

Attorneys: Body cams would have helped lawsuit claims

No local agencies have body cams yet

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

The attorney for the Blooming Prairie man who accused police of roughing him up says body cams on officers would have helped bring a clearer understanding of what took place.

Mark Stephenson, a Rochester attorney who represented Valanchie and Ashley Garcia, said body cams would have helped sort out the details much sooner in the process. The case has dragged on for almost a year and a half.

Stephenson is a strong advocate for body cams for police because they would help weed out frivolous lawsuits.

Body cams are wearable video camera devices worn by police officers that are fast becoming standard-issue for police across the country. The cameras promise a technological answer to complaints about racial bias and excessive force.

With Garcia's claims against Blooming Prairie Police and Steele County Sheriff's Office, it came down to "totally different stories from both sides," Stephenson said. "Body cams would have

taken care of this and there would have been no questions of what happened," he said.

"I've become a real firm believer in body cams and tape recordings for police," Stephenson said.

In the Garcia case, there were no body cams or tape recordings of what transpired at the Garcia home on April 17, 2013 when Garcia claimed police barged into his house and pinned him against the wall. Police came there to investigate a civil dispute involving a vehicle.

No law enforcement agency in Steele County at this time has body cams available.

Joe Flynn, the attorney who defended the City of Blooming Prairie and its po-



lice chief in the Garcia case, agreed that body cams would have helped to have recordings of interactions between both sides.

POLICE BODY CAMS
Continued on Page 6A

Fire injures man in Hope

Homeowner treated for smoke inhalation

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

A homeowner trying to put out a fire in his own house in Hope was injured and hospitalized Monday morning.

Steven Jensen was transported by ambulance to Owatonna hospital for smoke inhalation after he tried to stop a fast moving fire in his home around 8:30 a.m., according to Ellendale fire chief Mark Lee. Jensen was kept in the hospital for observation overnight. He is expected to make a full recovery.

Firefighters from Ellendale, Geneva and Owatonna fought the blaze for several hours at 3622 91st St. SW located across from the old school building in Hope.

Once fire got behind the walls of the house, "it just took off from there," and became fully engulfed in flames by the time fire crews arrived, Lee said.

A wood-burning stove inside the house, Lee said, is responsible for the fire. "The chimney got plugged up where it wasn't ventilating properly," the chief said.

After Jensen called 911 to report the fire, he went back inside to try and put out the flames, Lee said.

"Once you go out of a fire, don't ever go back in," Lee warned. "The best thing to do is just get out and stay out."

Lee said the house is a total loss. Firefighters were able to save a detached garage, which was located only a few feet from the house, according to Lee.

Jensen apparently lives in the home alone, Lee said, adding that he had insurance on the structure.

Fire crews were on the scene until about 1 p.m.

See house fire photos on page 6A



Peyton Robb flexes for his home crowd after defeating Victor Gliva of Farmington in the championship bout on Saturday, Feb. 28 at the Xcel Energy Center. It was the first state wrestling championship for Owatonna since 2010.

Owatonna preserves another piece of history

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Owatonna has preserved another piece of its history. The Owatonna Commercial Historic District is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Commercial District is roughly bounded by North Cedar Ave, West and East Broadway, West Bridge Street and West Main Street. The district consists of 12 city blocks and includes Central Park as its focal point.

"It is just exciting when people recognize your

community and something that is significant. They recognize that our downtown can be something of value," said Director of Marketing and Main Street Melanie Sunnarborg.

The National Register is the official list of the Nation's historical places worthy of preservation and includes more than 80,000 properties.

The district contains a total of 91 properties, including 75 contributing buildings and 12 non-contributing buildings. The contributing buildings range in dates from 1876 to the late 1950s and retain a consistent overall character including three stories in height, brick facades with ground-floor

storefronts and uniform alignment to the street fronts.

"I am just excited that we have the opportunity to preserve our downtown for many to enjoy for years to come," Sunnarborg said.

Getting a building or a district on the National Register is a process with many steps and it does not go fast, according to Denis Gardner, National Register historian with the State Historic Preservation Office.

The first step is a property evaluation in which a historian will do a study on the building or area in question and then give their conclusion to the

State Historic Preservation Office. If the organization cannot afford to get a study done they can submit research and evidence to the office instead.

The office will then decide if they agree with the conclusion and or materials and if it is eligible the next step is a formal National Register nomination, which in this case was prepared by Summit Envirosolutions in 2011.

OWATONNA
Continued on Page 6A

EAGLE PRAIRIE
INSURANCE
POWERED BY ATLAS

YOUR SUSTAINABILITY. YOUR LIVELIHOOD. YOUR EVERYTHING.
NO INSURANCE POLICY IS THE SAME. ONE-ON-ONE INSURANCE GUIDANCE.

JAY KLEMMENSEN
OWNER/AGENT
507-456-1247
eagleprairieins@gmail.com
150 5th St. NE, Blooming Prairie

Opinion

Our view

Police officers need body cams

A badge, uniform, weapon, Taser, handcuffs and radio have long been standard issued items for police officers. It's time to add body cams to the arsenal of police.

Body cameras are exactly what they sound like—camera devices mounted to the bodies of police officers. They are most often worn right on the uniforms of officers right next to their badges.

The use of body-mounted cameras to record the interactions between police officers and residents has grown across the country in recent years. There have been a number of high profile cases nationwide that are prompting police leaders to secure body cams for their officers.

On this week's front page, we learn about how attorneys involved in a local case against Blooming Prairie Police and Steele County Sheriff's Office think body cams would have helped settle a federal lawsuit much sooner than allowing it to drag on for more than a year. The attorneys talk about how body cams would help with false claims against police.

While the local lawsuit was settled for \$12,000, it could have been much more financially devastating had it gone to trial. The family who claimed police violated their federal rights had initially asked for more than \$930,000 in damages. Body cams could have potentially prevented any money from being paid out, if the account of what happened by police had proven to be true.

Currently there are no police agencies in Steele County that offer body cams for officers. We believe all police officers should be equipped with body cams right along with their handguns.

Body cams have been proven to reduce use-of-force incidents and complaints about excessive force by officers. They also provide valuable evidence. From ensuring the accuracy of victim and witness statements to giving an investigator a second look at a crime scene, they can help officers do their jobs.

The video plays well in court. In a study by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, prosecutors were asked to rate the value of video evidence. As many as 93 percent said convictions were more likely as were pre-trial deals when video evidence was available.

It's hard to dispute a video account of what took place. We feel body cams would keep officers in check with how they deal with the public and they would prevent citizens from making false claims against police.

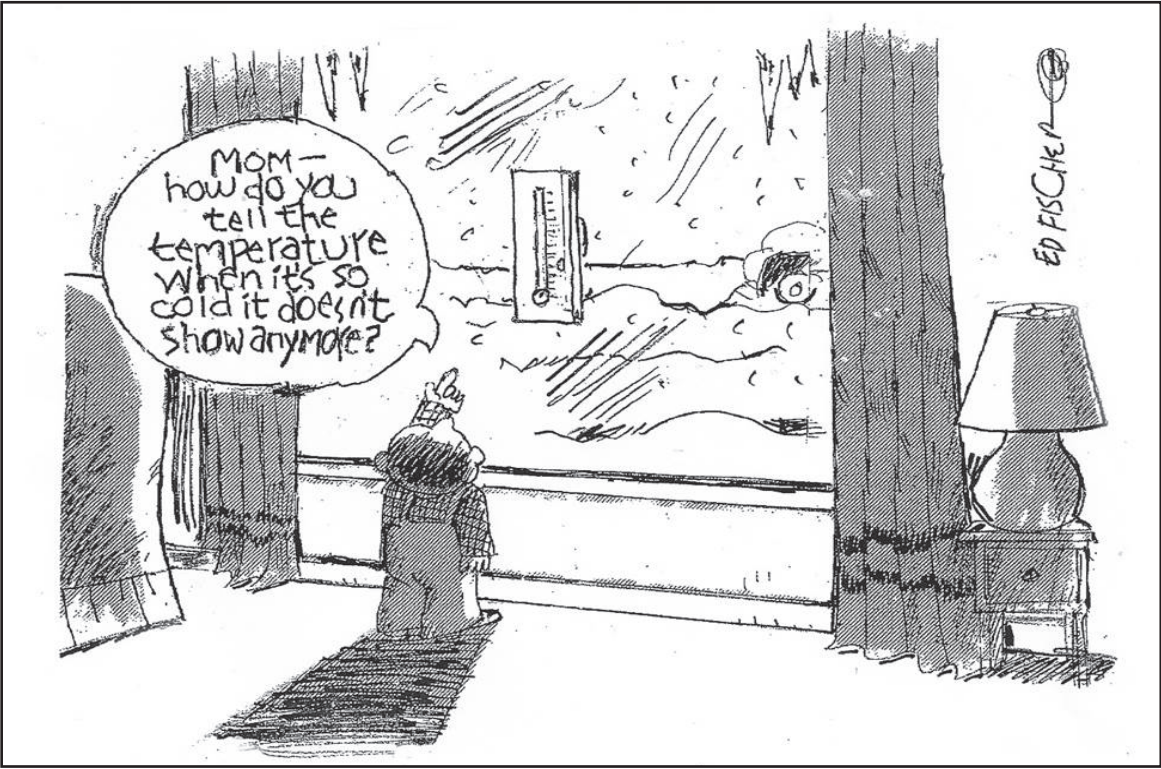
Like with anything, there are also some downsides to body cams. The cameras are costly, ranging from about \$400 to nearly \$2,000 per unit. The cost of maintenance and data storage only adds to that.

Legal questions surrounding privacy, both for officers and residents, are still being litigated. The state legislature is trying to figure out exactly what data is private and what may be public.

We advocate for the data to be public. Keeping the videos private would interfere with the credibility of the police. Releasing video could exonerate officers.

But the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages. It's time to find a way to equip our officers with something that will protect them as well as the citizens they are sworn to serve.

Body cams would help police agencies to be transparent. After all, openness and transparency in any unit of government is the best coarse of action for everyone involved.



Building a paper with momentum worth reading

Momentum worth reading.

If you've never considered subscribing to our newspaper before, this may be the time to do so because we have incredible momentum that makes us worth reading. We're in a similar situation as to what a Twin Cities TV station went through years ago.

Back in the early 1980s Gannett purchased KARE-TV in Minneapolis and took a little known TV news operation at the time and beefed it up into becoming the most watched news in Minnesota. During the rebuilding period, the station's slogan was "momentum worth watching."

But it didn't happen overnight. It took many years to achieve ratings supremacy and become a news operation to be reckoned with.

I was fortunate to work at KARE for a few years while this amazing turnaround took place at the hands of some of the best journalists in the country. I still remember one of the top news anchors in the country who has since gone on to Los Angeles compliment my writing abilities.

On a much smaller scale, the Gannett transformation of KARE is what is happening with the Steele County Times. Over the past five years, we have taken the Blooming Prairie Times and turned it into a countywide newspaper loaded with 100 percent local news.

HOT



PURSUIT
Rick Bussler

The newspaper has grown beyond anyone's wildest expectations. Readership has nearly tripled, sales have skyrocketed and the size of the newspaper has doubled with more news, features and sports coverage.

We now offer another added value for readers. Within the past couple months, we have added a county sports editor to cover sports throughout the entire county. We're offering more than just scores and rehashing games. Sports editor James Knoop is digging up sports feature stories from all the schools in the county.

Besides more sports, we also continue to tweak our Hometown Living section. We now have pages in that section devoted to each community in the county. Most recently, Owatonna was the last community that we brought into the mix to

highlight stories.

The hometown section has become extremely popular and allows us to package news and features that often can't found in any other news source.

Steele County residents have shown me that they are hungry for a different alternative for local news coverage. We always strive to be in tune as to what citizens want. We want to put out a news product that readers will be proud of every time they pick it up.

Each week we average 28 pages of news, and many times it's even more. That's an astonishing amount of space dedicated to the news of Steele County. In fact, out of weekly newspapers in the state, we have one of the highest page counts and the most news coverage. I read about 30 newspapers every week and find that most of them are 20 pages or less. And we knock the socks off some papers in much larger communities.

For example, Lakeville, a community of 56,000 residents, has a local newspaper that averages 20 pages a week. In comparison, Steele is a county with a population of roughly 35,000.

The Steele County Times is a hot commodity. I think you'll agree it's a paper that may be worth your time to go in hot pursuit of getting every week.

Mailbag

Trom is a steward of rural life

When I served along pastorate at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hayfield I had a sister, brother and a niece of Lowell and Evelyn Trom as members.

It was in that context over the years I got to know and respect the extended Trom family that included Lowell and Evelyn.

The roots that my wife, Helen, and I have are in Waseca County soil. With the help of dedicated and caring Waseca County farm neighbors, I have managed and operated our family homesteads for many decades. When the state celebrated its sesquicentennial in 2008, farms that had continuous family ownership for 150 years or more were honored as sesquicentennial farms. Ninety such farms were honored and

celebrated one day at the 2008 Minnesota State Fair. My family homestead was the only one honored and documented from Waseca County.

The Trom family farm in Dodge County that their Norwegian fore parents homesteaded and chose well with flat land. The land that my Norwegian fore parents homesteaded in northern Waseca County must have chosen topography that reminded them of Norway. Much of our family farm is designated HEL "Highly Erodible Land." To address that issue, the Waseca County Water and Soil Conservation District helped me design and install seven terraces.

In 1988, I was honored as conservation farmer of the year. "Flatlanders" don't know what

it is to have to farm around and between terraces, farm strips and waterways and live with "point rows." Being stewarded by conservation practices, these soils yield well too. My two callings or professions have been, you might say, to be a steward of soul and soil.

I attended a meeting in Kasson early this January offered by the University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center in Waseca. During the noon dinnertime, I asked Tom Hoverstad of the center how his newly retired pastor was doing. He said, "Oh, I just saw him last week at a banquet at the country club.

He really enjoys retirement." I said, "I don't play 'pasture pool.'" He said, "Farming has been a good hobby for you." I share all this stuff to seek to give some evidence that

A GLIMPSE OF



STEELE COUNTY
Alan Van Ormer

Preparing for a busy March

Heading into March the old weather saying is if that March comes in like a lion it is going to go out like a lamb. Or Vice versa.

In Blooming Prairie this saying goes out the window during the third month of the year.

Each month the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce sends out a little piece entitled "What will I be missing in Blooming Prairie if leave town this month? And in March there will be a lot that will be missed if people leave town.

Every weekend there is some activity going on in March. It all starts off with a weekday activity - the 96th Birthday of the American Legion on March 5 with a social starting at 5:30 p.m. This first weekend is the first-ever Chamber Broomball Tournament.

This event is being held at the Blooming Prairie ice rink and starts with an 8:30 a.m. contest for younger children, grades 1-6. Then the older children - seventh-grade through adults - play at 9:30 a.m. It sounds like it is going to be an exciting time for those of all ages.

On March 12, the Pizza Cellar is the place for the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group Ham Bingo. Then on March 14, the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club will hold a murder and mystery dinner. On March 20, back at the Servicemen's Club will be the annual Knights of Columbus Fish Fry. The month ends with the 12th annual Blooming Prairie Education Foundation live and silent auctions at the Pizza Cellar and Cue Company on March 28.

March will provide plenty of different opportunities for those living in Blooming Prairie or wish to participate from outside the community. And the best thing about many of the activities is that most of them are family-oriented events allowing adults and their children to get together for some quality family time and just an all-around good time.

MAILBAG

Continued on Page 3A

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.

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

A STATE AND NATIONAL AWARD WINNING WEEKLY

2015
Seven state awards.

2014
Three state awards.

2013
Seven state awards.
Two national awards.

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



STAFF

PublisherRick Bussler
Advertising DirectorAnnie Anderson
Managing EditorAlan Van Ormer
Staff WritersLeMar Nelson
.....ShannonKinley
County Sports WriterJames Knoop
Office Manager.....Lynn Borchert
Advertising SalesJulie Snyder
.....Karla Brown, Katelyn Fisher
Graphic Designer.....Jamie Klemmensen
InternsMacaela Jensen, Kristin Smith

DEADLINES

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

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

ETHICS

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

Commentary

Reflections. . .

and How



Howard Lestrud

Grandson to the defensive

Sounds and shadows can often spook one when traversing in the hallways of a new home.

Our new home is new to us still after five months. Yes, Judy and I hear new sounds not familiar to our ears and sometimes we see shadows we do not recognize.

It is then that I wish my 11-year-old grandson Ryan was nearby. He is a master of taekwondo and could be our bodyguard. Ryan has been learning this Korean martial arts technique for the past year after a 10-week session at a martial arts center was given to him by his parents as a birthday present.

Judy and I have had the opportunity to sit in on his workouts and have been very impressed with his progress and the discipline he has learned. He has gotten so agile with the various kicks that I am sure he will soon be able to touch his toes on the ceiling.

Students of taekwondo learn to focus and focus very quickly. That's the story of life, trying to be in focus as often as one can.

Taekwondo is characterized by its emphasis on head-height kicks, jumping and spinning kicks, and fast kicking techniques.

Taekwondo combines combat and self-defense techniques with sport and exercise. The art has been an Olympic event since 1992. Taekwondo was developed by a variety of Korean masters during the 1940s and 50s, the most well-known being General Choi Hong Hi, as a combination of Okinawan karate,



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Grandson Ryan Lestrud demonstrates a high kick during a recent taekwondo class. Ryan currently carries a yellow belt and will advance next to the camo color.

When we watch Ryan perform on the mats, I think of the movie, The Pink Panther, where Peter Sellers plays police detective Jacques Clouseau who is always on his guard for his personal martial arts friend, Kato.

If you have seen any of the Pink Panther movies (I know I am dating myself), you will see Kato hiding in the bathtub, lurking behind a doorway or in the kitchen, waiting to attack his mentor.

When asked why he enjoys taekwondo, Ryan quickly replies, "It's fun."

He said the most rewarding part of the class is learning self defense. On his way to advancing in belts, he has to learn these five qualities: stance, pivot, penetration, guarding position and joint setup.

The self defense skills learned from taekwondo are amazing. It is actually reassuring that our 11-year-old grandson knows how to defend himself. His father Troy (my son) already says the time is coming when he will no longer be able to physically reign supreme over his son.

Students of taekwondo advance by "testing out" on various levels of knowledge of the arts.

Ryan currently holds the yel-

low belt and will be seeking a camo belt next.

Martial arts is more than physical and sound thinking is important in carrying out the many moves of the arts.

An emphasis on speed and agility is a defining characteristic of taekwondo and has its origins in analyses undertaken by Choi Hong Hi. Its analysis results are known as Choi's Theory of Power.

Components of the Theory of Power include: reaction force; concentration; equilibrium; breath control; mass and speed.

I haven't seen my grandson for a few weeks and I'm sure I will soon have to address him as "Sir." Not really. Grandpa still likes to think that he knows best.

There are sports and there are sports and this is an activity that is gaining more popularity every day. Many of Ryan's instructors compete in taekwondo and show off their accomplishments by wearing champion patches on their uniforms.

If you see me on the streets of Blooming Prairie with a slender, young man, 11 years old, you will know that my body guard accompanies me. Ryan is my protector.

and be that as he seeks another term as Westfield Township supervisor. I know he knows we need grace to use, not abuse, our care of the earth—soil, water, environment and rural life and living itself.

Pastor Myrwood A. Bagne Ausin

Supports Trom for township supervisor

To the editor:
Lowell Trom has been a lifelong farmer in Westfield Township. His care and love of the land are evident. Lowell wants to leave fresh water, fresh air, trees, and wildlife for our future generations to enjoy.

Lowell believes, as some other townships, the current farming practices are not sustainable and it's time to change the direction. I encourage you to vote for Lowell Trom for township supervisor to preserve the welfare of Westfield Township.

*Herman Beede
Blooming Prairie*

Thank a Farmer

To the Editor:

Working 7 days a week, 365 days a year because Mother Nature doesn't take a day off, to provide food, fiber and fuel is in a farmer's job description. Being a farmer is one of the toughest jobs out there. It requires long days, out in the elements, taking risks, making business

Guest columns

Making local foods matter

Recently Target Corp. announced the expansion of its Made to Matter program, an initiative that highlights exclusive "better-for-you products" from mostly up-and-coming brands. The program is part of Target's plan to boost its reputation as a retailer that provides healthier and less toxic options-especially as consumer demand for such products increases.

For Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), we are excited to see that Mankato-based Angie's Kettle Corn is participating in this year's Made to Matter program. In 2008, when Dan and Angie Bastian were just starting to grow their business, SMIF provided lending assistance. Of course we're proud that Angie's is now a household name, and we are excited about their ongoing success.

We applaud the attention that Target is giving to up-and-coming local businesses, as we understand the vital role they play in our economy. According to the Small Business Administration, 64 percent of new private-sector jobs come from small businesses and start-ups. In addition here at SMIF, we have also taken note of the fact that the demand and desire for local foods has been

consistently trending upwards in Minnesota.

From 1994 to 2011, the number of farmers' markets has quadrupled. Research also indicates that Minnesota food and farm sectors generate \$55 billion in economic activity in Minnesota and support more than 367,700 jobs. Local restaurants, college campuses, hospitals, and corporate dining services are all showing an increased interest in purchasing their food locally. This means that local food distribution, organics, urban agriculture, and alternative farming techniques offer opportunities for small business ownership and employment.

As we recognize these growing trends, SMIF has committed to investing in local foods businesses within our 20-county region, as well as playing an active role in the FEAST Local Foods Network. We're proud of the success of the Local Foods FEAST Festival and Tradeshow in Rochester last November where we played a key role, and we're excited about the opportunity to make this annual event. The FEAST Festival event brought together local producers to connect with buyers and distributors, as well as attracting 1,200 visitors-therby providing area consumers this visibility to

a number of local food options.

Over the past year, we have supported more than eight local food businesses through our lending program, many in partnership with other financial entities. While we hope that many more of our local foods loan clients can become as successful as Angie's Kettle Corn, we also recognize the value of our sole proprietor start-ups and small businesses with only a handful of employees. These companies are a vital part of our regional economy, and SMIF will continue to invest in these entrepreneurs as they continue to make an impact within our region.

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

Tim Penny is the President and CEO of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation.



Penny

Budget surplus grows larger

By JOHN PETERSBURG

Legislators were updated on what's known as the February forecast, which gives us an update on Minnesota's budget situation. The \$1 billion projected surplus from the November forecast has grown to an impressive \$1.869 billion surplus.

This is a sign that Minnesota's economy remains strong. We owe a big thank you to Minnesotans for their hard work and efforts in generating this surplus. I think sometimes some legislators forget that the budget surplus and our state's revenues come from

taxpayers, not thanks to politicians in Saint Paul.

Over the coming weeks and months, we will begin to put together the pieces of the 2016-2017 budget. A portion of the surplus is likely to be dedicated to investing in road and bridge funding, and we will look at funding other priorities Minnesotans care about including funding for nursing homes and long-term care for Minnesota's seniors and disabled. Minnesotans also deserve to see some of their hard-earned tax dollars returned to them.

I will keep you updated in the coming weeks as our budget be-

gins to take shape. There's a lot of work to be done as we work to put together a budget that can pass the House and Senate and be signed by the Governor.

John Petersburg is a state representative for District 24A, which includes Steele and Waseca counties. He lives in Waseca.

Another view on the state budget surplus

Positive economic news a sign that investing in opportunity for all strengthens our economy

Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) released the February Economic Forecast, which showed a \$1.9 billion budget surplus. The surplus is due to a multitude of factors, including higher revenues, lower spending and a general improvement in Minnesota's economy. Minnesota's unemployment rate is 3.6%, the 5th lowest in the country and lowest in Minnesota in 14 years. The report also shows a slight increase in wages for Minnesotans.

"The recently released budget forecast indicating a surplus of nearly \$1.9 billion is good news for Minnesota. It is satisfying to have been part of the solution in the last legislative biennium where we focused on targeting specific investments," said Rep. Jeanne Poppe (DFL-Austin). These strategies puts Minnesota in the forefront of states recovering from the economic downturn and budget deficits we faced each year. Our sound fiscal management took care of the debt owed to schools and helped improve funding for our cities. We were able to invest in all day kindergarten, freeze college tuition for

two years, and provide property tax relief for farmers."

"The strong economic forecast allows us to continue to make key investments in the middle class and hopefully will continue to reduce the burden to college students and their families, improve job skills training and workforce development, and continue the effort to "raise all boats" so everyone can feel the benefit of our improving economy. The forecast gives us a great opportunity to continue our investment strategies in agriculture and supporting the needs of greater Minnesota. Continuing to keep our ag-economy and ag-businesses growing continues to be a priority of mine. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact these investments."

MMB said today that Minnesota's long term budget outlook remains strong with a structurally balanced budget into 2019. The DFL-led legislature passed a balanced budget in 2013 for the first time in nearly a decade, paving the way for a stable budget now and into the future.

Rep. Jeanne Poppe represents District 27B.

MAILBAG

Continued from Page 2A

He said something like, "It's greed, greed, our whole country and economy are caught up in greed." As we walked on, we discovered our cars were parked side by side. We talked a while. I think my contribution to our brief encounter went something like this: "Yes, greed is a powerful temptation to us in our society. It can be very addictive and like all addictions, we need a power greater than our own to overcome our addictions. I believe it was D.H. Lawrence who once said, 'More, more is the cry of forsaken soul, less than all cannot satisfy.'"

Our Pledge of Allegiance speaks of justice for all. That concept surely has scriptural roots and endorsement. I believe government is drifting more and more to justice only for some. The voiceless, the homeless, the powerless, the poor and non-Caucasians are being ignored or forgotten. Theologian Joseph Sittler reflecting on our care of the earth once said, "Abuse is use without grace." Office holders need to legislate for the "common good." Only then can there be "justice for all."

I believe Lowell has the experience and dedication to do

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

This week's question:
Should local police agencies utilize body cameras for their officers to record all interactions with the public?

- * Yes, it makes sense to protect police and citizens
- * No, there is no reason for body cams
- * Not sure, more information is needed first

Last week's question:
Did the legislature do the right thing in putting the brakes to Gov. Dayton's plan to increase salaries for his cabinet?

- Yes, way to go. 67%
- No, leave the governor alone 8%
- Not sure, more info needed 25%

Readers are encouraged to go to the Steele County Times website at www.steeledodgenews.com to cast their opinion about the current question. This poll is not a pure scientific sampling of readers' views, but rather, is intended to create community discussion of issues.

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

Contact the Steele County Times Today!

STEELE COUNTY Times

507-583-4431

Always local, all the time.

The party’s about to begin in BP

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

Nothing much has changed for the upcoming Blooming Prairie Education Foundation Auction. While maybe nothing much has changed, organizers are still touting this event as the Biggest Party of the Year with all the proceeds going to better education the youth in the Blooming Prairie community.

“Donations are already coming in and a lot of people are willing to help,” said Karen

Kruckeberg, who is helping organize this year’s event. “What makes the event fun is that all of the proceeds are going back to the students in the Blooming Prairie School District. It is going back to something that we can see. It stays in the community and doesn’t leave.”

The silent auction is slated for 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., March 28 at the Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie. The live auction will follow at 6 p.m. in the Cue Company. Last year more than \$80,000 was raised for the youth. An estimated \$30,000

went toward iPads. Another large portion went to various field trips for the students.

Donations can be collected up to the day of the auction. To date, featured items already collected include Elvis memorabilia, original Hugo Harpel sign, Minnesota Vikings and Twins tickets and truckloads of dirt and firewood.

The early bird ticket sales are also underway. Tickets are sold at \$50 each. The winner is able to pick anything off the live auction before it starts. Only 100 tickets are sold. In

addition, wine bottles are being donated and put in decorative bags. The decorative bags are sold at \$20 each.

“I think it is a big hit,” Kruckeberg said. “Some people want to contribute but don’t want to have any more stuff sitting around the house.”

The main focus of the education foundation auction is to help the youth in the Blooming Prairie School District. “Funds are tied up and this money allows them an extra boost,” Kruckeberg said.

Blooming Prairie Chamber

of Commerce Executive Director Becky Noble said the education foundation is not handing over a check to the school district. “If the teachers need something for their classrooms they send their request to the principal. The principal then sends the request to the education foundation board and the board votes on it.”

Specifically, the money has to be used for educational purposes. The funds cannot be used for bricks or mortars or salaries.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

SITUATIONS WANTED

AUTOMOBILES FOR SALE

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

GARAGE SALES

HOUSES FOR SALE

STEELE COUNTY

Times

Always local, all the time.

Call to place an item in the Classifieds today: 507-583-4431

STEELE COUNTY TIMES PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

Collision

THE ONLY AREA SHOP certified to work on the 2015 Ford Aluminum F150

Collision Specialists Inc
507.437.2837
www.csiaustinmn.com

Excavating

SEPTIC SYSTEMS • Design • Installation • Compliance Inspections

- Aggregates • Hauling
- Washed Sand & Rock
- Black Dirt • Fill • Gravel

507-583-2999
Serving The Area Over 13 Years
Bonded & Insured

BISHOP EXCAVATING, INC.
• EXCAVATION • BASEMENTS • DEMOLITION • DOZER WORK
Commercial & Residential Sitework

Call Today

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

Contact the Steele County Times Today!

STEELE COUNTY Times **507-583-4431**
Always local, all the time.

Call Today

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

Contact the Steele County Times Today!

STEELE COUNTY Times **507-583-4431**
Always local, all the time.

Farm

Mike & Jeff Custom Farms

We offer:
Seed
Chemical
Fertilizer
Custom Farming
Crop Scouting

MJC Farms, LLC
13324 89th Ave SE
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
Fax 507-572-1337

High Yields Start Here

Mike Ingvalson 507-456-1436
mikeingvalson@hotmail.com

Jeff Ingvalson 507-456-1439
jeffingvalson@hotmail.com

Greenhouse

HILLTOP GREENHOUSE & FARM

Join Veggie Club

Sign up for Planting Parties

3 miles East of Geneva OR 2 miles N. of Hollandale on Co. Rd. 28 • Watch for signs

Facebook "Like" Us on Facebook

Mon - Fri : 9-5
Sat: 9-3
Sun: Closed

507-889-3271 www.hilltopgreenhouse.com

Pets

Bennett's PET HAVEN CEMETERY, INC.
"Professional Cremation and Burial Services for your loving pet"
Larry & Donna Bennett
4151 N. City Rd. 45
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 451-2203
Cell: 507-456-3562

Shorty & Sue Schroht
857 Mosher Ave.
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 455-3204

Truck Accessories

Minimizer
AN AMERICAN FAMILY OWNED COMPANY
30 YEARS

The lightest, most durable, longest lasting truck fenders, bracket kits, and truck accessories in the trucking industry.

Minimizer.com • 800-248-3855 • Blooming Prairie

Tires

Mike's REPAIR
870 32 Ave. NW
Owatonna, MN 55060
Complete Truck Parts and Service

507-455-0388
Fax: 507-455-0486
After Hours: 507-455-0483
Tire Service
AG & Heavy Truck

Mike Hartle
Owner

KICK DIRT

DON'T MISS THE KICK DIRT REBATE ON FIRESTONE RADIAL TRACTOR AND DESTINATION FARM RADIAL IMPLEMENT TIRES!

January 1, 2015, through March 31, 2015, get money back on top-performing Firestone farm tires – available only at your Certified Firestone Farm Tire Dealer.

\$50 back on select Destination Farm AD2™ technology implement radials**
\$100 back on select standard tractor radials**
\$125 back on select AD2 technology rear tractor radials**

Offer limited to 16 eligible Destination Farm radial implement tires and any combination of 16 eligible standard radial and AD2 radial rear tractor tires per address.

Your Certified Firestone Farm Tire Dealer has the tires you want and the “Kick Dirt” rebate form for your money back. Visit FirestoneAg.com to learn more. **Rebate paid with a Firestone Prepaid MasterCard®.**

Mike's REPAIR
455-0388
870 32nd Ave. NW • Owatonna

Firestone
FARM TIRES
THE LEADER IN THE FIELD

FirestoneAg.com

*Advanced Deflection Design (AD2)
**Limited-time offer valid from 1/01/15 through 03/31/15, subject to product availability. Requests must be postmarked on or before 04/30/15. Once submitted rebate requests are validated, rebate will be issued in the form of a prepaid card. Prepaid card is given to you as a rebate and no money has been paid by you for the card. Prepaid card is issued by MasterCard®, Member FDIC, pursuant to license by MasterCard International Incorporated. MasterCard is a registered trademark of MasterCard International Incorporated. No cash access or recurring payments. Card valid for up to 12 months; unused funds will be forfeited at midnight EST the last day of the month of the valid thru date. Card terms and conditions apply, see MyPrepaidCenter.com/site/mastercard-promo. Offer cannot be combined with any other offers, promotions or discounts. Offer limited to 16 eligible Destination Farm radial implement tires and any combination of 16 eligible standard and AD2 radial rear tractor tires per address—visit FirestoneAg.com for eligible tire list. Offer subject to Terms and Conditions available on the official Claim Form and at FirestoneAg.com. Offer valid only for purchases of eligible tires at participating Certified Firestone Farm Tire Dealers in the 50 United States and DC and void where prohibited, taxed or restricted. This is a limited-time offer and may be subject to change at any time at the sole discretion of Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC.

KIK

GRAPHICS & PRINTING

YOU PICK IT WE STICK IT

CHAMP TRUCK WORLD SERIES

612.360.9934 Tyler@kikgraphics.biz
www.kikgraphics.biz
500 Minimizer Way SE
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Public Safety



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

A slushy rollover

Slushy roads and high winds proved to be too much for Michael Martin, 61, of Chatfield, to keep his pick-up on the road around 12:39 p.m. Feb. 24. Martin was traveling eastbound on Highway 30 about two miles west of Blooming Prairie when he rolled over into the ditch and ended upright again. Blooming Prairie Ambulance responded to the scene, but did not transport Martin to the hospital as he was uninjured. The State Patrol reported Martin had his seat belt, but no airbag deployed. Martin was alone in the vehicle.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

Owatonna Police

Feb. 20
Restraining Order. Officer arrested a subject for violating an order for protection in the 300 block of Rose St. E. at 1:23 a.m.
Identity Theft. A citizen reported that his or her identity had been stolen in the 100 block of State Ave. NW at 9:04 a.m.
Fraud. A fraud incident was reported in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 12:27 p.m.
Disturbance. At 1:16 p.m., police responded to a noise disturbance in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW.
Hit and Run. A hit and run crash resulting in property damage occurred in the 400 block of Grove Ave. N. at 4:01 p.m.
Feb. 21
Theft. Officer took theft report in the 2300 block of 43rd St. NW at 8:35 a.m.
Restraining Order. A restraining order was violated in the 500 block of South St. E. at 5:53 p.m.
Death. Officers began a death investigation in the 2200 block of 30th St. NW at 7:37 p.m.
Feb. 22
Shoplifting. Police responded to two shoplifting incidents throughout the day – at 10:54 a.m. in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. and at 3:32 p.m. in the 1400 block of 21st Ave. NW.
Theft. Police took two vehicle theft reports in the 400 block of North St. W. throughout the day – at 12:09 p.m. and at 1:40 p.m.
Suspicion. Officers responded to

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 1000 block of Clover Lane SE for a suspicious activity report at 8:55 p.m. They took an adult into custody at the scene.
Assault. At 11:01 p.m., police responded to an assault in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW.
Feb. 23
Fraud. A fraud incident was reported in the 1200 block of Frontage Rd. E. at 11:13 a.m.
Theft. Officer received a report of identity theft in the 100 block of Rose St. W. at 3:40 p.m.
Suspicion. At 4:46 p.m., police responded to a suspicious activity report in the 1400 block of Oak Ave. S.
Child Protection. Officer took child protection report in the 700 block of Truman Ave. SE at 5:13 p.m.
Feb. 25
Trespassing. At 3:20 a.m., police arrested a subject for trespassing in the 600 block of Hilltop Ave. SW.
Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1200 block of 21st Ave. NW at 12:47 p.m.
Warrant. Officer made a warrant arrest at 2:33 p.m. in the 100 block of Rose St. E.
Domestic. Police responded to a

domestic disturbance in the 200 block of Chestnut Ave. NE at 8:24 p.m. An arrest was made at the scene.
Restraining Order. A citizen reported that an order for protection was violated in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 7 p.m.
Feb. 26
DWI. Police received a report of drunken driving at Elm Ave. S. and University St. E. at 12:09 a.m.
Child Protection. Officer took child protection report in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 7:50 a.m.

Steele County Sheriff

Feb. 21
Burglary. Deputies began an investigation of a burglary in the 500 block of Oakridge Place at 11:46 a.m.
Feb. 25
Crash. At 8:43 a.m., deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at 69th St. NW and Interstate 35.
Feb. 26
Theft. Deputy took theft report in the 700 block of 2nd Ave. NE at 3:56 p.m.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 196 complaints for the week of Feb. 18 – 24. Some of them include:

Feb. 18
Disturbance. At 10:22 a.m., a Mantorville resident called deputies when an unwanted male was being violent and threatening in his apartment in the 100 block of 5th St. W.
Juvenile. Deputies responded to a juvenile complaint at Hayfield High School at 10:38 a.m.
Suspicion. Deputy received a complaint that a homeless person broke into a Dodge Center building in the 100 block of 1st St. NW at

12:43 p.m.
Minor Possession. At 2:29 p.m., minor possession was reported at Triton High School.
Vandalism. Deputy took property damage report in the 500 block of 2nd St. NE in Hayfield at 2:43 p.m.
Domestic. At 11:07 p.m., Blooming Prairie Police and deputies responded to a domestic disturbance between a male and a female in the 75800 block of 117th Ave. in Blooming Prairie. The male party was issued a citation for disorderly conduct.
Feb. 19
Sex Offense. At 11:53 p.m., deputies received a report of a sex offense in the 200 block of 2nd St. SW in Dodge Center.
Feb. 20
Suspicion. A citizen reported a suspicious vehicle sitting on a field drive at 670th St. and 130th Ave. in Claremont at 5:53 p.m.
Suspicious Activity. Deputies responded to the 100 block of 1st St. NW in Dodge Center for a report of a man breaking into a building at 7:12 p.m.
Feb. 21
Juvenile. At 12:35 p.m., an out-of-control juvenile locked herself in a bathroom in the 19000 block of Dodge/Mower Rd. in Hayfield.
Feb. 22
Burglary. Deputies responded to a burglary in the 17000 block of County Hwy. 34 in Dodge Center at 12:43 p.m. A shed door was found open.
Domestic. At 12:54 p.m., deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 61400 block of 120th Ave. in Claremont.
Disturbance. A Dodge Center resident called deputies at 8:53 p.m. when her intoxicated stepdad was hurting himself in the 400 block of Meadow Lark Lane. He was smashing things and had cut himself.
Feb. 23
Theft. At 6:33 p.m., a rental car was reported stolen from the 100 block of 3rd Ave. NW in Dodge Center.
Feb. 24
Crash. A motor vehicle accident involving a jack-knifed semi-truck and a car occurred at State Hwy. 56 and 720th St. in Hayfield at 12:47 p.m. Deputies, Hayfield Ambulance, Hayfield Fire Rescue and Minnesota State Patrol responded to the crash.
Domestic. At 7:25 p.m., a Claremont woman called deputies because she needed a mediation between her and her boyfriend. Her boyfriend was giving her cigarettes back to her.

Crime Brief

Officer stops man trying to get home

A man who apparently thought he was safe by being at home quickly found out differently and ended up in jail. Owatonna Police arrested Jon-Erik Meier, 26, outside his home in the 200 block of East University Feb. 26. He has been charged with two counts of third degree DWI. An officer tried to stop a vehicle by South Elm Avenue and McKinley Street for an equipment violation. The driver kept going even after the officer's emergency lights came on. Once the vehicle pulled into a driveway, Meier quickly exited the car and refused to get back inside, police said. According to police, Meier began walking toward the front door asking the officer what his problem was and that he



Meier

was home. The officer grabbed the driver to control him and was met by resistance. Meier was taken to the ground and secured in handcuffs, police said. While speaking to Meier, the officer noticed signs of intoxication. After Meier allegedly failed field sobriety tests, he was placed under arrest for drunk driving.

COURT NEWS Steele County

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

MN Dept. of Natural Resources
Joshua A. Huff, 23, Owatonna, fish and game violation, \$181.

MN State Patrol Rochester
Charles E. Anderson, 60, Waseca, speeding, \$131; Jerod S. Boynton, 35, Rochester, speeding, \$121; Jvonne N. Burchett, 29, Wichita, KS, invalid license, \$181; Timothy J. Cullen, 53, St. Louis Park, speeding, \$121; Lance R. Cummins, 47, Owatonna, prohibited passing, \$131; Adam D. Edmunds, 22, Medford, speeding, \$141;
Alison M. Grunwald, 29, Hartland, possession of Paraphernalia, \$131; Jackson S. Guwor, 30, New Hope, stop sign, \$131; Todd S. Honsey, 43, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Amanda J. Ingvaldsen, 38, Blaine, speeding, \$221; Charles B. Johnson, 43, Byron, speeding, \$141;
Jacob J. Johnson, 25, Waseca, speeding, \$131; Eh Keh, 41, St. Paul, speeding, \$121; Jon A. Klumens, 47, Faribault, suspended license, no medical card, no insurance and unsafe equipment, \$621; Benjamin D. Lambrecht, 21, Fargo, ND, speeding, \$121;
Shelly L. Matthies, 33, Mankato, failure to obtain new license after information change and no insurance, \$301; Manuel D. Medina-Celis, 38, Owatonna, invalid license, \$181; Lyndsey R. Prouty, 23, Good Thunder, speeding, \$141;
Senthil K. Rengaraj, 35, Roseville, speeding, \$121; Thaddeus G. Reniker, 34, Rochester, suspended license and registration violation, \$311; Kent D. Schmidt, 48, Claremont, speeding, \$131;
Linda S. St. John, 65, Bloomington, passing parked emergency vehicle, \$131; Kent D. Wobschall, 44, Medford, seat belt, \$106.

Owatonna Police Department
Jaclyn R. Brown, 36, Savage, shoplifting, \$181 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; David D. Bryant, 33, Owatonna, violation of order for protection, \$181, 218 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation;
James E. Fluckes, 37, Claremont, trespassing, \$131 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Miguel A. Galvan, 29, Claremont, DWI, \$406, 90 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency treatment, and 3 years of supervised probation;
Patricia J. Grant, 44, Medford, failure to yield right of way, \$131; Josue Gutierrez, 19, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Mackenzie M. Hill, 19, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Jacob J. Johnson, 25, Waseca, expired tabs, \$111; Sheila M. Potter, 43, Waseca, invalid license, \$131;
Sunday P. Puot, 19, possession of Marijuana, \$131; Zachery C. Vangen, 22, Ellendale, seat belt, \$106; Brandon J. Westphal, 22, Mankato, seat belt, \$106.

Steele County Sheriff's Office
Christopher K. Freitag, 32, Saint Clair, speeding, \$141; Alison M. Grunwald, 29, Hartland, no insur-

ance, \$281; Casey M. Hanson, 21, Owatonna, speeding, \$141;
James D. Hoggard, 23, Owatonna, possession of Paraphernalia, \$131; Wanda J. Leppert, 55, Faribault, speeding, \$141; Evaline O. Oyaro, 31, Coon Rapids, speeding, \$221; Angelan D. Sanchez Dominguez, 22, Austin, speeding, \$221;
Joseph M. Stai, 25, Wabasha, speeding, no insurance and seat belt, \$666; Ethan C. Zepp, 21, Grimes, IA, speeding, \$131.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

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

Dodge County Sheriff's Office
Isaac M. Baker, 27, Pine Island, revoked license and no insurance, \$480; Derek M. Bock, 31, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Jennifer L. Bruce, 30, Hayfield, window tint violation and no insurance, \$330; Ritlu Gaxiola, 32, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$480; Juan J. Leon Rhor, 28, Rochester, speeding, \$220;
Ashley M. Prins, 30, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Debra K. Spurbek, 52, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Shain A. Stevens, 33, theft of fuel, \$484.71 and 90 days in county jail; Samantha D. Stevenson, 49, Hayfield, revoked license, \$280.

Kasson Police Department
Jerome A. Bigelow, 66, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Isaac M. Bowe, 19, Kasson, failure to yield right of way, \$130; Joseph K. Foss, 46, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Emmamae K. Hendrickson, 24, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Zachary D. Nelson, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$140;
Danielle A. Roche, 26, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Christopher J. Schmidt, 39, Kasson, parking violation, \$32.

MN State Patrol Rochester
Christopher K. Edwards, 34, Dodge Center, expired plates and seat belt, \$135.

Steele Arrests

Owatonna Police
Alexandria Taylor Gibbons, 24, arrested at 8:22 p.m. Feb. 20, probation violation, body only.
Scott Michael Eastwood, 43, arrested at 8:19 p.m. Feb. 22, violation of restraining order, held for court.
Jennifer Joy Bobo, 30, arrested at 8:47 p.m. Feb. 25, felony domestic assault and assault, held for court.
Jon-Erik Ross Meier, 26, arrested at 12:25 a.m. Feb. 26, DWI and license plate light violation, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff
Allen Arnold Beyer, 28, arrested at 12:14 p.m. Feb. 25, probation violation warrant arrest, body only.
Terri Lyn Personius, 39, arrested at 1 p.m. Feb. 25, probation violation warrant arrest, body only.

PUBLIC SAFETY
Continued on Page 6A

Looking For A Rebate?

NEW IN 2015: CLOTHES DRYER REBATES!

Our new \$25-\$50 Clothes Dryer rebates are the perfect compliment to our existing \$25-\$150 Clothes Washer rebates. Visit our website to download a rebate application with minimum efficiency requirements and complete terms and conditions.

www.owatonnautilities.com

OWATONNA PUBLIC UTILITIES

CONSERVE & \$AVE

The Lowest PRICES on the Nation's Best BRANDS

**Carpet • Resilient • Hardwood
Laminate • Tile • Bamboo • Cork**

Window Treatments

**SALES & PROFESSIONAL
INSTALLATION**

FLOORING FRENZY

507-446-0069

223 North Cedar Ave, Owatonna
www.flooring-frenzy.com

PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from 5A

OWATONNA FIRE

**Feb. 23
Sprinkler.** A sprinkler was activated in the 500 block of Park Dr. NW at 2:09 a.m. Fire personnel responded and found that there was no fire.

Carbon Monoxide. Fire fighters responded to a carbon monoxide incident in the 500 block of Deck Place SE at 7:18 p.m.

**Feb. 25
Carbon Monoxide.** A carbon monoxide incident occurred in the 1700 block of Mineral Springs Parkway NE at 12:06 p.m.

WARRANTS

- Maria Dejesus Cruz – assault - \$300 bail
- Victor Manuel Cruz-Puentes – no insurance – no bail
- Stuart Leon Culpepper – DWI - \$700 bail
- Joel Portuquez Cux – no license, no insurance - \$500 bail
- Joel Steven Dahl – DWI - \$3,000 bail
- Hasan Amjad Dama – suspended license - \$500 bail
- Todd James Daugherty – drugs - \$40,000 bail
- Alexander Kuhn Davidson – no insurance - \$500 bail
- Daryl Kareen Davis – possession of Marijuana - \$300 bail
- James Corbin Davis – domestic assault – no bail
- Lonell Davis – cancelled license – no bail

Police body cams would have helped lawsuit claims, attorneys say

Continued from 1A

“The officers had one version of what happened and the complainants (Garcias) had a completely different version,” Flynn said. “It would have been helpful to have body cams in this case,” he said, adding that body cams in general would help weed out false claims against police.

Issues with Body Cams

But Flynn cautioned that there are a lot of issues surrounding body cams. One of the biggest issues facing police agencies is storage of the information collected. “It takes a tremendous amount of storage,” he noted.

Another key issue, Flynn said, is whether the data collected is public or private. The Minnesota State Legislature is currently attempting to sort out the body cam issue.

The main question facing lawmakers is whether recordings should be generally available to the public or kept under wraps. Police groups are fighting to keep them private.

However, open government advocates like the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota and the Minnesota Newspaper Association, which represents newspapers across the state, including the Times, say making the data private would strip body cameras’ power to keep police accountable.

No Local Use, Yet

Blooming Prairie police chief Greg Skillestad said he has brought up the issue of body cams to the city’s police commission in the past, but nothing is currently in the works to outfit officers with them.

One of the greatest factors keeping the local police from

Thiele said it’s unfortunate that society has come to the day of needing to put every kind of recording device on law enforcement. But he agrees there is value to body cams.

“I want to make sure my deputies and the citizens are protected with body cams,” Thiele said. “It would be an useful tool for

I think they would be great because you can’t dispute video and audio.

-Chief Greg Skillestad
Blooming Prairie Police

moving ahead with body cams is cost, according to Skillestad. They range from about \$400 to \$2,000 per camera.

Despite the cost, Skillestad said he thinks body cams would be useful tools for his officers. “I think they would be great because you can’t dispute video and audio,” the chief said, adding his department would definitely put body cams to use if they were available.

“It does spark my interest, but like with everything, there is a cost,” Skillestad said.

Sheriff Lon Thiele has also looked into body cams for his deputies, but he also expressed concern about the cost.

City, county pay out \$12K to settle federal suit

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

The books on a lawsuit against the City of Blooming Prairie, its former and current police chiefs and Steele County have been closed after a cash settlement was hammered out.

Joe Flynn, attorney for the city and former chief Paul Wayne, said all sides agreed to a settlement of \$12,000. Of that amount, the city will pay out \$10,000 through the League of Minnesota Cities and the county will pay \$2,000, according to Flynn.

With the settlement, the lawsuit has now been dismissed in federal court, Flynn said.

“It was settled because it would have cost considerably more to defend it,” Flynn told the Times. “We deny that there was any merit to the claim,” he added.

The settlement is a far cry from what Valanchie and Ash-

ly Garcia of Blooming Prairie originally set out for when they filed the federal lawsuit in October 2013. In the initial suit, the Garcias sought more than \$930,000 in damages for constitutional, false imprisonment and defamation claims.

Mark Stephenson, attorney for the Garcias, said the settlement was “a lot less than they thought they were going to get, but we’re happy to be over it.” He described the settlement as something that everyone could live with.

The Garcias alleged in the suit that on April 17, 2013, Wayne and current police chief Greg Skillestad, who worked for the sheriff’s office at the time, forced their way into their home and pinned Valanchie against the wall.

Wayne and Skillestad came to the Garcia home to follow-up on what essentially was a civil dispute between two parties over the sale of a vehicle.



Staff photos by Rick Bussler

Man injured by fire

A relative of Steven Jensen wearing a safety mask surveyed the damage left behind from a house fire Monday in Hope. The blaze ripped through the structure and destroyed the single story home. Jensen suffered smoke inhalation from the fire after he tried to put out the flames prior to the fire department arriving. Gold Cross Ambulance transported Jensen to Owatonna Hospital where he was treated and held overnight for observation. Firefighters from Ellendale, Geneva and Owatonna battled the blaze for several hours. Ellendale fire chief Mark Lee said the fire was caused by a wood burning stove. See front page for more information.



OWATONNA

Continued from 1A

Once the nomination materials are complete the State Historic Preservation Office will present it to the Minnesota State Review Board and if it passes by at least half of the board it is the processed and sent to the Keeper of the National Register Office in Washington, D.C.

Garner says the two main criteria that they are looking for is historical significance and historical integrity.

“Historical significance is what makes our building more important than that other building down the street,” he said. ““Historical integrity we are asking how original is this building? How much has it changed over time? Does it still largely reflect its period of significance?”

The National Register treats districts as a single property even though it is made up of many properties. “A building that is individually listed has to rely only on itself... it has to have its own historical integrity and its own historical significance. In a district it is all the pieces that make up the district that are important,” Gardner said.

Other buildings in Owatonna that are listed on the National Registry include Minnesota State Public School For Dependent and Neglected Children, National Farmers’ Bank, Firemen’s Hall, Free Public Library, Pillsbury Academy and the Steele County Courthouse.

State Public School For Dependent and Neglected Children, National Farmers’ Bank, Firemen’s Hall, Free Public Library, Pillsbury Academy and the Steele County Courthouse.

Owatonna has preserved so much of its historic fabric, that is what makes it unique. There are very few towns in Minnesota that have preserved as much of their original core as Owatonna has.

-Denis Gardner,
National Register Historian,
State Historic Preservation Office

“Owatonna has preserved so much of its historic fabric, that is what makes it unique. There are very few towns in Minnesota that have preserved as much of their original core as Owatonna has,” Gardner said. “There are plenty of towns that I can stand there and say it looks like smiles with missing teeth and Owatonna is not that way.”

Gardner added, “Owatonna reflects this late 19th and early 20th century commercial downtown that was driven to a large degree by agriculture and industry and the vast majority of the buildings contribute to that theme. We see that a lot of the character defining features of those buildings from its period

of significance are still there.”

There are many benefits for properties that are listed on the National Register including being eligible for both state and federal historic tax credits and legacy grants.

“What I would love to see is to use the legacy grants to fix the fountain in Central Park. I’d love to see it up and running,” Gardner said.

Another process includes the 106 process, which says that if an agency wants to do a project that will affect a building or district on the

National Register they have to think twice.

“It is a way of getting agencies to pause. They have to take the history into account and if their project is going to somehow have an adverse effect on the historical buildings they have to try to mitigate that,” Gardner said.

Being on the National Register does not however protect the building or area from being torn down.

For history buffs like Gardner a main benefit is the honor of being on the National Register.

“It is a big deal and it is special,” he said.



Staff photo by Shannon Kinley

Owatonna Commercial Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places last month. The district includes 91 properties, 75 of which contribute to the district with Central Park as its focal point. Other buildings on the Register include Minnesota State Public School For Dependent and Neglected Children, National Farmers’ Bank, Firemen’s Hall, Free public Library, Pillsbury Academy and the Steele County Courthouse.

History from the news archives

10 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Editor
March 1, 2005

Mike Salinas took second at the state wrestling championship Saturday at the Xcel Center in the 215-pound category - the highest finish ever by a Blossom wrestler. Over at the Mayo Civic Auditorium Saturday night, the Blossom girls won the Sub-section West title over FBA.

Alexandra Green would like to announce the birth of her brother Lukas Clark Green. Lukas was born on February 17, weighing 8 lbs. Their parents are Brian and Jennifer Green of Redwood Falls. The grandparents are Dick and Dorothy Green and John and Anita Angell. The great-grandparents are Sylvia Christianson of Blooming Prairie.

Ruth Iverson, age 90 of Blooming Prairie, died Sunday morning, Feb. 27, 2005, at Austin Medical Center. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Wednesday, March 2, 2005 at First Lutheran Church, Blooming Prairie, with The Reverend Richard Hegal officiating.

20 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Editor
March 7, 1995

The Blooming Prairie FFA, in order to promote awareness and interest, held a coloring contest for the kindergarten classes in Blooming Prairie. The recipients of this year's awards are: first place, Spencer Ohm; second place, Kari Peterson; third place, Zachary Hoffman.

The Viterbo college Dean's List has been announced for first semester of the 1994-95 academic year. A total of 353 students, 71 part-time and 282 full-time students have been named to the list. Among the students listed was Lynda K. Kruckeberg of Blooming Prairie.

First Bank has officially moved into the old Metropolitan Bank building, 236 E. Main. They will have an open house March 9 & 10, serving free popcorn Thursday, and cookies and coffee on Friday. There will also be registration for door prizes. Employees at the bank include: Pam Farr, Carol Colee, Richard Schiller, Darla Isaacson, Jill Haubenschild, Joan Hagen and Carol Kirkebon.

50 Years Ago
Victor, Vernon and
Vyrle Krejci, Editors
March 4, 1965

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Yentsch, highly esteemed Blooming Prairie couple, will be honored at an "open house" on Sunday, March 14, in observance of their golden wedding anniversary. The event will be held in the First Lutheran Church during the hours from 2 to 5 p.m. The honored couples children will be hosts and hostesses at the "open house." friends and relatives are invited to attend.

Douglas Kruckeberg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kruckeberg, Blooming Prairie, was treated and released from St. Olaf Hospital, Austin, early Tuesday morning of this week, the result of a collision on Highway 218, north of Austin. Doug was a passenger in an auto driven by Kenneth Jacobson, also of Blooming Prairie, which slid into the rear of a pick-up stopped on the highway. The two youths were enroute to classes at Austin Junior College when the mishap occurred.

A livestock nutrition seminar will be held at the Blooming Prairie High School Vo-Ag Department at 1:30 o'clock Thursday, March 4. The purpose of the seminar is to discuss the formulation of balanced rations for feeding livestock. Area livestock producers are urged to attend.

75 Years Ago
Walter K. Mickelson, Editor
and Publisher
February 29, 1940

Miss Maude Jurgenson suffered a painful fracture of the right wrist when she slipped and fell on a slippery sidewalk Sunday. She was on her way to the Fred Jurgenson home when the accident occurred. Due to the serious nature of the break Miss Jurgenson was taken to Austin, where the fracture was reduced.

A meeting of the Blooming Prairie Civic League will be held on Wednesday, March 6 at the Community Building. A lunch will be served. Everyone is cordially invited to attend this meeting. Mrs. Frank Ilk is president of the organization.



THE SAVVY SENIOR
Brought to you by:
Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus
220 3rd St. NW,
Blooming Prairie
583-4434

Simplified smart-phone options for tech-shy seniors

Dear Savvy Senior,
I'm interested in getting my 72-year-old mother a smart-phone, but want to get one that's very easy for her to use. What can you recommend?

Shopping Around

Dear Shopping,
There are several different ways you can go about getting your mom a simplified smart-phone that's easy for her to use. Depending on how much you're willing to spend, here are some different options to consider.

Simplify a Used Phone

The cheapest way to set your mom up with an easy-to-use, uncomplicated smartphone is to get her a second-hand android phone, and install a senior-friendly "launcher app" on it, which is a user interface software application.

This type of launcher will turn the appearance and performance of most android smartphone into a simplified phone with big understandable icons for commonly used features (phone, text messaging, camera, contacts, etc.) and no excess clutter. Most launchers can also be customized to fit your mom's needs and preferences.

There are a variety of launcher apps available today that provide this type of technology and are completely free to use. Some popular options include, Necta Launcher (launcher.necta.us), Wiser (wiser-me.com), Seniors Phone (seniorsphone.mobi), Fontrillo (fontrillo.com) and Big Launcher (biglauncher.com), which also offers an upgraded version for \$9.

Or, if you have an old Apple iPhone that you'd like to convert, check out Silverline Mobile (silverline.mobi) that converts both Apple and androids for free.

Purchase a New Phone

If you're interested in purchasing your mom a new smartphone, you have options here too. For starters, you could purchase her a smartphone that's specifically designed for seniors, like GreatCall's Touch3 that costs \$150 (with no contract) at greatcall.com or 800-918-8543. This is an android phone, made by Samsung, that has a 4-inch touchscreen and provides a simple menu list to often-used features like the phone, text messages, camera, pictures, email and Internet, along with your contacts and apps.

It also offers a variety of health and safety features like the "5Star app" that would let your mom speak to a certified agent 24/7 that could identify her location and get her the help she needs. "Urgent Care," which provides access to registered nurses and doctors for advice and diagnoses. And "Med-

Coach," which sends medication reminders.

Another way you could go is to purchase her a standard/mainstream smartphone that provides a built-in "Easy Mode" or "Simple" feature in the phone's settings. This will let you convert the phone into a much simpler mode of operation, that provides larger, well labeled icons, to only commonly-used functions like the phone, camera, messaging, Internet, pictures, contacts and her favorite apps.

Smartphones that offer the "Easy Mode" or "Simple" feature include the Samsung Galaxy phones, which are available through most cell phone carriers at prices typically ranging between \$400 and \$850 without a contract. Or, for a more budget-friendly option, the Huawei Vision 2 and Huawei Ascend Mate 2, which you can buy as an unlocked phone or through Consumer Cellular (consumer-cellular.com, 888-345-5509) for \$80 or \$225 without a contract. Consumer Cellular is a top-rated no-contract service provider that also offers discounts to AARP members.

A nice advantage of getting your mom a mainstream phone is that if she masters the Easy/Simple mode (or gets bored with it), and is ready to expand her skills, you can always switch the phone back to the standard operation mode exposing her to more options. You can also add any number of health and safety features to her phone, like what the Touch3 offers, by downloading their apps at greatcall.com/medical-apps.

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.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

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

Automotive
**Koster's CAR KORNER**
ROD & TESS KOSTER, Owners
Bus: 507-583-2018 • Fax: 507-583-2317
Hwy. 218 • Blooming Prairie
www.kostercarkorner.com
FOR THAT HOMETOWN PERSONAL TOUCH

Advertising
YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!
Contact the Steele County Times Today!
**507-583-4431**
Always local, all the time.



Construction
**Johnson Construction & Tree Service**
Tree & Stump Removal • Trimming & Topping • Tree Moving
Lot Clearing • Backhoe/Skidloader • Hauling General Construction
24 Hr. Emergency Services • Year Round Work • Licensed & Insured
KYLE JOHNSON • 507-583-7592
AUSTIN & BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Construction & Remodeling
J.A. GWILT SIDERS, INC.
Siding & Windows
Lic. #20533878
•Maintenance Free Siding
•Premium Vinyl, Steel & Aluminum
•Custom Trim Work
•Seamless Aluminum or Copper Gutters
•Lifetime Warranty
For Free Estimates Call: 507-583-7413

Now supplying siding for contractors & do-it yourselfers!

Dental Care
BLOOMING PRAIRIE DENTAL CENTER
"Dentistry for the whole family"
Jeffrey A. Schwert, D.D.S.
132 2nd Ave. NE
Blooming Prairie ~ 583-6613

Advertising
YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!
Contact the Steele County Times Today!
**507-583-4431**
Always local, all the time.



Dental Care
**Main Street Dental Clinics**
comfortable dentistry

Bloomington 405 E. Main St. 507-583-2141	Owatonna 1170 East Frontage Rd. 507-455-1000	Mankato 287 St. Andrews Drive Suite 100 507-720-0250
Rochester 3110 Wellner Dr. NE. 507-536-7700	New Richland 132 Broadway Ave. N. 507-463-0502	

Electric
**KESTNER ELECTRIC, INC**
• Industrial • Residential
• Commercial • Agricultural
DEAN NAATZ
(Resident of Blooming Prairie)
1006 8th Ave. SE
PO Box 457
Austin
Cell Phone: 507- 438-2323
Shop Phone: 507- 437-1377
Website: www.kestner-elec.com

Funeral Planning
A Simple, Thoughtful Act of Caring
PREARRANGEMENT & PREFUNDING
**507-583-7561**
www.worlein.com
Mary Kittelson
NFDA Certified Preplanning Consultant • Licensed Agent - Purple Cross Plans
Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home
418 Highway Ave S., Blooming Prairie, MN

Garbage
**319 2nd St. SW • Blooming Prairie**
507-583-7562
William P. Walsh, Owner
Garbage Service, Inc.
"A family-owned, hometown business
operated locally for over 45 years."
Residential & Business Hauling

Insurance
Holman Insurance Agency
For all your insurance needs
Keith & Carol Holman
421 E. Main Street
• 507- 583-7294 •


Lumberyard
**GENEVA Lumber Company**
For all your Lumberyard & Home Design/Drafting needs.
Stop in and see Jon or Tait today!
413 West Main St. • Geneva • 507-256-0045

Recreation
**MINERS Outdoor & Rec**
Outdoor Power Equipment,
Golf Carts, ATV, Sales Service,
Parts & Accessories
Hwy 218 S.
Blooming Prairie
www.minersoutdoor.com • 507-583-2712

Repair Service
**SALINAS AUTO REPAIR INC.**
656 3rd St. NE
Blooming Prairie, MN
Robert Salinas
Family-Owned
583-6620

Community

College News

Students named on Dean’s List

Three students from Owatonna have been named to the fall semester Dean’s List at the University of Northwestern-St. Paul.

They include: Matthew Holt, son of Melanie Holt of Owatonna, with Honors. Holt is pursuing a degree in Design at Northwestern; Marta Tverberg, of Owatonna, with High Honors. Tverberg is pursuing a degree in Biology at Northwestern and Aliyah Waypa, of Owatonna, with High Honors. Waypa is pursuing a degree in Biology at Northwestern.

Matthew Holt, son of Melanie Holt of Owatonna, graduated from University of Northwestern - St. Paul on December 19, 2014, with a Bachelor of Arts in Design. Holt is a 2009 graduate of Owatonna Christian School.

Anna Noble of Blooming Prairie is a freshman at the Carlson School of Management. She was named to the 2014 fall semester Dean’s List at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

To qualify for the Dean’s List, a student must complete 12 or more letter-graded credits while attaining a 3.66 grade point average.

Jessica Hood and Jeffrey Thostenson of Owatonna were named to the fall semester 2014 Dean’s List at the University of Minnesota Crookston. The U of M Crookston is one of the most respected career-oriented, technology-

based universities in the nation.

Sarah (Wagner) Bumgarner of Rogers, Minnesota, formerly of Blooming Prairie, was accepted to Capella University’s President’s List for fall 2014 with a GPA of 4.0. Sarah is a graduate student working towards her Master’s Degree in Mental Health Counseling.

Eichhorst and Flack receive degrees

Chase Eichhorst, in BA-Music, and Caralyn Flack, in PHD-Microbiology, both of Owatonna, received their degrees from the University of Iowa at the close of the fall 2014 semester. Approximately 1,300 degrees were awarded at the end of the semester.

Students make Academic Honor list

Jonathan Hines of Blooming Prairie was named to the Academic High Honor List for the past fall semester at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Seniors Taylor Farr, Anna Peterson and Jacob Schroeder of Blooming Prairie were named to the Academic Honor List.

Lenten fish dinner set

Another Lenten benefit fish dinner is set for Owatonna.

The Knights of Columbus fish dinner will be Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. at the KC Hall, 820 S. Elm Ave. The “all you care to eat” dinner will be served in the

hall and lounge and features baked and fried fish, whipped potatoes with country gravy, vegetable, roll, coleslaw and beverage.

Advance tickets can be purchased from Knights members and at the hall.

Foundation promotes childhood literacy

In an effort to promote early childhood literacy, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) and Capstone are partnering for the 13th year of the BookStart program.

The goal of this partnership is to ensure every child has their own book at home to read or be read to by family members. Applications are being accepted through March 31.

For the fourth consecutive year, Capstone is providing 10,000 children’s books to the BookStart program. Awarded organizations will be able to choose from a wide selection including bilingual and early childhood appropriate books.

“Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation believes that investing in early childhood pays big dividends for communities and businesses, which is why we are so pleased to be able to provide books to young children once again this year,” explained Tim Penny, SMIF President/CEO. “We know that having a book of their own encourages young children to develop a life-long love of reading - a key ingredient for a healthy life of learning, achieving, and succeeding.”

“This program is near and dear to the heart of Coughlan Companies. We have a strong culture of giving throughout. We hope this program helps to create a community of readers in each community that receives the BookStart books,” said Maryellen Coughlan, Director of Corporate Giving and Social Responsibility.

Applications should reflect collaboration with other organizations that support reading, target populations that may not have access to books, and promote early childhood learning through literacy at the family level. Eligible projects must be located within SMIF’s 20-county area. Applications are due March 31.

Organizations wanting to be a part of this effort to promote literacy and learning among the region’s youngest citizens are encouraged to apply for a BookStart grant. Visit www.smifoundation.org for details or contact Lynn Smith (lynns@smifoundation.org) for more information.

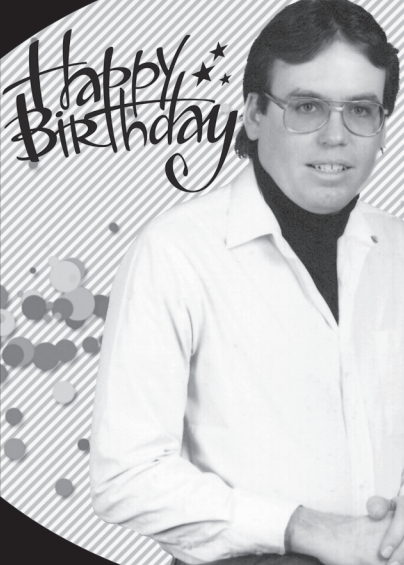


ICE: A hot topic with chiropractors!

It's a natural pain reliever. It reduces swelling, and it's inexpensive! And unlike many drugs, won't cause liver or kidney damage. Ask us how to use ice for the best results.

Prairie Family & Sports Chiropractic

Happy Birthday



Come help
**KEVIN
CHRISTEY**
celebrate a
SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

FRIDAY,
MARCH 6TH
5:00 - 10:00 PM

Owatonna
VFW Club

THE PAINS OF STRESS

Prairie Family & Sports CHIROPRACTIC

Long Name... Great Results



How well do you adapt to stress?

Just as a chain tends to break at its weakest link, we seem to exhibit stress and strain in the weakest areas of our bodies. For some its an upset stomach. For others, reoccurring headaches, back pain, or muscle stiffness. Regardless of your response, your nervous system is involved. Our approach to stress is to help normalize the function of your nervous system by finding the “weakest links” in your spine and help restore better function. It may not be possible to remove the stress from your life, however, with our help you can respond better to the unique challenges you face.

TRY CHIROPRACTIC - CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT!
507-583-2271 or Toll Free 1-866-5-DRCHAD

507-583-2271 or 866-5-DRCHAD Chad M. Eischens, D.C. 344 East Main Street Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 Website: www.drchad.org E-mail: drchad@drchad.org

HAM BINGO

Thursday, March 12 • 7 p.m.

Pizza Cellar Party Room - Everyone Welcome!

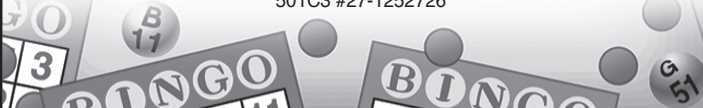
25 GAMES • 25 HAMS

sponsored by:

Minimizer

All proceeds to B.P. Cancer group

501C3 #27-1252726



Did You Know? A moment in Blossoms history



Academically-wise, in the 1968-69 year at Blooming Prairie High School, probably the biggest event took place when the oldest student to take a regular schedule of classes graduated. Elaine Walsh decided that after raising a family, she should finish a task that she had started years before, but never completed.

Like every other student, she attended class on a regular academic schedule and climaxed her year by receiving her high school diploma at the commencement exercises in May. She became just one of 103 seniors to graduate that spring.

The fall of 1968 saw Arlie Olson and Barb Benson reign over homecoming festivities, which featured the traditional bonfire, parade and

homecoming football game.

Also, in the fall the junior class presented “Home, Sweet Homicide,” with Colleen Tonolli, Mike Ressler, Brad Carey, Greg Lea and Kristi Hoel just some of the students taking part.

Terry Williamson and Mike Kleeberger performed “Zoo Story,” which won the one-act play competition in the school. “To Burn A Witch,” with Mary Frey, Carol Peterson and Colleen Jones in the roles, and “A More Perfect Union,” with a cast of eight, was the other productions offered. The FFA judging teams performed well and two of the teams judged in state competition. The FHA had a busy year also, and both the band and chorus performed well at the large group music contest. The Petal

Tones continued to entertain at various community events as well.

Sondra Johnson directed the senior play, “Carousel,” with Lois Harms and Mike Kleeberger taking the lead. A large number of seniors also appeared in the production.

Two years of prom were featured in the 1969 annual. The 1968 prom featured music by the Chancellors, a rock group out of Minneapolis.

The 1969 affair began with the annual junior-senior banquet at the Holiday Inn in Austin, the prom followed with music from the Fanatics, and an After-Prom party at the Blooming Prairie Gun Club. No explanation for the two proms ever was explained in the yearbook publication.

Rev. Orville Wold spoke to the senior class at graduation, and Virginia Beinhorn and Mary Frey took Valedictorian and Salutatorian honors.

Compiled by LeMar Nelson

Menus

Seniors Menu

Mar 3: Chicken Breast/Sauce, Wild Rice Pilaf, Broccoli, Waldorf Salad, Pudding

Mar 4: Pork Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Batter Bun, Fresh Fruit

Mar 5: Beef Tips in Gravy, Noodles, Parsley Carrots, Tossed Salad, Spring P/A Dessert

Mar 9: Porcupine Meatballs, Alt: Baked Fish, Baked Potato, Creamed Peas, Craisin’ Oatmeal Cookie

Mar 9: BBQ Ribs, Mashed Potatoes, Peas/Carrots, Tossed Salad, Citrus Fruit Cup

Mar 10: Chili con Carne, Crackers, Corn Muffin, Cottage Cheese/Apricots, Apple Pie

Mar 11: Hot Turkey on Bread, Mashed Potatoes, Buttered Beets, Pea Pickle Cheese Salad, Banana

Mar 5: Italian Lasagna, Garlic Toast, Hot Ham on WG Bun, Green Beans, Broccoli Florets, Pepper Medley, Choice of Fruit

Mar 6: Chicken Nuggets, Dinner Roll, Garden Vegetable Salad, Glazed Carrots, Baby Spinach, Radishes, Choice of Fruit

Mar 9: Parmesan Chicken Bites, WG Pasta, Garlic Toast, Hot Turkey on a WG Bun, Spring Mix (HOM), Cucumber Slices, Cherry Tomatoes, Choice of Fruit

Mar 10: Hamburger on a WG Bun, Ham, Broccoli, Tator Tot Casserole, Dinner Roll, Roasted Broccoli, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

Mar 11: Chicken Patty on WG Bun, Meatballs & Gravy, Dinner Rolls, Mashed Potatoes, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit

Cherry Tomatoes, Choice of Fruit

Mar 10: Ham, Broccoli, Tator Tot Casserole, Cinnamon Roll, Broccoli Florets, Squash, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

Mar 11: Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Dinner Rolls, Green Peas, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit

BP High School Lunch Menu

Mar 3: Chicken Alfredo over Rotini, Garlic Toast, Broccoli Salad, Baby Carrots, Diced Beets, Choice of Fruit

Mar 4: Pulled Pork Nachos, Pico de Gallo, Spring Corn Salad, Celery Sticks, Green Pepper Rings, Choice of Fruit

Mar 5: Meatballs and Gravy, Noodles, Dinner Roll, Black Beans, Shredded Romaine Lettuce, Tomatoes, Choice of Fruit

Mar 6: Orange Chicken over Lo Mein, Carrot Coins, Broccoli Florets, Garbanzo Beans, Choice of Fruit

Mar 9: Chicken Parmesan over Pasta, Garlic Toast, Spring Mix (HOM), Garbanzo Beans, Cherry Tomatoes, Choice of Fruit

Mar 10: Ham, Broccoli, Tator Tot Casserole, Cinnamon Roll, Broccoli Florets, Squash, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

Mar 11: Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Dinner Rolls, Green Peas, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit

Milestones

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- March 3**

Sandy Shaw Kerrigan
Justin Krell, Jeff Kinney
Norm Wonderlich
Jake Peterson, Adam Dahl

March 4

Phillip Milton, Gwen Klinger
Kris Sheppard, Ken Ryks
Jacob Weinberger

March 5

Ken Vermilyea
Dee Dee Machin
Sharon Glynn

March 6

Sylvia Swenson
Hannah Severtson
CJ Coleman, Chris Hoover

March 7

Allyson Skillestad
Marissa Wacek
Brendan McCabe
Shirley Hinzmann
David Miller
- March 8**

Jean Lee, Clint Becker
Mary Hueman, Cody Pashusta

March 9

Adrian Noble
Jeremy Wangen
Nicki Bishop
Kylie Forystek
Marissa Noble
- Anniversaries**

March 4

Richard and Imogene Symes

March 5

Henry and Lucy Post

March 8

Mandy and Nate Bachelder

Milestones is sponsored by:

Best kept secret!

Deli Sandwiches Daily Specials
ALL COME WITH A COOKIE & CHIPS

Tuesday - Ham
Wednesday - Turkey

Thursday - Your Choice
Friday - Beef

The Bakery
Main Street • Blooming Prairie • 583-4433

Area Church Spotlight



Victory Life Church, Ellendale

Pastor's Corner

Having same attitude as Jesus



For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." Romans 15:3

We've seen the ad: a man is in jail conferring with his lawyer when the lawyer's cell phone rings. After a few moments of conversation, the lawyer hangs up and declares to his client, "I just heard some really good news." "I can go free?" the client asks hopefully. "No", replies the lawyer dispassionately, "but I just saved a bunch of money on my car insurance." It strikes us as funny and we laugh because it is so bazaar. How could anyone be so heartless and insensitive?

Or maybe that's a nervous laugh because it hits so close to home. We are far more selfish than we care to admit. As long as our needs are taken care of and we are happy, we really don't feel for or care that much about others. We love ourselves more than others, even more than God. This inborn infatuation with "self" is at the root of our sinful nature. We all have it. It's ugly. It finally condemns us to hell. And that's not funny.

But during the Lenten season we hear some really good news. As we trace the final earthly days of Jesus, God's Son, we see him pour out his life into death for the needs of others. Jesus forgot about himself and paid the bloody, eternal price for our sins. He did not please himself but credited his spotless, holy life to

us as if we had lived it ourselves. His perfect, unselfish life of love was given to redeem self-loving, self-condemning prisoners of sin – and we can go free!

Christ's love has a truly life-changing effect on a believer's heart. Above all, he moves us to admit our sin and selfishness and turn to him for forgiveness. Then he moves us care about others – to love them as he has loved us – and the good news of sins forgiven becomes good news we want to share both in words and actions. "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!" (Philippians 2:5-8)

If you thought saving on car insurance was good news, you won't want to miss the best news ever during this Lenten season. God has good news you'll really want to hear!

*The Rev. Dean Gunn
Our Savior Evangelical
Lutheran Church,
Kasson, Minnesota*

LERBERG'S FITNESS CENTER

118 5th Ave.
Ellendale

507-684-2471

Andy & Mary Lerberg



Medford Branch
507-451-2122



Locally Owned & Operated

237 Hwy. Ave. S.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-6671



FARMERS INSURANCE

Michael Bishman
121 W. Broadway St.
Owatonna, MN 55060

Phone: (507) 451-0193
Fax: (507) 451-6640



www.expressowatonna.com

507-455-3002
800-832-3002

812 S. Elm Ave.
Owatonna, MN 55060



Service Center:
507-528-2233

After Hours Towing:
507-456-4158

111 Front Street
P.O. Box 282
Claremont, MN



Grains and Foods Group

A healthy products company

3824 S. W. 93rd St.
Hope, MN 56046
(507) 451-4724



"Creating Your Story in Stone"

1180 Frontage Rd E • Owatonna
507-455-9551
www.owatonnagranite.com



411 E. Main St.
Blooming Prairie, MN
507-583-4431



www.minimizer.com

800-248-3855

Blooming Prairie



322 East Main St.
Blooming Prairie

507-583-2276



3249 N County Road 45
Owatonna

507-451-7121



Sales • Service • Rentals • Leasing



800-722-1282

www.garlickswater.com



FOR THAT HOMETOWN
PERSONAL TOUCH

Hwy. 218
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2018



**Vibrant Living For
Individuals 55 & Older
at a Reasonable Price**

Call Jon Arnett @

455-3735 for a tour
236 22nd St. SE • Owatonna



1011 Hoffman Drive
Owatonna

507-451-2585

www.kernelrestaurant.com

Area Church Schedule

Lutheran

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 38th St., Owatonna
Pastor Jonathon Davis
(507) 676-5696

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
5881 S.E. 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Pastor Jonathon Davis
(507) 633-9331

9 a.m. Sundays. 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Charles Leonard, Senior Pastor
Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor
(507) 583-6621

firstlutheranbp.com

Services: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Broadcast 8:30 KOWZ, 100.9FM

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
8953 S.W. 37th Ave., Hope

Pastor Sandy Miller
(507) 451-3854

Services: 9 a.m. Sunday School,
Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN—LCMS
2500 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna
The Rev. Mark Rosenau,
the Rev. Gregory Schlicker
(507) 451-4125

www.goodshepherdowatonna.com

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

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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

sjcoffice@frontiernet.net

www.peaceclaremont.ots-host.org

Services: 6 p.m. Saturday,
10:30 a.m. Sunday

Holy Communion: Saturday evening
service; second, fourth Sundays.

Sunday school and

Confirmation class: 9 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

Students sing during service

the second Sunday of the month.

Adult Bible study,
9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m. Sunday

Wednesday Evening

Lenten Supper and Service.

Supper at 6 p.m. - Free will offering.

Service starts at 7 p.m.

Mid-Week Lenten: Feb. 25,
March 4, 11, 18, and 25

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
28959 630th Ave., Sergeant
The Rev. Ronald Prigge

Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
104 First St. S.E., Hayfield

The Rev. Paul Hauschild
(507) 477-2248

www.trinityhayfield.org

Services: 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.



TRINITY LUTHERAN—LCMS
57403 300th St., Waltham

Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272

Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN—LCMS
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale

Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272

Service: 8:30 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
106 Third St. S.E., Geneva

Pastor Krisin Venne
(507) 256-4288

Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale

Pastor Patti Meyer
(507) 451-2165

9 a.m. worship

10 a.m. Sunday school

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 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna

Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor

Dean Smith, Associate Pastor
(507) 451-4520

www.tlcowatonna.org

Services: 5 p.m. Saturday

8:15, 9:45 & 11:15 a.m. Sunday

Catholic

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC
Rural Geneva

The Rev. Swamy Pothireddy
(507) 465-8217

Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
Hayfield

The Rev. Steve Peterson
(507) 477-2256

Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Reconciliation: 10:15 a.m. Sunday

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 First St. SW., New Richland

The Rev. Swamy Pothireddy
(507) 465-8217

Services: 5 p.m. Saturday

and 8 a.m. Sunday,

Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sunday

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC CHURCH
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie

The Rev. Steve Peterson
(507) 583-2784

Reconciliation: 5 p.m. Saturday

Services: 5:15 p.m. Saturday

and 8:30 a.m. Sunday.

Office hours: M-F, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna

The Rev. John Sauer, Pastor

The Rev. Brian Sutton,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 451-1588

www.litomysl.webs.com

Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday

with Children's Church

Family Faith Formation and First

Communion class after Mass with noon

potluck second Sunday of month.

Confirmation class after Mass second

Sunday of month, and fourth Sunday of

month at 6 p.m.

St. Isidore School - 451-5876,

Preschool-fifth grade:

www.stisidoreschool.webs.com

SACRED HEART CHURCH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna

The Rev. John Sauer; the Rev. Michael

Cronin, Parochial Vicar
(507) 451-1588

www.sacredheartowatonna.org

Services: 5 p.m. Saturday, 7:30 a.m.,

9 a.m., & 10:30 a.m. Sunday Spanish

Service: 1 p.m. Sunday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
515 E. Main St., Hayfield

The Rev. Emmanuel Sylvester
218-695-2641

Mass & Religious Ed: 11 a.m. Sunday

CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING
205 NW Second Ave., Medford

(507) 451-6353

Services: 5 p.m. Saturday

10 a.m. Sunday

CHRIST THE KING
Medford

Saturday Mass 5 p.m.,

Sunday Mass 10 a.m.

Monday mass 9 a.m. (seasonal)

CORPUS CHRISTI
Deerfield

Sunday Mass 8:30 a.m.

(at Christ the King Jan.-Mar.)

Methodist

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
43089 180th St., Medford

(7 miles west of Medford on CR 23)

Pastor Cindy Kennedy
(507) 835-8726

Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 Sixth St. N.W., Ellendale



Momentum worth reading!



Blooming Prairie
Gala changes things up
By LEMAR NELSON Staff Writer
Would you like to receive a copy of the Steele County Times? If you do, you'll be able to see the building members at 50...
The gala, an annual event, will be held at which time the members will also have dinner...
The gala, an annual event, will be held at which time the members will also have dinner...
The gala, an annual event, will be held at which time the members will also have dinner...

New prosecutor hopes to make county safer
By RICK BENSLER Publisher
With a law interest in her collection...
The new prosecutor, who is...
The new prosecutor, who is...



STEM COURSES PART 1
The learning tree
STEM is apple of McKinley's eye
Story and photos by Shannon Kinley
The third division in the 1890...
The third division in the 1890...
The third division in the 1890...



County board chooses next administrator
By ALAN VAN ORBIE Staff Writer
Bridging beloved both conditions...
Bridging beloved both conditions...
Bridging beloved both conditions...



Clearing off cars was one of the jobs after last week's snowstorm.

COMMUNITY FOCUSED • HOMETOWN NEWS • LOCAL ALL THE TIME

Everyone's talking about the Steele County Times...
It's time for you to find out what you're missing and subscribe today!

BUY 1 YEAR FOR THE REDUCED RATE OF \$35,
GET THE 2ND YEAR FREE!

** NOW AVAILABLE IN E-EDITION FORMAT **



GET EVEN MORE!
Special interest sections are regularly inserted into the Times!

SPRING SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-Mail (for E-Edition): _____
_____ - Print Subscription _____ - E-Edition

Return to:
Steele County Times, P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917





2015 Minnesota High School Wrestling State Tournament



Peyton Robb claims AAA state title

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

Standing, flexing his biceps and pointing to his home crowd, Peyton Robb claimed his place among Minnesota state champions.

In the Section 1AAA tournament, Victor Gliva defeated Robb in a 5-2 decision. In the state championship round, the two faced each other again, but Robb made it clear that this time would be different.

“Going into the tournament, my main goal was to make it to the final,” said Robb. “Once I got there, I was okay with whichever place.”

However, once Robb realized who his opponent in the final bout would be, his mindset changed.

“My thought was, I’ll let him have sections. I’ll take the next one,” said Robb.

Robb made quick work of the bout and largely commanded the match. Scoring two points off a nearly-immediate takedown, Robb never looked back. Leading 9-3 going into the third period, Robb found himself on his back only momentarily before quickly scoring two more points on a reversal to build the lead to 11-5.

Regaining control, Robb would not allow Gliva another point.

“I’d been wrestling Victor more defensively, and it wasn’t working well,” Robb said of his past bouts with Gliva. “I went more of-fensive this time - in attack mode.”

Attack mode paid off, as Robb took a commanding 15-2 lead as the timer struck all zeros.

For Robb, the win culminated a season of hard work and dedica-tion.

“I knew all the work during the season had paid off,” said Robb, recalling the feeling of victory. “I knew all the extra work I put in made a difference.”

For Owatonna Coach Cliff Casteel, Robb’s state title was well deserved.

“Peyton is a very talented young man,” said Casteel. “He’s smart, dedicated, and possesses an outstanding work ethic.”

Casteel added that winning a state title is no easy task, noting Robb’s excellent mindset going into each state bout. “He stayed fo-cused and set the tone in each of his individual matches throughout the tournament.”

By setting the tone, Robb made it clear to his opponents that he was in it to win it, claiming large-margin victories the entire week-end. In his first bout, Robb won a 13-1 decision against Dylan Droegemueller of Champlin Park. His second matchup was nearly identical, as he commanded a 15-2 decision over Zac Spohn of Sauk Rapids-Rice.

On Saturday morning, Robb faced his closest match against Aar-on Cashman of Mound Westonka, winning the semi-final bout with a 7-4 decision.

Though stoic upon receiving his medal, fans called out to Robb from the stands that it was okay to smile, and even Robb cracked a bit of a grin.

Last season, both Robb and Gliva competed at the state tourna-ment, but neither won a match.

Robb helped Owatonna claim its 23rd state wrestling title, the first since 189-pound Dalton Henderson in 2010.

As a freshman, Robb will potentially have three more oppoortunities to compete at the state high school tournament and Casteel is thrilled for what this young man will bring to the table for years to come.



Owatonna’s Peyton Robb points to his home crowd after claiming the 2015 106-pound AAA state title. Robb defeated Victor Gliva of Farmington 12-5 in the final bout on Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.



Peyton Robb works against Victor Gliva in the champship round at the Minnesota state wrestling tournament on Saturday, Feb. 28.



Peyton Robb attempts to turn Aaron Cashman of Mound Westonka on his back during the semi-finals match.



LARGE SELECTION & LOW PRICES RIGHT TO YOUR DOOR!

CashWiseDelivers.com

OPEN 24 HOURS

495 West N. St. • Owatonna • 451-7220





2015 Minnesota High School Wrestling State Tournament



Seven place at state wrestling tournament

By **JAMES KNOOP**
County Sports Editor

Coming off a 2014 state wrestling tournament with no placements, seven Steele County wrestlers came home with medals last week.

These included athletes from Medford, Owatonna and New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG), and they collectively gathered every medal except for second place.

The Xcel Energy Center was electric all weekend, with parents and coaches losing their voices, but continuing to impart wisdom at the top of their lungs. Steele County was no exception, and when a wrestler from Medford wasn't on the mat, one could find them cheering seemingly just as loud for another Steele County athlete.

Of the 14 wrestlers, all but three advanced to Saturday's meets, and of the remaining eleven, 11 found a place on the podium.

Medford's two place-winners came from opposite ends of the weight bracket and grade level. Jeron Matson, a freshman at 106, claimed fourth place at the tournament, finishing with four wins and two losses. He fell in the third place bout to Andrew Nissen from Blackduck/Cass Lake-Bena. At 285, senior Nate Elzen finished 3-2, placing sixth after a fifth place loss to Nick Meixell from Lake

Crystal-Well. Elzen returned for the 2015 season after a major knee injury.

Medford Coach Dennis Whitman is proud of his wrestler's accomplishments.

"I thought we wrestled extremely well all weekend. We felt like all three kids had a chance to place in the top six, but each of them had a difficult draw in their bracket," said Whitman. "Considering our brackets, it was a realistic possibility that none would place unless we showed up ready to wrestle."

Medford wrestlers did just that, as Nate Elzen and Jeron Matson both found a place on the podium, finishing sixth and fourth, respectively.

"To place Nate and Jeron was a great feeling," said Whitman.

Trevor Grems won his first bout, but fell in the second and lost a close 4-3 decision in the first round of the consolation bracket.

"Even though he came up short of his goals, this was the best I've seen Trevor wrestle this year," said Whitman.

Owatonna sent four wrestlers to the podium Saturday night. Freshman Peyton Robb claimed the 106 title after a convincing 12-5 decision against Victor Gliva from Farmington. He went 4-0 at the tournament. Sophomore Tanner Cole at 126 claimed fifth, defeating Karl Keeler from Moundview. Senior Alex Green (138) took fourth

after a 9-4 loss to Aaron Wilson of St. Francis. Finally, Brandon Moen (152) placed third, defeating Colten Carlson from Willmar in a 10-8 overtime bout.

"We are extremely pleased with how our six individual qualifiers competed at the state tournament," said Owatonna Coach Cliff Casteel. "Although a few of them would have liked to place a little higher, they all performed at a high level and gave outstanding effort."

Casteel also pointed out that although team scores are not kept at the individual meet, using individual tournament scoring, Owatonna unofficially placed third in AAA teams at the tournament.

Todd Erickson (220) represented NRHEG Friday and Saturday, finishing 5-2 and claiming third place. In his final bout, Erickson defeated Tanner Templin from Blackduck/Cass Lake-Bena.

Other wrestlers who competed at the tournament included Zach Nirk (220) and Ethan Arett (106) from Blooming Prairie, Austin Abbas (11) and Justin Tacheny (12) from Owatonna, Dillion Kubiato-wicz and Cordell Peterson from NRHEG and Trevor Grems from Medford.

Of the 14 state participants, only Elzen, Nirk, Tacheny and Green will graduate at the end of this year, leaving anticipation for the 2016 state tournament.



Staff photos by James Knoop
Jeron Maton of Medford moments before pinning Mark Buringa of St. Charles. Matson went on to place fourth at the state tournament.



Todd Erickson won the third place bout against Tanner Templin of Blackduck/Cass Lake-Bena on Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Xcel Energy Center.



Brandon Moen of Owatonna won a tightly-contested 10-8 overtime third place victory against Colten Carlson of Willmar.



The referee keeps an eye on Karl Keeler's shoulders as Brandon Moen wins the fifth place bout by a technical fall.

Since 1949



ANHORN'S GAS & TIRE

Tires • Auto Maintenance
• Batteries • Accessories
• Towing & More!

216 S. Main St., Medford
www.anhorns.com
507-451-1651

Available to meet your needs!

Extinguisher SERVICES



- We meet State Fire Marshal Codes!
- Certified & Insured

970 Braeburn Place
Owatonna, MN
507-213-4618 • 507-213-4591



ELLIS BODY SHOP INC.

(507)451-0845 • (800) 310-0845
FAMILY OWNED "SINCE 1978"
1231 BRADY BLVD. NW OWATONNA

GOPHERSPORT



2525 Lemond St. SW
Owatonna
507-451-7470



Dem1

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

FACTORY AUTHORIZED
INSTALLATION & SERVICE

Furnaces, Air Conditioners, Air Exchangers
New Construction, Finishes & Remodels



507-451-6388



SunOpta™

bringing well-being to life

HOPE - ELLENDALE BLOOMING PRAIRIE

507-451-4724 • 800-342-6976
EMAIL: GROWER@SUNOPTA.COM





2015 Minnesota High School Wrestling State Tournament



Medford wrestler places sixth after tearing ACL

JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

Just over a year ago, Nate Elzen of Medford was 14-1 and preparing for the 2014 state wrestling tournament. An unexpected knee injury put that dream on hold, and his future in doubt.

After months of rehab, and a kind of testing period during the football season, Elzen returned ready to compete at a high level. His dedication and drive paid off, collecting him a 29-6 record in his senior year.

According to Medford Coach Dennis Whitman, Elzen came into the tournament with hopes of not only placing, but standing high on the podium.

Two losses to finish the tournament kept Elzen from placing as high as he'd hoped, but Elzen's 3-1 record leading into his final two bouts were enough to secure a place on the podium with a sixth-place medal.

"It was awesome for Nate to end his career on the state podium," said Whitman.

Whitman played a major role in giving Elzen another shot at state wrestling after the blown ACL, not only in training, but in helping Elzen regain his confidence.

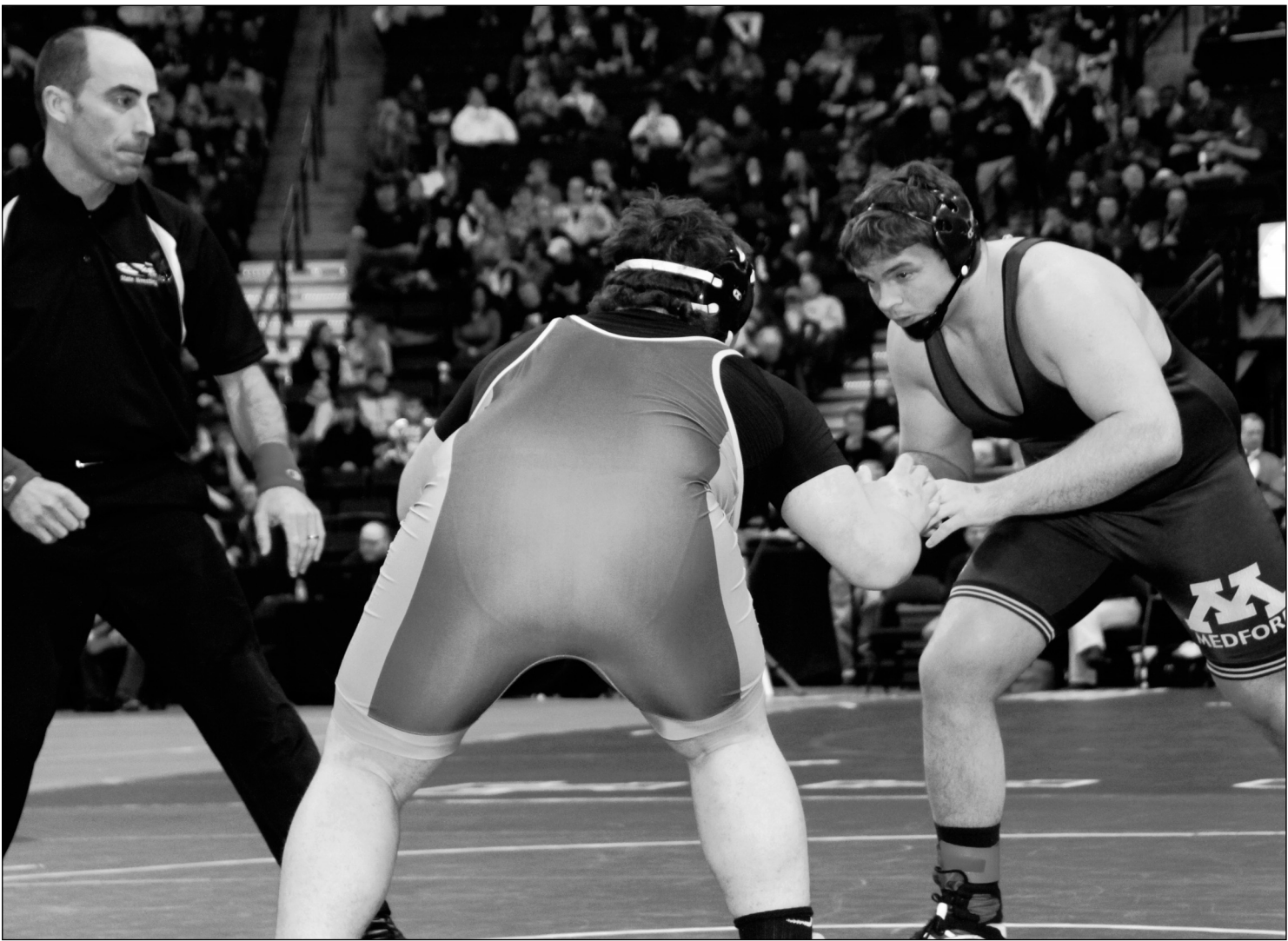
"It was a fitting end to a great season and a little redemptive for having to sit out last year," said Whitman.

Elzen came into the tournament with a No. 2 ranking and began with a bout against No. 7 Austin Gall of Pierz. Elzen pinned the fellow senior for the victory. Elzen then fell to the eighth-ranked Garrett Malstrom of Frazee in a 9-1 decision. Malstrom went on to win the 285 championship.

In the consolation bracket, Elzen just snuck past Blake Wolters of Pipestone Area in a 2-1 bout. Against Ben Feuerhake of Belgrade-Broten-Elrosa, Elzen won by a flagrant misconduct.

Elzen would lose to Martin Granados of Blue Earth Area in a 7-0 decision that sent him to the fifth place bout. Again, Elzen failed to score against Nick Meixell of Lake Crystal-Well in a 6-0 decision. Still, the 3-2 record was enough to secure a place on the podium.

The sixth-place finish was a feather in Elzen's high school wrestling cap. After graduating this spring, Elzen intends to study Law Enforcement at Mankato State University.

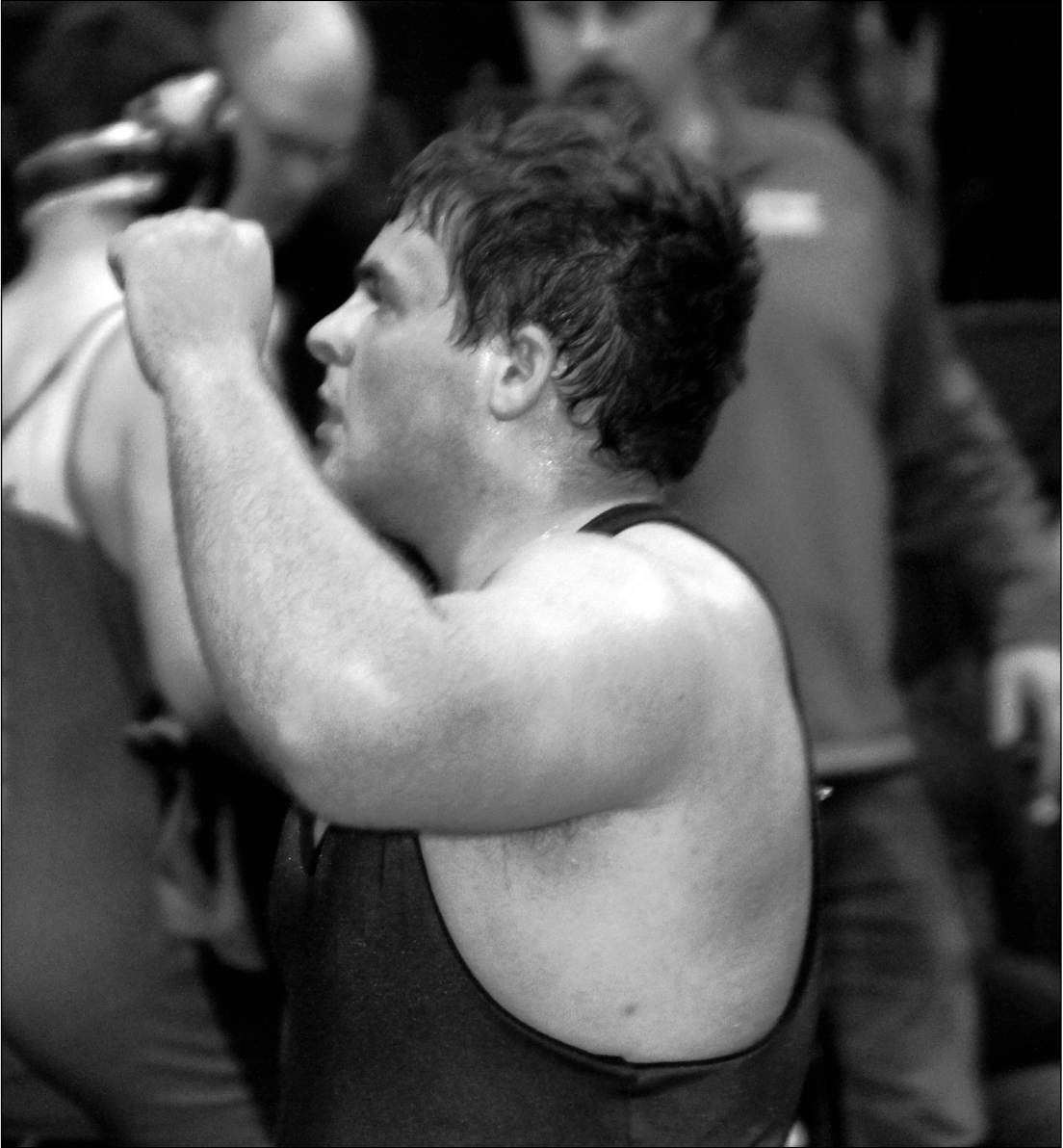


Senior Nate Elzen of Medford faces Ben Feuerhake of Belgrade-Broten-Elrosa. Elzen won the bout because of flagrant misconduct by Feuerhake. Elzen would finish the tournament with a sixth place medal.

Photos by James Knoop



Assitant coaches Heath Wilson and Brent Yule shout instructions to Nate Elzen as he faces Ben Feuerhake of Belgrade-Broten-Elrosa in the second round of the consolation bracket. Elzen won the bout by flagrant misconduct.



Senior Nate Elzen pumps his fist after defeating Blake Wolters of Pipestone Area in the first round of the consolation bracket on Friday, Feb. 27.



FARMERS
INSURANCE

Mike Bishman
121 West Broadway,
Owatonna, MN
451-0193 or 1-800-856-9864



WE GET TO THE BOTTOM OF PLUMBING PROBLEMS!

 **Jensen**
Heating, A/C,
& Plumbing

256-4712
104 Central Ave N
Geneva 56035

First State Bank of Red Wing

M
A
Z
E
P
P
A



www.fsbredwing.com
RED WING

M
E
D
F
O
R
D

WAY TO GO WRESTLERS!

507-451-2122
115 1st Street NE
Medford 55049



Koster's
CAR KORNER

Rod & Tess Koster, Owners
507-583-2018
Hwy. 218 • Blooming Prairie
www.kostercarkorner.com
ALL VEHICLES UNDER BOOK



2015 Minnesota High School Wrestling State Tournament



NRHEG coach preaches goals, not wins: Todd Erickson places third

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Genevasent three wrestlers to the state wrestling tournament last weekend including senior Dillon Kubiatiowicz (120), junior Cordell Peterson (126) and Todd Erickson (220).

Erickson represented NRHEG on the podium at the end of the tournament, taking third place.

“I thought our guys wrestled well,” said NRHEG Coach Shawn Larson. “In the matches that we lost, we had opportunities to score and even get falls.”

One such loss came in Erickson’s 3-2 decision against Manuel Garcia of B O L D in the fourth overtime. Garcia went on to win the championship in an 8-3 decision.

After the gut-wrenching loss, Erickson took care of business in the consolation bracket, pinning Jared Welch of Wabasso/Red Rock Central and defeating Tanner Templin of Blackduck/Cass Lake-Bena 3-1 in the third place bout.

“Todd placing third was a great accomplishment,” said Larson. “I know that he thought he could be the champion, and I feel like he was capable of that. Getting to the state tournament is an accomplishment. Winning a match is fantastic. Placing in the top six is exceptional. I could not be more proud of Todd’s accomplishment.”

Though Kubiatiowicz took first at the section tournament and Peterson took second, neither were able to reach the podium at the Xcel Energy Center last weekend.

Larson said reaching the podium, however, was never necessarily the main goal.

“I will never expect guys to win, but I will al-

ways expect to compete,” said Larson, “and that’s what we did.”

Larson said he does not make goals for his wrestlers, especially goals that have to do with winning.

“I will help them figure out their individual goals,” said Larson. “Each of our guys are different. With Cordell we make goals about looking to score from every position. With Dillon we make goals about getting takedowns and trying to win from control positions. With Todd we make goals about staying aggressive and trying to be the first to score.”

Kubiatiowicz started the tournament with a 2-1 decision over freshman Brady Tweeton of Barnesville, but lost a 12-3 decision against Brandon Laborde from Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial Area. Once in the consolation bracket, Kubiato-

wicz won again, defeating Jamaal Baird of Deer River in a 7-3 decision. A win over Jared Goldsmith of Chatfield would have secured at least a sixth-place medal, but Kubiatiowicz fell to Goldsmith in an 11-4 decision. Goldsmith went on to win third place.

Peterson suffered a first round 10-7 decision to No. 1 Joel Gadiant of Goodhue. Gadiant placed sixth at the tournament.

While Larson admitted the end result for Peterson and Kubiatiowicz was probably not what they wanted, he praised all three wrestlers efforts.

“As far as expectations go, I am expecting the best effort each of them can give every time. I am sure they have different expectations of themselves, but overall I felt that we did things well. We were not perfect, but we did a lot of good things.”



Photos by James Knoop
NRHEG Head Coach Shawn Larson (left) calls out instructions to his wrestler during the state tournament last weekend.



Junior Todd Erickson takes down an opponent en route to his third place finish at state.



Dillion Kubiatiowicz takes Jamaal Baird of Deer River off his feet during the in a 7-3 win.



Todd Erickson accepts his third place medal during the final ceremony at the Xcel Energy Center.

Two BP wrestlers compete at state

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

Although Blooming Prairie did not find a medal at the state tournament, the school did send two wrestlers to compete, senior Zach Nirk and freshman Ethan Arett.

All year, Blooming Prairie struggled to find victories because of its lacking roster. Zach Nirk and Ethan Arett, however, proved a constant for the team, representing the school well.

After both placed second at the section tournament, Arett and Nirk claimed the opportunity to represent their schools at the state level.

Nirk finished the regular season with a 27-12 record, and Arett finished 31-9.

Arett lost his first match by fall to Tanner Schermerhorn of Frazee. Schermerhorn lost in the second round of the consolation bracket.

Nirk won his first bout against Garrett Schanus from Howard Lake-Waverly-Win-

sted in an 8-5 decision, advancing him to the second round. Nirk however lost back-to-back bouts to end his tournament run.

The first loss came against Ian Morrison of Chatfield. The No. 1 ranked senior defeated Nirk in a closely-fought 1-0 decision. Morrison finished the tournament with a sixth-place medal.

The second loss came in the consolation bracket against Nick Fisher of Walker-Hack-Akeley-Nevis. Fisher won by fall.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Zach Nirk secures the wrist of his opponent during state wrestling last weekend. Nirk went 1-2, losing in the first round of the consolation bracket.



3249 N. COUNTY RD. 45 OWATONNA PHONE: 507-451-7121



12880 SW 72ND AVE.,
ELLENDALE, MN
800-358-4902



Central Valley Co-op
Growing with you



www.centralvalleycoop.com • 800-270-2339



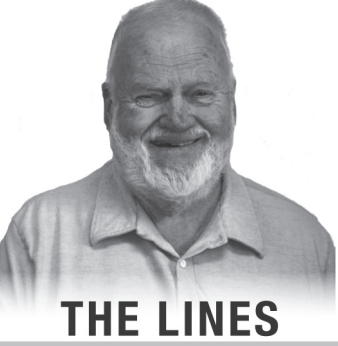
FAREWAY
We hold family values in the highest regard.
507-451-1550
831 Oak Ave. S, Owatonna

Great job at State!



HometownSports

OUTSIDE



THE LINES

LeMar Nelson

Sports to the front

When the shooting is below average against a good team, winning is always a problem. The Awesome Blossoms boys found that out in the sub-section finals, as they lost to a patient and good-shooting Goodhue team. The Blossoms had only seven turnovers in the game, but they couldn't overcome the sub-par shooting.

That shouldn't take away from a very good season for the locals. The Gopher Conference was loaded this year with great teams, and at least three of them were ranked in the state polls at one time or another. The Blossoms lost some close contests along the way, but they also defeated some of the better teams as well.

Senior John Rumpza was the undisputed leader of the team, and he will probably be the best all-around player in BPHS history. He holds second place in the state for touchdown passes, and he finished his basketball career with over 2,000 points and the school record in rebounding and blocked shots. The other seniors on the team also made great strides over the season, and they will be certainly missed next year.

The Blossoms girls relegated to the fourth seed in the sub-section after the loss to Lyle- Pacelli on their quarterfinal game over Randolph. They accomplished this without playing their best game, especially on offense.

I jokingly remarked that they could have approached 100 points, if they had made some of the layups and rebound tap-ins they missed.

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued on Page 6B

BLOOMING PRAIRIE GIRLS BASKETBALL

Girls weather storm: beat Randolph at home

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Seeding position proved accurate as the No. 4 Blooming Prairie girls basketball team took down No. 5 Randolph, 60-48 on the BP court Thursday, Feb. 26.

The sub-section quarterfinal win moved the Blossoms into a semi-final contest against Goodhue at Rochester tonight (Tuesday). The Wildcats stymied BP in the sub-section-finals a season ago.

BP led 12-4 after six minutes of the first half on two jumpers and two free throws and two rebound baskets from Taylor Hagen and still were up 27-2, but the Rockets finished the half with two free throws from Samantha Bey and a basket from Angela Hoey to trail by just three points at the break.

"We kept plugging away, and we made some shots at the end to pull away a little from the visitors," remarked Coach John Worke. "We knew that they would be tough, as they came in with just four losses, and they scrapped the whole game."

Taylor Hagen led all scorers in the game with 24 points, and Madison Worke counted 21. Samantha Bey scored 16 points for the Rockets, and Wendy Splichal added 14. BP shot 36 percent from the field



Taylor Hagen drives to the basket against Randolph's Alyssa Whitson (left) and Wendy Splichal (right) in the first section's game on Thursday, Feb. 26.

on 23 of 64 attempts, while Randolph made 32 percent on 17 of 53 tries. Free throw shooting was almost even, but the Blossoms had a wide edge in rebounding 51 to 30.

"We thought that we had been standing around too much on offense," continued Worke, "so we worked on crashing the boards after shots all week. The assistant coaches really stressed that and got on the girls about rebounding. I guess it paid off, looking at the numbers."

Hagen had 20 rebounds by herself, creating another double-double, but she had a lot of help. Hannah Ahrens climbed the bankboard for ten rebounds and Kalyn Naatz added eight. Hagen had two assists, two blocks and a steal, Worke had three assists and three steals, Ahrens dished out four assists and had three steals, Kaci Gilt had four steals and an assist.

"We had good practices all week," concluded Worke, "and the attitude of the girls has remained positive all along. This was a good team victory, and I just hope we can play well against the Wildcats tonight."



Madison Worke releases a laup against Randolph's Angela Hoey in the Blossom's 60-48 win.



Hannah Ahrens drives past Randolph's Karly Friedges on Thursday, Feb. 28, at Blooming Prairie. The Blossoms won 60-48 in the first game of section play. Ahrens finished the night with 10 rebounds, four assists and three steals.

NRHEG BASKETBALL

Sports roundups

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva girls basketball team ended the regular season with a 40-49 loss to St. Peter. The boys, on the other hand, won two games, both in

section play, defeating Medford 80-39 and Waseca 59-50.

NRHEG boys

Despite the lopsided final score, Medford managed to stay in the game for the first eight minutes, but after that it was all

NRHEG, finishing the half on a 22-4 run. In the second half, the Panthers picked up right where they left off, scoring another 40 points and allowing only 21.

The 80 points were partially due to incredible three-point shooting from Trevor Tracy, who made seven against the

Tigers. As a team, the Panthers shot 11 of 16 from behind the arc.

The boys followed suit with a win over the Waseca Bluejays.

SPORTS ROUNDUP
Continued on Page 6B

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



ZACH NIRK

Senior Zach Nirk fulfilled a life-long ambition by reaching the state wrestling tournament, finishing an outstanding career at BPHS. His dual record of 27-11 this season and his career mark of over 100 individual wins puts him in some elite company at the local high school. Besides his wrestling success, Nirk also anchored the line for the Blossom football team that advanced all the way to the state playoffs.



MADISON WORKE

Madison Worke continues to be one of the leaders for the Blossoms girls. In two of the last three games, Worke has scored more than 20 points, including 21 against Randolph in the quarterfinal tournament win over Randolph. She has also been the top assist and steal leader on the team, as they prepare for a return game against Goodhue in the semi-final action of the sub-section tournament.

Sponsored by:

OVERBY
ORTHODONTICS
Eric R. Overby, DDS, MS

- Free Consultations and 2nd Opinions
- Email & Text Appointment Reminders
- Invisalign™ and Incognito™ Provider
- Payment Plans Available
- Online Account Access

OverbyOrtho.com

BLOOMING PRAIRIE BOYS BASKETBALL



Photos by James Knoop
Jake Decker loses control of the ball as Lyle-Pacelli defense knocks it away during a layup Tuesday, Feb. 24 at the Civic Center in Rochester. The boys defeated Lyle/Pacelli 80-62, but lost to Goodhue 42-58 Saturday, Feb. 28 to end their postseason run.

Chance at state slips away

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

An effective ball control game from Goodhue and poor shooting by Blooming Prairie combined for a 58-42 victory over the Blossoms Saturday, Feb. 28, at Rochester.

The win avenged a loss to the locals in last season’s tournament and gave the No. 1 seeded contingent the West Sub-Section 1A championship. Goodhue will face Rushford-Peterson now for the section title and a spot in the state tournament.

BP led just once in a tightly-played first half when John Rumpza made two free throws for a 13-12 edge with 5:35 left before the break. Goodhue responded with a 10-4 run, includ-

ing a trey from Jacob Pasch and a basket and free throw for Tyler Schumaker. The Wildcats led 20-16 at the half. No team had more than a five-point advantage before the break.

As Coach John Bruns commented, “They are such a tough team to come back on, because they are so deliberate, they make their free throws, and they know how to close out games.”

The Blossoms finished the season with a 16-11 record overall and a 5-7 mark in the conference.

BP trailed just 28-25 at the 9:43 mark of the second half on Scott Romeo’s rebound basket, but the Wildcat outscored the Blossoms 14-7 in the next six minutes to take a commanding ten-point edge. In the last three-

plus minutes Goodhue made 15 of 17 free throw attempts to foil any comeback hopes for the locals, and that led to the wide margin at the end.

“I was proud of how the boys competed in the game,” continued Coach Bruns. “We didn’t make enough shots to hang in, as this was our poorest shooting night of the season. Give credit to Goodhue for some of those problems, as they are very good defensively.”

Despite being double and triple-teamed all game long, John Rumpza managed to lead the Blossoms with 13 points, including seven of eight from the free throw stripe. Mitchell Jones counted 12 points, including six of eight from the line, and Anthony Nelson added seven

points.

The team, however, made just 27 percent from the field on 12 of 43 attempts, while the Wildcats shot 48 percent on 19 of 39 tries, including five of 14 from three-point range. Each team had just seven turnovers, and Goodhue had an edge on the boards 32 to 27. Rumpza had ten for BP and another double-double and Nelson added five.

“Rumpza probably is the finest all-around athlete to come through the high school,” concluded Coach Bruns. “He has the record now in rebounding and blocked shots, and he will be over 2,000 points scored when that total is added up. He has been a leader for four years, and he will leave a huge hole to fill in BPHS basketball.”



Anthony Nelson shoots over Braden Kocer of Lyle-Pacelli on Tuesday, Feb. 24.

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued from Page 5B

Fortunately, they dominated the rebounding and kept plugging away to finally defeat the scrappy Rockets contingent. Now they will have the chance to extract revenge against a Goodhue team that defeated the Blossoms by two points earlier in the season.

That semi-final game will be played tonight (Tuesday) at Rochester Civic Auditorium, with the winner advancing to the finals on Saturday, and it should be a good one. By the way, Randolph was coached by BPHS’ own Dennis Trom. Trom played three sports while in high school, quarterbacking the football team and starring on the

basketball floor as well

Is spring ahead?

With tournaments dominating the sports scene over the last week, and still more action yet to come, I always equate this time of year with an approaching new season. I realize that winter still may have control of the weather and March snowstorms are certainly in the realm of real possibility. But I also think that March brings the first hints of spring and a completely new and optimistic attitude towards life in general. I can hardly wait!

I was reminded last week that it won’t be long until we have to contact spring coaches for pre-

view information so that we can work towards our spring sports’ tab. That is really a sobering thought. It sometimes seems that the seasons run together without a break between, but that is the nature of high school sports. I think that is what makes sports so popular with fans everywhere, and it keeps sports writers on their toes.

In sports away from the high school, an air of optimism surrounds the Minnesota Twins spring training camp. With a new manager, pitching coach and other new personnel, fans are following the team with renewed interest, and the season will be here soon.

The Wild hockey team is also making a good big push to a playoff position, whereas a couple of months ago, such a thing seemed almost impossible. Good for them.

The Gopher women’s hockey and basketball teams are surpassing their expectations, and the Gopher men have regained the hockey success that most fans predicted. Finally, the Timberwolves have been rejuvenated with the acquisition of Kevin Garnett. Maybe there is hope for Minnesota sports after all.

Around the community

Aside from sports, some other

activities pop up on the future schedule. Coming up first is the mid-winter choir concert to be held at First Lutheran Church Monday, March 9. Choir director Kari Bottin always does an outstanding job getting the students ready to perform, and the junior and senior high groups always present a good variety of popular and serious numbers.

The concert is held at the local church, because the acoustics are so much better than at then high school gym. The annual spring concert, however, will be back at the high school, as that performance usually includes some dance numbers. The public is invited to the concert, and

it provides an evening of good entertainment.

And it isn’t too early to begin planning for the Education Foundation annual auction coming up at the end of the month. That event usually brings in profit enough to fund many meaningful projects at the high school and the elementary school. More details will follow in future columns, but now is the time to plan on attending.

One notice from a recent church bulletin will close the week: “The youth choirs of the church will disband for the summer with the thanks of the entire church.” Now, that wasn’t very nice, but we’ll still talk again.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 5B

Down 23-27 at the half, the Panthers made a second-half comeback, something they have done all year long. Scoring 36 in the second half, the Panthers held Waseca to 23, securing their place in the semi-finals against Maple River at Mankato State University at 6 p.m.

NRHEG girls

The girls finished the regular season with a loss to St. Peter. The girls suffered from the free-throw line, shooting only 27 percent.

The girls will begin section play at home against Maple River, Tuesday, March at 7 p.m.



JILL HOGGARD
Academy of Dance

SPORTS ROUNDUP
Continued on Page 6B

Dance is infinite;
There is no end to the learning of dance;
There is a new style erupting daily;
There is a past we will never know fully,
and we can only Dance in the Now!



507-451-0074 | 255 SE 22nd St. Owatonna, MN
WWW.DANCEOWATONNA.COM

BOWLING • ENTERTAINMENT • RESTAURANT



LET THE GOOD TIMES BOWL
OUR BIRTHDAYS ARE THE **BEST**

507-451-2524
333 18th Street SE, Owatonna, MN
OPEN BOWLING - Daily 11:00 AM to Close (1:00 AM).
Monday thru Thursday, Lanes may be limited from 7:00 PM - 10 PM for Leagues.
www.spare-time-fun.com

BIRTHDAY PARTIES • ARCADE • CATERING

Supporting the Steele County Food Shelf since 1994

2015 HOMETOWN Sampler

CONCERT SERIES

STEELE COUNTY FOOD SHELF
United Way



Bad Tangerines *The Gogs* *Hot "n" Bothered* *Mile 5 Band*

Emcees Dave Otto & John Havelka

Join us for great local music and to support our community by helping restock the Steele County Food Shelf with admission of food or monetary donations.

Friday, March 6 @ 7 PM
Saturday, March 7 @ 3 PM & 7 PM
Sunday, March 8 @ 2 PM

Little Theatre of Owatonna
560 Dummell Drive, Owatonna

Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors!

Express Insurance FEDERATED INSURANCE GOPHER SPORT
KENT D. ROSSI LAW OFFICE KOWZ 100.9 FM usbank



CLEAN AIR AND
CLEAN WATER...
THEY BELONG TO
ALL OF US!

~Lowell Trom

**CONTINUE THE COMMITMENT
TO PUBLIC SERVICE**

CELEBRATE THE LENTEN SEASON AT THE KERNEL



SEAFOOD BASKET
Crispy Breaded Flounder filet,
Deep Sea fried clams,
and Buttermilk Shrimp,
homemade tartar sauce,
along with your choice of potato,
or onion rings & a side of our
homemade Cole slaw. **7.99**

GRILLED TILAPIA FILET
Lightly seasoned grilled tilapia filet
served on a bed of Saffron rice,
Homemade tartar sauce,
one side choice and garlic toast. **7.99**
(add an additional filet for 2.99)

GRILLED TILAPIA FILET SANDWICH BASKET
with Potato or Onion Rings and Cole slaw. **7.99**

Affordable Family
Dining • Daily Specials
Freshly Baked Pies
Home Cooked Food

KERNEL Restaurant

451-2585
1011 Hoffman Dr., Owatonna
Open Daily 5am-9pm

www.kernelrestaurant.com

ELECT LOWELL TROM

WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

- 32 years of public service
- 24 years as township supervisor
- 8 years Dodge County commissioner
- Supporter of local planning and zoning
- Lifelong farmer

Pastor Myrwood A. Bagne:
“... I have respect and admiration for Lowell Trom as a steward of rural life and all the dimensions of present day agriculture...”

Herman Beede:
“... Lowell wants to leave fresh water, fresh air, trees, and wildlife for our future generations to enjoy...”

**DON'T FORGET...
VOTE LOWELL TROM ON MARCH 10!**

Prepared and paid for by Lowell Trom for Westfield Township supervisor on his behalf.



Realizing your vision should be nothing short of fabulous!



- Laminate
- Carpets & rugs
- Hardwood & vinyl
- Ceramic tile, stone & glass
- Hunter Douglas blinds, custom draperies
- Cambria
- Amish cabinets
- Decoration assistance & quality installation

nelson decorating center

507-451-3710 • 2002 Austin Rd, Owatonna
www.nelsondecoratingcenter.com

BLOOMING PRAIRIE BOYS BASKETBALL

Big first half propels Blossoms

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

A complete domination by the Blooming Prairie boys basketball team led to an 80-62 semifinal win at the subsection tourney at Rochester, Tuesday, Feb. 24. Unlike the last couple of games in which the Awesome Blossoms have had to play from behind, the locals exploded for 38 first half-points to fashion a 38-18 lead at the break. With the Blossoms leading just 9-8, the locals outscored LP 20-4 in the next six minutes to forge a 27-12 margin. That ballooned to the big 20-point half-time edge. The run included three treys from Scott Romeo, four baskets from Jake Decker and a trey, two rebound baskets, and two free throws from John Rumpza. “We talked about using our experience to get a good start

and, we certainly got that,” remarked Coach John Bruns. “It was a fun half of basketball, and we also got good defense and ball control from every player on the floor.” A flurry of desperation three-pointers from LP’s Jordan Hart cut the final margin to 18 points. The recipient of many passes from teammates Decker allowed to cut through the defense and scored a career-high 29 points. He was no slouch at the free throw line either, making 11 of 12 chances. As John Rumpza commented, “Personally, I get just as much satisfaction from feeding a teammate, as I do scoring a basket.” To prove that point Rumpza handed out five assists to go along with 13 rebounds and a steal. Decker led all scorers in the game with 29 points, but Rumpza had 22 points, and Scott Ro-

meo added 19, including three treys and pulled down 11 rebounds. Anthony Nelson dished out three assists and had five steals in the game. Jordan Hart counted 24 points for the Athletics. “This was really a nice win for us,” concluded Coach Bruns. “We have played good ball over the last few games, and this victory puts us into the sub-section finals for the third time in the last four years. It is gratifying to be still playing and to get the support of the fans like we are.” For the game BP shot 40 percent on 25 of 61 attempts, while LP made 37 percent on 24 of 64 tries. Rebounding favored the Blossoms 48-38. Rumpza, Romeo, and Decker pulled down 13, 11 and 10 respectively and the turnovers broke fairly even at 12 and 14.



John Rumpza leaps for layup late in the game against Lyle/Pacelli. Blooming Prairie won the section game 80-62.

Steele County winter schedule

Girls Basketball
Blooming Prairie

Feb. 3... Faribault BA W 64-29
Feb. 6... at Maple River W 71-34
Feb. 10... Hayfield W 68-59
Feb. 13... at Grand Meadow W 64-30
Feb. 17... Lyle-Pacelli L 28-49

Class A - Section 1 Girls Basketball
Feb. 26... vs. Randolph W 60-48
March 3... vs. Goodhue

Medford

Feb. 3... at United South L 36-55
Feb. 6... at Schaeffer Academy W 46-36
Feb. 10... Faribault BA L 30-42
Feb. 13... at Waterville-Elysian L 30-48
Feb. 17... Cleveland W 70-40
Feb. 20... Maple River L 34-43



Class AA - Section 2 Girls Basketball
March 2... at WEM
NRHEG
Feb. 2... Janesville-W-P W 76-61
Feb. 6... Waterville-Elysian L 53-64
Feb. 10... at Fairmont L 48-68
Feb. 13... at USC W 55-39
Feb. 19... vs. Southland L 57-62
Feb. 20... vs. B.A. W 70-48
Feb. 23... vs. St. Peter

Class AA - Section 2 Girls Basketball
March 2... vs. Maple River

Owatonna
Jan. 6... Albert Lea W 59-41
Jan. 9... Red Wing L 50-56
Jan. 13... at Austin High L 48-51
Jan. 16... at Rochester Century W 61-59
Jan. 20... Mankato East W 64-40
Jan. 24... at Rochester Mayo L 50-56
Jan. 27... Mankato West W 51-44
Jan. 31... Rochester John Marshall L 43-64
Feb. 3... Winona L 60-74
Feb. 6... Faribault W 49-40

Feb. 10... vs. Northfield W 71-56
Feb. 13... at Albert Lea W 65-54
Feb. 17... at Red Wing W 62-52
Feb. 19... vs. Chaska L 49-60
Feb. 20... vs. Austin L 47-61
Feb. 24... vs. Rochester Century
Feb. 26... at Mankato East

Class AAAA - Section 1 Girls Basketball
March 4... at Rochester Century

Boys Basketball

Blooming Prairie
Feb. 3... at Faribault BA W 71-60
Feb. 6... Maple River L 64-72
Feb. 9... at Goodhue L 52-62
Feb. 10... at Hayfield W 79-59
Feb. 12... vs. JWP W 67-48
Feb. 13... vs. Grand Meadow W 73-42

Class A - Section 1 Boys Basketball
Feb. 19... vs. Southland W 68-49
Feb. 24... vs. Lyle/Pacelli W 80-62
Feb. 28... vs. Goodhue L 42-58

Medford
Class AA - Section 2 Boys Basketball
Feb. 3... USC L 56-71
Feb. 5... Triton W 63-61
Feb. 9... at Pine Island L 56-71
Feb. 10... at Faribault BA L 47-70
Feb. 13... vs. Waterville-Elysian L 58-72

Section 2A Tournament
Feb. 24... at NRHEG L 39-80

NRHEG
Feb. 3... at Waseca W 74-53
Feb. 6... at Waterville-Elysian L59-65
Feb. 10... vs. St. Peter W 64-49
Feb. 13... United South Central W 73-66 (OT)
Feb. 19... at St. Clair W 69-53

Class AA - Section 2 Boys Basketball
Feb. 24... vs. Medford W 80-39
Feb. 27... vs. Waseca W 59-50
March 3... vs. Maple River

Owatonna
Feb. 3... Winona W 57-47

Feb. 6... at Faribault W 64-42
Feb. 10... at Northfield L 33-64
Feb. 13... Albert Lea W 74-60
Feb. 17... Red Wing W 56-54
Feb. 20... at Austin L 44-72

Class AAAA - Section 2 Boys Basketball
Feb. 25... at Lakeville North L 30-57

Wrestling
Blooming Prairie
State Individual Tournament Class A
Dec. 27-28... at Xcel Energy Center ... Zach Nirk (220) No placement ... Ethan Arret (106) No placement

Medford
State Individual Tournament Class A
Dec. 27-28... at Xcel Energy Center ... Jeron Matson (106) 4th place ... Trevor Grems (182) No placement ... Nathan Elzen (285) 6th place

NRHEG
State Individual Tournament Class A
Dec. 27-28... at Xcel Energy Center ... Dillon Kubiatowicz (120) No placement ... Todd Erickson (220) 3rd place ... Cordell Peterson (126) No placement

Owatonna
State Individual Tournament Class AAA
Dec. 27-28... at Xcel Energy Center ... Peyton Robb (106) 1st place ... Tanner Cole (126) 5th place ... Justin Tacheny (132) No placement ... Alex Green (138) 4th place ... Brandon Moen (152) 3rd place ... Austin Abbas (285) No placement



AREA SPORTS BOOSTERS

These businesses are proud supporters of the Steele County Times’ expanded countywide sports coverage. We wish our local sports teams the best success throughout the season. Go Blossoms. Go Panthers. Go Tigers. Go Huskies!





We got
you covered



R&R Insurance Agency, LLC

Blooming Prairie 507-583-7971



Krejci

14th Time Presidents Award Winner

218 Hwy N. • Blooming Prairie

www.krejciford.com

507-583-2046
Celebrating 25 years in the community!



**341 East Main Street
Blooming Prairie, MN
507-583-7001
www.sportstitch.net**

"Your One Stop Logo Shop"





HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

**FACTORY AUTHORIZED
INSTALLATION & SERVICE**

Furnaces, Air Conditioners, Air Exchangers
New Construction, Finishes & Remodels

507-451-6388



Check Out Our Inventory at
www.mccabemotors.com

Rent from us: Cars • SUV's
7, 8, 9, 12 & 15 Passenger Vans

507-444-9494 • 425 18th Street SE • Owatonna



EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS

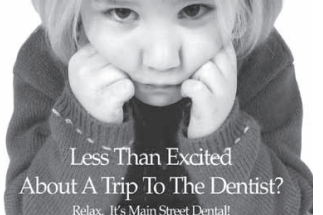
www.expressowatonna.com

507-455-3002 • 800-832-3002
812 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna, MN 55060





Misgen Auto
Ellendale • 507-684-2140



Less Than Excited
About A Trip To The Dentist?
Relax. It's Main Street Dental.

**OPEN MONDAY THROUGH
SATURDAY AND 2 EVENINGS**

1170 E. Frontage Rd • Owatonna 507-455-1000
405 E. Main St • Blooming Prairie 507-583-2141
3110 Wellner Drive NE • Rochester 507-536-7700
132 N. Broadway • New Richland 507-463-0502
287 St. Andrews Drive • Mankato 507-720-0250



• Full Service Retail Meat & Deli Meat Counter
• Wild Game Processing
• Custom Processing & Butchering Services (Beef, Pork, Lamb, Goat)

202 Ash Ave N, New Richland • 507-465-3888





**Right in
your backyard!**

First State Bank of Red Wing

www.fsbredwing.com

Medford Branch 507-451-2122
We are proud to be a 5-Star Community Bank!



• Grass seed – Large or small amounts
• Lawn Fertilizer – 50 lb. bags
• Professional Grade Vinyl Edging – \$12.00/20 feet includes 3 stakes and connectors
• Bring In/E-mail Pictures – let us help you design your Do-it-yourself project
• Professional Grade Typar and Plastic
• Sod sold by the roll – Fresh cut locally. Delivery available.

Located on the I-35 W. Frontage Rd. between Cabela's & Medford Outlet Center
507-451-9605 • E-mail: nagelsnursery@hotmail.com • www.nagelsnursery.com



**Large Selection & Low Prices
Right To Your Door!**

495 West N. Street, Owatonna
507-451-7220 • www.cashwise.com



News

Mayo Clinic welcomes new orthopedic and psychiatry providers to Austin



Fitton

Orthopedics department in Austin, and Tom Baldus, physician

Mayo Clinic Health System in Albert Lea and Austin recently welcomed Lori Fitton, certified nurse practitioner, to the

assistant, to the Psychiatry Department in Austin. Fitton received her master's degree at the Menno-nite College of Nursing in Bloomington, Illinois, and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. A profes-



Baldus

sional interest of Fitton's is in bone health for post-menopausal women in a rural setting. Baldus received his medical degree in Physician Assistant Studies at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa. He most recently worked in the Department of Neurology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, and also has experience in Family Medicine and Urology.

Extension urges practicing financial health

For many Americans, sound financial health can seem out of reach.

Yet no the matter level of household income, committing to saving can help individuals and families gain better control of their finances. During America Saves Week, the University of Minnesota Extension offers these steps to help make saving achievable.

Take the pledge: The savers pledge, and connections to

resources that help encourage savings, is here: www.americasaves.org/for-savers.pledge.

Set a goal: Even \$500 in savings for emergencies can help families weather unforeseen expenses. Remember that "slow and steady" works, especially with long-term goals such as retirement.

Get out of debt: It can be daunting, but it can be done. With planning, discipline and patience, almost anyone can re-

duce debt and start saving.

Save automatically: Employers, banks and credit unions all offer ways to conveniently transfer your earnings into sav- ings and retirement accounts.

"Saving goals are achievable," says Mary Jo Katras, Extension family resiliency educator. "The savers pledge is a great way to start a lifetime of saving and help build short- and long-term individual and family financial security."

DNR officer honored for dedication to state's natural resources

The Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society (MNTWS) has recognized a DNR conservation officer for his dedicated work in game, fish and wetlands protection.

Conservation Officer Don Bozovsky, stationed in Hibbing since joining the DNR in 2004, received the chapter's Law Enforcement Award for 2014 during the annual meeting Feb. 18 in Duluth.

Bozovsky's approach to resource protection often involves long term investigations, some spanning several years of evidence gathering and concluding with prosecution of the offenders.

"Officer Bozovsky will often start an investigation that oth-

ers may view as a case that most likely will conclude without success," said Lt. Greg Payton, DNR Enforcement Division district supervisor in Eveleth. "He will take on these investigations and stick with them until he has exhausted all leads or, more often than not, catch the perpetrator and conclude with a successful prosecution."

In 2011, the Turn In Poachers hotline received a call of a timber wolf illegally shot close to a deer stand next to a railroad track. Bozovsky, along with a neighboring officer, was able to put together a successful case against the person who killed the wolf. It started with the observance of boot print patterns and extensive, multiple inter-

views of a hunting group in a nearby home.

"Without Officer Bozovsky's persistence and willingness to interview several people, multiple times, and his ability to tie limited field evidence to the offender, this case could have easily resulted in a dead-end effort," said Payton. In 2012, the offender pleaded guilty.

"In my experience of 21 years as a field officer and 10 years as a first line supervisor, Officer Bozovsky has impressed me as being one of the DNR's most tenacious and meticulous conservation officers in the protection of Minnesota's natural resources," said Payton.



Submitted photo

Hormel Austin Plant provide 'Helping Hands'

As part of this year's "Paint the Town Pink" initiative, Hormel Foods Austin Plant manager Tim Fritz presents on Wednesday an \$11,900 donation to Dr. Edward Hinchcliffe, a section leader at The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota. Fritz and other employees on the Hormel Plant's "Helping Hands" committee raised donations in various ways to support the Institute's breast cancer research. Overall, Hormel Foods employees at the plant, corporate offices and other Austin sites have donated more than \$15,500 toward this year's PTPP initiative.



Submitted photo

'Fishing for a Cure'

Dr. Joshua Liao, a section leader at The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, accepts a \$10,855 donation Thursday for "Paint the Town Pink" from Duane Smith and Jim Nelson, creators of the long-running "Fishing for a Cure" ice fishing contest, along with Becky Helfritz, state delegate for the Austin Jaycees, which assisted with the event. This year, the 13th annual "Fishing for a Cure" drew nearly 200 participants who ice fished Feb. 7 on Austin's East Side Lake, catching about 50 fish.



TAX PREP GUIDE 2015

Tax tips offered by the Better Business Bureau

Ask around -- Get referrals from friends or family and re- search tax preparation services at www.thefirstbbb.org.

Consider accessibility -- Some services wind down operations shortly after the April 15 deadline. If the IRS finds errors or you become subject to an audit, you need to be sure you can contact your tax preparer throughout the year.

Be wary -- Don't risk engaging tax preparation services that promise refunds much larger than the competition and avoid those who base their fee on a percentage of what you'll get back.

Look for credentials -- Ideally, you'd prefer your tax preparer to be a certified public accountant, a tax attorney, an enrolled agent or a certified e-file provider.

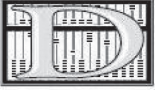
Note the Preparer Tax Identification Number -- A PTIN must be obtained by all tax return preparers who are compensated for preparing or assisting in the preparation of any US federal tax return, refund claim or form submitted to the IRS.

Check up -- You can investigate whether a preparer has any questionable history with the Minnesota Board of Accountancy

or the Minnesota State Bar Association.

Remember -- A paid preparer is required by law to sign your return and fill in the preparer areas of the form. They should include their identifying number and give you a copy of your return.

Don't forget Free File -- If your adjusted gross income is \$60,000 or less, Free File offers Federal tax preparation and e- filing. Visit www.irs.gov/freefile for more.



Thomas L. Deetz CPA, P.C.
Certified Public Accountant

685 West Bridge Street
Suite 6
Owatonna
507-451-9136





Tax Time is Here!

For a name you can trust, call Allyson at



ARO ACCOUNTING

Two locations to serve you

Allyson Olson
Cell: 507-391-3738
allyson@aroaccounting.com

217 East Elm Ave • Waseca
32718 State Hwy 13 • Hartland

507-391-3738
507-845-2763



Full Range Of Accounting And Tax Planning

- ESTATE PLANNING • BUSINESS CONSULTATION
- ALL PAYROLL SERVICES • INDIVIDUAL & BUSINESS TAX PREPARATION

507-451-1873

802 N. ELM AVENUE
OWATONNA



The little tax office in the country
(One mile west of Blooming Prairie)

Personalized Service - Farm, Business, Personal
Hours to Fit Your Schedule - 25+ Years Experience
Lowest Rates in the Area

Call Diana or Paul for Appointments
507-583-2311 • 507-456-6611



Tax Preparation & Accounting Services

607 East Main St. • P.O. Box 756 • Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Ellen Stebbins
Accountant - EA, RAP, ABA

Phone: 507-583-6601
507-583-6602
Fax: 507-583-2067



FAST
INCOME TAX, INC.

Personal, Professional Tax & Accounting Service
YEAR 'ROUND

- COMPUTERIZED TAX FOR FEDERAL & ALL STATES
- INDIVIDUAL, FARMS, BUSINESS, PARTNERSHIP, PAYROLLS & PAYROLL TAX
- CORPORATE & FIDUCIARY ACCOUNTING SERVICE

We offer electronic tax filing (federal & state)
204 SW 12th Street, Austin
Locally Owned & Operated - Erik C. Newhouse, CPA - Quickbooks Pro Advisor

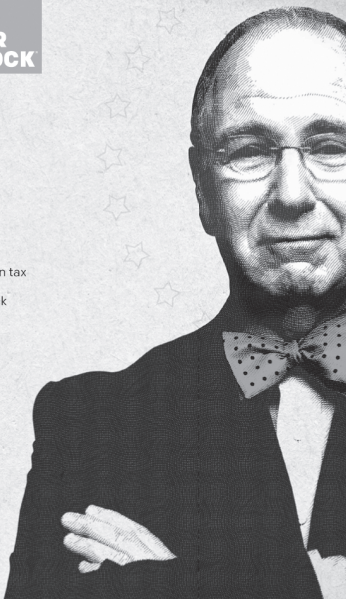
507-437-8511



IT'S REFUND SEASON.

Every year the U.S. government issues billions of dollars in tax refunds. So many billions we're now calling tax season... refund season. And nobody gets more of your money back than H&R Block. Guaranteed.

Put our expertise to work on your refund.



701 W Oakland, Austin

507-433-4151

Not everyone receives a refund. Based on Maximum Refund Guarantee, see HRBLOCK.COM for details. OBTP#B13696 ©2014 HRB Tax Group, Inc.

2 DAY SALE

Hy-Vee
Employee Owned Food Stores

507-451-0138
1620 S. CEDAR, OWATONNA

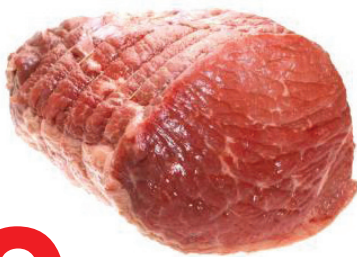
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY MARCH 7 AND 8, 2015

OPEN 24 HOURS



\$3.99 lb.

Fresh From Our Butcher Counter
Ground Round 90% Lean, 10% Fat



\$3.69 lb.

Fresh Choice Reserve
Boneless Top
Round Roast



99¢

Skippy Peanut Butter
16.3 oz Creamy only
Limit 3



\$3.99

Yellow Tail Wines 750 ml
Select varieties
(while supplies last)



4/\$2.00

Chicken of the sea chunk light
tuna in water 5 oz

\$2.99

Purex Laundry Detergent
100 oz. Select Varieties
(while supplies last)



99¢

Hy-Vee Oatmeal
10.9 to 15.1 oz
Select varieties



3/\$5.00

Post Cereal. Select Varieties
11-20 oz (while supplies last)

SUPER COUPON

EARN 10¢ FUEL SAVER



If you spend \$10.00 on
frozen foods. Limit 1. Valid
Sat 3/7 and Sun 3/8 only.

LU#80020

SUPER COUPON

RECEIVE A \$5 HY-VEE GIFT CARD



When you spend \$75 or more
on groceries to be used on
your next shopping visit.
Limit 1. Valid Sat 3/7 and Sun
3/8 only. LU#80021

99¢

Hy-Vee Baking
Chips 10-12 oz
Select varieties.



**MARCH FUEL
SAVER MILK
SUNDAYS**

Every Sunday in March earn
10 cents fuel saver
on all gallons of Hy-Vee
white milk. Valid for skim,
1%,2% and whole milk



HY-VEE MILK GALLONS
Skim, 1%, 2% or Whole

STEELE TALKIN’



Tracy Ignaszewski

Silent auction to raise for 4-H

We’re ‘Steele Talkin’ 4-H! Let me tell you about an event that is right around the corner, the 11th Annual Steele County 4-H Pasta Dinner fundraiser.

This will be held 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday, March 8 from at the Owatonna Junior High School.

Yes, that’s right - the 11th Annual! This fundraiser is not for just a single club or particular group of youth. It will benefit the entire Steele County 4-H program! That means every one of the more than 1,200 4-Hers in the program and all 125 adult volunteers will feel the impact of this event.

How exciting! The funds we raise on March 8 will help finance the Steele County 4-H Summer program.

Not only will we serve you a delicious pasta and meatballs dinner, which will include fruit salad, bread and dessert, but a Silent Auction and short Live Auction, will be held as well.

Thanks to the generosity of many 4-H families, local citizens and businesses, we have a huge variety of items and gift baskets.

We look forward to recognizing these 4-H supporters at the auction itself. Among their donations are numerous movie baskets, toys, party baskets, and popular items for teen girls and boys. Gardening baskets, items for sports fans, kitchen and pampering baskets will all be offered.

Let’s not forget the holidays ... you’ll find those special days represented in baskets as well. So if you’re a mom, dad, grandma or grandpa – a pre-teen, teen, baby or toddler, we have a basket for you! New donations are being received daily, so you won’t want to miss the fun in store for you!

We will also have a “Live Service Auction”! Yes, that is what 4-H is all about, SERVICE, and we now have it available for you. If you are looking for someone to decorate your yard this fall, clean up this spring, provide and plant hostas, or put up your Christmas lights, you will want to attend this auction. The Live Auction featuring 10 special services, starts at 6 p.m.

So if you would like a delicious dinner, a fun evening out with your friends and neighbors, and a great way to support this special youth organization that we call 4-H, come to the 4-H Pasta Dinner and Silent Auction.

Tickets are available at the Extension Office, 635 Florence, Ave., Owatonna or at the door. Call 444-7685 for details!

Steele Talkin’ is a column featuring various organizations around Steele County. Tracy Ignaszewski is the Steele County 4-H Program Coordinator.



Staff photo by Shannon Kinley

OHS brings back the musical *Guys and Dolls* for its Winter Musical. Senior Thomas Donlon (left) plays Benny Southstreet, junior Matt Reinhard plays Nathan Detroit and junior Luke Berkley plays Nicely-Nicely Johnson. The show was last performed at OHS in 2004. This performance featured 55 cast members, 10 crewmembers and around 20 members in the pit orchestra.

‘Guys and Dolls’ take stage at OHS

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Over the weekend Owatonna High School students took their audience back to the 1950s in New York City with three performances of the musical, ‘Guys and Dolls.’

This is not the first time OHS has taken on the production.

“We decided to come back to it because it is a great show. It has been a little over 10 years since we have done it so we figured enough time had gone by and it seemed to fit with the talent pool that we had available to us,” said Theater Director Erik Eitrhein. “We wanted to pick a show that would feature the people we do have the best.”

For this show there were 55 cast members, 10 crewmembers and around 20 members in the pit orchestra.

Rehearsals started after winter break every day after school from around 2:45

p.m. to 5 p.m. In the few weeks right before the show those evenings got longer, a couple of them even lasting until 10 p.m.

Eitrhein likes this show because of the music.

“The music is awesome it is such a wonderful score and there are so many fun songs,” he said. “It is one of those shows as they say within the musical business that you will leave humming a tune and tapping your foot.”

Eitrhein has enjoyed watching the students develop into their characters.

“It is really fun to watch the students take the character and start making it their own. They have been working very hard to bring these characters to life and it is really fun to watch them start coming alive,” he said.

The main challenge for this production has been the tricky transitions.

“Scenically it goes from place to place in a lot of different locations so you need to set up a different set for each of the

locations,” he said.

Senior Alyssa Crum has been in four OHS musicals and plays Sarah Brown.

“She is a very religious woman who is in charge of the mission and her whole thing that makes her special is that she is at war with her head and her heart,” Crum said. “She has met this gambler who has made her fall in love and she doesn’t want to allow that to happen because this is not what she saw for herself.”

Crum says she likes playing her character because it gives her a chance to be stern, a quality she does not have herself.

“The people who are in musical productions are the best people you will ever meet,” she said. “It’s tradition. Once you audition for one and you are in it you are hooked.”

Crum added, “I like being a senior in this production and feeling like this is the finale for me. I want to make it the best freshmen year for those kids who just came up and make it a really good senior

year for me.”

The main challenge for her for this production has been switching in and out of her character. Crum had a scene where she switched from her stern character into a drunk, loopy girl who is all over a gambler.

“It is really difficult not to allow myself to fall in love with Sky in the beginning. I have to remind myself that I still don’t like him yet in this scene,” she said.

Junior Andrew Peterson plays Sarah Brown’s love interest Sky Masterson.

“He is a very successful gambler and he has always had things come to him very easily... money, girls, whatever and I make a bet with Nathan Detroit that I could not take a certain doll to Havana,” he said. “I sort of finding myself experiencing something new.”

‘GUYS AND DOLLS’
Continued on Page 2C

AmesburyTruth celebrates 100

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

What originally started out as a small blacksmith shop in Ellendale in 1914 has since transformed into one of the leading manufacturers of door and window components in North America.

AmesburyTruth, formally known as Truth Hardware, has gone through numerous changes over the past century including changes in ownership, name changes and changes in the products it manufactures but one thing remains the same; the company has a tradition of innovation and has paid attention to its customers needs.

Jim Seaser, director of commercial products, has seen many of those changes in his 31-year career at the company.

When Seaser was first hired the company was locally owned by R.W. “Buzz” Kaplan.

“He really understood what it was like to be a leader of the organization, and he knew a lot of people by name. I had a lot of respect for him,” Seaser said. “It has been a real privilege to work here. I’ve had the opportunity to have a number of different positions and to learn and grow from them personally and professionally and I really appreciate that.”

Seaser thinks the reason the company has survived for so long is the company’s willingness to adapt to the customers and markets needs.

“I think we have been willing to identify opportunities and have executed them well. We have always kept in mind our need and our desire to service our cus-

tomers and make sure that they are being taken care of,” Seaser said. “It really shows how through the years we’ve been able to innovate and grow. It is a reflection of the quality of people that we have in the organization.”

AmesburyTruth is based in Edina and has facilities in Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, New York, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Canada, Mexico and China. The company produces window and door extrusions, hardware and sealing systems for both residential and commercial markets.

“The biggest challenge has been to understand the changes happening in our customer base and in the market while trying to stay ahead of that curve,” Seaser said. “Making sure that we have a strong pulse on what is going on with our mar-

kets and our customers is always challenging, but that is what separates growing companies from those that don’t.”

Kevin Anez, marketing director, started with the company last October and thinks 100 years is a huge milestone for any company.

“When you look at the average lifespan of a company most companies don’t make it to 100 years. It’s a huge accomplishment and it shows we are doing the right things,” Anez said. “Our company started during the First World War, saw the great depression, a second world war, and the great recession. It’s obvious that people have pulled together, showed resilience and did what was right for the business.”

CELEBRATES 100
Continued on Page 2C

**DOES THE IRS
OWE YOU
MONEY?**

Use the IRS e-file and get your tax refund in **half the time** it usually takes. Even faster with Direct Deposit!

IRS e-file is **simple** and **secure**

There’s quick proof your return is accepted, and it’s so accurate, there’s less chance you’ll get a letter from the IRS. To find out more, see your tax professional or look in your tax booklet.

www.irs.ustreas.gov



Johnson & Doerhoefer P.A.

*“Committed to our clients,
providing consistent, efficient and prompt service.”*

Certified Public Accountants 314 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
1-888-933-6828 • 507-583-7528 • Fax: 507-583-2389

Blooming Prairie Living

YouTube



2:52 / 4:02

Blooming Prairie Elementary 'I Love to Read Month'

Elementary staff dances and sings to spur reading

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Publisher

Elementary school students had a chuckle, but also enjoyed the fact that the Blooming Prairie Elementary School staff took time to produce a video to help spur reading during the recently completed ‘I love to read month.’

“The kids see us in a little different light and having a bit of fun,” said Elementary School Principal Chris Staloch. “It gives them a chance to get excited about reading.”

Title 1 teacher Angie Carlson

spearheaded the production of the video that included staff dancing, singing and acting to a Taylor Swift song. “The kids loved it and they have been singing in the halls,” Carlson said. “They keep wanting to watch it again. It is good publicity for school and to see the teachers involved. We wanted to start the whole month off on a high note.”

Staloch said the elementary school gets caught up in the world of scores and we forget that the elementary school is a really fun place to be. “The kids loved the video,” he said. “Some of them have seen it many times. Many think it is really

cool. Many have laughed at our singing and dancing.”

He adds that the video is just another connection to the teachers. “It gives them that personal, human connection that we need to make with our students and students need to make with our staff,” Staloch said. “The ultimate goal is to get them excited about reading and doing more with reading. As for knowing for sure if it was effective, I couldn’t tell you that. I can tell you they loved the video.”

Minimizer named Chamber of Commerce Blue Ribbon Business Winner

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce announced Minimizer as a winner in its annual Blue Ribbon Small Business Awards®, a program that recognizes companies for their success and innovation and for their contributions to economic growth and free enterprise.

Minimizer was selected from a record number of applicants from communities across the nation for demonstrating exceptional business practices in areas including strategic planning, employee development, community involvement, and customer service.

“While our economy still struggles to reach its full potential, small businesses like our Blue Ribbon Award winners have continued to act as examples of the resilience, ingenuity, and opportunity at work in the free enterprise system,” U.S. Chamber President and CEO Thomas J. Donohue said. “Times can be tough, but these businesses have proven that they can be too. By taking

risks, watching out for their employees, and giving back to their communities, they’ve shown that success is achievable.”

The Chamber will announce seven regional finalists from among this year’s Blue Ribbon Small Business Award® winners on March 18. This year’s winners will be honored at the 11th annual America’s Small Business Summit taking place June 8 – 10 in Washington, D.C. During the summit, one regional finalist will receive the DREAM BIG Small Business of the Year Award, sponsored by Sam’s Club®, and a \$10,000 cash prize courtesy of the U.S. Chamber.

“It’s an honor to be named a Blue Ribbon Small Business Award® winner,” said Craig Kruckeberg, Minimizer CEO and Chief Visionary. “My father, Dick Kruckeberg, founded the company in 1984 when he manufactured the first composite truck fender. More than 30 years later his idea and Minimizer’s strategic pursuit for growth and innovation has positioned us as

a market leader in the heavy-duty aftermarket truck and trailer parts and accessories industry. We appreciate the honor and will stay committed to serving our industry and the community.”

All Blue Ribbon Small Business Award® winners are also eligible for the Community Excellence Award, which recognizes one business that has found notable success in the eyes of its community. The winner will be decided through online public voting between February 19 and March 4 at www.uschamber.com/2015-blue-ribbon-award-winners.

“Starting and growing a business can be a risky endeavor, but these small businesses have proven that with risk, comes reward,” Donohue continued. “Through hard work and innovation, they’re impacting their communities, contributing to economic growth, and creating jobs. And the Chamber is proud to recognize them for their achievements.”

A complete list of this year’s Blue Ribbon Small Business Award® winners is available at www.uschamber.com/2015-blue-ribbon-award-winners.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world’s largest business federation representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Community recognition is often symbolized by wooden plaques. Worlein Funeral Home recognized dedication and sacrifice to community by the Blooming Prairie Volunteer Fire Department by presenting a special display to the fire department. Making the presentation were funeral directors Paul Worlein, left and Jim Stough, right. Accepting the display at a fire department annual meeting Feb. 23 was Chief Dean Naatz, center.

Recognition given to BP volunteer fire department

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Plaques of appreciation are commonplace for organizations and individuals but all was not common in what was presented by Worlein Funeral Home to the Blooming Prairie Volunteer Fire Department on Feb. 23.

The stage for the presentation was the Blooming Prairie City Hall and the occasion was the annual meeting of the Blooming Prairie Volunteer Fire Department. Officers of nine townships the fire department serves were invited to the annual meeting and treated to an oyster stew and chili supper.

Worlein funeral directors Paul Worlein and Jim Stough presented more than a plaque, a wooden

ladder and a firefighter’s coat, helmet and boots. A hanging plaque reads: “Presented to Blooming Prairie Volunteer Fire Department in recognition and appreciation for your dedicated service to your community.”

The display is designed to be used for fundraising events and can also be used at funerals for fire department members and retired firefighters. Blooming Prairie Fire Chief Dean Naatz accepted the display on behalf of the department.

Worlein and Stough informed those in attendance at the annual meeting that the idea of this display was first presented in Janesville by Worlein associate Dan McRaith. Worlein Funeral Home is located in Austin and Blooming Prairie.

Naatz informed those at the meeting about the department’s activity during 2014. The department responded to 51 calls,

which Naatz said is slightly above the recent averages. Total estimated loss in structure fires was \$1,175,094, Naatz said in his report.

The fire department serves parts of four counties: Steele, Mower, Freeborn and Dodge. Nine townships are part of this district: Westfield and Ripley in Dodge; Udolpho in Mower; Moscow and Newry in Freeborn and Blooming Prairie, Summit, Somerset and Aurora in Steele.

Coverage area includes 187 sections.

Part of new business included setting rates for 2016, \$300 a section. This represents an increase of \$25 from 2015. Bills were then presented to the township officers.

Town officers had the opportunity to view fire equipment prior to the annual meeting.

Weekly crossword

on Page 7D

P	P	M		A	T	E		A	P	S	E				
A	R	A		S	C	A	R	F	A	B	O	H	M		
L	A	N		L	E	B	R	O	N	J	A	M	E	S	
M	A	I	M	E	D		N	A	A	C	P				
E	M	C	E	E		A	R	T	E	R	I	O	L	E	
			U	M	P		B	E				M	A	P	
S	A	R	S	I		A	S	H	E	S		M	I		
E	R	E			L	A	C	T	A	S	E	M	A	C	
A	R				Y	U	K	O	N		R	E	A	R	S
T	A	U					R	D		E	B	N			
S	U	R	P	A	S	S	E	S		N	A	T	E	S	
			A	E	S	O	P			M	A	N	I	L	A
D	E	N	N	I	S	Q	U	A	I	D		S	A	D	
E	R	U	C	A		R	H	Y	M	E		E	T	A	
C	A	S	E			F	E	E				S	E	T	

Vandal's

FAMILY MARKET



Prices Good
March 2 - 8

RC PRODUCTS



12 PACKS
\$3.99

.5 LTR 6 PACKS
\$1.99

SNAPPLE 6 PACKS



\$4.49

FIJI 6 PACKS



\$4.49

DEJA BLUE WATER 24PK



\$4.49

Check out OUR DOLLAR Selection!

237 Hwy Ave. S. Locally Owned & Operated 507-583-6671

Deans

SMOKE SHACK



Stop in and get all your Meal Fixings with us. SEE YOU SOON!!

JETERNICE is back by popular demand only \$4.39lb. Also we have our Grand Champion Wild Rice Sausage and Country Sausage.

104 E. Main St. • Geneva, MN • 507-256-0025
www.deanssmokeshack.com

DOES THE IRS OWE YOU MONEY?



Use the IRS e-file and get your tax refund in **half the time** it usually takes. Even faster with Direct Deposit!

IRS e-file is **simple** and **secure**
There's quick proof your return is accepted, and it's so accurate, there's less chance you'll get a letter from the IRS.

To find out more, see your tax professional or look in your tax booklet.



www.irs.ustreas.gov
Certified Public Accountants
314 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
1-888-933-6828 • 507-583-7528
Fax: 507-583-2389

GIVE YOUR FINANCIAL PLAN THE ATTENTION IT DESERVES.

Contact us for a complimentary consultation or second opinion – with no obligation.

Specializing in:

Mutual Funds • Unit Investment Trusts
Fixed & Variable Annuities • Stocks
Bonds • Life Insurance • Long-Term
Care Insurance • IRAs



Jay Braaten, ChFC
Financial Advisor



507-434-3334
400 Fourth Ave. NE • Austin, MN 55912

Registered Representative of INVEST Financial Corporation, member FINRA/SIPC. INVEST and its affiliated insurance agencies offer securities, advisory services and certain insurance products and are not affiliated with Accentra Investment Services. Products offered are: • **Not NCUA insured • Not Credit Union Guaranteed • May lose value.**

OwatonnaLiving

Creating healthier communities

STEELE TALKIN’



Jane Nyquist

Steele County Public Health (SCPH), as part of the Four Corner’s Partnership, which includes Dodge, Rice, Goodhue and Steele counties, is working to reduce the harm tobacco causes our citizens. We want to increase the availability of smoke-free multi-unit housing and tobacco cessation services in our counties.

Exposure to secondhand smoke causes heart disease and lung cancer in adult non-smokers. In children, secondhand smoke exposure causes more severe and frequent asthma attacks, acute respiratory infections, ear infections and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Secondhand smoke exposure is responsible for an estimated 50,000 deaths each year in the United States. The Surgeon General has concluded there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, and that only 100 percent smoke-free policies can protect non-smokers from the dangers of secondhand smoke. Opening a window does not work, nor does any other

ventilation system.

Under state law, smoking is prohibited in the indoor common areas (rental offices, entrances, hallways, laundry rooms, party rooms, exercise rooms, etc.) of rental apartment buildings. The law applies to buildings with three or more rented living units. State law permits smoking inside individual apartments. There is no requirement that smokers keep their doors or windows closed.

Most residents in Steele County live in single family homes and take it for granted that they can make their own policy about smoking inside their home. But, what if you are a renter in a multi-unit building? What if a new neighbor moves in who smokes and suddenly there is tobacco smoke finding its way into your home?

It can be much harder for people who live in multi-unit rental housing, such as apartment buildings or townhomes, to have an effective smoke-free rule for their homes. Secondhand smoke knows no boundaries. Folks who live in multi-unit buildings that permit smoking often find it impossible to keep secondhand smoke out of their homes. Smoke can easily infiltrate throughout an apartment building. Smoke travels through gaps around pipes and electrical conduits, as well as through spaces between walls, floors and ceilings. Studies show that it can be difficult and expensive to try to seal all of these gaps and that smoke can still find hidden pathways between rental units.

Renters in buildings with smokers are exposed to secondhand smoke while inside their own homes.

Renters looking for apartments are increasingly showing a preference for 100 percent smoke-free buildings. Landlords have the legal right to prohibit smoking in their buildings. This makes their buildings more attractive to potential renters, improve the health of residents, reduces the risk of fire, can save money on fire insurance and greatly reduces redecorating and turnover costs.

Owners, managers or landlords, if you are ready to create and implement a smoke-free policy for your buildings, please contact me at 507-444-7661 or go to our website: www.4cornerspartnership.org/smoke_free_housing.htm. If you are an individual who would like to quit smoking or using tobacco, contact QUITPLAN at www.quitplan.com or call 1-888-354-7526. This service is free to all who live or work in Minnesota.

Steele Talkin’ is a column featuring various organizations around Steele County. Jane Nyquist is a public health educator with Steele County. Her column appears periodically.



Staff photo by Shannon Kinley
Henry Meillier, 8, decorates a heart shaped box for his family for Valentine’s Day during the February Sibshop.

Sibshop: ‘Their own special place’

Group offers peer support for siblings

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

For children who have siblings with disabilities, life at home can offer many challenges such as what to do when their sibling is bullied, why their parents spend so much more time with their sibling, or why their

family can’t do certain things.

Sibshop, put on by Advocates for Developmental Disabilities (ADD), is a sibling support group that aims to provide a relaxed and safe environment for brothers and sisters to meet others who have siblings with disabilities and learn different ways to cope.

“It is for the kids to get to share their feelings and be able to come to a safe place and be with other kids who have the same type of family situations going on at home,” said Laurie Running, ADD director. “They have a lot of different concerns and issues that a typical brother or sister wouldn’t necessarily have.”

The program has been around for over 20 years and is designed for children in the first through sixth grade. The group meets once a month starting in October and ending in May.

Running described the sessions as “their special time.” The program is designed to be all about them, as many times the attention is put on the sibling who has the disability.

Each session has a particular topic that they focus on with various activities such as art projects, games, guest speakers and a discussion.

In order for the kids to learn about different disabilities every now and then, they each get assigned a disability and they must complete all of the day’s activities with that disability whether it be not being able to use an arm, their legs, their eyes or their ears.

Running knows just how valuable the program is because two of her children were in it years ago.

“I saw how valuable it was for them to be able to relate to other kids and talk to their peers about things that were going on at home that maybe were happening to them too,” she said. “They realize that they are not

the only one.”

This year the program only has six students, but Running hopes in the future the program will grow to be as big as it used to be. Running also hopes to expand with a teen Sibshop for grades 6-8 next year.

“The kids that are in first and second grade obviously have far different things to talk about than a sixth, seventh or eighth grader has to talk about. They just have different issues and concerns,” she said.

Most likely, the group will meet two to three times a year on a Saturday over breakfast; however, plans are still in the works.

Tracey Smith has two children currently in the program, twins Tatum and Trinity. This is their second year in the program.

“They have a double whammy. They are trapped because they are right in the middle. Both her older brother and younger brother have a disability (Autism Spectrum Disorder), so Sibshop is such a blessing for them,” Smith said.

Smith decided to sign the girls up because they were having a hard time relating to their peers and didn’t know what to do or say in certain situations.

“The girls were really getting to a point in their life that they were just really struggling. They had a lot of friends who all have brothers and sisters, but theirs were so different,” she said.

Smith says the girls love the program and it has done numerous things for them including giving them more patience, a better understanding of disabilities in general and a place to share their feelings with peers who have similar challenges.

“It is a wonderful place where they get to express themselves without being judged. They are very free and open to express their thoughts and feelings and that is huge for them because it is hard at that age,” she said. “It has made them kinder and more accepting of other people who are different from them.”

Smith says it has also given the girls the courage to speak their mind more and not be afraid to ask questions about disabilities.

“With our two older kids going through the program we knew how valuable they found it,” Anderson said. “Wendy and Laurie are fantastic. They put such a great focus on the kids that come and they make them feel important and comfortable.”

“It has given her the opportunity to meet friends that have a similar family unit,” she said. “She has learned that she doesn’t need to feel alone. She is not the only child out there who has this family situation and she appreciates that she doesn’t have a disability herself.”

Anderson says the program has also made her more accepting of kids who are different from her and opened her eyes that children with disabilities don’t choose to be that way.

GRIEF RELIEF



What is grief like? Grief is like a series of waves that come and go, feelings that vary in intensity over a long period of time as we are constantly reminded of changes that result from the death of our loved one. We need to take time to face our emotions and feelings. Then make careful plans for our new lives without the deceased. Our feelings and grief may seem unpredictable and confused at times, but that is perfectly normal.

Direction with dignity from Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna.



Cory Michaelson

Michaelson

FUNERAL HOME

Direction With Dignity

www.michaelsonfuneral.com

507-451-7943



Staff photo by Shannon Kinley
Jim Seaser (left), director of commercial products, and Kevin Anez, director of marketing, stand in front a timeline in the lobby of AmesburyTruth that represents the company’s 100 years of history.

Although Anez is still fairly new to the company, he thinks the reason the company has been so successful is because of the decisions they have made.

“A lot of very dedicated employees have worked for AmesburyTruth over the years and there is a rich history of very good decisions that have been made throughout the 100 years. The people before us were open and had the courage to enter into a new markets, and we are thankful for that.”

Anez added the thing that sets the company apart from others is its engineering capabilities.

“There is a great deal of innovation, design and engineering that goes into making great products which are aesthetically pleasing and can stand up to the test of time,” Anez said. “What

this company has done for the window and door industry is pretty amazing. Our components bring windows and doors to life. Our systems make them operable which enables the users of our products to access a building, vent a window for fresh air, or hear the sounds of the world around them.”

Anez is excited about the re-branding of the company and thinks they have a bright future ahead of them.

“I am really excited about the future because I think we have a great team on board. With our two companies coming together we can bring the market a broad portfolio of products and work with our customers to provide more innovative solutions going forward,” Anez said.

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

The American Legion is 96 years old this month!

We're having a party!

THURSDAY MARCH 5, 2015

5:30 Social Hour
6:30 Dinner
7:30 Program - Legion Blue Blazers followed by a Magic Act!
PUBLIC IS INVITED!

‘GUYS AND DOLLS’

Continued from Page 1C

Surprisingly, this is Peterson’s first time on the stage.

“I came back to class after a week of being sick and it was the last day of auditions. On my way out of class the choir director pulled me aside and asked me why I wasn’t doing the musical. He gave me the audition music and I ran through it that day and it just kind of happened,” Peterson said.

Peterson says so far he has enjoyed being able to put his skills to use to perform in front of an audience and working with the other cast members.

“I have to say my favorite people in the whole school are the people in the music and arts departments, they are just awesome people. They have helped me along and to learn the ropes,” he said.

Peterson’s favorite part about this show is the music because he is a big fan of big band jazz. The biggest challenge for him so far has been getting himself to shift over into character and imagine himself as someone else.

Junior Matt Reinhard plays Nathan Detroit and has been in

six OHS productions.

“He is trying to run a floating crap game in New York but he is having trouble finding a place. Besides that, he is having some problems with his girlfriend of 14 years who wants to get married,” Reinhard said. “He is loveable and you sort of feel bad for him.”

When asked why he decided to go out for the production he said, “I guess it is just sort of instinct. This is one of the few things I actually enjoy about high school is doing the plays and acting.”

Reinhard enjoys acting because it gives him the chance to play someone else.

“I have a lot of fun with my character the whole show,” he said.

The biggest challenge for Reinhard so far has been becoming comfortable singing in front of an audience.

“I’ve never been in choir before so this is my first opportunity to sing in front of people. It was scary at first but now I have gotten used to it and I am much more comfortable with it” he said.



owatonna

PARKS and RECREATION

540 West Hills Circle, Owatonna • Office Phone: 507-444-4321 • www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation

Greetings from Owatonna Parks and Recreation!

Park and Rec



Corky Ebeling

ALL residents of Steele County pay the same fee for Owatonna Parks & Recreation activities.

Since we have limited space here, this is the "Readers Digest" version of our offerings. Please be sure to check our brochure and our website for complete information and program listing.

We hope you join us for some of our spring activities!

James "Corky" Ebeling
Director of Parks and Recreation

We are very excited to be a part of the Steele County Times, and connect with all Steele County residents. First off, we want you to know, the Steele County Commissioners and the Owatonna City Council, have come to an agreement that

toys, games, books, sporting goods, video games, and anything else you can think of to sell (no food). Please make sure any electronics are working properly.

We will provide you with an eight foot table to sell what you wish. Everyone is invited to shop, but only children ages 6-15 can rent space. You must have an adult with you the day of the sale. One adult and one child per table.

Mark your own prices on your items and keep the profits! Please keep items at \$10 or less. You must provide your own start up cash and change.

Tadpole Parade will be at 3:15 p.m. along with other local entertainment.

Make sure to stop by and see Sparky the Dog for a photo!

Location: Four Season Center (S. Elm St.) Owatonna.



2nd Annual Bark & Rec

Saturday, April 25: 9 a.m.-1p.m.

Treats, groomers, vets, and other doggie stuff...all under one WOOF! Our first event was amazing, and this year it's bigger and better! A partnership with the Steele County Humane Society, join us for this Bark & Rec event. Bring your pooch with you to check out area vendors!

All dogs in attendance must have rabies tags or

proof of vaccinations and be on a leash. We will have demonstrations, including The K-9 Frisbee Experience!

Don't have a dog? There will be dogs ready for adoption!

Vendors with pet products and pet-related businesses are invited to purchase a booth for \$25. Reservations will be taken by phone or in person at the Parks & Recreation Office.

New this year - The Run FUR Fun 5K! Registration is open to adults, children and dogs! Register online or in person.



Soccer

For: Boys and Girls ages 5 through 6th grade

Program Dates: Starts April 11 ends the week of June 1.

Early Summer Ball Programs

T-Ball & Squirts (Current K and 1st graders)

Locations: Brown, Jaycee, or Manthey Park Fields.

Program Dates: Starts the week of June 8, ends 1st week in August.

Level 1: Fastpitch Softball (Current 2nd and 3rd graders).

Program Dates: Meets Tuesday and Thursday beginning the week of June 1.

Level 1: Little League Baseball (Current 2nd and 3rd graders)

Kickoff/Meet your coach: May 26 at Four Seasons at 5:30 p.m.

Program Dates: Meets Tuesday and Thursdays, starts in early June

Level 2: (Current 4th graders)

Kickoff/Meet your coach: May 26 at Four Seasons at 5:30 p.m.

Program Dates: Mondays and Wednesdays starting late May

Level 3: In House Baseball (Current 5th graders)

Kickoff/Meet your coach: May 26 at Four Seasons at 5:30 p.m.

Program Dates: Mondays and Wednesdays starting late May.

Office Hours
Monday – Friday
7a.m. - 5p.m.

Aquatics

Looking for a summer job to be outside? Consider taking the first step and getting lifeguard certified! Two classes are offered, fee for either class is \$175.

Lifeguard Training: March 25-29

Pre-Requisites Pre Test: March 19 at 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Class meeting times: March 25 at 3-8:30 p.m., March 26 at 3-6:30 p.m., March 27 at 3-8:30 p.m., March 28 at 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m., March 29 at 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Lifeguard Training:

April 29-May 3

Pre-Requisites Pre Test: April 21 at 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Class meeting times: April 29 at 3-8:30 p.m., April 30 at 3-6:30 p.m., May 1 at 3 p.m.-8:30 p.m., May 2 at 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m., May 3 at 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Group Swim Lessons

Cost: \$39 for group lessons.

Levels range from Parent & Child through Level 6. Classes are offered Tuesday nights at the Junior High beginning April 7; Thursday nights at West Hills beginning March 19 and Saturday mornings at West Hills beginning March 21.



Therapeutic Recreation Program

Our recreation program offers a variety of leisure options for youth and adults with disabilities. We provide an adaptive format as well as opportunities for inclusion.

Our policy within the Therapeutic Recreation program is to plan for the person first, the disability second, and to encourage the independent pursuit of personal leisure interests.

Our goal is to make recreation/leisure choices available to everyone, and our objective is to accommodate individuals with necessary adaptations so they may participate as fully as their non-disabled peers.

For more information, contact Wendy Reller at 774-7360.

Coming this spring....

TOPSoccer is a new adaptive soccer program in Owatonna starting in May. It is a non-competitive traveling league designed for players with special needs, age 8 and older. The emphasis of TOPSoccer is on player development and having fun as they learn to play the game. The player's age, ability, size and comfort level all determine team placement. The May-August season includes 4-6 practice, 4-6 Sunday games and 1 tournament in the metro area. If you're interested in TOPSoccer, contact Dave Furness, 456-6889. We're waiting for you!

Parks and Recreation Contact Information:

Office & Information Line: 507-444-4321 • Fax: 507-444-4299

Tennis & Fitness Center: 507-444-4290 • Brooktree Clubhouse: 507-444-2467

SeniorPlace: 507-444-4280 • River Springs Water Park: 507-774-7370

Email Address: parkrec@ci.owatonna.mn.us

Ways to Register:

On-Line: www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation/online-registration

Walk-In Registration: at the Park and Recreation office at 540 West Hills Circle. Registration deadline is March 10 for soccer, little league and softball.

Save \$10 on each program by registering before the deadline.



Owatonna Parks and Recreation

Sponsored by these local businesses



SOUTH CENTRAL
HUMAN RELATIONS CENTER

*Your Community Mental Health Center Serving...
For 50 Years" WITH "Providing Positive Direction
for Life's Problems since 1964*

507-451-2630 • WWW.SCHRC.COM • 610 FLORENCE AVE., OWATONNA, MN
Outside Owatonna: 800-722-0590; After-Hour Emergencies: 507-455-8100; Offices in Waseca and Kasson



SMILE!
LOWEST FEES
EXCEPTIONAL
RESULTS
BEST FEE GUARANTEE

**Did you know AGE 7
is the recommended age for
A CHILD'S FIRST
ORTHODONTIC EVALUATION?**

Schedule your child's FREE smile evaluation today!

KingBraces.com • Faribault 507.332.0022 • Owatonna 507.446.9000

Parks & Recreation

"Your Best Investment"
City of Owatonna



PARKS and RECREATION

540 West Hills Circle, Owatonna • Office Phone: 507-444-4321 • www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation



Adult Softball

The Owatonna Park and Recreation Department in cooperation with the Owatonna Slow Pitch Softball Association offers organized leagues in Men's, Women's and Co-Rec softball.

Games are played from early May through late August at the Fairgrounds softball complex.

- Registration materials are available at the Parks and Recreation Office and online.
- Team registration deadline is Wednesday, March 11 at 4:30 p.m.

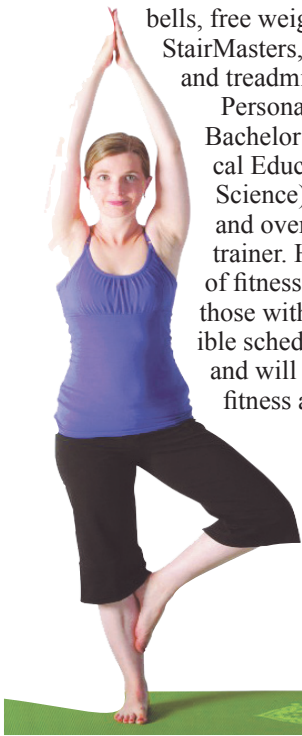
Adult Fitness Opportunities

Tai Chi, Zumba Gold, Pilates & Yoga are offered this spring. All classes are held at SeniorPlace, but open to all ages.

Is the water more your style? Lap Swimming (at the Junior High) and Water Aerobics (at West Hills) are also offered this spring.

Or if you just want a good old fashioned work out, West Hills Tennis and Fitness, located at 502 Dunnell Drive, has amenities that include 6 indoor tennis courts, pool, sauna, walking track, basketball court, locker rooms with showers, a weight and cardio room that includes a full line of Cybex machines, dumbbells, free weights, elliptical machines, StairMasters, stationary bikes, Arc Trainers, and treadmills.

Personal Trainer Aaron Halla has a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education, Non-Teaching (Exercise Science), an ACE Trainer Certification and over 5 years' experience as a fitness trainer. He has trained various levels of fitness from athletes, to beginners, to those with special needs. He has a flexible schedule, affordable training packages and will work with you to meet all your fitness and health needs.



Owatonna Parks and Recreation



Come enjoy the NEW Brooktree! We've made amazing improvements to the course and clubhouse this past year... check it out!

The Patio at Brooktree opened July 2014
25 new golf cars purchased in 2014-2015
Over 12,000 linear feet of asphalted cart paths completed September 2014
19 bunkers renovated with mounded surrounds July 2014
New 70' steel beam bridge on #10 installed January 2015
Pro Shop remodeled January 2015
Kitchen expanded and remodeled January 2015

Memberships may be purchased in-person any time at the Parks and Recreation Office, 540 West Hills Circle. Watch future news releases for clubhouse opening date.

2015 Season Passes

(Rates include \$5 BGA fee per person; do not include sales tax or \$10 per person surcharge*)

Adult Single - \$487 full season, \$83.67 monthly payment plan**

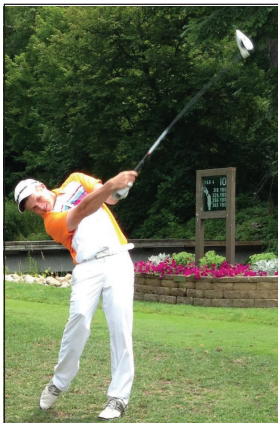
Senior Single - \$450 full season, \$77.50 monthly payment plan**

Senior Couple - \$612 full season, \$104.50 monthly payment plan**

Family Combo - \$651 full season, \$111 monthly payment plan**

Young Adult - \$327 full season, \$57 monthly payment plan**

Junior - \$177 full season, \$32 monthly payment plan**



Payment plans are based on 6 month autopay. Daily green fees and punch cards are also available!

Check the website, or call for more details.

Hours of Operation – Clubhouse, The Clubhouse Grill and The Patio at Brooktree (hours may be subject to change based on weather or leagues)

April	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
May	8 a.m. – 9 p.m.
June, July & August	6:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.
September	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
October	9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Ask about our Special Events & Rentals!

Golf outings & tournaments – 12 golfer minimum, 144 maximum – call for availability, packages and pricing.

Patio & Lounge rental – available for special events during the golf season. Call for availability and restrictions.

Owatonna, DID YOU KNOW

PARKS & RECREATION
Enriching Life. Inspiring Community.

Owatonna has over 700 acres of park land and over 15 miles of trails.

Sponsored by these local businesses

Safe. Sound. Secure.® Since 1916

Save money with Auto-Owners Insurance Multi-Policy Discounts!

Top Insurance Agency
285 SE 18th St.
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 451-3684

Auto-Owners Insurance

SWEET TOWING & REPAIR, INC.

Owatonna's Only Locally Owned Towing Company

Lockout • Starting • Towing • Recovery

We look forward to serving you!

215 Cedardale Dr. SE • Owatonna
507-451-3424

Selective Looks

109 North Cedar Ave
Owatonna

507-444-3099



Office Hours
Monday – Friday
7a.m. - 5p.m.

2nd Annual Parks & Recreation Bowling Tournament - Saturday, March 14, starting at 1 p.m. For adult & child teams. Registration is \$8 for bumper division, \$15 for non-bumper division (shoes included). Held at Sparetime Entertainment.

Looking for a good workout? Checkout the West Hills Tennis & Fitness Center! No annual contracts required. Six indoor tennis courts, pool, sauna, walking track, basketball court, locker rooms with showers, weight & cardio room, Cybex machines, free weights, ellipticals, StairMasters, stationary bikes, Arc Trainers, treadmills and personal training available. We truly have something for everyone!

Owatonna Parks & Recreation offers pavilion rentals at many of their beautiful parks. Half-day and full-day rentals are available. Pavilions are available at Brown, Morehouse, Dartts, Jaycee, Mineral springs, Manthey, Fairgrounds, Gainey, Kaplan's Woods Parks and the Soccer Complex. These are great venues for your graduations, family reunions, company picnics, baby showers, weddings or any group event!

Look for Owatonna Parks & Recreation news the first Tuesday of each month in the Steele County Times - Be sure to check it out to see important dates, deadlines and upcoming events and programs!

COMING SOON... information on Movies in the Park, Owatonna's Weekend Out, Little Tikes sports camps, River Springs Water Park and all sorts of summer fun!

Staff contact information:

Corky Ebeling
Director of Parks, Recreation & Government Buildings
corky.ebeling@ci.owatonna.mn.us

Rick Smith
Park Director
rick.smith@ci.owatonna.mn.us

Tim Truelson
Assistant Recreation Director, Programs
tim.truelson@ci.owatonna.mn.us

Eric Anderson
Assistant Recreation Director, Facilities
eric.anderson@ci.owatonna.mn.us

Wendy Reller
Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator
wendy.reller@ci.owatonna.mn.us

Nikki Callahan
Administrative Assistant
Nikki.callahan@ci.owatonna.mn.us

Mary Jo Knudson
Recreation Superintendent
maryjo.knudson@ci.owatonna.mn.us

Brad Dushaw
Recreation Supervisor
brad.dushaw@ci.owatonna.mn.us

Courtney Rosenau
Office Assistant
Courtney.rosenau@ci.owatonna.mn.us

Jessica Abrahams
Office Assistant
Jessica.abrahams@ci.owatonna.mn.us

Owatonna Parks & Recreation Mission Statement

The City of Owatonna Park and Recreation Department shall provide a viable, broad-based source of recreational services and facilities serving all residents of the community. The department shall develop and maintain programs to meet the needs of all persons. The department further shall keep itself aware of the needs of the users through ongoing evaluation and assessment.

ANGELICA
expressions of the mind, heart and soul

Easily adjustable bracelets with charms that let a woman show how she feels, what she believes in, and who she is. A portion of each sale goes to support programs related to Autism.

Made in the USA

Kottke Jewelers
Famous For Diamonds For Over 96 Years
115 North Cedar, Owatonna • 451-6644
Tuesday - Friday: 9-5; Saturday: 9-Noon



Your Local Choice!

Personal Service You Just Can't Get From A Large Corporation

When you have had it with the Large Corporate Companies, We offer you a Friendly Small town way of doing business. Unlike our World Wide Competitors who rely on a contract to ensure your patronage, we earn it the old fashioned way!

507-451-0976

Or Toll Free 1-888-451-0976 • P.O. Box 321 • Owatonna
www.stewartsanitation.com • email: info@stewartsanitation.com

2 Free Months of Regular Residential Service!
*Call for details



Ellendale-GenevaLiving

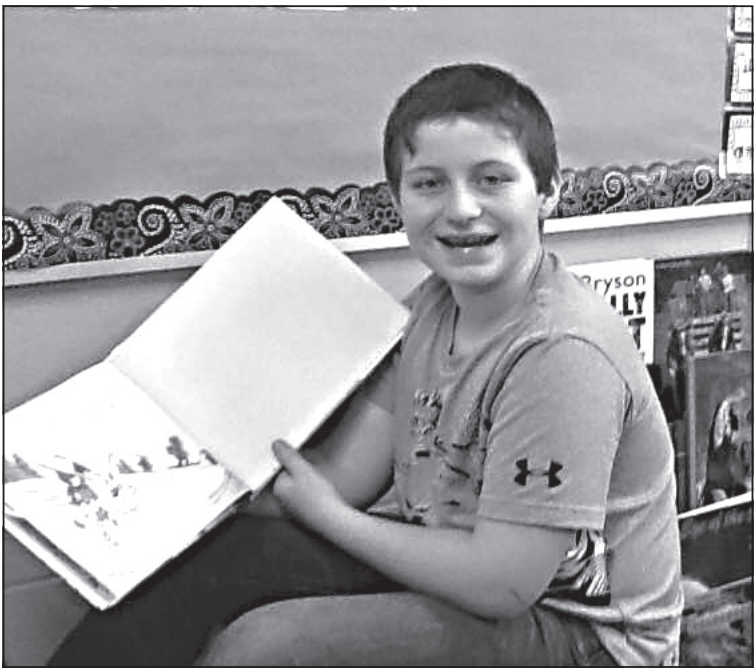


Submitted photo
5th Graders with our “Brain Food” book drive books. Approximately 150 books collected so far. The book drive ends Friday, March 6. Books will go to our local food shelves in NR & Ellendale.

Brain Food book drive being held to support local food shelves



Submitted photo
Big Buddy readers from Miss Talamantes’ 4th Grade and Mrs. Ihrke’s 2nd Grade.



Submitted photo
5th Graders with our “Brain Food” book drive books. Approximately 150 books collected so far. The book drive ends Friday, March 6. Books will go to our local food shelves in NR & Ellendale.–

NREHG celebrates book fair. Students take to collecting books and showcasing over 150 books collected.

Student of the Week

Brian Possin is the NRHEG Student of the week. He is in Ms. Wimer’s 3rd grade class. Brian is the son of Jillian and Layne Possin and they reside in Wells.

Some of Brian’s interests include farming, t-ball, and playing video games. Brian is a hard worker and is a very responsible student. The Panther Pride aspect that really stands out in Brian is his positivity and good attitude.

He is consistently making good choices and having kind things to say about others. His smile is infectious and he always seems to enjoy school and life in general. Brian is a true example of Panther Pride at NRHEG.



Student of the Week is sponsored by:

118 5th Ave, Ellendale, MN
507 • 684 • 2471

 **Lerberg's Fitness Center**
24 Hour Card Access

NRHEG referendum discussion at special meeting

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

A special New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School Board Meeting is slated for 5 p.m., March 9 to discuss a referendum for school district improvement projects and to approve a new Bridges kindergarten program.

The meeting will be held in the New Richland Media Center.

School District Superintendent Dr. Dennis Goodwin said there is an election targeted for June 9 at both the Ellendale and New Richland sites to have a referendum for improvements in the school district. These improvements include adding four classrooms, improving security in Ellendale and expanding the gym into an auditorium and building a new gym, updating the music and band room and revamping the middle school science classroom in New Richland.

“The public sees a need for much of this,” Goodwin said.

Bridges is a new concept for kindergarten students. The NRHEG School District has provided all-day kindergarten in Ellendale for several years. Recently, the Minnesota State Legislature approved a bill to fully fund the program.

Goodwin stated that he is asking the school board to expand the all-day kindergarten program to include Bridges. “Certain kids are not ready socially, emotionally and academically for all-day kindergarten,” he said.

If approved, Bridges will start in the fall. It will include its own curriculum and the school district would not have to add staff, Goodwin said. “A lot of kids come into kindergarten behind

in Reading, word knowledge, word skills and socially,” he said. “Reading is the foundation for all education. If you can’t read effectively you will always be behind.”

It is estimated that at least 15 youth would be involved in a normal class day schedule and would be doing activities with other kindergarten students. “There class curriculum would be unique,” Goodwin said.

From an academic perspective, Goodwin stated that the student would go from Bridges to kindergarten.

NRHEG looking to expand the music program

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale Geneva School District is looking at expanding its music program.

“Students involved in music tend to do better in Math,” said School Superintendent Dr. Dennis Goodwin. “It also gives us more student contact time because it will change the number of variations of our schedule at Ellendale.”

The NRHEG School Board is expected to make a decision at

its March 16 regular board meeting in New Richland.

Currently, the Ellendale and New Richland sites have part-time music programs. Under this scenario the music program will become full-time in both buildings. In addition, a full-time teacher would be hired to handle the program in Ellendale freeing up the current part-time music teacher for a full-time position at New Richland.



WE HAVE OPENINGS

- Rare two bedroom unit available now!
- Home Health Care available
- Compassionate staff
- Delicious and nutritious meals
- Individualized care from dedicated staff
- Daily social activities
- Come in today for a tour, we would love to show you around.

For more Information call 507-684-3026

**Whispering Oak**
Assisted Living Community
903 Calverly Court • Ellendale

Check out our website at www.thewhisperingoak.com

Ellendale Municipal Liquor

Now Open Sundays!
THURSDAYS TACOS
5 p.m. till Gone

**HAPPY HOUR**
Mon-Sat 3-6 pm
All day Sun

WEEKLY FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS
10 am - 10 pm M-W ♦ 10 am - 1 am Thur-Sat
11:30 am - 8 pm Sun ♦ Kitchen Open at 11 am Daily
507-684-9422
Ellendale, MN

**Registered Showroom**

24 hour service for all your plumbing & heating needs

We'll treat your home as if it were our own.

THE BOLD LOOK OF **KOHLER**
256•4712
Geneva, MN



HOME OF THE PANTHERS

‘A’ HONOR ROLL

Cloie Arndt
Elli Baker
Bridgette Blowers
Riley Chicos
Hanna Crabtree
Luisa Gaona Quezada
Tewodros Gushwa
Hannah Huisman
Anna Jacobson
Kendall Johnson
Alexi Ktizer
Emma Klemmensen
Madison Knudson
Katie Lee
Cassidy Martin
Zachary Neitzel
Daniel Nydegger
Thor Routh
Kordell Schlaak
Lorelei Strom
Grace Tufte
Haley VanNurden
Isabella White
Mackenzie Butler
Katie Cliff
Alexandra Combs
Addison Deyle
Jayna Domeier
Evan Fell
Mason Ferber

Agro Gushwa
Blake Irhke
Emmablu Jameson
Paige Knudson
Grace Kofstad
Maggie Maloney
Paige Peterson
Annie Prigge
Aracelis Sepulveda
Holly Stene
Mia Williams
Alexander Buckmeier
Olivia Christopherson
Lawren Deml
Caitlin Goette
Rachel Horejsi
Lexie Ignaszewski
Aubrey Johnson
Caitlyn Nelson
Sydney Schlinger
Hailey Stenzel
Karennna Strom
Hailey Westrum
Micah White
Brooke Wobschall
Laura Worrell
Brianna Anderson
Lillian Bell
Evan Dobberstein
Benjamin Lewer

Benjamin Lundberg
Renee McNett
Payton Misgen
Justin Mortensen
Kyra Possin
Emily Prigge
Makenzi Rhoades
Betsy Schoenrock
Solveig Stafford
Christopher Stenzle
Cole Thompson
Emma Tollefson
Tali Wayne
Chad Agrimson
Oakley Baker
Rachel Collins
Grace Johns
Maurya Johnson
Jennifer McKay
Lacey Nelson
Samuel Prigge
Cynthis Quezada
Nora Retallick
Kallie Spooner
Maci Surat
Cecelia Torp
Anna Bailey
Abby Christopherson
Nicole Edon
Lizzy Hagen

Cole Ignaszewski
Katharine Lewer
Anna Lundberg
Whittney McCamish
Marissa Mortenson
Jessica Nafe
Clayton Nelson
Corrie Powell
Torrie Stencel
Taylor Tieskotter
Brady Beenken
Lydia Culver
Karina Gaona
Ryann Hagen
Kaylee Hanson
Kelli Harrington
Jade Hill
Kyle Holz
Logan Knutson
Grant Kylo
Jake Langlie
Melissa Malakowsky
Keith Maxon
Sandra Quezada
Shanna Stencel
Anna Stork
Aurora Strom
Spencer Tollefson
Trevor Tracy

‘B’ HONOR ROLL

Abigail Anderson
Isaac Borchert
Andrew Hoelscher
Sarah Johns
Ashton Johnson
Dylan Loken
Josh Martin
Christopher O’Brien
Charles Pittman
Evan Reyna
Cary Solland
Nicklas Stalock
Courtney Techau
Jenika Tonkin
Mikayla Adams
Andrew Bailey
Madison Bartlett
Spencer Christensen
Jayde Cornelius
Damon Eustice
Mia Farr
Brooklynn Hullett
Summer Kath
Hunter Knutson
Dillon Kohnert
Madison Kormann
Skylar Lembke
Tiara Malakowsky
Cherysh Marcks
Destiny Medrano
Tanner Oquist
Andrew Reich
Alyson Romine
Andrey, Rosevold-Wisler
Ethan Streng
Lonnie Wilson
Diamond Wollard
Brady Agrimson
Alexis Anderson
Kylie Arndt
Jager Beck
Hannah Budach
Madisyn Bueltel
Devin Buendorf
Peyton Castle

Grace Cummins
Jayna Finseth
Khryssa Hodapp
Jack Hogstad
Tyler Jacobson
Mackayla Knutson
Dalton Kraay
Graham Kylo
Ross Lenort
Darian Mahlman
Dylan Mosher
Sophia Mrotz
Atom Oquist
Rebecca Pettersson
Nathan Retallick
Jacob Schuller
Tanner Smith Vulcan
Jake Stork
Jadyn Surat
Kallie Thompson
Spencer Tufte
Randall Anhyalt
Samiha Blowers
Brayden Broitzman
Cole Broitzman
Emily Crabtree
Katelyn Crabtree
Christian Ferris
Nicole Frechette
Natalia Galindo
Kelly Harden
Caleb Harpel
Lauren Herrmann
Kaleb Johnson
Michelle Katzung
Kylie Lembke
Jason Malakowsky
Desiree Medrano
Sadie Mortenson
Gabrielle Muri
Bryce Okland
Aaron Olson
Chancellor Olson
Carma Pederson
Nikita Peterson

Petty Peterson
Kollin Reese
Cole Staloch
Brendon Strand
Nathaniel Techau
Jerret Utpadel
Erin VanWilgen
Natalie Aaseth
Kayley Camerer
Mercedes Dickerson
Joshua Fleming
Luis Gaona
Jillian Jongbloedt
Grace Lewison
Madison Martin
Elizabeth Nelson
Tyler Raimann
Gretchen Ramaker
Anna Riecke
Jorden Rogne
Aubrey Schlinger
Jack Schultz
Madison Wagner
Marnie Wagner
Mitchell Westrum
Benhamin Witikko
Trevor Beckstrand
Bailey Burg
John Cole
Emily Eder
Zeke Erickson
Jorey Fischer
Sophia Fischer
Destiny Hill
William Johnson
Elijah Lutgens
Luke Overgaard
Cordell Peterson
Christian Schiltz
Tyle Schlaak
Nicholas Shultz
Sara Jo Stewart
Abby Wacholz
Nicole Wallin
Kayanna Wibben

Trai Wicks
Dylan Arnold
Annalise Barry
Nicholas Bartness
Amy Beckstrand
Jamie Beckstrand
Katelyn Christianson
Cody Darcy
Todd Erickson
Alyssa Esplan
Colton Hagen
Brittanie Helton
Matthew Jensen
Kevin Kalis
Bianca Kohnert
Kameron Koziolk
Dillon Kubiawicz
Cole Lenort
Anita Maloney
Alex Merritt
Samuel Morgan
Haylie Mosher
Hudson Mrotz
Keely Mulder
Brandon Nicholson
Andrew O’Brien
Kristen Pagni
Jade Peterson
Samantha Pettey
Mikayla Pope
Cristina Quezada Jimenez
Sarah Riecke
Macoy Schwierjohann
Andrew Shutrop
Cassidy Sletten
Dustin Sonnek
Zachary Stenzel
Kyle Svoboda
Dakota Thiele
Kelson Titus
Jet Wayne
Remi Wayne
Thomas Wear

This special section is sponsored by these area businesses:

(507) 684-3531
5th Avenue, Ellendale, MN 56026

Designing Your Dreams

Family Owned
Since 1946

971 Plaza St., Albert Lea, MN
(507) 377-4284

Love your smile!

Braces for All Ages!
Free Consultations and
2nd Opinions
Online Account Access
Text and Email
Appointment Reminders
Payment Plans Available
Traditional & Clear Braces
Invisalign Provider
No Referral Necessary

Let us help you Love Your Smile!
Videos and Info at OverbyOrtho.com

bringing well-being to life

HOPE - ELLENDALE
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
507-451-4724

MedfordLiving

Medford pursues another street project

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

After a summer and fall full of construction on Medford’s Central Avenue, residents from another area of town could face the assessment process for a smaller project.

After being approached by multiple residents who desired to have the streets paved, the Medford City Council decided at its February meeting that it would continue to move forward with a street project in the Scenic Heights Development.

“The original agreement with the developer stated that the paving of the street would be done at a later date when a certain percentage or threshold of the lots were developed,” said City Administrator Andy Welti. “We have heard from a lot of residents who live in this development and they want the street paved, so the city council initiated the project and wants to move it forward.”

City Engineer Joe Duncan presented a feasibility report to the council at the February

meeting and classified the project as a “small project.”

The proposed project calls for the paving of Third Avenue Southeast and Seventh Street Southeast and affects approximately 20 lots. The first step of the project would be to adjust the existing utilities, the second step would be to remove the gravel and grade and the third step would be to put down one or two layers of pavement depending on how many layers already existed.

The probable cost of the project is around \$81,000.

“I want to call it that (probable cost) simply because I want to make sure you don’t misconstrue what that is. A lot of people call it an estimate but that word means different things to different people,” Duncan said. “We are saying that this type of work in this area would receive this kind of general pricing if it were to go out for bid.”

Council member Chad Merritt was concerned with the price of the engineering and administration fees for such a small project and Duncan responded with,

“This is why we recommend not doing small projects because a lot of this ends up costing the same whether you have a small project or a large contract.”

Since the project is classified as the completion of a subdivision, all of the project costs associated with the paving will be 100 percent assessed to the benefiting properties on a per lot basis.

The city is currently looking into various options of how to fund the project including the city paying cash for the project and being reimbursed through the assessments, bonding the project or getting a microloan.

Welti feels the best option is to pursue a microloan as there is less administrative and legal costs associated with it.

The next step in the process will be a public hearing before the regular March city council meeting.

“We will invite the residents who live on these streets and inform them of the project. They will see the preliminary estimates of what this is going to cost,” Welti said.

Council members Keith Maas, Chad Merritt, Marie Sexton and Mayor Lois Nelson were all interested in moving up the bidding process, which was proposed to start in May.

“If we know we are going to do it and it’s a small project let’s push this thing forward. There is no need to slow things down,” Maas said. “Normally you want to start bidding stuff this time of year. Here we are going to bid this thing May and you get your best price when you get this thing going.”

Welti says the city will be working with Duncan to insure that the paperwork is done before the March meeting to help move things along.

“Our goal is to have the meeting and if the council approves the project and the residents want to move forward with it we will move forward with it as quickly as possible and we want to get the bids out as soon as possible so we can hopefully get better rates,” he said.

Hat wearing for a good cause

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

During February and March Medford High School students have the opportunity to wear a hat on four separate occasions to raise money for local families who may need a little extra help.

The student council is putting on four hat days, two of which have already happened, in which students can pay \$1 to wear a hat to school. Normally, school policy does not allow this.

“The purpose for the hat days is for the student council to raise money for local Medford families that have a sick member in their family, that have large amounts of medical bills and other things they may need help with,” said student council member and junior class representative Kelcey Gerlach.

“They were just trying to think of an easy way to raise some money quickly for some families who were in need,” Johannes said. “As a student council we are always looking for ways to do community service projects. We want to continue to give back to the community in any way that we possibly can.”



Submitted photo
Junior Kelcey Gerlach, student class representative, and senior Nick VonRuden, student council treasurer, are the two members in charge of the \$1 hat days. The profits from the fundraiser will go to two Medford families that are in need.

rial.

Senior Nick VonRuden, student council treasurer, said, “It is just an easy way to raise money cheap and fast. I can just picture the reactions of the families faces once we deliver the profits to them and that feels so good.”

Gerlach says the money will be divided up between two Medford families. Both Gerlach and VonRuden thought the hat days in February went very well and had a good participation and think the next two will be an even bigger success.

The next two hat days will be on Friday, March 13 and Friday, March 20.

Menus

Medford School Breakfast Menu

Mar 3: WG Waffle Sticks w/ Syrup, Tri Tator OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly/Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit /Juice, Milk

Mar 4: Turkey Sausage Biscuit OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly/Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

Mar 5: Yogurt W/fruit & graham crackers OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly/Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit /Juice, Milk

Mar 6: no school

Mar 9: Banana Chocolate Chip, Hard Boiled Egg OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly/Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit /Juice, Milk

Mar 10: WG French Toast Sticks w/Syrup, Tri Tator OR

Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly/Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit /Juice, Milk

Mar 11: Iced WG Cinnamon Roll OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly/Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

Medford School Lunch Menu

Mar 3: Pulled Pork Sliders, BBQ Sauce, Turkey Ranch Wrap, Chef Salad, Baked Beans, Romaine Lettuce, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

Mar 4: Salisbury Steak Sandwich, Deli Sub, Harvest Chicken Salad, Potatoes Ole’, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

Mar 5: Italian Lasagna, Garlic Toast, Buffalo Chicken Wrap, Taco Salad, Green Beans, Broccoli Florets, Pepper Med-

ley, Choice of Fruit

Mar 6: no school

Mar 9: Southwest Turkey Crunch, Crispy Chicken Wrap, Turkey BLT Salad, Spring Mix (HOM), Cucumber Slices, Cherry Tomatoes, Choice of Fruit

Mar 10: Meatballs & Gravy, Dinner Roll, Combo Sliders, Cravin Craisin Salad, Mashed

Potatoes, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

Mar 11: Chicken Nuggets, Brown Rice, WW Bread, Honey Mustard Ham Wrap, Southwest Chicken Salad, Green Beans, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit



OWNIT!

OWN YOUR CAREER. OWN PART OF A GROWING COMPANY THAT MAKES PRODUCTS USED AROUND THE WORLD. OWN A LAKES-COUNTRY QUALITY OF LIFE.

AND OWN AN EXTRA **\$2,000!** WHEN YOU SIGN ON WITH WASP.

Check out our open career-launching positions, and apply at WWW.WASPINC.COM

MANUFACTURING ENGINEER //MANUFACTURING ENGINEER MANAGER //ENGINEERING MANAGER
IT PROJECT MANAGER //IT APPLICATIONS SUPPORT SPECIALIST //LEAD WELDER
PAINTER & PREP //FABRICATOR //WELDER // ASSEMBLY

20631 State Highway 55 // Glenwood, MN // 320-634-7398
EEO Employer/AA/M/F/Vet/Disabled // 100% Employee Owned // ISO 9001:2008

This is an advertisement.

HAS YOUR CORN FARM LOST MONEY?

Despite China's refusal to approve Syngenta's GMO seed, Syngenta continued to sell its seed to U.S. corn farmers. When China banned U.S. corn imports, the price of corn fell dramatically, and corn farmers across the country lost BILLIONS of dollars.

We represent individual farmers.

Our team represented over 2000 individual farmers in the Rice GMO claim. We opposed the class action and secured more for the farmers we represented. Our group of lawyers will continue meeting with farmers with respect to each farmer's individual Syngenta claim.



Corn Farmer Lawyers
PULASKI & MIDDLEMAN PLLC
PHIPPS CAVAZOS PLLC
www.cornfarmlawyers.com

Call for your FREE Consultation
1 (855) 688-SEED (7333)

Pulaski & Middleman, PLLC | Principal Office 4615 SW Fwy, Ste. 850, Houston, TX 77027
Phipps Cavazos PLLC | Principal Office 102 9th Street, San Antonio, TX 78215

INFORMATIONAL ADVERTISEMENT: The information presented is not intended to be legal advice. The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely on advertisement. The lawyer responsible for the content of this ad is Adam Pulaski.

Wet Basement? Driveway/Sidewalk Settling?

Basement Wall Cracks? Basement Floor Cracks?



10% OFF

YOUR PROJECT

•Free Estimates •Financing Available
Toll Free 1-800-795-1204
www.american-waterworks.com
(Cannot be combined with any other offers)

PROMOTER ~ RECRUITER

Looking for promoter / recruiter in Upper Midwest.
Prior business ownership or sales experience a plus.
75K + First Year
Position requires NO need to relocate.

Call (218) 303-4222

RINGHOFER CONSTRUCTION, INC.

New Homes • Remodeling
Garages • Decks • Finished
Basements

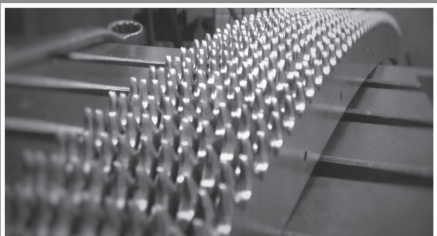


Come to us for all your building needs this holiday season!

507-456-1183 • Office: 507-451-6000
245 18th St. SE, Owatonna

Lic #20635122

“FOR ALL YOUR MACHINING AND FABRICATING NEEDS”



Office Hours

Monday - 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday - 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday - 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Thursday - 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday - 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Saturday - Closed
Sunday - Closed

507-451-2626
Email: dave@dagry.com
www.dagry.com



\$2.00 OFF

any haircut

OFFER EXPIRES
3 / 31 / 15

call to make
an appointment

507-451-3500



BELLA VITA SALON

10-8 MON-SAT 11-6 SUN

6750 WEST FRONTAGE ROAD MEDFORD, MN 55060
(LOCATED IN THE MEDFORD OUTLET CENTER)

HometownLiving

Community Calendar



Blooming Prairie High School students browse through several of the booths at last year's FFA Toy Show. This year's event is slated for March 14 in the High School Commons area.

Staff file photo

J&H LIQUORS
340 E. Main St. Blooming Prairie • 507-583-7557

- BAR BINGO: MONDAY @ 6:30 P.M.
- MEAT RAFFLES: FRIDAY @ 5:30 P.M.
(MEAT PROVIDED BY GENEVA MEATS)
- BLOOMIN' GRAPEVINE WINE CLUB:
7 P.M.-8:30 P.M. FEB. 17, MARCH 3, APRIL 14 & MAY 5
- APRIL 4: CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY
"29" YEARS OF BUSINESS
MUNCHIES & DRINK SPECIALS

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

March 5:
12 p.m. American Legion
March 9:
5 p.m. Education Foundation, HS Library
7 p.m. City Council Mtg
7 p.m. PS Choir Concert
March 10:
Card Club & Luncheon
4:30 p.m. Fire Commission Mtg
6:30 p.m. PTO Mtg, BP ES Library
7 p.m. Knights of Columbus, Regular Mtg (Burger Baskets), BPSC
7 p.m. PS Band Concert, BPHS Commons
7 p.m. VFW
7 p.m. VFW Auxiliary
7:30 p.m. Prairie Lodge Masons
March 11:
Knights of Columbus, Host Lenten Soup Supper, St Columbanus, BP
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
2:30 p.m. BPPU Comm Mtg
4:30 p.m. EDA Mtg

Servicemen's Club

210 Fourth St. N.E. • Blooming Prairie • 507-583-7884

- Raffle drawing first Saturday of every month
- Happy Hour 3 p.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday
- Lunch special: Egg Salad Sandwich and Chips
- Taco Tuesdays every Tuesday at 5 p.m.
- We are looking to hire a waitress

MEDFORD

March 5:
Medford PS Conferences K-12
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
3:30 p.m. Medford HS Book Fair, Rm 103
4 p.m. Medford HS Conferences K-12, MHS
March 6:
Medford HS No School
March 9:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
March 10:
3:15 p.m. Medford ES Elementary Art Club, Rm 311
March 11:
4 p.m. Medford Veterans Committee Mtg

First State Bank of Red Wing

www.fsbredwing.com
RED WING

Medford Branch
507-451-2122
*We are proud to be a
5-Star Community Bank!*

IN BRIEF

Evening for Kids' Sake

The annual Evening for Kids' Sake to support Big Brothers Big Sisters' 2015 fundraisers is slated for 5 p.m., Saturday, March 14 at the Steele County History Center in Owatonna. Evening includes dinner, silent auction and honoring the Bigs of the Year.

For more information contact Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota in Owatonna at 507-451-5922.

OWATONNA

March 3:
Wilson Science Fair
9:30 a.m. OPL Tale Time! 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
5 p.m. Owatonna Human Rights Commission, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall
7 p.m. Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall
March 5:
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time
7 p.m. All City Elementary/OJHS Chamber Orchestra/Jazz Band Concert, OHS Orchestra Concert
7 p.m. Steele County Fair Board Mtg, Mother's Rest
March 6:
No School
7 p.m. Steele County Food Shelf, Hometown Sampler, Little Theatre of Owatonna
March 7:
3 p.m. Steele County Food Shelf, Hometown Sampler, Little Theatre of Owatonna
7 p.m. Steele County Food Shelf, Hometown Sampler, Little Theatre of Owatonna
March 8:
2 p.m. Steele County Food Shelf, Hometown Sampler, Little Theatre of Owatonna
March 9:
12 p.m. Noon Rotary Club, Country Club
4:30 p.m. Park & Rec Brd, Council Chambers, Brooktree Golf Course or City Park
6:30 p.m. School Brd Mtg
March 10:
Steele Co Commission
9:30 a.m. OPL Tale Time! 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Express
EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS
www.expresspros.com

812 S. Elm Ave. • Owatonna • 507-455-3002 • 800-832-3002

ELLENDALE/GENEVA

March 3:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
March 5:
5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
March 9:
NRHEG 2 hour late start
6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
March 10:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

FIRST NATIONAL BANK
Waseca | Ellendale | Hope | Member FDIC

fnbwaseca.com | 507-684-2691

2015 Legion Birthday Party

Local American Legion Post to celebrate 96 years of service to God and country.

The American Legion was organized in Paris, France, in 1919 immediately following World War I. Veterans of all of America's wars have become members of the American Legion. Many Legion Posts have been named in honor of a serviceman from that area who became a casualty during World War I.

The local Legion Post will host a celebration on Thursday, March 5, at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. The event begins with a social hour at 5:30 p.m., a dinner at 6:30 p.m. and a musical program and magic act at 7:30 p.m. For more details see our ad elsewhere in this issue of the Steele County Times. The public is invited.

SPOT LIGHT

Little Theatre of Owatonna presents:

Treasure Island
April 17-18, 7:30 p.m.
April 19, 2 p.m.
April 23-25, 7:30 p.m.
A stunning yarn of piracy on the tropical seas. At the center of it all are Jim Hawkins, a 14-year-old boy who longs for adventure, and the infamous Long John Silver, who is a complex study of good and evil, perhaps the most famous hero-villain of all time.

OTHER COUNTIES

Dodge
March 5:
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center American Legion, Hamburger, Fries, Chicken Sandwiches
6 p.m. Claremont EDA (as needed)
6:30 p.m. Triton Zumba, Multipurpose Rm
7 p.m. Mantorville Chamber Mtg, Mantorville Art Guild
7:30 p.m. K-M HS Choir Concert, HS N Gym
March 7:
9 a.m. WC Amer Legion Craft Show
March 9:
8:30 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Hayfield HS
2:30 p.m. Triton Booster Clothing Sales, W Gym
3:30 p.m. Triton MS Conferences, W Gym
6 p.m. Dodge Co City Council Mtg
7 p.m. Hayfield Schl Brd Mtg, HS Library
7:30 p.m. Claremont Fire Commission, City Hall, 239 W Front St
March 10:
9:30 a.m. Dodge Co Commission
10 a.m. WCPL Story Time/Crafts
3:15 p.m. K-M Basic Safety & First Aid for Children, Rm CE6
5:30 p.m. Triton FFA, 188
6 p.m. Triton Adult ESL Class, ES Media Center
6:30 p.m. Triton Taekwondo for Families, Multipurpose Room
7 p.m. Claremont City Council Mtg
March 11:
7:30 a.m. Hayfield Chamber Mtg, Uncle Mony's/Spare Time Lanes
4 p.m. West Concord W Main St Reconstruction Project Info Mtg
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center American Legion, Taco Tuesdays
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center American Legion, Pizza & Bear
6 p.m. K-M Cmnty Ed, Knitted Drop Stitch carf, CE6
7:30 p.m. Claremont Fire Dept Mtg

Freeborn
March 5:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
5:30 p.m. AL Council Workshop, City Council Chambers
6 p.m. ALPL Night-Time Story time
March 6:
10 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Salem Lutheran church, AL
March 9:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
3:45 p.m. ALPL Book Pals (Gr 5 & 6)
5:15 p.m. AL Human Rights Commission, City Council Chambers
7 p.m. AL City Council, Council Chambers
March 10:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
March 11:
3 p.m. AL PS Mentorship Mtg

Mower
March 5:
20th Annual Rose Sale for The Arc Mower County
9 a.m. LeRoy-Ostrander ES Play Performance, M/SH Auditorium
9 a.m. Mobile Dental Clinic for UCare Patients, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Austin
10:30 a.m. Storytime – Canceled, Austin Public Library
3 p.m. Free Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Rental, Jay C. Hormel Nature Center
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
4 p.m. Austin Farmers Market, 501 Oakland Ave E
5 p.m. LeRoy PS PEN Night, Parent-Teacher Conferences
6 p.m. Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night (subject to change)
6 p.m. Uncork & Create: Fancy Feathers, Austin ArtWorks Center
6:30 p.m. LeRoy-Ostrander Public Play Performance, M/SH Auditorium
7 p.m. AHS Winter Prep Concert, Knowlton Auditorium
March 6:
20th Annual Rose Sale for The Arc Mower County
LeRoy PS 5th-6th Gr Ski Trip
LeRoy PS ECFE Family Dance
9 a.m. Defensive Driving Class, Mower County Senior Center
9 a.m. Mobile Dental Clinic for UCare Patients, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Austin
10 a.m. Open Studio, Austin ArtWorks Center
10 a.m. GMPL StoryTime! :)
11:30 a.m. Lyle SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House
12:30 p.m. LeRoy-Ostrander M/HS Play Performance, M/SH Auditorium
1 p.m. LeRoy PS FFA Contests
5 p.m. Open Studio at the Austin ArtWorks Center, Austin ArtWorks Center
6 p.m. Found Poetry, Austin ArtWorks Center
6:30 p.m. LeRoy-Ostrander Public Play Performance, M/SH Auditorium

Minimizer

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



CALL FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE
507-451-6388

Residential New Construction & Replacements
Finishes, Remodels and Additions

Furnaces
Mini-Splits
Heat Pumps
Air Conditioners
Air to Air Exchangers
Geo-Thermal Systems



Humidifiers
Unit Heaters
Radon Mitigation
Service & Repair
Venting & Ducting
Maintenance Agreements


Deml
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

507-451-6388

info@demlheating.biz



www.demlheating.biz

Family Owned & Operated Since 1969



Deml Heating & Air Conditioning
1500 E Main St. Owatonna, MN 55060



I ♥ TO READ

Frith graders Avery Ahrens (left) and Abigale Dirks read their books while eating some popcorn during Washington Elementary's final celebration "pop in for a picnic lunch and some popcorn" on Friday, Feb. 27.



The Steele County Times set out to find out what the elementary schools around Steele County were doing for I Love to Read Month.

Story and photos by SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY in Owatonna had a “Camp Read S’more” theme. During the month students were able to read in special camping places such as in a tent or next to a fake campfire. Every week there was a dress up day including a hat and sunglasses day, camouflage day, PJ day and hiking day. The students kept track of their reading minutes and at the end of the month the winning classrooms got an ice cream party and a water park visit.



First graders in Alexis Gleason's class at Lincoln Elementary School get to take turns reading their books in a tent during the month of February.

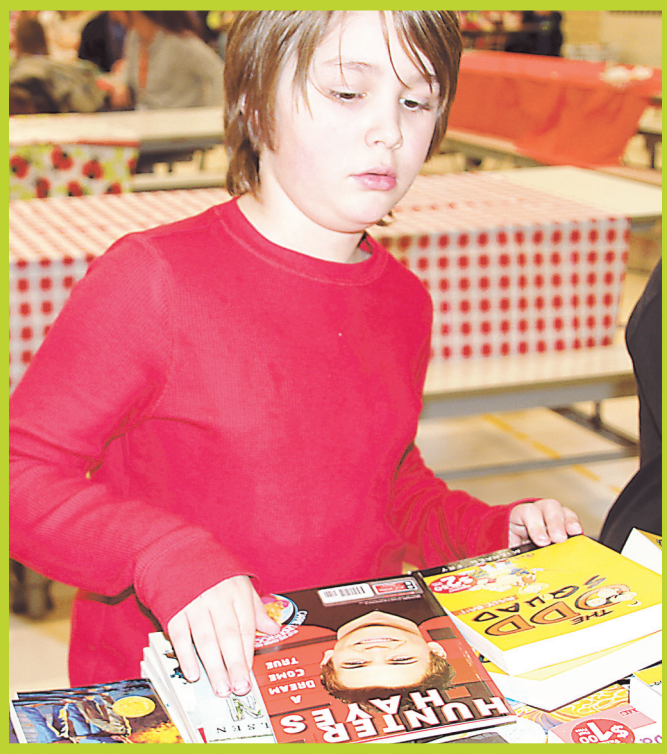


Second graders Caden Hometh (left), Kylee Krause and Logan Brown read by the fake campfire in the library at Lincoln Elementary School. Staff photo taken by Shannon Kinley



For the final celebration students at Washington Elementary got to pick out a book and eat some popcorn at a picnic lunch on Friday, Feb. 27.

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY in Owatonna had a “Pop Open a Good Book” theme and everything was centered on popcorn. Each of the students kept track of their reading minutes and every time they read a certain amount they were able to add a kernel to a bucket in the hallway. Every Wednesday a classroom was selected, based on their minutes, for a popcorn ball party.



First grader Alec Gowland picks out a book at the final celebration “pop in for a picnic lunch and some popcorn” at Washington Elementary on Friday, Feb. 27.



Kindergartner Megan Tegmeir (left) and sister Lauren, two, cut out animals from the story “The Mitten” and place them into the mitten at Reading Night on Monday, Feb. 23 at Medford School.

Each Week MEDFORD SCHOOL every classroom set their own reading goal and if it was met students got to place a book on the bookshelf in the hallway. The students got to participate in various activities including camping out in their sleeping bags in a tent and having s’mores while reading by the fire. Some classrooms had rewards if reading minutes were accomplished such as ice cream treats and pajama day. The month finished off with a Family Reading Night with various stations and a Dr. Seuss Breakfast.



Fourth grader Tyler Steffen reads a “snowball” story at Reading Night on Monday, Feb. 23 at Medford School. The idea is that each student picks up a snowball, or crumpled piece of paper, reads what has been written already and adds a small piece to the existing story.



Kindergartner Ella Doucette listens to a story read by Medford School students and watches the pages flip on the Ipad after scanning a QR code at Reading Night on Monday Feb. 23.

One Big Thing grant awarded

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) recently approved funding for three projects through its \$100,000 One Big Thing Grant and Regional Community Growth Initiative (CGI). Thirty communities surrounding the Rochester area have collaborated through SMIF's 2014 One Big Thing Grant to participate in the Regional CGI. The CGI was developed to bring together community leaders in southeastern Minnesota to posi-

tion themselves for future growth in response to the City of Rochester's implementation of Destination Medical Center and Journey to Growth led by Rochester Area Economic Development Inc. The CGI encouraged leadership in the bordering communities to analyze assets and design a strategy for collaboration. Through this \$100,000, these communities will be well positioned to implement their collaborative projects leading to future growth and prosperity. The counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Goodhue, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha and Winona all have community representatives participating in the CGI process.

The projects chosen for funding include:

- A Regional Marketing Campaign to review existing avenues for regional marketing, facilitate a series of discussions with regional stakeholders about better leveraging existing avenues to market local opportunities on a boarder level and/or to create new avenues, and assist stakeholders to develop next steps. This project is led by Chris Giesen and was approved for \$20,000 of grant funding.
- SE MN Together project to

empower smaller communities in SE Minnesota to take the leadership for their own community, enter into partnerships/collaborations within the region, and leverage the impacts of the DMC and J2G as an opportunity. This project is led by Natalie Siderius and Sheila Kiscaden and will receive \$80,000 of grant funding.

- Connect Trails Project to form a larger regional trail system, develop a master plan and seek further funding, promote healthy living and active lifestyle for all ages, provide recreational activities as a destination, and increasing tourism into communities connected to trail. This project is led by Chris and Ann Priebe and was approved for a \$20,000 challenge grant.

"We are pleased to support these asset-based approaches to support these communities surrounding," says Tim Penny, President/CEO. "We're excited to see them use the opportunity of DMC to strengthen and grow regional collaborations."

For more information on these projects, contact Pam Bishop at 507-455-3215 or pamb@smi-foundation.org.



THE CLASSIFIEDS-
Where the Deals Are!

**APARTMENTS FOR RENT**

**SITUATIONS WANTED**

**AUTOMOBILES FOR SALE**

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

**GARAGE SALES**

**HOUSES FOR SALE**

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.
Call to place an item in the Classifieds today:
507-583-4431



Submitted photo

Jeweler supports 4-H program

Continuing a tradition started by their founder, Carl Kottke in the 1930s, Kottke Jewelers of Owatonna presents a watch each year to a young adult who has excelled in the local 4-H program. This year's recipient is Taylor Jirousek, who is being honored as the 2014 Kottke Dairy

Achievement Award winner. Matt Kottke, right, presented her with the watch last week. Jirousek, the daughter of Michel Ulen and Dean Jirousek, has been active in 4-H for many years and is a member of the Straight River Stars.

"Give the GIFT of MUSIC"

Lori Line Music Books & CDs

Great Selection of other Holiday Music Titles

Gift Cards Available!



Acoustic Guitars Starting under \$100

GUITAR & BANJO LESSONS AVAILABLE!

114 N. Cedar Ave.
Owatonna
507-451-5196
www.tonemusic.net

RECIPE CORNER

French Silk Pie

- 1/2 c. butter, cut into 8 equal pieces
- 3/4 c. sugar
- 2 lg. eggs
- 3 T. cocoa & 1 T. butter
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 (8") baked pastry shell

By Donna Maixner

Cream butter and sugar. Beat in cocoa and vanilla until blended. Add eggs, one at a time, beat 5 minutes after each addition. Pour into crust, chill. For a thicker pie repeat recipe and an 8-ounce container of Cool Whip. Refrigerate 4 hours before serving.

Sponsored by:

Krejci Ford

14th Presidents Award Winner
Blooming Prairie • 583-2046



Glenn's Motorcoach Tours, Inc.

ROCHESTER, MN • DEPARTING FROM: AUSTIN, OWATONNA & ROCHESTER
CALL TODAY FOR A DETAILED BROCHURE!

1-800-795-8516 or 507-288-1329

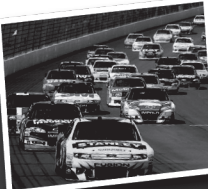
MAY BRANSON	MAY 1 - 4, 2015	\$579
A Tribute to Frankie Vallie & The Four Seasons, Presley's Country Jubilee, The Texas Tenors, BJ Thomas & John Conlee		
HOLLAND, MI TULIP FESTIVAL	MAY 8 - 10, 2015	\$459
DOOR COUNTY, WI	MAY 15 - 17, 2015	\$399
NW CIRCLE & YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK	JUNE 11 - 26, 2015	\$2349
MACKINAC ISLAND, MI	JUNE 12 - 14, 2015	\$449
PORT WASHINGTON, WI - SALMON FISHING	JUNE 21 - 22, 2015	\$399
CALGARY STAMPEDE & CANADIAN ROCKIES	JULY 4 - 12, 2015	\$1539
GLACIER NATIONAL PARK TOUR	JULY 18 - 26, 2015	\$1499
SUMMERTIME ON THE MISSISSIPPI	JULY 22 - 24, 2015	\$469
CHICAGO, IL GANGSTER TOUR	AUGUST 7 - 9, 2015	\$459
TRAINS IN THE COLORADO ROCKIES	AUGUST 13 - 22, 2015	\$1499
UTAH CANYON COUNTRY PARK TOUR	AUG 23 - SEPT 3, 2015	\$2399
NEW YORK CITY	AUG 29 - SEPT 5, 2015	\$1469
NOVA SCOTIA & ATLANTIC CANADA	SEPTEMBER 7 - 23, 2015	\$2899
MACKINAC ISLAND, MI	SEPTEMBER 11 - 13, 2015	\$449
FALL MYSTERY TOUR - All new 6 day tour!	SEPTEMBER 15 - 20, 2015	\$879
NEW ENGLAND FALL COLOR TOUR	SEPT 26 - OCT 7, 2015	\$1719
WASHINGTON DC & GETTYSBURG	OCTOBER 12 - 18, 2015	\$1099
KANSAS SPEEDWAY - SPRINT CUP & NATIONWIDE RACES	OCTOBER 16 - 19, 2015	\$569
AUTUMN IN THE SMOKY MOUNTAINS	OCTOBER 20 - 25, 2015	\$899
CHRISTMAS BRANSON	NOVEMBER 6 - 9, 2015	\$579
Pam Tillis & Lorrie Morgan, A Tribute to Patsy Cline, Presley's Country Jubilee, A Tribute to Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons		
CHRISTMAS BRANSON	NOVEMBER 13 - 16, 2015	\$579
The Osmond Brothers & The Lennon Sisters, The Famous Hermans Hermits, A Tribute to Marty Robbins, Legends in Concert Tribute Show		
CHRISTMAS BRANSON	NOVEMBER 20 - 23, 2015	\$579
The Texas Tenors, The Famous Letterman, Dixie Stampede Dinner Show, Charley Pride		
COUNTRY MUSIC CARIBBEAN CRUISE - COMPLETE PKG W/AIR	JANUARY 15 - 23, 2016	starting at \$3999
HAWAII - COMPLETE PKG W/ AIR	JANUARY 16 - 24, 2016	\$3649
DEEP SOUTH TEXAS	MARCH 5 - 18, 2016	\$2149
SPRING MYSTERY TOUR - ALL NEW 7 DAY TOUR!	APRIL 11 - 17, 2016	\$999
MYRTLE BEACH & CHARLESTON, SC	APRIL 23 - MAY 1, 2016	\$1349

**ALL PRICES BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
ONLY A FEW SEATS LEFT ON SOME TOURS!**

ALL OF OUR TOURS ARE FULLY ESCORTED IN DELUXE MOTORCOACHES & LUGGAGE HANDLING IS INCLUDED.
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK A TOUR, CALL TODAY!

www.glennsmotorcoachtours.com
Email: glenn@glennsmotorcoachtours.com

"Traveling With The Professionals"



LOOK WHAT'S NEW!



Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893

STEM COURSES PART 1

The learning tree

STEM is apple of McKinley's eye

Story and photos by Shannon Kinley



BLOOMING PRAIRIE

BPPD to seek part-time help

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

The city of Blooming Prairie is looking for part-time police officers. The Blooming Prairie City Council on Jan. 12 at the City Council Chambers authorized activate their licenses. "I don't perceive any problem with this," he said.

Jones said the city is not finding that officer who wants to step up. "We are needing them," he said. The hiring process will be different than it has in the past. According to Jones' memo to the city

TIMES UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE

The area's news is just one click away...

www.steeledodgenews.com

Beginning this week, the Times has a new website with a great new design. And we're now offering E-Subscriptions! Readers can now subscribe to an E-Edition and read the entire paper on-line!

Introductory offer:

\$5 OFF E-Subscription

Normal: \$38... Now available for \$33.

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.

507-583-4431



- Teamwork Environment
- Comprehensive & Non-Traditional Benefits
- Paid training!



REM
WOODVALE

Is currently accepting applications for full-time, part-time, and overnight Direct Support Professionals in the Albert Lea, Austin, Kasson and Owatonna areas. This position assists adults with developmental disabilities with day-to-day activities to increase their independent living, social and community skills. All positions include e/o weekend hours.

Valid driver's license, high school diploma/GED, and ability to pass a background study required.

APPLY NOW!

www.jobs.thementornetwork.com/search/woodvale
Contact 507-451-1296 x11 for more information

Abstractor
In Faribault.
Evaluation Hire
Up to \$18/Hour
Experience Required

Express
EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS

812 South Elm St.
Owatonna
507-455-3002
www.expresspros.com/owatonnmn

30 Call Center Reps Needed
Must have prior customer service experience, 5000+ keystrokes/hour and knowledge of Word & Excel.

Express
EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS

812 South Elm St.
Owatonna
507-455-3002
www.expresspros.com/owatonnmn

Administrative Assistant
Owatonna Area
Pay Based on Experience
Experience with Microsoft Office Suite and Associates Degree Required.

Express
EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS

812 South Elm St.
Owatonna
507-455-3002
www.expresspros.com/owatonnmn

Employment CONNECTION

CHS

has a full time opening for a
CDL Driver/Applicator
at the Grand Meadow location

Potential employees must be familiar with farm equipment, mechanically inclined, must have a Class A or B CDL and be able to obtain a HazMat and tanker endorsement. CHS offers competitive pay, health insurance, and a retirement plan. If you have questions about the position, contact Mike at 507-754-5125 EOE

CHS

has openings for
Seasonal CDL Drivers

Potential employees must have a Class A or B CDL and will need to obtain a current medical card before employment start date. Applications are available at any CHS location. If you have questions about the position, contact Mike at 507-754-5125 or Troy at 507-657-2234 EOE

SALES PERSON WANTED

Use Chevrolet in Austin MN, is looking to fill two sales positions with great earning potential. Full time 40 hours per week Monday - Saturday with a day off in the week.

Email resume to Briley@usemnc.com or call Brian or Mark at 507-433-1871

USEM
www.usemnc.com
AUSTIN

CDL/OTR DRIVER WANTED
Driver benefits included, Paid Holidays, Vacation Pay, Health Insurance, 401K

KRUEGER
TRUCKING

AUSTIN, MN • 800-634-3317

Gerard Academy, a residential treatment facility that offers programs for boys and girls ages 6-19 with emotional and behavior issues is hiring for the following positions:

**Counselor • Night Counselor
Special Education Teacher • Therapist**

Minimum state requirements; must be 21 yrs. old, have HS Diploma or GED, pass background, driver records check and pre-employment physical. Please visit our website for each position's unique requirements. EEO/AA/Minority/Female/Vet/Disab

For consideration go to www.nexustreatment.org

Gerard Academy
Austin, MN 55912



\$7,500 SIGN-ON BONUS
OTR TRUCK DRIVERS

KECK ENTERPRISES, INC OF OWATONNA is looking to hire several **OTR reefer truck drivers**. Class A driving experience is a must. We are currently offering a **\$7,500 Sign-on Bonus**. Earn up to 47 cents/mile on all dispatched miles. **Vacation Days & Holiday Pay**. Driving schedule is open to your needs, just let us know.

ASK FOR DOUG
507-463-2679

Resident Assistant or CNA – Assisted Living

Oxford Property Management has part time and on call Resident Assistant opportunities available including occasional day and night shift at our facility in Ellendale, MN. Whispering Oak provides senior residents with independent and assisted living support services.

Responsibilities include: provide personal home care needs including medication assistance to residents; assist with general housekeeping and promote and encourage resident participate in social activities.

Requirements include: excellent interpersonal and communication skills; highly organized; upbeat energetic, positive personality; high level of confidentiality; and ability to multi-task. Previous experience in a related occupation is preferred – will train natural caring, committed individual.

Physical Requirements include: ability to twist, bend, stand for long periods of time and lift up to 50lbs.

We provide a competitive wage. If you are looking for an opportunity to be part of a progressive company, stop by to fill out an application or send resume to:

Whispering Oak
903 Calverly Court
Ellendale, MN 56026
Phone: 507-684-3026
Fax: 507-684-3194
Email: peoplefax@nesnahventures.com

Oxford
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Drug Free Workplace, Equal Opportunity Employer

Employment Opportunities!
Full and Part-time Positions Available

Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS) program located in Austin, MN is seeking qualified professionals for various openings. Duties include not limited to medication supervision, resident transport & recreational activities, meal prep, housekeeping, monitor & document behavior, assist in daily living activities & promote positive, healthy, secure environment.

Mental Health Rehabilitation Workers
Full-time; 12am-8am Awake overnight shift/32 hrs wk
Part-time; 4pm-12am/20 hrs wk
Associate degree or two years post secondary
3 years of personal life experience with MI or 4000 supervised work hours

Mental Health Practitioner
Full-time; 12am-8am/32 hrs wk
Bachelor Degree & 2000 supervised work hours,
Master's Degree, or 6000 supervised work hours

All positions include weekend and holiday rotation.

We offer competitive wages. Qualified candidates must be 21 years of age, high school diploma; degree in social services or related field preferred, MI/CD experience, & must successfully pass criminal background check.

Please send resume/obtain an application:
Rule 36 Limited Partnership of Duluth
Attn: Lynn Braun
600 25th Avenue South
Suite #105
St. Cloud, MN 56301
(320) 251-2996 [fax]

lynn.braun@rule36ofduluth.com
www.rule36ofduluth.com
EOE/AA

Join A Dynamic Team Of Caregivers

Mental Health Practitioner

Rule 36 provides safe & accessible healthcare services for individuals with mental health disabilities. We have a current opening for a full-time Mental Health Practitioner in our Austin, MN facility. Position is 32 hrs per wk; 3pm-11pm shift.

• **ARE YOU:** Compassionate, Energetic, Dependable
• **RULE 36 OFFERS:** Competitive wages, Medical, Dental & Aflac insurance, Vacation/Sick pay, 401k, Flexibility
• **JOB FUNCTIONS:** Assist clients in maintaining a clean, safe & positive living environment, Meal prep, Train & assist clients in all aspects of their life, Client activities & transportation
• **REQUIREMENTS:** Bachelor Degree in Human Service/related field & 2000 supervised work hrs (OR) Master's Degree in Human Service/related field (OR) 6000 supervised work hrs (3 yrs), Valid driver's license, Successful completion of Department of Human Services background check

Please send resume/obtain an application:
Rule 36 Limited Partnership of Duluth
Attn: Lynn Braun
600 25th Avenue South
Suite #105
St. Cloud, MN 56301
(320) 251-2996 [fax]

lynn.braun@rule36ofduluth.com
www.rule36ofduluth.com
EOE/AA

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: DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 18, 2004 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$104,000.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Carlos A. Azham and Leticia Azham, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on October 26, 2004 and memorialized upon Certificate of Title No. 15601 as Document Number T000056929 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: All that part of Lot 21, of Block 1, Country Club Addition No. 1 to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota, described as follows: Commencing at a point on the Northwestern line of said Lot 21, which point is 90 feet Northeastly of the West corner of said Lot 21; running thence Southwesterly along said Northwesternly line to the West corner of Lot 21; running thence Southeasterly 120.05 feet to the South corner of Lot 21; running thence Northeastly line of said Lot 21 a distance of 90 feet; running thence Northwestly to the point of commencement, Steele County, Minnesota. REGISTERED PROPERTY STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 650 LEMOND ROAD, OWATONNA, MN 55060 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$83,866.01 TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR (LENDER): Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17.194.0121 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE ID NUMBER (MERS NUMBER): None THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 17, 2015 at 10:00 am

PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 17, 2015. 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 20, 2015

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

By _____

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(14-1245-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

1/27, 2/3, 2/10,
2/17, 2/24, 3/3

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: December 27, 2011 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$86,052.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Julie A. Johnson, a single person MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on December 30, 2011 as Document Number A000382115 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 4, in Block 4, Northrop's Sunrise Addition to the City of Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 1201 8TH AVENUE NE, OWATONNA, MN 55060 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$85,046.54 TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR (LENDER): Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17.175.0404 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE ID NUMBER (MERS NUMBER): None THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 31, 2015 at 10:00 am

PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 30, 2015.

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 28, 2015

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

By _____

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(15-0017-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

2/3, 2/10, 2/17,
2/24, 3/3, 3/10

Foreclosure

14-098781

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: September 30, 2004 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$163,920.00 MORTGAGOR(S): John Devetter and Colleen Devetter, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 1003215-0002140598-9 LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Timberland Mortgage Services, Inc. SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed October 1, 2004, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000326156 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, NA LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Southeast Quarter of Section 35, Township 107 North, Range 21 West, thence running East 1545.7 feet which point is the true point of beginning, thence running North 340 feet, thence running East 384.3 feet, thence running South 340 feet; thence running west to the point of beginning. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 5348 48th Street SW, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 09-035-2204 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$148,209.09 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 17, 2015, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on September 17, 2015, or the next business day if September 17, 2015 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 21, 2015

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. 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
Attorneys for Mortgagee
12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

1/27, 2/3, 2/10,
2/17, 2/24, 3/3

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF CONTRACT FOR DEED

YOU ARE NOTIFIED:

1. Default has occurred in the Contract for Deed ("Contract") dated October 29, 2009 and recorded on November 3, 2009, as Document Number T000065153, in the office of the Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota, in which Dennis W. Johnson and Susan I. Johnson, husband and wife, as seller, sold to Micheal J. Goddard and Amber N. Goddard, as joint tenants, as purchaser, the real property in Steele County, Minnesota, described as follows: Lot 5, Block 1, Tricentennial Addition, Owatonna, Minnesota.
2. The default is as follows: Purchasers have failed to make regular monthly payments from 05/01/11 to 09/30/14 and, as a result, Purchasers owe \$44,625.00 in delinquent payments and late charges. Purchasers have failed

to pay the final balloon payment of \$140,461.47 due on 10/01/14, plus interest from 10/01/14 at the rate of 8.933% per annum until paid. Purchasers have failed to pay the real estate taxes for all of 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 as required by the contract. Purchasers currently owe \$4,652.00 in delinquent real estate taxes. The total amount due is \$189,738.47.

3. For contracts executed after August 1, 1976, and prior to August 1, 1985, the purchase price was _____ Dollars (\$____) and the amount of the purchase price paid by the purchaser is _____ Dollars (\$____), which is _____% of the purchase price, as calculated in the manner required by Minn. Stat. 559.21, subd. 1e.

4. The conditions contained in Minn. Stat. 559.209 have been complied with or are not applicable.

5. THIS NOTICE IS TO INFORM YOU THAT BY THIS NOTICE THE SELLER HAS BEGUN PROCEEDINGS UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 559.21, TO TERMINATE YOUR CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF YOUR PROPERTY FOR THE REASONS SPECIFIED IN THIS NOTICE. THE CONTRACT WILL TERMINATE 90 DAYS AFTER (THE FIRST DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE) UNLESS BEFORE THEN: (a.) THE PERSON AUTHORIZED IN THIS NOTICE TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS RECEIVES FROM YOU;

(1.) THE AMOUNT THIS NOTICE SAYS YOU OWE; PLUS (2.) THE COSTS OF SERVICE (TO BE SENT TO YOU); PLUS (3.) \$500.00 TO APPLY TO ATTORNEYS' FEES ACTUALLY EXPENDED OR INCURRED; PLUS (4.) FOR CONTRACTS EXECUTED ON OR AFTER MAY 1, 1980, ANY ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS BECOMING DUE UNDER THE CONTRACT TO THE SELLER AFTER THIS NOTICE WAS SERVED ON YOU; PLUS

(5.) FOR CONTRACTS, OTHER THAN EARNEST MONEY CONTRACTS, PURCHASE AGREEMENTS, AND EXERCISED OPTIONS, EXECUTED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 1, 1985, \$892.50 (WHICH IS TWO PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT IN DEFAULT AT THE TIME OF SERVICE, OTHER THAN THE FINAL BALLOON PAYMENT, ANY TAXES, ASSESSMENTS, MORTGAGES, OR PRIOR CONTRACTS THAT ARE ASSUMED BY YOU); OR (b.) YOU SECURE FROM A COUNTY OR DISTRICT COURT AN ORDER THAT THE TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT BE SUSPENDED UNTIL YOUR CLAIMS OR DEFENSES ARE FINALLY DISPOSED OF BY TRIAL, HEARING OR SETTLEMENT. YOUR ACTION MUST SPECIFICALLY STATE THOSE FACTS AND GROUNDS THAT DEMONSTRATE YOUR CLAIMS OR DEFENSES. IF YOU DO NOT DO ONE OR THE OTHER OF THE ABOVE THINGS WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SPECIFIED IN THIS NOTICE, YOUR CONTRACT WILL TERMINATE AT THE END OF THE PERIOD AND YOU WILL LOSE ALL THE MONEY YOU HAVE PAID IN THE CONTRACT. YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY. YOU MAY LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO ASSERT ANY CLAIMS OR DEFENSES THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE. AND YOU WILL BE EVICTED. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS NOTICE, CONTACT AN ATTORNEY IMMEDIATELY.

6. The name, mailing address, street address or location and telephone number of the seller or of an attorney authorized by the seller to accept payments pursuant to this notice is:

Name: Benjamin M. Cass
Attorney for Seller
Mailing Address: Smith, Tollefson, Rahrick & Cass
P.O. Box 271, Owatonna MN 55060
Street Address or Location where the Seller or the Attorney will accept payment pursuant to this notice: Smith, Tollefson, Rahrick & Cass
108 West Park Square, Suite A, Owatonna, MN 55060
Telephone: (507) 451-6540

2/17, 2/24, 3/3

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That Default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: 11/30/2005 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$ 108,000.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Heidi Brown and Shawn Brown, wife and husband MORTGAGEE: -Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Premier Mortgage Funding, Inc. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: 12/15/2005 as Document Number A000337754 in the Office of the County Recorder, Steele County, Minnesota ASSIGNMENT OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF8 Master Participation Trust DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: 12/17/2014 as Document Number A000400004 in the Office of the County Recorder, Steele County, Minnesota TAX PARCEL I.D. NO.: 14-107-0102 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 2, Block 1, Virtue's Addition to the Village (now City) of Blooming Prairie, Steele County, Minnesota. ABSTRACT PROPERTY STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 111 West Main Street, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Premier Mortgage Funding, Inc. RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Caliber Home Loans Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 1 0 0 2 4 8 0 - 0 0 0 0 1 9 9 5 4 4 - 8 THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE AS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE: \$130,488.42 THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes. PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the mortgaged premises will be sold by the Sheriff of Steele, Minnesota at public auction as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: 04/09/2015 at 10:00 A.M. PLACE OF SALE: Steele Sheriff's

Bridge Street, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-119-0317 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$120,280.70

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: April 14, 2015, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on October 14, 2015, or the next business day if October 14, 2015 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: February 16, 2015
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
Attorneys for Mortgagee
12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

2/24, 3/3, 3/20
3/17, 3/24, 3/31

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That Default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: 11/30/2005 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$ 108,000.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Heidi Brown and Shawn Brown, wife and husband MORTGAGEE: -Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Premier Mortgage Funding, Inc. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: 12/15/2005 as Document Number A000337754 in the Office of the County Recorder, Steele County, Minnesota ASSIGNMENT OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF8 Master Participation Trust DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: 12/17/2014 as Document Number A000400004 in the Office of the County Recorder, Steele County, Minnesota TAX PARCEL I.D. NO.: 14-107-0102 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 2, Block 1, Virtue's Addition to the Village (now City) of Blooming Prairie, Steele County, Minnesota. ABSTRACT PROPERTY STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 111 West Main Street, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Premier Mortgage Funding, Inc. RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Caliber Home Loans Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 1 0 0 2 4 8 0 - 0 0 0 0 1 9 9 5 4 4 - 8 THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE AS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE: \$130,488.42 THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes. PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the mortgaged premises will be sold by the Sheriff of Steele, Minnesota at public auction as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: 04/09/2015 at 10:00 A.M. PLACE OF SALE: Steele Sheriff's

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That Default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: 11/30/2005 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$ 108,000.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Heidi Brown and Shawn Brown, wife and husband MORTGAGEE: -Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Premier Mortgage Funding, Inc. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: 12/15/2005 as Document Number A000337754 in the Office of the County Recorder, Steele County, Minnesota ASSIGNMENT OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF8 Master Participation Trust DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: 12/17/2014 as Document Number A000400004 in the Office of the County Recorder, Steele County, Minnesota TAX PARCEL I.D. NO.: 14-107-0102 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 2, Block 1, Virtue's Addition to the Village (now City) of Blooming Prairie, Steele County, Minnesota. ABSTRACT PROPERTY STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 111 West Main Street, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Premier Mortgage Funding, Inc. RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Caliber Home Loans Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 1 0 0 2 4 8 0 - 0 0 0 0 1 9 9 5 4 4 - 8 THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE AS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE: \$130,488.42 THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes. PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the mortgaged premises will be sold by the Sheriff of Steele, Minnesota at public auction as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: 04/09/2015 at 10:00 A.M. PLACE OF SALE: Steele Sheriff's

Office, 204 E. Pearl, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said Mortgagor(s) or Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is Six (6) Months from the date of sale. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23, the mortgagor must vacate the mortgaged property by 11:59 p.m. on 10/09/2015, or the next business day if 10/09/2015 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT 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: 02/17/2015

U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF8 Master Participation Trust, Mortgagee/Mortgage Assignee

Klatt, Augustine, Sayer, Treinen & Rastede, P.C., By Brian G. Sayer, Attorney for Mortgagee/Mortgage Assignee

925 E 4th St., Waterloo, IA 50703

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

2/17, 2/24, 3/3,
3/10, 3/17, 3/24

BP School

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756 BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 55917

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2015
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

6:00 a.m.
Thursday, March 12, 2015
Regular School Board Work Session—High School Board Room
7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 16, 2015
Open Public Forum—High School Media Center
7:15 p.m.
Monday, March 16, 2015
Regular School Board Meeting—High School Media Center

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

I. CALL TO ORDER - CHAIRPERSON

II. ROLL CALL – CLERK

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IV. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

V. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED
A. Consent Agenda
Minutes
Bills
Treasurer's Report
Resignation
Employment
B. Additional Administrative Position
C. Principals' Contract
D. Senior Level Music Weighting
E. Class Sizes/Sections

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

VII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

3/3

Foreclosure

14-096324-FC02

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 6, 2009 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$151,020.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Joseph R. Ethen and Andrea L. Ethen, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 100103210000575851 LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: The Business Bank DBA Prime Mortgage SERVICES: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed November 10, 2009, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000367678 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association; Dated: July 13, 2012 filed: July 30, 2012, recorded as document number A000385897 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: West 31 feet of Lot 14 and the East 50 1/2 feet of Lot 15, all in Block 1 in Re-Plat of Clarke-Chambers Highland Park Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota, together with that part of the vacated alley attributable thereto. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 559 East Academy St, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-136-0115 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$157,594.70 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: April 7, 2015, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on October 7, 2015, or the next business day if October 7, 2015 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: February 6, 2015

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559 Diane F. Mach - 273788 Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778 Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X Gary J. Evers - 0134764 Attorneys for Mortgagee 12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200 Burnsville, MN 55337 (952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

Jessica Gonzalez Foreclosure Assistant Shapiro & Zielke, LLP 12550 West Frontage Rd., Suite 200 Burnsville, MN 55337 952-831-4060 ext. 3160 Office 847-954-4800 Fax jgonzalez@LOGS.com www.zielkeattorneys.com

2/17, 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No 74-PR-15-333

Estate of

Clifford E. Wolf, Decedent

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that an application for informal probate of the Decedent's Will, dated September 27, 1996, and ("Will") has been filed with the Registrar. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Registrar has informally appointed Roberta Wolf Halverson, whose address is 1180 Havana Road, Owatonna, MN, 55060, as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed with the Court (pursuant to Minn. Stat. 524.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will or appointment of the Personal Representative must be filed with this Court and will be heard by the Court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings by given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minn. Stat. 501B.41, subd. 5.

Dated: Feb 17, 2015

Kris Schmitz Feb 17 2015 Registrar

Attorney for Personal Representative David L. Einhaus Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A. 202 N. Cedar Ave. PO Box 545 Owatonna, MN, 55060

Attorney License No: 26190 Telephone: (507) 451-3580 FAX: (507) 451-3532 Email: einhaus@owatonnaalawyers.com

2/24,3/3

Foreclosure

15-099372

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 27, 2012 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$97,465.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Nicholas J Jacobs, and Nicolette M Jacobs, Husband and Wife MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. SERVICES: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed February 2, 2012, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000382733 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 3, Block 4, Riverside Addition to the City of Owatonna. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 216 Highland Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-119-0403 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$95,167.55

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: April 21, 2015, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on October 21, 2015, or the next business day if October 21, 2015 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: February 17, 2015

Wells Fargo Bank, NA 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 Attorneys for Mortgagee 12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200 Burnsville, MN 55337 (952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

3.3,3/10,3/17 3/24,3/31,4/7

3/3,3/10

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No 74-PR-15-361

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

Estate of Dorothy B. Kruckeberg, Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on April 7, 2015, at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent, dated, October 8, 2014, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Bonnie Lips Qualley, whose address is 1960 Truman Avenue S., Owatonna, MN, 55060, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated:

BY THE COURT (COURT SEAL)

Karen R. Duncan 2015.02.20 Judge of District Court Attorney for Petitioner

Eric J. Mattison Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A. 202 N. Cedar Ave. P.O. Box 545 Owatonna, MN, 55060

Attorney License No: 151609 Telephone: (507) 451-3580 FAX: (507) 451-3532 Email: mattison@owatonnaalawyers.com

BP City

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

Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of the February Regular City Council Meeting

Financial Report Committee/Commission Reports

1. B.P. Public Utilities 2. E.D.A. 3. B.P. Planning & Zoning 4. B.P. Fire Commission 5. B.P. Ambulance Commission Business

1. Resolution – State Aid for Local Transportation 2. Sixth Street NW Project 3. Resolution Supporting State Funding for City Streets 4. Main Street East – Special Assessments City Administrator's Report 1. Board of Review Reminder 2. Fabcon Warranty – Ambulance Facility 3. Community Garden and The Boys and Girls Club

City Attorney's Report Council Members' Reports

Adjourn

3/3

Fishing regulations, opportunities for anglers

Anglers will have more opportunities to fish for bass, sturgeon and trout this year thanks to changes in Minnesota's fishing regulations.

"This will be a great year to expand your fishing horizons in Minnesota," said Al Stevens, fisheries program consultant with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "There will be a new catch-and-release bass season and additional opportunities to fish for sturgeon and stream trout. Muskellunge will get greater protection, giving anglers more chances to catch one of our state's most prized trophies."

Fishing regulation changes are summarized on page six of the 2015 Minnesota Fishing Regulations booklet, which will be available by Sunday, March 1, at any license agent or online at www.mndnr.gov/fishmn and www.mndnr.gov/regulations/fishing.

Bass fishing expands

Beginning Saturday, May 9, anglers in most of the state can catch and release bass until the regular harvest season opens Saturday, May 23. Meanwhile, anglers in northeast Minnesota can continue to catch and keep bass during these two weeks. Northeast Minnesota is defined as essentially north and east of U.S. Highway 53.

"This new catch-and-release bass season means that anglers statewide can fish for bass starting on the May 9 walleye and northern pike opener," Stevens said. "Anglers have long asked for more chances to fish for bass in the early part of the fishing season."

In past years, anglers could not fish for bass until Memorial Day weekend outside northeastern Minnesota. But in the new two-week catch-and-release season, anglers can fish for largemouth and smallmouth bass. All bass caught during this two-week period must immediately be released.

In another bass season change, the fall closure on harvest of smallmouth bass has been lifted in the northeast.

Interested in doing more bass fishing in Minnesota this year? Learn more at www.mndnr.gov/fishmn/bass.



sales opportunity

BUSSLER PUBLISHING is searching for an outside sales executive preferably with some sales experience. Print or media industry experience would be a bonus. We want a dynamite person committed and driven to selling advertising.

The outside executive is responsible for establishing and maintaining profitable relationships with customers on behalf of the company and actively prospecting for new accounts and maximizing sales potential with existing customers. The primary territory would be Owatonna and Medford. This opportunity includes sales for three publications.

The right person should possess the following qualities:

- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Self motivated, independent and problem-solving
- A strong sales aptitude
- Able to meet monthly, quarterly and annual revenue sales goals
- Strong persuasive and interpersonal skills
- Able to identify and meet customers' needs and requirements

EXCELLENCE is a must for this challenging opportunity. We offer a competitive compensation package, including base salary plus commission. We also offer holidays and paid time off.

Please direct a letter of interest and resume to bprick@frontier.com.

507-583-4431

STEELE COUNTY Times

Blooming Prairie Township will hold it's Annual Meeting & Election March 10, 2015

Polling hours are 4pm till 8pm with the meeting immediately following the closing of the polls. The ballot this year consists of 3 offices.

Jerry Wencil Supervisor 3 year term
Doug Krell Supervisor 2 year term
Katie Zipse Treasurer 2 year term

Weather date will be March 17th at the same time. Listen to KOWZ for weather cancellations.

Thank You Missy Anderson- Clerk

3/3

AGRO-CULTURE LIQUID FERTILIZERS

SEED CORN AVAILABLE

Farmers First Ag., Blooming Prairie, MN Alan: 507-676-5917 I Ron: 507-213-6548

Saving you \$40 TO \$60/ACRE over dry spread fertilizers.

Find out more at our meeting

MARCH 12 2 & 6PM

Blooming Prairie

(At our office just north of Caseys gas station.)

Lunch will be served. Also covering the uses and advantages of Gypsol and Carbonaided Humaric Acid.

GYPSOL BRAND GYPSUM

CARBON-AIDED

Steele County



Advice from the pros: do not neglect auto service

The average age of a personal vehicle on the road today is more than 11 years, according to recent news reports. In tough economic times, it's natural to rein in spending. But the experts at the nonprofit National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) warn that putting off routine auto maintenance or ignoring service intervals is false economy. Small issues can morph into more expensive repairs.

For example, failure to replace worn brake pads or a faulty oxygen sensor -- both relatively easy services for qualified auto technicians -- can result in expensive brake rotor service or costly replacement of the vehicle's catalytic converter.

Frequently neglected items include oil changes, tire and brake service, wheel alignment, air and fuel filters, and transmission service, according to

ASE-certified auto technicians.

Besides, a well-maintained vehicle gets better gasoline mileage, pollutes less, is safer to operate, and lasts longer than one that's neglected, notes ASE.

To help consumers choose a repair shop that fits their needs, ASE offers the following checklist:

- * Look for a neat, well-organized facility, with vehicles in the parking lot equal in value to your own and modern equipment in the service bays.
- * Look for a courteous staff, with a service consultant willing to answer all of your questions.
- * Look for policies regarding estimated repair costs, diagnostic fees, guarantees, and acceptable methods of payment.

WE EMPLOY



CERTIFIED PROFESSIONALS

Let us show you their credentials

CAR CARE MONTH

- * Ask if the repair facility specializes or if it usually handles your type of repair work.
- * Look for signs of professionalism in the customer service area, such as civic, community, or customer service awards.
- * Look for evidence of qualified technicians: trade school diplomas, certificates of advanced course work, and certification by ASE.
- * Look for the ASE sign or logo; it means the shop employs nationally certified technicians.

The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) was founded in 1972 as a nonprofit, independent organization dedicated to improving the quality of automotive service and repair through the voluntary testing and certification of automotive technicians.

ASE-certified technicians wear blue and white ASE shoulder insignia and carry credentials listing their exact areas of certification. Their employers often display the blue and white ASE sign.

Let us know if you are looking for something we don't have.
We have access to hundreds of vehicles every week.
Great financing rates are available.

We carry multiple brands of tires and Interstate batteries.

115 State Street • West Concord

Where the nice cars are!

Your Pre-Owned Chrysler – Dodge – Jeep Specialists



507-527-2241

ELLIS BODY SHOP



1231 BRADY BLVD. NW • OWATONNA, MN

507-451-0845
(800) 310-0845
FAX (507) 451-0540

JACK & TRACY ELLIS
Family Owned Since 1978

Servicing Steele County
for Over 60 Years!

WE DO IT ALL... and we always
do it with the BEST SERVICE



It's no wonder Owatonna and Steele County turns to us for all of their auto repair needs, from routine oil changes to brakes, tires, shocks, and alignments. Whether you drive a car, truck, van or SUV, we'll keep your vehicle running smoothly with quality service from friendly, trained professionals.



SERVICE

- oil changes
- transmissions
- brake systems
- fuel injection
- tire rotation & balance
- wheel alignment
- heating & cooling
- steering systems
- batteries

REPAIR

- transmissions
- air conditioning
- rack & pinion
- brake systems
- starting systems
- fuel systems
- CV joints & shafts
- charging systems

Auto/Light Truck • Farm Business • Tires • Brakes Road Service • Exhaust

211 W. Main
OWATONNA
507-451-3084
1-800-446-3084
Open Mon.– Fri. 7-5:30;
Sat. 7-noon

website:
Harlandstire.com
email:
Harlandstire@qwestoffice.com



The best tires in the world have Goodyear written all over them!



Collision Specialists Inc
www.csiaustinmn.com

CSI IS NOW ONE OF THE BEST-IN-CLASS
collision repair businesses across the United States and the only collision repair facility in South Central MN certified to repair the 2015 Ford F-150 military grade, aluminum-alloy body and high-strength 70,000-psi steel frame.



CSI has been certified by Assured Performance, a non-profit consumer advocacy organization, and officially recognized by Ford, GM, Chrysler and Enterprise.

COLLISION SPECIALISTS

is committed to provide our customers with unsurpassed personalized service. With inside estimating, exceptional waiting area, and a state of the art facility, which is one of the best in southern MN.

We are proud to serve Austin and the surrounding areas and are committed to ongoing education for our technicians, and have the latest in equipment and technology.





507-437-2837
1410 21st Avenue, Austin
HOURS: M-Th 7:30AM - 5:30PM, Fri. by appt only.
Closed Sat. & Sun.



Steele County



CAR CARE MONTH

Air filters are important to your vehicle

Motorists routinely check their tires for proper inflation, top off engine fluid levels and maintain oil change schedules. But some drivers do not understand the importance of keeping engine air filters clean.

Engine air filters are a relatively inex-

pensive vehicle part, but they perform a very important job. For every gallon of gas a car burns, it uses the equivalent of 12,000 gallons of air, and that air must be filtered to help keep an engine clean.

Air filters catch all of the dust, grime, insects, sap, leaves, and any other debris

that may get sucked up past the air intake of the vehicle's grill and into the engine itself. Without the air filter, those contaminants may compromise the engine, causing corrosion and abrasion. If the air filter in the engine becomes too dirty and is not changed regularly, the engine

is starved of air.

Clean air filters allow just the right ratio of air to fuel to enable the engine to function properly. Engines need adequate air for the combustion process to take place. Without the proper combustion levels, vehicles cannot perform

properly or efficiently and the engine may burn more gas or get fewer miles to the gallon. A dirty filter also can rob an engine of power. Drivers may notice sluggish acceleration.

Air filters also can get so dirty that the engine stalls completely. But such a problem only develops after considerable neglect.

Air filters may not need to be replaced at each and every oil change service call. Many technicians advise replacing the filter every 8,000 miles. However, drivers who live in particularly dry and dusty regions may need to replace filters more frequently.

Mechanics can often detect when an air filter needs to be replaced. If he or she notices the air filter is particularly dirty, then it's probably time to replace it. Replacing the filter is a relatively inexpensive repair for the amount of performance and peace of mind a new filter provides.



**Medgaarden's
SOUTH WEST
SALES**

437-1316
1608 12th St. S.W. • Austin, MN
www.swsalesinc.com
"Quality Used Cars For Less!"

**The
TRANNNY Shop**
of Austin

501 1st Ave. SW Austin MN
Service & Rebuild All Domestic
Automatic Transmissions
507-437-0037

Northstar
BODY SHOP

25446 US Hwy 218 N • Austin, MN

Collision & Paint Work
Frame Machine
Alignments & Tires
507-433-4609

WALSER

Collision & Glass

**We work with all insurance companies,
and all make and vehicle models.**

195 18th St. SE
Owatonna

507-774-7853

DARRICK'S

PREFERRED AUTO

FREE SERVICES

(with service work)

- Loaner Cars
- Nitrogen with Tires
- Alignment Checks
- Tire Rotation
- Battery Charging & Checks
- Pickup & Delivery within 15 miles
- Service Light Code Checks
- Free Towing for the year

507-583-9994

24/7 Towing 507-440-0093

536 Highway 218 S.
Blooming Prairie

www.darrickspreferredauto.com



Lowell's Auto Sales

12 E Highway Street,
Dodge Center • 374-2651



We Do Service Work

Service
You Can Trust!



Sales & Repair

Michelin • B.F. Goodrich • Firestone
870 32 Ave. NW, Owatonna • 455-0388
Emergency or on the farm repair

507-455-0388

(After hours 507-455-0483)



Firestone



Claremont Service Center, Inc



ASE Certified Technicians

- AAA Towing
- Car & Truck Repair
- 4 Wheel Computerized Alignment
- Major & Minor Engine & Transmission Repair
- Many Computerized Diagnostic Tools Available Including Factory Scan Tools

The Difference Is The Service

111 Front Street, Claremont, MN •

Service Center: 507-528-2233 • After Hours Towing: 507-456-4158

**CLAREMONT
SERVICE CENTER**

Your Complete Truck & Auto Care Provider!



KECK'S

REPAIR INC.

**507-455-2679 or
507-463-2679**

7123 SW 82nd Ave • Owatonna • www.kecksrepair.com



YOUR AGRI
CONNECTION

FARM LIVINGPLUS

ON THE
FARM



Karen Anderson

Growing concern: Palmer Amaranth

Over the last month, I have had the opportunity to help with the Private Pesticide Recertification workshops. One of the topics that has stayed with me is the potential arrival of the Amaranthus palmeri or Palmer pigweed to the state of Minnesota.

Palmer amaranth is an invasive weed native to the desert southwest and thrives in hot climatic conditions. Populations have been identified in Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa due to the transportation of southern produced cotton-related livestock feed sources into these areas. It's time to learn the signs to identify the Palmer amaranth, and to detect and eradicate it before any permanent population can be established.

The Palmer amaranth is a very competitive weed that has the potential to be resistant to multiple herbicides. Palmer amaranth looks similar to waterhemp and other pigweed species, however this weed has a jungle-like growth rate of 1-3 inches per day. The most notable characteristic of the Palmer amaranth is the rosette leaf pattern that is similar to a poinsettia plant when the weed is observed from above. The leaves are rounded and tend to have petioles (stems) longer than the leaf blade.

The female Palmer amaranth flowers have long bracts that extend beyond the sepals and seed capsules. The bracts become sharp at maturity, making female plants painful to handle. To assist in the identification of Palmer amaranth, Purdue University released a video called "Identifying Palmer Amaranth in the Field," which can be found at: <http://z.umn.edu/palmeramaranthid>.

Check your fields for "water-hemp escapes" to rule out Palmer amaranth. If it is suspected, remove plants from the field immediately to help prevent the additional of seeds to the weed seed bank. Then contact the University of Minnesota Extension. Where Palmer amaranth is suspected or confirmed, weed management practices in future years will need to account for Palmer amaranth, as this weed has proven to be very challenging to manage.

For more information and links to additional resources, visit www.takeactiononweeds.com.

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



THE CLASSIFIEDS-
Where the Deals Are!

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.
Call to place an item in the Classifieds today:
507-583-4431

Organic farm transition support returns for 2015

Minnesota farmers can apply for Organic Transition Cost Share funding again in 2015. The three-year-old program refunds a portion of the cost of working with an organic certifying agency. The refund can span some or all of the 36 months a transition typically takes.

"Farmers are not required to hire a certifier. However, if they want their crops and/or livestock certified, working with a certifier during the transition allows them to practice recordkeeping and on-farm inspections, so they'll be ready when it really counts," said Minnesota Department of Agriculture Organic

Program Administrator, Meg Moynihan.

Only farmers who are new to organic may apply. The program reimburses 75 percent of the cost to hire a certifier during transition and requires an on-farm mock inspection. Applicants may also include the cost of soil testing and attending an approved organic conference in Minnesota or a neighboring state. Payments are capped at \$750 per year. For costs paid during calendar year 2015, applications must be postmarked no later than Feb. 14.

Moynihan added, "Demand for organic crops and dairy is currently outstripping supply, and organic

price premiums are strong right now. This means there's room in the market for farmers to transition and join the approximately 700 certified organic farms in Minnesota."

Organic Transition Cost Share Program application forms, a set of Frequently Asked Questions, and a list of approved certifying agencies offering transition verification are available at www.mda.state.mn.us/organic or by calling 651-201-6012.



\$14 Million in grants supporting economic growth for rural communities

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced nearly \$14 million in grants to support four programs to increase prosperity in rural America through research, education and extension programs focused on promoting rural community development, economic growth, and sustainability.

"Nearly 60 million Americans live in rural areas, and their value and impact through the agriculture industry can be felt both domestically and internationally," said Sonny Ramaswamy, NIFA director. "To help these communities remain prosperous and viable, we need to support discovery of new ways that promote economic viability among producers, small businesses, and communities in rural America."

Farmers, ranchers, and rural communities are the backbone and economic lifeblood for Americans everywhere, providing food, feed, fiber, fuels, and open spaces. However, rural areas and communities face many hardships. High poverty rates, slow recovery from economic recession, and low average income per household are all challenges to having a successful and viable community. Funding from NIFA is expected to assist communities and regions in creating self-sustaining, long-term economic development through research and strategic planning.

A fact sheet with a complete list of awardees and project

descriptions is available on the USDA website for the following projects selected for awards in each AFRI program:

Rural Communities and Regional Development: Tuskegee University,

Tuskegee, Alabama, \$499,998
University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, \$474,998

\$14 MILLION
Continued on Page 9D



10060 State Hwy. 30
Blooming Prairie • 583-6661

Let Us Put A Drainage Project Like This On Your Farm

We can also help you with:

- Aggregate Products
- Hauling
- Waterway Cleaning
- Septic
- All Excavation Projects

LOKEN
Excavation & Drainage Inc.

Call Dallas for all your Drainage Needs!
507-451-2873
Toll-Free 1-855-298-2568
3695 Hoffman Drive NW • Owatonna • loken@qwestoffice.net



40 Years in Business!



Grains and Foods Group

Hope • Ellendale • Blooming Prairie



I know health insurance.

Darrell Ingvaldson,
FARM BUREAU AGENT
100 S Mill Street
Brownsdale, MN 55918
507-567-2296



For the health of all. FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

Authorized independent agent for Blue Cross® and Blue Shield® of Minnesota, a nonprofit independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. H1C-ML-BC (4-12)



AGRO-CULTURE
LIQUID
FERTILIZERS

In-Furrow
SAVE \$20 - \$50 PER ACRE

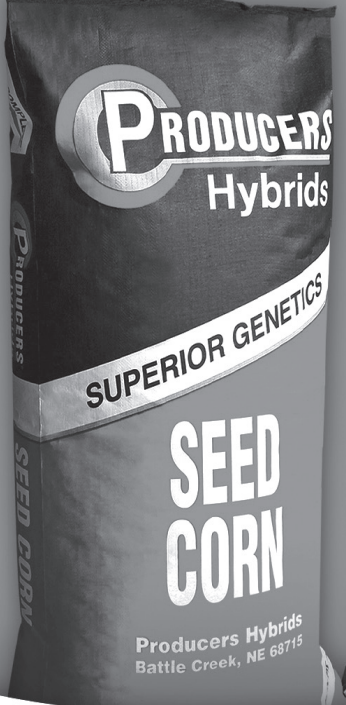
Farmers First Ag.
Ron: 507-213-6548
Al: 507-676-5917



LG
SEEDS

#1
SEED

1st in first seed trials
Janning Farms
507-213-6548



PRODUCERS Hybrids
SEED CORN
Producers Hybrids
Battle Creek, NE 68715

IT'S ALL
— IN OUR —
GENETICS
READY MORE

PRODUCERS Hybrids

Justin Krell - District Sales Manager
507.456.3834



DRAINAGE COMPANY INC.

HODGMAN

Well Drained Fields Produce Higher Yields...

NEW LOCATION
Now located between Claremont and Dodge Center right off of Hwy. 14
P.O. Box 205 • Claremont



www.hodgmandrainage.com 507.528.2225

Classifieds

www.steeledodgenews.com

Call: 507-583-4431 • Fax: 507-583-4445 • Email: bptimes@frontiernet.net • Mail: P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

\$14 MILLION

Continued from 8D

University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho, \$499,287
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, \$499,789
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, \$498,943
Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana, \$474,190
Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, \$499,374
University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, \$499,994
Agricultural Economics and Rural Communities – Environment:
University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, \$500,000
Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, \$500,000
Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, \$499,976
University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada, \$498,393
University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island, \$463,096
University of Rhode Island, Kingston, \$47,882
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia, \$313,557
Agricultural Economics and Rural Communities – Economics, Markets and Trade:
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas, \$399,867
University of Illinois, Urbana,

Illinois, \$49,600
Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, \$499,709
Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, \$245,131
Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, \$500,000
Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, \$494,547
Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma, \$485,414
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, \$379,234
University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming, \$149,858
NIFA also provided funds through the Small and Medium-sized Farm program, which provides farmers and ranchers assistance in their decision making with respect to management strategies, new technologies, sustainability, competitiveness, and viability. Funded projects focus on developing new disciplinary or multidisciplinary models to assist agricultural landowner's decision-making in scale management strategies and technologies to enhance economic efficiency and sustainability. This includes the viability and competitiveness of small and medium-sized dairy, poultry, livestock, crop, forestry, and other commodity operations.

Fiscal year 2014 Small and Medium-Sized Farms include:
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas, \$499,978
Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, \$471,462
Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, \$499,995
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, \$499,380
Alcorn State University, Lorman, Mississippi, \$499,794
Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, \$384,913
Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, \$499,996
University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, \$499,978
The purpose of AFRI is to support research, education, and extension work by awarding grants that address key problems of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of food and agriculture. AFRI is NIFA's flagship competitive grant program authorized under the 2014 Farm Bill and supports work in six priority areas: 1) plant health and production and plant products; 2) animal health and production and animal products; 3) food safety, nutrition and health; 4) bioenergy, natural resources and environment; 5) agriculture systems and technology; and 6) agriculture economics and rural communities.

Through federal funding and leadership for research, education and extension programs, NIFA focuses on investing in science and solving critical issues impacting people's daily lives and the nation's future. For more information, visit www.nifa.usda.gov.

Events

WASECA FLEA MARKET:
1.5 Miles East of Waseca on "Old" Hwy 14. Over 1,000 items. Open Fri-Sun 10-5. 507-380-1049. www.letonlineauctions.com



mcAN

Minnesota Classified Advertising Network



HELP WANTED - DRIVERS

CLASS A CDL

local drivers for IA & MINN. \$20.00/hr. some jobs up to \$35.00/hr. plus benefits. Call Monson & Sons 800/463-4097 ext. 110/109 EOE

NOW HIRING

Company OTR drivers. \$2,000 sign on bonus, flexible home time, extensive benefits. Call now! Hibb's & Co. 763/389-0610

Classified Advertising that is

Easy!

THE MINNESOTA CLASSIFIED AD NETWORK

Make an impact with your advertising dollar with classified advertising that reaches over 3 million readers!



FARM EQUIPMENT

MINNESOTA HUNTING LAND

Wanted. Earn thousands on your land by leasing the hunting rights. Free evaluation & info packet. Liability coverage included. The experts at Base Camp Leasing have been bringing landowners & hunters together since 1999. Email: info@basecampleasing.com Call: 866/309-1507 www.BaseCampLeasing.com

MISCELLANEOUS

CANADA DRUG CENTER

is your choice for safe and affordable medications. Our licensed Canadian mail order pharmacy will provide you with savings of up to 75% on all your medication needs. Call today 800/259-1096 for \$10.00 off your first prescription and free shipping.

DO YOU OWE

over \$10,000 to the IRS or State in back taxes? You could get a settlement as low as 25% of previous IRS settlements. Call now! 800/558-0486

MISCELLANEOUS

DISH TV RETAILER

Dish TV Retailer -Save! Starting \$19.99/month (for 12 months.) Free Premium Movie Channels. Free Equipment, Installation & Activation. Call, compare local deals!! 800/297-8706

DONATE YOUR CAR

truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3 day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 800/439-1735

GOT KNEE PAIN?

Back Pain? Shoulder Pain? Get a pain-relieving brace -little or no cost to you. Medicare patients call health hotline now! 800/755-6807

SAWMILLS

from only \$4,397.00 Make & save money with your own bandmill. Cut lumber any dimension. In stock, ready to ship. Free Info/DVD: 800/578-1363 Ext.300N www.NorwoodSawmills.com

For sale

FOR SALE Corner curio cabinet oak \$100 Water fountain for outside \$50 Black TV hutch w/drawers below \$50 Call if Interested 507-438-4734.

For rent

2 BR APARTMENT FOR rent in Blooming Prairie. Main floor with on-site laundry. No smoking, no pets. \$650 a month, plus electricity. Call 507-421-0618.

3 BR, 2 BATH HOUSE in Blooming Prairie. \$650 a month, plus utilities. No smoking, no pets. Call 507-421-0618

BUESING

CLASS A CDL DRIVER

BULK TRANSPORT INC.

- Paid pneumatic training.
- Take assigned truck home with you.
- Average \$1,000-\$1,200 a week.
- Home weekly. • Medical, dental, life ins. available.
- 401K (Company contribution.) • Well-maintained equipment. • Holiday bonuses.



1-800-242-2402, ext. 122

Send resume to kevin@buesingbulk.com

HAMILTON

AUCTION COMPANY

SPRING CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2015 - 9:30 AM

130 State Hwy. 16, Dexter,, MN

FARM EQUIP-TRACTORS-TILLAGE-PLANTERS-DRILLS CONSTRUCTION EQUIP.-TRUCKS-TRAILERS-VEHICLES

LOCATED: Hamilton Auction Co. off Interstate 90 at Dexter, MN exit #193, then 1/4 mile east on Hwy 16

Consign your farm equipment including tractors, tillage, planters, drills, trucks, trailers, pickups, cars, construction equipment & misc. farm items by the 16th of March to have items listed on sale bill. **NO CAR TIRES**—Limited number of small items accepted.

TO CONSIGN CALL: 507 584 0133 OFFICE

HAMILTON AUCTION CO.

130 State Hwy 16
Dexter, MN 55926



40 ACRES FOR SALE

Elenor Peterson Trust

Parcel ID: 170030030

820th Ave, Ellendale, Mn

If interested contact:
Judi Nashette 804-790-1813



WEEKLY CROSSWORD

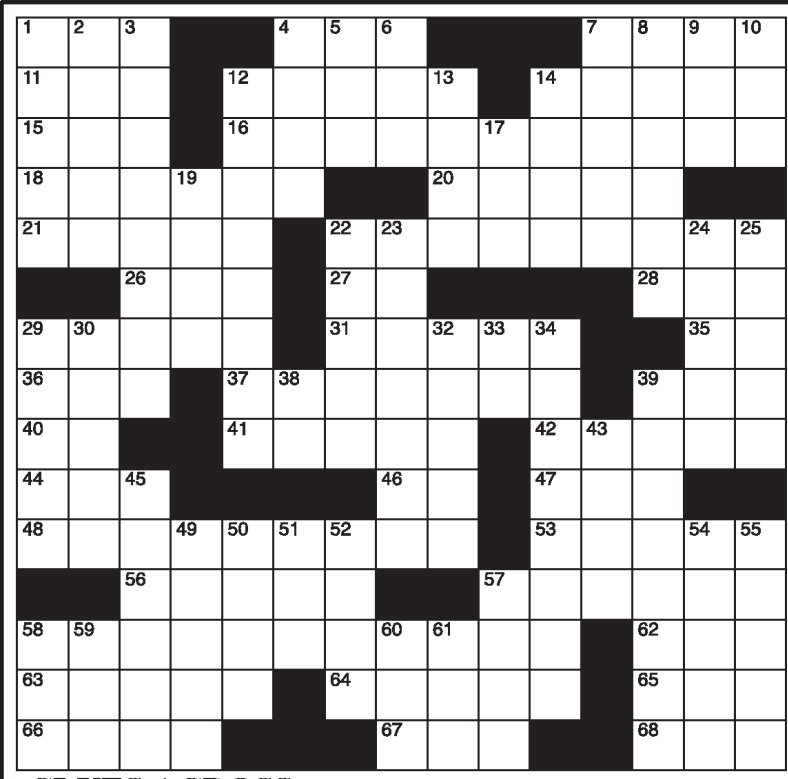
Answers on Page 6C

CLUES ACROSS

- Printing speed measurement
- Fed
- A domed or vaulted recess
- Macaws
- Neck garment
- A billionth of an ohm
- Local area network
- Cleve. basketball hero
- Wounded & disfigured
- Civil Rights group
- Master of ceremonies
- Smallest artery branches
- Ref
- Exist
- Diagram of earth's surface
- SE Asian sarsaparilla soft drink
- Fire remains
- 3rd tone
- Before
- It breaks down lactose
- A waterproof raincoat
- Atomic #18
- NW Canadian territory
- Hindquarters
- Follows sigma
- Rural delivery
- Point that is one point N of due E
- Excels
- Berkus and Silver
- Famous for fables
- Philippine capital
- Meg Ryan's ex-husband
- Doleful
- Arugula genus
- Nursery verse
- The 7th Greek letter
- Container for shipping
- Charge for services
- Immature onion plant

CLUES DOWN

- Swedish statesman Olaf
- Baltic flat-bottomed boat (alt. sp.)
- Fingernail treatment
- Breezed through
- Check
- Stray
- Ancient computing devices
- Something cheerleaders wave
- The woman
- Ambulance rescue initials
- In a drowsy manner
- A set of type of one style
- Not completely closed
- No (Scottish)
- Microelectromechanical system
- Having the wind against the forward side
- Reestablish
- Khloe K's former husband
- Verse forms
- Places to sit
- Chilean pianist Claudio
- Rounds of poker
- Spanish be
- Sing and play for somebody
- Chemical symbol for gold
- Praying insects
- Israeli politician Abba
- 7th planet from the sun
- Br. plural of a penny
- Largest continent
- Distress signal
- Senate and People of Rome
- Fill with high spirits
- Egyptian statesman Anwar
- Non-verbal entertainer
- 12th calendar month (abbr.)
- A major division of geological time
- Ultrahigh frequency
- Yes vote



GIVE YOUR FINANCIAL PLAN THE ATTENTION IT DESERVES.

Contact us for a complimentary consultation or second opinion – with no obligation.

Specializing in:
Mutual Funds • Unit Investment Trusts
Fixed & Variable Annuities • Stocks
Bonds • Life Insurance • Long-Term
Care Insurance • IRAs



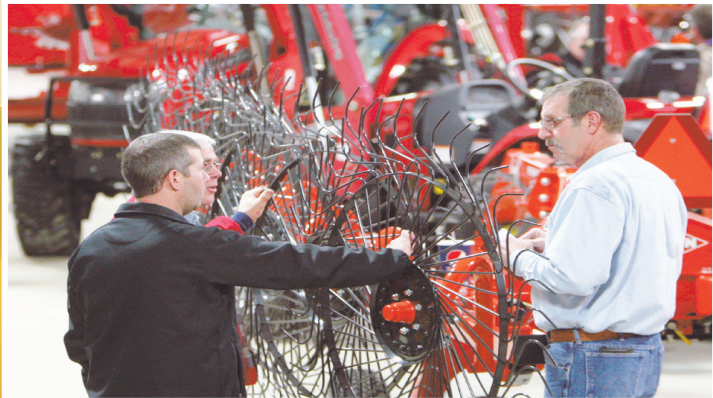
Jay Braaten,
Financial Advisor

507-434-3334 400 Fourth Ave. NE • Austin, MN 55912

Registered Representative of **INVEST Financial Corporation**, member FINRA/SIPC. INVEST and its affiliated insurance agencies offer securities, advisory services and certain insurance products and are not affiliated with Accentra Investment Services. Products offered are: • **Not FDIC insured** • **Not Credit Union Guaranteed** • **May lose value.**

33rd Annual Agri News FARM SHOW

Check out
the latest
farming
technology!



GRAHAM ARENAS 1&2

OLMSTED COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS,
ROCHESTER, MN

1580 Fairgrounds Ave. SE
(16th St. & 3rd Ave. SE)

Wed., March 18
9 am - 8 pm

Thurs., March 19
9 am - 4 pm

Enjoy food available for purchase from:

Olmsted County Pork Producers: Pork Sandwiches, **Wed., March 18**

Dairyland Beef Producers: Beef Sandwiches, **Thurs., March 19**

Olmsted County American Dairy Association: Malts and Ice Cream, **both days**

FREE ADMISSION • FREE PARKING

Give them the greatest gift of all, good health! CHILD AND TEEN CHECKUPS



Child and Teen Checkups
are available to children
from birth through age 20
who are covered by
Minnesota state health
plans such as:

- Medical Assistance
- Minnesota Care
- South Country Health Alliance
- Blue Plus

Child and Teen Checkups Program

STEELE COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH
507-444-7650

Call if you need help with transportation, interpreters or making an appointment.

