out,” Carol adds.

Brayten and Matt confess that they’ve learned a lot during their racing experiences thus far, and that they still have a lot to learn. Even though they sometimes run into challenges, plenty of other people have stepped forward to

help out, including Pete Kiley, seasoned racer Doug Hillson and Brayten’s uncle, Stephen Brandt. Brayten also appreciates his sponsors, Central Valley, KJ Construction, Noah Peter-son Trucking and Salinas Auto Repair. His grandparents, said Brayten, are also his sponsors, and some of his biggest fans.

This Christmas, Carol made a photo memory book for Brayten, including photos of him racing. She also left several pages blank, so he can add more photos as his racing career continues. “I loved it,” Brayten said, of the gift. The front of the book features a pho-to of Brayten racing, which Car-ol printed from her cell phone. The photo appears to be framed by a television screen and, while Carol said that she didn’t intend to use this setting on her phone, she thinks the photo is fitting be-cause Brayten will someday be racing on television.

Brayten is determined to achieve his dream of racing in NASCAR, and his family will be behind him the whole time. “He’s got a lot of backing,” said Carol. “We’re all very proud of him.”



Submitted photo
Brayten Cisneros, a 14-year-old local racer, is pictured here with his car.

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued from Page 1B

deck or patio. It is a custom-made piece of furniture and should be a very hot item on the auction. Besides the auctions, a big raffle with three great prizes will be drawn. Tickets for the raffle are still available right up to the drawing time. This event should be an occasion for the community to gather and lend support to this very worthy or-ganization in Blooming Prairie. We will see you there.

Travels for a cause

While most college students took advantage of the holi-day vacations from school for individual pursuits and time at home with families, recent BPHS graduate Matthew Worke embarked on a different kind of vacation. He did get to spend a little time with his family, but the majority of his time off from school found him with a group of students in the country

of Ecuador, doing good work among its citizens.

Some building projects, work in clinics, especially dental clin-ics and other general projects occupied a good portion of his time. Worke was surprised, but also enthused about his experi-ences in that country. It was, as he commented, an experience he would not have missed for anything.

He came back a little wiser about people from other coun-tries, but also happy to be back home in his own surroundings. It is an eye-opening experience for him and other students to venture out of their comfort zones and commit to a project or trip in a different country. We applaud all such adventures.

Godfather revisited

Almost every week we have seen a celebrity or entertainer die lately, and most have died

in the prime of life. It is almost refreshing, especially for us old-timers, to note that a favorite of many years ago, Abe Vigoda, had passed on. Vigoda was 94 at his death, and he had lived a full and rewarding life in the entertainment industry.

His greatest role in film and the one he is most remembered for was his role as Tessla, the mobster in The Godfather, who ultimately betrayed Michael Corleone. He also appeared in the second installment of that film, and appeared in over 42 movies in his career.

He also had a good career in TV, most notably as the deadpanned Detective Fish in “Barney Miller. Vigoda had roles in Dark Shadows, Man-nix, the Rockford Files and Hawaii Five-O. He appeared in 24 TV shows all together. Ironically twice in his career he was announced by the press as having died, when he was very

much alive. People Magazine n 1982 reported him dead, and a TV reporter did the same in a broadcast in 1987, but apolo-gized the next day.

Fortunately, Vigoda was a good sport about it, and it became a source of humor for several comedians. He was born in Brooklyn, but died in New Jersey, as reported by a nephew last week. He was one of my favorite characters, as he was for many fans of movies and TV.

Let’s close this week with one of those classic Scandina-vian stories: Sven and Ole were talking, and Sven told Ole that he was going to celebrate his 50th wedding anniversary soon, and that he had taken his wife to Sweden on their 20th anniversa-ry those many years ago. “What are you going to do this time, asked Ole? Well,” said Sven, “I’m thinking of going back to get her.” We’ll talk again.

Gopher Conference Standings

Girls Basketball		
	Conf.	Overall
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	8-0-0	16-3-0
NRHEG	7-2-0	17-4-0
United South Central	5-3-0	13-4-0
Bloomington Prairie	5-4-0	12-6-0
Medford	2-6-0	2-13-0
Bethlehem Academy	1-6-0	9-10-0
Maple River	0-7-0	2-14-0
Boys Basketball		
	Conf.	Overall
Maple River	9-0-0	19-2-0
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	8-1-0	16-3-0
NRHEG	7-3-0	15-7-0
United South Central	4-4-0	11-8-0
Bloomington Prairie	3-7-0	7-13-0
Bethlehem Academy	1-7-0	6-14-0
Medford	0-9-0	2-15-0
Wrestling		
	Conf.	Overall
United South Central	6-0-0	10-3-0-0
Maple River	6-2-0	8-5-0
WEM/JWP	1-3-0	5-10-0
New Richland-H-E-G H.S.	1-3-0	8-14-0
Bloomington Prairie	2-5-0	2-14-0
Medford	2-2-0	4-12-0

Big 9 Conference Standings

Girls Basketball		
	Conf.	Overall
Rochester Mayo	12-2-0	16-2-0
Rochester John Marshall	12-2-0	14-4-0
Winona	11-3-0	15-3-0
Owatonna	8-5-0	10-7-0
Austin	8-6-0	8-7-0
Northfield H.S.	8-6-0	10-8-0
Rochester Century	7-7-0	9-9-0
Faribault	6-9-0	10-9-0
Red Wing	6-8-0	7-10-0
Mankato East	4-11-0	6-12-0
Mankato West	2-10-0	5-10-0
Albert Lea	0-15-0	1-18-0
Boys Basketball		
	Conf.	Overall
Red Wing	14-0-0	19-0-0
Rochester John Marshall	14-1-0	16-3-0
Austin	14-2-0	16-3-0
Mankato East	10-7-0	12-8-0
Owatonna	9-7-0	12-8-0
Northfield H.S.	9-7-0	12-8-0
Faribault	6-9-0	9-10-0
Winona	6-10-0	6-13-0
Mankato West	5-10-0	8-11-0
Rochester Mayo	4-12-0	4-15-0
Rochester Century	2-14-0	3-17-0
Albert Lea	0-16-0	0-18-0
Wrestling		
	Conf.	Overall
Albert Lea Area	9-0-0	28-1-0
Owatonna	8-1-0	14-7-0
Faribault	9-1-0	15-1-0
Rochester John Marshall	6-3-0	11-14-0
Northfield	6-4-0	9-4-0
Rochester Mayo	5-4-0	8-6-0
Mankato West	3-5-0	6-9-0
Austin	2-7-0	5-16-0
Mankato East	2-7-0	5-16-0
Winona/Winona Cotter	1-9-0	1-17-0
Rochester Century	1-10-0	1-13-0

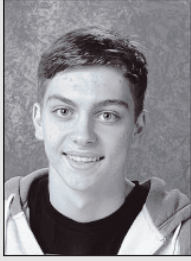
Source: Minnesota Scores website

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Kalyn Naatz

Kalyn Naatz earns her second time as Athlete of the Week for her play over the last two games. Naatz has scored 19 points in the last two contests and has helped the rebounding to an edge in that department. As one of the three co-cap-tains on the Blossom team, Naatz is counted on to pro-vide guidance to the under-classmen, and she has been a good leader for the team.



Dawson Heuer

One of the senior co-cap-tains for the Awesome Blossom boys, Dawson Heuer generally is more a quiet leader by example than a rah-rah type of player, but he qui-etly goes about his business of playing defense and helping the team with scoring when-ever he can. For example, he has scored 21 points in his last two games, a win at Medford and a loss at USC. As one of the senior players, younger classmates look to him for help in gaining experience in playing the game.

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Sports

‘Heartbreaker’ loss for NRHEG

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

On Friday, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva’s wrestling team dropped what Coach Shawn Larson said was “a heartbreaker” to Maple River, 45-30 in Gopher Conference action.

“We truly believed we had a shot to win this one and give ourselves an opportunity to still win the conference,” Larson said. “An injury in our lineup along with falls early, forced us to wrestle differently than we had planned later in the match.”

The next day, the Panthers traveled to Lakeville North High School for a quadrangular with Lakeville North Stewartville and Hastings. The Panthers defeated Lakeville North, 42-31, but lost to Stewartville, 39-30 and Hastings, 61-18.

“We wrestled a couple of solid matches against Lakeville North and Stewartville, but Hastings proved to be an entirely different level than we were,” Larson said. “Against Lakeville North we battled hard and found ways to win matches that we recently may have lost, which was a little encouraging. Against Stewartville we were able to win matches that we lost in our last meeting and made it a much better match than when we saw them in November.

Larson added there were very few highlights in our match against Hastings. “They just had

too much power for us and there was not much we were able to do. We did have two falls in the match from Cordell Peterson at 126, and Wyatt Fitterer at 285,” he said. “We have some things to try to take care of in order to be competitive at the section tournament.”

In the first two rounds of the Bob Swalla Duals at Kasson, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Wrestling Coach Shawn Larson felt the team was competitive. However, he said the team wrestled inconsistently throughout the day.

“In our first two rounds we were competitive, though we definitely were not prepared during our last match of the day,” Larson said. “We are making improvements up and down the line-up, though we need to find a way to have all of our wrestlers at their best at the same time.”

Larson said it was nice to have Palmer Peterson back on the mat after being injured all season. “We are hoping his presence will spark a turn-around for the remainder of the season,” he said. “We are a team that can be competitive, we just need to find some consistency.”

The Panthers finished 10th out of 11 teams at the competition. Caledonia defeated NRHEG in the first match, 52-18. NRHEG bounced back to defeat Menomonie, Wisconsin, 49-23, but fell in the final match to Lewiston-Altura-Rushford-Peterson, 59-24. Cordell Peterson and Trey Hoppe each finished 3-0 during the duals.

Successful week for junior high

By **LEMAR NELSON**
Staff Sports Writer

Talk about a successful week. The junior high girls won eight games in the span of 10 days, culminating with a tournament win at Hayfield Saturday, Jan. 30.

At the tournament, the girls beat Southland,19-10, Randolph 23-20, Pine Island, 25-12 and Triton 24-4.

On Friday, Jan. 29, the seventh-grade defeated USC, 38-18, with Megan Oswald and Alison Krohnberg leading the attack with 14 and seven points, and Taylor Wurst made 7-8 free throws.

The eighth-grade (combined seventh and eighth-grade girls) beat the Rebels 31-19. Maggie Bruns, Krohnberg and Oswald had nine, six and six points respectively.

Both teams defeated Medford on Tuesday, Jan. 26. The seventh-grade won 32-25, by using a pressure defense. Earlier in the season, Medford had defeated the locals with a press of their own.

BP also took the eighth-grade game 27-21. Krohnberg and Oswald both had six points.

The teams are now 13-7 after the latest results.

WEM takes down Blossoms

Despite some rough, physical play, the seventh-grade gave a good effort in losing to a strong WEM team 35-19. It was the first of a doubleheader contest played at Morristown Friday, Jan. 22.

The Bucs also won the eighth-grade game 35-18. BP trailed at the half 13-7. Alison Krohnberg led the first game scoring with eight points.

Coach Emily Henslin com-

mented, “We stood up against a very strong and physical WEM team, and I am proud of the way the girls represented BPHS. They never gave up in either game, although our eighth-grade team was mostly seventh-graders.”

Scoring 36 points in the first half made a 53-29 win over Kenyon-Wanamingo on Thursday, Jan. 13, an easy one. The victory gave the Blossoms their fifth straight win and left them still with only one defeat for the season.

Trent Swenson scored all 13 of his points in the first half, but that was enough to lead the offense. He had ample help, however, as Timmy Wolf counted 12 points, Gabe Hagen chipped in 11 and Kaden Thomas added nine.

Blooming Prairie’s ‘C’ squad ran its winning streak to four games with a 46-43 victory over New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva on the home court Tuesday, Jan. 12.

A prolific first half by both teams saw the Blossoms take a slim 29-28 edge into the halftime break, and the team outscored the Panthers by two points in the second half for the narrow win.

NRHEG used a balanced offense to stay with the locals, but Gabe Hagen counted 20 points and Kaden Thomas added 13 to lead the way for the Blossoms. The C team still has just one loss in the season.

Blossoms edge Maple River

Another good effort by the Blossom ninth-grade basketball boys gave the team a 47-43 victory over Maple River on the home court Thursday, Jan. 7. The team made it three in a row with the victory.

BP jumped to a 29-18 half-

time lead, but then had to withstand an Eagle comeback to secure the win. Hagen and Thomas led the scoring for the winners with 18 and 14 points, respectively and Trent Swenson added eight.

Coach Andrew Hardecopf commented that the boys have played consistent basketball over the last month and continue to make improvement in their game.

Two wins previously

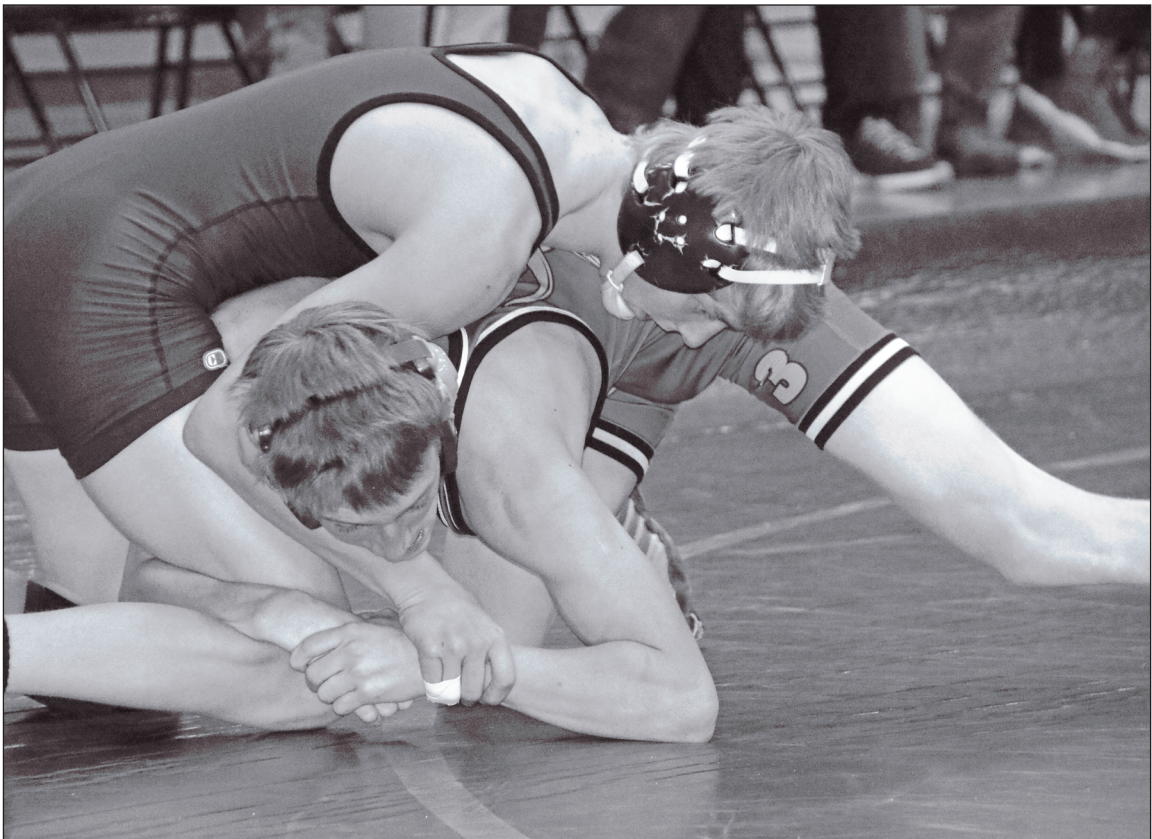
In two contests not previously reported, the Blossoms defeated USC 42-30 and edged Bethlehem Academy, 37-36. BP led the Rebels 22-13 at the half of that game and held the lead throughout.

Thomas counted 19 points in that win and Hagen chipped in 12. The locals had a 19-14 edge in the B.A. game at the half, but then had to hang on at the end for the one-point victory. Hagen led all scorers in that game with 21 points.

7th girls 2-1

Coach Emily Henslin’s seventh-grade girls split a pair of games with NRHEG on Tuesday, Jan. 12. Her team trailed the Panthers, 15-6, but played the second half with great determination to edge the losers, 24-21. Megan Oswald had 14 points to lead the offense. The first game spent much of the girls’ energy, and they lost the second game, 29-10.

Against Triton Friday, Jan. 15, the team defeated the Cobras 45-24. The girls moved the ball well, played good pressure defense and had a good night shooting. Oswald led the scoring again with 20 points, but Alison Krohnberg chipped in eight points and Maggie Bruns and Maren Forystek both added five.



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

Medford’s Willie VonRuden has the upper hand in this varsity wrestling match against Hayfield’s Riley Schultz. VonRuden earned a 15-0 major decision victory over Schultz in high school wrestling action in Medford at Parent’s Night on Jan. 19.

Medford wrestlers splits duals

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

The Medford wrestling team split two duals it wrestled last week. On Parent’s Night, on Jan. 19, the Tigers defeated Hayfield, 50-24. They weren’t as successful two nights later when Maple River pulled out a victory, 52-21.

“I thought we wrestled very well Tuesday night. We were aggressive and pushed the pace the entire night,” Coach Dennis Whitman said. “Maple River is a pretty solid team. There aren’t any weak spots in their lineup.”

Whitman added that there were a couple of matches that could have gone either way. “(That)

would have made the dual a lot closer,” he said. “If we do see them again, we need to turn those matches around.”

At 106 pounds, Jonny Meyer went 2-0. Other unbeaten wrestlers for the two matches were Willie Von Ruden at 120 pounds, Marcus DeLeon at 152 pounds and Josh Schauer at 195 pounds against Hayfield and 182 pounds against Maple River.

Medford 50, Hayfield 24

106 Jonny Meyer (M) 14-2 dec
113 Bryce Lisowski (M) forfeit
120 Willie Von Ruden (M) 15-0 TF
126 Christian Tupa (M) lost by fall :48
132 double forfeit
138 Bo Noble(M) fall 3:28
145 Nick Masso (M) lost by fall 4:26

152 Marcus DeLeon (M) 15-0 TF
160 Greg Larson (M) forfeit
170 Nate Meixner (M) forfeit
182 Javis Von Ruden (M) lost By Fall 1:54
195 Josh Schauer (M) fall :51
215 Nick Meixner (M) forfeit
285 Trevor Spatenka (M) lost by fall 1:14
Maple River 52 Medford 21
106 Jonny Meyer (M) 12-0 dec
113 Bryce Lisowski (M) lost by fall 2:56
120 Willie Von Ruden (M) fall :56
138 Bo Noble (M) lost 7-5
145 Nick Masso (M) lost by fall 3:29
152 Marcus DeLeon (M) 16-1 TF
160 Greg Larson (M) lost 6-1 dec
170 Nate Meixner (M) lost by fall :58
182 Josh Schauer (M) fall 4:00
195 Nate McCarty (M) lost by fall :53
220 Nick Meixner (M) lost by fall 1:53
285 Trevor Spatenka (M) lost 8-1 dec

Forfeits lead to BP defeat

By **LEMAR NELSON**
Staff Sports Writer

Forced to forfeit six bouts, the Blooming Prairie wrestlers fell to Medford, 48-30 in a conference match Thursday, Jan. 28 on the home mat. Of the six bouts actually wrestled the Blossoms won four of them, but the bouts they didn’t wrestle led to the loss.

Ethan Arett pinned Jonny Meyer at 4:27 of the 106-pound bout, after leading 7-1 at the end of the second period. Seth Peterson pinned Nick Masso in 1:57 of the

145-pound bout by scoring a take-down and a reversal in the first minute of the fight.

BP continued its domination when Colton Krell needed just 50 seconds to turn Greg Larson over with two quick takedowns and record the pin at 160. The final points for the Blossoms came when Mitchell Oswald pinned Nate McCarty in 46 seconds of their bout.

The only two losses for the locals came at 138, when Bo Noble pinned Payton Simon at the 5:05 mark. Simon trailed just 4-3 after

the second period, but fell into a pinning hold in that third period. The other win for Medford came on a pin for Javis VonRuden over Riley Olson at the 1:12 mark of the 182-pound bout. All of the other Tiger points came on the forfeits.

As Coach Chad Gimbel has remarked many times, “We won more bouts than the opposition, but the many forfeits forced on us led to another team defeat. Several individuals continued to wrestle very well and are compiling enviable records.”

BP BOYS

Continued from Page 1B

Morem and Anthony Nelson, who counted 16 and 14 points respectively. Dawson Heuer helped the locals with 11 points, as well. Alex Goetzke had 16 points for Medford, and Bryce McCartney chipped in 14.

Ben Smith and Morem had six each in the 29 total rebounds for the team. Nelson dished out four assists and had two steals, and

Morem had three assists to go with his six rebounds. BP made only 10-of-20 free throw attempts.

After a high-scoring game that went into overtime, Coach Brian Nelson’s JV team defeated Medford 76-66 in the prelim. BP held a 29-24 edge at halftime, but the Tigers came back to tie the game at 62 in regulation. The Blossoms

outscored the visitors 14-4 in the overtime for the victory.

Four Blossoms reached double figures in scoring. Led by 23 points from Max Romeo. Cory Rafdal counted 14, Gabe Hagen 12 and Cameron Kubista 11. Nine players had at least one point in the victory.

BP GIRLS

Continued from Page 1B

15 points to help improve the JV record to 10-7.

Girls survive cold night

In the lowest-scoring game of the season, the BP girls survived a cold-shooting night and a rugged Medford squad in a 35-30 victory on the home court Tuesday, Jan. 26. The game featured play when several minutes came off the clock with neither team scoring a point.

BP led 4-0 after the first three minutes, and the locals slowly pulled away. The Tigers counted only three points in the last three minutes of the half to trail 19-9 at the break. Medford, however, outscored the Blossoms 21-16 in the second half to put pressure on the locals. Four minutes went by

at the start of the second half, before either team could score a basket.

As Coach John Bruns commented, “The shots just wouldn’t fall tonight, but we kept our defensive composure and got stops when we needed them. We only allowed five offensive rebounds, while we managed 18 ourselves. Those extra possessions are huge when the shots aren’t falling.”

The team shot just 29 percent from the field, while Medford made 31 percent of their attempts. BP went 0-for-7 from three-point range. Kylie Forystek led a balanced offense for the Blossoms with 11 points, and Kalyn Naatz and McKenna Hein each added six. The Blossoms made just 4-of-14 free throws in the game, after making 15-of-17 in their previous game.

Emma Kniefel, an eighth-grader, had 10 points for Medford. BP led the rebounding 42-37, and had 15 turnovers to 19 for the visitors. Kaci Gwilt had six rebounds, four assists and three steals for the winners.

The JV team played a tremendous first half on the way to a 58-37 victory in their prelim. McKenna Hein only played the first half, but scored 19 points and had numerous steals. Sam Wurst added 10 points, and nine girls counted at least one point in the game.

It was a different story for the C squad in its prelim, as Medford coasted to a 43-19 victory. It was another case of not being able to put the ball in the basket for the locals. Riauna Bishop had five points, and Marti Snider and Rachael Oswald counted four points each.

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Employment/Legals

What was Steele County like during the World War I era?

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

When one digs into a book or documentary about historical eras, such as the World War I era, it might be difficult to envision those events and moments impacting life, here in Steele County. That history shapes the community as it is today.

The Steele County Historical Society is teaming with other community organizations to find out more about what Steele County was like during the World War I era.

Organizations like Little Theater of Owatonna, Ellendale Area Heritage Society, Medford Historical League, Owatonna High School Museum and the Minnesota Public School Orphanage Museum are in the process of collecting or recognizing artifacts from the World War I era.

Through a grant, the Steele County Historical Society is able to go through and take inventory of all of the artifacts collected. Doing inventory includes numbering each artifact to document its existence.

Archives and Technology Director Dan Moeckly said that by 2017, SCHS hopes to have a large exhibit featuring certain categories of World War I. He said that the feature areas will potentially be military and home front during World War I.

“It is a pretty substantial project,” said Moeckly. “We are in the inventory phase right now.”

SCHS is starting to plan exhibits further ahead, allowing them to take on bigger projects. “We’re hoping to do larger installations like at the Orphanage Museum,” said Moeckly.

“We are looking at years 1911 to 1920 to look and see changes in attitude and impact of war,” he said. “This speaks to the size of project we are looking at here.”

The content of the exhibit relies in part on the individu-

als and organizations that participate and provide insight into certain topics. Collaboration with certain entities in Steele County have fueled the project. The hope is to have an exhibit plan complete by Oct. 11.

“This project has been financed in part with funds provided by the state of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society,” said Moeckly.

As of now, Moeckly and committee already have a few areas that they plan to highlight, including: the Immigration Act, the preparedness debate, the Spanish Flu, the Espionage Act, formation of Minnesota Commission of Public Safety (which may or may not include spies), women’s suffrage, women in industry, prohibition, labor movement and food conservation.

They are also planning to take a closer look at how Pillsbury campus and Minnesota Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children participated and changed during the home front era.

Moeckly commented that they have been having a particularly difficult time finding information and artifacts telling of prohibition suffrage in Steele County.

“The historical society does collect things, and we will be looking for World War I artifacts. If people have something that relates, we’d be happy to take a look,” he said. “We only have access to things donated. A lot of times, artifacts stay in private hands and end up lost.”

However, he did say there are ways to loan items if the desire is to keep the artifact in the family.

If one thinks they have an item or two that might be of interest, visit or contact the Steele County Historical Society at 507-451-1420.

Steele County Commissioner’s Synopsis for 1/05/2016 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. Ebeling/Glynn to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2015. Ayes all.
 3. Schultz/Brady to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2015 Budget Hearing. Ayes all.
 4. Glynn/Ebeling to adjourn Sine Die at 7:05 p.m. Ayes all.
 5. The Board was called to Order by the County Auditor who called for nominations for Chairman for 2016.
 6. Huntington/Glynn to nominate Commissioner Ebeling as Chairman for 2016. Upon the vote being taken, Commissioner Ebeling was unanimously elected Chairman for 2016. Commissioner Ebeling then took the Chair.
 7. Schultz/ Huntington to nominate Commissioner Brady as Vice Chairman for 2016. Upon the vote being taken, Commissioner Brady was unanimously elected Vice Chairman for 2016.
 8. Schultz/Huntington to approve the agenda. Ayes all.
 9. Glynn/Brady offered a Resolution that the Steele County Board of Commissioners accepts, with sincere appreciation, the following listed donations on behalf of its citizens:
Name of Donor: American Legion Auxiliary – Blooming Prairie Amount: \$500.00. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.
 10. Huntington/Glynn to authorize the Chairman to sign bills on January 13, 2016. Ayes all.
 11. Schultz/Huntington to approve the Association of Minnesota Counties dues in the amount of \$14 292. Ayes all.
 12. Huntington/Brady to set the Public Hearing date for the Steele County Fee Schedule at 7:15 p.m. on January 26, 2016 and to set the Public Hearing date for the Ordinance Prohibiting Electronic Delivery Devices in Public Places, Retail Environments and Places of Work at 7:30 p.m. on January 26, 2015. Ayes all.
 13. Brady/Glynn to adopt the Rules of Order for 2016. Ayes all.
 14. Huntington/Schultz to approve the Board Meeting Schedule for 2016. Ayes all.
 15. Huntington/Brady to set the date for the County Board of Equalization for Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. Ayes all.
 16. Glynn/Brady offered the following Resolution that www.co.steele.mn.us will be and hereby is designated the official website to publish the proceedings of the County Board, ordinances, official notices, real estate delinquent tax lists, County Board of Equalization, Financial Statements, and all other notices to be posted by Steele County. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.
 17. Glynn/Huntington to designate the County Website as the official place for advertising Transportation Construction Projects. Ayes all.
 18. Brady/Schultz to approve the appointments to the Advisory Committees for 2016. Ayes all.
 19. Glynn/Huntington offered a Resolution that the per diem amount be \$45 when members are attending a meeting on behalf of the Steele County Board of Commissioners and may receive a mileage reimbursement equivalent to that adopted by the Steele County Board of Commissioners. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.
 20. tHuntington/Glynn to appoint the five Commissioners, County Administrator, County Auditor and County Treasurer as the AMC Delegates for 2016 and to approve the 2016 Policy Committee appointments as follows: Commissioner Ebeling-General Government, Commissioner Glynn-Environment & Natural Resources, Commissioner Huntington-Health & Human Services, Commissioner Schultz-Public Safety and Commissioner Brady-Transportation & Infrastructure. Ayes all.
 21. Glynn/Brady to approve travel & training for officers and employees if within the state and within the budget. Ayes all.
 22. Huntington/Glynn offered a Resolution that the 2005 regular session of the Minnesota State Legislature has mandated that every County develop and approve, by a recorded vote, an Out-of-State Travel Policy for its applicable elected officials (Minn. Stat §471.661) no later than January 1, 2006. This Out-of-State Travel Policy shall be available for public inspection upon request and shall be reviewed annually by the Steele County Board of Commissioners. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.
 23. Glynn/Brady to authorize AMC Delegates and staff to attend AMC and NACO meetings and receive reimbursement for registration, travel, lodging and meal expenses. Ayes all.
 24. Schultz/Brady to set the mileage rate for 2016 per the IRS guidelines.

Ayes all.

25. Glynn/Huntington offered a Resolution that the County Auditor & County Treasurer are hereby authorized to process payments by Auditor’s Warrants, for which the precise amount is fixed by law, which include fees, utility bills, salaries, highway department fuel bills, freight, witness expenses, vehicle registration/tabs, telephone, postage and sheriff’s paper service to other counties. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.

26. Brady/Schultz offered a Resolution that all transfers of funds or investment securities to and from any Steele County accounts on behalf of Steele County as directed to RBC Wealth Management may only be made to another depository or account of Steele County in the name of Steele County.

Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.

27. Brady/Huntington to set the interest rate on ditch liens for 2016 at 5%. Ayes all.

28. Huntington/Glynn to award the publication of the 2016 Commissioner Proceedings, legal notices, 2015 Delinquent Tax List and Financial Statement to the Steele County Times. Ayes all.

29. Brady/Schultz to award 2nd Publication of the 2015 Financial Statement to another paper located in the County to the Owatonna People’s Press. Ayes all.

30. Huntington/Schultz offered a Resolution that the Steele County Board of Commissioners set the annual minimum salary to be paid the elected official for the term next following be set at Step 1 of the Comparable Rating and Wage Scale System used by Steele County. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.

31. Huntington/Brady offered a Resolution to approve participating in the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and acceptance of the grant and to authorize the Chair, County Administrator and/or Emergency Management Director to sign. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.

32. Schultz/Glynn offered a Resolution to approve entering into an Agreement with the Minnesota Dept. of Public Safety for the 2016 In-Squad Computers grant in the amount of \$2,240.

Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.

33. Brady/Huntington offered a Resolution to approve entering into an Agreement with the Minnesota Dept. of Public Safety for the Life Savers Grant Program grant in the amount of \$4,000. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.

34. Huntington/Glynn to authorize the Chair to sign the letter to Commissioner Matt Massman for the predesign submittal of the Public Works Building. Ayes all.

35. Glynn/Huntington offered a Resolution to approve the acceptance of the Mighty Ducks Grant Program and to authorize the Chair, County Administrator and or Parks & Recreation Director to sign documents related to the Agreement. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.

36. Commissioners Reports: Schultz reported on his attendance at the Human Relations Center meeting. Glynn reported on his attendance at the MNPrairie meeting.

Huntington reported on her attendance at the MNPrairie, Drug Court and Criminal Justice Committee meeting.

Brady reported on his attendance at the Human Relations Center meeting. Ebeling reported on his attendance at the SCCL meeting.

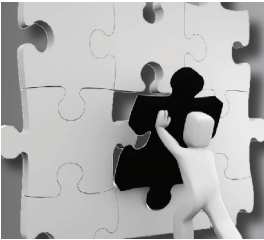
37. Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Brady to approve the following listing of bills. Ayes all.

LISTING OF BILLS 1/5/2016

C V S – SMART Transit	11,763.84
First Data Remitco	11,236.80
AJ Lysne Contracting Corp	8,250.00
Motorola Solutions, Inc.	5,078.25
Turnkey Corrections	5,635.27
43 Warrants under \$2,000	9,917.08
Total:	51,881.24

38. Glynn/Huntington to adjourn to the Call of the Chair at 7:58 p.m. Ayes all.

2/2



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4-7c

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Please email your resume to **jobs@domailleengineering.com**

You can also apply in person or mail your resume to Alison Hicks at: **Domaille Engineering, 7100 Dresser Drive NE, Rochester, MN 55906**



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Resumes will not be accepted in place of application forms. Open until filled with priority **deadline of Noon on February 10, 2016.**

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7-8c

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FEBRUARY 2016

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. During American Heart Month, take a moment to learn how you can better protect yourself against cardiovascular disease and stroke



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with these healthy lifestyle tips for any age.

- Don't smoke, and stay away from secondhand smoke.
 - Avoid processed and pre-packaged foods that are often high in trans fats, sodium and added sugars.
 - Avoid excessive alcohol consumption.
 - Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables.
 - Consume fiber-rich whole grains.
 - Get moving with at least 30 minutes of physical activity each day.
 - Stick with lean meat, fish or skinless chicken.
- Opt for low-fat dairy products.
 - Find ways to minimize stress and get adequate amounts of sleep.
 - Broil, bake, grill, steam or poach whenever possible.
 - Check out your family history, if other family members are at risk, you could be, too.
 - Talk to your doctor about your blood pressure, cholesterol, heart rate, blood sugar and weight.

HEART DISEASE: SCOPE & IMPACT

Heart disease (which includes Heart Disease, Stroke and other Cardiovascular Diseases) is the No. 1 cause of death in the United States, killing nearly 787,000 people alone in 2011.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for people of most racial/ethnic groups in the United States, including African Americans, Hispanics and Whites. For Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders and American Indians or Alaska Natives, heart disease is second only to cancer.

Cardiovascular diseases claim more lives than all forms of cancer combined.

Coronary heart disease is the most common type of heart disease, killing nearly 380,000 people annually.

In the United States, someone has a heart attack every 34 seconds. Every 60 seconds, someone in the United States dies from a heart disease-related event.

About 720,000 people in the U.S. suffer heart attacks each year. Of these, 515,000 are a first heart attack and 205,000 happen in people who have already had a heart attack.

In 2011, about 326,200 people experienced out-of-hospital cardiac arrests in the United States. Of those treated by emergency medical services, 10.6 percent survived. Of the 19,300 bystander-witnessed out-of-hospital cardiac arrests in the same year, 31.4 percent survived.

Direct and indirect costs of heart disease total more than \$320.1 billion. That includes health expenditures and lost productivity.

www.theheartfoundation.org/



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Steele County Fair Board attends fair

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

While the Steele County Free Fair board jokes that the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs Convention always happens on the coldest weekend of the year, this year the joke proved its potential.

On Jan. 15-16, most of the Fair board members participated in the convention where they were able to network, learn and share ideas with other county fairs.

Fair secretary and manager Jim Gleason called the weekend an educational experience.

The convention was held at the Double Tree by Hilton in Bloomington and was combined with the Midwest's Showman Convention and the Minnesota State Agriculture Society/Minnesota State Fair annual meeting and convention.

Of the approximately 100 different county fairs represented at the convention, SCFF was one of the biggest county fairs there. Office Secretary Vickie Deml commented that while SCFF is not the biggest land-wise, it has one of the highest attendance rates compared to other county fairs.

The fair board was able to consider a gamut of different entertainers and booking agencies at the trade show.

On both Friday and Saturday evening, fair board members also attended a showcase at the "grand ballroom" that featured various bands, performers, and entertainers.

"I thought that the entertainers at the showcase were good this year, probably a step above what they have been in the past years," commented Gleason.

A few performers caught the fancy of the fair board because Gleason said that they are working out contracts with a few entertainment options. Prior to the convention, it was mentioned at the fair board meeting that there was still availability for Wednesday night at the Grandstand and Thursday night at Fair Square.

Approximately 12 different carnivals were present at the convention. SCFF is in contract with Gold Star Manufacturing and have been for a number of years. The carnival committee

FAIR BOARD
Continued on Page 7C



Staff photos by Laura Berndt

The "Hippy Thunder Plungers" wore bright and bold colors for Owatonna's second annual Polar Plunge. Above, from left to right, are Trisha Efta, Tracy Spangler, Jet Slavik and Lee Efta.

RIGHT:
Steele County Sheriff Lon Thiele and Olmsted County Sheriff Kevin Torgerson demonstrate their belly flop techniques during Owatonna's second annual Polar Plunge, which raised funds for Special Olympics Minnesota. These two sheriffs were the first two Plungers during the 2016 event, which took place at Lake Kohlmier.

BOTTOM RIGHT:
Brian Fisher, Jennifer Hage, Dakota Fisher, Makayla Fisher and Michelle Lee were part of team "Fishies." The group decided to participate in the Plunge because their loved one is a Special Olympics athlete.

BOTTOM LEFT:
Renee Saufferer and Ayden Paulson emerge from the water after taking the Plunge at Lake Kohlmier on Saturday.



Talkin' communication and priorities

Ahhh... the holidays are over, 4-H Afterschool is in full swing, time to relax. Now I can enjoy sitting at my computer pondering about the newspaper article I have to write... the phone rings and, of course, I answer it!

GREAT, now that interrupted my relaxing thoughts! Let's see, where was I at... hum ... Darn telephone. Isn't it something that a telephone can do such wondrous things!

Yes, a phone can be pretty wonderful. It can connect us to colleagues so we can do our jobs better. After an exhausting day, a telephone can relax us by connecting us to a friend we have not talked to in ages. A telephone can also irritate us by interrupting supper with an annoying caller.

What a great device. When it "Ringggs" we answer it and there is someone to talk with. It doesn't seem to matter what we are doing; when the phone "Ringggs" we answer it. We maybe up stairs, right in the middle of something, with our hands dirty and mouth full of food, but we still take off running when we hear that "Ringgg". Why is this? What is so important about that telephone "Ringgg"? Is this more important than our children?

When a child comes to talk to us, how many times do we respond with, "Just a minute; I'm right in the middle of this", and then 10 minutes later we respond? Remember folks, if that would have been the phone ringing we would have stopped what we were doing and went running to the phone. I think we need to train ourselves to listen to the young people just like we listen to that "Ringgg" and hopefully they both get the same response.

Steele Talkin' is a weekly column featuring officials representing various organizations throughout Steele County. Tracy Ignaszewski is the Steele County 4-H Program Coordinator.

NRHEG cheerleaders attend state competition

By JESSICA NAFE
Times Intern

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) cheerleaders returned from the state competition with two second-place trophies, a bevy of medals and enough memories to last a lifetime.

"This season is one that will not be forgotten," Varsity Coach Kari Buendorf stated.

The NRHEG Varsity competition cheerleaders left the high school on Friday afternoon and headed to Ellendale for a send-off from the elementary school.

Buendorf began the program by introducing the elementary cheer team, coached by Michaela Hansen. The young cheerleaders performed their routine with enthusiasm for their peers, giving the team a chance to practice once more before competing at the state level.

The 22-member varsity team performed the cheer section of their routine for the elementary. Since the team's cheer mats are kept at the high school, they could not perform their entire routine due to the dangerous stunts that are included in the drill.

'This season is one that will not be forgotten'
— Kari Buendorf,
NRHEG Varsity Cheer Coach

"I really liked performing for the elementary kids," Emma Klemmensen said. "It was a lot of fun for us and the kids in school."

Cheerleader Nicole Edon commented, "The atmosphere is just so positive. It gives the team a lot of confidence."

With support from the NRHEG students and staff, the varsity team headed to the Doubletree Hotel in St. Paul to begin their busy weekend.

On Friday night the team attended the third annual Awards Banquet at the River Centre, hosted by the Minnesota Cheer Coaches Association. Cheerleaders Nicole Edon, Abby Wacholz, Taylar Tieskotter and Jessica Nafe were honored for their membership on the All-State Sideline Team with medals.

The four NRHEG girls earned their positions on the team back



Submitted photo

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva varsity competition cheerleaders perform during the state competition this past weekend in St. Paul. The team earned a number of awards for their efforts.

in October by performing a cheer and dance routine for a panel of judges. Out of the over one hundred cheerleaders from all over the state of Minnesota that tied out, only 28 girls were chosen as All-State members.

"Being able to work together with cheerleaders from other teams is my favorite part," Edon said. "I also love the fun vibe you get from the team."

Bayli Possin, an NRHEG cheerleader, was recognized as

an All-State Competitive Team member at the banquet, an honor she earned competing against over thirty cheerleaders in October. Cheerleaders competing for a spot on the competitive team were required to create a cheer

and an original dance and tumble routine.

"It was nerve racking," Possin stated.

CHEER COMPETITION
Continued on Page 4C

HometownLiving

Community Calendar



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Frosty the Snowman recently appeared magically on the yard of Greg and Allyson Skillestad of Blooming Prairie. His appearance was made possible by the craftsmanship of two Skillestad brothers Levi, 4 and Elijah, 9. Their friend Brady Kittelson, far left, also helped with the project.

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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.
JAN. 12, FEB. 9, MARCH 8,
APRIL 12, MAY 3: SEASON FINALE
EUCHRE: JAN. 16, FEB. 20, MARCH 12
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CRUISE FOR CANCER RIDE: JUNE 25TH
STREET DANCE: JULY 2ND
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- Feb. 2:**
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime
- Feb. 3:**
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
- Feb. 6:**
5 p.m. BP Boys & Girls Club Benefit Bash, BP Servicemen's Club
- Feb 8.:**
7 p.m. Blooming Prairie City Council meeting, BP City Hall
- Feb. 9:**
BP Card Club & Luncheon
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime
2:30 p.m. BPPU Commission meeting
4:30 p.m. BP Fire Commission
- Feb. 10:**
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
4:30 p.m. Economic Development Authority meeting

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- Feb. 2:**
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
- Feb. 4:**
5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
- Feb. 7:**
Free Meal Sunday at Ellendale United Methodist Church, Ellendale
- Feb. 8:**
6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
- Feb. 9:**
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

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- Feb. 4:**
Owatonna PS, Grds K-6 Conferences
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time
- Feb. 5:**
Owatonna PS, Grades K-6 No School
Owatonna PS, OHS Snow Week Dance
Owatonna PS, OJHS Teen Night
1 p.m. Winter Weekend Out-Sledding & Movie, West Hills
6:30 p.m. Owatonna Eagles 54th Cancer Auction, Owatonna Eagles
- Feb. 6:**
Owatonna PS, McKinley PTO Carnival
Winter Weekend Out-Boot Hockey Tournament, Morehouse Park, West Hills
10 a.m. OPL Read Around the World
1 p.m. Winter Weekend Out-Fat Bike Demo, Kaplan's
4 p.m. Owatonna Eagles 54th Cancer Auction, Owatonna Eagles
5:30 p.m. Winter Weekend Out-Bonfire & Ice Skating, The Chalet
- Feb. 7:**
1 p.m. Winter Weekend Out-Family Ice Fishing, Lake Kohlmier
- Feb. 8:**
10 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, RCC, Owa
4:30 p.m. Owatonna Park & Rec Brd, Council Chambers, Brooktree Golf Course or City Park
6:30 p.m. Owatonna PS, Schl Brd Wrk Ssn
- Feb. 9:**
Steele Co Commission
9:30 a.m. OPL It's TALE TIME!
7 p.m. OPL Poetry Writers' Group

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MEDFORD

- Feb. 3:**
7 p.m. Medford Park Board
- Feb. 4:**
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
- Feb. 8:**
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
- Feb. 9:**
4 p.m. Medford Veterans Committee Mtg

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SPOT LIGHT

Beekeeper meeting scheduled for Feb. 6

Beekeepers and people interested in bees/pollinators are invited to a luncheon meeting at noon on, Saturday Feb. 6 at Jake's Pizza in Wells. Contact Clinton by e-mail at clinton@cmeyer.net or by phone at 507-294-3211 with questions or for more information.

OTHER COUNTIES

- Freeborn**
Feb. 2:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
10:30 a.m. Storytime, ALPL
5:30 p.m. AL Planning Commission, City Hall
6 p.m. Rock Gym, Albert Lea
- Feb. 3:**
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
7:30 a.m. AL Port Authority Mtg, AL EDA
- Feb. 4:**
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
10:30 a.m. Storytime, ALPL
10:30 a.m. Music and Movement, ALPL
5:30 p.m. AL Council Workshop, City Council Chambers
6 p.m. Night-time Storytime, ALPL
7:30 p.m. The Cat's Pajamas, Frank W. Bridges Theatre, Riverland Community College, Austin Campus
- Feb. 5:**
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
6 p.m. Rock Climbing Open Gym
- Feb. 6:**
ALPL closed
8 a.m. Albert Lea High School ACT Test, Riverland Community College, Austin
6 p.m. Rock Climbing Open Gym
- Feb. 7:**
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
2 p.m. Teen Book Club
- Feb. 8:**
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
3:45 p.m. Book Pals (Gr. 5 and 6)
5:15 p.m. AL Human Rights Commission, City Council Chambers
7 p.m. AL City Council, Council Chambers
- Feb. 9:**
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
8:30 a.m. Shell Rock Watershed Board Meeting
10:30 a.m. Storytime, ALPL
11 a.m. Read Any Good Books Lately? ALPL
3:45 p.m. Book Pals (3rd and 4th Grade)
6 p.m. Rock Gym, Albert Lea
- Feb. 10:**
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL

- Mower**
Feb. 2:
Paint the Town Pink, Various locations throughout Mower County
10 a.m. Austin ArtWorks Gallery: Feisty Japanese Lady
10 a.m. Hearth and Home: Gluten-free - Facts & Myths, Hormel Historic Home
12 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, National Guard Armory, Austin
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
- Feb. 3:**
Paint the Town Pink, Various locations throughout Mower County
Lyle 1st Responders Meeting
10 a.m. Austin ArtWorks Gallery: Feisty Japanese Lady
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
12 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, National Guard Armory, Austin
5:30 p.m. Uncork and Create, Austin ArtWorks Center
7:30 p.m. Children's Self-Defense/Safety Awareness Class, Austin Armory
- Feb. 4:**
Paint the Town Pink, Various locations throughout Mower County
Free Cross Country Ski and Snow Shoe Rental, Jay C Hormel Nature Center, Austin
10 a.m. Austin ArtWorks Gallery: Feisty Japanese Lady
12:15 p.m. LeRoy School, 11-12th Gr Program
2:30 p.m. Lifelong Learning, Mower County Senior Center
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym

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Blooming Prairie Living

Donkeyball held at BPHS



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Members of the Blooming Prairie Fire Department and Blooming Prairie Ambulance Service compete in a game of Dairyland Donkeyball at Blooming Prairie High School on Sunday afternoon. This event, which drew a large crowd, was sponsored by the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation.

BPHS sophomores will tour chamber member businesses

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Luke Swenson, president of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce, notified members at a regular meeting Wednesday night, Jan. 20 that plans are moving forward on chamber member tours by high school sophomores.

Chamber student ambassadors are arranging tours of hopefully five member businesses yet this winter. Swenson said nine businesses were sent letters inviting them to participate. He said because of time limitations, only five stops would be made to area businesses.

Student chamber ambassadors are: seniors Anthony Nel-

son, Lauren Larkoski and Anika Nowlan and juniors Camden Heimerman and Alison Pryor.

In other chamber business Sara Esplan was introduced as incoming secretary for the chamber.

Swenson announced a rescheduled date for a BP broom-ball tournament. It will be played on Saturday, Feb. 13. Turkey bowling will also be featured.

Other dates of interest included:

- Feb. 6 - Boys and Girls Club Benefit Bash
- March 10 - Ham bingo at Pizza Cellar, BP Cancer Group
- April 2 - Education Foundation auction

Next meeting of the chamber will be at noon Wednesday, Feb. 17 at Subway.



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Driver uninjured in rollover accident near Blooming Prairie

By **LAURA BERNDT**
News Editor

A rollover accident near Blooming Prairie halted traffic momentarily last Wednesday, but the driver was uninjured.

Responders received a report of one-vehicle accident just after 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 27. The incident took place near Mile Marker 31, just north of Blooming Prairie on U.S. Highway 218.

According to Troy Christianson, of the Minnesota State Patrol, a juvenile female who resides in Blooming Prairie was driving a 2009 black Ford Focus southbound on U.S. Highway 218. She lost control of the vehicle and went in ditch. The vehicle rolled and landed on the driver's side.

Since the driver reported no injuries at the time of the accident, she was not transported for medical treatment. Instead, the Minnesota State Patrol gave the motorist a ride to school.

Christianson stated that the roads were snow-covered when



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Members of the Blooming Prairie Fire Department respond to the scene of a one-vehicle accident, just north of Blooming Prairie, on Wednesday, Jan. 27. Although the vehicle rolled in the ditch, the driver was uninjured.

the incident took place, and Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad also said that other portions of the highway were slick at the time, as well.

The Minnesota State Patrol, Blooming Prairie Fire Department, Blooming Prairie Ambulance and Blooming Prairie Police assisted at the scene. Responders assisted the motorist and directed traffic, which was routed around the scene of the accident.

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

Heavy Metal continues to grow

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Tyler Mundy, owner of Heavy Metal of Blooming Prairie, says he is proud to be part of a manufacturing hotbed, which includes Blooming Prairie, Owatonna and part of Austin.

Mundy, a veteran of machine work, says his company can make any metal part. "Whatever metal parts our customers want, we can provide," he said. "We will make small metal parts for small machines and big parts for big machines," says Mundy.

"We are a job shop," Mundy is quick to point out.

Much of Heavy Metal's work goes to local businesses like Minimizer, Metal Services, Tandem Products, Bio-Plastic Solutions, Sputtering Components and Spray Control. Heavy Metal also does considerable work for McNeilius Trucking in Dodge Center. Heavy Metal does CNC (Computer Numeric Control) turning and milling.

After working 18 years for PAL's Machining of Owatonna for 18 years, Mundy decided to take a year off. Dennis Heimerman, owner of Metal Services of Blooming Prairie, tried to convince Mundy to join his company, but he declined at that time. He sold used cars in Dodge Center for a year.

A year to the day that Mundy quit PAL's, Heimerman contacted Mundy and convinced him to open a business in a building he owned. Mundy rented it and later purchased it to start his own company. Mundy's company name comes from his love of music. He played bass guitar and sang in a rock 'n roll band of four called The G Monkeys.

Mundy has five full-time



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Tyler Mundy is shown in front of the logo for his successful manufacturing business, Heavy Metal. The name came from the days when Mundy played in a heavy metal rock-n-roll band. Heavy Metal is located 335 Highway Ave. South in Blooming Prairie.

employees and two part-time workers on the payroll. He is more than pleased with the rapid growth of the company, owned by he and his wife, Heather. The couple has three children: Katelyn, high school junior; Breanna, high school freshman and Caleb, junior high.

"The growth is amazing and we haven't had a chance to take a breath," Mundy says.

One of the most popular items crafted at Heavy Metal is an Olympic weight bar used on exercise machines. "We sold over 8,000 nationwide last year," Mundy says.

Some of his clients include baseball and football teams. Mundy said he recently received a purchase order from the Toronto Blue Jays Major League Baseball team. His company also makes the weight lifting bars for the Chicago White Sox and the Milwaukee Brewers. An order also recently went out to the University of Tennessee football team and to Pepperdine University in California.

Team logos are printed on the weight lifting bars. "We don't sell anything out of here with our name on it," Mundy said.

The latest in state-of-the-art machining equipment is used at Heavy Metal to make its products. One recent piece of equipment installed at Heavy Metal cost \$85,000. Proudly showing another Heavy Metal creation, Mundy said the beverage tap handle is made for Great River Brewery of Davenport, Iowa.

"Blooming Prairie is awesome in how it caters to manufacturers," Mundy said. "We are in a perfect spot for manufacturing," he adds.

The city and Farmers Merchants State Bank of Blooming Prairie have been very supportive of Heavy Metal's efforts to grow business. His business currently operates out of a 6,000 square foot u-shaped building. He hopes to move into new office space in March, currently rented by Bishio Excavating.

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RECIPE CORNER

BLT Bites



- 16 - 20 cherry tomatoes
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- 1/3 c. chopped green onions
- 3 T. grated parmesan cheese
- 2 T. parsley (opt.)

By Sally (Blume) Poepping

Cut a thin slice off each tomato top. Scoop pulp out and discard. Invert tomatoes on paper towel to drain.

In a small bowl, combine remaining ingredients and mix well. Spoon mixture into tomatoes. Refrigerate several hours.

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Ellendale Living

Ellendale City Council baffled by smell in city building

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Where is that smell coming from?

That was the question pondered by the Ellendale City Council at a regular meeting on Thursday, Jan. 28 in the council chambers of a city building.

Council member Stephanie Lageson Kibler brought the issue to the table during a time of open discussion by the council. She said she noticed the smell when she opened up her packet for the meeting. She also had a been made aware of the smell on a previous visit to the city

clerk’s office, located just south of Ellendale Community Center building.

“If this could be a health risk for employees, we have to know about it,” Lageson Kibler said. “I can almost taste it,” she said.

Firemen have also reportedly noticed the errant smell.

“You would have to end up gutting the building” to find the source of the smell, said Mayor Mark Skroch. He said the building was a former clinic.

Lageson Kibler suggested that the Minnesota Department of Health be contacted for the purpose of finding a list of ways the city could trace the source of the smell. She volunteered to make

that contact. “We need a professional to see what’s causing this,” Lageson Kibler said.

City worker Josh Otto speculated that the problem could be caused by the building’s ventilation system. Council member Scott Groth pointed to a stain in the floor carpeting as possibly being caused by the problem.

In other business, the council discussed a resolution to flooding that is caused in Crown Ridge housing development west of the city. Excessive rains have caused flooding to two housing properties and also to farmland located to the north of the development.

Mayor Skroch questioned

who was culpable for the problem. He mentioned the developer and the engineer as two parties. He said the city should also help resolve the matter and assist in getting the excess water quickly removed from the area bar a retention pond.

“We can’t let it slide,” Mayor Skroch said.

More items discussed at the council meeting included:

- Steve Hackett met with the council to clarify sewer and water rates.
- Clerk Lee Ann Hojberg said the Ellendale Municipal Liquor Store was experiencing problems with its point of sale scanning on computer. The problem

appeared to be a program error, said Hojberg.

- Council voted to approve hiring of a part-time cook at the Municipal Liquor Store.
- Council discussed cleaning flooring in the Municipal Liquor Store and in the community center building. One bid came in at nearly \$4,000. The council said the cost seemed excessive and it would study other options.
- Clerk Hojberg informed the council that the Steele County Board approved a county ordinance stating that no electronic cigarettes would be allowed in public buildings throughout the county.
- Claims totaling \$69,928.62

were unanimously approved by the council.

- The council discussed an issue where many residents are leaving their trash and recycling receptacles on the street days after pickup. Council agreed that the receptacles should be taken from the street by 10 p.m. the day of pickup.
- Mayor Skroch suggested the council in the future take a look at possibly increasing the amount dedicated to retirement funds for Ellendale firefighters.
- Clerk Hojberg said she will be looking for election judges for the primary election in August and the general election in November.

CHEER COMPETITION

Continued from Page 1C

Medals and certificates were given to Honor Team of Excellence members, who included NRHEG cheerleaders Abby Christopherson, Nicole Edon, Torrie Stencel, and Lizzy Hagen nominated by Buendorf and Hansen. Any Minnesota Cheer Coach was allowed to select two cheerleaders for the Honor Team, putting them in the running for one of the ten scholarships.

Christopherson was chosen to receive a \$1,000 scholarship at the banquet. “I was honored to be nominated along with three of my amazing teammates,” Christopherson said. “To be chosen as one of the ten is truly an honor, and it’s a step of reassurance that I’m on the right path; focusing on academics and pursuing sport, community and church involvement.”

The NRHEG team received the RAH! Award, an academic award, for the Southwest region. The cheerleaders had an accumulative GPA of 3.84, which was also the highest GPA of all region-winners.

“I’m happy that each of the team members work extremely hard in the classroom and take their classes seriously,” Buendorf said. “It takes a lot to keep grades up with each of their busy schedules.”

The real action began early

the next morning, Jan. 30, at Roy Wilkin’s Arena. Teams of all ages from all over the state of Minnesota gathered to compete for the title of State Champions. The day consisted of two sessions, elementary, middle school, JV, and stunt groups in session one and varsity teams in session two.

The NRHEG elementary team competed in the first session around 10:30, performing their routine for judges from all over the country. Stunts, jumps, tumbling, and dance are all included in the girls’ performance and points are awarded by difficulty and execution those skills.

With no stunts falling and big smiles all around during their routine, the elementary girls represented their community well.

Hansen was extremely proud of her girls’ performance, crediting the hard work each of the cheerleaders put into their routine. The elementary team finished in second place out of nine other elementary teams, a well deserved placing. “They did a fantastic job,” Buendorf commented.

The NRHEG stunt group performed, competing against 11 other varsity teams. Edon, Hagen, Stencel and Nafe make up the stunt group team. Cheerleading Stunt groups consist of four to five cheerleaders executing

a one-minute routine of only stunts.

“I got to perform with some of my best friends,” Edon said. “We made sure that we were always having fun and we definitely made some cherishable memories.” The NRHEG stunt group was awarded fifth place medals for their routine, which they will be showcasing at the Snow Week talent show on Feb. 5.

Both All-State teams performed a short dance, stunt, and cheer routine that were taught at a one-day practice earlier in January. “Performing with all the different people was such an amazing experience,” Possin stated. “I loved it!”

Session two began with varsity teams competing within their divisions in a preliminary round. Teams that advanced from that round would perform once more to compete for their placings. East Central, Plainview-Elgin-Millville, and NRHEG made up the class 2A non-tumbling division. While some cheerleaders and coaches may have been a bundle of nerves, Buendorf and the NRHEG team were just ready to compete.

“I was confident that they would leave the mat feeling they had given their 110 percent to the team,” Buendorf stated.

As soon as the team hit the mat in front of thousands of people, adrenaline began to take over. “The feeling you get when you go out on the mat to perform is indescribable,” Edon stated. After executing an excellent routine, the NRHEG panthers advanced to the final round along with PEM.

Taking the mat for the last time at state, the NRHEG cheerleaders performed with all they had. “They knew the little things that needed a bit more from the first performance, like energy and sharpness, so the second time was fun to watch,” Buendorf said.

“We had come such a long way, and I was glad that we went out there, had fun, and performed our hearts out!” Edon



The cheer squad poses for a photo with one of their trophies from the state competition.

stated. Christopherson agreed with Edon. “We did everything we’ve worked for. We proved it to ourselves, our coach and our families,” she said.

As all teams gathered on the mats under the bright lights, the scores were tallied. NRHEG finished second in 2A non-tumbling. “I am so proud of this team,” Buendorf said. “They have worked beyond what I expected and were willing to push themselves in areas that were not in their comfort zone. The goals were set, and they were definitely reached at state.”

The NRHEG Varsity has one more competition, WOW Factor Sports Cheer and Dance Nationals on Feb. 6, before the end of their season. However, the weekend of state competition will remain special to the NRHEG cheerleaders for years to come. “It will go down as one of the best weekends in my high school career,” Christopherson commented.

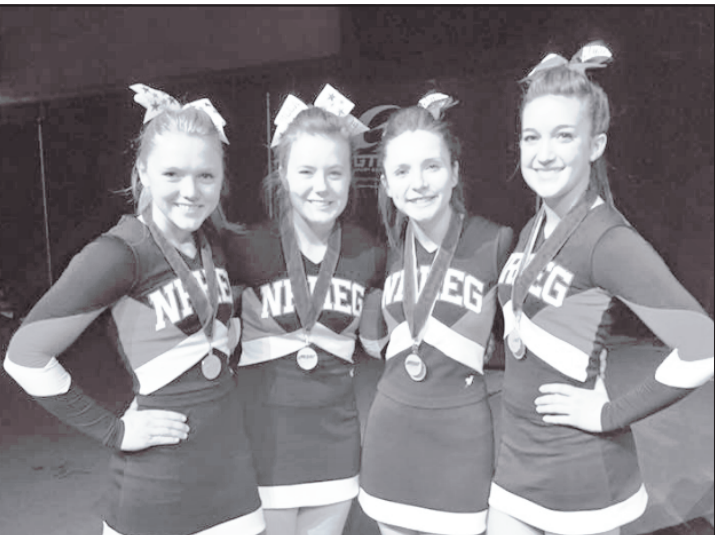
Nine seniors are on the Varsity team this year, making state a very emotional time. “As a senior, it’s the year of lasts, and this will be my hardest last,” Christopherson said.

Edon will look back on state weekend with a smile, as well. “I am so proud of the team! It has truly been an amazing year,” she commented.

Buendorf is thankful for the leaders she has had in each of her senior cheerleaders, giving them credit for creating such a great team and encouraging each other. “No medals, trophies, or first place finishes define a

team,” Buendorf stated. “It is the ability to set goals and work hard to achieve them, and then set higher ones.”

Buendorf also credits the NRHEG community for their support of the cheer program. “The school district has been a great supporter of these girls on the sideline and competition floor. What more could a coach want or need?”



Above are the stunt group members. From left to right are Nicole Edon, Jessica Nafe, Lizzy Hagen and Torrie Stencel.

NRHEG school menus

- NRHEG Breakfast Menu**

Feb. 2: Bagels w/Cream Cheese

Feb. 3: Cheese omelet

Feb. 4: PB and jelly sandwich

Feb. 5: Long Johns

Feb. 8: Nutri Grain Bar

Feb. 9: Pancakes
- Feb. 10:** Banana bread

NRHEG Lunch Menu

Feb. 2: Cheeseburger hot dish, peas, celery sticks, bread-stick, pineapple

Feb. 3: Hot ham and cheese on a bun, baked beans, chips,

- fresh veggies, pears
- Feb. 4:** Nachos supreme with toppings, golden corn, seasoned rice, baby carrots, applesauce
- Feb. 5:** Sub sandwich with toppings, tater tots, green beans, mandarin oranges
- Feb. 8:** Sloppy joe on a bun,
- baked beans, chips, grape tomatoes, fresh fruit, pears
- Feb. 9:** Corn dog, baked potato with toppings, celery sticks, mandarin oranges
- Feb. 10:** Toasted cheese sandwich, tomato soup, fresh veggies, peaches, string cheese



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Student of the Week

Jozlyn “Jozi” Johnson is in Ms. Wimer’s third grade class. She is the daughter of Stephanie Johnson and Luke Anderson and they reside in Ellendale. She also has a brother and sister, Kyli and Jackson.

Jozi loves cheer, working on the farm and snowmobiling. Jozi shows Panther Pride in a variety of ways. She has the type of inviting personality that brightens people’s day just by being around her. She’s a great helper, very encouraging to her peers and she never fails to include others. New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) staff said they are very lucky to have Jozi at NRHEG.



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Medford Living

Medford students participate in one-act competition

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Since mid-December, Medford High School students have been preparing to compete against about five other schools in a one-act competition on Saturday, Jan. 30.

Seventeen students make up the cast for the one-act play “Booby Trap.”

Senior Matthew Swanson plays the lead role, a soldier that leans against a tree and sets off a booby trap. He recognizes the click sound of the booby trap immediately, remains still, radios for help, but it is decided that nothing can be done for him.

“It flashes back and forward in his life,” said Swanson. “It is a drama. One girl in the audience said that she cried.”

As Swanson prepared for the competition, he even got a military cut to fill his role.

The play is about 28 minutes long. For competition, it has to be within the five minute grace period of thirty minutes. While it is a competition, Swanson and the other students clearly have had a blast putting together the play.

“In all honesty, I don’t even think of it as a competition,” said Swanson. “We just show up and perform this thing that we have worked really hard on. Some of the other students are really encouraging, some are just weird.”

The school first participated in the one-act competition last year with a comedy. They placed fourth out of seven teams. This past weekend, Medford took second place at the competition on Saturday, and they will be competing at sections next Saturday in Jordan.

Director Rebecca Mohr said that this year was the perfect year to expose the students to



Medford High School students participated in a One-Act Competition in Wells on Sat. Jan. 30 with their performance of “Booby Trap.” After placing second at that competition, the students look forward to competing at Sections this Saturday in Jordan.

a more serious drama. Head of Owatonna High School’s theater department Erik Eitheim made the recommendation of “Booby Trap,” and Mohr said that “it just fit.”

The content of the play was meaningful, but not too “after-school special” or “too like a soap opera.”

Another aspect that Mohr and Assistant Director Betsy Cole liked about the play is that it had a larger cast and could involve the theater veterans and give opportunity to some less experienced students.

“Many of the kids have never performed in a drama,” said Mohr. “It has been challenging for many of the kids, but they have been working hard. It gets tough between basketball practice, dance, and a lot

of them have jobs, but they are a great group of kids.”

As the students were running through their dress rehearsal, it could not have been clearer that the directors are pleased with the cast. Like a proud parent throughout dress rehearsal, Cole could not help but whisper comments like “he is perfect for this role” or “this is her first

play, can you believe that?”

The respect for the directors is mutual.

“I really enjoy working with this play, and I appreciate that our directors gave us this change of pace, because we never do something this serious that taps into emotions,” said Swanson.



Matthew Swanson (left) acted as the soldier that set off a booby trap when he leaned against a tree stump, and Rogelio Gonzalez acted as a drill instructor in the one-act play “Booby Trap,” which was performed this weekend in the One-Act Competition in Wells. Medford won second place in competition and will continue to sections on Feb. 6 in Jordan.



Bailey DuChene acted as character Stephanie and Austin VonRuden as character Mark in the one-act play “Booby Trap” soon to be performed again at sections on Feb. 6 in Jordan.

Medford school menus

Medford School Breakfast Menu

Feb. 2: Cinnamon roll OR choice of WG cereal, graham crackers, vegetable selection, apple juice, milk

Feb. 3: Blueberry bread loaf, Tri-tator OR choice of WG cereal, graham crackers, vegetable selection, orange juice, milk

Feb. 4: Egg and cheese biscuit OR choice of WG cereal, graham crackers, vegetable selection, orange juice, milk

Feb. 5: Breakfast stacker OR choice of WG cereal, graham crackers, vegetable selection, canned fruit, milk

Feb. 8: Banana chocolate chip bread OR choice of WG cereal, graham crackers, vegetable selection, apple juice, milk

Feb. 9: Mini pancakes OR choice of WG cereal, graham crackers, vegetable selection, apple juice, milk

Feb. 10: Breakfast burrito OR choice of WG cereal, gra-

ham crackers, vegetable selection, fresh fruit, milk

Medford School Lunch Menu

Feb. 2: Spaghetti and meat sauce, garlic bread, garden vegetable salad, deli sub, baby carrots, cauliflower, seasonal fruit

Feb. 3: Cheeseburger on WG bun, French fries, chicken Caesar salad, tuna on wheat bread, broccoli, celery sticks, seasonal fruit

Feb. 4: Sweet and sour chicken bites over rice, 7-layer salad, deli sandwich, cauliflower, tomatoes, seasonal fruit

Feb. 5: Cheese bread with Marinara, broccoli, crispy chicken salad, turkey ranch wrap, baby carrots, garbanzo beans, seasonal fruit

Feb. 8: Meatballs and gravy, mashed potatoes, WG bread slice, chicken Caesar salad, WG chips, salsa and cheese, Broccoli Florets, radishes, seasonal fruit

Feb. 9: Chicken Alfredo over bow tie pasta, WG bread stick, peas, turkey BPT salad, deli sub, baby carrots, cauliflower, seasonal fruit

Feb. 10: Pizza parlor pizza,

roasted cauliflower, chef salad, crispy chicken wrap, baby spinach, pepper medley, seasonal fruit

Weekly crossword on Page 3D

PUZZLE SOLUTION	M	I	S	O		S	E	C		S	P	A	S
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Informational Young Life meeting held in Medford

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Supporters of the “Young Life” organization, and others interested in learning more about the ministry, gathered in Medford last Monday evening to talk more about the possibility of brining Young Life to Medford.

“Young Life” is a ministry that already exists – and thrives – in Owatonna. The organization’s mission is to introduce youth to Jesus Christ and help them grow in their faith. There is a “Wyld Life” program for youth in grades seven and eight and the Young Life program is for youth in grades nine through 12. Over 50 people attended the recent informational meeting, held at Medford High School.

The Young Life organization began in 1941 and is now in 99 countries. According to Young Life’s website, in 2016, the organization is expected to impact 1.8 million youth in the United States. The program sends staff and volunteers into the community, where they aim to interact with the youth and build honest relationships. The Young Life organization is not designed to replace traditional church services; instead, the program is supposed to supplement what youth may learn while attending church.

Dawn Steffen, just one of the people who is working to bring Young Life to Medford, describes the program as “high energy” and “a lot of fun.”

“The excitement and energy

have been growing,” Steffen said, of the possibility of starting a Young Life group in the Medford community. “Tonight, we want to gage interest.”

Young Life volunteer leader Lindsay Thompson said that she believes in the Young Life program because it reminds her of Colossians 1:15: “Christ is the visible representation of the invisible God.” She said that Young Life offers another venue for youth to express and grow in their faith.

“I truly love it,” Thompson said, of her work through Young Life. “I love the opportunity God gives me to show who He is.”

During Monday’s meeting, Young Life representatives spoke about the ways that local people can become involved in bringing the program to Medford. Adults can become involved as group leaders, serve on the Young Life Committee, or offer prayers or financial support for the organization.

For more information, visit the Young Life Facebook Page by searching for “Medford Young Life” or contact the Owatonna Young Life office at 507-451-9401.

There is also an opportunity for youth to attend camps this summer. For more information, contact Dawn via e-mail at dm-steffen@yahoo.com.

“We’re excited about the opportunity for Young Life to help Medford kids,” said Owatonna Area Young Life Director Chuck Jamison.

GRIEF RELIEF



Sometimes children don’t seem to care. It’s not uncommon for some children, especially those under age 5 to show

little feeling when told of the death of a relative. And while it may seem a child should feel sad, the child may have little understanding of the meaning of death. The child may not have been particularly close to the deceased or realized that death is permanent. Allow and accept the child’s honest expression and don’t make the child feel guilty or pressured.

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Education

Blooming Prairie school menus

BPES Breakfast Menu:
Feb. 2: Cinnamon roll, vegetable selection, apple juice, milk
Feb. 3: WG bagel with cream cheese, vegetable selection, fresh fruit, milk
Feb. 4: Breakfast pizza, vegetable selection, orange juice, milk
Feb. 5: Breakfast round, vegetable selection, fresh fruit, milk
Feb. 8: Yogurt, graham crackers, vegetable selection, canned fruit, milk
Feb. 9: Cinnamon roll, vegetable selection, apple juice, milk
Feb. 10: Breakfast pizza, vegetable selection, fresh fruit, milk

BPES Lunch Menu:
Feb. 2: Chicken nuggets, tator tots, WG dinner roll; pulled pork flatbread, tator tots; baby carrots, cauliflower, seasonal fruit
Feb. 3: Beefy nachos and homemade cheese sauce, refried beans; fish with cheese on WG bun, refried beans; broccoli, celery sticks, seasonal fruit
Feb. 4: Hamburger on WG bun, French fries; tuna salad on wheat, French fries; cauliflower, tomatoes, seasonal fruit
Feb. 5: Pizza dippers with marinara sauce, broccoli; sweet and sour chicken bites over rice, broccoli; baby carrots, garbanzo beans, seasonal fruit
Feb. 8: BBQ riblet on WG bun, spiced pinto beans; deli sub, spiced pinto beans; bro-

coli florets, radishes, seasonal fruit
Feb. 9: Chicken tenders, mashed potatoes with gravy, WG bread slice; meatballs and gravy, mashed potatoes, WG bread slice; baby carrots, cauliflower, seasonal fruit
Feb. 10: Grilled cheese sandwich, tomato soup; Italian meatball sub, tomato soup; baby spinach, pepper medley, seasonal fruit

BPHS Lunch Menu:
Feb. 2: Turkey BLT, flatbread, tator tots, cauliflower, baby carrots, beets, seasonal fruit
Feb. 3: Spaghetti and meat, sauce, garlic bread, broccoli, garbanzo beans, celery sticks, seasonal fruit

Feb. 4: Burger quesadilla, refried beans, romaine lettuce, green onions, tomatoes, seasonal fruit
Feb. 5: Sweet and sour chicken over rice, green peas, baby carrots, garbanzo beans, seasonal fruit
Feb. 8: Grilled cheese with tomato soup, baby spinach, black beans, radishes, seasonal fruit
Feb. 9: Chicken cacciatore, noodles, WG breadsticks, green peas, baby carrots, cauliflower, seasonal fruit
Feb. 10: Cheese bread, marinara sauce, roasted cauliflower, baby spinach, black beans, pepper medley, seasonal fruit

Expand your reading options at the library

BOOK NOOK



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

If you are getting stuck in a rut with your choice of books, or your favorite author doesn't write books quickly enough, the Blooming Prairie Branch Library has some suggestions for you.

First, consider joining a book club. Typically, the members of a book club take turns choosing books, so there can be a variety of authors, topics and styles.

There are several book clubs in the area, but if you don't know of one, come and join the library's book club. The group meets the fourth Tues-

day of each month at 6 p.m. at the library. The ladies are very welcoming and would even be happy to have a man join the group. It would give a new perspective to what we are reading! The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 23 and the book that will be discussed is "Ordinary Grace" by Minnesota author William Kent Krueger. Copies of the book are available at the library.

Secondly, the library has lists of the most requested books in the area. We also have a list of books and authors recommended by Blooming Prairie readers. We can also direct you to books recommended by your own favorite author. Non-fiction books can also be interesting and open up fresh ideas to you.

This year expand your reading options by trying a new type of book! See you at the library.

American Legion Auxiliary announces Americanism Essay Contest

Each year the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades three through 12, including those with special needs. The grade levels are divided into six classes and one award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50, and a \$50 honorarium in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund. National winners will be posted at www.ALAforVeterans.org at the start of September.

This year's essay title is "How do we keep Lincoln's promise to our veterans and their families?" Students in grades three and four should write 150-250 words; grades five and six should write 250-300 words; grades seven and eight should write 350-400 words; grades nine through 12 should write 450-500 words.

Participating students should send in the Class they are competing in, the name of their sponsoring ALA Unit, a typed or neatly written essay con-

forming to the word requirements for their Class, a completed essay coversheet as the first page of their essay and the word count of their essay. Essays are due to the ALA unit by March 17, 2016.

To obtain a cover sheet, or for more information, contact Julie at 507-583-7098.



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Michelle Honsey and Evan Stewart were the king and queen.

7th: Mason Nagel and Brooke Purrier. 8th: Emma Kniefel and Jordon Edel.
9th: Brandon Sisler and Bailey Purrier
10th: Alex Gengler and Isabel Brady. 11th: Hailey Benton and Marcus DeLeon. 12th: Michelle Honsey and Evan Stewart



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Owatonna Living

Chili Cook-Off holds 12th annual event at new location

By **LAURA BERNDT**
News Editor

Now in its 12th year, the Andrew Lawrence Memorial Chili Cook-Off has continued to grow each year. Last Saturday, the event took place at a new location and, following tradition, drew a large crowd.

The Cook-Off raises funds for the Andrew Lawrence Memorial Scholarship Fund. Andrew's parents, Bill and Marie, and sister Jennifer are involved with the event's organization. Jennifer Lawrence said the cook-off is important to her family and, it's also a fun experience for the community.

In addition, the cook-off also benefits a very worthy cause. Lawrence said that the main goal for the event is to raise \$5,000, which will then be divided into five \$1,000 scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to area students in memory of Andrew, who passed away in 2003 after being struck by a car while riding his bicycle.

As the event has grown in size, Lawrence also said its location has also changed. The first year, the cook-off took place at the KC Hall. The family tried offering different seating times but people still came early and stayed later to socialize and visit with one another. The event then relocated to National Guard Armory, where it



Jon Hanson serves a sample of his Wisconsin White Cheese and Brat Chili during the Andrew Lawrence Memorial Chili Cook-Off.

stayed for ten years.

This year, for the first time, the cook-off was held at Ritchie Brothers Auctioneers auction house. While not everyone is quick to embrace change, Lawrence adds that there are pros and cons to every venue. "It gives you a chance to mingle without all the commotion, and also to get in deep with all the chilies taste-testing," said Lawrence.

Another difference from past cook-offs this year was the weather. "Normally, we've had

freezing temperatures, blizzard conditions and people still come out," recalls Lawrence.

This year, a quilt featuring tee shirts from past cook-offs was also displayed at the event. Jodi Siehoff, of Wisconsin, made the quilt.

Guests are encouraged to browse the different kinds of chili and vote for their favorites. At the end of the event, the winning chili recipes are announced. Each winner then receives a trophy. AAny leftover chili is available to purchase,

and whatever chili remains is donated to local places like the Lily Sparrow House and Hospitality House.

View the full cook-off results in next week's edition of The Steele County Times.

Litomysl Women's Council has tickets available for Valentine Dinner

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Tickets must be purchased by Sunday, Feb. 7 for the second annual Valentine Dinner to be sponsored by the Litomysl Women's Council on Saturday, Feb. 13. The dinner will be at the Litomysl Church.

Last year, 100 guests were served. "We asked for a critique of the dinner last year, and those who attended said to do it the same," said organizer Carol Prokopec. "That was encouraging and we are planning to increase the number of tickets from 100 to 200," she added.

Social hour is at 5:50 p.m. and dinner is at 6:30 p.m. A Windsor chop dinner will be served.

All adult singles and couples are welcome. Door prizes, entertainment and fun are guaranteed, organizers said.

Tickets cost \$20 each and will be available at Holman Insurance Agency of Blooming Prairie and at Sacred Heart Church in Owatonna during office hours. Tickets may also be obtained by contacting Laurie Spindler at 451-2001, or Carol Prokopec at 583-7848. Tickets will not be available at the door. The dinner is a benefit for

church kitchen renovation.

Last summer, before the church festival in July, the church had to replace a convection oven before workers could make its 600 dozen, plus, Butchy (filled biscuits) to sell.

Any proceeds were placed in the kitchen renovation fund. This will be used toward the cost of new cupboards, counter tops, and serving areas. Litomysl Church was built in 1940 and the kitchen was done shortly after that. "Therefore, this area needs to be changed for safety purposes as well as convenience for the kitchen workers," Prokopec said.

The church has also had bake sales, mainly with Butchy as the major baked items being sold. "We are hoping to start the painting and renovation project as soon as we get closer to our goal," Prokopec said. "We have had numerous donations from church members and other interested friends and we are very appreciative of these gifts," Prokopec added.

Prokopec concludes: "If we have a Valentine's Dinner next year, hopefully, we will have a new kitchen to serve our guests from. Thanks to all who have helped make this possible."

Winter Weekend Out scheduled for Feb. 5-7

There are many fun activities planned throughout the weekend of Feb. 5-7 during the Owatonna Parks and Recreation's Winter Weekend Out.

Friday, Feb. 5 (There is no school for K-6 grades this day).

Sledding and Movie at West Hills - Grab your sleds and join us for a fun-filled afternoon!

FAIR BOARD

Continued from Page 1C

was able to discuss the upcoming year with Gold Star, set prices, and go over procedures.

"We both get to discuss what we like and didn't like about last year," said Gleason about the discussion with Gold Star. "We also like to ask them about new rides."

Beyond the entertainment is the educational seminars that are offered. Gleason said that the fair board members split up so that they were able to attend many of the seminars.

Some of the presentation topics included "Animal Board of Health," "Grant Projects Review for 2016," "To be or not to be: 501c3 status," "Social Media," and "How to set up a fair history museum."

A favorite presentation was from Greg Peterson of the famous YouTube channel "Peterson Farm Bros." Peterson spoke about how he and his two brothers parody popular songs with lyrics about agriculture advocacy.

The brothers' video "I'm faming and I know it," reached 9,592,080 views.

The fair board actually led a round table discussion about setting up a survey through "Survey Monkey." They shared how they set up the survey on the website, question design, and survey sponsorship.

"I think attending the convention is very valuable," he said. "We get to share a lot of ideas, and we are open to new ideas too."

Sledding on the hill will begin at 1 p.m. Then, warm up in Senior Place around 2 p.m. with games. Around 3 p.m. participants can watch a family-friendly movie. Enjoy free hot chocolate during the movie; other concessions will be available for purchase. Kids age 7 and under must be accompanied by an adult. This activity is free!

Saturday, Feb. 6:

Youth & Adult Boot Hockey Tournament - Cancelled due to low participation.

Free Fat Bike Demonstrations, 1- 5 p.m.: Straight River Sports is giving you the opportunity to try out the new rage in biking! Head to the Kaplan's parking lot and look for the tent

at the beginning of the trail.

Bonfire & Ice Skating, 5:30 p.m. - The Chalet will be offering 1/2 price skate rentals, \$10 cross country ski rentals and food and drink specials throughout the whole day! Enjoy free s'mores at the bonfire!

Sunday, Feb. 7:

Family Ice Fishing at Lake Kohlmier, 1-3 p.m. - Some equipment and bait will be provided and holes will be drilled. Come and learn a few new techniques at the educational stations, visit all stations and earn a prize! Prizes will also be awarded to kids (age 15 and under) who catch the biggest fish! This activity is free!

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Owatonna Living

Co-Occurring Disorders Symposium brings over 100 practitioners to Owatonna

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

The fourth annual Co-Occurring Disorders Symposium gathered mental health practitioners from all over Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin.

The symposium took place at the Holiday Inn Conference Center on Jan. 27-29.

Treatment Director of Dual Recovery Program and organizer of the symposium Dr. David Wright said that he wanted to provide educational opportunities “by practitioners and for practitioners.”

In the symposium’s inception, Wright and his colleague, Steve Lansing were talking years about the need for a platform for practitioners to discuss, research and share observations about co-occurring disorders.

“We just thought why someone doesn’t talk about treating the whole person rather than just one disorder?” said Wright. “The importance is that things learned here can be taken out of the building and into practice.”

The conference began Wednesday evening with a pre-conference panel discussion entitled “Lessons Learned: Treating Co-Occurring Disorders II” by multiple practitioner panels.

Thursday and Friday morning were full of symposium speak-

ers on a variety of topics in Co-Occurring Disorders.

On Thursday morning, Dr. James Garber gave his presentation, “Co-Occurring Disorders: Implications When Treating Opiate Dependence with Suboxone/ Subutex vs Methadone.”

In his presentation, Garber spoke about the “tragedy of opiate addiction.”

“There are approximately 40,000 highway deaths per year, which is a major problem, but it does not exceed opiate deaths and not to mention all of the other effects,” said Garber. “We are truly in the middle of an opiate epidemic.”

Opiates come from opium plants. Codeine, methadone, hydrocodone, morphine, oxycodone and hydromorphone are common opiates.

According to Garber, opiates are commonly used to treat chronic illness, but within three weeks, patients are “hooked.”

He shared that “one in 25 adults are now prescribed opiates for treatment of chronic pain.”

“Once you start, you are hooked. It only takes a few weeks, and it takes a lot longer to get off” said Garber.

He said that the problem is that “doctors are subscribing it way more than they should, and they are prescribing it because it is easy.”

In fact, he shared that the “number of opiate prescriptions per one hundred persons has increased by 35.2 percent.”

As the number of opiate prescriptions go up, Garber also shared that the average number of pills prescribed has increased, as “the average number of pills has increased by 70 percent from 120 to 240 tabs/RX.”

He also said that “over 97 percent of all opiates are prescribed in the U.S.”

He told tragic statistics about deaths from opiate addiction and abuse, as heroin is derived from morphine.

He said that lethal drug overdoses and misuse is one of the leading causes of death in United States, and opiate addiction may account for as many as 54,000 deaths per year. He reported 10,000 of the deaths to be linked to heroin. However, he said that it is very difficult to count overdose deaths because it might be intentionally unrecorded.

With opiate addiction, individuals experience reliance on the drug, obsession over the drug and the next “fix,” job struggles, and relationship difficulties.

Garber has treated patients with opiate addiction, and he said that their reaction is sheer joy.

Getting off of opiates is what Garber called “difficult” because “after being on opiates for a time, if you stop, the brain does not have normal chemicals to function.”

He compared quitting opiates to quitting cigarettes in that patients will experience severe withdrawal upon quitting: “It takes a while for your brain to rebuild.”

In place of opiates, he suggests suboxone, a partially syn-

thetic opioid in treating opiate addiction. It is mildly addictive, which seems counteractive. While opiates might take months to ween off, suboxone might take weeks.

Garber said that the major advantages are that there is no increasing tolerance to suboxone, it causes only rare deaths, and it is an “easier drug to handle.”

The recommendation of suboxone began a conversation amongst the practitioners about their observations and successes.



Kristin Wilson connected professionally with Michael Brunner of Fountain Centers at the Co-Occurring Disorders Symposium on Jan. 28.



Staff photos by Anna Segner

During the breaks in between speakers, mental health practitioners at the Co-Occurring Disorders Symposium on Jan. 28 were able to stop network with mental health and recovery facilities that set up booths at the symposium.

Happy Valentine's Day

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

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Snow Week Volleyball Extravaganza
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Tuesday, February 2nd
Dress Up: International Day- dress in your nations colors. Music & Activities at Lunch
All Students vote for Snow King and Queen in TMM

Wednesday, February 3rd
Dress Up: Country Day – dress in your western garb!
Music & Activities at Lunch

Thursday, February 4th
Dress Up: Rock Day – rock out your look!
Music & Activities at Lunch

Friday, February 5th
Dress Up: Neon/Techno Day – OHS is BRIGHT!
Music & Activities at Lunch
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Members of the Owatonna High School Gymnastics team take turns practicing n the beam.



Allie Keller practices on the beam.



Ali An practices on the bars during gynastics practice in Owatonna.

Owatonna High School Gymnastics team has vaulted to the top

Story and photos by Laura Berndt

As of Jan. 25, the Owatonna High School (OHS) gymnastics team was ranked second in state, just behind a strong Roseville Area team. The OHS team hopes to find continued success at some important, upcoming competitions.

On Saturday, Feb. 6 at 1 p.m., OHS will host the Big Nine Conference championship and, on Friday, Feb. 12, the Huskies will host the Section meet. Although the competition will be tough, OHS head coach Tom Smith said he knows this team has the potential to do extremely well.

“It’s probably one of the best teams I’ve ever coached,” said Smith, who has coached OHS gymnastics for about nine years.

According to Smith, this team has commanded the attention of other competitors and even judges. “According to some of the judges we’ve had, we are probably one of the most powerful vault teams in the state,” said Smith. “They say they haven’t seen anybody as strong as we are in a long time.”

The team’s success is especially impressive, since the team includes many younger gymnasts. “We’re a very young team and a little inexperienced, but they’re holding their own,” said Smith with pride.

Smith also appreciates the devoted parents and others who provide support for the team. “The parents here are so supportive,” he said. “Anything I need, I can go to them and they’re going to help out.”

Smith believes that the team’s strength stems from its unity. “Right now our biggest strength is the camaraderie,” he said. “Being together so long creates a team bond that you can’t break up.” Many of the team members, he said, have been working side by side since they were very young.

Steph Kretlow, a senior member of the team, agrees that this team works well together. “We’re all really close on this team, so we obviously gain friendships,” Kretlow said. “And, since we practice all year round, you just become that much closer, because you see each other all year round.”

Ali An, a freshman on the team, agrees. Being in gymnastics, she said, has helped her make some unlikely but meaningful friendships. “As a team, we’ve all grown really close,” An said.

“They get along well,” said Smith. “They listen well and they push each other. They help me coach. They push each other more than anybody else does, I think. Right now, they’re driven to try to get better, and better, and better.”

Being a part of the team, said Kretlow, has

helped build her confidence. She’s learned to challenge herself to improve and learned to encourage her teammates to do the same, as well. “It’s an individual sport, so you learn to push yourself, but once it gets down to the end of the season, it becomes more team than individual, too,” Kretlow said. “Then, you learn how to push others so you can grow as a team.”

“We have good leaders on the team,” said Smith.

The current team includes 20 members and one student manager. Assistant Coach Sara Routh also provides guidance for the team. Kretlow and a junior team member, Emily An, have also been strong leaders. Emily An is currently unable to compete, due to a stress fracture, but Smith believes she’ll be back to compete again next year.

Together, the team practices in the Gymnastics Club building, located on the Steele

other teams.”

Smith and the team know, however, that there are several other solid teams out there. “There’s a couple teams in Conference that are really coming along,” Smith said. “Mankato West and Austin are both scoring over 140, and we’re going to have to have a solid meet to win Conference. We thought earlier that it was going to be a bit easier Conference meet but, right now, it’s us three and we’re going to be going head-to-head. No one’s going to walk away with this.”

As he reflects on the season, Smith said one meet in particular comes to mind. “I think what really helped us was our Faribault Invite,” Smith said. The Faribault Invite included 16 teams and Smith said the OHS expected an easy win. During the Invite, however, the OHS team struggled on bars and had a few falls on the beam. By the Invite’s end, the team went home with third place. “I think it was a wake-up call for us, and that’s why it was kind of a turning point,” Smith said. “We started off with high scores and just continued to build; it looked like we were on fire. And then, all of a sudden we hit this stalling point. So, we were back to working on the basics.”

The Faribault Invite took place on Jan. 16 and, the OHS team also competed in the Park Cottage Grove Invite on Saturday, Jan. 23. There, the OHS team earned 149.4 points – a school record – and took first place out of the ten competing teams. At this Invite, OHS even beat Roseville, who came in second, and another state-ranked team, Rosemount.

This Saturday, Feb. 6, beginning at 1 p.m., OHS will host the Big Nine Conference championship.

‘It’s probably one of the best teams I’ve ever coached.’

– Tom Smith, head Owatonna High School gymnastics coach

County Fairgrounds in Owatonna. The space, said Smith, is an invaluable asset to the team. “In the training pit, they can throw a lot of stuff on their own,” said Smith. “We’ve got that pit, which is filled with 4,000 blocks of foam. It makes landing very safe, and it just gives them an opportunity to do things on their own. I can spot them through a lot of the stuff but, when they start throwing things on their own, that’s when they get that confidence. And that’s what this team has.”

Younger members of the Owatonna Gymnastics Club also practice in the same space so, on occasion, they also have an opportunity to watch the “big kids” in action.

“What’s really nice is the younger gymnasts being in here at the same time,” said Smith. “It’s good for them to be in here. Every once in a while, you’ll catch a couple of these younger gymnasts just sitting there, staring at what this high school team is doing in disbelief. Sometimes, I’m there right along with them.”

The current team, said Smith, includes some particularly strong vaulters. “Usually, we start off on vault,” he said. “Especially for our home meets, or even dual meets, when you put up that big score right away, it kind of deflates the



Becca Olsen practices on the bars.



Submitted photo

Above is the 2015-16 Owatonna High School Gymnastics team. From left to right in the front row are Becca Olsen, Emily An, Olivia Svenby, Beth Wilker and Allie Keller. In the second row are Ali An, Natalie Cumpean, Taitlynn Jensen, Macy Hanson, Ana Wilker and Lindsay Bangs. In the third row are Erica Svenby, (manager Sam Fredin) Sydney Kretlow, Al Golberg and Morgan Welker. And in the fourth row, are head coach Tom Smith, Heidi Lundberg, Kyla Robertson, Grace Pick, Steph Kretlow and assistant coach Sara Routh.



Ali An practices with other members of the Owatonna High School gymnastics in preparation for upcoming meets.



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FFA members learn skills that help in any career

By **KAREN JORGENSEN**
County Staff Writer

FFA programs have come a long way from being aimed at “a bunch of farm boys going back into farm production,” says Tim Larson, FFA advisor at Medford High School.

National FFA Week is coming up later in February and from all reports interest in the organization is growing. Since its beginnings in 1928 the group has expanded beyond its initial membership of “farm boys.” The organization opened its membership rolls to girls in 1969 and now encompasses all of agriculture from farming to agribusiness to the food industry and more.

“There is a lot more to agriculture and FFA than traditional ag production,” said Robert Ickler, FFA advisor at Triton.

There are over 300 different careers in agriculture, Ickler said. In the Triton area, he said, there are many good paying jobs involving agriculture that are within a half-hour to 45-minute drive.

The ag industry, he said, is hurting for qualified employees in many areas, including areas that may not usually be thought of, such as computers. Another area not usually thought of as agricultural, Ickler said, is communications and advertising. The industry is hurting for effective communicators, he said.

Larson agreed that career development is an important part of the program.

FFA activities, he said, can lead a student to discover an area he or she may not have considered previously. An interest in wildlife, for example, Larson said could direct a student towards a career in the DNR, or as a marine biologist or some other related field.

No matter what career a student decides on, Larson said, the leadership skills gained in FFA are important. Leadership, he said, can build self-confidence

and the contests FFA students become involved in can develop public speaking skills.

Kids involved in FFA, Ickler said, get a chance to organize events and put them together. They learn organizational and time management skills, he said.

Community service also plays into FFA, both advisors said.

Medford, Larson said, has a Fun Night in November before Thanksgiving where they get a company to bring in an inflatable fun show where youngsters three to eight-years-old can come and play games and get a snack. Attendees are invited to bring an item for the local food shelf to be entered in a drawing for door prizes.

The food items are donated to the food shelf and monies raised by the event are used to help with student scholarships.

The chapter has also joined with other groups to conduct food drives and this past year joined with teachers to collect new and gently used coats for the Clothesline.

Triton FFA members also take part in community events.

One of their biggest events of the year is the annual fall corn drive where students collect donations of corn and soybeans and also monetary donations. The crops are sold and a portion of the funds raised go to supporting the Dodge County Food Shelf in Kasson. Students take the money and go to Sunshine Foods in Dodge Center where they purchase groceries to deliver to the Food Shelf.

Triton students also sponsor the annual Steak Feed in February, close to FFA Week.

FFA Week has been a feature of the program since 1947 when the National FFA Board of Directors designated the week of Washington’s Birthday as National FFA Week in recognition of Washington’s legacy as an agriculturist and farmer.

This year FFA Week is scheduled for Feb. 20-27.



What do the letters FFA stand for?

The letters “FFA” stand for Future Farmers of America. These letters are a part of our history and our heritage that will never change. But FFA is not just for students who want to be production farmers; FFA also welcomes members who aspire to careers as teachers, doctors, scientists, business owners and more. For this reason, the name of the organization was updated in 1988 after a vote of national convention delegates to reflect the growing diversity and new opportunities in the industry of agriculture.

Today, the National FFA Organization remains committed to the individual student, providing a path to achievement in premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

FFA continues to help the next generation rise up to meet those challenges by helping its members to develop their own unique talents and explore their interests in a broad range of agricultural career pathways. So today, we are still the Future Farmers of America. But, we are the Future Biologists, Future Chemists, Future Veterinarians, Future Engineers and Future Entrepreneurs of America, too.

Rice and Steele Counties Crops Day Feb 24

The Rice and Steele Counties annual Crops Day will return to Faribault in 2016. A long-time staple of local Extension programming, this workshop will be held at the Rice County 4-H Building on Wednesday, February 24th, and will begin at 8:30 a.m. Thanks to our partnership with KDHL and the support of our generous sponsors, the meeting is free of cost and a meal will be provided.

For those involved with crop production, it is no secret that each year brings new developments and considerations for a successful growing season. The Rice and Steele Counties Crops Day aims to provide farmers with the knowledge and tools to successfully combat the 2016 growing season.

A full agenda, complete with lunch from CashWise Food - Owatonna, includes the following topics and speakers:

- Buffer Strip Update Travis Hirman, Rice County SWCD
- What’s new in the world of seed treatment and plant diseases? Clariva Complete, ILeVO, Mertec, and more... Ryan Miller, Crops Extension Educator
- P and K Fertilization: Effects on Corn and Soybean Yields and Profitability Jeff Vetsch, SROC Soil Scientist
- Weed Management, It Isn’t Simple Anymore Lisa Behnken, Crops Extension Educator
- 2016 Market Outlook Gordon Kralovetz, Chido Commodities, Inc.

Spring will be here before we know it and the tractors will soon be rolling across the fields, don’t miss this year’s Rice and Steele Counties Crops Day! From an update on weed management, to a look at the 2016 commodity crop markets, this workshop is filled with some of the industry’s most up-to-date information. Pre-registration is strongly encourage, but not required by contacting the Rice County Extension Office at 507-332-6109.

In case of inclement weather, please contact the Farm Information Line at 1-800-232-9077. For more information, contact: Karen Anderson Extension Educator, Ag Production Systems University of Minnesota Extension - Rice & Steele Counties 507-332-6109 (Rice) 507-444-7685 (Steele) ande9495@umn.edu

Women in Agriculture Conference slated for Feb. 18

University of Minnesota Extension is hosting a Women in Agriculture Conference on from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 18 at the Kelly Inn, St. Cloud. This inaugural event will be a day of learning and networking for women involved in agriculture in the region.

Keynote speaker for the day is Robert Milligan, Cornell professor emeritus and senior consultant with Dairy Strategies; he is a popular and frequent ag leadership speaker. His message for the day will challenge participants to proactively and aggressively address the future of their farm business.

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

Check-in begins at 9 a.m.; registration is required. The early bird registration fee is \$50 and due Feb. 12. Other registrations are accepted until Feb. 16 for \$65. Registration can be completed three ways:

- Online: \$45 (save \$5). Visit <https://www.regonline.com/WomeninAg> to register.
- Mail to University of Minnesota Extension, Willmar Regional Office, 1802 18th St. NE, Willmar, MN 56201
- Call (320) 235-0726 ext. 2001

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

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DID YOU KNOW?

What is water runoff?

Water runoff occurs when storm water, snowmelt, or other water moves over or through the ground and collects and carries away natural and human-made pollutants. As it relates to the farm, farmers and ranchers are concerned with fertilizer, manure and pesticide use and how that can affect local waterways.

To combat water runoff issues, farmers and ranchers are better managing the tools they use to reduce runoff. For example, in 2007, roughly 877 million pounds of active ingredients were applied to U.S. cropland. In comparison, in 1980, roughly 1.1 billion pounds of active ingredients were applied. So, usage went down while yields went up.

Additionally, pesticides peaked in 1999, with 956 million pounds used compared to 2007 when only 877 million pounds were used. Reductions in inputs have greatly reduced the environmental impact, especially for water quality.



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Legal Notices

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

Dated: December 31, 2015

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

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

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

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

TRANSACTION AGENT: NONE TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: NONE LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Blooming Prairie RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Merchants Bank, N.A. MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1143rd Street Northeast, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 14.101.0109 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 8, Block 1, in Feeney's Addition to the Village of Blooming Prairie, Steele County, Minnesota COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$100,000.00 AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$86,114.03 That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 23, 2016 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on August 23, 2016, unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

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

Dated: December 21, 2015

Merchants Bank, National Association Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

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

Foreclosure

15-101130

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 5, 2006 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$68,600.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Steven T. Gilman and Becky E. Hohenstein, both single MORTGAGEE: Aames Funding Corporation DBA Aames Home Loan LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Aames Funding Corporation DBA Aames Home Loan SERVICER: New Penn Financial, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 10, 2006, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000341133 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.; thereafter assigned to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP. Thereafter assigned to The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the benefit of the Certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-SD4. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: That part of the Southwest Quarter of Southeast Quarter of Section 25, Township 105 North, Range 19 West, described as: Commencing at a point on the South line of 5th Street of Village of Blooming Prairie, 475.6 feet West of the point of intersection of West line of Oak Street with South line of 5th Street, thence due West along the South line of 5th Street, 60 feet, due South 170 feet, due East 60 feet, due North 170 feet to point of beginning. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 2391st Street SE, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-025-2022 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$72,750.08 THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 16, 2016, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Answers on Page 5C

- CLUES ACROSS
- Soybean paste
 - Unit of time
 - Watering holes
 - Joint
 - Certified public accountant
 - Mater, one's school
 - Resells tickets
 - Batter's objective
 - Past participle of lie
 - State of Islands
 - Fed
 - Cause cell destruction
 - Daily Show host
 - Diagrammed
 - Cat sounds
 - Most sorry
 - Do wrong
 - Coral reef and lagoon island
 - That (Middle English)
 - Electrically charged atom
 - Nassau is the capital
 - Frogs, toads, tree toads
 - Marjoram
 - Where the Donald lives in NYC
 - Whale ship captain
 - A way to emit sound
 - Comparable
 - Isodor __, American Nobel physicist
 - Businesswoman
 - A way to split up
 - No Operatic piece
 - Solo (Scottish)
 - In a way, tears
 - Bridge breadth
 - Single Lens Reflex
 - Thou __ protest too much
 - Single Lens Reflex
 - Thou __ protest too much

- CLUES DOWN
- Korean War TV show
 - South American Indian
 - Cape at tip of Denmark
 - A podrida cooking pot
 - Russian sourgrass soup
 - Perfect example
 - Supplier
 - Unhealthy looking
 - Spanish beaches
 - Am. follower of the Mennonite Bishop Amman
 - Well-balanced
 - Outer surface cells
 - Fathers
 - Sun up in New York
 - Dweller above the Mason-Dixon
 - Young women's association
 - Tell on
 - Bustle
 - Poundal
 - An ugly, old woman
 - Doctors' group
 - __ Ling, Chinese mountain range
 - Volcanic mountain in Japan
 - Leaves parentless
 - Existing in or produced by nature
 - Inclination
 - Extents
 - Peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf
 - Language of Nile
 - Twyla __, US dancer
 - Card game
 - River in E. Turkey to the Caspian Sea
 - Scored 100%
 - Tonight's former host
 - __ and ends
 - Notable exploit

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Jay Braaten, Financial Advisor



Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on August 16, 2016, or the next business day if August 16, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: December 23, 2015

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

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

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

Foreclosure

15-102238

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: February 6, 2004 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$252,000.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Paul A. Beiser and Virginia Beiser, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 100137510000066342 LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Lakeland Mortgage Corporation SERVICER: Seterus, Inc. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed February 25, 2004, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A 319624 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: MetLife Home Loans, a Division of MetLife Bank, N.A.; thereafter assigned to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association. Thereafter assigned to Federal National Mortgage Association. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 1, Block 3, Oakridge Bluffs Third Addition PROPERTY ADDRESS: 555 Oakland Path SE, Medford, MN 55049 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 16-114-0301 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$217,369.50 THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 11, 2016, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-

family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on September 11, 2016, or the next business day if September 11, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: January 7, 2016

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

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

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

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

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NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: MORTGAGOR(S): Doreen R. Kruger, a single person MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$112,433.00 DATE OF MORTGAGE: September 16, 2009 DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on September 22, 2009 and memorialized upon Certificate of Title No. 12857 as Document Number T000064998 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota. THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$85,975.98 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Fifteen (15) in Block Two (2) in Luedtke Addition to City of Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota REGISTERED PROPERTY STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 704 CHERRY ST, OWATONNA, MN 55060-1949 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-150-0215 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part. PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 15, 2016 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 15, 2016.

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

Dated: January 13, 2016
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee
SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

By: /s/Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq. Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq. N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. *Curt N. Trisko, Esq.* Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee The Academy Professional Building 25 North Dale Street St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (15-0322-FC03)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

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

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 31, 2013 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$84,850.62 MORTGAGOR(S): Ronald C. Wesely, Unmarried MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed February 4, 2013, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000389530 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 10, Block 24, Original Town (now City) of Owatonna PROPERTY ADDRESS: 415 South Oak, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-100-2410 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$75,841.76 THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 15, 2016, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on September 15, 2016, or the next business day if September 15, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: January 14, 2016
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Mortgagee

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

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

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: December 20, 2002 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$132,421.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Eric R. Erickson and Jodi L. Erickson, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed December 23, 2002, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T 51679, As modified of record by Document recorded on September 10, 2014 as Document Number T000071806 in the office of the Registrar of

Titles of Steele County, Minnesota LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 9, Block 1, Radel's Country Club Addition REGISTERED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 324 Meadow Lane SW, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-317-0109 COT#15898 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$119,408.23 THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 15, 2016, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on September 15, 2016, or the next business day if September 15, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: January 14, 2016
Wells Fargo Bank, NA, successor by merger to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. Mortgagee
SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

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

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: MORTGAGOR(S): Jolene M. Dahl, a single person MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$80,525.00 DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 5, 2012 DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on July 10, 2012 as Document Number A000385613 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$77,946.79 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lots 6, 7, 8 and 9, Block 29, South Park Addition to the City of Ellendale, except the North 20 feet of Lot 6, Steele County, Minnesota STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 620 JANSEN PLACE S, ELLENDALE, MN 56026 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 15-105-2906

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part. PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 15, 2016 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 15, 2016.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: January 15, 2016
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee
SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

By: /s/Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq. Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq. N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. *Curt N. Trisko, Esq.* Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee The Academy Professional Building 25 North Dale Street St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (15-2210-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

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

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 24, 2006 MORTGAGOR: Roger R. Voll and Jeanne Karon Voll, husband and wife as joint tenants. MORTGAGEE:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.. DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded July 28, 2006 Steele County Recorder, Document No. A000343082. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Green Tree Servicing LLC now known as Ditech Financial LLC. Dated August 12, 2015 Recorded August 12, 2015, as Document No. A000403607. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 1 0 0 2 4 8 9 0 6 0 6 0 0 2 3 3 5 3 LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Rescue Mortgage Inc. dba Mortgage Depot RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Ditech Financial LLC f/k/a Green Tree Servicing LLC MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 740 South Oak Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060 TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 17.016.1148 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing 1 Rod North and 2 Rods West of the SE corner of Lot 18 in the NE 1/4 of Section 16, Township 107 North, of Range 20 West, running thence North 4 Rods, thence West 7 Rods, thence South 4 Rods, thence East 7 Rods to beginning COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$123,000.00 AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID

BY MORTGAGEE: \$117,965.15 That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 18, 2016 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: S t e e l e County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on September 19, 2016 unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032. MORTGAGE(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: January 13, 2016
Ditech Financial LLC f/k/a Green Tree Servicing LLC Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P. Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee 4500 Park Glen Road #300 Minneapolis, MN 55416 (952) 925-6888 8 - 15-010160 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-43

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

Estate of Delores M. Perkins, Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on February 23, 2016, at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, August 17, 1988, and ("Will"), and for the appointment of Dennis D. Perkins, whose address is 4824 18th Street SW, Owatonna, MN, 55060 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or

raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minn. Stat. 501B.41, subd. 5.

Dated 2016.01.08

BY THE COURT

Duncan, Karen Judge of District Court

Sonia Kocher Court Administrator

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

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-120

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

Estate of Geraldine Caroline Vangen, Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on March 15, 2016 at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, February 6, 2013, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Diane F. Matejcek and Carolyn R. Von Ruden, whose addresses are 2381 Austin Road, Owatonna, MN, 55060 and 325 16th St. NE, Owatonna, MN 55060, respectively, as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Co-Personal Representatives will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to the present the claims to the Co-Personal Representatives or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: 2016.01.21

BY THE COURT

Karen Duncan Judge of District Court

Attorney for Petitioner David L. Einhaus Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A. 202 N. Cedar Avenue, P.O. Box 545 Owatonna, MN 55060 Attorney License No: 26190 Telephone: (507) 451-3850 FAX (507) 451-3532 Email: einhaus@owatonnaattorneys.com

2/2, 2/9

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

Contact the Steele County Times Today!

507-583-4431

STEELE COUNTY

Times

Always local, all the time.

Legals

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

1. Default has occurred in the conditions of the Mortgage dated June 6, 2013, executed by Ross L. Johnson, a single person, as Mortgagor, to First National Bank, as Mortgagee, and filed for record on June 17, 2013, as Document No. 391980, in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. The land described in the Mortgage is not registered land.

2. The Mortgage has not been assigned.

3. The original principal amount secured by the Mortgage was \$55,000.00.

4. No action or proceeding at law is now pending to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part thereof.

5. The holder of the Mortgage has complied with all conditions precedent to acceleration of the debt secured by the Mortgage and foreclosure of the Mortgage, and all notice and other requirements of applicable statutes.

6. At the date of this notice the amount due on the Mortgage and taxes, if any paid by the holder of the Mortgage is \$57,407.13:

7. Pursuant to the power of sale in the Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the land described as follows: The North Half of Lot One (N1/2 of Lot 1), and the North Half of the East Half of Lot Two (N1/2 of E1/2 of Lot 2), all in Block Twelve (12), First Railway Addition to the Village of Ellendale; will be sold by the County Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota, at public auction on March 17, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., at the Steele County Sheriff's Department, 204 E. Pearl St., Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law.

8. The time allowed by law for redemption by Mortgagors or Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is 6 months after the date of sale.

9. THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND ARE ABANDONED.

Date: January 21, 2016

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, P.A.

By: /s/ Karie M. Anderson
Karie M. Anderson,
#393522

Attorney for Mortgagee
215 E Elm Ave.,
PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093
(507) 835-5240

1/26, 2/2, 2/9
2/16, 2/26, 3/1

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 17, 2006

MORTGAGOR: William D. Talley and Dianne Talley, husband and wife as joint tenants.

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded August 23, 2006 Steele County Recorder, Document No. A000343781.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Bank of America, N.A. successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP

f/k/a Countrywide Home Loans Servicing LP. Dated May 21, 2012 Recorded May 29, 2012, as Document No. A000384862. And thereafter assigned to: Green Tree Servicing LLC now known as Ditech Financial LLC. Dated June 6, 2013 Recorded August 8, 2013, as Document No. A000392859.

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 1 0 0 2 4 8 9 0 6 0 8 0 0 2 5 4 9 5

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Rescue Mortgage Inc., dba Mortgage Depot

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Ditech Financial LLC

f/k/a Green Tree Servicing LLC

MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 303 South Elm Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060

TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 17.100.1502

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The North 1/2 of Lot 1 in Block 15 of the Original Town (now City) of Owatonna COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$108,800.00

AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$101,517.24

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 25, 2016 at 10:00 AM

PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on September 26, 2016 unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: January 21, 2016

Ditech Financial LLC f/k/a Green Tree Servicing LLC
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.
Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(952) 925-6888
8 - 15-010397 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

2/2, 2/9, 2/16
2/23, 3/1, 3/8

BP ISD

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

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools, Newly-Elected School Board Member

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

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

2/2

BP ISD

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA December 21, 2015

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center at 5:15 p.m. (Open Forum at 5:00 p.m.).

OPEN FORUM – No comments.

I. CALL TO ORDER –CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL - CLERK Kathi Peterson, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools; Elementary Principal; High School Principal; Associate Principal; Members of the BPTA; Newly-Elected School Board Member; Members of the Press

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Rodney Krell and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to approve the agenda as submitted with the addition of the wire transfer amount on December 18, 2015. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Reports given by Mr. Staloch, Mr. Worke, and Ms. Mach.

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

A. Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Resignation
Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Kathi Peterson to approve the minutes, bills, treasurer's report, and resignation. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

B. Health Insurance
Motion by Kathi Peterson and seconded by Rodney Krell to approve a change in group health insurance coverage effective January 1, 2016, from HealthPartners to BlueCross BlueShield of MN. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

On November 25, 2015, the BPTA unanimously voted to approve this change due to a 17% increase received from HealthPartners as opposed to a 9.28% increase received from BlueCross and BlueShield of MN.

C. School Calendars
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to approve the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school calendars which were prepared in coordination with the BPTA. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

D. Long-Term Substitutes
Motion by Kathi Peterson and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve a long-term substitute teacher replacing an elementary teacher who will be out on maternity/ family leave for approximately twelve weeks. Pro-rated placement will be on step 0 of the prevailing BPTA Master Contract. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Michelle Vigeland and seconded by Kathi Peterson to approve a long-term substitute teacher replacing an elementary teacher who will be out on maternity/ family leave for approximately nine weeks. Pro-rated placement will be on step 0 of the prevailing BPTA Master Contract. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

E. ZED Resolution
Board Member Jenny Thurnau introduced a resolution for the construction of a new Zumbro Education District Facility for up to \$13.1 million with the cost shared between all Zumbro Education District Members based on a formula of fifty percent weighted average daily membership, twenty-five percent equal share, and twenty-five percent utilization.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Board Member Kathi Peterson and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor of: Kathi Peterson, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde; and the following voted against the same: None; whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

F. Family Leave
Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve a maternity/ family leave for a high school teacher for approximately an eight week period with an approximate start date of March 3, 2016. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

6:00 p.m. - Budget/Levy Review and Discussion Taking Place Prior to Final Levy Certification

G. Final 2015 Payable 2016 Levy Limitation
Motion by Rodney Krell and seconded by Kathi Peterson to approve the final 2015 Payable 2016 Levy Limitation. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

A. Rotation of School Board Officers
Discussion held regarding procedure of selecting officers with the consensus to vote on officer positions.

B. Committee Reports
A report update was given by the following committees: Education Foundation, Finance; Meet and Confer, MSBA & MSHSL, Staff Development, Technology, Transportation, and ZED.

C. Enrollment Data
Enrollment for the 2015-16 school year as of December 17, 2015, was 408 at the elementary school and 299 at the high school (293 attending BPHS and 6 attending PSEO). The PSEO number consisted of 2 seniors and 4 juniors which will all attend full-time.

D. Dates to Note. The Board noted dates of importance.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

1. The ESSA Law (Every Student Succeeds Act) was passed on December 10, 2015.

2. Thank you's were acknowledged from Barry Olson and Kathi Peterson for the flowers received following their recent family losses.

3. Kathi Peterson was thanked for her years of service as a School Board Member.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Kathi Peterson and seconded by Rodney Krell to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2016, at 6:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the High School. Tentatively, the next regular meeting of the School Board will be Tuesday, January 19, 2016, at 5:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center (Open Forum begins at 5:00 p.m.).

A complete copy of the official minutes may be found in their entirety in the official minute book located in the superintendent's office at the high school; however, they will not be available until approved by the School Board.

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

2/2

BP ISD

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756 BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 55917

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

6:00 a.m.

Thursday, February 11, 2016
Regular School Board Work Session–High School Board Room

5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 16, 2016
Open Public Forum–High School Media Center

5:15 p.m.

Tuesday, February 16, 2016
Regular School Board Meeting–High School Media Center

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

I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL – CLERK

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

A. Consent Agenda
Minutes
Bills
Treasurer's Report
Resignation
Employment
B. School Board Committee Assignments
C. Long-Term Substitute Teacher
D. Spring Coaching
E. Final Seniority List for the Teaching Staff
F. Technology
G. Donation Policy
H. Resolution Discontinuing and Reducing Education Programs and Positions
I. Pay Equity Implementation Report

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
A. Class Size/Sections
B. Committee Reports
C. Enrollment Data
D. Dates to Note

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

2/2

BP City

Proposed City of Blooming Prairie City Council Meeting Agenda February 8, 2016 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of January Regular City Council Meeting

Financial Report

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

Business

1. Accept Donation – BP Fire Department
2. Application for Exempt Gambling Permit – B P Cancer Group
3. Application for Exempt Gambling Permit – B P Public Education Foundation
4. Minnesota Government Access – City Attorney
5. July 3rd Street Dance
6. Blooming Prairie Ambulance Commission Annual Report
7. Advertise for and Hire Pool Employees
8. Liability Insurance Waiver
9. Resolution Calling the 2009A Refunding Bond
10. Payment Request – Main Street Reconstruction

City Administrator's Report
1. Fire Department Annual Meeting
2. 2nd Street South Project & Financing

City Attorney's Report

Council Members' Reports

Adjourn

This Agenda is Subject to Change

Education news

Area residents make the dean's list at Rochester Community and Technical College

The following local residents were among more than 1,100 students from Rochester Community and Technical College who made the Dean's List for Fall Semester ending this past December.

From Blooming Prairie are Morgan Johnson, Sarah Langan, Hannah Wehner and Nicole Weiss. From Waltham is Cody Carpentier.

To qualify for the dean's list, a student must successfully complete 12 or more letter-graded credits, in the same semester, and achieve a grade point average between 3.0 and 4.0. The Rochester Community and Technical College dean's list can be viewed by going to: www.rctc.edu/about/html/Deans-list.html.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids will be received by the City of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, in the City Hall at 138 Highway Avenue South, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 until 10 A.M., CST, Thursday, February 25, 2016, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for the furnishing of all labor, materials, and all else necessary for the following:

Third Street South Water Main Improvements
In general, Work consists of the installation of trunk water main, along with services and roadway reconstruction along the water main installation alignment. The Project consists of the following approximate quantities:

2300 LIN FT 6" DIP Water Main
50 EACH 1" Copper Service Connections
2850 SQ YD 3.5" Thick Bituminous Pavement (2 Lifts)
2000 CY YD Class 5 Aggregate Base
450 LIN FT B624 Concrete Curb and Gutter
1 LS Traffic Control
1 LS Temporary Water

Along with miscellaneous utility and roadway improvements, removals, and restoration.

Complete digital Bidding Documents are available at www.questcdn.com for \$20 by inputting QuestCDN eBidDoc #4227302 on the website's Project Search page. Paper Bidding Documents may also be viewed at the City of Blooming Prairie and at Stantec, 6188 Rome Circle NW, Rochester, MN 55901, (507) 282-2100.

Direct inquiries to Engineer's Project Manager, Brett Grabau, at (507) 529-6030.

Bid Security in the amount of 5 percent of the amount of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. The Owner reserves the right to retain the deposits of the 3 lowest Bidders for a period not to exceed 60 days after the date and time set for the Opening of Bids. No Bids may be withdrawn for a period of 60 days after the date and time set for the Opening of Bids.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein, and further reserves the right to award the Contract to the best interests of the Owner.

**Jerry Mausbach, General Manager
Blooming Prairie Public Utilities**

2/2, 2/9

Advertisement for Bids Four Seasons Centre Bleachers

Close Monday February 29th, 2016
Steele County, Minnesota

Notice is hereby given that the Steele County Board of Commissioners will accept bids for new bleachers at the Four Seasons Centre until 2:00pm on Monday February 29th, 2016. Bids must be received at the office of the County Auditor, 630 Florence Avenue, Steele County Administration Center. Bids will be publicly opened and read thereafter.

Contact Steve Schroht – Four Seasons Centre Director for bid specifications and documents at 507-451-1093.

All bids shall be sealed and clearly marked in the lower left hand corner "Four Seasons Centre Bleacher Bid".

The County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to accept the bid deemed to be in the best interest of Steele County

**Laura Ihrke
Steele County Auditor**

2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Local students participate in robotics competition



Submitted photo
Members of the Blooming Prairie robotics club attended their first competition, the Southern Minnesota VEX Robotics Tournament, on Saturday, Jan. 16, in Austin. Although the team did not win any of their matches, members agreed it was an excellent learning experience. Pictured from left to right at the Jan. 16 competition are students Riley Millam, Tyler Christianson, Luke De La Cruz, Jackie Hyland, Jake Hyland and Clint Peterson.

GET TO KNOW US

THE FACES BEHIND THE STORIES

Howard Lestrud

STAFF WRITER

ORIGINALLY FROM: I grew up on a small dairy farm, just 7 1/2 miles southwest of Blooming Prairie and graduated from Austin High School and from Austin State Junior College.

FAMILY: My wife Judy and I have two children, Tammi and Troy (Nancy) and three grandchildren. Tammi passed away at age 22 in 1995. Troy and his family reside in New Richmond, WI

FAVORITE PASTTIME: I love sports, avid Minnesota Twins fan win or lose. My son and I also have been sports memorabilia collectors for years and love to get autographs of big sports stars and famous celebrities. My favorite autograph obtained in person is of Michael Jordan on a photo I took. I also collect JFK items and am a member of the Kennedy Political Items Collectors international group.

BEFORE THE TIMES: I have been in the newspaper business for over 50 years, most of my experience was as an editor for ECM Publishers, Inc. Recognized for 50 years in newspaper business by Minnesota Newspaper Association.

WORD THAT DESCRIBES YOU BEST: Conscientious

THREE WORDS YOUR FRIENDS WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE YOU: Serious, caring and committed

FAVORITE BOOK: Anything on President John F. Kennedy

IF YOU COULD EAT ONLY ONE MEAL FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE: My wife's meat loaf dinner

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH A MILLION DOLLARS: Pay bills, help family and go to Disney World

LAST MOVIE YOU WENT TO: American Sniper

Cancer Corner

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

Hormel Institute researcher awarded \$1.7 million grant

Dr. Saleem receives major grant from National Cancer Institute for 5-year study

Dr. Saleem

More than \$1.7 million has been awarded to The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, for research aimed to develop innovative new treatment options for prostate cancer.

Dr. Mohammad Saleem (Bhat), leader of the Molecular Chemoprevention & Therapeutics research section at The Hormel Institute, received a five-year, \$1.7 million grant from the National Cancer Institute, part of the federal National Institute of Health, to continue work on developing new treatment options, particularly when prostate cancer metastasizes.

Metastasis is a process that involves the dissemination of cancerous cells from primary tissue (prostate) to distant organs, such as bones or the liver. This dissemination causes secondary tumors to form at new sites in the body. These tumors are often challenging to treat due to frequent association with resistance to existing drugs in chemotherapy.

There are few treatment options for the metastatic prostate cancer disease, primarily due to a lack of knowledge about the molecular pathway that drives the phenomenon of metastasis at the cellular level. This study and the identification of molecular mechanisms underlying metastasis could lead to the identification of new targets for new drugs to treat this lethal disease.

Dr. Saleem's team has identified such a molecular mechanism. Using cutting-edge technology, such as genetically engineering tumor cells and super computer-based molecular docking, Dr. Saleem's team proved that S100A4, a calcium-binding protein, is increased during progressive stages of prostate cancer development. This protein regulates the migration of metastatic prostate tumor cells.

"By targeting S100A4 we could inhibit metastasis in genetically engineered models and identified a novel small molecule inhibitor of S100A4 protein," said Saleem. "The initial testing of this inhibitor has provided a rationale to test it under large scale experimental conditions."

Furthermore, the team will test a neutralizing antibody against this protein at The Hormel Institute through further testing. Since very few options are available to treat metastatic prostate cancer, the successful outcome of this project will identify a new target-based approach to prevent and treat the disease in men.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the United States after skin cancer, and is the second-leading cause of death from cancer in men. The disease often does not have early symptoms and typically grows slowly, according to the National Cancer Institute.

For those interested in supporting research, The Hormel Institute's Executive Director Dr. Zigang Dong established a special fund for donations to go specifically toward prostate cancer research following the successful "Bowling for the Battle" prostate cancer research fundraiser started by Tom and Doreen Gillard in 2015. As with any gift to The Hormel Institute, 100 percent of each donation directly funds cancer research.

Started in 1942 by Jay C. Hormel, The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota is comprised of a group of highly successful medical scientists who are focused on determining the basic molecular mechanisms of cancer development to develop new anti-cancer agents. In summer 2014, The Hormel Institute started a major expansion to double in size, adding 20 state-of-the-art laboratories and better space for its International Center of Research Technology. The project is expected to be completed in early 2016 along with a new Live Learning Center that will include a 250-seat auditorium and advanced technology to facilitate international medical research collaborations and presentations. Overall, The Hormel Institute's new expansion is expected to add about 120 faculty and staff jobs in the coming years, growing the Institute to about 250 overall.

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TAX PREP GUIDE 2016

Itemize your tax deductions

It's easier to take the standard deduction, but you may save a bundle if you itemize, especially if you are self-employed, own a home or live in a high-tax area. It's worth the bother when your qualified expenses add up to more than the 2015 standard deduction of \$6,300 for singles and \$12,600 for married couples filing jointly. Many deductions are well known, such as those for mortgage interest and charitable donations. However, taxpayers sometimes overlook miscellaneous expenses, which are deductible if the combined amount adds up to more than two percent of your adjusted gross income. These deductions include tax-preparation fees, job-hunting expenses, business car expenses and professional dues.

You can also deduct the portion of medical expenses that exceed 10 percent of your adjusted gross income.

There is a temporary exemption from Jan. 1, 2013 to Dec. 31, 2016 for individuals age 65 and older and their spouses. If you or your spouse are 65 years or older or turned 65 during the tax year you are allowed to deduct unreimbursed medical care expenses that exceed 7.5 percent of your adjusted gross income. The threshold remains at 7.5 percent of AGI for those taxpayers until Dec. 31, 2016. Beginning Jan. 1, 2017, all taxpayers may deduct only the amount of the total unreimbursed allowable medical care expenses for the year that exceeds 10 percent of your adjusted gross income.

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