

STEM COURSES PART 1

The learning tree

STEM is apple of McKinley's eye

Story and photos by Shannon Kinley

For the third year, students at Owatonna's McKinley Elementary School have been approaching learning in a nontraditional way through the STEM program.

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and math, and the goal is to better prepare students for an increasingly complex and technological society. The program aims to make students better learners through the use of collaboration, skills and problem solving.

After the development of a task force, a series of surveys to parents and teachers and multiple school visits, McKinley decided that STEM was the right program and implemented it in fall 2012.



Districtwide STEM Coordinator Tom Meagher teaches kindergartner Patton Hershberger about animals while coloring.

McKinley is the only school in the district to have implemented the program throughout the entire building, although both Willow Creek Intermediate School and Owatonna Junior High School use it to some de-

gree, with some teachers using ESTEM — an environmentally focused instruction, and others using traditional instruction.

STEM
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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

BPPD to seek part-time help

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

The city of Blooming Prairie is looking for part-time police officers.

The Blooming Prairie City Council on Jan. 12 at the City Council Chambers authorized Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad to advertise and interview possible candidates for additional part-time police officer positions.

Currently, the Blooming Prairie Police Department has three part-time officers to cover for sick days, vacation and holidays; two have full-time positions elsewhere. "It is getting harder for them to cover for our officers, specifically holidays," Blooming Prairie City Administrator Mike Jones said.

Skillestad said many want to

activate their licenses. "I don't perceive any problem with this," he said.

Jones said the city is not finding that officer who wants to step up. "We are needing them," he said.

The hiring process will be different than it has in the past. According to Jones' memo to the city council, Skillestad feels there are enough candidates that just need patrol time to activate their post board license that we should be able to hire individuals and make them pay for most of the expenses related to bring on part-time officers. After a year, if the part-time officer is still on the force, the city of Blooming Prairie would reimburse them for the uniforms and other expenses.

CITY COUNCIL
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ELLENDALE

Alert clerk is link in missing man case

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

Just as soon as an elderly motorist came into the Gopher Stop Gas Station by Ellendale one night last week, Deanna Nicks knew something just wasn't quite right with him.

The man approached the counter around 9:30 p.m. Jan. 14 and asked Nicks if he was in the Hope Nursing Home. Nicks quickly corrected him and let him know he was in a gas station. When she asked him where the nursing home was that he was looking for, he replied he didn't know.

"He looked like he was really deflated when I told him it wasn't the nursing home," said Nicks, a clerk at the Gopher Stop for the past five months. "All of the air went out of him and he just shrunk."

Nicks said the man told her he

couldn't drive any more. "He just seemed real confused and real lost," she said.

After he walked out and got back into his car, Nicks grabbed the phone and called 911. Her colleague, Alyssa Nappin, went outside to get the license plate of the man's vehicle. "We had no idea what was wrong with him," Nicks said. "I got this yucky feeling that something wasn't right. It just didn't feel right."



Voxland

MISSING MAN
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Fire victim questions response time

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

As a Steele County family rebuilds from a devastating house fire, they are left wondering if the damage from the blaze could have been less severe with a different fire response.

At the time of the Nov. 23 fire, Jacob Standke questioned why it took firefighters so long to respond to his blazing house near Litomysl in Somerset Township between Blooming Prairie and Owatonna. His rural home falls in the jurisdiction of the Blooming Prairie Fire Department. Standke's home is 12.2 miles from the BP fire station, but only nine miles from the Owatonna station.

Rice-Steele Dispatch Center received a 911 call from Standke at 4:56 a.m. and immediately dispatched BP Fire. According to 911 records, the first fire unit from BP arrived on the scene 20 minutes later, at 5:16 a.m. BP requested mutual aid from Ellendale, which arrived at 5:27 a.m., dispatch records show.

While it's unknown if a fire department three miles closer would have made a difference in this situation, Standke is left wondering if the damage may not have been as severe had Owatonna been the main fire department.

"In an emergency situation when you call 911, you would think they would get the closest fire department there," Standke said just days after the fire.

By the time firefighters arrived at the scene, the garage and house were engulfed in flames and there was no hope of saving the six-generation house of the Standke family. Standke, his wife and young child escaped the burning house after smoke detectors awoke them.

"For 15-20 minutes, we just sat here with the garage on fire and there was nothing we



Jacob Standke stands outside the burned hull of his rural Litomysl home on Dec. 1. His six-generation house was deemed a total loss.

Related story

• Friends hold benefit for Standke family —Page 8C.

could do," Standke said. "It would have been nice to have the fire department here quicker," he said, adding the house may not have been a total loss with a faster response.

Fire Chief Dean Naatz noted the Standke house is on the extreme north end of Blooming Prairie's fire district. Just a quarter-mile further north is where the Owatonna fire district begins, according to Naatz.

Naatz said a 20-minute response in the middle of the night is not uncommon for a

rural fire department. "If you think about it, we're not a full-time fire department," he pointed out. "We're responding from in this case at home in bed. Twenty minutes isn't bad when you don't have guys staying at the station."

"It's an unfortunate situation," Naatz said of the fire. He acknowledged that "it does seem like forever" when you're in an emergency situation.

The chief reminds rural residents it's important for them to remember it takes the fire department time to respond to emergencies in the country.

FIRE RESPONSE
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What happened in Vegas is not going to stay there

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

Las Vegas' slogan of "What Happens Here, Stays Here," may hold true for most people, but a group of women from Blooming Prairie have no problem revealing their superstar surprise from a recent trip.

Kristin Romeo, Rebecca Johnson, Tammy Johnson and Stacey Johnson got the rush of a lifetime Jan. 10, when they stumbled into some producers from "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" at Caesars Palace and minutes later met Mariah Carey, a pop superstar who has sold over 200 million records worldwide.

"We were just walking into the

hotel when a lady came up to us and asked if we liked Ellen (DeGeneres)," said Romeo. "We were very excited and we all got caught up in the excitement."

Romeo said the next thing they knew, they were being escorted into a special elevator up to the 68th floor. They got out and went down a hallway to a large penthouse with bodyguards outside.

After they signed some waivers, they cameras began rolling. As the producers asked them a couple questions, a knock came to the door and in walked Mariah Carey dressed as a housekeeper.

MARIAH
Continued on Page 3A

Opinion

Our view

Education is at the forefront

On today’s front page of the Steele County Times is a story written by Shannon Kinley, our county staff writer. The story discusses the STEM program or science, technology, engineering and math.

The goal of STEM is to prepare students for a society that continues to be more complex and more technologically driven.

While this story focuses specifically on schools within the Owatonna School District, it could also pertain to any school district throughout Steele, Dodge, Freeborn and Mower counties – all counties within the coverage area of our two newspapers.

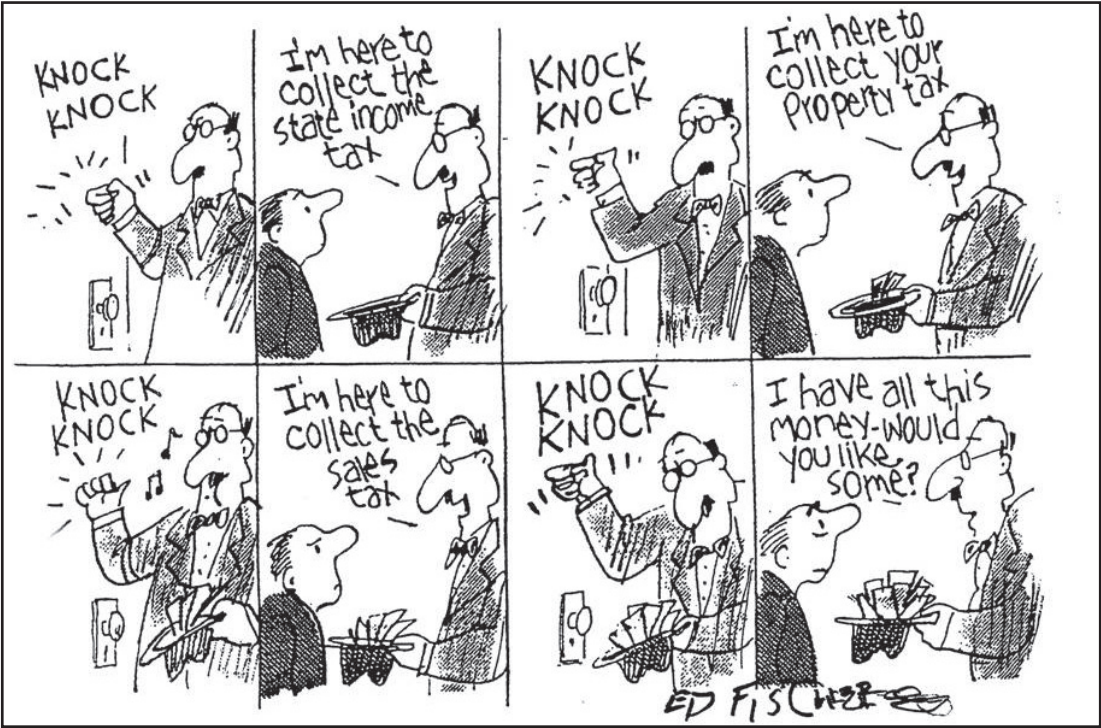
As many are well aware, technology is a field that many students get. However, science, engineering and math is another story. That is why it is important for programs like STEM and others to exist. In the future we will need more people with these expertise.

And the future is here.

In a related story that will run in our upcoming Progress edition – On the Horizon: Putting the Pieces Together, Kayla Davis, technology integration coach and third grade teacher, is quoted as saying, “Technology is changing at such a fast rate right now that by the time these kids get to the real world of being an adult so much is going to be technology. It is a lifelong skill that they are going to need and the earlier we can introduce them to those things the easier they will be able to catch on.”

More importantly, how programs like STEM assist the businesses and companies that operate in our areas is preparing these young students for the workforce. Granted, Owatonna elementary school students or Triton elementary school students won’t be stepping into a job anytime soon, what they are getting is that background to become productive employees in the future.

And that is important because from many indications, the jobs of the future will continue to be those that need the kind of expertise that these school programs provide our young people.



Newspapers dying? Not so!

The awe of community journalism and its powerful impact on communities hit me at an age when most of my friends were busy concentrating on other things.

I still remember being a terrified 14-year-old sitting outside the office of my hometown newspaper in Brownston, hoping there would be some way to convince the editor to hire me as a photographer. After a little selling of myself, I got a part-time job and I was off running with my newspaper career.

Ever since that teenage job, which turned into me running the paper as assistant editor by the time I graduated from high school, I have fallen in love with community newspaper work. It’s a profession that demands lots of hard work, energy and passion for informing the public.

When the opportunity came up a few months ago to do a story with local public television on small town newspapers, I jumped at the chance, especially with the station being in the market I used to work in. KSMQ of Austin traveled to the Times office to interview me for its “Off 90” magazine show. (I previously worked for KAAL in Austin in the early 1990s.)

It reminded me of the time



HOT

PURSUIT

Rick Bussler

I was interviewed by a Twin Cities TV station at age 16 while I worked at my hometown paper. Not much has changed as I promoted newspapers then and I’m doing so now some 30 years later.

The show aired for the first time Sunday night and will be replayed Thursday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 5 p.m. In addition, the show will also be streamed on KSMQ’s website and placed on YouTube beginning Wednesday.

One of my pet peeves is when I hear people talk about the death of newspapers. I guess I’ve become even more sensitive to that issue since I became an owner of two papers within the past five years. It just makes me bristle to hear folks chatting as if

newspapers have been buried in a cemetery. My main message in the KSMQ story is that newspapers are not dying. While some papers around the country, especially dailies, have fallen on hard times over the past 15 years, there are many others that are thriving and doing well. The Times is one of those thriving papers.

The public TV story gave me the perfect chance to tout what in some ways has been nothing short of a miracle with what we’ve been able to accomplish with the local paper. Over the past five years, we have expanded into a countywide newspaper covering all of Steele County and the surrounding adjoining counties. The expansion has allowed us to nearly triple our circulation, triple the size of our staff, double the size of the newspaper in pages and overall coverage and dramatically increase our revenue.

I also shared this same message recently when I spoke to the Golden K Kiwanis Club in Owatonna. Several hands went up when I posed the question if they thought newspapers were dying.

PURSUIT

Continued on Page 3A

Mailbags

Cookbook found to be one “sweet” edition

Dear Editor:

Congratulations on publishing a “sweet” special edition on recipes contributed by your Steele County Times readers. Often, the best path to one’s heart is to take a detour to one’s stomach.

These recipes have been created by many of your readers and also passed down by several generations of families. Communities do matter and food is one of the best building blocks to making a community stronger.

The time and effort put into this edition likely means that the edition will be an annual endeavor.

This recipe tabloid could be tied into a special community event. When I worked for a community weekly newspaper north of the Twin Cities, we worked with some county extension specialists in putting on a cooking school. Recipes were shared and actual cooking of the concoctions was done in a teaching atmosphere. Bags filled with groceries were also given away as door prizes. It was a very fun event and drew the newspaper and its readers closer together.

Again, thanks for the recipe booklet, which will be filed away in our kitchen cabinets forever.

*Howard Lestrud
Blooming Prairie*

Great Article

Dear Editor:

Absolutely amazing!!!!!! I had not had a chance to see it until you (Shannon Kinley) sent it to me! Your article was so well written!!! I can tell you are a talented journalist. The entire spread completely surpassed my expectations!!! Thank you so much for your work on this piece! It is much appreciated by myself and the parents, but most importantly, my fab five.

*Jennifer Elseth,
Owatonna Just for Kix director*

Guest column

Finding common ground, standing up for middle class

By U.S. Sen. Al Franken

I’m grateful to Minnesotans for the chance to serve a second term. I’m ready to keep fighting for middle-class families and for families aspiring to be in the middle class.

Republicans now control the Senate, and while serving in the minority will be new for me, my job is the same: working hard for Minnesota.

Just as I worked across the aisle when Democrats held the majority, I’ll look for areas of agreement with my Republican colleagues. I believe there’s consensus to be found. Both sides agree we need to cut wasteful spending so we can fund important priorities like education and research and development without running up the deficit.

One area where I hope we can work together is making health care more cost-effective by encouraging providers to focus on helping people stay well. Minnesota has a lot to offer.

Work-force development is another. There’s more we can do to connect businesses, colleges and workers so they can fill some of the more than 3 million jobs employers can’t fill because of our “skills gap.”

I’ll also keep fighting to allow 25 million Ameri-



Franken

cans refinance student debt so they can cut payments.

Last year’s farm bill included a section I helped write to make sure rural Minnesota benefits from clean-energy and energy-efficiency technologies. If we want to address climate, these technologies must be part of the solution.

I’ll also press for infrastructure investments to create jobs and help Minnesota businesses get goods to market.

My Republican colleagues have many of these same priorities and I’m hopeful that we’ll be able to find common ground. I also know there will be times when I need to stand my ground.

For example, I’ll oppose any effort to chip away at Wall Street reforms we passed in 2010. Rolling those back would make us vulnerable to another economic meltdown like the one that crashed our economy in 2008.

I’ll also stand up to any attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which provides enormous benefit to Minnesotans. It’s helped reduce the number of uninsured in our state by 40 percent, and now an unprecedented 95 percent of Minnesotans are covered. We can’t go back to the days when Americans with pre-existing conditions were denied coverage or insurers dropped you if you got sick.

We should work across the aisle to fix problems with the law; but we can’t let anyone take away important benefits like allowing children to stay on their parents’ health plans until age 26, helping seniors to

save billions on prescription drugs and protecting people with pre-existing conditions.

While the political landscape in Washington may have changed, my values haven’t, and neither has my commitment to working hard for Minnesota.

Sen. Al Franken represents Minnesota in the U.S. Senate.

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

This week’s question:
What do you believe is the most important aspect of STEM?

Science	Engineering
Technology	Math

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

Wear Red Day

Dear Editor:

National Wear Red Day is the first Friday in February, this year it is on Feb. 6. Wear Red Day is a day to show support for the awareness of heart disease in women. Go Red for Women started more than 10 years ago, because the American Heart Association recognized that more women were dying of heart disease than men. Each year 1 in 3 women die of heart disease and stroke.

According to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, heart disease leads the way for non-cancer related diagnoses of people receiving hospice services. Locally, 33 percent of the patients receiving care through Heartland Hospice had a heart related diagnosis.

This year consider wearing red on February 6, to raise awareness and help save women’s lives. Eighty percent of cardiac events can be prevented with education and lifestyle changes. Together let’s turn our town Red and make a difference in our community.

*Sara Larson, LPN & account kliaison for Heartland Hospice
3143 Superior Drive NW, Rochester, MN 55901 507-292-1170*

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A STATE AND NATIONAL AWARD WINNING WEEKLY

2014
Three state awards.

2013
Seven state awards.
Two national awards.

2012
Two state awards.

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



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DEADLINES

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

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

ETHICS

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

The News Front

CITY COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

Main Street bids close

Bids for Main Street are expected in either February or March. The city did get a quote on what it would cost the city for the concrete. The city is responsible for paying for the parking lanes. The estimated cost to pay for the parking lanes from 5th Street to Center Avenue is \$225,000.

“I’m hoping the community will still be open-minded when the project finally comes,” Jones said. “Just remember it is a positive for our community.”

Steele County has initiated a roadway reconstruction project on Main Street (CSAH 42) between Center Avenue and Fifth Street Northeast. Construction is expected to start in

2015 to replace water mains and sanitary sewer mains and replace and upgrade the storm sewer system.

In other business, the Blooming Prairie City Council:

- Accepted a donation of \$20,000 from the Farmers Co-op Elevator Association for the Blooming Prairie Ambulance;
- Accepted a donation of \$4,000 from the Claremont Area Chamber of Commerce for the Blooming Prairie Fire Department and Blooming Prairie Ambulance.
- Approved a proposal to stain the ambulance building to create a uniform color. Some panels a stronger dose of red. It did not meet the city’s approval. The building will be stained at Fabcon’s expense.

FIRE RESPONSE

Continued from Page 1A

Blooming Prairie fire covers 187 sections in nine townships in four counties.

Steele County Emergency Management Director Mike Johnson said fire response is always a sensitive issue for all involved. He said contrary to what people think, it isn’t always the closest fire department dispatched to calls.

“You may not get the closest fire department,” Johnson said. “It depends on who the townships contract with.”

Johnson explained individual township boards choose which department they want for fire coverage. For example, three departments cover different parts of Sommerset Township.



Johnson

Said Johnson: “In the rural areas, townships sign contracts to provide fire protection. It’s a decision they make as to who they want.”

Sometimes it boils down to finances. As an example, Johnson said, Owatonna Fire is more expensive than other area departments because it is a full-time department and has more expensive equipment.

He offered an example of how complicated fire coverage can get when boundaries overlap. On the 16-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 218 between Owatonna and Blooming Prairie, three fire departments are responsible for certain sections of the roadway. Claremont Fire covers a small portion of U.S. 218 by Pratt, while BP covers south and Owatonna north of Pratt.

Standke is in the process of rebuilding a house on a farm that has been in the family since the 1890s.

MARIAH CAREY

Continued from Page 1A

“Mariah came in wearing a maid uniform and duster and surprised us all,” Romeo said. “It was out of this world. It’s one of those things you can’t believe happened to you,” she added.

What took place next was sheer pandemonium for the next few minutes. Just as soon as Carey came into the room, the Blooming Prairie women ran toward her and mobbed her.

Romeo said, “We all went nuts. I completely lost it. It was exciting and completely unexpected.”

Though Carey was disguised in a house cleaning uniform, Romeo said she knew right away it was her when she saw her.

“We didn’t know what to do,” Stacey said laughing. “Obviously we attacked her because we love her so much.”

Added Tammy: “The girls just ran and I sat there just numb. It was just like a prin-



Submitted photo

Three Blooming Prairie women get a chance of a lifetime to get up close and personal with Mariah Carey.

cess walking in.”

At one point, Romeo fell to the floor as she was attacking Carey. “I fell to the ground because I was in shock,” Romeo said. “I don’t think you could even understand a word we were saying. There was a lot of screaming.”

Carey treated the women to a little clip of a song before she had to leave again. But before leaving, Carey explained that each of them would receive tickets to one of her shows at Caesars Palace, where she recently announced a new residency and will play 18 shows

PURSUIT

Continued from Page 2A

I hope I changed their minds when I shared the success story we’ve had with the Times.

The reason weekly newspapers will not die is because they have a niche that nobody else has. They’re committed to local news. Nobody can cover communities better than the local newspaper. Our slogan rings so true: “Always local. All the time.” As long as newspapers hold true to being local, there will be no fear of dying.

I hope our readers and those who maybe are on the fence with reading our newspaper will take incredible pride in what we’ve accomplished with the Times. There are not many papers around that can boast about the growth and progress we’ve experienced in recent years.

At the very least, I think the segment on KSMQ will give viewers valuable insight into just exactly what is involved with publishing a newspaper

this summer.

Asked what she thought of the music superstar, Romeo said: “She’s very beautiful in person and she was very sweet to us.”

The women were not allowed to take any photographs with Carey in the penthouse, but video of the thrill was aired Jan. 15 during the Ellen show on KAAL-TV and other stations across the country. About a three-minute segment was shown on Ellen of the local women being totally surprised.

Romeo said without a doubt, the thrill of meeting Carey will be forever a highlight of going to Las Vegas. It’s something that these women didn’t mind bending the rules of what happens here, stays here.

“It was a lot of fun and it will be something we’ll talk about forever,” Romeo said.

Added Tammy: “It was a dream come true, it really was.”



Staff photos by Alan Van Ormer

A pancake breakfast

The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group held a pancake breakfast at the Blooming Prairie Pizza Cellar on Jan. 18. That night Blooming Prairie Cancer Group members presented a \$60,000 check to the Eagles Cancer Telethon in Rochester to assist with cancer research. Cheri Krejci and Rhonda Toquam both attended the cancer telethon. Krejci said it was fun and there was a nice crowd. “We were very thankful for everything people donated to us,” Krejci said. During Sunday’s pancake breakfast, Sandra Christensen eats a pancake breakfast. Pam Folkens, Dan Miner and Ashley Valek (#2159) serve breakfast for Isabelle Sunde and Paul Sunde.



Troms file second lawsuit to stop Westfield Township hog feedlot

By KAREN JORGENSEN
News Editor

Dodge County farmers Lowell and Evelyn Trom have filed a second lawsuit in Dodge County District Court to vacate a conditional use permit for a hog feedlot in Westfield Township.

A Notice of Appeal was filed with the Dodge County District Court on Jan. 9 by James Peters, the attorney for the Troms. The Troms’ are seeking to have the court vacate a conditional use permit for a 2,400 head hog feedlot on a six-acre parcel owned by Nick Masching. The parcel is adjacent to the Trom farm.

They are asking the court to set aside the county’s decision to grant the conditional use permit because the decision was “unreasonable, arbitrary and capricious, and contrary to law,” according to the complaint.

The suit arises from the Dodge County Board’s approval last year of a conditional use permit for Nick Masching to construct the feedlot on property he purchased from Roger Toquam for that pur-



Evelyn and Lowell Trom have filed a second lawsuit in a Westfield Township feedlot case.

pose.

The Troms’ sued the county and Masching and Toquam last summer saying the county did not follow the requirements of the county ordinance in issuing the permit.

District Court Judge Jodi Williamson vacated the permit in November saying there were problems with the application for the permit but said that Masching

could reapply for a permit.

Masching did reapply and on Dec. 11 the Planning and Zoning Commission held a hearing on the application and recommended the county board give its’ approval. The board did approve the permit on Dec. 11.

The Troms maintain that during the second round of hearings, they were denied a fair and impartial hearing, that the county zoning administrator did not provide a fair analysis of the project and that the county failed to analyze the manure management plan associated with the project.

Dodge County Administrator Jim Elmquist said last week that the county would have no comment on the suit pending discussion with the county’s legal counsel. The county is represented by Paul D. Reuvers of Iverson Reuvers Condon in Bloomington.

Masching, who has also been named as a defendant in the suit, was not immediately available for comment.

Masching said earlier this month that the feedlot is operational and hogs were being housed

MISSING MAN

Continued from Page 1A

Fortunately, the man did what he said he was going to do and didn’t leave the parking lot. Instead, he moved the vehicle around to the front of the store and went to sleep inside the car, according to Nicks.

A Steele County sheriff’s deputy soon arrived and discovered the man in the vehicle was Willis Olaf Voxland, 84, of Burnsville. His family had reported him as a missing person the day before to Burnsville Police, who had asked for the public’s help in finding him.

He was last seen driving on Interstate 35E in the St. Paul area around 4:30 p.m. Jan. 13. Bank transactions were traced to Voxland in Fargo at 12:16 a.m. Jan. 14 and later that day at 10:51 a.m. in Perley, Minnesota, which is located about 30 miles north of Fargo.

Voxland’s family told police he has memory loss and gets disoriented easily.

Nicks said the sheriff’s deputy waited with Voxland at the Gopher Stop until his family came down from the Twin Cities to pick him up around 11 p.m.

She was relieved that Voxland was found safe and sound. “You see all these missing person things and you never think you’re going to find one,” Nicks said. “It makes you feel good to help get one home,” she added.

“It was a good ending,” Nicks said.

Guest column

Experts: This flu season rivals H1N1 outbreak of 2006

By DAVE ALBRECHT

This winter has been one for the record books with respect to health. The usual viruses and illnesses associated with cold-weather months hit early and with a vengeance. Medical experts say this is the worst influenza outbreak since H1N1 in 2006; and, we can attest to this as our patient volumes have been rather high recently.



Albrecht

This time of year, Owatonna Hospital usually sees a year-end surge in volume, as patients schedule many elective procedures to take advantage of fully-paid deductibles before their insurance renews on Jan. 1. Additionally, we tend to see unpredicted influenza, norovirus and other respiratory illnesses. It’s true, we’ve been challenged this winter by patient demand far exceeding anything I’ve seen in the nearly nine years I’ve been in Owatonna. Our Emergency Department (ED) handled patient volumes that were often double the number of visits seen on an average day. Typically, our ED sees around 40 patients. During this flu season, we’ve had a few occasions where our staff has seen nearly 80 (and 70-plus on many other days).

Recently, we’ve seen ED patient satisfaction comments reflecting long wait times and patient screening in transitory areas of our Hospital. Yet, while the high number of patients we’ve seen this year is not the norm, our hard-working staff, many of whom live within this community, met these challenges with diligence and care. Each patient was cared for in a compassionate manner.

Even our inpatient Medical-Surgical and Special Care Units were often at capacity, with no room for new patients needing to be admitted. Some were transferred to other area hospitals. Still others were held in the ED until a bed became available. Our facility was designed to have private inpatient rooms although a few rooms were designed to accom-

modate two in rare high volume situations. With savvy, we certainly took advantage of doubling-up the right patients to be able to treat locally; this was tricky as gender, “non-infectious” patient status and visitor restrictions were limiting factors.

The health of our own staff has also been a concern. As our staff come into contact with so many ill patients, it’s inevitable that some of these illnesses will spread to our employees. However, over 90 percent of our staff received the seasonal influenza vaccine this year. They also took the necessary precautions of wearing masks, donning extra disposable protective coverings and being vigilant about hand hygiene. In fact, many of our employees and inpatient physicians worked extra shifts

and long hours to be there for the needs of our patients. There was no relief in the high-volume on any of the recent holidays, when many value time with family and friends.

Staff members hear me say this all the time, but I think it’s important to share: we strive to be the best personalized health care experience in southern Minnesota. It matters to us that our community is cared for with respect. This flu season tested us all, from the community at large to our own staff.

So, if you’ve been at Owatonna Hospital recently and experienced long wait times, were transferred to another facility because we were “at capacity”, asked to double-up in a patient room, cared for in a hallway in our ED or weren’t able to have a friend visit, we’re

sorry we didn’t meet your expectations. Our standards for care and service are very high; faced with the incredible swell in the number of patients needing to be seen, we worked tirelessly to meet the needs of each and every patient we touched.

It takes a team effort to meet the needs of our community. I am very proud of how all of our patient care, support staff and Hospital physicians responded to the needs of our region...your needs, during this difficult time. They are always at the ready, 24/7/365.

Dave Albrecht is president of Owatonna Hospital

Public Safety

Public Safety continued on page 5D

Minnesota fire deaths have dropped in 2014

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Despite four fire fatalities already this month in Minnesota, including one this week in Minneapolis, officials are encouraged by the continued downward trend in fire deaths over the past 30 years. The number of people killed in fires last year is down nearly 7 percent from 2013, according to preliminary numbers from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety State Fire Marshal Division (SFMD).

There were 41 fire fatalities in 2014 in Minnesota compared to 44 in 2013 and 50 in 2012. The state’s all-time low fire-death figure was 35 in 2009; the high was 134 in 1976.

“We are encouraged by the trend but these numbers are still too high,” State Fire Marshal Bruce West said. “Most fire deaths can be prevented by

following some simple tips.”

Fire safety and prevention tips

- Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Test them monthly and replace the batteries twice a year.
- Use flameless candles instead of real ones.
- Never leave food cooking on the stove unattended.
- Keep flammable materials at least three feet away from any heat source. Heat sources include:
 - Space heaters and fireplaces
 - Stoves
 - Candles

Figures are preliminary because fatality reports

from Minnesota burn centers and hospitals are not yet final and fire departments are still sending data to the SFMD to be compiled.

Resources

- List of 2014 fire fatalities: <http://ow.ly/HnsDI>
- Minnesota fire data archive: <http://ow.ly/lvPPg>
- Fire prevention and safety fact sheets: <http://ow.ly/H0HTQ>

About DPS

The Department of Public Safety comprises 11 divisions where employees operate programs in the areas of law enforcement, crime victim assistance, traffic safety, alcohol and gambling,

emergency communications, fire safety, pipeline safety, driver licensing, vehicle registration and emergency management. DPS is anchored by three core principles: education, enforcement and prevention.

About the Fire Marshal Division

The mission of the State Fire Marshal Division (SFMD) is to protect lives and property by fostering a fire-safe environment through fire/arson investigation, code development and enforcement, regulation, data collection and public education. Data collected by the SFMD from fire departments helps determine the best methods of public education and enforcement to improve fire safety.

Winter load increases south and southeast frost zones

Winter load increases started Monday, Jan. 12, on unrestricted highways in the metro, south and southeast frost zones, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Winter load increases are already in effect for the north, north-central and central frost zones.

Vehicles will be allowed to operate up to 10 percent over the standard legal maximum loads

on unrestricted highways during the winter load increase period. However, trucks must comply with current registration weight laws and not exceed registered gross weight tolerances.

Drivers should check with local agencies prior to increasing any weights on city, county and township routes. The sign erected on the roadway governs the load limit in effect. A win-

ter weight increase permit is required to take advantage of the 10 percent weight increase on interstate highways only; a permit is not required for state trunk highways.

For questions about legal weight/size trucking, call: Minnesota Department of Public Safety - State Patrol - Commercial Vehicle Enforcement; 651-405-6196 (select option 3, option

3).

For questions about over legal weight/size ‘heavy haul’ trucking, call: Minnesota Department of Transportation, Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations - Oversize/Weight Permits, 651-296-6000 or email: ofcvpermits.dot@state.mn.us.

The start and end dates for winter load increases are based on how weather is affecting road-

way strength. These dates are established by monitoring roadway strength as weather conditions change. Therefore, the ending date for winter load increases is variable and drivers must check for updates throughout the year. Vehicle operators are required to check with MnDOT for the exact start and end dates. All changes are made with a minimum three calendar-day notice.

For the most current information, go to MnDOT’s automated 24-hour message center at 800-723-6543 for the U.S. and Canada, or locally at 651-366-5400 for the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. This information is also published on the MnDOT seasonal load limits website at www.mnrr.dot.state.mn.us/research/seasonal_load_limits/slindex.asp.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police No incidents reported. Owatonna Police Jan. 9

Warrant. Officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 11:03 a.m.

Mental Health. At 11:19 a.m., officer took mental health report in the 400 block of North St. W.

Theft. Police received a theft report from the 700 block of State Ave. NW at 1:58 p.m.

Shoplifting. Officer responded to a shoplifting incident at 2:05 p.m. in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

Jan. 10

Crash. Officer took a report of a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage in the 100 block of Spruce Ave. NE at 7:06 a.m.

Domestic. At 1:14 p.m., police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Cedar Ave. S. An adult was arrested at the scene.

Domestic. A subject was arrested following a domestic disturbance in the 1100 block of Elm Ave. S. at 8 p.m.

Jan. 11

Accident. A motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage occurred at 21st Ave. NW and Park Dr. NW at 8 a.m.

Theft. Officer took theft report in the 2200 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 9:46 a.m.

Jan. 12

Child Protection. At 12:23 p.m., police received a child protection report from the 2600 block of 3rd Ave. NE.

Criminal Sex. Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 1500 block of Mineral Springs Parkway at 3:07 p.m.

Death. A death investigation started at 3:33 p.m. in the 500 block of Partridge Ave. SE.

Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of fraud in the 300 block of Meadow Lane SW at 4:45 p.m.

Shoplifting. At 3:23 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N.

Jan. 13

Arrest. Police arrested a motorist following a traffic stop in the 100 block of Bridge St. W. at 1:02 a.m.

Drugs. Drug activity in the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW resulted in a subject being arrested at 4:47 a.m.

Hit and Run. A hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 11:37 a.m.

Assault. At 2:46 p.m., police responded to an assault in the 500 block of 15th St. NE.

Domestic. A domestic disturbance occurred in the 300 block of Cedar-ale Dr. SE at 9:11 p.m.

Jan. 14

Juvenile. Officers responded to a juvenile complaint at Grove Ave. S. and Murray St. SE at 1:33 a.m. A juvenile was taken into custody.

Jan. 15

Theft. A vehicle was reported sto-

len from the 900 block of Minnesota Ave. SE at 7:19 a.m.

Domestic. Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Rose St. E. at 7:44 a.m. They arrested an adult at the scene.

Death. At 8:27 a.m., police began a death investigation in the 700 block of Oak Ave. S.

Mental Health. Officer took a mental health report in the 500 block of 15th St. NE at 11:04 a.m.

Assist. Police assisted another agency with arresting an adult in the 500 block of Florence Ave. NW at 12:54 p.m.

Burglary. At 4:48 p.m., officers responded to a burglary in the 600 block of Linn Ave. SW.

Hit and Run. A hit and run crash resulting in property damage occurred in the 200 block of Rice St. E. at 8:50 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff Jan. 9

Drunken Driving. Deputy arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 200 block of Fremont St. E. at 12:24 a.m.

Crash. At 11:06 p.m., deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident at 36th St. NW and Cedar Ave. An adult was taken into custody.

Jan. 10

Theft. Deputy took theft report in the 2100 block of 138th St. SE at 10:27 p.m.

Jan. 11

Domestic. At 12:54 a.m., deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 2700 block of 24th Ave. NE. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Theft. A theft was reported in the 13800 block of 34th Ave. SE at 7:29 p.m.

Jan. 12

Restraining Order. A citizen reported a violation of an order for protection in the 500 block of Commercial St. at 3:33 p.m.

Found Property. Property was found at 4th St. and 6th Ave. W. at 5:09 p.m.

Jan. 14

Theft. A vehicle was reported stolen from the 2900 block of 28th St. SE at 6:48 a.m.

Missing Person. Deputies received a missing person report from the 3500 block of Hwy. 30 W. at 9:43 p.m.

Jan. 15

Burglary. Deputies began an investigation of a burglary in the 2100 block of 24th Ave. SW at 4:35 p.m.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 5 with Judge Joseph A. Buetel presiding:

Jay K. Wolf, 48, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony controlled substance crime. Wolf was sentenced to 13 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 5 – 9:

MN State Patrol Rochester

Anthony K. Adams Jr., 24, Albert Lea, seat belt, \$106; Brandon D. Borchert, 34, Geneva, suspended license, \$281; Bridget E. Dickie, 23, Waseca, speeding, \$131; Keith J. Eustice, 52, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Navin K. Gupta, 57, Indianola, IA, speeding, \$141; Jeddiah M. Hundt, 23, Bangor, WI, seat belt, \$106; Madalyn M. Jones, 16, Waseca, speeding, \$131; Sandeep S. Khosa, 34, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Jose M. Lopez-Becerra, 37, Waite Park, invalid license, \$181; Lanny R. Louks, 39, Owatonna, text messaging and seat belt, \$156; Odell D. McCullough, 26, Austin, revoked license, \$281; Mulbah Mensah Jr., 30, St. Paul, speeding, \$221;

Michael L. Mulman, 55, Chattanooga, TN, speeding, \$121; David W. Pressley, 45, Northville, MI, speeding, \$121; Lauren A. Reagan, 22, Woodbury, speeding, \$121; Ronald J. Reker, 63, Janesville, vehicle weight violation, \$131; Mario E. Rodriguez Alvarez, 20, Woodbury, speeding, \$221; Syrena S. Rodriguez, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Cody Salinas, 23, Owatonna, speeding, \$381; Catherine J. Waldock, 50, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; David M. Weltman, 24, Skokie, IL, speeding, \$121; Nina A. Worrell, 32, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Michael J. Yauger, 24, Mankato, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia and no insurance, \$381.

Owatonna Police Department

Yasin M. Abdi, 24, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Michael A. Anderson, 46, Kilkenny, shoplifting, \$381; Michael J. Arnold, 36, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Beth A. Barrett, 41, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Tyler A. Bush, 19, Ellendale, registration violation, \$111; Jessica N. Davison, 25, Owatonna, failure to stop for school bus, \$381 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Laura J. Dominguez-Rubio, 22, Owatonna, no MN license, \$181; Andrew M. Duncomb, 27, Rochester, theft, \$81, 90 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Jesse W. Ebeling, 22, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, chemical dependency treatment, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Luke W. Ebeling, 19, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$131; Laura L. Edgington, 28, Mantorville, shoplifting, \$75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised probation;

Lindsay Eliozza, 22, Faribault, shoplifting, \$181, and 6 months of supervised probation; Kenneth S. Falco, 36, Houston, TX, theft, \$2,495.92, 2 days in county jail, chemical dependency treatment, and 2 years of supervised probation; Jacob A. Furch, 26, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Cody A. Halverson, 23, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Robelene H. Hondel, 18, Owatonna, failure to yield right of way, \$131; Autumn S. Hughes, 31, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Vernon A. Johnson, 37, Owatonna, suspended license, \$181; Larry E. King, 67, Claremont, revoked license, \$281; Brandon L. Kos, 24, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Jack L. Langley, 60, Owatonna, violation of restraining order, \$181,

and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Yvette M. Lopez, 39, Owatonna, possession of paraphernalia, \$131; Denita T. Nichols, 24, Owatonna, suspended license and no insurance, \$481; Preston H. Osterhus, 22, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131;

Anthony M. Petricka, 67, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, chemical dependency treatment, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Abdi H. Rage, 38, Sioux City, IA, no MN license, \$181; Jermaine C. Reese, 31, Casselberry, FL, seat belt, \$106; Alexander T. Repke, 21, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Criselda Reyes, 34, Owatonna, animals running at large, \$131; J Isabel Rocha-Nunez, 52, Owatonna, no MN license, \$181; Laura J. Rubio-Dominguez, 22, Owatonna, no MN license and no insurance, \$381; Abaas N. Said, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Imma A. Sanchez, 30, Albert Lea, theft, \$381, and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Eric E. Sellner, 56, Owatonna, speeding, \$121;

Jesse M. Sletten, 30, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Angelica C. Sosa Ochoa, 21, Owatonna, permit violation and speeding, \$171; Cyrus N. Trevino, 22, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, \$181; Benita Velez, 25, Albert Lea, theft, \$381 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Paul G. Wallace, 59, Geneva, expired tabs, \$111; Alexander T. Willcox, 18, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana, \$131; Nina A. Worrell, 32, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Forest A. Wright, 18, Geneva, possession of Paraphernalia, \$131; Huda I. Yusuf, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$121.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

April R. Batten, 26, Claremont, speeding, \$141; Curtis D. Chavie, 25, Morristown, DWI, \$181 and 90 days in county jail; Cheryl D. Collins, 38, Savage, speeding, \$221; Drew E. Demars, 51, Medford, DWI, \$581, 4 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency treatment, alcohol monitor and 6 years of supervised probation; Kevin T. Ewing, 33, Marstons Mills, MA, speeding, \$121; Blake M. Hein, 22, Medford, headlamps violation, \$121; Antonio Hernandez, 25, Faribault, speeding, \$221; Dewayne W. Hlavac, 47, Faribault, speeding and expired tabs, \$171;

Joseph R. Kells, 33, West Concord, speeding, \$141; Albert R. Lisowski, 36, Faribault, seat belt, \$106; Guled A. Mohamed, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Scott A. Moore, 45, Minneapolis, speeding, \$121; Christopher J. Nagy, 46, Waseca, seat belt, \$106; Natasha L. Nelson, 25, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; James M. Reirson, 48, International Falls, cross over violation, \$131; Omar A. Sheikh, 38, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Jacob M. Talamantes, 33, Austin, speeding, \$121; Spencer C. Velzke, 19, Medford, speeding and stop sign, \$271; Charity L. Woods, 25, Grandview, MO, speeding, \$121.

Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Jan. 5 – 12:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Caleb R. Bartel, 19, Dodge Center, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, \$180; Leonard J. Bush, 48, Hayfield, theft, \$180; Ruben M. Calderon, 45, Dodge Center, invalid license and failure to stop for accident to property, \$280 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Norma Cardenas, 37, Mantorville, DWI, \$505, chemical assessment, 40 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Julio F. Cortez, 40, Dodge Center, registration violation – intent to escape tax, reckless driving, and cancelled license, \$980, 90 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Richardo Elizondo III, 21, Austin, no insurance, \$280;

April A. Gabel, 40, Claremont, obstructing legal process, \$180; Chad M. Jordan, 43, Mantorville, revoked license, \$280; Sophal Ket, 34, Rochester, suspended license, \$280; Karl R. Koneck, 23, Burnett, WI, careless driving, \$180; Julie A. Maxwell, 63, Rochester, no license in possession, \$280; Lucas J. McNiff, 18, Mantorville, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, \$180; Billy J. Osburn, 34, Rochester, cancelled license, 1 year of unsupervised probation; Martin Vazquez, 34, Medford, revoked license and failure to drive in single lane, \$330.

Kasson Police Department

Billy J. Bishop, 35, Kasson, theft, \$180; Jennifer M. Carlson, 38, Mantorville, speeding, \$140; Tera L. Johnson, 22, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Chad J. O'Brien, 33, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Shawn L. Peters, 37, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Danielle A. Roche, 26, Rochester, parking violation, \$32.

MN State Patrol Rochester

David F. Becerril-Castro, 29, Kenyon, revoked license and speeding, \$320; Vitalie Chiorescu, 29, Las Vegas, NV, speeding, \$380; Richardo Elizondo III, 21, Austin, prohibited lights and no insurance, \$320; Kayla M. Fisher, 18, Faribault, speeding, \$140; Sabrina J. Jensen, 19, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120; Anthony C. Osman, 16, Hayfield, speeding, \$120; Timothy W. Reiling, 24, Pine Island, speeding, \$120; Marilyn L. Saari, 38, Dodge Center, speeding, \$140.

West Concord Police Department

Phillip L. Davis, 56, Faribault, speeding, \$140; Richardo Elizondo III, 21, Austin, no insurance, \$280; Patrick H. Wells, 28, Faribault, seat belt, \$105.

ARREST REPORT Steele County

Owatonna Police

Thomas Jay Monson, 50, arrested at 8:32 p.m. Jan. 10, felony domestic, assault, domestic by strangulation and

terroristic threats, held for court.

Coyte Ray Kuefner, 21, arrested at 12:20 a.m. Jan. 13, felony controlled substance crime, held for court.

Ricardo Ramirez, 44, arrested at 1:21 a.m. Jan. 13, felony possession of controlled substance, held for court.

Cedric James Elusmond, 18, arrested at 3:24 a.m. Jan. 13, felony possession of controlled substance, held for court.

Steven Fredrick Groening, 56, arrested at 5 p.m. Jan. 13, felony domestic, held for court.

Abdi Mohamud Mohamed, 28, arrested at 3:15 p.m. Jan. 13, sales, held for court.

Kimburly Kay Kuiper, 34, arrested at 5 p.m. Jan. 13, felony sales, held for court.

Anthony James Moore, 40, arrested at 8:09 a.m. Jan. 15, felony order for protection violation, held for court.

Jason Dean Batt, 35, arrested at 1:53 p.m. Jan. 15, felony probation violation, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Anthony James Bohlen, 25, arrested at 11:45 p.m. Jan. 9, DWI, \$12,000 bail.

Benjamin Joseph Dugan, 25, arrested at 1:28 a.m. Jan. 11, domestic assault, interference with 911 call, held for court.

Deng Kang Akwei, 33, arrested at 11:54 a.m. Jan. 12, probation warrant arrest, held for court.

Juan Rafael Carrasco, 37, arrested at 1:47 p.m. Jan. 12, probation warrant arrest, held for court.

Mark Scott Shank, 35, arrested at 8:50 a.m. Jan. 14, probation violation, held for court.

Jason Wade Tesch, 41, arrested at 8:15 a.m. Jan. 16, probation apprehension and detention order, held for court.

MN State Patrol

Miguel Arnold Galvan, 19, arrested at 1:20 a.m. Jan. 16, felony cancelled license, fleeing police officer, and possession of narcotics, held for court.

Owatonna Fire

Jan. 10

Evacuation. Owatonna Fire completed a water evacuation in the 300 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 6:11 a.m.

Fire. Fire fighters responded to a building fire in the 100 block of Front St. W. at 2:25 p.m.

Jan. 11

Chemical Hazard. At 7:44 p.m., a chemical hazard occurred in the 600 block of 22nd St. NE.

Jan. 14

Crash. Fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident without injuries on 21st Ave. NW at 12:04 p.m.



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

History from the news archives

10 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Editor
Jan. 18, 2005

Emily Akkerman of Blooming Prairie was one of 1,413 students whose academic achievement places them on the fall semester dean’s list at St. Cloud State University. To be eligible for the honor, students must have a grade point average of 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

For the third time in the last three meetings with Medford, the Blossoms wrestling team found themselves in a close match, but this time the locals prevailed with a 35-32 victory over the Tigers at Medford Thursday, Jan. 13. Both teams won seven bouts, but Blooming Prairie took the match by virtue of more six-point decisions.

The month of December is a busy time with the holidays, however, Blooming Prairie Fire Chief Kurt Underwood reported that during the month the local fire department only received three calls. None of the calls received were for home fires that we often hear of during the holidays caused by decorative lights or burning candles.

20 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Editor
Jan. 17, 1995

Diana Stevens was officially hired as a Blooming Prairie police officer last week at the City Council meeting. Although she has served on a part-time basis for over a year, she welcomes the challenge of serving on a regular, full-time basis.

Marshall Anderson receives a

scholarship from the local Dollars for Scholars representative Doug Amundson. The local chapter gives out scholarships for those who qualify; candidates must be in their third or fourth year of study in college. Anderson lives in Blooming Prairie but attends Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. He is studying health education/athletic training.

The snow candidates are Paul Tinetti, Dan Bergstrom, Mary Donnelly, Amy Stoen, Rachel Knuston, Jason Jacobusse, Subrina Bergin, Eric Vermilyea, Brad Pfeifer and Becky Anderson. The Snow Dance will be held Saturday, Jan. 21 at the High School.

50 Years Ago
Victor, Vernon and
Vryle Krejci, Editors
Jan. 21, 1965

Sally Walsh has been notified that she is a selectee for the 1965 National Senior Girl Scouts Round-Up at Farragut State Park and Candy Cashman received word that she is alternate No. 1. In the event that Miss Cashman cannot attend the Round-Up she will go for a week of camping in July at the Rosebud Indian Reservation at South Dakota.

Douglas Lysne, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence E. Lysne, Blooming Prairie, has been named to the Dean’s Honor Roll at Hamline University, St. Paul. Douglas is a sophomore at Hamline.

Gary Fread has been named the local winner in Time magazine’s 29th annual Current Af-

fairs Contest, it was announced this week by Dick Gaughran, social studies instructor at Blooming Prairie High School. Other high scoring local students include Art Hanson and Larry Kruger. All three boys are seniors at the local high school.

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

The Farmers and Merchants bank held its 36th annual meeting last week in the bank parlors. After the business report was submitted to the stockholders, an election was held. There will be no change in personnel of officers and directors during 1940.

Two local men, Harvey Oswald, and Donald Thurston, pleaded guilty in Justice Carmen’s court to a charge of disorderly conduct Monday. Marshall Glenn Dennis made the complaint. Justice Carmen imposed a fine of \$5.00 and costs upon each of the two men, but suspended the fine due to the conditions of the case.

Zephryn Marsh, a former head of the Triple-S Electric Appliance Store in Blooming Prairie, was severely injured when he fell from the roof of a barn near Albert Lea. According to information received here, Zephryn was wiring the barn for electricity when he slipped and fell. He first fell six feet to a lower part of the barn, and then fell fifteen feet to the ground. He suffered fractures of both wrists, a concussion of the brain and numerous bruises about his body.



THE SAVVY
SENIOR



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Transportation
for non-drivers

Dear Savvy Senior: Where can I find out about alternative transportation options for my elderly mother? She needs to give up driving, but before she does, we need to figure out how she’ll get around. — Searching Daughter

Dear Searching: Alternative transportation services vary widely by community, so what’s available to your mom will depend on where she lives.

For starters it’s important to know that while most urban areas offer seniors a variety of transportation services, the options may be few to none for those living in the suburbs, small towns and rural areas. Alternative transportation is an essential link in helping seniors who no longer drive get to their doctor’s appointments, stores, social activities and more.

Depending on where your mom lives, here’s a rundown of solutions that could help her get around.

Family and friends: This is by far the most often used and favorite option among seniors. So make a list of all possible candidates your mom can call on, along with their availability and contact information.

Local transportation programs: These are usually sponsored by nonprofit organizations

that serve seniors. These services may charge a fee or accept donations and often operate with the help of volunteer drivers.

Also check out the Independent Transportation Network (itnamerica.org), which is a national nonprofit that has 27 affiliate transportation programs in 23 states. With this program, seniors pay membership dues and fees based on mileage. Most programs will let your mom donate her car in return for credits toward future rides.

Demand response services: Often referred to as “dial-a-ride” or “elderly and disabled transportation service,” these are typically government-funded programs that provide door-to-door transportation services by appointment and usually charge a small fee or donation on a per ride basis. Many use vans and offer accessible services for riders with special needs.

Taxi or car service: These private services offer flexible scheduling but can be expensive; however, they’re cheaper than owning a car. Some taxi/car services may be willing to set up accounts that allow other family members to pay for services and some may offer senior discounts.

Another option to look into is ride-sharing services, which connect people with cars with people who need rides. Uber (uber.com), Lyft (lyft.com) and Sidecar (sidecar) are three of the largest compa-

nies offering services in dozens of cities across the U.S.

Private program services: Some hospitals, health clinics, senior centers, adult day centers, malls or other businesses may offer transportation for program participants or customers. And some nonmedical home-care agencies that bill themselves as providing companionship and running errands or doing chores may also provide transportation.

Mass transit: Public transportation (buses, trains, subways, etc.) where available, can also be an affordable option and may offer senior reduced rates.

Hire someone: If your mom lives in an area where there are limited or no transportation services available, another option to consider is to pay someone in the community to drive her. Consider hiring a neighbor, retiree, high school or college student that has a flexible schedule and wouldn’t mind making a few extra bucks.

To find out what transportation services are available in your mom’s community, contact the Rides in Sight national toll-free call center at 855-607-4337 (or see ridesinsight.org), and the Eldercare Locator (800-677-1116), which will direct you to her area agency on aging for assistance.

Also contact local senior centers, places of worship and retirement communities for other possible options. And check with her state department of transportation at www.flhwa.dot.gov/web-state.htm and the American Public Transportation Association at publictransportation.org.

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

Steele County Times Professional Directory

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Community

Obituaries

Esther Margie Wiese, 91, Blooming Prairie

Esther Margie Wiese, age 91 of Blooming Prairie, died Saturday evening, January 17, 2015, at Mayo Clinic Hospitals, St. Mary's Campus, Rochester. She was born April 6, 1923, in Hayfield, the daughter of George and Ragnhild (Nesheim) Simonson. She attended country school district #91 near Evanger, Minnesota, and after completing her education lived in Hayfield, Rochester and Austin. While living in Rochester, Esther enjoyed working at the Woolworth store. On June 4, 1946, she was



united in marriage to Arnold Wiese at the Evanger Lutheran Church, near Sargeant, Minnesota. The couple made their home on a farm for a couple of years before moving to Hayfield. Later they moved to Blooming Prairie and then to Austin before returning to Blooming Prairie in 1958. While living in Blooming Prairie, Esther, Arnold and Karen provided cleaning services for several businesses, including Farmers and Merchants State Bank, U.S. Post Office, City of Blooming Prairie Library and Police Department. She loved gardening, camping and fishing, doing hardanger embroidery and always looked forward to spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was a member of First Lutheran Church and the Sons of Norway

Lodge 1-519 of Austin. Esther was very proud of her Norwegian heritage and traveled to Norway twice with her family. She enjoyed her 90th birthday celebration with many family and friends. Survivors include her husband, Arnold Wiese of Blooming Prairie; three daughters, Marilyn Gordon of Ellendale, Sharon (Samuel) Peterson of rural Ellendale and Karen Wiese of Blooming Prairie; four grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; two step-great-grandchildren; brothers and sisters, Gloria Jacobson of Austin, Jacob "Jake" (LaVonne) Simonson of Owatonna, Milward (Donna) Simonson of Hayfield, Alice Williams of Austin and Ruby Klingfus of Cass Lake; a sister-in-law Helen Campbell of Dexter; many nieces, nephews and

other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister in infancy; two sons-in-law, Sever Olson and Gene Gordon; three brothers-in-law, Stanley Jacobson, Donald Williams and LaVern Klingfus; and sister-in-law Katherine "Kay" Funk. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday, January 22, 2015, at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie with Pastor Heidi Heimgartner officiating. Interment will follow the service in the Blooming Prairie Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 5 to 7p.m., Wednesday, January 21, 2015, at the Worlein - Blooming Prairie Funeral Home and for one hour prior to the service at the church on Thursday. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Willis 'Bud' Miller, 89, of Blooming Prairie,

Willis 'Bud' Miller, age 89 of Blooming Prairie, died Monday, January 12, 2015, at Prairie Manor Care Center. He was born August 9, 1925, in Wanamingo, Minnesota, to Edward and Nettie (Anderson) Miller. A Kenyon High School graduate, Bud served his country in the U.S. Navy from June 1943 until his honorable discharge in June 1946. He served as a radio technician aboard the destroyer USS Craven which saw service in the South Pacific, North Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. On May 5, 1951, he



was united in marriage to Ruby G. Thompson at Aspelund Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Wanamingo. The couple lived in Blooming Prairie their entire married life and raised two children. Bud worked in the telephone industry for more than fifty years, retiring from G.T.E. in 1992. In his retirement he worked for Frontier Communications and later for KMTelcom of Kasson. Bud was a member of Prairie Masonic Lodge 123 in Blooming Prairie and played for many years in the Osman Temple Shrine Band. He was also a member of the Blooming Prairie American Legion Post 52 and the Blooming Prairie V.F.W. Post 878. A longtime member of First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie, Bud taught Sunday school, served as trustee and was past president. He was a former member of

the Blooming Prairie Lions Club, the Blooming Prairie City Council, the Blooming Prairie Development Corporation and the Independent Telephone Pioneer Association. Bud's favorite pastimes included the annual family vacations up north, golfing, dancing and watching the Minnesota Twins and Vikings. He especially enjoyed his roses. Bud is survived by his wife Ruby Miller of Blooming Prairie; his sons Brian Miller of Sparta, Wisconsin, and Reed Miller of Byron; sisters Carol Hammarberg of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Marie (Roger) Carroll of Ponchatoula, Louisiana, and Dorothy (Charles) Schulz of Woodbury, Minnesota; brother-in-law Dewey (Dorothy) Thompson of Zumbrota; and sister-in-law Harriet Jackson of Welch, Minnesota. Honored extended family members

include Jim and Kelli O'Connor, their children Katie (Sam) Wencil and Bennett, Patrick O'Connor (Krystal Klemmensen) and Megan O'Connor (Jake Lightly) all of Blooming Prairie. He was preceded in death by his parents Edward and Nettie Miller and his sister Sandra (Dr. Ron) Nelson. Funeral services were held on Saturday, January 17, 2015, at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie with Pastors Heidi Heimgartner and Charles Leonard officiating. Interment with military honors by the Blooming Prairie Color Guard will be at Blooming Prairie Cemetery. Memorials can be directed to First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie, or to recipient of donor's choice. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Elaine Johnson, 88, formerly of Austin

Elaine H. Johnson, 88 formerly of Austin, died Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015, at Lake Shore Inn Nursing Home in Waseca. Elaine Hendrickson was born Oct. 21, 1926, in Owatonna to Henry C. and Marie E. (Lofthus) Hendrickson. She graduated from Blooming Prairie High School. On Oct. 5, 1946, she was married to Erling Nathan Johnson, the son of Eddie M. and Nellie (Hagana) Johnson, in Blooming Prairie. She became a homemaker and full-time mother of three. In 1962,



she began work as a secretary at Equitable Insurance Company and in 1965 was hired by the Austin Public Library as secretary to the director. She also served as an election judge in Austin for many years and was a member of St. Olaf Lutheran Church. Beginning in 1979, Elaine became the Mower County Bookmobile librarian, retiring in 1982 to do some traveling with her husband and to perfect her life-making skills. Throughout her life, Elaine enjoyed music, square dancing, playing any kind of card game and family events. In retirement, she helped her husband write and complete a collection of family history aptly named 'Relatively Speaking'. She is remembered by her family for her love and loyalty to them.

Elaine is survived by her children, David A. (Sandra) Johnson of Le Sueur, Rev. Nancy E. (Wayne) Hansen of Waseca, Richard N. (Trudy) Johnson of Eden Prairie; nine grandchildren, Angelique R. Bents, Gerd J. (Gina) Bents, Benjamin M. (Elizabeth) Bents, Max P. Bents, Joshua D. Johnson, Scott N. Johnson, Zachary C. (Brittany) Johnson, Claire K. Johnson and Samuel N. Johnson; one step grandson, Jeff Hansen; five great-grandchildren, Raena Bents, Harm Bents, Caden Bents, Hadley Bents and Anna Onu; three step-great-grandchildren, Hannah, Emily and Jake Kennedy; sister-in-law Shirley Opsal of Minneapolis; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Bill and Lois Williams of St. Louis, Missouri; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Marie Hendrickson; her husband Erling Nathan Johnson; and brother-in-law Bernt C. Opsal. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 23, 2015, at St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Austin with the Rev. Paul Lutter officiating. Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015, at Worlein Funeral Home in Austin, and one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday. Interment will be in Oakwood Cemetery. Memorials can be directed to St. Olaf Lutheran Church, the Austin Public Library or recipient of donor's choice. Worlein Funeral Home of Austin is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Ann Klemmensen, 85, Ellendale

Ann M. Klemmensen, 85, of Ellendale, died Sunday, Jan. 11, 2015, at Koda Living Community. Ann was born Aug. 23, 1929, on the family farm in Berlin Township, Minnesota, the daughter of Henry and Clara (Anderson) Thompson. She was baptized on Sept. 22, 1929, and confirmed her faith on June 18, 1944. She attended and graduated from Ellendale High School. Ann was married to Donald "Bill" Klemmensen on June 11, 1947. The couple farmed on Ann's family farm for many years. Bill died Dec. 20, 2011.



Ann was a lifelong member of First Lutheran Church in Ellendale, where she taught Sunday school and was a member of the church choir. She was an avid reader. Music played a great part in her life. She particularly enjoyed old time music and she taught herself how to play the harmonica. She enjoyed quilting and dancing and spending time with her coffee friends. Most importantly, though, was her family. She loved being with them at every opportunity. Bill and Ann enjoyed their travels to Europe, Asia, Hawaii and South America and Caribbean cruises. She is survived by three sons, Doug (and Jan) Klemmensen of Ellendale, Larry (and Carol) Klemmensen of Coon Rapids, Lonny (and Sue) Klemmensen of New Richland; a sister, Carol Larimore

of Bixby; 10 grandchildren; 26 great grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Donald "Bill" Klemmensen (2011); two brothers, Henry and James Thompson; and three sisters, Oriet Grunwald, Alene Grunwald and Audrey Misgen. Visitation was at First Lutheran

Church Ellendale on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015. Funeral services were held Friday, Jan. 16, 2015, at First Lutheran Church Ellendale with the Rev. Richard Sliper officiating. Interment will be in the First Lutheran Cemetery in Ellendale. Memorials are preferred to donor's choice. Arrangements made by Michaelson Funeral Home.

Milestones

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays Jan. 20 Cameron Brown, Tom Morgan Jan. 21 Dale Borchert, Brian Wencil, Laura Thomas, Samantha Kraling, Kennedy Bishop Jan. 22 Joann Nielsen, Jon Esplan Jan. 23 Dorothy M. Johnson, Loretta Wurst, Kim Hillson, Timothy Wacek, Jacob Krebs, Eric Tegtner	Jan. 24 Mary Ahrens, Tom Peterson, John Whiting Jan. 25 Collin Meiners, Becky Barber Jan. 26 Justin Ingvalson, Melissa Machin, Bruce Wolf, Hannah Kinny, Tom Blome Anniversaries Jan. 21 Mike and Katie Ingvalson Jan. 24 Dick and Lorraine Kruckeberg
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Area Church Spotlight



**Prairie Mennonite Church,
Blooming Prairie**

Pastor's Corner

The Rev. Aaron de Neui,
Cedar Creek Church, Hayfield



Pass grace on to others

Grace is something we receive from God, but also something we are supposed to pass on to others.

The process begins with God giving us grace. It's undeserved, and it's a gift rather than something we can earn. But it must not end there. We must also pass it on to others but how do we do that? Let me suggest three steps.

One, let others be. In Romans 14 we see Paul writing to Jewish Christians that are all at some different place in their faith and convictions. Paul said that each of us with different convictions in Biblical grey areas must not become critical of others because they're different, but accept them. Let God be the judge and let others be!

Second, agree to disagree, and forgive when necessary. Ephesians 4:29-32 says the opinions and differences of others can cause us frustration and offense,

and we must forgive rather than allowing bitterness to build up. This is crucial as every church will consist of imperfect saints who make mistakes in their relationships with others and without forgiveness, churches will implode from unresolved issues.

Third, let others be free to be themselves. 1 Corinthians 12:7-10, talking about spiritual gifts, teaches how we all have something unique to offer others. Additional uniquenesses include our different personalities, talents and opinions in grey areas. When churches are operating as they should, each should be able to be themselves without worrying about not being accepted by others despite being different.

Let's continue to experience and be thankful for God's grace but let's not forget to pass it on to others!

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Minister Dwight DoBell
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(507) 583-2038 or (507) 437-3000
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**REDEEMER LUTHERAN
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www.redeemerowatonna.org
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Pastor Jesse Krusemark
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Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

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STEM

Continued from Page 1A —

“Many schools will have a STEM teacher that students will go to and they will get STEM teaching one day a week. Our philosophy is that it is happening all day, in every room, with all students,” said Districtwide STEM Coordinator Tom Meagher.

Bob Olson, director of facilities and infrastructure and former principal, added, “A lot of schools focus so heavily on the four letters that they forget about the reading, and we really focused on making sure our reading is still solid and infuse the STEM thinking into reading, social studies and into all the different subject areas.”

Since the program’s inception, the focus has shifted from teaching the four subjects to a way of teaching all subjects.

“Originally, STEM was identified as making sure to teach the four content areas, but it has really grown beyond that. Teachers aren’t expected to just teach their science, technology, engineering and math,” Meagher said. “The idea is, ‘How do we integrate the content areas that we are teaching?’ and that way we can make sure that they are dovetailed together, so that way, when students are learning, they are seeing the purpose of reading, writing, calculating and data analysis because it is all related to the particular subject they are studying.”

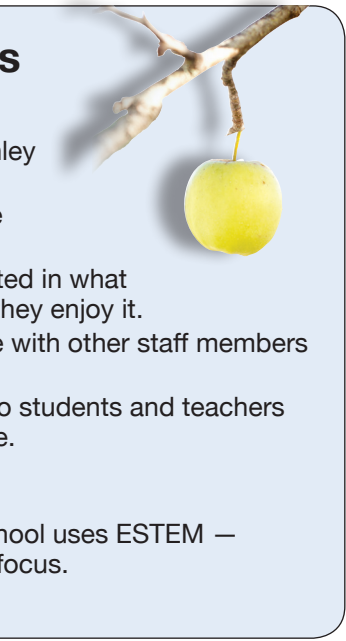
When the program began, there was also a stigma that it was only

STEM advantages

- The advantages of implementing STEM at McKinley include:
- Students and teachers are more engaged.
 - Students are more interested in what they are doing in school and they enjoy it.
 - Teachers collaborate more with other staff members from all grade levels.
 - STEM is understandable to students and teachers because it is based on real life.

Next week

- Owatonna Junior High School uses ESTEM — STEM with an environmental focus.



Teacher Tamra Gonzalez leads her kindergartners in a guided reading group activity in which the students have to pick out color words in a story.

for high income or gifted and talented students.

“When we first started STEM, I had a lot of parents say, ‘I don’t think this is for my kid,’ and there was also this thought out there that STEM is only for kids at the higher end of the spectrum, and that can’t be any farther from the truth,” Olson said. “STEM thinking, learning and instructing is for every teacher and for every student, whether they are low income, English language learners or in the gifted and talented program.”

For McKinley faculty members, STEM has become second nature and every staff member believes that STEM is vital to student learning, say administrators.

“It is real life. It is really what is happening and the way our soci-

ety and culture works. Kids really see the value, purpose and real meaning of what they learn and are doing in class,” Meagher said.

One example of STEM instruction is in spring when second-graders do their claymation project. Students learn the plant life cycle by building each stage out of clay and then turning what they have made into an animation through an iPad application.

Another example is when fourth-graders explore the states of matter through art, math and science by repurposing plastic recyclable cups.

“We teach them the science and materials of plastic, they read the numbers on the bottom and learn about how to recycle, and then they go to art class and decorate the cups, and they learn the states

of matter by putting them in a toaster oven to change them in to liquid form and repurpose the plastic into ornaments,” Meagher said.

The program brings challenges, including a constant need for funding for a vast amount of required resources and instructional times longer than traditional times.

“STEM teaching takes longer. It is not like you can just run a worksheet and give a lesson in 25 minutes. It doesn’t work that way,” Meagher said.

Despite the challenges, the program remains a success for the school.

“The culture of this building is unbelievable. We would not be successful if our teachers did not work together. To be a STEM school, you need buy-in from everybody in the building, and if you don’t have that, you can only go so far,” Olson said.

Another reason the program has been so successful is that teachers are concerned about the whole student body, instead of students in their classroom.

“In the past, you would walk down the hallways of all schools, not just here, and you would

hear teachers making excuses as to why kids aren’t at the levels they are at, and in this building, we don’t have that now. They are trying to find solutions instead of making excuses,” Olson said.

To keep both parents and students invested in the curriculum, McKinley typically holds three to four STEM nights a year, with each exploring a different topic. Students, their families and experts in the field are invited to participate in the night’s activities.

The next STEM night will be on Thursday, Feb. 5, and the focus will be reading.



TAX PREP GUIDE 2015

Top 10 tax facts if you sell your home

Do you know that if you sell your home and make a profit, the gain may not be taxable? That’s just one key tax rule that you should know. Here are ten facts to keep in mind if you sell your home this year.

1. If you have a capital gain on the sale of your home, you may be able to exclude your gain from tax. This rule may apply if you owned and used it as your main home for at least two out of the five years before the date of sale.
2. There are exceptions to the ownership and use rules. Some exceptions apply to persons with a disability. Some apply to certain members of the military and certain government and Peace Corps workers. For details see Publication 523, Selling Your Home.

3. The most gain you can exclude is \$250,000. This limit is \$500,000 for joint returns. The Net Investment Income Tax will not apply to the excluded gain.
4. If the gain is not taxable, you may not need to report the sale to the IRS on your tax return.
5. You must report the sale on your tax return if you can’t exclude all or part of the gain. And you must report the sale if you choose not to claim the exclusion. That’s also true if you get Form 1099-S, Proceeds From Real Estate Transactions. If you report the sale you should review the Questions and Answers on the Net Investment Income Tax on IRS.gov.
6. Generally, you can exclude the gain from the sale of your main home only once every two

- years.
7. If you own more than one home, you may only exclude the gain on the sale of your main home. Your main home usually is the home that you live in most of the time.
8. If you claimed the first-time homebuyer credit when you bought the home, special rules apply to the sale. For more on those rules see Publication 523.
9. If you sell your main home at a loss, you can’t deduct it.
10. After you sell your home and move, be sure to give your new address to the IRS. You can send the IRS a completed Form 8822, Change of Address, to do this.



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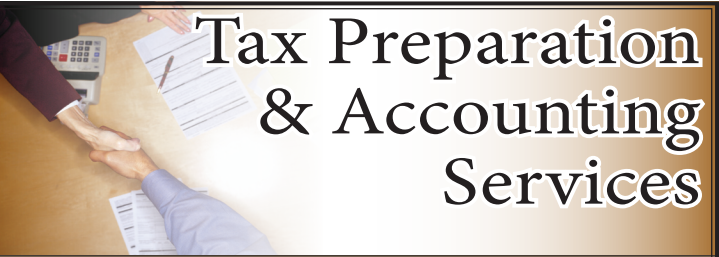
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OUTSIDE



THE LINES

LeMar Nelson

Thawing after a freeze

Well, we are halfway through the longest and dreariest month of the year, and we got a break from that freezing weather with some thawing temperatures at the end of last week. It is funny what a few degrees above normal can do for a person’s mood and outlook on life.

I won’t try to fool anyone into thinking that winter is over, but even a few days or a week of above normal temps will undoubtedly shorten the bad days still to come.

A good week in sports

The week in sports had more moments of great interest. I am now convinced that the Blossoms girls are either better than we thought, or some of the teams they are playing have rather inflated records. BP began the week with a stifling defense against rival NRHEG to forge an easy win. They closed the week with a victory over Tri-City United, this time with a second half shutdown of a Titan team that managed just 13 points.

What I found interesting about the week was that the Panthers’ Wagner twins scored 13 points between them against the Blossoms, but then turned around to score 41 points the next game against Kenyon-Wanamingo. With the Saturday game, it demonstrated great defense by the locals, and they get another tip of the hat this week, as they continue rolling along with just one loss. This week will be a test.

The Blossoms boys got a big win Saturday at Montgomery, when they pulled out a win in overtime over the Titans. BP had lost by a big margin to a very good NRHEG team earlier in the week, so the win over Tri-City gave the team a much-needed lift. The team has to travel this week to Waterville for a conference tilt against WEM. Good luck to the team as it tries to avenge an earlier loss to the Bucs

Thrills galore

A group of Blooming Prairie ladies received the thrill of a lifetime last week, compliments of a chance meeting with song star Mariah Carey. Becky Johnson, Kristin Romeo, Stacey Johnson and Tammy Johnson were on a vacation trip to Las Vegas, when an aide to Carey chatted the five up. When the group indicated what great fans they were of Carey’s singing, they were invited up to a suite in the hotel.

A short time later a maid entered the room, only to discover that it was Carey herself in a maid’s costume. At that point our BP ladies did a whole lot of screaming and jumping around while they greeted the famous singer. They were given tickets to “Ellen”, the show on which Carey made a guest appearance that day.

Although the visit was a brief one, and Carey went to greet some other fans, the experience proved to be one of local residents will not soon forget, if ever. All I can add is what a great occasion and you were certainly in the right place at the right time. You go, ladies!

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued on Page 3B

NRHEG BOYS BASKETBALL

Tollefson dominates: leads Panthers



Spencer Tollefson scored 34 points against the Blossoms Tuesday, Jan. 12.

Staff photo by James Knoop

Panthers win fourth straight: breeze past Blossoms at home

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

Five days after reaching 1,000 career points, Spencer Tollefson led the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva boys basketball team to an 83-63 victory over the Blooming Prairie boys.

“I thought the first 17 minutes we played our best basketball of the year,” said Panthers head coach, Pat Churchill. “Our offense was crisp and we were moving the ball and getting great looks.”

The Blossoms, down 20 late in the first half, did show signs of life throughout the game Tuesday, Jan. 13. In the final minutes before halftime, Blooming Prairie went on an 8-0 run, trailing by 12 at halftime. The Blossoms came within seven of the Panthers several times, before the Panthers took complete control of the game.

“We let them get a little momentum,” said Churchill. “Fortunately, we had a nice lead, where it wasn’t tied. We were still up and able to start getting some steps.”

Poor shooting by the Blossoms in the first half allowed

the Panthers to grab a large lead early on. Once Blooming Prairie made a run, high-percentage shooting by Tollefson and the Panthers kept the Blossoms at bay.

“Spencer hit some big threes,” said Churchill. “We were able to push that lead back up and get the victory.”

Blooming Prairie’s coach, John Bruns, stated that the final score was not a perfect reflection of the entire game.

“Although the final score was a 20-point win for NRHEG,” said Bruns, “most of the game was much more competitive. Tollefson had a monster of a game,” said Bruns. “It was he, most of the time, who put a stop to any run we started.”

The Blossoms were not able to keep up with the Panthers, who shot over 50 percent Tuesday night. NRHEG made 15 of 20 free throw attempts to 11 of 18 for the locals. The Panthers also had a 40-29 edge in rebounding.

The Blossoms committed 11 turnovers, three less than the Panthers. John Rumpza had a double-double with 21 points and 12 rebounds, and Mitchell Jones had his career game with

18 points, a block, an assist and three steals.

In addition to Tollefson’s 34 points, Trevor Tracy scored 14 and Oakley Bakers added 13. The Panthers shot 52 percent from the field, with 30 of 57 attempts, while the Blossoms made 42 percent on 24 of 56 tries.

The Gopher Conference victory lifted the Panthers to 10-2 overall, while the Blossoms fell to 7-7.

“It’s always nice to get a win,” said Churchill. “Our league is tough. We have a lot of good teams, so every night is going to be a battle.”

The Panthers next home game will be played against Bethlehem Academy

on Jan. 23 at 7:15 p.m. The Blossoms play twice on the road before returning home, Jan. 27, against Medford at 7:15 p.m.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Spencer Tollefson leaps for a layup against Blooming Prairie’s Andrew Nelson on Jan. 13.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE GIRLS BASKETBALL

Girls step up defense: declaw Panthers in Gopher Conference matchup

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

A shooting percentage from the floor doesn’t earn many victories, but in the Gopher Conference game with visiting New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, it didn’t make any difference.

A very solid defense and enough offense earned the Blooming Prairie girls basketball team a 42-21 victory and kept its undefeated conference record intact.

BP shot 25 percent on 14 of 54 attempts, but the Panthers shot even poorer, with 6 of 52 tries for 11 percent. The losers managed just 11 points in the first

half and 10 in the second half.

Madison Worke led the low-scoring contest with 13 points and Taylor Hagen had 10 points and 12 rebounds for a double-double. Marnie Wagner counted eight points for NRHEG.

“When you have a girl like Hagen it is pretty hard to get open shots,” remarked Coach John Worke. “She did a great job of plugging up the middle, as witnessed by her five blocks. Many of the Panther shots were altered by Hagen and the rest of the defense.”

The visitors tried to slow the game down, but the locals had just enough breakaways and just enough percentage shooting to stifle the Panther shot attempts.

NRHEG trailed just 10-8 at the 12-minute mark of the first half, but the Panthers would score just three more points before the break.

“When you have a girl like Hagen, it is pretty hard to get open shots.”

— John Worke, Blooming Prairie girls’ head coach

Hannah Ahrens, Hagen and Worke led a surge on free throws

and baskets, including a trey from Worke at the four-minute mark. The lead ballooned to 26-11 at the break.

Ahrens chipped in with four rebounds and two steals, Kaci Gwilt had four rebounds and two steals and Kalyn Naatz had five rebounds and three steals. Worke led the defense with six steals and an assist. They turned the ball over just 10 times in the victory.

Junior varsity

Both the junior varsity and ninth grade teams lost to the visitors and both teams played one pretty good half and one poor one.

NRHEG defeated BP’s JV

team, 46-35, although it outscored the winners in the second half. Samantha Wurst scored 14 points to lead the Blossoms offense, and Carly Meyer added 12.

Wurst had 10 points in the ninth grade loss, 40-23, and Jessica Gwilt and McKenna Hein both added six.

As Coach Cory Hendrickson commented, “We played one pretty good half, but to compete against a good team like the Panthers, we need to play complete games.”

The JV record fell to 10-3, while the ninth-grade is now 6-5 for the season.



BP Rolls
Blossoms girls roll past USC.

Page 2B



Close call
Panthers defeat USC 70-72.

Page 2B



Coaches vs. Cancer
Huskies host charity game.

Page 3B



First win
Medford girls secure first win, but lose next two.

Page 2B

MEDFORD GIRLS BASKETBALL

Bucs' tight defense proves too much for tired Tigers

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

In a Gopher Conference matchup, the high-energy play from the Waterville-Elysian-



Staff photo by James Knoop
Sarah Manderfeld knocks the ball out on defense against Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Bucs Friday, Jan. 16.

Morristown (WEM) Bucs proved too overwhelming for the hosting Tigers. The Bucs came charging out of the gate to a commanding 9-0 lead, while the Tigers

just couldn't get a shot to fall. However, some high-percentage free throw shooting propelled the Medford girls to a 14-13 lead halfway through the first half against Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Friday, Jan. 16.

"They played with a great amount of intensity in the first half," said Tigers head coach, Mark Kubat.

Bucs head coach, Gabe Hauer, added that the Tigers played well in the first half. "They were able to battle back in the game, which we were disappointed about."

The Tigers lead was short-lived, however, and the one-point lead would prove to be the only of the night. The Bucs went on a 13-5 run to end the first half, leaving the Tigers trailing 19-26. Nine of the Tigers first half points came from free throws.

The Bucs came out of halftime in a full-court press, and the Medford girls, who had already played twice that week, could not match the Bucs' fast pace.

While Kubat stated that fatigue wasn't an excuse, he did admit that "they were

just tired," and that the night's previous matchup against Lewiston-Altura was a very physical game. The Tigers also played a tight game on Tuesday against Bethlehem Academy.

The tiring Tigers suffered at the hands of the Bucs press, and the Bucs lead quickly went from six to 15 to 30.

"The steam came out of them," said Hauer. "That's what we wanted to make sure we could do."

With less steam, all facets of the Tigers game started to fall apart. Kubat stated that the girls dug too deep of a hole. "We just lost our legs totally in the second half," said Kubat. "We didn't rebound very well."

It didn't help the Tigers cause that the Bucs improved in the second half. "We talked about playing harder in the second half," said Hauer. "and I think we did that in the second half."

Despite the loss, the Tigers did grab their first win on the road against Bethlehem Academy last week, defeating the Cardinals 43-40. They were also on the cusp of a second victory

at Lewiston-Altura on Thursday night, but lost by six, in what Kubat called "a very physical game." Kubat was disappointed with the two losses, but still sees positives moving forward. "We've got a ways to go,"

said Kubat, "but we're getting better."

The Tigers sit sixth of the seven teams in the Gopher Conference at 1-12. They next play at home, Thursday, Jan. 22, at 7:15 p.m.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Kristina Niner lifts a shot over Bucs opponent Friday night.

Blooming Prairie Sports Roundups

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sport Writer

Junior varsity basketball

BP vs. NRHEG
BP's JV team fell behind by 21 points at the half, from a hot-shooting Panthers team that scored 35 points. The second half was a little more competitive, but the Panthers won the game 61-31. The Blossoms also committed 26 turnovers in the game. Max Romeo and Connor Getchell had 8 points each to lead the local scoring.

Junior high basketball

The eighth grade boys had two games last week, and the got a split in the two.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE vs. BETHLEHEM ACADEMY

The blossoms defeated Bethlehem Academy, 43-36, but lost to New Richland-Hartland-El-lendale-Geneva, 43-24.

The team record is now 5-4 for the season.

Coach Andrew Hardecopf's team had a 35-16 lead over B.A. after three quarters, but then had to hold off a spirited rally by the Cardinals to preserve the win. Several free throws and some clock control kept the locals on top.

BP vs. NRHEG
Against NRHEG the Panthers

pressured the Blossoms into 17 first half turnovers and took a commanding 23-7 lead at the half. BP did a much better job of handling the ball and cut the margin to 10 points a couple of times, but they just couldn't get close enough.

BP's seventh grade boys continued their unbeaten regular season with a 53-13 rout of NRHEG Tuesday, Jan. 13. The Blossoms got 17 points from Kaden Thomas and 15 from Gabe Hagen to lead Coach Erik Vigeland's squad. Karson Vigeland added nine points.

The locals got a fast start in the game and were never threatened. Four other players scored at least two points in the contest. BP is 9-0 in regular games and 11-1, including tournaments.

Wrestling

BP vs. MAPLE RIVER

The last week's wrestling schedule began with the Gopher Valley Conference meet at Maple River on Saturday, Jan. 10. BP's Jon Hansen is out with a con-

cussion, but five wrestlers did compete at the meet.

Zach Nirk took runner-up in his weight class, Ethan Arett finished fourth and Riley Olson placed sixth. Nirk won 3-0, but then lost by a fall in the next bout. He then came back in the wrestlebacks to win his next two bouts 5-0 and 2-1 for his third place.

At 106 Arett drew a bye and then won his first bout 9-0. He suffered a pin in his second bout, but then came back in the wrestlebacks to win his next bout 5-0 and ultimately lose the fight for

third in a wild 10-6 tussle. Riley Olson placed sixth in the meet. The other two Blossoms wrestlers, Seth Peterson and Colton Krell, both lost two straight bouts.

BP vs. TRITON and LCWM

The Blossoms faced Triton, Thursday, Jan. 15, on the road. Triton came out on top in a 53-24 victory. Blooming Prairie then participated in a meet hosted by Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial. The team scored 63 points, finishing eighth of nine teams.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Blooming Prairie's Payton Slmon holds tight against Triton's Trey Theobald.

TOLLEFSON

Continued from Page 1B

He also added that Churchill's style of coaching opens many options for players to score.

Tollefson's teammates offered a more simple explanation.

"He's a great player," stated Schwirjohan. "He makes his teammates look good. If we're down, we just give him the ball, and he'll make a play for us."

Tracy added "When you aren't shooting great, you just pass to him and let him do his thing."

Churchill said Tollefson is a self-driven basketball player. "He earned (1,000 points) through how hard he worked."

Tollefson's high scoring and leadership has led his team to a 12-2 record this season.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Spencer Tollefson drives toward the basket.

Minnesota Twins caravan to visit Owatonna

Members of the Minnesota Twins and Fox Sports North will be coming to Owatonna on Wednesday, Jan 21. The Twins Winter Caravan will pull into Walser Auto Group at 10:30 a.m. and stay for an hour.

The caravan in Owatonna will include current players, Brian Duensing, Brian Dozier and Phil Hughes. The event

will be hosted by Fox Sports North voices, Jack Morris and Dick Bremer. T.C. Bear has also been known to attend many of the events.

Admission is free.

More information can be found under the "community" tab at twinsbaseball.com.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



ETHAN ARETT

Freshman wrestler Ethan Arett has quietly been compiling an enviable record this season. Going into an invitational tournament Saturday, Arett was still undefeated in regular dual bouts with a 6-0 mark. In his last two outings last week, he won by forfeit and an 8-2 decision. Arett's biggest problem is that the sub-section roster has several outstanding wrestlers. Those playoff contests will prove to be a great challenge.



KACI GWILT

Sophomore Kaci Gwilt has earned a spot on the starting five for the Blossoms girls, and has aided Madison Worke in bringing the ball down the court on offense. She is noted for her tough defensive play and occasionally turns into a good scorer as well. Against Tri-City United last Saturday, Gwilt had 13 points, an assist and two steals to help the Blossoms keep their one-loss record intact.

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE BOYS BASKETBALL

Boys find needed win in overtime

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

The 2014-15 basketball season for the Blooming Prairie boys has been sprinkled with close games and buzzer beaters. The latest game took an overtime tip-in with less than two seconds left to lift the Awesome Blossoms over Tri-City United, 71-70. The non-conference win at Montgomery put the team back above .500 at 8-7. TCU tied the game in regulation with 15 seconds left to send the game into the extra period. The lead changed hands several times, but it was left to Scott Romeo to pull down an offensive rebound and put the

ball back for the victory. BP had led by five points at the intermission and was up most of the game, but the Titans kept fighting back. The home team led by four points with three minutes left, but this time the Blossoms fought back to gain the tie in regulation. BP led at the break, but the Titans kept coming back to lead by four points and then scored a basket with seconds left to force the overtime. The Blossoms outlasted the home team 10-9 in the overtime, including Romeo's put back rebound with 1.8 seconds left on the clock. "This was another nail-biter for the team and there have been several this season," remarked

Coach John Bruns. "This time we came out on top. Romeo did a great job of following the ball

"It was a nice win for the team, after some tough losses."

— John Bruns, Blooming Prairie boys basketball head coach

to the basket and made the biggest shot of the game. It was a nice win for the team, after some tough losses." BP had four players reach

double figures, led by John Rumpza's 23 points and 13 rebounds. Mitchell Jones counted 14 points and Romeo and Anthony Nelson both added 11. Jake Decker had six points, an assist and two steals as well. The team shot 43 percent from the field on 25 of 53 attempts, while the Titans made 38 percent on 29 of 75 tries. They shot 50 percent in the second half. BP had a slight edge in rebounding, 39-37, led by Rumpza's 23 and Romeo's seven. Romeo also had seven assists and a steal in the game. The team travels to Waterville on Friday for a conference rematch against the Buccaneers. WEM won the first game 75-63.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE GIRLS BASKETBALL

Girls use second half wake-up to beat WEM

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

After a first half that found the Blooming Prairie girls basketball team having all kinds of trouble with a Tri-City United zone defense, the second half was a different story. The Blossoms scored 36 points in that half to pull away from a 16-16 tie at the break. The non-conference game at Montgomery Saturday, Jan. 17, kept the locals with only one loss on the season at 14-1 and handed the Titans only their

third defeat. "We couldn't have played much poorer in the first half but some minor adjustments at the break made all the difference, and the girls really stepped it up after the break," remarked Coach John Worke. "I don't know the reason for it, but we are having trouble getting started in recent games, and that will have to change against some tough teams coming up. While the offense was getting untracked in the second half, the defense also gets a lot of credit, as BP held the home team to just 15 second half points."

Taylor Hagen had a double-double with 19 points and 12 rebounds. Madison Worke scored 14 points and Kaci Gwilt had her second best game of the season with 13. Courtney Hentges and Sydney Vargo had 8 and 6 points for TCU. BP shot 38 percent for the game on 21 of 55 attempts, while the Titans made just 20 percent on 11 of 55 tries. BP had a wide margin

in rebounding 41 to 28. In addition to Hagen's 12 boards, Nicole Inwards had seven rebounds and three assists; Hannah Ahrens had four assists and two steals; Worke had eight rebounds, seven assists and five steals; and Kalyn Naatz added nine rebounds, a steal and an assist. The Blossoms have two tough tests this week. The team entertains subsection rival Kaci Goodhue tonight (Tuesday) and then plays WEM on the home court Friday, Jan. 23, in a Gopher Conference game. Coach Cory Hendrickson's junior varsity team defeated TCU in the prelim, 60-42, behind Carly Meyer's career scoring night. Meyer poured in 28 points, and freshman Samantha Wurst added 11. Nine different girls scored at least two points in this one, as the locals led 33-20 at the half. "This was by far our best offensive game of the season," commented coach Hendrickson.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Carissa Easton brings the ball up the court for Blooming Prairie.

"We handled TCU's pressure handily and got in position for easy scoring chances. Meyer finished so well around the basket in a tremendous performance for her. I am a little disappointed with our defense, as we have to do better there, but it still was an outstanding effort." The team record improved to 11-3 for the season.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Madison Worke lifts a jump shot.

NRHEG SPORTS

Sports Roundups

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

Boys basketball

NRHEG vs. USC

On Friday, Jan. 16, the Panthers defeated the United South Central Rebels 72-70. Kevin Kalis led the scoring with 24 points, and Spencer Tollefson added 21. Oakley Baker and Macoy Schwierjohan also scored double digits, adding 13 and 10, respectively. The Panthers trailed by eight halfway through the half but came back in the final minutes to grab the two-point victory. Luke Trio of the Rebels finished with 31 points, followed by Grant Becher with 12. "I really felt this was a true team win," said Coach Pat Churchill of the Panthers.

NRHEG vs. COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

In another close battle the following night, Jan. 17, the Panthers won yet another close battle, defeating the Columbia Heights Hylanders, 51-40. Down 22-18 at halftime in their home gym, the Panthers' offense exploded in the second half, lifting the team to a 71-65 win. "We played a little bit timid and were not as aggressive on offense," Churchill said regarding the first half. Baker did not play with timidity in the second half, however, scoring 22 points and ending the night with 29. Tollefson added 17 in the second half, finishing with 23 total. NRHEG has now won six straight games, boosting its record to 12-2.

Girls basketball

NRHEG vs. KENYON-WANAMINGO

After losing 42-21 to Blooming Prairie Tuesday night, the Panthers traveled to Kenyon-Wanamingo. Down six at halftime, the girls could not claw their way back, losing 64-49. Marnie Wagner just missed a double-double, scoring 21 and pulling in nine rebounds. Maddie Wagner added 20 points, as the sisters scored all but eight of the Panthers points. Those eight points were split by Ryann Hagen and Gretchen Ramaker.

NRHEG vs. UNITED SOUTH CENTRAL

The girls found their first victory of the week at home, Jan. 16, in a 58-49 win over United South Central. Marnie Wagner secured a double-double with her 14 points and 12 rebounds. Maddie Wagner scored 17 points with nine rebounds. Kayley Camerer scored seven points with nine rebounds.

Wrestling

The NRHEG wrestling team traveled to Kerhoven Friday, Jan. 16, to compete in a dual meet with Morris Area-Hancock Area-Chokio/Alberta (MAHACA), Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sundburg (KMS) and West Central Area.

NRHEG vs. MAHACA

The Panthers defeated MAHACA in speedy fashion, winning 73-6. The Panthers secured eight pins, suffering only one in the match. Panthers head coach, Shawn Larson, admitted that state rules, regarding how many matches an individual can wrestle, had an impact on the night. "I know that MAHACA would have given us a much closer outcome if they were able to run their best lineups at us," said Larson.

NRHEG vs. KMS

The Panthers found themselves in much closer battle versus KMS. Each team got three in the 35-29 NRHEG victory. Todd Erickson of NRHEG pinned Colten Kinney KMS in the final bout.

NRHEG vs. West Central Area

In the final dual, the Panthers lost to West Central Area 45-25. The Panthers had three pins compared to West Central Area's five. The Panthers finished the night tied for first with both West Central Area and KMS for record on the day. The trophy was awarded to the Panthers on a second criterion, most team points scored. Larson admitted that the team continues to struggle with giving up too many bonus points, but that his team still wrestled strong in many areas. "I am proud of our team," said Larson. "We are really coming together and are going to just have to keep working at getting better."

DODGE COUNTY HOCKEY

Girls play three: finish with win, loss and tie

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Dodge County and Holy Family Catholic played to a 2-2 overtime tie Saturday, Jan 17, at Victoria to end the week with a win, a loss and a tie. The Fire used Megan Menzeber's second period goal to take a 1-0 lead into the third period, but Bella Wagner tied the game in the third period. Barrett Boyd put the Wildcats ahead 2-1, only to have the Fire tie the game on a goal by Mol-

ly Garin. Neither team could score in the overtime, although the home team had an edge in shots on goal in the extra period. Gabby Suhr had 18 saves for DC, and Lexi Hawkins had 14 for the Fire. Dodge County is 15-4-1 now. Rochester John Marshall/Lourdes avenged an earlier loss to Dodge County by shutting out the Wildcats at Kasson Thursday, Jan. 15. A first period goal by Rebecca Frelburger turned out to be the only score of the game in a tightly played contest.

Melissa Zenser stopped 24 Wildcats shots, and DC's Suhr turned away 21 of 22 attempts by the winners. In another contest for the Dodge County hockey girls, the team routed St. Peter 12-0 on Tuesday, Jan. 13. That win kept them ranked 8th in the state in 2AA. DC scored six goals in the first period and 3 in each of the last two periods. High-scoring Dana Rasmussen had two of the six goals, as did Bella Wagner and Katie Robinson. Rasmussen

counted two more goals in the second period, and Magdalyn Wick scored as well. In the third period, Rasmussen completed a six-goal game with two more, and Barret Boyd added the final goal. Suhr had to make only 6 saves in the entire contest. Rasmussen still leads the state with 42 goals, and she is fourth in total points. Fellow line mate Bella Wagner ranks sixth in assists and Suhr is No.1 in goals allowed.

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

The Owatonna Huskies host Rochester Mayo Thursday, Jan. 22, and while the contest is sure to offer some good competition, there's much more to it than that. Owatonna will be hosting a "Coaches vs. Cancer" night, sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

Coaches vs. Cancer

According to the American Cancer Society website, "The 'Coaches vs. Cancer' program empowers coaches, their teams and communities to join the fight against cancer by participating in awareness efforts, advocacy programs and fundraising activities." The website also states that coaches and schools who have participated in the program have helped raise "more than \$87,000 to help the American Cancer Society save lives by helping people stay and get well, by finding cures and by fighting back against cancer." There is added incentive to donate this year, as individuals who donate will be able to get their picture with two renowned trophies — the "Little Brown

Jug" and "Floyd of Rosedale." The "Little Brown Jug" is awarded to the winner of the Michigan Wolverines vs. Minnesota Golden Gophers football game each year, dating back to 1892. The "Floyd of Rosedale" trophy has been awarded to the victor of the Minnesota-Iowa Hawkeyes game since 1935. The event will begin at 6:15 p.m. and run until halftime of the varsity game.

Huskies vs. Spartans

While the event prior to the game will hopefully be a hit, the Huskies players are much in need of a win on the court. The Huskies sit 8th overall in the conference at 5-6, with a 7-7 record overall. Rochester Mayo is 6th in the conference at 7-4, with an overall record of 7-4. In their last meeting, the Spartans hosted the Huskies, winning 62-48. Fans can only hope the home-court advantage proves enough to turn the tides. Owatonna is currently 4-4 at home and the Spartans are 4-2 on the road. The game will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Owatonna High School.

OUTSIDE THE LINES
Continued from Page 1B

BP mourns death

I have mentioned the passing of several celebrities, but this week I am saddened to report the death of Bud Miller. Miller was a pillar in the community; very active in the two service organizations and the local Masonic Lodge. He served in several capacities at First Lutheran Church and was an important cog in the area telephone industry. A lifetime member of the local Chamber of Commerce, Bud will be sorely missed by his many friends and BP residents.

B & G Club gala

The annual gala is now just two weeks away, and the club members are busily working on skits for the occasion, directors are scurrying around finding donations for the silent and live auctions and the club staff is working on final arrangements for the big event. Just a reminder again that some great items are on tap for both the silent and live auctions, including processed pork, golf packages, a Master's golf package, hotel and motel stays and several other desirable items. A reminder also that there is

no admission this year, and food can be ordered off the regular Foxhole menu. Bidding numbers are \$5 each, and raffle tickets are now being sold by board directors and at the club. The silent auction begins when the doors open at 4:30 p.m. A short program by club members will be at 7 p.m., and the live auction will begin at 7 p.m. As one member said the other day, "Be there or be square!"

Fighting cancer

Congratulations are in order this week for two area groups which have contributed large

sums to the cancer telethon at KTTCTV. The BP cancer group and the Geneva area fund-raisers have worked throughout the year to promote donations for cancer research, and both have held giant auctions to raise the majority of funds they donated. I don't have figures for either group's efforts this year, but I do know that it is a very significant amount. Two big tips of the hat to those two area groups who lead the fight against cancer. It is a great community project and one that deserves much praise. Time and space dictate I close my computer and sign off for another week, but we'll talk again.

	Conf.	Overall
Albert Lea Area	6-0-0	22-1-0
Owatonna	6-0-0	9-4-0
Rochester John Marshall	4-2-0	7-5-0
Faribault High School	3-2-0	7-5-0
Austin H.S.	3-2-0	7-6-0
Northfield H.S.	2-3-0	3-5-0
Rochester Mayo	2-4-0	4-6-0
Mankato West	2-4-0	4-7-0
Winona/Winona Cotter	2-4-0	2-5-0
Rochester Century	1-5-0	1-10-0
Mankato East	0-5-0	4-8-0

Dec. 4.... at Rochester Mayo W 48-17
Dec. 5.... at Hastings L 18-53
Dec. 11.... Mankato West W 69-9
 Northfield W 59-13
Dec. 13.... at Chanhassen Tournament
 (3rd Place)
Dec. 20.... at MN Christmas
 Tournament (15th place)
Jan. 2.... at Fargo, ND- Tourney
Jan. 10.... at Mounds View
Jan. 15.... Rochester John Marshall
Jan. 16.... at Smiley High

Nov. 21.... St. Peter L 54-62
Nov. 25.... Kenyon-Wanamingo W 55-44
Dec. 1.... at Tri City United L 43-74
Dec. 2.... at Maple River L 54-82
Dec. 5.... at Glenville-Emmons W 68-41
Dec. 9.... Cleveland W 64-50
Dec. 12.... Blooming Prairie L 68-74 (OT)
Dec. 15.... at St. Clair L 74-79 (OT)
Dec. 19.... at NRHEG L 46-84
Dec. 22.... JWP L 52-68
Jan. 6.... at USC L 49-70
Jan. 13.... Faribault BA L 58-69
Jan. 16.... at Waterville-Elysian
Jan. 19.... Schaeffer Academy
Jan. 22.... at Mayer Lutheran
Jan. 23.... Maple River
Jan. 27.... at Blooming Prairie
Jan. 30.... NRHEG
Feb. 3.... United South Central
Feb. 5.... Triton
Feb. 9.... at Pine Island
Feb. 10.... at Faribault BA
Feb. 13.... Waterville-Elysian

Nov. 22... Redwood Valley W 87-71
Dec. 4... at Faribault BA W 66-48
Dec. 9... at Blooming Prairie W 80-53
Dec. 11... at Tri City United W 63-55
Dec. 12... Maple River L 66-70
Dec. 19... Medford W 84-46
Dec. 26... Bethany Lutheran Tourney

Nov. 11... Triton W 74-28
Dec. 4... at WEM W 58-41
Dec. 6... at Hopkins L 36-53
Dec. 9... at NRHEG W 52-28
Dec. 12... Medford W 61-32
Dec. 13... Alden-Conger W 71-33
Dec. 16... at Southland W 50-29
Dec. 19... USC W 54-37
Dec. 23... at Kenyon-Wanamingo
W 58-52 (OT)
Dec. 30... at Byron W 59-40
Jan. 3... Mankato Loyola W 56-36
Jan. 6... at Faribault BA W 73-43
Jan. 9... Maple River W 61-27
Jan. 13... NRHEG W 42-21
Jan. 17... at Tri-City United W 52-31
Jan. 30... at USC
Feb. 3... Faribault BA
Feb. 6... at Maple River
Feb. 10... Hayfield
Feb. 13... at Grand Meadow
Feb. 17... Lyle-Pacelli
Feb. 24... TBA

Dec. 2... TCU L 45-60

Dec. 2.... Waseca L 59-62
Dec. 4.... Maple River W 73-45
Dec. 5.... Tri City United L 59-75
Dec. 9.... Blooming Prairie L 28-52
Dec. 19.... at Medford W 61-45
Dec. 29-31.... Tournament at St. Olaf
... vs. Mayer Lutheran W 70-60
... vs. Prior Lake L 64-91
... vs. Tartan W 60-36
Jan. 3.... at Hayfield L 48-56
Jan. 9.... at Waterville-Elysian W 60-51
Jan. 13.... at Blooming Prairie L 21-42
Jan. 15.... at Kenyon-Wanamingo
L 49-64
Jan. 16.... USC W 58-49
Jan. 20.... Blue Earth
Jan. 23.... at Faribault BA
Jan. 27.... Maple River
Jan. 30.... Medford
Feb. 2... Janesville-W-P
Feb. 6... Waterville-Elysian
Feb. 10.... at Fairmont
Feb. 13.... at United South Central

Nov. 28... Duluth East L 47-58
Nov. 29... Cambridge-Isanti L 39-53
Dec. 2... Rochester Mayo W 60-44
Dec. 4... at Mankato West W 83-71
Dec. 6... Chanhausen L 44-73
Dec. 9... at Rochester John Marshall
L 29-52
Dec. 12... Winona W 61-49
Dec. 16... at Faribault High W 67-48
Dec. 19... at Northfield L 48-59
Jan. 6... Albert Lea W 59-41
Jan. 9... Red Wing L 50-56
Jan. 13... at Austin High L 48-51
Jan. 16... at Rochester Century
W 61-59
Jan. 20... Mankato East
Jan. 24... at Rochester Mayo
Jan. 27... Mankato West
Jan. 31... Rochester John Marshall

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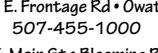
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The logo for Morgan's Meat Market features the business name in a large, bold, black serif font. To the left of the text is a black and white photograph of three pieces of meat, possibly pork chops, arranged in a row. To the right of the name is a bulleted list of services: 'Full Service Retail Meat & Deli Meat Counter', 'Wild Game Processing', and 'Custom Processing & Butchering Services'. Below this list, the text '(Beef, Pork, Lamb, Goat)' is written in a smaller font. At the bottom of the advertisement, the address '202 Ash Ave N, New Richland' and the phone number '507-465-3888' are displayed in a bold, black sans-serif font.

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Menus

Seniors Menu
Jan 13: Scalloped Chicken, Baked Potatoes, Green Beans, Pear/Cranberry Sauce, Peanut Butter Brownie
Jan 14: Imitation Crab Salad, Alt: Chef Salad, Batter Bun, Grapes, Double Pistachio Cake
Jan 15: Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes, Seasoned Peas, Cinn Applesauce, Ice Cream
Jan 16: Onion Smothered Steak, ALT: Liver/Onions, Mashed Potatoes, Broc/Caul Blend, Oranges
Jan 19: CLOSED, MLK Day
Jan 20: Sweet 'n Sour Pork, ALT: Beef Steak/Gravy, Rice, Beets, Tossed Salad, Mandarin Orange Dess
Jan 21: Chicken Dumpling Soup, Crackers, Beef Salad Sandwich, Marinated Veggie Salad, Dutch Cookie
BP Elementary School Breakfast Menu
Jan 13: Sausage Breakfast Pizza, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk
Jan 14: WG Pop-Tart, Cheese Stick, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk
Jan 15: UBR Breakfast Round, Vegetable Selection, Fruit Juice, Milk
Jan 16: Iced Cinnamon Roll, Vegetable Selection, Fruit Selection, Milk
Jan 19: NO SCHOOL
Jan 20: Bacon Breakfast Pizza, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk
Jan 21: WG Strawberry Cereal Bar, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk
BP Elementary School

Lunch Menu
Jan 13: Pizza Parlor, Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza, Parmesan Crusted Fish, WG Pasta, Green Beans, Broccoli, Corn, Choice of Fruit
Jan 14: Beefy Nachos w/Home-made Cheese Sauce, BBQ Pulled Pork on a Whole Grain Roll, Brussels Sprouts, Baby Carrots, Celery Sticks, Choices of Fruit
Jan 15: Parmesan Chicken Bites, Pasta, Breadstick, Hot Ham & Cheese on WG Bun, Pasta, Chopped Kale, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Choice of Fruit
Jan 16: Crispy Chicken Patty on WG Bun, BBQ Chicken on WG Bun, Glazed Carrots, Green Peas, Broccoli, Choice of Fruit
Jan 19: NO SCHOOL
Jan 20: Chicken Alfredo over Pasta, Breadstick, Crispy Chicken Sub, Carrot Coins, Tomato Wedges, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit
Jan 21: Crispy Popcorn Chicken Bowl, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit
BP Middle School Lunch Menu
Jan 13: Parmesan Fish Filet, WG Pasta, Green Beans, Broccoli Florets, Baby Carrots, Corn, Choice of Fruit
Jan 14: Pulled Pork on WG Bun w/ Roasted Brussel Sprouts, Garbanzo Beans, Carrot Salad, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit
Jan 15: Chicken Parmesan Over Pasta, Garlic Bread Stick, Chopped Kale, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Choice of Fruit
Jan 16: Chicken Alfredo Over Pasta, Garlic Bread Stick, Green Peas, Broccoli Florets, Celery

Sticks, Choice of Fruit
Jan 19: NO SCHOOL
Jan 20: General Tso's Chicken, Brown Rice, Baby Spinach, Garbanzo Beans, Radishes, Choice of Fruit
Jan 21: Hearty Chili, Carrot Coins, Cinnamon Roll, Green Peas, Tomato Wedges, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit
BP High School Lunch Menu
Jan 13: Parmesan Fish Filet, WG Pasta, Green Beans, Broccoli Florets, Baby Carrots, Corn, Choice of Fruit
Jan 14: Pulled Pork on WG Bun w/ Roasted Brussel Sprouts, Garbanzo Beans, Carrot Salad, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit
Jan 15: Chicken Parmesan Over Pasta, Garlic Bread Stick, Chopped Kale, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Choice of Fruit
Jan 16: Chicken Alfredo Over Pasta, Garlic Bread Stick, Green Peas, Broccoli Florets, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit
Jan 19: NO SCHOOL
Jan 20: General Tso's Chicken, Brown Rice, Baby Spinach, Garbanzo Beans, Radishes, Choice of Fruit
Jan 21: Hearty Chili, Carrot Coins, Cinnamon Roll, Green Peas, Tomato Wedges, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Answers on Page 4D

CLUES ACROSS

1. Cut into cubes

5. Food flavorings

11. Longest tenured "Tonight Show" host

14. One being educated

15. British conservatives

18. End without completion

19. Boater

21. Indicated horsepower (abbr.)

23. Protects the chest

24. Expresses pleasure

28. Stiff hair, bristle

29. Blood type

31. Taxis

33. Ribbed material

34. Young female socialite

36. Game cube
37. Priest's liturgical vestment

40. 2.1 km tributary of the river Seille

42. The golden state

43. Powder mineral

45. Coat with plaster

47. Far East housemaid

48. Digital audiotape

51. Merchandising

54. Libreville is the capital

58. Incapable of flexibility

60. Language of Andorra

62. Repeat in concise form

64. Dark areas

65. Enough (archaic)

CLUES DOWN

1. Disk jockeys

2. 9th Greek letter

3. Fish of the carp family

4. Medical prefix for within

5. Short for synthesizer

6. What part of (abbr.)

7. Farm state

8. Thermionic vacuum tube

9. Employee stock ownership plan

10. A crane

12. Filippo __, Saint

13. One below tens

16. Impatently desirous

17. Inflict a heavy blow
20. As fast as can be done (abbr.)

22. Ma's partner

25. Carrier's invention

26. Possessed

27. Invests in little enterprises

29. Summate

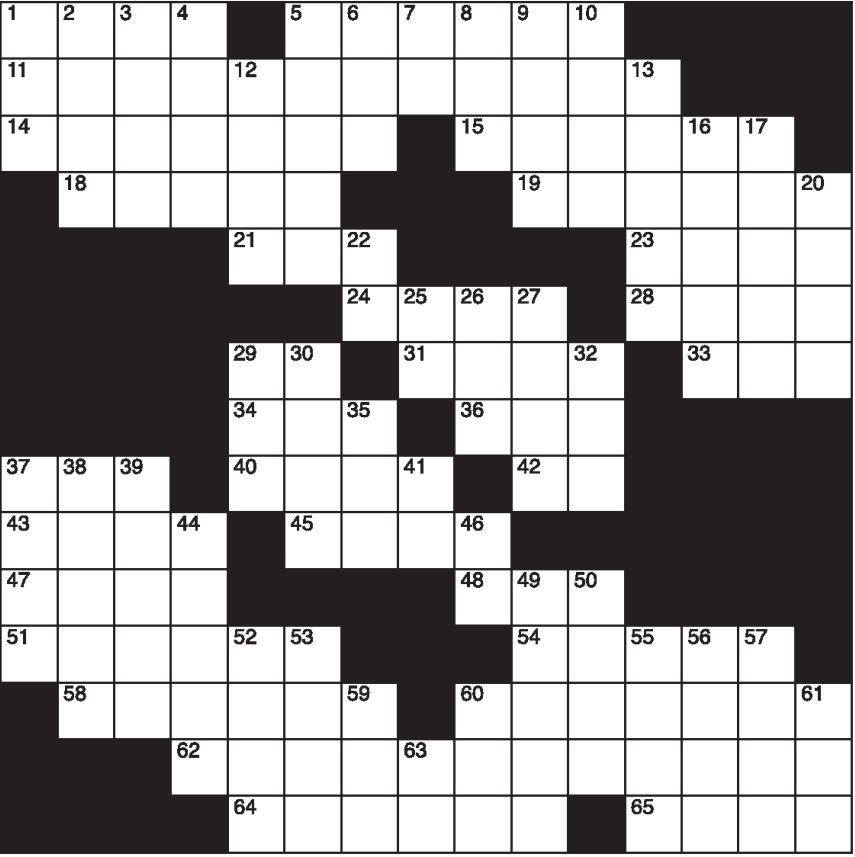
30. Rosary part

32. A large body of water

35. Woman's undergarment

37. Essential oil obtained from flowers

38. Cripples



39. An explosion

41. Of, French

44. Fish of the genus Salvelinus

46. Bahrain dinar

49. Banded calcedony

50. Giant armadillo

52. In place of

53. Electronic counter-counter-

- measures

55. Large package of cotton

56. 3564 m French Alp

57. European defense organization

59. Check

60. Former OSS

61. Not old

63. Goodwill promotion

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Jay Braaten,
Financial Advisor

News



Nina Huntington, right, participates in an interview of Laura Elvebak, who Steele County Board members hired to be the new county administrator.

Challenges abound for Huntington

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

The newly-appointed chairperson of the Steele County Board of Commissioners is in a unique position.

Nina Huntington, who represents District 5, will lead a board that has two newly-elected county commissioners and a county that will have a new county administrator soon and has a new treasurer.

“My first 90 days is going to be setting the ground work, educating and mentoring for those new individuals,” she said.

Huntington added that this is a great opportunity to step back, look at ways things have been done and see if the county is doing it the best, most effective and most efficient way.

“I am a visionary leader. I am an ideas person who loves to spark a fire under somebody if passionate about something and let them run with it to see what can happen,” she said.

It is also important for Huntington to create relationships. “With new individuals it is imperative to build trust and see the best in people,” she said.

Steele County Commissioner James Brady, who was sworn in on Jan. 6 to represent District 1, said he hopes the two can work together and sort things out. “I know we won’t agree on every-

thing. I guess that is part of the give and take when you negotiate,” Brady said.

Brady said he is educating himself on what needs to be done as a county commissioner.

Huntington has been on the Steele County Board of Commissioners for 2 ½ years. “It is pretty amazing how cohesive and consensus building of a board we have,” she said. “I think that is what has allowed us to get as much done as we have. I think when you don’t have a good working relationship with other commissioners, it is harder to take those steps forward and to be innovative as we have been able to be.”

It was soon after County Administrator Tom Shea was hired that Huntington joined the Steele County Board of Commissioners. Now she is leading a board that has made a decision for his replacement. The Steele County Board of Commissioners recently selected current Waseca County Administrator Laura Elvebak as Shea’s replacement.

In 2015, Huntington feels that the number one priority is a new public works facility. Another challenge is the continued establishment of the Minnesota Prairie County Alliance. A third priority is the accountability of Steele County commissioners, staff and employees.

Regarding the public works

building, Huntington said the three veteran board members have challenged the two new commissioners to understand the options and where Steele County is at so the group doesn’t have to start over.

“Hopefully, by the end of this month we will make a decision on what option we want to move forward with,” she said. “We’re giving the two new commissioners the time to get up to speed and make their decision.”

Dealing with MNPrairie, Huntington understands that change is hard. “This is a big change. Some of these people have had their respective county as their employer for 30 years,” she said. “All of a sudden they are going to have a new employer. We have to be respectful to people’s ability to change and (understand) everybody adapts at a different rate and to be conscientious of that.”

It is also about listening to the staff and hearing what improvements they believe can be made to make the organization more efficient and effective, she added.

Accountability is also important to Huntington. She started that task in 2014 by empowering department heads to attend committee meetings to keep county commissioners informed.

“This helps us be better stewards to our constituents and let

them know what is going on in the county,” Huntington said.

As the county commission dives into issues in 2015, the learning curve for the new commissioners is going to be steep. “It is promising that they are eager and willing to learn and to keep their eyes and minds open,” Huntington said. “I hope they challenge the veteran commissioners to think about are we stuck in our way of doing things? Getting two new people on your commission forces you to take a step back and re-explain why you are doing what you are doing. I think that sometimes when you do take a step back that enables you look at things in a different light.”

Maybe one of the major challenges is that the Steele County Board of Commissioners has lost a great amount of historical knowledge with the loss of commissioners Doug Johnson and Bruce Kubicek and more historical knowledge with the impending retirement of Shea.

“We have some big projects that do have some history that is worth knowing,” Huntington said.

But like many other challenges in her life, Huntington is up to this challenge. “It is about thinking hard and digging deep,” she said.

Pianist to perform Debussy works

Sandra Joy Friesen, pianist, will perform Claude Debussy’s book I and Book II Douze Etudes in concert at the Owatonna Arts Center on Feb. 8 at 2 p.m. in the Performing Arts Hall. The concert is open to the public. Sandra Joy Friesen has been a music educator since 1992, she has studied extended piano techniques, musical styles and aesthetics from the past century and has dedicated a large part of her career to lecture-recitals, presentations and workshops on learning and teaching new music. She pursued a doctoral degree at the University of Alberta and completed it in 2012 as scholar of the Kule Institute for Advanced

Studies.

Friesen stated, “For a long time now, I have been fascinated with Claude Debussy’s extraordinary ability to express the visual, poetic and sensual through the piano. After a live time of composing imagery in sound, Debussy’s final project in 1915 of 12 piano etudes was monumental: a work he hoped would elevate and solidify his status as a composer next to the greatness of Fredrick Chopin and Franz List, and his piano music to the transcendent. Debussy composed the etudes during the final remission of his cancer while feeling his greatest musical rejuvenation.”



Submitted photo

Newspapers among us

Rick Bussler, Bussler Publishing Inc. publisher, is shown with Harlan Holzerland of the Golden Kiwanis Club. Bussler spoke on Jan. 6 at the Owatonna SeniorPlace. He discussed the growth of the Steele County Times and the newspaper industry in general.

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RECIPE CORNER

Sautéed Chicken Breasts

- 1/3 c. flour
- 1 1/2 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 4 T. Butter
- 2 T. Oil

- Juice of 1 lemon
- Salt
- Pepper
- 1 T. minced parsley

By Sarah Lenz

Spread flour on waxed paper and dredge each chicken breast. Melt butter and oil in a skillet. When it foams, add chicken and cook until done. Remove to a serving platter. Stir lemon juice into fat in skillet. Add salt & pepper to taste. Spoon sauce over chicken. Sprinkle with parsley. Test by inserting a knife in center. Cut into 12 squares.

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Thanks Dr. Cunningham! Enjoy retirement.

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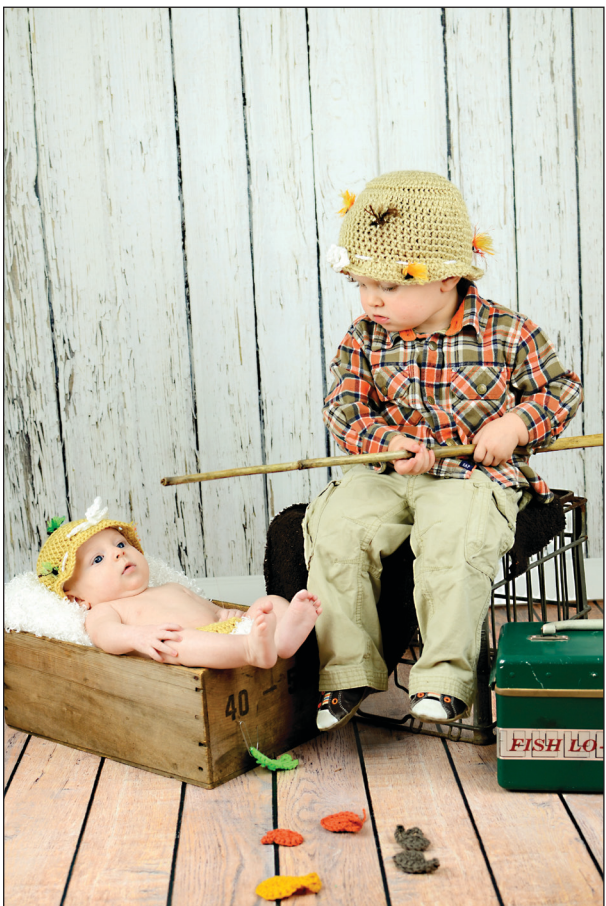
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Submitted photos

Yarn that tells a tale

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Even though she works full time as an office manager and is a mother of two, Angie Forcelle still finds time to make custom creations for her customers. Forcelle, of Owatonna, has been crocheting for nine years and, although it started out as a hobby, it is now a part-time job.

"My mom taught me when I was little and I just couldn't get it," she said. "When I was pregnant with my second child I needed something to keep my time with so I bought a book and taught myself to crochet. It was kind of learning by my mistakes and a lot of trial and error."

She started out with a more simple creation, the dish-cloth, and worked her way up to more complex projects such as custom hats. As her creativity grew a friend of hers suggested that she start a page on Facebook so family and friends could put in special requests.

Three years ago Forcelle started "Sweet Life Creations." Today Forcelle makes all sorts of things including dish clothes, a variety of hats for all ages, booties, scarves, boot cuffs, head bands and she specializes in custom photography props for newborns.

"I've made Batman and Robin, butterflies, little angels, all kinds of little critters," she said.

Forcelle's favorite creation so far was an Oscar the Grouch hat she made for a newborn photography shoot.

"I had a customer use the hat in a baby picture and the baby was in this trash can with trash all around it," she laughed.

Forcelle does a lot of custom orders depending on the customer's needs. She has made Olaf the snowman and Elsa hats from "Frozen," a Chewbacca hat from "Star Wars," various birds and even a basketball hat.

Her favorite thing to make is anything for babies. "They are just so little and precious," she said.

Although Forcelle does not have her own website, customers can either message her or leave comments on her Facebook page and either pick up their order from her or she can ship it. So far, she has not shipped out of the state but says that could be a possibility in the future.

In the end Forcelle does it not only because she enjoys making customers happy, but also because it is relaxing for her.

"I like the relaxation. It is my time after a long week at work I can just sit down and kind of go in my own little world. It is really relaxing and comforting to me," she said. "I enjoy seeing my customers' faces when they get their props or product. I get a lot of pleasure out of seeing happy customers."

Forcelle also says it keeps her busy. Unlike most people, she can't just sit and watch television; her

hands have to stay busy. On average she spends about two hours a night during the week and six hours or more on the weekend crocheting.

The most challenging part of it is when she has to make something and experiment with a style she has never tried before. Christmas time is also a huge challenge as she gets a surplus of orders. This past Christmas Forcelle received over 50 orders.

"I was able to fulfill most of them, but there were some that I was unable to finish," she said.

Depending on the complexity of the order it could take anywhere from a couple days to around a month, but Forcelle always tries to inform her customer of what the price will be and approximately how long it will take her to complete it. On average her products range from \$10 to \$30.

Forcelle recently started up a crocheting club with a couple of her friends and they try to meet once a week. During that time Forcelle mentors her friends and tries to teach them her talent.

Customer Heather Musel has known Forcelle since seventh grade and has gradually watched her talent of crocheting grow.

Around four years ago, Musel contacted her to see if she was selling the things she was making and was delighted to find out that she was starting her own business.

Musel has ordered a number of items from Forcelle, including custom-made Vikings hats for her and her husband, hats for special occasions like birthdays and Christmas and a Winnie the Pooh hat and princess hats for her nieces.

"Everyone was in love with them and we all still wear them now," she said.

Recently Musel has put in many orders for herself, daughters and her sister for the new trend boot cuffs that women wear right above their boots in the winter.

Forcelle is also currently working on a custom "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle" hat for Musel.

"Angie has an amazing art for her yarn and I would never go anywhere else for the things that I would want," she said. "You can tell her what you are looking for and her imagination runs wild, that is what makes her works stand out from the rest."

Nikki Evje has been a customer of Forcelle for about three years, after she met her at a vendor fair.

"Angie is super creative; if there is something you want she is willing to figure out how to make it for you," Evje said. "You really can't beat her prices for the quality of work she produces, and most importantly, she has wonderful customer service; she goes above and beyond to make sure they are happy."

Evje has ordered a variety of things from her including photography props for her son, ear band warmers for herself and as gifts, boot cuffs and a lot of winter hats.

"I've never been disappointed with Angie's creations, and if something wasn't exactly as I had pictured or wanted, she fixed it or sent me a new one free of charge," she said.



Angie Forcelle crochets in her home in Owatonna.



Steele CountyLiving

Toward Zero Deaths

Now in its 11th year, program claims success

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

For 11 years, the Toward Zero Deaths program has aimed to reduce the number of traffic crashes, injuries and deaths that happen on Minnesota Roads through the four E's: education, enforcement, engineering and emergency and medical trauma services.

Since the program's inception, it has helped reduce the number of people who die on Minnesota roads by 40 percent.

TZD is based on the belief that even one traffic-related death is unacceptable. The "zero deaths" concept was first adopted in Sweden in 1997 as "Vision Zero," and since then, numerous states have identified zero deaths as a core objective in the Strategic Highway Safety Plans, including Minnesota.

Minnesota's Departments of Public Safety, Transportation and Health launched the state-wide program in 2003 and it is funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

TZD is designed to use data to find areas of improvement and proven countermeasures through an interdisciplinary approach.

Scott McConkey was a state trooper for 26 years and currently holds the position of Southern Minnesota Law Enforcement Liaison on behalf of the Office of Traffic Safety. McConkey thinks the reason TZD has been so successful is that everyone works together, regardless of their line of work.

"Because we are such a mobile society, the downside is we kill a lot of people who are traveling, and we have almost become immune to it because it is so common," McConkey said. "Our goal is to reduce those injuries and deaths through the combination of enforcement, education and media. We want to connect all the

"Because we are such a mobile society, the downside is we kill a lot of people who are traveling, and we have almost become immune to it because it is so common."

— Scott McConkey, southern Minnesota law enforcement liaison



dots so it isn't just the cops going out, but it is a combination of a variety of community efforts to make our communities safer for travel."

McConkey has done many high school visits. Every time he visits, he asks students to raise their hands if they know someone who was shot, someone who was involved in a gang-related shooting, a drive-by shooting or a school shooting; very few hands go up. When he asks how many know someone who has died in a car crash, about one third to one half of the students raise their hands.

"By having this multifaceted approach, we have found that is the most effective way to reduce crashes and we see that it is working. The number of crashes has come down dramatically," he said.

According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, the program has been a huge success.

Since the program's inception, McConkey has seen the various entities unite forces.

"We have all come together, but we realize that we have all been working at it but from our own discipline and our own little box. Now we are working together," he said.

McConkey gave this example: As an officer, if there is a problem at an intersection, the solu-

tion might be to saturate the area with patrols to monitor the intersection. As an engineer, the solution might be to completely redo the intersection.

"Both are good solutions, but there is a good place to meet in the middle, as well. What we are finding more is how what you are doing can impact what I am doing," he said.

Another difference he has noticed is rather than focusing on changing bad driving habits one stop at a time, the focus has been to change the habits of a whole community.

"We used to be very effective as cops in changing (drunken) driving behavior but only one driver, one stop at a time. What we are trying to do now is come up with methods and tactics that change the whole behavior of a culture or community in their driving habits," he said.

McConkey said one of the main challenges of the program is simply changing habits.

"It is difficult to change behavior. Some of our most dangerous roads in Minnesota are on good weather days on wide open roads, but when people feel there is no imminent danger, they become more complacent," he said.

Another challenge is not having enough officers on staff to focus on traffic safety.

"The upside is when officers go out, they can

focus specifically on traffic safety. The challenge is always having enough people on the roster who can actually go out and do that," he said. "We do bring on extra officers for extra shifts, so the challenge sometimes is having people who can work them, but we seem to do OK."

The final challenge is that you don't always see the impact of the program right away.

"As a cop, you don't always see the life you save, you saw the one where the tragedies happen, but when you look at the big picture at the end of the year or decade, we are having a significant impact in those death rates and severe injuries," he said.

Mark Dyshaw, TZD coordinator for Dodge County, says the program is important because it "reduces injuries, crashes and fatalities and it keeps citizens in the area safe. It also provides education."

When he was 4 years old, Dyshaw was in a car crash that killed his mother. He says the challenge of the TZD program is when he sees crashes that could've been prevented.

"When you see a crash where somebody gets injured, it is frustrating knowing that it could've been prevented just by the click of a seatbelt or the call for a ride home or waiting to text until you get home," he said.

Dyshaw says the program has definitely been a success in Dodge County. Not only have officers noticed a spike in seatbelt compliance rate, they have also made fewer DWI arrests and had fewer fatalities.

"The program is working," he said. "It is a combination of the four E's. If you have tough enforcement of traffic laws and zero tolerance of those occurrences and education about those offenses at the same time, as well as engineers working to make roads safer, they all work together."



TZD track record

	2003	2013	% Change
Fatal crashes	583	357	-38.8%
Drunken driver fatalities	196	81	-58.4%
Distracted driver fatalities	113	68	-39.8%

Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety

Fair board increases survey costs

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

The money to do a survey for the Steele County Free Fair racetrack options has increased from \$3,000 to \$5,500.

The Steele County Free Fair Board made that decision at its monthly meeting on Thursday at Mother's Rest. The meeting had been delayed one week because of last week's blizzard.

The fair board has discussed shortening both the north end and south end of the Steele County Free Fair racetrack.

Doug Meier, a Steele County Free Fair Board member on the racetrack committee, has said there is potential to make money with parking, more vendors and more camping space.

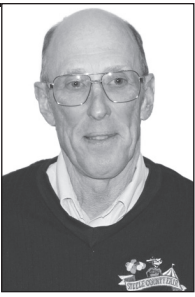
Shortening the racetrack has been part of the fair board's plan, but it was put on hold after the barn collapsed.

On Friday morning, Board President Dan Deml said nothing has been decided.

Originally, the board agreed to spend \$3,000 to have just a survey completed.

"We discussed and found out it wouldn't give us the information we needed."

— Dan Deml, Steele County Fair Board president



"We discussed and found out it wouldn't give us the information we needed," Deml said.

The motion was amended during Thursday's meeting to increase the amount to \$5,500 to conduct a survey and site plan. Earlier, the fair board approved funding the survey and site plan. The low bid was to be accepted this week.

Deml said the project would not move forward until the fair board knows the cost and the survey and site plan is put together.

An issue with water has surfaced. "We are working toward the best way to deal with that," he said.

With the weather warming, Deml said there is a possibility that the survey and site plan could be completed by March. "We don't have a firm timetable when it will be back," he said. "It is certainly possible to do something this fair year dependent on the project and the cost. We will see what we can afford to do and what the final product looks like."

The next Steele County Free Fair Board meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Feb. 5, in the Mother's Rest building.

SMIF provides \$100,000 for area incentive grants

As part of its effort to invest in economic growth within the region, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation is offering \$100,000 in incentive grants to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations or units/agencies of local, state or federal government. Grants up to \$20,000 are available to support collaborative projects or programs in early childhood and economic development areas. Applications for this grant round are due Feb. 15, with awards announced in April.

"We want to focus on very specific early childhood and economic development issues that we believe are critical to the long-term economic vitality of our region," said Tim Penny, president/CEO. "These incentive grants are designed to support projects that involve collaboration and achieve sustainable, measurable results."

SMIF is looking for grant applications that encourage new

asset-based approaches on issues within our focus areas.

SMIF's focus areas

- Early childhood development
- Strengthen children's social and emotional health and school readiness.

- Economic development
- Strengthen and grow the local business community.

SMIF awarded 14 incentive grants in 2014, totaling \$220,491. Examples include a \$20,000 grant to Owatonna Community Education to align 4-year-old school readiness standards between early learning and kindergarten systems. Another \$20,000 grant supported Envision Lab in Mankato, which established a creative, innovative co-working space for social entrepreneurs, community innovators, telecommuters and freelancers.

An online application can be found at www.smifoundation.org.

org. For more information, email Jennifer Heien, grants coordinator, at jenniferh@smifoundation.org, or call 507-455-3215.

Correction

• In last week's cookbook published by the Steele County Times, we inadvertently misidentified the first place winner of the soups and sandwiches. The winning recipe for that category was Spam broiler sandwiches by Donna Fitzgerald of West Concord. We apologize for this error and want to congratulate Fitzgerald for her winning recipe.

Blooming Prairie Living

Community pillar dies

‘Phone pioneer’ leaves behind legacy

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Writer

The entire Blooming Prairie community was saddened last week when one of the respected pillars of the community, Willis “Bud” Miller, died at the age of 89.

Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Becky Noble said Miller was a good man. “He was very active in Legion and VFW activities,” she said. “He was a lifetime member of the Chamber of Commerce. He and his wife were excellent dancers.”

One of the last events Miller attended was the unveiling Frontier Communications’ new retail center in Blooming Prairie earlier this year.

For Frontier’s General Manager Darrell Hansen, Miller was a man he highly regarded and a man who gave Hansen his start in the telephone business.

“I was very honored and very proud to have him there,” Hansen said at the time. “He’s been a real mentor to me and someone I looked up to my whole life.”

Miller and his family lived in Blooming Prairie from 1951, when he married his wife, Ruby, and he was involved in many public service projects and activities during his residency in Blooming Prairie.

Bud served in the U.S. Navy for



Staff file photo
Bud Miller, left, is welcomed to the Frontier store's grand opening by Darrell Hansen.

two years from 1943 to 1946, and spent time as a radio technician on the destroyer USS Craven. He saw service in three different war zones until he left the service.

Bud worked in the telephone industry for more than 50 years, retiring from GTE in 1992. In retirement, he continued to work in the field as a representative for Frontier Communications. His lifetime accomplishments are almost too long to list.

He belonged to the Prairie Masonic Lodge 123 and played in the Osman Temple Shrine Band for several years. As a long-time member of First Lutheran Church, Bud taught Sunday School and

served as a trustee and past president. A Lions Club and city council member, Bud also belonged to the Independent Telephone Pioneer Association.

Bud and Ruby raised two sons, Brian and Reed, and family vacations up north always proved one of Bud’s favorite pastimes. He also enjoyed golfing, dancing and watching the Twins and the Vikings. Another of his special favorites was growing and enjoying his many roses.

Bud was laid to rest with full military honors on Saturday, Jan. 17, leaving behind a host of relatives and friends.

A vision of heroism

Sporting their new anti-bullying T-shirts, which say, “Be Someone’s Hero,” are back row: Colton Krell, Isaac Ille, Alex Baldwin, Dylan Nirk, Matthew Pryor, Gabe Hagen, Julia Worke; middle row: Adam Larson, Kris Espinoza, Andrew Martinez, Morgan Anderson, Baylee Sorensen, Chase Peterson, Anna Thostenson; and front row: Hazel Michaud, Marti Snider, Gemini Johnson, Emily Krampitz, Raynee Fawver and Hope Johnson.



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer



Submitted photo

In back are: Orlando Chavez, Tim Wolf, Caleb Kubista, Riley Millam, Jacob McHenry, Kaden Thomas, Zach Archer, Jessica Gwilt, Seth Peterson and Mikayla Gwilt. Third row: Christopher Shepard, Katerina Yanes, Josie Lorenz, Allison Krohnberg, Morgan Anderson and Victoria Conklin. Second row: William Cardenas, Matthew Pryor, Gemini Johnson, Lila Carlson, Kaiden Finley, Christopher Naatz, Reese Millam, Lillian Abbe and Gustaof Ogren. Front: Cole Graves, Bradley Simon, Bobbie Bruns, Asha Lighthizer, Mavric Voss and Kiya Thompson.

Millam tops spellers

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Writer

Sixth-grader Reese Millam outlasted 23 other spelling students to win the 24th annual Blooming Prairie District Spelling Bee on Wednesday, Jan. 14, at Blooming Prairie Elementary School.

Fifth-grader Bradley Simon placed second, and both he and Millam now advance to the Southeast Minnesota Spelling Bee Final on Tuesday, Feb. 24. The Southeast Minnesota Service Cooperative sponsors the event, and the region will be held in Rochester.

Millam is the daughter of Jamie and Michelle Millam and Jeremy and Amy Simon are the parents of Bradley Simon. Third place went to eighth-grader Caleb Kubista, the son of Joel and Lisa Kubista. The spelling bee lasted eight rounds this year, and Millam took first when she spelled savvy and

hydroponic correctly in the eighth round.

SPELLING BEE Continued on Page 7C



Telephone common cause of subluxations

Cradling the telephone between your head and shoulder is hard on your neck. If you need both hands free when you’re on the phone, install a speakerphone or headset.

Prairie Family & Sports Chiropractic

Chamber Spotlight



Dean Anderson and Paul Smith stand outside of Dean’s Smoke Shop in Geneva. Geneva Meats and Processing Inc. have been in business for 10 years and is a member of the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce.

Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

10 years of providing quality meats

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

In its 10 years of business, Geneva Meats and Processing Inc. has seen a growth of more than 50 percent.

One of the owners, Paul Smith, said what keeps brining people back is that our sausage business is extremely successful. “Our custom processing is second to none,” Smith said. “We do want people to know that when they buy meat here they at least know where it is coming from. We raise our own hogs and beef.”

All the hogs and beef are raised within a 10 mile radius of Geneva. The meat is sold from northern Iowa to Minneapolis, east to Spring Valley and west to Mankato. There are currently 15 full-time employees and two part-time employees.

Geneva Meats and Processing markets the meat through advertisements in newspapers and radio, as well as participating in home and rec shows and having booths at county fairs.

Smith said he “absolutely” did not think the business would be as successful as it is. “We wanted to be a successful business. We have accomplished that,” he said. “There are a lot

of opportunities.”

Not only is Geneva Meats and Processing a member of the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce, it is also a member of the Albert Lea Chamber of Commerce. “We want to be involved with our communities,” Smith said. “The Chamber(s) help advertise for us. (Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce Executive Director) Becky (Noble) does a great job and many of the members know us and support us.”

Smith also believes living in a small town like Geneva has helped. “The community is great,” he said. “They are very supportive of this business. We donate to our local communities and we like to be involved. We’re proud of that.”

While the biggest seller is sausage, bacon and ham sales are also up there as well. The quality of the meat is also important to our customers, Smith said. “Then there is the cleanliness of the place and how our employees treat our customers as they come in. We hear great feedback from them.”

Geneva Meats and Processing expanded into the natural beef business in December and has outlets in Minneapolis. “It is really good,” Smith said. “We’re anxiously excited about growing that part of the company.”

To have your business featured in the Chamber Spotlight, contact Steele County Times Managing Editor Alan Van Ormer at bpalan@frontier.com, 507-583-4431.

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2015 COMMUNITY EDUCATION CALENDAR

Beginning Knitting

You will learn the basic stitches by knitting a dishcloth. This project will teach you how to caste on, knit, pearl, and caste off. Other basic stitches will be covered time permitting. Please bring either size 6 or 7 knitting needles and 1 skein of all cotton sport weight yarn (ex. peaches and cream or sugar n’ cream). If you have another project that you would like to work on please bring.

Date: Tuesday, Jan. 27 - March 6
Time: 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Sessions: Six
Location: Elementary Library
Instructor: Susan Kramer
Class Fee: \$21

Hardanger

Learn the stitches used in Norwegian embroidery called Hardanger. Beginners will be making an 8” doily, advanced stitchers will make a project of choice.

Date: Tuesday, Jan. 27 - March 6
Time: 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Sessions: Six
Location: Elementary Library
Instructor: Debbie Schwake
Materials: \$10
Class Fee: \$21

COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES FOR KIDS.....

Child & Baby-sitting Safety Classes (CABS)

Child & Baby-sitting Safety (geared towards 4th - 8th graders) Learn the responsibilities of being a baby-sitter. Topics include starting your own baby-sitting business, child development, proper feeding & diapering techniques, personal safety, medical emergencies, basic first aid care and fire safety. Need to register by Friday, January 23.
Date: Saturday, February 7
Time: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Location: High School Library
Instructor: Lori Hameister
Fee: \$35 (includes book)

Basic First Aid & Safety for Children

Have you ever seen someone fall over and hurt their leg? Or perhaps you know someone who’s been very ill? Have you ever been near an accident? Imagine being able to help out in each of these situations – that’s what First Aid is all about. Children can make a difference in an emergency situation. The most important thing is for them to know the simple Basic First Aid steps to follow in different situations. Please bring your favorite teddy bear with you to class. Need to register by Friday, January 23.
Date: Sat., Feb. 7 • Time: 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Location: High School Library • Instructor: Lori Hameister
Fee: \$20 per child • For ages K- 2nd grade.

Home Alone

Just mention the words “Home Alone,” and children think of the excitement depicted in the movies of the same name. The reality of being home alone can evoke fear and anxiety in many children.

This workshop for children will address several topics to relating to being “Home Alone”. Need to register by Friday, January 23.

Date: Saturday, February 7
Time: 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Location: High School Library
Instructor: Lori Hameister
Fee: \$20 (includes book)
For ages 3rd grade and 6th grade.

Please include the following information when registering:

1. Name _____
2. Address _____ Phone _____
Email address _____
3. Class Title _____
4. Class Date/Time _____
5. Class fees should be paid in advance of the class.
Checks can be made out to Lori Hameister
If you have any questions please call 507-583-4426 x222 Susan Kramer



How To Register for Blooming Prairie Community Education Classes

By E-Registration:
E-Registration form on Community Education web page
By email: skramer@blossoms.k12.mn.us
By Phone: 507-583-4426 x222
By Mail: Blooming Prairie HS Community Education
202 4th Ave NW • Blooming Prairie MN 55917
In Person: Blooming Prairie High School Office

Ellendale-GenevaLiving



Staff photos by Karen Jorgensen

Eighteen-month-old Wesely Jensen, here with his parents Andy Jensen and Jordan Carroll, enjoys the action at the Cancer Auction. This was actually Wesley's second auction as he attended last year's event for about a half hour, his mother said. This year he was enjoying it more, although he had to leave shortly for a birthday party.

Auction raises funds to fight cancer

By KAREN JORGENSEN
News Editor

The Geneva Bar and Grill was packed Saturday afternoon for what has become an annual event – the Geneva Cancer Auction.

For 31 years, area residents have come to the bar and grill on two weekends in January to raise money for cancer research and to help cancer victims. The money raised is donated to the Eagles Cancer Telethon in Rochester.

Saturday afternoon saw Whitey Hagen enthusiastically auctioning off a variety of items that had been donated by area businesses and residents. Hagen does the auction every year in memory of his brother, who died of cancer.

The auction is actually a two-weekend event. The first Friday night of the auction included what became a bidding war that helped raise \$1,000 for the honor of cutting the first lock of Cloie Arndt's hair. The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva student had been growing her hair for three

years and was ready to have it cut for a cause, with her grandfather doing the honors.

On the last Saturday of the auction, there was still a wide variety of items on the auction block, from food to gift cards to a plate of deviled eggs to a doll and much more.

DeeAnn Randall was also on hand to present Hagen with a check for \$2,500, proceeds from the 2014 Geneva Cancer Run.

Randall is one of the founders of the motorcycle event, along with Jake Jensen, Lizzy Randall and Andy Jensen.

Every year, on the second Saturday in June, participants in the run take their motorcycles, cars and even a small bus on a 120-mile ride. The event also includes a live auction, silent auction and live music.

During last year's ride, which took place in heavy rain, Randall said, she thought that although the motorcycle ride was hard for her, that was nothing compared to what someone who has cancer goes through.

GENEVA AUCTION
Continued on Page 7C

DeeAnn Randall presents Whitey Hagen with a check for \$2,500. The money was raised by the 2014 Geneva Cancer Run featuring motorcycles in a 120-mile ride on the second Saturday in June.



Student of the Week

Brynna Ingvaldson is the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva student of the week.

Brynna is in Mrs. Jensen's kindergarten class and is the daughter of Tait and Jennifer Ingvaldson.

Brynna shows Panther Pride everywhere we go. When a student didn't know how to tie his shoes, she took time away from her free choice time to teach him, and he learned that day!

Brynna shows Panther Pride by always listening to directions and making good choices. Brynna enjoys playing with friends during her free time. She has a positive attitude and her smile always brightens the teacher's day.



Student of the Week is sponsored by:

118 5th Ave, Ellendale, MN
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Lerberg's Fitness Center
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School menu

NRHEG Breakfast Menu

Jan 13: Long Johns
Jan 14: Pancake & Sausage Bites
Jan 15: Muffins, Yogurt (No Salad Bar Ellendale)
Jan 16: Cinnamon Roll
Jan 19: NO SCHOOL
Jan 20: Breakfast Pizza
Jan 21: Pancakes, Yogurt

NRHEG Lunch Menu

Jan 13: Chicken Patty on Bun, Baked Beans, Chips, Fresh Veggies, Mandarin Oranges, Rice Crispy Bar
Jan 14: Beef Taco w/Toppings, Golden Corn, Seasoned Rice, Applesauce
Jan 15: Pasta Bar, Romaine Salad, Fresh Veggies, Bread Stick, Pineapple
Jan 16: Mini Corn Dogs, Soft Pretzel w/Cheese Sauce, Green Beans, Baby

Carrots, Diced Pears
Jan 19: NO SCHOOL
Jan 20: Shrimp Poppers, Macaroni & Cheese, Steamed Broccoli, Baby Carrots, Applesauce
Jan 21: Italian Dunkers w/ Marinara Sauce, Green Beans, Fresh Veggies, Pineapple

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11:30 am - 8 pm Sun ♦ Kitchen Open at 11 am Daily

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Geneva, MN

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Classes start: February 2, 2015

Tumbling Mondays 4:15 - 4:45 p.m. Cost: \$35 per session Session 1: February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2 & 9. Session 2: March 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13, and 20	Hip Hop Mondays 7 - 7:30 p.m. Cost: \$25 per session Session 1: February 2, 9, 16 & 23 • Session 2: March 2, 9, 16, & 23 • Session 3: March 30, April 6, 13, and 20 • Session 4: April 27, May 4, 11 & 18	Beginner Dance Mondays 4:45 - 5:15 p.m. Cost: \$25 per session Session 1: February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2 & 9. Session 2: March 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13, and 20
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Please register by January 26 for sesion 1, February 23 for session
2, March 23 for session 3, and March 20 for session 4.
Contact Britta Manges at 715-977-0226 or email@happyfeetdance.net

HAPPY FEET DANCE STUDIO

209 5th Avenue • Ellendale

MedfordLiving



High school science teacher Nicole Schelling was recently nominated as Medford High School's Teacher of the Month for her work both inside and outside of the classroom. Schelling is known to have a good rapport with students and integrates technology into her classroom.

Staff photo by Shannon Kinley

When Schelling talks, students listen

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Nicole Schelling, was recently nominated by her colleagues for Medford Teacher of the Month for her accomplishments both inside and outside of the classroom.

This is Schelling's second year teaching at Medford High School as the science teacher. She also teaches a couple sections of seventh grade life science.

Schelling, 27, is originally from Owatonna, and after she graduated from Owatonna High School, she attended Minnesota State University-Mankato for a bachelor's degree in life science teaching. Shortly after that, she attended Saint Mary's University of Minnesota in Minneapolis for her master's degree in teaching and learning.

Before coming to Medford, she worked at Faribault Middle School for three years as a science teacher. After her position was cut, she decided it was time for something new.

"I really liked the area and wanted to be closer to home," she said.

Schelling really enjoys work-

"Nicole has an excellent rapport with our students and she really understands and connects with students in a life science and biology class that might normally be a challenge to get kids hooked in."

— Chris Ovrebo, Medford High School principal



ing in Medford because of the atmosphere.

"What I like about Medford is that we have small classes. There is a small community feel and the community and parents are very involved in what is going on at the school," she said.

Schelling's favorite part of her job are the relationships she is able to have with students both in and outside of the classroom. In fall, Schelling coaches the junior varsity volleyball team and she is also the Students Against Destructive Decisions adviser.

"For me, the biggest thing is the interactions with the students and the relationships that you form," she said.

Schelling's favorite unit to teach is genetics.

"I have always enjoyed genetics," she said. "I think kids are really interested to find out the similarities they have with their parents and siblings and why they look the way they do. It makes for good conversation and gives a real life perspective."

Schelling was surprised when she found out she was nominated for Teacher of the Month because she has only been teaching in Medford for a short amount of time.

"It just kind of makes me feel like I am having an impact on students and the things I am doing in the classroom are being recognized," she said.

High School Principal Chris Ovrebo felt Schelling was a

great teacher to be nominated for the honor.

"Nicole has an excellent rapport with our students and she really understands and connects with students in a life science and biology class that might normally be a challenge to get kids hooked in," he said. "She uses innovative instruction and technology in her classes. Whenever I go into her classroom, the kids are doing labs, they are using their iPads, they are taking notes, using data to make decisions — all really good things in a science classroom."

He also said she is invested in students both during and after school hours.

"She is also involved outside of our classroom and she really dedicates herself to our students and our school," Ovrebo said.

Schelling is married to Bronson, who is a dentist in Owatonna. The two have a 16-month-old son and are expecting another child in June. They also have a Golden Doodle named Maverick, whom they named after their college mascot.

When Schelling is not working, she enjoys doing anything outdoors, especially hiking and camping with her family.

4-H awards pins to youths, adults

STEELE TALKIN'



Tracy Ignaszewski

I have news from a special event that I just have to share with you. The Steele County 4-H Awards Banquet took place last Sunday and, boy, what an event!

More than 150 4-H'ers and their families attended. This event is so special because it's where we honor over 525 youths and volunteers. We awarded one-, five- and 10-year pins to 4-H'ers and leaders, recognized past and present Officers, County Fair Superintendents, Record Judging Winners, Quiz Bowl and Judging Team Participants, 4-H Graduates and Ambassadors. We had some special awards too that I would like to tell you about!

The 2014 "I Dare You" Awards were presented to two graduating 4-H members. Their fellow graduating 4-H'ers selected the winners. The "I Dare You" Award challenges youth to continue being leaders throughout life and emphasizes a balanced four-fold life of mental, physical, social and spiritual development. This year's award winners were Allison Blazek of the Happy Hustlers

4-H Club and Brandon Hanson of Deerfield Get There. These youth have been in 4-H for numerous years and have given their time and talents back to the 4-H program by being leaders for 4-H activities and events.

This year 4-H decided to award two individuals and organizations with the "Friend of 4-H Award". This year's recipients were Fran Jirele and Laverne Klecker, SunOpta. Our sincere thanks to the honorees for their constant support of the 4-H program through the years.

Installation of our 2014-2015 4-H Club Council Officers also took place. President is Kalyn Naatz of the Merry Lane 4-H Club, President-Elect is Cole Ignaszewski of the Lemond Snappy Boosters 4-H Club, Secretary is Katie Skalicky of Pratt Commandoes, Treasurer is Sarah Manderfeld of the Medford Go Getters 4-H Club, Treasurer-Elect is David Keck of Lemond Snappy Boosters, Historians/Reporters are Tim Wolf of Merry Lane and Aaron Dahlin of Ellendale Hustlers, Parliamentarian is Katie Wolf of the Merry Lane 4-H Club, Adult Treasurer is Anne Skalicky of Pratt Commandoes and Adult Treasurer-Elect is Ruth Pfeifer of the Pratt Commandoes 4-H Club.

The program concluded with the presentation of the Outstanding Leader awards.

STEELE TALKIN'
Continued on Page 7C

School menu

Breakfast Menu

Jan 13: Whole Grain Pop tart, Cheese Stick OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly/ Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Jan 14: Ultimate Breakfast Round OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly/ Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Jan 15: WG French Toast Sticks w/Syrup, Tri Tators OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit Juice, Milk

Jan 16: Sausage Breakfast Pizza OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit Selection, Milk

Jan 19: NO SCHOOL

Jan 20: WG Waffle Sticks w/ Syrup, Tri Tators OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Jan 21: Apple Boscoe Stick OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Lunch Menu

Jan 13: Beefy Nachos w/ Homemade Cheese Sauce, Egg Salad on Wheat, Turkey BLT Salad, Green Beans, Broccoli, Corn, Choice of Fruit

Jan 14: Pizza Parlor Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza, Deli Sandwich, Chef Salad, Brussels Sprouts, Baby Carrots, Celery Sticks, Choices of Fruit

Jan 15: BBQ Pulled Pork on WG Bun, Turkey Sub, Chicken Caesar Salad, Chopped Kale, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Choice of Fruit

Jan 16: Beefy Shepard's Pie, Dinner Roll, Yogurt Pak,

Popeye Salad, Glazed Carrots, Green Peas, Broccoli, Choice of Fruit

Jan 19: NO SCHOOL
Jan 20: Crispy Popcorn Chicken Bowl, Chicken Caesar Wrap, Chef Salad, Mashed Potatoes, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit

Jan 21: Hearty Chili, Cinnamon Roll, Turkey Ranch Wrap, Confetti Ham Pasta

Salad, Carrot Coins, Tomato Wedges, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

Look who's now reading Steele County Times Recent new subscribers:

Blooming Prairie
Troy Krejci

Chicago, IL
Paterson Younan

Faribault
Judith Eotvos

Owatonna
Jerry White
Dan Gorman
Nancy McGregor
Ludwig Wencil
Del Piton
Scott & Susan Yentsch

Geneva
Mary Edon

STEELE COUNTY
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HometownLiving

Community Calendar



Staff file photo
Zach Ahrens and Karlie Keller check out items to bid on during the silent auction. This year's Boys and Girls Club Gala will be held at 4:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.

J&H LIQUORS
340 E. Main St. Blooming Prairie • 507-583-7557

- BAR BINGO: MONDAY @ 6:30 P.M.
- MEAT RAFFLES: FRIDAY @ 5:30 P.M.
(MEAT PROVIDED BY GENEVA MEATS)
- BLOOMIN' GRAPEVINE WINE CLUB:
7 P.M.-8:30 P.M. FEB. 17, MARCH 3, APRIL 14 & MAY 5
- APRIL 4: CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY
"29" YEARS OF BUSINESS
MUNCHIES & DRINK SPECIALS

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Jan 20:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story Time
4:45 p.m. Boys & Girls Club Brd Mtg
5:30 p.m. Ambulance Comm Mtg
7:15 p.m. Schl Brd Mtg, BPHS Media Cntr

Jan 21:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime
12 p.m. Chamber of Commerce

Jan 23:
BP ISD Academic Triathlon, Stewartville

Jan 24:
BP ISD One Act Play, Stewartville

Jan 25:
1 p.m. BP ISD Open Gym

Jan 27:
BP Card Club & Luncheon
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story Time

Servicemen's Club

210 Fourth St. N.E. • Blooming Prairie • 507-583-7884

- Raffle drawing first Saturday of every month
- Happy Hour 3 p.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday
- Lunch special: Chicken Salad Croissant w/Chips for \$5.00
- Taco Tuesdays every Tuesday at 5 p.m.
- We are looking to hire a waitress

MEDFORD

Jan 21:
6 p.m. Medford EDA

Jan 22:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner, 108 3rd St NE

Jan 23:
1:15 p.m. Medford ISD Spelling Bee, Auditorium

Jan 24:
7 p.m. Medford ISD One Act Play Performance, Auditorium

Jan 26:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner, 108 3rd St NE
7 p.m. Medford City Council, City Hall

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IN BRIEF

Polar Plunge set
The Owatonna Polar Plunge is slated for 1 p.m. Jan. 31 at Lake Hohlmier.
The event is presented by the Law Enforcement for Special Olympics Minnesota. For more information, visit plungemn.org.

OWATONNA

Jan 20:
8 a.m. Steele Co Internal Central Services Committee – Administration Center BR
9:30 a.m. OPL Tale Time! 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
10 a.m. OPL So Many Books...So Little Time Book Club
4:30 p.m. OPL Brd, Gainey Rm
7 p.m. Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall

Jan 21:
4 p.m. Owatonna EDA, Council Chambers, City Hall

Jan 22:
9 a.m. Steele Co Land Use/Records Committee – Administration Center BR
2 p.m. OPL Indie & World Films
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time
7 p.m. OPL Indie & World Films

Jan 23:
Winter Event for the Steele County Historical Society
7 p.m. Movie Night, New Beginnings Church

Jan 24:
Wilson PTO Carnival
Steele County Humane Society, low income spay/neuter services for companion animals and free roaming, community outdoor cats

Jan 26:
12 p.m. Owatonna Noon Rotary Club, Country Club
4 p.m. Owatonna Housing & Redevelopment Authority, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall
5 p.m. Owa Wilson PTO Mtg

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ELLENDALE/GENEVA

Jan 20:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

Jan 22:
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

Jan 26:
NRHEG NO SCHOOL

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Women's Health Symposium set for Feb. 7
Mayo Clinic Health System – Albert Lea and Austin will host its seventh annual Women's Health Care Symposium 8:30 a.m.-noon Saturday, Feb. 7, at Wedgewood Cove Golf Club, 2200 W. Ninth St., Albert Lea. Mayo experts on cardiology, plastic surgery and obstetrics and gynecology will present insights and tips to help you stay at your best.
The symposium is free with complimentary breakfast, but registration is required. Please register by calling 507-379-2046. Doors open at 8 a.m. The symposium is sponsored in part by Naeve Health Care Foundation.
This symposium may be worth three contact hours and has been designed to meet the Minnesota Board of Nursing continuing education requirements. It is the responsibility of the participant to determine if this meets the criteria for continuing education for their profession.



SPOT LIGHT

Jazz Band and Fabulous Love Handles performing

The Steele County Historical Society is pleased to announce its January event called "Back to the 60's: Peace, Love, and TV" at the History Center located at 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna, on Friday, Jan. 23.
The event will begin at 5 p.m. with supper served until 7 p.m. Supper will include tater-tot hot-dish, roll, veggies, non-alcoholic beverage and chocolate fondue dessert with all the fixings.
Adult tickets include the meal, the evening's entertainment and activities for \$20 per person. Children are welcome to attend and enjoy the same meal for \$5. Guests will be able to enjoy adult libations (both beer and wine) at a cash bar.
The dance contest will be judged between the Jazz Band and Love Handles and the costume contest during the Love Handles musical break. Winners will be determined by the audience. The contest winners will receive a special prize. Guests will also be able to shop the History Center gift shop, which features items from over 30 local artisans. After 7 p.m. there is a dance for a \$10 cover charge.
Advance sale tickets are available at the SCHS office, Tri-M Graphics or Kottke Jewelers. If you need more information, or you'd like tickets held for you, please call the SCHS office at 451-1420.

STEELE COUNTY
Times
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OTHER COUNTIES

Freeborn
Jan 22:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Storytime
5:30 p.m. AL Council Workshop, City Council Chambers
6 p.m. ALPL Night-Time Storytime

Jan 23:
6 p.m. Rock Gym, 211 W Richway Dr, AL

Jan 24:
6 p.m. Rock Gym, 211 Richway Dr, AL

Jan 26:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Storytime
3:45 p.m. ALPL Book Pals (Gr 5 & 6)
7 p.m. AL City Council, Council Chambers

Jan 27:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Storytime
6 p.m. Rock Gym, 211 Richway Dr, AL

Mower
Jan 21:
9 a.m. Austin District Spelling Bee, Ellis Auditorium
6:30 p.m. GM ISD Adult Volleyball, Gym

Jan 22:
Adams Paint the Town Pink Events
LeRoy School FFA Bowling
10 a.m. Nick Adams - Embracing You: A Series on Women, Austin ArtWorks Center
1 p.m. The Classic Film Series: North by Northwest, APL
3 p.m. Free Cross Country Ski & Snowshoe Rental, Jay C Hormel Nature Center
3:30 p.m. Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
6 p.m. Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night (subject to change)
6 p.m. Uncork & Create: Dragonfly, Austin ArtWorks Center

Jan 23:
Adams Paint the Town Pink Events
9 a.m. Defensive Driving Class, Mower County Senior Center
10 a.m. GMPL Story Time!
10 a.m. Nick Adams - Embracing You: A Series on Women, Austin ArtWorks Center

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Navigating the Dalby database
Rice County Historical Society's Susan Garwood will be discussing Navigating the Dalby Database, a genealogy research tool, at the Steele County Historical Society.
The lecture time has changed this month. The event will be held at 1 p.m. Jan. 29 in the Wenger Room of the History Center at 1700 Austin Road in Owatonna.
The Dalby Database (www.dalbydata.com) is one of the most comprehensive online research tools available for our area. It was started by John and Jan Dalby of Faribault in the early 1980s. Wanting to help the Rice County Genealogical Society organize its Rice County cemetery indexing project, John and Jan offered to enter the information into a cemeteries database.
This online database now has over 2.5 million records. Garwood will share tips and tricks to navigate this resource. John and Jan Dalby will also be available to answer questions.
Admission to the lecture is free, but donations are appreciated. The History Center is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays; and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, call 507-451-1420.

Twin Cities murder-suicide has Owatonna connection

The discovery of three bodies in the Twin Cities over the weekend reportedly has a connection to Steele County.

On Saturday, three members of a family were discovered deceased in their Apple Valley home. As of press time Monday, police had not officially identified the victims. However, neighbors, real estate records and other data showed they were David T. Crowley, 29; his wife, Komel Crowley, 28, and their 5-year-old daughter, Rani.

David is reportedly originally from Owatonna where his father, Daniel, still lives. Daniel told media outlets Monday that he hadn't heard from his son and daughter-in-law over the holidays.

Police are calling the incident an apparent murder-suicide.

It's unknown how long the Crowleys had been dead prior to the discovery. Neighbors said they hadn't seen the family since before Christmas.

David was a filmmaker who wrote and directed a recent film about the militarization of the U.S. called "Gray State," according to news reports. He appeared in an online program two years ago to promote the film, which has not been released.

His social media sites show that he had a fascination with guns. Many of his photos feature pellet guns or military gear. According to David's LinkedIn profile, he served in the U.S. Army. "After five years I had had enough, and left to pursue filmmaking," the profile says.



Noah Schamp, Nick Schamp and David Crawford serve up the chili at Saturday's benefit for the Standke family at the Owatonna VFW Club.

STANDKES

Continued from Page 8C

At the time of the fire, Jenna and Jacob Standke were the sixth generation of Standkes living in the home just north of Litomysl in Somerset Township. The home had been built in 1892 and Jacob Standke's grandparents had lived in the home when he was growing up. Jacob and Jenna had lived in the home for five years.

Jenna Standke said the rebuilding process is well under way and this past week John Green Construction was putting in windows and the rooms have been studded. But it's not just about the house, she said. "It's all the sentimental things that were lost," she said. And, she said, Paige is still

missing her puppy, a little minpin. Her classmates, she added, have done an amazing job as well as the community. That, she said, has helped ease the burden. Donations to the Standke Family Benefit Account can be made at United Prairie Bank, at either location, 110 West Rose St. or 1801 S. Cedar Ave.

CSC GRANT

Continued from Page 8C

"First it will help increase the likelihood that they are going to graduate from high school, secondly it will increase the likelihood that they are going to enter some form of higher education and third it will increase the likelihood that they are not just going to enter, but they are also going to graduate from some form of higher education," he said.

In 2013 the Minnesota graduation rate was at 79.5 percent and students who took some form of Career and Technical Education course had a rate of 88.03 percent, according to the Minnesota Department of Education.

Other advantages include saving time, money and exposing students to the level of college courses before they get there.

"We see the value of this and frankly people can save them thousands even tens of thousands of dollars in college costs. We know have students in Minnesota who are earning an AA at a technical college and graduating from high school in the same week," Nathan said.

Start Up Coordinator for Owatonna Technical Academies Minnesota, Christy Tryhus, says the new charter school will offer plenty of different options for dual credit courses to its students.

dents.

The new school will open next fall for grades seven through 12 and be open to students from all over the region. The public charter school will be free of cost and will be located on the second floor of Pillsbury Hall in Owatonna.

"The focus of the school is for career and post secondary readiness and it really focuses on hands on learning," Tryhus said. "If a child wants to be a mechanic or an electrician it helps them to help discover those skills while they are in high school and gives them something to focus in on."

The school is one of four technical academies with the first one opening last year in Willmar, Minnesota, the second in Owatonna and the other two locations to open in fall 2016 at undetermined locations.

The school will not discriminate by a student's grades, household income or ethnicity and is looking for students who will thrive in a hands on environment. The school will also have numerous mentorship and internship opportunities available for its students.

The school started enrolling students the week after Christmas

and has already filled up 10 percent of its seats. Currently the school's capacity is maxed out at 150 students.

Tryhus is thankful for the grant because it will allow the new school to expand its dual credit offerings.

"It is another feature to attract students and it saves them dollars," she said. "It really helps the kids flourish and save families thousands and thousands of dollars."

Tryhus' son is a senior in high school right now and by the time he graduates he will have 43 college equivalent credits making him technically a sophomore rather than a freshman.

"It saves some dollars and plus it sets him up for success because he has already gotten some of the rigor of a college level class," she said.

The school will offer all different types of dual credit program including AP, PSEO and courses online and at college campuses.

There will be two informational sessions for families to come learn more about the school with the first on Jan. 26 and the other on Feb. 3 both at 6:30 p.m. at the Owatonna Public Library.

RESOURCES FAIR

Continued from Page 8C

"We are actually taking the time to do hands-on instruction with everybody," said Jorgensen.

What stuck out about last year's event to Jorgensen were people's reactions to the plaque and bacteria that had built up on their teeth.

"When people would come in and we would say, 'Let's check to see where your plaque and germs are,' and they would all say, 'I already brushed my teeth today,' and as soon as we put that disclosing solution on and they can see it, their reactions and facial expressions, they

were disgusted," she said.

Thanks to donations from five Owatonna dental offices, Let's Smile will also give out toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss and other dental tools.

STEELE TALKIN'

Continued from Page 5C

The 2014 4-H Outstanding Leader awards were presented to Holli Naatz from the Merry Lane 4-H Club and Kelly Katzung from Meriden Meadowlarks. Both of these volunteers have given many hours of their time to the 4-H program. We were happy to recognize and thank them

for the time, dedication and talent they so generously give to the Steele County 4-H Program.

I would just like to finish with a thank you to all who make this youth organization we call 4-H so wonderful.

Steele Talkin' is a weekly column featuring officials representing various organizations throughout Steele County. Tracy Iagnaszewski is the Steele County 4-H Program Coordinator.

SPELLING BEE

Continued from Page 3C

Previously, all three spellers had missed jocularly, havoc and outrageous, but Kubista dropped out on the word lozenge, and Simon missed on dinero. All three of the last spellers went two rounds, before the winner could be determined.

Judy Bishop recorded the spelling bee, and Beth Krebs pronounced the words. Diane Anderson, Jeanette Hauschildt and Roger Sorenson served as judges. A state spelling bee follows the region contest, and the National Spelling Bee will be held in Washington, D.C. in May. Scripps News Service sponsors the entire Spelling Bee contest.



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GRIEF RELIEF



Will children understand when a widowed person wants to begin dating? Children of all ages need to be included in all plans made after the death of a spouse. Reactions may be supportive, protective, jealous, or insecure. And all family members should be encouraged to discuss feelings about the new relationship and how it affects the family. Dating after the death of a spouse can be a positive step forward for everyone concerned.

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OwatonnaLiving

Community project fights homelessness

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Later this week, 46 organizations from around Owatonna and Steele County will join together and volunteer their time to help out the homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless by putting on Project Community Connect Steele County.

Project Community Connect is a free resource fair put on once a year by the Community Service Coordination Team. CSCT is a volunteer response team made up of 20 organizations throughout the community that meet once a month to talk about funding and the needs of the community.

“The purpose of the fair is to prevent homelessness and to get in touch with the people who need those resources the most,” said Salvation Army Case Manager Gina Shepherd. “There is homelessness in every community and we want to do whatever we can to combat that.”

There will be information from various services, including legal services, parenting, transportation, food, clothing, housing, veterans services, employment, disability, health, hygiene, dental and refugee services.

Last year’s event had 103 intakes, 21 of whom were homeless and 25 of whom were at risk of becoming homeless.

“There will be all the little things that you don’t really think of because you are trying to get yourself fed and clothed for the day,” Shepherd said.

At the fair, participants will also have the chance to get haircuts, cellphones, massages, hygiene products, winter apparel, flu shots, dental screening and HIV testing, along with a spaghetti lunch.

Holly Jorgensen, executive director of Let’s Smile Inc., did the event last year and decided to do it again this year.

“It is giving back to the community. It is just taking care of the community, being a part of the

Event info

- Project Community Connect will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 22, at St. Joseph Parish in Owatonna. All the services are free and there is no sign-up needed.

community, leading a big role in the community and showing the people in our community that we care about them,” she said. “It is great for people to see what a caring community we do have and a great opportunity to see what services are out there for them.”

Let’s Smile is a non-profit organization that provides preventive dental services. During last year’s fair, the group conducted 70 basic screenings. The event raised Jorgensen’s awareness of the amount of people affected by homelessness.

“I guess I didn’t realize how much homelessness was in our community, but when you see them all come through the door, it is very eye-opening,” she said. “The people there are very appreciative. They are not there just to see what they can get. They are there because people care about them and they are very appreciative of what they are getting.”

This year, Let’s Smile will offer dental care advice and basic screenings. The screening includes showing people the areas with plaque and bacteria in their teeth so they can see the trouble spots and where they need to focus their attention.

“Instead of just telling people, ‘You have to brush and floss,’ which we have all heard a hundred times, we are going to actually show them where they need to brush and floss and where the plaque and bacteria like to hide,” Jorgensen said.

RESOURCES FAIR
Continued on Page 7C



Submitted photo
Margie Trilk, an unidentified volunteer and Holly Jorgensen, left, from Let’s Smile Inc., did 70 dental basic screenings at last year’s Project Community Connect Steele County. They not only gave out various dental tools, they also applied a disclosing solution to show people where the plaque was on their teeth.



Staff photos by Karen Jorgensen
People attending the chili feed check out items waiting for bids at the silent auction. Businesses and individuals all donated items to the auction.

For friends in need

Benefit helps family whose home burned

By KAREN JORGENSEN
News Editor

Early in the morning on Nov. 23, Jenna and Jacob Standke woke to the sound of smoke detectors going off. Looking out the window, they could see flames coming from the garage, Jenna Standke said. The Standkes and their almost 2-year-old daughter escaped from the burning home, but the family lost their house, their possessions and their dog.

The home itself was covered by insurance, but with all their possessions gone, two classmates of Jenna from the Owatonna High School Class of 2003 decided they needed to help. Jill Dettmann and Nicole Schamp took the lead and a Standke Family Benefit Account was started at United Prairie Bank. They also organized the benefit that was held last Saturday at the Owatonna VFW Club.

Saturday night saw a continuous stream of people coming into the VFW to eat chili and bid on the many silent auction items. “We graduated with Jenna,” said Dettmann. She said classmates, local businesses and individuals from Owatonna and out of town stepped up and donated items for the silent auction. Volunteers helped prepare the chili at the VFW and Boy Scout Troop 351 was on hand to help with the cleanup.

STANDKES
Continued on Page 7C



Jenna and Jacob Standke attended Saturday’s benefit with their daughter, Paige. The Standkes lost their home and all their possessions in a fire last November. Classmates of Jenna’s from the OHS Class of 2003 put together the chili feed and silent auction.



Steven Lobe and other members of Owatonna Boy Scout Troop 351 were on hand helping out with the cleanup duties.

Grant helps school offer more dual credit courses

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

In today’s society, high school students can now get a jump-start on their future by taking dual credit courses that give them both high school and college credit.

The Otto Bremer Foundation recently awarded \$20,000 to the Center for School Change to expand the dual credit offerings at the future Technical Academies of Minnesota’s Owatonna Campus.

The CSC has worked with a number of schools around the United States to help existing schools, create new schools and work to make changes at the policy level.

CSC’s current project will work the Technical Academies of Minnesota Willmar and Owatonna

campuses as well as the Brooklyn Center School District to try to encourage more students to take advantage of dual credit programs.

“Seventy to 75 percent of jobs today and in the future are going to require some form of higher education beyond high school so we want to encourage low-income youngsters, youngsters whose families don’t speak English in the home, youngsters who have not heard about these programs to participate while they are still in high school,” said CSC Director Joe Nathan.

The grant money will be used for the training of teachers, teacher meetings with college faculty to discuss expectations, meetings with families, translators and having high school students share their stories of how dual credit

programs helped them.

There are various types of dual credit options that allow students to take classes either at their high school, on college campuses or online including Post Secondary Enrollment Options, Concurrent Enrollment Options, also known as College in the Schools, and Advanced Placement.

The most popular type of dual credit program being used today is AP. In 2013 38,769 students took AP courses compared to 23,583 in CE and 6,915 in PSEO, according to the Minnesota Department of Education.

Nathan says there are numerous advantages to taking dual credit courses.

CSC GRANT
Continued on Page 7C

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Woman who knows a bit about cattle is honored

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

A woman who has been involved with the cattle industry since she was very young has been selected as the Minnesota Cattlewoman of the Year.

"I was very surprised," said Linnea Wencil, when she was honored at the State Cattleman and Cattlewoman Association Convention in Hinkley, Minnesota, recently. "I didn't think I would get anything like this."

Wencil thought this award was something she would receive as she got much older. She is one of the youngest members to receive the honor. Wencil received the award because of her involvement in the organization, her work behind the scenes and her dedication to meetings and events.

"This doesn't mean that I have to do anything extra," she said. "I'm just very honored they are honoring me with this award."

Carol Hoge, who was the past president of the Minnesota Cattlewoman's Association, said Wencil has always been involved. "She is really busy, but she still finds time to do the membership job for our group," she said. "It takes someone behind the scenes to keep everything going. She is really passionate about the beef industry."

She added that the award is a nice surprise for everyone who receives it because they feel recognized for something they

thought was just an ordinary job. "We decided she deserved it," Hoge said.

Wencil's parents operated a dairy farm when she was a young child up until she was married. She graduated from Cleveland High School in Cleveland, Minnesota, and then attended the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and graduated with a major in Agricultural Studies and minors in Dairy Science and Food Science.

She married her husband, Wayne, in 2006. They live with their children, Jayden, 6, Cameron, 2 and Allison, who is almost 1, near Blooming Prairie, working with the family farm that has more than 100 organic dairy cows. The family also has more than 500 acres of organic land where they grow various crops.

She tries to be involved as much as she can. Wencil helps with the young stock, record keeping and vaccinating both calves and cows. She also works part-time at the Blooming Prairie Vet Clinic.

"I enjoy everything about it," she said. "You get to be in the outdoors and work with animals. It is freedom. It is more of a natural thing that you get to enjoy."

Wencil has been a member of the Minnesota Cattlewoman's Association since 2008. She has several roles in the association. She currently serves as the Membership chairperson. The Minnesota Cattlewoman's Association is designed to promote



Submitted photo
Linnea Wencil, the 2014 MN Cattlewoman of the Year, pictured with her parents, Jerry and Lori Beckel of Madison Lake, Minnesota.

the beef industry and educate people about beef.

"We have a big impact,"

Wencil said. "We have seen an increase in beef consumption and much of this is due to promotion and education. People

get discouraged because they don't know the cuts of beef or how to prepare them. By educat-

ing consumers, they are buying more beef and preparing them for their families."

More than \$18 million to support beginning farmers

U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden last week announced the availability of more than \$18 million in funding to help educate, mentor and enhance the sustainability of the next generation of farmers. This support is available through the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, administered by USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture. Winning awards from last year's application cycle will be announced in the near future.

"The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program is critical for cultivating the next generation of farmers and ranchers, who will be integral to sustaining America's agricultural future," said Harden. "Leading community and service organizations are on the front lines when it comes to identifying and training new farmers and ranchers. Strong partnerships with these groups are the key to our success."

The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program awards grants to organizations implementing programs to train beginning farmers and ranchers, including workshops, educational teams, training and technical assistance throughout the United States.

Fiscal Year 2015 applications for BFRDP are due March 13. Eligible applicants are collaborative, state, tribal, local or regionally based network or partnership of public or private entities, including state cooperative extension service; community-based and nongovernmental organization; colleges or universities, including institutions awarding associate degrees; or any other appropriate organization providing services to beginning farmers and ranchers.

At least 5 percent of the funds must go to projects that serve military veteran beginning farmers and ranchers, and at least 5 percent to projects that serve socially disadvantaged, limited-resource or farm-worker audiences. All applicants are required to provide funds or in-kind support from non-federal sources in an amount that is at least equal to 25 percent of the federal funds requested.

Priority topics are:

- Basic livestock, forest management and crop farming practices.
- Innovative farm, ranch, and private, nonindustrial forest land transfer strategies.
- Entrepreneurship and business training.
- Financial and risk management training, including the acquisition and management of agricultural credit.
- Natural resource management and planning.
- Diversification and marketing strategies.
- Curriculum development.
- Mentoring, apprenticeships, and internships.
- Resources and referral.
- Farm financial benchmarking.
- Assisting beginning farmers or ranchers in acquiring land from retiring farmers and ranchers.
- Agricultural rehabilitation and vocational training for veterans.
- Farm safety and awareness.
- Other similar subject areas of use to beginning farmers or ranchers.

NIFA will host a webinar for interested applicants from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11. No password or advance reser-

vation is required. A recording will be posted on the NIFA website shortly after the event.

From 2009 to 2012, 145 awards have been made for more than \$71 million through the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program. Additional information about USDA support for new farmers and ranchers is available at www.usda.gov/newfarmers.

Funding for BFRDP program is authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. The bill builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past five years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for taxpayers. Since enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.

Through federal funding and leadership for research, educa-

tion and extension programs, NIFA focuses on investing in science and solving critical issues affecting people's daily lives and the nation's future. More information is at: www.nifa.usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free, 866-632-9992 (English) or 800-877-8339 (TDD) or 866-377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or 800-845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay.)

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Extra 2014 Farm Bill crops education seminars

Online education available for producers, landowners

ST. PAUL, Minn. (Jan. 14, 2015)—Due to high demand, University of Minnesota Extension and the Farm Service Agency will offer seven educational seminars to help crops producers choose options necessitated by the 2014 Farm Bill programs.

In addition, online instruction is available to guide both crops producers and landowners through decision-making required by the new farm bill. Visit <http://farmbill.umn.edu/> for videos and printable materials.

Registration is not required. Newly added programs, and phone contacts for more information, are:

- 9:30 a.m. to noon, Jan. 27, Freeport Community Center,

307 Seventh St. SE, Freeport, (320) 836-2526.

- 9:30 a.m. to noon, Jan. 28, Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, 1501 State St., Marshall, (507) 537-7110.

- 9:30 a.m. to noon, Feb. 3, Courtyard Marriott, 901 Rain-tree Road, Mankato, (507) 388-1234.

- 9:30 a.m. to noon, Feb. 4, Rochester International Event Center, 7333 Airport View Dr. SW, Rochester, (507) 529-0033

- 9:30 a.m. to noon, Feb. 4, Bede Ballroom (second floor, Sargeant Student Center), University of Minnesota Crookston, (218) 281-6510.

- 9:30 a.m. to noon, Feb. 5, Bigwood Event Center, Fergus Falls, (218) 739-2211.

- 1 to 3:30 p.m., Feb. 5, University of Minnesota Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul, (612) 624-3275.

Crop producers have until March 31, 2015 to make decisions required by the farm bill, including the choice among three new risk management programs. They will be locked into a decision that lasts five years. Landowners have until Feb. 27, to complete the base reallocation and yield updates.

“We’ve presented 73 education sessions to more than 12,000 Minnesota crop farmers. Decisions farmers make to participate in the new farm bill programs are the most complex we’ve seen to date. Through these programs and our online

education, our goal is to equip Minnesota’s farming community as thoroughly as possible,” said Bob Craven, Extension agriculture economist and program leader for agricultural business management.

The farm bill repeals several previous programs, including direct payments for most crops. It covers the following crops grown in Minnesota: corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, canola, sunflowers, oats, sorghum, lentils, dry peas, garbanzo beans and flax.

The farm bill designates the extension arm of land-grant universities nationwide as the education provider for producers. To learn more, visit Extension’s 2014 Farm Bill page at <http://z.umn.edu/qpn>.

Area co-op shines at precision ag

Central Valley Cooperative has been recognized on the national level for precision agriculture.

The area cooperative received the Precision Impact Award for the north region of the U.S. at the Agronomy Retailers Association Conference. Central Valley was one of three organizations to receive the honor for excellence in incorporating precision agriculture into their retail operations as well as their customers’ operations.

The award was based on five areas, including input efficiency, grower engagement, stewardship for the environment,

innovative use of technology and bottom line profitability for customer and retailer.

Kevin Kruise, advantage manager for Central Valley, said the co-op was excited to apply because “we felt it was a perfect fit since these five areas are exactly what we work to achieve every day with the Central Advantage Program.”

Central Advantage partners with its customers to create the best recommendations for each individual acre. “This creates optimum input efficiency and implements environmental stewardship all along adding to a grower’s bottom line,”

Kruise said. “We accomplish this through learning centers, precision ag tours and our annual conference where we bring new ideas and education to our customers and ourselves,” he added.

The advantage program at Central Valley is now in its 11th year of data analysis and variable rate operations. The co-op has worked side by side with customers over the years, pushing each other to deliver the best results and recommendations.

“We look forward to serving all of Central Valley’s customers with precision agriculture and with the drive of our cus-

tomers’ needs and enthusiasm of the Central Advantage staff, we are all going to have a great future in precision agriculture,” Kruise said.

Central Valley is a full service agricultural supply and marketing cooperative serving much of southeastern Minnesota. There are nearly 200 full-time employees and 65 seasonal workers. The general office for Central Valley is located in Owatonna. There are retail farm supply outlets in Owatonna, Blooming Prairie, Ellendale, Hayfield, West Concord and other locations.

Paap re-elected to American Farm Bureau Board

Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation President Kevin Paap was re-elected to the American Farm Bureau Federation’s Board of Directors to serve a two-year term by the voting delegates at the AFBF Annual Meeting voting delegate session in San Diego, California.



Paap

This will be Paap’s third term on the board of directors. He serves on the 34-member AFBF board, which has 30 state farm bureau presidents along with the Women’s Committee Chair, Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee Chair, Vice President Bushue and President Stallman.

During the AFBF Board of Directors meeting, Paap was re-appointed to the AFBF Trade Advisory Committee and re-appointed chair of the committee.

“It’s an honor and a privilege to represent farm bureau

members from Minnesota on the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors,” said Paap. “This allows Minnesota to have a seat at the table when meeting with national and international leaders on issues of importance that affect farming and ranching and rural communities are determined.”

Paap, a full-time farmer, and his wife, Julie, own and operate a fourth-generation family farm in Blue Earth County near Garden City. The Paaps raise corn and soybeans. Paap has been a life-long farm bureau member. He was first elected president of the Minnesota Farm Bureau in 2005 and prior to that served as vice president of the organization since 1997.

Nearly 60 farm bureau members from Minnesota were among the 4,500 farm bureau members representing all 50 states and Puerto Rico at the AFBF Annual Meeting. The meeting also featured national resolutions session, which set policies for the upcoming year, as well as, workshops and seminars. The annual meeting concluded Jan. 14.

Seeking new members

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is updating its popular, statewide Minnesota Grown Directory filled with direct to consumer farms and farmers markets. Membership and Directory listings are open to Minnesota producers who grow or raise products.

The 2014 edition promoted 978 farms and farmers markets. Minnesota Grown has more than 1,200 members, including fruit and vegetable farms, livestock producers, farmers markets, CSA farms, orchards, garden centers, farm wineries and Christmas tree growers.

An estimated 170,000 copies of the Minnesota Grown Directory are released annually in April and distributed statewide in tourist centers, libraries, chambers of commerce, farms and retailers. Farms who advertise in the printed Directory are also included in the online edition, which was redesigned and had more than 290,000 unique visitors in 2014. The new, mobile friendly website was improved to simplify searches for Minnesota products and farms.

“The demand for local foods has increased dramatically the last few years,” said Jessica

Miles, ag marketing specialist with the Minnesota Grown Program. “Our Directory is the most comprehensive and commonly used guide to local foods and plants available in Minnesota. It’s also becoming an excellent resource for family activity ideas and learning opportunities.”

While memberships are accepted year-round, farms must sign up or call Jessica Miles by Feb. 6 to be included in the 2015 printed Directory.

“For \$60, farmers can get an entire year’s worth of advertising both online and in print,” said Miles. “They’ll also have access to other great Minnesota Grown member-only benefits, such as use of the trademarked logo and FREE stickers, price cards and other promotional items. Just don’t delay and call right away because the deadline to be included in the printed Directory is Feb. 6, 2015.”

Potential new members may sign up and pay online by clicking on the “Members & Retailers” tab at www.minnesotagrown.com, then clicking on “Become a Member” or contacting Miles at 651-201-6170 or jessica.miles@state.mn.us to request an application by mail.





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DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: 07/20/2005 as Document Number A000333690 in the Office of the County Recorder, Steele County, Minnesota ASSIGNMENT OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to Ventures Trust 2013-I c/o MCM Capital Partners, LLC DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: 06/24/2013 as Document Number A000392061 in the Office of the County Recorder, Steele County, Minnesota

TAX PARCEL I.D. NO.: 15.106.3012 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: THE REAL PROPERTY IN STEELE COUNTY MINNESOTA, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: THE WEST 60 FEET OF LOT 10, THE WEST 60 FEET OF THE NORTH ONE-HALF OF LOT 11, THE SOUTH ONE-HALF OF LOT 11, AND LOTS 12 AND 13, ALL IN BLOCK 30, IN SOUTH SIDE ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE OF ELLENDALE, STEELE COUNTY, MINNESOTA. BEING AN ABSTRACT PROPERTY. BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED BY FEE SIMPLE DEED FROM RICHARD A. JOHNSON AND BECKIE L. JOHNSON, HUSBAND AND WIFE TO ROSS LESTER JOHNSON AND BERNADETTE JOHNSON, DATE 02/12/2003 AND RECORDED ON 04/01/2003 IN DOCUMENT NO. A308871, IN STEELE COUNTY RECORDS, STATE ON MN. A B S T R A C T STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 707 2nd Street S Box 273, Ellendale, MN 56026 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Citicorp Trust Bank, FSB RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: BSI Financial Services TRANSACTION AGENT: None

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE AS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE: \$122,007.29

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes. Pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the mortgaged premises will be sold by the Sheriff of Steele, Minnesota at public auction as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: 01/20/2015 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: Steele Sheriff's Office, 204 E. Pearl, Owatonna, MN 55060, to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said Mortgagor(s) or Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23, the mortgagor must vacate the mortgaged property by 11:59 p.m. on 07/20/2015, or the next business day if 07/20/2015 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

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

Dated: 12/02/2014

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT

The attached referenced sale scheduled for 1/20/2015 is hereby postponed until 03/12/2015 at 10:00 AM at the Steele Sheriff's Office, 204 E. Pearl, Owatonna, MN 55060. Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, the premises must be vacated by 11:59 p.m. on 09/12/2015 or the next business day if 09/12/2015 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

Dated: 1/14/2015

Ventures Trust 2013-I c/o MCM Capital Partners, LLC, Mortgagee/ Mortgage Assignee Klatt, Odekirk, Augustine, Sayer, Treinen & Rastede, P.C., By Brian G. Sayer, Attorney for Mortgagee/ Mortgage Assignee 925 E. 4th Street, Waterloo, IA 50703

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

1/20

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.

Date: December 11, 2014

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

1. Default has occurred in the conditions of that certain Mortgage dated May 30, 2006, executed by David E. Kranda, a single person, as Mortgagor, to United Prairie Bank, as Mortgagee, and filed for record on July 3, 2006, as document number A000342429, in the Office of the Steele County Recorder. The May 30, 2006 Mortgage was subsequently modified as follows: on November 6, 2007, as document number A000356055, and filed for record in the Office of the Steele County Recorder on November 15, 2007; on March 5, 2008, as document number A000356055, and filed for record in the Office of the Steele County Recorder on March 25, 2008; and on March 4, 2011, as document number A000377099, and filed for record in the Office of the Steele County Recorder on March 11, 2011.

2. The original principal amount secured by the Mortgage was: \$30,000.00.

3. No action or proceeding at law is now pending to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part thereof.

4. No mortgage has been released from financial obligation on the mortgage.

5. The holder of the Mortgage has complied with all conditions precedent to acceleration of the debt secured by the Mortgage and foreclosure of the Mortgage, and all notice and other requirements of applicable statutes.

6. At the date of this notice the amount due on the Mortgage, and taxes, if any, paid by the holder of the Mortgage is: \$29,735.29.

7. Pursuant to the power of sale in the Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, on the land described as follows:

THE NORTH 81 FEET OF THE EAST 165 FEET OF THE SOUTH HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 107 NORTH, RANGE 20 WEST, EXCEPT THE NORTH 10 FEET THEREOF

Street Address: 2330 Kenyon Road, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060

Tax I.D. Number: 17-002-4101.

and will be sold by the Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota at public auction on Friday, January 30, 2015 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. at the Steele County Sheriff's Office, 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060.

8. The time allowed by law for redemption of Mortgage or Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months after the date of sale.

9. The date on or before which the Mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. § 580.30 or the property redeemed under Minn. Stat. § 580.23 is July 30, 2015, at 11:59 p.m. If the foregoing date is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the date to vacate is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

10. 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 MINN. STAT. §

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.

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Mortgagee or Assignee of Mortgage:

By: /s/ Andrew J. Steil Andrew J. Steil #387048 Attorneys for Mortgagee or Assignee of Mortgagee: GRAY, PLANT, MOOTY, MOOTY & BENNETT, P.A. 1010 West St. Germain Street Suite 500 St. Cloud, MN 56301 (320) 252-4414 12/16, 12/23, 12/30, 1/6, 1/13, 1/20

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No 74-PR-14-2526

Estate of Lois M. Knutson, Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on February 3, 2015, at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, January 22, 1991, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Gaylord J. Knutson, whose address is 191 37th Avenue NW, Rochester, MN, 55901, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated:

BY THE COURT (COURT SEAL) Karen R. Duncan Judge of District Court

Court Administrator Attorney for Petitioner David L. Einhaus Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A. 202 N. Cedar Ave. PO Box 545 Owatonna, MN, 55060

Attorney License No: 26190 Telephone: (507) 451-3580 FAX: (507) 451-3532 Email: einhaus@owatonnallawyers.com

1/13, 1/20

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: July 12, 2006 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$115,200.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Kristoffer D. Ferch and Michelle L. Ferch f/k/a Michelle L. Cassem, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 100077910006577411

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Decision One Mortgage Company, LLC SERVICER: Specialized Loan Servicing LLC

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed September 21, 2006, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T000060672

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: The Bank of New York

Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the certificateholders of the CWALT, Inc., ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2006-OC8 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-OC8

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 3, Block 1, Radel Addition No. 4, Owatonna, Minnesota REGISTERED PROPERTY PROPERTY ADDRESS: 2315 Saint Paul Rd, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-271-0103 Cert No. 15467 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$157,246.45

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 10, 2015, 10:00am

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060

to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on September 10, 2015, or the next business day if September 10, 2015 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: January 13, 2015

The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the certificateholders of the CWALT, Inc., ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2006-OC8 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-OC8 Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION Court File No 74-PR-15-46

Estate of Elizabeth K. Reinhard, Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on March 3, 2015, at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent, dated, August 18, 2009, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Thomas Diamond, whose address is 19549 Ireland Way, Lakeville, MN, 55044, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED

administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: 1/9/15

BY THE COURT Bueltel, Joseph Judge of District Court

Attorney for Petitioner David L. Einhaus Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A. 202 N. Cedar Ave. P.O. Box 545 Owatonna, MN, 55060 Attorney License No: 26190 Telephone: (507) 451-3580 FAX: (507) 451-3532 Email: einhaus@owatonnallawyers.com

1/20, 1/27

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 16, 2003 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$35,000.00 MORTGAGOR(S): John H. Regitschnig aka John H. Regitschnig and Mary A. Regitschnig aka Mary A. Regitschnig, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on December 4, 2003 as Document Number A317625 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The West 99 feet of Lot 1, and the West 99 feet of the South 1/2 of Lot 2, Block 30, Johnson and Company's Addition to the Village of Medford, Steele County, Minnesota

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 301 1ST AVENUE NE, MEDFORD, MN 55049

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$38,146.86

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

NAME OF MORTGAGE

Steele County

STEELE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' SYNOPSIS FOR 12/16/2014

COMPLETE MINUTES CAN BE VIEWED ON THE STEELE COUNTY WEBSITE.

- Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
1. Commissioner Johnson called the meeting to order and made introductions.
 2. Assistant Finance Director Cathy Piepho shared budget information on revenues and expenditures for 2015.
 3. The hearing was then open to questions and comments from those in attendance.
 4. Several people in attendance spoke regarding assessed values, the increase in their taxes and the need to cut spending.
 5. Motion by Commissioner Huntington, seconded by Commissioner Ebeling to close the hearing at 6:58 p.m.

MN Pheasants Members ANNUAL MEETING February 17, 2015 at Knights of Columbus Hall, 820 South Elm, Owatonna, MN at 7 P.M.

Meet the Board members before meeting at 6:30. MN Pheasants could use additional Board members. Please contact Dennis Thompson, 507-451-2155 or Kevin Johnson, 507-455-0880. We will have our Business meeting and election of officers.



1/20, 1/27, 2/3

Steele County

STEELE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' SYNOPSIS FOR 12/16/2014
COMPLETE MINUTES CAN BE VIEWED ON THE STEELE COUNTY WEBSITE.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. Schultz/Ebeling to approve the agenda. Ayes all.

2. Huntington/Ebeling to approve the minutes of November 25, 2014. Ayes all.

3. Huntington/Kubicek to approve the Body Art Establishment License for Kat's Tat's (Katie Bissell). Ayes all.

4. Kubicek/Huntington to approve the CUP #388 for Daniel Petsinger for an internet service provider business in Section 21-106-21 of Lemond Township with conditions per the Planning Commission and to approve the Finding of Facts. Ayes all.

5. Schultz/Ebeling offered the following Resolution, for the following amounts be appropriated for Petty Cash to the following listed departments as custodians of these funds in Steele County for 2015. Treasurer \$500.00, Auditor \$50.00, Recorder \$200.00, LEC-Records \$25.00, Sheriff Advance \$500.00, Detention Center \$2,000.00 (base amt varies daily), Public Health \$25.00, Four Seasons \$70.00, Road & Bridge \$50.00, Landfill \$250.00 for a total of \$3720.00. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.

6. Ebeling/Huntington offered a Resolution to set the Tax Levy at 21,657,511. (Later rescinded) Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.

7. Schultz/Kubicek offered a Resolution that the salary for the position of Steele County Commissioner be set at \$21,886 per year for 2015 and to set the per diem rate at \$70 per day. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.

8. Kubicek/Schultz to authorize the Chairman to sign the Quit Claim Deed for the City of Medford. Ayes all.

9. Huntington/Schultz to authorize the Chairman to sign the Quit Claim Deed for Roger Borwege. Ayes all.

10. Huntington/Ebeling to refer the correspondence from the Center for Rural Policy and Development to Internal Central Services. Ayes all.

11. Kubicek/Ebeling to accept and place on file the correspondence from the Soil and Water Conservation District. Ayes all.

12. The Public Hearing for the Transportation Sales Tax Option was open at 7:15 p.m.

13. Public Works Director Anita Benson explained the purpose of the proposed ½% sales tax. The meeting was then open for questions for those in attendance.

14. Huntington/Ebeling to close the Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m. Ayes all.

15. Kubicek/Schultz offered a Resolution that the Steele County Board of Commissioners authorized and imposes a ½% sales tax as provided for in Minnesota State Statute for the year 2015 and each subsequent year thereafter, to fund road and drainage improvements as identified in the Steele County 2015-2025 Transportation Capital Improvement Plan dated November 25, 2014. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.

16. Huntington/Ebeling to authorize hiring a temporary replacement for the Extension office and to recommend that new language be added in the MOU to hold the County harmless for future hires. The temporary employee would be funded from the budget, not to exceed the 2015 budgeted amount. Ayes all.

17. Huntington/Ebeling to authorize hiring a temporary replacement for the Extension office and to recommend that new language be added in the MOU to hold the County harmless for future hires. The temporary employee would be funded from the budget, not to exceed the 2015 budgeted amount. Ayes all.

18. Ebeling/Huntington to approve the seasonal snow plow driver pay rate of \$16.65-\$23.31 per hour with a contingency that if the appeal changes the pay would increase. Ayes all.

19. Schultz/Kubicek to approve an unpaid Medical Leave of Absence Request for Richard Wandrey through April 30, 2015. Ayes all.

20. Ebeling/Huntington to approve the leave of absence request (per Minn. Statute 3.088) for Daniel McIntosh, County Attorney, and Lon Thiele, County Sheriff to take a leave from their previous position while they hold their elected position. Ayes all.

21. Huntington/Schultz to approve that Steele County Elected positions be eligible for the same PTO and benefits that non-union employees receive effective with the payroll beginning 12/29/2014 and the sick leave conversion be retroactively applied for elected officials still in service of Steele County. Ayes all.

22. Kubicek/Schultz to approve the sale of the Surplus IT Equipment to the Historical Society as long as there are no other entities that would also be entitled to the equipment and the equipment is "as is" as long as the values is under \$15,000. Ayes all.

23. Kubicek/Huntington to approve of the tax abatement for the Borwege property north of Medford. Ayes all.

24. Ebeling/Schultz a Resolution that the Board of Commissioners of Steele County, Minnesota, authorize the Steele County Planning and Zoning Department to develop guidelines for the use of the 2014 and 2015 Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid. These guidelines are to be presented to the County Board for their approval and adoption in accordance with above legislation. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.

25. Schultz/Ebeling to authorize the County Recorder to sign the Agreement with 3M Cogent to begin doing electronic finger printing in the Recorder's office. Ayes all.

26. Huntington/Ebeling to approve the hiring of a Program Coordinator at the Detention Center. Ayes all.

27. Kubicek/Huntington to approve the updating of the TV's at the Detention Center. Ayes all.

28. Schultz/Huntington to approve the South Central Drug Investigation Unit (SCDIU) Joint Powers Agreement Renewal. Ayes all.

29. Huntington/Ebeling to approve the 2 year Contract Renewal Agreement with Ed Strohschein for storage and to authorize the Administrator to sign. Ayes all.

30. Ebeling/Huntington to approve the out of state training for Sheriff Lon Thiele to Johnston, Iowa from January 25 – 30, 2015. Ayes all.

31. Huntington/Schultz to approve the City of Owatonna Maintenance Agreement contingent on County Attorney approval. Ayes all.

32. Schultz/Kubicek to approve the low bid from Ringhofer Construction in the amount of \$5,650 for remodeling work in the lower level of the Administration building necessary to establish a conference room. Ayes all.

33. Kubicek/Ebeling offered a Resolution that Contract No. 149930 has in all things been completed, and the County Board being fully advised in the premises and in behalf of the Steele County Highway Department and authorize final payment to Prahm Construction Inc. for 74-599-30 Summit Township Bridge. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.

34. Huntington/Ebeling to approve the Donation Carry Over into 2015 in the Veteran's Fund in the amount of \$1,840.00. Ayes all.

35. Huntington/Schultz to approve the revised Memorandum of Understanding between Public Health and MN Prairie and authorize the Chair to sign. Ayes all.

36. Ebeling/Huntington to approve the following Public Health Contracts for 2015: Healthy Smiles; Dental Hygenist, Greg Schroeder; Physical Therapist, Wee Pals; Consultations, Kid's Korner; Consultations, Faduma Yabero; Interpreter, Julie Yearling; Interpreter, Pamela Herrera; Interpreter, Pamela Herrera; Interpreter, Cedar Valley Services; Consultation. Ayes all.

37. Huntington/Schultz to approve Public Health Fee Schedule for 2015. Ayes all.

38. Ebeling/Kubicek to approve the Accounts Receivable write-off final in the amount of \$29,410.59 for the Elderly Waivered Services from Human Services. Ayes all.

39. Huntington/Ebeling offered a Resolution that the Steele County Board of Commissioners wishes to thank the employees of the Human Services Department for their hard work and dedication to the citizens of Steele County. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.

40. Huntington/Kubicek to approve the personnel actions. Ayes all.

41. Ebeling/Schultz to authorize the Administrator to make an offer on a purchase of property on 119 E. Mill St. & 315 S. Cedar. Ayes all.

42. Huntington/Kubicek to approve the Joint Powers Agreement for Region One – Southeast Minnesota Homeland Security and to authorize the Chair and Auditor to sign. Ayes all.

43. Reports: Commissioner Kubicek reported on the AMC workshops, Snowplow tracking and new materials for erosion in ditches. Commissioner Ebeling reported on the Joint Dispatch budget, AMC and South Country Health Alliance grants, the Extension Farm Bill, Ditch meetings, and MN Prairie year end items.

Commissioner Huntington reported on the AMC meetings and South Country Health Alliance.

Commissioner Schultz had no report.

44. Ebeling/Kubicek to rescind the Resolution setting the preliminary levy and budget. Ayes all.

LISTING OF BILLS
12/16/2014

Aviands, LLC	11,978.36
Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc.	7,764.17
KOWZ	3,060.00
American Institutional Supply, Inc.	2,305.83
Barna Guzy & Steffen, Ltd	9,115.50
Block Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	2,087.06
Boyer Trucks Rogers	2,728.41
Brock White Company, LLC	26,840.00
Businessware Solutions Corporation	2,232.04
Cemstone Concrete Materials, LLC	2,388.50
Century Link	2,072.49
City of Owatonna	14,891.25
Computer Professionals Unlimited, Inc.	4,127.00
CPS Technology Solutions	4,004.99
Crop Production Services, Inc.	8,970.56
Custom Communications, Inc.	3,502.38
Falkstone, LLC	6,217.74
Four Seasons Centre	3,720.00
Groff/Stanley A.	6,964.01
H & L Mesabi, Inc.	29,479.25
Harlands Tire & Auto Center	2,323.72
Haugo GeoTechnical Services, LLC	8,035.50
Hobart Service	2,669.30
Honeywell, Inc.	14,648.27
Industrial Properties, LLC	2,804.67
Integra Telecom	3,118.32
Jeff Larson	2,517.00
Kraus Anderson Construction Company	9,315.00
Kwik Trip, Inc.	4,943.60
Loken Excavating & Drainage	3,761.35
NEC Financial Services, LLC	4,269.61
Newman Signs, Inc.	3,734.27
Office of MN IT Service	2,160.38
Owatonna Groundsmasters, Inc.	3,145.58
Owatonna Hospital	2,526.80
Owatonna Public Utilities	27,249.82
Rochester Sand & Gravel	2,502.45
S & T Office Products, Inc.	3,767.57
Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.	2,812.38
Sign Pro of Owatonna, Inc.	2,365.60
Solbrekk, Inc.	4,375.00
Steele County Central Services	7,348.68
Steele County Highway Dept.	4,857.87
Steele County Revenue	11,199.06
Steele County Treasurer	31,350.00
Stoel Rives, LLP	2,710.35
Trane U.S. Inc.	3,165.72
Tri-State Bobcat	41,900.00
Turnkey Corrections	9,458.83
Vanguard Appraisals, Inc.	20,064.00
Verizon Wireless	2,764.22
Wallace Bustad Crane Service, Inc.	2,565.00
Waste Management of WI-MN	50,483.49
219 Warrants under \$2,000	90,939.57

TOTAL: \$556,828.04

48. Schultz/Kubicek to adjourn to the Call of the Chair at 8:28 p.m. Ayes all.

1/20

Steele County

STEELE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
11/25/2014
COMPLETE MINUTES CAN BE VIEWED ON THE STEELE COUNTY WEBSITE.

As per Board action on November 25, 2014, Commissioner Johnson reviewed and approved the following bills on December 29, 2014.

LISTING OF BILLS
12/29/2014

Aviands LLC	11,536.50
Association of MN Counties	2,125.00
Bolton & Menk, Inc.	10,263.00
Central Valley Cooperative	5,955.72
City of Blooming Prairie	2,500.00
City of Owatonna	44,178.86
Compass Minerals America	5,720.74
Dakota County Financial Svc.	2,662.00
Election Systems & Software, Inc.	7,645.55
Hewlett-Packard Company	11,466.00
Hodgman Drainage, Co. Inc.	17,423.90
Industrial Properties, LLC	15,525.00
Innovative Office Solutions, LLC	3,875.28
Local Government Information Systems	23,344.20
M & I Lockbox: MCCC	8,577.00
Marco, Inc.	10,193.50
Metro Sales, Inc.	7,713.13
MN Counties Intergovernmental Trust	15,263.00
MN County Attorneys Assn.	3,748.00
MN Dept. of Natural Resources	2,250.00
MVTL Laboratories, Inc.	7,466.30
Smith Tollefson Rahrick & Cass	14,884.82
Steele County Public Health	3,509.70
Steele County Soil & Water Conservation Dist.	8,200.00
Stussy Construction, Inc.	2,660.12
Turnkey Corrections	8,831.92
Verizon Wireless	2,638.44
140 Warrants under \$2,000	78,150.97
FINAL TOTAL:	\$338,308.65

1/20

Weekly crossword on Page 5B

PUZZLE SOLUTION

D	I	C	E		S	P	I	C	E	S	
J	O	H	N	N	Y	C	A	R	S	O	N
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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: September 30, 2005

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$139,997.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Sheri Ferguson and Shane Ferguson, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: New Century Mortgage Corporation

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: New Century Mortgage Corporation

SERVICER: America's Servicing Company

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed October 19, 2005, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000336189

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Morgan Stanley Capital I Inc. Trust 2006-NC2; thereafter assigned to Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Morgan Stanley Capital I Inc. Trust 2006-NC2, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-NC2 by Corrective Assignment of Mortgage

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 2, Block 4, Edgeview Addition, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 880 25Th St Ne, Owatonna, MN 55060

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-344-0402

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$167,337.52

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: January 13, 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 July 13, 2015, or the next business day if July 13, 2015 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: November 6, 2014

Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Morgan Stanley Capital I Inc. Trust 2006-NC2, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-NC2 Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559 Diane F. Mach - 273788 Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778 Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X Gary J. Evers - 0134764 Attorneys for Mortgagee 12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The above referenced sale scheduled for January 13, 2015, at 10:00 am, has been postponed to February 13, 2015, at 10:00 am, and will be held at Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060, said County and State.

Unless the mortgage is reinstated under Minnesota Statute 580.30 or the property is redeemed under Minnesota Statute 580.23 the property must be vacated by August 13, 2015. If this date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the date to vacate will be the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Dated: January 13, 2015.

Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Morgan Stanley Capital I Inc. Trust 2006-NC2, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-NC2 Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559 Diane F. Mach - 273788 Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778 Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X Gary J. Evers - 0134764 12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200

Burnsville, MN 55337 (952) 831-4060 14-095895 Attorney for Assignee of Mortgagee

Mya Rowland Foreclosure Assistant Shapiro & Zielke, LLP 12550 West Frontage Rd., Suite 200 Burnsville, MN 55337 952-831-4060 ext. 3117 Office 847-954-4800 Fax mrowland@LOGS.com www.zielkeattorneys.com.

1/20

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No 74-PR-14-2524 Estate of Virginia A. Zwiebel, Decedent

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that an application for the informal probate of the Decedent's Will, dated November 22, 2000, and ("Will"), has been filed with the Registrar. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Registrar has informally appointed Robert T. Zwiebel and Carol J. Zwiebel a/k/a Carol J. Zwiebel Margitan, whose addresses are 166 East Garvin Heights Road, Winona, MN, 55987 and 12552 12th Avenue NW, Seattle, WA 98177, respectively, as co-personal representatives of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed with the Court (pursuant to Minn. Stat. 524.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will or appointment of the Co-Personal Representatives must be filed with this Court and will be heard by the Court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the co-personal representatives or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minn. Stat. 501B.41, subd. 5.

Dated: 1/5/15

Linda M Brandt Registrar

Attorney for Personal Representative

David L. Einhaus Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A. 202 N. Cedar Avenue, P.O. Box 545 Owatonna, MN, 55060 Attorney License No: 26190 Telephone: (507) 451-3580 FAX: (507) 451-3532 Email: einhaus@owatonnaattorneys.com

1/20, 1/27

Changing of the guard

Rosie Rose pins the sheriff's badge on her husband's uniform following the swearing-in ceremony at the Dodge County Courthouse on Jan. 6.

Staff photos by Karen Jorgensen



Family, friends and members of the Dodge County Sheriff's Department were on hand as Scott Rose was sworn in as sheriff.

Rose settles in as Dodge County sheriff

By KAREN JORGENSEN
News Editor

Sitting in his not-yet-organized-office, Scott Rose described his first week as Dodge County sheriff as busy but “a very good week.”

District Judge Jodi Williamson swore in Rose to the office on Jan. 6.

Besides getting settled into a new work space, Rose was busy getting his administrative team in place. His first act as sheriff was to rehire Mike Leonhardt as chief deputy. Also making up that team, he said, will be Capt. Ryer Anderson.

While those three will make up the top administrators, Rose said, the sergeants and dispatch supervisor will also be part of the leadership.

“We’re all going to work together,” Rose said.

He may be new to the sheriff’s job but Rose is certainly not new to the Dodge County Department.

In fact, his relationship to law enforcement in Dodge County goes back to his childhood in Kasson. His father’s full-time job was as a teacher at Kasson High School, but he worked part-time in law enforcement since 1968 and for 18 years as a Dodge County deputy before retiring in 1999. Altogether, he said, his father worked 34 years as an English teacher and 31 in law enforcement.

“He was always a full-time teacher, part-time law enforcement,” Rose said of his father.

“As a kid growing up,” Rose said, “he (his dad) worked nights and weekends. A lot of the people who were here when I started worked with dad.”

Rose said his maternal grandfather also worked as a “special deputy” in North Dakota while farming.

Still, when Rose graduated from Kasson High School in 1987 he did not go into law enforcement. He headed to Phoenix, where he attended broadcasting school.

Although he did some DJ work in radio, he said, his primary duties were in production and marketing and sales management.

He also started his voice over business, a project that has continued to the present. He provides the voice or narration for advertising, radio infomercials and for his brother who is a 3D animation medical illustrator.

“It’s fun, it’s a part-time thing,” Rose said of voice over work. “I always loved radio.”

From working full-time in radio, the sheriff said, he went into security work, primarily electronic security cameras.

In 1996, while still working in the security business and while his father was still working at the department, Rose started on the Dodge County Posse. His initial motivation, he said, was not his father or law enforcement.

“I originally started on the posse because I wanted to ride horses,” he said. One of the requirements for posse members at that time was to do ride-a-longs with the deputies.

“I got to the point I loved it,” he said. He rode every chance he got, Rose said, and got a part time license and in December 1997, becoming a part-time officer in Kasson.

During this time, he said, he continued his day job but “it got to where I looked forward to my part time job more than my full-time job.”

That was when Rose decided to go back to school at Rochester

Community and Technical College and get his law enforcement degree.

He initially worked as a civilian employee in the Rochester Police Department before being hired in dispatch in Dodge County. After a year in dispatch he was hired as a part-time deputy, became full-time in 2002 and then moved through the ranks.

When elected sheriff in November he was working as a county investigator.

Rose’s task now is to organize his team and lead the department as it meets the challenges facing Dodge County.

“We have a young administration,” Rose said. That, Rose said, is one of the reasons for hiring Leonhardt as chief deputy.

“Most of us remember Mike as a supervisor” Rose said. “We’re excited about him.”

The Sheriff’s Department is a very close-knit group, Rose said.

“What makes this department successful,” he said, “is allowing the guys to do what they were hired to do.”

Dodge County is growing, he said, and will face new challenges as a result of the Destination Medical Center initiative in Rochester and Olmsted County. Along with the good comes the bad, he said, and Dodge County faces the same challenges as larger communities such as Rochester.

To help meet those challenges, Rose said, he would be asking the County Commissioners to approve the hiring of a third investigator.

“We can’t be proactive,” he said of the current staffing level. At best, he said, the department can be reactive and try and stay above the situation.

In addition to the third investigator, he said, he wants to fill vacancies that exist in the department.

There are vacancies in every department, he said, including three part-time positions in dispatch, four part-time in patrol and one in records. It is important to fill those vacancies, he said, when it comes to scheduling and coverage throughout the county.

The department will also make an effort to become better known and more involved in the townships, he said. Deputies will be visiting town boards so people in the townships know who the officers are who are patrolling their area.

If people know who their deputies are, Rose said, they will be more likely to call them if there is a problem.

Relationships with those in the townships is especially important, he said, because rural burglaries and thefts are one of the biggest crime problems.

This January is seeing a large number of new sheriff’s taking office, Rose said. About half of Minnesota’s 87 counties are swearing in new sheriffs this month, including several in southeastern Minnesota.

Rose said he is looking forward to working with his fellow sheriff’s in the area.

There is a lot of networking among the sheriffs, he said, and he plans to continue that cooperation. Dodge County has a great relationship with surrounding counties, he said.

“People move here (Dodge County) because of the small town atmosphere and quality of schools,” Rose said. “We want to maintain that. Our part is to make sure the community is safe to live in.”

Sheriff’s first move is to re-appoint fired chief deputy

A year after he was fired from his job as Dodge County’s chief deputy, Mike Leonhardt is back at work.

Sheriff Scott Rose appointed Leonhardt to fill the chief deputy position hours after he was sworn in as sheriff.



Leonhardt

“For 26 years, Mike (Leonhardt) dedicated his entire law enforcement career to serving the citizens of Dodge County,” Rose said. “He served as a patrol deputy before being promoted to sergeant, captain and finally chief deputy in 2009. There is nobody in our office with the supervisory and administrative experiences that Mike has. Nobody.”

Then-Sheriff Jim Jensen fired Leonhardt in January 2014 saying the deputy had shown “disloyalty.” The position has been vacant for the past year.

Rose, who had been an investigator in the sheriff’s office, defeated Jensen for the top job last November. Rose was sworn in as sheriff by District Judge Jodi Williamson on Tuesday morn-

ing and announced Leonhardt’s rehiring Tuesday afternoon.

In making the announcement, Rose said his first order of business was to complete his administrative team and bring Leonhardt back to the department. Rose has long maintained that the firing of Leonhardt on Jan. 17, 2014, was unjust and without cause.

Rose said he believes it is important to create a working environment where his administrative staff can feel comfortable enough and willing to openly disagree with any of his decisions and ideas if they feel they are not in the best interests of the county, without reprimand.

“I believe as sheriff, I will never learn and grow as a leader if I simply surround myself with a staff willing to only say ‘yes’ to each and every idea I put forth.

“We have a very young administration,” said Rose. “I’m excited to bring Mike’s experience back so we hit the ground running and make the changes and improvements needed to improve and expand on the services we provide to the citizens of Dodge County.”

Rose said Leonhardt’s appointment is to be effective Jan. 13, pending Dodge County Board approval.

Steele-Waseca starts solar panel program

In an effort to enhance renewable energy options for its members, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric is launching a community solar program.

Steele-Waseca has plans to construct a 250-panel solar array on its property at 2411 W. Bridge St. in Owatonna in conjunction with a smaller solar array that Great River Energy will own. For members considering a solar installation, participating in a community solar program may provide a more convenient, cost-effective option in utilizing solar energy.

Steele-Waseca has come up with an innovative approach to community solar that has driven down the upfront cost for members to participate. The Sunna

(pronounced SOO-nah) Project allows any member to subscribe to the community solar program, and in return, be allocated the energy produced by their subscribed panel(s) to offset their monthly electric bill. Steele-Waseca members are being encouraged to contact the co-op for details on how they may subscribe for a 410-watt panel for less than \$200.

Sunna is the Norse goddess of the sun. According to myth, Sunna is known for riding across the sky each day in a chariot.

Steele-Waseca serves over 9,600 meter locations in a nine-county area including Steele, Dodge, Freeborn, Waseca, LeSueur, Rice, Faribault, Goodhue and Blue Earth counties.

Students news

The following students were named to the dean’s list during the fall semester at South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota: Kellie Josephine Naatz, Blooming Prairie, College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences; Mariah Janlee Kieffer, Byron, College of Nursing; Chandler William Bauer, Owatonna; Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering; Brandon Alden Johnston, Owatonna, College

of Agriculture and Biological Sciences; and Blake Bradley Medvec, Owatonna, College of Pharmacy.

RCTC

Ashley Hill and Cody Wagaman, both of Blooming Prairie, were among nearly 1,100 students from Rochester Community and Technical College who made the Dean’s List for fall semester.

2 arrested in drug sting

A man and a woman are facing felony drug charges after a prescription drug bust in Owatonna last week.

Abdi M. Mohamed, 27, has been charged with two felony controlled substance charges. In addition, Kimberly K. Kuiper, 34, faces one felony drug charge and a gross misdemeanor child endangerment charge.

The charges stem from a prescription medication sting by the South Central Drug Investigation Unit. An agent set up an undercover buy for Suboxone strips, which is a Schedule III narcotic.



Mohamed



Kuiper

and made the exchange for \$140. A police officer stopped the vehicle at the nearby Kwik Trip.

After the arrests, both Mohamed and Kuiper had in their possession marked buy funds used to purchase the drugs, according to police. Officers also found a 5-year-old child in the vehicle. The child was turned over to child protective services.

Police said when the two were interviewed, they blamed each other for the sale of the drugs.

Police said the buy took place at McDonald’s in Owatonna at about 3:15 p.m. Jan. 13. Mohamed and Kuiper allegedly showed up in a vehicle

Public Notice of Application for Feedlot Permit and Public Informational Meeting

Notice is hereby given per Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 116.07 that Joe, Ben and Jake Rysavy, hereafter referred to as Rysavy Dairy LLC has made an application to the State of Minnesota, Pollution Control Agency for a permit to construct a new turkey feedlot with a capacity of 494 animal units in the SE Quarter, Section 25 of Lemond Township, Steele County, Minnesota.

This will be a total confinement turkey facility and will have a total capacity of 494 animal units or 27,440 head of turkeys over 5 pounds. The manure will be stored as a manure pack system on the floor.

A public informational meeting will be held before the Steele County Planning Commission on February 2, 2015 in the Steele County Administration Building, 630 Florence Ave., Owatonna, MN starting at 7:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, contact Dan Vermilyea, Feedlot Specialist at (507) 444-7488 or Steele County Planning and Zoning, 630 Florence Ave., Owatonna, MN.

NOTICE SALE OF BUILDING

Advertisement For Bids

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Blooming Prairie, at the City Center, 138 Hwy Ave S. PO Box 68, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917, until 10:00 AM on Friday, February 6, 2015.

At which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. For sale is the old Ambulance building located at 333 2nd Ave. NE. The 64’ X 32’ building consist of a two stall garage 33’ X 31’, Office 9’ X 7’, two bathrooms, laundry area and a 28’ X 21’ common area. The building is located on a 60’ X 118’ lot with Hwy 218 access. Minimum acceptable bid is \$70,000.00.

The City Council reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any bids received without explanation. Questions or requests to tour the building should be directed to the City Administrator at (507)-583-7573.

Michael G. Jones, City Administrator
City of Blooming Prairie

The Essential Wedding Guide

Be smart about wedding beauty preparation

All eyes are on the bride and groom on their wedding day. Feeling beautiful and dapper can boost a couple's confidence and ensure they look back on their wedding photographs and videos with pride.

Certain beauty basics and makeup and hair strategies can help any bride look spectacular on her wedding day. The following are some dos and don'ts of wedding day beauty preparations.

DO employ the services of a professional hairstylist and makeup artist. Professionals have the experience and tools of the trade to help you to look your best. From contouring to make your face seem slimmer to enlarging the appearance of small eyes, some tricks of the trade are best left to the pros.

DON'T forget to schedule a trial run. Make this appointment several months before the wedding day so you have ample time to work with your stylists and experiment with colors and hair arrangements to fit your personality and the style of your gown. Take plenty of pictures and notes so you will remember what needs to be on hand for the wedding day.

DO allot enough time for the wedding day beauty appointment. If you will be going to a salon, block out two or more slots instead of one. This way the stylist does not overbook and will not feel rushed. Many brides opt to have stylists come to their homes. There may be an extra charge for this service, but it may be well worth the cost.

DON'T make any drastic changes to your appearance right before the wedding. This includes changing your hair color or texture, extreme tanning, using colored contact lenses or chopping off all of your hair. It's better to wait until after the wedding to change your style.

DO bring a veil, headpiece, hair extensions and any other accessories to your hair consult. This enables the stylist to practice working with these items.

DON'T tweeze or wax brows too close to the start of the ceremony. Redness and swelling are common side effects of tweezing and waxing, and they can be difficult to mask with makeup. Instead, take care of hair removal a day or two prior to the wedding.

DO exfoliate your skin prior to the wedding. This doesn't necessarily mean you should



endure a harsh fruit acid peel or another procedure. You can exfoliate with a gentle washing of your skin with a nubby washcloth to remove any dryness and errant flakes. Moisturize well to ensure a smooth palette for makeup application.

DON'T wash or condition hair the day of the wedding. Intricate styles tend to stay better when hair has a little grip. "Dirty" hair is easier to work with than shiny, freshly washed locks. If you must wash, remember to thoroughly dry your hair before going to your appointment.

DO wear a little extra makeup than you are accustomed to wearing because it will show up better in photos. However, do

not wear so much that you look clownish. A makeup artist can help you achieve the right balance.

DON'T have bridesmaids wear makeup that is bolder than yours, especially red lips. No one should upstage the bride.

DO experiment with any products you haven't used before to test for allergic reactions and see how well they wear.

DON'T wear too much under-eye concealer or one that is too light of a shade. This can draw more attention to problem areas than remedy them.

DO bring a pain relief medica-

tion in case a tight hairstyle or headpiece causes a headache.

DON'T forget that men need a little help as well. Exfoliation and moisturization can help dry skin. Guys should use a new razor and plenty of cream before shaving to avoid irritation. A dusting of finishing powder can banish shiny noses and foreheads for photo-ready faces.

Chances are more photographs will be taken of a newlywed couple than at any other moment in their lives. Certain beauty dos and don'ts should be followed so couples put their best faces forward.

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