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Steele County Times



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Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893

Accident claims two lives

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

A head-on crash on U.S. Highway 218, just north of Blooming Prairie, took two lives on Friday morning.

According to the Minnesota State Patrol, the incident occurred just after 6:45 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 5. Two vehicles were involved in the crash.

The Minnesota State Patrol reported that a passenger car driven by Karl Erickson, 43, of Austin, was southbound on 218. This vehicle crossed the center line and crashed head-on with another vehicle, driven by Paul Ingvaldson, 79, of Blooming Prairie. Ingvaldson was headed northbound on 218 at the time of the crash.

Ingvaldson sustained injuries and was transported to St. Mary's Hospital.

According to the Minnesota State Patrol, both Erickson and his son, his son Elijah, age 9, were killed in the crash.

The Steele County Sheriff's Office and Blooming Prairie Police Department assisted at the scene.



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

A head-on collision on U.S. Highway 218 resulted in the death of two people on Friday, Feb. 5. Above, emergency personnel and first responders are on the scene of Friday's accident.

Trom lawsuit court date rescheduled

By KAREN JORGENSEN
County Staff Writer



A court date for the parties in Lowell and Evelyn Trom's lawsuit against Dodge County and Masching Swine Farms that was originally set for Feb. 2 has been rescheduled to Feb. 16.

Attorneys for the parties will be back in court before Judge Joseph Chase in Olmsted County at 9 a.m. as the judge hears motions for a summary judgment from all three parties.

The case is filed in Dodge County but being held in Chase's courtroom in Rochester, as Dodge County District Court Judge Jodi Williamson removed herself from the case at the request of the county. Williamson had issued the ruling in an earlier case brought by the Trom's against the same defendants.

The Troms, who live in Westfield Township, filed suit in Dodge County District Court a year ago against the county and Masching's Swine Farms, asking that the judge vacate the conditional use permit that the county gave to Masching to construct a hog feedlot on property adjacent to the Troms.

The Troms had originally filed suit in 2014 to vacate the permit. In late 2014, Williamson ruled that necessary information had not been included in Masching's

LAWSUIT
Continued on Page 3A

Boys & Girls Club Benefit Bash is a success



Staff photos by Laura Berndt

Nicole Spargur and her daughter, Alana Braaten, browse some of the items available to bid on during the Boys & Girls Club Benefit Bash, held on Saturday, Feb. 6.

Event raises funds for Boys & Girls Club of Blooming Prairie



The Rev. Charlie Leonard, a member of the Boys & Girls Club Advisory Board, presents the 2015 "Hero" Award to Davin Johnson (left) for his continued support of the Boys & Girls Club. George Ressler and his late wife, Tillie, were also awarded the 2015 "Super Supporter" award.

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

The Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club was packed on Saturday night as community members attended the first Boys & Girls Club Benefit Bash to show their support for the organization.

The event featured both a silent and live auction, and all proceeds will benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Blooming Prairie. That night, guests had an opportunity to play games of chance, enter raffles and bid on a wide variety of items at the Benefit Bash.

Lianna Doocy, Boys & Girls Club Advisory Board member, said that she was happy to see so many people attend the event. For the past five years, she's helped organize the Club's big fundraiser, which was formerly called the Boys & Girls Club Gala.

"The coolest thing this year is all of the unique auction items we have," said Doocy. "We have some live and silent auction items we've never had before. Our goal is $30,000 this year so, hopefully, we'll reach that."

The Benefit Bash also offered an opportunity for youth to have a party of their own. During the live auction at the Servicemen's Club, school-aged children were invited to attend a "VIP Kids' Party" at the Boys & Girls Club of Blooming Prairie.

"We're super excited for the

BENEFIT BASH
Continued on Page 4A

February starts off with snowfall

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

February knows how to make an entrance, a very snowy entrance that is.

The Waste Water Treatment Plant in Owatonna recorded five inches of snowfall before 8 a.m. on Feb. 3. The National Weather Service confirmed that five inches of snowfall in northeast Owatonna on its website.

The snow began late morning on Feb. 2 and continued through most of the day and into the morning of Feb. 3. Once the wind picked up and the temperatures dropped, the storm brought icy road conditions for the following days.

During the morning on Feb. 2, the Steele County Sheriff office advised no travel, including local roads and highways. Due to snowfall and wind, visibility was limited, especially in the country. State highways west of 1-35 were closed by mid-day.

'Precautionary travel advisories, shutting down schools and businesses, and even closing roads during some of these terrible conditions is a good call.'

—Mike Johnson, Owatonna Fire Department Chief

With Feb. 2 school cancellations, activities, meetings and other events followed suit. Local law enforcement say that these cancellations and precau-

SNOWSTORM
Continued on Page 3A



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Snow was falling at a rapid pace early Tuesday morning and caused motorists to stop and clear off the excess snow. Snow accumulations reached 7-8 inches in the Blooming Prairie area and forced postponement of school on Tuesday and Wednesday. Strong winds in rural areas caused poor visibility for motorists.

INSIDE
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Vol. 122, No. 87 www.steeledodgenews.com 507-583-4431

Opinion

Our view

Celebrating 4-H in Steele County

This week in the Steele County Times, you'll find a two-page spread highlighting some of our local 4-H members and volunteers. For many years, 4-H has strengthened our communities and provided local youth and adults alike with valuable experiences.

From special interest groups to community service opportunities, 4-H provides ways for people of all ages to become engaged with their community. According to the Minnesota 4-H website (http://www.extension.umn.edu/), 4-H allows youth to "design and participate in their own programs and activities. This unique, learn-by-doing model teaches kids essential, transferable skills that they'll use throughout their lives, such as problem solving, decision making, coping, communicating and responding to the needs of others."

While people may associate 4-H with farming and rural regions of the state, 4-H actually has a widespread presence throughout Minnesota. The Minnesota 4-H website reports that 30 percent of Minnesota Extension Youth Development program participants live in towns or cities with 10,000 to 50,000 residents. In 2014 alone, over 63,000 Minnesota youth participated in an Extension Youth Development program. 4-H offers activities related to science, engineering and technology, citizenship and leadership, healthy living skills and animal science, among many others.

The Minnesota 4-H website also explains the many ways that 4-H participation can improve the lives of young people. The site states that youth involved in 4-H are more than twice as likely to be civically active and make contributions to their communities, and are 47 percent less likely to have risky or problem behaviors. According to the website, youth in 4-H also tend to have better grades and are more emotionally engaged with their schools.

In addition, 4-H encourages local people to build relationships that will ultimately better their community. As adult volunteers and young 4-H'ers work side by side on individual or group projects, they form valuable connections within their 4-H Club and in their local community. Together, 4-H'ers build confidence, public speaking skills, set goals and learn about the value of teamwork. The benefits of 4-H involvement are endless.

Although the Steele County 4-H'ers recently held their annual awards and recognition banquet, this is just one example of 4-H's presence in our local county. 4-H events take place year-round and provide multiple opportunities for youth and adults to learn something new, or share their knowledge or area of expertise.

To learn more about 4-H opportunities in your community, contact the University of Minnesota's Steele County Extension office. Call 507-444-7685 or visit http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/steele for more information.



Recyclables are worth billions

HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER



It once was junk and tossed aside, but now recycled trash is stuffing the state's coffers as well as the wallets of many Minnesotans.

The stuff that once was trash delivers $3.4 billion worth of economic treasures, according to a new report issued last week by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The report shows that the conversion of used or old products into new ones created 60,215 jobs, $3.4 billion in wages and $26 billion worth of sales last year.

The MPCA reported its findings to state legislators, as required by law. The last time a report like this had been done was in 2011. Since that time, the state has gained 1,700 jobs because of recycling.

Jeff Hofius, who runs the recycling center in Owatonna, handles at least 7 tons and as much as 13 tons of recycling every week for Steele County. He said since the county went to the cart system a few years ago recycling has more than tripled.

"I think it's pretty phenomenal how many people are recycling," Hofius says. "People are pretty diligent about recycling."

Asked if people are recycling the proper items, Hofius said they have been pretty good about it. But there are some miscues that get mixed in with the cardboard, newspapers and plastic containers.

Two of the greatest items that end up in recycling that shouldn't are plastic bags and any Styrofoam products, according to Hofius. As a reminder, other non-recyclable materials include food waste, packaging contaminated with food waste or grease, cardboard packaging from frozen products, light bulbs, pottery and paper towels.

City residents in Blooming Prairie, Owatonna, Ellendale and Medford are utilizing 64 gallon carts with yellow lids for their recyclables. There is no service currently available for citizens living in the rural areas, unlike some places in Iowa. For example, in Winnebago County, there is recycling pick up for rural residents.

"I can foresee that we could expand (to country pick up) in the future," Hofius said.

The same materials accepted at curbside in the cities may be brought to the Steele County/Waste Management Recycling Center located at 1171 Brady Blvd. in Owatonna. In addition, the center takes used motor oil and used motor oil filters free of charge. Tires, major appliances, car batteries and electronics are accepted for a fee.

Even with the surge in recycling, there is more work to be done.

About $2.3 billion worth of recyclable materials were pitched and landed in Minnesota landfills between 2006 and 2013. People need to get the word that by throwing out recyclables, they may be preventing a job from being created.

The combined 60,125 jobs delivered $665 million in taxes to the state. The total economic benefit to Minnesota was an estimated $15.7 billion in "total output" in the form of direct and indirect production, sales, supplies and wages.

Hofius reminds citizens that recycling is important to the environment. "We can't keep filling up the ground forever," he said.

Recycling is obviously alive and well in Minnesota, and it's now up to each one of us to go in hot pursuit of keeping our recyclables out of the trash and into the recycling carts.

Thank you for the memories

A GLIMPSE OF STEELE COUNTY



ALAN VAN ORMER

It was a tough decision, but I finally decided that it was time for me to retire and move on to spend more time with my family in the upcoming years. My last day at the Steele County Times will be Feb. 19.

The decision actually started back in August when I had my brain aneurysm clipped. I kind of was in a fog when I woke up and just saw my oldest son standing in the corner like he was keeping his eyes on me. All I could think of was what he would be like if I would never be able to see him again. Fast forward to the last couple of weeks and finding out that there is a good chance he and his wife may be moving to not only another state but another time zone. It would be even much more difficult to see him then.

I have been here for three years. Some say that is longer than normal at the newspaper, but every moment has been a joy with those in the Blooming Prairie, Ellendale, Medford and Owatonna communities.

I will always treasure the relationships I have had with the people in the communities. The cancer group has been exciting for me to cover. Cheri Krejci, Mandy Doocy, Jennifer Milton and the rest have made my life interesting over the past three years in a good way. It is so energizing to see all the work that they have done over the past three years and I have been able to be part of that through story telling in the Steele County Times.

The school districts have also been a joy to cover. From Mary and John Worke at Blooming Prairie to Doug Anderson in Ellendale to Rich Dahman in Medford, these and many others have always been on hand to provide me information for stories and to give me ideas for stories.

Becky Noble and Luke Swenson with the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce have always been there for me and have helped me understand the small town community. More than once Becky has reminded me about things that I should remember in Blooming Prairie.

I will never forget the three ladies from the Blooming Prairie Ambulance that took care of me when I had my fall back in January – Nola Wradislavsky, Ashley Schmeling and Naomi Smith. I can't thank you enough for the kindness and caring that you provided me while I was in pain.

It would be hard to name each and every person in the county that are near and dear to Susan and I's hearts. But it safe to say that each and every one of you have made the last three years the most enjoyable times of our lives.

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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
3 State Awards
2013
2 National Awards
7 State Awards
2012
2 State Awards
2011
4 National Awards
(Awards presented by Minnesota Newspaper Association and National Newspaper Association)

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LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

ETHICS

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

LAWSUIT

Continued from Page 1A

application and that the permit should be vacated. She also ruled, however, that Masching could reapply and if the required items were included in the application it could be granted.

Masching reapplied with additional information and the permit again granted.

In January of 2015, the Troms filed to appeal the county's decision for a second time, alleging the county did not hold a fair hearing on the complete application and did not take a hard look at all the relevant issues.

At the request of the county, Williamson removed herself from the case and it was assigned to Olmsted Chase.

When the current suit was originally filed, James Peters, attorney for the Troms, said the Troms were denied a fair and impartial hearing as required by Minnesota law at a special meeting conducted by the Dodge County Planning and Zoning Commission.

He also said that Melissa DeVetter, the county's zoning administrator, had acted as an advocate for the project and that the county had approved the conditional use permit without analyzing the manure management plan associated with the project.

In February, Dodge County made changes to the ordinance regarding approval of feedlot permits and in April, Peters asked that the Troms original complaint could be amended to include the county's changes to the ordinance. At the same time, the county asked that the Troms' suit be thrown out because of errors in serving the papers on the county.

Last summer, Chase ruled that an amended complaint could not be filed, and that the suit must continue under the original complaint. He also ruled that any errors made in serving the papers did not affect the county's ability to defend against the suit.

The motions for summary judgment now filed with the court are in response to that original complaint. All three motions include a Memorandum of Law detailing each side's reasons for the judge to rule in their favor.

Peters asked that the Troms' motion is granted, and the conditional use permit granted to Masching Swine Farms is once again vacated. Motions filed by Paul Reuvers, representing Dodge County, and Jack Perry and Maren w, representing Masching Swine Farms, ask that the county's action be affirmed.

After hearing the verbal arguments next week, Chase will take the case under advisement and issue a ruling at a later date.

SNOWSTORM

Continued from Page 1A

tions save lives.

"Precautionary travel advisories, shutting down schools and businesses, and even closing roads during some of these terrible conditions is a good call," said Owatonna Fire Department Chief Mike Johnson. "When we do it, and it works—no one understands, but there may have been injuries, even death, prevented."

He said that those tragic accidents happen when there are more people on the road. "You can prevent these accidents by not traveling if you can swing it," said Johnson. "Decide against going out to avoid being stranded on the side of the road or even death."

Sgt. Gary Okins of Steele County Sheriff Office said that Feb. 2 and 3 were "pretty noneventful" regarding their number of incidents.

For Feb. 2 and 3, Okins reported six vehicles off road with no injuries in Steele County. There were no incidents of property damage.

"It was good weather-wise," said Okins. "Everybody obviously listened to reports, stayed home, and drove to conditions because there were a lot of people out."

Troy Christianson of the Minnesota State Patrol reported that the 11 counties in Southern Minnesota area may have seen less accidents than the storm than the last major storm that started on Dec. 29.

Christianson said that from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 2 in southern Minnesota, there were a reported 59 vehicles off the road, 13 property damage crashes, and 4 injury crashes.

He then gave a wider perspective for all of Minnesota. From 10 a.m. on Feb. 2 to 10 a.m. on Feb 3, there were 475 vehicles off the road, 449 property damage crashes and 39 injury crashes in the state.

Christianson agreed with Johnson when he said that the cancellations "definitely help" bring those accident numbers down. He also remarked that Interstate 90 being closed from Albert Lea to the South Dakota border probably had an impact.

On Feb. 3, Christianson shared that Minnesota already has 29 fatal accidents. Last year at this time, there were 10 fatal accidents. He attributed these deaths to driving too fast, distracted driving, impaired driving, and not wearing seat belts.

He emphasized that the main cause for accidents during harsh winter weather is that travelers drive too fast.

"The weather doesn't cause crashes. Driver's error causes crashes," he said. "People just need to adjust their speed according to the conditions."

Steele County Administrator Laura Elvebak said that the county plows began in the southern part of the county on Feb. 2 as early as 10 a.m. and went until 5 p.m. On Feb. 3, they plows went out around 5 a.m. and went until around 4:30 p.m.

Elvebak said that the only thing preventing the spreading of salt and sand on county roads right away were the high winds.

"We also always want the public to be aware of one, the plows and trucks kick up a lot of snow and two, don't assume that the driver of the plow can see you," said Elvebak. "The trucks have a lot of blind spots, plus they have a lot to look for—other cars, mailboxes, people, snow, and plus they are handling the machine."

Elvebak also encouraged Steele County residents to look to the Steele County Facebook page for updates on the next storm.

When accidents involve powerlines in any way, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Communication Specialist Randy Sobrack encourages individuals to act with caution.

If one is in a vehicle that strikes a powerline, Sobrack encourages individuals to stay in the car until the authorities are there to take care of the situation. If the car is on fire, he said the best thing to do is exit the car by "jumping or shuffling" in such a way that you come into as little contact with the car as possible.

"In this situation, the first place you want to be is in your vehicle," said Sobrack. "You do not want to be in the path, because you will get electrocuted and possibly die."

He said that oftentimes individuals outside of the car want to help, but if they touch the car or powerlines, they will likely be "in the path of the electricity."

Sobrack said that there was only one storm-related power outage, which was south of Owatonna near Litomysl. "The outage took out power for about 25 people. It wasn't an extended outage, but it was an inconvenience for those 25 people," he said.

While this one had an unknown cause, Sobrack said that it is more usual for a gust of wind to knock a tree into a line and thus, cause a power outage.



Staff photo by Anna Segner

The snow was carefully plowed on Holly Street on Feb. 3 as the snow fell steadily, compiling several inches.



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

A severe snowstorm coated Steele County with several inches of snow last week and the snow, when combined with strong winds, drastically reduced visibility on many area roads. Above, U.S. Highway 14 is barely visible during last Tuesday's storm.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Above, snow covers the intersection of East Main Street and Third Avenue Northeast in Blooming Prairie during some of the heaviest snowfall, which occurred between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. last Tuesday.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

As snowplows worked to clear the streets of Blooming Prairie last Tuesday, it was easy to see that the severe snowstorm dumped several inches of snow on the Blooming Prairie area. Most of the snow accumulated within just a few hours, but persistent winds created more hazardous road conditions that evening and many area schools closed again on Wednesday.

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News

BENEFIT BASH

Continued from Page 1A

Kids' VIP Party," Doocy said. "The kids will get to go and have their own little gig down at the Boys & Girls Club. For those who aren't members of the Boys & Girls Club, they can go and experience the Club and see what it's all about."

This, said Doocy, may even encourage some kids to consider joining the Club. "That could increase enrollment numbers, as well," she said. "That's one of our big goals this year."

Advisory Board Member Angie Carlson spoke to guests about the organization and all it offers local youth. "If you haven't been into the Boys & Girls Club, I encourage you to stop in and check it out," she said. "It's a great place for our kids to go after school or during the summer. We're very fortunate to have this in our community."

Carlson also took time to acknowledge each advisory board member, noting that some were new to the Board. "We have a lot of new members that are very passionate about it, and we're setting some really great goals," Carlson said.

During the Benefit Bash, Carlson also took a moment to introduce Marcy Sundine to all in attendance. Sundine and her family recently moved back to the Blooming Prairie area, and began working as the new Boys & Girls Club of Blooming Prairie's Unit Director in January. "(She) has already done some awesome things and we just look forward to what she has for the future," Carlson said, of Sundine.

Sundine, in turn, took time to recognize Doocy and Cheri Krejci, who worked hard to organize the 2016 Benefit Bash. Children from the Club made thank-you cards for both Doocy and Krejci and presented them during the Benefit Bash.

'If you haven't been into the Boys & Girls Club, I encourage you to stop in and check it out. It's a great place for our kids to go after school or during the summer. We're very fortunate to have this in our community.'

— Angie Carlson, Boys & Girls Club Advisory Board member

Advisory Board member the Rev. Charlie Leonard also presented two awards. First, he spoke about two local people who have made a big difference for the Boys & Girls Club of Blooming Prairie, George Ressler and his late wife, Tillie. Leonard recalled a conversation that took place many years ago. Leonard said that his friend, a successful businessman, shared a few words of wisdom.

"He said, 'It is my time to give back in ways that will make the community I live in a better place for others, too.' George and Tillie Ressler had come to know this same thing many years ago, as well," said Leonard. "And, this past year, they decided to support this community in significant ways that would make where they live a better place for the generations to come. The Blooming Prairie Boys & Girls Club was one of those places they felt was making their community a better place to live."

Although George was unable to attend the event, Leonard announced that George and Tillie were the 2015 Super Supporter Award.

Leonard also presented the 2015 Hero Award to Davin Johnson, who has also been a strong supporter of the Club. Leonard described Johnson as an "I can do that kind of person." Johnson has helped provide guidance with several projects at the Club facility.

Leonard spoke about Johnson's willingness to help install an epoxy floor at the Club. "He and his crew went to work, not knowing how long this project would take, and they put in many, many hours to complete the task," said Leonard. "When he was done, I asked him for an invoice so we could pay him for his work and expertise, to which he casually said, 'I've got it covered.'"

Johnson, said Leonard, also helped paint the building – again, for no cost. On the night of the Benefit Bash, Leonard presented Johnson with the 2015 Hero Award, for "being a hero at the Boys & Girls Club."



Staff photos by Laura Berndt

The Boys & Girls Club Bash, held at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club, drew a large crowd. All proceeds from the event, which included both a silent and live auction, will benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Blooming Prairie. Above, guests at the Benefit Bash peruse items at the silent auction.



Marcy Sundine, Unit Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Blooming Prairie (center), and kids from the Boys & Girls Club, present Cheri Krejci (right) and Lianna Doocy (eft) with thank you cards, handcrafted by kids at the Boys & Girls Club of Blooming Prairie.



Cheri Krejci takes roll call prior to the Kids' Party. During Saturday's event, kids had an opportunity to enjoy fun activities at the Boys & Girls Club, while their parents attended the live auction. A total of 17 youth attended the Kids' Party.



MiKenna Boehnke, age 3, helped with the 2016 Boys & Girls Club Benefit Bash on Saturday, offering guests a chance to play the "Heads or Tails" game.



Addison Doocy displays one of the items available to bid on during the live auction at the Boys & Girls Club Benefit Bash, a jersey autographed by the 2013-14 Minnesota Wild Hockey Team.



Loretta Wurst and Marg Ilk serve meals to hungry guests at the Boys & Girls Club Benefit Bash.





Choosing a hospice care program



THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by: Prairie Manor Care Center

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

Dear Savvy Senior,
Can you offer any information on hospice care, how to choose a good provider, and whether Medicare covers it? My grandmother has terminal cancer and wants to die at home, if possible.
Grieving Granddaughter

Dear Grieving,
Hospice can be a wonderful option in the last months of life because it offers a variety of services, not only to those who are dying, but also to those left behind. Here's what you should know.

What hospice offers
Hospice care is a unique service that provides medical care, pain management, and emotional and spiritual support to people who are in the last stages of a terminal illness – it does not speed up or slow down the process of dying. Hospice's goal is to simply keep the patient as comfortable and pain-free as possible, with loved ones nearby until death.

The various services provided by a hospice program comes from a team of professionals that works together to accommodate all the patients' end-of-life needs.

The team typically includes hospice doctors that will work with the primary physician and family members to draft up a care plan; nurses who dispense medication for pain control; home care aids that attend to personal needs like eating and bathing; social workers who help the patient and the family prepare for end of life; clergy members who provide spiritual counseling, if desired; and volunteers that fill a variety of niches, from sitting with the patient to helping clean and maintain their property.

Some hospices even offer massage or music therapy, and nearly all provide bereavement services for relatives and short-term inpatient respite care to give family caregivers a break.

Most hospice patients receive care in their own home. However, hospice will go wherever the patient is – hospital, nursing home or assisted living residence. Some even have their own facility to use as an option.

To receive hospice, your grandmother must get a referral from her physician stating that their life expectancy is six months or less.

It's also important to know that home-based hospice care does not mean that a hospice nurse or volunteer is in the home 24 hours a day. Services are based on need and/or what you request. Hospice care can also be stopped at anytime if your grandmother's health improves or if she decides to re-enter cure-oriented treatments.

How to choose
The best time to prepare for hospice and consider your options is before it's necessary, so you're not making decisions during a stressful time. There are more than 5,500 hospice programs in the U.S., so depending on where you live, you may have several options from which to choose.

To locate a good hospice in your area, ask your grandmother's doctor or the discharge planner at your local hospital for a referral, call your state hospice organization (see hospicefoundation.org/hospice-directory for contact information), or search online at sites like the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization at nhpco.org.

When choosing, look for an established hospice that has been operating for a few years and one that is certified by Medicare. To help you select one, the American Hospice Foundation provides a list of questions to ask at 16HospiceQuestions.us.

Who pays
Medicare covers all aspects of hospice care and services for its beneficiaries. There is no deductible for hospice services although there may be a very small co-payment – such as $5 for each prescription drug for pain and symptom control, or a 5 percent share for inpatient respite care. Medicaid also covers hospice in most states, as do most private health insurance plans.

For more information, see the "Medicare Hospice Benefits" online booklet at medicare.gov/pubs/pdf/02154.pdf. And if you have financial questions or concerns, talk to your hospice provider. Most hospices offer financial assistance to help families in need.

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. 14, 2006
Dan Evans, Publisher

Blooming Prairie was well represented at the Academic Triathlon meet in Kasson on Friday, February 3. The Green Meet Team from B.P. placed first out of the nine teams competing. The team includes Joe Gibson, Kaylin Wolf, Tom Fogarty, Patrick Trotman and Marie Helken.

An "Afternoon of the Arts" was held at the Blooming Prairie High School. The special event showcased the many talents of the students, who have been busy throughout the school year in the many aspects of "art." Talents such as acting, singing, playing, drawing, painting, and woodworking were displayed, giving the crowd a taste of the importance of keeping these programs in our schools.

20 Years Ago
Tuesday, Feb. 13, 1996
Elsie Slinger, Editor

The 1996 Blooming Prairie High School Snow Coronation was held recently, with five girls and five boys vying for Queen and King. Jenny Wondra and Mike Ingvalson were picked as royalty for snow week activities. Other candidates were Jennifer Njos, Jeff McCrady, Casey Garness, Jimmy Kollar, Karin Peterson, Nicole Esplan, Laura Hanson, and Randy Valentine.

National Future Leaders of America Week is February 12 through February 17, and local students have been extremely busy all year with a number of projects. In November they sponsored the Sadie Hawkins Dance and held a fundraiser. During the Christmas season they donated a generous amount of food to the local food shelf. The Senior High FLA also sponsored Snow week festivities, which recently took place. The group's purpose is to promote leadership, build self-confidence, and provide opportunities for personal development and preparation for adult life.

50 Years Ago
Thursday, Feb. 10, 1966
Victor, Vernon and Vyrle Krejci, Editors

The Blooming Prairie Education Association has nominated LeMar Nelson for the "Teacher of the Year Award" and his name has been submitted to the Minnesota Education Association for consideration. Mr. Nelson has been with the high school since 1957, where he is an English instructor, speech director, and assistant football and basketball coach. LeMar Nelson graduated from General Beadle State Teacher's College in 1954. While in college, he served as student body president, was listed in "Who's Who", was all-conference basketball, editor of the yearbook, and president of Intercollegiate Press Association. He is married and the father of three children, Ann, 15, Teri 5, and Renee, 3.

75 Years Ago
Thursday, Feb. 13, 1941
Frank Krejci, Publisher

Hundreds of farmers in this area are invited to the L. S. Ulland Co. big "John Deere Day," next Thursday, Feb. 20. Three big motion picture programs are scheduled at the Rox Theatre and a free lunch will be served at noon at the Ulland store. The show, "Melody Comes to Town," is the feature attraction of the day, consisting of a full-length movie, starring one of Hollywood's most beautiful and talented feminine stars, Jean Parker. A full line of new John Deere farm machinery and equipment for spring farm work will be displayed to visitors. Factory men and farm machinery experts will be on hand to help and give demonstrations.

Government taxes are beginning to hit even the kids these days! Bill McIntyre, manager of the Rex Theatre here, announces this week that a new government ruling compels all theatre owners to charge a 3-cent tax on student tickets for children 12 to 18. The 10c tickets therefore will apply only to children 10 years old or younger. However, Bill is making a special price for students who have to pay this tax so that the admission will still be low.

Nineteen volunteers have been selected to fill Steele County's quota of 19 men Feb. 25. An additional six men have been selected as alternates to report in the event that any of the first nineteen fail to pass the final examinations. It will be noted that Steele County is just beginning to draw upon its first regular draftees in their regular order.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

Accountants
Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner P.A.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
Certified Public Accountant Tamzen R. Johnson
319 East Main Street, Blooming Prairie | 888-933-6828 | Fax: 507-583-2389

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Community

Obituary

Eleanor I. Solseth-Kittleson, 94, Blooming Prairie



Eleanor I. Solseth-Kittleson, age 94 of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, died peacefully Friday evening, Feb. 5, 2016, at Homestead Hospice House in Owatonna, Minnesota surrounded by her loving family.

She was born July 25, 1921 in Winneshiek County, Iowa to Alonzo and Willamina (Radechel) Jacklin. Eleanor grew up on the family farm in Winneshiek County, Iowa and graduated from Harmony High School in 1938. On Dec. 10, 1942, Eleanor married Sibert G. Solseth. To this union, two daughters were born, Betty and LaNor. Sibert passed away on June 15, 1972. On April 12, 1975, Eleanor married Herbert Kittleson in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. Herbert passed away on June 24, 2000. Eleanor was a mother and home manager all of her life. She was a member of First Lutheran Church and enjoyed needlepoint, reading and spending time with her family. Eleanor will be greatly missed by all who knew her and loved her.

Survivors include her two daughters, Betty (Kenny) Behnken of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota and LaNor (Brian) McDonald of Cannon Falls, Minnesota, a step-son Howard (Jane) Kittleson of Owatonna, Minnesota; 11 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents Alonzo and Willamina Jacklin, her first husband, Sibert G. Solseth, her second husband, Herbert Kittleson, two great grandchildren, Tyler Jay Behnken and Katlynn Marie Behnken, and a sister, Dorothy Daskam.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2016, at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. Visitation was from 4 – 7 p.m. Monday at the Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota and one hour before the service at the church. Interment will be at Ft. McPherson National Cemetery near Maxwell, Nebraska. Memorials are preferred to Homestead Hospice House in Owatonna, First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, or First English Lutheran Church in Cannon Falls, Minnesota. Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Donald Levern Wilker, 78, Owatonna



Donald Levern Wilker, 78, of Owatonna, died Friday, Feb. 5, 2016 at the Homestead Hospice House in Owatonna.

Don was born Aug. 14, 1937 in Owatonna, Minnesota the son of Levern and Leona (Abbe) Wilker. He graduated from Owatonna High School and attended one year at the University of Minnesota School of Agriculture. While serving in the National Guard in northern Minnesota, Don met his future wife, Jon Miller. They were married July 7, 1962 in Blackduck, Minnesota. Don worked at the Owatonna Elevator for a short time before farming alongside his father and brother in Meriden Township. Don also worked at the Steele County Highway Department until his retirement.

Don was an active leader for the 4-H Meriden Meadowlarks. He served on the St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council, Steele County Free Fair Board, Meriden Township Board, Owatonna Elevator Board and Norwest Bank Board. He was a member of Rotary, Steele County Pork Producers and Minnesota State Pork Producers. He loved nature, the outdoors, gatherings for family and friends, and his dogs, Charlie and Jax.

He is survived by his wife, Jon Wilker of Owatonna; his sons, Michael (Judy Kittleson) Wilker of Washington D.C., and Kent (Kristen) Wilker of Owatonna; four grandchildren, Maija and Karl Kittleson Wilker of Washington D.C., and Chad and Abby Wilker of Owatonna; his brother, Vern (June) Wilker of Owatonna; brother-in-law, Lowell Bethke of Worland, Wyoming; nieces, Deb (Pat) Zeman and Michelle (Mike) Noble; nephews, Peter (Renee) Belina, Mitchell (Rochelle) Belina, Kevin (Sue) Bethke, and Kurt (Carol) Bethke.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Elaine Bethke; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, David and Pat Belina.

Visitation was at Michaelson Funeral Home on Monday, Feb. 8, 2016 from 4 to 7 p.m. Visitation along with coffee and refreshments was Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2016 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Meriden, from 9 to 10 a.m. Funeral services, followed by lunch, were held Feb. 9, 2016 at 10 a.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Meriden with The Reverend Patti Meyer officiating. Interment will be in the St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery, Meriden. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Meriden or Homestead Hospice House.

Milestones

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Feb. 9
Dawn Harshbarger
Holli Naatz
Hannah Ahrens
Luke Wizenburg
Gina Hendrickson

Feb. 10
Corey Butera
Anthony C. Nelson

Feb. 11
John Konecener
Weston Fiebiger
Steve Drexler
Kim Trotman
Kristen Krell

Feb. 12
Adam Esplan
Emily Trihus
Gary Polinder
Marge Schmeling
Justin Esplan
Alan Schaefer

Feb. 13
Jim Trotman Jr.
Bobbie Bruns
Judy Remker

Feb. 14
Harley Haley
Doug Krell
Janis Haberman
Joe Haberman
Haley Ryks
Jim Severtson
Jon Peterson
Rita Goodnature
Owen Braaten

Feb. 15
Elvin Alwes
Emily Iversen
Steve Glynn

Anniversaries

Feb. 9
Mark and Karen Thoen

Feb. 15
Kurt and Barb Blome
Galen and Dorothy Peterson

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Events at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library



Nancy Vaillancourt

The Blooming Prairie Branch Library has several events coming up in the month of February, so mark your calendars for these dates. Remember that all our programs are free and open to the public!

Basic Computer Classes – due to the snow on Feb. 2, the class dates have been changed. If you need some personalized help to use computers or tablets, come at 1:30 p.m. on the following Tuesdays: Feb. 9 and 23, and March 1 and 8.

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss Family Fun Night – will be held on Thursday, Feb. 18 at 6:30 p.m. We will have silly rhymes and magical books by Dr. Seuss. The staff from ECFE will provide crafts for the children.

Hot Reads for Cold Nights Author Visit – As part of the SELCO Winter 2016 Author Tour, author Julie Klassen will be at the City Council Chambers at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 25. Julie spoke a few years ago at the library, so we are excited to have her visit again. Her book, "Secrets of Pembrooke Park", was honored in the recent Minnesota Book Awards.

Finally, the library and city offices will be closed on President's Day, Monday, Feb. 15. See you at the library!

Anniversary



Submitted photo

Eddie and Jackie Winzenburg from Owatonna, Minnesota celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 5th, 2016. They will be celebrating with family at a later date. Cards and best wishes would be greatly appreciated!

SEMCAC senior menu

Feb. 9: Swiss steak, baked potato/sour cream, dilled carrots, dinner roll, blushing pears
Feb. 10: Bean-lentil soup, tuna salad on a bun, citrus fruit cup, starburst cake
Feb. 11: Chicken parmesan, confetti rice, brussel sprouts, tossed salad, fresh fruit
Feb. 12: Broiled cod, ALT: Pork steak, seasoned potatoes, broccoli, dinner roll, strawberry shortcake
Feb. 15: Closed
Feb. 16: BBQ meatballs, baked potato/sour cream, green bean cass, orange wedge, coconut crumb delight
Feb. 17: Beef stroganoff over noodles, stewed tomatoes, three-bean salad, bread pudding

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Area Church Spotlight



VIctory Life Church, Ellendale

Pastor's corner

Make lent a time of reflection, conversation and discovery



The church season of lent begins on Ash Wednesday and, with that, comes a variety of New Year's-like resolutions. Some folks have the tradition of not eating red meat on Fridays. Others refrain from indulging in some of life's pleasures as they watch less TV, or eliminate chocolate and coffee from their diet. Ideally, this spiritual practice of fasting serves as a way to show solidarity with the poor. It can be an act of repentance or a way to recognize the contrast between the struggle of lent and the grace found on Easter. Fasting can also give us an opportunity to eliminate some of the distractions of life and turn our heart and attention back to God.

Lent lasts for forty days, like the flood Noah endured on the arc, Moses' visit with God on Sinai, Elijah's walk to the God's mountain and Jesus' temptation in the dessert. Perhaps we can consider the following weeks and days as a journey of reflection, conversation and discovery. One that daily captures our attention and provokes us to consider how God is active in our lives and how we can be better servants of Christ.

As you journey through lent, I invite you to consider why you fast and how it connects you to God. Lent is also a time for prayer and giving to people in need. In addition to changing one's behavior by eliminating some foods or activities, perhaps you can also add something to your day. If you are watching less TV, take that time you would have spent in front of the screen and spend it with your family, volunteer or read devotions. Be intentional in your conversations with God, try adding prayers to meals or saying prayers at a stop light. When you eliminate a luxury from your life, donate the money that would have gone to that activity. For example, if you decide to fast from coffee or soda, perhaps you could donate money to the food pantry or to water filters for the people of Flint, Michigan.

I pray these forty days become an opportunity for you to turn to the cross and center yourself in Christ.

Stephanie Wood, Pastor
Aurora Lutheran Church, Owatonna, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Blooming Prairie

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.goodshephardowatonna.com
Services: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
28959 630th Ave., Sargeant
The Rev. Ronald Prigge
Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
104 First St. S.E., Hayfield
The Rev. Paul Hauschild
(507) 477-2248
www.trinityhayfield.org
Services: 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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Pastor Richard Sliper
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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 Viaca
(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

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Valentine's Day

YOUR GUIDE TO A ROMANTIC NIGHT

Make the most of your night out this Valentine's Day

Chocolates and flowers may be staples of Valentine's Day, but many couples take it one step further and dine out on February 14.

According to the Retail Advertising and Marketing Association's Valentine's Day Consumer Intentions and Actions Survey, 34.6 percent of respondents indicated that dining out would be part of their Valentine's Day agenda.

A romantic dinner is an ideal capper for a day geared around love and affection. But Valentine's Day is a busy night for many restaurants, so it pays to heed the following advice to ensure this special night is memorable for all the right reasons.

Make reservations well in advance. Dining out is especially popular on Valentine's Day, so call several weeks in advance to secure your spot. Also, do not underestimate the draw of all types of restaurants on Valentine's Day. People who were not able to get a table at their first choices may trickle into chain restaurants or smaller establishments in search of an easy meal. If you think your lesser-known haunt will not be packed, think again. Always play it safe by making a reservation early.

Expect some crowding. Restaurants tend to add extra tables on Valentine's Day, when they expect an influx of customers. Dining rooms may be more packed than usual, and you may not have a choice of where you will be seated. Even a reservation does not guarantee you won't have to wait for a table. Be patient upon arriving at the restaurant, and consider wait time when factoring in childcare.

· Be flexible with the menu. Price-fixed menus are commonplace on nights when there will be a large turnover of customers in a short amount of time. These menus allow restaurants to stock up on the necessary ingredients and cook en masse. Diners may find that price-fixed menus offer a limited selection, and their favorite dishes may not be available. But knowing this in advance can reduce feelings of disappointment. Rest assured there should be several options that appeal to different palates.

Be patient with servers. Valentine's Day is a busy night for staff at the restaurant, particularly servers who must be the liaison between the kitchen staff and diners. The sheer volume of customers can test the skills of even the most veteran servers. Many Valentine's Day diners do not eat out regularly and will need extra guidance. Servers may be called on to snap photos of couples with cell phones or linger at certain tables. Use idle time at your table to engage in romantic conversation and plan the rest of the evening.

Consider your budget. Diners can expect to pay a premium for dining out on Valentine's Day. Select a lower-priced restaurant if your budget is on the smaller side.

Be on time. Being respectful of your reservation will not only benefit you, but also it is a courtesy to fellow diners who will be sitting at your table later in the evening. While you may want to linger over dessert, try not to linger too long.

Promptly store leftovers. If you take a doggie bag home from dinner, stash it in the refrigerator as soon as possible to prevent foodborne illnesses. If you will be going out dancing or to a movie after dinner, it may be best to skip the doggie bag altogether.

Valentine's Day is a busy night for dining out. Patience, courtesy and flexibility are traits that can keep your evening moving along smoothly.

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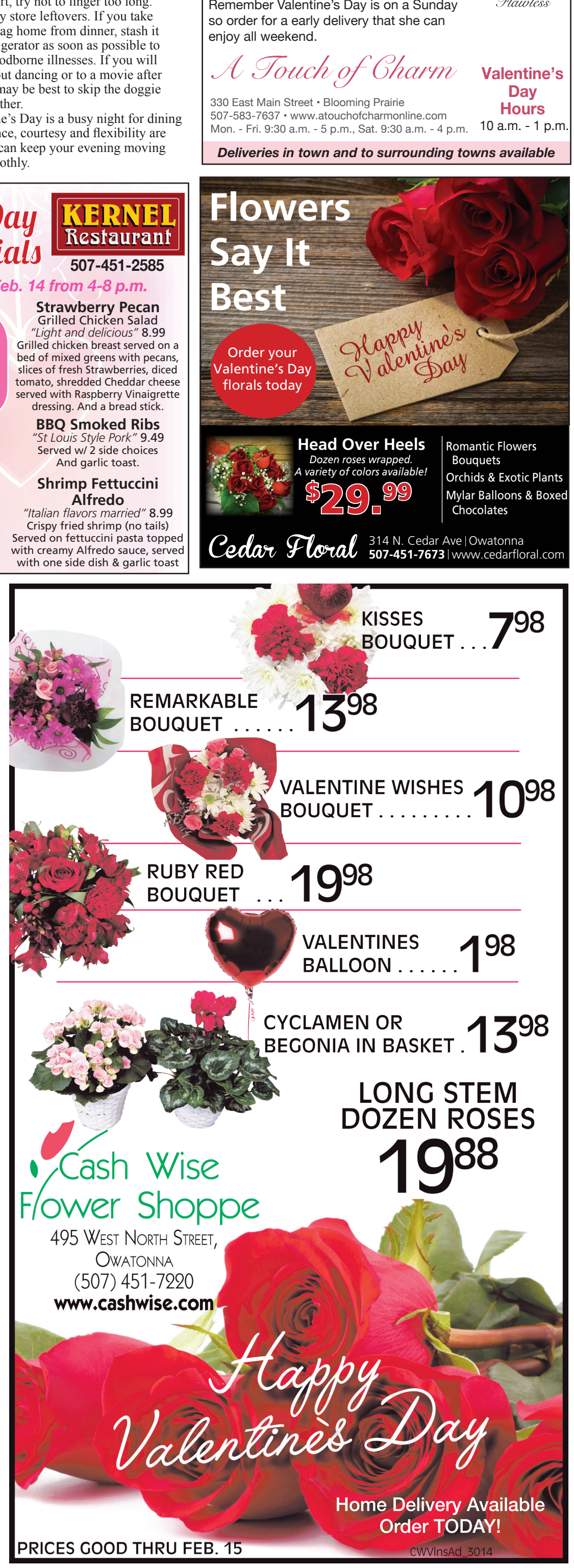
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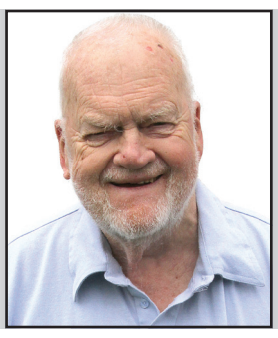
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HometownSports

B Section | www.steeledodgenews.com | Tuesday, February 9, 2016

OUTSIDE THE LINES



LEMAR NELSON

Mother Nature throws punch

Just about the time we started to think that winter had passed us by, and we could start thinking spring, Mother Nature threw a big punch to the jaw. Although I don't think last Tuesday's storm wreaked as much havoc as the weather people had predicted, it certainly disrupted life for a few hours.

If my memory serves me right, this was the first postponement for sporting events all winter. Whether it is the last time or not is anyone's guess, as El Nino may still have a few tricks in store for us. But it did surprise us a little to see snow banks again, and streets and roads with snow piled up on the sides. Winter weather doesn't bother me, but coming after such a relatively mild first part of the season, did offer a real change of pace.

As my friends keep telling me, "We live in Minnesota, and we should expect quick changes in the weather systems. We do live in the theater of seasons." That doesn't stop me, however, in anticipating the advent of another season after winter. We can all dream of change, for sure.

Girls win pair

All of the basketball action last week happened in two days, and the Blossom girls used the opportunity to win a pair of games. I have occasionally bemoaned the fact that the team has to depend on the defense for their victories, but the offense came alive in the two conference contests against Bethlehem Academy and Maple River.

Against the Eagles, especially, the players shot the ball pretty well, and they displayed good balance in distributing the scoring. The team scored 34 points in the first half and had the opportunity to play everyone before the game's end. They have tough games left on the schedule, but increased scoring will give them a chance to compete favorably. It should be interesting.

Except for the win over Bethlehem Academy a week ago, it has been a tough week for the Blossom boys. The offense largely disappeared, primarily due to poor ball handling and untimely turnovers. What was even more troubling to me was the inability to pull down their share of rebounds.

Way too often a shot would go up, and then the player would stand and watch instead of following the shot and crashing the board. That is a bad habit that can be corrected, and it behooves the boys to do that very thing. The team will finish the season with some tough competition, and there is still time to get things straightened out. Let's hope they do, because the playoffs are just a week away.

OUTSIDE THE LINES
Continued on Page 2B

Boys drop third straight

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

The Blooming Prairie boys basketball team dropped its third straight game, as Maple River almost doubled up the locals, 63-37 at Mapleton Friday, Feb. 5.

The locals just couldn't get anything going all night and fell behind 33-20 at the half. BP only managed 17 points in the second half.

The Eagles had a wide edge in rebounding, as the locals had only 26 for the game. The team shot 34 percent for the game, but the winners kept BP's leading scorer Anthony Nelson to just six points on an off-shooting night for Nelson. Reserve Max Romeo led the Blossom offense with 13 points, but no other player could count more than five points.

A slow start again for the junior varsity team led to 56-47 loss. A spirited comeback in the second half got the locals within three points with a chance to tie, but missed free throws foiled the chance.

Cameron Kubista had 15 points, Kaden Thomas had 13 and Gabe Hagen contributed 11.

The team record dropped to

BP BOYS
Continued on Page 2B

BLOOMING PRAIRIE BASKETBALL



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
Kylie Forystek approaches the basket during Friday night's game against Maple River.

Girls jump start offense

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

After a few games of relative low scoring, the Blooming Prairie girls basketball team put its game into a higher gear and won the second straight game.

BP defeated Maple River on the home court 59-40 Friday, Feb. 5, for the third straight win to improve the season mark to 14-6 and the conference record to 7-4. The team travels to Hayfield tonight (Tuesday) for a non-conference tilt against the Vikings.

"We earned a solid conference win tonight," remarked Coach John Bruns. "We had a great first half to jump out 34-13, and we got great balance in scoring for the game. Defensively we did a good job also, making the Eagles work hard to get their shots."

The winners had a good shooting night from the field,

BP GIRLS
Continued on Page 2B

Medford pulls out close match over NRHEG

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Medford held off a late New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva rush to defeat the Panthers, 42-34 in high school wrestling action on Friday night at New Richland High School.

"We got a quick start and an early lead, mostly because our kids were ready to wrestle," said Tigers' Coach Dennis Whitman. "We are coming together as a team and peaking at the right time."

It was the final Gopher Conference match of the season for the Panthers. NRHEG ended the conference season with a 2-3 record. Next up for the Panthers is Section 2A Tournament action. The opponent or location had not been determined at press time.

"Tonight is an extremely tough situation for our guys. When people talk about the coach making bad decisions that lead to a loss, usually it is not the case," said NRHEG Coach Shawn Larson. "Tonight I made some poor decisions, which may have been what cost us the dual."

Larson said that in an attempt to get matches for most of the wrestlers he put people in weight classes where they didn't belong. "That is not to take anything away from Medford, who came with a mission and accomplished it. They wrestled very well and would likely have won if we made the right choices, it is just difficult for me, because I feel as if I didn't give them as much of a chance," he added. "It is a learning experience; in which I hope I can not repeat. Congratulations to coach (Dennis) Whitman for a great match and a much deserved win."

Medford 42, NRHEG 34

(106 lbs.) Johnny Meyer of Medford pinned Andrew Bailey of NRHEG in 1 minute and 51 seconds.

(113 lbs.) Bryce Lisowksi of Medford beat Brett Kubiatowicz of NRHEG 11-2 (major decision).

(120 lbs.) Christian Tupa of Medford pinned Thor Routh of NRHEG in 1 minute and 37 seconds.

(126 lbs.) Ross Lenort of NRHEG won by forfeit against Medford.

(132 lbs.) Willie Von Ruden of Medford beat Tyler Jacobson of NRHEG 16-0 (technical fall).

(138 lbs.) Bo Noble of Medford pinned Cordell Peterson of NRHEG in 5 minutes and 42 seconds.

WRESTLING
Continued on Page 3B



Submitted photo
New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva's Trey Hoppe pinned Nate McCarty of Medford to the mat in 19 seconds during a dual on Friday night in New Richland. The Tigers won the match, 42-34.

Blooming Prairie wins third wrestling match of season

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

After falling to JWP/WEM in a wrestling match, Blooming Prairie won its third match of the season, the second time over St. Clair at a triangular meet at Janesville Thursday, Feb. 4.

The Blossoms lost to the Grizzly team 47-28, but then came back to defeat the Cyclones 45-33.

Against the Grizzlies, Ethan Arett scored the first points for the Blossoms with a tough 5-3 decision over Zach Voegele at 113 pounds. The home team took the next two bouts forfeits, but Jon Hansen won a major decision over Justin Hill at 132. Hansen scored four takedowns and a near fall for a 13-4 decision. Seth Peterson decisioned Jaleen Taylor 8-5 at 145,but the next two bouts went to the Grizzlies by forfeit.

The next local points came from Colton Krell by a pin over Shea Wheelock at 5:45 of the 172 weight, and Mitchell Oswald pinned Gage Fastenal at 2:55 of the 195 weight. Brad Staska earned the last points for the Blossoms with a pin of Andrew Larson in just 39 seconds of the heavyweight bout.

Because of forfeits by both teams, only two bouts actually took place in the St. Clair match won by the Blossoms.

At 138, Jon Hansen pinned Nicky Nojima.

As Coach Chad Gimbel remarked, "They did some juggling of weights to give them an advantage, but overall, our boys did a good job of defending in the bouts."

Despite the lack of numbers, the Blossoms generally win more bouts than the opponents in actual competition.

Sports

GIRLS BB

Continued from Page 1B

24-of-56 attempts for 42 percent. Maple River shot 27 percent for the game. Kylie Forystek led the attack with 12 points, but Marissa Larson had 11, Kaci Gwilt 10 and three other girls had at least five points each. Ninth-grader Madi Shirmer counted 14 points for Maple River.

The game turned the Blossoms' way early in the first half. BP outscored the Eagles 20 to 4 over a four-minute period midway in the half. Maple River cut the final margin with some late baskets, including a pair of treys, but the locals maintained a fairly comfortable margin throughout.

Both the JV and C squad teams won their prelims. The JV team prevailed 49-39 on two good halves of basketball, and the C squad won its second in a row 27-26 over the Eagles.

Maya Lembke led the offense for BP with 12 points, but Sam Wurst added nine and Julia Worke and McKenna Hein chipped in seven points each. Eight different girls scored for Coach Cory Hendrickson's team.

"The C team earned their second win in a row," commented Coach Hendrickson, "and I am proud of them for that. They have battled all season long, which hasn't always translated into wins, but they haven 't quit, and it's fun to watch them have some success."

Rachael Oswald and Marti Snider counted seven and six points. The JV team upped its record to 12-7, and the C team is now 3-11.

BP girls down B.A.

After falling behind 7-2 early, the Blossom girls settled down to take a 20-17 halftime lead and add to that margin for a 46-37 victory over Bethlehem Academy at Faribault Thursday, Feb. 4. A decisive run in the first six minutes of the second half widened the margin to as many as 15 points at one point in the game.

The team shot 40 percent on 16-of-40 attempts, while the Cardinals made 28 percent on 14 of 50 tries. Forystek scored 14 points to lead the locals, and Lauren Larkoski and Gwilt added nine and eight points. Five other girls scored at least two points each. Gwilt had four assists and four steals, and Hannah Ahrens and Kalyn Naatz had eight rebounds each.

The JV team defeated B.A. 33-29 in a close prelim, and the C squad won the second game of its schedule over the Cardinals 24-20. Wurst and Worke scored 11 and nine points for the JV team which had a 23-6 lead at the half. Oswald and Worke had seven and 6 points in the C squad victory.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Senior Kalyn Naatz takes a shot for the Blossoms as Maple River's defense moves in. The two teams met on Friday, Feb. 5, in Blooming Prairie, for the second time this season.

BOYS BB

Continued from Page 1B

9-12.

Goodhue races past BP

For the second game in a row, the Blossom boys struggled mightily in losing a non –conference contest to a very good Goodhue team, 75-29 on the home court Thursday, Feb. 4.

Too many turnovers, poor shooting and too few rebounds for the Blossoms made the balanced and deep Wildcat team the easy winner.

Eighteen players dressed for Goodhue, and all 18 had a chance to get minutes of playing time. Reserve Jacob McNamara led the balanced attack for the visitors, but Jacob Pasch counted 14 and Ryan Alpers chipped in nine points. Thirteen players had at least one point in the game.

Anthony Nelson managed 13 points, but no other Blossom could score more than six points in the game. The last six minutes went by running time, because of the big lead manufactured by the winners.

Goodhue led 25-13 at the half and defeated the JV team 49-41. The locals played a much better second half, but it was too much to overcome. Kubista counted three treys to score nine points for the Blossoms

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued from Page 1B

Meanwhile the BP wrestlers notched another match victory, the second time over St. Clair. In fact, in the few last several matches, the local matmen have won more bouts than the opposition, but too many forfeits have deprived the team of match victories.

The team playoffs begin for the schools this weekend, with individual tournaments a week later. BP has some individual wrestlers with fine records who are ranked high in the area, and we wish them the best of luck as they prepare for the tournaments just ahead.

A brilliant Bash

A full house at the Servicemen's Club last Saturday night help ensure that the annual fund-raising bash for the local Boys and Girls Club would be a rousing success. A final tally for the event probably won't be available until next week, but preliminary figures estimate that approximately $25,000 would be a pretty good ballpark figure.

That would be short of the ambitious goal that organizers set, but it would be substantially more than any of the previous years' totals. That is a credit to a very supportive community and a board of directors committed to making the local club a success, bidders who came out in force, and even club members who participated in the festivities. The weather cooperated, and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening.

A good deal of credit goes to Cheri Krejci and Lianna Doocy, the co-chairmen of the benefit planning. Other board members also pitched in to go above and beyond the call of duty. It was a great event. Some items that brought out high bidders included a patio bar, airline tickets , several casino packages, Twins and Viking tickets a mystery dinner, and several 1/2 hogs.

The best part of the evening, according to several people was that it is a great time to socialize, as well as bid on items. My daughter even exclaimed that it wasn't the purchases, as much as it was the entertainment and excitement generated by the event itself. She wouldn't miss it, if at all possible. After all, where else could one note a quart jar of pickles bringing almost $100.

Odds and ends

It hardly seems possible, but the end of winter sports is creeping up fast. Tournaments and playoffs are just a week away, and then the time will speed quickly by. The mild weather has skewed our mental clocks, I guess, but we still may have to deal with winter. My deadline for this column is Sunday, and I am at the mercy of the weather forecaster. A prediction of some blustery weather over night and into Monday may very well throw everything off again. With that in mind, I will close this version and simply tell you that we'll again.

Women's Bowling League

TEAM STANDINGS: Week 2

1. Epic Contracting	8-4
2. J&H Liquor/Dairy Queen	8-4
3. DOE	7-5
4. Pizza Cellar/Cue Co.	5-7
5. F&M Bank	4-8
6. Kosters' Kar Corner	4-8

INDIVIDUAL STATS

High Game:

1. Kathi Peterson	183
2. Jerry Alwes	160

High Series:

1. Kathi Peterson	467
2. Carol Heimerman	451

Gopher Conference Standings

Girls Basketball

	Conf.	Overall
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	10-0-0	18-3-0
NRHEG	7-3-0	17-6-0
United South Central	7-3-0	15-4-0
Blooming Prairie	6-4-0	13-6-0
Medford	2-7-0	2-14-0
Bethlehem Academy	1-8-0	9-12-0
Maple River	0-8-0	3-15-0

Boys Basketball

	Conf.	Overall
Maple River	9-1-0	20-3-0
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	10-1-0	18-3-0
NRHEG	7-4-0	15-8-0
United South Central	5-5-0	12-9-0
Blooming Prairie	3-8-0	7-15-0
Bethlehem Academy	2-7-0	7-15-0
Medford	0-10-0	2-18-0

Wrestling

	Conf.	Overall
United South Central	6-3-0	10-6-0
Maple River	7-2-0	9-5-0
WEM/JWP	3-2-0	7-10-0
Medford	3-2-0	5-12-0
New Richland-H-E-G H.S.	2-3-0	8-15-0
Blooming Prairie	3-5-0	3-15-0

Big 9 Conference Standings

Girls Basketball

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

Boys Basketball

	Conf.	Overall
Red Wing	17-0-0	21-0-0
Rochester John Marshall	16-1-0	18-3-0
Austin	14-4-0	16-5-0
Mankato East	11-7-0	13-8-0
Northfield H.S.	11-7-0	14-8-0
Owatonna	9-8-0	12-9-0
Faribault	8-9-0	11-10-0
Winona	6-11-0	7-14-0
Mankato West	6-11-0	9-12-0
Rochester Mayo	4-14-0	4-17-0
Rochester Century	3-15-0	4-18-0
Albert Lea	0-18-0	1-20-0

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

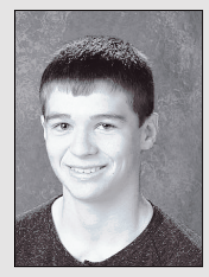
Source: Minnesota Scores website

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



McKenna Hein

One of three sophomores for the BP basketball girls, McKenna Hein is generally the first player off the bench for the Blossoms. Her quick hands and soft shot give her steals against the opposition and some points for the local scoring. She is developing into a very good player and one who will be counted on heavily in the future.



Seth Peterson

One of the underclassmen wrestling for the Awesome Blossom quad is 9th grader Seth Peterson. Peterson wrestles at 145 and is quietly fashioning a wining record in his dual bouts. Because the team is forced to forfeit bouts in team matches, the team record is not a winning one, but he is one of the boys who enable the Blossoms to win more bouts in matches than the opposition.

Sponsored by:



NRHEG loses second straight

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

After coming off a tough loss to Waterville-Elysian-Morristown in girls basketball action the night before, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva dropped its second straight game in a 68-60 defeat to Mankato Loyola Friday, Feb. 5.

The game featured mirror play by both teams, but Panther turnovers proved their undoing.

"The girls played well coming off a tough loss to WEM," commented Coach Onika Peterson, "but the Crusader defense forced us to turn the ball over too many times. We got down by seven with four minutes left and just couldn't climb out of that hole."

Maddie Wagner led the offense with 18 points, and Rachel Collins counted 14. Marnie Wagner pulled down 14 rebounds, had an assist and stole the ball three times.

The Panthers shot 38 percent to 30 percent for Loyola, and rebound favored the losers by four, but the turnovers proved the difference.

WEM tames Panthers

A buzzer beater at the half gave WEM a 34-32 edge over NRHEG, and the Bucs took control in the second half to defeat the Panthers, 65-48 in a conference tilt on Thursday, Feb. 5. NRHEG lost to WEM for the second time this season.

"We played them really tough the first half," remarked Peterson, "but the second half was a disaster, as we couldn't stop their inside game and four treys from the outside. We hope to get a chance at them in the playoffs."

Marnie Wagner led the Panther offense with 19 points and nine rebounds. Maddie Wagner counted 12 points, with four assists and four steals. NRHEG shot only 27 percent from the field, while the Bucs made a torrid 52 percent of their attempts. WEM made 13-of-22 free throws, but the Panthers made 6 of only 9 tries in the game.

NRHEG fell to 7-3 in the conference with the loss.

The junior varsity team lost to the Bucs 40-32.

BP 8th grade team rolls along

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Over the past two weeks, the Blooming Prairie eighth-grade boys have picked up four wins, plus a perfect mark at a BPRA tourney Saturday, Jan. 30. The team record mounted to 16-1 for the season with the four wins in conference contests.

The latest victory was a win over Maple River on the home court Thursday, Feb. 4. The Blossoms took a 26-15 lead at the half and went on to a 47-24 victory. Zach Weber had 16 points for BP and Alec Baldwin added 10.

7th graders win again

The seventh-grade girls defeated Maple River on the home court, 39-24 Thursday, Feb. 4. counting BPRA contests, the team record is now 21-7. BP scored 23 points in the first half, as the girls passed the ball exceptionally well and found open players for easy shots. Megan Oswald led the offense with 12 points, and Maren Forystek and Taylor Wurst added 10 and eight.

The eighth-grade also won their game over the Eagles, 32-18. Alison Krohnberg had 10 points for the Blossoms, and Maggie Bruns chipped in seven. The two junior high teams have just two games left in their season now.

Team wins three

The eighth-grade defeated USC at Wells Friday, Jan. 29, and in earlier games the locals had defeated Medford and WEM.

Against USC at Wells, the Blossoms took a 25-11 halftime lead and went on to a 46-28 victory. Isaac Ille led a balanced offense with 12 points, but Weber had eight, and Karson Vigeland and Matthew Pryor added seven each.

At Medford on Tuesday, Jan. 26, BP shut the Tigers down 23-4 in the first half and ran to an easy 49-12 win. Weber led the scoring in this game with 15 points, but Ille had 12 points, Vigeland had eight, and Alex Baldwin chipped in five points.

The victorious run had started with a 46-40 win over WEM at home. BP led 25-19 at the half, but the Bucs made it close in the second half with a 21-point outburst. Baldwin counted 14 points in the game to lead the offense, and Pryor notched 11. Weber had seven, Ille six and Vigeland four to help keep the locals on the roll.

Freshmen win again

The BP freshmen defeated Medford, 49-36 at Medford Tuesday, Jan. 26, to keep their current win streak alive. The Blossoms raced to a 34-14 first half lead and coasted to a 49-30 victory. Timmy Wolf poured in 23 points in leading the offense, and Gabe Hagen contributed 13. The win marked the sixth victory in a row for Coach Andrew Hardecopf's C team. The team also defeated Bethlehem Academy and Maple River on Feb. 4-5 for wins' number seven and eight, but details were not yet available.

WEM pulls away for win

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva and Waterville-Elysian-Morristown were in a battle with 7 minutes left in a boys high school basketball game. WEM knocked down two three-point shots to break open a 51-50 game, taking control down the stretch and winning, 71-59.

"We were never able to recover after that and ended up losing by 12," said Panther Coach Pat Churchill. "I told our boys I was proud of the effort. We just can't figure out how to win a game down the stretch against a really good team."

It was a tightly-contested basketball game throughout the first half. "We'd make a little run of four or five, then they would make a run," Churchill said.

The Panthers led 30-26 at the half. "I thought Chad Agrimson gave us a big lift in the first half," Churchill said. "He hit 3 threes and had 13 points and John Cole had six points and established a low post presence early. The second half was tight with both team staying close to each other."

Agrimson and Cole each had 15 points, while Oakley Baker chipped in with 13 points and cleared seven rebounds. Zac Olson led WEM with 20 points, Kallen Dorenkemper added 13 points, Dallas McBroom chipped in with 12 points and Tyler Tegmeier assisted with 10 points.

WRESTLING

Continued from Page 1B

(145 lbs.) Nick Masso of Medford beat Trai Wicks of NRHEG 4-3 (decision).

(152 lbs.) Cole Staloch of NRHEG pinned Marcus Deleon of Medford in 4 minutes and 48 seconds.

(160 lbs.) Bryce Okland of NRHEG beat Greg Larson of Medford 10-0 (major decision).

(170 lbs.) Josh Schauer of Medford pinned Palmer Peterson of NRHEG in 3 minutes and 25 seconds.

(182 lbs.) Javis Von Ruden of Medford pinned Lucas Herrmann of NRHEG in 51 seconds.

(195 lbs.) Trey Hoppe of NRHEG pinned Nate McCarty of Medford in 19 seconds.

(220 lbs.) Zeke Erickson of NRHEG pinned Nate Meixner of Medford in 43 seconds.

(285 lbs.) Wyatt Fitterer of NRHEG pinned Trevor Spatenka of Medford in 1 minute and 29 seconds.



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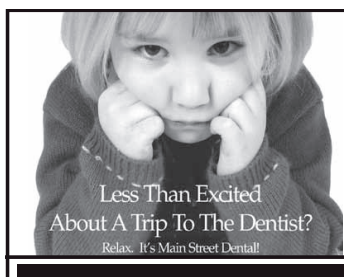
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STEELE COUNTY 4-H AWARD WINNERS

We want to recognize all those 4-H members and friends of 4-H who received special honors at the 15th annual awards and recognition banquet held Jan 3, 2016 at Owatonna VFW. We are proud of your accomplishments.



2015 10th Yr 4-H'er Beth Ann Hanson



2015 Dairy Bowl Team



2015 5th Yr 4-H'ers



2015 1st Yr 4-H Volunteers



2015 Gold Key Winners: Logan Stenzel, Kalyn Naatz, Mitch Dinse, Katie Moon



2015 General Livestock Bowl Team



2015 4-H Ambassadors



2015 4-H Graduates



2015 Outstanding Volunteers: Scott Keilen & Liz Keck



2015 I Dare You Award Winners: Katie Moon & Mitch Dinse



2015 1st Yr 4-H'ers



2015 Super Heroes: Stacy Nelson, Cathy Nelson, and Angie Nelson





2015 Friends of 4-H: Josh Prokopec, SCFF Grounds Crew & Angie Jensen



2015 4-H Superintendents



2015 Judging Team Members



2015 Kottke Dairy Award Winner: Sarah Manderfeld





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Public Safety

Blotter spotlight:
Disturbance. Police responded to a noise complaint in the 400 block of State Ave. NW at 3:12 p.m. on Jan. 31 in Owatonna. They arrested a subject.

2015 Minnesota road fatalities highest since 2010

2016 provides new opportunity to commit to safe driving

From motorcycle deaths to pedestrian fatalities, the lives lost in traffic crashes in 2015 made it a tragic year for too many Minnesota families.

Preliminary numbers from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS) show 396 people have died so far on Minnesota roads compared with 361 for all of last year.

DPS-OTS projects a final number of 405 road fatalities after final crash data are received and evaluated. This would be the highest number of traffic fatalities since 2010, when 411 people lost their lives.

The stories of mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, and children can all be found amongst the nearly 400 lives lost on Minnesota roads in 2015. The 396 preliminary traffic deaths to date included:

• 361 crashes, compared with 319 in 2014.

• 61 motorcyclists, compared with 45 in 2014

• 40 pedestrians, compared with 16 in 2014

• 10 bicyclists, compared with five in 2014

A new year brings new hope

Distracted driving, speed, lack of seat belt use and drunk driving all played a significant role in 2015 road fatalities. As the New Year is upon us, it's a time for Minnesotans to refocus their efforts and commit to paying attention, buckling up, driving the speed limit and always lining up a sober ride.

"Those who lost their lives last year on Minnesota roads were no different than you or me," said Donna Berger, Office of Traffic Safety director. "When they got behind the wheel, they never thought they would never see their loved ones again. We can all make a difference and save lives by making driving our number one priority when we are behind the wheel."

Extra enforcement keeps people safe

In 2016, DPS-OTS will continue to provide federal funding for overtime enforcement to police departments, sheriff's offices and the state patrol to crack down on dangerous driving behaviors. The money provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) allows law enforcement to provide extra staff to focus on drunk driving, speed, lack of seat belt use and distracted driving during designated enforcement periods.

Through education, enforcement, engineering and emergency medical and trauma response, traffic fatalities have been reduced significantly since the mid-2000s.

Road fatality contributing factors in Minnesota

• Speed: one in five fatalities

• Drunk driving: one in four fatalities

• Distracted driving: one in five fatalities

• Half of motor vehicle occupants killed were not wearing their seat belt

About the Minnesota Department Public Safety

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) comprises 11 divisions where 2,100 employees operate programs in the areas of law enforcement, crime victim assistance, traffic safety, alcohol and gambling, emergency communications, fire safety, pipeline safety, driver licensing, vehicle registration and emergency management. DPS activity is anchored by three core principles: education, enforcement and prevention.

About the Office of Traffic Safety

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS) designs, implements and coordinates federally funded traffic safety enforcement and education programs to improve driver behaviors and reduce the deaths and serious injuries that occur on Minnesota roads. DPS-OTS also administers state funds for the motorcycle safety program and for the child seats for needy families program.

DPS-OTS is an anchoring partner of the state's Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) traffic safety program. A primary vision of the TZD program is to create a safe driving culture in Minnesota in which motorists support a goal of zero road fatalities by practicing and promoting safe and smart driving behavior. TZD focuses on the application of four strategic areas to reduce crashes – education, enforcement, engineering, and emergency medical and trauma response.

Recent DPS-OTS activity and statistics

• During October's Click It or Ticket campaign, law enforcement reported 5,550 motorists were cited for seat belt violations from Oct. 9 – 25, a 33 percent drop from last year's October wave when 8,195 motorists were ticketed and the lowest since 2010.

• Officers, deputies and troopers made 1,513 arrests during the enhanced DWI enforcement campaign Aug. 21 – Sept. 7; that's compared with 1,340 during the campaign a year ago.

Minnesota Motor Vehicle Crash Facts 2014 is a summary of traffic crashes derived from law enforcement reports and describes how, why and where crashes occurred and who was involved.

Police Blotter
Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police
No incidents reported.

Owatonna Police
Jan. 29

Drunken Driving. At 12:14 a.m., officer arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at 46th St. NW and Interstate 35 northbound.

Child Protection. Police received a child protection report from the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 9:11 a.m.

Burglary. Police began a burglary investigation in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW at 11:38 a.m.

Theft. A vehicle was reported stolen from the 300 block of 24th Ave. NW at 2:48 p.m.

Jan. 30

DWI. Police arrested a motorist for drunken driving at Broadway St. E. and Elm Ave. N. at 1:31 a.m.

Burglary. At 1:12 p.m., officers responded to a burglary in the 1600 block of Cornerstone Lane SE.

Mental Health. Officer took a mental health report in the 1600 block of 7th Ave. NE at 9:48 p.m.

Jan. 31

Fight. Police responded to a fight in the 400 block of Sylvan St. NW at 1:29 a.m.

Trespassing. At 2:48 a.m., officers responded to a report of a subject trespassing in the 400 block of Pebble Beach Dr. NE. They made an arrest at the scene.

Assault. An assault occurred in the 700 block of South St. E. at 5:16 a.m.

Disturbance. Police responded to a noise complaint in the 400 block of State Ave. NW at 3:12 p.m. They arrested a subject.

Criminal Sex. Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 100 block of School St. W. at 7:41 p.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 9:37 p.m.

Feb. 1

Theft. A vehicle was reported stolen from the 900 block of Johnson Place SE at 2:43 a.m.

Suspicion. Police responded to a suspicious activity report in the 500 block of Mineral Springs Rd. NE at 7:36 a.m.

Burglary. Officers responded to a burglary at Brady Boulevard NW and Frontage Lane NW at 11:10 a.m.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 12:21 p.m.

Harassment. A citizen reported being the victim of harassing communication in the 400 block of 13th St. NE at 1:29 p.m.

Drugs. Drug activity was reported in the 100 block of Grove Ave. N. at 4:33 p.m.

Arrest. At 10:40 p.m., officer took a motorist into custody following a traffic stop at Cedar Ave. S. and Rice St. E.

Feb. 2

Warrant. Officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 300 block of Pine Ave. NE at 1:01 a.m.

Arrest. Police arrested a motorist at 11th St. NE and Elm Ave. N. at 7:28 a.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 1000 block of St. Paul Rd. NE at 8:06 a.m. and in the 1800 block of Bigelow Ave. NE at 1:37 p.m.

Domestic. At 2:44 p.m., officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of Broadway St. E.

Vulnerable Adult. Officer took a vulnerable adult report in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW at 3:10 p.m.

Feb. 3

Fire. Officers responded to a fire in the 400 block of St. Paul Place NE at 4:41 p.m.

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

Feb. 4

Burglary. Officers responded to a burglary in the 1100 block of Hawthorne Ave. SW at 1:44 a.m.

Harassment. Police took a report of harassment in the 200 block of Walnut Ave. S. at 11:16 p.m.

Shoplifting. Officer issued a citation for shoplifting in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 3:17 p.m.

Traffic. At 9:41 p.m., officer made a traffic arrest in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N.

Steele County Sheriff
Jan. 29

Vandalism. At 9:37 p.m., deputy took a property damage report in the 4300 block of Kenyon Rd.

Jan. 30

Domestic. Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of 8th Ave. W. at 1:32 a.m. They made an arrest.

DWI. Deputies made two DWI arrests – at 19th St. NE and Cedar Ave. N. at 1:48 p.m. and at 52nd Ave. NW and Crane Creek Rd. at 11:50 p.m.

Jan. 31

Theft. At 2:06 a.m., a theft occurred in the 3900 block of Hwy. 30 W.

Animal Bite. Deputy took a report of an animal bite in the 300 block of Main St. S. at 12:16 p.m.

Feb. 1

Crash. Paramedics and deputies responded to a crash with injuries at 44th Ave. SE and County Rd. 180 at 12:17 p.m. A citation was issued to a driver.

Animal. Deputy responded to an animal call in the 700 block of 118th St. SE at 1:21 p.m.

Feb. 2

Crash. Deputies assisted the State Patrol with a motor vehicle accident with at County Rd. 45 S. and Hwy. 30 E. at 11:37 a.m.

Child Protection. At 9:07 p.m., deputy took a child protection report in the 100 block of 6th Ave. E.

Disturbance. Deputy responded to a noise complaint in the 2300 block of 44th Ave. SE at 11:09 p.m.

Feb. 3

Threats. At 11:01 a.m., deputies responded to a threats incident in the 700 block of 2nd Ave. NE.

Feb. 4

Vulnerable Adult. Deputy took a vulnerable adult report in the 2400 block of County Rd. 45 S. at 9:44 a.m.

Warrant. A subject came to the detention center to turn himself in for an outstanding warrant at 2:38 p.m.

Court News
Steele County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 25 – 29:

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Scott R. Thorpe, 36, Ellendale, revoked license and no insurance, $481; Aaron V. Wylde, 26, Austin, revoked license, $281.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Alexander J. Brown, 20, Rosemount, possession of Paraphernalia, $131; Rachel L. Bundy, 34, Minneapolis, speeding, $131; Arthur G. Crandall, 52, Hutchinson, speeding, $100;

Sean M. Fogarty, 51, Ranchita, CA, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, $181; Karlie A. Heikes, 22, Lansing, speeding, $131; Wilber T. Hodnefield, 89, Blooming Prairie, no MN registration, $181; Daniel L. Hoffman, 58, Rochester, speeding, $121; Jackie Htoo, 22, Omaha, NE, speeding, $141;

William W. Hutchens, 47, West Salem, WI, speeding, $100; Nathaniel D. Kaufman, 33, Omaha, NE, speeding, $141; Shawn W. Kelsay, 44, Mexico, MO, no MN license, $181; Donald M. McCormick, 19, Albert Lea, no MN license, $181;

Daniel K. O'Connell, 41, Eden Prairie, speeding, $121; Anthony S. Ortega, 18, Owatonna, speeding, $131; Isabelle T. Petsinger, 69, Ellendale, speeding, $131; Jose A. Salinas, 22, Waseca, speeding and no insurance, $341; Russell L. Schmidt, 58, Hartford, SD, failure to yield, $131;

Ryan C. Schommer, 20, Andover, speeding, $131; Craig M. Schumacher, 47, Waseca, seat belt, $106; Robert A. Smith, 52, New Richland, speeding, $121; Quang T. Tran, 18, Storm Lake, IA, speeding, $221;

Christopher E. Wiener, 44, Waseca, speeding, $121; Kevin M. Willis, 36, Owatonna, registration violation, $111; Young K. Yoon, 44, Albert Lea, seat belt, $106.

Owatonna Police Department

Magdaline M. Abrams, 22, Owatonna, shoplifting, $75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Travis R. Anderson, 36, Ellendale, suspended license, $281; Darlene Billups, 55, Owatonna, false emergency phone call, $81 and 2 days in county jail;

Darian M. Bohlman-Reyan, 22, Owatonna, assault, $71, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 32 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation;

Samantha A. Christianson, 22, Big Lake, suspended license, $281; Kirsten T. Conry, 34, Owatonna, revoked license, $281; Alexandra Garza, 20, Owatonna, theft, $75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Hassan O. Katib, 38, Faribault, stop sign, $131; Kia Lee, 25, Owatonna, theft by swindle, $131 and 41 days in county jail;

Catherine S. Manchack, 36, Owatonna, shoplifting, $75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Mohamed M. Mohamed, 57, Owatonna, speeding, $181;

Nicole A. Olson, 32, Rochester, no insurance, $131 and 180 days in county jail; Deisy J. Robles Dejesus, 83, Owatonna, no MN license, $181; Jordyn E. Williams, 20, Owatonna, speeding, $131; Drew T. Wondra, 19, Duluth, minor consumption, $181.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Jeffrey L. Adams, 36, Janesville, speeding, $141; Lupe Alvarado, 31, Le Sueur, revoked license and speeding, $321; Blaine M. Anderson, 49, Baxter, speeding, $121;

Chad H. Basnett, 43, Tulsa, OK, speeding, $121; Kenisha R. Bell, 19, Minneapolis, speeding, $221; Micayla E. Best, 21, Waseca, speeding, $141; Allison M. Boelter, 20, Winona, speeding, $141; Lisa M. Bruder, 50, Waseca, speeding, $141; Coleman T. Bushlack, 22, Minnesota Lake, speeding, $141; Juan R. Carrasco, 38, Owatonna, expired license and speeding, $231;

Bradley J. Fessel, 45, Waterville, speeding, $121; David G. Godbout, 35, St. Peter, speeding, $60; Casey J. Hanlon, 37, Faribault, speeding, $141; Ronald D. Hughes, 54, Waterville, speeding, $121; Andrew J. Hunt, 16, Owatonna, speeding, $131;

Keith F. Jirak, 61, Coon Rapids, speeding, $121; Dakota A. Jones, 20, Medford, headlamps violation and possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, $221; Joshua P. Klinnert, 36, St. Louis Park, speeding, $121; Kristine M. Larson, 38, Waseca, littering, $181; Troy M. Lientz, 40, Austin, no insurance, $281; Marisol N. Macedo Nava, 40, Faribault, speeding, $221;

Michael C. Marcus, 60, Ellendale, speeding, $121; Jack D. Olson, 59, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Victor D. Peterson, 20, Blooming Prairie, stop sign, $131; Sandra J. Schlachter, 59, Claremont, speeding, $221; Cassandra J. Shakal, 24, Austin, cancelled license, $281; Roberta M. Solis, 41, Mission, TX, speeding, $121;

Roger W. Stelter, 65, Faribault, speeding, $121; John D. Swenson, 17, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Brandon J. Wills, 24, Mankato, speeding, $141; Joseph L. Wittrock, 58, Mapleton, speeding, $141.

Police Blotter
Dodge County

Jan. 27

Paraphernalia. At 7:48 a.m., drug paraphernalia was found in the 200 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield.

Civil. Deputy assisted with a property civil matter in the 200 block of Front St. W. in Claremont at 11:39 a.m.

Suspicion. Deputies responded to a suspicious activity report in the 300 block of 2nd St. NE in Hayfield at 7:35 p.m.

Disturbance. At 10:36 p.m., a woman called police when her husband's brother was intoxicated and was threatening her in the 200 block of Front St. W. in Claremont. The subject left the scene.

Jan. 28

Suspicious Activity. At 2:01 a.m., a citizen saw lights and someone moving around inside a home in the 61500 block of 252nd Ave. in Mantorville. The owners were suppose to be on vacation.

Narcotics. Drug activity was reported in the 100 block of Center Ave. N. in Hayfield at 2:17 a.m.

Larceny. Deputy took a report of an employee theft on 3rd Ave. SW in Dodge Center at 7:46 a.m.

Environment. A citizen reported that his neighbor was dumping trash in his dumpster in the 200 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 4:13 p.m.

Crash. At 10:23 p.m., a car hit cows in the road at State Hwy. 30 and 220th Ave. in Hayfield.

Jan. 29

Accident. At 2:39 p.m., deputies received a report that a vehicle drove into a garage door in the 100 block of Hwy. St. E. in Dodge Center.

Juvenile. Deputies responded to a complaint that a 13-year-old female was out of control in the 100 block of 1st Ave. NE in Dodge Center at 7:09 p.m.

Disturbance. At 9:25 p.m., a woman called deputies to get a male off her property in the 100 block of Center Ave. N. in Hayfield.

Jan. 30

Child Abuse. At 11:42 p.m., dep-

PUBLIC SAFETY
Continued on Page 7B

SHERIFF'S TIPLINE

866-878-7964



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

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

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

Terry Yanzer – DWI – no bail
Dionte Younger – false name - $6,000 bail
Jose Zamarripa – revoked license, no insurance – no bail
Isaias Zamorano-Mina – no insurance - $500 bail
Brenda Zapata – false information - $1,000 bail
Octavio Zapata – DWI, speeding - $1,000 bail
Terry Zoller – DWI - $3,000 bail
Joseph Zulker – dishonored check - $6,000 bail
Robert Abrams – drugs – no bail
Veronica Adame – disorderly conduct - $1,000 bail
Randy Aguilar – DWI – no bail
Rashid Ahmed – assault - $10,000 bail
Belen Alaniz – DWI - $12,500 bail
Jose Alarcon Jr. – soliciting child – no bail
Omar Alfaro – minor consumption - $500 bail
Abdisalam Ali – controlled substance - $5,000 bail
Abdiwali Ali – underage consumption - $1,000 bail
Roger Allen – false information - $1,500 bail
Juan Alvarez – cont. delinquent minor - $6,000 bail
Ben Ambrose – open bottle - $181 bail

News/Public Safety

Applicants sought for summer work in Mower County

This summer, one young adult will get the chance to work outdoors in farm fields and local waterways while assisting Mower Soil & Water Conservation District with projects.

Conservation Corps Minnesota is accepting applications through Feb. 28 for the Mower SWCD apprentice position and similar apprenticeships at 29 other Soil & Water Conservation Districts in Minnesota. Applications can be completed online at www.conservationcorps.org/apply.

"Our apprentice will be a huge help this summer, staying busy assisting our staff with the seeding program, spot checks on easement sites, water monitoring and soil health work," Mower SWCD manager Justin Hanson said.

Austin-based Mower SWCD will have its apprentice apply conservation practices, such as surveying and staking; GPS recording of boundaries; seeding; and delivering and setting up a seed drill. The person will review and record observations at easement sites; input data in a district program; organize Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) folders; provide oversight on construction projects; and assist staff with land surveys.

Mower SWCD has a long-standing partnership with Conservation Corps, including Corps members pulling out hundreds of tires from the Cedar River; clearing river hazards for canoes; and removing the invasive buckthorn plant.

Conservation Corps hires all apprentices. Mower SWCD and other participating SWCDs just need to provide a work station and share their work experience in a learning environment. Other area apprentice communities will include Preston, Caledonia, Lewiston, Fairmont and Faribault. Applicants can designate which locations they are willing to work at this summer; the more sites selected, the better their chances of being hired.

Apprentices, who must be age 18 to 25, will serve from May 16 to Aug. 12 as AmeriCorps members while gaining technical and professional experience through learning hands-on skills in managing soil and water resources alongside SWCD natural resource staffers. Typical schedules run from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday in office and outdoor settings, with some evening and weekend hours possible.

Apprentices receive a monthly living stipend of $1,255 and, upon successful completion of the summer term, a $1,515 education award. Funding for these positions is provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund and Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources. Participants also receive skills training, job experience, health insurance and student loan forbearance during the service term. Housing is not provided.

Conservation Corps provides meaningful work for young people in managing natural resources, responding to disasters, conserving energy and leading volunteers. It provides training in resource management, safety, job-readiness and technical skills while helping young people develop personal responsibility, a strong work ethic and greater awareness of environmental stewardship.

Applicants should have a positive attitude and strong commitment to service and community work; willingness to work independently and on a team; ability to communicate effectively with staff, community members and landowners; ability to work outdoors in adverse conditions and lift 50 pounds; a valid driver's license; pass criminal, NSOPR and river history record checks. Training or experience in natural resource management, agriculture, GIS/GPS and MS Office is preferred but not required.

Since 1953, Mower SWCD has provided land and conservation services to Mower County landowners to help manage lands in a way that promotes a sound economy as well as sustains and enhances natural resources that are key to the state's environmental health. Mower SWCD is one of Minnesota's 91 SWCDs that each are governed by a board of elected supervisors.



Submitted photo

Above are previous members of the Conservation Corps Minnesota crew. This summer, selected applicants will have the chance to work outdoors in farm fields and local waterways while assisting Mower Soil & Water Conservation District with projects.

Conservation Corps summer apprentice

Who: Mower SWCD and Conservation Corps Minnesota

What: Co-sponsoring a summer apprentice (age 18 to 25) for assisting in managing soil and water resources

Where: Mower County

When: May 16 through Aug. 12

Why: Learn hands-on skills and get a monthly living stipend and post-term monetary education award

How: Apply by Feb. 28 online at: www.conservationcorps.org/apply

Contact: Kellie Lager, recruitment coordinator Conservation Corps Minnesota 651-209-9900, x31; recruit@conservationcorps.org

Website: conservationcorps.org

MnDOT studies speed limits on two-lane roads

Agency is in third year of 5-year 55 mile per hour speed study

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is entering its third year of evaluating the 55 miles per hour speed limit on all two-lane highways in the state. The five-year study is a legislative mandate to look at the speed limits and make recommendations about increasing the speed to 60 mph.

Of the roads studied in 2014 and 2015, 1,190 miles were raised to 60 miles per hour and 305 miles remained at 55, according to MnDOT's speeds limit report to the Legislature released Jan. 15, 2016.

In 2016, MnDOT will evaluate speed limits on 1,068 miles of roads.

"A properly selected speed limit can increase the safety of the roadway by creating uniform travel speeds for all vehicles, and by setting realistic driver expectations of those trying to cross or enter the roadway," said Julie Whitcher, assistant state traffic safety engineer.

Minnesota has about 7,000 miles of two-lane, two-way roads. About 5,000 of these miles cross the borders of different MnDOT districts and require coordination between the districts. The remaining 2,000 miles that don't cross district boundaries were not assigned for study. They will be studied but the schedule is left to the discretion of the districts.

Not all roads studied will be approved for an increase. The increases are based on a traffic and engineering investigation of each location, which includes looking at past crash rates, physical attributes of the highway such as shoulder widths and access points, and what speed drivers are currently driving.

The legislative report, which includes the 2014 and 2015 study results as well as a timeline of all the roads to be studied, is posted a http://www.dot.state.mn.us/govrel/reports.html.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from Page 6B

uties received a report of child neglect. Investigations are pending.

Jan. 31

Domestic. Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of 3rd St. SE in Hayfield at 3:07 p.m.

Burglary. At 4:38 p.m., deputies received a report that a garage door was damaged and that it appeared that someone attempted to break in to a residence in the 200 block of 2nd St. NE in Dodge Center.

Feb. 1

Threats. A threats incident occurred in the 700 block of 2nd Ave. SE in Dodge Center at 2:25 p.m.

Child Abuse. Deputies received a report of child neglect from the 27300 block of 590th St. in Mantorville at 4:58 p.m.

Feb. 2

Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of a fraud incident in the 25500 block of 590th St. in Mantorville at 9:39 a.m.

Civil. Deputy assisted with a civil matter in the 100 block of 2nd St. NE in Hayfield at 12:09 p.m.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Jan. 25 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Shawnee L. Hoffman, 25, Detroit Lakes, previously appeared and was convicted of felony theft. Hoffman was sentenced to $1,080, 36 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Jan. 25 – Feb. 1:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Kristofer I. Aasen, 17, Hayfield, speeding, $220; Laurie L. Bandel, 47, Hayfield, revoked license and disorderly conduct, $180; Robert R. Cremeans, 37, Blooming Prairie, dangerous weapons –metal knuckles/switch blade, $280; Nicolas P. Demartini, 21, Zumbro Falls, revoked license, $280; Antonio J. Grego, 23, Waterville, speeding, $120; Danica B. Haman, 20, Pine Island, speeding, $220;

Kyle V. Herring, 39, Rochester, speeding, $140; Payton T. Hiller, 20, Kasson, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, $180; Carol M. Johnson, 49, Dodge Center, speeding, $140; Holly M. Johnson, 36, Mantorville, parking violation, $32;

Ashley N. Judy, 16, Stewartville, speeding, $140; Jake T. Mindrup, 24, Waltham, registration violation, $110; Cody J. Morris, 20, Kasson, DWI, $505, chemical assessment and 1 year of supervised probation;

Jessica L. Ouimet, 41, Rochester, DWI, $255, 14 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment and 2 years of supervised probation;

Sarah R. Wangen, 29, Byron, DWI, $1,055, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 90 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation.

Kasson Police Department

Michael R. Eggert, 24, Byron, parking violation, $32; Bryan R. Felske, 22, Winona, speeding, $130; Sophia M. Forsman, 22, Olmsted County Jail, domestic assault, 44 days in county jail; Cristina Gonzalez, 33, Rochester, revoked license, $280; Kendra S. Logghe, 24, Altoona, WI, speeding, $130;

Joshua P. Miller, 32, Austin, speeding and no insurance, $420; Adam L. Rainey, 32, Plainview, stop sign, $130; Halie R. Schettl, 19, Kasson, furnish tobacco to minor, $115.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Alexis J. Anderson, 21, Austin, speeding, $280; Raimond A. Castillo Sandoval, 32, Faribault, speeding, $140; Dawn M. Hegna, 42, Austin, window tint violation, $130; Mercedes A. Hickman-Finstuen, 21, Fort Myers, FL, speeding, $140;

Michael J. Marti, 36, New Ulm, speeding, $130; Sarah J. Moreno, 38, St. James, speeding, $120; Sidney C. Moser, 27, Lake City, speeding, $120; Wyatt M. Renk, 40, Oronoco, speeding, $120; Brian D. Rouhoff, 35, Hayfield, speeding, $120; Benedict E. Sullivan, 25, Burnsville, speeding, $220.

West Concord Police Department

Susan E. Rehdantz, 38, Dodge Center, speeding, $130

Steele Arrests

Owatonna Police

Anival Cuellar, 39, arrested at 12:58 a.m. Jan. 30, warrant arrest for extradition hearing, body only.

Timothy Odell Williams, 45, arrested at 1:50 a.m. Jan. 30, DWI and revoked license, held for court.

Kijafa Nicole Parsons, 32, arrested at 11:15 p.m. Feb. 1, no insurance and revoked license, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Marcos Ernesto Reyes, 40, arrested at 2:07 p.m. Jan. 29, warrant arrest, $56,000 bail.

Cody Robert Ripka, 21, arrested at 1:51 a.m. Jan. 30, felony assault and domestic assault, held for court.

Kali Alexis Shae, 24, arrested at 2:12 p.m. Jan. 30, DWI, held for court.

Everardo Sierra, 38, arrested at 12:44 a.m. Jan. 31, felony DWI and cancelled license, held for court.

Justin Lee Johnson, 26, arrested at 10:34 a.m. Feb. 1, probation warrant arrest, body only.

Otis Carter Chineth, 48, arrested at 8:50 p.m. Feb. 1, warrant arrest, body only.

Elliot Morrow Michael Larson, 18, arrested at 9:10 p.m. Feb. 1, warrant arrest, $650 bail.

Destiny Rebeka Rietveld, 18, arrested at 11:50 p.m. Feb. 2, underage consumption and probation violation, held for court.

Terry Lee Hartwig, 56, arrested at 1:13 p.m. Feb. 3, warrant arrest, $10,000 bail.

Owatonna Fire

Jan. 29

Fire Call. Fire personnel responded to a sprinkler activation at 2121 Bridge St. W. at 1:58 p.m. There was no fire reported and the activation was unintentional.

Feb. 1

Fire Alarm. The fire department responded to a fire alarm at 545 Dunnel Dr. NW at 5:18 a.m. There was no fire and the alarm was unintentional.

Crash. Rescue responded to a motor vehicle crash with injuries on 44th Avenue Southeast at 12:18 p.m.

Feb. 3

Building Fire. At 4:42 p.m., firefighters responded to a structure fire at 459 St. Paul Place NE.

News

A safe place for teens to express themselves

By JESSICA NAFE
Times News Intern

Brandon Wade was hired in late October as Vibrant Life Assembly of God's youth pastor, and he has plans to create a safe, fun environment for community kids.

"I want the teens in Ellendale to know there's a place to go that they can feel safe to express themselves," Wade said.

Originally from Merrill, Wisconsin, Wade was prepared for the small-town atmosphere that the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva community offers. "I thought it was small before coming here," Wade said of his hometown of 10,000 people. "It's a nice community, though," he said of NRHEG. "People are nice and they all know each other."

Minnesota has felt like a second home for several years, Wade reported, because he attended North Central University in Minneapolis. Majoring in ministry, he was following a calling he felt from a young age.

"My parents and pastor saw the skills in me," he remembered. He did not realize his own potential until high school, though. A Bible Study program at Wade's high school needed a leader in order to stay running, so as a sophomore he worked to keep the program going. He stated, "I just really felt a call from God."

After graduating in 2013, Wade married his lifelong friend, Alyssa. He worked at Culver's, volunteered as a youth pastor, and worked as an on-call Hospital Chaplain in Merill before accepting Vibrant Life's offer and moving to the NRHEG community.

The young couple is currently staying at Carleen and Larry Cuglin's home in New Richland. During his free time he enjoys playing strategic table-top games and watching Netflix, but most of his days are spent in Ellendale, planning and preparing events at Vibrant Life.

Wade is in charge of approximately 60 teens, which includes the church's 30-some youth members and other teens that come for events open to the community. The large adolescent following Vibrant Life has gained prompted the church to hire a youth pastor for the first time in the church's history.



Submitted photo
Brandon Wade (right) is the new youth pastor at Vibrant Life Assembly of God. Above, he's posing for a photo with his wife, Alyssa.

In his new job Wade is most looking forward to meeting all of the youth. "Each one has a different story and is special in their own way," he said.

Keeping in contact through calls and emails is an important aspect of building relationships with the teens, according to Wade. "I want them to know that they can talk to me," he commented.

His other tasks while on the clock tend to focus around the church's biggest youth outreach "Spotlight," a Friday night program that launched Jan. 23. Wade stays busy planning games and youth-geared sermons for the students who come to the Vibrant Life event.

"I just talk about issues they face, like bullying or relationship problems, and how we as Christians should react," he stated.

Spotlight is a new version of "The Spot," Vibrant Life's youth program that was canceled in March 2015. The Spot was discontinued because turnout was increasing rapidly, prompting the Rev. PatrickStitt to end the program until someone was hired with the soul purpose to mentor and build relationships the large body of students the church was accumulating.

"A lot of kids needed independent help, and we were all working long hours already," Stitt stated, referring to the church staff. A program called Remnants was started in place of The Spot, but it was open to church members only. "It was for kids to take a year and dedicate it to Christ, like an intensive conformation," Stitt said.

Although Remnants was very successful, with 15 youth participating last year and 23 this year, Vibrant Life was eager to hire a youth pastor who could restart a program geared towards kids from all over the community.

Wade fit the bill perfectly, according to Stitt.

"He has an eagerness to help people," Stitt said. "He's going to make Vibrant Life the place to go for young people, a safe haven for any teen to go to feel loved."

Which is exactly what Wade plans to do. "Church isn't about judging people; it's about showing love," Wade stated.

Area youth (grades 6-12) are invited to attend Spotlight at Vibrant Life every Friday from 7-11 p.m. Other special events will be scheduled throughout the year. Keep posted for dates.

SWCD, CRWD working to improve natural resources

Minnesotans have long been proud of our outstanding natural resources and worked together to enhance our public lands, wildlife habitat and waterways.

In recent years, this already high level of interest and support has seemed to increase rapidly, whether through conservation and environmental efforts or recreational initiatives to enjoy the outdoors. Locally, we've seen that in our office's extensive work as well as through residents getting out more on the waterways or trails along the water.

That is a big part of why all of us at the Cedar River Watershed District and Mower Soil & Water Conservation District are grateful for this new opportunity to share on a monthly basis with you what we are doing to conserve and improve our natural resources from farm fields to waterways.

Mower SWCD has been around since 1953 and is one of Minnesota's 91 SWCDs providing technical assistance to landowners with conservation practices that protect the quality of land and water resources. We cover all of Mower County and are governed by a board of elected supervisors.

The SWCD staff also carries out the work for the Cedar River Watershed District created in 2007 by the state after the Austin area's record floods of 2000 and 2004. CRWD works with landowners in the watershed to create structures that slow stormwater flows and improve water quality.



Justin Hanson

CRWD has watershed boundaries, with a majority of the land within Mower County but including parts of Steele (southeast corner including Blooming Prairie), Dodge and Freeborn. The CRWD board has tax-levy authority and consists of managers appointed by the district's county boards.

The upcoming 2016 construction season easily will be the CRWD's busiest year to date, especially if we receive more than $3 million in state bonding funds we have requested to match a $3.2 million grant awarded last summer by The Hormel Foundation. All of this funding will go toward our innovative, five-year Capital Improvement Plan of 25 water-retention projects mostly upstream from Austin to improve water quality and reduce flooding.

Statewide, water-quality issues have been getting heightened attention in the past year, particularly because Gov. Mark Dayton made it a top priority. From this, legislators in 2015 passed a law to establish 110,000 acres of vegetation buffers of up to 50 feet along lakes, rivers, streams and ditches to help filter out phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment. The buffer width will be an average of 50 feet on public waters and at least 16.5 feet on public ditches.

Our SWCD staff has calculated that Mower County has 445 miles of public waters, including 21 miles of public ditches that all have the 16.5-foot buffer. A majority of Mower County's rivers and streams also already have the 50-foot buffer. Overall, the new law would establish in Mower County about 5,139 acres along waters and 84 acres along ditches.

Mower SWCD and all other SWCDs will implement the state's buffer requirement, and we want to help citizens understand the plan.

We look forward to providing you with these monthly updates, and we hope you can get involved in improving, enjoying and conserving our natural resources.

Justin Hanson is the Mower Soil & Water Conservation District Manager and Cedar River Watershed District – Administrator.

Mower SWCD provides technical assistance to landowners with conservation practices that protect land and water resources. SWCD also performs the duties of the Cedar River Watershed District to improve water quality and reduce flooding. This monthly column by Mower SWCD/CRWD typically runs the last Thursday of each month. More information is available on the Mower SWCD and CRWD websites as well as the CRWD's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CedarRiverWD. Questions and comments can be sent to tim.ruzek@mowerswcd.org.

JAG TOURS

New Orleans.....March 12-21.....$1599

- Battleship Memorial Park
- USS Alabama Battleship
- Artillery and Armor
- USS Submarine Drum
- Aircraft Museum
- Bellingrath Gardens
- Shrimping Boat Cruise
- Lake Ponchartrain
- Tour of New Orleans
- Swamp Boat Cruise
- Frogmore Plantation
- Cotton Gin tour
- Slave Quarters tour
- Natchez Antebellum tour
- Antebellum Home tour
- Vicksburg Battlefield tour

Washington, DC.....April 9-16.....$1189

- Guided tour of Gettysburg
- Gettysburg Battlefield
- Guided city tour of D.C.
- Arlington National Cemetery
- Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- Changing of the Guard
- George Washington's Home
- Tour of the Capitol
- Embassy Row
- The White House
- Ford's Theatre
- Petersen House
- Kennedy Center
- National Cathedral

Memorials:
World War II
Vietnam Wall
Korean
Iwo Jima
Lincoln
Roosevelt
Jefferson

Mystery Tour.....Apr. 26-May 1.....$899
5 nights accommodations, 8 meals, attractions and admissions. Are you looking for adventure? Join us for 6 days of FUN and we will take care of the rest. Spring is a beautiful time of year. All you need to bring is your clothes and spending money.

Memphis/ Nashville.....June 19-26.....$1189

- Tour of Graceland
- Elvis's Automobile Museum
- Elvis's Plane the Lisa Marie
- The Kings Stagewear
- Guided Tour of Memphis
- Guided Tour of Nashville
- Ryman Auditorium
- Country Music Hall of Fame
- Country Music Museum
- Grand Ole Opry show
- General Jackson show
- Opryland Hotel

Canadian Rockies.....July 9-17.....$1579

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MAYO CLINIC HEALTH SYSTEM

Inmates at Steele County Detention Center to package balloons

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

The Minnesota Department of Corrections inmates will soon have work at the Steele County Detention Center.

Starting soon, approximately 20 inmates will begin packaging balloons for Northstar Balloons of Plymouth. They are set to work hours a day at $.50 per hour with opportunity for $.25 raises every three months.

Steele County Detention Center Program Coordinator Jen Pfeifer showed the packages of the balloon kits that the inmates will be manually packaging to the Steele County Commissioners at its afternoon meeting on Jan. 23.

After 2 ½ years of discussions with MINNCOR Industries, an independent Department of Corrections division, the work is soon to begin. Pfeifer said that the contract work for the industry and labor is all done through MINNCOR.

Northstar Balloons currently works with the prison system and employs about 50 adults with disabilities.

"This is a fairly simple one, and we didn't feel it was a risk for contraband and other things," said Pfeifer about why Northstar Balloons was a good fit.

There will be a Steele County Program staff constantly supervising the work, which will require a reallocation of staff.

This program does not cost the detention center any funds. All the necessary materials from Northstar Balloons will be delivered to the detention center.

For example, one of the balloon products is a kit with balloons in the shape of each letter spelling "happy birthday." In each box will be hundreds of one letter, and it is the job of the inmates to grab one of each balloon letter of the phrase, fold each balloon, and put it inside the packaging. There are many different products however.

"The inmates would be responsible for stacking the individual balloons and then folding them to fit into there," she said demonstrating with the package.

Pfeifer said that there will be quotas that need to be met and spot checks done by an auditor from Northstar Balloons to ensure that the work is being done correctly and efficiently.

The checks are generated by the Department of Corrections finance and sent to the detention center to be deposited into the inmate's account at the detention center for their hours of work.

"Hopefully they will spend their money canteen, Skype system, email, or phone cards, so they're not constantly calling family calling and beginning them to send it to them," said Pfeifer.

Catholic Charities facilitates adoptions

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Pregnancy is a vulnerable time for many women, and Catholic Charities Diocese of Winona has helped many women through this period by giving mothers options.

One of those options is adoption.

"We talk to women about their rights, which is a new thought to a lot of the women," said Pregnancy, Parenting, and Adoption Social Worker Sarah Vetter. "A lot of that is counseling and helping them process what they want for their future and what they want for the baby's future."

Vetter said that the women that are pregnant come to Catholic Charities at all stages of their pregnancy. While sometimes the father is sometimes is involved, Vetter said that oftentimes she works with the mother alone.

"Many women want a lot for their child, but they feel that they cannot provide that for the child," said Vetter. "Sometimes they consider what they want for their own future, whether they want to go back to school or build their career before building a family."

Vetter admits that the decision to put one's child up for adoption is an emotional journey.

"I have never met a birth mother that did not want what is best for the child," said Vetter. "It is really hard. There is always some grief involved."

Once adoption is decided upon, the birth mother and father (if father involved) look through binders of potential families seeking to adopt. Vetter said that families looking to adopt create a sort of "scrap book" with photos of themselves, their interests, and values.

"It is always interesting what attracts the birth mothers to a family. It might be that the wife looks like their aunt or they have a mutual favorite sports team," she laughed.

Couples eligible to adopt through Catholic Charities must reside in Minnesota for at least two years before applying for adoption, and couples must have experienced some form of infertility or second infertility. Next they would attend adoption information sessions and then the application process.

The application process includes interviews, recommendations and background checks. Vetter clarified that "people don't have to be perfect to adopt."

"If there are minor things on the background check, we talk to them about it and make sure that they learned from that ex-

ADOPTION
Continued on Page 7C

Family fun during Winter Weekend Out



Staff photo by Anna Segner

LexiAnne Kennedy, a second-grade student from Owatonna, enjoyed an afternoon of sledding during the Owatonna Parks and Recreation Department's Winter Weekend Out, which began last Friday afternoon. The weekend was filled with events for all ages, including sledding, family ice fishing and even free Fat Bike demonstrations with Straight River Sports.

Owatonna Eagles Cancer Auction celebrates 54 years of giving back

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

For 54 years, the Owatonna Eagles Cancer Auction has brought the community of Owatonna together. This year, there was no shortage of generosity at the annual event.

Event chair Gina Carlson and co-chair Vicky Goodsell said that the 2016 auction featured 480 items, in addition to gift cards galore, which were added to packages and baskets throughout the auction, which spanned two nights. As has been tradition, the event took place during the first Friday and Saturday in February.

Carlson and Goodsell agreed that cancer is something that has touched countless lives. "For all of us, it's touched our life in one way or another, whether it be a friend or a family member or a co-worker or even a couple of our committee members," said Goodsell. "To all of us, it's personal in one way or another."

This year, the auction carried a special meaning for the group. "This year, a large portion of the auction is dedicated to a member that we lost in December, Donald Turek," Carlson said.

Turek had been a member of the Owatonna Eagles for over 49 years and had also been a member of the auction committee.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

On Friday evening, community members spoke about the impact that the annual Owatonna Eagles Cancer Auction has on the community. The event, said several different speakers and auctioneers, has touched countless lives and raised a significant amount of money for cancer research.

"So, this year's auction hit very near and dear for a lot of us," said Carlson, on Friday night. "(Turek) was such an integral part of getting donations for the auction, so we're honoring his memory tonight."

A number of baskets and other items were auctioned in memory of Turek. This year, Carlson and Goodsell said that the donations came from local individuals, businesses and organizations. Many donations also came from the surrounding area, from places such as Waseca and Mantorville.

All funds raised from the auction are donated to cancer research at the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center, the University of Minnesota Cancer Center or the Hormel Institute. Last year alone, the two-day event raised $36,000. Other funds are also collected throughout the year. Carlson said that the final amount raised last year was

OWATONNA EAGLES
Continued on Page 7C

STEELE TALKIN'



CAROLYN WHEELER

The impact of trauma

Over the past decade or more, research into brain development has shed light on the pervasive impact of trauma on the health of individuals.

Trauma occurs when a person is overwhelmed by events or circumstances and responds with intense fear, horror, and helplessness. Extreme stress overwhelms the person's ability to cope. There is a direct correlation between trauma and physical health conditions such as diabetes, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), heart disease, cancer and high blood pressure.

Trauma can stem from many sources including childhood abuse or neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse, war and other forms of violence, accidents and natural disaster, grief and loss, witnessing acts of violence, medical interventions, and cultural, intergenerational and historical trauma.

How common is trauma? The National Council of Behavioral Healthcare notes that 70 percent of adults in the U.S. have experienced some type of traumatic experience at least once in their lives. That's 223.4 million people. For clients who receive behavioral health services, the percentage increases to 90 percent having experienced trauma.

The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Kaiser Permanente is one of the largest investigations ever conducted to assess associations between childhood maltreatment and later-life health and well being. Almost two-thirds of the study participants reported at least one adverse childhood experience of physical or sexual abuse, neglect, or family dysfunction, and more than one of five reported three or more such experiences. An individual's experience of trauma impacts every area of human functioning — physical, mental, behavioral, social and spiritual. The ACE study revealed the economic costs of untreated trauma-related alcohol and drug abuse alone were estimated at $161 billion in 2000. The human costs are incalculable.

These sites contain information on the ACES study and the ACE Score Calculator, and more information about recovery from trauma:

- http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/
- http://acestudy.org/ace_score
- http://trauma-recovery.ca/recovery/phases-of-trauma-recovery/
- http://www.helpguide.org/articles/ptsd-trauma/emotional-and-psychological-trauma.htm
- http://www.sharingculture.info/recovery-from-trauma.html

Trauma is shrouded in secrecy and denial and is often ignored. When we don't ask about trauma in behavioral health care, this is a missed opportunity for healing.

The good news is trauma is treatable — there are many evidence-based models and promising practices designed for specific populations, types of trauma and behavioral health manifestations.

Some helpful coping strategies could include the following:

- Acknowledge that you have been through traumatic events

STEELE TALKIN'
Continued on Page 4C

HometownLiving

Community Calendar



Submitted photo

With the Polar Plunge as a backdrop, the Owatonna Knights of Columbus presented a check for $8,000 to Owatonna Special Olympics. This check represents proceeds from the Knights' sponsored event, Smokin' In Steele, a barbeque contest and blues fest conducted at the Steele County Fairgrounds. The ninth annual event will be held on June 3 and 4. Special Olympics is the signature beneficiary of this event. A similar amount was deposited to the KCs charitable giving fund for dispersal to other charitable causes. Pictured left to right are Tim Rice, KC member, Tony David, Special Olympics board member & coach, Megan Hall, unified partner with Special Olympics athletes, Snowflake holding check, Roy Koenig, Special Olympics board member, Joe Elbert, Smokin' In Steele general chairman, John Deneau former Special Olympics swimmer and Walt Spindler, Smokin' In Steele registration chairman.

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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 2 PERSON TEAM STARTS AT 1 P.M. SIGN UP AT THE BAR
CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY APRIL 9TH "30" YEARS OF BUSINESS
BEAN BAG LEAGUE: MAY-AUGUST
CRUISE FOR CANCER RIDE: JUNE 25TH
STREET DANCE: JULY 2ND
JULY 4TH: OPEN 10 AM TO CLOSE
B.O.B RIDE "TOYS FOR TOTS" JULY 23RD
ALL DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE BAR

Blooming Prairie

Feb. 9:
BP Card Club
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
2:30 p.m. BPPU Commission
4:30 p.m. BP Fire Commission
Feb. 10:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
4:30 p.m. Economic Development Authority meeting
Feb. 11:
4:30 p.m. Police Commission meeting
Feb. 15:
BPBL Closed
Feb. 16:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
4:45 p.m. BP Boys N Girls Club Brd Mtg
Feb. 17:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time

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• Happy Hour 3 p.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday
• Taco Tuesdays every Tuesday at 5 p.m.

"BURGER NIGHT" SPECIAL: KC FISH FRY IN LIBERTY ROOM
LUNCH SPECIAL (2/11 & 2/12): HOT PORK SANDWICH

Ellendale/Geneva

Feb. 9:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
Feb. 11:
5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
Feb. 15:
6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
Feb. 16:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

Owatonna

Feb. 9:
Steele County Commission
9:30 a.m. It's TALE TIME! OPL
7 p.m. Hope Citizen Advisory Comm Mtg
7 p.m. OPL Poetry Writers' Group
7 p.m. Steele Co: Co Brd Mtg, Admin Center, BR
7 p.m. Veterans Open Roundtable, Good Shephard Lutheran Church, Owa
6:30 p.m. Hope West Metro Fire Rescue Brd Mtg
Feb. 11:
Owatonna PS, OJHS Conferences
9:30 a.m. OPL Indie & World Films 2 & 7 p.m.
1 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Trinity Lutheran Church, Owa
2 p.m. OPL Independent & World Films
5:30 p.m. Owatonna Airport Commission, Airport Lounge
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time
Feb. 12:
Owatonna PS, Lincoln Book Bingo
6 p.m. Owatonna PS, Washington PTO Father/Daughter Dance
Feb. 15:
Hope City Offices Closed
Hope Winter Ice Rinks Closed for Season
Steele County Offices Closed
11 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Family video, Owa
5 p.m. Owatonna PS, Wilson PTO Mtg
Feb. 16:
Hope Curbside Recycling S of 42nd Av
9:30 a.m. It's TALE TIME! OPL
10 a.m. OPL So Many Books...So Little Time Book Club
4:30 p.m. OPL Brd Mtg, Gainey Rm
6:30 p.m. Hope City Council Wrk Sssn
7 p.m. Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall

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Medford

Feb. 10:
4 p.m. Medford Veterans Committee Mtg
Feb. 11:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
Feb. 15:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
Feb. 16:
6:30 p.m. Court St Anne Catholic Daughters Meeting, Medford

SPOT LIGHT

SCHS seeking preservation award nominees

The Steele County Historical Society (SCHS) is seeking nominations for its 2016 Preservation Awards.

For a property to be considered, it should accurately reflect the architecture of the time it was built, be as close in its original detail as possible and be in above-average condition. Historical significance of the property and provenance are also desirable when choosing a nominee. Nominations may include homes, businesses, farmsteads or other rural properties.

All nominations must be received at the SCHS office by April 1 so that the selection process can begin. Awards will be announced in May during National Preservation Month. To nominate a property, please submit a letter explaining why you have chosen this property, some background information, the property's historic significance, a photograph and a contact to call.

For more information please call 451-1420 and ask for Kim. To submit a nomination, you can e-mail it to kim.purscell@steelecohistoricalsociety.org, or mail it to SCHS 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna, MN 55060.

Other counties

Freeborn
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
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
Feb. 11:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
10 a.m. Fountain Lake Readers Book Club, ALPL
10:30 a.m. Storytime, ALPL
2 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, St Theodore Catholic Church, AL
6 p.m. Night-time Storytime, ALPL
Feb. 12:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
6 p.m. Rock Climbing Open Gym, Albert Lea
Feb. 13:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
Library Closed, ALPL
6 p.m. Rock Climbing Open Gym, Albert Lea
Feb. 14:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
Feb. 15:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
Alden-Conger PS No School
Library Closed to Observe Presidents' Day, ALPL
No School, Presidents' Day Holiday, Albert Lea Schools
City Offices closed, Albert Lea
Feb. 16:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
10:30 a.m. Storytime, ALPL
3:45 p.m. Book Pals (3rd and 4th Grade)
5:30 p.m. Parks and Recreation Board Meeting, Albert Lea
6 p.m. Nonfiction Book Club, ALPL
6 p.m. Rock Gym, Albert Lea
Feb. 17:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL

Mower
Feb. 9:
Paint the Town Pink, Various locations throughout Mower County
21st Annual Rose Sale, The Arc Mower County
Lyle Vol. Fire Dept Meeting
10 a.m. Austin ArtWorks Gallery: Feisty Japanese Lady
11 a.m. Read Any Good Books Lately? Austin Public Library
12 p.m. Tuesdays with Toastmasters, Hormel Foods Corporate Office
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
6 p.m. Clay Handbuilding: Embellished Hearts - Second Session, Austin ArtWorks Center
6 p.m. Grand Meadow City Council Mtg
6 p.m. Paper Mache Masks, Austin ArtWorks Center
Feb. 10:
Paint the Town Pink, Various locations throughout Mower County
21st Annual Rose Sale, The Arc Mower County
Lyle City Council Meeting

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Ellendale Living

NRHEG School District happenings

NRHEG SCHOOLS



DALE CARLSON

Closing school due to inclement weather

Difficult decisions were made last week regarding closing school due to the poor weather and travel conditions. Deciding not to have school is a significant decision as it impacts our students, staff and those throughout our communities. When considering closure, delay, or an early dismissal due to inclement weather, our first priority is the safety of all involved and impacted. While forecasting the weather is not an exact science and the meteorologist is not always right, we make our decisions based on the best information we have available at the time. Last week, the second day of no school on Wednesday, Feb. 3, was a challenging decision. I prefer not to cancel school once we have already notified families and staff that school will be delayed. However, road conditions had not improved in the morning as we had hoped, and we did not feel confident that travel conditions were safe for all. Thank you to our families and to the staff for taking the necessary precautions in order to stay safe.

Make-up days scheduled

Due to the cancellation of school on Feb. 2 and 3, school will be in session for students on Tuesday, Feb. 16, and Thursday, March 24. Both dates have been identified on the 2015-16 School Year Calendar as make-up days in the event school is cancelled due to inclement weather.

Student activities

Students and staff are busier than ever in our classrooms as well with many activities. I hope you are able to take full advantage of attending the many school events and activities taking place. You will find more information about our activity schedule on our school district website.

Community survey

Thank you to those who completed the survey. The information will be very helpful to the strategic planning process. There will be a presentation on the survey results at the Feb. 16 School Board Meeting. We will also be sharing information on our school district website in the future, as well as through various newsletters and other communications to students, parents, staff and members of our communities.

Strategic planning

As I have previously shared with you, the School Board is leading the school community in the development of a revised strategic plan that will provide us with a roadmap designed to guide us in our journey in reaching our "destination", or vision, as a school district. Along with this vision, the plan will clearly identify and confirm our purpose or mission, and affirm what core beliefs and values we believe in, live by and expect from all of us. The plan will identify specific goals and priorities believed to be most important to our school community, along with specific action steps to take in order to meet our established goals.

Opportunities for you to participate in the process started with completion of the community survey. You also have another opportunity on Thursday, Feb. 18, when community listening sessions will be held in the evening starting at 6:30 p.m. Two meetings will be held, one in the Media Center at the Secondary School in New Richland, and the other meeting will be held in the Media Center at the Elementary School in Ellendale. Our consultants from the Minnesota School Board Association and the South Central Services Cooperative will lead the listening sessions.

The School Board is also in the process of inviting members of our school community to be part of an advisory committee that will assist the School Board in analyzing the input from the survey and listening sessions in order to develop our strategic plan. This will be another way that community members, students, parents and staff members are involved in the planning process.

The School Board conducts its regular monthly meeting on the third Monday of each month. The location of the meeting is rotated monthly between the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) Secondary School Media Center in New Richland and the NRHEG Elementary School Media Center in Ellendale. The Feb. 16, 2016, School Board meeting will be in New Richland. The School Board is meeting on a Tuesday in February, due to the School District's observance of President's Day on Feb. 15.

I look forward to seeing you at the Feb. 18 community listening sessions. Thank you for your continued support and for the difference you make in the lives of our students!

Dale Carlson is the NRHEG Public School Superintendent.

Geneva Sailor honored for dedication in the Navy

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Fireman Daniel Gould, of Geneva, was recently named "Selective Restricted Availability (SRA) Sailor of the Week." Gould said that he is honored to receive this distinction and that his time in the Navy has truly been life-changing.

Gould is the son of Don and Cindy Gould, of Geneva, and has one sister, Rachel Gould. He graduated from Albert Lea High School and enlisted in the Navy after graduating. Thus far, he's been serving in the Navy for about one year.

In December, Gould earned the title of SRA Sailor of the Week for his work aboard the USS Green Bay (LPD 20).

"Hard work is now a way of life, not just something that happens once a week," said Gould. "It is a daily experience that is both exhausting and rewarding."

The Sailor of the Week program recognizes soldiers who have "exemplary personal conduct and military bearing and demonstrated initiative in the performance of duty."

Enlisting in the Navy, said Gould, has been rewarding. "I feel like I've been able to overcome unique challenges, both



Gould

professionally and personally," said Gould. "Since joining the Navy, I've developed a need for creativity in devising effective solutions."

As an engine man, Gould operates, services and repairs the USS Green Bay's engines. In addition, he also operates and maintains electrohydraulic controllable pitch propeller systems, steering engines, refrigeration and air conditioning systems, air compressors, desalinization plants and small auxiliary boilers. The USS Green Bay (LPD 20) is assigned to the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Gould's commanding officer, Capt. Kristy McCallum, explains the ship's primary mission. "The primary mission of Green Bay is to transport Marines afloat and ashore to perform a wide range of missions, including humanitarian assistance operations, all supporting maritime strategy," Capt. McCallum said. "Green Bay also helps to provide deterrence, promote peace and security and preserves freedom of the sea within Seventh Fleet's area of operations."

According to Capt. McCallum, Gould plays a vital role in Green Bay's everyday operations. "Fireman Gould is an extremely hard working Sailor who hit the deck running, getting qualified as quickly as he could in his watch stations," said Capt. McCallum. "He is an integral part of Engineering Department, making sure maintenance and repairs down in the main spaces goes smoothly while the ship is in SRA. Furthermore, he was a first responder to an electrical fire in the Pilot House. His keen eye, devotion to duty and damage control training helped to ultimately thwart a potential disaster."

Gould said that there's not much that can prepare someone for the experiences he's had while serving in the Navy. "There really isn't anything you can do to really prepare for an experience that is so outside of your experience," he reflects. "However, my experiences in leadership at both Prairie River Camp and Dayton Oaks Camp gave my some of that oh-so-important perspective on what it is to lead."

In addition, Gould has always been competitive and had a desire to do well. This, he said, has helped him to succeed in many areas of his life. "The constant competition I've had in life, both with myself and others, has allowed me to hone my edge to such a degree that I have pushed myself above and beyond my peers," said Gould. "Both my time in school and time as a competitive swimmer have aided me in that way."

Since joining the Navy, Gould has also become more driven to help others. "I initially joined the Navy for personal growth and the opportunities to travel, but the Navy is so much more than that; it's about my shipmates," he said. "I like the people that I work with, both in my own department and in others."

Gould has some ambitious plans for his future and, with his will to succeed, it's likely that he will achieve his goals. "I plan on obtaining multiple degrees, starting with a PhD in Psychology. Following that, I would like to earn a Master's in both Chemistry and History. Finally, I want an Associate's in Architecture and Construction," said Gould. "In addition, I would like to own and run a successful business."

Mr. Rick Burke, from the Navy Office of Community Outreach, contributed information for this article.

Snow week kicks off with a blizzard

By JESSICA NAFE
Times Intern

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) High School's 2016 Snow Week was one for the books, as "Snow Week" became literal with a blizzard beginning on Tuesday, Feb. 2.

Despite two days spent at home, a good time was had by all NRHEG students at the remaining festivities.

"Snow Week was a big success!" said Abby Christopherson, a student council member. "It's nice to see it all come together so well."

The NRHEG student council is responsible for planning all Snow Week festivities and has worked since before Christmas break to ensure a fun time for all students, according to Christopherson.

Snow Week kicked off on Monday, Feb. 1, with coronation before the end of the school day. The NRHEG Pep band set the fun atmosphere with a few upbeat tunes, including "Apache," which got the candidates out of their seats dancing.

Wyatt Fitterer and Whittney McCamish were crowned king and queen.

"I was nervous, but I knew that whoever would get it would deserve it," McCamish stated.

Fitterer said that it felt good to be elected by his peers as king.

Other Snow Week royalty were Grace Logan, Hailey Schuller, Sophia Fischer, Bayli Possin, Luke Overgaard, Trey Hoppe, Lucas Herrmann and Cole Ignaszewski.

After missing school on Tuesday and Wednesday, Snow Week festivities began again with the annual talent show on Friday, a favorite for many students.

"It's cool to see some of the kids that don't get involved a lot show off their hidden talents," McCamish said.

Eleven acts made up the program, giving judges Mr. Ellerbush, Mr. Larson, Mrs. Flowers, Fitterer and McCamish a hard time in picking winners.

Nicole Frechette and Lillian Bell, last year's talent show winners, kicked off the show by singing "Just Give Me a Reason".

Solveig Stafford sang "Ghost", the NRHEG Drumline performed, Tanner Smith-Vulcan sang "Dynamite", Grace Logan and Bayli Possin showcased their dance moves, Aubrey Johnson sang "Mayberry", the NRHEG Cheer Stunt Group performed, Renee McNett sang "Perfect", Justin Mortenson played the piece "Attack on the Titans" on his saxophone and Lillie Nielson sang "Burning House" while Ben Witikko accompanied her on the guitar.

The last act of the day was James Spence singing "Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay".

Third place was awarded to James Spence, second place to Tanner Smith-Vulcan, and first place to Lillie Nielson and Ben Witikko.

"It was a lot of fun," Witikko said, of performing.

The festivities were to a close after Saturday night's black light-themed dance. Held at the high school gym with DJ Nathan Jensen, the dance was a lot of fun for the students sporting bright colored clothes and neon face-paint.

"People got into and wore their black light clothes," senior Anna Bailey stated. "The people that came had a fun time!"

Dress-up days were also included in Snow Week, giving students a chance to show off their Panther Pride with elaborate and sometimes goofy costumes.

"My favorite part of Snow Week is seeing everyone dressed up and being cheerful," Fitterer said.

The days were: Monday - Animal Day, Tuesday - Twin Day, Wednesday - White Out, Thursday- Create Your Own Superhero and Friday - Panther Pride Day.

Although the Student Council can be credited for the many events planned during Snow Week, the Student Ambassadors also got involved by selling Snow Week Buttons to raise money for the Humane Society.

The total amount raised has yet to be tallied, but many students and staff could be seen wearing the blue buttons throughout the week.

"It was going for a good cause, one that we haven't really raised money for before," Bailey, who is student Ambassador, said. "It's good to give back during Snow Week."

Thank You

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RECIPE CORNER

Orange-Cranberry Salad

- 1 pkg. raspberry jello
- 2 c. hot water
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1/2 orange, unpeeled
- 2 c. cranberries
- 1 can crushed pineapple

By Mrs.Ruben Carlson

Dissolve Jello in hot water, stir in sugar. Cool. Put orange, including peeling, and cranberries through a food chopper. Add the fruit, including all the juices. Put in a mold and let set.

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Blooming Prairie Living

Booming Prairie gears up for annual broomball tournament

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

For the second year in a row, Blooming Prairie will soon be home to a fun winter event for all ages. The second annual broomball tournament is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 13.

The event offers an opportunity for youth in grades one through six and people in seventh-grade and up to participate in the event. This year, "turkey bowling" will also be available. The Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce, said Blooming Prairie Ice Rink Manager Jeremy Wangen, is hosting the tournament.

Wangen said that registration for grades one through six begins at 8 a.m. and play begins at 8:30 a.m. Registration for players in seventh-grade through adults begins at 9 a.m. and Wangen said that games are likely to start between 9:30 and 10 a.m. Turkey bowling, a new addition to the event, is also scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. All events will be at the Blooming Prairie ice rink.

In the warming hall, hot dogs, candy, chips, hot chocolate and cookies will also be available for purchase. Participants in grades one through six can play for free, and there is a fee of $10 for people in seventh grade and up. "You can have a team as big as you want," said Wangen.

Participants should bring their own boots or shoes, but sticks and balls will be provided for play. Wangen also recommends that participants dress in warm clothing during the event.

Last year, Wangen said about four teams showed up. This Saturday, he hopes to see a few more people at the ice rink. He's also looking forward to the turkey bowling. "I think the turkey bowling will be fun," he said. For a fee, bowlers can take their turn at the game and get the chance to earn prizes.

Wangen also plans to participate in the broom ball tournament, and said that he's looking forward to the games. Wangen also adds that he also looks forward to helping out with the youth games this Saturday.

"It's always fun to see bunch of new kids still come out and enjoy the facility," Wangen said.

Years of service awards given to Blooming Prairie Lions

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Lions District 5M-2 Gov. Marvin Grimm of Carver was in Blooming Prairie Wednesday night, Feb. 3.

He was in town to deliver special years of service awards to eight members of the Blooming Prairie Lions Club.

Club President Harvey Farr introduced Gov. Grimm, who announced membership awards: 10 years: Lions Tom S. Peterson, Philip Milton, Paul Dale, Harvey Farr and David Verley; 20 years: Mike Jones and Frank Henefield and 35 years: Harlan Hinzmann.

Lions Dale, Farr and Henefield were present.

The Blooming Prairie Lions Club celebrated its 60th anniversary last year.

Gov. Grimm announced his theme of building strong Lions clubs in District 2. Gov. Marvin asked: "What is your passion and commitment to Lions?" He used building blocks to demonstrate Lions objectives of caring forth the Lions motto: "We Serve." He mentioned two kinds of service: helping someone and fundraising.

Gov. Marvin outlined the Centennial Challenge (Lions Clubs International turns 100 in 2017): Sharing the vision; engaging the youth; hunger and environment. Membership and retention are also two of Gov. Grimm's goals. He said Lions provide service to humanity through harmony and dignity.



A new member was installed in the Blooming Prairie Lions Club on Wednesday night, Feb. 3. He is Lion Jerry Mausbach, right. He recently became general manager of BP Utilities. He is sponsored by Lion Harvey Farr, left. District 5M-2 Gov. Marvin Grimm installed Lion Mausbach.



Submitted photos

Three members of the Blooming Prairie Lions Club received years of service awards from District 5M-2 Gov. Marvin Grimm, far left. Receiving the special awards were Lion Harvey Farr (10 years), Lion Paul Dale (10 years) and Frank Henefield (25 years).

Gov. Grimm installed a new member, Lion Jerry Mausbach, new general manager of the Blooming Prairie Public Utilities department. His sponsor, Lion Harvey Farr, presented him with his membership pin and membership packet.

Minimizer releases two newest products

The company best known for its Tested and Tortured mantra continues to expand its product line.

Minimizer is releasing its third Maintenance Line bench - the Dual Tire Work Bench - while also debuting a new Rear Center Light Panel that comes in several different finishes.

"We're kicking off 2016 with a bang!" Minimizer CEO Craig Kruckeberg said.

The Dual Tire Work Bench is the third bench developed by Minimizer in less than a year, following the success of the Single Tire and Tandem Work Benches last summer.

"It's obviously a product that techs need and use, because we've gotten a huge response from mechanics everywhere," Kruckeberg said. "People know us as innovators and the Work Benches are a product nobody else has."

The Rear Center Light Panel comes in several different poly finishes, including four different colors (black, red, white, green), as well as Paintable, Liquid Platium, Carbon Fiber, Silver Mirror Finish and Smoky Black Mirror Finish.

"Our Rear Center Light Panel looks amazing," Kruckeberg said. "With all of the different finishes, there's going to be an option that's right for you."

Both the Dual Tire Work Bench and Rear Center Light Panel come with Minimizer's Lifetime Warranty. Find them at a distributor by going to www.minimizer.com.

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STEELE TALKIN'

Continued from Page 1C

• Connect with others, especially those who may have shared the stressful event or experienced other trauma
• Exercise – try jogging, aerobics, bicycling or walking
• Relax – try yoga, stretching, massage, meditation
• Maintain a balanced diet and sleep cycle
• Avoid over-using stimulants like caffeine, sugar or nicotine

People can and do recover from trauma. If you or your loved one experience some of the following, they could be symptoms of trauma. Some of these may include: sudden sweating and/or heart palpitations, easily startled by noises or unexpected touch, headaches, backaches, stomachaches, difficulty trusting and/or feelings of betrayal, fear, depression, anxiety, outbursts of anger or rage, tendency to isolate oneself or feelings of detachment.

A recommendation would be to talk with your health care provider about these symptoms. Make your doctor or therapist aware that you have experienced trauma, past or recent. Help them understand what is helpful to you. Ask them for an assessment and learn about treatments that are available.

Steele Talkin' is a weekly column featuring officials representing various organizations throughout Steele County. Carolyn Wheeler is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker and Executive Director at South Central Human relations Center.

Blooming Prairie Snow Week 2016



Staff photos by Laura Berndt

The junior coaches cheer on their team during the first match of powder-puff volleyball. From left to right are Leah Schiefert, Rose Johnson and Leah Inwards.



Blooming Prairie seniors Riley Olson, Ethan Strunk and Mitchell Jones participate in Sunday's powder-puff volleyball game at Blooming Prairie High School.

Schedule

Dress Up Days For Snow Week
(School dress code will be followed except that hats may be worn)

Monday, February 8.....Farmer Day
Tuesday, February 9.....Backwards Day
Wednesday, February 10.....Hawaiian Day
Thursday, February 11.....Spirit Day

Winners announced at Pep Fest

Saturday, Feb. 6
Snow Sculpture Contest starts

Sunday, Feb. 7
Powder-Buff Volleyball Junior Boys vs Senior Boys– HS Gym

Monday, Feb. 8
Medallion Contest starts
Junior Class – Carnation Orders during lunch
FCCLA Members – Baking cookies after school for cancer in Room 106.

Wednesday, Feb. 10
Breakfast for FCCLA members in room 106

Thursday, February 11
FCCLA Mr./ Mrs. Irresistible Day
Jr. Class Carnation Handout at Lunch
Pep fest – 2 p.m. (7th hour)
Dodgeball
7th vs 8th • 9th vs 10th
11th vs 12th
Band Excused at 1:45 p.m.

Friday, February 12
Snow Sculpture Contest Ends at 2 p.m.
Judging at 2 p.m.

Saturday, February 13
Snowball Dance – HS Commons, 8 -11 p.m.
Grades 7-12
$4 per person admission

Local resident catches impressive fish



Submitted photo

Gary Trom caught this hard fighting Wahoo off the coast in the Pacific by Manzanillo, Mexico. A Wahoo is a scombrid fish found in tropical and subtropical seas. Its speed and high-quality flesh make it a prize game fish.

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Come and socialize at 5:30 p.m. for Litomysl valentine dinner Feb. 13

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

A crowd of 200 is anticipated for a Valentine Dinner sponsored by the Litomysl Women's Council at the Litomysl Church.

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

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, Buchty (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.

Knights Auction will celebrate 30th year

The 30th annual Night of Knights Auction is just around the corner. The event is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 16.

The auction has become a major event in Owatonna, with approximately 800 people attending each year. This year's event includes silent and live auctions, many raffles, food, beverages and some great company.

The auction is St. Mary's largest campaign and the Auction Committee is grateful for the support it receives from the surrounding community. With these generous contributions, the event raised over $160,000 last year, all of which directly benefited the school and students. The committee asks companies, individuals or families to consider donating in 2016.

Large and small cash donations, gift certificates, services or merchandise are welcome. All donations are tax deductible and those received by March 18 will be acknowledged in the auction booklet.

To make a donation, or for more information, contact Jed by phone at 507-456-7016 or by e-mail at dewitz_jed@yahoo.com.

Exchange Club of Steele County delivers donations to Clothesline



Submitted photo

The Exchange Club of Steele County delivered towels, blankets and socks Jan. 29 to the Steele County Clothesline, as part of the Club's month-long campaign to collect donations from their members for the Clothesline. In addition, Club board member Larry Ruehling (second from left) presented Executive Director Maureen Schlobohm with a $100 donation he made on behalf of the Club. Also pictured is Clothesline Operations Manager Alysia Stephan (far left) and Exchange Club of Steele County President Randy Sobrack.

Blooming Prairie one act crew performs at home



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

During Monday evening's home performance of the Blooming Prairie High School one act play, two-legged racers Alec Ille and Austin Christians converse with SportsBall! anchor Bryan Fristedt, in hopes of promoting their sport. Ross Reishus and Ellie Jones directed the play, entitled "SportsBall!", which Reishus also wrote. The cast performed the play at the sub-section competition at United South Central School in Wells on Saturday, Jan. 30. Although the team did not advance to the next level of competition, Reishus noted that he was very proud of the cast and crew for delivering one of their best performances.



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Medford Living

Medford Fire Department responds to more calls

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

As the 2015 budget wrapped up, the compensation to the Medford Fire Department members was higher than expected.

Fire Chief Rick Hager and City Administrator Andy Welti reasoned that this increase in compensation was due to increase in calls, extra training for new fire department members and more responsibility taken on by fire fighters.

Welti said that the savings in equipment repairs and other items did "offset that increased expenditure, so overall that budget did come out about even."

Hager came before the Medford City Council on Jan. 25 to report on the increase in calls and decision to pay out $500 to commanders for increased responsibility recently put in place.

On average for the past five years, it has been an average of about 91 calls per year. He said that the highest amount of calls per year was in 2009 at 111 calls. This year there were 115 calls.

This year there was a new "point system in place." There are points for response to calls, training, public relations event attendance and other areas. Each firefighter must meet a minimum of 50 points per year.

This point system has improved percentage of calls responded to by each firefighter. In 2014, it was an average of 24 percent per firefighter. Last year, it was 37 percent.

"I stress that with every call that we go out on, out station needs to be staffed with at least two firefighters," said Hager. "That way, we're ready to go rather than being caught with our doors down."

The average number of firefighters responding per call was nine, which is a positive increase from the past.

These changes began back in October 2014 when the fire department began to reorganize the command structure. At that time, Hager and senior members discussed going to a system with four commanders, a chief and an assistant chief.

"The main purpose of that was to get more people acclimated or trained into actually running into an incident, whether it's a structured car fire or something more than that," said Hager.

Starting Jan. 1, 2015, Medford changed the command structure. In the last year, there was monthly training for the officers. Hager said that training is designated for incident command or leadership.

In doing the monthly training, Hager said that the fire department has created 13 policies on requirements for meeting, training, public relations and incidents. Hager said that these are responsibilities taken on by commanders.

Each commander is assigned five or six fire fighters to help them with gear or equipment issues. "I've given them some leeway to do some purchasing on their own, so that the chief doesn't always have to look over these orders. They can advise me," he said.

There are also now monthly truck checks. Every month, a commander and their firefighters are assigned a truck and some equipment in a station. There are four different stations, and every month they switch stations.

"They are responsible to set that up with their firefighters and making sure that is getting done and getting done properly," said Hager. He said that the next step will be for each team to solve the issues on their own as well.

The commander and their group are able to help the chief out in events that Hager is not able to attend.

Infer reports are another area of responsibility for commanders. He said that infer reports go to the state and are digital, but they are also handwriting reports after a call as well.

"We've have two incidents this year where we've had to call the state fire marshal," explained Hager. "The state fire marshal advises us that night of the call, and the next morning at 8 o'clock, we need to have a commander there to bring them up to speed, and that's done on their own time. They're taking time off work to get that done."

For 2016, they will be doing further policy work in the standard policy guidelines. He explained this as the nitty gritty details of a call. He said that this is done for if someone feels uncomfortable with the way a call was handled, they can look at those policies to correct problems. Commander then have the authority to make the decision regarding grounds of dismissal.

Hager expressed the importance of training. Each fire fighter currently gets paid $10 per training session, which is every month and typically four hours long. They must have at least 18 hours of training per year and attend two public relations events per year.

Rather than one single training officer, the four commanders are responsible for putting together training schedules and conduct training as a group.

Therefore, he proposed the $500 payment for firefighters to be commanders.

He ended by thanking the firefighters' spouses and family.

Council Member Keith Maas commented as a former firefighter: "I think Rick has done a tremendous job with what he's done. I know it was a lot of work for just a couple people, and now that you've involved more people, I think that is great. And he's got more participation and I think he's doing a great job!"

Hager hopes that this policy and structure work will put a good system in place for when he eventually retires.

Council members did approve a motion for the $500 annual payment to fire commanders.

College night helps students with future decisions

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

There are a lot of decisions to make when one is a junior or senior in high school, but Medford School does not want students and families to go about those decisions on their own.

Parents and their college bound students attended College Night at the Medford School auditorium on the evening of Feb. 5.

High School Principal Chris Ovrebo welcomed the approximately 40 individuals that attended the informational session by sharing some encouraging statistics about Medford students.

He shared that the state average of high school graduates attending a college of some sort is 70 percent. He shared that in the "upper 70 percent and lower 80 percent" range of Medford graduates go to a college of some sort.

He also said that Medford graduates have a higher percentage of sticking it through year after year to college graduation. He also said that Medford students have been historically higher than average in reading.

"As we look at the world, we have to plan ahead," said Ovrebo. "We hope that you are able to take something from tonight as you look ahead."

A four-parent panel of Medford graduates spoke to the college enrollment process.

Parent of three college students and Medford agriculture teacher Tim Larson gave the advice to look at as many schools as possible, and once narrowed down to a few, do a re-visit. He also suggested that the families talk realistically with the school's financial advisors.

"If you really want to go to college somewhere, talk with them and find out about the financial aid and scholarship options," said Larson. "They'll help you make it happen."



Staff photos by Anna Segner

Tim Larson, Troy and Jessie Noble, and William Cronin participated at the College Night in Medford on Feb. 4.



Tim Larson gives advice as parents of college students to Medford parents at the College Night on Feb. 4.

Parent of two college students and school board member Bill Cronin spoke to the reality of the dollars spent per course. "Do your homework" he told students and parents about researching the transfer of CollegeNow courses.

Parents Jessie and Troy Noble said that filling out the FAFSA form was not as difficult as they had anticipated. They advised parents to let their child decide where they want to go. "But don't try to organize your daughter's room before she does," laughed Jessie.

Also present at the College Night was Riverland Community College Financial Aid Director Patty Hemann. She said that Riverland does about 20 of these presentations per year to help local families.

Hemann was able to give a step-by-step guide to filling out the FAFSA. She clarified some of the commonly misunderstood questions, and she gave tips on how to make it a smoother process.

A change to the FAFSA form as of May 10, 2015 is that the FSA ID replaced the pin number that allowed students and parents access to the account.

Along with the parent panel and Hemann's presentation, there were tons of pamphlets available on financial aid basics, successful planning, parent's guides, ACT prep, and a Minnesota state college guide.

Medford school menus

Medford School Breakfast Menu

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, graham crackers, vegetable selection, fresh fruit, milk

Feb. 11: No school

Feb. 12: French toast sticks, turkey sausage patty OR choice of WG cereal, graham crackers, vegetable selection, fresh fruit, milk

Feb. 15: No school

Feb. 16: Blueberry bread loaf, tri tator OR choice of WG cereal, graham crackers, vegetable selection, apple juice, milk

Feb. 17: Cinnamon roll OR choice of WG cereal, graham crackers, vegetable selection, fresh fruit, milk

Medford School Lunch Menu

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

Feb. 11: Grilled ham and cheese sandwich, tomato soup; taco salad, deli sandwich; tomato slices, celery sticks, seasonal fruit

Feb. 12: BBQ riblet on WG bun, spiced pinto beans; garden vegetable salad, pretzel bites with cheese; baby carrots, broccoli florets, seasonal fruit

Feb. 15: No school

Feb. 16: Chicken nuggets, WG bread slices, mixed vegetables; pretzel bites with cheese, deli sub; Romaine lettuce, baby carrots, beets, seasonal fruit

Feb. 17: Italian lasagna, garlic bread; chicken caeser salad, turkey BLT wrap; chopped lettuce, cauliflower, seasonal fruit

Weekly crossword on Page 5D

PUZZLE SOLUTION

■	B	U	I	L	D	■	■	S	I	G	N	E	T	■
O	U	R	S	O	U	L	S	A	T	N	I	G	H	T
A	D	■	S	A	G	A	C	I	O	U	S	■	Y	R
K	D	■	U	D	■	D	A	L	■	S	E	■	M	U
S	E	B	S	■	M	E	R	E	S	■	I	O	U	S
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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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Owatonna Living

Wilson Elementary School hosts annual PTO Carnival

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

For many years, the Wilson Elementary School PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) Carnival has been a tradition. This year, the carnival took place once again and, as always, drew a notable crowd.

PTO President Brenda Schubert and PTO Vice President Jamie Bock, along with many other members of the PTO, were present at the carnival, which took place on Saturday, Jan. 23 at the school. Although they weren't sure exactly how long the carnival has been taking place, they believe it's been going since at least the 1980s. The two PTO members estimate that around 500 people attend the carnival each year.

"I don't think there's ever been a year when it hasn't happened," said Schubert, with a laugh. "I like seeing all the kids having fun, and it's neat to see the families come together."

From Plink-O to the pop-bottle ring toss, there were tons of games for local children and their families to play together. The carnival filled the school gym and spread into other sections of the school, as well. While the event is geared toward elementary-aged youth, their siblings and families are also encouraged to attend the event.

Kids are able to win prizes by playing games and, everyone is able to earn other prizes through raffles. "Usually, we have about three top prizes every year, and then around 200 other raffle prizes that are donated by the PTO and businesses around the area," said Bock.

The carnival is also open to the public. "The community is invited too," said Bock. "Even if they don't have kids here, they're welcome to come." Schubert adds that not all the local elementary schools offer an event like this, so it's nice to be able to offer all area students the opportunity to enjoy the carnival.

According to Schubert and Bock, it takes around 100 volunteers to make the event possible. Most volunteers are affiliated with the PTO, or are a family member of someone serving on the PTO. "(The volunteers) put in a ton of work," said Bock.

A committee, composed of PTO members, organizes the event. Throughout the year, the PTO does organize a few other events, such as Bingo, but most events are only for Wilson students and their families. "I would say this is one of our biggest main events," said Bock, of the carnival.

The event doesn't generate much, if any, extra funds for the PTO, but Schubert and Bock explain that the carnival is designed for family fun, not raising money. "It's really just for the families to get them out, have fun and have good family time," Bock said. "It's nice. You'll see other families out talking with each other, where they wouldn't be otherwise."

Usually, said Bock and Schubert, the annual PTO Carnival takes place near the end of January. Schubert and Bock extend their gratitude to everyone who attended this year's carnival, and encourage one and all to come check out the fun again next winter.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Ashton Arends, age 9, gives Jade Hanson two thumbs up for her face-painting artwork during the Wilson Elementary School PTO Carnival.

OWATONNA EAGLES

Continued from Page 1C

about $38,500, which was presented to the Rochester Eagles Fifth District Cancer Telethon.

"In January of 2017, we will go and present the check we raised from our cancer auction, and any fundraisers we do throughout the year," said Carlson.

"All the money goes to research; it does not go anywhere else," adds Goodsell.

Carlson said that helping with the auctions has been both enjoyable and extremely rewarding. "It's nice when you see that many people coming together for one common cause, and you realize that it reaches beyond and it's not for one person that we do this," said Carlson. "We do this for the greater good."

Carlson explains that the Owatonna Eagles Aerie #1791, and all Eagles organizations, live by a motto: "People helping people". This auction, she said, is just one way that the organization is able to enforce "people helping people."

Both Carlson and Goodsell are grateful for everyone who helps make the auction possible. "We definitely want to say 'thanks' to everybody that has donated, everybody that has come here today, our volunteers, auctioneers, banker and clerking volunteers, our announcers, and especially thanks to the Owatonna Eagles," Carlson said. "They provide us with the venue, and it's a really great location for an event of this size and magnitude."

Goodsell also expressed that the auction has allowed her to build and foster new friendships. In fact, Carlson and Goodsell met one another while working on the auctions.

And, while the auction has been an enjoyable and rewarding experience for many people, Carlson said she knows that everyone has one goal in mind. "By this hard work, we hope that, eventually, they'll find a cure for at least one of the forms of cancer," she said.

Although the 54th annual Owatonna Eagles Cancer Auction has now passed, it's still possible to make a donation to the cause. To make a donation or inquire about helping with the event next year, contact the Owatonna Eagles Aerie #1791 Cancer Auction Committee at 507-451-3846. Next year, Vicky Goodsell will be the committee chair.

ADOPTION

Continued from Page 1C

perience," she said.

Then there is an educational portion to the adoption in which Catholic Charities will speak to the expecting parents about the issues of adoption and raising a child of a different ethnicity. There is a home study portion, and once approved they are placed on the list of approved families.

Because the birth mother choses the family from the portfolios, Vetter said that it can be a few months before a placement or 1-3 years after approval.

After a birth mother chooses a potential family for her child, they meet and are able to discuss terms of the adoption.

If an open adoption is decided upon, the couple and the birth mother form a relationship and the terms of the open adoption are set. Vetter said that an open adoption can look very different from adoption to adoption.

Many open adoptions are such that the family will have a relationship with the birth mother or send letters and photos of the child every so often.

"It is cool because as the child grows up and loves art or something, the parents can say 'oh, there birth mother loves art, they must have got that from her,'" commented Vetter.

While Catholic Charities have facilitated many successful open adoptions, some birth mothers or adopted parents would prefer no contact. In some cases, Catholic Charities would act as an intermediate between birth mother and family. For example, a letter would first be sent to Catholic Charities and passed to birth mother. This, Vetter said, ensures some privacy for both parties.

"Over the years, open adoptions has proven to be really good for the child, as it takes out the mystery of the adoption," commented Vetter.

Agreements are set in writing before the birth of the child.

Once the child is born, the birth mother cannot sign consent until 72 hours after birth. She has between 72 hours and 60 days after birth to sign consent. Once consent is signed, she has 10 days to revoke consent.

While Vetter said that it is not common for a mother to revoke consent, it does happen. "It is difficult for birth mothers to go home with baby, but that is why we do as much counseling beforehand as possible," said Vetter. "It doesn't happen a lot, but adoptive parents know the possibility is there."

The child is in the adopted home for 90 days before the couple goes to court and become the legal parents to that child.

Once the adoption is legalized, there is no regulation done by the state or Catholic Charities in these cases. However, Vetter said that Catholic Charities loves to stay in touch with families.

Catholic Charities has an adoption celebration for their families every November. "It is fun to see families. I've been working here for two and a half years, so I like seeing the now two-year olds that I helped place," she said.

Vetter called working with Catholic Charities as the Pregnancy, Parenting, and Adoption Social Worker her "dream job."

"I love working with the families. The hospital time is really exciting but also really emotional," remarked Vetter. "What surprised me most was how much the birth moms love their child. It is a really tough decision, and it can be heartbreaking, but overall they are doing what they feel is best for the child."

Vetter said that Catholic Charities Diocese of Winona facilitates about six adoptions per year, some of those adoptions have been in Steele County. Vetter has helped with about five adoptions over the span of her career with Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities has more information on their website at www.ccwinona.org/programs/pregnancy-parenting-adoption/.

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- Take a slow walk.
- Go see a soothing movie.
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- Participate in regular exercise workouts.
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Owatonna Living

Spare Time's entertainment center to lure fun seekers

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

For those of those you that think arcades are run by coins, you may be considered "old school." Now, arcades can be activated by swiping a card with a set amount already designated to it.

This is the case for Spare Time's brand new arcade center that has over 40 different arcade gaming stations. The arcade games are bigger and better than ever.

The Owatonna Chamber of Commerce and Tourism celebrated with Spare Time fitness staff in the ribbon cutting ceremony on the morning of Feb. 4 for the completion the arcade and laser tag. Constructions for these areas began about a 1 ½ ago.

Chamber members even played arcade games and got a tour of the laser tag zone. Some even got a little competitive while playing Skeeball.

The laser tag area utilized four lanes of bowling space, totaling 4,200-square-feet of laser tag area. Co-Owner Cory Michaelson said that their laser tag area is larger than most on the market, as laser tag areas are typically 3,000-square-feet.

The laser tag room is pitch black with glow paint illuminating areas. They have various props and partitions painted with scenes to add a lot of nooks and crannies to the space.

The laser tag has only been used by a few as it just recently opened. Michaelson said that a group of "hockey guys" stopped and played and remarked that it was the best laser tag they have ever played.

General Manager Scott Hutchinson said that the entire Spare Time facilities is being remodeled to better utilize their space.

They have already began remodeling the bowling lane furniture, and Michaelson laughed that as soon as they get rid of the loud patterned carpet, he is throwing another party and inviting the Chamber back.

They are also remodeling to create a banquet space for larger parties. Michaelson estimated that this hall will hopefully be able to hold up to 300 people.

"We're trying to make this space as versatile as possible," said Michaelson. "We are thankful to the community for such a great response."

The restaurant and bar portion of the restaurant will continue and even be available to serve the events in the banquet hall or a birthday party in one of the birthday party rooms.

Sales and Events Manager Tina Forsberg wants to make it her project to work on the patio space outside of the restaurant area. She is also working on various packages encompassing some of the aspects of Spare Time for a fun evening.

With these expansions, Michaelson mentioned that Spare Time is hiring more in the managerial positions.

There is no doubt that the Spare Time team is excited.

"We have something that the community has asked for—somewhere to go and have fun for a day," said Forsberg. "I'm a mom, and I deal with boredom on Saturdays. The kids are looking for something to do, something different, and fun! And this is not just for kids, it is for everyone."

At this point, they are continuing their remodel and brainstorming ways to get the community involved with the fun.

Forsberg said that they are looking at March 6 for a grand re-opening for the public to get together on one day to celebrate the entertainment.



Members of the Owatonna Chamber got a little competitive while playing Skeeball at the new arcade center at Spare Time. They all gathered for a ribbon cutting ceremony on the morning of Feb. 4.



Staff photos by Anna Segner

Co-owner of Spare Time looks triumphant as he cuts the ribbon with a giant pair of scissors. Spare Time staff and the Owatonna Chamber gathered for a ribbon cutting ceremony on the morning of Feb. 4.

Andrew Lawrence Memorial Chili Cook-Off results announced

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

The chili tasters of the 12th Annual Andrew Lawrence Memorial Chili Cook-Off have spoken.

Over 700 guest sampled 43 different chili recipes and raised approximately $8,200 for the Andrew Lawrence Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The winners of the votes that night included some past champions as well as a few new chefs.

In the People's Choice Category, Wade Schroeder won with his red chili, and Ryan Sanford won with his white chili.

In the Chef's Choice Category, a pair of brothers kept their chili championship rolling. Jeff Hanson won again with his red chili, and his brother Jon Hanson won again with his white chili.

Jon Hanson's white chili was also a Grand Champion, and Mark Kearin won Grand Champion with his red chili.

Costa's was a returning winner in the Restaurant category and claimed Owatonna's Best Chili for another year.

Finally, in the Flame Award for the hottest chili, Casey Peterson won with his red chili.

Andrew is the son of Bill and Marie Lawrence and was a student at St. Mary's Catholic school where he excelled in his classes and had many friends. The Lawrence family suffered a great loss when 11 year-old Andrew died from injury after being struck by a car while riding his bicycle on Sept. 14, 2003.

The funds raised from the Chili Cook-Off go towards scholarships. Each year, five $1,000 scholarships are granted to incoming college freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors attending a 4 year college.

"The Lawrence family would like to give a big thanks to all the guests, chefs, bakers, and volunteers that help make the event another great success," said family member and organizer Jennifer Lawrence. "We hope to see everyone again next year."



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Martha Kearin, Ashton Jensen, Sam Buegler, Shari Carlson and Whitni Minton helped volunteer at the 12th annual Andrew Lawrence Memorial Chili Cool-Off.

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Alan Van Ormer

MANAGING EDITOR

ORIGINALLY FROM: Yankton, S.D.; settled in Sioux Falls

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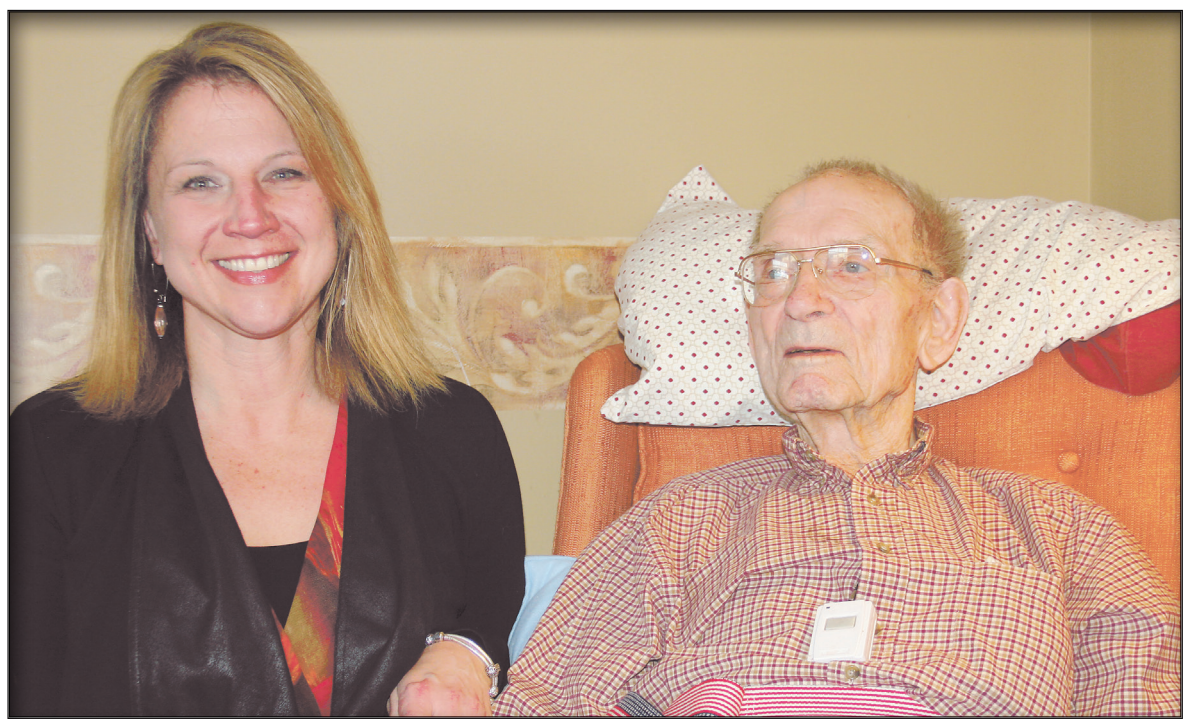
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HOMETOWN EXTRA
Owatonna



Bill Whiting (far right) is pictured with the other early leaders of the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce history.



Current President and CEO of the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Jennifer Libby visits the Chamber's 1946 Chair of the Board Bill Whiting at Medford Senior Care. They like to chat about the Chamber's past and present.

At the core of the Owatonna Chamber is 'good people'

Story and photos by Anna Segner

When current CEO and President of the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, Jennifer Libby, talks with the second Chair of the Board in 1946, Bill Whiting, one thing is clear, business climates might change, but at the heart of the Chamber is people working hard.

One might consider 96-year-old Bill Whiting one of the founding leaders of the Owatonna Chamber.

Whiting worked closely with first chair of the board Steve Pfeil and the Chamber's first executive secretary, Harold Bina. In 1946, the Chamber was established and officially incorporated in 1947.

Looking back on those days, Whiting recalls that it was certainly an effort getting the Chamber "up and running." He said that one main goal of the Chamber was to "get the downtown and everybody working together," a task that was "not easy."

Whiting remembered that one early issue that the Chamber survived was convincing stores to stay open on Friday nights. The businesses were reluctant because farmers used to come to town on Saturday nights.

He also recalled that some decisions that the Chamber made were such "hot topics" that individuals would become so wrapped up in it all that they would cross the street and walk on the sidewalk opposite of him or other Chamber members.

"It is amazing—a miracle that we survived," commented Whiting about the early days of the Chamber.

He recalled a few business leaders that became active over his time as second chair of the board. "That's what pulled it through—good people," he commented. He said that there was no milestone of the Chamber's success, it just happened "little bit by little bit."

Of course, Whiting also had his own business endeavors and heavy community involvement.

His father, Egbert Kilbourne (E.K.) Whiting started the Owatonna Chronicle newspaper in 1897, which in 1906 became the Journal-Chronicle Company.

Whiting was studying at Grinnell College and then at the University of Arizona when his father fell ill. He came home and the very difficult decision was reached to sell the Journal-Chronicle newspaper operations in 1938 to focus on the commercial printing and stationery supplies.

After his father's death, he and his brother, James, ran J-C Press from 1940-1983. In 1984, his daughter Sabra Otteson became sole owner of J-C Press, making her "one of the first certified woman owned enterprises in the state of Minnesota," according to the J-C Press website.

Under her leadership, the J-C Press website reports that the "business" grew its annual revenue from less than $500,000 to over $9,000,000." Otteson sold J-C Press to Pat McDermott on Jan. 1, 2015.

Otteson said that more so than entrepreneurial spirit, her father continues to instill in her a sense of community involvement.

Whiting has been involved in Rotary Club for 75 years, and he was president of the Country Club during the 1960s for about nine years. Otteson said that he was very active in the purchasing of land that allowed the Country Club to expand nine more holes.

He was very active in the Girl Scouts, and he was part of the committee that secured Piper Hills in Medford that served as a Girl Scout camp for many years. He also ran unsuccessfully for the State House of Representatives in 1970.

She also emphasized that he has always been very active in church, as he is a member at the Associated Church in Owatonna.

He always made time for his coffee group that Otteson said "honestly ran Owatonna." Otteson commented that the power of conversation led to a lot of accomplishments carried through by that coffee group.

That power of communication is something that current Chamber president and CEO Jennifer Libby said that the Chamber today truly values.

"The Chamber has such deep roots in those important conversations," said Libby. "There really is value in slowing down to just talk over coffee or lunch. That is where important ideas can gear forward."

One of her favorite people to chat with, or course, is Whiting. As a friend of Otteson, Libby became acquainted with him. She also knew him through Rotary. She visits him frequently at his current home, Medford Senior Care.

"I love having conversations with Bill about the Chamber and business. He is so insightful," said Libby. "I consider being his friend a privilege."

She said that many of their conversations tend to be about "how business has changed, but yet stays the same."

Whiting and Libby spoke about how employees have a lot more say than they used to in the work place. They agreed that employers are more flexible. Whiting also concluded that the "big box businesses" are tough for local businesses to compete with.

"These big box businesses like Wal-Mart, I don't know what the answer is, but they are here to stay," said Whiting.

Libby also commented that the "business climate is a lot tougher now, much in part she said because of the heavy tax on business.

Libby maintains that the Chamber has adjusted to changes by remaining an advocate for business. Chamber members do this by following the legislature and visiting the capitol to lobby for those issues that individual employers would benefit from but might just not have time to do.

She said that right now with the legislative session coming up, advocacy is a main focus of the Chamber.

Even with the changes in business, the intention behind the Chamber remains the dedication of member business prosperity. Economic development, especially in the downtown, remains a main focus.

Thanks to the foundation set by Whiting and the early Chamber leaders, the Chamber has grown to have 530 members and has expanded to include tourism.

"We are much more effective when we work together as a great community," she said about the Chamber and Owatonna community.

> **"I love having conversations with Bill about the Chamber and business. He is so insightful. I consider being his friend a privilege."**
>
> - Jennifer Libby, CEO and President of the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism



Bill Whiting (far right) is one of the founding leaders of the Chamber.



Owatonna is known for the quality of life and as a community where progress and growth are built on a strong foundation of history.
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Governor scales back buffer requirements for private ditches

By KAREN JORGENSEN
County Staff Writer

Last week, Gov. Mark Dayton scaled back enforcement of a new state law aimed at improving state water quality, after Republican legislators and agricultural groups objected to how state agencies were preparing to implement the law.

"After meeting yesterday (Jan. 28) afternoon with House Republican leaders, I have, with great reluctance, instructed the Department of Natural Resources to stop its mapping of so-called 'private ditches' under last year's buffer legislation," Dayton said.

"The Republican legislators insisted," he said, "that they did not intend those ditches to be included in the scope of the legislation, even though its buffering requirements would not take effect until November 2018."

The law passed was a compromise bill that mandated that buffers of a minimum of 16.5 feet be placed on all public ditches and buffers averaging 50 feet on public waters.

The DNR is currently in the process of mapping public waters and ditches and determining which ones will need buffers.

An assessment of Minnesota's watersheds by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency showed that half of the lakes and rivers in southern Minnesota are too polluted much of the time for safe swimming or fishing. The compromise law passed last year and provided stronger requirements for buffer strips of vegetation between farm fields and waterways to help improve water quality.

The law established a timetable for implementation of the new buffer rules and directed the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to map public waterways and ditches.

As the mapping progressed, Republican legislators and agriculture groups continued to express concerns that the DNR was including private ditches in the mapping process.

"Last fall it became clear the DNR was misinterpreting the new law and greatly expanding its scope to include private ditches," said Rep. Paul Torkelson (R. Hanska), a member of the Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee, in a statement released after the meeting with the governor. "We are pleased the governor has agreed Thursday to uphold the legislative intent of the new buffer law, supported by House Republicans and Senate Democrats."

Douglas Busselman, of the Minnesota Farm Bureau, said the Farm Bureau and other agricultural organizations were pleased with the governor's action.

"We are definitely in support of the changes," Busselman said. He added that the Farm Bureau and other agricultural organizations sent a letter to the governor saying they appreciated his actions.

Busselman said the concern of the farm organizations was the process the DNR was using to prepare the maps. Public ditches, he said, have been determined through a public process.

There was a concern, he said, that the DNR would make the determination which ditches were public and which were private on their own without that public process.

"No one should wake up and find they have a public ditch in their yard," he said.

He also said that if the DNR limited the mapping to already designated public ditches, the process would go faster and the buffers could be in place sooner.

Part of the challenge, he said, is the "regulatory mindset" of the state.

While agricultural interests were pleased with the governor's decision, conservation groups were not.

"The decision by the governor and House Republicans to roll back a portion of the state's buffer legislation was a truly disappointing development," said Paul Austin, executive director of Conservation Minnesota, in a statement.

"There is broad, bipartisan support and urgency among all Minnesotans for cleaning up polluted waters," he said. "The fact that politics was injected into an issue that has no real partisan home shows that, once again, political theater was allowed to trump the will of the people of Minnesota."

The day after meeting with the legislators, Dayton said (in a statement released by his office) that the leadership had told him that DNR and Board of Water and Soil Resources bonding requests for water quality improvements would not be considered by the house if private ditches were not exempted from the buffer requirement.

The house leadership denied that there had been any threats to withhold funding for water projects.

Dayton said he would not put the water quality improvements in his bonding proposal and other critical bonding measures at risk because of the buffer dispute.

"I will not cease my efforts to impress upon all legislators and all Minnesotans the hard facts about the overall deterioration of our state's water quality, and what we must do to reverse it," he said.

Accepting nominations for Farm Family of the Year

ON THE FARM



Karen Anderson

The Farm Family Recognition Program has existed for over two decades and honors farm families from throughout Minnesota for their contributions to the agriculture industry and their local communities. This program exists through the continued support of and coordination by University of Minnesota Extension, the College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences and the College of Veterinary Medicine. Each year, a family from Rice County and another from Steele County are recognized as farm families of the year. To select the families, we solicit nominations from the agribusinesses in the community. The nominations are then forwarded to the selection committees who select the new Farm Family.

At this time, we ask you to complete the nomination form for either Rice or Steele County, indicating the individuals, couples, or families whom you feel would be deserving of this honor. Links to the nomination forms are provided below. Recipients will be recognized during local recognition programs at their county fair and statewide at the Farmfest awards program on August 4, 2016.

Nomination Criteria

Please nominate an individual or family, using the criteria below. Farm Families should:

• Be Minnesota food producers actively involved in agricultural production with one or more agricultural enterprises. Beyond the usual agricultural endeavors, please also include these production areas for consideration: potato, vegetable, fruits, berries, aquaculture, agroforestry, and renewable energy supplies.

OR

• Have made significant short-term progress and/or innovative contributions with their agricultural endeavors. For example, consider producers who are relatively new to this country, someone who has developed an innovative method for a particular environmental problem, adopted a rotational grazing system, added alternative or value-added crops, etc.

All nominees should also:

• Have demonstrated a commitment to enhancing and supporting the fields of agriculture and production.

• Have some involvement in their communities and/or related organizations.

• Not have been previously recognized by the Farm Family Program.

Please utilize the nomination form to nominate future farm families for the recognition. Send your completed nomination form to the county in which the nominee lives (either Rice or Steele County) by Friday, March 11.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Karen Anderson, Agriculture Extension Educator at either the Rice (507-332-6109) or Steele (507-444-7685) County Extension Office or by emailing her at ande9495@umn.edu. Thank you for your help.

Steele County nomination form: z.umn.edu/steelenom

Rice County nomination form: z.umn.edu/ricenom

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In addition, both farmers and ranchers are implementing new techniques to avoid water runoff that may cause harmful levels of chemicals, fertilizers or manures to enter local waterways. By managing how and how much runoff is occurring, farmers and ranchers are doing their part to protect our waterways.

AgPower ENTERPRISES

Peer networking program launched

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) has launched a Peer Network for the region's food sector businesses.

The Peer Network, intended to be a peer-to-peer resource network, is another extension of SMIF's work to strengthen the local foods sector in its 20-county region. It is an outgrowth of SMIF's 2015 Entrepreneurial Bridge event, which brought together over 100 regional business leaders and fostered many new connections between leading area businesses.

Outreach surveys indicate individuals in the food industry desire a resource, which encourages mentorship and trusted conversation. Many of the same principles that are applied to other businesses can be beneficial to growers, retailers and producers in the food industry. The goal is to build a trusting, learning community where group members can learn about best practices from each other as well as outside experts.

Meetings will be held monthly beginning in January at SMIF in Owatonna. The session topics will be selected by the facilitator and participants. Twelve businesses will participate in this pilot Peer Network, most of which attended the recent SMIF-sponsored Feast! Local Foods Marketplace & Tradeshow. The Peer Network will be facilitated by Greg Thomas, a Business Growth Advisor with Enterprise Minnesota.

"The demand for local foods in our region is increasing," said SMIF Vice President of Economic Development Pam Bishop. "We see growth in the local foods sector as a great economic development opportunity for our region. However, for businesses to step up and meet this demand, they need a range of business support. This peer network is one tool to help strengthen these local foods enterprises and our regional economy as a whole"

The first Peer Network meeting was held on Jan. 20 at SMIF's offices. The following businesses participated: Blue Earth Valley Trading Co., Mankato; Carlson Roasting Co., Houston; Curly Girlz Candy, Owatonna; Flower Valley Vineyard, Red Wing; Grandma's Gourmets, Albert Lea; Hidden Stream Farm, Elgin; Lucky's Popcorn Dressing, North Mankato; Mama Stoen's, Owatonna; Regal's Catering, Rochester; Salsa Del Diablo, Rochester; Squash Blossom Farm, Oronoco; and The Bee Shed, Oronoco.

If you have any questions regarding SMIF's business or local foods initiatives, please contact Pam Bishop at PamB@smifoundation.org or 507-455-3215.

Pros and cons of annual performance reviews

Employers use several different tactics to gauge employee performance. Performance reviews can be a valuable means to measuring employee performance, especially with regard to assessing pay increases or other compensation, including upward mobility.

Staff members have strong views on performance evaluations. At their best, these periodic reviews can weed out the hard-working employees from those doing the bare minimum. At their worst, performance reviews can create a hostile working environment. The following are some other pros and cons to consider before performance reviews become de rigueur at an organization.

Pros

Performance reviews are a great way to bring employees and managers together face to face. In the hectic environment of a successful business, managers often do not have the opportunity to meet with employees one-on-one for extended periods of time. Reviews make that one-on-one time possible.

The review process also can be an opportunity for employees to figure out their strengths and where they may need a little help. At this point, extra training may be suggested or employees can enroll in specific courses or schooling that will work to promote their upward mobility in the company. This is perhaps the best time for supervisors and employees to agree on how best to improve employee performance going forward.

Supervisors who do not maintain a direct connection with subordinates may not realize any deficits in the business operation. Performance reviews also can help managers get a better idea of what's going on in their departments.

Cons

Reviews that take place only once per year can lull employees into a sense of complacency, thinking everything is going fine. Then a performance review may blindside them as to how a manager truly feels about their work. Failure to communicate with employees throughout the year and then surprising an employee with a long list of complaints can negatively affect esteem and productivity.

Employers who tie pay increases to annual reviews may find this practice counterproductive. Employees may not be motivated to improve their performance, particularly if annual reviews are insincere or rote. Pay increases can be based on many different factors and should not be directly correlated to the findings of performance reviews as a reward or punishment system.

Reviews are conducted by individuals, so they are not foolproof. Managers and employees may clash from time to time, so the review process may be affected by past disagreements. Employers can avoid this by asking managers from other departments to review employees to get a more accurate assessment of their thoughts about the business and any changes they might want to instill.

Reviews also tend to cause unnecessary anxiety among employees. Some workers may get extremely nervous about their reviews, while others may become overly competitive with other employees in an effort to earn higher salaries. This can greatly affect employee morale and camaraderie in the workplace.

Some employers feel that annual performance reviews have a place in their organizations. Others provide more consistent feedback periodically through the year to keep employees on target. There are advantages and disadvantages to both approaches.

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Office Assistant
The Steele County Times has an immediate opening for a part-time office assistant/bookkeeper. The candidate must be proficient in QuickBooks and other computer programs, including Microsoft Word. This person will be responsible for operating the office and must be focused on customer service.
Send letter of interest and resume to Alan Van Ormer, Managing Editor, Steele County Times, P.O. 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917.

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The sky's the limit!
A sales person is needed to join a growing newspaper in southern Minnesota. We are looking for an energetic, committed person who has expertise in sales and marketing or a person with the desire and dedication to work toward becoming a sales expert.
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CITY OF OWATONNA EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
The Parks and Recreation Department is now hiring for the following positions:
• **Part-Time Parks and Building Maintenance I:** $11.13 - $12.37/hour, 28 hours per week, year-round position, includes pro-rated benefits.
• **Guest Services Lead:** $12.00 - $15.00/hour, 28 hours per week, year-round position serving multiple locations, includes pro-rated benefits.
Application deadline: February 26, 2016, 4:30pm
For a complete job description and how to apply:
Visit our website at *www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/*
Only online application will be accepted.
Equal Opportunity Employer
Many seasonal positions coming soon! Check the City of Owatonna's website for opportunities

STEELE COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF
The Steele County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for **two full-time positions of Deputy Sheriff**. General duties consist of patrol, service of civil process, warrant service, court bailiff, and response to requests for service. Shifts may vary according to schedule needs.
Applicant must possess or be eligible for a Minnesota Peace Officers Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) License and must possess a current Minnesota driver's license.
Applications may be obtained through the Steele County Sheriff's Office - 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna; phone 507-444-3805 or visit www.co.steele.mn.us.
E. O. E.
APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, BY 3:00 PM LOCAL TIME ON THE CLOSING DATE OF FEB. 22, 2016.

Classifieds

Dodge County Independent
Dodge County ADvantage
Steele County Times

3-WEEK SPECIAL: $30
BUY TWO WEEKS, GET THE THIRD FREE
UP TO 20 WORDS; 10¢ FOR EACH WORD AFTER







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EMPLOYMENT

PT Property Maintenance position available in Hayfield. General repair and maintenance experience preferred. Please send resume to hayfieldmidtownmanor@gmail.com 6tfc

Hiring for spring concrete construction. Hard working, reliable, laborers and finishers needed. Wage based on experience. Call Dobbs Construction now! Luke @259-9180 7tfc

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Zumbro Valley Recreation Club is seeking a clubhouse manager. Food and beverage experience required with solid marketing and organizational skills. Send resume to: ZVRC, P.O. Box 76 Kasson, MN 55944 7-9c

FOR RENT

Apartments for rent, 1, 2 & 3 BR, gas & elec. included. 507-273-7386. 50-1p, 2tfc

Mobile Home lot and mobile homes for rent at Southside Mobile Home Park in Hayfield. No Pets. Call JMC for details. 507-536-0000. 43tfc

Prime office spaces for rent on Main Street, Kasson. High traffic location. Call 634-4307 for more information. 37tfc

Main Street store for lease, 2-3000 sq.ft. Contact Pat 319-6762. 1tfc.

2016 New Year's Rent Sale. Sign a 1 year lease and get 1 month FREE rent. In Hayfield, an 1880's rennovated hotel with spacious rooms, hardwood floors, microwaves and an ambiance that is quiet small town living. We have the 1,2 or 3 bedroom apartment you want. Utilities included in rent. Call 507-796-0152 or 507-884-9706 or 701-330-9706 for sale details. 2tfc

RENT or buy, office/shop building, Kasson. Call 251-1628. 5tfc

Rent based on income. 2 bd apt in Kasson. Month to month leases and deposit pay plans. (507) 398-6027 or (507) 451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd (507) 451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity 6, 7, 8nc

Private quiet 2 bedroom duplex apartment in Ellendale. Must see! $550/mo. Water, sewer, garbage included. Call (507) 456-8931 7stc

Smoke Free Senior Housing! 1 bd apartment in Kasson for 62+ or disabled persons. Month to month leases and deposit pay plans. (507) 398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyle.net tdd (507) 451-0704 Equal housing Opportunity 7-9c

Storage Space: 10 x 20 secure garage for storage... individual electronic access code. $60 per month at Heather Haus Assisted Living, Blooming Prairie. Contact Richard Feeney at 507-671-1242. 7,8,9c

1 BD Mantorvile spacious apartment available in March. Month to month leases and deposit payment plans. (507) 398-6027 or (507) 451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd (507)451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity. 8,9c,10nc

3 BR house for rent in Kasson. Rent is based on 30% of your income. Attached garage and washer/dryer hookups. Must meet household criteria – minimum household size of 5 members. Go online at www.semmchra.org to complete an application or call Janeen at (651) 565-2638, ext. 203 for more information. Equal Housing Opportunity. 8c,9c,10nc

SERVICES

HAMM'S WELDING - All types, aluminum, stainless steel, cast iron, fabrication work and repairs. HAMM'S WELDING, 528-2524, rural Claremont. 9tfc

Dodge County Printing, wedding invitations, bumper stickers, graduation invitations, pens, can holders, letterheads, envelopes, business cards, carbonless forms, computer stationary. Ask about other items available, 507-634-2661. 33tfp

TUTORING. Learning can be fun! All grades - most subjects. Linda L. Greene 507-374-2363. 38tfc

Yoga at the Blooming Prairie High School Library Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. $14.00 per month. Call Shelley Johnson with any questions (507) 219-4282 No need to RSVP 8sct

WANTED

Crop land to rent. Young farmer looking to expand existing corn and soybean operation in Hayfield and surrounding area. Call David Stanton 507-951-0915. 1tfc

Reliable Middle-Aged Couple seeking a home. She active disabled, he retired, handy with tools so fixer-upper would work well. Solid, fixed income. We are selling our home in Missouri to be close to her family in the Dodge Center area. Contract for deed, rent-to-own or straight rental until MO property resolved. Currently living in the D.C. area but looking for our permanent home. Substantial down payment/security deposit and references available. Rural or small town, 40-ish miles to D.C. preferred. Call Jim at (417) 394-2571 or Norma at (417) 793-9067. Looking forward to being Minnesotans again. 8-10p

MISCELLANEOUS

Smoke Free Senior Housing! 1 bd apartment in Kasson for 62+ or disabled persons. Month to month leases and deposit pay plans. (507) 398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyle.net tdd (507) 451-0704 Equal housing Opportunity 7-9c

FOR SALE

Free-standing natural gas fire place with blower. Call 634-7114 and leave a message. 8p,9p,10nc

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Wellington adult care has trained staff who work 24 hrs. a day to provide you with services such as prepared meals, medication management, personal care such as bathing, dressing and grooming, as well as other activities of daily living. All meals are served family style in the dining room. Special diets are not a problem. We also arrange transportation to and from medical appointments accompanied by staff or family. We supply laundry services, and housekeeping. Our home is wheelchair accessible. We have a 1 to 5 staff to client ratio. All rooms are private. We serve a variety of clients over the age of 55. We are licensed by Dodge County and the State of Minnesota.

For more information please contact
Jane Hill @ 507.374.2198 or 507.319.5134 20tfc

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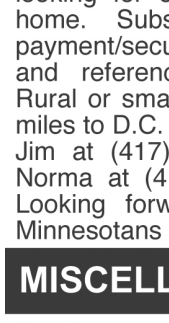
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Part Time Teller Position

Citizens State Bank of Hayfield – Mantorville Branch has a Part Time teller position opening, including one Saturday every 4th week. Experience is not required, however math ability and good work ethic are critical. Applicant must be friendly, outgoing and a team player. Interested parties can pick up an application:

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Matt Valentyn, Dietary and Housekeeping • 507-789-7128 or
Diane Rasmussen, Housing Manager for Gunderson Gardens, at 507-789-7138

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Eligible CDL Applicants:
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8c

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3tfc 29tfc

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, Kubiatowicz 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 MerchantsStateBankofBloomingPrairie 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: 114 3rd 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 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

15-102238

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 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

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): 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

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".

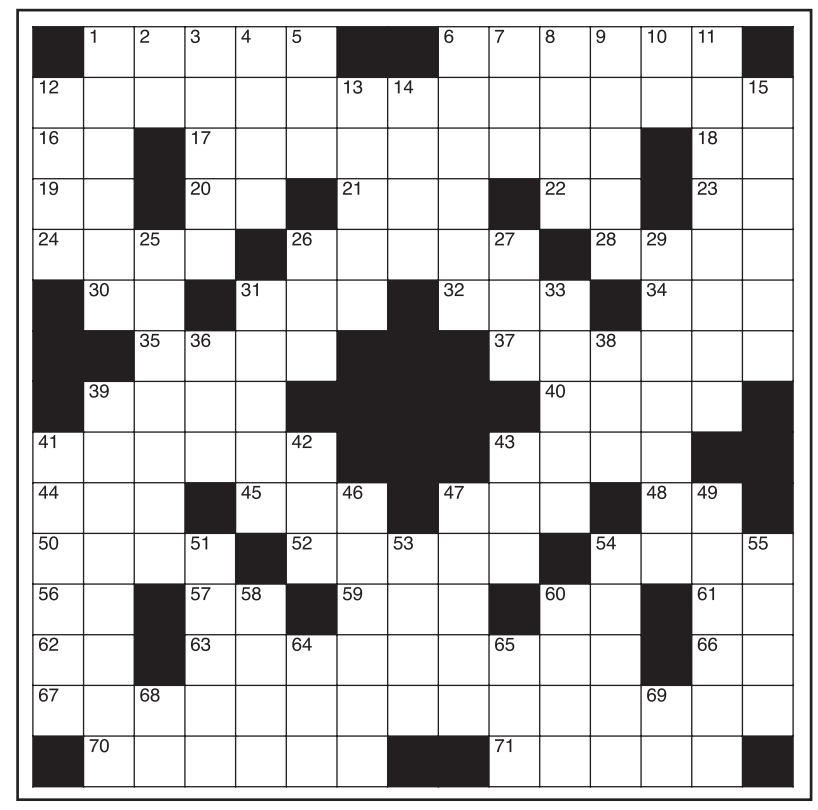
The County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to accept the bid deemed to be in the best interest of Steele County

Laura Ihrke
Steele County Auditor

2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Answers on Page 5C



CLUES ACROSS

1. Construct
6. Seal
12. Last from Kent Haruf
16. A public promotion
17. Acutely insightful and wise
18. Yemeni riyal
19. __ Lang (country singer)
20. Blue Hen school
21. Decaliter
22. Point midway between S and E
23. 12th Greek letter
24. One point S of SE
26. Pools
28. Notes of hand
30. Algerian dinar
31. Metal cooking vessel
32. Short poking stroke
34. Mountain Standard Time
35. Dark hairs mixed with light
37. Hosts film festival
39. Frost
40. Former moneys of Brazil
41. Bodily perceptions
43. Baseball great Ty ___
44. Before
45. __ Caesar, comedian
47. Containerful
48. Expression of uncertainty
50. Tells on
52. Bones
54. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
56. Singer Jolson
57. Atomic #73
59. Pigeon sound
60. Jr's. father
61. 6th tone
62. Debt settled (abbr.)
63. Contrary
66. Chinese tennis star Na
67. 44th First Lady
70. Methyl phenol
71. Avid applause

CLUES DOWN

1. Started growth
2. Biblical Sumerian city
3. Where Alexander defeated Darius III
4. Something to be borne or conveyed
5. Removed earth
6. Traveled by water
7. Hirobumi __, Japan
8. Antelopes
9. Japanese emigrant's offspring
10. For instance
11. T cell glands
12. Acorn trees
13. Burdened
14. Wound deformity
15. Has faith in
25. Title of honor
26. Someone
27. Pouch
29. Comprehensive
31. Separates with an instrument
33. Noble
36. US, Latin America, Canada
38. Snoot
39. About heraldry
41. Angel
42. Female sibling
43. Former OSS
46. Stressed-unstressed-unstressed
47. An imperfectly broken mustang
49. Call out
51. A long scarf
53. Coconut fiber
54. Scene of sports & events
55. Bodily suffering
58. Cloths
60. A way to agitate
64. No seats available
65. Linen liturgical vestment
68. Atomic #103
69. Home screen

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Financial Advisor

507-434-3334 400 Fourth Ave. NE • Austin, MN 55912

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Legals

Foreclosure

15-102160

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 31, 2013 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $84,850.62 MORTGAGOR(S): Ronald C. Wesely, Unmarried MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed February 4, 2013, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000389530 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 10, Block 24, Original Town (now City) of Owatonna PROPERTY ADDRESS: 415 South Oak, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-100-2410 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $75,841.76 THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 15, 2016, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on September 15, 2016, or the next business day if September 15, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: January 14, 2016

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

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

Foreclosure

15-102033

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: December 20, 2002 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $132,421.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Eric R. Erickson and Jodi L. Erickson, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed December 23, 2002, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T 51679, As modified of record by Document recorded on September 10, 2014 as Document Number T000071806 in the office of the Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 9, Block 1, Radel's Country Club Addition REGISTERED PROPERTY 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: 100248906060023353 LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Rescue Mortgage Inc. dba Mortgage Depot RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Ditech Financial LLC f/k/a Green Tree Servicing LLC MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 740 South Oak Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060 TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 17.016.1148 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing 1 Rod North and 2 Rods West of the SE corner of Lot 18 in the NE 1/4 of Section 16, Township 107 North, of Range 20 West, running thence North 4 Rods, thence West 7 Rods, thence South 4 Rods, thence East 7 Rods to beginning COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $123,000.00 AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: $117,965.15 That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 18, 2016 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on September 19, 2016 unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032. MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE:None "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: January 13, 2016

Ditech Financial LLC f/k/a Green Tree Servicing LLC
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.
Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(952) 925-6888
8 - 15-010160 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

1/26, 2/2, 2/9
2/16, 2/23, 3/1

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: 100248906080025495 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

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@owatonnalawyers.com

2/2, 2/9



Legals

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: MORTGAGOR(S): 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.

2/9, 2/16, 2/23
3/1, 3/8, 3/15

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

**THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION**

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-174

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR DESCENT OF PROPERTY

**Estate of
Norman Dean Swanson
a/k/a Norman D. Swanson,
a/k/a Norman Swanson
Decedent**

A Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with the Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago, leaving property in Minnesota and requests the probate of Decedent's last Will dated December 14, 1990, if any, and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property.

Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing . If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted.

IT IS ORDERED and Notice is further given, that the Petition will be heard on March 15, 2016, at 10:45 a.m. by this Court at Steele County Courthouse, 111 E. Main Street, Owatonna Minnesota.

1. Notice shall be given to all interested persons (Minn. Stat. 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minn. Stat. 524.3-204
2. Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by: Mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.

Dated 2016.01.29

**BY THE COURT
Karen Duncan
Judge of District Court**

**Sonia Kocher
Court Administrator**

Attorney for Petitioner
Paul V. Sween
Adams, Rizzi & Sween, P.A.
300 First Street NW
Austin, MN 55912
Attorney License No: 107761
Telephone: 507-433-7394
FAX: 507-433-8890

2/9, 2/16

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

**THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION**

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-215

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

**Estate of
Evan Oldefendt,
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 21, 2006, and ("Will"), and for the appointment of Gary Oldefendt whose address is 824 15th St. SE, 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 Minnesota Statutes section 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 Minnesota Statutes section 501B.41, subdivision 5.

Dated 2016.02.01

**BY THE COURT
Karen Duncan
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
Attorney License No. 26190
Telephone: 507-451-3580
FAX: 507-451-3532
Email: einhaus@owatonnalawyers.com

2/9, 2/16

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): Joshua P. Peters, a single person MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $112,500.00 DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 24, 2007 DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on February 15, 2007 as Document Number A000347775 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: $108,877.33 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing at a point on the North line of County State Aid Highway #12 and 13 feet West of the West end of Wilton Street of Medford Village; thence West for 80 feet; thence North 1 degree 35 minutes West for 164.2 feet; thence Northeasterly for 84 feet along the South bank of the Straight River; thence South 4 degrees 06 minutes East for 216.2 feet to the point of commencement, all being in Lot 8, Section 8, Township 108, Range 20 West, Steele County, Minnesota STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 501 CENTRAL AVE W, MEDFORD, MN 55049-9511 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: 16-008-2001 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 29, 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 29, 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: February 3, 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
(16-0100-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

2/9, 2/16, 2/23
3/1, 3/8, 3/15

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

**THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION**

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-217

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

**Estate of
Charles Robert Johnson,
Decedent**

It is Ordered and Notice is given on that 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, April 4, 1960, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Roberta Carroll Boergerhoff, whose address is 7374 Van Buren Street, Fridley MN, 55432 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 Minnesota Statutes section 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

Dated 2016.02.03

BY THE COURT

**Karen Duncan
Judge of District Court**

Attorney for Petitioner
Eric J. Mattison
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Avenue
P.O. Box 545
Owatonna, MN 55060
Attorney License No: 151609
Telephone: 507-451-3580
FAX: 507-451-3532
Email: mattison@owatonnalawyers.com

2/9, 2/16



NOTICE OF MEETING JOINT DITCH #6 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS STEELE/RICE COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Joint Ditch #6 Board of Commissioners of Steele/Rice County will be held at 9:30 a.m. on the 19th day of February, 2016, in the Boardroom at the Steele County Administration Building located at 630 Florence Ave., Owatonna, MN. The Board will be meeting to discuss removing the 100' construction easement for a landowner's building site which is partially located in the easement area.

Dated this 5th day of February, 2016

Laura Ihrke, Steele County Auditor
Fran Windschitl, Rice County Auditor/Treasurer

2/9

Owatonna Foundation Receives donation from Michaelson's Funeral Home

The Owatonna Foundation recently received a $1,000 donation from Michaelson's Funeral Home.

Owner, Cory Michaelson shared his reason for contributing…"The community has been so good to us over the years and by supporting the Foundation, and the projects that they fund, we have a way of giving back to the people of Owatonna and thanking them for their support."

Foundation Executive Director Laura Resler said the Foundation is appreciative of Michaelson's donation.

"Their continued support keeps the Foundation's mission of improving the quality of life for present and future generations by supporting Owatonna projects that focus on community, education, the arts and recreation a reality for all of us," she said.

The Owatonna Foundation, now in its 58th year of serving the Owatonna community, provides "brick and mortar" grants in Owatonna and its environs in four areas: recreation, education, arts and community projects. The Foundation also provides both traditional and non-traditional scholarships for two-year colleges and technical schools.

Blooming Prairie school menus

BPES Breakfast Menu:

Feb. 9: Cinnamon roll, vegetable selection, apple juice, milk

Feb. 10: Breakfast pizza, vegetable selection, fresh fruit, milk

Feb. 11: Banana bread loaf, vegetable selection, orange juice, milk

Feb. 12: No school

Feb. 15: No school

Feb. 16: Long John, vegetable selection, apple juice, milk

Feb. 17: WG Bagel with cream cheese, vegetable selection, fresh fruit, milk

BPES Lunch Menu:

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

Feb. 11: Corn dog, peas; chicken cacciatore over rotini, WG breadstick, peas; tomato slices, celery sticks, seasonal fruit

Feb. 12: No school

Feb. 15: No school

Feb. 16: Hotdog on WG bun, Mexican rice; Chicken taco, lettuce/cheese, Mexican rice; Romaine lettuce, baby carrots, beets, seasonal fruit

Feb. 17: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, 2 WG sliced bread; hot turkey sandwich, mashed potatoes; black beans, celery sticks, seasonal fruit

BPHS Lunch Menu:

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

Feb. 11: Walking taco, Mexican rice, spicy pinto beans, corn, tomato slices, celery sticks, seasonal fruit

Feb. 12: No school

Feb. 15: No school

Feb. 16: Chicken bacon ranch melt, sweet potato fries, corn, baby carrots, beets, seasonal fruit

Feb. 17: Chili, cinnamon roll, fruited gelatin, broccoli, garbanzo beans, celery sticks, seasonal fruit

NRHEG school menus

NRHEG Breakfast Menu:

Feb. 9: Pancakes

Feb. 10: Banana bread

Feb. 11: Poptarts

Feb. 12: Doughnut

Feb. 15: No school

Feb. 16: Unavailable

Feb. 17: Pancake and sausage bites

NRHEG Lunch Menu:

Feb. 9: Corn dog, baked potato with toppings, celery sticks, mandarin oranges

Feb. 10: Toasted cheese sandwich, tomato soup, fresh veggies, peaches, string cheese

Feb. 11: Chicken dippers, whipped potatoes, fresh veggies, applesauce, cookie

Feb. 12: Italian dunkers with marinara sauce, California blend, cucumber slices, pineapple

Feb. 15: No school

Feb. 16: Unavailable

Feb. 17: Beef taco with toppings, golden corn, baby carrots, applesauce

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

‘Possibilities are endless’ with LCD smartboard

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Teacher efficiency, student engagement and endless possibilities are all coming from the purchase of a 65-inch LCD smartboard screen in theNew Richland-Hartland-Ellendale Geneva (NRHEG) Elementary School.

“I felt there was a void in the library of that tool and I wanted it to be available to support the library curriculum,” said Jamie Radtke, media center specialist for the Ellendale Elementary School in the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School District.

She added that the LCD smartboard screen is also a nice tool for school board meetings, staff meetings and teacher professional development.

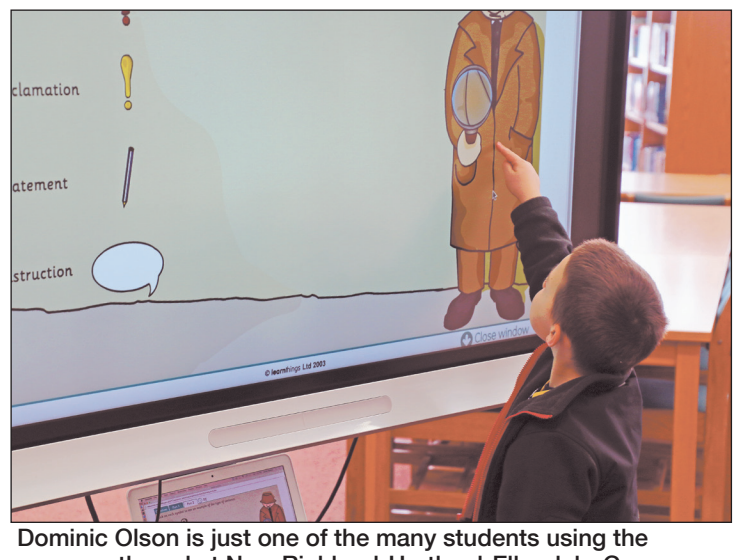
Radtke has had experience using the LCD smartboard screen. She was a second-grade teacher for seven years and for at least five years used a smartboard in her classroom.

“I had gotten used to it for an educational tool,” she said. “I saw the void of interactiveness that a board provides.”

She wrote a grant for the smartboard screen. The Ellendale State Bank donated $4,000 to help purchase the piece of equipment. On the Friday before Christmas, Radtke showed a video clip just so the students could see what it could be used for.

In the morning Radtke has library classes dealing with library skills. In the afternoon, she works with small groups to support their reading and math skills.

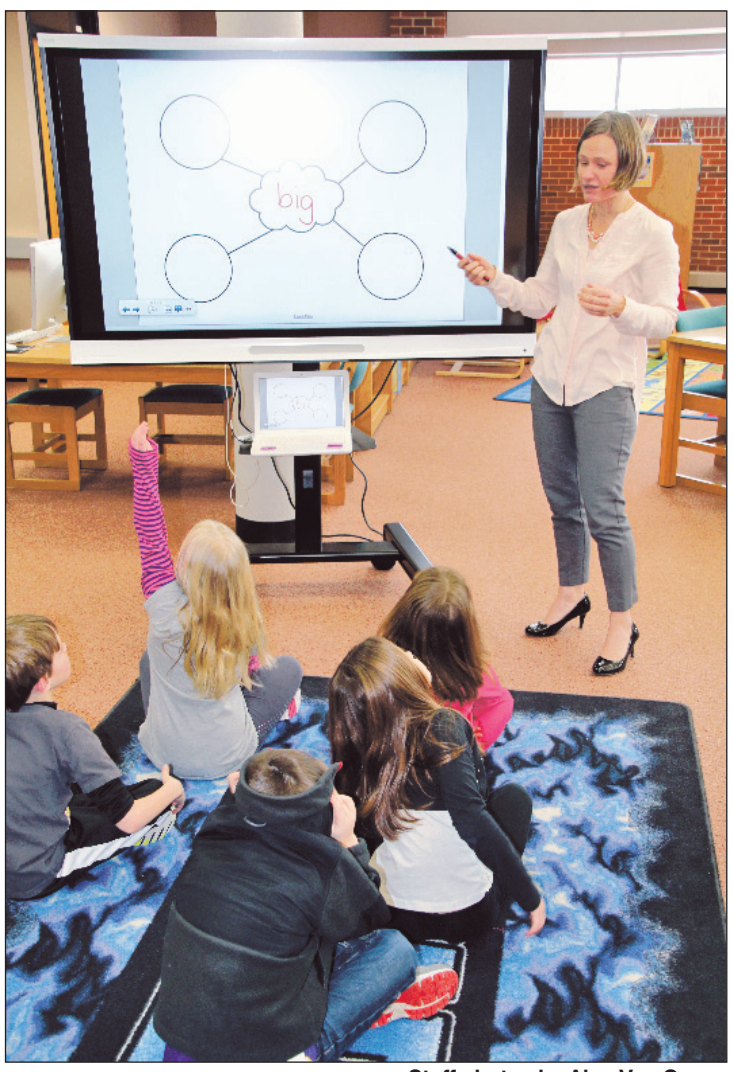
“In the library I want them with books in their hands,” she said. “This is a nice way to get more student involvement. It extends the life of the book and lets us dig deeper in the books.”



Dominic Olson is just one of the many students using the new smartboard at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Elementary School.



Jada Braund adds a word to a flow chart using the 65-inch LCD smartboard at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) Elementary School.



Staff photos by Alan Van Ormer
Teacher Jamie Radtke uses the new smartboard in as a teaching tool at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Elementary School.

Radtke stated that the students love using the smartboard. “I’ve seen some lit up faces,” she said. “It’s really a nice way for me to start my library classes.”

She has developed her own library curriculum, but she also likes to support that classroom curriculum with various educational tools including the smartboard. “It extends the capabilities of a book,” Radtke said. “You can take your imagination somewhere, but you can’t actually go somewhere and find out more. This board helps us do that.”

For example, during a recent lesson about Martin Luther king, the class did some reading on his legacy and what it meant. Radtke was able to pull up his speech on the smartboard and the students were able to listen to an excerpt of that speech.

She said there is power in being able to see him and hear the words from his own voice. Radtke also showed the students where he grew up and photos of protests. “It is not as real for them until they see it,” she said.

“The possibilities are endless,” Radtke added. “We are not confined to what we have there (in a book.) If someone has a question, I have a tool right at my fingertips where we can answer it.”

As a teacher, creativity is huge, Radtke said. The smartboard allows her to create a multitude of things for lessons. “I have limits on what I know,” she said. “If I don’t know something I have a great tool to find something. I think it is a really powerful way to learn.”

For an instructor, the smartboard also provides convenience, makes it more efficient to put together a lesson and helps with time management. “For the students it is a lot more interesting for them,” she said. ‘I’m still their source of information. I am guiding them through the learning. It is just more interactive and engaging when you are using the board.”

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Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

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MISCELLANEOUS

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TAX PREP GUIDE 2016

Find the right tax forms

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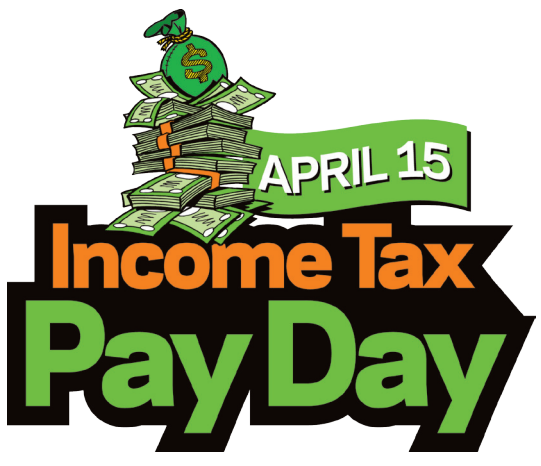
The IRS also will refer you to a private Web site that lists state government sites where you can pick up state forms and publications.

By the way, TurboTax already includes all the tax forms you need, which takes the hassle out of deciding which forms to use. Just answer simple, plain-English questions, and TurboTax fills out all the right forms for you.

Decide if you need help

TurboTax can handle the most complex returns with ease (and allow you to file your taxes electronically for a faster refund). You just need to answer simple questions, such as whether you’ve had a baby, bought a home or had some other life-changing event in the past year. TurboTax will then fill out all the right forms for you.

However, if you still feel uncomfortable doing your taxes on your own, TurboTax offers some economical additional services you can purchase when preparing your return. You can talk to a tax professional by phone to get your questions answered, or purchase Audit Defense coverage so that you are professionally represented in the event of an audit. If you are concerned about preparing your own return, these services will give you added confidence and peace of mind.



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