

In observance of Memorial Day, May 25, the Steele County Times office will be closed.

STEELE COUNTY Times



Science exploration C1

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Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893

911 Center: 15 years in the books

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

A first-hand look of the Rice Steele 911 Center provided some surprised expressions on Wednesday in Owatonna. “I don’t think they understood the amount of complexity that we have at the 911 Center,” said Interim Administrator Jill Bondhus. “We have to work with different agencies and we have to reach out

to all of these agencies.” Bondhus said there a lot of good questions. One involved the frustrations of citizens and all the questions asked when calling 911 to report an accident. She said that they understood after an explanation that help is already on its way. They do not understand that other things are happening in the background, she said. “It was a good education piece for that citizen,” Bondhus said.

In all, there were an estimated 75 people that visited the 911 Center throughout the day. “I think today was very successful. I was very pleased with the array of people that we had through the open house,” Bondhus stated. “I think it is important to highlight how the 911 process works. It is important to highlight the consolidation and how it works.” Steele County Commissioner James ‘Corky’ Ebeling stated it was a great day.

“What great foresight the commissioners and council people had 15 years ago being the first one in the country,” Ebeling said. “Consolidation hopefully saves money and we have good partners to work with.” Ebeling believes that an open house is

911 CENTER
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Memorial Day celebrations in Steele County

The Blooming Prairie American Legion and VFW Posts and their Auxiliaries will host the annual Memorial Day Program to honor our deceased veterans on May 25. The program begins at the Servicemen’s Club at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and treats for those who will participate in the parade. Please note the change in the parade route this year. We plan to line up at Prairie Plumbing and Heating on Hwy 218 South at 10:30 a.m. and then march over to the cemetery. There will be musical selections by the Blooming Prairie High School band and the address will be given by the Rev. Steve Peterson of St. Columbanus Catholic Church. Following the program there will be a potluck dinner at the Servicemen’s Club at noon. The public is invited and welcome to attend this dinner and program.

The Owatonna Memorial Day parade starts at 9:30 a.m. and will conclude at the Four Seasons Centre. A program is slated to take place at 10:30 a.m. at the facility.

Woman vows to keep fighting for family farm



‘Home is where the heart is’

Sonja Trom Eayrs

Story and photo
By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

Some of Sonja Trom Eayrs’ earliest memories of being on the farm were picking up rocks and pulling weeds in the fields as a 5 year old. And while she may have long left the farm and become a city girl now, Trom Eayrs has never forgotten her rural roots of growing up on her parents’ farm located outside of Blooming Prairie. “Being a farm girl is a huge part of who I am and what I do professionally,” says Trom Eayrs, who practices family law in Minneapolis. “Growing up on a farm, you learn good work ethic.” Trom Eayrs is utilizing her strong work ethic and deep connection to the farm with another battle away from family court disputes these days that has created a large amount of un-

KEEP FIGHTING
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Help is there for those who battle depression

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

It was about a month ago when a young Blooming Prairie student passed away. And according to experts that deal with depression and mental illness each day, the feelings involving the death are not going to go away in a couple of days or even a couple of weeks. “I would give them permission and allow them the opportunity to talk about it,” said South Central Human Relations Center Executive Director Carolyn Wheeler. “There is not anything odd about feeling survivor guilt, some anger. Those are all feelings following the death of someone you care about.” South Central Human Relations Center Licensed Psychologist and Clinical Director Mark Skrien added those are normal feelings to an abnormal situation. Both added that most of the school systems have crisis response plans they implement following some crisis at a



Wheeler

school. At the community mental health center, there are more than 130 employees providing services at different lev-

ery five people, or 42.5 million American adults, has a diagnosable mental health condition. Half of all lifetime cases of mental disorders begin by age 14. For teenagers, Skrien said we are seeing more bullying, in particular, cyber bullying, as well as just seeing general adjustments going through adolescence. “They are a high risk population, as is the elderly,” he said. “Teenagers and elderly are high risk for suicide and depression. The common denominator for most of these things is depression.” Skrien said that even though there is more awareness of bullying, he believes it is occurring more. “Cyber bullying is just a major issue,” he said. “Schools struggle with that because a lot of that doesn’t occur within the school environment. The schools aren’t able to do much

DEPRESSION
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Staff photo by Rick Bussler

Spring is blooming

Spring is definitely in full bloom at Frank & Tom’s Garden Center on the south end of Blooming Prairie. Cheryl Coughlin of BP stopped in Friday afternoon to pick out some fresh flowers that are in full colorful bloom. This is Frank & Tom’s 25th year in BP. They are open every day until the end of June.

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Opinion

Our view

Remember Memorial Day

Memorial Day will be here on Monday, May 25. This special day of the year has different meanings for different people.

First, in our coverage area, it is the final week leading up to graduation ceremonies and parties for our seniors. More than 500 graduates across Steele and Dodge counties will be walking up to the stage in various school districts and receiving their diplomas for all the hard work they accomplished during their high school years.

This last week will be hectic for these young people, their parents and others associated with the high school graduation. For the staff at the *Steele County Times* and *News Enterprise*, we are putting the finishing touches on our annual graduation tabs featuring the Triton School District, Blooming Prairie School District, NRHEG School District, Medford School District and Owatonna School District.

For others, Memorial Day signals the start of the summer season. This means camping, swimming and many other fun activities in the sun. Many of these summer activities have already been booked in advance. The countdown has started to a major summer vacation.

Most importantly, Memorial Day is a day to honor all of the men and women who have fought and died for our country: our veterans.

On Monday, ceremonies are being held in Blooming Prairie, Owatonna and Dodge Center, along with many other communities across the state. The celebrations in Blooming Prairie and Owatonna have become an annual occasion. A special tribute to veterans will occur in Dodge Center on Monday. That day the Veteran's Memorial will be dedicated.

It is important to remember that there are still men and women in dangerous areas around the world. They are there to protect the freedoms that we all enjoy at home in the United States. For many, Memorial Day is just that; a chance to honor and remember our fallen heroes and those that are still serving the country that they love.

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

This week's question:
What do you enjoy most about Memorial Day?

Honoring our veterans.

Summer is here.

School's Out.

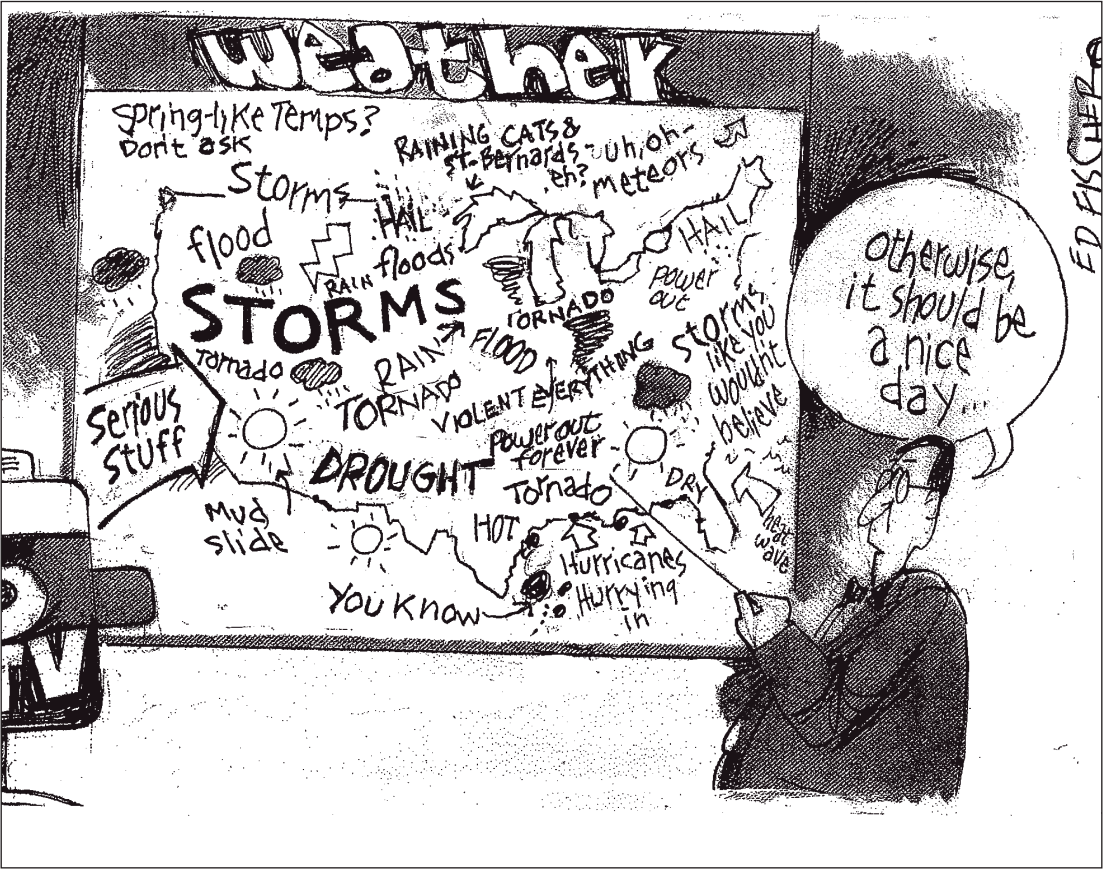
Last week's question:
Is it important to bring new ideas to a community??

* Yes, it keeps a community vibrant. 100%

* No; we have enough already. 0%

* I don't care. 0 %

Readers are encouraged to vote at steeledodgenews.com. This poll is not a pure scientific sampling of readers' views, but rather, is intended to create community discussion of issues.



A wake-up call for all parents

A sad and disturbing case has emerged out of Dodge County that should serve as a wake-up call for all parents.

Within the past few weeks, it has been revealed that a Dodge County teenager is among the victims of a U.S. Army staff sergeant accused of sexually exploiting children by using fake social media accounts. The sergeant is suspected of being tied to more than 100 cases of sexual abuse crimes against children through the use of the Internet. The Dodge County girl is 13 years old.

Ulises Moore-Ramirez, 39, portrayed himself as a 14-year-old boy and asked victims to send naked photos. He is accused of making threats of harm to the victims when they wouldn't comply. In the Dodge County case, he utilized the social media site called 'Kik.' It's similar to Snapchat where kids communicate and share photos.

Moore-Ramirez was facing court martial on numerous charges when he took off and hasn't been seen since. He has been placed on the military's Most Wanted List. And now the Dodge County family awaits his capture in hopes he gets locked up for years to come.

This case is an example of the pitfalls associated with the Internet and its related social media sites. The electronic age has been fascinating on many accounts, but it's a danger zone for our youth.



Rick Bussler

Facebook, Snapchat, Kik and others are great tools to connect with other people. But with every click of the mouse and stroke of the keyboard, danger can be lurking and traumatizing our children before they even know what hit them.

I'm not suggesting the parents of the Dodge County youth did anything wrong, but we need to use this case to look at the big picture of what can happen when too much social media takes over the lives of our children.

Parents need to know what their kids are doing on-line and who they are communicating with on social media. And as for children, sorry to break this to you, but there is no privacy when it comes to cell phones, iPads, computers or laptops.

It just drives me crazy when I see parents who use computer devices with access to the Internet as "babysitting" tools.

Children are spending much more time with these types of media than with books or in free play. Parents are not just "letting" their children watch but are often actively encouraging these forms of passive entertainment.

Giving kids a tablet is cause for concern among those because many of those parents are likely not fulfilling their parenting duties. Being in a child's life, without tablets and other electronic gadgets, as much as possible does make a positive difference later in life.

With kids given so much free time with access to the information world, it's impossible to monitor their activities. Parents don't take the time to keep tabs on things and soon cases like the Army soldier's alleged sex abuse come to light. There are also many other types of cases involving troubling behavior coming from the Internet.

This kind of parenting is potentially disruptive to the overall emotional and social well-being of our children.

Fortunately, in the Dodge County case, the parents jumped in quick enough to prevent anything further from happening.

I just hope all parents will take this as a wake-up call and go in hot pursuit of policing their children's activities with electronic gadgets and social media.

Mailbag

"America's Dirty-Rotten-Filthy Secret"

They are some of the worst air polluters in the country and the Environmental Protection Agency isn't doing anything about it. Who are they? The 20,000 factory farms in the U.S. that are home to billions of abused animals that are often cramped in small cages and living in squalid conditions.

The agency has failed to hold these animal factories accountable for polluting the environment, yet the EPA has known for years that factory farms release industrial air pollution. Two major lawsuits were launched by a coalition

of groups recently - the Center for Food Safety, the Humane Society of the United States and the Sierra Club - to force the EPA to comply with current law and list factory farms as a category of pollution under the Clean Air Act.

For far too long, the health of animals, farm workers, and Americans who live near factory farms has been at risk. The EPA needs to take action now and protect our air from toxic factory farming practices.

Factory farms emit staggering levels of pollutants. While some release as much hydrogen

sulfide into the air as dirty oil refineries, an analysis of EPA's own data found that other farms release thousands of pounds of ammonia into the air each day. In addition, factory farms are major sources of dangerous greenhouse gases, including methane and nitrous oxide, which are major contributors to climate change.

Also severe are the health effects of working on or living near a factory farm. Children who live near factory farms are more likely to develop asthma one study found, and that the high levels of ammonia emitted

by factory farms "can build up in a person's airways, causing severe coughing and even scarring of the airways" as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For the EPA to do its job and protect the environment and the public health is long past overdue. It's high time for the EPA to regulate toxic air pollution from factory farms nationwide.

Brad Trom
Blooming Prairie



Alan Van Ormer

Let's not be bullies

A second group of Blooming Prairie seventh-graders recently completed a lesson on bullying. And in today's Steele County Times we have printed several of the posters that these young students designed to be placed around the school for others to see.

The main message here is "let's not be bullies."

As hard as the school district, parents and others try, bullying just does not go away. But it is important to continue to fight the good fight as many may say to stop such blatant disregard for a human being.

When a person reads these posters around the Blooming Prairie School District the hope is that they get the message that bullying needs to stop.

Take one of the posters: "If people have something to say about your life, that's saying little about their own. Keep your head up, stay strong and move on."

Here is another: "Don't let anyone feel left out. Be a good friend."

There are many, many more that were posted around the school. If students and adults take time to read these posters, the hope is that they will understand that bullying is just not a cool thing to do. What we think is funny, may not be funny to someone else.

Despite the fact that bullying is still around our school districts, there is a positive sign when you hear older high school students saying that when they do hear or see signs of bullying they step in and stop it.

If that continues, there is still hope to stop bullying. However, the only way it will completely stop is if those outside the classroom or school premises - be it parents or young people - put their foot down and say, "Enough is enough." That is the only way this kind of behavior will end.

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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)

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

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

Second Front Page



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer
Alecia Peterson pins a corporal chevron on her husband, Jake's collar during a corporal promotion ceremony at Blooming Prairie City Hall on May 11. Jake Peterson was promoted to corporal during the monthly city council meeting

Meet Blooming Prairie's newest police corporal

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

A month earlier, Jake Peterson would have been surprised to be promoted to corporal in the Blooming Prairie Police Department. But last Monday evening, a month later, he knew what was happening and just soaked in the promotion with his family and friends, other members of the police force and the Blooming Prairie City Council during the council's monthly meeting.

"It makes me feel appreciated knowing that I'm doing a good job with the department," Peterson said. "Obviously, the city, the chief and the council are appreciative and providing me recognition for everything I do."

Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad said because of all the extra duties he has been doing over the years he definitely deserves to be promoted to corporal. "He basically takes care of our computers in the squads and inside the office. He takes care of all our IT issues. He is our guy," Skillestad said.

Skillestad added with Peterson being in Blooming Prairie for the past dozen years, he knows everybody. "He has already built a rapport with the community. His love for kids is huge. He knows everyone," he said.

Actually, Peterson was supposed to have been promoted in April. "It was supposed to have been a surprise," he said. Peterson could not make it to the meeting because he was dealing with a Blooming Prairie family that had just lost a loved one.

Law enforcement wasn't Pe-

terson's first choice. He originally wanted to go into nursing; partly because he was already an EMT. "I thought it would be fun to take medical classes," he said.

But then Peterson thought about doing something different and one of his roommates at Rochester Community Technical College suggested he try law enforcement. He enjoyed it and stuck with it.

In 2004, his first job was with the Blooming Prairie Police Department as a part-time officer. He had applied with Chief Paul Wayne; however, was told that there were no openings at the time. A short time later, Wayne called and asked if Peterson wanted the job. He applied, passed the physical and became a part-time police officer.

"I love working in a small town and love the small town atmosphere," Peterson said. "Blooming Prairie seemed to be a good fit for me."

At the time, Peterson was already on the ambulance crew and he didn't want to quit that assignment. "It was a shot in the dark asking for a part-time job," he said.

However, Peterson also wasn't sure if he wanted to stay in Blooming Prairie. He said he did want to go back and work in Winona. After four years as a part-time police officer in Blooming Prairie, he applied and was offered a job in Winona. At the same time, one of the Blooming Prairie officers left creating a full-time spot. He had to make a decision on both jobs the same day.

"I think I wanted to stick it out (here,)" Peterson said. "She (my

wife, Alecia) said she would back me."

He took the Blooming Prairie job and has been here ever since.

One challenge in Blooming Prairie is knowing everybody, which Peterson believes is both a good thing and a bad thing. "You have to deal and live with people on a daily basis," he said. "If one makes a mistake and you have to arrest them, chances are very good you will see them again. That makes it a little tough."

Peterson said sometimes you get the cold shoulder, but almost everyone arrested owns up to their mistake. "Living with people you have to deal with can be tough."

What he enjoys is the support that everyone gives each other in Blooming Prairie. "You don't get that in a big town," he said. "It is a great place to work."

As a corporal, Peterson is third in command behind Chief Skillestad and Sgt. Mark Lang. The promotion provides him an opportunity to become a supervisor and the ability to give commands to other officers that are working.

"There will be more duties as a supervisor and more will be expected of me," he said.

Peterson thanks Blooming Prairie City Administrator Mike Jones, members of the police commission, the city council and Skillestad and Lang for the support they have provided him and giving him the opportunity to prove himself.

"My wife has pushed me to exceed and excel in what I've done," he said. "She has been an important part of my career."

The year 1945 was a monumental one

Reflections. . . and How



Howard Lestrud

Milk cost 31 cents a half gallon. A first-class postage stamp cost 3 cents. Unemployment was listed at 1.9 percent.

When in the dark ages did those statistics exist? They actually were the gospel in 1945, my birth year.

My daughter Tammi always said to me, "Dad, you lived in the olden days, right? She was right.

It was during that year the life expectancy was 65.9 years. It is now 79.56 years.

The population of the United States was 139,928,165. Current population of the U.S. is 318,892,103.

The year 1945 also marked the end of World War II. Hitler committed suicide on April 30; Germany surrendered May 7; May 8 was declared V-E Day; the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Japanese cities of Hiroshima (Aug. 6) and Nagasaki (Aug. 9) and Japan signed official surrender on V-J Day Sept 2.

President Franklin Roosevelt died April 12 and Harry S. Truman became president. A B-25 bomber flew into the Empire State Building, damaging the 78th and 79th floors and killing 13 on July 28.

The United States GDP was listed at \$223.2 billion. Federal spending was reported at \$92.71 billion and the federal debt was \$260.1 billion. Dow Jones High/Low was 195/155. Consumer Price Index was listed at 18.

In sports the Chicago Cubs played in the World Series but they lost, four games to three. Toronto defeated Detroit, 4-3, in the Stanley Cup. Hoop Jr. was the Kentucky Derby cham-

pion. Oklahoma A & M won the NCAA basketball championship and Army (9-0) became the NCAA football champs.

The FCC creates the commercial broadcasting spectrum of 13 channels, and receives 130 applications for broadcast licenses

National Velvet and A Tree Grows in Brooklyn were two of the most popular movies.

Gene Autry was one of the more popular vocalists of the era with "At Mail Call Today." Other top musicians were: Bing Crosby, "Aren't You Glad You're You?"; Judy Garland, "This Heart of Mine"; King Cole Trio; Glenn Miller and Frank Sinatra, "Put Your Dreams Away."

Top selling books were: "The Collected Poems," W. H. Auden; "A Street in Bronzeville," Gwendolyn Brooks; "The Crack-Up and Other Uncollected Pieces," F. Scott Fitzgerald; Cannery Row, John Steinbeck and "Black Boy," Richard Wright.

In science-related news, the first all-electronic computer, ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Calculator), was completed. Grand Rapids, Michigan became the first community to fluoridate its water supply. Raymond Libby devel-

ops oral penicillin.

In addition to the death of President Roosevelt, other notable deaths were U.S. Gen. George Patton and World War II reporter Ernie Pyle.

How much did round steak cost in 1945? It was sold at 40.6 cents a pound. Bacon was sold at 41.1 cents a pound. Butter sold at 50.7 cents a pound. Eggs cost 58.1 cents a dozen. You could have bought potatoes at 49.3 cents for 10 pounds and coffee sold at 30.5 cents a pound. Sugar sold at 33.4 cents for five pounds.

Prices today show round steak selling at \$6.18 a pound, bacon sells at \$5.47 a pound, butter fluctuates from \$1.99 to \$5 a pound. Eggs cost \$2.09 a dozen. Potatoes sell at \$6.46 for 10 ponds. Sugar sells at \$3.30 for five pounds.

A box of Corn Flakes cost 12 cents in 1945. Today a similar sized box costs \$3.79.

New cars cost \$1020 in 1945. Today, the average car costs \$30,748. Cost of a gallon of gas was 15 cents, compared to about \$2.45 a gallon currently. Average cost of a new house was \$4,600. Average wages per year were reported at \$2400.

It's also 50 years ago next month that I started full time in the newspaper business. My wage was \$1.25 an hour.

We could go on and on with these crazy statistics but the point is to have reached this age, one has witnessed a boat load of changes. Thanks for letting me skim through the years and Happy Birthday to others who are recognizing this historical year of 1945 with a special birthday.

DEPRESSION

Continued from Page 1A

about it."

Elderly are looking at end of life issues and dealing with physical ailments. "They're thinking about what they've accomplished and what they haven't accomplished," Skrien said. "They forget about positive things and focus on what they haven't done or what they haven't been able to accomplish."

The middle-aged group involves parenting issues. "If they have kids planning for college there is the stress of successfully launching a child, wondering if they have the resources and knowing that a lot of adult kids may tend to return home," Wheeler said. "This middle group sees themselves dealing with kids as well as elderly parents."

Depression seems to be the major symptom of all groups. Common signs of depression are lack of concentration, weight gain or loss, sleep patterns being disruptive, thoughts of ending life or suicide and loss of interest in things normally interesting to them.

Skrien said in teens, there is higher potential for substance abuse, anger issues and behavioral and personality changes that parents or others might see. For the elderly, their energy level is decreasing and they are not interested in things as much as they did before.

The one question that is always asked when a person dies from depression is why did it happen? "It thrusts people into grief, a grief response and a grief reaction," Skrien said. "It takes a while before that subsides. Grief is usually a longer process."

There is a debate in the mental health industry itself as to whether there are more mental health issues or is the industry doing a better job of identifying mental health issues.

Wheeler said she has heard there is an increase in mental health issues, while Skrien feels society is becoming more stressful.

To help deal with these issues, many go to counseling, use talk therapy, medication and become more active in their everyday life. "The tough thing is that those who are depressed don't want to be active," Skrien said. "Help is available."

In December 2011, the South Central Human

Relations Center embarked on a Quality Improvement project to develop a Rapid Access to Care program for initial access to mental health/substance abuse care within 24-72 hours.

"We wanted to have a method in place to get patients in more quickly and also to have the ability and capacity to see them at a second appointment within a week of the first one," Wheeler said via email.

There are Help lines and Crisis lines. In addition, several areas around Minnesota have a Text for Life program that is of interest to youth because they are so in tune with electronic devices. That is not necessarily available in Steele County at this point.

"It is in northern Minnesota right now," Wheeler said. "There is funding in the legislative session to increase the capacity for Text for Life."

Steele County is part of a 10-county crisis response planning group that is working on a 1-800 number for the region. "When Text of Life is ready, and we have the capacity, we hope to hook that up and have it available to the 10-county region," Wheeler said. "The crisis response program is available telephonically."

There is also the QPR program – question, persuade and refer. In a discreet way, Skrien recommends that friends and family members talk to those who are suffering depression symptoms.

"Listen very carefully to what they are saying," he said. "Be a good listener and try to persuade them to seek assistance and try to convince to seek help."

The referral process involved referring the person to the county human services in town. "What it takes is to be bold enough and concerned enough that I'm not going to let his pass," Skrien said.

Skrien said it is tough figuring out how to deal with situations involving when a loved one dies. "I think it is best to talk about it rather than not talk about it," he said. "People are thrust into a grief response and grief reaction. That takes time to work through. Death of a fellow student; it is good to talk about it. That doesn't mean it should be tucked away after that."

911 CENTER

Continued from Page 1A

important to make people aware of what they really do and provide background of what really gets done.

The 911 Center serves the population of Rice and Steele counties. During the tour, Bondhus stated that 32,000 to 35,000 motorists travel between Steele and Rice County on Interstate 35 each day. In addition, the 911 Center takes 142,000 phone calls each year and there are more than two million transmissions each year.

"You don't see this dispatch.

You don't have interaction with them," Bondhus said during the 15-minute tour. "However, we're here and supporting the services that you need."

??? Caron, who was on the tour, said it was very interesting. "There are a lot more calls from areas that they respond to here. I just figured it was when police called in and people called from home with their emergencies," she said. "I didn't realize it was so many different areas."

She added that the whole call center was just overwhelming.

Caron wondered about how stressful it can be to do all that they do. "Luckily we have them in there," she said.

Sandy Caron also felt it was great to see the call center. She also felt it was important to consolidate the call center for the two counties. "I think it was an ice open house. It was very interesting," she said. "It was nice to have the fire and ambulance there also and see some of the people behind the scenes and watch what they do."

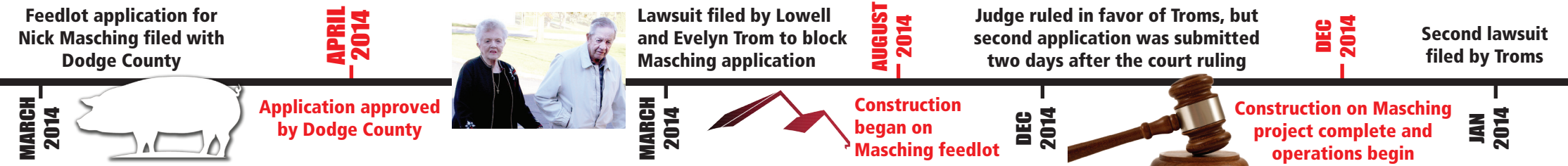


Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

Fixing a city rooftop

Crews have been out the last couple of weeks working on the Blooming Prairie City Center roof replacing shingles.

WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP FEEDLOT CONTROVERSY AT GLANCE



KEEP FIGHTING

Continued from Page 1A

with residents in Westfield Township where her father still works the land he has for more than seven decades. She is on a personal crusade to limit the number of feedlot operators from overtaking the countryside.

Her parents have sued Dodge County to put a halt to a 2,400 hog operation on six acres bordering their land. In addition to helping with the lawsuit, Trom Eayrs has also been instrumental in starting Dodge County Concerned Citizens, a grass-roots group of local citizens committed to clean air, land and water.

Many of Trom Eayrs' critics question her motives for battling feedlot operators who claim they're just trying to make a living by putting food on the tables for everyone. After all, she lives in the Twin Cities nearly 100 miles away from the feedlots she's fighting and some think she may be best to stick to her professional life as a big city attorney.

But she's committed to the battle with deep passion.

"This is my family farm we're talking about," said Trom Eayrs, who graduated from Blooming Prairie in 1977. The farm has been in her family for more than a century as her grandfather, Ed Trom, settled there in 1892. "I



have long standing roots here. You never forget home," she added.

She says she has always had deep affection and close affiliation for the family farm of 760 acres. Trom Eayrs still makes a point of going up into the combine with her 86-year-old father, Lowell, every fall to harvest the crops.

"Home is where the heart is—this is what this is," Trom Eayrs said during a recent interview on the farm.

The Feedlot Battle

As far as the feedlot battle goes, Trom Eayrs is quick to point out what is happening in Dodge County is taking place all over rural Minnesota. Large feedlot projects, she said, are being forced upon local farm families. She added the prevailing

attitude often is "if you don't like it, move."

Trom Eayrs is concerned about what feedlot operators are doing not only in Dodge County, but elsewhere. "You have big ag coming in and muscling local farm families," she said, adding it's a

troubling trend she has been noticing all across the state.

Said Trom Eayrs: "With feedlot projects, you're supposed to just roll over and play dead and accept it. We're not going to stand for it and we're going to expose them."

With the Nick Masching feedlot at the center of the Trom lawsuit, Trom Eayrs points out that she has many issues with the operation, which has been going since last December. Some of those concerns include the facility being on too small of acreage, odor, the owner or manager not being on site, groundwater depletion and saturation with 10 barns located within a three-mile radius.

She said their overall goal with the lawsuit is to have the judge close down the operation. "There is no one minding these feedlots," Trom Eayrs alleges. "Our goal is to take care of the residents in Dodge County."

The Trom family isn't against feedlots, according to Trom Eayrs. She said it's all about protecting the land, air and water. "It's also about good government," she added.

Operators Speak Out

Operators aren't sitting idle over Trom Eayrs' vigorous efforts to fight the feedlot issue. Hog producer Todd Hoebing is one who doesn't care for her approach.

"Sonja is here to create an ordinance and doesn't have to live by it," Hoebing said. "This is our livelihood and this is what

we have to live by," he added.

Others claim Trom Eayrs and members of the DCCC group are spreading mistruths about the feedlot issue. "It's very frustrating not seeing the truth being told," said Mark Moenning, who raises hogs in Westfield Township.

Added Hoebing: "We've been getting hammered down with mistruths."

As for her critics, Trom Eayrs is quick to say that they don't like the message so they attack the messenger. She is willing to accept the criticism, but don't expect her to fight back directly at the individuals involved.

"I'm not interested in personalizing this with certain families in Westfield Township," Trom Eayrs said, adding to do so would not accomplish anything.

Protecting a Family Legacy

Trom Eayrs is thankful to be able to help her parents with the lawsuit, especially with her mother, Evelyn, who has been battling Parkinson's disease for 20 years. "It has been stressful for my mother at times," Trom Eayrs said. "I try to shield her from some of it."

While Trom Eayrs has generated her fair share of critics, she has also found extensive support. A few months ago a petition was circulated with 69 people signing up to push for regulation of feedlots at the township level. She found that many did not sign the petition because "their livelihood would be affected."

She said many people made it clear that their jobs had been threatened, they were told to be quiet and they had received ha-

Sonja is here to create an ordinance and doesn't have to live by it. This is our livelihood and this is what we have to live by.

— Todd Hoebing
Feedlot Operator

assing phone calls and e-mails. "The threats are real and the retaliation is real," Trom Eayrs said.

It's unfortunate, she said, to see that the community has become so polarized over this issue. She blames the township board for creating the divide. "It's the equivalent of a father taking his children and not allowing the mother to see them," she said.

Trom Eayrs claims the board has infringed on the people's right to vote and the property rights of others. She added the local planning and zoning decision should have been left to the residents to decide and not three board members.

There are many good reasons to have planning and zoning at the township level, according to Trom Eayrs. She said residents are trying to protect the value of their property and that is accomplished through local planning and zoning.

She thinks it's not in the best interests of residents for planning and zoning to be left to the county. "The problem you have in Dodge County is the fast

tracking of permit applications and they are not compliant," Trom Eayrs said.

Another problem she has found is that the county does not monitor the projects once they are up and running.

"I think this is a fascinating issue," Trom Eayrs said. "People need to recognize there is a problem and then they have to be willing to solve it."

When asked why she is normally the only person out at the forefront of this issue, Trom Eayrs responded: "There is a reason I am the one who speaks out. It's safe for me to speak out. It's not safe for most of the people to speak out."

Trom Eayrs vows to continue the fight, despite the board's recent vote to not have planning and zoning. She is considering more legal action against the board.

"This is our family legacy," she said. "We want to preserve our family farm. I call it my dad's garden. We have this love for the land."

Highway construction update

I-35 Owatonna:

Construction on road repairs for Old Highway 14 began this past week. Motorists will see lane closures begin as work starts to prepare for the work.

Currently, motorists will see single-lane, head-to-head traffic on I-35 in Owatonna as well as offramp and onramp closures for northbound traffic, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Northbound traffic is crossed over into the southbound lanes of I-35 south of Bridge Street. Northbound traffic will continue in a single lane, while southbound uses the other lane. Northbound traffic will cross back over to two lanes north of Steele County Road 2. This will continue into fall 2015.

Reconstruction of the northbound lanes has begun. Watch for detour signs for northbound traffic seeking to exit I-35 through Owatonna. Delays are expected during busy traffic times on Fridays and Sundays.

The two-year, \$19.1 million project began in 2014 to replace the concrete I-35 roadways through Owatonna, as well as replace bridges and include additional safety features on the corridor such as auxiliary lanes. The project's prime contractor Mathiowetz Construction expects to complete it in fall 2015.

Highway 14

Lane changes began May 11 as crews begin reconstructing the eastbound lanes.

Traffic remains head to head in the construction zone, but it has shifted from the old eastbound lanes to the new westbound lanes, which were reconstructed in 2014. Additionally, the eastbound onramp to Highway 14 from Highway 218 is closed.

STREET TALK



Mike Dougherty

The contractor, Mathiowetz Construction Company, Inc. of Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, is constructing new concrete pavement at the intersection of Highway 14 and County Road 43 for the new westbound travel lanes.

The highway will be expanded from two lanes to four lanes and is part of the Corridors of Commerce state program for highway construction in Minnesota. The \$12 million project is expected to be completed in September of 2015.

Old Highway 14 in Owatonna

Lane closures occurred this past week.

Traffic is expected to be crossed over into head-to-head traffic by Wednesday, May 20, so work can begin on the closed lanes.

The work in Owatonna is being done by Mathiowetz Construction on Steele County Road 2 (Hoffman Drive) from the beginning of the west Owatonna city limits to the intersection of Steele County Road 45 and State Avenue.

Additionally, Old Highway 14 is closed and detoured beginning at the west Owatonna city limits, which are about 1.5 miles west of I-35. The closure will last into October for the concrete overlay work. Call 507-304-

6106 for additional information. This project is being completed by the MnDOT district based in Mankato.

I-35 in Steele, Freeborn counties

Lane closures began April 30 as construction crews prepare to complete an unbonded concrete overlay project on I-35 from Highway 30 at Ellendale to Interstate 90 north of Albert Lea.

The southbound lanes are being repaved, so traffic will be switched to head-to-head in the northbound lanes between Ellendale and Albert Lea. The project also includes southbound ramp closures and detours. Watch for detour signs. Delays are expected during busy traffic times on Fridays and Sundays. The project is scheduled to be completed by mid-September.

The \$16.9 million project is being led by prime contractor Shafer Contracting Co. Inc.

Highway 14 in Steele, Dodge counties

A repaving project on Highway 14 on 13 miles between Dodge Center and Owatonna is set to begin July 6 and be completed in September.

The \$4.1 million project will include highway resurfacing, grading and lighting. The project begins near Highway 56 north and runs west to the current Highway 14 expansion project. It also includes two miles between Highway 218 and I-35.

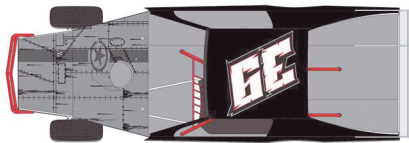
Traffic delays are expected with lane closures with flaggers and a 15-day ramp detours for Steele County Road 45.

Mike Dougherty is a public affairs coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Transportation.



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THE SAVVY SENIOR



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Dear Savvy Senior,

Do you know of any financial assistance programs or other resources that can help seniors with home improvement projects? I would like to help my 86-year-old father make a few modifications to his house so he can live there as long as possible, but money is very tight.

Inquiring Daughter

Dear Inquiring,

There are actually a number of programs available that can help seniors with home repairs

and improvement projects for aging-in-place, but what's available to your dad will depend on his financial situation and where he lives. Here are some different options to explore.

Medicaid waivers: If your dad is low-income and eligible for Medicaid, most states have Medicaid Home and Community Based Services waivers that provide financial assistance to help seniors avoid nursing homes and remain living at home. Many of the waivers pay

for home modifications to increase a person's ability to live independently. Each state has different waivers with different eligibility requirements and benefits. Contact your Medicaid office (see medicaid.gov) for more information.

State and local programs:

Some states and local governments have financial assistance programs, often called "nursing home diversion programs" or "deferred payment loans" that are not funded by Medicaid. These programs, which may include grants or loans or a combination, helps pay for modifications that enable low to moderate income elderly and disabled to remain living at home. Modifications covered typically include accessibility improvements like wheelchair ramps, handrails and grab bars. And some may be used for home improvements like roofing, heating and cooling,

insulation, weather-stripping and storm windows.

To find out if there's a program in your dad's area, contact the city or county housing authority, the local Area Aging Agency (call 800-677-1116 for contact information) or the state housing finance agency – see ncsha.org/housing-help.

Federal programs: The Department of Housing and Urban Development offers HUD Home Improvement Loans, which are HUD insured loans made by private lenders for home improvement and building projects. Contact a HUD approved counseling agency in your area (call 800-569-4287) to learn more.

And the U.S. Department of Agriculture has a Rural Development program that provides grants and loans to low-income, elderly or disabled, rural

homeowners for home repairs and improvements. Your local USDA service center (see offices.sc.egov.usda.gov) can give you more for information.

Veteran benefits: If your dad is a veteran with a disability, the VA provides grants like the SAH, SHA and HISA grants that will pay for home modifications. See benefits.va.gov/benefits/factsheets/homeloans/sahfactsheet.pdf for details and eligibility requirements.

Another possibility that's available to veterans enrolled in the Medical Benefits Package is Veterans-Directed Home and Community Based Services. This program provides veterans who need help with daily living activities with financial assistance to help them remain living in their homes, and provides them with a certain amount of discretion to use those funds. To learn more see va.gov/geriatric

rics, or call 800-827-1000.

Non-profit organizations: Depending on where your dad lives, he may also be able to get home repair and modification services through the national, non-profit organization Rebuilding Together (rebuildingtogether.org, 800-473-4229). They provide services to low-income seniors, veterans and military families, families with children, people living with disabilities and victims of disaster.

You should also check with the Area Aging Agency to see if any other local organizations that offer volunteer home modification help to low-income seniors.

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

History from the news archives

10 Years Ago Elsie Slinger, Editor May 17, 2005

To say Diane Anderson was surprised last week in the elementary gym would be putting it mildly. Blooming Prairie Elementary School Teacher Anderson was honored by the Steele County Wal-Mart Tuesday as Teacher of the Year. The elementary gym was full of students and contemporaries, as well as her parents Jim and Lorine Thorn, a former principal at BPES, and her husband, Butch.

Ed Pfeifer, a former Blooming Prairie teacher, has died in Clifton, Arizona. A veteran of WWII, serving in Europe, Pfeifer came to Blooming Prairie the fall of 1949 and taught here until June 1953. He moved to Clifton, Arizona because of asthma and taught there until retiring.

He died May 1 at his home.

Even though the BP girls finished next to last in the Tru-Team track meet at Wells on Tuesday, May 9, the locals had some excellent individual performances. Kari Lueth ran the best 200-meter hurdle race ever, and Tricia Mans had her best triple jump. Jenny Ingvalson also ran her best in the 200-meter hurdles, and Emily Thoen timed her best 3,200 of the year. The team scored 20 more points this time than they had totaled last year.

20 Years Ago Elsie Slinger, Editor May 16, 1995

Nineteen local FLA members attended the Minnesota FLA/FHA state convention at the Radisson South Hotel in Bloomington Thursday through

Saturday, April 27-29. During the convention several BPHS members competed in the Star Events and came back with good results. Rachel Kramer and Andrea Wonderlich received a gold medal for their presentation of "The Hand That Rocks the Cradle" as did Natalie Becker and Shelby Lee for their "Play By the Rules."

Neither dreary skies nor pounding rain could keep bargain hunters from Blooming Prairie's citywide garage sales Saturday. Marcia Carlson, Cyndie Brumm and Christina Brumm ventured from Stacyville, Iowa just to shop the local garage sales.

Blooming Prairie Women of Today Lori Long and Julie Hoffman present Marjorie Wonderlich, coordinator of Blooming Prairie's Early

Childhood Family Education program, with a \$325 check. The Women of Today raised the money through their Beautiful Baby Contest. Wonderlich said the money will be used to buy equipment for the program's new room at the elementary school.

50 Years Ago Victor, Vernon, and Vyrle Krejci, Editors May 20, 1965

On Wednesday, May 12, 92 sixth-grade students from Blooming Prairie boarded buses at 7 a.m. for their annual class trip to the Twin Cities. Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Mathison, Mr. Honken, Mr. Andrzejek, Mr. Getskow and Mr. Moonier accompanied them.

A class of 39 young people was confirmed at the 11 a.m.

service on Sunday, May 16, in the First Lutheran Church, Blooming Prairie. Rev. T. J. Vinger officiated at the service.

Sealed proposals will be received at the post office in Minneapolis until 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 16, for a star route from Blooming Prairie to Bixby.

Approximately 40 Boy Scouts and Explorers from Blooming Prairie will participate in the 22nd annual Whitewater Camporee to be held this weekend May 21, 22, and 23, at beautiful Whitewater State Park.

75 Years Ago Walter K. Mickelson, Editor and Publisher May 16, 1940

Community Hall will serve as the official headquarters of the

Veterans Encampment here Saturday and Sunday. The dedication of the new flagstaff and flag will take place here in front of the building Sunday afternoon.

A roof fire of undetermined origin Friday afternoon at the Earl Oswald residence in the northwest section of Blooming Prairie caused extensive damage to clothing and furniture stored in the attic.

Mrs. C. O. Johnson entertained at a birthday party in honor of her daughter Yvonne's 9th birthday at the Johnson home Wednesday afternoon from four to six o'clock. The color scheme used was yellow and green. A lovely birthday cake was the feature of the lunch.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

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Community

Obituary

Ronald Malecha, 71, Blooming Prairie

Ronald Joseph Malecha, age 71 of Blooming Prairie, died unexpectedly on Friday morning, May 15, 2015, in Prior Lake, Minnesota.

He was born Oct. 9, 1943, at home on the farm in rural Lonsdale, Minnesota, the son of Joseph T. and Julia M. (Simon) Malecha.

Ronald attended country school and Catholic school in Lonsdale before graduating from Northfield High School in 1961.

Two years after graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. Following his discharge, Ron worked in outside sales for farm



companies, including Consumers Supply, retiring in 2011. On Aug. 21, 1965, Ron and Carmen M. Stang were married at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in New Prague, Minnesota.

Carmen and Ron met at a dance at the New Prague Park Ballroom. The couple raised two children, Kevin and Jennifer.

An active member of St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie where he served as a lector and Eucharistic minister for more than 30 years, Ron also belonged to 4-H as a youth, the Servicemen's

Club in Blooming Prairie, and the Knights of Columbus (3rd and 4th degree) where he served as a past grand knight.

Other community involvement included service on the board of Prairie Manor Care Center, the board of the Blooming Prairie Country Club, and he was an active member of the American Legion.

An avid hunter and fisherman, he also enjoyed camping, golfing, and snowmobiling. Ron was a very proud grandfather.

Ron is survived by his children Kevin Malecha of St. Louis Park, and Jennifer (David) Kriske of Apple Valley; one grandchild Peri Kriske; his sister Karen Sevcik of Lonsdale,

Minnesota; and special friend Sharon Johnson of Mankato. He was preceded in death by his parents Joseph and Julia Malecha and his wife Carmen Malecha on June 21, 2000.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie with Father Steve Peterson officiating. Military rites will be performed by the American Legion Post 52 and V.F.W. Post 878.

Visitation was May 18. Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Menus

Seniors Menu

May 19: Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, BBQ Green Beans, Melon Wedge, Ice Cream

May 20: Baked Fish, ALT: Beef Pattie, Hash brown Au gratin, Spinach, Dinner Roll, Walnut Dream Bar

May 21: BBQ Meatballs, Baked Potato, Mixed Vegetables, Pears/ Grape Cup

May 22: Chicken Enchilada, Tomato/Cuke Salad, Pineapple Rings, Strawberry Shortcake

May 25: closed

May 26: Taco Salad, Melon Wedge, Batter Bun, Molasses Cookie

May 27: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Asparagus, Carrot Raisin Salad, Orange Wedge

BP School Breakfast Menu

May 19: Yogurt Parfait w/

Homemade Granola, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 20: WG Pop-Tart, Cheese Stick, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 21: UBR Breakfast Round, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 22: Iced Cinnamon Roll, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 25: no school

May 26: Fruit Yogurt w/ Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 27: WG Strawberry Cereal Bar, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

BP Elementary School Lunch Menu

May 19: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Garlic Toast, Parmesan Crusted Fish, Pasta, Garlic Toast, Garlic Herb Broccoli, Cucumbers, Corn, Choice of

Fruit

May 20: Beefy Nachos w/ Homemade Cheese Sauce, Tex Mex Pork Bowl, (pork, rice, salsa in "shell"), Kale Salad Baby Carrots, Tomatillo Salsa (HOM), Choice of Fruit

May 21: Parmesan Chicken Bites, Marinara, WG Pasta, Hot Ham & Cheese on WG Bun, Green Beans, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Choice of Fruit

May 22: Crispy Chicken Patty on WG Bun, Tuna Flatbread, Sweet Potatoes, Green Peas, Broccoli, Choice of Fruit

May 25: no school

May 26: Pulled Pork on WG Bun, BBQ Sauce, Deli Sub, Baked Beans, Romaine Lettuce, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

May 27: Chicken Nuggets, Whole Wheat Bread, Turkey BLT Flatbread, Corn, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

BP Middle & High

School Lunch Menu

May 19: Pizza Burger Melt, Garlic Herb Broccoli, Broccoli Florets, Baby Carrots, Corn, Choice of Fruit

May 20: Tex Mex Pork Bowl-pork, rice, bean & corn salsa in a shell, Kale Salad, Green Peas, Tomatillo Salsa (HOM), Choice of Fruit

May 21: Hot Dog on a Bun, Chili Topping, French Fries, Cauliflower, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Choice of Fruit

May 22: Parmesan Fish Filet, Lemon-Herb Pasta, Celery Sticks, Black Beans, Broccoli, Choice of Fruit

May 25: no school

May 26: Meatballs & Gravy with Noodles, Whole Wheat Bread, Garbanzo Beans, Romaine Lettuce, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

May 27: Turkey BLT Flatbread Sandwich, Apple Waldorf Salad, Corn, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

Milestones

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May 19
Ashley Cochlin, Skylar Valek, Nancy Clark, Aya Smith, Dean Zilm

May 20
Molly Walsh, Donald Yentsh, Frank Vorlicek, Patty Ingvalson, Martin Krampitz, Sr., Terry Trotman

May 21
Jessica Kruckeberg, Pam Carlson, Dawn Ingvalson, Riley Young

May 22
Tricia Mans, Isabella Schiller

May 23
Nelda Haberman, Alicia Levon

May 24
Mike Grunklee, Jacob Peterson, Margaret Swenson, Sawyer Emanuel, Leah Thompson, Bella Hernandez

May 25
John Welch, Porter Francis DeYoung

Anniversaries
May 19
Darrell and Cindi Hansen
Missy and Justin Korman
Lou and Irene Sheppard
Ken and Judy Esplan

May 20
Rich and Jean Schwartz
Pat and Jessica Skinner

May 21
Fran and Cheryl Coughlin
Rick and Cheri Krejci

May 22
Per and Andrea Kvalsten

May 23
Greg and Laura Thomas

May 24
Paul and Jackie Smith
Val and Ashley Garcia
Clarence and Diana Boyd

May 25
Mr. and Mrs. L. Dean Christianson

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Did You Know? A moment in Blossoms history

Annual editors Sonja Peterson and Robyn Wrase used the questions who, what, when and where as the theme for the Blooming Prairie High School 1988 yearbook, and it worked throughout the pages of the publication. The 1887-88 year actually began with the annual Fold Fashioned Fourth of July celebration, when approximately 30,000 people crowded the streets of Blooming Prairie, including 28 persons in a tour group all the way from Maryland.

Homecoming traditions altered a little bit. Homecoming buttons were required for entrance to the coronation program, and the traditional bonfire took place on Friday afternoon, instead of the usual coronation night. Rodney Pesch and Annette Starman reigned over the festivities, and the football team defeated WEM, 14-6 for the first win over the Bucs in four years.

Tony Lillie and Glenda Paape took the leads in "Fiddler On The Roof", the annual all-school musical, with Amy

Bishop, Teresa Ebeling, Auna Vorlicek, Shawn Severson, John Habermann, Erin Holman, Jason Vorlicek and Chad Christianson all having roles in the production. Mike Ressler and Glenda Paape were named Prince and Princess at the annual Snow Week festivities.

The one-act play, "I Knew I saw a Gypsy" won the district drama contest, with Chris Ingvalson, Cindy Severson, Tony Lillie, Erin Holman and Ebeling all taking part. To complete a busy year in drama, Sonja Peterson portrayed Annie Oakley in the senior class presentation of "Annie, Get your Gun." Chad Christianson, Glenda Paape, Peter Gantriis, Tim Higgins and Kerry Schneider mimicked some of the popular characters of that era.

Twenty-nine contest speech students reached the district contest, nine went to the region, and four- Tony Lillie, John Habermann, Glenda Paape and Sara Schlotzhauer reached the state speech festival.

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

The Blooming Prairie Lions Club was chartered with 27 new members and one transfer member on Nov. 16, 1954.

Harold C. Wells was the organizer for the club. Charter president was Sam Rask. First secretary was Gilbert Johnson.

The newly chartered club met on the second and fourth Mondays in the evening at The Lark Restaurant.

Charter members and their business association were:

Edward M. Betlach, grocery; Dr. Ed D. Boch, dentist; John R. Fisher, physician; Ellsworth



H. Hall, creamery manager; Hugo Harpel, garage owner; Alonzo Hess, furniture; Clair A. Johnson, radio and TV;

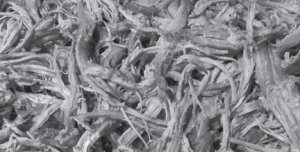
Gilbert Johnson, bank; Melvin B. Johnson, retired; Frank Krejci, publisher; Victor Krejci, linotype operator; Vyrle W. Krejci, press operator; Howard F. Lysne, manager lumber yard; Maurice McFarlin, school superintendent; Dr. B Melby, doctor; Marvin Norman, school principal; Martin Oleson, dry goods; James Olson, farmer;

Photo by Howard Lestrud
ERIK AND HARVEY

The gavel for the Blooming Prairie Lions Club is being turned over from current president Erik Vigeland, left, to Harvey Farr, right. Lion Harvey will officially take over as club president on July 1, 2015. The Blooming Prairie Lions Club is celebrating its 60th anniversary with a party at J & H Liquor Store on Saturday, May 16.

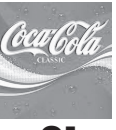
Vernon K. Paulson, filling station; Norman A. Peterson, insurance; Sam Rask, Federal Farm Loan; Henry B. Rockne, manager Production Credit; Walter D. Snyder, newspaper; Reynolds W. Stoltz (transfer), utilities; William E. Thiede, manager; Kenneth O. Wagner, fertilizer; Emil K. Wanous, manager liquor store and Del Watrath, furniture.

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Area Church Spotlight



Red Oak Lutheran Church, Austin

Pastor's Corner

SEASONS AND GOD'S GRACE

If you love seasons, you're living in the right place! We definitely get to experience each season here, from the beautiful fall foliage, to the winter blizzards, to summer thunderstorms and now probably my favorite: Spring! It's finally here!

There are also seasons of life. Our church has been hosting Country Corner Preschool graduation each year. It's a treat watching the preschooler grads with their caps and gowns receive their graduate certificates! It seems like yesterday that each of my four kids were in preschool, yet in a few short weeks, my youngest graduates from High School. Then there are our mothers. Time also passes by in that area, or as my mother said the other day, "Time waits for no one". Seems like yesterday my mom took care of me, and now she needs taken care of. She will probably be

gone soon and some of you have already lost your mothers. Some seasons are joyful, others are difficult. Often they're both.

This month we celebrate our graduating teens and our mothers. What a variety of emotions: Excited for our teens but sad as they leave. Loving our wives and mothers, but also missing them if they're gone.

Seasons come and go but God's grace doesn't. "Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). May you fully find God's grace in your current season of life!

*The Rev. Aaron de Neui
Cedar Creek Church*



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Area Church Schedule

Lutheran

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 38th St., Owatonna
Interim Pastor David Hurr
(507) 676-5696

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

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

10:30 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.

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

9651 SW 75th Street Ellendale, MN
(507) 465-8366

Family Choir 9:00-9:15 a.m.
Sunday School/Adult Education
9:15 a.m. Sunday, Worship 10:15 a.m.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN—ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Minister Dwight DoBell
(507) 567-2474

Service: 8:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN—ELCA

30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin
Pastor Lindsay Stolen
(507) 583-2038 or (507) 437-3000

www.roglutheran.org

Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School (Sept-May): 10:15 a.m.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS

1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
(507) 451-2720

www.redeemerowatonna.org

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS

4532 S.E. 84th Ave., Claremont
The Rev. Alan Broadwell
(507) 528-2404

sjlcoffice@frontiernet.net

www.peaceclaremont.otschool.org

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(no service on April 4th)

April 5, 12, 19, 26 Sunday Morning
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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.

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609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor
Dean Smith, Associate Pastor
(507) 465-8217

www.tlcowatonna.org

Services: 5 p.m. Saturday
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Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday

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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. Swampy Pothiredy
(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

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Services: 5:15 p.m. Saturday
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Services: 5 p.m. Saturday, 7:30 a.m.,
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Service: 1 p.m. Sunday

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www.ellendaleumc.org

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www.cedarcreekchurch.org

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2 p.m. Spanish Service
Wed. 7:00 Bible Study

Fri 7:00 Spanish Outreach

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Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

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Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

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Service: 11 a.m. Saturday
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Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 10 a.m. Sunday

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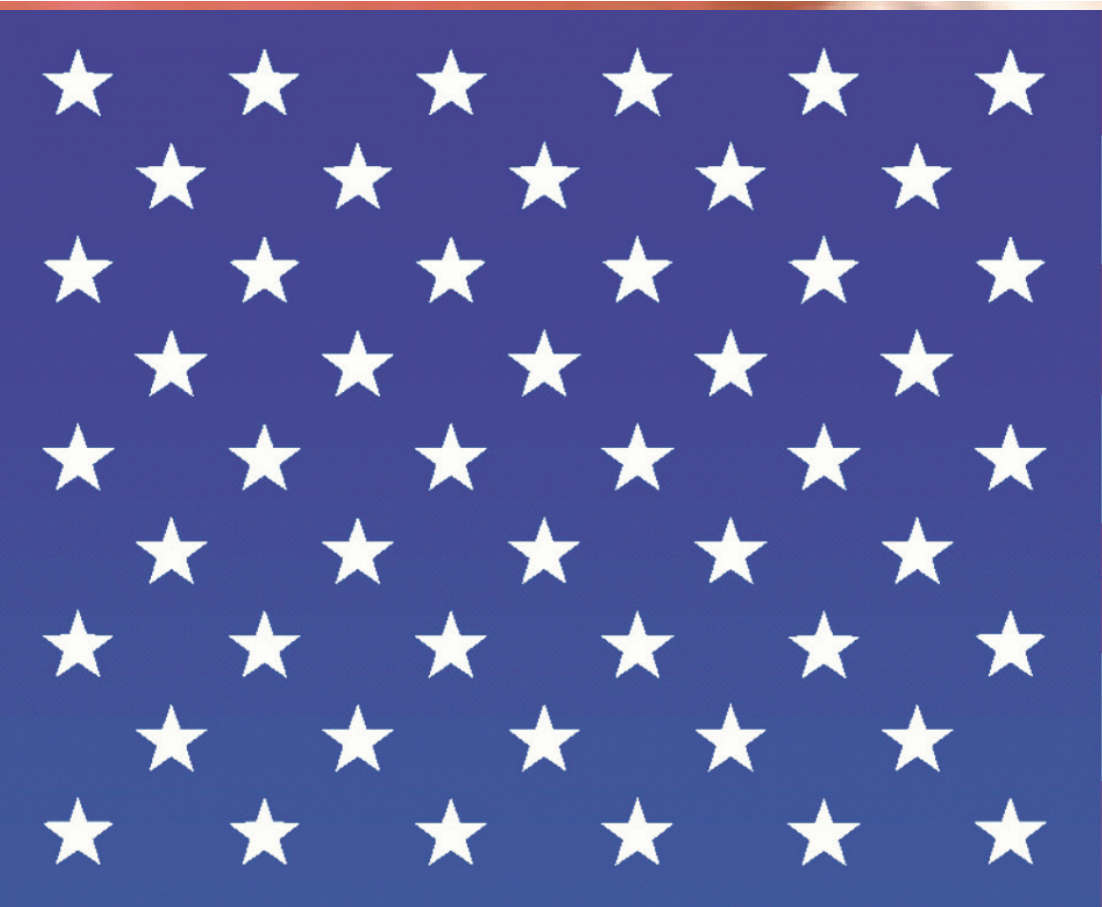


Memorial Day

May 25

Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices. - Harry S Truman

To honor veterans of The Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club, the American Flag is being flown for one month. Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club provided this list of these deceased veterans.



Neil Zwiener, Donald Peterson, Denis Sime, Otto T. Lund, M. John Christensen, Terry Wold, Rayfield Phillips, Harold Hanson, Manley Westing, Marlyn Dodge, Clair Johnson, Gordon Trom, Marvin Pfeiffer,

Frank Betlach, Franklin Burke, Robert Oswald, Robert Rasmussen, Howard Lysne, Richard Trom, Lowell Ingvalson, Ronald Underwood, John Smith, Carl Fiebiger, Allen Peterson, Edgar Bock, Harold Miller,

Orville Williamson, Darrell Rasmussen, Richard Peterson, Jerry Peterson, Howard Butler, John Cashman, Mark Coughlin, Kenneth Lysne, Nathan Christenson, Francis Marchwicki, Robert Dandelet,

Gordon “Spencer” Lindquist, Ralph Trom, Ralph Berg, John Haubenschild, Lynwood Ditlevson, Ray Bass, Everett Carlsen, Harrison Oswald Jr., Merlin Madsen, Helmer Peterson, Raynold Knudtson,

Robert Hunter, Edward Habberstad, Arnold Hanson, Vyrle Krejci, Helen Lee (Gold Star Mother), Hubert Swenson, Kenneth Lea, Joseph Wacek Sr., Rev. Ernest Johnson, Donald Nordine, Ronald Anderson,

Warren Iversen, Victor Jirele, Harvey Ille, Edward Possin, Donald Kaplan, Lyle Hanson, Roger “Nip” Peterson, Edward Walsh, Lloyd Schoer, Leslie Hoffman, Duane LaMaack, Gale Leek,

Harris Peterson, Keith Colee, Ralph Stoen, Donald “Red” Trom, George Tonolli, Arden Wold, James Thorn, Al Jorde, Milton Kaplan, Dale Njos Dean Johnson, Lyle Jensen, Rickard Ilk, Robert LeBeau

Raymond Wencil, Lawrence Lysne, Obert Christiansen, Harlan Kittelson, George Davis, Arthur Helleck, Benjamin Bishop, Col. Roger Ingvalson, James Maxfield Jr., Burton Ingvalson, John M. Christenson, Donald “Gus” Nordine, Ronald Anderson, Darrell “Pickle” Johnson, Henry Halstenson, Ronald Reese, Joanne VanWyck, John Ulland

Donald Brown, Maurice Basness, Charlie Ressler, Roger Braaten, Sr., John Ryan, Daniel Emanuel, Robert Grooters, James Pechacek, John Cashman, Francis Jenö, David Sponheim, Allen Michaelson, Leo Coughlin, Hubert Pelinka, Darrel Trom, Robert Becker, Floyd Sorenson, Robert Lenort, William Walsh, Milo Hoel, Roger P. Johnson

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OUTSIDE



THE LINES
LeMar Nelson

Seasons play on

To acknowledge that those of us who reside in Minnesota live in a theater of seasons is almost an understatement. After last week’s gloomy, chilly and rain showery week, it becomes difficult to anticipate what Mother Nature has in store for us next. We have had a week of above normal temps, a week of relative normalcy and now a week below normal, with mostly cloudy skies and off and on rain showers.

The best thing about the weather, however, is that we have avoided bad storms so far and are grateful we don’t live in Nepal. I guess when one stops to think about it, the changeable weather patterns give us one of the biggest reasons why we do live here. At least that is what I keep telling myself. The rains of the last week have certainly greened up the countryside and brought lawns, trees and flowers back to vibrant life. That is the great part of living where we do!

Playoffs begin

It is that time of the season when playoffs begin for most of the high school sports teams, and a completely new season starts. Last week, for example, the track teams ran their conference meet, as did the golf teams. This week the softball and baseball teams begin sub-section tournaments, and before we know it, the season will be finished.

Kudos are due to several entries in track, including relay teams for both the boys and girls. Individually, Alec Ille and Cole Sunde captured firsts, with Ille a double winner in the long distance runs. Taylor Hagen won the shot put for the girls and the 4x100 relay team for the boys and the 4x800 relay team for the girls also took home titles.

It will be interesting to see now how they do this week at the sub-section meet. Taylor Christianson and Tommy Braaten also acquitted themselves well at the conference golf tournament in Waseca. A big tip of the hat goes to all the athletes who represent.

Students honored

Just a couple of weeks ago I commented on how pleasant it was to see and hear student academic accomplishments recognized with the new inductees ushered in to the National Honor Society. Last week more honors came to BPHS students, this time both academically and in sports. A big round of congratulations is due for those students being recognized.

Among the awards bestowed at the Senior Awards Presentation last Wednesday, this year’s Valedictorian and Salutatorian students were recognized. Those honors went to valedictorians Taylor Hagen and Macaela Jensen and Salutatorian Madison Worke. The three are commended for their excellence in academic pursuits, as are all the other honor students in the class of 63 graduates.

John Rumpza and Madison Worke received the American Legion Citizenship awards, and several students earned various scholarships that totaled \$601,800. That is a record amount of scholarship monies awarded. Athletic awards and a national choral award were also recognized. All in all, it was a memorable evening for the class of 2015.

OUTSIDE THE LINES
Continued on Page 2B

BLOOMING PRAIRIE SOFTBALL

Girls secure No. 2 seed with 3-1 finish

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Although it didn’t hurt the No. 2 seed in the sub-section tournament, the Blossom softball team dropped a disappointing game to visiting NRHEG 8-2 on Friday, May 15.

The conference loss dropped the season record to 8-9 heading into the playoffs on Wednesday of this week.

Pitcher Elly Strunk suffered an uncharacteristic lack of control in the circle, walking two other batters run, walking two other batters and hitting a third. NRHEG pounded out eight hits, including two doubles and plated at least one run in every inning but the second.

Meanwhile, Panthers pitcher, Anna Lundberg, kept the locals popping up. There were nine fly ball outs in the game.

After taking a 1-0 lead in the first inning, NRHEG kept adding to the lead, scoring two in the third on a single, two wild pitches and a double and two more in the fourth on three singles, a fielder’s choice and a sacrifice fly for a 5-0 edge.

Following single runs in the fifth and sixth for a 7-0 deficit,

BP SOFTBALL
Continued on Page 3B



Staff photo by James Knoop
Blossoms Coach Alison Mach speaks to her team between innings against NRHEG in an 8-2 loss on Friday, May 15.

STEELE COUNTY BASEBALL

Building a legacy

Coaches develop team chemistry in first season

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

Bloomington Prairie Coach Matt Kittelson and New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Coach Drew Paukert may have sections on their mind, but the two took a moment to look back on their first regular seasons as head coaches.

“I am truly blessed to have my first head coaching position with the group of guys that I have.”

— Drew Paukert, NRHEG Baseball Coach

While neither team finished with a winning record, both coaches feel they have taken positive steps forward toward a successful future.

“My first season as a head coach has been great,” said Paukert. “I have learned a ton from the players and about the game in general.”

Paukert added that while the season has definitely had its highs and lows, he couldn’t be happier with the team he was given.

“I am truly blessed to have my first head coaching position be with the group of guys that I have,” said Paukert. “The senior group of boys are extremely fun to coach. It will be tough to see them go once the season ends.”

Although awarded a young team, Kittelson has enjoyed his first season as well, and has seen

NEW COACHES
Continued on Page 3B



Staff photo by James Knoop
Trevor Tracy delivers a pitch against Bloomington Prairie on Friday, May 15. The 5-2 win for the Panthers broke an eight-game losing streak.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Scott Romeo calls for the cutoff throw from left-fielder Ethan Strunk during an away game against NRHEG.

NRHEG and BP look to surprise opponents in section play

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

The Bloomington Prairie Blossoms faced New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva on Friday, May 15, at New Richland. Both teams had spent the second half of the season sliding out of postseason conversation, with a collective 0-12 record in the month of May.

Both teams are looking to turn things around in the postseason.

The Panthers went into the second inning of the game with a 1-0 lead. It was their

first second-inning lead in nine games. The Blossoms, however, sparked by a big double by Scott Romeo, claimed a 2-1 lead going into the bottom of the fourth.

“I was nervous we wouldn’t respond well to giving up the lead,” said NRHEG Coach Drew Paukert said after the game. Paukert’s team was up to the task, however, scoring four runs in that same inning to gain the 5-2 lead. That would be the final score.

SECTIONS
Continued on Page 3B

OWATONNA LACROSSE



Staff photo by James Knoop
Senior Daniel Prissel collides with a Rochester Century opponent in last Thursday’s 16-3 loss at home.

Boys claim first win; girls fall to Prior Lake

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

The Owatonna lacrosse boys have played some close games throughout the season, but one thing always seemed to elude them. A win.

Now, after 10 straight losses, the boys have finally wiped the zero from the wins column.

Though Coach Scott Seyora believes there were several winnable games throughout the season, the Huskies can now put fears of a shutout season to rest.

Unfortunately for Owatonna fans, the win came on the road, in a Saturday morning game against the Robbinsdale Cooper Hawks. Robbinsdale

shared a 0-10 record with the Huskies, but Owatonna was the better team, plowing past Robbinsdale 18-2.

It was the first time this season that the Huskies scored double digits on offense, their next highest at nine points against Coon Rapids and Rochester Mayo. The two points allowed were also the fewest allow all season, the next lowest coming in a 6-2 loss against Rochester John Marshall.

The win boosted the Huskies record to 1-10 with one regular season game to play. Owatonna will finish the season against 3-6 Park (Cottage Grove) on their home field on Friday, May 22, at 7:00 p.m.

Girls lacrosse

The girls team fell 8-1 at Prior Lake on Saturday, May 16. The loss dropped the Huskies record to 7-3 this season.

The eight points allowed were the third most the Huskies allowed this season, and the single scored goal was the least, the next lowest coming in 12-6 and 9-6 losses against Bloomington Kennedy and Farmington, respectively.

The girls finish the regular season with two home game. The first was scheduled for Monday, May 18, against Rochester John Marshall. The final game will be played against Eagan on Thursday, May 21 at 7 p.m.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE SPORTS

Blossoms’ boys finish 3rd in conference meet at New Richland

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Bloomington boys finished third in the Gopher conference track meet at NRHEG with 100 points, while the girls placed sixth of the seven teams entered.

USC/Alden-Conger won the boys division, with Maple River second, and WEM and Maple River finished one and two for

the girls. BP girls trailed for fifth by just 3.5 points.

Individually, the Blossoms picked up four firsts, and the girls earned two. Alec Ille proved a double winner, taking the 1600 in 4:39.98 and winning the 3200 in 10:24.51.

Cole Sunde and Anthony Nelson placed one and two in the long jump with leaps of 20-0 and 19-11 1/2 respectively. The other first came from the 4x100

relay team of Sunde, Kevin Eischens, Weston Meyer, and Nelson with 45.87 timing.

Sunde added two more seconds in the 200m dash (23.16) and the triple jump at (41-3 1/2). The 4x200 relay team of Ben Smith, Mitchell Jones, Collin Wobschall, Albert Zamarripa placed third in 1:42. 71, as did Nelson in the 200 with a time of 24.40. Nelson added a fourth in the 100 at 12.28, and

the 4x400 relay (Angel Villarreal, Smith Meyer, Elijah Baker) ran a 3:52.51 for another fourth. Wobschall picked up the other points for the boys with fifth in the shot put (43-0).

Taylor Hagen earned the shot put title for the girls with a toss of 39’ 3”, and 4x800 relay team of Alison Pryor, Sam Wurst, Lauren Larkoski, and Alanna Grant won that race with a 10:35.94 time.

BP girls earned four seconds in the meet. Larkoski ran the 400 in 1:03. 89, Asia Thostenson timed an 18.03 in the 100 hurdles, and Hagen threw the discus 107’9”. The 4x400 relay (Leah Schiefert, Wurst, Larkoski Grant) timed a 4:33. 16 for the other second.

Grant ran a 2:38.61 to place third in the 800, and Pryor and the 4x200 relay team finished fourth. Pryor timed a 13:07.46

in the 3200 run, and the relay team (Laura Grant, Marissa Larson, Kylie Forystek, and Schiefert) ran that race in 2:12.62. Thostenson finished the Blossom scoring for the girls with a 53.69 time in the 300 hurdles.

The meet was held on a windy and cool day, but the seven teams all performed well in the less than ideal weather.

Blossoms drop four to end season

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

WEM avenges loss

WEM took advantage of two early errors to grab a 2-0 lead in the first inning, and the Bucs kept adding runs in a 10-1 victory over the Blossoms on the home diamond Tuesday, May 12. BP had edged the visitors the first game of the season in extra innings, but the latest loss pushed the record to 4-13 overall and 3-8 in conference play.

While the Blossoms managed only one first inning run, WEM counted three more runs in the third, two in the fifth and one each in the last two innings. Dallas McBroom scattered eight hits in pitching the victory, while John Rumpza took the loss for the locals. “It has become a nightmare for us,” commented Coach Matt Kittelson, but no timely hitting has haunted us for several games lately. I guess all we can do is keep trying, but it’s certainly getting a little frustrating.”

WEM had 10 runs, 11 hits, and two

errors; BP had one run, eight hits, and two errors. Rumpza had three hits to lead the offense, and Scott Romeo added two hits, including a double.

Loyola wins 10-5

BP’s baseball team continued their losing streak in a 10-5 loss at Mankato Loyola on Friday, May 8, as clutch hitting again eluded the Blossoms. A four-run second inning gave the Crusaders a 6-2 lead, and the locals could never catch up after that.

Both teams counted two runs in the first inning. Sam Swenson, Ethan Strunk and Brad Staska all singled for the runs, and Loyola had two singles, a walk and a sacrifice to count theirs.

Loyola bunched three singles, a walk, a sacrifice and a double to score four times in the second, but Blooming Prairie got two runs back in the third on an error, two walks and Rumpza’s single.

The Crusaders put the game out of reach with three runs in the fifth and one more in the sixth. The locals could add just one more run in the top of the

sixth.

Two walks, a stolen base, and a wild pitch plated the run. Loyola had 10 runs, 10 hits, and two errors; BP had five runs, nine hits and two errors. Scott Romeo went the distance in the losing cause, and no Blossom had more than one hit in the game.

USC wins 6-1

USC started the latest losing streak for the Blossoms with a 6-1 win on Thursday, May 7. The Rebels scored four times in the first inning, thanks to two local errors, a fielder’s choice and two consecutive doubles.

That was enough scoring, but the Rebels added single runs in the fourth and sixth innings, while BP managed its only run of the game in the fourth inning. When Seth Peterson and Riley Olson singled, a USC error allowed the run to score. Romeo had a double among the six hits the club managed, and a lack of timely hitting hurt the Blossoms chances in several instances.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Scott Romeo throws the NRHEG runner out at first on a long throw from third base. The Blossoms fell 5-2 against the Panthers, dropping their seventh straight game since April 30. Romeo hit a double and scored in the fourth inning to kick off a two-run rally.

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued from Page 1B

Another voice stilled

Considered one of the 50 greatest guitarists of all time, B.B. King passed away last week in Las Vegas at the age of 89. His distinctive style on the guitar and an equally distinctive voice kept him in the musical limelight for several decades. In the height of popularity in the 70’s, King was performing at various venues as

many as 200 times each year. He was married twice and was rumored to have fathered over a dozen children. He ranked as one of the most influential jazz musicians of all times and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987. Anyone who loved the music of the 50s and on enjoyed his music and his distinctive style of playing guitar, and he leaves a legion

of adoring fans to cherish his memory.

This and that

The citywide garage sale and the pork sandwich at the Servicemen’s sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion both were deemed a success. It is hoped that the event at the club can become an annual affair and provide funds eventually to fi-

nalize and erect the memorial to the servicemen who have served their country from the local organization.

One thing on the agenda is the open house at Koster’s Car Korner on Friday. Locals are invited to stop in and take notice of the remodeling accomplished at the local car dealers. It is quite a change.

Honor servicemen

Next weekend marks the annual Memorial Day observance, and it is essential that the community honor the service personnel, both past and present. These individuals certainly deserve plaudits and thanks every day, but at least Memorial Day is one time that we specifically pause and pay homage to all

those brave souls. We thank you for your service, believe me.

And what about those baseball Twins. It may not last the whole season, but it certainly feels good to have them above .500, and we should enjoy it while it lasts. The home record is especially gratifying, as it gives hometown fans plenty to cheer about. Think spring, go Blossoms, and we’ll talk again.

Braaten takes 6th at meet

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Bloomington’s Tommy Braaten finished sixth at a conference match at Blue Earth Area on Tuesday, May 12.

Ryan Pederson of USC earned medalist honors individually, and the Rebels also took the team title. USC shot 169 to beat second place Maple River by 15 strokes.

Pederson carded a sizzling 35 to finish five strokes better than Maple River’s Bran-

don Sohre, who shot a 40. Nate Pederson (USC) settled for third, also with a 40, and Khristian Peterson (FBA) had 41. Nick Newbauer (USC) claimed fifth with a 42, and Braaten was a stroke behind at 43. Brody Carlson shot a 47 for ninth place, and Jon Hatch placed 12th with a 50 to round out the Blossoms scoring. Adam Oquist led the NRHEG golfers with a 49, Nick Schultz had a 54, Lucas Hermann a 61, Rob Jewett a 64 and Ethan Thompson a 70.

Shooters 2nd early in season

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

After two weeks of spring competition in the Minnesota trap shooting season, the BPHS team stands second in conference 5A.

The local high school is one of 11 teams in this conference. Starting this spring, 243 teams started competition, with approximately 15 conferences involved. Osakis High School and Osseo High School stand third and fourth behind BPHS after the first two weeks of shooting.

Litchfield High School holds down first in conference 5A with

1,365.5 points, but BPHS is just .5 points behind at 1,365. Individually, Logan Schoon of Menahaga and Karson Vigeland of BPHS are tied for third at 21.50, and Jon Hatch is tied for ninth at 20.25. Zach Sisler is 14th at 19.75, and Dylan Hatch stands 15th at 19.50

For the girls, Carissa Easton and Alison Pryor are fifth and sixth, respectively, with scores of 15.25 and 15.00. Lauren Larkoski and Abby Wayne also shot in the top 15, at 11th and 13th places (11.00 and 9.75 respectively).

Shooting continues through June in the various conferences.

Ladies Bowling League

Following a roll off between first half winner, F & M Bank, and Epic Contracting on Wednesday, Apr. 29, Epic Contracting is the 2014-15 Ladies champion.

Epic Contracting Members

Kathi Peterson
Bonnie Coughlin
Amy Snider
Lisa Noble
Tiffany Boecker
Kellie Braaten
Rhonda McCabe
Melody Benson

Sponsors were Mike Ressler and Mark Coughlin.
Kathy Meyer reported scores all season.



Junior high baseball and softball teams win 2

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

The junior high baseball team won two games and lost one in their last three contests. They defeated WEM 14-2 on Tuesday, May 12, after beating USC 12-7 on May 7, and losing to Mankato Loyola 16-8.

Against WEM, BP scored twice in the first inning, four runs in the second and seven runs in the fourth to give BP a wide margin. Jack Abbe and Mitch Oswald both had scoring singles for the early runs, and Nick Thompson had two doubles in the fourth, plus a single by Abbe and another double by Ethan Arett. Thompson pitched the game.

In the Loyola loss, the Blossoms scored six runs in the second, but Loyola had too much for the locals in this one. Oswald and Payton Simon stroked doubles in that second inning,

and Abbe, Arett and Thompson all had run-scoring singles.

In the USC victory, Arett, Abbe, Thompson and Colin Lerum (two hits) helped the locals score their 12 runs. Lerum pitched the first 6 1/3 innings, with Jacob Gwilt finishing up. Arett and Lerum both had two hits to lead the BP offense.

Softball

Two wins at Wells on Thursday, May 7, upped the junior high softball team record to 10-6 with the fourth consecutive victory. BP defeated USC 9-5 in the second game, after winning the first game 13-5.

Julia Worke pitched the second game win, striking out seven and walking only two. Maya Lembke had two hits to lead the local offense. Riauna Bishop had six strikeouts in the victory, and Lembke and Worke both had 2 hits. Jillian Wigham added a base hit as well.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



JOHN RUMPZA

The senior baseball player has been one of the team’s leading hitters all season, whether he is pitching for the Blossoms or playing in the infield. Although it has been a tough season for the local team, Rumpza continues to hit at a good percentage and also take his turn on the mound regularly. He will wind up his baseball career as one of the top three hitters on the team.



MCKENNA HEIN

Freshman McKenna Hein earned her first victory in the circle for the Blossoms in a win over Waseca in the second of a doubleheader sweep. Hein has been a bright spot in the batting order for the locals, batting fifth in the order. She had a perfect 5-5 day in one game recently and is always a tough out for the team. She can play either infield or outfield and has done both during this 2015 season.

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE SPORTS

Golfer earns medalist honors at conference meet in Waseca

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

United South Central won the conference golf title for the girls by 30 strokes over NRHEG, but Blooming Prairie’s Taylor Christianson earned the medalist honors in the individual competition.

USC also won the team title for the boys at the conference meet in Waseca on Friday, May 15.

Christianson carded a fine 86 to finish 17 strokes ahead of second place USC’s Kylie Bullerman. Morgan Pyzick and Isabel Schindler, both from USC, placed third and fourth with 106

and 107, and Blooming Prairie’s Alexa Rudlong shot a 109 for fifth place.

Christianson, along with five USC golfers and Rudlong, all made the All-Conference team. Sabrina Stanley shot a 127 for the other BP girl’s score to place 12th

Two USC golfers, Nate Pederson and Ryan Pederson, earned medalist and runner-up finishes with 76 and 77 for the boys, and Blooming Prairie’s Tommy Braaten placed third with an 82. Jon Hatch (BP) and USC’s Nick Neubauer rounded out the top five golfers with an 83 and an 86, respectively.

Jake Langlie and Atom Oquist

shot 93 and 96 for NRHEG. Braaten was the lone All-Conference pick from Blooming Prairie, with Jon Hatch an honorable mention. The other Blossoms golfer, Brody Carlson, finished 11th in the meet with a 93.

USC won the boys’ division over Bethlehem Academy 330-362, with Maple River third and

Blooming Prairie and NRHEG with incomplete teams. Behind USC and NRHEG in the girls’ division, Maple River finished third, and BP and FBA both had incomplete teams.

NEW COACHES
Continued from Page 1B

chemistry built between a large gap of ages.

“I thought it may be a challenge, being that we start an eighth-grader and two or three freshman,” said Kittelson. “But all of the upperclassmen have been extremely helpful, and they treat these guys with a lot of respect.”

Kittelson said he’s not at all surprised his juniors and seniors were up to the challenge.

“I would have expected nothing else from them,” said Kittelson. “I have had them in football for a number of years now as well, and they are all just great kids. They provided a lot of encouragement to everyone. In a small school, they all know each other and are around each other a lot anyways, so that helps facilitate that chemistry.”

Paukert says, he too, has begun to build chemistry with his team and said he hopes to build a more positive attitude toward NRHEG baseball like Jeff Reese had in years past.

“I feel the players bought into what I was trying to put into place, and (I) am excited to see where we can take this program in the years to come,” said Paukert.

As of Monday, the NRHEG Panthers were 6-11, with their final regular season game scheduled for Tuesday, May 19 at home against Blue Earth Area. The Panthers began the season 5-2, but fell to 5-10 after eight straight losses. The skid finally ended with a 5-2 win against Blooming Prairie, but Albert Lea shut them out 13-0 the next day. The Panthers do not yet know who they will play in sections.

The Blossoms went 4-14 this season, with their final game scheduled at home on Monday against Goodhue. The Blossoms also began the season well, starting 3-3 before finishing 1-11. The Blossoms will begin section play at Hayfield on Thursday, May 21, at 5 p.m.



Blooming Prairie’s Scott Romeo keeps the NRHEG runner honest during Friday’s game in New Richland. Staff photo by James Knoop

BP SOFTBALL
Continued from Page 1B

got its only runs for the day in the bottom of the sixth, when Bria Baldwin poked a Lundberg pitch just over the left field corner, following a walk to Madison Worke and a wild pitch. Another single run in the seventh for the winners ended the scoring.

“The Panthers were good today,” remarked Coach Alison Mach, “and we played pretty flat the whole game. Of course, the good pitching by Lundberg probably had something to do with that also.”

NRHEG had eight runs, eight hits and one error; BP had two runs, six hits and two errors. Lundberg walked just one and had six strikeouts, while Stunk walked four, hit two batters and struck out three. Both the Panthers and the Blossoms have the No. 2 seed in their respective sub-section tournaments beginning this week.

BP over Kenyon

After sweeping a double header from Waseca earlier, the Blossom softball concluded their non-conference schedule with a 7-4 victory at Kenyon on Tuesday, May 12. The win over Kenyon-Wanamingo put the locals back to the .500 mark with an 8-8 record.

Both teams counted a run in the first inning, but BP had another in the second, two in the third and three in the fourth to take a 7-1 lead. That was enough to stop a comeback. The home team scored a single run in the sixth and two more in the seventh on two walks, a Blossoms error and a single, but a fly ball ended the threat and the game.

Madison Worke’s single and walk, and an Elly Strunk base hit counted the first inning run for BP. A walk, Anika Nowlan’s single and a fielder’s choice plated the second inning run. A walk and three straight singles from Jessica Ferguson, Nowlan and Tessa Ivers chased the two runs across in the third.

In the fourth inning, singles by Strunk, McKenna Hein and Abby Wayne counted one run, and Kalyn Naatz followed with a double to score two more runs and give the winners a big margin. That was more than enough to preserve the win.

Strunk pitched the victory, and she, Worke and Nowlan each had two hits in the game. BP had seven runs, 11 hits and two errors; KW had four runs, six hits, and two errors.

As Mach remarked, “We have been playing pretty good ball over the last few games, and it is nice to get back to an even record. I just hope we can keep it up.”

Girls sweep Waseca

Inching back closer to the .500 mark for the season, the BP softball team dispatched Waseca twice in a doubleheader on Saturday, May 9. The non-conference contests found the locals winning the second game of the twin bill 13-4 on the home diamond after edging the Bluejays 4-3 in the opening game.

Freshman McKenna Hein took the circle in the second game win and steadied down after giving up three first inning runs. She pitched the distance in the lopsided victory. She allowed eight hits, with four walks and one strikeout.

Meanwhile, the Blossoms were pounding out 22 hits and scoring six runs in the fifth, three in the sixth and three in the seventh inning for all but one of their runs.

Hein also helped herself on offense with a 5-5 day at the plate, including two doubles and four RBIs. Elly Strunk and Abby Wayne both had four hits, with Wayne knocking in four runs. Worke and Linnea Sunde added three hits each, with Sunde counting two RBIs.

BP counted three runs in the bottom of the sixth and then

hung on for the first game victory. Single runs in the second and fifth left them one run behind after Waseca had counted a run in the top of the sixth. The Bluejays had counted single runs in the third and fifth. The locals used a walk to Ivers, her stolen base and a passed ball to reach third, and scored on Worke’s base hit. A passed ball moved Worke to

second, and she came home on an error by the shortstop.

BP had nine hits, led by two hits each from Ivers and Naatz. Strunk pitched the first six innings, with Worke going the last inning. BP had four runs and one error; Waseca had three runs, eight hits and two errors. The team record improved to 7-8 with the two wins.



Catcher Tessa Ivers bats against NRHEG in an 8-2 loss on Friday, May 15. Staff photo by James Knoop

Golf League Standings		
Blooming Prairie Country Club		
Week 2 - May 11		
Points		
1	Myer Motl Tollefson	15
1	Grunklee Evans Possehl	15
3	Hillberg Wanous Pfeifer	13.5
4	Braaten PirkI Resler	13
5	SkalaR Thiele Sammon	12.5
6	Zwiener Hinzmen Wurst	12
6	Weeks Johnson Caldwell	12
8	Lembke Farrow Hanson	11.5
9	Lea Lembke Hansen	11
10	Sunde Kittelson Carlson	10.5
11	Koster Long White	10
12	Strunk Farr Ingvaldson	9
12	Kruckeberg Kruckeberg Johnson	9
14	Minimizer Minimizer Minimizer	8
15	Doerhoefer Stalach Olson Worke	7.5
15	Haberman Hegal Henefeld Hanson	7.5
17	Hareid Bartsch Wilkerson	7
18	Glynn Glynn Esplan	6.5
18	Peterson Behnken Bishop	6.5
20	Skala Jensen Lee	6
21	Clark Blome Skala	5.5
22	Klemmensen Drexler Zwiener	5
23	Morgan Sekora	
	Olson Schuster Iacovino	4.5
24	J. Klemmensen R. Klemmensen Anderson	4
24	White Lysne Johnson	4
26	Ingvalson Klemmensen Bishop	2
Division	Team	Score
A	Braaten PirkI Resler	34
B	Myer Motl Tollefson	34
B	Sunde Kittelson Carlson	34
C	Hillberg Wanous Pfeifer	38
C	Zwiener Hinzmen Wurst	38
C	Weeks Johnson Caldwell	38
D	Grunklee Evans Possehl	36

SECTIONS
Continued from Page 1B

“Give the boys credit,” said Paukert. “They got right back in the dugout, and you could tell they wanted this game.”

The Blossoms had several chances to respond throughout the game, including loading the bases in the top of the fifth, but they were unable to capitalize. Blossoms Coach Matt Kittelson said that has been the team’s Achilles heel all season.

“Our biggest problem all year has been like tonight,” said Kittelson. “We had runners on second and third and bases loaded, and they ground out. We just do not get those timely hits with guys in scoring position. That’s been our problem all year.”

Kittelson was pleased with his pitching and defense, but stated that his team has to score with runners in scoring position if they hope to win.

“When you can’t drive in runs, it doesn’t matter how many you give up,” said Kittelson, adding that this is the same thing he’s been preaching to his team since the second game of the season.

While the game served to remind the Panthers how they began the season 5-2, it also served as a reminder of the Blossoms biggest shortcoming. With section play beginning this week, both first-year coaches hope to take the lessons from that game into postseason play.

“Our goals moving into sections are to continue to play fundamental baseball like we did against Blooming Prairie,” said Paukert. “We feel if we do that, we can put ourselves into a position to make some noise in the section tournament.”

Paukert added that while he expects to receive the seventh

seed, his team still feels they are capable of competing with any team.

“Our biggest goal is to come away with a win in the first round to make it to the double elimination part of the section tournament,” said Paukert.

The Panthers have one home game against Blue Earth Area on Tuesday, May 19, before the postseason begins.

For Kittelson and the Blossoms, the game against NRHEG served as a reminder of the things they need to change to upset a team in sections.

“We have to get those hits when we have runners in scoring position,” said Kittelson. “That’s all there is to it. We’ve been playing pretty solid defense, and we’ve been getting pretty good pitching. We’re just not driving in runs with runners

in scoring position. (If) we don’t do that, we’re not going to make any noise.”

Kittelson added that his team has played close with some good teams, and believes in the chance to upset a team in sections. That first team the Blossoms will face is Hayfield on Thursday, May 21.

In their regular season meeting, the Blossoms fell to the Vikings in Hayfield 4-2.

“Despite our record and despite our standings in the conference and the seed that we’ll probably get, we can pull one off,” said Kittelson. “I think that’s the way the whole section is. Other than maybe Kenyon, I don’t think there’s any one dominant team. I would expect to see a couple upsets. Hopefully we can get some timely hits, and we can be one of those teams.”

Gopher Conference

Softball		
	Conf.	Overall
NRHEG	8-2	12-3
Faribault B.A.	7-2	11-5
Maple River	5-1	11-7
Blooming Prairie	3-3	8-9
WEM	4-6	7-13
USC	3-7	4-13
Medford	0-9	2-14

Baseball		
	Conf.	Overall
WEM	9-2	11-5
Medford	8-3	12-5
USC	7-5	11-7
Faribault B.A.	6-5	8-10
NRHEG	5-7	6-10
Blooming Prairie	3-9	4-14
Maple River	3-9	5-13

Big 9 Conference

Softball		
	Conf.	Overall
Mankato West	15-1	18-2
Mankato East	11-4	13-5
Rochester Mayo	9-3	11-5
Winona	10-4	12-8
Rochester Century	9-5	13-6
Albert Lea	5-7	6-7
Northfield	6-9	8-12
Owatonna	5-9	5-10
Rochester JM	3-8	7-13
Austin	3-9	4-11
Faribault	3-11	4-12
Red Wing	3-12	5-15

Baseball		
	Conf.	Overall
Northfield	9-2	13-3
Mankato West	9-3	13-5
Rochester JM	9-3	15-5
Rochester Mayo	9-5	11-10
Red Wing	7-7	11-7
Rochester Century	6-6	11-9
Albert Lea	5-5	9-10
Owatonna	5-9	6-10
Winona	4-8	4-11
Austin	4-9	5-10
Mankato East	3-8	8-11
Faribault	2-9	3-14

Boys Lacrosse		
	Conf.	Overall
Rochester Century	3-0	6-4
Rochester Mayo	3-1	4-7
Northfield	2-2	4-6
Rochester JM	1-2	3-6
Owatonna	0-4	1-10

Girls Lacrosse		
	Conf.	Overall
Owatonna	6-0	7-3
Rochester Century	4-1	4-6
Rochester JM	2-4	3-5
Northfield	2-5	3-9
Rochester Mayo	2-6	3-7

BASEBALL

Blooming Prairie
April 20... at WEM W 15-14 (9 innings)
April 23... vs. NRHEG L 10-3
April 27... at Faribault B.A. L 8-2
April 28...vs Randolph L 8-0
April 30... at Maple River L 15-0
April 30... at Maple River W 7-4
May 1... vs. Triton L 22-8
May 4... at Medford L 10-1
May 5... at Hayfield L 4-2
May 7... at USC L 6-1
May 8... at Mankato Loyola L 10-5
May 12... vs. WEM L 10-1
May 14... at NRHEG L 5-2
May 15... vs. Alden-Conger

Medford
April 20... vs. NRHEG W 4-3
April 23... at WEM L 6-3
April 24... vs. Maple River W 13-3
April 28... at USC L 5-2
April 30... at Faribault B.A. W 6-5
April 30... at Faribault B.A. L 16-12 (8 innings)
May 4... vs. Blooming Prairie W 10-1
May 5... vs. Triton L 6-2
May 7... vs. Randolph POSTPONED
May 9... vs. Schaeffer Academy L 5-4
May 9... vs. Bethany Academy W 3-2
May 11... at NRHEG W 11-4
May 15... vs. WEM L 3-1
May 15... at Cleveland Cancelled

NRHEG
April 20... at. Medford L 4-3
April 21... vs. Zumbrota-Mazeppa W 13-3
April 23... at Blooming Prairie W 10-3
April 28... vs. Faribault B.A. L 10-6
April 30... at USC L 5-3
April 30... at USC L 6-7
May 4... at WEM L 9-0
May 5... vs. Kenyon-Wanamingo 11-1
May 7... at Maple River L 10-9
May 9... vs. PACT Charter School L 8-4
May 11... vs. Medford L 11-4
May 14... vs. Blooming Prairie W 5-2
May 16... vs. Albert Lea L 13-0
May 19... vs. Blue Earth Area

Owatonna
April 23... vs. Rochester Mayo W 3-2 (8 innings)
April 27... vs. Rochester JM L 7-5
April 28... at Northfield L 12-2
April 29... at Rochester JM L 6-5
April 30... vs. Faribault W 10-0
May 5... at Mankato West L 5-1
May 8... vs. Mankato West L 12-0
May 8... vs. St. Cloud Apollo W 9-4
May 12... vs. Austin L 2-1
May 13... at Winona W 8-2
May 15... vs. RicoriL 5-0
May 18... at Red Wing

SOFTBALL

Blooming Prairie
April 20... at WEM W 12-7
April 23... at Byron L 6-5
April 25... vs. Pine Island L 10-0
April 25... at Austin L 15-4
April 28... at Randolph W 11-9
April 30... at Maple Rlver L 14-1
May 4... vs. Triton L 3-2
May 5... at Pine Island L 17-5
May 7... vs. USC W 13-3
May 8... vs. Mankato Loyola L 5-4
May 9... vs. Waseca DH W 4-3, W 13-4
May 12... at Kenyon-Wanamingo W 7-4
May 14... vs. NRHEG L 8-2

Medford
April 20... vs. NRHEG L 32-0
April 23... vs. WEM L 14-5
April 27... at St. Clair L 20-6
April 28... at Lyle/Austin Pacelli L 8-4
April 30... vs. Faribault B.A. L 22-6
May 1... vs. Glenville-Emmons W 8-6
May 4... at JWP L 18-8
May 5... at USC L 26-5
May 7... vs. Randolph CANCELLED
May 9... at Plainview-Elgin-Millville L 35-3
May 11... at NRHEG L 15-0
May 14... at WEM L 11-1
May 18... Sub-sections
... vs. Southland L 16-3

NRHEG
April 20... at. Medford W 32-0
April 28... vs. Faribault B.A. W 7-5
April 30... at USC W 4-1
April 30... at USC W 24-7
May 5... AT WEM L 8-7
May 7... vs. Maple River W 7-2
May 9... at Kenyon-Wanamingo W 6-0
... vs. New York Mills W 9-2
May 12... vs. Medford W 15-0
May 14... at Blooming Prairie W 8-2
May 19... vs. Tri-City United

Owatonna
April 20... vs. Mankato East L 16-5
April 21... vs. Red Wing W 11-0
April 23... at Rochester Mayo L 5-3
April 24... at Austin W 17-5
April 25... at Esko W 5-0
April 28... vs. Northfield L 7-5
May 5... vs. Albert Lea W 7-5
May 7... at Mankato West L 6-0
May 7... at Mankato West W 5-4
May 8... vs. Farmington L 7-2
May 12... at Austin W 6-5
May 14... vs. Winona L 8-4
May 15... at Rochester Century L 7-1

TRACK AND FIELD

Blooming Prairie
May 5... at Triton

May 12... at NRHEG
May 21... at Grand Meadow
May 26... at Triton (Sections)
May 28... at Triton (Sections)

Medford
April 28... at Blooming Prairie
April 30... at Byron
May 5... at Triton
May 7... Home Invitational
May 12... at NRHEG
May 19... at Byron
May 26... at Triton (Sections)
May 28... at Triton (Sections)

NRHEG
April 23... at Maple River
April 24... at Blue Earth Area
April 28... at Blooming Prairie
May 5... at Maple River
May 12... Home Invitational
May 21... at USC
May 30... at Mankato West (Sections)

Owatonna
April 23... at Lakeville South (Boys)
April 28... Home Invitational (Boys)
April 28... at Rochester JM (Girls)
May 2... at Rochester Mayo (Boys)
May 5... at Lakeville North (Boys and girls)
May 12... at Faribault (Boys)
May 15... at Sillwater (Girls True Tream)
May 22... at Mankato East (Boys and girls)
May 28... at Lakeville South (Sections)
May 30... at Lakeville South (Sections)

OWATONNA GIRLS LACROSSE

April 14... at Hastings W 14-2
April 16... at Rochester Mayo W 15-4
April 18... vs. Northfield W 13-0
April 24... at Rochester Century W 11-1
April 25... at Bloomington Kennedy L 12-6
April 30... at Rochester JM W 8-2
May 2... vs. Farmington L 9-6
May 5... vs. Rochester Mayo W 15-3
May 12... at Northfield W 11-4
May 14... vs. Rochester Century Postponed
May 16... at Prior Lake L 8-1
May 18... vs. Rochester JM
May 21... vs. Eagan

OWATONNA BOYS LACROSSE

April 17... at Chaska L 12-1
April 18... vs. Hastings L 14-2
April 21... at Simley L 12-2
April 23... vs. St. paul L 12-9
April 25... at Coon Rapids L 9-6
April 28... at Northfield L 9-6
April 30... vs. Rochester JM L 6-2
May 5... vs. Rochester Mayo L 17-9
May 14... vs. Rochester Century L16-3
May 16... at Robbinsdale Cooper W 18-2
May 22... Park (Cottage Grove)

GIRLS GOLF

Blooming Prairie
April 16... at USC
April 21... at Triton
April 28... at Triton
May 4... at Triton
May 7... vs. Faribault B.A.
May 8... Home Invitational

NRHEG
April 14... vs. Triton
April 16... at USC
April 30... at USC
May 8... at Blooming Prairie
May 11... at Waseca
May 14... at Waseca
May 26... at North Links (Sub-Sections)

Owatonna
May 4... vs. Faribault
May 5... Home Invitational
May 6... at Lake City
May 11... at Cannon Falls
May 12... at Austin
May 13... at Mounds View
May 16... vs. Marshall
May 18... at Rochester Mayo

BOYS GOLF

Blooming Prairie
April 18...Home Invitational
April 21... at Triton
April 23... at USC
April 27... Home Invitational
April 28... at Triton
May 7... at Faribault B.A.

Medford
May 7... Home Invitational
May 12... at NRHEG
May 19... at Byron
May 26... at Triton (Sections)
May 28... at Triton (Sections)

NRHEG
April 27... at Blooming Prairie
April 28... at Triton
May 7... at Faribault B.A.
May 11... at Waseca
May 14... at Wacasa
May 26... at North Links (Sub-Sections)

Owatonna
May 2... at Forest Lake
May 6... at Lake City
May 8... at Mankato West
May 12... vs. Albert Lea
May 16... Home Invitational
May 18... at Faribault
May 21... at Brainerd



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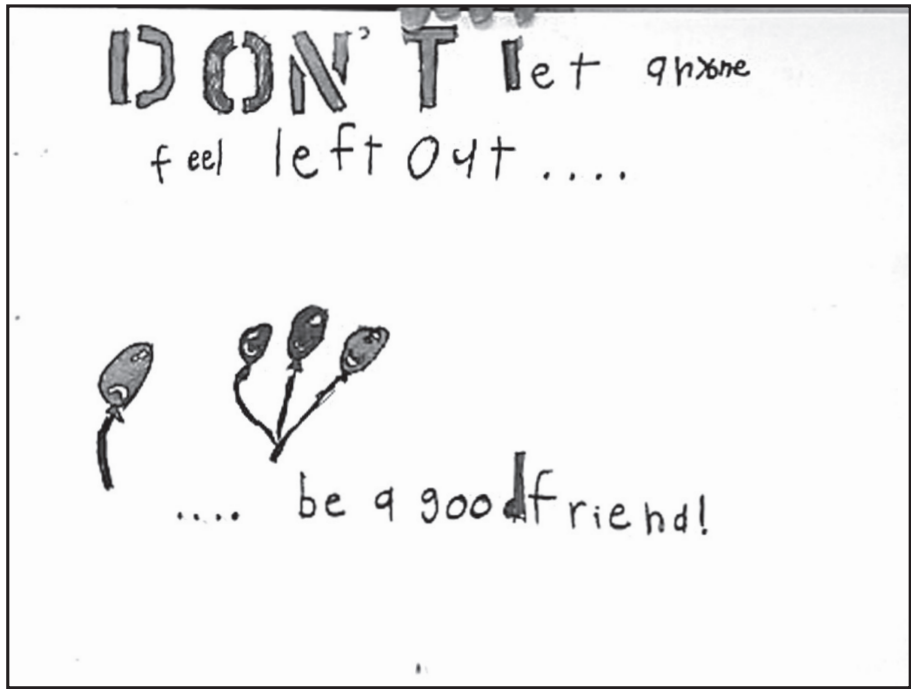
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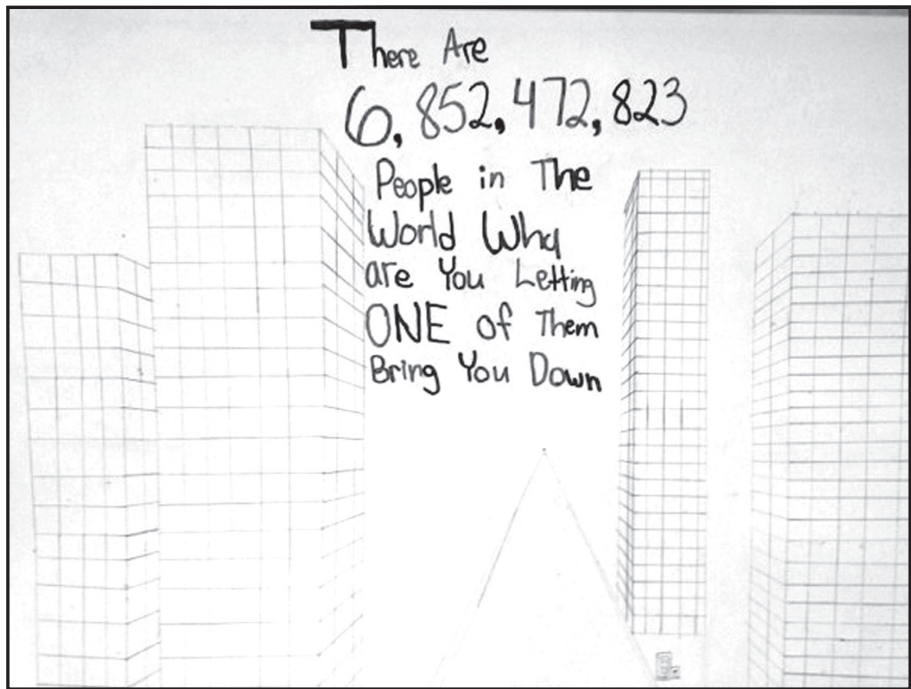
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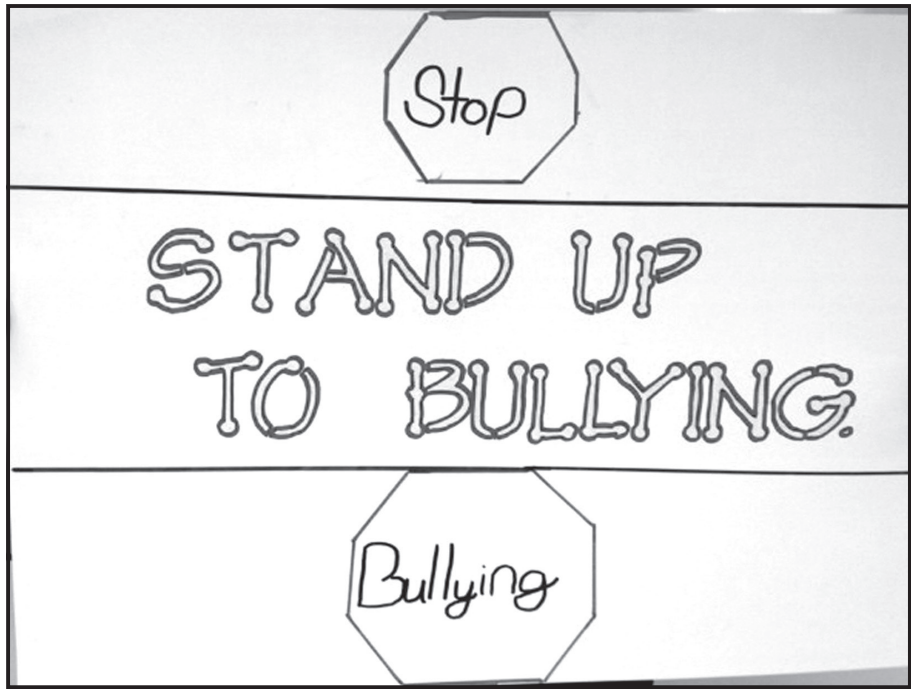
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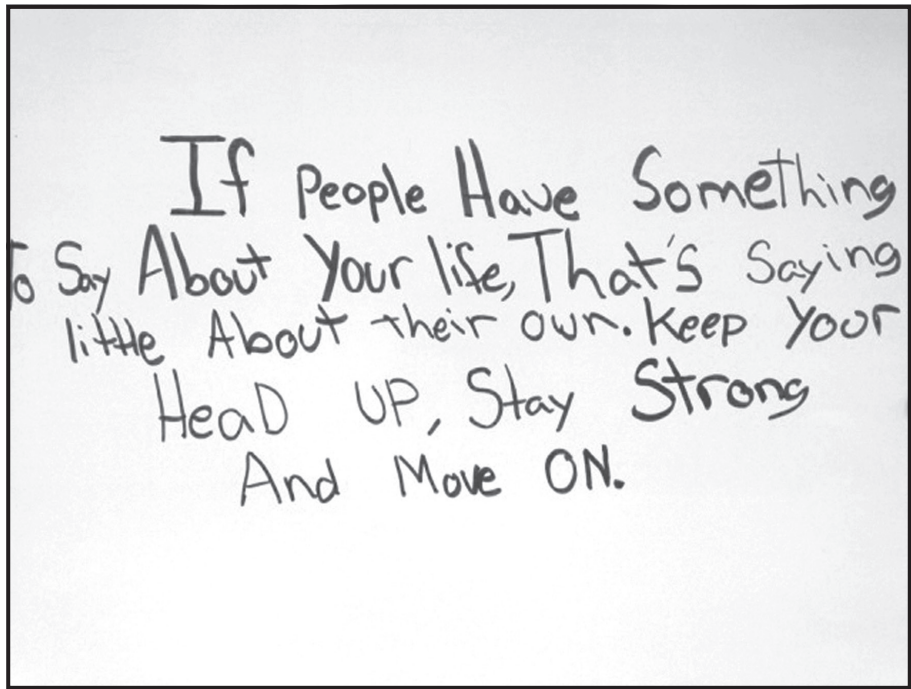
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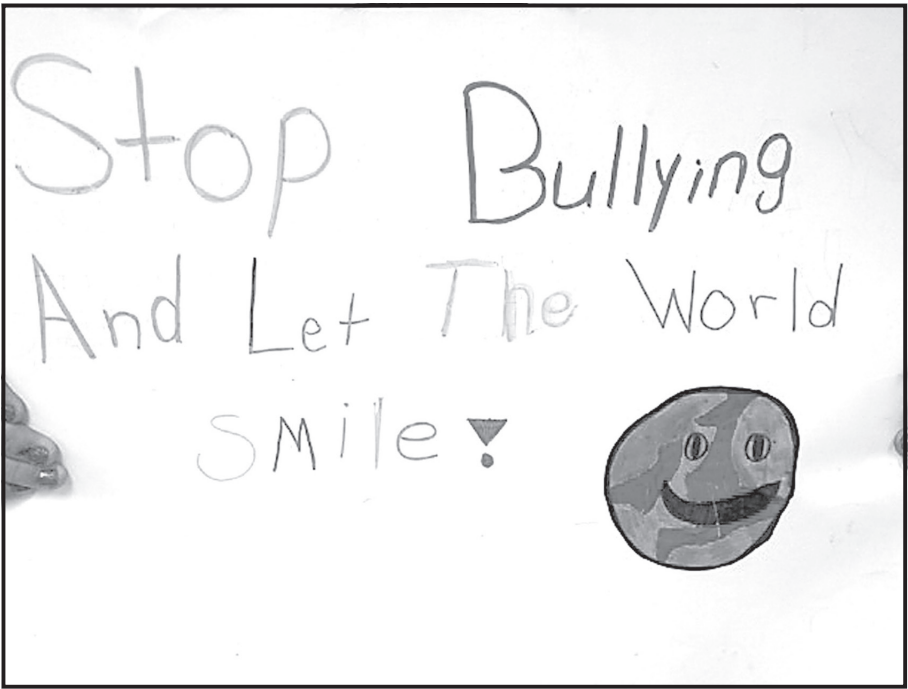


EDITOR'S NOTE:

On this page are some of the posters that Blooming Prairie seventh-grade students have designed during a Spring session on bullying. The students discussed various issues involving bullying. At the end of the session, these students designed these posters that have been placed around the school district in hopes of helping others understand that bul-

lying is not the proper thing to do.

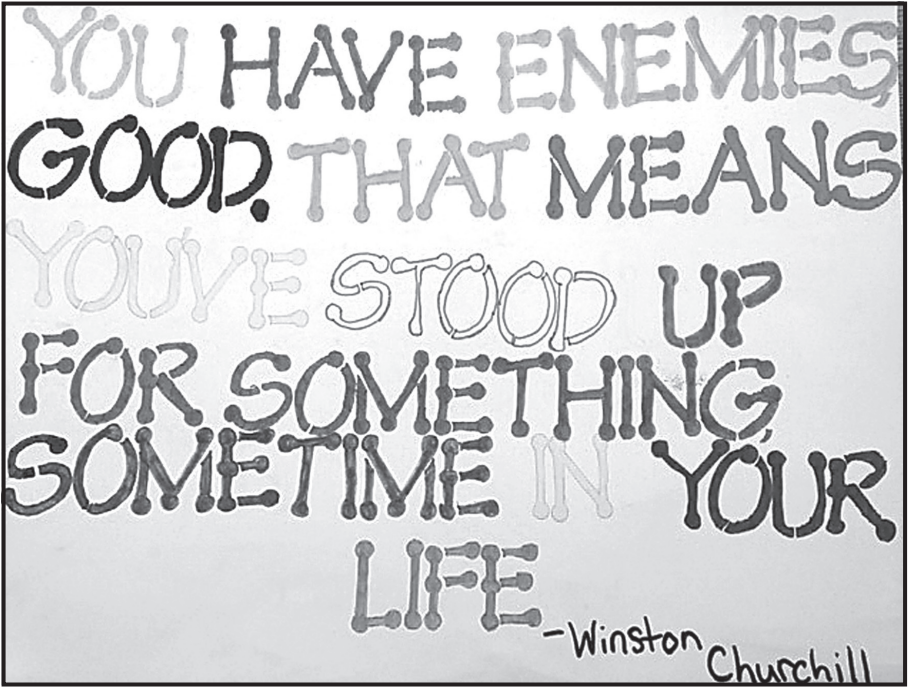
The Steele County Times would like to thank School Counselor and Health Instructor Mary Worke for taking these seven photos and allowing us to display them in our newspaper. We would also like to thank the seventh-grade students for allowing us to print these photos.



Desi Huff



Zach Archer



Maya Lembke

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Public Safety

Dodge County child victim of sexual exploitation by Missouri soldier

A Dodge County child is among the victims of a Missouri soldier accused of sexually exploiting children by using fake social media accounts and who went missing the day before his court martial at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri.

The Army has now issued an arrest warrant for Staff Sgt. Ulises Moore-Ramirez, 39, who was serving with the 1st Engineer Brigade at Ft. Leonard Wood. Moore-Ramirez had been facing court martial on numerous charges of child sexual abuse and manufacturing child pornography. He is now also wanted for desertion and breaking restriction from his Army Unit area.

Dodge County Investigator Jeff Brumfield said if it had not been for the parents looking into the electronics use of their child the criminal behavior might never have been discovered.

“As a parent of a young child you need to be aware of, and monitor, what your child is doing on their electronic devices,” Brumfield said. “If they are using anonymous apps to text instead of the phone’s normal



Moore-Ramirez

Dodge County officials became involved, Sheriff Scott Rose said, when Brumfield met with a parent concerned about the wellbeing of their young child. The parent reported an unknown incident had led to a significant change in the child’s behavior overnight and the child was unwilling to discuss it.

The parents told officials they had looked at the child’s electronics and located a possible threatening message the child had received using a social media text messaging application called Kik.

Brumfield issued a subpoena to Kik leading to the identification of the IP address of the sender, Rose said. A follow-up subpoena was issued to a Missouri cable provider and showed the subscriber was Moore-

text messaging program, you really need to question their motivations for doing so.”

Dodge County officials tried unsuccessfully to contact Moore-Ramirez. On April 28, a special victims attorney from the U.S. Army contacted Dodge County law enforcement, Rose said. The attorney said the Army had an ongoing case against Moore-Ramirez and had been tipped off about the Dodge County investigation.

Army prosecutors told Dodge County officials that Moore-Ramirez had been using fake social media accounts including Facebook, Snapchat and Kik. He is alleged to have posed as a teenage male convincing juveniles to send him nude photos of themselves and later threatening the juveniles if they did not send more photos.

The Army’s investigation, Rose said, indicated there were at least 150 juvenile victims including the Dodge County child.

After learning of the Dodge County incident the Army determined he had been continuing the activity during his pre-trial status. Brumfield was flown to Missouri by the Army to testify

Ramirez, stationed at Ft. Leonard Wood.

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at Moore-Ramirez’ court martial but before the court martial began Moore-Ramirez had fled the base. He has now been placed on the Army’s Most Wanted List.

The Army says he was last seen early on April 29, the day before his court martial.

Military officials have also said he is a native of Mexico and could be planning on leaving the country.

If convicted on all counts, the Army says, he could face 316 years in prison as well as loss of pay and allowances, reduction in rank to E-1 and a dishonorable discharge.

Moore-Ramirez is described as 39 years old, white male, 6’2” and approximately 185 pounds. He was last known to be traveling in a 2008 black Chevrolet Cobalt with Missouri plate KK8-K4X.

Rose said that while it is highly unlikely he is anywhere near Dodge County anyone knowing of his whereabouts or who has information on any juveniles he may have recently had contact with via the internet, should contact local law enforcement immediately.

It’s time to speak up about buckling up

It’s been a deadly start to 2015 for motorists who failed to buckle up, safety experts report.

Preliminary numbers show 30 people who chose not to wear a seat belt died in fatal crashes so far this year – 10 in April alone. Those gone too soon include mothers, fathers, teenagers and military veterans who never made it home.

As Memorial Day nears and Minnesotans begin their summer travel adventures, more than 300 law enforcement agencies will be participating in the statewide Click It or Ticket campaign starting May 18 and running through the end of the month.

While most Minnesota motorists are making the right choice, lack of seat belt use still contributes to about half of all motorists killed each year. In a crash, odds are four-times greater for injury if a motorist is not buckled up. Additional preliminary figures show:

- In 2014, 86 percent of unbelted deaths occurred in Greater Minnesota.
- From 2012 – 2014, 823 people were killed in Minnesota and only 52 percent were known to be belted.
- In 2014, 67 percent of drunk drivers who were killed in crashes were not wearing a seat belt.

“Motor vehicle crashes are violent and not wearing your seat belt puts you and your passengers at great risk for injury or death,” said Lt. Tiffani Nielson, Minnesota State Patrol.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that when asked to do so, 9 out of 10 people will fasten their seat belt.

Minnesota law states that drivers and passengers in all seating positions must be buckled up or seated in the correct child restraint. Under Minnesota law, officers can stop and ticket unbelted drivers or passengers. Seat belts must be worn correctly — low and snug across the hips, and shoulder straps should never be tucked under an arm or behind the back.

- In Minnesota, all children under age 8 must be in a child restraint, unless the child is 4 feet 9 inches or taller, whichever comes first.
- Rear-facing infant seats - Newborns to at least 1 year and 20 pounds; recommended up to age 2. It is safest to keep a child rear-facing as long as possible.
- Forward-facing toddler seats - Age 2 until around age 4. It’s preferable to keep children in a harnessed restraint as long as possible.
- Booster seats - Use after outgrowing a forward-facing harnessed restraint; safest to remain in a booster until 4 feet 9 inches tall, or at least age 8, whichever comes first.
- Seat belts - Use when children can sit with their back against the seat and have their knees bent comfortably over the vehicle seat edge with feet touching the floor.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

Owatonna Police May 8
Drunken Driving. Police made four DWI arrests throughout the day – at 12:21 a.m. at Bridge St. W. and Interstate 35 northbound, at 12:25 a.m. at Lincoln Ave. S. and School St. E., at 7:53 a.m. at Cedar Ave. S. and Southview St. SW and at 11:25 p.m. at Mill St. W. and Oak Ave. S.

Crashes. Paramedics and officers responded to two personal injury crashes during the day. They were at 21st Ave. NW and Hoffman Dr. NW at 2:57 p.m. and in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 9:13 p.m.

Burglary. Police began an investigation of a burglary in the 1500 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 6:59 p.m.

May 9
Pursuit. At 12:26 a.m., officers arrested a subject following a vehicle pursuit at Hwy. 14 E. and Hwy. 218.

Child Protection. Officer took a child protection report in the 1400 block of Elm Ave. S. at 10:07 a.m.

Assault. Police responded to an assault at Elm Ave. N. and Vine St. E. at 12:56 p.m. An adult was arrested at the scene.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 6:07 p.m.

May 10
Assault. Police responded to an assault in the 2700 block of 3rd Ave. NE at 4:03 a.m.

May 11
Burglary. At 7:20 a.m., officers responded to the 200 block of 26th St. NE for a burglary.

Vandalism. Officer took report of vandalism in the 1900 block of 3rd Ave. NE at 9:47 a.m.

Harassment. Police received a report of harassing communication in the 1000 block of 11th Ave. NE at 10:10 a.m.

Child Protection. At 9:56 a.m., a child protection report was taken in the 600 block of 14th St. NE.

Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of a fraud incident in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 12:39 p.m.

Domestic. Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of School St. E. at 3:36 p.m.

Weapon. At 4:02 p.m., officers responded to a report of shots fired in the 200 block of Oak Ave. S. They arrested a subject at the scene.

May 12
Threats. Police received a report of threats in the 100 block of Pearl St. E. at 9:32 a.m.

Theft. A vehicle was reported stolen from the 400 block of Main St. E. at 10:23 a.m.

Vandalism. An adult was arrested for vandalism in the 200 block of 21st St. NW at 1:40 p.m.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 6:18 p.m.

Warrants. Police made two warrant arrests – in the 100 block of 18th St. NE at 7:19 p.m. and in the 2000 block of Sunlight Ave. SE at 9:33 p.m.

May 13
Warrant. Officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE at 9:11 a.m.

Stop Arm. A stop arm violation was reported at 24th Place NW and Cedar Ave. N. at 3:39 p.m.

Death. Police began a death investigation in the 500 block of Lee St. NE at 6:15 p.m.

Assault. At 10:17 p.m., police responded to an assault in the 200 block of 21st St. NW.

May 14
Robbery. Officers responded to a robbery in the 1900 block of Rosewood Dr. NW at 9:06 a.m.

Hit and Run. A hit and run crash resulting in property damage occurred in the 3900 block of Cabela Dr. NW at 12:25 p.m.

Crash. Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in injuries at Grove Ave. S. and Mill St. E. at 2:38 p.m.

Harassment. At 3:55 p.m., a citizen reported being the victim of harassing communication in the 1100 block of Industrial Rd. NW.

Steele County Sheriff

May 8
Crash. Paramedics and deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in injuries at 66th St. NW and Frontage Rd. W. at 8:37 p.m.

May 10
Theft. Deputy took theft report in the 200 block of Main St. S. at 4:26 p.m.

May 11
Domestic. Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 5600 block of 24th Ave. NE at 3:58 p.m.

May 12
Theft. At 8:38 a.m., deputy took a theft report in the 9300 block of 37th Ave. SW.

May 14
Warrant. Deputy arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 100 block of Main St. E. at 4:10 p.m.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 4 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Daniel Zambrano, 30, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony burglary and misdemeanor domestic assault. He

was sentenced to \$581, 270 days in county jail, do not enter liquor establishments, predatory offender registration, no possession of firearms, chemical dependency evaluation, domestic abuse evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 5 years of supervised probation.

Mauro F. Alonzo, 29, Claremont, previously appeared and was convicted of felony DWI. Alonzo was sentenced to \$1,106, 1 year in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, psychological evaluation, and 7 years of supervised probation.

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week May 4 with Judge Larry M. Collins presiding:

Derrick J. Roberson, 36, St. Cloud, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault. He was sentenced to \$2,591.20 and 24 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 4 – 8:

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Sergio A. Delgado-Delacruz, 26, Austin, expired license and no insurance, \$381.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Abdirazak H. Aden, 28, Faribault, failure to obey traffic control device, \$131; James T. Barnes, 21, Montecello, speeding, \$131; William H. Dick, 32, Wabasha, speeding, \$141; Adam R. Doucette, 39, Webster, NH, speeding, \$131; Romel A. Gonzalez-Flores, 40, Tulsa, OK, invalid license, \$181; Brandi J. Hagen, 22, New Richland, seat belt, \$106; Travis R. Holm, 25, Cottage Grove, speeding, \$131; Nicholas A. Kampa, 20, New Brighton, speeding, \$141;

Amy L. Kremmin, 51, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Nicklaus J. Lala, 20, Mason City, IA, speeding, \$141; Sigi Meng, 22, Cedar Falls, IA, speeding, \$131; Vernon F. Muselman, 40, Minneapolis, speeding, \$121; Rosalva Y. Rios, 29, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Christopher M. Roe, 38, Mankato, speeding, \$281; Adam J. Roemhildt, 30, Garden City, speeding, \$121; Jay A. Rollefson, 48, Forest City, IA, speeding, \$131;

Riyas A. Salam, 30, West Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$141; Dylan J. See-Rockers, 21, Albert Lea, seat belt, \$106; Deborah L. Shuck, 62, Maplewood, speeding, \$121; Maria D. Sosa, 50, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Jordan R. Stoll, 20, Fridley, speeding, \$141; Robert

E. Taylor, 64, Medford, speeding, \$131; David J. Vizina, 41, Claremont, seat belt, \$106.

Owatonna Police Department

Sharon A. Allard, 69, Owatonna, semaphore violation, \$131; Ryan D. Anderson, 26, Owatonna, DWI, \$1,106, 90 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, home monitor of electronic alcohol, and 3 years of supervised probation;

Ariana L. Boelter, 33, Waseca, seat belt, \$106; Kayshawnoy A. Chambers, 19, Owatonna, erratic driving, failure to yield right of way and driving without headlights, \$211; Krystal Correa, 18, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, \$181; Selerino S. Del Angel, 24, Albert Lea, shoplifting, \$131;

Benjamin R. Drabek, 20, Owatonna, underage drinking and driving, \$381, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Tai’rica C. Einfeldt, 24, Owatonna, DWI, \$606, 60 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, and 3 years of supervised probation; Deon M. Grunwald, 39, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281;

Josue Gutierrez, 19, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana, \$131; Brittany M. Heimer, 20, Rochester, revoked license, \$281; Evan M. Hickey, 36, Loves Park, IL, no MN license, \$181; Chase D. Hill, 18, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Jeanette Hinkle, 54, Shakopee, speeding, \$161; Nancy E. Hogate, 51, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Courteney D. Jones, 18, Faribault, theft, \$181, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, and 1 year of supervised probation;

Marissa J. Jones, 18, Faribault, shoplifting, \$75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Damir Karic, 28, New Brighton, theft, diversion program, no trespassing at Applebee’s and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Jake M. Karow, 29, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana, \$131; Eric L. Medina, 29, Austin, improper information on license, \$101; Genaro Menchaca, 39, Owatonna, obstructing legal process, \$131; Joseph M. Miller, 35, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana, \$131;

Annamarie L. Murphy, 28, Altoona, IA, seat belt, \$106; Brandon L. Murphy, 27, Altoona, IA, seat belt, \$106; Jared A. Olson, 19, Albert Lea, theft and possession of Paraphernalia, \$75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Ashley M. Palloch, 22,

PUBLIC SAFETY
Continued on Page 7B

2 crashes in county

Texas driver injured

A Houston man received non-life threatening injuries after her Hummer struck a BMW that stopped from a previous accident on Interstate 35, one mile south of Medford, on May 15.

Dixie Wooten, 35, was transported to St. Mary’s Hospital in Rochester, according to Minnesota State Patrol report. No alcohol was detected and he was wearing his seat belt.

The report said that Wooten was traveling southbound on I-35 in the left lane when he struck the BMW that was stopped on the left side of southbound traffic from a previous crash.

The Owatonna Police Department and Steele County Sheriff Office assisted at the scene.

Ellendale residents hurt in accident

Two Ellendale residents received non-life threatening injuries after a collision on U.S. Highway 218 on May 13.

According to Minnesota State Patrol reports, Roland L. Leak, 82, and Marjorie H. Leak, 82, both of Ellendale, were stopped at the stop sign from eastbound Highway 14 and entered into the intersection. A Chevy Cobalt driven by Alexia J. Dusek, 24, of Owatonna, was south bound on Highway 218. The two vehicles collided at the intersection.

The Leaks were taken to Owatonna Hospital. Dusek received no apparent injury.

All were wearing seat belts and no alcohol was detected. The Steele County Sheriff Office assisted in the incident.

Crime brief

Booze theft leads to bigger charges

The alleged theft of a bottle of vodka turned into some more serious charges against three people.

Owatonna Police responded to JB Liquor May 11 for a theft. Officers found out while one of the suspects took off running after stealing the vodka, he dropped a gun.

A short time later, officers found two suspects in the 300

block of South Oak entering a car. When they confronted the suspects, one man was found in possession of a controlled substance and the other was seated in the location where a handgun was found.

The investigation led to a house where officers found the stolen liquor and methamphetamine, police said.

Three people face charges, including Mohamed Mohamed, 27, fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance; Dak Ret, 19, illegal possession of a pistol and theft and Denasha Sutton, 18, fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia.



Mohamed



Ret



Sutton

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

Guadalupe Escobar Munoz – false name - \$3,000 bail	James Lawrence Neubauer – traffic - \$500 bail
Ricardo Flores Munoz – DWI - \$6,000 bail	Dai Dinh Nguyen – drugs – no bail
Charlene Kay Murry – DUI – no bail	Benito Sanchez Nieto – terroristic threats – no bail
Deq Abdi Mursal – DWI - \$3,000 bail	Michael Curtis Niles – disorderly conduct - \$500 bail
Olvidio Urias Narraez – DWI, no MN license - \$1,000 bail	Brandon Lee Nisly – soliciting without permit - \$500 bail
Jennifer Lynn Nekolite – disorderly conduct - \$500 bail	Jason Robert Bruce Nolan – theft by check - \$5,000 bail
Cody Bleu Ness – theft, shoplifting - \$500 bail	

Neil Marlin Norris – DWI - \$750 bail
Gracie Lucio Nunez – theft - \$10,000 bail
Kelley Lorraine Oelker – worthless check - \$500 bail
Cesar Antonio Ojeda – theft - \$500 bail
Willie Olivo – writ of attachment - \$2,300 bail
David Cruz Olivo-Santana – unauthorized use of vehicle – no bail

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

ACTIVE WARRANTS

One last salute to St. Isidore School

Community gathers to celebrate school

By KAREN JORGENSEN
News Editor

It was a bittersweet celebration of 57 years of Catholic education for those gathered at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Litomysl on Sunday. While they celebrated the accomplishments of the St. Isidor School there was also sadness at knowing that this year’s students will be the last ones attending classes at the school.

Declining attendance led the parish and the school board to make the decision to close the pre-kindergarten through fifth grade school at the end of this school year. The last day of classes will be May 29.

Following the Sunday morning Mass they gathered downstairs for a meal followed by the St. Isidor students presenting their spring concert and play. Among the guests for the activities was Rev. John Quinn, Bishop of the Diocese of Winona.

“I was heartbroken,” said Kristen Ehlers of the decision to close the school. Ehlers serves on the school board and explained that attendance for the 2014-2015 school year was down to 14, a number that just did not prove sustainable.

It wasn’t always that way, several of those attending the lunch said.

Alice Spinler, a life-long member of Holy Trinity, was busy dishing up sandwiches Sunday noon but still had time to reminisce about the school.

She said she was in second grade when the school opened and she attended classes at St. Isidor. Her husband, Gordon, was in the third grade class when it opened. Both of them attended school at St. Isidor’s through the eighth grade, she said. She went on to complete her education at Marian High School in Owatonna while Gordon completed his high school education in Blooming Prairie.

It was common that students went on to different schools in the area when they finished eighth grade, she said. Of the 10 students in her class, she said, four went to Marian High while the others went to either Blooming Prairie or Owatonna High Schools.

Like many parishioners, she said, her family has roots stretching back to the beginning of the parish. Holy Trinity parish, she said, was started by Czech immigrants to Steele County. Her great-grandparents helped build the first church, her grandparents helped build the current church building and her parents helped build the school, she said. She added that her children also attended St. Isidor.

“It’s a bit emotional,” Gordon Spinler said of the day’s activities.

At one time, he said, there were about 100 students attending the school. The teachers were four nuns who lived in a

convent in the upstairs of the school, he said.

There were many activities for the students, Bob Prokopec added, including boys and girls basketball, soccer and at one time a floor hockey team.

School Principal Bill Bunkers is a newcomer to the St. Isidor. He joined the staff two years ago as part time principal after retiring as a principal in Waseca. For many years, he said, the principal duties were taken care of by the principal at St. Mary’s School in Owatonna but two years ago it was decided to separate the two positions.

“It’s a great staff, great people to work with,” he said.

The students have received a good education and the parish has done a good job of supporting the school, he said. The current staff, he added, include Erin Olson who teaches kindergarten, first and second grade and Sheila Sawyer who teaches third, fourth and fifth grade. Tammy Harber teaches students in the morning pre-school program.

Gloria Coulter, who teaches music, said she is also new to the school having been asked a year ago last December if she would provide music instruction. As a long time music teacher, she said, she believes every school should offer music classes and has been teaching two days a week at St. Isidor.

Sister Marie Smith, who now lives in Mankato, said she came to the school in 1959 and taught there until 1966. She recalled there were about 113 students in the school during those years.

With lunch over and a last minute practice session by the students finished, it was upstairs to the sanctuary for the final spring concert and play. The kindergarten through second grade students performed a group of songs followed by the third, fourth and fifth graders.

All the students joined to sing “Grant Us Peace, Give Us Courage” before heading off to get in their costumes for the play, “Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock.” The costumes were made by Margaret Reese, the school librarian.

Holy Trinity Parish was built by and for the primarily Czech farmers of the area and when they decided to start a school they named it after St. Isidor, the patron saint of farmers. A statue of the saint, imported from Italy in 1958, stands in the entry of the school.

Although the school will be closing the parish has made no definite decisions on what is next for the building, said Alice Spinler, who also serves on the Litomysl Pastoral Council. The parish will be keeping the building and using it for other purposes, she said.

She also said that other activities of the parish, such as the Litomysl Summer Festival, will continue as usual. This year’s festival is scheduled for Sunday, July 26.

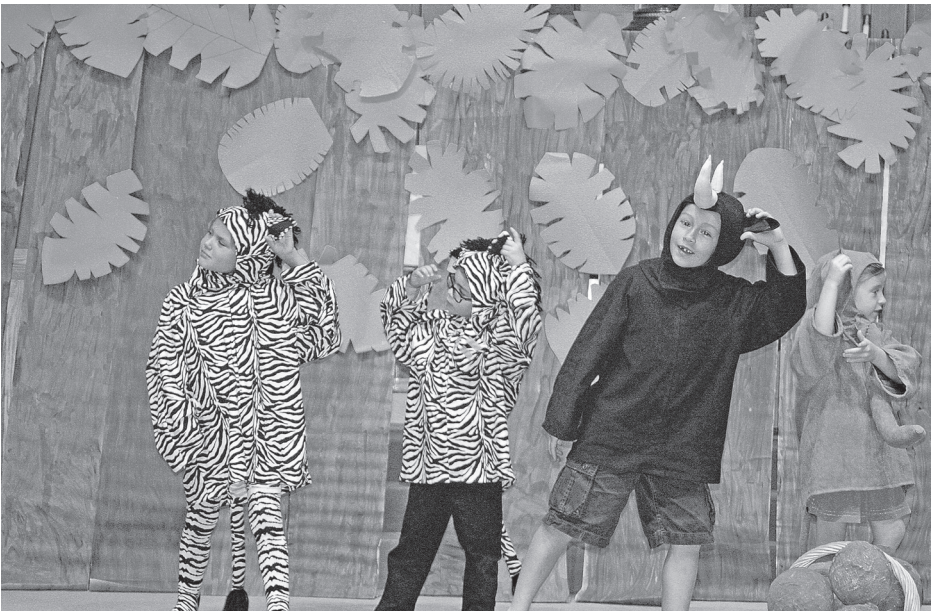


Staff photos by KAREN JORGENSEN
ABOVE: Grades kindergarten through five joined together to sing a final concert selection, “Grant Us Peace, Give us Courage.”

LEFT: Alice Spinler dishes of sandwiches for the lunch before the St. Isidore School Spring Concert and play. Spinler attended St. Isidor when it opened its doors as did her husband Gordon. There children also went through eighth grade at the school.



BELOW: Alia Kubicek and Jayden Kvalsten, dressed as zebras, and Tyler Anderson as a rhino sang a song during the school play “Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock. Animals that looked at the rock and repeated a phrase about it being a strange rock fell into a deep sleep for an hour. That hour allowed Anansi, played by Olivia Anderson, to steal their food.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from Page 4A

Owatonna, theft, \$75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Sunday P. Puot, 19, minor consumption, \$81 and 51 days in county jail; Dion K. Rasmussen, 20, West Concord, suspended license and no insurance, \$481; Bobby J. Smitty, 21, Blooming Prairie, shoplifting, \$181 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Tia L. Solland, 25, Owatonna, shoplifting, \$75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Elijah N. Terry, 28, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana, \$131; Antwaine L. Williams, 40, Owatonna, trespassing, \$181; Nancy M. Wilson, 48, Rochester, no child passenger restraint system, \$131.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Gary L. Bartosch, 64, Medford, failure to allow safe distance when passing individual, \$181; Eric A. Clavel, 25, Lake Elmo, speeding, \$221; Kelley E. Drowne, 45, Iowa City, IA, speeding, \$121; Clifford T. Foley, 61, Dassel, speeding, \$141; Tyler S. Grinder, 30, Burnsville, speeding, \$131;

Gary E. Hammer, 69, Ellendale, DWI, \$406, 1 day in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Brien S. Heinemann, 32, Albert Lea, speeding, \$121; Emily L. Hennen, 23, Warsaw, speeding, \$121; Samantha D. Hovden, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Stephen J. Huston, 46, Faribault, possession of Marijuana, \$131;

Kevin Jackson, 49, Owatonna, DWI, \$381, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Nathan A. Krohn, 19, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Jarol A. Mendieta, 35, Chaska, no MN license and speeding, \$231;

Wakea D. Midodji, 33, Omaha, NE, speeding, \$141; Calvin T. Miska, 21, Stacy, speeding, \$121; Adam J. Murphy, 36, Albert Lea, cancelled license and illegal use of license plates, \$81, and 1 year of unsupervised probation;

Antonio Perez, 42, Faribault, invalid license and no insurance, \$131; Shaundre R. Pickett, 22, Centralia, IL, speeding, \$141; Carlos Rivera, 23, Rochester, speeding, \$141; Reymundo T. Santiago, 32, Faribault, speeding, \$121; Rebecca L. VonRuden, 45, Medford, speeding, \$141; Levi D. Wilder, 27, Owatonna, failure to signal for turn, \$131; Cooper C. Wriston, 33, Midlothia, VA, speeding, \$131.

POLICE BLOTTER

Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 220 complaints for the week of May 6 – 12. Some of them include:

May 6 Threats. At 1:09 p.m. deputy took a report of threats in the 100 block of 6th Ave. SE in Hayfield.

Fire. Mantorville Fire Department responded to a possible electrical fire in the 100 block of 5th St. W. in Mantorville at 1:53 p.m. Smoke was coming from the circuit panel and light fixture.

May 7 Stolen Property. A stolen ATV and trailer were found in the 400 block of East St. N. in Claremont at 12:59 a.m.

Fire. A truck was on fire on the side of the road at U.S. Hwy. 14 and 635th St. at 9:53 a.m.

Child Abuse. A Hayfield mother

reported at 1:47 p.m. that her child has marks on his or her face each time after visiting his or her father.

May 8 Harassment. Harassing communication was reported in the 100 block of 6th Ave. SE in Hayfield at 11:36 a.m.

Intoxication. The Claremont Pub called for assistance when an intoxicated individual was wanting to leave but was too intoxicated to walk in the 200 block of Front St. W. at 6:53 p.m.

Gas Leak. Deputies and West Concord Fire responded to a gas leak in the 54500 block of 130th Ave. in West Concord at 8:49 p.m.

May 9 Evacuation. A break in a gas line occurred at 130th Ave. and County Hwy. 24 in West Concord at 8:11 a.m.

Animal. Buffalo were near the roadway in the 63600 block of 120th Ave. in Claremont at 10:34 a.m.

Larceny. A Hayfield woman called deputies when she believed that her class ring was stolen in the 100 block of 2nd Ave. SE at 8 p.m.

Suspicious Activity. At 11:52 p.m., people were knocking on doors and running around in the 700 block of 1st Ave. SE in Hayfield. Deputies responded.

May 10 Domestic. At 12:46 a.m., deputies responded to a domestic disturbance with a juvenile male drinking and being unruly in the 100 block of 1st St. SE in Hayfield.

Fire. Hayfield Fire and Excel Energy responded to an electrical fire in the 100 block of 9th St. SE in Hayfield at 12:52 p.m.

Assault. Deputies responded to a domestic assault in the 100 block of 5th St. SW in Dodge Center at 1:49 p.m.

May 11 Minor Consumption. Deputies received a report at 2:55 a.m. of a juvenile male being drunk and feeling sick in the 65500 block of 200th Ave. in Dodge Center. They issued him a citation for minor consumption and transported him to the hospital.

Animal Complaint. At 12:58 p.m., deputies received a report of malnutrition of a horse in the 56500 block of 190th Ave. in West Concord.

Juvenile. At 3:37 p.m., a 9-year-old with behavioral problems would not get off the bus in the 66900 block of 250th Ave. in Kasson.

May 12 Crash. A vehicle crashed in a back yard in the 500 block of Main St. N. in Mantorville at 7:10 a.m.

COURT NEWS

Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of May 4 – 11:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Tyler L. Allison, 29, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$120; Emily M. Broring, 20, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Susan A. Fluegel, 49, Kenyon, speeding, \$140; Charles A. Gierok Jr., 76, Winona, parking violation, \$32; Richard C. Kirby, 34, Mankato, speeding, \$140; Christa L. Krupke, 35, Medford, speeding, \$140;

Tacy A. Nitz, 35, Hayfield, invalid license and no insurance, \$380; Jason C. Richards, 23, Byron, revoked license, \$280; Adalberto H.

Salazar, 20, West Concord, invalid license, \$180; April M. Skasko, 42, Hayfield, suspended license, \$280; James R. Zipse, 43, West Concord, seat belt, \$105.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Kaleb D. Klepel, 17, Mantorville, speeding, \$130; James A. Schenker, 68, Dubuque, IA, seat belt, \$105.

Owatonna Police

Aaron B. Zuckman, 21, arrested at 12:46 a.m. May 9, felony fleeing, held for court.

Yusuf Odowa Ali, 20, arrested at 4:10 p.m. May 11, damage to property, held for court.

Antonio Taylor, 24, arrested at 4:24 p.m. May 11, disorderly conduct, obstruction of legal process, held for court.

Dak Luk Ret, 19, arrested at 3:40 p.m. May 11, felony possession of handgun in motor vehicle, possession of handgun, theft and probation violation, held for court.

Denasha Raye Sutton, 18, arrested at 5:31 p.m. May 11, felony drug possession, held for court.

Mohamed Aweis Mohamed, 27, arrested at 5:44 p.m. May 11, felony possession of controlled prescription medication, held for court.

Scarlett Suzanne Tanner, 23, arrested at 1:22 p.m. May 14, felony possession of drugs and apprehension and detention order, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Nicole Marie Coffee, 33, arrested at 12 a.m. May 12, felony probation violation warrant, held for court.

Tessa Ann Sjol, 19, arrested at 7:51 p.m. May 13, warrant arrest, body only.

Heath John Baier, 24, arrested at 11:12 a.m. May 14, warrant arrest, held for court.

Lorenzo Carlton Davis, 28, arrested at 4:20 p.m. May 14, apprehension and detention order, held for court.

MN State Patrol

Cabbot James Weyker, 36, arrested at 9 p.m. May 14, felony possession of firearm, held for court.

Owatonna Fire

May 9 Smoke Removal. At 11:01 p.m., fire personnel assisted with removing smoke/odor in the 1900 block of 3rd Ave. NE.

May 13 Crash. Fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries on Hwy. 218 at 8:20 a.m.

Dumpster Fire. At 11:21 a.m., Owatonna Fire responded to a dumpster or outside trash receptacle fire in the 900 block of Brook Lane NE.

May 14 Medical. Fire rescue assisted with a medical emergency in the 600 block of Hilltop Ave. SW at 7:17 a.m.

Crash. At 2:39 p.m., fire personnel helped with a motor vehicle accident without injuries on Grove Ave.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Evidence of some delicious food are still on the lips of 20-month-old Finn Krueger who came to the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group Garage Sale Luncheon last Saturday eat First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie. Finn is from St. Paul. His grandparents are Philip and Jennifer Milton of Blooming Prairie.

Scholarship participants needed

Owatonna, Minnesota~The Distinguished Young Women Program of the Owatonna Area/ Steele County is seeking high school women from the Classes of 2016 and 2017 to participate in the not-for-profit Scholarship Program.

High School girls from all of Steele County are welcomed to participate. Please go to www.distinguishedyw.org/participate to apply.

For more information about Distinguished Young Women, contact Megan Arendall, National Headquarters Communications Director 251-438-3621, Megan@DistinguishedYW.org or visit www.DistinguishedYW.org Find us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube: www.facebook.com/distinguishedyw www.twitter.com/distinguishedyw www.youtube.com/user/distinguishedyw

Hansens fish with the governor

Darrell and Cindi Hansen attended this year's Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener at Lake Vermillion at Fortune Bay Resort Casino near Tower, Minnesota.

Gov. Mark Dayton; Lt. Gov. Tina Smith; John Edman, Explore Minnesota director; Tom Landwehr, DNR commissioner; more than 400 local residents, dignitaries and media attended the event.

The Hansens' also had an opportunity to golf at the Wilderness Golf Course at Fortune Bay.

At right, joining the Hansens' are Melissa and Kirk Lehman, who also attended the event.



Congratulations CLASS OF 2015!

Congratulations
Tristen Haberman
Class of 2015
Graduate

Son of Matt & Missy Haberman
Open House
June 27th • 4-7 p.m.
5069 138th St. SE
Blooming Prairie

Congratulations
Nick Srsen
Class of 2015
Graduate

We are so proud of you!
Love, Mom, Dad, & Dylan

Congratulations
Alexis Petersen
Class of 2015
Graduate

Congratulations Alexis!
We are so proud of you!
Love, Mom, Lance, Jordyn, Piper, Lance Jr., and Logan

Congratulations
Zach Allard
Class of 2015
Graduate

Son of Bob & Lori Allard
June 6th • 4-9 p.m.
2290 SE 118th St.
Blooming Prairie

Congratulations
James Neidermeier
Class of 2015
Graduate

Son of Scott & Lisa Neidermeier
We are so proud of you!!
Congratulations James!
Love, Mom, Tom, Dad and Michelle

Congratulations
Amy Boullion
Class of 2015
Graduate

Daughter of Diane & the late Clement Boullion
Open House
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United Way Strategic Initiative off to strong start

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

One year after Tanya Paley took over as the Director of Strategic Operations for the United Way, the Strategic Initiative is in full swing.

The goal of the initiative is to create a long-term plan to address the barriers that community members face in the core areas of income, health and education by partnering with agencies and individuals in the community.

Paley says the whole process first came about in 2012 after the United Way had numerous conversations with partnering agencies about many basic needs not



Paley

being met. In 2013 the United Way received a couple grants to fund a yearlong assessment process in which the organization conducted in the workplace surveys, focus groups and other community conversations to discover the barriers.

“We wanted to be more proactive in looking at how can we structure our community, what can we do as a community to empower people and remove obstacles so that they might run into those crises less frequent-

ly,” Paley said. “We wanted to take a hard look at how people end up needing our help.”

The United Way then consulted with Rainbow Research to compile all the information from the assessment process and came up with a road map for the initiative with the main focus of narrowing the obstacles to having financial success.

“Our primary focus is how do we increase the number of people who are at 200 percent of the poverty level or above in our community. In addition we recognize the relationship between good health and education and the ability to have financial stability,” Paley said.

The initiative is made up of

Town Hall meeting

The United Way will host a town hall meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 21 at the Steele County Historical Society. At the meeting community members can learn more about the projects that have been launched, projects that will be implemented in the future, provide feedback and learn how to become involved in a project.

many projects that all fall within one of the areas of income, health and education. A couple

of the programs that have already been implemented are the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and the Boots to Work program.

The former was launched last August to focus on early childhood education and eliminate the barriers of transportation and to narrow the achievement gap by giving access to books to children from low-income families.

Children age one to five can sign up to have a book sent to their house each month. Paley says they have had over 900

INITIATIVE

Continued on Page 2C

STEELE TALKIN’



Jane Nyquist

World No Tobacco Day on May 31

Every year on May 31st, the World Health Organization (WHO) marks World No Tobacco Day. This annual event informs the public about the dangers of using tobacco, the business practices of tobacco companies, what WHO is doing to fight the global tobacco epidemic, and what people around the world can do to claim their right to health and healthy living and to protect future generations. The first World No Tobacco Day was held on May 31, 1988.

As smoking rates have declined in the United States, the tobacco industry has implemented a strategy to develop new markets for cigarettes in other countries around the world. Many of these countries historically have had little or no use of cigarettes and have never had to cope with the high cost of premature death and disease caused by smoking.

The global tobacco epidemic is one of the biggest public health threats the world has ever faced, killing nearly six million people a year. More than five million of those deaths are the result of direct tobacco use while more than 600,000 are the result of non-smokers being exposed to secondhand smoke. At the global level, approximately one person dies every six seconds due to tobacco, accounting for one in 10 adult deaths. Up to half of current users will eventually die of a tobacco-related disease.

Nearly 80% of the more than one billion smokers worldwide live in low- and middle-income countries, where the burden of tobacco-related illness and death is heaviest. Tobacco users who die prematurely deprive their families of income, raise the cost of health care and hinder economic development.

Because there is a lag of several years between when people start using tobacco and when their health suffers, the epidemic of tobacco-related disease and death has just begun. Tobacco caused 100 million deaths in the 20th century. If current trends continue, it may cause one billion deaths in the 21st century.

Unchecked, tobacco-related deaths will increase to more than eight million per year by 2030. More than 80% of those deaths will be in low- and middle-income countries.

Here in Minnesota, many of the measures recommended by the WHO to fight the tobacco epidemic have already been implemented:

- The Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act (aka Freedom to Breathe) mandates that virtually all work places and public places must be smoke-free.
- QUITPLAN Services provides free help to quit using tobacco to anyone who lives or works in Minnesota.
- A significant tobacco tax increase in 2013 raised the price of tobacco products.
- Statewide organizations like ClearWay Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Health continue to educate the public about the dangers of tobacco use and fund local organizations like the Four Corners Partnership.

On the local level, the Four

Troopers save a life

EDITOR’S NOTE: ‘Badges of Honor,’ our annual Public Safety Tab is being distributed to our readers this week. This story shows the dedication and commitment that public servants have in our communities. And that is why we are producing our third public safety tab to honor those who are out there every day protecting and serving us.

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Two Minnesota State Patrol troopers have received lifesaving awards after assisting in preventing a crash victim from bleeding to death in 2014.

Troopers Patric Ignaszewski and Ricky Magana (both assigned to the Rice/Steele County State Patrol Station) were presented lifesaving awards at the annual Minnesota State Patrol awards banquet on May 4. Faribault Police Officer Ben Johns was presented with a Minnesota State Patrol Commendation.

“I was very appreciative of receiving the acknowledgment,” Ignaszewski said. “It felt really good to get that award. What meant more than the award was the thank you letter from the individual and family afterward.”

Magana declined to comment for this story.

According to the citation, on April 30, 2014, Ignaszewski and Magana responded to a multiple vehicle crash with unknown injuries southbound interstate 35 near Faribault (milepost #56).

Ignaszewski was first to arrive and began contacting all drivers and triaging injuries. Ignaszewski returned to re-check how the driver of a white SUV was doing and noticed the driver, Richard Fitzlaff, was now showing signs of shock, having previously spoken to him when he was alert and conscious.

Ignaszewski began a head to toe assessment and discovered Fitzlaff had a deep laceration on his left thigh area and was losing a lot of blood. Ignaszewski moved Fitzlaff to the ground and elevated his legs on the SUV driver’s seat. Ignaszewski cut the jeans to gain access to the laceration.

Magana had just arrived on scene as Ignaszewski cut the jeans. Magana applied direct pressure to the laceration with a trauma pad while Faribault Police Officer Ben Johns wrapped a bandage around the pad/wound.

North Memorial ambulance arrived and transported Fitzlaff to District 1 Hospital. Upon arrival, hospital staff removed the



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

LITTLE SHOPPERS

These little shoppers, Addison Haggerty, 5, and Ella Haggerty, 3, look over some of the many bargains that were available over the weekend at the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce Spring City-wide Garage Sale. Addison and Ella came to the sale from Brookings, S.D. Their mother, Kayte Haggerty, is originally from Blooming Prairie.

More space needed to educate students

EDITOR’S NOTE: This is the second in a series of stories leading up to the June 9 Referendum in the NRHEG School District. This article deals with space and security concerns at Ellendale School.

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Space is an issue at the Ellendale Elementary School. And the New Richland-Hart-

land-Ellendale-Geneva School District is hoping to do something about it in the June 9 Referendum.

Elementary School Principal Doug Anderson said what is driving the elementary school proposal is that the school building is at capacity. “We’re also looking ahead to the future on what we want to be able to provide for our students, not only now, but down the road,” he said. “In order to do that space is needed.”

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Terri Engel added that the classroom is very different than those in the past. This difference includes cooperative learning, research and collaborative studying.

“The rules are designed and set up differently,” Engel said. “The teacher’s desk isn’t the main focus of the classroom.”

The teacher’s education role is becoming more of a facilitator. “A lot of the proposal here is to have the room to be able

to be that facilitator with that small group or breakout group or multi-level group,” Anderson said. “We don’t have space that isn’t being used for kids.”

On June 9, NRHEG voters will decide on a \$14 million referendum that will provide facility upgrades throughout the school district. At Ellendale Elementary, along with eight additional classrooms, the plan is to have an even more secure entrance and upgrades on the gym.

“We have a secured entrance now, but it is quite a distance from that entrance to the front office,” Anderson said. “We would have more control receiving guests and visitors.”

There are also acoustical issues with the gym. Sound is a problem and there are echoes throughout the gym. “It is better thanks to the PTO, but there is still more to do,” Anderson said.

Overall, Anderson stated there are a lot of possibilities. “One of the things Dr. (Dennis) Goodwin has talked about is initiating gifted and talented programs,” Anderson said. “I know that should there be all sections of pre-school in this building, it would allow us room to have all of those students here.”

Currently, pre-school students are housed in New Richland and Ellendale.



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

Ellendale fourth-grade teacher Jill Freeman works with Aidan Deyle and Trinity Smith Vulcan on a science magnetism project.

MORE SPACE

Continued on Page 4C

TOBACCO

Continued on Page 2C

LIFE SAVER

Continued on Page 2C

CountyLiving

FAIR TALK



Todd Hale

Designated smoking areas at county fair

*The Steele County Fair Board has finalized its designated smoking areas on the fairgrounds.

Beginning this year, smoking will not be allowed on the fairgrounds during the fair except in designated areas. Smoking will only be allowed in parking lots, the fenced-in area of the Beer Garden, an area on Livestock lane north of the swine show barn, the north side of the Four Seasons Centre, south of the Owatonna Foundation building, the camping area and a place within the carnival to be determined by Gold Star amusements.

The Steele County Board of Commissioners has approved recommendations from the Fair Board.

*The Steele County Fair Board has approved three new superintendents. Draft Horse superintendents are Ryan and Danielle Prestegard. Youth Livestock Judging superintendent is Zach Von Ruden.

*There are lots of events at the fair of special interest to kids:

Wednesday and Friday are “Kid’s Days” at the fair. Kids can purchase an unlimited ride wristband for midway rides from noon to 5 for \$20. The day will begin with a free kid’s show in Fair Square Park at 11 a.m., Wednesday Jack Pearson, musician and storyteller, will entertain the kids. Friday, kids will enjoy the “Sonflower Puppets” with Barbi Cox. Horizon Eyecare sponsors Wednesday Kid’s Day and the sponsor for Friday is Wal-Mart in Owatonna.

On Saturday, eight bicycles will be given away compliments of Gold Star Amusements and the SCFF. A wristband entitling the wearer to unlimited rides on the midway from noon to 5 p.m. will be sold for \$22. With each wristband, kids will be given a ticket good for a chance to win one of the bikes. Drawing for the bikes will commence at 5:15 p.m.

*Retired Pastor John Linde has announced that the Rev. Todd Buegler of Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna will deliver the sermon at the Outdoor Community Service at the 2015 Steele County Free Fair.

*The Culinary Arts Department at the fair is looking for volunteers on Monday, Aug. 17 to help with taking in entries and during judging. If you are interested in helping, please contact Monica Kruschke at monicakruschke@gmail.com or call 213-1854.

*Les Abraham and Sandy Macintosh are still on the search for cars of the 1960s for this year’s display at the Wells Fargo Auto Museum. If you have one or know someone who does, call Les at 451-6455 or Sandy 573-1260.

*The popular Bull Riding kicks off the evening grandstand entertainment at the 2015 fair. Mutton Bustin’ and Calf Dressing will also take place at the event.

Other evening grandstand shows include: Wednesday: SCFF Battle of the Rock Bands, Thursday: Hairball, Friday: Tractor-Truck Pull, Saturday: Enduro Race, Sunday: Demolition Derby. There will be an antique tractor pull on Saturday morning.

*U.S. Bank is again providing free parking for all senior citizens who come to the fair before noon on Thursday, Senior Day. Seniors included those 62 and older. The offer is good at the 18th Street gate only.

*Dates of the 2015 SCFF are Aug. 18-23. Check the fair website at www.scff.org. The fair office number is 507-451-5305.

Students at Wilson showcase year’s work

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Students at Wilson Elementary School showed off their hard work to their parents and other family members during Wilson’s fourth annual Leadership Day last Friday, May 15.

Parents and family members toured the various classrooms to learn about the projects the students had been working on and what they had learned over the year.

Each grade level completed projects centered around one theme, although what the project consisted of varied from classroom to classroom. Each of the classes also tied the projects into a curriculum they had been exploring year-round “The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People” by Stephen Covey.

“I think it is important because it allows them to share with their parents this is something that I’ve done in school and how I’ve made a difference and hopefully that will then translate into their home life as well,” said first grade teacher Jill Hukee.

The first grade classes’ projects focused on different habitats as well as the Seven Habits. Each of the students in conjunction with their teacher’s and Art teacher, Mark Anderson, made props such as trees, leaves and coral to transform their classrooms into a habitat.

Hukee’s room was transformed into the rainforest, but other classrooms turned into a desert, an ocean and Northern Minnesota. As part of the project the students also visited the Leo Rudolph Nature Reserve too not only learn about that habitat but to help clean it up.

By the end of the project each student became an expert on a particular animal or part of the habitat after doing research.

“For them they can hopefully recognize that they are a part of our community if it is in the building, Owatonna, Minnesota or if it’s in the bigger community of our world,” Hukee said. “They can make a difference even if it is a small thing that they are doing every once in a while.”

The main challenge for Hukee’s students was not having any background knowledge on the habitats or the animals that lived within them.

The third grade classes worked all year to create portfolios that demonstrate how they have reached their goals along with various poems.

“The portfolios focus on being leaders. We ask the children to make goals and then reflect on them throughout the year,”

INITIATIVE

Continued from Page 1C

children sign up for the program.

“One of the things we know about our county is we have a very high graduation rate from high school, but when we look at children who are coming from families who qualify for free and reduced lunch only 67 percent of them graduated from high school so there is an achievement gap,” Paley said.

The Boots for Work program was launched last January in partnership with the Salvation Army and Owatonna Shoe.

“One of the things we heard is people were being offered manufacturing jobs through temp agencies, but in order to take the job they needed to have steel-toed boots and those can be over \$100 for a good pair and that is a barrier,” Paley said.

Gina Shepherd, Salvation Army case manager, estimated around 175 pairs of boots has been given out since the programs inception. “It helps people become more self sufficient and it also helps the companies have a productive, good worker,” she said. “What does a good pair of boots do for you? To be standing on your feet for eight, 10, 12 hours you need a decent pair of boots.”

The United Way hopes to launch a couple more programs as early as this summer to target the areas of income and health including an emergency incentive program and the Farm to Family program.

“We will get calls and our agencies will get calls where something happens, their car breaks down, their pipes burst in their house, there is some health bills and all of a sudden they were doing okay and now they are not,” Paley said. “The reason this can debilitate a family is they don’t have any emergency savings to address those things that come up.”

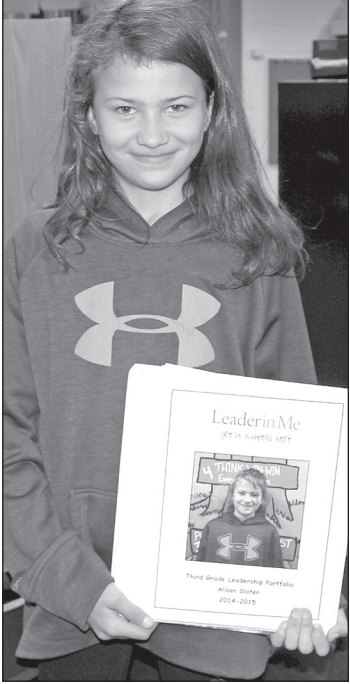
The program would encourage individuals, depending on their income, to create an emergency savings account and once they hit a certain threshold the United Way would make a contribution to encourage them to continue to save.

The Farm to Family program aims to target the issue of obesity by providing access to fresh vegetables and fruits to low-income families. The program would allow families to use food assistance programs such as SNAP and WICK to purchase the produce.

“There is no place in our community currently that they can use those benefits to buy local fresh fruits and vegetables, so United Way is looking to be that bridge between local food producers and low income families,” Paley said.



Staff photos by Shannon Kinley
ABOVE: First graders in Jill Hukee’s class Amal Mohamed (left), Isaac Sherwood, Yari Cardoso and Brelyn Schultz show off the one of the many props, a tree, that the class made to transform their classroom into a rainforest. Students demonstrated their knowledge of the habitats along with their leadership skills during Wilson Elementary School’s Leadership Day on Friday, May 15.
RIGHT: Ali Slater in Julie Buryska’s third grade class shows off her portfolio to her family to demonstrate her leadership skills as well as some poems.
FAR RIGHT: Kate Seykora dressed up as an accountant and Logan Manson as an Air Force Pilot.



learning,” Buryska said. “I enjoyed with their Acrostic poems that everyone really represented who they were. I just loved seeing what adjectives they chose to describe themselves.”

The main challenge Buryska’s kids faced was experimenting with word meaning and vocabulary and trying to find the word that fits who they are.

The fifth grade projects varied by classroom but all came back to the central theme of careers and their futures. Throughout the year the students had career exploration presentations from guidance counselor Katie Wanous along with entrepreneurship presentations from the Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest.

“We wanted to talk to them about the leader within themselves. How can they look at the skills, their education, their interests right now and see themselves in the future of what they want to be when they grow up,” said fifth grade teacher Leslee Swenson.

TOBACCO

Continued from Page 1C

Corners Partnership has been working with landlords in our four-county area (Dodge, Goodhue, Rice, Steele) to help them to implement smoke-free policies in their multi-family rental housing. Four Corners staff have recently begun working with local communities to advocate for tobacco-free policies for parks and outdoor recreation facilities. The partnership is currently sponsoring a media campaign using billboards, ads on public transit, newspaper ads and radio ads (KOWZ-FM and KDHL-AM). The key message from this campaign is that “26,000 kids get asthma

each year from secondhand smoke.”

The Four Corners Partnership is a coalition of concerned citizens coordinated by the public health services in Dodge, Goodhue, Rice and Steele Counties. The goal of the partnership is to reduce the harm caused by tobacco in our four-county region. Find us on Facebook or at www.4cornerspartnership.org.

‘Steele Talkin’ is a column featuring various organizations around Steele County. Jane Nyquist is health educator for Steele County Public Health.

LIFE SAVER

Continued from Page 1C

trauma pad and noticed the laceration involved a major artery. Fitzlaff was immediately air lifted to North Memorial Hospital where he underwent successful surgery to repair the artery.

North paramedics who were on scene emphasized that the

identification of the laceration by Ignaszewski and the resulting direct pressure/bandaging by Magana and Johns was critical in preventing Fitzlaff from bleeding to death at the scene of the crash.

Ignaszewski said he remembers the first thing he saw was a



Swenson’s students researched careers they wanted to pursue and wrote resumes and cover letters. On Leadership Day they dressed up as the career of their choice.

“It is super important for the families to come in and see what we are doing in the classroom. I like having parents in our classroom because it gives the students a good view that parents and teachers are working together to see them succeed,” Swenson said.

Her students also learned about responsibilities by having weekly classroom jobs including a custodian to pick up the classroom, cops to hand out fines for students not doing their jobs, a mailman to hand out papers, a secretary to keep the class organized, a librarian to organize the books and both an assistant manager and manager to makes sure all the jobs are being done.

Each week students got “paid” for doing their jobs, or fined for not doing their jobs, and every other month they got the chance to spend their earnings in a classroom auction.

“I just like to see that the kids can see it applies to real life. I think it is hard for kids to learn sometimes when they are here learning about the curriculum and thinking ‘why do we need this’ or ‘how are we going to use this’” Swenson said.

The main challenge Swenson’s kids faced were thinking about the skills they currently possess and the experiences they have already had.

To wrap up the unit, all the fifth graders took a trip to the University of Minnesota for the “Kids on Campus” program, which aims to give all students the college experience through a campus tour and activities.

Blooming PrairieLiving



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer
Frank Henefield and Jason Iacovino will be handling attorney duties in Blooming Prairie.

Returning home as an attorney

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

You may hear Jason Iacovino’s voice on the radio broadcasting Blooming Prairie football games.

Now you will see him working with Attorney Frank Henefield at Henefield Law Office on Main Street.

“I love the community and always have,” Iacovino said. “You’re close to anything you need and yet it is very safe, very accommodating, people are nice and it is a lot of fun. It does feel like home.”

Less than two months ago, Iacovino joined the law firm as an associate attorney. Over time, Henefield said Iacovino would take over his business. But for the time being, Henefield is adamant that he is not retiring.

“I have been taking a day off for about three years. I have been taking more vacation time,” Henefield said.

“With Jason coming on, I’m looking to

take more time. I am looking to continue working indefinitely.”

Iacovino is handling court work, including city criminal work. He is also gaining experience and becoming involved in all facets of attorney work including estate planning and real estate.

He graduated from Blooming Prairie High School and later from law school in 2006.

“Like a lot of lawyers, I saw these guys on television that see justice as a noble cause and think that fighting for people is a fulfilling thing,” Iacovino said. “That kind of drives me, along with the natural skills or traits that I associate with lawyers.”

He admits that going into law school he was thinking it would be one way, but in real life he is finding it much different.

“My main goals are keeping the community tight, helping people when I can and certainly helping the city at every turn,” Iacovino said.

Iacovino came back to Blooming Prairie because of his roots. He had experience

working with Judge Bradley C. Walker in Mankato. There, Iacovino learned what he needed to know about criminal law, family law and civil law. However, he didn’t have much experience on estate planning or real estate.

In his new position, Iacovino believes the major challenge is getting to know the residents and business owners who have known Henefield over the years. “I have big shoes to fill,” he said. “I want everyone here to be as comfortable with me as they are with Frank.”

What will help Iacovino is that he believes he is fair.

“We do a lot of things here. I’m a prosecutor, but at the same time we help people on the private side,” he said. “You do wear a lot of hats in a small town. It is about being understanding and fair, but realizing at the same time, it is all about people coming to us with problems and needs. We want to make them feel good, but also maintain a good reputation.”

National Convention: FFA student perspective

The 2015 Minnesota State FFA Convention this year was April 26-28 at the University of Minnesota St. Paul.

This year there were four Blooming Prairie FFA members along with their advisor attended this convention, the members were Kalyn Naatz, Chris Wacek, Sasha Katzung and Mitchell Oswald along with Mr. (Bill) Rinkenberger

We went up there Sunday afternoon around 2, we went to the hotel and got changed and went to the talent show this is where FFA members from around the state come and show off their talent, whether it is singing, dancing, playing an instrument or even be boxing.

Then Monday morning we got up bright and early and Sa-

sha, Chris and Mitchell went to a couple of sessions. Session can have lots of things in it this one had some of the state officers closing speeches and some different speakers who would talk about many different things.

At this time, Kalyn Naatz completed in the Dairy Handling CDE at the State Fair Grounds. Then we went to another workshop which we had a hands on activity. The activity was to make a machine that would try to get all the beans into one area and it showed us the difficult things and the struggles we have with making new machinery.

Then we went back to the hotel for a few hours to go back and later on Monday evening, we headed back to watch the awards that were being given

out to different people from around the state.

Then Tuesday morning we packed our bags and headed to the final day of the convention we went and did another workshop session with some of the state officers giving their retiring speeches. They also gave out some more awards for different things.

Then from there we went to the final session of the state convention. This is where we got to see the new officers be elected and then also the new region presidents.

Mitchell Oswald of Blooming Prairie FFA says the best part of state convention was “getting to meet and hangout with new people, also the workshops.”

Sasha Katzung of the Bloom-

ing Prairie FFA says, “The best thing about state convention is getting to see the new officers elected and listing to the older state officers closing speeches.”

It was at this time that Kalyn Naatz was awarded 2nd place in the state for her Dairy Handling CDE!

Overall, it was a great experience and always fun to see old friends that we all have made throughout our FFA years and meet new ones too!

*Submitted by Sasha Katzung,
BP FFA Reporter*



Submitted photo
Blooming Prairie FFA members attending the State Convention were Sasha Katzung, Kalyn Naatz, Chris Wacek and Mitchell Oswald.

BP library closing for carpet replacement

Library Book Nook



Nancy Vaillancourt

The Blooming Prairie Branch Library will be closed this week for the following days: Wednesday, May 20; Thursday, May 21; Friday, May 22; and Saturday, May 23.

We will reopen Tuesday, May 26, after the Memorial Day holiday.

We will be closed while the carpeting is being replaced in the library. Thanks to the city staff for their help in moving furniture and books for us.

While we are closed, please use the services of the Owatonna Public Library. They will be expecting your telephone calls and visits. You can contact them at 507-444-2460 or online at www.owatonna.info. You will still be able to return items here in our book drops.

It’s hard to believe that May will soon be over! That means our busy season at the library will be starting.

On Monday, June 1 our Summer Reading Program begins with our kickoff from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come in to pick up your reading log – reading just 20 minutes a day for at least ten days per month will allow you to come to our monthly Book Fairs where you can pick up a book of your own to keep.

There will be more information available soon, but get ready to Read to the Rhythm this summer!

Chamber luncheon on Wednesday

The Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its monthly meeting at noon on Wednesday, May 20 at the Blooming Prairie Pizza Cellular on Main Street.

NOTICE

**Monday, May 25
garbage customers will
be picked up on
Saturday, May 23
due to the holiday
Thank You
Walsh Garbage Service
583-7562**

Prairie Family & Sports Chiropractic, P.A. presents:



**“HEALTH MATTERS”
With Dr. Chad
Scoliosis**

It is thought that scoliosis is the result of a hereditary problem or a result of some type of trauma, such as the birth process, or an injury, such as falling off a bicycle. It usually starts with problems in the lower back. And because spinal bones continue to grow well into the early 20’s, if left uncorrected, scoliosis often worsens.

Unfortunately, the most common treatment approach has been to wait and see how bad it gets, resorting to unsightly braces, or eventually surgery, if it progressed too far.

The chiropractic approach is to use specific spinal adjustments, often combined with corrective exercises. If detected early enough, chiropractic care has had excellent success with scoliosis cases.

To learn more about scoliosis and chiropractic, log on to our website at www.drchad.org. Feel free to e-mail Dr. Chad through the website with any questions. Prairie Family and Sports Chiropractic is here to serve you and your family with gentle and effective chiropractic care. We are located at 344 East Main Street, Downtown Blooming Prairie. Call us at 583-2271 or toll free at 1 (866) 5DR-CHAD to schedule an appointment.

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

St. Clair’s for Men celebrates 125th anniversary

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Correspondent

A shopping experience at the St. Clair’s for Men clothing store in Owatonna is one where both the customer and the store workers have fun and share a satisfying smile at the conclusion of a sale.

Those satisfying smiles have been present during the 125-year legacy of the store.

St. Clair’s owner Greg Krueger and his staff are currently observing the store’s 125th anniversary by offering customers some blockbuster sales.

A large inventory approaching \$350,000 is carried at St. Clair’s, an independent store. “We rack over 500 suits and sport coats, carry most sizes and if we do not have the right size we will make it readily available,” Krueger said.

Other clothing items include shirts, ties, jeans, casual pants, socks and underwear. The store also has a nice big and tall department.

St. Clair’s carries the Hart Schaffner and Marx brand, one of the oldest clothing lines in the United States. S. Cohen of Canada is another line carried by the store. Other brands include Levi and Cutler and Buck. The Greg Norman golfing apparel is also a top seller.

“We’re constantly searching the market for new trends,” Krueger said. Socks in plaids, stripes and argyles are now popular, he pointed out.

Most enjoyable part of his job as a clothing salesman is “without a doubt, dealing with the customers,” Krueger said. “The more customers we can help and make happy, the more gratifying it is for us,” he added.

A constant challenge, Krueger said, in selling men’s clothing is staying ahead of fashions and keeping up with other big stores, Krueger said. “We don’t want customers to shop anywhere else but here,” he said. Marketing is a big part of the business and customers can find a St. Clair’s Facebook page and can also navigate of the store website at www.stclairsformen.com

St. Clair’s will fit ages 16 to 80-plus, Krueger said. The store recently completed its Prom season by renting tuxedos to many young men. “We rent over 1300 a year for Proms, weddings and other special occasions.”

During the Prom season, Krueger donates \$3



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Greg Krueger, owner of St. Clair’s for Men in Owatonna since 1985, displays some of his extensive inventory in the store located at 117 Cedar Ave. N. The store is currently celebrating its 125th anniversary with some very attractive sales.

Store hours are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 9 to 5 on Saturdays. The store is open until 8 p.m. on Thursdays. St. Clair’s is closed on Sundays except during the Christmas season.

History of the St. Clair’s store dates back to 1890 when Jack Leuthold opened a men’s store. He and W.F. St. Clair, owner of men’s store in Fergus Falls, formed a partnership in the 1920s. St. Clair bought out Leuthold’s in the 1950s. Owatonna was one of 17 stores in three states. Krueger managed the Owatonna store beginning in 1980. He bought in as a limited partner in 1982 and became sole owner in 1985. Only two independent St. Clair’s stores remain, the other in Wausau, Wisconsin.

Customer service at its best is emphasized at St. Clair’s. Krueger is always available to help customers on the sales floor, as are full-time salesman Gene Knutson, part-time sales associate Ray Langerud and tailor Ruth Ann Priebe. “A good tailor is the backbone of any men’s store,” Krueger believes. Krueger has been in retail for 43 years.

All St. Clair’s associates have logged 20-plus years with Krueger. The store is located at 117 Cedar Ave. in Owatonna.

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Ellendale-GenevaLiving

Professor Marvel puts on a show at NRHEG Elementary Title 1 Family Night

By **JAMES KNOOP**
County Sports Editor

The magician looked held out his hand to the fourth grader. He shouted for her to grab the dessert. She opened an imaginary refrigerator and grabbed the invisible dessert. He asked for another ingredient, and she walked

to the imaginary cupboard, grabbed the invisible ingredient and began mixing it in a bowl only she could see. “Now step away,” said the magician.

The crowd waited in anticipation to see what delicious dish the girl had baked using only her imagination. The magi-

cian peeked inside the pot and gasped. The crowd leaned forward as he lifted the lid to reveal a live, quacking duck.

The room erupted in applause. The NRHEG Elementary Title One Family Night, a bi-annual night for families and children, welcomed Professor Marvel’s Fizz Bang Boom Science and Magic show to the stage last tuesday, and parents and stu-

dents enjoyed quite the show. Even before the program officially began, Richard Halbrook had children and parents laughing at his quirky antics. Once the show began, it was nonstop entertainment.

A crowd of about 25 people watched as Richard and Lynn Halbrook (Professor Marvel and his assistant) created clouds using a bottle and tire pump. They

waved their arms in the air to represent sun and rain, and Richard rewarded them with a flower that seemed to magically grow based on their participation. Richard and Lynn even used a fourth grader’s imagination to even make a live duck appear under a dish that had been empty seconds earlier.

Throughout the evening, Richard explained just how amazing

science could be, and he encouraged kids to read books on the subject.

The night’s Title One Coordinator Diana Foster was extremely pleased the night.

“I thought it was amazing,” said Foster. “It was so fun to see the kids and parents engaged. I looked around and saw the parents smiling and putting their hands up, and I think Robert and Lynn did an amazing job of engaging everybody. I found myself smiling and watching and forgetting I was the adult in charge here and not just one of the kids.”

Foster said she and fellow-coordinator Jill Schlaak got the idea for inviting Professor Marvel from a Kasson-Mantorville teacher in the Mankato Area Title 1 Network who highly recommended the Halbrooks.

Foster said the Title 1 family night takes place each spring and fall, focusing primarily on math and reading. Though reading was stressed, Foster said it was nice to have some science introduced as well.

Foster said one of the main goals is helping families realize the amount of learning that can be done in the home as well, especially through hands-on learning.

“We want to provide resources for parents and get them engaged and get kids excited about learning,” said Foster.



Staff photos by James Knoop
Professor Marvel pours milk into a rolled-up newspaper leading to second-grader Harbor Cromwell’s ear. In Professor Marvel’s show, it seemed as though the milk had passed through the boy’s ear, through the rope in Cromwell’s other ear and into a bottle.

LEFT: Fourth-grader Keira Lenort was surprised to see Professor Marvel unveil a live duck during the Title 1 Family night at NRHEG Elementary School.

MORE SPACE

Continued from Page 1C

With the implementation of the Bridges program next year, Engel said there will be four sections of kindergarten and now, we don’t know where to put them.

Engel added that the plan will also give teachers more flexibility in what they are able to do. There would be extra rooms for RTI intervention and space to have flexible groups. “Right now we have intervention in the hallways,” she said.

Anderson said the elementary school will be able to meet the student’s individual needs because there will be space to do that. “Ultimately, we will hopefully provide more opportunities for our kids,” he said. “It provides us with the space that will be needed to move forward and to move our programs forward and expand what we’re able to

provide our kids.”

Despite enrollment numbers not increasing, Anderson said it is important to look forward. “Look at how technology has changed how our teachers teach and how our students learn,” he said. “As an administrator, my hope is that we will be able to increase our enrollment. We would all love to have more students enter our doors. We will be able to meet their needs because of our space.”

Engel added the district and school board want to be proactive rather than reactive. “You have to be forward thinking, do your due diligence and keep your facilities up the times,” she said. “The kids are the main focus here and you want to be able to give them the best environment to learn as possible. I think it starts with the building.”

Anderson feels the plan is solid because it addresses the underlying needs of lack of space and a more secure entrance. “I think it is extremely wise to be looking at the music area and the SMART room and to look at repurposing and remodeling that,” he said. “This plan includes two additional classrooms built out from that area. That is the only new construction outside of the walls. That is great planning.”

He also said it is fiscally responsible because it is going to be more economical to do the remodeling and repurposing. Anderson believes that if the referendum succeeds Ellendale Elementary will have an approved facility that provides students with an optimal learning environment.

Volunteers honored at Ellendale

An Appreciation Luncheon was served on Wednesday, April 29th at NRHEG Elementary to honor the RSVP volunteers who have helped out the staff and students.

Volunteers are a vital part of many organizations, Common Good RSVP partners with agencies to bring them life-experienced volunteers who are over age 55.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is a nationwide movement of over 400,000 Senior Corps volunteers who have a passion for their communities. The program is operated under the direction of the corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency. RSVP supports volunteers fully in their dedication to the project they have chosen.

Catholic Charities facilitates RSVP and has partnered with NRHEG Elementary School to provide volunteers supportive benefits at no cost to the organization or the volunteer.

These free benefits for volunteers 55 and over include mileage reimbursement, supple-



Submitted photo
Seated are Kris Pfeffer, Norrine Jensen and Susan Bowman. Standing with Michael Maas, Common Good RSVP Regional Coordinator, are Mary Sack and Mary Conway. Missing are Pam Goehring and Gretchen Supalla.

mental accident and liability insurance, and ongoing volunteer support and recognition.

Listening to a child read, helping with vocabulary words, or drilling basis math facts are just some of the activities that

volunteers take part in to assist students at NRHEG Elementary. Anyone interested in volunteer opportunities through RSVP may contact Regional Coordinator, Michael Maas, at (507) 450-1518

Menus

NRHEG Breakfast Menu
May 19: Banana Bread
May 20: Mini Waffles
May 21: PB & Jelly Sandwich, Yogurt
May 22: Long Johns
May 25: no school
May 26: Cooks Choice (No Salad Bar Both Schools)

May 27: Cooks Choice (No Salad Bar Both Schools)

NRHEG Lunch Menu
May 19: Sloppy Joes on a Bun, Baked Beans, French Fries, Celery Sticks, Diced Peaches
May 20: Hamburger Gravy, Whipped Potatoes, Cooked Car-

rots, Fresh Fruit, Diced Pears, String Cheese

May 21: Sub Sandwich w/ Toppings, Tortilla Chips w/Salsa, Fresh Veggies, Pineapple

May 22: Shrimp Poppers, Macaroni & Cheese, Peas, Broccoli, Mandarin Oranges

May 25: no school

May 26: Nachos Supreme w/ Toppings, Golden Corn, Baby Carrots, Applesauce

May 27: Italian Dunkers w/ Marinara Sauce, Green Beans, Cooked Carrots, Mandarin Oranges

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Geneva, MN

Student of the Week

Brenlee Knudson is in Mrs. Klukow’s fifth-grade class. She is the daughter of Katie and Kevin Knudson and she lives near Ellendale.

Brenlee enjoys cheering, playing softball, hanging out with her friends and taking care of her baby brother. Many staff members have commented on Brenlee is always very positive and helpful.

She is kind to her classmates and respectful to adults. She shows a great



attitude for learning and understands the meaning of Panther Pride. Keep it up Brenlee!

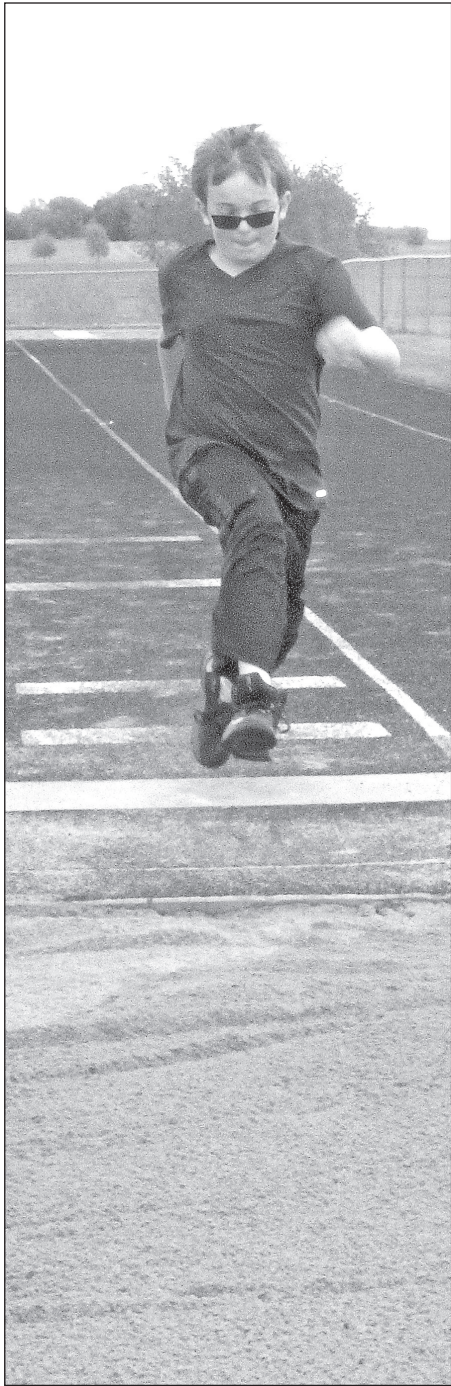
Student of the Week is sponsored by:

118 5th Ave, Ellendale, MN
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Lerberg's Fitness Center
24 Hour Card Access

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Medford Track & Field Day



Staff photos by Shannon Kinley
LEFT: Sixth grader Logan Schmit sees how far he can jump during the long jump event at Medford Elementary School's Track & Field Day on Friday, May 15.
ABOVE: Third graders Carson Beardsly, Devon Born and Isaac Reuvers get ready at the starting line to do the 400-meter dash, or one lap around the track.
RIGHT: Third grader Jair Peralta wins the 400-meter dash at Medford Elementary School's Track & Field Day.
BELOW: Fifth graders Hannah Schull, Jaylene Chase and Samantha Meyer sprint to the finish line during the 4x100-meter relay

Menus

Medford School Breakfast Menu
May 19: WG French Toast Sticks with Syrup, Tri Tator OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk
May 20: Iced WG Cinnamon Roll OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk
May 21: Cheese Omelet OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk
May 22: Ham-N-Eggwich OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk
May 25: Pancake on a Stick OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk
May 26: Ultimate Breakfast Round OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk
May 27: Breakfast Burrito W/Salsa OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 26: Pulled Pork Sliders, BBQ Sauce, Turkey Ranch Wrap, Harvest Chicken Salad, Baked Beans, Romaine Lettuce, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit
May 27: Chicken Nuggets, Whole Wheat Bread, Buffalo Chicken Wrap, Taco Salad, Tator Tots, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

Weekly crossword on Page 5D

PUZZLE SOLUTION		S	P	F		A	P	O		D	E	C	
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Medford School Lunch Menu
May 19: Chicken Alfredo over Pasta, Crispy Chicken Wrap, Cravin' Craisin Salad, Peas, Cucumbers, Corn, Choice of Fruit
May 20: Beefy Nachos w/ Homemade Cheese Sauce, Turkey Sub, Chef Salad, Romaine Lettuce, Baby Carrots, Tomatillo Salsa (HOM), Choice of Fruit
May 21: Parmesan Chicken Bites, Marinara, WG Pasta, Honey Mustard Ham Wrap, Chicken Caesar Salad, Green Beans, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Choice of Fruit
May 22: Pizza Parlor Pizza, Cheese or Pepperoni, Chicken Caesar Wrap, Popeye Salad, Whole Kernel Corn, Green Peas, Broccoli, Choice of Fruit
May 25: no school

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LOOK WHAT'S NEW!

Sweet, neat creations, Page 1C

STEELE COUNTY Times

Bridal guide Page 6D

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

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...

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STEELE COUNTY Times

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Blooming Prairie man divides his time between his garage and the skies

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All bird exhibitions at county fairs, state fairs and another events have been cancelled because of the bird flu epidemic.

File photo

State decrees no birds at county, state fair

By KAREN JORGENSEN
News Editor

Cry foul if you must, but there will be no fowl at summer events in Minnesota.

The Minnesota State Fair last week cancelled its poultry show for the 2015 fair and the Minnesota Board of Animal Health took it one step further by canceling all bird exhibitions at county fairs, the state fair and other events.

The Board of Animal Health directive is effective through the end of 2015 and also prohibits birds from being included in swap meets, exotic sales and petting zoos.

The ban will affect both the

Dodge and Steele County fairs this summer as both have poultry exhibits through the 4-H programs.

There is no open poultry class at the Steele County Free Fair, fair spokesman Todd Hale said last week, adding that the ban would also affect the petting zoo at the fair.

The same is true in Dodge County where there is no open class for poultry but in the past the fair has had a petting zoo along with the 4-H exhibit of poultry.

The statewide ban is a result of an epidemic of H5N2, a highly pathogenic avian influenza. Since March 5, nearly 90 Minnesota poultry farms, including

one in Steele County, have been impacted by the virus. The ban is to minimize the risk of potential further spread of the H5N2 virus.

“Taking this step makes sense” said Dr. Beth Thompson, assistant director of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health. “We need to do everything possible to get rid of this virus and preventing the commingling of birds from different farms is one way to do that.”

The biggest impact of the ban is likely to be among 4-H members.

“University of Minnesota Extension 4-H’s priority is youth and their learning experiences,” said Brad Rugg, Extension 4-H

and State Fair and Animal Science program director.

“Some 4-H’ers will be disappointed that they won’t be able to show their poultry projects at fairs this summer, but we’re exploring alternate learning opportunities to offer them at fairs and will share more details as plans develop.”

Part of 4-H’s job is to develop the next generation of agriculture leaders, he said, and that includes teaching youth the best practices to ensure the health and safety of the animals they raise and this event is that learning being put into action in the real world.

Forage harvest season

The last couple of weeks, farmers have been dedicated to planting their fields for this growing season. For those farmers who also harvest forage, it is time to switch gears to prepare the equipment and evaluate the forage stand. Farmers know that timing is everything when trying to produce high quality forage of livestock. When harvested and stored correctly, a farm’s hay supply can be kept for long periods of time with little loss of nutritional value. The following are a few key items to keep in mind during forage harvest season.

Weather – Temperature and rain have significant effects on quality and quantity of forage produced. Predetermining how you plan to store the hay will help establish how much time is needed for sufficient forage dry time.

Plant maturity at harvest – the desired quality target will be different depending on what type of animal will be consuming the forage, types of legume/grasses present in the field, other ration ingredients, and past experience with harvest and feeding of hay products. Consult with your livestock nutrition advisor to set an appropriate forage quality target.

Time of day to harvest – plants accumulate soluble carbohydrates during the daylight; therefore, increasing the sugar and starch content of the plant. To minimize sugar loss prior to harvest, cutting in the late afternoon is recommended. Note that cutting in the PM will increase drying time and may not be applicable due to weather and the amount of harvesting

ON THE FARM



Karen Anderson

needed to be done.

Drying time- a rapid drying process helps to decrease quality loss during alfalfa harvest. One well documented method to decrease drying time is to cut alfalfa in wide swaths. The amount of drying necessary differs depending on the storage type.

For more information about forage production, please visit the University of Minnesota Extension Forage website at <http://z.umn.edu/forages>. While on the University of Minnesota Extension Forage website, check out the Forage Quarterly newsletter for the latest information and forage research. The Forage Quarterly newsletter link can be found in the left-hand column. If you like what you see, feel free to sign-up to receive the Forage Quarterly via email.

Karen Anderson is the Agriculture Extension Educator with the University of Minnesota Extension in Rice and Steele Counties. She can be reached at 507-444-7685 or ande9495@umn.edu.

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Minnesota Crop Report

Seventy-two percent of the Minnesota corn crop had emerged, almost two weeks ahead of the five-year average.

Soybean planting increased 9 percentage points during the week to 79 percent complete. Twenty-one percent of the soybean acreage had emerged, 12 days ahead of the previous year and 10 days ahead of average.

Barley was 86 percent emerged, 4 weeks ahead of last year and almost 3 weeks ahead of average. The first barley condition rating of the year was estimated at 0 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 42 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 6 percent excellent.

Fourteen percent of the oat acreage was at or beyond the jointing stage, 18 days ahead of last year. Oat condition rated 79 percent good to excellent. Ninety percent of the spring wheat acreage was emerged, 4 weeks ahead of the previous year, and just over 3 weeks ahead of normal.

Spring wheat condition rated 55 percent good to excellent, dropping 6 points from last week. Dry edible beans were 39 percent planted and 17 percent emerged. Fifty-two percent of the sunflower acreage has been planted, 20 days ahead of last year and 10 days ahead of average.

Ag Power

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HometownLiving

Community Calendar



Submitted Photo

Generations

Five generations are shown in this photo. Seated is great, great grandmother Regina Wacek holding Kinsley Stoltz. Standing is great grandmother, Rita Goodnature, grandmother, Melissa Stoltz and mother, Chelsey Stoltz.

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SUMMER EVENTS	JULY 4TH BAR & OFF-SALE WILL BE OPEN
BEAN BAGS: MAY 21 - AUG 13. THUR. @7 P.M.	RIDE FOR A CAUSE
STREET DANCE JULY 3RD 8 P.M. - MIDNIGHT THE BLUE RINGERS: 8 P.M. \$5 COVERCHARGE. 21 AND OVER ONLY	JUNE 27 CRUISE FOR CANCER JULY 25 B.O.B. RIDE "TOYS FOR TOTS" (RIDE DETAILS AVAILABLE AT THE BAR) BAR BINGO: MONDAY @ 6:30 P.M. MEAT RAFFLES: FRIDAY @ 5:30 P.M.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

May 19:
10 a.m. Cancer Group Luncheon, First Lutheran Church
4:45 p.m. Boys N Girls Club Brd
May 20:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
12 p.m. Chamber of Commerce
May 26:
All day BP Card Club & Luncheon
6 p.m. BPBL Book Club
7 p.m. BP P&Z Brd Mtg
May 27:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time

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- Raffle drawing first Saturday of every month
- Happy Hour 3 p.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday
- Taco Tuesdays every Tuesday at 5 p.m.

"BURGER NIGHT" SPECIALS
#1 - CHICKEN TETRAZZINI WITH GARLIC TOAST #2 - CRISPY CHICKEN SALAD WITH GARLIC TOAST

LUNCH SPECIAL (5/21 & 5/22):
MEATLOAF WITH VEGETABLE AND BREAD

ELLENDALE/GENEVA

May 19:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
May 21:
5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
May 22:
All day Harmony Park Revival
May 23:
All day Harmony Park Revival
May 24:
All day Harmony Park Revival
May 25:
6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
May 26:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

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IN BRIEF

Red Cross seeks blood donors in weeks leading up to summer

The American Red Cross asks eligible donors to help ensure blood is available for patients in need by giving blood in May before the busy summer season kicks in. Blood donors can go to Sacred Heart Church in Owatonna from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on May 27. Donors of all blood types – especially those with types O negative, A negative and B negative – are needed.

OWATONNA

May 19:
Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary Festival of Tables Luncheon Fundraiser
9:30 a.m. OPL Tale Time! 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
10 a.m. OPL So Many Books...So Little Time Book Club
4:30 p.m. OPL Brd, Gainey Rm
7 p.m. OHS Pops Concert
7 p.m. City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall
May 20:
4 p.m. EDA, Council Chambers, City Hall
May 21:
2 p.m. OPL Independent & World Films
6 p.m. Lincoln PTO Mtg
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time
May 22:
No School
7 p.m. Movie Night, New Beginnings Church
May 25:
No School
12 p.m. Owatonna Noon Rotary Club, Country Club
4 p.m. Owatonna Housing & Redevelopment Authority, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall
May 26:
9:30 a.m. OPL Tale Time! 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
4 p.m. OPU Utilities Commission, Utilities Plant Office
5:30 p.m. Owatonna Planning Commission, Council Chambers, City Hall
6 p.m. Steele Co Commission
7 p.m. Steele Co.: Co Brd Mtg, Administration Center BR
May 27:
McKinley PTO Ice Cream Social
11:30 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Sacred Heart Church

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MEDFORD

May 20:
6 p.m. Medford EDA
May 21:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
May 25:
No School
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
7 p.m. Medford City Council, City Hall

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IN BRIEF

Ellendale playground

NRHEG graduate Carlie Wagner, who now attends the University of Minnesota, will be signing autographs on June 27 to support the Ellendale playground project. Registration forms can be found on the NRHEG school website.

SPOT LIGHT

Program offers help concerning falls

Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute – Owatonna Hospital, in partnership with the A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls, is offering a free four-week program designed to help individuals learn to manage falls and increase activity levels. Classes are held twice a week beginning June 2, every Tuesday and Thursday from 1-3 p.m. at Owatonna Hospital, 2250 NW 26th Street, Conference Room 1487. If you've ever been concerned about falls or have fallen in the past, are interested in improving balance, flexibility and strength or have restricted activities because of falling concerns, this program emphasizes practical strategies to managing falls.

OTHER COUNTIES

Mower
May 19:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
10 a.m. Social Concerns: Nature Center Expansion, Hormel Historic Home
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
6 p.m. Uncork and Create: Abstract Flowers, Austin ArtWorks Center
7 p.m. AHS Spring Choir Festival
May 20:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
Austin Sumner Spring Concert
LeRoy-Ostrander Schl Brd Mtg
11:15 a.m. Back Packer Book Club, Austin Public Library
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
12 p.m. Lunch and Learn - Customer Service from the Inside Out, Hormel Historic Home
5 p.m. Our Family Matters: Pizza and Preplanning, Mower County Senior Center
5:30 p.m. Izaak Walton League Steak Cookout, Todd Park
May 21
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
6 p.m. Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night (subject to change)
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
10:30 a.m. Storytime - CANCELLED UNTIL JUNE 11, Austin Public Library
4 p.m. Austin Farmers Market - Rhubarb Festival, 501 Oakland Ave E
4 p.m. Farmers Market Place LLC
5:30 p.m. Starry Nights of Austin: A Master Class with Joni Finnegan, Austin ArtWorks Center
May 22
10 a.m. StoryTime! :) Grand Meadow Public Library
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
May 23
LeRoy-Ostrander Graduation
Accio Books!
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
9 a.m. Austin Farmers Market
10 a.m. Public Auction, Packer Arena
9 p.m. Sola Fide Viewing
May 24
1 p.m. Grand Meadow Open Gym, Wrestling Room, Weight Room
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
May 25
LeRoy-Ostrander No School
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
4 p.m. Austin Farmers Market
May 26
Austin PS no school
9:30 a.m. Mower Co Brd of Commissioners Mtg
2 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Brownsdale
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
6 p.m. Pinterest Craft Club, Austin Public Library
May 27
1 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Community Cntr, LeRoy
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
11:15 a.m. Back Packer Book Club, Austin Public Library
2 p.m. Odd Bits of Mower County's History, Mower County Senior Center

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Senior Focus

Things to consider before downsizing your home

The decision to downsize a home is often bittersweet. Many couples who downsize their homes do so after raising a family. A home might be filled with memories, but downsizing a home helps couples save more money, and that financial flexibility often allows men and women to more fully enjoy their retirement.

But in spite of the financial impact of downsizing a home, there's more than just money at stake for homeowners thinking of downsizing their homes. The following are a handful of factors homeowners should consider before downsizing to a smaller home.

Real estate market

The real estate market can be a seller's friend or foe. Many sellers have a sale price in mind when they decide to

sell their home, but the real estate market can be fickle, so homeowners should do their research before putting their home up for sale. Will the current market make it easier for you to get the most for your home, or will you have to settle for less than you prefer? How fast are similar homes in your area selling? When studying the real estate market, it's also a good idea to study the market for smaller homes. If you plan on moving into a condominium, but the market is not flush with properties, you might end up paying more than you want to for your new home, which might negate the savings you can expect from downsizing.

Furniture

When downsizing to a smaller home, many couples realize their current furniture is unlikely to fit into a smaller

home. That means couples will have to sell or donate their current furniture and then buy all new items for their new home. If it's been a while since you purchased new furniture, you might be in for some sticker shock on your first visit to the furniture store.

Another thing to consider regarding your furniture is which items you simply can't live without. An antique dinner table might have been the centerpiece for your family holidays over the last several decades, but there's no guarantee it will fit into your smaller home. You may want to pass this down to your son or daughter, but that's only possible if he or she has the room for it. Before deciding to downsize, consider your attachment to certain items that you may or may not be able to take with you to your new home and the emotional toll that selling such items might take if you're left with no other options.

Proximity to family

When downsizing to a smaller home, many couples

move out of the suburbs and into cities or towns with more ready access to culture and restaurants. While that accessibility is great, grandparents may find that it comes at the cost of less time with their grandchildren. That's a steep price to pay for doting grandparents, and it may also impact your children if they frequently rely on grandma and grandpa for babysitting. Before downsizing,

consider if you're willing to move further away from your family. If not, you likely can still find a smaller home in close proximity to your current home and any nearby family members.

Medical care

Many older men and women must also consider the effect that moving may have on their medical care. Downsizing to a

home in the country may make it harder to maintain contact with your current physician, and rural areas typically have less medical practitioners than more densely populated towns and cities. In addition, if you have been visiting the same physician for years, you may not want to move and have to start all over again with a physician who is unfamiliar with your medical history.



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Women leave jobs for various reasons. Some women cite disparities in pay, an inability to advance through the company or incompatibility with a particular place of business as their reasons for seeking new employment, while others leave jobs to take time off for family obligations, only to reenter the workforce at a later time.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics say the average person changes jobs 10 to 15 times (with an average of 11 job changes) over the course of a career. Reports about employees in Fortune 500 companies have found, while women make up nearly 50 percent of these companies, they represent just 7.5 percent of top earners. Dissatisfaction with their income encourages some women to look for greener pastures.

Transitioning between jobs is common, but professionals can take certain steps to ensure their transition works out for them and does not burn any bridges along the way.

- Have a definitive reason for leaving. It's foolish to change jobs on a whim. Be clear about why you are leaving and whether problems can be remedied by speaking up or if leaving for another company really is the best solution. Having firm reasons for your resignation will enable

you to leave with more confidence and conviction.

- Provide enough notice to the company. If you have been working in a particularly poor environment, it may be tempting to run out the door even before your written resignation has finished printing. This may not bode well for future recommendations and leave your name tarnished within the industry. Instead, give ample notice and find a mutually acceptable window of time in which your position will be filled. While two weeks is standard, some positions may require more or less time. It's best not to drag your exit out too long though.
- Meet with your boss first. Don't let a boss find out about your intentions to leave the company through the workplace gossip mill. It is always more professional to keep plans to yourself and show your boss the respect of hearing about your decision to leave first. Do so in person and not over the phone or via email.
- Continue to do your job to the best of your abilities. Giving notice is not a ticket to goofing off or participating in an office vacation. Slacking off damages good will and is a surefire way to burn some bridges.



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Kenyon Sunset Home - Skilled Nursing - Rehab Therapy Services & Gunderson Gardens Assisted Living

Director of Nursing

Kenyon Sunset Home, a nursing home in Kenyon, Minnesota seeks a motivated RN to lead their nursing department. This full-time position will have administrative responsibilities for the 30 bed nursing home and the attached assisted living apartments and memory care suites. Previous long term care, MDS, and management experience preferred.

RN NURSE MANAGER

Minimum 30 hours per week, every other weekend, every other holiday. Qualifications: Long Term Care/Assisted Living Experience preferred. Duties Include: Clinical Nurse Manager, Staff Development, Infection Control, MDS Assessments

LPN

Part Time and on call hours available, all shifts. Full or Part Time – base wages starts at \$11.00/hr. depending on experience.

REGISTERED NURSING ASSISTANTS

Shift differentials and call in pay offered.

TMA's ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

If you are looking for something specific, please call to see what is available.

Enjoy a rewarding career in long-term healthcare
Call Julie Dyrda, HR Manager at 507-789-7103
or email jdyrdahl@kenyonsunsethome.com or Chelsea Kalal, LNHA at 507-789-7101 or email ckalal@kenyonsunsethome.com

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Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KenyonSeniorLiving>

Kenyon Senior Living offers a friendly faith based work environment and a full range of benefits including health insurance, 403B Savings Plan, PTO and 8 Holidays per year!

Equal Opportunity Employer & Provider

127 Gunderson Blvd * Kenyon * MN * 55946

INDEPENDENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

MENTAL HEALTH CASE MANAGER

Independent Management Services is seeking qualified individuals for a Mental Health Case Manager. Position is part-time, with potential to become full-time. Education/experience required: Bachelors Degree in a behavioral science or related field. 2,000 hours of supervised delivery of services to adults with mental illness.

Email resume to apply@imsosfmn.com or mail to:
IMS, 101 21st St SE, Austin, MN 55912
Compensation DOE, EOE.

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Now Hiring:
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700 First Dr. NW Austin, MN 55912
www.cedarsofaustin.com

GRAIN MILLERS, INC.

Night Shift Maintenance Technician

Grain Millers, Inc. is a leader in the grain milling industry supplying quality grain ingredients to the food industry globally. Our St. Ansgar, Iowa facility has an opening for a 12 hour night shift **Maintenance Technician**. Experience in fabrication, pipe fitting, boiler and electrical wiring desired. Compensation will include: wages based on experience with wage review after 90 and 180 days, annual bonus program, 401K w/match, flex spending program, medical, dental, short & long term disability, and life insurance. Equal Opportunity Employer. Must have HS diploma or equivalent. 2 yr. Industrial Maintenance degree desired. Pre-employment drug screen required.

Please complete application at 605 Grain Millers Drive in St. Ansgar or submit your resume to the following email or fax number:
HR.STAnsgar@grainmillers.com or Fax: 641-713-4101

GRAIN MILLERS, INC.

Night Shift Operators and Packaging Personnel

Grain Millers, Inc. is seeking 12 hour Night Shift **Operators and Packaging Personnel**. Operators are responsible for 5 to 8 floors of equipment ensuring quality and food safety are maintained. The Packaging personnel's primary responsibilities include filling super sacks and pneumatic trailers. HS graduate or equivalent required. Would prefer mechanical aptitude and ability to work at heights. Equal Opportunity Employer. Pre-employment Drug Screen and background check are required.

Please complete application at 605 Grain Millers Drive in St. Ansgar or submit your resume to the following email or fax number:
HR.STAnsgar@grainmillers.com or Fax: 641-713-4101

Classifieds/Legals

STEELE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That on Monday, June 1st, 2015 starting at 7:30 pm., the Steele County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing in the Commissioner's Room of the Steele County Administration Center, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, MN, to receive comments on the following permit application. Dennis and Kim Halvorson have requested a Conditional Use Permit to operate a wood processing and storage facility located in the S 1/3 of the NE ¼ of the SW 1/4, Section 5, Medford Township. The property address is 7976 Frontage Road West, Medford. All persons interested are invited to attend said hearings and be heard on these matters.

Dale Oolman
Steele County Zoning Director
630 Florence Ave. P.O. Box 890
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 444-7482

5/19



Happy 90th Birthday

DONALD YENTSCH

May 20th

With love from all your family



TEENS!

LOOKING FOR SUMMER WORK?

The Steele County Times has an opening for an intern through a summer youth employment program. Candidate must be a high school student or 2015 graduate between the ages of 16-19. This is a great opportunity to gain experience in writing, photography, advertising sales or graphic design. You pick the area you'd like to focus on. Contact managing editor Alan Van Ormer at bpalan@frontier.com for more information or call 507-583-4431.

STEELE COUNTY Times

507-583-4431
411 East Main St.,
Blooming Prairie, MN
bloomingprairieonline.com



This Memorial Day, let us pause and reflect.

In the May 19 edition of The Times, there will be a special tribute to relatives and friends that have passed away. You can place an "In Memoriam" ad in this special section for only \$10.

Choose from one of the following styles:

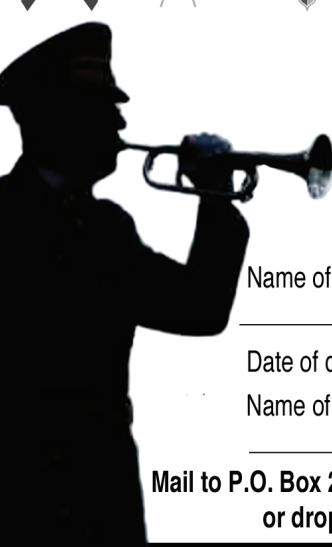
In loving memory of
John Smith
who passed away
March 3, 2004
Sadly missed by
Sally Smith

In Memoriam
John Smith
who passed away
eight years ago.
Sadly missed by
Sally Smith

Gone but not forgotten
John Smith
who passed away
March 3, 2004
Dearly missed by
your family

Include one of the symbols below.







In Memoriam
John Smith
who passed away
eight years ago.
Sadly missed by
Sally Smith

Actual Ad Size

Name of deceased _____

Date of death _____

Name of person(s) dedicating _____

Mail to P.O. Box 247 • Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
or drop off by Friday, May 15

Garage Sale

Garage Sale 205 Central Ave S Geneva, Friday May 22nd 3pm-7pm, Saturday 23rd 8am-12pm. Homeschool curriculum, toys, bikes, clothes, household, closet organizers, 5x7 rug.



THE CLASSIFIEDS-
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APARTMENTS FOR RENT

SITUATIONS WANTED

AUTOMOBILES FOR SALE

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GARAGE SALES

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STEELE COUNTY Times

Always local, all the time.
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STEELE COUNTY Times

583-4431
bpadsales@frontier.com

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Prairie Villa II

Blooming Prairie

One Bedroom apartment for elderly or disabled persons

Rent is based on 30% of net income.
Secured entry and convenient lift to second floor.



A USDA Rural Housing Project
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507-437-2074

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

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LIVE-IN AIDE

(and/or part-time aide) assist female quadriplegic. Drivers license. Will train. Flexible hours. Nice neighborhood St. Paul, Highland Park. Jean 651/690-0645

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Company OTR drivers. \$2,000 sign on bonus, flexible home time, extensive benefits. Call now! Hibb's & Co. 763/389-0610

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A MN based company is now hiring Owner/Operators to pull hopper bottom in the upper Midwest. Home weekends. Call 320/382-6644

CDL TRUCK DRIVERS

Join our 5/2 fleet! Weekly home time. \$1,100 per week average. Call 800/867-8172 for details. EEOE/AAP www.drive4marten.com

EMPLOYMENT

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Full-time traveling opportunity, 60-80 hours/week, \$11-\$15/hour, meal allowance, paid lodging & benefit package. RAW, Inc. in Cooperstown, ND – 888/700-0292 | www.rawapplicators.com info@rawapplicators.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

Seeking school psychologist or intern in northeastern South Dakota for 2015-2016 year. Open until filled. For more info visit www.northeastcoop.org or call 605/783-3607

EDUCATION

MEDICAL BILLING TRAINEES

Needed. Train at home to process medical billing & insurance claims! No experience needed! Online training at Bryan University! HS diploma/GED & computer/Internet needed. 877/259-3880

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MISCELLANEOUS

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over \$10,000 to the IRS or State in back taxes? You could get a settlement for as low as 25% of previous IRS settlements. Call now! 800/558-0486

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Back Pain? Shoulder Pain? Get a pain-relieving brace -little or no cost to you. Medicare patients call health hotline now! 800/755-6807

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truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3 day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 800/439-1735

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STEELE COUNTY Times

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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Answers on Page 5C

CLUES ACROSS

1. Sunscreen rating
4. Military mailbox
7. 12th month (abbr.)
10. Sunrise Mount of Shandong
11. Escape from the law
12. Similar suffix
13. Pyrrole
15. Anger
16. Blue-billed diving ducks
19. J.K. Rowling's pseudonym
22. Projecting part of a rampart
23. What St. Helens did
24. Large integers
25. Adhesive or digital
26. Writing providing information
29. Inscribed upright stone slabs
33. The night before
34. Black tropical

American cuckoo
35. Heartache from loss
39. Hush money payer
42. Geological times
44. Types of fish eggs
45. Young pilchard
48. Lack of momentum
52. "Blue Bloods"
A.D.A. actress
54. Rust fungi
55. Make lace
56. Small larids
57. Energy Savings Measure
58. Before
59. ___ Lilly, drug company
60. Comic book character rooted in Japanese mythology
61. Radioactivity unit
62. Tear apart

CLUES DOWN

1. Posts or stumps (Scot.)
2. Painter's board
3. Containing more fire
4. In a way, adjusts
5. 1/100 Serbian dinar
6. Breakfast egg dish
7. Throw into disorder
8. Prisoner on the lam
9. 1st Hindu month
13. Treats high blood pressure (abbr.)
14. A plural of zoon
17. Ouray Res. Tribe
18. Doctor of Philosophy
20. Large quantities
21. Ladies undergarments
26. Foot (Latin)
27. Macao monetary unit
28. Prefix denoting "in a"
30. Research workplace
31. Midway between NE and E
32. Title of respect
36. Somewhat crimson
37. Folding paper art
38. Gradually diminish
39. Too osseous
40. Go in again
41. A citizen of Israel
43. Irish, English or Gordon
44. Had a wild disturbance
45. Helps little firms
46. They ___
47. Brown, wild & long-grained
49. Thysanopterous insect
50. Gandalf actor
51. Initials of Dannielynn's mother
53. "Dragon Tattoo" actress Rooney

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Legal Notices

Foreclosure

15-099605
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 13, 2006
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$139,500.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Alvin J. Vierling and Sylvia L. Vierling, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, a subsidiary of IndyMac Bank, F.S.B.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, a subsidiary of IndyMac Bank, F.S.B.

SERVICER: OneWest Bank N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed April 27, 2006, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000340742

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.; thereafter assigned to OneWest Bank N.A.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Beginning at a point on the Northerly line of Lot 3 in Block 9 of Riverside Addition to the City of Owatonna, 8 rods Westerly from the NE corner of said Lot 3, running thence Westerly on said Northerly line 59 feet to the NW corner of said Lot 3; thence Southerly along the West line of said Lot 3 to the SW corner of said Lot 3, thence East 32 feet along the South line of said Lot 3; thence Northerly to point of beginning.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 427 Glendale Street, Owatonna, MN 55060

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-119-0907

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$85,258.42

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: June 5, 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 12 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on June 5, 2016, or the next business day if June 5, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: April 17, 2015

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP BY

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Attorneys for Mortgagee
12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

4/14, 4/21, 4/28
5/5, 5/12, 5/19

Foreclosure

14-097216

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: June 12, 2003
MORTGAGOR: Nathaniel D. Kilwine, a single man.
MORTGAGEE: American Residential Mortgage, LP.

DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded June 17, 2003 Steele County Recorder, Document No. A 311767.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase

Bank, National Association successor by merger Chase Home Finance, LLC successor by merger to Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corporation. Dated June 12, 2003 Recorded June 17, 2003, as Document No. A 311768.

TRANSACTION AGENT: NONE
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: NONE
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: American Residential Mortgage, LP

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association

MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 702 South 6th Street, Ellendale, MN 56026

TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 151090109 and 151110004

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The South Half of Lot 4 and the North Half of Lot 5, Block 1, Norby Addition to the City of Ellendale, Minnesota and Outlot D, Norby Second Addition

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$135,072.00

AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$112,533.59

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: June 18, 2015, 10:00am

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on June 5, 2016, or the next business day if June 5, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: April 17, 2015

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP BY

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Attorneys for Mortgagee
12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

4/14, 4/21, 4/28
5/5, 5/12, 5/19

Foreclosure

14-097216

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: June 12, 2003
MORTGAGOR: Nathaniel D. Kilwine, a single man.
MORTGAGEE: American Residential Mortgage, LP.

DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded June 17, 2003 Steele County Recorder, Document No. A 311767.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase

Bank, National Association successor by merger Chase Home Finance, LLC successor by merger to Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corporation. Dated June 12, 2003 Recorded June 17, 2003, as Document No. A 311768.

TRANSACTION AGENT: NONE
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: NONE
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: American Residential Mortgage, LP

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association

MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 702 South 6th Street, Ellendale, MN 56026

TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 151090109 and 151110004

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The South Half of Lot 4 and the North Half of Lot 5, Block 1, Norby Addition to the City of Ellendale, Minnesota and Outlot D, Norby Second Addition

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$135,072.00

AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$112,533.59

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: June 30, 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 December 30, 2015, or the next business day if December 30, 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: May 5, 2015

Nationstar Mortgage LLC
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP BY

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Attorneys for Mortgagee
12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

5/12, 5/19, 5/26

Foreclosure

14-098208

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 30, 2009
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$172,430.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Shannon C. Vick and Alicia J. Vick, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on December 4, 2009 as Document Number A000368124 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 13, Block 3, North Country Addition No. 3, City of Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 2450 TIMBERWOOD LANE 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: \$81,423.66

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR (LENDER): Homeservices Lending, LLC series a dba Edina Realty Mortgage, a Delaware limited liability company

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-100-0103

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: June 23, 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 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 December 23, 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 A B A N D O N E D . "

Dated: April 29, 2015

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. MORTGAGEE SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

By: /s/ Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq. Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq. N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. *Curt N. Trisko, Esq.* Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee

The Academy Professional Building 25 North Dale Street St. Paul, MN 55102

(651) 209-9760

(15-0716-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

5/5, 5/12, 5/19 5/26, 6/2, 6/9

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No 74-PR-15-961

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR DESCENT OF PROPERTY

Estate of Larry C. Beers, Decedent

A petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago, leaving property in Minnesota and requests the probate of Decedent's last Will (if any), and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property.

Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted.

IT IS ORDERED and Notice is further given, that the Petition will be heard on June 9, 2015, at 10:45 a.m., by this Court at 111 E. Main St., Owatonna, Minnesota.

1. Notice shall be given to all interested persons (Minn. Stat. 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minn. Stat. 524.3-204.

2. Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by: Mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.

Dated: 2015.05.11

BY THE COURT

Karen R. Duncan Judge of District Court

Dated: May 11, 2015

Robin Hoesley Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner 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@owatonnawalawyers.com

5/19, 5/26

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

MIN#: 1000389-0001005736-7

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Voyager Bank

SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed October 2, 2006, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000344700

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Nationstar Mortgage, LLC

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 6, Block 1, Cedar Cove Townhomes 4th Addition

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 188 Cedar Cove Ln NW, Owatonna, MN 55060

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-561-0106

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$137,070.83

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: June 30, 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 December 30, 2015, or the next business day if December 30, 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: May 5, 2015

Nationstar Mortgage LLC
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP BY

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee

12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

5/12, 5/19, 5/26 6/2, 6/9, 6/16

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 30, 2009
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$172,430.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Shannon C. Vick and Alicia J. Vick, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on December 4, 2009 as Document Number A000368124 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 13, Block 3, North Country Addition No. 3, City of Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 2450 TIMBERWOOD LANE 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: \$81,423.66

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR (LENDER): Homeservices Lending, LLC series a dba Edina Realty Mortgage, a Delaware limited liability company

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-100-0103

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: June 30, 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 December 30, 2015, or the next business day if December 30, 2015 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTAT

Foreclosure

15-099899

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 1, 2005 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$87,000.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Jacinta Hernandez, a/k/a Jacinta R. Hernandez, a single woman MORTGAGEE: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed December 7, 2005, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000337562 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Ameriquest Mortgage Company; Dated: December 2, 2005 filed: December 26, 2007, recorded as document number A000354323; thereafter assigned to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. dated December 2, 2005 recorded December 26, 2007 as document number A000354324. Thereafter assigned to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, successor in interest to Bank of America, National Association as successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee for Certificateholders of Bear Stearns Asset Backed Securities I LLC, Asset Backed Certificates, Series 2006-HE2 dated March 19, 2012 recorded April 9, 2012 as document number A000383927. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 3, Block 12, Original Townsite, Village (now City) of Blooming Prairie PROPERTY ADDRESS: 225 Main St E, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-100-1203 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$75,214.51 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: June 30, 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 December 30, 2015, or the next business day if December 30, 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: April 29, 2015

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association 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

5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9

Foreclosure

10-068716

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 21, 2005 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$229,050.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Amado Mendez Solis and Lorna E. Mendez, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Town

and Country Credit Corp. LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Town and Country Credit Corp. SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed December 7, 2005, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000337562 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Ameriquest Mortgage Company; Dated: December 2, 2005 filed: December 26, 2007, recorded as document number A000354323; thereafter assigned to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. dated December 2, 2005 recorded December 26, 2007 as document number A000354324. Thereafter assigned to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, successor in interest to Bank of America, National Association as successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee for Certificateholders of Bear Stearns Asset Backed Securities I LLC, Asset Backed Certificates, Series 2006-HE2 dated March 19, 2012 recorded April 9, 2012 as document number A000383927. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot6,Block3,Radel'sFrancisAddition PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1283 BellflowerLane,Owatonna,MN55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-437-0306 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$354,733.34 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: June 30, 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 December 30, 2015, or the next business day if December 30, 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: April 30, 2015

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, successor in interest to Bank of America, National Association as Trustee, successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee for Bear Stearns Asset Backed Securities I Trust 2006-HE2, Asset Backed Certificates, Series 2006-HE2 Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559 Diane F. Mach - 273788 Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778 Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X Gary J. Evers - 0134764 Attorneys for Mortgagee 12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200 Burnsville, MN 55337 (952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE:

November 24, 2010 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$149,454.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Beth M. Smith, a single person MORTGAGEE: Homeservices Lending, LLC Series A DBA Edina Realty Mortgage, a Delaware Limited Liability Company DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on December 2, 2010 and memorialized upon Certificate of Title No. 17836 as Document Number T000066673 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 25, Block 1, Radel Addition No. 4, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota. 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."

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 January 7, 2016.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Beth M. "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: May 11, 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 (15-0801-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9, 6/16, 6/23

Steele County

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 4/28/2015 Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. 1. Ebeling/Brady to approve the agenda. Ayes all. 2. Glynn/Ebeling to approve the minutes of April 14, 2015. Ayes all. 3. Ebeling/Glynn to approve the Global Assignment Agreement for State Contracts allowing specific grants to be assigned to Minnesota Prairie County Alliance-MNPrairie. Ayes all. 4. Ebeling/Schultz to approve the hiring of two deputies for Courthouse security. Ayes all. 5. Glynn/Brady offered a Resolution for the National County Government Month-April 2015. "Counties Moving America Forward: The Keys are Transportation and Infrastructure." Upon the vote being taken five commissioners vote in favor thereof, none absent not voting. 6. Brady/Schultz to discontinue the wage exception for the Chief Deputy position in the Sheriff's Department and follow the new classification and compensation structure. Ayes all. 7. Glynn/Schultz to proceed in issuing HRIS/Payroll RFP and contact CPUI to find out what it would cost to buy out the current contract for the HR and Payroll module. Ayes all. 8. Ebeling/Glynn to approve the retro wage adjustments for Nancy Gjerald, Jennifer Pfeifer and Paul Prissel, per County Policy. Ayes all. 9. Glynn/Schultz to approve the 2016 Pictometry Flight with funds to come from the Compliance Fund and contributions from other partners. Ayes all. 10. Ebeling/Schultz to approve shifting the new Public Works Building site to the north of the original plan location and to design building pad to be constructed as part of Phase 1 to accommodate ultimate building size option 2. Aye all. 11. Schultz/Brady to approve the Personnel Actions. Ayes all. 12. Glynn/Brady to sustain the 10 day suspension and deny the 20 day suspension in regard to the AFSCME Step Grievance. Ayes all. 13. Commissioners Reports: Schultz reported on his attendance at KODA and Park Place to have lunch and meet with the residents. Glynn had no report. Ebeling reported on his attendance at the Steele/Dodge Joint Board of Health and mentioned that he talked with 2 relatives of KODA and they reported no complaints on the food served there. Brady reported on the South Central Human Relations meeting he attended. Huntington reported on her attendance at the Community Health Board and the Steele-Waseca Drug Court meeting. 24. Schultz/Glynn to approve the following listing of bills. Ayes all.

LISTING OF BILLS 4/28/2015

180 Degrees, Inc.	5,464.99
A'viands, LLC	7,408.57
Allina Home Oxygen & Med Equip.	5,200.00
American Solutions for Business	3,008.93
Bussler Publishing, Inc.	2,058.30
Central Fiber Corporation	14,056.20
Custom Communications, Inc.	4,092.00
Express Services, Inc.	3,090.00
Stanley A. Groff	8,850.00
Honeywell, Inc.	2,469.43
Information Systems Corp.	2,775.00
Jones Haugh & Smith, Inc.	2,654.20
MCCC MI 33	5,117.71
Metro Sales, Inc.	2,298.32
Olmsted County Community Svcs.	6,435.00
Owatonna Hospital	9,637.55
Owatonna Motor Company	3,086.34
Owatonna Police Dept.	23,175.83
R&K Electric, Inc.	3,469.55
RDO Equipment Co. Inc.	2,571.32
Ringhofer Construction, Inc.	6,775.00
SHI International Corp.	2,177.00
Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.	12,741.12
Steele County Highway Dept.	2,413.83
Steele County Revenue	9,167.32
Steele County Treasurer	24,147.36
Thomson Reuters-West	3,668.72
Turnkey Corrections	7,144.78
118 Warrants under \$2000	44,368.15
Total:	229,522.52

25. Glynn/Brady to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 7:42 p.m. Ayes all.

Steele County

Public Informational Open House #4
Thursday, May 28th
Hosted by Steele County and the City of Blooming Prairie
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Blooming Prairie City Center, Council Chambers
138 Hwy Avenue S.
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Project Background: Steele County will be undertaking a roadway reconstruction project on Main Street (CSAH 42) between Center Avenue and 5th Avenue NE starting in June 2015. The City of Blooming Prairie is partnering with Steele County on this project to: replace water mains; replace sanitary sewer mains; replace/upgrade the storm sewer system.

Public Open House Purpose: The primary purpose of this open house is for the residents and businesses along the project to meet the project construction representatives from the prime contractor, Elcor Construction, and Steele County. This open house meeting will provide an opportunity to allow the public as well as local residents and business owners to hear the contractor's proposed construction sequence and estimated schedule.

Open House Format: The open house will be a "drop in" style of meeting where displays and construction plans are available. Attendees will be able to discuss the overall project with the construction representatives and have their questions answered on a one-on-one basis.

Contact Us:

If you have any questions or comments prior to the open house, please contact:

Steele County: Anita Benson at anita.benson@co.steele.mn.us or (507) 444-7670
City of Blooming Prairie: Michael Jones at CBP@SMIG.net or (507) 583-7573

5/19, 5/26

BP City

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
March 16, 2015

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center at 7:15 p.m. (Open Forum at 7:00 p.m.).
OPEN FORUM – No comments.

I. CALL TO ORDER –CHAIRPERSON

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

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Rodney Krell and seconded by Kathi Peterson to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

IV. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Reports given by Mr. Staloch, Mr. Worke, and Mr. Olson.

V. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

A. Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Resignations, Employment Motion by Kathi Peterson and seconded by Rodney Krell to approve minutes, bills, treasurer's report, resignations, and employment. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
B. Additional Administrative Position Motion by Rodney Krell and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve the addition of an administrative position titled "Pre-K – 12 Associate Principal/Activities Director" effective for fiscal year '16 along with the position being a part of the Principals' Contract. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
C. Principals' Contract Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Kathi Peterson to approve opening the Principals' Contract to accommodate salary adjustments for the Elementary Principal and High School Principal along with the addition the Pre-K – 12 Associate Principal/Activities Director for fiscal year '16. Motion carried. (Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay)
D. Senior Level Music Weighting Motion by Kathi Peterson and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to approve senior level music weighting with specific requirements to be met. Motion Carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
E. Class Sizes/Sections Motion by Kathi Peterson and seconded by Pam Hameister to table any action relating to class sizes/sections.
F. Transportation Negotiations Motion by Michelle Vigeland and seconded by Kelly Braaten to approve permission to enter into negotiations with Blooming Prairie Bus Company and to request quotations as required by law. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

VI. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

A. Elementary School HVAC A meeting was held with Aaron Hess (Health & Safety consultant) regarding planning for an upgrade to the HVAC system at the elementary.
B. Committee Reports A report update was given by the following committees: Education Foundation, MSBA & MSHSL, Negotiations, Transportation, and ZED.
C. Enrollment Data Enrollment for the 2014-15 school year as of March 11, 2015, is 410 at the elementary school and 295 at the high school (284 attending BPHS and 11 attending PSEO). The PSEO number consists of 8 seniors and 3 juniors which will all attend full-time.
D. Dates to Note. The Board noted dates of importance.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

A scholarship donation has been made in memory of Superintendent Jeff Evert fromKenyon-Wanamingo Schools. Congratulations was received in the form of a letter from the Commissioner of Education for a graduation rate exceeding 90%. A thank you for a memorial was received from the family of Leonard Kramer.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Rodney Krell and seconded by Jon Sunde to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay) Tentatively, a School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2015, at 6:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the High School. Tentatively, the next regular meeting of the School Board will be Monday, April 20, 2015, at 7:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center (Open Forum begins at 7:00 p.m.). A complete copy of the official minutes may be found in their entirety in the official minute book located in the superintendent's office at the high school; however, they will not be available until approved by the School Board.

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

5/19

BP City

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
March 12, 2015

A regular school board work session was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2015, in the Board Room at the High School.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools

DISCUSSION ITEMS: General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the

March 16, 2015, regular school board meeting.

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

5/19



Blooming Prairie FINE ARTS

Senior Band



Top row: Angel Villarreal, Carter Millam, Austin Christians, Camden Heimerman 4th row: Zach Wiese, Alex Jorgenson, Rylee Fawver, Jake Hyland, Ben Smith 3rd row: Noah Crabtree, Elijah Baker, Zach Piller, Michael Hillson, Christian Sorensen, Director Ross Reishus 2nd row: Garrett Kubik, Max Romeo, Tyler Christianson, Michael Pape, Jacob Gwilt 1st row: Jasmine Hohenstein, Jacob Carlson, Marnie Reese, Taylor Christianson, Courtney Lee

Chamber Choir



Rachael Rhoades, Timothy Frazier, Rose Johnson, Director Ms. Bottin

Speech



Top row: Courtney Lee, Ms. Southworth, Chris Wacek, Christian Sorensen, Clint Peterson Middle row: Macaela Jensen, Alanna Grant, Camden Heimerman, Amy Peterson 1st row: Rose Johnson, Jasmine Hohenstein, Mckenzie Jensen, Layla Lujan, Chase Peterson

Musical



Top row: Max Romeo, Evan Doerhoefer, Michael Hillson, Jake Decker, Camden Heimerman, Bryan Fristedt, Kari Bottin, Amy Trotman Middle row: Macaela Jensen, Nicole Inwards, Elijah Baker, Madison Worke Molly Walsh, John Rumpza, Carissa Easton, Rose Johnson, Alexa Rudlong, Rachel Peterson, Taylor Christianson, Nate Erickson, Tammy Johnson, Amelia Harthan, Ellen Sunde First row: Emma Christianson, Lindsey Schiefert, Leah Inwards, Haley Behne, Morgan Johnson, Taylor Hagen, Margaret Jones, Linnea Byers-Sunde, Anthony Nelson, Scott Romeo

One Act Play



Top row: Director Ross Reishus, Alex Jorgenson, Garrett Kubik, Alec Ille, Angel Villarreal, Austin Christians, Phillip Ramsey Middle row: Alanna Grant, Michael Hillson, Rylee Fawver, Rose Johnson Front row: Noah Crabtree, Sevin Cremeans, Jasmine Hohensteint

Senior Choir



Top row: Director Kari Bottin, Brett Miller, Nate Erickson, Tim Frazier, Cole Byers-Sunde, Evan Doerhoefer, Bryan Fristedt, Thomas Braaten, Mitchell Oswald 4th row: Jesse Smith, Edward Erickson, Conner Getchell, Jack Abbe, Marten Morem, Rachael Rhoades, Lucas Noble, Jeremy Hocking, Richy Feeny 3rd row: Bria Baldwin, Jenna Smith, Emma Christianson, Leah Inwards, Emily Brekke, Laura Grant, Hailey Naatz, Courtney Wobschall, Emily Tynjala 2nd row: Nicole Inwards, Rachel Pirkil, Elly Magnuson, Asia Thostenson, Taylor Peterson, Gina Schaefer, Brianna Green, Linnea Byers-Sunde, Kylie Forystek 1st row: Carissa Easton, Molly Walsh, Haley Behne, Ethan Arett, Jon Hansen, Brittany Patino, Rose Johnson, Klarissa Winter, Emily Wiese, Leah Schiefert

Jazz Band



Top row: Micheal Pape, Carter Millam Middle: Director Ross Reishus, Camden Heimerman, Karson Vigeland, Tyler Christianson Front row: Jacob Carlson, Jasmine Hohenstein, William Cardenas, Courtney Lee

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