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1C



Steele County Times



Harvest Run
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Governor Dayton talks concerns with Rotary Club

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Governor Mark Dayton addressed health care and transportation when he spoke in front of a room full of Rotarians and their guests at the Owatonna Rotary Club meeting on Sept. 14 at the Owatonna Country Club.

Dayton spoke directly about the statewide competitive bidding process for MinnesotaCare and Medical Assistance (Minnesota's Medicaid program), which was announced this summer. This was the first time that the competitive bidding process was applied to all 87 counties in Minnesota.

The competitive bidding resulted in an estimated total of $650 million on next year's health care plans. The $650 million consists of a $450 million in savings for tax payers and a $200 million one-time refund for the state due to healthier than projected Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare enrollees.

Dayton's discussion about the competitive bidding was primarily aimed at the discontinued UCare, for UCare has been excluded from participation in both Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare for next year.

"One lesson I've learned is that everyone is for change, unless change happens to them," remarked Dayton on the health care bidding topic. "MinnesotaCare and Medicaid is almost entirely taxpayer-funded... We did competitive bidding, which by definition means someone is successful and someone is unsuccessful."

Dayton told Rotarians about his son in his young age pouting and expressing something was "unfair" when it did not go his way. "My older son pointed out to me that every time he blames the process isn't fair, I change the decision," said Dayton. "Then I had to step back and let this play out and see if it's really an unwise decision just because the losing party doesn't think it's fair to them."

While he does not object to UCare and complimented their campaign strategies, he criticized their action of "blaming the system because they don't want to blame themselves."

He admitted that there was a

GOVERNOR'S VISIT
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Staff photo by Anna Segner

Governor Mark Dayton talked to the Owatonna Rotary Club about health care and transportation in Minnesota on Sept. 14 at the Owatonna Country Club.

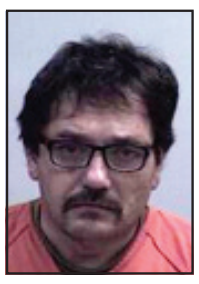
High-speed chase ends in crash outside Blooming Prairie Elementary School



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Deputies examine the scene of a collision between a pick-up and pay loader, following a high-speed chase that ended outside Blooming Prairie Elementary School.

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor



Castilleja

On Friday morning, a high-speed chase ended just outside Blooming Prairie Elementary School.

The incident began around 7:30 a.m. with a traffic stop for a seat belt violation on Interstate 90 and Highway 16, near Elkton. The suspect, Jerry Lee Castilleja, age 45, got out of the pick-up and the deputy instructed the suspect to get back into the vehicle. According to Mower County Sheriff Terese Amazi, Castilleja got back in the vehicle, put it in reverse, hit the deputy's vehicle and then sped off.

According to reports, Castilleja led deputies on a chase throughout Mower County, through Brownsdale and onto U.S. Highway 218. Stop spikes were set up on 218, but Castilleja was able to maneuver around them. Castilleja also crashed, broadside, into another Mower County Deputy's vehicle but was able to continue fleeing. The chase even continued through a cornfield.

At times, the pursuit reached speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour.

As the chase entered the community of Blooming Prairie, deputies called off the chase, noting that it was then approaching 8 a.m. and students were on their way to school. "The deputy saw kids and called it off," said Amazi.

Officials stated that Castilleja, however, continued to speed through town, approaching the elementary school.

"He had no concern for anybody else's safety," said Blooming

HIGH-SPEED CHASE
Continued on Page 5A

Civilian ends pursuit with act of courage

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor



Olsen

Each day we make decisions. Some are good, others are not. And then there's the decisions that affect the lives of others.

On the morning of Friday, Sept. 18, Richard Olsen, of Spring Grove, began a day much like any other. He got ready for the day and reported to work in Blooming Prairie, where Elcor Construction, of Rochester, is completing street construction projects. Olsen has been with Elcor Construction for about eight months. This particular day, however, would prove to be far more eventful than he expected.

That morning, Olsen was traveling from one location to another in a company pay loader. He'd just dropped off a valve and was en route to collect some bolts for another aspect of

AN ACT OF COURAGE
Continued on Page 3A

Blooming Prairie Education Foundation recognizes 2015 Blossom Honorees



Coughlin



Ruhter



Underwood

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Editor's note: This article is part two in a series. Last week's article featured 2015 Blossom Honorees Ken Esplan, Kenny Behnken and Lisa Zwiener Bruns.

Each year, local graduates and educators are recognized as the latest "Blossom Forever" inductees.

The alumni group of the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation (BPEF) recognizes people who made a difference in the lives of area students. The honorees are selected by Blooming Prairie School District alumni and supporters. In previous years, 35 other people have been named Honorees, including 16 Hall of Fame Athletes and Coaches, five Honored Educators and 14 Distinctive Service Honorees. The 2015 Honorees include Ken Esplan, Kenny Behnken, Lisa Zwiener Bruns, Clair Coughlin, Wayne Ruhter and Bill Underwood.

HONOREES
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Verdict reached in criminal sexual conduct case

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Matthew David Swenson, 33, was convicted of second-degree criminal sexual conduct on Friday, following a weeklong trial.

On April 25, 2015, officers received a report of sexual assault that had taken place at the Holiday Inn, in Owatonna. The victim, a 15-year-old girl, stated that Swenson had raped her in his hotel room. Swenson and the victim worked together in Owatonna. Swenson served as the girl's supervisor.

During the trail, the jury was tasked with deciding if Swenson was guilty of two counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and/or one count of second-degree criminal sexual conduct. Swenson was convicted of only the second-degree criminal sexual conduct charge.

Steele County Attorney Dan McIntosh stated that he respects the jury's decision, but also noted that his department had "done a lot of leg work" in this case. He stated that the experience had been extremely difficult for the victim.

"We are glad her view was justified by a guilty verdict," said McIntosh. "Our office's best work in this was getting her to the point where she felt comfortable coming to court."

Initially, said McIntosh, the girl was extremely anxious and did not even feel comfortable coming to court. This, said McIntosh, is a common occurrence for victims who have experienced similar trauma.

The penalty for second-degree criminal sexual conduct can be up to 25 years in prison and/or a fine of $35,000.

As of Monday, McIntosh was not yet certain if a sentencing date had been set.

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Vol. 122, No. 67 www.steeledodgenews.com 507-583-4431

Opinion

Our view

Rewriting the rural narrative

You may have heard that rural communities are dying. As the agricultural landscape continues to evolve, it's been said that the future of small, rural towns looks bleak. But is this accurate?

Earlier this week, the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) hosted an event, sponsored by the Black-Ridge Group at Morgan Stanley. During a presentation by the University of Minnesota's Research Fellow, Benjamin Winchester, audience members learned about the statistics behind the changing rural landscape – and the problems with drawing hasty conclusions.

Winchester stated that the face of our rural communities has indeed changed dramatically over the past century. As transportation and roadways become more accessible, it becomes easier to commute from place to place and, as technology continues to expand, the definition of "family farming" also shifts. Yet, despite the constant changes, positive trends are actually developing within rural areas. While it's true that many young students are relocating and moving away from their rural hometowns to pursue their education or careers, it's also true that many individuals and families are moving "back" to rural settings. In fact, rural communities have actually experienced an 11 percent population increase since 1970.

During his presentation, Winchester offered an upbeat outlook on the future of these communities. He also stated that it's important for people to think carefully about their narrative as they describe their hometowns. He implored audience members to be positive about change and to carefully consider how rural communities are portrayed by the media and by society as a whole. Citizens are bombarded with tales of "mom and pop" stores closing shop, closing post offices and the an epidemic of "brain drain" (the concept that, as students graduate high school and move away, communities lose their "best and brightest" members). In reality, however, more local, family-owned businesses continue to open their doors every day and many still enjoy continued success. Post offices, schools, churches and other entities may consolidate or close, but it's also true that more organizations and businesses now serve wider regions. And, just as young people move away from home, research also shows that a comparable number of people are moving to new, rural communities. The "average American" moves 11.7 times over the course of our lives. We are a mobile society.

Winchester's message was simple: rural communities aren't dying. They're changing. In the past 50 years, only three Minnesota towns have dissolved. And, as society continues to change, so must our perspective. Just because things are no longer "how they used to be" does not necessarily imply that these changes are negative. Winchester offered ideas to help communities begin rewriting their narrative. He encouraged them to reflect on what they have to offer individuals and families.

Take a moment to think about your community. What drew you to the area? What assets does the community offer? And, what can you do to help rewrite the rural narrative?

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

This week's question:

What do you think about the vitality of rural communities?

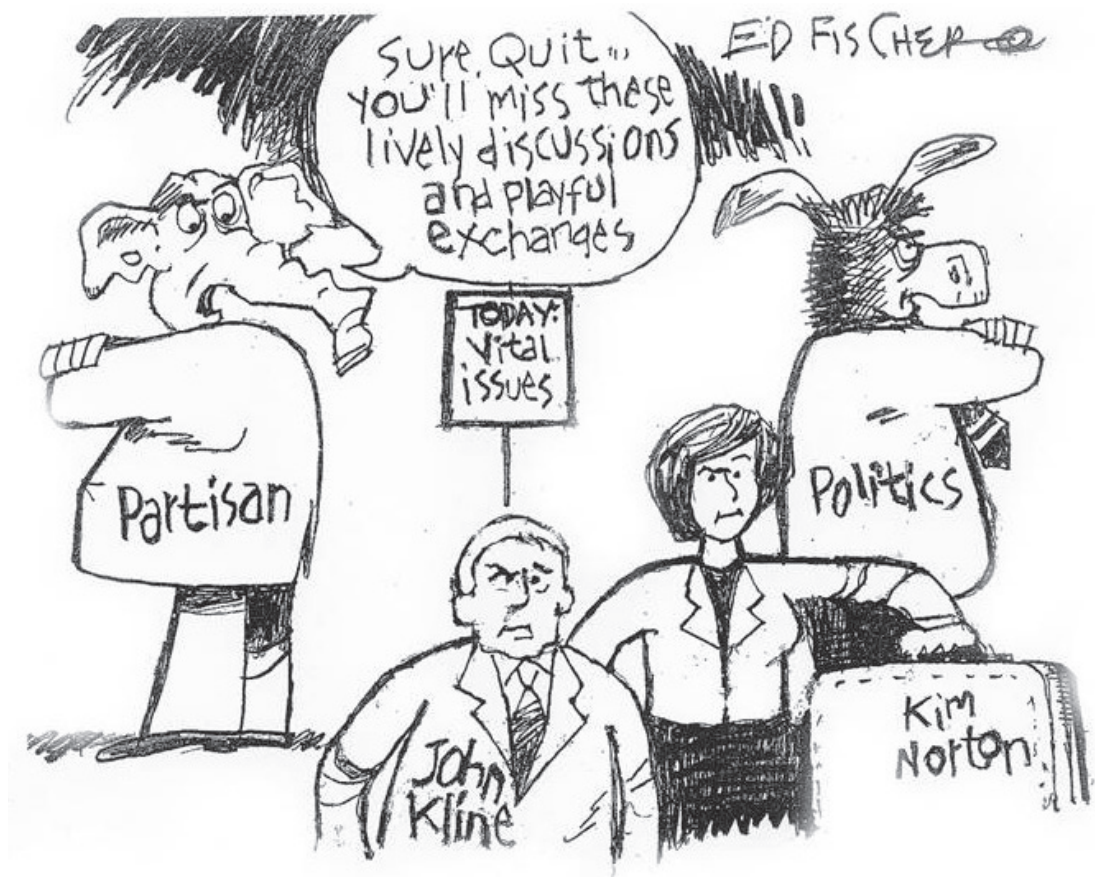
*I think rural communities are still and integral and growing part of our society.
*I believe rural communities are important, but are not as robust as they once were.
*I think rural communities are shrinking and struggling to support themselves.

Last week's question:

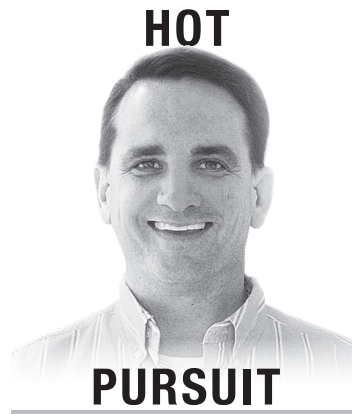
Did you do anything special in remembrance of Sept. 11, 2001?

*Yes, I always do. 56%
*Yes, I usually do. 11%
*No, I usually don't. 33%

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



Ag safety is a lifestyle



HOT PURSUIT
Rick Bussler

As I headed to Missouri over the weekend, it became apparent that the crops are looking pretty robust this fall. I noticed a few combines in the fields harvesting in Iowa and that tells me it won't be long for Minnesota farmers.

With the looming harvest comes a plea for farm safety. I know it's a message that is often covered year after year, but it bears repeating. The last thing I want to do is report on a serious injury or fatality related to farming.

Despite the popular image of fresh air and peaceful surroundings, a farm is not a hazard-free work setting. Every year thousands of farm workers are injured and hundreds more die in farming accidents. The National Safety Council reports that agriculture is the most hazardous industry in the nation.

The most recent data from the U.S. Department of Labor indicates that in 2013, farming accounted for 500 fatalities, or 23.2 deaths per 100,000 workers. Farm groups around the country are working to drastically lower that number.

Since 1944, the third week of September has been recognized as National Farm Safety and Health Week. This year's theme is "Ag Safety: it's not just a slogan… it's a lifestyle."

A number of years ago I lost a cousin in a farm accident on his family's farm. At only 13 years old, my cousin was eager to be a farmer. He wanted nothing more than to work the land and farm, but sadly his life was cut way too short.

Farming is a great profession, but it has its obvious inherent dangers. Most farm accidents involve machinery. Proper machine guarding and doing equipment maintenance can help prevent accidents. Using protective equipment and personal protective equipment can significantly reduce farming injuries.

Most farmers know what it takes to be safe on the farm, but too often, patience and yes, even our own egos, get in the way of working smart and safe. As farmers head into the fields over the next few weeks, I urge them to keep safety in the front of their minds. We need to work together to eliminate the thinking and habits that lead to accidents.

From being alert on rural roadways to ensuring the safety of children, farm families know ag safety amounts to much more than lip service. It's a life and death matter.

Farm safety doesn't just pertain to farmers. It's all of us who drive motor vehicles around farm equipment on rural roads.

Harvest season is upon us and let's all join together to go in hot pursuit of practicing farm safety. Best wishes for a safe and prosperous harvest.

Ensuring nonprofits are included in America's energy efficiency efforts



By U.S. Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR

This month, I will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear directly from Pope Francis when he addresses Congress during his visit to the U.S. The pope has gained international attention for his commitment to protecting our world and serving those in need. It will be an honor to be with him in the U.S. Capitol.

The pope has recently spoken out on the need to move forward on efforts to tackle climate change. One idea that would help both our environment and our local communities is to ensure that nonprofit organizations can benefit from policies that promote greater energy savings and efficiency. I am leading a bipartisan effort with Republican Senator John Hoeven of North Dakota and with the support of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to do just that.

Whether feeding the hungry, helping the sick, or mentoring youth, Minnesota's nearly 7,000 nonprofit organizations work hard each day to make a difference in people's lives. But, like businesses, they must count their pennies and operate on a budget. Right now, nonprofit organizations, which include churches, synagogues, and mosques, cannot benefit from many of the energy efficiency programs that are available to businesses because these programs provide tax credits, and since nonprofits are tax-exempt, they can't get the credits. That often leaves nonprofits with a difficult choice: They can either invest in energy efficiency projects or they can dedicate their scarce resources to providing valuable services to the community.

Senator Hoeven and I are trying to fix this problem through the bipartisan Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Act. Our bill provides

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
Continued on Page 5A

Letters to the editor

Bring back citizens' board

I am glad to know that State Senator Dan Sparks wants to see the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Citizens' Board restored but his voting record doesn't indicate that he did anything to try and keep it from being abolished.

1. In Conference Committee on the Agricultural & Environmental Bill which he was on, Sen. Marty made a motion to take out the provision eliminating the Citizens' Board. Sen. Hoffman voted for it. One more Senate vote was needed but Sen. Sparks did not vote for it. If he had, that provision would have come out in Conference Committee during the regular session.

2. Sen. Sparks then voted for the bill on the floor during the regular session with this bad provision included.

3. During the Special Session, the bill included the provision to eliminate the Citizens' Board. Sen. Sparks voted for the bill even though 29 of his DFL colleagues didn't. Even with his vote the bill still failed to pass.

4. The Senate then took out the provision eliminating the Citizens' Board and sent the bill to the House. The House reinserted that language and sent the bill back to the Senate. We needed the Senate to vote not to concur and send the bill to conference committee. However, Sen. Sparks voted to concur leading to the bill passing with this bad provision included.

As a Committee Chair and conference committee member, Sen. Sparks had a chance to keep this from passing. His voting record indicates that he fully supported this provision. I hope that Sen. Sparks plays an active role in seeing the MPCA Citizens' Board restored.

Brad Trom
Blooming Prairie

What happened to our water?

Blooming Prairie has always had great water. What happened and what caused it?

When we turn on the faucet we automatically assume that clean water will come out of the tap. We assume there is an endless supply of clean water for drinking, cooking, bathing, and numerous other daily uses. The recent detection of coliform bacteria at elevated levels in the Blooming Prairie water supply was a wake up call. There are many threats to clean water everyday. We cannot afford to take the clean water for granted. It is our job to protect our precious water; a natural resource that belongs to all of us. Get your water tested. Read the article in the Sunday Star Tribune, "Contaminated Wells aren't just a rural problem" at www.startribune.com.

Herman R. Beede
Blooming Prairie

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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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Second Front Page

‘Wolfhound’ emotions pour out at gathering

Vietnam veterans hold reunion at Owatonna American Legion

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Without an annual get-together of “Wolfhound” members of the Army’s 27th Infantry Division, many of those serving in the Vietnam War between August 1968 and August 1969 would still be lost or even dead.

For the past 14 years, the Wolfhounds have met in different venues across the country. On Saturday evening, 35-40 members and their families spent time together at the VFW American Legion in Owatonna. The men head to northern Minnesota for a fishing trip, while the women will spend time shopping this week.

John Quintrell, who made hundreds of phone calls to find those who were fighting with him, said the reunion has become an incredible healing process over the past 14 years. Quintrell, who lives in Helena, Montana, said when he started this process he was in a depressed state and couldn’t get out of his pajamas.

Now, he along with others of the Wolfhounds, which is the nickname of the infantry division, are finding ways to straighten out their lives after more than 40 years of day-to-day pain and remembrance of what happened during their tours of duty.

Like many of those who fought in Vietnam, Quintrell had to battle his demons. After battling a depressed state for so many years, he finally found a Great Falls, Montana counselor who he says saved his life.

“She plugged me into the VA [and] got me the treatment. I was in the VA facility for eight weeks until I got my head screwed on straight,” he said. “That was able to start the process.”

Quintrell said the group is a thin section of people that served in the second platoon. “When I started looking for these guys, I started looking for guys I served with,” he said. Quintrell went to Vietnam in August 1968 and came home in August 1969.

“As I started finding these guys, some had only nicknames. To find someone you have to find their full name,” he said. Quintrell started dialing hundreds of White Pages numbers to find those he served with. It wasn’t until he went through his boxes from Vietnam that he changed his approach to looking for his comrades.

“I was looking at my stuff and all the guys that got the Purple Heart that day were on the list,” he remembers. “The service numbers in that day were social security numbers.”

With that information, Quintrell was able to buy a consumers report and find the information he was looking for. “I was finding three guys a day. Sadly, I found some that were dead,” he said. “A couple committed suicide shortly after they came home.”

After he found 25-30 guys, he asked them what they would think about a reunion and they all said ‘Yes.’ The first reunion in Alexandria, Virginia, was very emotional, he recalls. “I was determined that I would continue looking for guys and have another reunion every two years.”

For the past 14 years, the Wolfhounds have met in different venues across the country. It is just in the past few years that the group has rotated between Branson, Missouri, and Owatonna. On Saturday, the Wolfhounds met at the American Legion VFW in Owatonna, to kick off a northern Minnesota week-long fishing trip.

The fishing trip was started by Owatonna resident Bob Mollenhauer, or as the Wolfhounds called him, “Moose.” Mollenhauer came to the first reunion in Alexandria 14 years ago and has been to every one since. “He was so excited about the potential about having reunions and he was so supportive,” Quintrell said. “He asked, ‘Do you think the guys would like to come up to Minnesota and go fishing on the off years?’”

That was how the fishing trip started. It was through Moose and his son, Matt, a manager at Cabelas in Owatonna, that expanded the fishing trip to include support from Cabelas and friends of Moose.

“Cabelas has been very good to us,” Quintrell said.

On Sunday afternoon, there was a flag ceremony at Cabelas. On Monday, a group of about 30-35 men and women and their children headed for northern Minnesota. The men went fishing, while the women went shopping. This will be the fifth fishing trip for the men.



Staff photos by Alan Van Ormer

Several members of the ‘Wolfhounds’ of the U.S. Army’s 27th Infantry Division who served during the Vietnam Conflict were at the Owatonna American Legion on Saturday evening preparing for a fishing trip in northern Minnesota this week. Pictured are back row Joe Waskom from Colorado, Larry Dobesh from Illinois, John Quintrell from Montana, Arie Hill from Florida and Dick Glover from California. Pictured in the front row from left to right are Dave Schimmoeller from Ohio, Bob Mollenhauer from Owatonna, Cal Johnson from Oklahoma, Larry Dasher from South Carolina, Russell Bruns from Montana and Charles Van Ash from Michigan.

Mollenhauer said the reunions have been wonderful. “It is one of the most healing things that I have been to,” he said. “You can see the camaraderie that goes on with wives and men. We just have a great time.”

He also remembers back in 2000 when Quintrell called him about the reunion. He had said ‘Sure.’

“I’m glad I did. Since then I have not missed one,” he said. “It has healed me mentally. We’re on the phone all the time and sharing things on the Internet.”

Mollenhauer came back with PTSD and several physical wounds. He is 100 percent disabled.

In Vietnam, Mollenhauer knew all of the men associated with the reunion. He was the point man for the platoon. He knew several of the wounded in 1969 and spent time in the hospital together with others.

Dave Schimmoeller, who came from Ohio, said if it wasn’t for the reunions, he wouldn’t be able to get through it. “It helps so much to sit around and talk,” he said. “The first reunion in Alexandria was the most important because it was the first time we had gotten together in 30 years.”

He added that many people don’t know what those coming back from Vietnam went through. “My son came and sat and heard some of the things and never understood it,” he said. “When we went home and we talked about it, it helped him understand. I have never talked about it. It is tough.”

Schimmoeller still has sleepless nights and wakes up dreaming he is still back there. “It is hell. I don’t know what else to call it,” he said. “Things have gotten better.”

The biggest thing for Schimmoeller is that he is able to talk about what he went through with others; the tough times and the good times in Vietnam.

Joanne Galli lost her husband 2 ½ years ago, but decided to come back for the reunion. It was a difficult decision for her, but she said once she did it, she was glad she did it.



Wolfhound John Quintrell surprises 11-month-old Avory Mollenhauer with a wolfhound hoody and sweatshirt during Saturday’s reunion at the Owatonna American Legion VFW.

Galli said the reunions have been good for her husband. “When he came back, he was quiet. It was amazing how he had changed,” she recalls. “He just wanted to get married right away and start a family.”

She said that the two had a great time, but something was missing. “When John started the reunions he saw a change. It was great,” she said. “When they were together it was very emotional. They talked about how they felt and how it affected their lives. It just helped him talk about it more and helped our marriage.”

AN ACT OF COURAGE

Continued from Page 1A

the project. That’s when he saw a red pick-up barreling down a residential street in Blooming Prairie, heading toward Blooming Prairie Elementary School, just as school was about to begin.

The chain of events leading to this moment all began earlier that morning between 7:15 and 7:30 a.m. when a Mower County Deputy pulled over a man, Jerry Lee Castilleja, age 45, on Interstate 90. That’s when Castilleja made a bad decision. After intentionally backing into the deputy’s vehicle, he fled the scene, beginning a high-speed chase through Brownsdale and onto U.S. Highway 218, bound for Steele County. During the chase, he hit another deputy’s vehicle, drove through a cornfield and managed to evade stop spikes. At times his speed exceeded 100 miles per hour.

As the chase neared Blooming Prairie, deputies knew that an especially dangerous situation was unfolding. With the knowledge that it was a school day and many children were traveling to school, they called off the chase. Castilleja, however, was desperate to escape and drove into Blooming Prairie, turning onto residential streets and rapidly approaching the elementary school, still traveling at a high rate of speed.

Olsen said he noticed the vehicle when it was about two blocks away. “About half a block down from him, I saw cops, and knew he was trying to get away,” Olsen said. The truck turned onto the same street as the school, and Olsen knew he was going way too fast.

“I thought, ‘He’s going to hit someone, or he’s going to hit my pay loader,’” said Olsen. So Olsen made a decision to intervene. As the vehicle approached Olsen’s pay loader on the left, preparing to pass him, Olsen turned the machine suddenly, and the suspect was unable to avoid colliding with the pay loader’s bucket. The crash forced Castilleja to stop, effectively ending the pursuit. Bystanders were in a state of disbelief as law enforcement descended on the scene, which was littered with stray ears of corn as a result of the pursuit through the cornfield. Thankfully, despite the fact that the chase ended just outside the elementary school, no one was hurt.

Olsen said he didn’t have much time to consider his decision to intervene. “I was more worried about the kids than anything else,” he said. Olsen has three kids of his own, and his girlfriend also has three children.

“We are very thankful that he took it upon himself to stop that truck before we had a person or child injured,” said Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad. “We really appreciate what he did.”

Sheriff Amazi also expressed her appreciation for Olsen’s actions. “He certainly put an end to a very dangerous chase, and we appreciate that,” Amazi said.

Olsen was baffled by the Castilleja’s decision to drive so fast nearby the school when children were present and said he is glad that Castilleja is now in custody. As for his own decision to intervene, Olsen shrugs and chuckles at the mention of the word “hero.”

“I’m not a hero,” he said. “I know anybody else on this crew would have done the exact same thing.”

Regardless, Olsen’s actions to put himself in danger in hopes of protecting the nearby students is something the community is extremely grateful for. Thanks to his quick thinking and his act of bravery, the chase came to an end before anyone was hurt or killed, and Castilleja is now in custody in Mower County and

GOVERNOR’S VISIT

Continued from Page 1A

lot to learn from this process and that there might be some modifications that need to occur next time. “It’s not miniscule. There is a large amount of people affected,” he said. “I am committed to seeing people’s basic health care continue.”

President of the Owatonna Hospital, David Albrecht, stood up during the question period and urged the governor to take a closer look at the negative impacts of the decision to drop the contract with South Country Health Alliance.

Dayton admitted that he geared his presentation more towards UCare because it has made the headlines; however, he listened to Albrecht’s concerns regarding less care availability and responded “point well taken.”

While health care was a major topic of Dayton’s speech, Dayton spoke nearly as much about transportation in Minnesota. “I hope to be back here for a groundbreaking ceremony for part of Highway 14. It’s 3.2 miles, which is significant,” said Dayton. “I’m glad that this area as well as others will be benefitting from that.”

This project, which many in this area are all too familiar with, consists of the four-lane expansion of U.S. Highway 14 east of Owatonna from U.S. Highway 218 to County Road 43. The project is hoped to be completed by this fall.

While this is a piece of Highway 14 that is soon to be complete, the highway covers 250 miles from South Dakota to Wisconsin.

“At 3.2 miles per shot that’ll mean we’ll complete the project in 78 years, which is not something to be totally enthusiastic about in that amount of time. It proves a point,” he said. “These little piecemeal increments to important transportation projects just aren’t getting us where we want to go, and the amount of money we make available from the federal government, from state government, for these projects is not sufficient to do the work that needs to be done.”

He commented that his findings as governor are that nearly all Minnesotans want more transportation, but “no one wants to pay for it.” However, he remarked that Minnesota’s economy will not benefit from the transportation systems falling behind.

“I’m hopeful, if not next year, an election year, or the year after that we will face up to these transportation funding needs and agree to what needs to be done and commit to something that’s going to be reliable the next 10 years,” he said.

Dayton ranked transportation as a number one goal when a Rotarian asked him his top three goals for the next session. He also listed education and tax reduction in response to the question.

How to save on hearing aids



THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by: Prairie Manor Care Center

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220 3rd St. NW, Blooming Prairie
583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,
Where can we find affordable hearing aids? My husband needs a set, but we can't really afford to pay the exorbitant prices. Can you help us?
Loud-Talking Wife

Dear Loud,
It's unfortunate, but millions of Americans with hearing loss don't get hearing aids because they simply can't afford them. Hearing aids – typically sold through audiologists' offices – are expensive, usually costing between $1,000 to $3,500 per ear. What's more, traditional Medicare doesn't cover them and private insurance typically hasn't either.

But, there are numerous ways to save on hearing aids, if you know where to look. Here are a few tips.

Check your insurance

While most private health insurance companies do not cover hearing aids, there are a few that do. United Healthcare, for example, offers high-tech custom hearing aids to their beneficiaries through HealthInnovations for $599 to $899 each. And, a small number of other plans will pitch in $500 to $1,000 towards the cost of hearing aids, or give you a discount if you purchase hearing aids from a contracted provider.

And due to state law mandates, three states (Arkansas, New Hampshire and Rhode Island) currently require private insurance companies to provide hearing aid coverage for adults and 20 require it for children. So, check with your insurance provider to see if it offers a hearing aid benefit.

If your husband is a Medicare beneficiary you should know that while original Medicare (Part A and B) and Medigap supplemental policies do not cover hearing aids, there are some Medicare Advantage (Part C) plans that do. To look for a plan in your area that covers hearing aids visit Medicare.gov/find-a-plan.

If he is a current or retired federal employee enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, some plans provide hearing aid coverage, including the Blue Cross Blue Shield plan that covers hearing aids every three years up to $2,500.

And, if you are on Medicaid, most state programs cover hearing aids, but requirements vary. To find out if he qualifies, contact your state's Medicaid program or visit Medicaid.gov.

Veterans benefit

If your husband is a veteran, the VA provides a hearing aid benefit if his hearing loss was connected to military service or linked to a medical condition treated at a VA hospital. He can also get hearing aids through the VA if his hearing loss is severe enough to interfere with his activities of daily life. To learn more, call 877-222-8387 or visit VA.gov.

Assistance programs

If your income is low, there are various programs and foundations that provide financial assistance for hearing aids to people in need. Start by calling your state vocational rehabilitation department (see parac.org/svrp.html) to find out if there are any city, county or state programs, or local civic organizations that could help.

Also contact Sertoma (Sertoma.org, 816-333-8300), a civic service organization that offers a comprehensive list of state and national hearing aid assistance programs on their website. Or, call the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders at 800-241-1044, and ask them to mail you their list of financial resources for hearing aids.

Cheaper buying options

If you are unable to get a third party to help pay for your husband's hearing aids, you can still save significantly by purchasing his hearing aids at Costco or online.

Most Costco stores sell top brands of hearing aids for 30 to 50 percent less than other warehouse chains, hearing aid dealers or audiologists' offices. This includes an in-store hearing aid test, fitting by a hearing aid specialist and follow-up care.

And websites like EmbraceHearing.com and Audicus.com, sell quality hearing aids directly from the manufacturer for as little as $400 or $500. But, he will need to get a hearing evaluation from a local audiologist first, which can cost between $50 and $200.

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

History from the news archives

10 Years Ago
Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2005
Publisher Dan Evans

Storms hit the area this past Saturday night into Sunday morning. It was reported that over five inches of rain fell in the area, causing some major flooding. Heavy winds also did some damage to the area fields and several branches were found throughout town.

Back before there were dumpsters as big as houses and garbage trucks that pick up cans with a telescopic arm, there was Ed Walsh, a long-time resident of Blooming Prairie, with a wife and 10 children, and a chance to start his own garbage collection business. Ed started Walsh Garbage Service 40 years ago, hoping that he would be able to support his family. The rest, as they say, is history. Bill Walsh eventually took over the business and has been hauling garbage for over 20 years.

20 Years Ago
Tuesday, Sept. 26, 1995
Elsie Slinger Editor

All the talk is true about the European corn borer: it has the possibility of slashing corn yields this fall. Coupled with a freeze last Saturday morning, Steele County and southeastern Minnesota crops won't yield what they did in last year's record-breaking year but, most likely, they are mature enough to fair the recent threats.

The kinks and glitches still need ironing out, but KOWZ-FM radio station in Blooming Prairie is officially on the air. For the past month or so the station, located on 100.9 on your FM dial, had been running programming tests from the tower in Meriden Township, but now the Owatonna office is up and going, with the local office ready for takeover soon. Lynn Ketelson, owner and operator of KOWZ, talked at the local Chamber of Commerce meeting last Wednesday, along with his general manager Joel Swanson.

50 Years Ago
Thursday, Sept. 23, 1965
Victor, Vernon and Vyrle Krejci, Editors

Homecoming activities are the highlight of this week-end's schedule at Blooming Prairie High School, with plans completed for the annual event. All activities have been scheduled for Thursday and Friday. Homecoming festivities will open on Thursday, Sept. 23, at 8 p.m. with the coronation ceremonies at the high school gymnasium when the King and Queen will be crowned to reign over the festivities. Immediately following the coronation, a bonfire and pep fest at Victory Field will close the evening.

The student body will vote Thursday morning in their first period for King and Queen and Student Council President. Hopeful candidates are: Karen Basness, Karla Hanson, JoAnne Pelinka, Linda Richardson and Connie Trom, Ken Esplan, Keith Igvalson, Dale Tollefson, Robert Tonolli and Tom Yentsch.

75 Years Ago
Thursday, Sept. 26, 1940
Frank Krejci, Publisher

The selective draft program got underway this week as Lewis Winship, county auditor, invited city, village and township clerks to serve as chief registrars Oct. 16. All Steele County residents between the ages of 21 and 35, both years inclusive, must register Oct. 16. College students or others away from home for any length of time will register at the precincts nearest them. Sick or disabled people will be registered by special deputies.

Two new extensions of rural electric lines in this territory will run south of Bixby to a point about a half mile from Blooming Prairie. The Blooming Prairie Gun Club has signed up for a membership in the Steele-Waseca Co-op. The other line is being constructed south of Blooming Prairie and is part of the Freeborn-Mower Co-op REA lines.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

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HIGH-SPEED CHASE

Continued from Page 1A

Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad, adding that he appreciates that deputies attempted to call off the pursuit before entering Blooming Prairie.

As the vehicle approached the intersection of Center Avenue North, along First Street Northwest, a construction worker observed the situation and intentionally drove his pay loader into the path of the vehicle, effectively ending the chase.

Despite the multiple collisions that occurred throughout the morning, no one was injured.

The Minnesota State Patrol, Mower County Sheriff's Office, Steele County Sheriff's Office, Freeborn County Sheriff's Office, Austin Police Department and Blooming Prairie Police Department responded to the scene.

Castilleja is currently in custody in Mower County and faces numerous alleged felony charges. Initially, Castilleja was suspected of giving officers a false name.

Thanks to teamwork that extended across multiple counties and the construction worker's bravery, Castilleja was brought into custody and no one was injured.

"Thankfully, there were no injuries," said Amazi. She did note that two Mower County vehicles were damaged that morning.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

A high-speed chase that reached speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour, traveled through a cornfield and ended in an accident outside Blooming Prairie Elementary School, took place on Friday, Sept. 18. The sequence of events began with a traffic stop in Mower County.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Continued from Page 2A

funding each year for the next five years to create a pilot grant program at the U.S. Department of Energy that would help local nonprofit organizations make their buildings more energy efficient. The grants would promote energy efficiency and savings by supporting projects to upgrade and retrofit old buildings, as well as to install renewable energy generators and heaters. This will be especially valuable to the many nonprofit organizations that work from older, less energy-efficient buildings.

We are taking a fiscally responsible approach, making sure that these projects will save a significant amount of energy and that they can be completed in a cost-effective way. I am proud to say that in addition to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, our effort is supported by the National Council of Churches, the YMCA of the USA, and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee recently voted our bill out of committee and it is headed to the Senate floor. As we prepare to welcome Pope Francis to our nation's capital, it's time to pass the bill and get it signed into law.

Energy efficiency is an issue we should be able to find common ground on: It is good for the economy, good for consumers, and good for our environment. It is crucial that we engage the nonprofit community, and our religious institutions, in our efforts to conserve energy and protect our natural resources for generations to come.

Senator Amy Klobuchar is the senior U.S. Senator from Minnesota and the author of the Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Act.

"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die." ~ Thomas Campbell

Your kind expressions of sympathy and generosity are deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by

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Community

Obituary

Ella Marie Benson, 97, Blooming Prairie



Ella Marie Benson, age 97 of Blooming Prairie, died Tuesday Sept. 15, 2015, at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie.

She was born Feb. 19, 1918 ,in Aurora Township, Steele County, Minnesota, the daughter of Christopher and Lena (Jacobson) Anderson. Ella was confirmed in the Lutheran faith at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bixby, Minnesota on June 19, 1932, where she remained a lifelong member.

She taught Sunday school and Bible school for many years, and belonged to the Naomi Circle. On Sept. 9, 1970, she married Orville S. Benson at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bixby. The couple lived in Blooming Prairie, and Ella continued to live in her home until moving to Prairie Manor on Sept. 11, 2015.

Among her favorite pastimes were quilting, crocheting, and hardanger. Ella was an accomplished seamstress and enjoyed baking and being with people.

Survivors include her stepson David Benson of Blooming Prairie, her sister Myrtle Peterson of Ellendale, her sisters-in-law Luella Benson of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota and Signe Pelinka of Ormond Beach, Florida; many nieces, nephews, cousins, and her dog Tina.

She was preceded in death by her parents Christopher and Lena Anderson, her husband Orville Benson on Sept. 30, 1999, her brothers Frank, Freddie, and Raymond Anderson, her sisters Bertha Lester and Annie Lester, and her nephew Roger Anderson.

Funeral services were held at on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2015, at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie with the Rev. David Hurtt and the Rev. Jon Marxhausen officiating. Visitation was held fat the church immediately preceding the service. Interment will be in Union Cemetery, Bixby.

Memorials can be directed to Trinity Lutheran Church in Bixby, First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie, or recipient of donor's choice. Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

SEMCAC senior menu

Sept. 22: Hunter Style Beef Tips over Noodles, Brussels Sprouts, Tossed Salad, Cranberry Bog Dessert

Sept. 23: BBQ Beef/Bun, Red Potatoes, Baked Beans, Pickle Spear, Cherry Crunch Dessert

Sept. 24: Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Peas & Celery, Cinnamon Applesauce, Ice Cream

Sept. 25: Chicken Chow Mein Over Rice, Seasoned Carrots, Fruited Coleslaw, Pumpkin Raisin Square

Sept. 28: Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Broccoli, Pineapple Slices, French Bread, Hawaiian Cake

Sept. 29: Porcupine Meatballs, Buttered Mashed Potatoes, Succotash, Fresh Fruit

Sept. 30: Lemon Pepper Cod, Baked Potato/Sour Cream, Orange Glazed Carrots, Batter Bun, Ice Cream

School menus

BPES Breakfast Menu

Sept. 22: Cinnamon Roll, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, Milk

Sept. 23: WG Bagel w/Cream Cheese, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Sept. 24: Banana Loaf, Vegetable Selection, Orange Juice, Milk

Sept. 25: WG Muffin, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Sept. 28: Yogurt, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Canned Fruit, Milk

Sept. 29: Long John, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, Milk

Sept. 30: WG Bagel w/Cream Cheese, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

BPES Lunch Menu

Sept. 22: Chicken Nuggets, Potato Salad, WG Roll, Pulled Pork Flatbread Sliders, Potato Salad, Cauliflower, Baby Carrots, Beets, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 23: Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Hot Ham & Cheese, French Fries, Sweet Peas, Garbanzo Beans, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 24: Beefy Nachos w/ Cheese Sauce, Mexican Corn, BBQ Chicken Sandwich, Mexican Corn, Romaine Lettuce, Green Onions, Tomatoes, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 25: Cheesebread Dunkers, Tator Tots, Sweet & Sour Chicken Bites over Fried Rice, Green Peas, Baby Carrots, Garbanzo Beans, Fruit

Sept. 28: Chicken Tenders, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Bread, Meatballs and Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Baby Spinach, Black Beans, Radishes, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 29: Chicken Alfredo, Noodles Cucumber Ranch Salad, Italian Meatball Sub, Cucumber Ranch Salad, Green Peas, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 30: Corn Dog, Firenze Corn Salad, Walking Taco, Firenze Corn Salad, Baby Spinach, Black Beans, Pepper Medley, Seasonal Fruit

BPHS Lunch Menu

Sept. 22: Pulled Pork Flatbread, Potato Salad, Cauliflower, Baby Carrots, Beets, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 23: Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Broccoli, Garbanzo Beans, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 24: Fish Taco, Slaw, Romaine Lettuce, Green Onions, Tomatoes, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 25: Sweet & Sour Chicken over Rice, Green Peas, Baby Carrots, Garbanzo Beans, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 28: Meatballs & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, WG Bread Slices, Baby Spinach, Black Beans, Radishes, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 29: Chicken Alfredo, Noodles, WG Breadsticks, Green Peas, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 30: Apple Cider Pork Loin, Baked Potato, Baby Spinach, Black Beans, Pepper Medley, Seasonal Fruit

Medford School Breakfast Menu

Sept. 22: Cinnamon Roll OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, Milk

Sept. 23: Banana Loaf OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Sept. 24: Egg N Hamwich OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Orange Juice, Milk

Sept. 25: Breakfast Burrito OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Sept. 28: Breakfast Pizza OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Canned Fruit, Milk

Sept. 29: Pancake on a Stick OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, Milk

Sept. 30: Omelet Tri Tator OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Medford School Lunch Menu

Sept. 22: Chicken Nuggets, Potato Salad, WG Roll, Cravin' Chicken Salad, Deli Sub, Cauliflower, Baby Carrots, Beets, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 23: Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Ham Pin Wheel, Chicken Caesar Salad, Broccoli, Garbanzo Beans, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 24: Beefy Nachos w/ Cheese Sauce, Mexican Corn, Confetti Ham Pasta, Deli Sandwich, Romaine Lettuce, Green Onions, Tomatoes, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 25: Hot Ham & Cheese, Tator Tots, Turkey Ranch Wrap, Chef Salad, Green Peas, Baby Carrots, Garbanzo Beans, Fruit

Sept. 28: Corn Dog, Baked Beans, Turkey BLT Salad, Deli Sub, Baby Spinach, Black Beans, Radishes, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 29: Chicken Alfredo, Noodles Cucumber Ranch Salad, Chips and Salsa, Cheese, Chicken Caesar Salad, Green Peas, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 30: Walking Taco w/ Fixings, Yogurt Pak, Chef Salad, Baby Spinach, Black Beans, Pepper Medley, Seasonal Fruit

NRHEG Breakfast Menu

Sept. 22: Doughnut, Yogurt

Sept. 23: Muffins

Sept. 24: Egg-Sausage& Cheese on English Muffin

Sept. 25: Cinnamon Roll

Sept. 28: Oatmeal Round

Sept. 29: Bagels, Yogurt

Sept. 30: Mini Pancakes

NRHEG Lunch Menu

Sept. 22: Hamburger on a Bun, Baked Beans, Fresh Veggies, Chips, Pineapple

Sept. 23: Turkey Gravy, Whipped Potatoes, Peas, Cooked Carrots, Cranberry Sauce, Diced Peaches, Cottage Cheese

Sept. 24: Toasted Cheese Sandwich, Tomato Soup, Fresh Veggies, Applesauce

Sept. 25: Chicken Quesadilla, Golden Corn, Seasoned Rice, Celery Sticks, Diced Pears, Fresh Fruit

Sept. 28: Chicken Dippers, Whipped Potatoes, Green Beans, Mandarin Oranges, Bread Stick

Sept. 29: Sub Sandwich w/ Toppings, Tortilla Chips w/Salsa, Fresh Veggies, Pineapple

Sept. 30: Shrimp Poppers, Macaroni& Cheese, California Blend, Celery Sticks, Applesauce

Milestones

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Sept. 22
Zach Ahrens
Sara Graves
Grace Fredrickson
Joan Kubista
Katie Ingvalson
Greg Kinny

Sept. 23
Kathi Peterson
Carl Swenson, Jr.
Brooks Zimmerman
Ethan Arett
Terri Zwiener
Megan Rask

Sept. 24
JayLynn Smith
Patrick Wallace
Kristen Romeo
Brody Carlson

Sept. 25
Hannah Morine Wehner
Nicholas Nelson
Daysha Zlim

Sept. 26
Soren Peterson
Joanne Sorenson
Sandy Jones
Wayne Njos
Kayla Brown
Sandy Kae Bass
Grace Olivia Nelson
Mike Trom

Sept. 27
Diane Olson
Samuel Skillestad
Jeff McCabe
Mia Farr
Mandy Trom
Anthony J. Olson

Sept. 28
Katie (Derek) Ingvalson
Kathryn Weiss
Kevin Mans
Craig Ingvalson
Valerie Braaten
Amy Trotman
Kurt Underwood
Kelli Jo Wallace
Rhonda Toquam
Lee Ramsey
Jayden Wagner
Nicole Weiss
Lori Burkhart

Sept. 29
Brenna Rask
Blake Arett
Bradley Nelson
Amanda Campbell

Anniversaries

Sept. 22
Sam and Barb Brewington

Sept. 25
Tim and Melody Amberg
Glen and Ashley Valek
Randy and Monica Lea
John and Thresia Heimerman

Sept. 26
Steve and Holly Ille

Sept. 27
Adam and Kristin Bishop
Larry and Sue Schmeling
Tyler and Ashley Allison

Sept. 28
Nels and Yvonne Lee

Sept. 29
Kim and Mark Symes
Terry and Ana Trom

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Area Church Spotlight



First Presbyterian Church, Claremont

Pastor's corner

Always true to oneself



September is nearly half over. High school athletic contests are in full swing. Homecoming events are happening. The school rivalries are resumed for another season. Brian Wilson and Mike Love stressed in their song "Be True to Your School" for the Beach Boys that loyalty and faithfulness to your school is important (Rah rah rah sis boom bah.)

Our country deems loyalty and faithfulness important, too. Oaths of office are sworn to give evidence of one's loyalty to the USA. Traitors are prosecuted and marginalized. Yet the popular cultural admonition "to be true to ourselves" overlooks the biblical truth that we're all sinners who've fallen short of God's glory (see Romans 3:23.) Being true to our sinful nature is not a good thing. However, if we have become new creations in Christ, then being true to our new nature is a good thing for us, and those around us.

The Bible tells us that God is always true to Himself. In the last line of what may have been an early Christian hymn, we have these words: "He cannot disown Himself" (2 Timothy 2:13.) Those words refer to God. He cannot disown himself. He cannot violate his character. While we at times are faithless, He is forever faithful and will never become unfaithful to us. He cannot disown himself. That should bring us great comfort. God can always be trusted. His promises are all true. God is always true to Himself.

How will you count on God's integrity of His being this week?

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
5881 S.E. 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Interim Pastor David Hurtt
(507) 633-9331
8:30 Worship 10:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 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.goodshephardowatonna.com
Services: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. &
10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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

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

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

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH —LCMS
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The Rev. Alan Broadwell
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sjlcoffice@frontiernet.net
www.peaceclaremont.otshost.org
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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
Worship 9:00 AM
Sunday School 10:00 AM

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

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

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

Catholic

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC
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The Rev. Swamy Pothireddy
(507) 465-8217
Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
Hayfield
The Rev. Steve Peterson
(507) 477-2256
Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Reconciliation: 10:15 a.m. Sunday

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 First St. SW., New Richland
The Rev. Swamy Pothireddy
(507) 465-8217
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday
and 8 a.m. Sunday.
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sunday

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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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Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

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Farmers; be proactive, not reactive



Photo by Anna Segner

Farmers listen intently to University of MN Nutrient Management Specialist, Dan Kaiser, about fertility considerations in the current economic climate.

By Anna Segner
County Staff Writer

Despite the chatter of a good crop this season, Joel Larson of Ag Star Financial Services encouraged farmers at the 44th annual Crop Production Field Day to continue to stay on top of financial management.

"The first thing is: do you know your cost of production? That is where you need to start," Larson told the farmers that gathered on the wooden benches to learn more ways to improve their farm management.

The purpose of Crop Production Field Day is to educate farmers on production, financial management and other relevant hot topics. The event took place on Tuesday, Sept. 15, on Keith and Jay Kuiters' farm, a quarter mile south of Clarks Grove. The event was free and open to the public. The crowd primarily attracted local farmers and agriculture professionals.

In his presentation, Larson admitted that financial management is not many farmers' favorite part of their living, but it is an important aspect.

"I think there is a real need for good accounting and really talking with your team to know your competitive advantage!" said Larson. "Build on that! This is not going to be easy, but I've seen the records. You are good producers…some of the best in the United States."

Larson encouraged farmers to be proactive by looking at their balances and building a working capital, especially in real estate, since the equity is there. "It's a good time to look at consolidating debt and adding on to that, you know nobody wants debt on their land," remarked Larson.

FARMERS
Continued on Page 9A

Al-Corn considering major expansion

By Karen Jorgensen
News Editor

Al-Corn Clean Fuel has asked its members to increase the number of shares of common stock available, an action that would permit a major expansion of the Claremont facility.

A special membership meeting was held last week to ask members to approve an amendment to the cooperative's Articles of Incorporation to increase the number of shares of common stock. Al-Corn is authorized to issue and to reduce the par value of Al-Corn's common stock.

This would allow the co-op to modernize and expand its present facility to more than double the amount of ethanol produced, said Randall Doyal, chief executive officer.

"If the membership approves," he said, "we will be selling more shares." The funds raised, he said, would allow for "significant changes" at the plant.

Al-Corn currently produces 50 million gallons of ethanol a year, he said. Plans are for the plant to produce 120 million gallons a year after the expansion and modernization. In addition to ethanol, Al-Corn produces several byproducts including dried distillers grains, corn oil and carbon dioxide.

With oil prices decreasing, Doyal said the ethanol industry is tight and there is not a lot of profit margin.

Al-Corn is one of the older and smaller ethanol producers, he said, and wants to be able to compete with the larger operations.

"We're trying to be here for the long haul," Doyal said.

"Our business is going to be extremely competitive with the advantage going to low cost ethanol producers," said Rod Jorgenson, president of Al-Corn Clean Fuel. "Expansion allows us to reduce our operating cost per gallon, to update and modernize certain areas of our existing plant, and moves us towards lower cost ethanol production," Jorgenson said.

AL-CORN
Continued on Page 9A

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Estimating corn grain yields before harvest

The Minnesota Crop Progress & Condition released by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service for the week ending Sept. 13 stated that Minnesota's corn acreage in or beyond the dent stage, 19 percent of the acreage was mature, eight days ahead of last year but two days behind the five-year average. Corn condition rated 88 percent good to excellent. Corn harvested for silage was 37 percent complete, almost one week behind normal. Forty-two percent of the soybean acreage was dropping leaves or beyond, nine days ahead of last year and three days ahead of normal. Soybean condition rated 77 percent good to excellent, down slightly from the previous week. With most of the dry edible bean crop dropping leaves or beyond, 47 percent of the crop has been harvested, nine days ahead of average. Dry edible bean condition rated 70 percent good to excellent Twelve percent of the sugarbeet crop has been lifted, two weeks ahead of average. Sugarbeet condition rated 85 percent good to excellent.

Corn growers in Minnesota may want to predict grain yields prior to harvest in order to help develop grain marketing and harvest plans. One option is to use a yield component method originally developed by the Agricultural Engineering Department at the University of Illinois. These yield components include number of ears per acre, number of kernel rows per ear, number of kernels per row and weight per kernel.

Final weight per kernel obviously cannot be measured until the grain is mature (kernel black layer) and, realistically, at harvest moisture. Consequently, an average value for kernel weight, expressed as 80,000 kernels per 56 pound bushel, is used as a proverbial "fudge factor" in the yield estimation equation. The equation originally used a "fudge factor" of 90, but kernel size has increased as hybrids have improved over the years. Consequently, a "fudge factor" of 75 to 85 is a more realistic value to use today.

Crop uniformity greatly influences the accuracy of any yield estimation technique. The less uniform the field, the greater the number of samples that should be taken to estimate yield for the field. Calculate estimated grain yield using the Yield Component Method as follows:

Count the number of harvestable ears in a length of row equivalent to 1/1000th acre. For 30-inch (2.5 feet) rows, this equals 17.4 feet. For other row spacings, divide 43,560 by the row spacing (in feet) and then divide that result by 1,000.

On every fifth ear, count the number of kernel rows per ear and determine the average. Try to use a system such as the fifth, ninth and 13th ears from one end of the row.

On each of these ears, count the number of kernels per row and determine the average. Then multiply each ear's row number by its number of kernels per row to calculate the total number of kernels for each ear. (Do not count kernels on either the butt or tip of the ear that are less than half the size of normal size kernels.)

Yield (bushels per acre) equals (ear number) x (average row number) x (average kernel number) divided by 80= bushels per acre.

Range in kernel number per bushel based on growing conditions: excellent is less than 75, average is 75 to 85 and poor growing conditions are greater than 85.

Repeat the procedure for at least four additional sites across the field. Calculate the average yield for all the sites to estimate the yield for the field.

For example, you are evaluate a field with 30-inch rows and counted 30 ears (per 17' 5" = row section). Calculate that the average number of kernels per ear, based on sampling the average of the fifth, ninth and 13th ears in the sampling row, was 511. The estimated yield for that site would (30 x 511) divided by 80, which equals 192 bu./ac.

Sources for this article included: Nelsen, Bob 2013. Estimating Corn Grain Yield Prior to Harvest. Department of Agronomy, Purdue University.

This article was submitted by David Nicolai, Extension Educator – Crops, U of M Extension Regional Center, Farmington.

Minnesota Crop Report

Minnesota farmers took advantage of an average 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending September 20, 2015, with crop harvest progressing well ahead of last year for most crops, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Harvest advanced for dry edible beans, corn for silage, potatoes, and sugarbeets; and started for corn for grain and soybeans. Farmers also harvested sweet corn.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 2 percent very short, 11 percent short, 83 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 2 percent very short, 12 percent short, 83 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus.

Forty-one percent of Minnesota's corn acreage was mature, 7 days ahead of last year but equal to the five-year average. Corn condition rated 88 percent good to excellent. Thirty percent of the state's corn for silage crop was harvested during the week, reaching 67 percent. Seventy-two percent of the soybean acreage was dropping leaves or beyond, 8 days ahead of last year and 5 days ahead of normal. Soybean harvest reached 12 percent. Soybean condition rated 78 percent good to excellent. Dry edible bean fields were 77 percent harvested, only the third time in twenty years that three-quarters of the crop has been harvested by this date. Fifty percent of the potato crop has been harvested. Fifteen percent of the sugarbeet crop has been lifted, the most harvested by this date during the last fifty years. Sugarbeet condition rated 85 percent good to excellent. Sunflower condition rated 58 percent good to excellent.

The third cutting of alfalfa hay was 95 percent complete, over two weeks ahead of last year. Pasture condition rated 73 percent good to excellent, down 2 percentage points from the previous week.

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FARMERS

Continued on Page 9A

Larson's talk on economic considerations was just one of the educational topics discussed. University of Minnesota soybean entomologist Bob Koch presented on recent developments in Soybean Aphid. University of Minnesota extension educator Brad Carlson informed the crowd of farmers about buffer strips. UM Extension educator Lisa Behnken spoke to the resistance of two weeds, Ragweed and Waterhemp, and she suggested various strategies for control. Dan Kaiser, University of Minnesota extension nutrient management specialist, also spoke about fertility considerations for the current economic climate.

UM Extension educator Ryan Miller spoke about theories for variable rating nitrate, an area that he considered a "hot topic in agriculture right now." He spoke primarily about application methods and technologies of nitrate fertilizer.

"Nitrogen is a huge issue right now. It is some of our most expensive crop inputs. There is a big gap where a lot can happen to the nitrogen, which can cause a big area of loss," said Miller. "We have to make a driving effort to get better with nitrogen by putting the right rate at the right time."

Miller spoke to the importance of staying on top of technology knowledge. "Things are changing faster, and the risk…from a technology standpoint is that it changes faster than we can practice."

"I think the core message today is to ask questions. What is this going to deliver to me? And follow up with validations of if this really paid off," said Miller. "Too often, people buy into news and they assume technologies worked for them, without crunching the numbers."

Education of crop production is the main goal of Crop Production Field Day and it always has been.

The educational event was born from the cooperative effort of Keith Kuiters, Larry Irvine and Norm Fredin. The first Crop Production Field day was in 1972. Kuiters was one of Irvine's students when Irvine was an adult farm management instructor at the vocation technical school.

The three men agreed that while the event has remained purely educational on trends and hot topics, the topics have increasingly had a focus on technology. The event has always had the support of University of Minnesota Extension research.



Photo by Anna Segner

The original founders of Crop Production Field Day, Norm Fredin, Keith Kuiters and Larry Irvine, enjoyed seeing the event thrive 44 years later.

"Everything has evolved over the years, but there is always a focus on varietal selection and production," said Kuiters.

In fact, while technology has evolved, the largest change in Crop Production Field Day has been the number of attendees. "There are so many less farmers these days. There was a lot of competition regarding other agriculture events today, but the fact is that there are less farmers," remarked Irvine.

Regardless of participation numbers, the event remains just as relevant as today as it did 44 years ago. "Every farmer needs to identify their crop production and how to manage financially," said Irvine.

Many farmers that attended the Crop Production Field Day found that they were happy that they attended. Not only did they get a free lunch with a root beer float, but they were able to take some pieces of knowledge and ideas back home with them to their farms.



Photo by Anna Segner

University of Minnesota educators Ryan Miller and Brad Carlosn talk about various theories for variable rating Nitrate.

AL-CORN

Continued on Page 8A

"Expansion also creates a larger local market, improves local corn demand and can be expected to raise local corn values," he said.

The proposed expansion, he said, involves upgrading the current equipment, relocating where corn is delivered in and product delivered out to speed up truck flow and to construct additional grain storage bins, silos and fermenters.

After the project is completed, he said the production will be much more efficient and reduce greenhouse gases.

Construction, he said, would take 14 to 18 months with the challenge being to upgrade, yet keep the downtime to a minimum. Doyal said that previous expansions have been done with the longest downtime being a week.

The way corn is grown and marketed has changed, Doyal said. Where much of the corn grown in Minnesota used to be taken to Savage and transported by barge down the river, now more is being transported by truck to ethanol plants to the south. Iowa has three times the number of ethanol plants that Minnesota has, Doyal said.

Corn has also been engineered to be more drought-tolerant allowing it to be grown in areas that it never was in the past, he said.

Al-Corn currently has 470 members, Doyal said, the vast majority of whom are farmers raising corn. Most of the members farm in Dodge, Freeborn, Goodhue, Mower, Rice, Olmsted, Steele and Waseca counties.

Increasing the number of shares available, he said, does not necessarily mean that there would be more members of the co-op. When the number of shares were increased in the past, Doyal said, current members purchased most of those shares.

Following last week's meeting a mail ballot was sent to each member. Those ballots must be returned to Al-Corn by noon on Oct. 15 with the results determining if the expansion plans will move forward.

Al-Corn is a farmer-owned ethanol production cooperative founded in 1994. In addition to operating the Claremont facility, it is also involved in joint ventures with Guardian Energy and Renewal Products Marketing Group.

Guardian Energy is a cooperative effort of six midwest farmer-owned ethanol plants and operates the plant in Janesville. Renewable Products Marketing Group is an ethanol marketing company that provides professional renewable and sustainable energy solutions to ethanol facilities and consumers.

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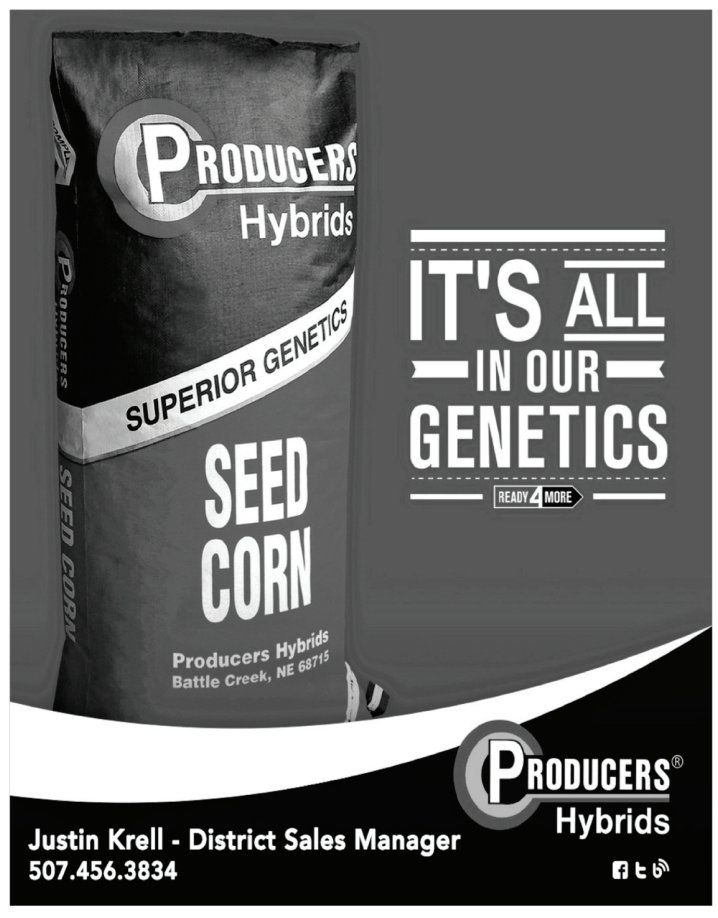



Blooming Prairie HOMECOMING CORONATION 2015



Row 1 (Left to Right) Margaret Jones, Kallie Klemmensen, Alyssa Krohnberg, Lauren Larkoski and Katelynn Grunklee. Row 2 Jon Hatch, Riley Olson, Kevin Eischens and Ethan Strunk. Mitchell Jones is not pictured.



Jon Hatch and Alyssa Krohnberg



Katelynn Grunklee



Ethan Strunk and Kallie Klemmensen



Lauren Larkoski and Kevin Eischens



Riley Olson and Margaret Jones

Schedule of Events

Friday, September 25
9-12 grades vote for homecoming king and queen during first hour.

Dress Up Days
September 28 - Pajama Day
September 29 - Decades Day
September 30 - Color Day
- Grade 7 - Yellow
- Grade 8 - Green
- Grade 9 - Purple
- Grade 10 - Pink
- Grade 11 - Red
- Grade 12 - Blue

October 2 - Character Day
October 3 - BP Spirit Day

September 28
Homecoming Coronation
Pictures for Candidates, MC's in HS Multi Purpose Room 6:45
HS Gym @ 7:30 p.m.
Coronation will be $2.00, if you have a button you will get in free. Children 5 and under are free.
Eating after the coronation at the Pizza Cellar for Juniors and Seniors.

October 2
Homecoming Candidates dismissed to hand out candy at Elementary School and Nursing Home - 9:00 a.m.
Make your own sundaes at lunch
Pep Fest - 2:00 p.m.
Parade - 4:15 p.m.
Football Game - BP vs United South Central - 7:00 p.m. Admission is $2.00
Dance following game for 7-12 HS Gym. Sr. Advisors are chaperones. If student has a homecoming button, they will get into the dance free.

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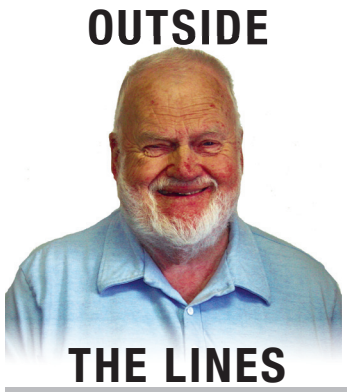
B Section | www.steeledodgenews.com | Tuesday, September 22, 2015

OUTSIDE THE LINES



LeMar Nelson

A good week in sports

A tip of the hat this week goes to both the Blooming Prairie football and volleyball teams. The Blossoms won a second straight match last week, by beating Randolph in three straight sets and then outlasting USC in five harrowing games. Both wins happened on the road, and it should do a lot for building confidence in the inexperienced Blossom squad

The team had won some matches in tournaments, but the match wins last week broke a streak of four three-game losses in a row. Abby Wayne had a very good week in sets as she had a total of 63 sets in the two matches. Alyssa Krohnberg has also picked up her game and led the team in kills for the week. Coach Ranell Kittelson and the girls deserve a lot of credit for their positive attitude and improved play.

The football team played up to its potential in the win against Mankato Loyola. Sophomore Lucas Noble was right on target most times, and the defense had another dominating performance. Except for another two fumbles lost and one intercepted pass, the team showed fans what the coaching staff has been maintaining all along- that the team can be quite good again by the end of the season.

Especially gratifying is the defensive play. Loyola got its first first down just before the halftime break, and BP had 22 first downs in the game, compared to just eight for the Crusaders. Although individuals lead in tackling each game, it is really through a whole team effort that the locals improved the season record to 4-1 with the victory.

Finally, Elijah Baker picked up the slack left by lead runner Alec Ille (out with illness) to finish 10th individual at the Mankato Loyola Invitational cross-country meet last Friday. For the two girls who run, Alison Pryor had a great day in the sloppy conditions and finished fifth overall. The junior high runners, especially the girls, have some talent and show promise for the future.

Trivia takes over

I didn't get any results, but the annual punt, pass and kick contest drew a large number of participants to McFarlin Field. It is quite a sight to see the large number of competitors and parents who watch the action and support the participants. It was fun to see.

I always enjoy hearing from and about former students, and last weekend I had the opportunity to visit with three graduates from the class of 1962. Paul Goodnature, Marideanne Bray and Larry Moeykens shared experiences with me for several hours at Goodnature's residence, and it was truly enlightening. A lot of time has passed, and I haven't seen them often, if at all, since they graduated, which made the occasion pretty special and enjoyable. Thanks to them for the evening get-together.

I am working on a future article about the early experiences in college from our star athletes from last year's graduates. The one thing that has really stood out from their responses so far is their realization of how different college is from high school. Especially for athletes, the difference is stark, and they all maintain that there is a wide dif-

OUTSIDE THE LINES
Continued on Page 2B

STEELE COUNTY CROSS-COUNTRY

Medford and Blooming Prairie compete in away meets

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Blooming Prairie at Mankato Loyola

With No. 1 runner Alec Ille out with illness, it was left to Elijah Baker to lead the Blooming Prairie and he did just that. Baker finished 10th individual in very sloppy conditions at the Mankato Loyola 6-team Invitational cross country meet on Sept. 18.

Elijah Baker ran the course in 18:28, and two other Blossom runners finished in the top 20. Evan Doerhoefer timed in 18:47 for 17th and Isaac Baker ran a 19:08 for 19th. Jesse Schewe ran a 20:57 for the other Blossom entry.

Two girls ran the course. Alison Pryor placed fifth with 21:41 time. Anika Nowlan also ran a 26:41 for the Blossoms. The junior high girls took first in that event, with Bobbie Bruns first individual in 15:45. Alison Krohnberg timed a 16:44 (third), Olivia Johnson a 16:49 (fifth), Rose Michaud 16:54 (sixth) and Ashley Brown 19:44 (eighth). Ethan Grant took seventh for the junior high boys with a 14:38 time.

"In spite of the fact that it rained throughout the race, I thought we had some very good performances," remarked Coach John Bruns. "Elijah Baker ran a strong race for his 10th place, and Pryor had her best time of the season. Overall,

CROSS-COUNTRY
Continued on Page 2B

OWATONNA



Staff photo by James Knoop

Junior Toria Koch dribbles past Mankato West's Rachel Luedtke on Tuesday, Sept. 15. The Huskies won 2-1. The girls now stand 4-4-1 .

Tigers stay win 7 straight; unbeaten in conference

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

The Medford Tigers are on a roll, winning seven straight games amd boasting an 11-4 overall record.

The team also remains unbeaten in their conference having already defeated Blooming Prairie three times, as well as New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva once.

The team went into a Mankato tournament with a 7-4 overall record, defeating NRHEG on the road just prior to the tournament.

"We had a great night of volleyball," said Medford Coach Tanya Powers. "We never let down. We had over nine ace serves as a team, we hit the ball harder than I have seen all year, and we dug almost everything hit at us."

Powers attributed the team's success this season to dedication to the sport from each of her girls on the team.

"I am very proud of each and every one of my girl," said Powers. "Our hard work in practices is showing in games."

After a busy week, the girls were scheduled to only play one game this week, an away game on Tuesday at Tri-City United.

Following the away game, the girls have only five regular season games remaining, only two of which are at home. Those games will be played Oct. 9 and 13, both at 7:15 p.m.



Staff photo by James Knoop

Dani Morgan (left) sets the ball for a teammate against NRHEG on Thursday, Sept. 17. The Tigers won 3-0.

Sports

NRHEG

Panthers 2-2 at Mankato Tournament; 4-2 in regular play



Staff photos by James Knoop

Two Panthers players leap for a block against the Medford Tigers last Tuesday. The Panthers lost 3-0.

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

The NRHEG Panthers volleyball team won two of four at a Mankato tournament this past weekend.

The tournament came after a disappointing home loss to the Medford Tigers in which the Panthers lost 14-25, 12-25 and 10-25, respectively.

"We struggled across the board tonight," said Coach Onika Peterson. "Our passing was off, which caused our setters to scramble. Tonight was one of those nights nothing seemed to be going our way."

Peterson said the team's goal was to regroup and play a solid four games in Mankato. The team won its first two matches against St. Peter and United South Central, but lost the last two against Mankato West and Martin County West.

The team now stands 4-2 in regular play and 6-4 overall. This week they are scheduled to play two road games, including a game Tuesday, Sept. 22, against Blooming Prairie and one Thursday, Sept. 24, at Maple River.

NRHEG has not faced Blooming Prairie yet this year, but the Panthers defeated Maple River 3-0 in the first meeting between the two teams.

After this week, the Panthers will have eight remaining games, six of which will be on their home court.

Blooming Prairie junior high volleyball roundups

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

7th grade

The seventh- and eighth-grade volleyball teams both played four doubleheaders over the last two weeks. Against USC on the home court on Sept. 17, the seventh grade won three sets 25-12, 26-24 and 25-17 and lost a fourth, 24-26.

NRHEG and BP split a match in four games on Sept. 15, Triton took three of four from the locals at Dodge Center on Sept. 14, and Medford won all four games, twice by 25-11 and then 25-9 in identical scores. In the Panther match, BP won 25-13 and lost 25-10, won 25-19, and lost 25-18. Against the Cobras, Triton won the first two games by 25-15 scores but the Blossoms won game three 25-17. Triton came back to win 25-11.

8th grade

The eighth-graders played USC in four games, losing 25-8, winning 25-22, losing 25-20, and winning 15-11 the team lost to NRHEG 30-28 and 25-14, but won game three 25-19. The Panthers won the final game, 25-18.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Continued from Page 1B

I was pleased with our effort today."

Medford at Maple River

Medford had Alex Goetze finish fourth individually as the Tigers finished sixth of the eight teams entered at the Maple River Invitational on Sept. 17. Kelsey Walock ran as the lone girl for Medford. Blue Earth Area won the meet, with Maple River second. Goetzke ran the 5K course in 19:11.30, with Johnny Meyer 30th in 21:44.80.

Tyler Stenzel and Dakota Wiersma both finished in the top 50 runners with times of 22:13.44 and 22:42.18. Other runners for the Tigers included Brett Johnson at 23:43.64, Ricky Iverson at 24:48.62 and Connor Davis at 26:25.91. For the girls Walock finished 30th at 21:42.18.

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued from Page 1B

ference in the two experiences. More from them in the future article.

Tomorrow (Wednesday) the local Boys and Girls Club is hosting a Business After Hours at the club. Business people and other residents are all invited to the club for a visit and some snacks.

The next big event for the community now is the annual Education Foundation banquet and the Blossoms Forever induction of several former students. The date is Saturday, Oct. 3, and tickets are available from members of the Ed Foundation board. Make plans now to attend.

After the Minnesota Twins lost the first three games to Los Angeles in a four-game series, I almost jumped of the Twins bandewagon, but they savaged the last game to stay tied with Angels, just behind the Houston Astros for a wild card chance. I guess we will stay tuned to see what happens.

The Vikings sort of redeemed themselves with their win over Detroit Sunday. Maybe the team is now ready to play the kind of ball that was predicted at the start of the season. I will withhold any comment on the Minnesota Gophers for another week or so.

Sports loses another

Another of the great sports figures died two weeks ago when basketball player Moses Malone died at the young age of 60. Malone clearly shone as one of the original real stars in the National Basketball Association.

He was the first player ever to be signed to a professional team out of high school, and he played two years in the ABA before joining the NBA. Malone starred in the league from 1974 to 1995 and earned MVP honors for the league three times. He was a 12-time All-Star and won the NBA championship with the Philadelphia 76ers in 1983.

Malone led the league in offensive rebounding six times, five of them consecutively from 1981-85. He is the league's all-time leader in offensive rebounds and is third on the list in total rebounds. He played for five different clubs in his career. He and his wife had two children, but the two divorced under quite unpleasant circumstances. He was born in Virginia and died in Norfolk of complications from heart disease.

Out of time and space, but go Blossoms, and we'll talk again.

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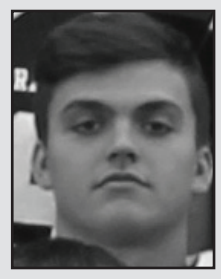
ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



LUCAS NOBLE

The sophomore quarterback had a career game in the 48-8 victory over Mankato Loyola. He passed for 239 yards and two touchdowns and also ran for 85 yards and two touchdowns. In his first season as the Blooming Prairie quarterback, he is trying to fill the shoes of John Rumpza, who holds every passing record in school history. Noble is proving to be a worthy follower, as he directs the Blossom fortunes.



LEAH INWARDS

The junior back line player for the Blossom volleyball is noted for her ability to scramble to all corners of the court in pursuit of the hits by opponents. She is always right up there in the digs per match. In last week's two matches, Inwards combined for almost 40 digs (37 to be exact), and she is one of the junior leaders on the squad.

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Public Safety

Investigation continues in fatal car crash

The investigation into last week's fatal car wreck in Steele County continues, according to Sheriff Lon Thiele.

Thiele's office is relying on the assistance of a reconstruction report from the Minnesota State Patrol to help piece together what happened in the crash on County Road 45 at 58th Street, about five miles south of Owatonna.

The crash claimed the life of Jason Jeffrey Ost, 30, of Owatonna. He was driving a vehicle traveling northbound on County Road 45 when another vehicle going eastbound on 58th Street hit his vehicle in the rear end.

Because of the severity of the impact, it's unknown if Ost was wearing a seat belt in the crash, Thiele said, noting that Ost had been ejected from the vehicle and died at the scene.

A 17-year-old boy on his way to school was driving the other vehicle.

Thiele said it could take weeks before the State Patrol completes the reconstruction of the crash. Once all the reports are completed, the case will be forwarded to the county attorney's office for review of possible charges.

2 pulled off the roadways



Shaske



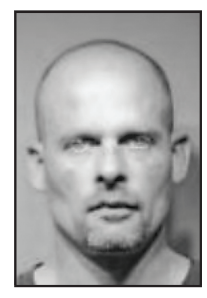
Techau

Two drivers, who pose a harmful threat to public safety, have been pulled off the roadways, according to reports from the Owatonna Police Department.

Adam A. Techau, 37 and Troy D. Shaske, 51 were both formally charged with driving after cancellation – inimical to public safety. Both are misdemeanors.

A person is defined as inimical (harmful) to public safety for three or more impaired driving offenses in 10 years or four impaired driving offenses in a lifetime.

Owatonna officer assaulted



Efta

A man is being charged with assaulting an Owatonna police officer after a confrontation on Sept. 15 in Owatonna.

Lee Daniel Efta, 39, has been arrested and is being charged with 3rd degree assault and 4th degree assault of a police officer. Both are felonies. The police officer has suffered a nasal fracture resulting from the assault, according to reports from the Owatonna Police Department.

Officers responded to a possible suicide attempt and on arrival they were confronted by a male and attempted to calm him down. An officer stepped in front of the male to prevent him from pulling away from other officers, placing his hand on the male's chest to prevent him from moving forward. As he did this, the male head-butted the officer on the nose.

Fire destroys home near Meriden

A fire on Sunday evening destroyed a home located at 8805 18th Street SW, just south of Meriden.

According to Travis Ahrens, Monday's shift commander for the Owatonna Fire Department, when fire crews arrived around 11 p.m. on Sunday, the home was fully engulfed.

"We just attacked from the outside," he said. "Nobody was living in the residence. We knocked down the home from the outside and protected any exposure from any other buildings."

Ahrens said the cause of the fire is under investigation. No one was hurt, he said.

Assisting the Owatonna Fire Department was the Waseca Fire Department, Ellendale Fire Department, Steele County Sheriff's Officer, State Fire Marshall, Alliant Energy and Gold Cross.

Local fire departments respond to shed fire



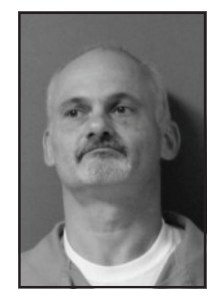
Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Last Monday afternoon, multiple agencies responded to a shed fire in rural Ellendale. Crews worked to extinguish the fire and prevent it from impacting other buildings on the property.

Two arrested in drug raid



Saurer



Schirmer

Two Owatonna residents are facing drug-related charges after a drug raid at 615 Carlanna Place in Owatonna on Sept. 11.

Heather M. Saurer, 32, and Robert J. Schirmer, 49, have been arrested and charged in connection with the investigation, according to reports from the Owatonna Police Department. Saurer is facing a charge of 5th degree possession of a controlled substance, while Schirmer is being charged with 1st degree possession of a controlled substance, 1st degree sale of a controlled substance and receiving stolen property.

The South Central Drug Investigation Unit and the Cannon River Drug and Violent Offender Task Force spearheaded the drug raid. The SCDIU tactical team and Owatonna Police Department assisted.

A warrant was executed and a baggie containing 1.8 grams of presumptive positive methamphetamines was located, according to the report. In addition, an additional 192 grams of presumptive positive methamphetamine and several firearms was uncovered.

Police Blotter
Steele County

Owatonna Police

Sept. 11

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 2:16 p.m.

Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 400 block of 16th St. NE at 3:02 p.m.

Sept. 12

Domestic. Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 700 block of 16th St. SE at 4:52 a.m.

Sept. 13

Fire. At 1:40 a.m., officers responded to a fire call in the 500 block of Bridge St. W.

Found Property. Officer took a report of found property in the 400 block of Mineral Springs Rd. N. at 1:50 p.m.

Theft. A theft was reported in the 2300 block of 43rd St. NW at 3:52 p.m.

Sept. 14

Warrant. Officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE at 11:23 a.m.

Domestic. At 3:22 p.m., police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Havana Rd. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Arrest. Police arrested a motorist following a traffic stop in the 800 block of Park Dr. NW at 5:43 p.m.

Animal. Officer responded to a report of a dangerous animal at Grove Ave. S. and McKinley St. E. at 7:38 p.m.

Hit and Run. A hit and run crash resulting in property damage occurred in the 400 block of North St. W. at 9:09 p.m.

Sept. 15

Assault. Police responded to an assault in the 600 block of El Dorado St. SE at 8:50 a.m.

Child Protection. At 9:30 a.m., officer received a child protect report from the 700 block of 25th St. NE.

Criminal Sex. Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 2100 block of 3rd Ave. NW at 11:41 a.m.

Animal Call. Officers responded to an animal call in the 300 block of Pine Ave. NE at 11:49 a.m.

Traffic. At 10:20 p.m., police took a motorist into custody after a traffic stop at Bridge St. W. and Lemond Rd. SW.

Sept. 16

Child Protection. Police took 10 child protection reports in the city throughout the day.

Warrant. At 9:48 a.m., officer made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of 24th St. NE.

Domestic. Police responded to domestic disturbances in the 800 block of 14th St. SE at 9:01 p.m. and in the 600 block of Walnut Ave. S. at 11:42 a.m. They made arrests at both incidents.

Sept. 17

Drunken Driving. At 12:43 a.m., officers arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at Fremont St. E. and Grove Ave. N.

Threats. Two threats incidents were reported – in the 500 block of 15th St. NE at 7:18 a.m. and at 1:53 p.m.

Burglary. Police began a burglary investigation in the 600 block of Mound St. SW at 7:53 a.m.

Theft. A theft was reported in the 200 block of Vine St. E. at 3:06 p.m.

Shoplifting. Police issued a citation for shoplifting in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 3:27 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff

Sept. 11

Crash. Deputies received information regarding a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage in the 13000 block of County Rd. 3 at 3:47 a.m.

Sept. 12

Mental Health. Deputy took a mental health report in the 500 block of Main St. S. at 2:38 a.m.

Sept. 15

Weapons. Shots were heard fired in the 6200 block of 14th Ave. NE at 6:42 p.m.

Sept. 16

Theft. Deputies received a theft report from the 3500 block of Hwy. 30 W. at 8:20 p.m.

Court News
Steele County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of September 7 – 11:

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Derek M. Resler, 24, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $121.

MN Dept. of Natural Resources

Jason J. Porter, 36, Owatonna, taking fish without angling license, $181; Jehad H. Alwakeel, 23, St. Cloud, speeding, $121; Vivian M. Batts, 63, Cypress, CA, move over law violation, $131; Christopher R. Coggins, 27, Clemmons, NC, speeding, $121; Jonathan S. Davis, 33, Northfield, driving on the shoulder, $131; Melissa A. Emond, 28, Spring Valley, CA, speeding, $121; Charles S. Erickson, 53, Austin, seat belt, $106; Ricardo Felix, 44, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, $106; Lisa A. Gonzalez, 40, Baytown, TX, speeding, $221; Jose R. Hernandez, 30, Jones, OK, no MN license, $181; Brian C. Hirabayashi, 33, Richfield, speeding, $100; Joan E. Johnson, 71, Savage, inattentive driving, $121; Julie L. Kaplan, 59, Edina, move over law violation, $131; Michael W. King, 31, Ethel, LA, speeding, $141; Ted D. Kollar, 20, Graston, speeding, $141; Linda K. Meyer, 65, Litchfield, speeding, $121; Nathan J. Miller, 26, Owatonna, unsafe change of course, $131; Bennara L. Norman, 26, Onawa, IA, seat belt, $106; Angel C. Pacheco, 37, Cottage Grove, speeding, $141; Mark B. Paul, 40, Owatonna, no insurance, $281; Alondra Pena, 20, Austin, permit violation, $131; Matthew J. Reich, 36, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Daniel M. Schafer, 31, Owatonna, speeding, $381; Norma E. Serpas, 29, Crownsville, MD, speeding, $221; Kevin M. Skala, 36, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Johnnie L. Wroblewski, 60, Faribault, speeding, $131.

Owatonna Police Department

Edward S. Aldrete, 45, Claremont, no MN license and no insurance, $381; Teodaro Balbuena, 36, Albert Lea, suspended license, $281; Katie J. Jones, 36, Owatonna, revoked license, $281; Andre D. Kubat, 21, Owatonna, no MN license, $181; Martin L. Leason, 20, St. Paul, shoplifting, $131 and 6 days in county jail; Lindsay A. Reysack, 30, Owatonna, no insurance, $281; Zachariah A. Roberts, 29, Lake Mills, IA, shoplifting, $181; Erica Rodriguez, 25, Owatonna, no insurance, $281; Alice L. Simon, 80, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Nicolet R. Swanum, 64, Owatonna, stop sign, $131.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Melanny M. Ambriz, 25, Rochester, speeding, $141; Roy W. Collette, 76, Owatonna, speeding, $131; Ryan L. Domeier, 17, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Jose J. Flores, 30, Medford, DWI, $481, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel and 2 years of supervised probation; Reginald Franklin, 32, Seffner, FL, speeding, $121; Philipp M. Hill, 19, Junction City, KS, speeding, $121; Autumn S. Hughes, 31, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Erdal Karabacak, 25, Las Vegas, NV, speeding, $131; Kelsey H. Kincaid, 24, Sioux Falls, SD, speeding, $121; Jennifer L. Lamoreux, 39, Vernon Center, speeding, $141; Korrie L. Lane, 33, Dodge Center, speeding, $141; Alexander M. Lyles, 29, Detroit, MI, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, $181; Colin R. Meirovitz, 21, Golden Valley, speeding, $121; Eric S. Oetjen, 54, Washington D.C., speeding, $131; Chad M. Patrick, 39, Grafton, IA, speeding, $141; Clinton L. Persing, 44, Claremont, speeding, $221; Mitchell E. Peterson, 27, Owatonna, speeding, $131; Ross A. Robinson, 42, Hayfield, stop sign, $121; Gerardo Rodriguez, 19, Medford, speeding, $121; Allan G. Routh, 65, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Denise C. Seberson, 47, Waseca, speeding, $131; Kent L. Siems, 50, Granger, IA, speeding, $131; Gregory J. Somers, 19, Owatonna, no insurance, $281; Brian N. Weller, 47, Waseca, speeding, $121; Bradley A. Willert, 45, Claremont, revoked license and no insurance, $481.

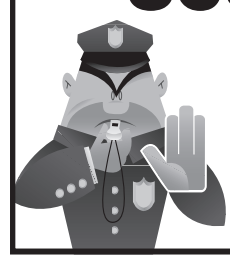
Police Blotter
Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 196 complaints for the week of Sept. 9 – 15. Some of them

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.

ACTIVE WARRANTS

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

Jean Enamorado – open bottle - $181 bail
Carlos Escobar – suspended license - $500 bail
Ramiro Esquivel – false information - $2,000 bail
Lance Evan – DWI - $12,000 bail
Fakrudin Fakrudin – drugs – no bail
Travis Farris – theft – no bail
Stephen Fehring – theft - $500 bail
Romero Fernandez – criminal sexual conduct - $200,00 bail
Oscar Ferrera – DWI – no bail
Raymond Fleming – DWI – no bail
Rogelio Flores – DWI, revoked license - $12,000 bail
Juan Flores-Munoz – no MN license - $500 bail
Jose Flores Redondo – domestic assault - $500 bail
Terry Fonner – civil warrant - $31,000 bail
Daniel Freese – traffic - $500 bail
Melinda Fuentes – no insurance - $2,000 bail
Albino Gallegos-Garza – false name - $6,000 bail
Anthony Galloway – DWI – no bail
Reginaldo Galvan – DWI - $12,000 bail
Jeffrey Gamble – motor vehicle theft – no bail

PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from Page 3B

include:

Sept. 9

Domestic. At 6:45 a.m., deputies responded to an out-of-control female was blocking her mother in a room, pulling hair and fighting in the 25800 block of 542nd St. in West Concord.

Suspicious Activity. At 12:57 p.m., an intoxicated male was walking around in the 100 block of 4th Ave. NE in Dodge Center.

Traffic Hazard. Deputies responded to a report of a loose horse at 750th St. and State Hwy. 56 in Hayfield at 2:03 p.m.

Sex Offense. Deputies began an investigation of a sex offense on 6th Ave. SE in Hayfield at 3:53 p.m.

Ambulance. At 6:08 p.m., paramedics and deputies to a report that an employee was trapped inside a truck under equipment in the 500 block of Hwy. St. E. in Dodge Center He was alert and breathing.

Sept. 10

Counterfeit. Citizens State Bank in Dodge Center called deputies when employees found a possible counterfeit bill at 12:38 p.m.

Vandalism. At 2:03 p.m., a Claremont citizen reported that her hose was cut with knife in the 200 block of East St. N. The previous day, her bicycle had also been run over.

Civil. A Mantorville resident called deputies at 3:28 p.m. when someone was cutting his tree on his property in the 400 block of Clay St.

Suspicious Activity. At 3:53 p.m., a male subject was standing on the corner of 6th St. W. and Chestnut St. in Mantorville. He appeared to be holding his head and had been standing there for about 30 minutes staggering.

Sept. 11

Domestic. Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance with a male party on the ground and having a hard time breathing in the 62900 block of State Hwy. 57 in Kasson at 3:15 a.m.

Suspicion. At 5:52 a.m., deputies received a suspicious activity report from the 400 block of 9th St. SE in Hayfield.

Animal Complaint. At 12:37 p.m., deputies received an animal complaint that a dog was tied up to a trailer with about a foot of leash and no food or water in the 400 block of East St. N. in Claremont.

Extra Patrol. At 1:11 p.m., a Claremont citizen requested extra patrol after several cameras and a hard drive were stolen from a garage in the 200 block of Julia St.

Suspicion. A Dodge Center resident reported that he thought his neighbor was spying on him in the 61400 block of 160th Ave. at 1:42 p.m.

Sept. 12

Vandalism. At 12:22 a.m., egging was reported in the 100 block of 1st St. NW in Dodge Center.

Burglary. Deputies responded to a burglary involving a door hanging open in the 100 block of 4th Ave. NE in Dodge Center at 4:04 a.m.

Animal. A Dodge Center resident reported that there was a dead goose carcass near her property in the 400 block of 2nd Ave. NW at 4:25 p.m.

Sept. 13

Vandalism. At 10:44 a.m., deputies received a report that someone had put ketchup, mustard and mayonnaise in a vehicle around midnight in the 1000 block of 3rd St. NW.

Sept. 14

Suspicion. Deputies received a suspicious activity report that a male was taking pictures of children in the park on 2nd St. NW in Dodge Center at 9:52 a.m.

Juvenile. At 12:34 p.m., deputies received a juvenile complaint from 6th Ave. SE in Hayfield.

Disturbance. Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 2:16 p.m.

Sept. 15

Larceny. Deputy took a report of the theft of money bags from the back of a vehicle in the 500 block of Hwy. St. E. in Dodge Center at 10:42 a.m.

Juvenile. At 6:54 p.m., a Dodge Center woman called deputies when she found pills in her daughter's bedroom in the 400 block of 4th Ave. NW.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following cases were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Sept. 7 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Darrell D. Ebling, 59, Hayfield, previously appeared and was convicted of felony criminal sexual conduct. He was sentenced to $1,080, 120 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no possession of pornography, do not enter places where sexual materials are available, submit to polygraph examination as directed, no contact with minors, no contact with victim, no access to Internet without approval, 100 hours of community service and 20 years of supervised probation.

Alex W. Fields, 45, St. Paul, previously appeared and was convicted of felony order for protection violation. Fields was sentenced to $1,155, 74 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, no contact with victim, domestic abuse counseling, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

Jacob W. Gray, 20, Claremont, previously appeared and was convicted of felony theft. The defendant was sentenced to $5,082.30, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, write letter of apology, no contact with victim, 100 hours of community service and 10 years of supervised probation.

Ashley N. Kangas, 28, Mower County Detention Center, previously appeared and was convicted of felony receiving stolen property and misdemeanor possession of hypodermic needles. She was sentenced to $205, 178 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, mental health screening, obtain GED and 5 years of supervised probation.

Duane G. Lyke, 50, Claremont, previously appeared and was convicted of felony aiding an offender on probation. Lyke was sentenced to $125, 1 day in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, mental health screening, 50 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week

PUBLIC SAFETY
Continued on Page 9C

Rummage Sale

EVERYTHING MUST GO 447 W Main St, BP
Friday 9/25 – 9/26
Open at 9 a.m.
Furniture, Household, Misc., too much to list!

Employment CONNECTION

LOCAL ROUTE DRIVER

Full-time position for a route driver-laborer
Job candidate must have a Class B license with a good driving record. Must be very reliable, self motivated and enjoy working outdoors.

Apply within at:

STEWART SANITATION
1630 State Ave NW, Owatonna
(507) 451-0976

New Richland Auto Repair
is offering a full time
Automotive Technician Position

Monday through Friday 8 to 5
Friendly, small town atmosphere, Health and retirement, paid vacation and holidays.

Base pay with incentive pay. Must have prior mechanical repair experience.

Contact Isaac at 507-463-3261



ECUMEN® CountrySide

SENIORS PLEASE APPLY

Ecumen CountrySide Senior Living Community has a great opportunity for someone who:

- Enjoys cooking and working with Seniors
- Work part time. Two part time shifts available: 7 am to 3 pm OR 11 am to 7 pm
- Work in a friendly, welcoming environment Part time cook needed at Ecumen Countryside in Owatonna.

Please call Mary Ramsey at 507-446-8334
Chose the Dining Room Department

OWNER OPERATOR

Owner Operator opportunity

In the Midwest
SIGN ON BONUS
FREE LIABILITY INSURANCE
FREE BASE PLATE
70% DROP AND HOOK

Good miles every week
Flatbed experience a plus

Contact:
Oberg Freight Company
Fort Dodge, IA
515-955-3592 ext 2
888-839-5220 ext 2
recruiting@obergfreight.com



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH CASE MANAGER STEELE COUNTY

South Central Human Relations Center is accepting applications for an immediate opening as full time children's mental health case manager in Steele County.

This position includes working with children with serious emotional disorder, providing case management and family community support, in a multidisciplinary approach. SCHRC is a comprehensive community mental health center that provides a full continuum of care.

SCHEDULE: M-F, 8 AM - 5 PM.

Visit our website at ***www.schrc.com*** for more details on applying. EEO/AA

SOUTH CENTRAL HUMAN RELATIONS CENTER
Providing Direction for Life's Problems Since 1964

DRIVERS-Class A – HIRING EVENT

McLANE®

JOIN OUR GROWING TEAM!

- **REGIONAL**
- **$7500 SIGN ON BONUS!!**
- **$65K Plus FIRST YEAR!!**
- **401K W/Company Match**
- **Medical Benefits Day 1!**
- **GUARANTEED PAY!**

Visit our HIRING EVENT
Sept 23rd, 24th, 25th
7am to 6 pm

Location:
McLane Company
1111 W 5th Street
Northfield, MN

Eligible CDL A Applicants:
21 Years of Age HS Diploma
50,000 Safe Driving Miles

Call Hollie at McLane Northfield Today!
(507) 664-3038
Email resume: mnhr@mclaneco.com

MUNICIPAL LIQUOR STORE MANAGER

The City of Ellendale is accepting applications for a highly motivated individual to manage and direct the Ellendale Municipal Liquor Store off-sale, on-sale and kitchen operations. Preferred candidates will possess experience in customer service, three years management experience, experience in retail pricing methods and inventory control, bartender experience, experience in retail sales promotion marketing, proficiency with office equipment and computerized cashiering system. A high value will be placed on the ability to perform effective promotions, marketing skills and food handling knowledge, abilities and certifications.

Minimum requirements for the position are: 2 year certificate from college or technical school or a minimum of 2 years bartending with supervisory experience; accounting or management related training; 2-4 years' experience in liquor store operations and/or food management; must be at least 21 and be eligible to be bonded; ability to obtain State Health Department Food Service License; and considerable knowledge of business management practices.

Wage depending on experience. Full job description and application can be obtained by e-mailing cityofellendale@frontiernet.net or by stopping in the city office or the Municipal Liquor Store.

Applications are due by October 4, 2015 4:00 p.m. They can be mailed or dropped off at the city office at 106 6th Ave, Ellendale MN

Prairie Manor Care Center

"Quality Care with a Small Town Touch"

Heather Haus Senior Living

Is now accepting applications for Personal Care Attendants

EVENINGS AND NIGHTS

PT available • Benefits
Competitive wages

Come Join our Care Team

To apply, contact Deb Kjarland, RN Resident Manager of Heather Haus
(507) 583-7399 or email dkjarland@prairiemanorinc.com
Fax: 507-572-1367 or in person at 223 4th St NW Blooming Prairie, MN

Now Hiring

APPLY TODAY

Central Valley has immediate openings for a Seasonal Driver at their Blooming Prairie Agronomy location. This will be a high volume, fast-paced operation. The right candidate will be responsible for accurate and efficient delivery of agronomy products to the applicators in the field. Must have a current CDL (class A or B or Seasonal. Current medical certification required. Candidates need to be a willing team participant, maintaining good customer relations, and be able to work long hours, weekends, and holidays if needed.

Interested candidates can pick up an application at the Agronomy Office in Blooming or go to centralvalleycoop.com, click on careers, click on apply and select to download the driver application.





UNDERAGE DRINKING

School events like homecoming, football games and dances are great for socializing with friends and having fun. But if you're one of the many teens who add underage drinking to a social event, you'll be putting yourself in danger.

Every year in the United States, teens are injured or killed in alcohol-related crashes, and many of them occur during Prom night or Homecoming.

http://www.lifesafer.com/



Underage drinking poses a range of risks and negative consequences. It is dangerous because it:

Causes many deaths

Based on data from 2006–2010, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that, on average, alcohol is a factor in the deaths of 4,358 young people under age 21 each year.
This includes:

- 1,580 deaths from motor vehicle crashes
- 1,269 from homicides
- 245 from alcohol poisoning, falls, burns, and drowning
- 492 from suicides

Causes many injuries

Drinking alcohol can cause kids to have accidents and get hurt. In 2010 alone, about 189,000 people under age 21 visited an emergency room for alcohol-related injuries.

Impairs judgment

Drinking can lead to poor decisions about engaging in risky behavior, including drinking and driving, sexual activity (such as unprotected sex) and aggressive or violent behavior.

Increases the risk of physical and sexual assault

Underage youth who drink are more likely to carry out or be the victim of a physical or sexual assault after drinking than others their age who do not drink.

Can lead to other problems

Drinking may cause youth to have trouble in school or with the law. Drinking alcohol also is associated with the use of other drugs.

Increases the risk of alcohol problems later in life

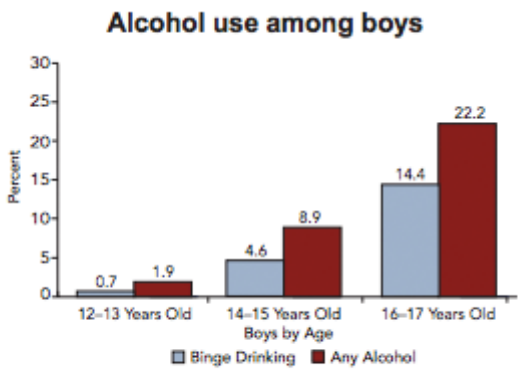
Research shows that people who start drinking before the age of 15 are 4 times more likely to meet the criteria for alcohol dependence at some point in their lives.

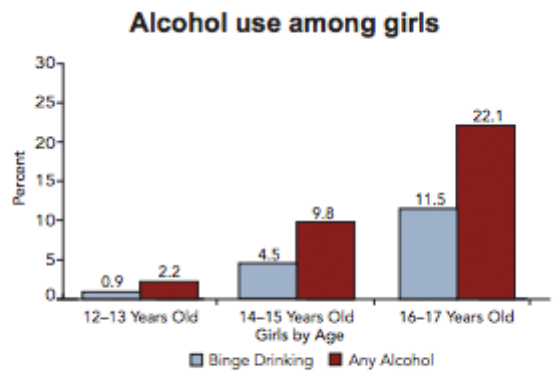
Interferes with brain development

Research shows that young people's brains keep developing well into their 20s. Alcohol can alter this development, potentially affecting both brain structure and function. This may cause cognitive or learning problems and/or make the brain more prone to alcohol dependence.

This is especially a risk when people start drinking young and drink heavily.

http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/





SOURCE: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. *2013 National Survey on Drug Use and Health Public Use File*. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

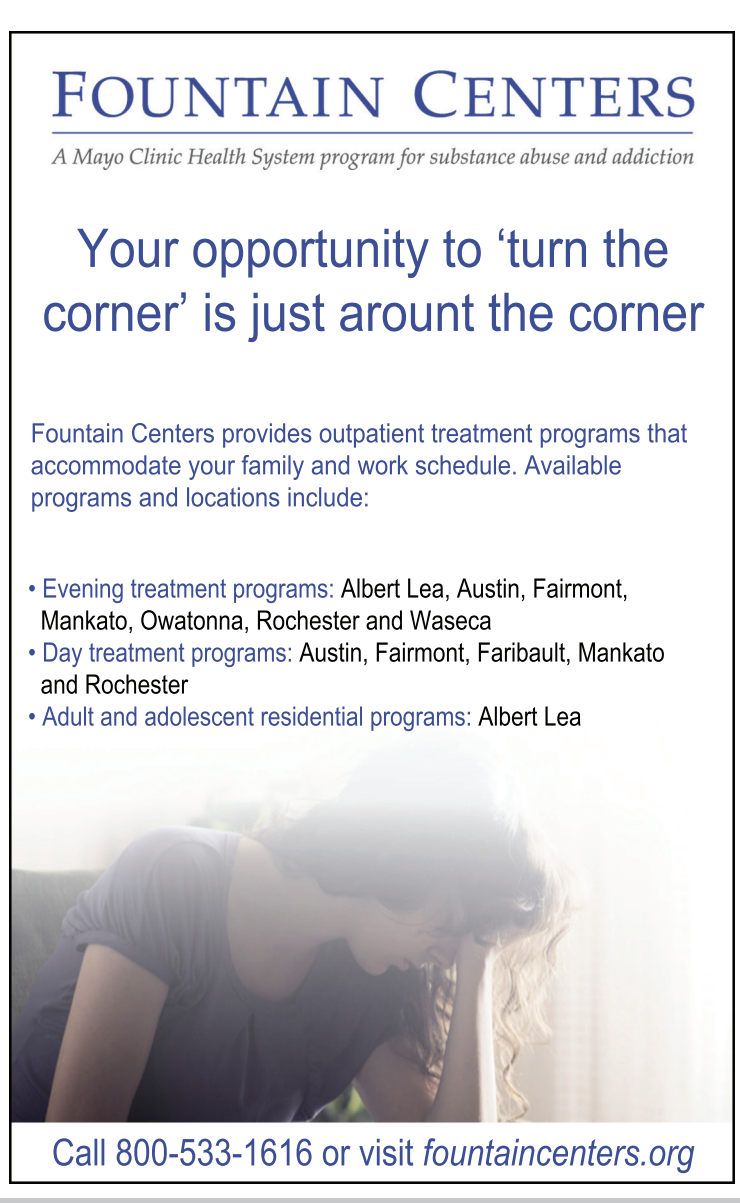
The role parents play

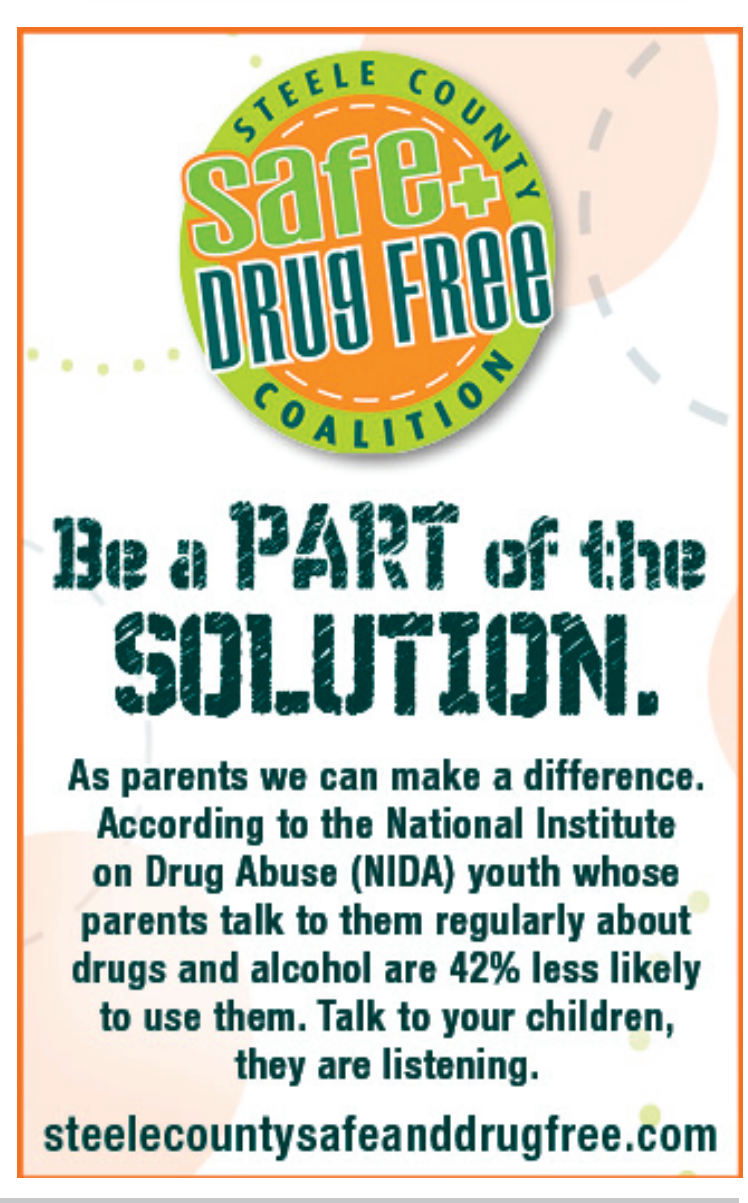
Parents and teachers can play a big role in shaping young people's attitudes toward drinking.
Parents in particular can have either a positive or negative influence.

- Parents can help their children avoid alcohol problems by:
- Talking about the dangers of drinking
- Drinking responsibly, if they choose to drink
- Serving as positive role models in general
- Not making alcohol available
- Getting to know their children's friends
- Having regular conversations about life in general
- Connecting with other parents about sending clear messages about the importance of not drinking alcohol
- Supervising all parties to make sure there is no alcohol
- Encouraging kids to participate in healthy and fun activities that do not involve alcohol

Research shows that children whose parents are actively involved in their lives are less likely to drink alcohol.
On the other hand, research shows that a child with a parent who binge drinks is much more likely to binge drink than a child whose parents do not binge drink.







Legals/News

Foreclosure

15-101173

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 13, 2008 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $184,500.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Otto McKinstry, Jr. and Melba L. McKinstry, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed December 10, 2008, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000361010 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: All that tract of parcel of land lying and being in the County of Steele and State of Minnesota, described as follows, to wit: The East 66 feet of the South 135 feet of Lot 5 in Block 2 in Merrill Odell's Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota (also described as commencing at the Southeast corner of Lot 5 in Block 2 in said Addition, running thence Northwesterly along the Easterly line of said Lot 135 feet, thence running Southwesterly and parallel to Mineral Springs Avenue 66 feet; thence running Southeasterly 135 feet to the Southerly line of said Lot; thence running Northeasterly along the Southerly line of said Lot 66 feet to the point of beginning.) PROPERTY ADDRESS: 550 Ridge Rd, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-113-0210 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $108,781.98 THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: October 9, 2015, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 12 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on October 9, 2016, or the next business day if October 9, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: August 6, 2015

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY _____
Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee
12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

8/18, 8/25, 9/1
9/9, 9/15, 9/22

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 6, 2006 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $48,000.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Sean Hughes, a single person; Carol Sue Ahlborn, a single person; and Ruth M. Ahlborn, a single person MORTGAGEE: Community Bank Owatonna DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: January 17, 2006, Office of the County Recorder for Steele County, Minnesota, as Document #A000338484 MODIFICATIONS OF MORTGAGE: Modification of Mortgage dated February 17, 2009, filed March 6, 2009, as Document No. A000362530; and Modification of Mortgage dated March 12, 2012, filed March 28, 2012, as Document No. A000383726. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: N/A LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The NW 1/4 of Section 3, Township 106 North, Range 20 West, EXCEPT: Commencing at the Northwest corner of said NW 1/4; thence North 90° East 1061 feet along the north line of said NW 1/4; thence South 0° East 306 feet; thence North 82°42'05" West 771.40 feet to a point 208.00 feet South of the North line of said NW 1/4; thence South 0° East 105.06 feet; thence North 90° West 295.85 feet to the West line of said NW 1/4; thence North 313.06 feet to the Northwest corner of said NW 1/4 being the point of beginning. TAX PARCEL NO.: 05-003-4000 STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 5049 S. County Road 45, Owatonna, MN 55060 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $25,894.63 THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above-described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: October 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060 To pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the date of sale. Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on October 20, 2016.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: August 24, 2015

COMMUNITY BANK OWATONNA
By: /s/ Mark J. Rahrick
Mark J. Rahrick
SMITH, TOLLEFSON, RAHRICK & CASS
108 W. Park Square, Suite A
P.O. Box 271
Owatonna, MN 55060
Phone: (507) 451-6540
Attorney Reg. No. 252402

ATTORNEYS FOR COMMUNITY BANK OWATONNA, MORTGAGEE, AND ON BEHALF OF COMMUNITY BANK OWATONNA

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

9/1, 9/9, 9/15
9/22, 9/29, 10/6

Foreclosure

15-101130

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 5, 2006 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $68,600.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Steven T. Gilman and Becky E. Hohenstein, both single MORTGAGEE: Aames Funding Corporation DBA Aames Home Loan LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Aames Funding Corporation DBA Aames Home Loan SERVICER: New Penn Financial, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 10, 2006, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000341133 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.; thereafter assigned to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP. Thereafter assigned to The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the benefit of the Certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-SD4. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: That part of the Southwest Quarter of Southeast Quarter of Section 25, Township 105 North, Range 19 West, described as: Commencing at a point on the South line of 5th Street of Village of Blooming Prairie, 475.6 feet West of the point of intersection of West line of Oak Street with South line of 5th Street, thence due West along the South line of 5th Street, 60 feet, due South 170 feet, due East 60 feet, due North 170 feet to point of beginning. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 239 1st Street SE, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-025-2022 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $72,057.44 THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: October 27, 2015, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on April 27, 2016, or the next business day if April 27, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: September 3, 2015

The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the benefit of the Certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-SD4
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY _____
Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee
12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

9/9, 9/15, 9/22
9/29, 10/6, 10/13

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 25, 2002 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $98,696.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Tracy L. Crouse and Jonathan M. Oeltjenbruns, a single woman and a single man MORTGAGEE: Timberland Mortgage Services, Inc., a Minnesota Corporation DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on November 26, 2002 as Document Number A304824 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc., a California Corporation n/k/a Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. successor by merger to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. by assignment recorded on January 17, 2003 as Document Number A306644 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: North 1/2 of Lot 3, Block 2, E. Abbott`s Addition to the Town (now City) of Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 117 NORTH GROVE, OWATONNA, MN 55060 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $82,003.39 TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR (LENDER): Timberland Mortgage Services, Inc., a Minnesota Corporation RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17.107.0203 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE ID NUMBER (MERS NUMBER): None

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: November 17, 2015 at 10:00 am PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on May 17, 2016. MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Tracy L. Crouse and Jonathan M. Oeltjenbruns

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: September 18, 2015

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee
SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

By:
Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

9/22, 9/29, 10/6
10/13, 10/20, 10/27

Order to Show Cause

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT IN DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File Number: 74-CV-15-1404

In the Matter of the Petition of FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE for an New Certificate of Title After Mortgage Foreclosure Sale.

TO: CARLOS A. AZHAM AND LETICIA AZHAM:

Upon receiving and filing the Report of Examiner of Titles in the above entitled matter, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that you and all persons interested, appear before this Court on the 19th day of October, 2015, at 9:45 a.m., Steele County Courthouse, 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, and then, or as soon thereafter as said matter can be heard, show cause, if any there may be, why this Court should not enter an Order as follows:

That the Registrar of Titles, upon the filing with him of a certified copy of this Order cancel Certificate of Title No. 15601 and enter a new Certificate of Title for All that part of Lot 21, of Block 1, Country Club Addition No. 1 to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota, described as follows:

Commencing at a point on the Northwesterly line of said Lot 21, which point is 90 feet northeasterly of the west corner of said Lot 21; running thence southwesterly along said northwesterly line to the west corner of Lot 21; running thence southeasterly 120.05 feet to the south corner of Lot 21; running thence northeasterly along the southeasterly line of said Lot 21 a distance of 90 feet; running thence northwesterly to the point of commencement in favor of Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation free of the memorial of the following documents:
#T000043806; #T000046936; #T000049034; #T000049035; #T000049036; #T000049338; #T000049484; #T000056929; #T000056997; #T000057038; #T000059810; #T000059845; #T000067514; #T000072150; #T000072213; #T000072340;

9/15, 9/22

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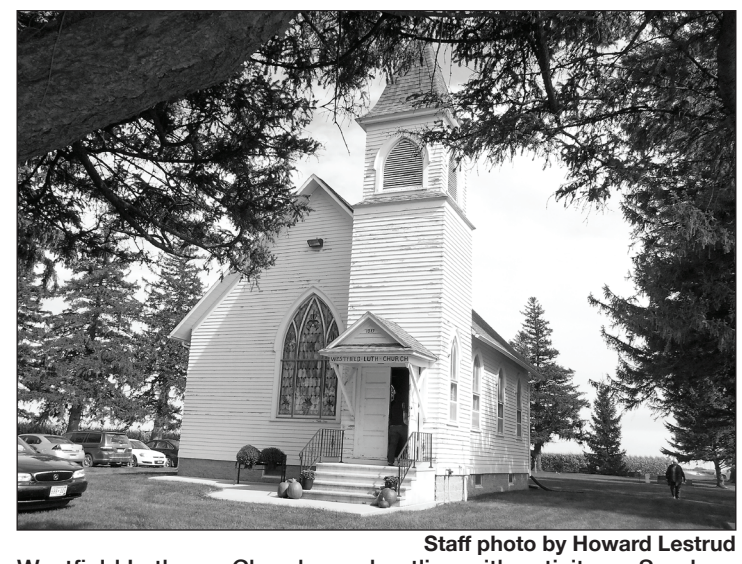
Steele County Times

Harvest worship service brings together former church community



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Westfield Lutheran Church was bustling with activity on Sunday, Sept. 20 as a harvest church service was held, drawing about 60 attendees. The church was incorporated in 1898 and the building was constructed in 1917.

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

The Westfield Lutheran Church building constructed in 1917 still stands but only serves as a home for church services three times a year. One of those times was Sunday, Sept. 20, when about 60 persons gathered for a Harvest Worship Service.

Services are also held close to Christmas and on Memorial weekend.

The church is located about four miles northeast of Blooming Prairie. Regular services ended in the late 1940s or early 1950s. Most of the parishioners then migrated to First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie.

Former Westfield parishioner Dale Underwood helped organize the worship service and he has been one of many who have kept the church building alive. He informed those in attendance Sunday that the outside of the church will be re-sided, maybe yet this fall but by next spring for sure.

The church was incorporated in 1898, Underwood said. He told those in attendance that the articles of incorporation are posted at the rear of the church.

Following the church harvest service, the Rev. Charlie Leonard of First Lutheran Church, pointed to a piece of stained glass that listed E. J. Trom as the architect of the church in 1917. Some of his grandsons were in attendance for the harvest service on Sunday.

The service began with Underwood ringing the church bell, using a long rope typically used years ago in many Lutheran churches. He also rang the bell at the close of the service. A lunch in the renovated church basement followed the service. A new roof was put on the church two years ago.

Leonard said he was privileged to lead the harvest church service and said the only way to gather at a church together is to worship together. "It is a time to thank God," he said. "We pray for a wonderful harvest," he continued.

Leonard said, "There's something energizing to be in this building with you."

He talked about a young man he knew who had farming roots and was selected for a sports administration job because of his farming background. Leonard said he also had a farming background and knew that a farm life teaches people how to work hard.

"It's a hard life but a good life to endure many hardships," Leonard said about those working on a farm.

Leonard talked about Jesus and the disciples responding to His works of teaching. Jesus taught the challenge of love, Leonard said.

"You have grown up as hard workers and have worked in God's Kingdom through the power of love. Follow the footsteps Jesus has left for us. He is holding ourselves and others accountable to be a follower of Christ."

Leonard called farming communities "the bread and butter of this nation." He challenged visitors at Westfield to live and die by the power of love.

During the reciting of prayers of intercession, Leonard said, "We give you our thanks for another year of harvests, for farmers, gardeners and farmers markets. Teach us to share the earth's abundance of which we have been blessed with those who are in need. . ."

In giving a closing blessing, Leonard asked those in attendance to participate in the reading.

The blessing was said:

"For the marvels of your creation." WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD.

"For the opportunities to till, plant and harvest." WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD.

"For your soil, water, air and sunshine." WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD.

"Teach us your ways and guide us as stewards in your ways," FOR YOU ARE THE CREATOR OF ALL THAT IS, SEEN AND UNSEEN. AMEN.

Classifieds/News

Trinity Lutheran Church feeds aebleskiver to more than 400 people

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

The line twisted from the club rooms out into the hallway and almost out the door at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club on Sunday morning, Sept. 20, as more than 400 persons tasted a product called aebleskiver.

The aebleskiver breakfast, which featured seven popovers on a plate, two pieces of sausage and several toppings, was a fundraiser of Little Trinity Lutheran Church, located three miles northwest of Blooming Prairie or two miles west of the Blooming Prairie Country Club.

What is aebleskiver?

Ask a full-blooded person of Danish descent, or someone with just a bit of Danish ancestry, and they will tell you it is a delicious Danish delicacy that is called a traditional Danish pancake. Aebleskiver are cooked on a stovetop by baking in a special pan with several hemispherical indentations.

The batter of aebleskiver usually includes wheat flour, which is mixed with buttermilk, milk or cream, eggs, sugar and a pinch of salt.

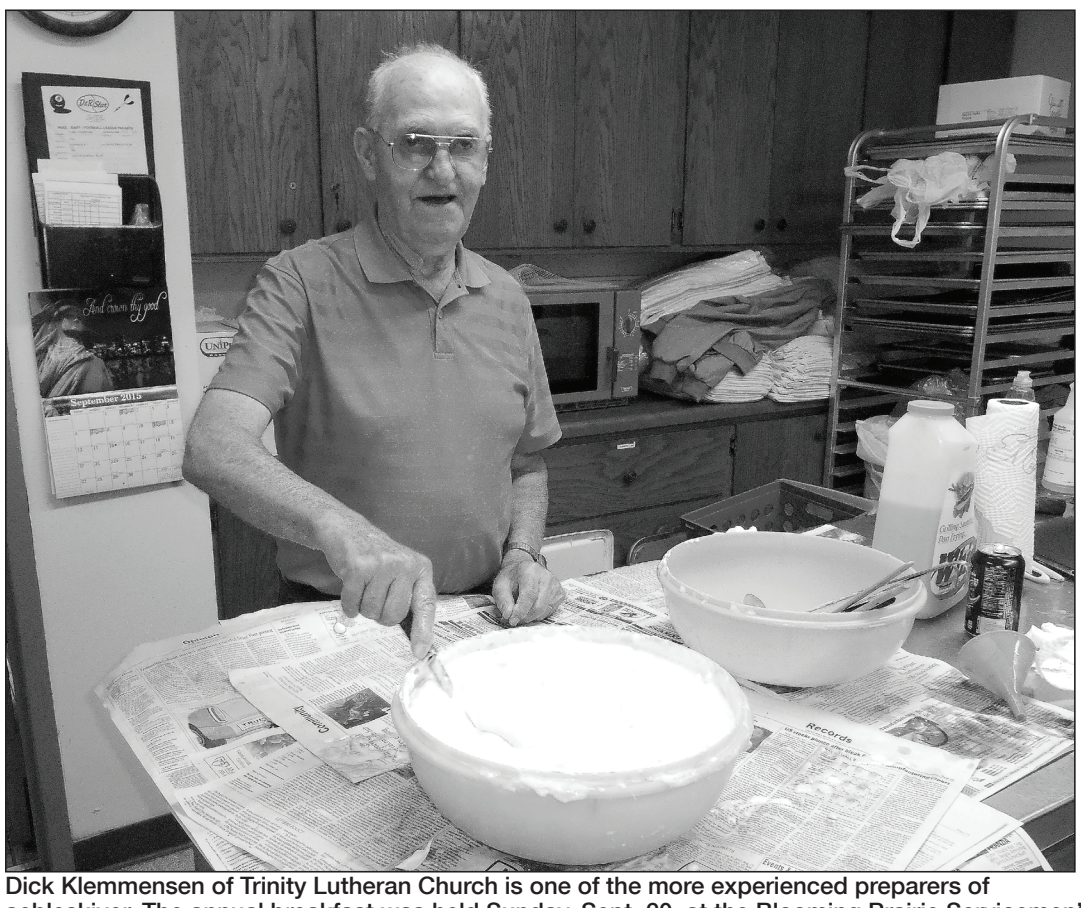
Dick Klemmensen said he has been part of the baking crew for about 50 years. "It seems like forever," he laughed. Trinity has been holding the breakfasts since the 1930s, an old-timer reported.

Trinity Lutheran Church, called Little Trinity, just recently celebrated its 140th anniversary. The church has 10 families.



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

Gary Jacobson and Carolyn Haubenschild prepare some more aebleskiver at the Trinity Lutheran Church Aebelskiver Breakfast at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club on Sunday, Sept. 20. More than 400 were fed at the breakfast, church members report.



Dick Klemmensen of Trinity Lutheran Church is one of the more experienced preparers of aebleskiver. The annual breakfast was held Sunday, Sept. 20, at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.

Peter Pan appears

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Writer

For the first time on the Blooming Prairie High School stage, one of the favorite stories for all children will be coming to the stage. J.M. Barrie's classic story of the boy, who wouldn't grow up, Peter Pan, is the all-school musical production for 2015.

Director Tammy Johnson and Musical Director Kari Bottin selected the cast even before school began this fall, and the actors are already learning songs and dialog for the performances. The cast will include approximately 30 enthusiastic students, including football and volleyball players, who will juggle busy schedules from now until the second week in November.

J.M. Barrie wrote the story way back in 1911, after he had first written a play of it in 1904. It was made into an animated film in 1953, was produced again in 1957 and made into a popular TV version in 1965. The latest performance came in 2003. It would not be fair to tell the story now, but it can be acknowledged that Peter Pan used to visit the Darling household every evening to hear bedtime stories told by Mrs. Darling to her children.

One night he was spotted, and in trying to get away, he lost his shadow. Wendy Darling helped him re-attach it, and in return, Peter invited Wendy and her brothers to accompany him to Neverland. They did so, and many adventures followed. Some of those adventures included encounters with the Lost Boys, Captain Hook and the pirates, The Mermaid Lagoon and Princess Tiger Lily.

Several times the children faced dangerous situations, only to find their way out of the predicament. Eventually Wendy and her brothers decided that their home was the place they wanted to be, and like every fairy tale, everything turned out all right at the end.

Junior Camden Heimerman and senior Margaret Jones have the lead roles of Peter Pan and Wendy, with Nate Erickson and Clint Peterson as the brothers. Anthony Nelson and Alison Pryor portray the parents, and several other roles have much to do in advancing the story. Rose Johnson is Tiger Lily, Erik Nelson is Captain Hook and Elijah Baker and Richie Feeny are Smee and the Crocodile. Amy and Rachel Peterson are the maid and Nana.

Max Romeo and Evan Doerhoefer are two of the Lost Boys, and five students have the roles of Indians. The complete cast can be found on the high school website, and more features will follow in the weeks to come, leading up to the three performances on the weekend of Nov. 6.



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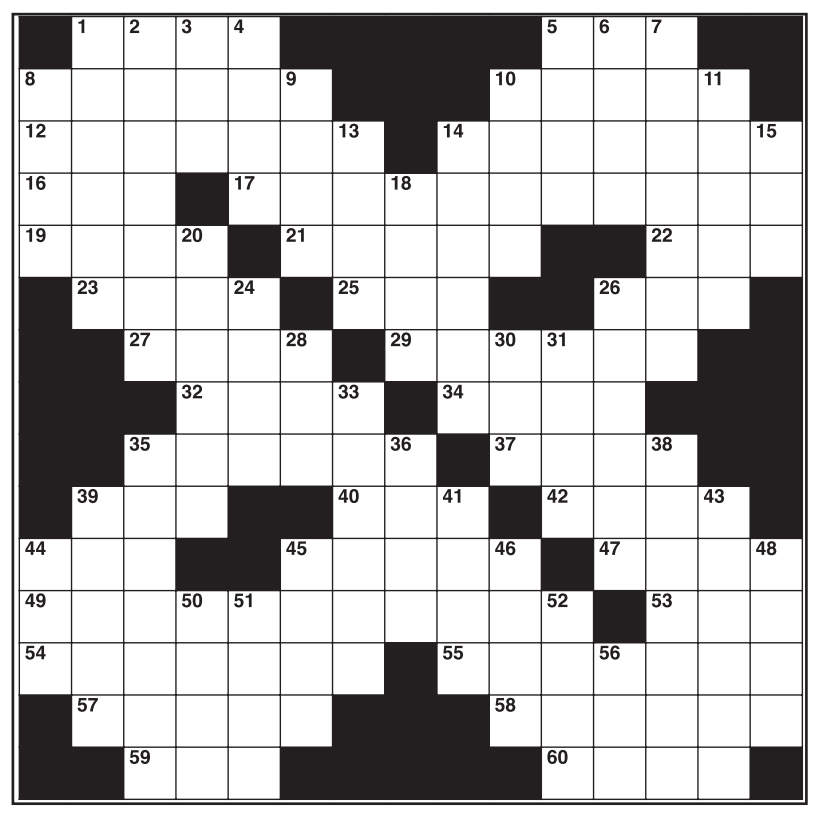
WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Answers on Page 5C

CLUES ACROSS

1. Leg shank
5. Small amount
8. Roman emperor
10. Having ears
12. Innocent young woman
14. No wrinkles
16. Small coin (French)
17. 19 hundred hours
19. A way to inform
21. A seal or signet
22. Tobacco smoke residue
23. Tai language branch
25. Set afire
26. Partridge Family's actress Susan
27. Canadian flyers
29. Faculties of perception
32. A light two-wheel carriage
34. Was ___ (looked at)
35. Appear with
37. Natives of Thailand
39. Hill (Celtic)
40. Runs PCs
42. Visualizes
44. Mistake
45. Riding horses
47. Point of purchase
49. Armless Aphrodite
53. Having negative qualities
54. Protective visual folds
55. Crystallized calcium carbonate mineral
57. Beach grains
58. One who presents a bond for payment
59. Car mechanics group
60. & & &



CLUES DOWN

1. Small paddle boats
2. Usual
3. Economic consumption
4. Without (French)
5. Powder mineral
6. Fleshy seed covering
7. Indicates
8. Stone lined grave
9. Feels remorse
10. Chemical structure
11. Decomposition
13. Morally base
14. Joins
15. Danish krone
18. Breastplate
20. Lesson reader in church
24. 1921 Turkish/Armenian Treaty
26. In a way, refutes
28. Zoftig
30. Fish, hair or inter
31. Mains
33. Fathers
35. Transparent eye membranes
36. Stray
38. Seafowl
39. 3 pip cards
41. Invests in little enterprises
43. Placards
44. 1st woman
45. Finds a sum
46. Thick piece of something
48. River in Hesse, Germany
50. Inner forearm bone
51. 1 of 2 contesting groups
52. Olive tree genus
56. Metal container

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2015 NRHEG HOMECOMING



HOMECOMING EVENTS

Monday 9/21
Homecoming Coronation
in H.S. Gym at 7:30 p.m.

Friday 9/25
NRHEG vs LeSueur-Henderson
7 p.m.

GOOD LUCK PANTHERS!



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

NRHEG Homecoming Candidates

In the front row are Anna Bailey, Taylar Tieskotter, Abby Wacholz, Abby Christopherson and Jessica Nafe. In the second row are John Cole, Zeke Erickson, Palmer Peterson, Dempsey Tucker and Michael Altermatt.

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HometownLiving

C Section | www.steeledodgenews.com | Tuesday, September 22, 2015

Rewriting the rural narrative with positivity



Photo submitted by Kallie Rollenhagen

Ben Winchester speaks to guests at Thursday's event at the Steele County History Center in Owatonna.

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Ben Winchester has a message for rural communities: there is hope. Despite the "gloom and doom" often present in news headlines, rural communities are doing well.

Last week, Winchester, a senior research fellow with the University of Minnesota Extension's Center for Community Vitality, spoke at the Steele County History Center in Owatonna. The event was hosted by the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) and was sponsored by The BlackRidge Group at Morgan Stanley.

During the event, the group, which included community leaders from southeastern Minnesota, also heard from Margaret Dillard of the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce. Dillard shared some of Fairmont's recent initiatives to attract families to live and work in their community.

"We have community members here from across our 20-county region," said SMIF CEO and President Tim Penny. "I hope they will be inspired by Ben Winchester's message. It's an uplifting message. He has creative, innovative ideas as to what they can do to market their community and invite people to remain and return to rural communities and be a part of rural Minnesota's future."

Penny also added that SMIF hopes to be a resource for these communities as they pursue ideas to grow and strengthen their communities. "We want them to grow ideas and connections that come out of this event," he said.

As Penny introduced Winchester, he shared some of his background and stated that he is a life-long resident of southeastern Minnesota. Some people may feel that rural towns have lost some vibrancy and are also struggling with declining populations. "But, there's another way of looking at the demographic statistics," Penny said. "We need to look at who is actually leaving and coming back."

Winchester began his presentation by noting that the news media portrays rural America as though these smaller towns are shrinking each days, businesses in small towns are closing at a rapid rate and that most young people prefer to live in larger cities. Research and statistics, however, show that rural communities are changing, but are also diverse and robust. In fact, they're actually growing. According to Winchester's research, since 1970, rural populations have increased by 11 percent. "Be cognizant of the data behind the headline," Winchester said.

Winchester also encouraged the audience to think carefully about the ways they frame their communities (and the surrounding areas) in conversation. When something positive occurs, such

RURAL NARRATIVE
Continued on Page 6C

Volunteers beautify Medford's roundabouts



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Jack Luebbe and Marie Sexton (left) work together to plant at the Medford roundabout that overlooks I-35 traffic. Volunteers and city officials spent their Saturday planting over 2,000 plants at the roundabouts, made possible through a the Community Roadside Landscape Partnership program. The plants will improve aesthetics and also cut down on roundabout maintenance.

Owatonna Forward encourages a 'yes' vote on referendum

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

On Nov. 3, voters will be asked to address Owatonna School District's facilities need by approving the $77.9 million bond to address the facilities' needs. These facilities' needs include the deferred maintenance on the aging K-8 school buildings, elementary crowding and school security issues.

Owatonna Forward is a grassroots coalition of residents that has made it their mission to promote the bond referendum, and ultimately encourage residents of the district to vote yes.

Being a co-chair of Owatonna Forward, Matt Kottke, said that the motive of Owatonna Forward is certainly to encourage people to vote yes; however, the coalition is also simply encouraging people to vote because the bond referendum will be on a single ballot election.

"Because this is a single ballot election, we may not get the same attention that other elections get," said Kottke. "There are not a lot of people that get out and vote. We need every generation out voting."

Owatonna Forward has made it their mission to educate the public by being present at various community events. There were Owatonna Forward volunteers in the Four Seasons building at the Steele County Free Fair, and the coalition hosts informational sessions, such as the informational session on Sept. 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Owatonna High School.



Kottke



Grant

Facebook has been a major outreach that Owatonna Forward has been maintaining. With nearly 500 followers, the Facebook page is another way for Owatonna Forward to communicate the needs of the school district to the community.

When it comes to the needs of the school district, Kottke feels strongly that "if we aren't moving forward, we're moving backwards."

Superintendent Peter Grant explained that many of the deferred maintenance of the K-8 schools as relating directly to the infrastructure of the buildings, many of which are 50 years or older. The maintenance list is long, but includes work on heating, ventilation, air quality, lighting, roofing and parking lots among many things.

"When you drive around Owatonna, you can't say how many houses are getting work done whether that's on porches or roofing or whatever else," said Grant. "We are doing the same thing, only we have 900,000 square feet of school building to manage."

If the bond passes, there will be about six months of a planning process before bidding. It is difficult to put a timeline on maintenance projects to this extent, due to bidding process and individual contractor's processes.

If all goes as planned, Grant said that the

REFERENDUM
Continued on Page 9C

Old-Time Barn Dance raises funds for Steele County Free Fair

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Visitors to the Steele County Fairgrounds were encouraged to swing their partners and tap their toes on Saturday, during the Old-Time Barn Dance fundraiser. Proceeds will benefit the Steele County Free Fair (SCFF) Building Fund.

The event began on Saturday afternoon, with entertainment by the Steele Steppers Square Dancers. Caller Wayne Kubicek provided music for the event while also providing instructions for the lively square (and round) dances.

Wayne's wife, Betty Jean, was also present on Saturday, and she came ready to dance. Following squaredancing tradition, Wayne wore a blue neckerchief around his neck, to match Betty's brilliant blue dress. Typically, dancing partners will color-coordinate pieces of their outfits. Wayne explained that partners will usually wear a matching top, tie, neckerchief or bolo tie (a "cowboy's tie," made with leather or chord and tied with metal) to match their partner's dress.

Members of the group traveled from all across Minnesota to attend the barn dance, some traveling for more than 50 miles to reach the fairgrounds. The group was large enough to form two squares (groups of people dancing together) but Wayne said that the number of square dancers in southern Minnesota has declined drastically in recent years. At one time, Wayne said that there were as many as 19 square dancing groups based in southern Minnesota. Today, he said, there are only five.

"When there were events like these, we used to have enough people for 15 squares," Wayne said. "Not anymore."

According to Wayne, the number of callers in the area has also declined. Wayne knows of only five who serve the immediate area, and says that, at age 73, he is one of the youngest callers in Minnesota. He is currently teaching the craft to others, in hopes that they will continue with the tradition.

Although the number of square dancers and callers may be declining, this group is still

SCFF BARN DANCE
Continued on Page 9C



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Members of the Steele Steppers Square Dancing group enjoy an old-fashioned barn dance held outside the Allan R. Radel Family Pavillion at the Steele County Fairgrounds on Saturday.

STEELE TALKIN'



Jane Nyquist

Childhood obesity

Today, more than 23 million children and adolescents in the United States (nearly one in three young people) are overweight or obese. With the obesity epidemic comes an increased risk of a variety of chronic health problems, impacting young peoples' lives and straining the healthcare system. Since approximately 95 percent of youth in the United States attend school, schools are an important setting in which to model healthy eating. In addition, research has shown that youth have the greatest benefit when a multipronged approach is used in the areas of healthy eating and physical activity initiatives. Through the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP), partnering schools will focus on the best practice approach of implementing both healthy eating and active schools activities.

On average, students consume 35 percent to 50 percent of their daily total calories at school. However, within the school setting, youth are often given access to junk foods and sugary drinks that offer little nutritional value. Some of this access is through competitive foods. Competitive foods and beverages include all items served or sold in schools outside of the federally reimbursable meal programs. Typically, these competitive products are sold in vending machines, a la carte lines within cafeterias, school stores and snack bars. Recent studies show that approximately 40 percent of students buy and eat one or more snacks at school and 68 percent buy and consume at least one sugary drink. Several studies have linked competitive foods and beverages with excess calorie consumption and obesity among school-age children.

It is the goal of SHIP's Healthy Eating in Schools strategy to increase fruit and vegetables consumption, decrease sodium, decrease saturated fat and decrease added sugars in foods and beverages available and sold.

The national physical activity guidelines call for youth to get 60 minutes of physical activity per day. However, in Minnesota approximately 50 percent of sixth, ninth and 12th grade students reported not being physically active for 30 minutes (1/2 the nationally recommended amount of time) on at least five of the last seven days. Active schools strategies provide safe and convenient opportunities for students to be physically active throughout the school day while, at the same time, enhancing multiple educational outcomes. Incorporating physical activity throughout the school day can improve students' concentration, behavior and learning retention while at the same time helping youth reach the recommended physical activity guidelines.

In the 2013 "Physical Activity Guidelines Midcourse Report: Strategies to Increase Physical Activity Among Youth," schools were identified as the setting that had the most evidence for promoting and improving youth physical activity. Schools are well positioned to provide organized and free time physical activity for youth through a multicomponent approach that

STEELE TALKIN'
Continued on Page 5C

HometownLiving

Community Calendar



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Enrique Avalos, owner of El Tequila Mexican Restaurant in Owatonna, serves up a mouth-watering dish for a Taste of Steele County participant. The annual event, held on Thursday evening, served as a fundraiser for the Owatonna branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW)'s scholarship funds.

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BAR BINGO: MONDAY @ 6:30 P.M.
WINE & WOMEN: WED. 6-10 P.M.
MEAT RAFFLES: FRIDAY @ 5:30 P.M.
WINE CLUB: TUES. 7-8:30 P.M. @ J&H SEPT. 15 & OCT. 6 (NOV. - MAY DATES AVAILABLE LATER)
HOLIDAY DAZZLE WINE & BEER TASTING: THURS. NOV 5
HOLIDAY DAZZLE DOWNTOWN FESTIVITIES: FRIDAY DEC. 4
HARVEY'S HOLIDAY CHEER: SAT. DEC. 12
NEW YEAR'S EVE: MUNCHIES & CHAMPAGNE
EVENT DETAILS *AVAILABLE AT J&H*

Blooming Prairie

Sept. 22:
BP Card Club & Luncheon
6 p.m. BPBL Book Club
Sept. 23:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
5 p.m. BP Business After Hours, Boys & Girls Club
Sept. 27:
BP Quarterback Club Annual Pancake Breakfast, BP Servicemen's Club
Sept. 29:
7 p.m. BP P&Z Brd Mtg
Sept. 30:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time

Servicemen's Club
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• Raffle drawing first Saturday of every month
• Happy Hour 3 p.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday
• Taco Tuesdays every Tuesday at 5 p.m.
"BURGER NIGHT" SPECIALS
#1 - HAM, AU'GRATIN, VEG'T & ROLL
LUNCH SPECIAL (9/24 & 9/25):
SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS WITH GARLIC TOAST
LIBERTY ROOM WILL BE CLOSED DUE TO WEDDING

Ellendale/Geneva

Sept. 22:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
Sept. 24:
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
Sept. 28:
6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
Sept. 29:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

Owatonna

Sept. 22:
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'l Alliance on Mental Illness Peer Support Group, Owatonna Hospital
7 p.m. Steele Co Brd Mtg, Administration Center BR
Sept. 24:
11 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Lowe's, Owa
2 p.m. OPL Independent & World Films
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time
7 p.m. OPL Indie & World Films
Sept. 25:
9 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Owa Hospital
7 p.m. Movie Night, New Beginnings Church, Owatonna
Sept. 27:
5 p.m. Taste of Steele County, Owa Eagles Club
Sept. 28:
12 p.m. Owatonna Noon Rotary Club, Country Club
4 p.m. Owatonna Housing & Redevelopment Authority, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall
Sept. 29:
6:30 p.m. Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness Peer Support Group, Owatonna Hospital

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Medford

Sept. 24:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
Sept. 28:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
7 p.m. Medford City Council, City Hall

SPOT LIGHT

Make 'N Take Evening for all child-care providers

On, Thursday, Oct. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Blooming Prairie City Center large community room, there will be a Make 'N Take evening event for all child-care providers. Come enjoy an evening of creativity and fun meant to inspire you to take your child-care program to the next level! A meal will be provided, along with two Continuing Education Credits. The presentation will include: fun learning activities for children, information on child development, what to do when you are concerned about a child, how to talk with parents, speech and language development and activities and information about networking with area providers. You'll leave with fun activities to use with the children in your care, fun freebies, resources and two CEUs. This class is for licensed and unlicensed providers. Program cost is $5.

Other counties

Mower
Sept. 22:
Farmer John's Pumpkin Patch
9:30 a.m. Mower Co Brd of Commissioners Mtg
10 a.m. Intro to Glass Fusing, Austin ArtWorks Center
10:30 a.m. Wake Up and Wiggle, APL
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
5:30 p.m. Uncork & Create, Austin ArtWorks Center
6:30 p.m. Let's Get Together and Talk! Jay C. Hormel Nature Center
Sept. 23:
Farmer John's Pumpkin Patch
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, City of Lyle
5 p.m. 55+ Driver Improvement Program, 4-H Refresher Course, Alden City Hall
5 p.m. Grand Meadow Farmers Market
7 p.m. Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness Peer Support Group, First Congregational Church, Austin
Sept. 24:
Farmer John's Pumpkin Patch
10 a.m. ArtWorks Gallery Show: Jean Formo and Mary Singer
12 p.m. Lunchbox History Series: The Inventor of the Maytag Washing Machine, Mower County Historical Society
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
4 p.m. Austin Farmers Market
4 p.m. Lights On After School, YMCA of Austin
5:30 p.m. Beginners' Wheel Throwing, Austin ArtWorks Center

Freeborn
Sept. 22:
Homecoming Week, AL Senior HS
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
Sept. 23:
Homecoming Week, AL Senior HS
Sept. 24:
Homecoming Week, AL Senior HS
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
Sept. 25:
Homecoming Week, AL Senior HS
8:30 a.m. Sibley Picture Day, AL School
Sept. 28:
8:55 a.m. Sophomore Meeting - Class Rings, AL School
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
3:45 p.m. ALPL Book Pals (Gr 5 & 6)
Sept. 29:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
Sept. 30:

Dodge
Sept. 22:
9:30 a.m. Dodge Co Commission
10 a.m. WCPL Story Time/Crafts
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center American Legion, Taco Tuesdays
6 p.m. Triton Adult ESL Class, ES Media Center
Sept. 23:
WC American Legion Auxiliary, Quilting
7:30 a.m. Hayfield Chamber Mtg, Uncle Mony's/Spare Time Lanes
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center American Legion, Pizza & Bear
6 p.m. Kasson City Council
Sept. 24:
Home Alone WS114 KM Comm. Ed. Wing / CE7
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center American Legion, Hamburger, Fries, Chicken Sandwiches
Family Time for Preschoolers EC54F - 1 KM Comm. Ed. Wing
Child Care Providers Make 'N Take Evening C119 KM Comm. Ed. Wing / Multi-purpose Room

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Blooming Prairie Living

Blooming Prairie Council approves proposed 2016 tax levy

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

During the recent Blooming Prairie City Council meeting, city administrator Mike Jones reviewed the proposed 2016 budget and the 2016 proposed enterprise funds budget. In addition, Council also approved the certification of the 2016 proposed tax levy.

Council approved a $676,996 preliminary levy, reflecting a net increase of $4,626. The operational budget creates a $46,992 surplus. The debt service budget, however, reflects a $45,188 deficit, equaling a new surplus of $1,804. Jones noted that Council may choose to decrease the levy amount, but cannot increase it.

Jones also added that, in 2016, only interest will be due on the Main Street Project, as a result of the bonding taking place later in the year. The city is expected to pay approximately $30,000 in interest out of its operating levy. In 2017, however, payments will be made and will have a greater impact on the budget.

"I didn't want to lower the levy $25,000 or $30,000, just to turn around the next year just to increase it to that same amount," Jones explained.

Looking ahead, Jones also added that the 2006 Industrial Park bonds will be paid off in 2016, and that the 2009 refunding bonds will also be callable that year.

During the Dec. 14 regularly scheduled council meeting, the council will discuss and possibly adopt the final budget and certify the levy. (The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m.) The public is allowed to attend the meeting and speak their opinions before the budget is approved.

During the meeting, Jones also provided an update about Main Street construction. He reported that the Steele County Board of Commissioners had approved $100,000 of the Local Road Improvement Program's grant funding to help with the project.

"With the $100,000, I can feel very comfortable dropping (the city of Blooming Prairie's estimated construction cost) to $1.1 million," Jones said. (Total project cost is approximately $2.7 million, some of which Steele County will pay for.)

Jones also stated that the project, which was on schedule as of the meeting, should be completed by Oct. 31. "These guys are as accommodating as can be," said Mayor H. Peterson, referring to the construction crews.

In other business, Jones also presented a possible option for the city's south welcome sign. He explained that the structure could be created using entirely local businesses and asked council for their input. Council will revisit the issue again in the future.

Before adjourning, Peterson also stated that the Blandin Foundation had selected individuals to participate in the Blooming Prairie, Ellendale and Medford Leadership Program. "There are a good array of folks from Blooming Prairie going," said Peterson, further sharing that he feels this experience will be positive for the three communities.

Blooming Prairie City Council will meet again on Tuesday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m. at Blooming Prairie City Hall.

Members of veterans organizations honored



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

During last Thursday's membership meeting, members of local veterans organizations were recognized for their years of continued membership. Pictured above are Maynard Johnson and John Whiting, who have both been American Legion members for 60 years. Also recognized, but unable to attend the banquet, were Ferris Decker (50 years), Christy Olson (70 years) and George Ressler (70 years.)

Chamber announces Citizen of the Year, hears school and construction updates

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

The Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce has plenty of good news to share, and that's exactly what it did during its recent meeting at the Pizza Cellar.

Guests at the meeting enjoyed a meal and social hour before covering business items on the agenda. They discussed recent events, including the Blooming Prairie Classics & Customs Show Car Show and the Chamber's Golf Fun Day.

In addition, the group also heard from Steele County Highway Engineer Anita Benson, who provided an overview and update on the construction project. She noted that the project is going "really well" and that crews are optimistic about meeting the project deadline, which is Oct. 31. Weather, she said, will play a huge factor in the construction process.

During the meeting, the Chamber also announced that Holli Naatz, who is involved with a number of area organizations, has been named Citizen of the Year.

The Chamber also recognized the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation's 2015 Honorees, which include Ken Esplan, Kenny Behnken, Lisa Zwiener Bruns, Clair Coughlin, Wayne Ruhter and Bill Underwood. A banquet in their honor is scheduled for Oct. 3. A social hour will begin at 6 p.m. followed by the program a 7 p.m. at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.

Following the official adjournment of the meeting, the group also heard from Blooming Prairie Public Schools Superintendent Barry Olson, High School Principal John Worke and Elementary Principal Chris Staloch. Olson stated the district's audit had been completed and that the district's balance remained stable. Enrollment also remains stable and, in fact, has gone up. Superintendent Olson also took a moment to recognize school staff, including the two principals. "They are doing a fantastic job and I think Blooming Prairie should be very proud of what they are doing," he said.

Principals Worke and Staloch also shared news about the two schools and both concluded that the new school year has gone well thus far. Each expressed their gratitude to the staff, students and community as a whole. "We are really proud of our students," said Staloch. "We have a great community that supports us."

Read more about Naatz (Citizen of the Year) in an upcoming edition of the Steele County Times.



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Chamber Spotlight

Chamber Youth Ambassadors

Blooming Prairie Area Chamber Student Ambassadors build relationships

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce student ambassadors recently met to discuss some ideas to build a relationship between the business community, the school and students. Shown from left to right are: students Anthony Nelson, Lauren Larkoski, Camden Heimerman, Anika Nowlan, Alison Pryor and Chamber president Luke Swenson.

Come to a regular meeting of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce and see more of a youthful look.

That youth movement is personified by five Blooming Prairie High School students who are playing the role of student ambassadors to the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce.

Luke Swenson, current president of the Chamber of Commerce, last spring invited students to participate in a program to build a stronger relationship between the school, students and business community. The ambassadors attended a spring meeting of the chamber.

Patti Feeney, wife of Prairie Care Center administrator Rich Feeney, is the person who suggested the BP Chamber initiate a student ambassador program.

Five students, three seniors and two juniors, have volunteered and were selected to be student ambassadors. They are: seniors Anthony Nelson, Lauren Larkoski and Anika Nowlan and juniors Camden Heimerman and Alison Pryor.

The ambassadors met at noon on Friday, Sept. 18, to discuss their roles.

The five ambassadors agree that as ambassadors they can help organize tours of businesses for elementary and high school students and allow the students an opportunity to evaluate career readiness.

Each of the ambassadors knows what the working world is like because each has or has had a job.

Nelson works on the Nelson Family Farm and at the Oak Glen Seed Co.

Larkoski worked this past summer as a life guard at the Pine Springs Swimming Pool.

Heimerman is employed as a custodian at the Blooming Prairie High School.

Nowlan works at Subway and also at Bush Garden Gladiolus, Blooming Prairie.

Pryor is a cashier at Casey's General Store in Blooming Prairie.

Nelson said, as an ambassador, he and his fellow ambassadors gain experience in attending meetings and seeing what other businesses are doing. "We also get to participate in ribbon cuttings," he said.

Being a chamber ambassador, Nowlan said she has more opportunities and responsibilities as a community member.

"We get to see more of the behind-the-scenes of businesses," Pryor explained her ambassadorial duties.

The student ambassadors actively discussed their plans to help arrange student field trip tours of businesses. The ambassadors will meet with school officials to coordinate such efforts. Swenson, an employee of Minimizer, said many young students have toured the plant.

At their Sept. 18 meeting, the ambassadors also discussed what they categorized as "random thoughts." Pryor suggested a drive-in movie theater event and also said she would like to see hot air balloon rides added as a Fourth of July event in Blooming Prairie.

The Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce is considered a very important part of its community and it sponsors events, including the city-wide garage sale, Crazy Days, Holiday Dazzle, Old Fashioned Fourth of July and many more activities.

The chamber's Mission Statement is "to provide a framework for community growth and development by encouraging financial investment, coordinating business activities, promoting commerce and fostering a sense of community pride."

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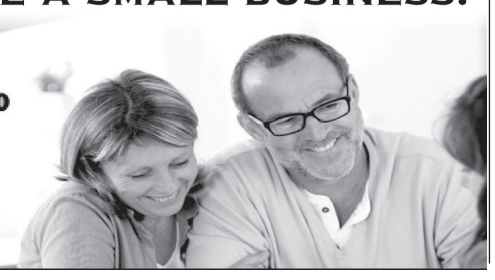

Ellendale Living



Staff photos by James Knoop

Kids gathered in an apple orchard down the road from Pontoppidan Lutheran Church for the annual Kid's Run.

Local residents run to fight against hunger

By JAMES KNOOP
Sports Editor

It was a little church on a dirt road in the middle of the country, but more than 80 participants showed up at Pontoppidan Lutheran Church on Sept. 19 to participate in the Annual Harvest Run for Hunger.

Though called a "run," the event also included a 4K walk, 10K cycling event and a "kids run."

This year was the sixth annual run, and the event is remaining quite popular. Hosted by Zion Lutheran, Pontoppidan Lutheran, St. Paul Lutheran and First Lutheran Church of Hope, volunteers amassed more than 60 sponsors for the event, allowing them to provide prizes for raffle drawings, as well as medallions for first and second place winners.

This allows more money to go to the cause for which people are gathering – food for the hungry. In the last six years, the simple running event has raised more than $41,000, and that is before the results from this year.

The money from the event is spread evenly among local food shelves, including ones in Ellendale, New Richland, Waseca County and Steele County.

Event organizer, Ron Knutson, didn't have the total for this year, but he stated that he believed the turnout was even greater than last year, so the profits for charity should have greatly helped the cause.



Overall winner of the 7K run T.J.Schiltz shakes hands with Event organizer Ron Knutson during the 6th Annual Harvest Run for Hunger in Ellendale. Schiltz is an NRHEG High School alumnus and finished with a time of under 24 minutes.

For Knutson, the event is the fruition of a long-time dream.

"This was something I felt I needed to do seven or eight years ago," said Knutson. "It took me a couple years to get up the nerve to start it. I was a runner, and I'd seen some of these events. I was concerned about the hunger in the world, and I thought this would be a way to raise awareness for people in our area. I started out from there, and I've tried to build on that."

T.J. Schiltz was the overall men's winner of the 7K run and Jayne Driscoll was the overall female winner. Schiltz, a New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva alumnus, finished the race in less than 24 minutes.



Kim Schlaak (left) finished first place in the 30-40 age category and Erin Holland (right) finished first among participants ages 20-30.

Paying honors to World War II veterans



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

The flag raising ceremony at Target Field prior to the Twins Central Division encounter with the Detroit Tigers was definitely a family affair for Dale Mowers of Albert Lea. Twenty-eight family members attended the special ceremonies. The former Ellendale man was chosen to raise the American flag and POW flag because of his service in World War II as a member of the U.S. Navy.

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

It was not just another day on Sept. 15 in the life of one of a most dedicated Minnesota Twins fans and World War II veteran Dale Mowers, former resident of Ellendale. He currently resides in Albert Lea.

Since 1961 when the Twins moved from Washington, D.C., to Minnesota, Mowers, 89, has been a most loyal fan, win or lose.

The Twins paid respect to Mowers as an avid fan and as a veteran by having him raise the American flag and POW flag during pre-game ceremonies of a Central Division matchup between the Twins and the Detroit Tigers. Mowers was decked out in a World War II baseball cap in raising the flag.

A son, grandson and a couple of great-grandsons helped hold the American flag as Mowers cranked the flag upward in a clockwise motion. The entire ceremony was shown on the Jumbotron scoreboard.

Mowers has known for some time that he would be doing the honors, "and it was a special honor," he said. One thing he did not know, however, was there would be 28 of his family members in attendance to share in the special moment. He just thought two daughters and a son-in-law would be with him when he hoisted the flag.

Mowers was congratulated by many Twins fans as he moved to his game seat with family members. "Thank you for your service," many echoed to him.

Mowers served in World War II with the U.S. Navy. He served that branch for three years. He was a Radioman 3C.

During his military service, Mowers received a Good Conduct Medal and also an Asiatic Theater Medal.

Mowers is a retired railroad employee of 38 years, most of it with Rock Island. He also served 20 years as city clerk of Ellendale. He has five children, 13 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.



World War II veteran Dale Mowers, formerly of Ellendale, watched batting practice prior to raising the American flag and POW flag at Target Field on Tuesday night, Sept. 15.

"It was a special moment I will cherish," Mowers said about his opportunity to raise the American flag. "It would have been nice if the Twins had won, but it sure was a beautiful night for a baseball game."

Since making their home at Target Field in Minneapolis, the Twins have made it a routine to have veterans of the military raise the American flag and POW flag. Guest Relations representative Brent Weslowski helps coordinate the flag raisings. He said he has been part of 386 of the more than 440 flag raisings at Target Field since it opened in 2010.

Mowers' entourage at the Twins game included daughters Judy and Cindi and son Curt. Also on hand were son-in-law's Howard Lestrud and Darrell Hansen, daughter-in-law Gail Mowers; grandchildren Troy, Nicole, Ben, Joe, Katy and Patrick and their families.

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Medford Living

Volunteers beautify Medford's roundabouts



Staff photo by Anna Segner

As one of the youngest volunteers, 11-year-old Carter gave up his Saturday morning to help the Medford community plant at the roundabouts in Medford.

Student body represented on Medford's School Board

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Medford High School senior Cierra (CJ) Duchene is what many consider a "super student." Her high achievement in and out of the classroom is something that led to her position as the first-ever student member of the Medford School Board.

Though she was absent due to illness for her first scheduled School Board meeting on Aug. 17, her first present schoolboard meeting was Sept. 14. As student council president, she was already attending school board meetings to deliver reports and updates about student council throughout the summer. Now she sits on the other side of the table.

"It's a lot, but it is cool getting to know more about leadership and to see the behind-the-scenes of how the school improves," said Duchene. "Not many people get to know all of that. It's opening my eyes to how things are run.

"I think this helps them out a lot too," she said. "I think it was a good idea to bring a student's point of view. I can pretty much tell my opinion and shed light on the vote."

Duchene said that she was asked to be a part of the board at the end of the school year last year. According to Superintendent Richard Dahman, the intention of introducing a non-voting, student representative onto the school board was for a student voice in discussions.

"The benefits to our school district include an opportunity for the board and public to hear a consistent student viewpoint, and a chance for our student body to be represented at the highest level of local school governance," said Dahman.

Prior to the decision of adding a student to the board, Dahman and board members researched how other schools have integrated a student onto the board. Medford's Student Council has an exceptional reputation in a statewide and national level and has won many awards.

"We feel that having the student council president represent our student body on the school board will be a benefit to our students and to our school district," he said.

Beyond being Student Council President, Duchene is a member of National Honor Society. She is active in FFA and she is on the high school trap shooting team. She is taking College Now classes at the high school and a few online PSEO courses. She also works at Kwik Trip in Clinton Falls.

If she has free time (which she admits is rare), Duchene enjoys cheering at Medford football and volleyball games. She also enjoys traveling, hunting, fishing, trapshooting and horseback riding at her grandparents place. She admits that adding the school board meetings to her already full calendar can be a bit daunting; she believes it is worth it.

Duchene strongly values being a valued voice in a group of adult professionals. While she does not have voting power on the board, she feels that her perspective matters.

"When I first talked at my first meeting, I thought 'I'm actually up here and these people are actually listening to me," she said. "Adults listening and thinking about what I say is a good transition for me to college."

She has plans to attend Bemidji State University upon her graduation. She plans to go into the pre-veterinary medicine program to be a veterinary technician.

Area construction update

STREET TALK



Mike Dougherty

I-35 Owatonna

A series of Interstate 35 ramps in Owatonna will be opened and closed on Tuesday, Sept. 22 as the two-year construction project moves closer to completion.

The ramps opening will be:

• Northbound I-35 entrance / on-ramp (Exit 41) at the interchange with Steele County Road 25 (W. Bridge Street.)

• Northbound I-35 exit/off-ramp (Exit 42A & B) at the interchange with Steele County Road 2 (Hoffman Drive), old Highway 14

The ramps closing will be:

• Northbound I-35 exit/off-ramp (Exit 41) at Steele County Road 25 (W. Bridge Street) for reconstruction of the concrete pavement.

• Northbound I-35 entrance / on-ramp from old Highway 14 (CR 2/Hoffman Drive) for removal and reconstruction of the concrete pavement on ramp and acceleration lane.

The ramp closures are expected to continue until late October.

Additionally, traffic lanes changed on Tuesday, Sept. 22. Southbound traffic will remain in its current lanes and be restricted to single lane traffic through the work zone. However, northbound traffic will no longer be head-to-head with southbound.

Northbound traffic will be moved over to its reconstruction lanes, but will be restricted to single lane traffic, but no head-to-head with southbound.

Delays are expected during busy traffic times, especially on Fridays and Sundays.

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

For more information about the project, review MnDOT's project page at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/i35bridge-pavement-replacement/index.html or the project's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/I35Owatonna.

Highway 14

Final preparation work is beginning for this project, which should wrap up late this month or early in October.

Traffic remains head to head in the construction zone, using the new westbound lanes, which were reconstructed in 2014. Additionally, the eastbound on-ramp to Highway 14 from Highway 218 is closed.

Mathiowetz is constructing new concrete pavement at the intersection of Highway 14 and County Road 43 for the new westbound travel lanes.

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

For more information, go to MnDOT's project page at www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/hwy14-218-to-cr-180/index.html.

Old Highway 14 in Owatonna

Work was completed on the construction project on Saturday, Aug. 15. The work in Owatonna was being done on Steele County Road 2 (Hoffman Drive) from the beginning of the west Owatonna city limits to the intersection of Steele County Road 45 and State Avenue.

Construction on the $3.2 million project includes pavement replacement and concrete pavement repairs as well as improvements for pedestrians.

Additionally, Old Highway 14 is closed and detoured beginning at the Owatonna city limits, which are about 1.5 miles west of I-35. The closure will last into October for the concrete overlay work. Call 507-304-6106 for additional information. This project is being completed by the MnDOT district based in Mankato.

I-35 in Steele, Freeborn counties

Southbound traffic is head to head with northbound traffic as work continues on the unbonded concrete overlay project on I-35 from Highway 30 at Ellendale to Interstate 90 north of Albert Lea. Paving work continues on the project.

Ramps are closed at Geneva and Albert Lea. Look for ramp closures in the next 10 days at Ellendale (Highway 30) and Clarks Grove (Highway 251.) Geneva's ramp will open at that time.

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

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

For updates and a map of the detour route, go to MnDOT's project page at: www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/i35-overlay/index.html

Highway 14 in Steele, Dodge counties

Ulland Bros. completed milling up old blacktop pavement and overlaying Highway 14 with new bituminous pavement in the area of Steele County Road 180 near the railroad tracks east toward Dodge Center. This section of Highway 14 has striping and shoulder work completed.

Ulland Bros. will begin reconstruction of the ramps on Highway 14 and Steele County Road 45 on the south side of Owatonna later this month or early in October.

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

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

For updates, go to MnDOT's project page at: www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/hwy14-resurfacing/index.html

Michael Dougherty is the public affairs coordinator for the Rochester district of MnDOT. He can be followed with road updates on Twitter at @mndotsoutheast.

STEELE TALKIN'

Continued from Page 1C

includes quality physical education, active classrooms and active recess, as well as increasing physical activity opportunities before/after school options and active transportation to and from school (such as Safe Routes to School.) This approach is often referred to as a Comprehensive School Physical Activity Program (CSPAP.) In 2013, the Active Schools Minnesota Initiative was created through a partnership between the Minnesota Departments of Health and Education to assist schools in identifying and increasing opportunities to increase physical activities for students. The initiative identified the five CSPAP strategies identified above as the core activities and are referred to as "Active Schools." A school implementation toolkit was created called "Moving Matters" to assist schools as they assess their current physical activity programs and policies and identify opportunities to increase physical activity for students.

It is the goal of the Active Schools strategy to increase physical activity opportunities both during and outside the school day to assist students to meet the national guidelines of 60 minutes or more each day. Evidence-based strategies to reach these goals include implementing quality physical education, active classrooms, active recess at the elementary level and drop-in time options at the junior and high school levels and before and/or after school physical activity opportunities, including Safe Routes to School.

This information comes from the Minnesota Department of Health, SHIP guidance for schools. http://www.health.state.mn.us/healthreform/ship/docs/ship4/Schools.pdf.

Steele Talkin' is a monthly feature written by various organizations. Jane Nyquist is a health educator with Steele County Public Health. For more information about the SHIP School strategies and how you can get involved, please contact public health at 507-444-7650.

Weekly crossword

on Page 7B

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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LENNOX

RECIPE CORNER

Orange-Cranberry Salad

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

By Mrs.Ruben Carlson

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

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Owatonna Living

Owatonna locals convene to talk climate change

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

The world's climate is changing, which means Minnesota's climate is changing. Many community members decided to come together because they thought it was time to acknowledge that change on a local level.

On Sept. 15, more than 50 community members gathered at the dining hall on Pillsbury Campus to learn more about how climate change impacts this area and learn how to make a positive impact. The convening event was brought by Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy. The event was held in 12 communities across the state.

Owatonna Mayor Tom Kuntz welcomed residents to the program. "What a great program this is! This is an opportunity to change the way we do things," said Kuntz.

"This program is about bringing together communities. I'm sure everyone would agree that this is one of the most complicated issues of our time," said Director of Education for Climate Generation Kristen Poppleton. "We're seeing consequences in our forests. We're seeing them in our farm fields. We're seeing them at our favorite ice-fishing hole or our ski and snowmobile trail, and we're seeing them in our electric bills."

The facts were presented like this: increased temperatures, extreme weather and higher dew points lead to greenhouse gas emissions, which of course impacts the way we live, work and play.

University of Minnesota climatologist and meteorologist Dr. Mark Seeley spoke at the convening to share some facts about climate change in Minnesota and Owatonna, especially. Seeley spoke about the drivers of climate change, which are natural variability, landscape change and change in atmospheric composition.

Seeley said that there were 16,000 weather-related records broke in the past decade. While this may be entertaining to read about in the news, it is not a happy statistic in the face of climate change. Temperature changes in Minnesota are significant. Winters have warmed by a sharp four degrees. Spring has warmed by two degrees, while summer and autumn have warmed by one degree. This is an average of two degrees warming in Minnesota.

As the average temperatures are changing the seasons in Minnesota, that change is also felt in water vapors. Seventy degree dew point is considered a tropical air mass. Minnesota is seeing more and more tropical air mass, and while Seeley laughed about how it was unfortunate that one of those day was on his visit to the state fair, it is not a laughing matter.

Heat advisories are called if the heat index makes the air feel like 100 degrees or higher. Seeley said that we are continually seeing more and more heat advisories in Minnesota.

"In our life time, we have seen more and more heat advisories," he said. "We have had to do this more in this lifetime than any other century."

All of these weather changes have led to more extreme weather in terms of thunderstorms, rainfall and other devastating storms in Minnesota.

"This demands our attention. These changes in our climate attributes absolutely demand our attention," said Seeley. "We need to consider how are we going to preserve and sustain our natural resource systems in the context of all these changes, how are we going to preserve and sustain our society's infrastructure in the context of all these climate behaviors."

While the statistics left many people in the room aghast, Seeley spoke to the importance of awareness, but also about the importance of conversations and networking. "We can't do this in isolation," he said. "We have to do this community by community and it's got to be very, very widespread. We all have to get on the same page."

The program also included a story panel, which featured two residents of Northfield and one resident of Owatonna. Darryl Hill of Owatonna spoke to the room about Owatonna Christmas Bird Count through the National Audubon Society.

As Hill pointed out, these climate changes are impacting bird populations in Minnesota. One scary statistic that raised eyebrows was the status of the common loon. According to the Audubon report on birds and climate change, "by 2080 the call of the loon may disappear from Minnesota as its summer range moves north. Its winter range is more heavily affected, declining 62 percent by 2050."

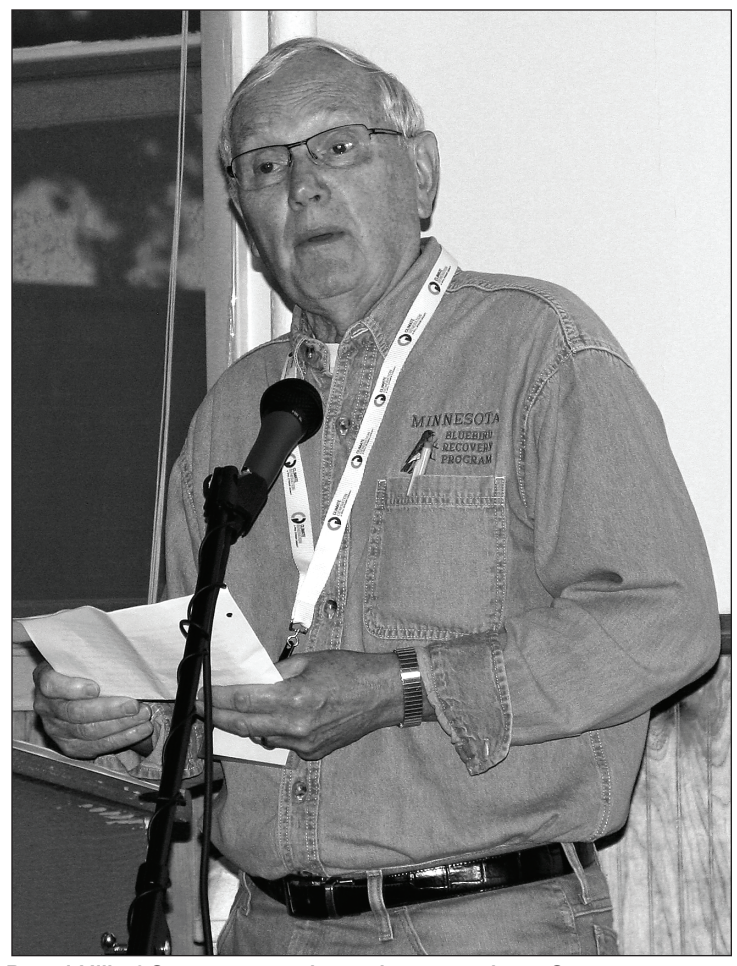
With these many statistics in mind, the people that gathered for the convening split into five working groups to discuss and possibly even plan solutions.

As Climate Generation's communications coordinator, Katie Sienger said, "I think what we're seeing is a lot of people feeling more confident to talk with friends and neighbors about this issue."

"This is not political because everything is fact-based. It's about getting people engaged with the issue," she said. To learn more about Climate Generation, visit www.climategen.org.



Staff photos by Anna Segner
Resident LaVonne Trotter talks with Will Steger Foundation's education coordinator Jothsna Harris during a climate change storytelling work group.



Darryl Hill of Owatonna spoke to the room about Owatonna Christmas Bird Count and the National Audubon Society at Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy's community convening on Sept. 15.



About 50 residents of the Owatonna area gathered to talk climate change on Sept. 15.

RURAL NARRATIVE

Continued from Page 1C

as a new business opening, Winchester said it's important not to act surprised. "The narrative matters," he said. "We cannot continue to portray rural success as the exception."

Globalization, he said, has changed the face of rural communities. One hundred years ago, the automobile was still a fairly new invention. As it becomes easier to travel and share information, our society becomes more and more focused on inclusive regions, rather than specific and "separate" towns. Winchester explained that rural representatives should be positive and share the things that their community, and the surrounding area, can offer new residents. "(Roads and transportation) not only changed how towns perceived themselves, but how they connected with each other," he said. "Today, we are a more connected, regional society."

Winchester also addressed the concept that rural communities experience hardship and population decrease when their "best and brightest" (students and young adults) move away to larger cities. This concept has been called the "brain drain." Winchester instead asked his audience to note a different, positive trend, which he called the "brain gain," which refers to the fact that many people age 30 to 49 are choosing to move to rural areas, and that many people in this age demographic are also parents, who introduce their young children into the community and school system. In addition, Winchester also shows that rural populations are not experiencing a decline in educated citizens. Winchester presented statistics indicating that, in 1970, about half of the citizens living in rural areas had a degree. In 2010, the statistics showed that about 80 percent of residents in rural communities have a degree.

Overall, Winchester implored the group to look at all sides of a belief, and to back conclusions up with research and data. He introduced the word " anecdata," which he said can be likened to the word "antidote." "No more anecdata," Winchester said. He explained that anecdata is information which is not based on serious research but is, instead, based on what someone thinks or perceives.

"My point is that rural is changing, not dying," said Winchester. In the past 50 years, Winchester said that only three rural Minnesota towns have dissolved. The last town to "die," said Winchester, was Tenney, population six. Most small towns, he said, will likely continue to exist and grow, even if that growth does take time.

Following Winchester's talk, Penny also encouraged communities to reach out to SMIF with questions or ideas about growing, building and connecting rural areas.



Steele County SCHS Humane Society

PETS of the WEEK

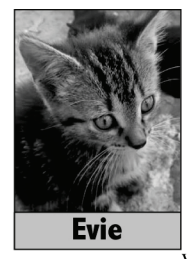
We speak for those who cannot speak for themselves



Isabella

Isabella is a 2 year old (D.O.B. July 16, 2013) chocolate colored Lab/Kelpie mix who weighs 51 pounds. Isabella came to us with a litter of 6 pups. She is in the process of regaining her girlish figure. Isabella is sweet as chocolate, and is young, friendly and playful! She gets along well with other dogs and enjoys human interaction. Isabella has a microchip, has been vet checked, spayed (her puppy making days are over), vaccinated, dewormed, microchipped, and tested negative for heartworm. (CE)

Isabella's adoption fee is $200.



Evie

Evie is a beautiful brown tiger kitty born on 6/4/15. She is a snuggly little girl who loves being held and even comes to her foster mom when she is called! Evie is the ultimate kitten: loves to play, loves to be held, loves attention from her people. Evie is microchipped, has been vet checked, spayed, vaccinated (age appropriate), de-wormed, and tested negative for FIV/Feluk. (C&AL)

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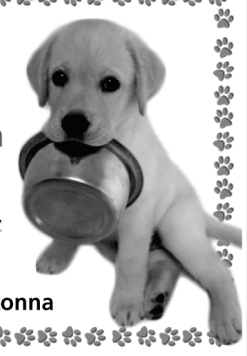

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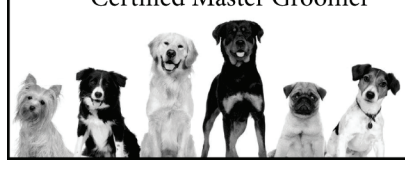

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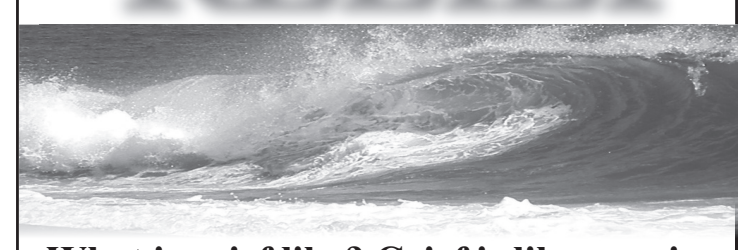
GRIEF RELIEF



What is grief like? Grief is like a series of waves that come and go, feelings that vary in intensity over a long period of time as we are constantly reminded of changes that result from the death of our loved one. We need to take time to face our emotions and feelings. Then make careful plans for our new lives without the deceased. Our feelings and grief may seem unpredictable and confused at times, but that is perfectly normal.

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Education

How did a teacher change your life?



With the new school year kicking into full gear, the Steele County Times is searching for stories about teachers.

Specifically, we're looking for area teachers who've made an impact on their students. We want area residents, young or old, to share stories about the teachers who have made a difference in their lives.

We are confident that everyone has someone who did something or said something or believed something about them that changed the way they thought, or learned, or felt. The one who made such an impact on our lives that 10, 20, 30, 40, even 50 or more years later, these people stand out.

We would like residents to submit a story (300 words or less) about their teacher experience. We plan to publish the stories during the month of November as part of American Education Week, which is celebrated Nov. 16-20.

Please submit your stories by emailing to bptimes@frontiernet.net or mail to Steele County Times, P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 or they can be brought to our office in person.

Publisher Rick Bussler

HONOREES

Continued from Page 1A

Clair Coughlin

Distinctive Service Honoree Clair Coughlin, Class of 1953, has always been passionate about education. "I've been a teacher all my life," he said.

While still in school, Coughlin was a member of the National Honor Society, played basketball and football and graduated as salutatorian of his class.

Following his graduation from St. Thomas University in 1957, Coughlin began his teaching career at Jordan High School. During this time, he also took classes at Gustavus Adolphus College. After earning a scholarship, Coughlin then earned a Master's Degree in Science from the University of North Dakota, while also teaching mathematics in Grand Forks at Central High School. Then, while still pursuing his own education at the University of Minnesota, Coughlin also became a founding faculty member of North Hennepin Junior and Community College.

While teaching at North Hennepin Community College, Coughlin was named the college's first Educator of the Year in 1987. Ten years later, he was also granted Professor Emeritus status. During his time at the college, he also served as the Mathematics Division Chair and was a member of the faculty senate. In 2002, the Coughlin lecture series was established.

In 1982, Coughlin was elected to the Osseo School District (#279.) During his 15 years of service on the board, he was appointed to represent District 279 on the area Vo Tech College Board, was named Outstanding School Board Member of the Year and elected to serve on the district's Foundation Board of Directors (and later served as their president.)

Coughlin has also been an active member of the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, in Osseo, where he's currently a Eucharistic Minister.

Although he "wasn't there long," Blooming Prairie, said Coughlin, was a great place to grow up. "I like the small-town culture; people are just so friendly," he said. "I think I have to credit Blooming Prairie for most of that. That was my thinking of what 'Minnesota nice' should be."

He also credits the Blooming Prairie school staff for inspiring him to become an educator. "(Blooming Prairie) just has a great teaching staff."

Coughlin's wife, Pauline (Butler) Coughlin (class of 1954) nominated her husband to become a Blossom Honoree. "We've just been so proud of all he's contributed to education in his lifetime," she said. Together, the couple has six children: Timothy, Steven, Lynn, Mary, Ellen and Margaret, along with many grandchildren. Some of their children and grandchildren have also pursued careers in education.

Coughlin thoroughly enjoyed his career in the educational field. "I liked the variety of it," said Coughlin. "I'm doing what I feel is a real need. I feel everybody needs an education."

Wayne Ruhter

Another 2015 Distinctive Service Blossom Honoree is Dr. Wayne Ruhter. Ruhter passed away in 2006 from cancer, but his legacy continues to live on. Ruhter graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1964 and continued his education at St. Olaf College, where he graduated with honors. After only one year at the University of California, Ruhter earned a Master's Degree in Applied Science.

Ruhter later served in the U.S. Air Force and was recognized with a Hertz Foundation Fellowship. In addition, he also received a PhD from the University of California, Davis, through the Livermore National Laboratory Campus. Ruhter then worked as a nuclear scientist at the Livermore National Laboratory in the nuclear chemistry division. During his career, he developed relationships with colleagues worldwide and has been credited with encouraging those international counterparts to safely use and protect their nuclear materials. He also developed a gamma-ray analysis code that was later adopted as an international standard used by the International Atomic Energy Agency and required by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Ruhter's brother David describes Wayne as a humble man. Even after earning his PhD, David says Wayne would nor include "Dr." with his name. "He came home once or twice a year," David said. "He enjoyed helping more on the farm."

Some of Ruhter's family will attend the banquet in his honor.

Faith was also an important part of Ruhter's life, and he became an Elder in the Lutheran Church. People affiliated with the church, Blooming Prairie High School teachers and administration and country school teachers were all important to him. Ruhter's family, including his parents, brothers Gary and David and sister Natalie, all offered their support as he furthered his career and it's certain that Ruhter's legacy lives on in the hearts of his family, friends and countless others he interacted with across the nation and world.

Bill Underwood

This year, Bill Underwood (class of 1950) will also be inducted into the 2015 "Blossoms Forever" Athletic Hall of Fame. Underwood was also recognized by the BPEF in 2009 when he received a Distinguished Service Award.

During his school years, Underwood served as captain of the 1948-1949 basketball team, which reached the Gopher Championship and the West Sub-District Championship. While in high school, Underwood also played as a fullback and served as captain of the football team and earned a spot on the Gopher All-Conference Team. His teams also received numerous other awards and recognitions during his time as a high school athlete.

Underwood also served in the U.S. Navy and completed engineering work in both the U.S. and overseas. He worked for the Bendix Corporation, stationed at the Goddard Space Flight Center's World Wide Control Center. Starting in 1979, Underwood also purchased and ran the local Dairy Queen restaurant. He was also active in many other community organizations, including the Blooming Prairie Shriners (president), Chamber of Commerce (president), American Legion (Commander) and the Parent/Teacher Association (president.) He also sang in the First Lutheran Church choir and helped start the Farmers Appreciation Day and the Fourth of July parade.

This year's honorees will be recognized on Friday, Oct. 2, and Saturday, Oct. 3. They'll first be recognized at a meet and greet event, held following the Oct. 2 Homecoming game at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. On Oct. 3, a banquet and awards ceremony will also take place at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. A social hour is scheduled for 6 p.m. followed by the dinner at 7 p.m. For tickets, contact Julie Noble at 507-456-2410.

This article was written using information submitted in an article by Doug Myers, a Blooming Prairie alumni and member of the BPEF.

Underwood could not be reached for comment.

Medicare covers remarkable new device that can give seniors relief from lower back pain

Easy-to use high-tech back brace is now covered by Medicare.

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- ✔Reinforces good body mechanics
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College Now facing the unknown

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

After a successful first year of three College Now courses offered in the Medford High School (MHS) curriculum, the school is faced with some unknowns about the future of the program. The unknowns regard the extent of education necessary for the instructors of these courses.

The College Now classes are college classes taught in the high school by high school teachers. Medford's College Now courses are affiliated with Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU), which means the high school teachers had to be approved by SMSU to teach their courses.

The syllabus, books and tests used in the high school classroom are exactly the same as the ones used in college courses. Students have to receive a grade of a C or higher in order to earn college credits.

While the high school teachers are now required to have a Master's degree in order to teach the College Now courses affiliated with SMSU, the Minnesota Office of Higher Education might be specifying that requirement to be a Master's Degree within the subject taught.

Medford High School Principal Chris Ovrebo said that the specifics are very unclear at this point. "We are good for this year, and as far as we know, we are good for next year," remarked Ovrebo.

Many Medford High School teachers have their M.A. in education with undergraduate degrees in their field; however, many do not have field-specific master degrees. As far as the school knows, teachers would not be grandfathered in to the new regulations.

There are four College Now courses offered at Medford currently: pre-calculus, calculus, literature and biology lecture with lab. There are 16 students enrolled in pre-calculus, 11 in calculus, 14 in literature and 24 in biology.

Currently the university grants the teacher the ability to teach a College Now course, but the future of that process is unknown with talk of new accreditation standards.

The accreditation services acts every 10 years, and SMSU was accredited last year. Therefore, Ovrebo said that he is unsure when these changes will take place, but he is confident that SMSU will contact the school as soon as they are informed.

With many unknowns, Ovrebo can only say that it would be a shame to lose the College Now program, but if that were to happen, they would continue to offer Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

Students are able to receive college credits with AP courses if they chose to take a high stakes test at the completion of the course. Ovrebo said that the percentage of students scoring high enough on the tests to earn college credits is low.

The benefit of the College Now courses are that students are able to take college level courses in high school, which means maintaining the high school experience and friendships.

Senior and student council president, CJ Duchene, is currently taking the Calculus College Now course, which means that she is considered to have dual enrollment. She is considered a student at MHS and SMSU.

Beyond what Duchene considers a great educational transition between high school and college, she is happy to be saving money. Many students and parents find the cost of savings due to the College Now courses to be helpful when facing high college tuition.

"It's nice to earn a college credit here and not have to drive all the way to Owatonna to take a college course," said Duchene. "I like the fact that I feel more comfortable learning from teachers that I know and have known for a long time."

There were 145 college credits earned by Medford students last year, which results in a $39,000 savings total.

If the faculty qualm proves to be no issue in the future, Ovrebo said that they might think about adding history, physics and an English composition to the College Now courses.

"It's been a neat program to be able to offer to students," he said. "We hope that the issue regarding faculty gets worked out."

Area student awarded scholarship



Submitted photo

Advocates for Developmental Disabilities of Steele County offers a scholarship for students majoring in the field of special education or related fields at an institution of higher learning. Consideration will also be made for special education students. Above is a recent scholarship recipient, Lindsey Schiefert, of Blooming Prairie. She is majoring in Special Education at MSU Mankato. Pictured next to her is Laurie Running, Executive Director of Advocates for Developmental Disabilities.

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News

Clyde Doepner is a walking, talking Minnesota Twins museum

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Reflections. . . and How



Howard Lestrud

The Minnesota Twins Major League Baseball Club some day hopes to have a Twins museum at Target Field or near the home of the Twins.

Although the Twins museum has not yet evolved, the Twins do have a very valuable property and treasure in the person of Clyde Doepner. Clyde is a close, personal friend of mine, as Minneapolis Star Tribune columnist Sid Hartman would say.

Clyde is officially the curator for Twins memorabilia and is an employee of the Twins. He is the only baseball curator in Major League Baseball. Look up the word "curator" in the dictionary and you will find this meaning: "the person in charge of a museum, art collection, etc."

In actuality, Clyde is in charge of protecting current Twins property and putting together a chronological collection of Twins history as it has happened and as it is about to happen. For example, Clyde was on board when Target Field opened its inaugural season in 2010. He has stashed away uniforms, baseballs, bats, bases, umpire cards and more.

Prior to being named Clyde the Curator, Clyde preferred to be called Clyde the Collector. That's how I first met Clyde. He and I (and my son Troy) were members of the Twin Cities Sports Collectors Club. This club was first started mainly as an avenue for baseball card collectors.

In his early collection days, Clyde proved that he had a knack for identifying history and he wanted to preserve that history, first for himself and then for others. His motive in being Twins curator is allowing all baseball fans the opportunity to enjoy baseball history, and in particular, that history of the Minnesota Twins. His personal collection of Twins memorabilia is the largest private Twins collection in the world.

Not only does Clyde like to collect and preserve history, he enjoys sharing experiences of collecting with others. Just last week, son Troy, daughter-in-law Nancy, grandson Ryan and I had the good fortune to be part of one of Clyde's tour groups at Target Field before a regular season game. Since 2010, Clyde has been giving tours of Twins memorabilia at Target Field, most of the displays designed by himself.

I have been on a couple of Clyde's tours and highly recommend them. If you wish to learn more about Twins history, call the Twins at 612-659-3400 and ask to be part of a Clyde Doepner memorabilia tour.

He also gives public talks and last year alone he gave hundreds of presentations on his favorite subject of Twins collecting.

I owe a lot to Clyde and thank his friendship and his professionalism in sharing a love of baseball.

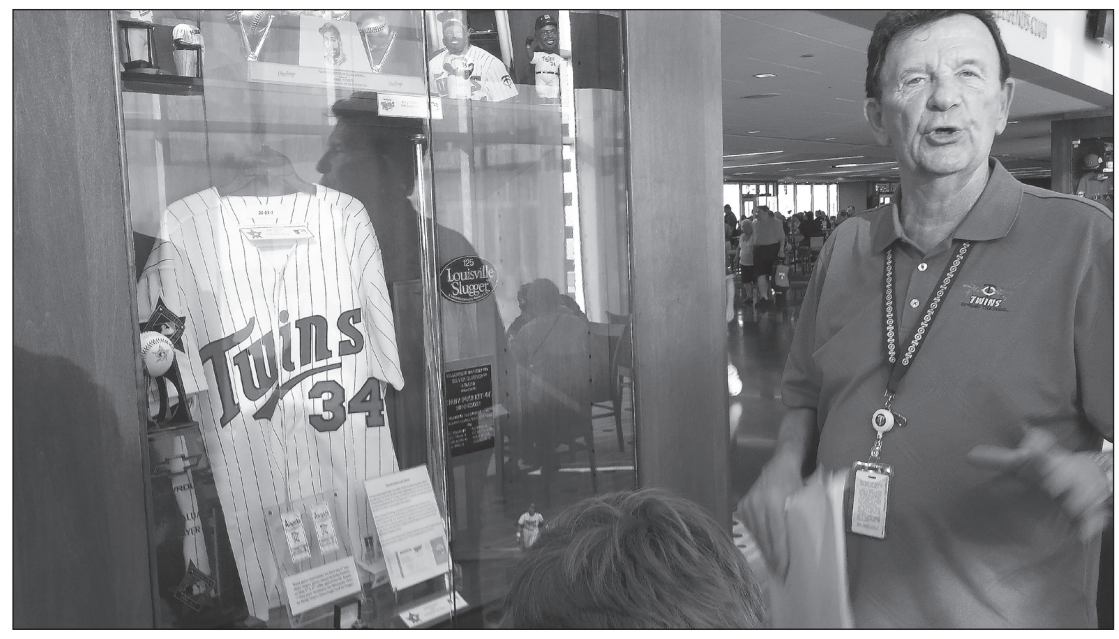
Clyde's tours start at Gate 14 (Kent Hrbek gate) and continue on the first and second levels. What Clyde does is take visitors around to the various display cases showing off moments of Twins history.

Starting at Gate 14, Clyde reflects on Hrbek's career and has fun in recalling the play in the 1991 World Series where Hrbek pulled Atlanta's Ron Gant off the bag for a key out in the Series.

He also gives fans a glimpse of how he got started collecting Twins items. He tells the story about becoming friends at a young age with former Twins owner Calvin Griffith. The late owner was cleaning out his office and said he was going to throw away many Twins items including old player contracts, letters from presidents and other historical items. He offered them to Clyde and Clyde accepted. Take the tour and learn more of this story.

Clyde then pauses at length at two special display areas, one for Twins slugger and Hall of Famer Harmon Killebrew and the other of Hall of Famer Kirby Puckett.

Clyde says Harmon was one of his favorites. He skims over Killebrew's baseball career by showing Killebrew collectibles, from high school to the Hall of Fame. Clyde was able to retrieve the first baseball Killebrew hit as a young player in Idaho. Clyde has even obtained Harmon's bat that he hit his final Major League home run with number 573.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Minnesota Twins curator Clyde Doepner leads a tour at Target Field prior to a regular season home game. Doepner is in charge of preserving Minnesota Twins Major League Baseball history.

Many of the Puckett items on display, including his Hall of Fame plaque and his All Star Game MVP plaque, were loaned to Clyde for the Minnesota Twins from Kirby's family.

Clyde enjoys talking about how he currently preserves Twins baseball history as it happens. One of his favorite stories centers around youngster A.J. Nitzschke, a 13-year-old from Iowa.

It was A.J. who caught the first major league home run hit at Target Field. The home run was hit 388 feet to right field by Jason Kubel. It was then Clyde's curator duty to retrieve the ball. Clyde quickly located the youngster and offered him Twins merchandise for the ball. Helped by prompting by others in the stands, A.J. said he wanted to keep the ball.

Clyde then used his persuasion techniques that he has learned over the years by being a high school history teacher in North St. Paul. He offered A.J. an authentic, autographed Joe Mauer game used jersey for the ball. He also offered A.J. 45 minutes of personal time with Mauer. The bartering paid off, as Clyde got the ball and A.J. acquired some priceless mementoes.

In preserving current Twins history, Clyde always places a hologram on the item. Holograms are a bit like photographs that never die. They're sort of "photographic ghosts;" they look like three-dimensional photos that have somehow got trapped inside glass, plastic or metal. When you tilt a creditcard hologram or driver's license hologram, you see an image of something like a bird moving "inside" the card.

Clyde is also the author of an award-winning book titled "The Minnesota Twins Through Memorabilia." The story of the Minnesota Twins is told through brief pieces of text accompanied by photos of pennants, jerseys, championship rings, ticket stubs, signed baseballs, commemorative items and other pieces of memorabilia. The book won a Minnesota Independent Publishers Award as Best Recreational Sports Book 2014.

What is Clyde's favorite Twins item he has collected? He will tell you every item is his favorite.

Harvest for History celebrates local food, drink and history

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Guests at the second annual Harvest for History event enjoyed a unique experience, featuring foods that they could trace from "the farm to the fork."

The event took place at the Steele County Historical Center (SCHS) on Saturday evening and began with appetizers and entertainment by musicians Scott Rogness and Mike Chinander. SCHS Executive Director Kim Purscell welcomed everyone to the event, thanking them for supporting the history center.

"It's a fun night, but it also does raise some funds for us," Purscell said. Purscell estimated that about 70 people attended the event.



Staff photos by Laura Berndt

Julia Seykora serves a glass of Alexis Bailly Country White Blend wine to Al Peterson of Owatonna.

SCHS is a nonprofit organization, supported by donations, fundraising and money provided for the building tours. SCHS's mission is to "share and preserve history today, for tomorrow," and Purscell also stated that the Harvest for History event provides another opportunity for people to learn more about SCHS and its building. "It allows us to showcase this wonderful, beautiful building we are so proud of," she said.

The second annual event featured a "100 Mile Menu," composed of ingredients produced locally (within approximately 100 miles.) The food was prepared by professional chef, Tim Cockram, and carefully paired with wine made at the Alexis Bailly Vineyard in Hastings. Between each course, the group heard from Chef Cockram, who spoke about each dish, explaining where he purchased the ingredients and how it was prepared. Many of the ingredients even came from the community of Owatonna and the surrounding area. "When we say 'farm to fork,' that's exactly what you can anticipate today," he said.

Alexis Bailly Vineyard owner and wine maker Nan Bailly was unable to attend the event, as she was making wine that evening, but she had prepared video clips, also describing the different wines and sharing more information about the vineyard, which was founded in 1972, by her father David Bailly. Guests enjoyed three courses, in addition to sweet basil custard served with a tart berry sauce (and ice wine) for dessert.

That night also marked the debut of the newest exhibit at SCHS, in honor of the Little Theatre of Owatonna's 50th season, called "LTO's 50 Years in Review." The guests enjoyed perusing the exhibits before and after the meal. Rogness and Chinander also performed again following the conclusion of the meal.

As Purscell is a new staff member at the history center, this is her first Harvest for History event. Joanne Giga and a small committee organized and planned the event, and Purscell expressed that she was thankful for their hard work and dedication. "They had such a vision and passion," said Purscell of the committee. Sponsors, including Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric and Hometown Credit Union, also contributed to the event.



Musicians Scott Rogness and Mike Chinander perform at the Harvest for History fundraiser, held on Saturday evening in Owatonna.

"This is really about celebrating our local abundance of fresh produce, meats and wines," Purscell said. "We also have local talent. We think it's important to celebrate what our region has to offer. It is a decadent evening and we encourage people to attend next year."

Read more about the LTO's 50th season in future editions of The Steele County Times.

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News

REFERENDUM

Continued from Page 1C

said that the projects will be completed by fall of 2018, with some schools done by fall of 2017. Schools marked with high priority are McKinley Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, Willow Creek and the Junior High. Maintenance (outside of the essential maintenance) on the high school is not a part of this bond.

Crowding is another main issue that this bond will address. Grant spoke about the fact that the schools are crowded, which concerns quality of learning. Grant said that many schools utilize the hallways and other unconventional spaces (such as a storage closet) for learning, especially during small group learning activities.

With the bond comes the plan to transform Willow Creek, which is now school to sixth-graders only, to an elementary school, and sixth-graders would join the seventh- and eighth-graders at the Junior High. This is meant to address the issue of space, but it is also an effort to eliminate one more transition for students going through the Owatonna Public School system.

"Research shows that this model is actually the best for kids," said Grant. "Right now, sixth-graders are all alone in that building, which isolates them and makes it difficult for teachers to connect and work together. This will give students more belongingness and awareness of expectations of achievement.

"People need to understand that kids in sixth grade are already getting mixed up with other grades on the buses, in neighborhoods, at church and at community events," said Grant. "This is a part of a change that people need to get accustomed to."

Security is also a main concern that the bond will address, as currently there is not one cohesive security system throughout the district. Each school kind of has their own system, but many do not have much of a system at all.

In fact, Grant commented that it has become clear that there is not much stopping people from walking into any of the schools. This is an issue particularly true to the portable classrooms that are used in a few of the schools. If the bond passes, the portables (which were meant to be temporary) will be eliminated.

Kottke said that this referendum is not just important to the school district, but it is important to the integrity of Owatonna. "We want parents and grandparents to have a real good understanding of the importance of the bond," he said.

Kottke grew up in Owatonna and went through the Owatonna School District, and his two kids did as well. When asked why he cared so much about the bond referendum, he responded "I care because I care about Owatonna."

SCFF BARN DANCE

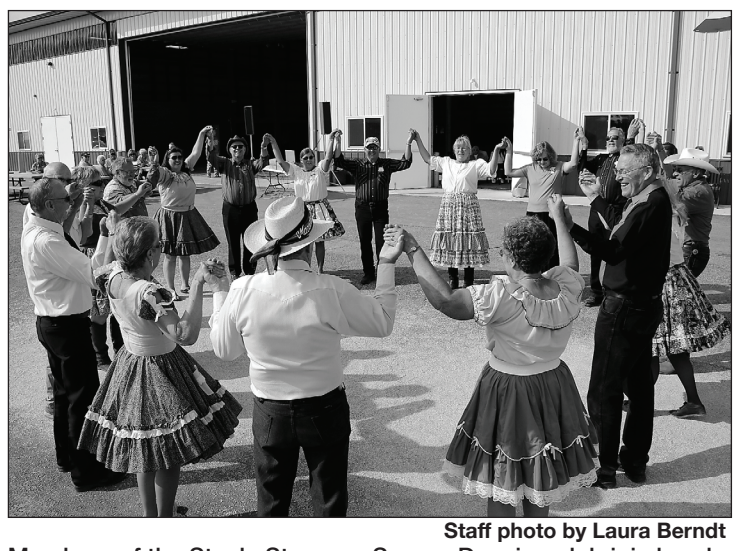
Continued from Page 1C

steppin' strong. The group was full of joy as they swirled and twirled in front of the Allan R. Radel Family Pavilion on the fairgrounds. They encouraged the spectators to try to join them, offering to teach them the basics of square dancing. Throughout the afternoon, the dancers demonstrated a variety of techniques. As the sun was high in the sky on the pleasant fall day, the dancers took frequent breaks to avoid becoming overheated or dehydrated. During the breaks, the square dancers shared what they enjoy about events like this. Friendship, they said, was one of the best benefits.

"We just have fun doing it," said Wayne. As the event was part of the SCFF's fundraiser, the group was also happy to help support the cause.

That afternoon, the dancers ended their portion of the event by linking hands in a large circle, taking a bow and exclaiming, "Thank you!" Other events took place at the pavilion, in hopes of drawing more supporters of the fair to come to the fairgrounds and enjoy themselves.

A pork burger supper and cash bar were available and guests also enjoyed music from musicians including the Dan Stursa Band (who have been performing at the fair for 41 years) and the D-C Drifters. Around 7 p.m. a live auction took place, followed by the last band, Chris Brooks and the Silver City Boys. A number of generous sponsors and volunteers also donated their time and resources to help ensure the event was a success. "Without our volunteers and their hard work, we couldn't put this on," he said.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Members of the Steele Steppers Square Dancing club join hands for one final "thank you" to close an afternoon of square dancing at the Steele County Fairgrounds.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the SCFF Building Fund and will address a number of upcoming needs and improvements for the fairgrounds. "We're hoping this will bring in some decent money from the food, beverages and auction," said SCFF Board Secretary/Manager Jim Gleason. "But, everyone is also having a good time, and that's what it's all about."

Gleason said he was happy to see a nice crowd come to the auction that evening and that the Fair Board greatly appreciates all their supporters. During Friday's event, a banner displaying the names of donors was visible along the pavilion's wall. Soon, said Gleason, a permanent display will feature donors of $100 or more.

Currently, the fairgrounds is also preparing for the winter season. During the winter months, the fairgrounds is available as a storage space for vehicles, campers and more.

To learn more about the SCFF, to make a donation or inquire about storage space, call the SCFF office at 507-451-5305.

Pillsbury Gymnastics Academy offers positive environment for learning

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

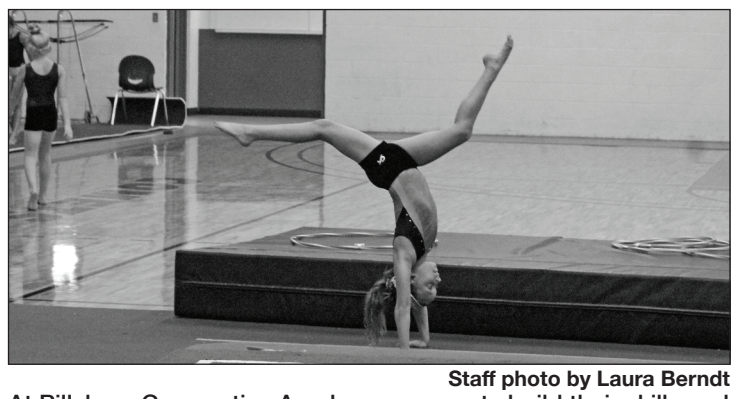
Young gymnasts are accomplishing more than improving their abilities at Pillsbury Gymnastics Academy (PGA) in Owatonna. They're also building their confidence.

PGA offers the opportunity for gymnasts to learn from not just one, but four, experienced co-coaches. Co-coaches include Chris Bangs, Kelly Johnson, Chelsey Wacholz and Ashley Kinniry. Participants can build their skills during different sessions throughout the year, or take part in a competitive, year-long team experience. The team is composed of about 20 girls, which are split into three teams based upon ability. The current group includes girls from second to ninth grade.

The program is based on the ground of Camp Pillsbury, which offers year-round camps and even boarding school, which strives to empower youth by helping them build unique skills, ranging from the fine arts to dance. The campus is owned by Vonda White, President of Camp Pillsbury.

"We wanted to work in an environment that was really positive," said Bangs. "We try hard to create a good atmosphere."

The competitive team practices for approximately nine hours each week, divided into three days. They will practice all year long and are scheduled to begin competing against other teams this December. Since PGA is part of the Midwest Amateur Gymnastics Association (MAGA), the Pillsbury team will have the chance to compete with teams across the state.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

At Pillsbury Gymnastics Academy, gymnasts build their skills and confidence in a positive environment.

PGA also offers classes for other gymnasts, who may need to polish their skills before joining the competitive team, or just want to give gymnastics a try. Recently, PGA hosted registration for its recreational (non-competitive) sessions. Bangs is happy to report that registration day was very well-attended. "We're super excited," she said. "It's really kind of cool because we just started and there's already a lot of interest." The PGA program first began earlier this summer.

In addition to offering a healthy and encouraging environment, the coaches also feel it's important to make the experience possible for all interested athletes. "We want it to be affordable for people," Bangs said. "We want them to be comfortable giving it a chance to see if their kids like it."

PGA also provides some freedom for the non-competing athletes and their parents to choose which sessions work best for them. "You don't have to be in it all year," explained Bangs. "You can take a session off so you can do other sports or try other classes."

Bangs believes that all gymnasts, regardless of their ability, can benefit from the sport. "It pushes them to make and reach their goals," she said. "I think it also really builds self-esteem for them."

When a young gymnast achieves a goal or learns a new skill, Bangs enjoys watching their confidence grow. "When they finally get it, it's so cool," said Bangs. "They work so hard. They learn that good work ethic. It's not an easy sport."

"I also like it because I get to be with my friends," said gymnast Kate Havelka.

The gymnasts also agree that they enjoy working with their knowledgeable and engaging coaches. "They're very nice and they push us to get our new skills," said gymnast Gabbie Poole.

In turn, Bangs and the other coaches are very proud of all the gymnasts. "These girls are amazing," Bangs said. "They can do amazing things."

To learn more about PGA, call (507) 214-7703.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from Page 4B

Dodge County District Court the week of Sept. 7 – 14:

Dodge County
Sheriff's Office

Karla J. Baker, 52, Mantorville, speeding, $140; Jeremy D. Behnken, 34, Waltham, speeding, $130; Rebecca M. Bennerotte, 30, West Concord, failure to yield right of way, $130; Brandon J. Driscoll, 34, Rochester, no insurance, $280; Raymond J. Elkins, 27, Owatonna, speeding, $130; Jonathan D. Jenkins, 32, cancelled license, $200 and 2 years of probation; Oliver B. Lee, 27, Hayfield, DWI and obstruct legal process, $605, 3 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, 50 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Warren J. Lemay Jr., 54, Little Canada, speeding, $130; Joshua J. Vagt, 32, cancelled license, 2 years of probation.

MN State Patrol
Rochester

Adem Bajraktarevic, 48, Rochester, no MN license and unsafe lane usage, $230; James M. Branson, 23, Rochester, speeding, $120; Aaron R. Jennings, 18, Claremont, speeding, $120; Robert D. Keske, 61, Claremont, seat belt, $105; Vincent A. Lonetti, 45, Maplewood, speeding, $130; Robert A. Marshall, 23, Rochester, revoked license, $280; Christopher G. Rodriguez, 19, Kasson, speeding, $130.

West Concord
Police Department

Ignacio Garcia Zuniga, 56, Tulsa, OK, invalid license

Steele Arrests

Owatonna Police

Heather Marie Saurer, 32, arrested at 9:55 a.m. Sept. 11, felony possession of controlled substance, $15,000 bail.

Lee Daniel Efta, 39, arrested at 1:52 a.m. Sept. 13, felony assault, terroristic threats, disorderly conduct and obstruction of legal process, held for court.

Stephanie Marie Yates, 30, arrested at 11:41 a.m. Sept. 14, warrant arrest, body only.

Kendra Jasmine Thomas, 21, arrested at 3:58 p.m. Sept. 14, child endangerment, interference with 911, assault/domestic, held for court.

Matthew Allen Techau, 37, arrested at 6 p.m. Sept. 14, cancelled license, held for court.

Troy Daniel Shaske, 51, arrested at 10:31 p.m. Sept. 15, cancelled license and open container, held for court.

Conrad Pango Francisco, 30, arrested at 12:39 p.m. Sept. 16, felony false imprisonment, domestic by strangulation, held for court.

Jason Jay Porter, 36, arrested at 9:24 p.m. Sept. 16, domestic assault and interference with 911, held for court.

David John Currell, 62, arrested at 12:57 a.m. Sept. 17, DWI-test refusal, held for court.

Shantonia Dominque Jackson, 26, arrested at 4:20 p.m. Sept. 17, malicious punishment of a child, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Ryan Joseph Wilson, 25, arrested at 7:45 p.m. Sept. 12, warrant arrest, $10,000 bail.

Juan Bernardo Guerrero, 24, arrested at 11:05 a.m. Sept. 14, warrant arrest, body only.

Marcos Anthony Trevino, 23, arrested at 8:19 p.m. Sept. 14, violation of restraining order, held for court.

Kevin Jackson, 50, arrested at 4:23 p.m. Sept. 15, warrants arrest, $21,000 bail.

Terry Lee Hartwig, 56, arrested at 5:13 p.m. Sept. 16, complaint warrant, $10,000 bail.

Justin Michael Delaria, 28, arrested at 3:54 p.m. Sept. 17, probation warrant arrest, body only.

Owatonna Fire

Sept. 11

Police. Fire personnel assisted with a police matter in the 600 block of Carlanna Place NE at 9:30 a.m.

Sept. 13

Fire. At 1:40 a.m., fire fighters responded to a building fire in the 500 block of Bridge St. W.

Sept. 14

Crash. A motor vehicle accident with injuries occurred on 58th St. SE at 7:47 a.m.

Assist. Fire personnel assisted police in the 200 block of Beech Ave. NE at 11:24 a.m. and on Oak Ave. at 1:59 p.m.

Fire. Fire fighters responded to a building fire in the 800 block of 98th St. SE at 3:12 p.m.

Sept. 15

Cooking Fire. At 3:10 p.m., fire personnel helped with a confined cooking fire in the 100 block of McKinley St. E.

Fire. A building fire occurred in the 1300 block of Outofarra Way at 7 p.m.

Sept. 16

Crash. Fire fighters responded to a motor vehicle accident with no injures on State Ave. N. at 1:41 p.m.

Sept. 17

Extinguishing System. At 12:10 a.m., an extinguishing system was activated in the 600 block of Bridge St. W.





2015 MEDFORD HOMECOMING



Homecoming Schedule

Monday Coronation at 7 p.m., Ironman Volleyball after coronation (around 8:15 to 10:30)

Thursday - Twangy Thursday western - Powder Puff football during school day (around 1:25)

Friday - Medford Friday Spirit Day - Pep Fest during school day (around 2:20) Homecoming football game 7:00 p.m.







Medford Homecoming Court

First row (left to right): Alyssa Butterfield, Madison Gillis, Lily Holmgren, Taya Sexton, Kelcey Gerlach, Callie Nagel (junior attendant) Back row: Matthew Swanson, Rogelio Gonzalez, Dennis Feuerstein, Wyatt Volkmann, Preston Hanson, Josh Schauer (junior attendant.)

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Front Row Football

2015 Steele County Football
Week 5

D Section | www.steeledodgenews.com | Tuesday, September 22, 2015

Owatonna	77	Blooming Prairie	48	NRHEG	34	Medford	8
Austin	41	Mankato Loyola	8	Sibley East	19	Kenyon-Wanamingo	40
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THE HIGHLIGHT REEL



James Knoop

The 'sort of' cross-country runner

Cross-country isn't really one of those sports you grow up wanting to participate in.

My history with cross-country

Few three-year-olds sit with there parents on a Sunday afternoon and watch the good ol' cross-country race. Do a survey. Ask how many people have heard of Michael Jordan. Ask the same people if they've ever heard of Deena Kastor.

And yet, despite the apparent unpopularity of this sport in contrast with the likes of football, basketball, volleyball, water polo, underwater knitting, jousting, etc., brave boys and girls still sign up for the sport.

I never understood people who ran cross-country. I mean, every sport has its pros and cons. The cons of football are that it's physically tolling on the body. The pros of football are that it's the sport to play. If you play football, you are automatically cool. At least that's what I tried to convince my parents. I think that's why they didn't let me play. It wasn't because I was 5'7", 100 pounds and likely to break a bone if the wind blew too hard. It was because they didn't want me to get lost in popularity.

Every sport has these pros and cons.

My pros and cons list

The pros of cross-country are that the sport is extremely simple to grasp. When the gun goes off you start running. When you cross the finish line you stop.

The cons of cross-country all come in between the gun shot and the finish line when you run and run and run and run and stop for a 10-minute breather and run and lose your breakfast and run and begin to see a tunnel with a beautiful light at the end and run and run and finally you cross the finish line and feel absolutely awful, and then you find out that all that dedication and pain still got you 147th place out of 150.

My beginning

When I was a sophomore in high school, I began running track and field. I was homeschooled at the time, and while I played basketball for a private school, I needed activities to fill my time. Since Minnesota allowed homeschoolers to play public school sports (for which I am eternally grateful) I decided to run track. I wasn't terrible. I ran a 58.5 time in the 400-meter run, which was my best race. I placed a few times in relays, but as an individual my times were never fast enough to compete against the teams Grand Rapids faced.

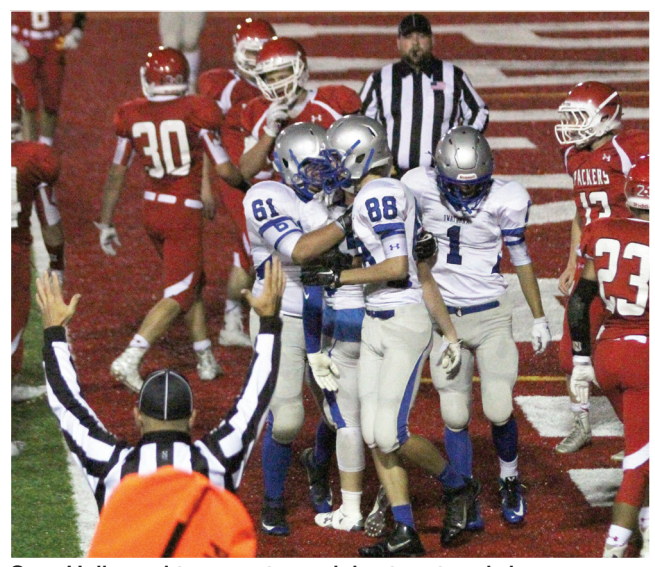
At the end of one track season, a friend named Susan told me I should run cross-country. I had absolutely no desire to run. As I mentioned clearly above, I did not understand why people

THE HIGHLIGHT REEL
Continued on Page 3D

OWATONNA



Staff photos by James Knoop
Quarterback makes the exchange to Sam Hylle on a play near the goal line against Austin on Friday, Sept. 18. The Huskies won the game 77-41.



Sam Hylle and teammates celebrate a touchdown against Austin. Hylle scored seven touchdowns against the Packers.

Running into the record books

Hylle breaks single game rushing record



Staff photo by James Knoop
Senior running back Sam Hylle broke the Owatonna single game rushing record on friday with 320 yards at Austin High School.

Read full story on Page 2D

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Blossoms play to potential; disperse Crusaders



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
The Blossoms cheer on their team from the sidelines. Pictured on the right is freshman WR Colin Lerum.

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

For the first time this season, the Blooming Prairie football team lived up to its potential, as the Awesome Blossoms made easy work of Mankato Loyola on the home field on Sept. 18.

The Blossoms used a dominating defense and an opportunistic offense for a 48-8 victory. BP is now 4-1 on the season.

"I think we played with a lot more intensity tonight," commented Coach Chad Gimbel. "The boys just seemed to have a different attitude tonight, and it showed on both sides of the ball."

As senior Jon Hatch added, "We played more like we should tonight, with both the offense and defense doing the job."

Except for two fumbles and one interception, the team played well in this game. The

BLOOMING PRAIRIE
Continued on Page 4D



Owatonna

Bounce...



Bobble...



Touchdown!



Staff photos by James Knoop

Sophomore Dalton Kubista pulled down an improbable catch against Austin Friday night to score another Huskies touchdown.

Huskies score 77 en route to fourth win

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor



Mitch Wiese powers through the Austin defense during an offensive possession.

Anyone three minutes late to Owatonna's football game in Austin last Friday would have already missed a touchdown from each team. That would just be a taste of things to come as the two teams amassed a total of 118 points in Owatonna's 77-41 win.

"A lot of big plays from both teams," said Huskies' Coach Jeff Williams. "By and large our offense did some pretty good things. Obviously, they got some big plays on defense, which kept Austin a little bit closer than we would have liked them, but all in all, I thought we played pretty well."

Williams' offense marched down the field time after time, generating 77 points off 11 touchdowns. Senior running back Sam Hylle gave a performance to remember, scoring seven touchdowns and running for a school record with 320 yards off 39 carries.

Senior quarterback Alex Emanuelson threw for three touchdowns, and sophomore backup running back Zach Mensink ran in the final touchdown in the fourth quarter. Aidan Buryska was perfect on all 11 extra points.

Williams had only good things to say about his offense considering it amassed 644 total yards, 470 rushing and 174 passing. Even the reserves were able to drive past Austin's starting defense.

"I thought we controlled the line of scrimmage well," said Williams. "Hylle ran hard, and he had some nice creases often. We were able to make the big pass play when we really needed it. There were a couple of third and long kind of critical situations to keep drives going, and we were able to convert."

Two of Owatonna's touchdowns came with great field position following failed fourth down attempts by Austin deep in its own territory.

Williams said fans may scrutinize the play calling, but he admitted that he would have done the same thing.

"It's something we do too, and I kind of endorse it," said Williams. "But obviously it hurt them not getting it. It gave us some pretty short fields and we were able to convert on it both times. I'm sure people will be critical of that decision-making process on their part, but from a statistical standpoint, it makes sense."

Despite the 42-28 halftime lead, Owatonna also gave up big plays on defense. In the first quarter, Owatonna had given up four touchdowns to the Packers, including two runs of 46 and 52 yards, as well as a 70-yard pass play.

"They stretch you out laterally and create some pretty nice running lanes," Williams said of the Austin team. "Obviously we'll have to take a look at the video and see specifically what they did schematically. They did some pretty nice things, and they are a well-coached team. They're going to get you every once in a while."

Because of the big plays, Williams stated that there was still tension in the locker room at the midpoint.

"Our kids kind of walked into there like they were in a morgue. I had to remind them we were up two touchdowns 'We'll be fine. We'll get some things solved on defense, we'll be fine.'"

The statements proved more true, as Owatonna scored five more touchdowns in the second half, giving up no points in the third quarter and only two touchdowns in the final quarter, one of which was scored on the second team.

Fans may have been surprised to see starters still playing in the fourth quarter, with Emanuelson still under center midway through the final quarter. According to Williams, the decision had nothing to do with running up the score. Instead, it was out of respect for the Packers team.

"They were still within three or four touchdowns," said Williams. "They have big-play capabilities. We wanted to go one more series. We got Hylle out of there and Melsink in. Then, finally we got (Jacob) Gauthier in there. These guys never sub out. They never put their number two's in. They keep coming at you. You're kind of forced to play your starters longer than you would like."

At last, junior quarterback Gauthier was able to take a knee to end the onslaught and begin the celebration, short-lived as it was.

"We're going to enjoy this one for twelve hours or so," said Williams after the game. The team has much to celebrate, winning four games in a row following their season-opening loss to Mankato West. They move to 4-1 with a tough battle on Friday at Rochester Mayo. Mayo is also 4-1 this season, with its only loss coming against Mankato West as well.

Against Austin, Mayo won by a much closer score of 26-21, but Williams isn't taking the game lightly.

"They're a good football - a much different football team, and it's going to take a completely different week of practice. We'll sit down with the tape and figure out what to do with those guys."

Last season, the Huskies fell 42-12 against Mayo. The Huskies will end the season with two home games following this Friday, and there is no doubt they would like to do so with a 5-1 record.

Owatonna 77
Austin 41
Friday, Sept. 18
At Austin

	1	2	3	4
OWA	21	21	14	21
AUS	13	14	0	14

Scoring

First quarter

OWA- Sam Hylle 1 run (Aidan Buryska kick is good), 10:00

AUS- Crouch 46 run (kick is good), 9:22

OWA- Dalton Kubista 10 pass from Alex Emanuelson (Buryska kick is good), 6:01

AUS- Edgar 52 run (kick fails), 5:35

OWA- Hylle 5 run (Buryska kick is good), 1:14

Second quarter

OWA- Kubista 26 pass from Emanuelson (Buryska kick is good), 10:49

OWA- Hylle 24 run (Buryska kick is good), 8:00

AUS- Gash 70 pass from Crouch (kick is good), 5:47

OWA- Hylle 56 run (Buryska kick is good), 4:42

AUS- Edgar 7 run (kick is good), 3:35

Third quarter

OWA- Hylle 10 run (Buryska kick is good), 9:12

OWA- Hylle 5 run (Buryska kick is good), 5:17

Fourth quarter

OWA- Hylle 7 run (Buryska kick is good), 10:31

AUS- Crouch 23 run (pass fails), 9:22

OWA- Noah Budach 45 pass from Emanuelson (Buryska kick)

OWA- Zach Mensink 14 run (Buryska kick), 0:51

AUS- Pass from Crouch (two-point conversion is good), 0:24

Statistics

TEAM: *Total yards*: OWA 644, AUS 410. *Rushing*: OWA 470, AUS 190. *Passing*: OWA 174, AUS 220.

INDIVIDUALS

Owatonna

Rushing: Hylle 39-320-7, Wiese 3-13, Emanuelson 9-23, Westphal 2-3, Mensing 7-50-1, Williams 1-5, Gauthier 1-43, Thorn 1-13. *Passing*: Emanuelson 11-18-3 (1 int.). *Receiving*: Wiese 3-18, Kubista 3-69-2, Budach 3-61-1, Westphal 2-26.



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Owatonna



Staff photos by James Knoop

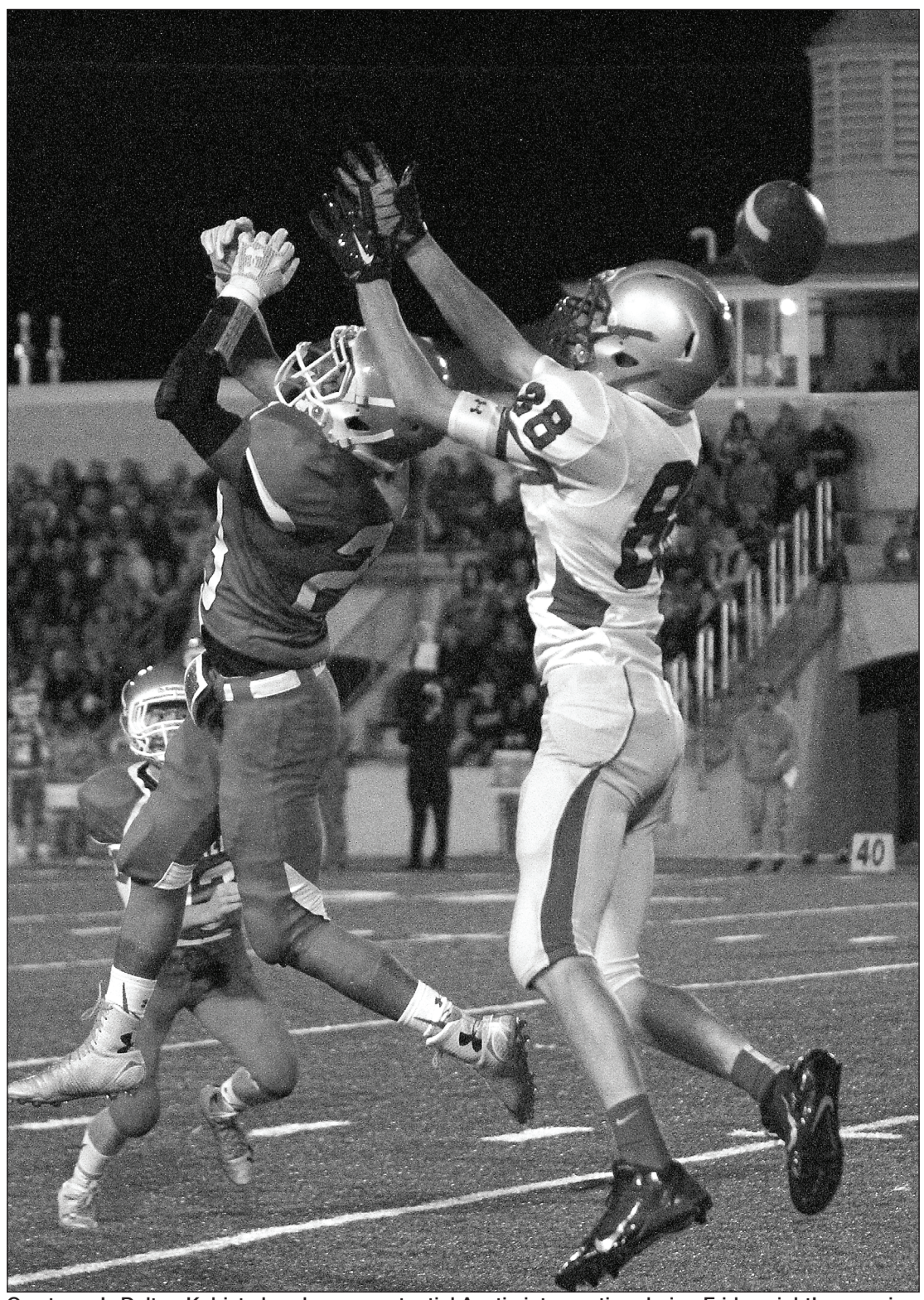
Jaden Dowhaniuk (9) and Lance Ulrich (33) take down Austin wide receiver Jany Gash after a catch.



Huskies' Brandon Moen bring Austin's quarterback Jakob Crouch to the ground shortly after a short toss.



Owatonna cheerleaders did a pushup for every point Owatonna scored. This became more difficult than usual as the Huskies reached the 70s.



Owatonna's Dalton Kubista breaks up a potential Austin interception during Friday night's game in Austin.

THE HIGHLIGHT REEL

Continued from Page 1D

ran cross-country. However, I had a crush on Susan. So I said, "Yeah, that sounds great."

The first day of practice went about how I expected. The guys and girls ran together for 10 miles in a forest with which I was not familiar. I did my best to keep up, but after a hundred yards, I just could not go on. So, I ran (more like hobbled) the final nine-plus miles with the coach, who wasn't technically allowed to leave a runner in the forest by himself.

"How was it, James," asked Susan afterwards.

"Fantastic!" I said.

"Great," she responded. "Just so you know, the second day is always the hardest."

I decided I didn't like Susan anymore.

The second day we ran up and down a giant hill. They told me it was 10 times, but as the hours passed by, I'm pretty sure it was closer to 6,000.

My hobby

I'm not sure when the pain finally left my legs and the air returned to my lungs, but at some point during that season, my terribly-out-of-shape self found its stride, and I began to thoroughly enjoy the sport. It was like nothing I'd ever done. There were about 20 of us total, and every day all we did was run in the woods - telling stories, sharing jokes, geo-cashing, getting chased from "Do not enter" parts of land, picking apples from the college farm and swinging into the frigid lake. We ran anywhere from 5-10 miles a day and I fell in love.

It was the first and only sport that I ever didn't take that seriously. Sure, I practiced just as hard as everyone else. I ran hard at meets, and I pushed for better times. But I don't know that fun was ever so disconnected from winning for me.

My fastest time ever was an 18:54, and my most high-profile race was at the State Fair grounds, at which I placed 147th out of 150. My brother came to watch, and asked me to reconsider my life choices.

But my favorite race of all time was our one and only home meet, because my parents came to that one. They stood on the soccer field, watching us pass by the two times we passed the field, and as we did, both times I turned to them with a big, bright smile and waved.

I later heard that someone had leaned in and told my parents that waving was not usually part of cross-country, but I didn't care.

The lesson

Cross-country was a challenge for me at first. It hurt and it was altogether quite unpleasant. But I don't regret a second of it. And after the pain left, I realized what every cross-country runner before me had come to realize. It's a blast.

That's what is so amazing about sports. They aren't just about winning. Sometimes, like with me in cross-country, winning has absolutely nothing to do with it. Sports teach you to challenge yourself, to do things you never thought possible, to make friends you might not otherwise have met and to just have fun doing something you thought you'd hate.

When was the last time you challenged yourself? Is there something you always thought was too crazy, or maybe something you've been dying to do, but find too frightening? What's stopping you?

Do something that challenges you today.

Blooming Prairie



Staff photos by Laura Berndt

The honor guard presents the colors during Friday's home football game against Mankato Loyola.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Continued from Page 1D

Blossoms took the kickoff and used six minutes and 22 seconds before scoring the initial touchdown on Anthony Nelson's two-yard plunge. Lucas Noble's 47-yard run on a fake punt proved the biggest play in the drive.

BP scored three times in the second quarter to take a 25-0 edge into the halftime break. Noble passed 21 yards to Nelson for the first touchdown, and Ethan Strunk kicked the extra point for a 13-0 lead.

Nelson ran 10 yards for the next score with a Noble 32-yard run the big play. With 33 seconds left in the half Noble found Mitchell Jones down the sideline for 64 yards and then ran the last six yards for another touchdown and the 25-0 margin. Loyola managed just one first down in the half, and that happened as time was running out.

On their third possession of the third quarter, the Crusaders broke the scoring drought, when Andrew Sharpless rambled 57 yards for a touchdown and a two-point conversion pass made the score 25-8. The fourth quarter was all Blossoms.

An eight-play drive culminated with Jones going two yards on a Noble pass, and a fumbled punt attempt through the end zone gave BP two more points and a 33-8 lead. Connor Getchell ran one yard for the next score, and reserve quarterback Seth Peterson ran six yards for the last touchdown. A Peterson to Ethan Arett lateral for the two-point conversion ended the scoring.

As sophomore Marten Morem, who caught two passes in the game, commented, "This was a fun game, and it felt good to get the passing game clicking. I thought that both our offense and the defense really played good tonight."

> *"This was a fun game, and it felt good to get the passing game clicking."*
>
> **— Marten Morem, Blooming Prairie wide receiver**

Wyatt Grundmeier led the defense with 10 tackles, Nelson had eight and Jones added seven.

Blooming Prairie				**48**
Mankato Loyola				**8**
Friday, Sept. 18				
At Blooming Prairie				
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**
BP	6	19	0	23
Loyola	0	0	8	0

Statistics

TEAM: *Total yards*: 520. *Rushing*: 255 yards. *Passing* 265.

INDIVIDUAL: *Rushing*: Noble 85, Nelson 55, Max Romeo 30. *Passing*: Noble 238 yards. *Receiving*: Jones 79, Hatch 55, Nelson 44, Morem 37.



Blooming Prairie senior Anthony Nelson (83) avoids the tackle with senior Kevin Eischens (34) close by.



The Blossoms exit the field for a timeout.



Friday, Sept. 18, was Parent's Night, and the parents of Blooming Prairie players, statisticians and team managers were recognized during halftime.

Blooming Prairie junior high football roundups

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

7th football

A two-touchdown first quarter sparked the Blooming Prairie seventh-grade football team to a 26-6 victory over Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton at Janesville on Sept. 15. The team remains unbeaten at 3-0.

"Obviously, Mitchell Fiebiger had a big game," commented Coach Cory Hendrickson, "as he scored on offense, defense and special teams. Our defense was also very good. We gave up a few big plays, but we were able to keep them out of the end zone for the most part."

Fiebiger scored first on a 65-yard kickoff return and then ran the two-point conversion. He scored again when he ran for 20 yards, but the conversion try failed. Neither team scored in the second quarter, but Fiebiger struck again in the third quarter when he recovered a Bulldog fumble and returned the ball 41 yards for a touchdown.

Just before the quarter ended, Fiebiger counted the last Blossom points with a 40-yard ramble. Both conversion tries in the quarter failed. JWP finally found the end zone with a touchdown in the final period. Lane Lembke returned a punt for 30 yards, and Chris Naatz connected with Cole Graves for 30 yards in two other big plays on offense.

8th football

Led by Jarrett Larson's two touchdowns, the eighth grade improved its record to 2-0 with a 30-0 shutout at JWP. Larson scored on a 17-yard run and then ran 45 yards with a punt return for a second touchdown. Kaden Thomas passed to Zach Weber for 16 yards for a touchdown and then found Gabe Hagen over the middle for a 91-yard scoring strike. Isaac Ille and Thomas both intercepted passes, and Weber also recovered a Bulldog fumble.



Photos courtesy Kurt Menk-Arlington Enterprise

Trey Hoppe flies down the open field against Sibley East on Friday. The Panthers would win a decisive 34-19 game.

NRHEG continues winning ways, improves to 4-1

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) Panthers started their game strong on Friday, and managed to maintain the lead for the duration of the evening. It was enough to give the Panthers a 34-19 win over Sibley East.

The game, against the Sibley East Wolverines, took place in Arlington. That night, the Panther linemen kept the game in control for three quarters.

NRHEG head coach Dan Stork said that the team became somewhat conservative after jumping to the early lead, but that the Panthers did play well overall.

Stork said that junior running back Jason Jongbloedt and sophomore linebacker Perry Peterson have continued to shine supported by blocks by offensive linemen including senior Zeke Erickson, junior Jack Schultz, senior Lucas Herrmann, senior Jon Weller, freshman Alex Buckmeier and senior Wyatt Fitterer, along with junior tight end Chad Agrimson, senior tight end Karter Sletten and senior running back Trey Hoppe.

That night, the first touchdown belonged to the visiting team around the 7:44 mark, when Peterson rans for three yards. Junior Sam Prigge's PAT was good.

With just 54 seconds left in the first quarter, Hoppe ran for one yard, earning another touchdown. Prigge's PAT was a success, raising the score to 14-0.

In the second quarter, Hoppe ran again this time for seven yards, bringing in more points for the Panthers. Once again, Prigge's PAT was good.

Yet another NRHEG touchdown came in the third quarter, when Jongbloedt ran for 33 yards, followed by a successful PAT attempt by Prigge.

Still on a roll, NRHEG's senior quarterback Palmer Peterson sent a complete pass to senior wide receiver John Cole, for two yards, bringing in another TD for the visitors. The PAT by Prigge, however, was no good.

With 48 seconds left in the third, Sibley East rallied and got some points on the board when the Wolverines' junior Brody Bates ran for one yard and took the touchdown. The PAT, by senior kicker Lorenzo Bortoletto, was good.

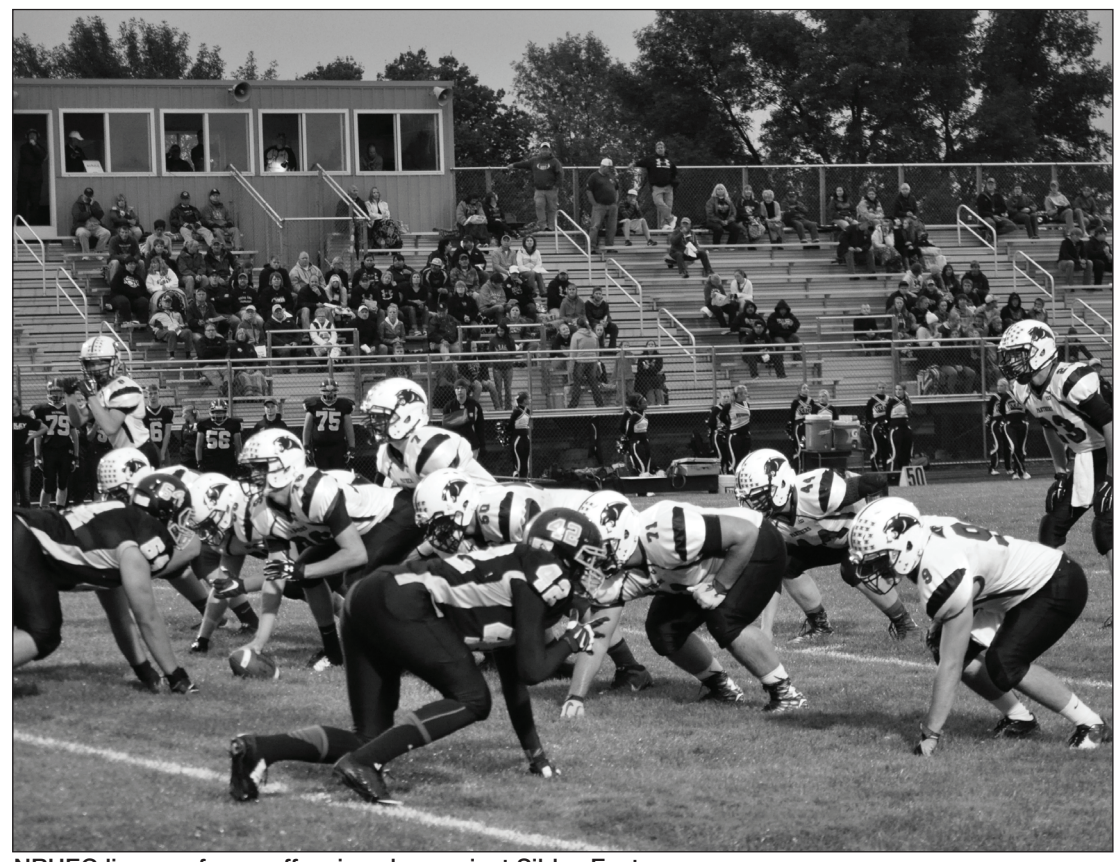
Following their first touchdown of the night, the Wolverines were able to hold the visiting team scoreless. Sibley Easy, however, would score twice more. With 4:40 left in the fourth, sophomore QB Gavin Bates ran for six yards, earning the team's second round of points. Bortoletto's PAT was good.

With 52 seconds on the clock, Sibley East's Bortoletto sent a compete pass to Gavin bates, for 61 yards and securing the touchdown. The two point conversion run, by sophomore CB Kevin Durham was no good.

The Panthers are now 4-1 overall. This Friday, they'll return to New Richland against the LeSueur-Henderson for their Homecoming game.

NRHEG 34
Sibley East 19
Friday, Sept. 18
At Sibley East

	1	2	3	4
NRHEG	14	7	13	0
Sibley East	0	0	7	12



NRHEG lines up for an offensive play against Sibley East.



Running back Jason Jongbloedt looks for a hole against the defense.



Jason Jongbloedt takes the handoff from Panthers' quarterback and looks for a hole from his offensive line.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Tigers lose again: still searching for first win



Staff photo by James Knoop

Medford players Ian Gillis (left), Javis VonRuden (center) and Marcus DeLeon await the start of the next offensive play. The Tigers have yet to win a game this season, starting 0-5 with three games left in the season.

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

It would prove to be a long Friday night for the Medford Tigers at Kenyon-Wanamingo.

Medford gave up a touchdown on the very first play on defense, and things didn't get much better from there as the Tigers lost 40-8. Medford did manage to hold the Knights scoreless the rest of the first quarter but allowed another 28 points in the second quarter driving the team to a 34-0 deficit at halftime.

The Tigers simply proved no match for Kenyon-Wanamingo, as the Knights rushed for over 467 yards on offense. The Tiger totalled only 167 total offensive yards, and quarterback Javis VonRuden struggled to connect with his receivers, completing only six passes from 25 attempts. Medford's Marcus DeLeon largely carried the team, amassing 87 yards rushing, nearly half the team's total yardage on the night.

The Tigers may take solace in the fact that the second half of the game was much better, as Medford won the half, outscoring the Knights 8-6. This isn't the first time Medford has kept the game close in a half. Just last week Medford hung with the Bethlehem Academy Cardinals in the first half, but gave up a touchdown in the closing seconds of the second half to lose.

The loss is the fifth straight for the struggling Tigers, and the team will return home again this week with a 0-5 record. Travelling to meet them will be the 4-1 Blooming Prairie Blossoms.

The Blossoms are 4-1 and have been on a hot streak lately, winning their last three games by an average of 25 points and scoring an average 37 points against opponents. Medford looks to complete the upset and take home its first victory of the season.



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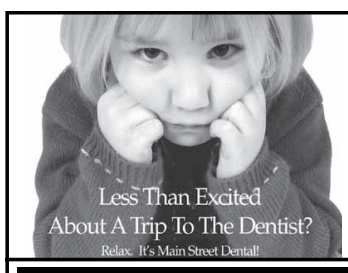

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Football weekend forecast

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

Blooming Prairie, NRHEG and Owatonna continued their dominance this week, defeating each of their opponents by 40, 15 and 36, respectively. However, Medford was not able to capitalize on last week's positive performance, falling 40-8 against the boys from Kenyon-Wanamingo.

Coming off an 18-13 loss that should have been a win last week, Medford again struggled on offense this week, scoring only eight points, while giving up 40. It is the team's fourth time giving up 40-plus points, as well as its fourth time scoring less than 15 points. Medford will host a fellow Steele County opponent in Blooming Prairie this week. The 4-1 Blossoms are on a hot streak, winning their last three games by an average of 25 points and scoring an average 37 points. Medford will need to find a way to get in the end zone several times if it wants to find its first win of the season.

The Owatonna Huskies continue to dominate opponents, unleashing 77 points against Austin on the road this week for a 77-44 victory. Senior running back Sam Hylle also broke the school rushing record with seven touchdowns and 320 rushing yards. The Huskies will face their toughest opponent since the opening weeks of football this week in Rochester Mayo. Mayo is 4-1 this season and has not lost at home.

Blooming Prairie pounded Mankato Loyola at home in a 48-8 victory. The Blossoms win was their third straight, and the team's only loss came in a 28-12 loss at Bethlehem Academy. The Blossoms will travel to Medford this week to take on the winless Tigers.

NRHEG also moved to 4-1 with a commanding 34-19 win at Sibley East. The Panthers will play at home this week against 2-3 LeSueur-Henderson. The Panthers are 2-0 at home and look to keep the streak unbroken in their sixth game.

Mid Southeast-West

	Div.	Overall
Blooming Prairie	3-1-0	4-1-0
Bethlehem Academy	3-1-0	4-1-0
Kenyon-Wanamingo	4-0-0	4-1-0
United South Central	2-2-0	3-2-0
Mankato Loyola	2-2-0	3-2-0
JWP	1-3-0	1-4-0
St. Clair	1-3-0	1-4-0
Medford	0-4-0	0-5-0

South Central-Blue

	Div.	Overall
Waterville-E-M	4-0-0	5-0 -0
NRHEG	4-1-0	4-1-0
Mayer Lutheran	4-1-0	4-1-0
Maple River	3-1-0	4-1-0
LeSueur-Henderson	2-2-0	2-3-0
Lester Prairie/Holy Trinity	2-2-0	2-3-0
Sibley East	1-3-0	1-4-0
Norwood Young America	1-3-0	1-4-0
Lake Crystal-Wellcome	0-4-0	0-5-0
Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop	0-4-0	0-4-0

Sig Southeast-Red

	Div.	Overall
Rochester Mayo	2-0-0	4-1-0
Owatonna	2-0-0	4-1-0
Rochester John Marshall	1-1-0	2-3-0
Northfield	1-1-0	2-3-0
Rochester Century	0-2-0	0-5-0
New Prague	0-2-0	0-5-0

Football State Rankings

Class 1A
1. Minneota
2. Minneapolis North
3. Browerville
4. Mahnomen
5. Braham
6. Pine River-Backus
7. Adrian
8. Tracy-Milroy-Balaton
9. Upsala/Swanville
10. Deer River

Blass 2A
1. Caledonia
2. Pipestone Area
3. Waterville-Elysian-Morristown
4. Breckenridge
5. Lewiston-Altura
6. Ottertail Central .
7. Maple River
8. Eden Valley-Watkins
9. United North Central
10.Moose Lake-Willow River

Class 5A
1. Mankato West
2. Spring Lake Park
3. St. Thomas Academy
4. Moorhead
5. Robbinsdale Cooper
6. St. Michael-Albertville
7. St. Francis
8. Rochester Mayo
9. St. Paul Central
10. Elk River

Source: mnfootballhub.com
Rankings as of Sept. 16

Steele County Football Schedule

Blooming Prairie
Aug. 22… at Mankato East L 19-52
Aug. 28... vs. Maple River L 15-54
Sept. 4…vs. St. Clair W 24-3
Sept. 11… at JWP W 39-23
Sept. 18… vs. Mankato Loyola W 48-8
Sept. 25...at Medford
Oct. 2…. vs. United South Central
Oct. 8… at Kenyon-Wanamingo

Medford
Aug. 22… vs. Lewiston-Altura L 61-7
Aug. 28... vs. JWP L 41-28
Sept. 4…at Mankato Loyola L 41-14
Sept. 11… vs. Bethlehem Academy L 18-13
Sept. 18… at Kenyon Wanamingo L 40-8
Sept. 25...vs. Blooming Prairie
Oct. 2…. at St. Clair
Oct. 8… at United South Central

NRHEG
Aug. 22… at Mayer Lutheran W 14-7
Aug. 28... vs. Lester Prairie W 34-6
Sept. 4… at WEM L 13-7
Sept. 11… vs. G-F-W W 28-0
Sept. 18… at Sibley East W 34-19
Sept. 25... vs. LeSueur-Henderson
Oct. 2…. at Lake Crystal-WM

Owatonna
Aug. 22… at Mankato West L 28-6
Aug. 28... at Rochester JM W 27-21
Sept. 4… vs. Faribault W 55-0
Sept. 11… vs. Northfield W 34-23
Sept. 18… at Austin W 77-41
Sept. 25... at Rochester Mayo
Oct. 2…. vs. New Prague
Oct. 8… vs. Rochester Century

Section tournament
Oct. 14-24
State tournament
Oct. 29-Nov. 14



Photo courtesy Kurt Menk-Arlington Enterprise
The NRHEG defense lines up against Sibley East.



Photo courtesy Kurt Menk-Arlington Enterprise
Jason Jongbloedt attempts to break up a play on defense.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
Senior RB Jon Hatch (right) reaches for the ball against Mankato Loyola.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
Sophomore WR Marten Morem welcomes sophomore QB Lucas Noble onto the field prior to the game.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
Sophomore QB Lucas Noble looks for an open receiver early in the first quarter.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Senior Jake Borchert plays tight defense against an Austin receiver on friday.

Steele County Times 2015 Football Contest

Football Contest Rules

Contest: There will be 30 games each week during the contest, which begins on Sept. 2 and runs for 12 weeks.

How to Win: Pick the team you think will win in each game listed in the below advertisements. Write the team's name in the blank with the corresponding number. Cut out the entry blank and enter Steele County Times, 411 E. Main St., P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN, 55917. You may enter in person, mail or by e-mail to bptimes@frontiernet.net. It must be postmarked no later than 5 p.m. Friday. You must enter a score in the Tie-Breaker game or you will be disqualified.

What you Win: The Times will award $10 Blooming Prairie or Owatonna Chamber Bucks to the person correctly predicting the most winners from the games listed. The person with the most correct games throughout the 12 week contest will be awarded a Chanhassen Dinner Theatre ticket. An additional $10 BP or Owatonna Chamber Bucks will be awarded if the winner correctly predicts the outcome of all 30 games. Ties will be broken by the score of the Tie-Breaker game. All decisions by the judges are final. The contest is open to anyone age 15 and above, excluding staff and family members of Bussler Publishing, Inc.

This week's winner is Herman Lembke. He had two wrong.

ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

1	_____	16	_____
2	_____	17	_____
3	_____	8	_____
4	_____	19	_____
5	_____	20	_____
6	_____	21	_____
7	_____	22	_____
8	_____	23	_____
9	_____	24	_____
10	_____	25	_____
11	_____	26	_____
12	_____	27	_____
13	_____	28	_____
14	_____	29	_____
15	_____	30	_____

*Tie-Breaker Score _____ *

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6 - Kenyon-Wanamingo @ USC

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