



Honorary Relay for Life Chairs Michelle Miller and Joe Plemel start the Survivor's Lap. The Chairs and others continued walking until the luminaries were lit on Friday evening at the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna.

Staff photos by Laura Berndt

Severe weather doesn't hamper Relay for Life

Event raises over \$101,000

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Despite some humid weather and late-night storms, this year's Steele County Relay for Life was a success yet again. Thus far, the event has raised more than \$101,000 for the American Cancer Society.

Joel Born, who served as a Relay for Life tri-chair with Mary Boettger and Joel Holst, says that this will be his 15th Relay. Born says that he appreciates everyone who comes to the Relay and the volunteers' continued dedication. "We

have some of the world's best volunteers," Born said.

This year, the volunteers and community went above and beyond when a storm forced the Relay to close down earlier than planned. "We got a severe thunderstorm warning at about 12:45 and suspended all activities at that time," Born said.

Born says that the storm hit around 1:10 and that the rain and wind continued for about an hour. Once the storm passed, Born estimates that around 20 people worked to clean up the debris and luminaries scattered across the Steele County Fairgrounds during the storm.

Despite the weather, Born

RELAY

Continued on Page 6A



Nicole Schuette paints Joel Born's face as part of an impromptu fundraiser during the Relay for Life on Friday.

2 violent incidents

Same remote location, same number of stab wounds

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

Gruesome details continue to emerge from the near-fatal stabbing in a Steele County cornfield July 10.

County attorney Daniel McIntosh said preliminary reports indicate the victim, Andrew Patrick Zavala, 19, was stabbed 109 times. Despite the violent attack, Zavala is expected to recover from his injuries.

McIntosh said he believes the only reason Zavala survived is because the suspects used "less than effective weapons." Sheriff's investigators recovered one knife used in the attack, but they haven't located the second one. Detectives came up empty handed after spending hours going through the ditches and cornfield last week.

In an ironic twist of fate, Zavala was stabbed the same number of times as Kathryn Rose Anderson, 19, when she was murdered in almost the exact same location in December 2009. The two incidents happened on 30th Street Northwest, which is a remote gravel road in Meriden Township located

STABBING

Continued on Page 4A

Bikers of Blooming ride benefits Toys for Tots

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

This weekend, the "Bikers of Blooming" (or "BOB") will ride together again for a worthy cause.

The 16th annual BOB ride will depart from J&H Liquors in Blooming Prairie at 10:30 a.m. Proceeds from the ride will benefit Steele County's Toys for Tots program.

"The bikers enjoy getting together to socialize, have a good time and doing something for a worthy cause," said Nancy Farr of J&H Liquors. Each year, Harvey Farr and others combine their efforts to organize this fundraiser.

Nancy Farr says that the route changes every year, allowing the group to explore new parts of the region. "It's usually about 130 to 140 miles long," says Farr. Farr says that the bikers typically make four or five stops before returning to J&H Liquors for a meal. This year's dinner is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. and will be catered by RJ's BBQ. Starting

TOYS FOR TOTS

Continued on Page 6A

Times announces changes and staff expansion

The recent acquisition of another newspaper in a neighboring county has created the need for some staffing changes, promotions and new additions to the existing staff of the Steele County Times, Publisher Rick Bussler has announced.

Bussler said the Times has added a news editor and a sales specialist while making some internal structure changes.

"The growth of our company has fueled the need for additional jobs," said Bussler, who has owned the Times since 2009.

"It's exciting that we are at a point of needing to create a new position of news editor from what we've had before and expanding our sales force."

In his role as managing editor, Alan Van Ormer's responsibilities have been expanded to oversee the entire operation in Blooming Prairie. Van Ormer has served as managing editor since he joined the newspaper in February 2013.

Julie Snyder has been promoted to sales manager and oversees the sales and graphics

departments. Snyder has been with the Times for nearly five years. She replaces Ann Anderson, who had been advertising director and has been promoted to a new position at the Dodge County Independent in Kasson. Anderson will be



Berndt



Johnson

the shopper manager and advertising director at the DCI, which Bussler Publishing took over earlier this month.

Bussler noted that this is the first time in several months that the Times will be fully staffed. "We're

right where we want to be with these latest changes and additions," he said. "I have now assembled a staff that is going to carry this newspaper to new levels that we haven't ever experienced before," he added.

Laura Berndt

Assuming a newly created position of news editor at the Times is Laura Berndt, who brings three years of experience at another weekly newspaper in southern Minnesota.

Berndt joins the Times af-

ter serving as editor at the St. Charles Press. While working in St. Charles, she covered a controversial story about a major mining company wanting to move into town. Tensions ran high throughout the community and in the end the city decided to nix the company from moving in.

She grew up in Dodge County and graduated from Kasson-Mantorville High School in

CHANGES

Continued on 5D



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Opinion

Our view

Pay for it or lose it!

Imagine the Fourth of July weekend without a parade or a fireworks display in Blooming Prairie! That is realistically what could happen if more revenue isn't generated during the annual celebration.

The final tallies are not in, but it is estimated that this year's Fourth of July celebration may have lost as much as \$4,000 to \$6,000.

And toss in the at least a 10 percent drop in volunteers each year, means that one of the best Fourth of July celebrations around is in trouble.

The Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce tried several things this year to drum up funds. One was a burger stand.

That didn't do so well. Another was a basketball shoot. For the first year it went okay. Button sales were down this year.

Chamber members and volunteers will now have to go back to the drawing board and find new ways to generate revenue.

The Steele County Times recently conducted a survey on its website asking the question: What should be done to keep the annual Blooming Prairie Fourth of July celebration going?

An estimated 55 percent suggested finding corporate donors to pay for all the activities.

Another 18 percent selected soliciting volunteers from outside of Blooming Prairie to help with the event.

Then there were 27 percent who felt that nothing should be done and the Fourth of July celebration should just fade into the past.

The last response is troubling to Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce President Luke Swenson. When he came on as president he had two goals – make the Chamber self-sufficient financially and solicit more volunteers.

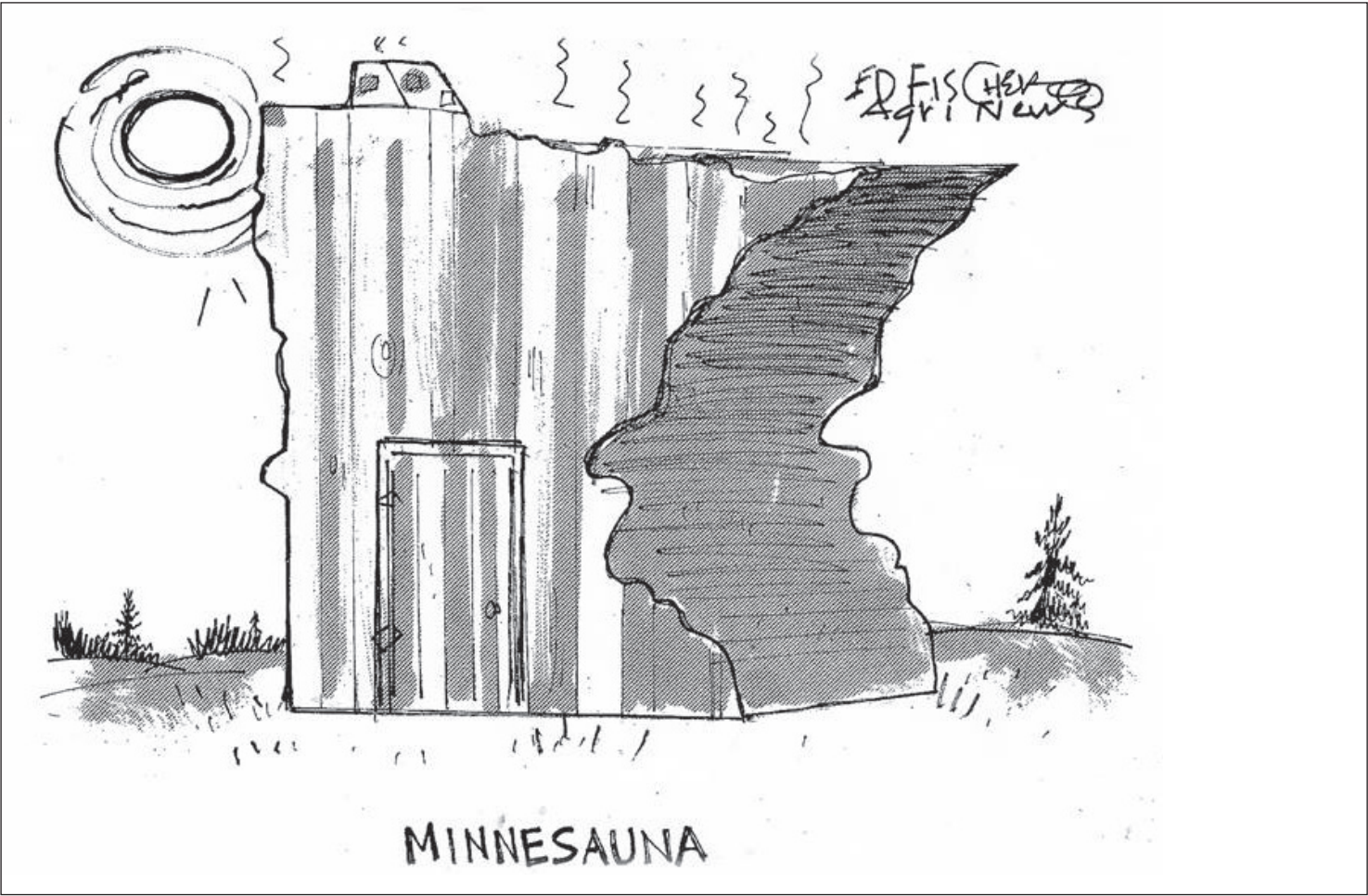
"This (Fourth of July celebration) is a great event. We have to find ways to get revenue in other ways."

There were an estimated 30,000 people that watched this year's parade.

One idea would be to charge .50 cents or even a \$1 for each person that attends to help with the funding issue.

Another idea is to find more parade entrants that aren't as expensive to bring into Blooming Prairie or find more events that pay the Chamber.

Anyway you look at it, it is a time that the Chamber has to make some tough decisions. And unless something drastically changes, the Fourth of July celebration that we have all grown to love will fade away into the past!



Manure operators focused on safe environment

Water quality and how it is connected to agriculture has become a hot topic in recent months not only in our region, but also across the state.

On a field outside of Blooming Prairie Monday, organizers of the Southern Minnesota Land Use Expo aimed to educate the public about manure management and the impact it has on the environment, namely our water supply.

Jim Masching, who has a large hog operation of about 3,700 hogs outside of Blooming Prairie, wants nothing more than to get the truth out about how commercial manure haulers are accomplishing their work. He is one of three people who organized Monday's expo. His family has been at the center of a feedlot controversy in Dodge County this year, but this expo had nothing to do with that.

"We like to raise livestock and in order to do that, we have to do it right," Masching said. "We're not afraid to share how the business has changed," he

HOT

PURSUIT

Rick Bussler

added.

In his 36 years of raising hogs, Masching said there have been many changes, especially when it comes to manure management.

One of the misconceptions Masching often finds with the public is that the agriculture industry is barely regulated. That's the farthest from the truth, he says. He's right there with the best of them making sure he's complying with state and federal regulations.

Over the years, Masching has changed his application practices to find ways of putting lower rates of manure on the land. Operators like Masching must keep up-to-date records on their manure practices. MPCA officials monitor all feedlot operators by visiting them every February and reviewing all records.

There are hefty fines leveraged for those operators who apply manure at too high of rates, according to Masching.

"We're trained from the state as to what can be put on the land," Masching said. "We're not left to go on our own."

Critics often point out that manure practices are tainting our water supply. That notion makes animal producers bristle. "I don't want to taint the water. I drink it, too," Masching says. "Commercial haulers are very cautious about what we do."

If there ever were unsafe practices being used, Masching believes they are long gone. "We're proactive. We've worked hard on having better

safety when we apply manure," he said. "There is no unprofessionalism in this business," he added.

Monday's expo is actually nothing new for Masching. He has been involved with several other expos over the past 13 years. There have been expos in Hayfield Township as well as Mower County. As Masching pointed out, it's all about educating the public.

I want to applaud Masching and the other organizers for taking on the important step of educating all of us on how feedlot operators are carefully applying manure to the land.

Communication is the name of the game. And issues affecting agriculture certainly are not immune to good communication amongst those directly involved.

Judging by what I saw Monday, manure operators are definitely focused on going in hot pursuit of doing their part in ensuring a safe environment for all.

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

Mailbag

Thank you to Extravaganza participants

On Sunday, July 12, the Steele County Historical Society (SCHS) held its 29th Annual Extravaganza. With the hottest weather of the season so far, the day was still wonderful with lots of visitors to our beautiful Village and History Center! Our thanks to everyone who came and enjoyed the day with us!

Due to space constraints we are unable to individually thank everyone in this letter, but all of us at SCHS want to express our gratitude to everyone that made this day a great success! The day started with a beautiful flag raising ceremony done by the VFW and Legion Honor Guard with the national anthem sung by Paul, Traci, and Whitney Hanson.

A huge thank you to the demonstrators, cake bakers, volunteers and entertainers; we

just wouldn't be able to host the event and make it the special historical "Extravaganza" that it is without all of you helping us!

Many thanks, too, to everyone that participated in, and helped with our Tractor Show, and to the Owatonna FFA Chapter for their assistance. The Steele County Mounted Sheriff's Posse led the Tractor Parade, which is always a delight to see!

Thank you to the City Park and Rec Department for all their help bringing in picnic tables, bleachers, and other items, and also to the County and the Steele County Free Fair the in-kind donations of services and staff, and to the local media for their help promoting this event. We especially want to thank the Noon Rotary Club for their assistance helping to staff our food stand. Our Owatonna Owls Vintage baseball team put up a valiant effort, losing to the Rochester Roosters 5-4 this year.

Thanks, Jerry Besser, for

helping to pull the team together. We had two new features this year. The Owatonna Arts Center provided a yarn doll making station. Our sincere thanks to them for providing such a wonderful children's activity! Another special thank you goes to Deb Lustig who coordinated our Rendezvous folks. They truly brought history to life with their encampment and demonstrations!

A special thank you is necessary to our sponsors for their continued support of this event. A very special thank you to our Premier Sponsor: Randall's License Bureau. Other sponsors included: Central Valley Co-op, Legacy Signs, Owatonna Shoe, TPS Insurance, Tri-M Graphics, Owatonna Park and Rec, Amesbury Truth, Brenda Bednar: American Mortgage Consultants, Larry's Liquor and Ag Power.

On Saturday we hosted our Chuck Wagon Supper. Our thanks to everyone that came and enjoyed the evening with

us, and a special thank you to our sponsors, Randall's License Bureau, and Cashwise Liquor. Guests enjoyed wonderful authentic music from our singing cowboy, Lonesome Ron.

The public's continued support of SCHS and our activities is especially heartwarming to us, and we truly appreciate your attendance at this important fundraiser. Again, many, many, thanks to everyone that made this special day a success for us!

My continued thanks and appreciation to our dedicated Board of Directors who go above and beyond in sharing their love of Steele County history with everyone, and to my co-workers, Dodie Ellingson, Char Ost and Daniel Moeckly for all their help and support!

*Most Sincerely,
Laura Resler
Owatonna*

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Advertising: 4 p.m. Thursdays.	

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

ETHICS

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

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THE SAVVY SENIOR

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Dear Savvy Senior,
My wife and I will both be retiring in a year or two and are interested in moving to a smaller house in a better climate but could use some help. What resources can you recommend for locating and researching good places to retire in the U.S.?

Looking To Relocate

Dear Looking,
If you're interested in relocating when you retire, like millions of other baby boomers, there are a wide variety of free Web-based resources that can help you find and research a new location that meet your wants, needs and budget. Here are several to help you get started.

Where to Retire?

If you aren't sure where you want to retire, a good place to begin is by taking a retirement test at sites like Sperling's Best Places (bestplaces.net/fybp) or Find Your Spot (findyoursport.com). These are free quizzes that ask dozens of questions on your preferences such as climate, recreation, community size and more, and suggest possible destinations that best match your answers.

There are also various media sources and websites, like U.S. News and World Report, Kiplinger's, Forbes, Money magazine, Reuters, Bankrate.com, TopRetirements.com, the Milken Institute and AARP that publish top retirement location lists you may find helpful too.

How to choose the best place to retire

To find them, go to any search engine and type in "best places to retire" along with the name of the media source.

You should also consider getting a subscription to "Where to Retire" magazine (wheretoretire.com, 713-974-6903), which is designed to help you find ideal retirement settings. A yearly subscription runs \$18 for six issues.

Once you find a few areas that interest you, your next step is research them. Here are some important areas you need to investigate.

Cost of living: Can you afford to live comfortably in the location you want to retire to? BestPlaces.net and Numbeo.com offer tools to compare the cost of living from your current location to where you would like to move. They compare housing costs, food, utilities, transportation and more.

Taxes: Some states are more tax friendly to retirees than others. If you're planning to move to another state, Kiplinger's has a tax guide for retirees at Kiplinger.com/links/retiretaxmap that lets you find and compare taxes state-by-state. It covers income taxes, sales tax, taxes on retirement income, Social Security benefits taxes, property taxes, and inheritance and estate taxes.

Crime rate: To evaluate how safe a community or area is, NeighborhoodScout.com is a top tool that provides property and violent crime rates, and crimes per square mile.

Healthcare: Does the area you want to relocate to have easy access to good healthcare? To locate and research hospitals in a new area, use HospitalCompare.hhs.gov and QualityCheck.org. To search for new doctors that accept your insurance, contact your plan, or, if you're 65 or older use Medicare.gov/physiciancompare. It's also important to know that healthcare costs can vary by region, so you should contact your insurer to check out possible cost variables.

Transportation: If you plan to travel much, or expect frequent visits from your kids or

grandkids, convenient access to an airport or train station is a nice advantage. You should also investigate alternative transportation options, since most retirees give up driving in their eighties. To do this contact Rides in Sight (ridesinsight.org, 855-607-4337), a free transportation referral service, and the Area Aging Agency - call the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116 to get the local number.

Other Resources: To learn more about specific communities across the U.S., AARP's new livability index (livability-

tyindex.aarp.org) along with Epodunk.com and GangsAway.com are three excellent resources, as well as the city's chamber of commerce office. To locate it, go to any search engine and type in the name of the city and state followed by "chamber of commerce."

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.



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History from the news archives

10 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Editor
Tuesday July 19, 2005

A break-in was foiled last week as an alarm in White's Pharmacy chased away would-be burglars. Blooming Prairie Police Officer Jim Lovenik reported that at 4:30 a.m., Friday July 15, an alarm sounded at the pharmacy. Lovenik responded to call and asked for backup by Steele County deputies. The department's canine was called in and sent in ahead of the officers who found no one when they entered.

Valerie L. Garness, 56, of Spearfish, S.D., formerly of Blooming Prairie, died Saturday, July 9, 2005 at North Memorial

Hospital in Robbinsdale. Funeral services were held at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie on July 13. The family prefers memorials to the American Cancer Society.

Eric and Beck Bishop of Shakopee are very proud to announce the birth of their twin sons, born June 15, 2005. Hunter Benjamin weighed 3 pounds, 5 ounces and Lucas Charles weighed 3 pounds, 8 ounces.

20 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Editor
Tuesday July 18, 1995

As they welcomed the new city administrator, Todd Praefke, they also decided to let him up-

date his computer system within the City Center at the monthly council meeting July 10. Praefke told the council that the current software is at least eight years old and the computers ten-plus years. He said it would probably cost \$900 to update what software is currently used and \$1,700 for computer upgrading, but that the city may be money ahead to go new.

We'd like to remember Sergeant Richard Nelson or Grandpa Dick by flying his flag the week of his birthday, July 18 at our Servicemen's Club. He would have been 83 years of age had he not died on Jan. 12, 1984 at age 71.

During July, Steele County

Environmental Services and Steele County Extension are implementing a unique education grant funded in part from Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance.

50 Years Ago
Victor, Vernon and Vyrle Krejci, Editors
Thursday July 15, 1965

Three persons were injured and a Blooming Prairie youth is being held by Steele County authorities following a two-hour fracas, which occurred in Blooming Prairie Sunday night, July 11.

Robert Knutson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Irving Knutson of St. Louis Park, and grandson of

Mrs. Marie Knutson, Blooming Prairie, recently was honored by his commanding officer when he was accepted as a cadet in the U.S. Army officer's candidate school.

75 Years Ago
Walter K. Mickelson, Editor and Publisher
Thursday July 18, 1940

Steele County 4-H club membership this year totals 447, it was announced last week by county club officers. This record enrollment exceeds last year by 58.

Breckenridge-Game Warden Robert E. Streich, of Moorhead, was hot on the trail of a tale that

a world's record walleyed pike of 19 1/2 pounds had been caught in Little Pine Lake, near Perham, Minn. He called J. O. Lewis is that it must have been gag, for the only big walleye Lewis had heard about was a 9 1/2 pounder caught by Walter McGowan in Little Pine.

Wood Lake-Paul Schaffran was watching a hive of bees that had swarmed when one of them lit on his arm and stung. He pulled the stinger out of his arm and then everything turned black before his eyes. He is so sensitive to this kind of poison, according to Dr. Kath, who administered a dose of adrenalin while Paul was coming back to consciousness.

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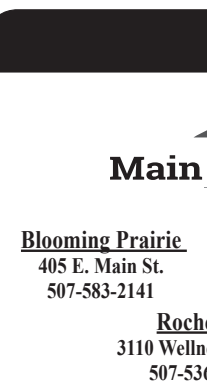
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Area Church Spotlight



First Lutheran Church, Ellendale

Pastor's corner

Trip do's and don'ts

In a couple of weeks I am going on a road trip to Glacier National Park in northern Montana. I worked at Many Glacier Hotel for five summers during my college and early post-college years.

Many Glacier opened on July 4, 1915, which makes this the centenary of the hotel. A reunion of former employees is planned, and many of my friends from those years will be coming together to reminisce, hike, make music and enjoy each other's company.

I have been spending the last couple weeks planning and making lists. Taking my car in for an oil change and check, deciding what to take, making decisions about my route and where I am

staying along the way. Anyone who has taken a road trip or family vacation knows all of the work that goes into the endeavor.

Have you ever noticed that when Jesus sends his disciples on their missionary road trips, he gives them a list of do's and don'ts? Usually the list is filled with items they are to leave behind. Mark, for example, tells us that they are instructed to take a walking stick and sandals, but no money belt, no traveling bag, no second tunic. In other words, travel light. My tendency, since I am driving, will be to load up the car with things "I might need..."

Jesus is asking his disciples to trust. To trust that God would care for them. To trust that they

would have what they need. To trust that their mission would be successful – whether they saw the fruits of their labors or not. Such trust is not easy. We have this tendency to want to rely on ourselves. After all, "the Lord helps those who help themselves." To take the risk of relying on God is a big step.

The ancient Jews had a custom that as a person entered the temple courts, they would have to stop first, remove staff, shoes and money belt and, only then, enter. They were entering a sacred presence, and things of everyday concern were to be put aside. Now if Jesus' disciples were to remember the same "ordinary things," what could that mean? His message and the

healings it would bring, would be of prime concern to his disciples; everything else being secondary.

As I finalize my plans for vacation, I am going to try to remember to "travel light." Oh, I will take my credit and debit cards, I will plan out my nightly stops, I will make sure my car is ready to roll. But, I will also try to remember that I do not travel alone. That the Lord is with me and will guide and care for me. As I make my way to the mountains I love, I know that both the coming and going and the time spent in the wonder of creation will be a time blessed by God.

*The Rev. John Sauer
Sacred Heart Church
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Area Church Schedule

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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

Summer Worship: 9:00 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
8953 S.W. 37th Ave., Hope
Pastor Sandy Miller
(507) 451-3854

Services: 9 a.m. Sunday School,

Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m.

**GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN—LCMS**
2500 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna

The Rev. Mark Rosenau,
the Rev. Gregory Schlicker
(507) 451-4125

www.goodshepherdowatonna.com

Services: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. &

10:30 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

**PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

9651 SW 75th Street Ellendale, 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**
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The Rev. Alan Broadwell
(507) 528-2404

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of each month

Sunday School

Not at this time

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH—LCMS**
28959 630th Ave., Sargeant

The Rev. Ronald Prigge

Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9 a.m.

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

The Rev. Paul Hauschild
(507) 477-2248

www.trinityhayfield.org

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

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN—LCMS
57403 300th St., Waltham

Pastor Jesse Krusemark



(507) 567-2272

Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9 a.m.

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

Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272

Service: 8:00 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

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

Pastor Krisin Venne
(507) 256-4288

Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.

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

Pastor Patti Meyer
(507) 451-2165

8:00 a.m. worship

**ZION LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF LEMOND**
Pastor Patti Meyer

96 South Beaver Lake Road

New Richland
(507) 456-6496

Worship 8:00 a.m.

**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

Worship 9:30 a.m.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH—ELCA**
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna

Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor

Dean Smith, Associate Pastor
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Services: 5 p.m. Saturday

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

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Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
Hayfield

The Rev. Steve Peterson
(507) 477-2256

Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Reconciliation: 10:15 a.m. Sunday

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

The Rev. Swampy Pothiredy
(507) 465-8217

Services: 5 p.m. Saturday

and 8 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sunday

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CATHOLIC CHURCH

114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie

The Rev. Steve Peterson
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Reconciliation: 5 p.m. Saturday

Services: 5:15 p.m. Saturday

and 8:30 a.m. Sunday

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www.sacredheartowatonna.org

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

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

Service: 1 p.m. Sunday

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The Rev. Emmanuel Sylvester
218-695-2641

Mass & Religious Ed: 11 a.m. Sunday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S Elm, Owatonna

507-451-4845

Rev. Edward F. McGrath

Deacon Patrick Fagan

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8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Daily Mass Tues.-Sat. 8 a.m.

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10 a.m. Sunday

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www.ellendaleumc.org

Summer services: 9 a.m. Sunday

Non-Denominational

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Pastor Aaron de Neui
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www.cedarcreekchurch.org

Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

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Pastor Doug Jones
(507) 363-3099

www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com

Sun 10:00a.m. English Service

10:30 a.m. Service & Kids Zone

2 p.m. Spanish Service

Wed. 7:00 Bible Study

Fri 7:00 Spanish Outreach

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332 14th St. N.E., Owatonna

Pastor Scott Peterson
(507) 213-9194

Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

RELAY

Continued from Page 1A

says he’s still pleased with the turnout and the volunteers’ efforts. “Even with the oppressive heat and the storm, we still raised over \$101,000 so far,” Born said. “And we’re so happy with our volunteers.” Donations can still be turned in until August 31, so Born says he hopes the group can come even closer to their fundraising goal, which was \$112,000 this year.

Teams raise money for the cause prior to the event and some also hold additional activities during the Relay itself. This year, some teams sold shirts, hand-painted water bottles and balloons. Others offered concessions or activities, like face-painting and even massages during the Relay, as well. Born adds that the ability to accept credit cards at the event has also helped to boost the proceeds. The Silent Auction, which also takes place on the evening of the relay, has also brought an average of \$8,000 to \$10,000 in past years. This year, the Daikin Dash for Cancer, held on Saturday morning, also helped raise funds for the cause. Around 65 participants showed up for the Daikin Dash on Saturday morning.

The Relay for Life committee also works all year long to raise funds. Born says that committee has hosted three pancake breakfasts this year and in addition to

other events like spaghetti suppers. Born says that the committee members also have great appreciation for their families, who support them along the way. “I wouldn’t be here without my family,” Born said. “It’s become a family tradition.”

Born says that it is an honor to be a part of the Relay for Life and work alongside the people who devote their time to ensuring that the event is a success. “We are dedicated,” he said. “But we also have a lot of fun with it, too.”

The Relay has three phases, “Celebrate,” “Remember” and “Fight Back.” While Born agrees that it’s important to recognize the people have been affected by cancer, he’s also excited about raising money that will go towards cancer research.

“To me, research is the answer,” said Born. “I enjoy seeing the money we raise and seeing that we took a dig into cancer.”

On Friday, July 17, the Relay for Life began around 6 p.m. Despite the humidity, the opening ceremonies were well-attended. The committee was recognized on stage and each of the honorary co-chairs, Michelle Miller and Joe Plemel, shared their stories.

“I know a lot of you have had to endure more than I have,” said Miller, on Friday. “I want you to know that you inspire me.”

Miller, a wife and mother of three, was just 32 years old when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Miller says that she discovered the lump while shaving and inquired about it during her daughter’s check-up. Soon after, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Today, Miller is doing well and is grateful for each day she gets to spend with her family.

“This experience has taught me many things,” Miller said, during the opening ceremony at the Relay. Miller says she’s learned to rely on her faith and to accept support from others. The experience, she says, has also been an exercise in self-acceptance.

Miller is quick to add that her family stood by her when things were difficult and that she’s incredibly thankful for their support. Her husband, John, has been especially supportive. “I believe God knew what I needed when he gave me John,” she says.

“This journey has also given me a sense of purpose,” Miller says. She shares her story whenever she gets the chance, in hopes of encouraging other women to be aware of changes in their body and to reach out for help when they need it. Miller has helped to counsel other women dealing with cancer and has also participated in

events like the Relay for Life and the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. She’s even become involved with the development of a Mayo Clinic App for breast cancer patients.

Still, Miller feels she can do more to help win the fight against cancer. “I know there’s more I can do and I’m open to what that might be,” she says.

Plemel spoke next, first admitting that he’s a very private person. “Most people who know me probably didn’t even know I went through this,” he said, during the opening ceremony. Plemel was diagnosed with lung cancer in March of 2013 after a physical. After surgery and four sessions of chemotherapy,

Plemel says he is grateful to be alive.

“As a cancer survivor, you really realize how grateful you are,” Plemel said. Plemel says he’s grateful for his happy marriage, his three children and four grandchildren. He’s also glad that he’s been able to celebrate life’s happy milestones with his family.

When things were rough, says Plemel, he found great support from God, his family and friends. That support, he said, made his recovery a little bit easier.

After Miller and Plemel spoke, the honorary chairs and their families led the Survivors Lap around the fairgrounds.

During the second lap, caregivers were also recognized during the Caregivers Lap.

After dark on Friday, luminaries personalized with names of people who have dealt with cancer illuminated the fairgrounds. As families lit the luminaries together, the crowd observed thirty minutes of silence in honor of those touched by the disease.

Born says he continues to support the Relay because the latest advances in medicine and technology are bringing researchers closer and closer to a cure. “I feel that, in the last 15 years I have been doing this, that we are really making a difference,” Born said.

TOYS FOR TOTS

Continued from Page 1A

RJ’s BBQ. Starting at 6 p.m., the public is also welcome to come enjoy a meal and help benefit the cause.

Steele County’s Toys for Tots program has benefited area youth for over 30 years. Through this program, toys are collected and later distributed to families with children in need during the holiday season. While toy dona-

tions are an important part of the program, Toys for Tots also accepts monetary donations and gift cards, which are used to help purchase additional toys. All donations made to Steele County’s Toys for Tots program remain local and benefit children living in Steele County.

Bikers are asked to register in the north parking lot area at

J&H Liquors (340 East Main Street) between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 25. The group will start the ride at 10:30 a.m. and should arrive back in Blooming Prairie around 5 p.m. that evening. For additional details, contact Nancy prior to the event at 507-583-7557.

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OUTSIDE



THE LINES

LeMar Nelson

A fun day

Although not too many disco-loving persons could round up their old garb, enough scrounged their wearing apparel of the 80s to make the annual Chamber of Commerce Golf Fun Day an unqualified successful outing Wednesday, July 15. The smiles on the many duffers who took part were testament to an entertaining day for all involved.

The fact that some golf also was played was almost incidental to the fun and entertainment provided by the contests at each golf hole and the smiles plastered on the faces of the many duffers in action. It was a good day for the Chamber’s main fundraising project of the year, and the many golfers who participated enjoyed the golf, the contests and the dinner and door prizes that culminated the event.

Athletes still honored

I think it has been obvious for local sports fans that BPHS has featured some exceptional athletes in the last few years. The Owatonna daily paper demonstrated that last week when they published a five-part series on some of the area’s top performers, and three of them came from BPHS.

John Rumpza, Madison Worke and Taylor Hagen joined Owatonna Huskies’ Dexter Leer and Peter Jones in the series of features. Jones competed in the state golf tournament the last two years, and Leer completed a stellar three-sport career at Owatonna high school. All three of the Blossom stars named in the series were three-sport competitors at BPHS. Rumpza is a career record second in the entire state in touchdown passes thrown in football. He also has the BPHS record by a wide margin in career scoring in basketball as well as an accomplished player on the baseball team. He will redshirt in football at Winona State University this fall.

Hagen is the record holder in volleyball kills and blocks, is by far the career-scoring leader in basketball, and finished fourth in the shot put at the state track and field meet last spring. Hagen is already attending the university of Northern Iowa on a basketball scholarship. Worke has done her part, setting a school record in assists on the volleyball team, was a four-year starter on the basketball team, and played first base on the state champion softball team three years ago. She will enroll at Winona State University in the fall and join the basketball program.

The Owatonna athletes and our local all-around representatives in the series certainly attest to the fact that the local educational institutions have been instrumental in producing excellent athletes. Another big point in their favor is that all of these athletes also excel in the classroom. That makes them stand out in a crowd, for sure. Well done to all five athletes, and especially to our own BPHS selections.

Now and then

The actor who starred in my favorite film of all time passed away last week. Omar Sharif, the most famous Egyptian-born Hollywood personality, had the lead in the 1965 movie, “Dr. Zhivago,” and won a Golden Globe award for his performance as Best Actor.

His first Hollywood movie was in a supporting role in “Lawrence of Arabia,” for which he

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued on Page 2B



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

Deer Creek Speedway holds 36th annual Gopher 50

TOP: The 36th annual Gopher 50 was held at Deer Creek Speedway in Spring Valley on Saturday, July 18. Darrell Lanigan of Union, Kentucky, won his third straight NAPA Gopher 50 victory. Jimmy Mars of Menomonie , Wisconsin, took first in the USRA Modified race. Locally, Brandon Davis of Medford took second in the event.

RIGHT: The Blooming Prairie Fire Department provided a touching flag raising ceremony prior to the beginning of the feature race of the Gopher 50 last Saturday at the Deer Creek Speedway. Here, Del Peterson, Nola Wradilavsky and Theresa Brown help raise the flag. Dave Wradilavsky was at the controls of the fire truck.



Conflicts and new rules affect school football teams

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

High school football teams across the state are facing shortened preseason schedules, due to a scheduling conflict with the 2015 Prep Bowl site.

The Prep Bowl, usually held the third week of November, was supposed to be played at the University of Minnesota’s TCF Bank Stadium. There was only one problem. The Gophers had dibs on that weekend.

After much discussion, it was decided that instead of cutting regular or postseason games, summer practice would be cut short one week. While this gives players, coaches and fans

the regular season they are used to, it has created a situation in which players and coaches have less time to prepare for that “normal” season.

“I think we simply have to be more efficient with our time,” said New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Coach Dan Stork.

Additional rules regarding practices have also been laid down by the Minnesota High School League, including limited interaction with coaches and players and a “no contact” rule for the first four days of practice.

“With all of the new rules regarding length of practices, we have had to be very specific

in our practice planning,” said Stork.

Jeff Williams, the head coach for Owatonna, said the rules have already been affecting the team this summer.

“Because we play Mankato West after only 10 days of practice, we have added camp opportunities this summer in order to get our players prepared for

the coming season,” said Williams.

That camp will be held at Owatonna High School July 26-29, and will include offensive and defensive workouts, as well as watching film.

We have also lost our scrimmage this fall, so we will have to find different ways to assess who is really ready to compete

on Friday nights,” said Williams. “It will be an interesting fall to be sure.”

Stork added he doesn’t believe there will be any negative results, since the new rules are affecting every team equally, adding, “We’ll be ready.”

Golf League Standings

Blooming Prairie Country Club		
Week 9 - July 13 Points		
Place		Points
1	Grunklee Evans Possehl	59
2	Kruckeberg Kruckeberg Johnson	55
3	Hillberg Wanous Pfiefer	53
4	Lembke Benson Hanson	51
5	Strunk Farr Ingvaldson	50.5
5	Braaten PirkI Resler	50.5
7	Peterson Behnken Bishop	48
8	Myer Motl Tollefson	46
9	SkalaR Thiele Sammon	44
10	Zwiener Hinzmen Wurst	43.5
11	KlemmensenD Drexler Zwiener	42
12	Koster Long White	41.5
13	Doerhoefer Stalach Olson Worke	40
14	Weeks Johnson Caldwell	38.7
14	Morgan Sekora Olson Schuster	
	Iacovino	38.5
16	Minimizer Minimizer Minimizer	37.5
17	Sunde Kittelson Carlson	36.5
18	Lea Lembke Hansen	35.5
19	White Lysne Johnson	33.5
20	Hareid Bartsch Wilkerson	32.5
21	Clark Blome Skala	32
22	Skala Jensen Lee	31.5
23	Glynn Glynn Esplan	31
23	KlemmensenJ KlemmensenR	
	Anderson	31
25	Ingvalson Klemmensen Bishop	29
26	Haberman Hegal Henefield	
	Hanson	27.5
Division	Team	Score
A	Doerhoefer Stalach Olson Worke	30
B	Myer Motl Tollefson	34
C	Grunklee Evans Possehl	36
D	Ingvalson Klemmensen Bishop	34



Staff photo by Macaela Jensen

State high school teams will have to deal with a shortened offseason due to a scheduling conflict with the Prep Bowl held at TCF Bank Stadium.

Medford Diamond Association expands

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

The Medford Diamond Association has seen a lot of growth over the past few years, and this year was able to expand its program to provide room for even more players.

The softball program expanded into three groups this summer, including 10U, 12U and 14U play. The boys program

did not expand, but numbers are still good for 11U, 12U and 13U teams.

“We’ve tried to get as many of the younger people onto teams as possible,” said Jackie Gillis-Reuvers, adding that the need to create a younger team was sparked by younger girls watching their older sisters play.

Gillis-Reuvers said a staff full of tremendous coaches has aided the programs across the board.

“The coaches have done a good job spreading out playing time and keeping the kids engaged,” she said. “They are teaching kids how to win and lose with integrity. That can take you anywhere in life. We have great coaches who are teaching these kids life lessons and disguising it as fun.”

Sports



Submitted photo

Photos with Champ Truck fans

Brad Klemmensen of Minimizer Team Tortured stands with a racing fan at Gateway Motorsports Park during the fifth Champ Truck racing weekend.

New website launch for American Legion Baseball

Website to provide real-time statistics and scores from all baseball teams in state

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA (July 20, 2015) – Nick Kennedy, founder of www.legionbaseballhub.com announced today his site’s launch to coincide with the beginning of Minnesota’s American Legion Baseball playoff season which starts this week.

The site is the first of its kind to connect all 306 of Minnesota’s American Legion baseball clubs. Features of the site include updated statistics, real-time scoring, a section for Legion players to be showcased for perusal of college and professional scouts, and an online store where players, teams and coaches can order all supplies they need.

“This site was created for two reasons,” said Kennedy, a former head coach of the Edina American Legion team and its current assistant coach. “First, there has never been a single place for coaches, fans and scouts to learn more about the teams and players. Secondly, the site is a platform to honor the great American

Legion posts in our state that support veterans and have supported young ballplayers for 90 years.” Kennedy said 5 percent of all revenue will be donated back to the State Legion programs to help honor our veterans and the tradition of legion baseball.

“There was definitely a void in this market,” said Kennedy. “When I was coaching, it was very difficult to find any information on other teams, who was winning in the other sections, and who made it to state etc... This site will be a new single-source for all things Legion Baseball related.”

One of the unique aspects of the site is that it will help young ballplayers connect with college scouts.

“In speaking with over 50+ college baseball coaches, there was nothing but positivity in creating a section on the site which will be the premier and most credible spot for college coaches to access information on the player and how that relates to the recruiting process.”

Under the direction of the site’s recruiting coordinator and former Minnesota Twins hero and current Edina Legion Head Coach Gene Larkin, the site will provide the raw data college coaches desire when on the recruiting trail.

“This is a phenomenal resource for all of Minnesota’s legion baseball teams,” said Larkin. “Anybody affiliated with the game will benefit.”

Kennedy believes that nothing has had a more positive impact on the Minnesota Legion Baseball community in its 90 years than this site.

“It’s a game changer. It’s going bring a lot of positive attention to the kids who are at the heart of American Legion Baseball,” said Kennedy. “Minnesota is at the top of the list nationally as far as number of teams for Legion Baseball . We have always been leaders in the game and this site further cements our status as the class of Legion Baseball.”

Davis wins a barnburner at Chateau Raceway

By TODD NARVESON
Guest Writer

It was a hot and sultry evening for stock car racing at Chateau Raceway this week. The program was presented by Auto Value Parts of Albert Lea and Austin along with R&S Racing of Albert Lea and Power 96.1FM. Several drivers continued their dominance this week and the Modifieds had another great feature race.

Ross Spitzer took off from row one in the Misgen Auto Parts Pure Stocks and led the entire 15-lap distance to win his third feature of the year. Matt

Brooks drove from fifth to second whiler Stacy Krohnberg was third. Brady Krohnberg and Jesse Stahl finished fourth and fifth.

The KIK Graphics & Printing USRA B-Mods had a much better race this week when compared to the last two shows. Just a couple of cautions would slow the pace and the last yellow flag would set up a two lap dash to the checkered flag.

Kylie Kath led from the drop of the green flag and held off younger brother Kadden to snare his fifth feature win and this was his fourth in a row. Scott Demmer finished in the third position with Mark Wytaske and Dan

Tenold in the top five.

Brent Holland would lead lap one of the Power 96 WISSOTA Street Stock feature. Noah Grinstead would pass Holland on the next lap with Mike Blowers right with the leaders. Kory Adams, Keith Weber and Bernie Adams raced three wide for fourth. On lap five Blowers challenged Grinstead for the lead and they went door-to-door for the lead.

Blowers slid to the inside in turn four on the sixth circuit and he and Grinstead bounced off of each other. Blowers got the lead in turn two and drove away for his second win of the season. Grinstead finished in second with Kory Adams third. Bernie Adams ended up in fourth and Brandon Vogt was fifth in the final rundown.

The Farm Boy BBQ WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds got off to a rocky start when three cars piled into each other on lap one. Jesse Hernandez would lead early in the race while Dan Wheeler, Jeremy Misgen and Jake Stark wheeled three wide for second. Wheeler got to second and went after Hernandez for the lead. Wheeler made the pass on lap five but a caution flag negated the pass as the lap was not completed.

It did not take Wheeler long to get by Hernandez to take the lead. From there Wheeler led the remainder of the race for his sixth win and 17th overall for 2015. Hernandez ended up in second with ninth starter Ryan Goergen third. Misgen had another top five run in fourth and Stark finished in fifth.

Nick Stroupe from Iron Station, North Carolina who is in the area for the big World show at Deer Creek next week started on the pole for the French’s Repair & Fabrication USRA Modified feature. Stroupe would leaf with Darwyn Karau and Jason Cummins closed behind. Cummins passed Karau and then challenged Stroupe. A couple of quick yellows would keep the field tight.

Meanwhile eyes watched Brandon Davis who had a flat tire in his heat race and rolled off in the eleventh spot. Davis was up to sixth on lap three and then in a spectacular move vaulted to fourth. Davis was far from done when he zipped past Karau for third on the eighth circuit. At this point Stroupe had a huge advantage over Cummins. But Greg Jensen had a breakdown on lap 15 to bring out the yellow and that extinguished Stroupe’s lead. On the restart Davis blasted the cushion on the top side of the track and passed Cummins for second. Davis then reeled in Stroupe on lap 17 and the battle was on. Davis ran the high line in turns one and two and the low groove in three and four.

Davis would get up alongside Stroupe but just could not quite get by. With five to go Davis got a little above the cushion and Stroupe opened the lead up. But Davis was undaunted and quickly closed back in on the leader. The white flag came out and Davis changed his line in turn one and drove to the inside of Stroupe. Davis took the lead in turn three and beat Stroupe to

the checkered flag for his fourth win of the year.

Stroupe finished second but was disqualified in post-race tech for not having the mandated 8,000-rpm chip in his ignition box. So that moved Cummins to second, Karau to third, Doug Hillson to fourth and Tommy Myer was fifth.

Blake Dorweiler continued his absolute dominance of the Y-Waste Removal Hornets. Dorweiler got by early leader Jere-

my Wenzel to win for the eighth time in ten nights of racing.

Just a reminder that there is no racing this Friday, July 24, due to the World Modified Dirt Track Championships at the Deer Creek Speedway in Spring Valley. Racing will resume at Chateau Raceway on Friday, July 31, with racing at 7 p.m.

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued from Page 1B

rence of Arabia,” for which he also won a Golden Globe honor and an Oscar nomination as a Supporting Actor.

The other role for which he is remembered was opposite Barbara Streisand. Divorced from his Egyptian wife, he had a several-year affair with Streisand and commented that she was the love of his life.

Sharif was born in Alexandria, Egypt, and died in Cairo of a heart attack at the age of 83. He also ranked in the top 50 contract bridge players in the world and played in several international tournaments and matches. “Dr. Zhivago” remains my favorite movie of all time. I know that I will miss him, even though he had made very few appearances in films over the last several years.

It seemed appropriate that the hometown hitter would win the home run derby at the All-Star game last week. Todd Frazier outlasted a number of other great sluggers, including last year’s winner, Prince Fielder. I liked the new format of the contest in which batters had a set time to hit as many home runs as they could, and a number of really long home runs ensued.

The All-Star game itself provided several interesting highlights, especially for Minnesota twins fans. In his only at bat in the 8th inning, Brian

Dozier concluded an almost unbelievable week and a half with a home run into left centerfield. To finish the game Glen Perkins gave up a triple and a sacrifice fly, but got three fly ball outs and give the American League the 6-3 victory and the home field advantage for the World Series.

Two events coming up in the next two weeks should liven up the community a little during these hot summer days. Next Saturday, July 25, marks the annual BOB ride, which begins from J & H Liquors at 10:30 a.m. and arriving back at 5 p.m. for supper. This worthwhile motorcycle ride benefits Toys For Tots and has become a very generous support for that cause. Further information can be obtained from Nancy at 583-7557.

Then on Thursday, July 30, the American Legion Auxiliary sponsors its annual Flower Show and Luncheon at the local Servicemen’s Club. Registration for flower displays is from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. and lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is open to the public, and it is a great way to enjoy a delicious lunch with entertainment.

That gives us two last events in July to continue our recurring theme that something is always happening in our community. I am out of time and space, but we’ll talk again.



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Clarks Grove, MN

INTRODUCING FOOT GOLF

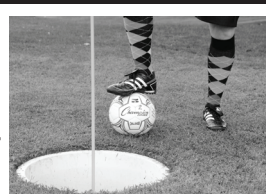
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Chateau Raceway

Lansing, Minn.

These are the results from the Chateau Raceway at Lansing for the week of July 10.

Hornets

Feature—Blake Dorweiler, Jeremy Wenzel, Mike Blowers, Nick Sillman, Jason McShane, Bobby Blowers, Ralph Hanks
Heat—McShane, Dorweiler, Hanks, M. Blowers, B. Blowers, Wenzel, Sillman

USRA Modified

Feature—Brandon Davis, Jason Cummins, Darwyn Karau, Doug Hillson, Tommy Myer, Joe Horgdal, Neil Eckhart, Greg Jensen, Bill Clemens, Billy Steinberg, Nick Stroupe, Dennis Hillson
First Heat—Dennis Hillson, Myer, Karau, Doug Hillson, Steinberg, Davis
Second Heat—Stroupe, Horgdal, Cummins, Eckhart, Jensen, Clemens

WISSOTA Midwest Modified

Feature—Dan Wheeler, Jesse Hernandez, Ryan Goergen, Jeremy Misgen, Jacob Stark, Luke Hainka, Brad Minske, Tammy Soma-Clark, Garitt Wytaske, Jared Boumeester, Dustin Steinbrink, Darryl Hainka, Brayten Cisneros, Brandon Dunbar, Jesse Baer, Harlan Morehart
First Heat—Baer, Misgen, Stark, Dunbar, Goergen, D. Hainka, Steinbrink, L. Hainka
Second Heat—Boumeester, Wheeler, Hernandez, Soma-Clark, Cisneros, Minske, Wytaske, Morehart

WISSOTA Street Stock

Feature—Mike Blowers, Noah Grinstead, Kory Adams, Bernie Adams, Brandon Vogt, Brent Holland, Fred Prudoehl, Keith Weber, Nick Roemhildt, Zach Elward
First Heat—K. Adams, Prudoehl, Holland, Weber, Elward
Second Heat—Blowers, B. Adams, Grinstead, Vogt, Roemhildt

USRA B-Mod

Feature—Kylie Kath, Kadden Kath, Scott Demmer, Mark Wytaske, Dan Tenold, Anthony Condit, Terry Kohnert, Raey Hastings IV, Morgan Schrage, Chris Bruns, Cole Loneran, Tim Gerber
First Heat—Kadden Kath, Loneran, Tenold, Kohnert, Hastings IV, Schrage
Second Heat—Demmer, Kylie Kath, Wytaske, Condit, Gerber, Bruns

Pure Stock

Feature—Ross Spitzer, Matt Brooks, Stacy Krohnberg, Brady Krohnberg, Jesse Stahl, Jason Newkirk, Tyler Peterson, Bob Schoenfelder, Ryan Jacobsen, Greg Lammers, Anna Brouwers, Isaac Clark
First Heat—S. Krohnberg, Newkirk, Brooks, Spitzer, Schoenfelder, Lammers
Second Heat—B. Krohnberg, Stahl, Peterson, Clark, Jacobsen, Brouwers



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Public Safety

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

Blooming Prairie

July 12

Vandalism. Police received a property damage report at 1:26 a.m.

Owatonna Police

July 10

Theft. A citizen reported that his or her identity had been stolen in the 2600 block of 3rd Ave. NE at 9:07 a.m.

Hit and Run. A hit and run crash resulting in property damage occurred in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 11:34 a.m.

July 11

Drunken Driving. At 12:52 a.m., police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 300 block of State Ave. NW.

Restraining Order. Officers responded to a restraining order violation in the 400 block of Flowervale St. NW at 2:27 a.m.

Theft. Officer took theft report in the 1000 block of Elm Ave. N. at 12:06 p.m.

Property Damage. At 12:44 p.m., vandalism was reported in the 1000 block of Elm Ave. N.

July 12

Disturbance. Police responded to a noise complaint in the 400 block of Cherry St. NE at 2:52 a.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Vandalism. Police received several property damage reports throughout the day. Five reports were from the 1900 block of Wildflower Dr. NE and two reports were from the 1900 block of Mineral Springs Parkway.

Medical. At 2:24 p.m., paramedics and officers responded to a medical emergency in the 300 block of 22nd St. SE.

DWI. Officers received a formal complaint of drunken driving in the 1000 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Criminal Sex. Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 7:27 p.m.

July 13

Probation. Police responded to a probation violation in the 300 block of Vine St. E. at 12:43 p.m.

Theft. A theft was reported in the 2200 block of 46th St. NW at 4:41 p.m.

Burglary. At 9:50 p.m., a burglary investigation started in the 200 block of Selby Ave. SW.

Warrant. Officers arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 300 block of School St. W. at 11:15 p.m.

July 14

Flight. Police arrested a subject after he fled from custody in the 200 block of Vine St. E. at 12:15 a.m.

Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of a fraud incident in the 800 block of Linn Ave. SW at 9:50 a.m.

Child Protection. At 4:47 p.m., officer took a child protection report in the 1800 block of Hartle Ave. SE.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 7:35 p.m.

Assault. At 9:55 p.m., officers responded to an assault in the 600 block of Rice Lake St. E.

July 15

Warrant. Police made a warrant arrest in the 2300 block of 3rd Ave. NE at 8:43 a.m.

Fraud. Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 700 block of Crestview Lane NE at 2:25 p.m.

Suspicion. At 3:31 p.m., officers responded to a suspicious activity report in the 1200 block of Esther Lane SE.

Assist. Police assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 500 block of Florence Ave. NW at 3:49 p.m.

Drunken Driving. At 10:06 p.m., officers made a DWI arrest in the 500 block of Truman Ave. SE.

July 16

Shoplifting. Police responded to a shoplifting incident at 7:37 a.m. in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Rd. NE.

Child Protection. Officer took a child protection report in the 600 block of Florence Ave. NW at 10:19 a.m.

Theft. A vehicle was reported stolen from the 2200 block of Hartle Ave. SE at 11:24 a.m.

Disturbance. At 9:17 p.m., police responded to a noise complaint in the 200 block of Broadway St. E. A citation was issued.

Steele County Sheriff

July 10

Assault. Deputies responded to an assault in the 5300 block of 30th St. NW at 3:09 a.m.

Warrant. At 9:53 a.m., deputy arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 100 block of Wilson Dr. NW.

July 12

Crash. Deputies assisted the MN State Patrol with a motor vehicle accident at 46th St. NW and Frontage Rd. W. at 1:54 p.m.

July 13

Burglary. Deputies began an investigation of a burglary in the 3800 block of 22nd Ave. SW at 1:01 p.m.

July 14

Theft. A vehicle was reported stolen from the 300 block of 3rd St. SW at 6:51 p.m.

July 15

Theft. Deputy took a theft report at 10 a.m. in the 5000 block of 60th St. NE.

Fraud. At 9:11 p.m., a citizen reported being the victim of a fraud incident in the 1300 block of Hwy. 30 W.

July 16

Child Protection. Deputy took a child protection report in the 300 block of Central Ave. W. at 7:38 a.m.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of July 6 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

Milton E. Gustafson, 41, Faribault, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of firearms. He was sentenced to \$581, 90 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, maintain employment, no possession of firearms, 80 hours of community service and 10 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of July 6 – 10:

MN State Patrol Rochester

William A. Bain, 51, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Thomas P. Barclary, 33, Sherman, TX, speeding, \$381; Kerry C. Bittrich, 26, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Kerry J. Brozyna, 50, Ada, MI, speeding, \$121; Chantel L. Carson, 26, Austin, suspended license, \$101; Dreadrick L. Cook, 42, Albert Lea, seat belt, \$106; William P. Darling, 23, Minneapolis, speeding, \$121; Jacob P. Finnegan, 20, Lonsdale, seat belt, \$106; Jo-vany L. Handy Sr., 27, Milwaukee, WI, speeding, \$221;

Steven L. Hedrick, 33, Indianola, IA, no insurance, \$281; Isaiah N. Jibben, 27, Waseca, window tint violation, \$131; Deomni S. Kyles, 21, Milwaukee, WI, seat belt, \$106; Adams N. Lamin, 28, Brooklyn Center, speeding, \$121; Tracey A. Maiers, 46, Savage, speeding, \$121; Rosheta R. Monegan, 29, Minneapolis, speeding, \$141; Kendall M. Olson, 19, Lino Lakes, speeding, \$121; Lisa J. Olszewski, 40, Welch, speeding, \$141;

Juren G. Raske, 35, Minneapolis, speeding, \$121; Kathrine J. Roe, 61, Leroy, speeding, \$121; Derek A. Sathre, 27, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Shirley M. Shanahan, 59, Preston, speeding, \$121; Susan J. Siegle, 50, Grand Meadow, speeding, \$121; William L. Sill III, 56, Prior Lake, seat belt, \$106; Anita M. Stephens, 27, Faribault, speeding, \$121; Gordon A. Stout, 50, New Richland, speeding, \$121; Leroy F. Taggart, 45, Medford, driving off pavement to pass, \$131;

Andreina Torres, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Serfin E. Torres, 37, Waseca, seat belt, \$106; Taw T. Wah, 25, St. Paul, speeding and no insurance, \$341; Curtis J. Weihe, 47, Mankato, speeding, \$131; Charlotte S. Wolfe, 88, Kiester, speeding, \$121.

Owatonna Police Department

Issa A. Abdifatah, 25, Grand Forks, ND, seat belt, \$106; Kolton D. Bellefy, 22, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, attend MADD impact panel, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised proba-

tion; Cody L. Blaha, 17, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Rylee L. Burns, 20, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Connor J. Chapple, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Richard W. Cheever, 57, Robbinsdale, using a hand-held mobile telephone while driving a CMV, \$131; Joseph M. Davis, 30, possession of Marijuana, \$131;

Sha Dunna T. Davis, 20, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, \$131, and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Bridget E. Dickie, 23, Waseca, expired tabs and display of registration stickers violation, \$141; Perry J. Fitzgerald, 49, Goodhue, seat belt, \$106; Merlen H. Gekeler, 74, Waseca, seat belt, \$106;

Ramiro Gonzalez, 50, Owatonna, no MN license, \$181; Ernesto Guer-rero, 22, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Carlos A. Guevara Vargas, 37, Owatonna, expired license, \$181; Richard A. Harp, 34, St. Cloud, theft, 90 days in county jail;

Abdirisq N. Hassan, 24, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Nathaniel T. Henderson, 28, Waseca, DWI, \$981, 90 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, and 3 years of supervised probation;

Jaime Hernandez, 30, Austin, use false information to identify self to police and DWI, \$506, 1 day in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Jonelle S. Hill, 34, Owatonna, tumultuous conduct, \$181; Michael A. Hortop, 60, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel, and 1 year of supervised probation; Antonio M. Jandro, 19, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281;

Levi J. Kubista, 18, Owatonna, shoplifting, \$131; Joseph D. Kuth, 20, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$106; Anna H. Lee, 57, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Anthony R. Lee, 27, Van Buren, AK, shoplifting, \$181; Gary C. Lee, 44, Dundas, DWI, \$381, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, 224 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Sahara Leonard, 44, St. Paul, possession of Paraphernalia, \$131;

Cody B. Ness, 33, North Mankato, shoplifting, 90 days in county jail and \$131; Tania A. Nicot, 44, Clarks Grove, shoplifting, \$75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring; Richard J. Ogilvie, 18, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; Laura A. Ost, 30, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Jimmy J. Padilla, 20, Owatonna, shoplifting, \$75 diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring; Amanda C. Patterson, 35, Eagan, seat belt, \$106;

Jonathan L. Pogones, 24, Ellendale, seat belt and no insurance, \$306; Franklin D. Powell, 40, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Duol L. Ret, 22, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Raul A. Reyes-Xala, 44, Medford, suspended license, \$281; Nicholas R. Richards, 26, Minneapolis, headlamps violation, \$121; Anaira N. Rios-Flores, 20, Medford, speeding, \$121;

Jarred S. Salisbury, 23, Austin, possession of counterfeit check, \$131, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, and 1 year of supervised probation; Hillary R. Schneider, 27, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, \$181; Denis J. Shaner, 21, Medford, speeding, \$131; Sara E. Shea-Matchey, 56, Owatonna, theft, \$703.31 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring;

Kristina L. Tran, 39, St. Paul, speeding, \$141; Zachary R. Wanous, 23, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Jared K. Willette, 19, Claremont, seat belt, \$106; Timothy J. Williams, 25, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Tyjuan L. Williams, 27, Owatonna, fleeing peace officer, \$131 and 10 days in county jail;

Donny Zapata, 36, Austin, DWI, \$406, 90 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, do not enter liquor establishments, and 3 years of supervised probation; Timothy E. Zuchowski, 45, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Jonathan S. Aase, 26, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Joshua D. Beyer, 30, Waverly, IA, seat belt, \$106; Marion A. Cords, 81, Mankato, speeding, \$141; Sherry V. Cruise, 31,

Blotter Spotlight:

Suspicious Activity. On July 14, deputies received a report of a male subject sleeping in a laundry mat in the 100 block of 1st St. NW in Dodge Center at 10:07 a.m.

Robbery charges in foiled drug sale

A man has been charged with aggravated robbery in connection with a foiled drug sale in April.

The Steele County Attorney's Office has charged Yusuf O. Ali, 20, with felony first-degree robbery.

Police arrested Ali July 16 when information was received that he was allegedly involved in the robbery of four youths who

were attempting to sell marijuana in Manthey Park in Owatonna.

The information revealed that Ali allegedly pulled one of the victims out of the car and started punching him, police said. The victims reported marijuana, a wallet, \$95 and a cell phone were taken at the time of the robbery.

At the time of the incident, the



Ali

Brooklyn Center, invalid license, no child passenger restraint system and seat belt, \$256; Stephanie R. Filan, 37, Kilkenny, speeding, \$141;

Maria C. Garcia, 43, St. Paul, seat belt and no insurance, \$306; Joel A. Gasner, 45, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Eyasu E. Gebray, 26, Austin, speeding, \$141; Syridio Habimana, 26, Cedar Rapids, IA, speeding and no insurance, \$321;

Lindsay S. Hachfeld, 30, Owatonna, DWI, \$481, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 224 hours of community service, 30 days of electronic alcohol home monitor and 2 years of supervised probation;

Christopher J. Hassing, 25, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Austin J. Haverkost, 25, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Peter A. Hines, 34, Claremont, speeding, \$141; Trey C. Hoppe, 17, New Richland, seat belt, \$106; Jason R. Johnson, 35, Madelia, speeding, \$141; Emily J. Kahnke, 25, Ellendale, speeding, \$141;

Kylie R. Kath, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Teresa M. Koslosky, 48, Medford, speeding, \$121; Mitchell D. Mayer, 16, Owatonna, speeding, \$141;

Jody L. McDams, 46, Mantorville, speeding, \$221; Brittney J. Mead, 18, Ellendale, minor consumption, \$181; Thomas J. Parry, 52, Northville, MI, speeding and no insurance, \$341; Anicia Ramos, 31, Oxford, MS, speeding, \$141; Betsy A. Ramsey, 25, Independence, AR, speeding, \$141;

Cory L. Rasmussen, 37, Hayfield, failure to signal for turn, \$131; Neh Reh, 39, St. Paul, speeding, \$141; Ezra J. Sam, 30, Tama, IA, speeding, \$121; Anais Sanchez, 21, Car-rizo Springs, TX, speeding, \$141; Maria A. Sanchez, 22, Austin, speeding, \$141; Albert P. Schuster, 74, Hartland, speeding, \$121;

Tyler M. Sorenson, 20, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Marcia L. Steffen, 65, Waseca, driving through barricade, \$121; Justin M. Stiernagle, 35, Burnsville, speeding, \$141; Berhane M. Tewelde, 35, Omaha, NE, speeding, \$141; Antonio G. Vielma Gonzalez, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Sam J. Weikleenget, 27, Medford, seat belt, \$106; Matthew D. Wiese, 38, Austin, speeding, \$141; Travis A. Young, 21, Medford, speeding, \$221.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 314 complaints for the week of July 8 – 15. Some of them include:

July 8

Narcotics. Deputies received a report of a motorist driving all over the lane lines at U.S. Hwy. 14 and County Rd. 25 in Hayfield at 10:18 a.m. They located the vehicle and arrested the motorist for narcotics.

Burglary. At 10:42 a.m., deputies began a burglary investigation in the 800 block of Hwy. St. W. in Dodge Center.

Domestic. Deputies responded to a domestic assault where a male had assaulted a female at 2nd St. SW and 2nd Ave. SW in Dodge Center at 12:54 p.m. One subject was transported to the Steele County Jail.

Medical. At 10:12 p.m., a 13-year-old female accidentally inhaled Raid after she tried spraying it on a spider in the 800 block of Airport Dr. N. in Dodge Center. Deputies, Dodge Center Fire and Dodge Center Ambulance responded and she was transported to the hospital.

July 9

Narcotics. Deputies received a walk-up complaint of narcotics use

victims reported being struck with a baseball bat, a bottle and threatened to be shot.

der and violation of order for protection. The defendant was sentenced to \$1,080, 50 days in county jail, do not enter liquor establishments, no possession of firearms, no contact with victim, domestic abuse evaluation, domestic no contact order, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of July 6 – 13:

Jon D. Brown, 42, Rochester, cancelled license and no insurance, \$175, and 2 years of supervised probation; Matthew J. Determan, 16, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Andrew J. Ebert, 27, Brooklyn Park, revoked license, \$280; Sierra L. Finne, 20, Dodge Center, minor consumption, \$180; Ler H. Gay, 18, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$220; Lane M. Hall, 52, Hayfield, domestic assault, \$125 and 1 year of supervised probation;

Jordan C. Harland, 24, Austin, speeding, \$140; David C. Hintz, 37, Rochester, speeding, \$220; Leah L. Johnston, 33, Dodge Center, careless driving, \$280; Samuel R. Judy, 22, Kasson, DWI, \$505, chemical assessment and 1 year of supervised probation;

Jacqueline R. Klapperick, 53, Rose Creek, careless driving and keep to the right violation, \$230; Eric A. Ladin, 23, Rochester, speeding, \$220; Markus E. Madery, 57, Kasson, criminal vehicular operation, \$980, 45 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, 90 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation;

Dynae L. Monahan, 46, Hayfield, speeding, \$220; Betty J. Mullenbach, 43, Lyle, speeding, \$380; Logan J. Onken, 23, Dodge Center, domestic assault, 10 days in county jail, domestic abuse evaluation, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation;

Ryan M. Rust, 22, Dodge Center, disorderly conduct, \$255, chemical assessment and 1 year of probation; Michael M. Thompson, 20, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Heather I. Timm, 19, Kasson, minor consumption, \$180;

Jenny L. Twaddle, 28, Kasson, speeding, \$130; Tina M. Victor, 36, Austin, disorderly conduct, \$255, 3 days in county jail, domestic abuse evaluation, chemical dependency evaluation, do

PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued on Page 4B

SHERIFF'S TIPLINE

866-878-7964



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

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

The sheriff makes this information available as a public service.

Paul Wechtuur – stalking - \$3,000 bail
Eric Weiser – theft by check - \$3,000 bail
Jeremy Werchowski – DWI – no bail
Jimmy Wermter – cancelled license – no bail
Charles West – theft - \$20,000 bail
Derek West – false name - \$1,000 bail
Daniel White – registration violation - \$500 bail
Nyakuma Wितour – no MN license - \$500 bail
Danny Wiles – DWI - \$12,000 bail

Bernice Williams – driving without license - \$1,000 bail
Deangelo Williams – suspended license - \$500 bail
Kelly Williams – theft - \$500 bail
Rudolph Williams – invalid license - \$500 bail
Theodore Wilson – DWI, no MN license - \$3,000 bail
Darryl Winford – DWI - \$750 bail
William Winters – violation of conditions of release – no bail
Joshua Witte – theft - \$500 bail

Troy Wohlers – no insurance - \$500 bail
Jennifer Wood – use other license - \$500 bail
Terry Yanzer – DWI – no bail

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

ACTIVE WARRANTS

Ask a Trooper: Trailers and ball hitches

Question: I was wondering if it is illegal to have the ball hitch in the receiver of my truck if I am not pulling any trailers at that time? Also is it illegal to have more than one ball on my bumper?

Answer: No, it is not illegal to have a ball hitch in the receiver of a truck when not pulling a trailer. It is not illegal to have more than one ball hitch on the bumper. With that being said though, you need to be aware that multiple ball hitches on the bumper could obstruct the rear license plate. According to Minnesota State Statute 169.79 Subd. 7 “All plates must be (1) securely fastened so as to prevent them from swinging, (2) displayed horizontally with the identifying numbers and letters facing outward from the vehicle, and (3) mounted in the upright position. The person driving the motor vehicle shall keep the plate legible and unobstructed and free from grease, dust, or other blurring material so that the lettering is plainly visible at all times. It is unlawful to cover any assigned letters and numbers or the name of the state of origin of a license plate with any material whatever, including any clear or colorless material that

ASK A TROOPER



Troy Christianson

affects the plate’s visibility or reflectivity.” The ball hitch needs to be a device approved by the Commissioner of Public Safety. The ball hitch must be of sufficient strength to control a trailer. A ball hitch attached to the receiver can have the receiver detached and removed when not in use, especially if it is causing an obstruction.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from Page 3B

not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment and 1 year of supervised probation; Mark T. Wilcox, 49, Mantorville, speeding, \$220; Lauren C. Zimmerer, 25, Rochester, speeding, \$140.

Kasson Police Department

Barbara A. Anderson, 59, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$105; Lance P. Coburn, 30, Whitehall, WI, domestic assault, 1 year in county jail; Isaiah A. Pierce, 18, Hayfield, seat belt, \$105; Mark E. Rappe, 51, Kasson, DWI, \$480, do not enter liquor establishments, no alcohol or controlled substance use, 40 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Jeremy L. Reese, 38, Wilder, revoked license, \$280; Jacob C. Severson, 25, Hayfield, seat belt, \$105; Camille R. Snyder, 18, Kasson, speeding, \$130; Phillip J. Suess, 64, Grand Meadow, seat belt, \$105; Andria J. Weatherstone, 44, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Jeremy S. Ziemann, 22, Byron, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, \$180; Carl L. Zimmerman, 73, Kasson, seat belt, \$105.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Scott M. Archer, 40, Bloom-

ing Prairie, invalid license, \$180; Kelsie L. Gansen, 23, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Michelle M. Krell, 45, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$130; Val P. Miller, 37, LeSueur, brakes violation and speeding, \$180; Michael D. O’Brien, 38, West Concord, seat belt, \$105; Jeremy J. Reller, 23, Otisco, speeding, \$140; Mason P. Stuhldreher, 28, Rochester, revoked license, driving motorcycle without endorsement and no insurance, \$530.

West Concord Police Department

Shelby N. Herold, 19, West Concord, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, \$180; Brett R. Hvitved, 43, West Concord, domestic assault, \$380, no alcohol or controlled substance use, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Grant N. Levenson, 20, Elysian, possession of Paraphernalia and speeding, \$170; Lazaro S. Pinales, 51, Dodge Center, speeding, \$130

Steele Arrests

Owatonna Police

Douglas Patrick Trom, 58, arrested at 8:55 a.m. July 11,

violation of order for protection, held for court.

Kyle Evan Bos, 30, arrested at 3:28 a.m. July 12, disorderly conduct, held for court.

Cedric James Elusmond, 19, arrested at 11:32 p.m. July 13, warrant arrest, body only. Isaiah Deondre Brownlee, 24, arrested at 12:39 a.m. July 14, fleeing on foot, held for court.

Adam John Techau, 30, arrested at 9:13 a.m. July 15, no insurance and assault warrants arrest, \$500 bail.

Sunday Paul Puot, 19, arrested at 4:01 p.m. July 15, felony probation violation, held for court.

Yusuf Odowa Ali, 20, arrested at 11:15 a.m. July 16, felony robbery, theft and minor consumption, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Carlos Alfredo Sosa-Venegas, 18, arrested at 4:32 a.m. July 10, felony attempted murder, held for court.

Joseph Wayne Hendrickson, 29, arrested at 6:12 p.m. July 10, warrant arrest, \$1,000 bail.

Domach Chol Gatluak, 30, arrested at 1:30 p.m. July 14, violation of conditions of release, held for court.

Joshua Douglas Watkins, 28, arrested at 3:39 p.m. July 14, warrant arrest, body only.

Owatonna Fire

July 10 Equipment Fire. At 2:03 p.m., fire fighters responded to an off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire in the 1300 block of 26th St. NE.

July 14 Crash. Fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries on Hwy. 14 W. at 7:04 p.m.

July 15 Smoke. At 12:37 a.m., an odor of smoke occurred in the 100 block of 32nd Ave. NW.

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Employment CONNECTION

Commuting stress: 5 ways to enjoy a more relaxing daily commute

Of all the things that cause us stress and anxiety -- a heavy workload, financial woes and a cluttered home, to name a few -- commuting to work is one of the most universally loathed. And it's not just an unpleasant experience: Long commutes have been linked to a number of negative health outcomes, including high stress levels, poor sleep, unhealthy weight, and even a shorter life. A 2011 Swedish study also found that couples where one partner commutes for at least 45 to work each day have a 40 percent higher chance of getting divorced.

"Commuting is ... a mundane task about as pleasurable as assembling flat-pack furniture or getting your license renewed, and you have to do it every day," Annie Lowrey wrote in a Slate article, "Your Commute Is Killing You," after the Swedish study was published. "If you are commuting, you are not spending quality time with your loved ones. You are not exercising, doing challenging work, having sex, petting your dog, or playing with your kids (or your Wii)."

But your commute doesn't have to be the bane of your existence -- this time slot when you're free to not do anything (except get yourself from point A to point B) can actually be one of the most relaxing parts of your day. Reframing the way you view the trip and trying some healthy tips can turn your commute from a twice-daily source of stress into a peaceful

time to yourself between the demands of work and home. Scroll through the list below for six ways to de-stress (and maybe even enjoy) your commute.

1. Take control over your commuting decisions.

Thinking about a situation differently can help reduce stress in many many circumstances, whether at work or while commuting. You can feel a greater sense of control over your commute and minimize anxiety by simply reminding yourself that the length of the trip is the product of your own decisions about where you live and work, according to Dr. Frank Ghinassi, associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh.

"The attribution is that it's the traffic that's making us anxious," Ghinassi tells The Huffington Post. "But the control over whether we're going to be engaged in traffic is really ours. We've made lots of decisions ... over things that we can control, and the tradeoff is exposing ourselves to traffic."

If you've considered the other alternatives to your current commute (Would it be possible to bike to work, or carpool with a colleague?) and settled on a daily routine, keep in mind that this is your own choice -- and remember all the other benefits of those choices, like a comfortable home or a job you

enjoy.

2. Find enjoyable activities to pass the time.

A daily commute can be a peaceful "hammock" of time between other obligations, says Ghinassi -- but only if we choose to see it that way. Whether your commute is stressful or relaxing is entirely dependent on the conceptions and thoughts you have about how you're going to use that time.

"Once you're in traffic, it can be perceived as a horrible, time-wasting event," says Ghinassi. "Some people see it the way I just described, and others see it as a perfect time to spend time on the phone (hands-free, hopefully) talking to loved ones, listening to books on tape. People who commute in trains often use that time to catch up on sleep or a favorite novel. Others see it as an oasis of time when work isn't bothering them and they haven't yet gotten re-immersed in home activities."

3. De-stress with a "Sounds and Thoughts Meditation."

Whether it's the whiz of the freeway or strangers talking near you on the subway, the noisy distractions of your commute can easily add to your anxiety levels. But consciously paying attention to these noises can rob them of their power, according to Dr. Danny Penman, author of Mindfulness: Finding Peace In A Frantic World.

On your next morning bus or train ride to work, try Penman's "Sounds and Thoughts Meditation." (Click here for full instructions and a downloadable audio guide.) The meditation can help lower

stress levels by silencing the mind and focusing your attention on the thoughts in your mind and sounds around you, without judging or trying to "fix" them. Or, if you're driving, simply focus on the road while taking note of the sounds around you and observing the thoughts arising in your mind.

4. Unplug.

Many of us spend the majority of our waking lives plugged into technology -- and it could be raising our stress levels and negatively affecting our health. Spending some time tech-free can benefit our mental and physical health, and it might make your commute more pleasant.

Your commute may be the one part of the business day when you can disconnect. Whether you're driving in your car or sitting on the subway, take advantage of that daily

opportunity to unplug and recharge. Instead of checking your email and Twitter, texting friends, or making work calls, try powering down your phone until you get home or to the office. Once it becomes a habit, you may actually come to look forward to this tech-free time to read, meditate, reflect, or just be mindful.

5. Use your commute as an opportunity to be more mindful.

It can be easy to get stuck in a loop of negative emotions during a long commute when you might be feeling impatient about waiting in traffic, or worried about things going on

at work. But your commute is actually a perfect chunk of time to gently bring your awareness to thoughts and feelings, without judgment -- or in other words, to practice mindfulness.

As the meditation experts at mindfulness app Headspace recommend, try "Being mindful of your environment and the tendency to resist it; being mindful of the emotions as they rise and fall, come and go ... mindful of wanting to be somewhere else, of wishing time away; and mindful of wanting to scream out loud or put your foot down in the car."

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com>

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Surviving Family ROAD TRIPS

with kids

A road trip with small children may seem like a nightmare in the making, but many of the best family vacations take place on the open road. With the right planning, you and your children can enjoy the wonders of the highway, back road or whatever other path you choose.

Here are some helpful tips for making the most of your time on the road.

Make a Plan

It may sound exciting to jump in the car and just drive, but that doesn't work when little children are involved. Once you know where you are going, take some time to map out your route, with your children's help. Think about where you can stop along the way. Try to break up the trip into two- to three-hour chunks to keep kids (and adults) engaged and happy.

"During your trip, give your children a map so they can see where you are and how far you have until you reach your destination. This will help with the 'Are we there yet?' question," says Jennifer Ryan, manager of AAA State Relations. Then let your children take turns as the navigator. Each child can have a turn picking the next stop.

Make the Most of Your Stops

"Plan to stop at a neighborhood park or someplace where the kids can run and blow off steam at least once every two to three hours," says Mark Sedenquist, editor of Road Trip America, a website that provides a list of fun places to stop along every major interstate. You can also build your stops—and overall journey—around a certain theme, such as animals, the 50 states or geography in general. "Stop at places and pick up a sticker or something small and then scrapbook as you go," says Sheri Wallace, editor of the Road Trips for Families website. "It unifies everyone and instead of focusing on the getting there, you focus on the now."

Be Realistic About Distance

Although you may be able to stand 10 hours in the car, your child most likely cannot. Sedenquist believes that children shouldn't have to spend more than seven hours in a car per day. "This works out to be about 375 miles traveled in a given day, with potty breaks, food breaks, kid breaks and so on," he says. If you start out on your first road trip asking too much of your children, it will be hard to get them excited for the next one. "Drive and enjoy the journey, especially in the beginning," Wallace says. "Don't make your first road trip a 2,000-mile journey. Make it a 500-mile week-long adventure."

Time Your Trip

You know your family's schedule better than anyone else, so make a trip that works around naptimes and cranky periods. That could mean leaving at the crack of dawn or just after dinner. Some parents may like to drive at night and let the children sleep, but you need to be careful not to drive while sleepy. AAA recommends driving during the day so you get the most daylight. Just avoid driving under a rising or setting sun, because it decreases visibility.

Bring Reinforcements

"Keep children interested and involved in your road trip with a ready selection of cards, maps, family games, sing-along CDs and activity books—especially ones with references to your destination. This will help keep them occupied and create more interaction among family members," Ryan says. Road Trip America suggests packing those goodies in a fabric lunch bag, or "car kit," for each child. Just leave room to add little surprises along the way. Each morning your child will be excited to find out what the car kit holds.



Look Outside

As easy as it is to throw a movie into the built-in or portable player, remember that children can entertain themselves and will get more out of the trip if they have a reason to check out the scenery. Encourage your kids to search for certain license plates, animals, road signs or something from your trip's theme. Younger children can look for pictures or colors.

A great alternative to DVDs are audio books. If you want to shut off all technology, take this time to tell stories about your family history or teach your children songs from your childhood.

Don't Forget the Food

Whether you want to bring your food or stop at restaurants along the way, make sure your children have plenty of food and water. If you want to avoid a fast-food drive-thru, pack sandwiches, snacks and drinks in a cooler. If you eat while you drive, you'll save time for stretching your legs and enjoying the scenery at your pit stops. Mix up your eating experiences by finding a local spot that appeals to children.

Handling Traffic

You can plan when you leave and which route you take, but you can't do anything about an unexpected traffic jam. To keep up to date on the traffic ahead, consider investing in a CB radio, Sedenquist suggests. Just think how much fun your child will have learning the lingo and listening in to other travelers discussing what's ahead.

Slow Down

A family road trip is not necessarily about "making good time." Even if you want to get there as fast as your tires will take you, you don't want to miss the opportunity for family fun. "On a road trip, two things need to happen: slow down and apply more time towards enjoyment, and/or cut back the scale of the trip so more time is available," Sedenquist says.

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/summer/surviving-family-road-trips/>

ROAD TRIP BINGO

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FAIR TALK



Todd Hale

1960s cars on display

Les Abraham, Superintendent of the Wells Fargo Auto Museum at the fair has announced the cars and their owners that will be on display at this year’s fair. Cars of the 1960’s will be the theme this year. Here are the cars to be displayed and their owners:

Don and Verna Thiede, Owatonna: 1963 Corvette
Jerry and Ginger Thompson, Ellendale: 1964 Tempest
Rich and Betty Granowski, Owatonna, 1964 Corvair
Phillip and Linda Ferguson, Rochester: 1965 Studebaker
Harley and Darlene Manke, Owatonna: 1965 Pontiac 2 door
Sharon West, Owatonna: 1966 Austin Healey
Ron and Rita Christensen, Owatonna: 1966 Thunderbird
Jon and Angie Truelson, Owatonna: 1967 Pontiac
Roger and Sharon Soukup, Owatonna: 1967 Dodge
George and Jean Sierakowski, Owatonna: 1967 Mercury Cougar
Dale Springer, Owatonna: 1967 Mercury convertible
Jim and Helen Grunwald, Owatonna: 1967 Mustang convertible
Stacy and Sue Enser, Owatonna: 1969 Chevelle

FAIR TALK

Continued on 6C

NRHEG hires interim superintendent



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

Interim New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School Superintendent Dr. Dale Carlson discusses an educational issue with high school Principal David Bunn. Carlson will lead the school district for at least one year. He started on July 13 replacing Dr. Dennis Goodwin who took a superintendent position in Arizona.

Carlson will serve 1 year

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Educational experience was key in the hiring of Dr. Dale Carlson as the interim school superintendent for the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School District.

“He seems to be passionate about education,” NRHEG School Board president Rick Schultz said. “He came across as a calm, effective leader.”

Carlson was one of seven applicants to replace Dr. Dennis Goodwin who took a position in Arizona on July 1. The school board interviewed the top two candidates and chose Carlson.

He started on July 13.

“We were extremely impressed with the ones we didn’t interview,” Schultz said. “It was a good pool of candidates. We were relieved.”

The last seven years Carlson has been school superintendent for the Holmen School District in Wisconsin, 10 miles north of LaCrosse. “We are excited about his career in education,” Schultz said.

Although the interim position is for one year, Carlson said he will do whatever he can to help move NRHEG forward in student and learning achievement. “To do that, in so many ways it begins with the staff. That is key,” he said. “They are doing great things in the area of professional development

SUPERINTENDENT
Continued on 5C

STEELE TALKIN’



June Piepho

Follow along program

There is so much delight in new born babies. We are amazed by how fast they grow and develop.

It seems like they are learning something new every day. Did you know that there are certain milestones a baby must reach every two to four months?

For example, a child should be cooing by two months or sitting up by six months. Sometimes it is hard to know if our child is actually doing what they are supposed to especially when we compare ours kids to others.

Because kids develop at different rates, it is hard to know if our kids are on track. One way to know for sure is to sign up for the Follow Along Program (FAP) at Steele County Public Health.

The FAP is a great way to learn about your child and follow their health and development through questionnaires that are sent to you every few months.

You fill them out and send them back to us. We score the questionnaires and tell you the results.

If there are concerns, someone will get in touch with you and together plan what to do next. Some options include a direct referral to the school district’s early childhood services to get the child evaluated. It could be a medical referral. Or, it just could be that your child couldn’t do some of the skills the day you filled out the form but after several weeks your child is now doing them, for instance, like walking up and down stairs or kicking a ball, and there is no longer any concern.

Many parents will shy away from this type of program because it may put the parent in a “bad light” if their child is not developing where he/she should be.

None of us want to hear that our child is behind, but as hard as it is to hear, it is better if you find out while they are toddlers and young enough to “catch up” in development then waiting for school and trying to “catch them up” as a kindergartener or older child to which they are being singled out from their peers, and plain and simple, it is harder to catch them up as the child gets older which gives them a bad attitude about learning and school. Make it easier for everyone and get help right away.

The questionnaires used are the ASQ3 and the ASQ-SE which are evidenced based tools that give a snapshot on how your child is doing at that time.

All children who get screened for kindergarten will fill out the appropriate age form of the ASQ-SE too. Some doctor offices will use these forms as well because it is an accurate picture of where that child is at in development and what areas the parent can work on with the child.

The FAP offers a lot of information to help parents sort through and process their child’s development and we are here to answer questions and to be helpful in any way we

STEELE TALKIN’
Continued on 5C

A Ride for Hope



Staff photo by James Knoop

More than 100 riders took to the highways in an effort to support those in need during the 7th annual Ride for Hope that started in Owatonna on Saturday, July 18. The riders left the Eagles Club Saturday morning and returned to Owatonna after stops in multiple communities.

Celebrating 1 year of hard work to combat drugs and alcohol

Steele-Waseca Drug Court 1 year old

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

It was a festive occasion for the 40 or so people and their families in the Steele-Waseca Drug Court program who have been battling their drug and alcohol addictions.

“I think we’re really impressed with what we were able to accomplish with the growth of this program,” said Steele-Waseca Drug Court coordinator Nicole Grams. “(This includes) the growth within the program, clients meeting certain milestones and progressing, as well as the clients supporting each other.”

District Court Judge Joseph

Bueltel, who oversees drug court, called the afternoon celebratory. “We just decided at the one year mark we would recognize all the hard work for the team members, the community and particularly the participants who have worked so hard to make this program a success,” he said. “We had a nice, fun day, where normally we would be in drug court at this time.”

Wednesday’s picnic at Brown Park in Owatonna marked the first year anniversary of the Steele-Waseca Drug Court. Drug court officially began July 1, 2014, and features a four-phase, step-down, progress-based program.

The drug court team meets with participants each week to ensure that they are making progress in the program. If they

DRUG COURT

Continued on Page 4C



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

Doug Hoverkamp, a participant in the Steele-Waseca Drug Court, talks to coordinator Nicole Grams during a celebration luncheon at Brown Park in Owatonna on July 15.

Battling mental health with legislative funding

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Things are looking up for those who are battling mental health issues. And the reason they are looking up is the Minnesota State Legislature has addressed some key areas dealing with people who battle these issues.

South Central Human Relations Center Executive Director Carolyn Wheeler said in mental health, there are issues that occur along a life span of somebody experiencing mental health difficulty. “When we look

where the energies should be placed, it can be difficult to not want to look at all areas,” she said. “What was good about this year’s legislature was that funding went to multiple areas along that service continuum.”

Located in Owatonna, the South Central Human Relations Center is dedicated to being a mental health resource for individuals, couples and families in Dodge, Steele and Waseca counties.

One of the most impactful areas dealt with mental health services payment structure review. This is important because

whatever the services that occur to help people, sustainability is mandatory and essential, Wheeler said. “Historically, services that are available for those most in need have been underfunded,” Wheeler stated. “Our association (MACMHP) identified mental health services payment structure as a very important legislative area to support. That went through. What is going to happen is the payment rates for a variety of services for our most ill individuals are going to be studied.”

Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health pro-

grams Executive Director Claire Wilson said the rate study are critical for providers around the state. “Currently, we have some of the lowest rates across the board for any services,” she stated. “We are dealing with a really complex individual. It is important for them to be reimbursed for the cost of their services. The level at which providers receive funding doesn’t reflect the complexity of services being offered. There is a lot of extra work that goes into patients that isn’t reflected in rates.”

An estimated \$5.5 million was allotted for rate stabiliza-

tion. “This is a big picture item that may lead to some positive changes,” Wheeler said. “Funding for services that we received does not cover our costs. As anyone who runs a business knows you have to cover your cost.”

Another program that has a systematic impact is certifiable health clinics. This provides mental health centers the opportunity to become federally recognized. Right now, many do not exist on the federal register.

MENTAL HEALTH
Continued on 4C

HometownLiving

Community Calendar



Staff photo by James Knoop

One batter from the Steele/Waseca drug court softball team awaits a pitch during the annual Sober Fest softball game against Dodge County. Participants, alumni, workers, family and friends participated in the ninth annual festival in Kasson on Saturday, July 18, which also included a hog roast, awards ceremony and raffle.

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MEAT RAFFLES: FRIDAY @ 5:30 P.M.
JULY 25 B.O.B. "TOYS FOR TOTS"
REGISTRATION 9:30-10:30 AM @

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JULY 6 - OCT. MAIN STREET CONSTRUCTION J&H CUSTOMERS, PLEASES USE OUR NORTH PARKING LOT

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

July 21:
4:45 p.m. Boys & Girls Club Brd
5:30 p.m. BP Ambulance Comm Mtg
July 22:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
11 a.m. BPBL Adventure Club
July 23:
6:30 p.m. BPBL Family Movie Night
July 27:
2 p.m. BPBL Movie Day
6:30 P.M. BP Fire Relief Assoc Mtg
July 28:
BP Card Club & Luncheon
6 p.m. BPBL Book Club
7 p.m. BP P&Z Brd Mtg
July 29:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
11 a.m. BPBL Adventure Club

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ELLENDALE/GENEVA

July 21:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
July 23:
5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
7:30 P.M. Ellendale City Council Mtg (2nd & 4th Thurs), Training/Mtg Rm
July 25:
Ellendale Saturday Night Entertainment: Just Friends
July 27:
6:20 P.M. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
July 28:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

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OWATONNA

July 21:
9:30 a.m. OPL Summer Story Time 9:30 & 10:30
10 a.m. OPL So Many Books...So Little Time Book Club
4:30 p.m. OPL Brd, Gainey Rm
7 p.m. Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall
July 22:
9:30 a.m. OPL Garden Time
3 p.m. OPL Adventure Club
July 23:
Crazy Days
2 p.m. OPL Indie & World Films 2 & 7 p.m.
6:30 P.M. OPL Family Story Time
7 p.m. 11 @ 7 Concert Series, Owatonna Central Park
July 24:
Crazy Days
WATTS over Owatonna, SMMAC Airfield
7 p.m. Movie Night, New Beginnings Church, Owatonna
July 25:
Crazy Days
WATTS over Owatonna, SMMAC Airfield
Camp Pillsbury Performance, Pillsbury College
2 p.m. Color Dash 5K Run, Morehouse Park
July 26:
WATTS over Owatonna, SMMAC Airfield
11 a.m. Litomysl Summer Festival, Holy Trinity Catholic Church
July 27:
12 p.m. Owatonna Noon Rotary Club, Country Club
4 p.m. Owatonna Housing & Redevelopment Authority, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall
July 28:
9:30 a.m. OPL Tale Time! 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m. OPL Summer Story Time 9:30 & 10:30
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
6:30 p.m. Nat's Alliance on Mental Illness Peer Support Group, Owatonna Hospital
7 p.m. Steele Co.: Co Brd Mtg, Administration Center BR

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MEDFORD

July 21:
6:30 p.m. Court St Anne Catholic Daughters Meeting, Medford
July 23:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
July 27:
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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OTHER COUNTIES

Mower
July 21:
Drop-In Summer Reading Program, GMPL
9 a.m. Intro to Dance Camp, Kindergarten through 2nd Grade, I. J. Holton School dance room, Austin
10 a.m. ArtWorks Gallery Show: Nick Sinclair and Mike Erickson
10 a.m. Intro to Dance Camp, 3rd to 4th Grade, I. J. Holton School dance room, Austin
10:30 a.m. 2015 Summer Reading Club: Wake Up and Wiggle, APL
11 a.m. Intro to Dance Camp, 5th to 6th Grade, I. J. Holton School dance room, Austin
12:30 p.m. Family Paint, Austin ArtWorks Center
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
4 p.m. Ag Appreciation Dinner, Austin
5 p.m. Wind Chimes, Austin ArtWorks Center
6 p.m. Advanced Beginners' Knitting, Austin ArtWorks Center
6 p.m. Minnesota Opera Presentation, APL
6 p.m. Teen Book Swap Party, APL
6:30 p.m. Peace Garden Concert: The Bissen Family Band, Hormel Historic Home
6:30 p.m. Water Aerobics - Session 2, Austin Municipal Pool
July 22:
Drop-In Summer Reading Program, GMPL
9 a.m. Intro to Dance Camp, Kindergarten through 2nd Grade, I. J. Holton School dance room, Austin
10 a.m. ArtWorks Gallery Show: Nick Sinclair and Mike Erickson
10 a.m. Intro to Dance Camp, 3rd to 4th Grade, I. J. Holton School dance room, Austin
11 a.m. 2015 Summer Reading Club: Magician & Puppeteer Jim Jayes, APL
11 a.m. Intro to Dance Camp, 5th to 6th Grade, I. J. Holton School dance room, Austin
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
1 p.m. 2015 Summer Reading Club: Magician and Puppeteer Jim Jayes, APL
2 p.m. Judenrate Controversies of World War II, Mower County Senior Center
5 p.m. Grand Meadow Farmers Market
5 p.m. Summer Clay, Austin ArtWorks Center
5:30 p.m. Izaak Walton League Hog Roast, Izaak Walton Cabin, Todd Park

Freeborn
July 21:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
July 23:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
5:30 P.M. AL Council Workshop, City Council Chambers
6 p.m. ALPL Night-Time Story time
July 27:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
3:45 p.m. ALPL Book Pals (Gr 5 & 6)
7 p.m. AL City Council, Council Chambers
July 28:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time

Dodge
July 21:
Guitar or Ukulele Lessons (Gr.3 and older) S622 - 1 KM Middle School / Room 208 (Band room)
Basic Volleyball Summer Camp S315 KM Middle School / MS Gym
Canvas Painting for Kids C101 - 3 KM Comm. Ed. Wing / Multi-purpose Room
Intermediate Volleyball Summer Camp S316 KM Middle School / MS Gym
Tippi Toes - Ballet/Tap/Jazz S503 KM Elementary School / Old Gym
Tippi Toes - Hip Hop S504 KM Elementary School / Old Gym
10 a.m. WCPL Story Time/Crafts
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center American Legion, Taco Tuesdays
5:45 p.m. Dodge Center Park Brd
6 p.m. Triton Adult ESL Class, ES Media Center
July 22:
WC American Legion Auxiliary, Quilting
7:30 a.m. Hayfield Chamber Mtg, Uncle Mony's/Spare Time Lanes
Guitar or Ukulele Lessons (Gr.3 and older) S622 - 1KM Middle School / Room 208 (Band room)
Intermediate Volleyball Summer Camp S316 KM Middle School / MS Gym
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center American Legion, Pizza & Bear
Middle School Soccer Nights (Boys & Girls) C106 KM High School / KM Telecom Stadium
July 23:
KoMet Kraze Fitness Training (Adults) - Summer Session S300 -1 KM High School / Weight room
Cookin' with Gus TT723 KM High School / FB Field Parking Lot
Mommy & Me and Essential Oils C115 KM Comm. Ed. Wing /Multipurpose Room
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center American Legion, Hamburger, Fries, Chicken Sandwiches
Knit & Chat Study Hall WS131 KM Comm. Ed. Wing / CE6
6:30 p.m. Triton Zumba, Multipurpose Rm
July 24:
West Concord Survival Days
July 25:
West Concord Survival Days

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Blooming PrairieLiving



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Elcor Construction of Rochester has been busy working on water main and sanitary sewer reconstruction on Main Street in Blooming Prairie. All kinds of traffic continue uninterrupted on Highway 218 (note semi-truck going south). The \$2.7 million project began on June 15 and is expected to be completed by Nov. 1.

Concrete removal on schedule

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

All the bituminous has been removed on the Blooming Prairie Main Street reconstruction, a joint project between the City of Blooming Prairie and Steele County. Concrete removal was planned to begin this week. Recent work has involved connecting the water main and sanitary sewer in the center of Highway 218. “Once we get the utilities

stubbed in on 218, we will go east to 5th Avenue and get ready for concrete pavement,” said Matt Smith, vice president of Elcor Construction, Rochester. Elcor holds the general contract on the \$2.7 million project. “We are very pleased with the progress on the joint project, even though the rains delayed us a bit,” Smith said. “We are about two days behind because of the rain, but we can make that up in a hurry,” added Forrest Hasty, project inspector for Steele County.

Hasty said two work crews were on site at times to increase production. The water and sewer project will be attacked a block or two at a time and will involve the installation of new catch basins. The project sequence has looked like this: removals; sanitary sewer and water main; sewer and water services; storm sewer; roadway grading; roadway paving; electrical; sidewalk and signage and striping.

Sharing an opinion about legacy funds

For several years the Blooming Prairie Branch Library has been the recipient of the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Library Legacy funding. Authors have come to visit, including William Kent Krueger, Julie Klassen, and Alison McGhie. Authors Will Weaver and Pete Hautman have talked to Blooming Prairie High School students and encouraged them to write. Local residents have taken part in the poetry competition. Vetted artists have performed here. All of these opportunities have come about because of the Library Legacy fund. South East Libraries Cooperating (SELCO) has administered

these programs with the funding provided by the state of Minnesota. It’s time for you to share your opinions of how those Library Legacy funds should be used. Representatives from SELCO want to hear what partnerships have developed and to hear possible ideas for future partnerships and activities. You are invited to a Library Legacy Listening Session. The local meetings will all take place from 6-7:30 p.m. in each county. One will take place at the Owatonna Public Library, 104 North Elm Avenue, Owatonna on Tuesday, July 27th. Other local meetings will both be held on Wednesday, August 26th at the Dodge Center Public Library, 13 First Avenue NW, Dodge Center, and Austin Public Library, 323 4th Avenue NE, Austin. If you are not able to attend any of the listening sessions,

Library Book Nook

Nancy Vaillancourt

feel free to call 507-583-7750 or stop in at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library and tell us what you like about Legacy funding, or what you would like to see in the future. For more information, please contact the library or Jennifer Harveland, Communication Specialist for SELCO, at 507-288-5513. Thanks for your interest and support of libraries in Minnesota.

Company unveils metal-like fender

Minimizer is taking on metal fenders without the metal. The company’s new Smoky Black Mirror fender looks exactly like a metal fender, except it’s made from the same polyethylene material as the rest of Minimizer’s Tested and Tortured fenders. “Some people love the metal look, and our new Smoky Black Mirror fender gives you just that,” Minimizer CEO Craig Kruckeberg said. Minimizer Technical Manager Gordon Eby added the Smoky Black Mirror fender is unique in our industry, in that it has a dark-tinted, smooth finish that reflects like metal. In addition to Smoky Black, Minimizer is also releasing a Silver Mirror fender. It too has a metal-like appearance. Both Mirror finish fenders can be found at one of Minimizer’s numerous distributors. To find the one nearest you, go to www.minimizer.com.

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Chamber gets funky with disco-themed golf outing

By **LAURA BERNDT**
News Editor

Last Wednesday, supporters of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce paid a visit to the Blooming Prairie Country Club, and they were ready to boogie in their best disco attire. That afternoon, the 21st annual Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce’s Golf Fun Day took place, and this year’s theme was “disco.” Golfers and supporters of the Chamber spent their afternoon playing games to win prizes and enjoying a beautiful summer golfing session. Later that evening, a dinner and program also took place at the Country Club. “It’s our major fundraiser for the Chamber, and it’s also a good way to have everybody come out and enjoy the day,” said Becky Noble, Executive Director of the Chamber. Although the numbers were down a bit from past years, with only around 51 participants, Noble says that those who visited the Country Club last week still had a great time.

Several volunteers from the Chamber and community dedicated their time to make the annual event a success again this year. Many local sponsors also donated prizes and hosted creative games at various holes along the course. Golfers also had a little extra incentive to play well that afternoon, as several holes offered stellar prizes to golfers who made a hole in one, such as a 2015 Ford Focus and vacations in places like Las Vegas and the Treetops Resort in Michigan. Despite the opportunity to earn great prizes, Noble and others agree that the event is truly about having fun. “We just hope people enjoy it,” she said. “And they always do. It’s all about just having fun.” Kenny Behnken has been a member of the golf course since 1967 and has also worked there since 2003. He says that grounds superintendent Roger Hanson and clubhouse manager Barb Waggie deserve credit for the work that they have done to get the course ready for this event. “It’s a fun day, and the course is always in good shape,” said Behnken.

“We do have a very nice course, especially for a small town,” added Rick Kittelson, who also helped to organize this event. Kittelson explains that, although the Country Club is now doing very well, it once struggled to find the necessary funds to operate the business. At that time, said Kittelson, the fundraiser was organized as a way to help support the Country Club. Since then, he says, it has become an event that benefits both the Chamber and the Country Club. “I just like watching everybody have fun,” said Noble, who also worked hard to help make the event possible. “I also like seeing everybody’s costumes.” Each year, a few guests go “all out” with their outfits. This year was no exception, as some golfers wore sequined jumpsuits and even decorated their carts with miniature disco balls. “It’s open to the public, and all who want to participate,” Noble said. “We’re going to set the date for around this time next year, and we would like to ask people to come out and join us at the clubhouse.”

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

A Touch of Charm is a special floral and gift shop

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Leanne Hanson remembers working in her father’s Oswald’s Grocery Store in Blooming Prairie when she was a youngster. She thought some day she might be a grocer. “When I was in first grade, dad taught me how to count back change,” Leanne said. Instead, Leanne has become owner of a quaint floral and gift shop, A Touch of Charm, located at 330 E. Main St. in Blooming Prairie. Visit the store in person, or go to the A Touch of Charm website, <http://www.atouchofcharmonline.com/>. Leanne has been providing home accents, decorating ideas, gifts and full service floral for the area since 1988. “We specialize in a mixture of traditional, cottage and countryopolitan accents for your home and a unique array of gifts that you can’t wait to give,” Leanne says. The idea of A Touch of Charm actually started with Leanne and three other women who wanted to start a consignment shop on the main street of Blooming Prairie. The shop, located in the front part of a downtown medical building, was run by Leanne, Sandy Jones, Laura Kirby and June Trom. The consignment store featured artificial flowers, wreaths and hand-painted items. A thrift store was located in the back half of the building. The current A Touch of Charm location became available when the bakery moved to its present location. Leanne said the move to a new building saw the business double in the first month. “We needed to be here where the people are moving around,” she said. As the business grew, more merchandise was bought to fill the store. Leanne became the soul owner with husband Roger and bought the present A Touch of Charm building. “We are a full service floral shop and provide arrangements for weddings, funerals and every day occasions,” Leanne said. Fresh cut flowers and blooming and green plants can be delivered by A Touch of Charm to Blooming Prairie customers and to customers in Austin, Owatonna, Ellendale, Geneva, Hayfield and Dodge Center. A Touch of Charm provides arrangements for weddings in the area and as far north as the Twin Cities. Many weddings are now destination weddings, or held outdoors. When visiting A Touch of Charm’s gift shop, take sufficient time to see the many home decor items and old vintage items on display. Pointing to an old, vintage chest, Leanne says people are into old, rusty paint peeling off. The gift shop also displays many Blooming Prairie items including pottery and signs. Most customers are women but Leanne says many men visit her store before Valentine’s Day and before Mother’s Day. Anniversaries bring



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Leanne Hanson has owned and operated A Touch of Charm at 330 E. Main Street in Blooming Prairie since 1991. She proudly displays some of the gift items in the full service floral and gift shop.

both men and women into the store. Leanne can be found in the store when not out on deliveries or making a home decorating consultation. She has two part-time helpers on duty, Penny Perau and Michelle Southworth. A Touch of Charm is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. What is most satisfying in being a small business woman? Leanne quickly answers: “Being my own boss.” She also says that seeing customers happy is another positive part of being in business in a small town. Keeping up with trends and changing gift items for seasons can be most challenging, Leanne said. She shops at a wholesale market in Minneapolis and also goes with husband Roger to hunt for old items at auctions, flea markets and rummage sales. “It’s fun to do it together,” she said. Leanne and Roger have two children, Nick (Larissa) of Andover and Annie (Matt Holm) of Brainerd and three grandchildren with one on the way. With Main Street reconstruction going on until November, Leanne encourages customers to enter at the rear entrance and then shop the back room bargains at 50 percent off. Customers can also still enter from the front. A Touch of Charm is a member of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce. Leanne is “Wish Tree” chairperson for the chamber, organizing a Christmas gift drive for needy children. Fifteen families benefited last Christmas to the drive coordinated by the Chamber in partnership with the Blooming Prairie Ministerium. Leanne said her shop also works with the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group in March selling daffodils. All proceeds go to Blooming Prairie families. A Touch of Charm has also sold flowers for Just for Kix and for the elementary school play.

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Ellendale-GenevaLiving

Welcome to Ellendale Exhibit features unique history

By **SHANNON GRANHOLM**
County Staff Writer

Now through the rest of 2015 visitors to the Steele County Historical Society can learn more about one of the towns that makes up Steele County, Ellendale.

The display, which opened April 15, is put on by the Ellendale Heritage Society in conjunction with the SCHS and is sponsored by Andy and Mary Lerberg.

Although this is a first-time exhibit, this is by no means the first partnership between the two organizations.

“We’re thrilled to again partner with the Ellendale Heritage Society on this unique exhibit. They have done a wonderful job with the Gus’s Station restoration, the Beaver Lake Pop Stand and now, this look at the com-



An old band uniform is one of the many items on display in the Welcome to Ellendale Exhibit at the Steele County Historical Society. The uniform was used as a high school band uniform during the 1950s era.

DRUG COURT

Continued from Page 1C

are doing well, they are recognized for their progress. If they are not meeting the standards of the program, an immediate sanction can be imposed.

Doug Hoverkamp is one of the participants who has reached Phase 3; one step from graduating. “Over the last few months, I haven’t been using alcohol and drugs and have been a law abiding citizen,” he said.

Before drug court, he had no desire to straighten his life around. He turned it around because Hoverkamp said he was getting sick and tired of doing the same things over and over.

“For me, I know there is a different way of life,” he said. “Today I want it. I like my life today. Things happen, but I don’t have to use drugs and alcohol to get through. Now I call my sponsor, go to meetings and share.”

Two others – Nikki Erdman and Lindsay Hachfeld – were facing the same situations. Both were on the verge of losing their children before drug court became an option.

Erdman was a meth addict. She had five drug charges in less than a year. For one charge, Erdman was facing 81 months. In all, she could be in prison for eight and a half years. If that would have happened, she wouldn’t have been out until her child was a teenager.

“I’m super proud of myself. It has taken a lot. It was hard,” Erdman said. She has now been sober for more than 14 months.

Hachfeld, now 30, has been involved with drugs since she was 14. She was also on the verge of losing custody of her children. “By the Grace of God, I got my kids. That was huge for me,” she said.

She had been sober for six

months, but had a relapse. She was under stress and made a poor decision.

“It was really hard going back to meetings after that,” Hachfeld said. “I was beating myself up.”

Now, she has been sober for 90 days.

Wednesday’s celebration is a reminder for Hachfeld that she can have fun in sobriety. “I can have a good time, remember it and enjoy it,” she said.

Erdman added it is just nice to hang out, relax and have our children with us. “It is just good to see the support from other people,” she said mentioning judges and prosecuting attorneys. “They are learning that throwing addicts in jail and prison isn’t the solution. This is helping and this is a better choice.”

Grams said that it is meaningful to note that many of those attending the celebration have been able to spend meaningful time with their children, have been able to be employed and have been able to maintain housing. “There is a lot of positive feedback from parents seeing the parenting that is going on,” she added. “I think that is rewarding in its own.”

Bueltel said what is most satisfying is personally seeing the transformation of the individual’s life, from knocking on the door of prison or jail to being productive members of society.

Hoverkamp said he feels like he is alive, living life without drugs and alcohol. “I enjoy life today,” he said. “Thank God for my life.”

shared with others. It is all the events and things in Ellendale that have made us proud and what we want to pass on to future generations.”

The Heritage Society has been gathering information along with photos and artifacts since it formed, but in order to prepare for the display members had to track down additional information and get everything organized into a presentable manner so visitors could more easily follow along.

Mrotz was not sure exactly how many items are on the display, but she was very pleased with the amount of items they were able to incorporate as she was hoping for half the size.

“We just want Steele County to know about our beginnings. We have a sense of community here which we don’t want to lose. Even though our business street is not as full as it once was, we are still a vibrant community,” Mrotz said. “There have been many businesses that have come and gone... barber shops, grocery stores and restaurants, and still we survive. We still have most of those things here available although in a different form.”

The display not only tells about the towns beginnings but also has stories, photos and artifacts from a range of areas including business, school, church, medical, social, sports, newspaper and government.

Ellendale’s story began in 1900 after Thomas Brown, a railroad agent, was charged with finding a good commercial center in between Owatonna and Albert Lea. The village of



An antique Lerberg's truck is one of the many items on display in the Welcome to Ellendale Exhibit at the Steele County Historical Society. Lerberg's was established in 1901 and is supposedly one of the only businesses that began in Ellendale and has been run continuously.

Cooleyville, which is located just a half-mile east of present day Ellendale, saw the advantage of being near the railroad and all the businesses started moving to the new thriving community.

One thing Mrotz thought some people may not know about Ellendale’s beginnings is that the town was actually named after a woman with the maiden name Ellen Dale who was good friends with Brown.

“He suggested that name because she was such a good woman. In those days before there were any sort of human service programs for workers, she saw

to it that if there was an illness in the family or a sick child that those families were taken care of. She also used her own horse and carriage to bring groceries to the families or to stay with them until they could get back on their feet,” Mrotz said.

Mrotz added some other unique items incorporated into the display include stories and artifacts from a thought-to-be goldmine, Lerberg’s, Red Snapp’r (now known as Woodstream), Truth Tool (now known as Amesbury Truth) and Groth Furniture and Flooring.

Mrotz added she enjoyed watching all of the pieces come

together in the display.

“To see and be aware that we have this much history and pictures gathered together to preserve the memories of our town and the heritage. It is not just the businesses, it is the people, the whole farming community that makes up our community and we don’t want to lose it,” she said.

This display can be viewed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. or Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission to the History Center is free for SCHS members and \$5 for non-members.

MENTAL HEALTH

Continued from Page 1C

“This is to our disadvantage because when opportunities for infrastructure funding come we are not at the federal level,” Wheeler said. “Minnesota has said it is willing to go forward with this. Minnesotans will be seeking to become one of 8 states to be a demonstration project. We would look at standards that need to happen so that mental health centers can be certified.”

Wilson added that this is a major transformation for mental health. Federal legislation creates a criterion for behavioral health clinics to be certified. The legislation will allow clinics offering primary care, substance abuse treatment and other comprehensive set of services to receive payment.

“It will greatly benefit the population,” she said, adding the centers will require formal agreements with such entities as emergency rooms, tribal af-

fairs and veterans affairs. “We are expanding access, increasing array of services available and allowing us to evaluate what effective services really are. Everybody is doing it differently. This allows us to show the costs we are saving the public.”

As for the way Minnesota deals with mental health, Wheeler said the state has achieved different grades in national rankings over the past 30 years.

Wheeler gives the state a B plus. “I think there is a lot of knowledge about what needs to be done,” she said. “It is whether there is the will, the funding and the attention that can go to make it happen.”

She believes as a state policy-wise, it believes in community mental health. “Yet part of what is happened is that new ideas are grant funded and underfunded,” she stated.

One example she cites is the Mobile Crisis Services. In October 2013 the state requested a budget proposal to deliver the services for the 10-county area the South Central Human Relations Center helps. “When we

received the funding it was cut by two-thirds,” Wheeler said. “How can we move on this? How can we be sustainable? We made progress, but we need to ask for more funding from the Department of Human Health Services.”

An estimated \$8.5 million was allotted for crisis services in Minnesota. “They are giving mixed messages. There are problems. They do offer grants for good ideas, but the challenge is having funding to really make it work,” she said. “The \$8.5 million would be helpful to bring mobile crisis service to make it more available in the state.”

Starting on July 20, residents of Steele, Dodge, Waseca and other counties in southeast Minnesota will have a centralized call number, 844-Crisis2, for those experiencing a mental health crisis. The call center will provide phone counseling, risk assessment and local resources to callers from the region. The number will be available 24/7.

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MedfordLiving

Blandin Community Leadership Program seeks participants

As part of its commitment to strengthening rural Minnesota communities, Blandin Foundation is making its Blandin Community Leadership Program (BCLP) available to residents from Blooming Prairie, Ellendale and Medford.

Examples of how BCLP alumni have used the strategies and skills learned in this training include: advancing community cooperation, addressing issues of ethnic and cultural diversity, promoting tourism, creating economic development opportunities, addressing the needs of seniors, dealing creatively with health, housing, and education issues, and violence reduction, among others.

A committee of local residents is actively seeking applicants. All those interested in the future of Blooming Prairie, Ellendale and Medford are invited to apply to participate in this nationally recognized program. Deadline to apply is Monday, Aug. 17, 2015.

Applications can be accessed

and completed online at leadership.blandinfoundation.org. (Under Events, click on your community.)

Ultimately, a community team of 24 people will be selected to take part in eight days of training – a five-day residential retreat scheduled for Oct. 19-23, 2015 at Sugar Lake Lodge south of Grand Rapids, and three workshops December 8, 2015, February 16, 2016 and April 26, 2016. BCLP is underwritten by Blandin Foundation, which covers all costs for training, materials, food, lodging and tuition.

Additional information about BCLP can be obtained by contacting BCLP alum Mayor Lois Nelson of Medford at 507.390.4553/ dlnelson1167@q.com or by contacting Mayor H. Peterson of Blooming Prairie at 507.456.6264/ hcpjkpbp@cit-link.net or Mayor Mark Skroch of Ellendale at 507.688.9432 or Becky Adams of the Blandin Foundation at 877.882.2257/ rmadams@blandinfoundation.org.

SUPERINTENDENT

Continued from Page 1C

by putting things in place trying to continue to reach those important goals we have set out, especially in the areas of student learning and student achievement.”

Carlson admits that the NRHEG School District has learning gaps in different areas, but is identifying those and he will be helping put some plans in place.

Carlson had made the decision late last year to look for a different experience in a different community. He said his experience in Holman was wonderful. “There are a lot of accomplishments I am very proud of,” he said.

Carlson has been in public education for 31 years; the last 21 years in administration. He was looking for an opportunity in a smaller setting.

“When the opportunity for

this position came up, (I felt) right now this could be a nice match,” he said, adding that he understood it is a one-year interim position. “If they find it is a good fit and good match for the district and myself, then there is an opportunity to go beyond a year,” he said.

Schultz said Carlson has made it clear he would like to grow into the position to be considered a candidate for a further contract. “We are hoping it will potentially develop into a perfect fit,” he said.

Over the first few weeks, Carlson will be meeting and getting to know the people and begin building relationships. “It is building the trust so that they can have a certain level of trust in me in order to really help support our staff, our parents and our community as a whole,” he said.

Medford resident attends 14th Relay for Life

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Each year, the Relay for Life of Steele County holds an event to “celebrate, remember and give back.” And, every year since 2001, that’s just what Cindy Anhorn of Medford has done.

Anhorn’s father-in-law, Bob Anhorn, passed away from non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Her mother, Barb Schulz, was also diagnosed with breast cancer two years ago. And, for the past 14 years, Anhorn has attended the Relay for Life.

The Relay, says Anhorn, is a positive way for her to celebrate the lives of her family members, and all others who have been touched by cancer. “I don’t focus on grieving,” said Anhorn. “For me, it’s more of a celebration of their lives.”

The Relay for Life is an annual event that raises funds for the American Cancer Society. The fundraiser is also designed to raise awareness about cancer and honor all those who have been affected by the disease, including survivors, caregivers and loved ones who have passed away.

When a loved one is diagnosed with a disease like cancer, Anhorn says that support from others can provide incredible relief. To Anhorn, the Relay for Life symbolizes the community support that helped her family through the tough times. Anhorn also believes that it’s important to recognize survivors and caregivers for their continued strength. She says the Relay offers another opportunity to honor them.

“I didn’t really know about the Relay for Life until (Bob) was sick,” said Anhorn. “But cancer is something that impacts everybody.”

Bob Anhorn was diagnosed with cancer in the spring of 2001, and Cindy began fundraising for the Relay that same year. “I didn’t tell him I was doing it until I turned in the last donations,” she said. “Everybody donated so many luminaries.”

Family and friends remember Bob as a “character,” and a “larger than life person” who would do anything for anyone. “He loved people,” said Anhorn.

That first year, Anhorn estimates that she raised about



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

One of the luminaries glows in memory of Bob Anhorn during the Relay for Life, held on Friday, July 17, at the Steele County Fairgrounds.

\$1,300. She kept a list, including all the names of the people who made donations and recording how many luminaries each person had purchased. Reading the list, says Anhorn, brought Bob to tears.

“When someone gets sick, their community will rally and support them,” Anhorn says.

On Dec. 24, 2001, Bob passed away. Family members agree that Christmas Eve was Bob’s favorite day. Anhorn says that she spoke to Bob before leaving for church that evening to play bells. “I told him, ‘When you hear those bells, it’s time to go. It’s okay,’” Anhorn said. “And he passed away that night while I was gone.”

The next year, Anhorn returned to the Relay again, and says it has become a family tradition. The Relay took on a new meaning for the family when Cindy’s mom, Barb Schulz, was also diagnosed with cancer. “When my mom found out she had cancer two years ago, the American Cancer Society was (and still is) at the forefront,” said Anhorn. “They were the ones who had all the pamphlets

out and all the information about it. That was a very important thing for her.” That’s just one more reason that Anhorn feels it’s important to continue supporting the American Cancer Society through the Relay for Life.

Today, Schulz is doing well. She had surgery two years ago and is now undergoing preventative IV sessions. Through it all, Anhorn says her mom has been unbelievably strong. Yet again, family, friends and others have been incredibly supportive. “My mom never complained,” said Anhorn. “She always stayed strong.”

Anhorn says she’s struggled with the knowledge that so many people have shared simi-

lar experiences. Cancer touches people of all ages and walks of life. “There are people who have lost their children to cancer,” Anhorn said.

Going through these experiences with her family, says Anhorn, has changed her perspective. “It really makes you appreciate your life,” Anhorn says. “I have a new appreciation of my mom.”

Over the years, Anhorn says the Relay has grown considerably and has also changed. “It changes; it evolves,” said Anhorn. “But everybody always has fun. That’s why we keep coming. It’s a good thing to participate in.”

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Weekly crossword

on Page 5D

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STEELE TALKIN'

Continued from 1C

can. This is a fun way to get ideas about “what to teach” and “what age to” teach different skills to your child. This is also an easy way to find out about other activities for you and your child to do together and what services you may want for your child. This program runs from birth to 36 months. There is no cost to you. Sign up today and learn about your child’s development and make sure they are ready for kindergarten.

Steele Talkin’ is a column featuring various organizations around Steele County. Contact June Piepho, Follow Along Program Coordinator at Steele County Public Health, 507-444-7650.

RECIPE CORNER

Mexican Chicken Casserole

• 5 c. crushed tortilla chips

• 1 (10 oz) bag of frozen corn

• 4 c. cubed cooked chicken breasts

• 1/2 c. sour cream

• 1 (16 oz.) jars salsa

• 2 c. shredded cheese

By Amy Johns

Grease 9x13 in. pan. Add 3 cups lightly crushed chips on the bottom of the pan. Mix together chicken, salsa, corn, sour cream and 1 cup shredded cheese. Pour over layer of chips. Bake at 350° for 25 minutes. Take pan out, add remaining chips and cheese on top. Bake for 10 more minutes.

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Owatonna Living

Term of “filled biscuits” passed down for generations in Steele County

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

It's not by accident that a Blooming Prairie man's inquisitiveness about his Czech ancestry would activate his taste buds. That's what has happened to Steve Wencel.

Wencel is a self-driven historian who is like a guy who always wants to turn over a rock and see what is beneath it. Beneath that rock, Wencel has found a "filled biscuit."

As Wencel reflects on his ethnicity, he emphasizes that his mother is one-half Czech and his late father was total Czech. His efforts to learn more about his family genealogy prompted him to find out more about a tasty Czech pastry called Buchta (singular) or "filled biscuit."

Wencel loves to talk about his filled biscuit research, knowing that "filled biscuits" will be a popular item on sale at the 44th Annual Litomysl Summer Festival Sunday, July 26, at the Trinity Catholic Church. Litomysl is located about five miles southeast of Owatonna.

His research including contact with the Czech Embassy in Washington, D.C., has proven his theory of why early English speaking settlers in Steele County came up with the term "filled biscuit." This is a term that has been passed down for generations in Steele County.

The early English speaking settlers were offered Buchty by Czech settlers and they

saw something resembling a "biscuit," but it had a filling and was more of a sweet dough than a regular biscuit.

Wencel said Czechs still bake Buchty in the Dolni Dobrouc area the traditional way Czech settlers did long ago in this area.

Buchty are still baked in the old way and completely closed, said an acquaintance of Wencel's, Jaroslav Jansa of Dolni Dobrouc. Jansa writes: "The filling is not visible! After baking, the Buchty (plural) are placed bottoms up and then are sprinkled with sugar."

Modern day Buchty or "filled biscuits" are not fully enclosed as they were in the early days in Steele County, dating back to the 1850s. As time progressed and more fillings were available, a problem evolved with identifying the filling.

There would be a plate full of Buchty and no one had an idea which Buchta (singular) had poppy seed filling and which had apricot filling. There are many flavors now available, Wencel said.

Wencel enjoys the "filled biscuit" and said he likely will attend the Litomysl Summer Festival next Sunday. He points out, however, that the filled biscuits have changed over 150 years and today's "filled biscuit" is a hybrid. "It's like a mule; it's not a horse and it's not a donkey," Wencel said.

Wencel first contacted the Embassy of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic in Washington, D.C., in 1990. Wencel sent his definitions of typical Czech meals and sent Third Secretary Vladimir Styblo a map of

where Litomysl is located.

The Czech representative and Wencel later spoke via telephone about genealogy and Wencel popped the question: "Why do people in my county call Buchty 'filled biscuits?'"

Styblo agreed with Wencel's conclusion that modern day Buchty is none other than a "filled biscuit" because it is not turned bottoms up. Styblo then kindly sent Wencel a Buchta recipe in Czech. In the recipe, there is a note that says: "After cooling, we turn them bottoms up and then sugar them." This process was abandoned with bakers leaving the pastry open to tell what filling was inside.

Wencel's interest in history is not relegated to just "filled biscuits." He loves military history and recently delivered a lengthy, well-prepared history by him of the Vietnam War at a special welcome home program for area Vietnam veterans two months ago.

Wencel has also taught Czech classes and says humbly, "I muddle through it." He has visited his home country four times. While in the U.S. Army, Wencel served as a translator. Wencel is a longtime Owatonna Tool Company employee of 22 years.

Go to the Blooming Prairie Library and find a book entitled "We Lack for Nothing Now -- The Czech Settlement of Steele County" and learn that Wencel was a contributor in research for the book written by Michael Wolesky.



Submitted photo
Brick-Meger Funeral Home donated \$500 to the 2016 Patriot Skies fireworks display in Owatonna. Pictured left to right are: Mike Meger and Glen Meger of Brick-Meger Funeral Home presenting the check to Mark Krug, president of the Early Edition Rotary Club and John Havelka, chairman of the Patriot Skies Fireworks for the club.

Funeral home donates to Fourth fireworks fund

A Fourth of July celebration at a local funeral home has resulted in a bang, at least when it comes to donating to the community.

Brick-Meger Funeral Home of Owatonna donated \$500 for the 2016 Patriot Skies fireworks display. The proceeds came from donations from this year's Fourth of July barbeque at the funeral home as well as a contribution from the business.

The Independence Day pre-fireworks celebration hosted by Brick-Meger featured music by the Scottie Miller Band, pulled pork sandwiches, watermelon and 1919 Root Beer donated by Firehouse Liquors. Thanks to Fareway Foods for discounted pricing on buns and Benny Boys Catering of Medford for the excellent job of barbecuing the pork.

Mike Meger, mortician with Brick – Meger, commented, "We look forward each year to this community event, and want to thank our friends who come out and help with serving, clean up and all the other work it takes to pull off this celebration."

FAIR TALK

Continued from Page 1C

Lyle Tuttle, Medford: 1969 Oldsmobile (Hurst)
Wayne and Marilyn Reistad, Owatonna: 1969 Plymouth, R.R.
*Med City Mobility of Rochester will be offering wheelchair and scooter rentals at the fair. Scooter rental rates: minimum rental is \$20 for two hours, then \$5 for each additional hour. Manual wheel chair rate is \$10 for three hours, then \$3 for each additional hour. Look for the rental location at the Elm Street entrance.
*The Steele County fairgrounds have been designated as a no smoking property. However, during the fair there will

be designated smoking areas on the fairgrounds. These areas will be plainly marked.
*Mega-Ride tickets are now available only at Hy-Vee in Owatonna. They are \$49 and entitle the holder to unlimited midway rides all fair week.
*Fair season parking passes are available at Hy-Vee, Fareway Foods and Cashwise Foods. They are \$25 for the season.
*Dates of the 2015 Steele County Free Fair are Aug. 18-23. Check the fair website at www.scff.org. The fair office number is 507-451-5305.

First year with designated smoking areas at fair



By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

Those attending the Steele County Free Fair will find that they can only smoke in designated smoking areas during the week-long event in Owatonna.

"According to an informal fair survey we did at least year's fair regarding a tobacco free fair policy, I think it will have a positive impact," said Jane Nyquist, who is a health educator for Steele County Public Health. "Fairgoers who completed the survey supported a tobacco free policy and said they'd attend the fair as often, if not more, than they had in the past."

Steele County Free Fair Secretary-Manager Jim Gleason

said he doesn't believe having designated smoking areas will have any impact on those attending the fair. "We will do what we need to do," he said, adding that it will be more about others helping self-enforce the policy.

This year's Steele County Free Fair runs from Aug. 18-23 on the fairgrounds in Owatonna.

A map has been designed to show the designated areas. In addition, there will be some signage around the fairgrounds.

Gleason said there has been some feedback on the designated smoking areas, but not much. "There have been things popping up on Facebook, but it hasn't been talked about much," he said. "We will see how it goes and go from there."

An e-cigarette and tobacco-free fairgrounds policy protects the environment and beautifies the grounds.

*There are more than 150 Minnesota communities with e-cigarette and tobacco-free policies for their park and outdoor recreation areas, and six zoos in Minnesota, including the Minnesota Zoo, with policies for their outdoor areas.

*More than 74 percent of fairgoers in Minnesota counties support e-cigarette and tobacco-free fairgrounds.

*County fair boards across Minnesota are considering e-cigarette and tobacco-free policies. Dakota, Carlton, Freeborn, Kandiyohi and Olmsted County Fairs are all currently tobacco-free.

*Secondhand smoke exposure

is harmful outdoors, especially in crowded areas such as the walkways, the midway and concession stands.

*An e-cigarette and tobacco-free fairgrounds policy reduces the risk of fire and bodily injury. (ANSR MN fact sheet on tobacco free fairs <http://www.tobaccofreeparks.org/programs/fairgrounds.html>).

Nyquist said Steele County Public Health is seeking to improve citizen's health by preventing death and disease. She coordinates two tobacco and e-cigarette use prevention grants and the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) grant that includes tobacco and e-cigarette use prevention.

"Tobacco use is the number one preventable cause of death and disease in the U.S. Reduc-

ing tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke will help reduce the harm that tobacco/e-cigs do and reduce health care costs," she said. "By limiting the places where people can smoke, there will be less secondhand smoke exposure and ultimately less death and disease caused by it. People might even consider reducing their tobacco use or even quit if there are limited areas that tobacco use is allowed!"

Nyquist added that she is excited that the fair board decided to take this important health promotion step. "It will be interesting to get the reaction of fairgoers about the policy," she said. "It will also be nice to work in the Four Seasons Centre (at our fair booth) and not have tobacco smoke filter into our booth!"

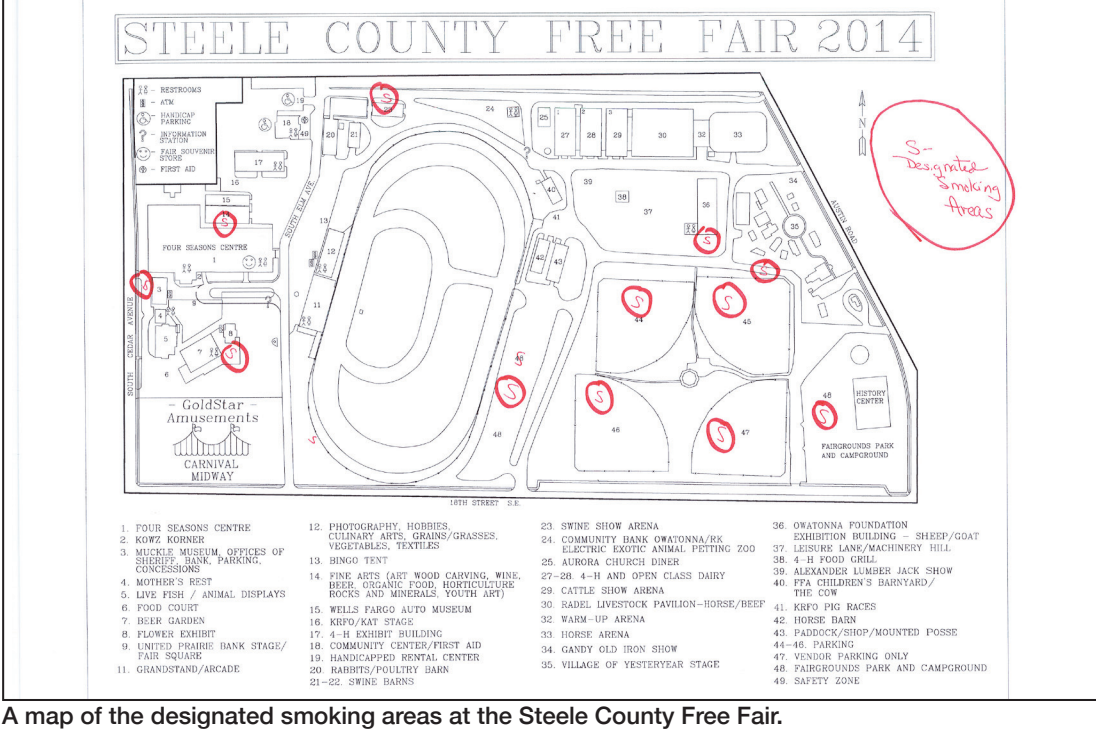


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4. MOTHER'S REST
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6. FOOD COURT
7. BEER GARDEN
8. FLOWER EXHIBIT
9. UNITED FARMER BANK STAGE / FAIR SQUARE
10. GRANDSTAND/ARCADE
11. PHOTOGRAPHY, HOBBIES, CULINARY ARTS, GRAINS/GRASSES, VEGETABLES, TEXTILES
12. HINGO TENT
13. FINE ARTS (ART WOOD CARVING, WINE, BEER, ORGANIC FOOD, HORTICULTURE, ROCKS AND MINERALS, YOUTH ART)
14. KID/JOY STAGE
15. WELLS FARGO AUTO MUSEUM
16. KID/JOY STAGE
17. 4-H EXHIBIT BUILDING
18. COMMUNITY CENTER/PISTOL AID
19. HANDICAPPED RENTAL CENTER
20. RAHRTS/POULTRY BARN
21-22. SWINE BARN
23. SWINE SHOW ARENA
24. COMMUNITY BANK OWATONNA/RK
25. ELECTRIC EXOTIC ANIMAL PETTING ZOO
26. AUBURN CHURCH JONKE
27-28. 4-H AND OPEN CLASS DAIRY
29. CATTLE SHOW ARENA
30. DAIRY LIVESTOCK PAVILION-HORSE/BEEF
31. WELLS FARGO AUTO MUSEUM
32. WARM-UP ARENA
33. HORSE ARENA
34. GANTRY OLD IRON SHOW
35. VILLAGE OF YESTERYEAR STAGE
36. OWATONNA FOUNDATION EXHIBITION BUILDING - SHEEP/GOAT
37. LESSING LANE/MACHINERY HILL
38. 4-H FOOD CHILL
39. ALEXANDER LUMBER JACK SHOW
40. PPA CHILDREN'S GARDEN/YARD / THE COW
41. KID'S PHOTO BATES
42. HORSE BARN
43. PADDOCK/SHOP/MOUNTED POSSE
44-46. PARKING
47. VENDOR PARKING ONLY
48. FAIRGROUNDS PARK AND CAMPGROUND
49. SAFETY ZONE

A map of the designated smoking areas at the Steele County Free Fair.

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Staff photo by Anna Segner

Learning from an Ag Expo

More than 200 people attended Monday's Southern Minnesota Land Use Expo north of Blooming Prairie. See next week's issue for more on the Land Use Expo.

Seeking students for 4-H speaking up for animal ag

Applications are being accepted for college students who want to help 4-H members serve as spokespersons for animal agriculture during the Minnesota State Fair 4-H Livestock Encampment.

Interested persons are urged to apply for the position of Minnesota State Fair 4-H Animal Science Speaking Up for Animal Agriculture Peer Mentor. Six positions are available. Minnesota 4-H and Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association sponsor this program. Juanita Reed-Boniface serves as project manager.

Persons in these positions will serve as mentors to selected 4-H

State Fair livestock exhibitors in all species (beef, dairy, sheep, swine, goats, poultry and rabbits) to encourage, model and role-play positive interactions with State Fair visitors to livestock displays.

Positions are open to college students age 18 or over, with an interest and/or experience in 4-H and livestock exhibits. Other qualifications are communication, teaching and coaching skills, ability to work with variety of adults and youth, expertise in production, processing and promotion of one or more animal species and experience as a livestock exhibitor and industry spokesperson. See the Minnesota 4-H State Fair Employment website for a complete job description or contact AgriFolks@gmail.com.

The program will include a one-day orientation/training led 4-H and Midwest Dairy staff on Aug. 25, written materials for review and coaching and daily support by staff during the State Fair.

Deadline for applications is Aug. 1. Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled. Send completed materials to Juanita Reed-Boniface, Project Manager, 2462 Lake George Dr. N.W. Cedar, MN 55011. For more information, contact AgriFolks@gmail.com.

Farm leaders: No tax relief for farming community

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

For the farming communities, the major disappointment is that the Minnesota State Legislature has provided no tax relief during the most recent session.

"In the farm country, everybody we talked to said farm taxes have been going up expediently," said Minnesota Farmers Union President Doug Peterson. "We didn't get a tax cut. That is the disappointment. There was talk of relief for farmers, but no action was taken."

Peterson said the bottom line is we didn't get a property tax cut even though at the start of

the legislative session there was \$2 billion in surplus.

Minnesota Farm Bureau President Kevin Paap added the legislature did nothing on tax relief and decided to put it into the next session.

"That is hard in these communities where ag is a big part of the tax base," he said. "Farmers are paying 10 to 20 times more for those new schools. We need to recognize that it is a significant cost to ag. How can we work through that?"

Peterson was also disappointed that the legislature didn't come through with a transportation package because of differences between the two caucuses.



Peterson

"Farmers Union needs good farm to market roads. It is a huge issue for rural people," he said. "Not having a formula to increase costs of roads and bridges, that was a little bit troublesome."

Overall, in a press release, the



Paap

Minnesota Farmers Union felt there were mixed results for agriculture during the legislative session.

"MFU was pleased to see many of its top priorities enacted into law this year including strong investments in partnering

with farmers through livestock investment grants and value-added projects, increased funding for state meat inspections and wolf depredation, as well as the creation of new incentives for advanced biofuel and biochemical projects," Peterson stated in the press release. He was also pleased that the legislature came together to adequately address the current of avian influenza.

For Paap, probably the biggest and most important part of the

legislative session was the help everyone provided to deal with the avian influenza. "Certainly those dollars offset the cost both to the Department of Ag and to the Board of Animal Health are very important," he said. "They did a great job. The availability of no interest loans that will help them get back on their feet after the outbreak."



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Minnesota Crop Report

Crop development remained well ahead of the previous year during the week ending July 19, 2015, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Farmers welcomed the week's rain in spite of accompanying high winds and hail in some areas. There were a total of 4.3 days suitable for fieldwork during the week. Fieldwork included spraying, scouting for aphids and cutting hay.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 3 percent short, 87 percent adequate, and 10 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 5 percent short, 89 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus.

Minnesota's corn acreage advanced to 47 percent silked, nearly a week ahead of last year and slightly ahead of the five-year average. Corn condition improved slightly to 86 percent good to excellent. Seventy-five percent of the soybean crop was blooming or beyond, 8 days ahead of average. With 21 percent of soybeans setting pods, condition rated 79 percent good to excellent.

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News

We all have a disconnect with our families at times

It seems that we all have a disconnect with our families at one time or another.

That definitely happened with my brother-in-law Jim, my wife’s brother. Following high school, he joined the U.S. Navy in 1972 and served on the USS Sperry for seven years. He then was honorably discharged.

Much is missing for family members to wonder what happened with Jim, other than to know that he preferred sunny California over Minnesota and decided to live a loner type life in San Diego. He lived nearly 45 years in San Diego. He died on June 26, 2015 at age 62, suffering from a multitude of ailments.

During his time away from family, he dealt with some health issues and at times, lived on the streets of San Diego.

Jim was a quiet youngster and masked that quietness as he advanced in age.

Jim’s father, 89, asked me to eulogize Jim at a memorial service recently held in Albert Lea, at the Leo Carey Post 56 American Legion Club. I choose to quote from my eulogy to Jim:

Eulogy to Jim

What do we think of when a close family member dies? Our thoughts immediately flash back to our fond memories of our loved one.

Jim’s family has many memories left by him but unfortunately his memory bank is rather limited because he lived a “loner” type life in San Diego, California after completing seven years of military service.

His last trip to Minnesota

Reflections. . . and How



Howard Lestrud

came in 1987 when he came back for his grandfather’s funeral. Jim didn’t care for the cold Minnesota weather and instead bragged about the warm California climate.

I joined my wife’s family in 1967 when we were married. I remember Jim as a shy but knowledgeable young man. He was the second oldest child of five children and he was not afraid to speak his piece on national issues. His interest in national events was cultivated at an early age and continued until his last days.

Jim and his younger sister graduated from Ellendale High School, together in 1972.

Following high school, Jim got a bug to join the U.S. Navy. This was his life for seven years and he enjoyed his time on the ship. He managed to broaden his horizon by getting to know San Diego well and also enjoyed his Navy time in Hawaii.

I remember Jim’s last visit to Minnesota. Following his grandfather’s funeral, Jim came to our house to attend his nephew Troy’s high school graduation. We had an in-ground swimming pool at the time in Forest Lake and Jim thought he

would show his aquatic skills by going to the end of the diving board and hollering to those in the pool below: “Watch out, here comes Superman.”

Jim was burdened by health issues most of his life. As his health deteriorated because of a couple of strokes, Jim needed more personal care.

His last seven years were spent with his caring family at the Bradley Court Convalescent Care Center in El Cajon.

Jim’s father, sisters and I had the opportunity to visit Jim at Bradley Court just seven days before he passed. He was alert and knew all of us. Unfortunately, Jim’s strokes had taken most of his hearing and his speech.

We found out that he loved Diet Coke and Dr. Pepper. We bought it for him from a vending machine outside of Jim’s room. The administrator of the care center also traveled 45 miles to bring Jim a six-pack of Dr. Pepper.

We had the chance finally to meet his social services director. Family had spoken with her many times to keep tabs on Jim. Much of that connection was strengthened by a younger brother’s constant link to Bradley Court. He called Jim often, sent him correspondence and made many of his health decisions, after consulting with other family members.

The social services director tells us that Jim had a GREAT day on his last day. He ate three meals, drank Coca Cola, smiled and gave his caregivers the “thumbs up.” Hospice in his last days made Jim comfortable.

Jim is remembered for being joyful and generally, happy. He took life as it came and made the best of things. He was always talking about family, his social services director said. Jim was well-read, intelligent and liked politics. He shared everything with others, including his high school yearbook and family mail.

Jim donated to Stand Up for Cancer because he knew a friend was fighting breast cancer. “He was very caring and wanting to do good for others,” his social services director said in sharing her remembrances of Jim.

Jim had a keen sense of humor, and loved to laugh, even about himself. Jim called family from time to time years ago and he had some good conversations with our daughter Tammi. They would talk for hours at a time. She would laugh and laugh at Jim’s antics. He would tell her that he was staging cockroach races. In his room, he would turn on the light and watch the tiny insects go toward the wall. He also told her that he fell out of bed one day due to a small earth quake.

Jim could really navigate well in a wheel chair. He was in tune with what staff wanted and was very aware of who his care givers were. They liked Jim and told us during our visit that he was one of their favorites.

Others, family and friends of Jim, will have memories, too, and will cling to those in paying tribute and remembering Jim.

Council issues bonds for Sixth Street project

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Projects and construction-related items were on the minds of the Blooming Prairie City Council during the July 13 meeting at City Hall.

Prior to the regularly scheduled Council meeting, a public hearing took place for the Sixth Street North West Street and Utility project. As part of the hearing, City Administrator Michael Jones provided a project overview. Jones explained that this project has “been on the books for a few years” and it is a unique project due to its location in a residential area.

The project will include a water main and sanitary sewer extensions, a storm sewer system and pond construction. “So we don’t have backyard flooding, the plans are to put in a well, which will deposit into a very large, substantial retention pond,” said Jones. This project will also include be a smaller retention pond.

The developer, said Jones, is hoping to build a minimum of 12 homes and has signed an agreement to pay \$25,000 per lot. After adjourning the public hearing, the regular Council meeting began.

First up on the regular business agenda was a resolution ordering improvements for the Sixth Street North West Street and Utility project. State Statue, said Jones, requires that this resolution be adopted prior to bond issuance. After adopting the resolution, Council then heard from Jessica Green, of Northland Securities, regarding the bond information and assessments.

Jones explained that this bond would be issued to fund the development project. As stated in the resolution, the bonds will be repaid with special assessment collection and city levy. Jones, however, added that a very small portion of this project should be funded with levy dollars, as other costs will be covered by revenue funds. “In reality, the tax levy should not go up,” said Jones. “It should all come from

revenue.” In other business, Council also approved a final pay request of \$5,702 for an additional portion of the Fourth Street Southeast Extension Project.

Jones explained that the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) had added conditions to the permit, requiring more shoulder, after the original project’s bidding process had already begun. The City provided some of the necessary equipment for the project, and Stantec’s Joe Palen completed some of the additional work at a reduced rate. In addition, Council approved payment to Mohs Contracting for its final work on the new ambulance facility, totaling \$5,867.20 and the retainage of \$38,468.70.

Council also approved an assortment of special requests, including three permits to consume liquor in the park for three separate celebrations. They also approved a request to close Second Avenue Northeast between Main Street and First Street to hold a cancer research benefit auction on Sept. 11 -12.

Jones also reported on a number of items, including the recent Fourth of July celebration. “It was a great Fourth of July and I hope we can continue it,” he said. Jones also noted that, with two part-time officers on duty, the police department saw more activity than usual.

Council member Mary Kittle-son also shared that she had attended a meeting with area business representatives and citizens to discuss potential ways to help support downtown businesses during the Main Street construction process. Additional signage, she said, was identified as a strong area of interest for this campaign. She inquired if the City had any funds that could be used for this purpose. Jones said that signage had already been included in the project cost but, that the Chamber’s remaining gambling funds could be used to supplement the cost, if the Chamber was interested in doing so.

Honor roll

Klemmensen receives degree

Rachel Klemmensen of

Blooming Prairie received her Bachelor of Science, Business Administration degree during spring commencement at the

University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

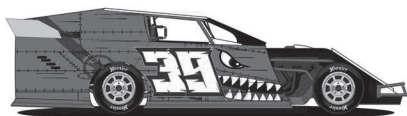
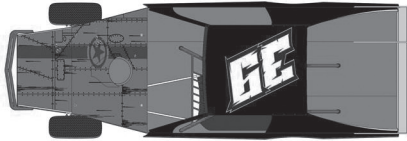
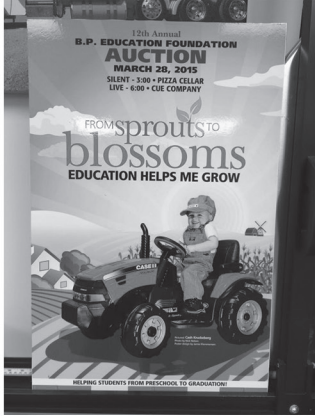
Nelson named to Dean’s List

Brenna Leigh Nelson, Letters & Science Undergrad, was named to the Dean’s List at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for the spring 2015 semester. UWM is the second largest university in the State of Wisconsin.



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3. Exhibitors must provide own container.
Legion is not responsible for loss or breakage.
4. Annual Flower Rule: Stem below waterline must be free of leaves.

- Stems should be uniform in length
5. All specimens must be removed by 4 p.m.
 6. Cash Prize and Gift for Grand Champion, Reserve Champion, & First Premium in each lot. Ribbons displayed for 2nd and 3rd premium.

Exhibitor Information available at A Touch of Charm, Farmers & Merchants Bank, The Bakery, US Bank, and Vandal’s People’s Choice + Door Prizes will be given

Entries Accepted 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
Winning Entries Awarded 12 p.m.-12:30 p.m.
Luncheon 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. \$10 per person
Card Party 1:00 p.m.

Classes:

- Class 1:** Gladiolus, single spike display
Class 2: Rose display, one specimen
Class 3: Garden Flowers: Annuals Lot
a) Snapdragon, 3 spikes; b) Zinnia, 1 variety 3 stems; c) Petunia, 1 variety 3 sprays; d) Marigold, 3 blooms; e) Aster, 3 blooms; f) **Dahlia **NEW LOT** g) Other
Class 4: Garden Flowers: Perennials Lot.
a) Black-eyed Susan, 1 stem; b) Daisy, 3 stems, any variety; c) Coneflower, 1 stem; d) Hosta, 1 leaf; e)Hydrangea, 1 stem with leaves; f) Lily; g) Other

- Class 5:** Arrangements/Centerpiece Lot - your choice of container: a) Mini Arrangement; b) Rose Arrangement; c) Mixed Arrangement; d) Wildflower Arrangement; e) Other
Class 6: House Plants
Class 7: Outdoor Potted Plants
a) Single specimen; b) Mixed specimen
Class 8: Succulent Plants
NEW: Class 9: Junior Division: Grand Champion and Reserve Champion will be awarded

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Fall happenings at Owatonna Park and Recreation

Parks and Recreation registration for fall adult sports has just been completed. If you would still like to get either a kickball or softball team entered please call our office on Monday, July 27 at 444-4321.

Fall kickball this year will consist of co-rec leagues playing on either Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday nights. Fall softball men's leagues will play on Wednesdays or Thursdays and co-rec will play on Tuesdays.

If you missed out on these fall recreational opportunities, there are some winter opportunities. Adult Volleyball will start in late September, with men's and women's leagues on Wednesdays and Co-rec leagues on Mondays.

We also have an option for low co-rec and women's league on Thursdays. Registration materials are available at Parks and Recreation office; the deadline to register a fall/winter volleyball team is Sept. 8.

Registration for fall youth activities begins July 29. Youth football, volleyball and swimming lessons will begin in late August and early September.

The football program consist of mini husky pup football for first and second graders, mighty husky tackle football for third and fourth graders and junior husky tackle football for fifth and sixth graders.

For Volleyball the offerings are third and fourth grade and fifth and sixth grade volleyball programs. The kickoff for the football third through sixth grade program will be held on Thursday, Aug. 13, from 5:45-7:15 p.m. at the OHS football field.

The kickoff for volleyball will be Wednesday, Sept. 2, from 7 to 8 p.m. at the OHS gym. At these kickoffs each sport will have a clinic conducted by the varsity coaches and players. Players will meet their coaches and receive schedules and a shirt/jersey for the upcoming season.

I would like to thank Jeff Williams, Jason Kaytor, their coaching staffs and players for making these clinics such a success.

The deadline to register without a late fee is Aug. 5 for the volleyball and football programs.

For your convenience we will be at the Owatonna Huskies Football Camp on Aug. 5 from 5 to 8 p.m. to register for our fall football program.

Also, Parks and Recreation Youth Hockey registration will be held late August at the Four Seasons Centre from 5:30-7 p.m. Watch our website for further details on Hockey registration.

Finally, for fall, we have swimming lessons which are slated to begin in early October. For classes and private lessons offered for fall

visit our website for a list of times and levels offered.

I would like to thank some individuals, staff and companies that have done an excellent job this summer providing programs and services to our youth of Owatonna.

First, thank you to all the volunteer coaches for t-ball, squirt, Lightening fast pitch, and little league baseball for your hard work and dedication that made the summer Parks and Recreation programs such a success.

Secondly, Parks and Recreation summer staff and aquatics staff, thank you for providing excellent programs and services to the youth of Owatonna. Your patience, dedication, and efforts do not go unnoticed.

Finally, the sponsors, which gave money for the baseball/fast pitch uniforms, t-shirt program and sponsorship for adult softball, your contributions are vastly appreciated by many. It is a team effort and we appreciate your part in making Owatonna such a special place.

We have a new exciting program coming back from the future with the arrival of the Aviation camp!

Registration is currently open for these camps. Aviation Discovery will be held Aug.10 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Owatonna Regional Airport and the cost is \$8.

This half day aviation experience is for those that have completed first through third grades and will give your child an introduction to wonders of flight. Your child will have an opportunity to learn about model building through the construction of a simple Styro-foam airplane. Other hands on activities will include learning about the parts of the airplane and how they fly.

Our second aviation camp is Aviation Exploration which will be held Aug. 11 to 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. also at Owatonna Regional Airport. The cost for this camp is \$25.

This exciting and educational aviation experience is for those that have completed fourth through seventh grades and will introduce your child to wonders of flight through a variety of hands on activities.

Your child will learn about various types of aviation, aircraft and flight. This camp will provide children the opportunity to build and fly a balsa wood model.

Parents must provide transportation to and from the aviation camps. Camps will be held rain or shine.

For other new and exciting fall programs check our website at www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksandrecreation. Wishing everyone a fun and safe Fall season!

Artists invited to participate in county fair's fine arts competition

Area artists are encouraged to participate in the Fine Arts division of the 2015 Mower County Fair. This competition is open to all residents from Mower County and surrounding area, ages 16 years and older. New artists are always welcome.

The pre-registration deadline is Saturday, Aug. 1. The fair premium book is exclusively on line and can be found on the fair's website, www.mowercountyfair.com. Information for the Fine Arts (Dept. P) and entry forms can be found on the website. Printed forms and information can be requested at the fair office. There is no entry fee.

All entries must be brought to the Creative Arts Building 3-6 p.m., Aug. 4. The judging will take place on Aug. 5.

No artwork will be accepted which cannot be displayed for the duration of the fair, which runs from Aug. 11-16. All artwork must be picked up between the hours of 6-7 p.m., Aug. 16, the last day of the fair.

Limitations and preparation: Up to four original works per artist. Each must be labeled on the back with the Title, Name of artist, Address and Phone Number.

All pictures must be framed and ready to hang with a wire support on the back.

Mediums: Watercolor, Acrylic, Oil, Drawings and Pastels.

Three Divisions: Professional, Pro-Amateur and Amateur.

Premiums: First, Second and Third monetary prizes in each division.

For more information, please contact the Fine Arts superintendent, William Olson, at (507) 413-2835 or olsonwilliam@hotmail.com.

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Saturday, July 25, 2015

Chicken served 4:00 - 8:00 pm at the Fire Hall

Field of Flags at Field Crest

July 22-26

Ceremony - 11 am on July 25

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Friday, July 24 - Oaks

10:00 am Shot Gun Start

Lana 507-272-9891

Oaks 507-477-3233

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Friday, July 24

9:00 am - Pool Park

Kasey 507-259-0192

Miss Hey Days Pageant

Friday, July 24

7:00 pm

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Bingo

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Earl Himle Park

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Earl Himle Park

All day Saturday

Megan 507-951-6036

Co Ed Softball Tournament

Pool Park

All day Saturday

Larry 507-272-2922

Bean Bag Tournament

Saturday, 10 am sign up

Earl Himle Park

A.J. 507-273-0683

Parade

Saturday 2:00 pm

Ryan 507-696-8693

Steve - 507-469-1463

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8:30 pm - 12:30 am

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\$10.00 after 8:30 pm on the 25th

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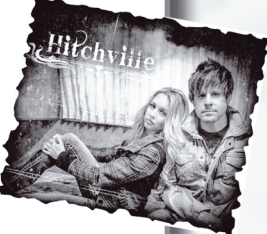
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Classifieds/News

CHANGES

Continued from Page 1A

2006. After high school, she attended Beloit College in Beloit, Wis., where she earned a bachelor's degree in creative writing and rhetoric and discourse. She also minored in journalism and political science.

While in college, Berndt studied for one semester at American University in Washington, D.C. She found that to be an amazing experience as she was there during the 2008 presidential election.

After graduating from college, Berndt worked in the retail industry for several years before landing a job with the St. Charles newspaper. "I was looking for something in journalism close to home, but that proved to be hard to find," she said.

Berndt is excited about coming to Blooming Prairie. "I really enjoy the community and I've met some very welcoming and wonderful people," she said. "The community and staff (at the Times) will help me grow as a journalist."

The new editor is impressed with what she sees at the Times. "I think what the staff is doing is great," Berndt said. "I want to continue the great work that already has been done. I have a lot of passion and dedication to devote to this job," she added.

In her spare time, Berndt enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, fishing and music. She is newly engaged and plans to get married next year.

Eileen Johnson

The Times' new sales specialist for the Owatonna area is Eileen Johnson. Though she has no media experience, Johnson brings years of sales experience, including furniture sales.

"I love to be in the public eye," said Johnson. "I'm a strong sales person and I like to develop personal relations with each and every company that I come into contact with."

Johnson grew up in the Wase-

ca area and moved to California for 10 years after high school. She moved back to Minnesota and raised her children in the Owatonna area. She has two adult sons.

She has worked in the Twin Cities in the automotive business as well as furniture outlets. In addition, she has worked at Country Treasures and Nelson's Decorating in Owatonna.

She is highly motivated to succeed in her new role as sales specialist with the Times. "I'm going to strive to be the best," Johnson said. "I drive hard to meet goals," she added.

Johnson looks forward to establishing relationships with businesses in the Owatonna area. "I enjoy Owatonna," she said. "What's going to spark me is to get more involved in the community."

Her hobbies include outdoor activities, fishing, camping, cooking and painting glass on old windows. But she especially values time with her family.

Bennett selected for new child protection task force

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

A newly-formed Governor's Task Force will include Dist. 27A Republican Rep. Peggy Bennett.

The Legislative Task Force on Child Protection was created as a part of the Health and Human Services omnibus bill signed into law by Gov. Mark Dayton in May. The task force will review efforts to implement recommendations from the Governor's Task Force on the Protection of Children and explore additional efforts to improve Minnesota's child protection laws.

"I'm happy to be on this," Bennett said. "I think it is a good thing to keep track of what we are doing as a legislative body, to make sure what we're doing is put into place, make sure they are working and make sure that these laws we are doing are helpful, not harmful."

Joining Bennett on the task force are DFL Rep. Tom Anzelc, DFL-Balsam Township, as well as the four current members of the Governor's Task Force: Rep. Ron Kresha, R-Little Falls, Rep. Joe Mullery, DFL-Minneapolis, Sen. Julie Rosen, R-Vernon Center, and Sen. Kathy Sheran, DFL-Mankato. Two additional

members from the Senate Majority and Minority caucuses will be appointed by Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk, DFL-Cook.

"As a retired elementary school teacher, Representative Bennett brings a unique and helpful perspective to this task force," said Assistant Majority Leader Rep. Kresha in a press release. "Teachers and school workers are some of the best eyes and ears in working with young children and helping to identify and prevent child abuse at home. We must look at every aspect—from the counties to the schools and everywhere in be-

tween—to make sure no child falls through the cracks."

Bennett said she is excited and honored to be place on the committee. "As a teacher, I have worked with young kids for a long time. They are a passion in my life," she said. "I want to see their well-being is protected."

The Legislative Task Force is expected to begin meetings next month, and is tasked with issuing a report to the legislature and the governor February 01, 2016 on progress of implemented recommendations and changes to the child protection system, as well as recommendations for additional legislative action.

Honor roll

Noble named to Dean's List

Anna M. Noble of Blooming Prairie has been named to the 2015 spring semester Dean's List at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, the university announced today.

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

Happy 25th Anniversary

Greg & Pamela
Spatenka

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Prairie Villa Apartments in Blooming Prairie is accepting applications for qualified site manager. Maintenance, administrative, cleaning & good people skills a must. Flexible hours & hourly wage. Employment application required and found on www.lifestyleinc.net or by calling 507-451-8524, tdd 507-451-0704 EOE

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507-602-0397
or 507-602-0050

Family Reunion

The 98th annual Hensrud family reunion is Sunday, August 2, 2015, at 12:30 p.m. at the BP Senior Center. Bring a dish to pass. Paper products, utensils and beverages are provided.

Please bring photos or pictures to share

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CLUES ACROSS

- Fixed hardware memory
- Ancient Greek physician
- US coach Amos Alonzo
- Before
- Hedge
- Musical endings
- Contrary to
- 39th state
- In a way, takes away
- More uncommon
- Hue or shade
- Having no moral failing
- Mauna __, Hawaiian volcano
- Initials of ALS physicist
- Soluble ribonucleic acid
- Smallest American sandpiper
- Wrote a computer program
- Silver

- A continuous portion of a circle
- To send forth
- Wood sorrel
- Curie
- Curved sword
- Harmon, Wahlberg & Antony
- Break stone
- Doc
- A small demon
- Split up
- Sierra lake
- Micronesian sailboats
- North African desert
- Famous persons
- A worn out horse
- One seeded fruit (alt. sp.)
- DEA officers
- 7th Greek letter
- States of repose
- Related on the mother's side
- Cub Scout group

CLUES DOWN

- Medieval fiddle
- W. Bolivian city
- Relating to a metal
- Sires
- Macao monetary units
- Roman household god
- Run up in New York
- 1st Indian P.M.
- Frighten
- Keepsakes
- Admirer
- Handgun (slang)

- J. G. Low's organization
- Constitution Hall org.
- Presently
- Smallest speech sound
- In-between meal
- Heroic tales
- Healing wound cover
- Paper bags
- Threefold
- River in France

- And in Latin
- Cup used to serve espresso
- One thousandth of an ampere
- Deprived of parents
- E. Asian housemaid
- Mac, gala and pippin
- Mother or father
- Dressing gowns
- Swiss river
- Banteng

- Speak
- MN 55122
- Religious faction
- Auto
- Supplement with difficulty
- Browning of the skin
- Militant Irish organization

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County construction update

I-35
Mathiowetz has completed the clay grade sub cut and sand hauling for the new road base and continues class 6 aggregate placement to cap off the sand layer.

C.S. McCrossan continues to work on the new bridge abutments on I-35 bridge over old Highway 14 (CR 2/Hoffman Dr.). New beams are scheduled to be set in place on Friday July 17 on the I-35 bridge over old Highway 14 (CR 2/Hoffman Dr.) which will require a short term closure of CR 2 with a detour.

Eastbound Old Highway 14 (CR 2/Hoffman Dr.) access to northbound I-35 on ramp will be unavailable for 2 weeks (from Monday, July 20 through Saturday, Aug. 1) while construction crews remove and reconstruct the concrete pavement in the intersection.

TH 14 – 4 lane expansion
Mathiowetz has the clay sub-grade prepared and ready for hauling in aggregate base material for road base under the new Highway 14 eastbound lanes concrete pavement.

Mathiowetz has started sand hauling for the new road base and will continue preparing for concrete paving planned to start near the beginning of August.

Old Highway 14 / CR 2 / Hoffman Drive in Owatonna
Mathiowetz has completed hauling in sand and class 6 for the new road base on the east side of the I-35 over to State Avenue in preparation for concrete paving Friday, July 17 on the westbound lanes.
PCI has completed concrete pavement repairs in both eastbound and westbound directions from I-35 to the westerly city limits of Owatonna. This section of roadway is now open to all lanes in both directions.

STREET TALK



Mike Dougherty

Striping and miscellaneous cleanup on the section from I-35 to the westerly city limits is expected to be complete by the end of next week, Friday, July 24.

Highway 14 bituminous mill and overlay from Owatonna to Dodge Center

On Thursday, July 9, Ulland Bros. started milling up old blacktop pavement and overlaying Highway 14 with new bituminous pavement in the area of Steele county road 180 near the rail road tracks heading to the east towards Dodge Center.

This section of Highway 14 roadway is single lane with pilot car. Drivers should expect delays and may want to find an alternate route or be patient as construction crews deliver a safer and smoother ride for the traveling public.

MnDOT urges motorists to always be attentive, drive with caution, slow down in work zones and never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones.
For real-time traffic and travel information in Minnesota, visit www.511mn.org.
Steele County is home to key Minnesota highway connections for commerce, industry and tourism. Learn more about how MnDOT invests in and cares for the state’s transportation system at Get Connected: www.dot.state.mn.us/getconnected.

2015 Extravaganza Tractor Show winners announced



Submitted photos

The Steele County Historical Society hosted a Tractor Show as part of its 29th Annual Extravaganza. The show is sponsored by Central Valley Co-op and is coordinated by Ron Janning and David Nelson with help from the Owatonna FFA. Pictured are the winners for the day. Far left is slow race winner: Gene Linse on the right, second place, Loren Krause. Second from left is Chain pull winner: Ralph Miller on the left came in first place and Dennis Ringhofer, on the right, took second place. Second from right are the barrel games winners. Kevin Prestegard, on the left, earned first place and Ralph Miller, on the right, came in second place. On the far right is the most unique tractor winner, Dann Rypka.

USDA’s Biorefinery and Biobased Product Program changes

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA is accepting applications for funding under a program that supports the production of advanced biofuels, renewable chemicals, and biobased product manufacturing.
“This critical financing will enhance our efforts to build a robust, rural bioeconomy by helping to expand the availability of biobased products and to increase the number of commercial-scale biorefineries in the country,” Vilsack said. “In addition to the available funding, I am proud to announce that USDA has significantly improved the biorefinery program to help create lasting job opportunities in rural America.”
USDA is making the funding available through the Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program. It was formerly known as the Biorefinery Assistance Program.
The new program provides loan guarantees of up to \$250 million to construct and retrofit

commercial-scale biorefineries and to develop renewable chemicals and biobased product manufacturing facilities. Vilsack and USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service Administrator Lillian Salerno today hosted a seminar at USDA headquarters to discuss changes to the program and the opportunities available to produce more biobased products.
Two funding cycles are being held. Applications for round one are due October 1. Applications for the second round are due April 1, 2016. For information on how to apply, see page 38432 of the July 6, 2015 Federal Register.
USDA has made significant improvements to the program. Biorefineries are now able to receive funding to produce more renewable chemicals and other biobased products in addition to advanced biofuels.
Also, biobased product manufacturing facilities are eligible to convert renewable chemicals and other biobased outputs into “end-user” products. Further,

USDA has streamlined the application process.
Sapphire Energy’s “Green Crude Farm” in Columbus, N.M., is an example of how USDA funding and partnerships with the private sector are helping to support the development of biorefineries. In 2011, USDA provided Sapphire Energy a \$54.5 million loan guarantee to build a refined algal oil commercial facility.
The plant opened in May 2012 and is producing renewable algal oil that can be further refined to replace petroleum-derived diesel and jet fuel. According to the company, more than 600 jobs were created throughout the first phase of construction at the facility, and 30 full-time employees currently operate the plant. After Sapphire received additional equity from private investors, it repaid the remaining balance on its USDA-backed loan in 2013.
USDA released a new report on June 17 that shows America’s biobased industry is generating substantial economic activity and creating American jobs. According to the report, the U.S. biobased industry contributed four million jobs and nearly \$370 billion to the American economy in 2013 alone.
Today’s funding announcement was made possible by the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past five years while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for taxpayers. USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life.

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OWATONNA CRAZY DAYS
July 23th-July 25th, 2015

Thursday, July 23

Kids Events in Central Park

- 9:30 am Kiddie Parade – Line up in empty lot on Rose Street across from UPB
- Kid's Games to follow the parade in Central Park hosted by the United Way of Steele County. Variety of other groups will have activities for youth
- 5pm - 7pm Antique & Classic Car show in the 100/200 block N. Cedar also featuring music by the "VINYL KING" sponsored by KOWZ & KRUE92
- 6pm United Way Campaign Kick-Off in Central Park featuring a Frozen Custard Social sponsored by Culver's
- 7 pm Community Band performs in Central Park

Crazy Days Sidewalk Sales
Thursday • Friday • Saturday
7am - 8pm • 9am - 5:30pm • 9am - 5pm

Food Vendors

Friday, July 24
All activities at Central Park

- 11am - 2pm Splash into 4H
- 11am - 2pm Petting Zoo Sponsored by Medford FFA
- 1:30pm - 4:00pm RadZoo Sponsored by **usbank**

6pm - 10pm Live Music at Bandshell by DEKAM AND JOHNSON

Food & Beer Available (West Side of Central Park)

Saturday, July 25

- 7am - 3pm Join us for the Farmer's Market (Central Park)
- 9am - 3pm Bandshell entertainment at (Central Park)
- 2pm - 3pm Cupcake eating contest featuring local celebrities (Central Park)
- 9am Reg./11am Start Color Dash to benefit Youth 1st & Owatonna Arts Center (100 block of Vine St. West)
- 7am - 3pm Downtown Art on the Greens - art vendors/crafters (old State Theater Space)

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Sat. 8 AM-4 PM

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