

STEELE COUNTY Times

KATH MEMORIAL B1



AREA GRADUATES D1

www.steeledodgenews.com | TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2018 | Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

Lawmakers find funding for Hwy. 14

By RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER



It came down to the stroke of midnight Sunday for the deadline of this year's legislative session, but it appears lawmakers have finally found a funding mechanism for the U.S. Highway 14 project.

Sen. Dave Senjem of Rochester said the Senate agreed on a $1.5 billion public infrastructure bill just minutes before the session came to a close. Included in that bill is an additional $400 million for the state's Corridors of Commerce project.

The bill heads to the governor's office for approval within the next two weeks. Senjem said it would be "totally irrational for the governor to strike the Corridors of Commerce" from the existing bill.

"As soon as the governor signs the bill, we can say done deal," Senjem said. "I feel just elated. People have been working on this for their entire lifetime. It's a pretty special day for Southern Minnesota."

Senjem said the idea is to take $174 million of the money earmarked for the Corridors of Commerce to make long awaited improvements to Highway 14 from Dodge Center to Owatonna. The project would not be funded until the next cycle for Corridors of Commerce, which will likely be announced a year from now.

Just weeks ago, MnDOT announced several highway projects for this coming year's Corridors of Commerce. Highway 14 was not a part of the upcoming project. Lawmakers were left scrambling to see if they could secure funding for Highway 14.

"We know based on all the rankings, Highway 14 will be the next project with Corridors of Commerce," Senjem said. He noted the rankings will be determined by MnDOT next year. In the past, Highway 14 has consistently ranked high for needing improvements.

Said Senjem, "We're there. This is done. It would be unimaginable that it's not."



AREA MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES AND EVENTS

BLOOMING PRAIRIE
9:30 a.m.- Coffee and doughnuts
BP Servicemen's Club

11 a.m.- Parade from Prairie Plumbing on Highway 218 to City Cemetery followed by program

After program-
Lunch BP Servicemen's Club

ELLENDALE
8:30 a.m.- Cemetery Tour

11 a.m.- Service at Church of All Saints followed by chicken dinner

OWATONNA
9:30 a.m.- Parade beginning at Elm Avenue and School Street.
(Parade heads south on Elm Avenue and ends in the fairgrounds.)
Ceremony follows the parade at the fairgrounds

Area environmental group to oppose wind farm proposal

By RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

For years they have been focused on feedlots around Dodge County. Now members of Dodge County Concerned Citizens are adding wind farms to their fight over establishing a better environment.


TROM EAYRS

DCCC expects to challenge a proposed wind farm that would span into both Steele and Dodge counties, according to Sonja Trom Eayrs, who heads up the group. NextEra Energy Resources, a Florida based company, is looking to construct 71 wind turbines along the eastern edge of Steele County in Aurora and Havana townships and the western edge of Dodge County, mostly in Ripley Township next year. The project is called Dodge Wind Energy Center.

NextaEra has begun a 12-month permitting process through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, which awards permits for wind farms. Public hearings will take place later this year about the project.

And Trom Eayrs said NextEra can expect a fight from her group that is known to not go down quietly and has even taken feedlots all the way to the Minnesota Supreme Court. She began the grassroots organization several years ago to promote clean water, clean air and advocating for good governance. To this point, the group has been vocal only with proposed feedlots near Trom Eayrs' family farm in Westfield Township near Blooming Prairie. The group has gained support from various national organizations during that time.

DCCC, Trom Eayrs said, will speak out in opposition over the wind farms to the MPUC when the public hearings take place. "This is large corporate interests coming into rural Minnesota, causing significant destruction and forcing people from their homes," she said.

She pointed to a ruling handed down last week from an administrative law judge recommending that a proposed wind farm in Freeborn County be denied an operating permit. The judge said the project has failed to show it can meet state noise standards.

The proposed Freeborn Wind project southeast of Albert Lea would exceed maximum levels of allowed noise and therefore shouldn't get a permit from MPUC, Administrative Law Judge LauraSue Schlatter wrote in an opinion released last week. Administrative law judges like Schlatter are appointed to examine contested cases before the MPUC, and their rulings are nonbinding recommendations. However, they often carry significant weight with the MPUC.

In another move related to the noise issue, the owner of Bent Tree Wind Farm, which is also in Freeborn County, recently agreed to

SEE **WIND FARM, A6**

Dream turns into reality

BP Veterans Memorial kicks off construction



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Tom Peterson, chairman of the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial Committee, outlined the past history of the drive to create a veterans memorial in BP, and he looked into the future. Dedication of the memorial is planned for Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2018.

By HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Saturday (May 19, 2018) was a special day in Blooming Prairie.

It was the day when a dream became reality, a dream to have a veterans memorial paying tribute to the many veterans who have served from this area, or are related to current residents.

Tom Peterson, chairman of the Veterans Memorial Committee, said the memorial is so fitting for the men and women who answered the call to serve their country.

More than 100 supportive people attended the special groundbreaking ceremonies held at the site of the memorial, just east of the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.

> 'We have strong roots and take care of our veterans.'
>
> **Joe Motl**
> Sons of the American Legion

With an excavator from Bishop Excavating of BP sitting on the site, Peterson called up many who have been part of the mammoth drive to raise $250,000 for the Memorial. It was then time for photographers of all types to capture history as it happened.

Bishop Excavating has pledged to donate all site preparation costs. Owners Benji and Nicki Bishop and their son Carter turned shovels toward dirt.

Other contractors recognized included Lance Lembke of Lembke Masonry and Keith Johnson of Keith Johnson Construction, Inc. Both are Blooming Prairie businesses.

Electrical contractors are Chuck Krell of Krell Electric and Jason Tieskotter of SME Southern Minnesota Electric Inc.

John and Barb Heerema of Owatonna Granite and Monument Inc. will supply the granite.

Joe Motl, commander of the Blooming Prairie Sons of the American Legion, acknowledged Peterson with starting the Sons group and spearheading the building of a veterans memorial in Blooming Prairie.

SEE **VETERANS MEMORIAL, A6**

Filings open for election races

By RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Election season is drawing closer with this week's opening of filings for elected offices.

Filing opened today (Tuesday) at 8 a.m. and continues through 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 5. Candidates may file any time throughout the two-week period during regular business hours except on Memorial Day.

The place for filing for federal offices is the Office of Secretary of State at the State Office Building in St. Paul. The location for filing of state offices can be either with the Secretary of State or at the county auditor's office of the county in which the candidate resides.

Candidates may file in person or by mail if the filing is received during the filing period. Candidates who will be absent from the state during the filing period and meet statute requirements may arrange to file during the seven days immediately preceding the candidate's absence.

Federal offices up for election this year include both U.S. Senators and U.S. Representative for District 1, which includes most of southern Minnesota.

Among the state offices up for election are governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor and attorney general. All state representatives are also up for re-election this year.

Judicial offices up for election are chief justice and associate justice (seats 1, 2 and 5) on the Supreme Court; various seats on the Court of Appeals and various judgeships within the Third Judicial District.

There will be a variety of county offices facing

SEE **FILINGS, A6**

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INSIDE

Opinions A2
Obituaries A4
Worship & Faith A5
Hometown Living B1
Public Safety B3
Spring Car Care B4
Fine Arts B5
Community Calendar B7
Hometown Sports C1
Public Notices C4
Classifieds C5
Memorial Day Tribute C6

AREA DEATHS

Marlin E. Miner, 75, Blooming Prairie
Randall Moe, 58, Owatonna

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EDITORIAL

School shootings are total insanity for America

The horrifying news out of Texas late last week is once again sounding the alarm of school safety around the country. It's an alarm that's sounding far too often.

A teenage gunman walked into a school in Santa Fe, Texas, killing 10 students and injuring 13 others. The terrifying shots began ringing out just as the school day got underway. Within minutes, another community was left in the state of shock and mourning. And a nation is left wondering how to end these senseless acts.

Including last week's Texas shooting, there have been 22 school shootings where someone has been hurt or killed this year alone. That averages out to more than one shooting a week. The worst shooting this year happened in February when a former student is suspected of going on a rampage and killing 17 people at a school in Florida.

At least 140 children, educators and others have been killed at school sites since the 1999 massacre that claimed 15 lives at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., according to published reports.

Sadly, our nation's schools have become a war zone.

After last week's shooting, President Trump came out with this understatement: "This has been going on too long in our country." He offered condolences to the victims and the country's support to everyone affected by this horrific attack.

However, what President Trump failed to address is the tightening of this nation's absurdly and dangerously lax gun-control laws.

We are left wondering how much carnage does this nation need to see before acknowledging there is a gun problem. Politicians need to step up and take meaningful action to prevent our nation's schools from becoming the bloody war zones we see time after time after time. When is enough going to be enough?

Unfortunately, there are no easy answers to tackling this major crisis. It's certainly a complex issue. But one thing is for sure. This country cannot continue its inaction in dealing with this epidemic. No other country in the world is dealing with such violence as we are in America. Why do we have to be unique in this way?

As one area school administrator lamented last week after the Texas shooting, it's sad that schools have to experience multiple lockdown drills throughout the school year to keep students safe from intruders. He went on to say, "Education should be about fun, happiness and growth."

Sheltering in place, ducking for cover and running for your life have become a routine part of our children's educational experience. This is not normal and must never be accepted as such. The same goes for the shootings. This is all insanity.

Let's face the fact that this country has too many guns, including too many combat weapons, and as a result we have too many shootings and deaths.

Enough is enough!

GUEST COLUMNS

Transportation legislation being addressed at the CapitolStreet survey

BY JOHN PETERSBURG

The Minnesota House approved a measure on May 17 that would provide even more money to repair our roads and bridges while providing good-paying union jobs to those in need.

The plan would constitutionally dedicate existing sales tax revenue from auto parts and repairs to statewide road and bridge construction.

If approved by the Minnesota House and Senate, voters would decide this November whether or not to redirect the already-collected sales taxes to road and bridge repair. If approved, the transportation investment would become conditionally effective July 1, 2020.

Last year we approved a law to utilize existing tax collections to fund road and bridge repair, and the result is a multi-billion dollar investment over the next decade. Now, if this proposal is approved in the Senate, you the voters can decide if there's an additional permanent source of funding to keep our roads and bridges in working order.

After the MNLARS fiasco this year, I authored legislation that addresses how our motor vehicle dealers and deputy registrars should deal with licensing, title and registration work in the future. That proposal passed the Minnesota House on May 16.

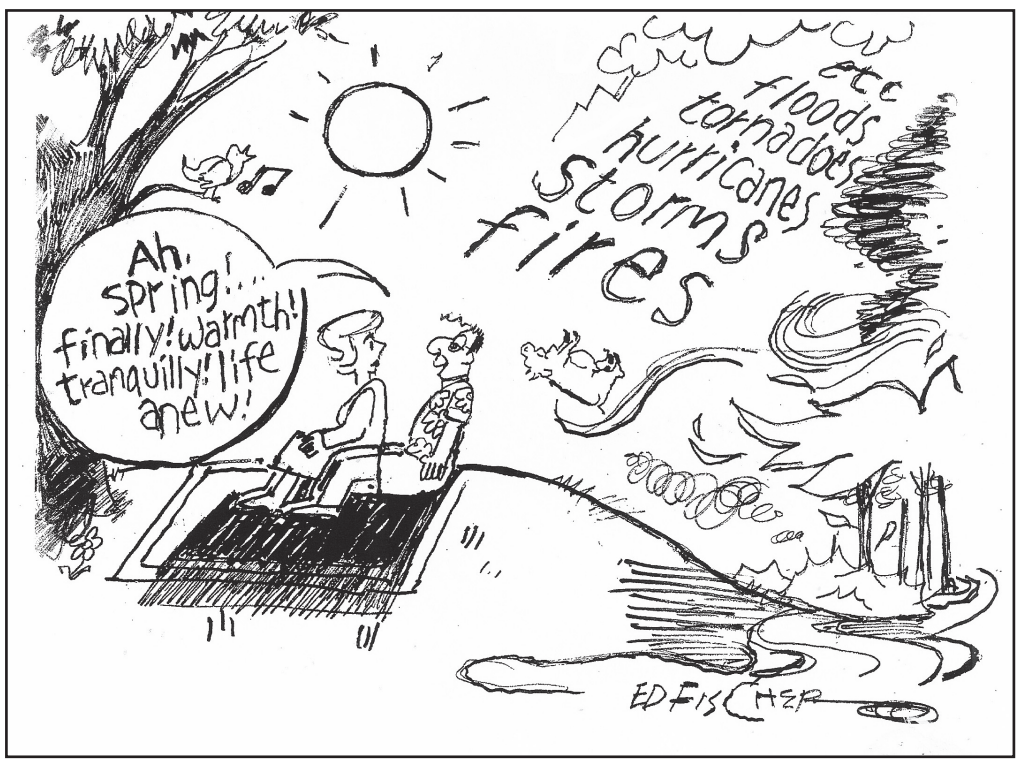
Changes in the bill include those that would allow a vehicle dealer to hold and sell vehicles across multiple dealership locations without needing to transfer title or ownership; let dealerships use third-party software that can electronically submit title transfers and vehicle registrations to the state; along with an executive steering committee to improve MNLARS.

I also supported the Minnesota House Capital Investment bill recently. Almost one-third of that proposal was dedicated to transportation with $145 million going to Corridors of Commerce.

Along those lines, I offered an amendment that would have forced MnDOT to allocate all of that funding to the next highest ranked project on its priorities list. It also would have allocated that money to Greater Minnesota, as all of the previous Corridors of Commerce funding was spent on projects that benefited the Metro Area. As Highway 14 was ranked next on MnDOT's list, and was the highest ranked Greater Minnesota project, this money would have been utilized locally.

Ultimately the amendment didn't make it, but know I will continue pushing for Highway 14 whenever I can as it is has to be a top priority not only for our regional economy but for that of the entire state.

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



Police survivor has traveled a lonely road



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

In a solemn tribute to police officers who have died in the line of duty, families, survivors, current officers and others remembered our fallen heroes during a special ceremony Friday night in Rochester.

The tribute honored all of the fallen officers in southeastern Minnesota over the years, including four in Dodge County and one in Steele County. They are Ole Havey, village marshal of Hayfield Police; Gregory Lange, police chief of Claremont; Douglas Claassen, police chief of Hayfield; Loring Guenther, captain with Dodge County Sheriff and Neil Johnson, police chief of Blooming Prairie. All have given the ultimate sacrifice in keeping our communities safe. They are among more than 20,000 law enforcement heroes who have died in the line of duty since 1791 in the U.S. There have been 280 police deaths in Minnesota.

This year marks the 30th anniversary since Gregory Lange was gunned down just a few hundred feet from his own house in Claremont in 1988. His widow, Sue Lange, spoke at the ceremony Friday.

Lange recalls how their home was where people came with troubles. It was not unusual for her to come home to kids in the house or to find Greg and a bunch of kids at the ball diamond playing baseball. "Greg had a heart that generous," she says.

It has been a difficult journey for Lange. "My life was so much about we and us and not about I, and I found myself in a new and cruel world," she said. She found that 1988 was a time when death was almost a taboo subject and certainly was not talked about in law enforcement agencies. And it definitely wasn't brought up between a police officer and their spouse or family.

The police widow can hardly believe that 30 years has passed since the life-changing event jolted her family. She found herself facing a lonely road as people who she thought were friends chose to leave, and people she never knew became true friends.



Sgt. Shannon Boerner of the Dodge County Sheriff's Office escorts police survivor Sue Lange during the Peace Officer's Memorial ceremony last week in Rochester.

Lange has taken refuge in becoming active with Concerns of Police Survivors or COPS, a national organization to assist survivors of officers who are killed in the line of duty. She helps to make sure no other survivor feels alone when the unthinkable happens.

"COPS helped me find me again and filled me with hope and truly saved my life," Lange said. "The old me is forever gone, but they helped me find a different version living a new normal."

Several years ago Lange helped build the State Law Enforcement Memorial in St. Paul. She is now focused on bringing a similar memorial to southeastern Minnesota in Rochester.

"It all is quite humbling because all I have ever wanted was that Greg never be forgotten and that if what happened to him would perhaps have a teachable moment for other officers, then I will call my endeavors a success," Lange said. "I would hope Greg is proud of how I have lived my life without him."

Whether it's Sue Lange's husband or someone else, I hope you had the opportunity to remember our police heroes during National Police Week last week. They should always be remembered for their heroic actions.

YOUR VOICE

It's time to complete Highway 14

Open Letter:

To Senators John Jasinski and Dave Senjem: Thank you! In 1974 I first ran for public office with my major issue the completion of 4 lanes of US Highway 14 between Owatonna and Rochester. Today, 2018, thanks to your efforts to include Highway 14 funding in the Senate bonding bill, this objective is close to reality. Thank you.

To Governor Mark Dayton: Please concur with the entire $174.6 million in the Senate bonding bill for Highway 14. I agree, bonding for highways without a specific off setting user fees to pay off the bonds is not good policy, but there is not an appetite to pay for construction with a gas tax increase. So as Bud Grant used to say, "you play with what you've got," and what we have is the funding to complete Highway 14 in the Senate bill.

Representatives Jeanne Poppe, Clark Johnson, Gene Pelowski, Duane Sauke, the

DFL House and Senate Minority Caucus: PLEASE do not allow partisan forces to whittle or remove the Highway 14 funding from the Senate bill. It is said that "good policy makes for good politics." While Highway 14 funding is a good issue to campaign on, it is better politics to serve the best interests of your neighboring constituents and our region with completion of Highway 14 between Owatonna and Rochester.

To Representatives John Petersburg, Brian Daniels and Duane Quam: Completion

of Highway 14 is literally in your hands. Publicly taking a stand that you will NOT support any bonding bill that does not include the entire $174.6 million in the Senate version will make passage of any bonding bill almost impossible. I know you all have worked tirelessly on this issue. Do not let caucus leadership prevent you from fulfilling your commitments and your

values.

If the Highway 14 bonding doesn't pass, there will be finger pointing by

all of the above as to whom and why it was killed. It's time to put aside

that strategy and complete Highway 14. It's time to get the job done.

Tom Shea
Owatonna
Former State Representative (1981-1984)

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2015 - 4 National Awards, 7 State Awards
2014 - 3 National Awards, 3 State Awards
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2012 - 2 State Awards
2011 - 4 National Award

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

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ETHICS
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A Vietnam reunion for 2 area soldiers



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ken and Judy Esplan, left, and Carol and Keith Holman of Blooming Prairie enjoy a river cruise during their recent trip to Vietnam. It was a reunion for both Ken and Keith, who served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam in the 1960s.

Holman says he's not sure the U.S. lost the war

By HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Two Vietnam veterans who reside in Blooming Prairie paid a return visit to the country that was the site of one of the most controversial wars in history.

Keith Holman and wife Carol and Ken Esplan and wife Judy visited the southeast Asia country on a 10-day vacation from April 19-28.

"It was totally different from what I expected," remarked Esplan, who served the U.S. Army in Vietnam from July of 1969 to August of 1970.

"I'm not so sure we lost the war," said Holman, also a U.S. Army veteran serving in Vietnam from September 1966 to September 1967.

Vietnam was the site of many wars, some calling it the Saigon War and Americans calling it the Vietnam War.

The Times recently sat down with Holman and Esplan to learn their reactions to returning to Vietnam 51 and 48 years ago, respectively.

The Holmans and Esplans were part of Globotours. "It was a very inexpensive trip and a memorable one," said Holman. "We were not treated badly by anyone," Esplan revealed.

"They (Vietnamese) thanked us for our service in Vietnam and appreciated us as soldiers," Holman said.

Not fond of crowds and somewhat apprehensive about the trip to Vietnam, Esplan said he was "tremendously relaxed" when their aircraft landed in Hanoi. "It's all a new world," Holman commented.

"Many say there was no purpose in the war," Esplan said. "I can't come to that conclusion that it was for naught; I believe we needed to be there," he added.

The Esplans and Holmans were most impressed by the modern development of Vietnam, more noticeable in the south than in the north. Vietnam has a population of 84 million people.

Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, had a population of about 2 million when Holman and Esplan served their tours of duty. It now has a population of 11 million.

Holman was surprised to see that his former seven-story barracks was still standing in what was formerly Saigon. It has since become a hostel.

The Holman/Esplan tour group spent the first three days in Hanoi, then went to Halong Bay on a Hanoi night train to Hue. After Hue, the group went to Hoi Ann and then on to Danang.

Next stop was Ho Chi Minh City for a four-day stay. The tourists took a video tour of the Ho Chi Minh City Office. They stayed in the Central Palace Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City.

Holman and Esplan both said the hotel accommodations were exquisite and the food was excellent. "We were served five-course meals almost everywhere we went," Holman said. The food often included rice, noodles, fish, beef (or something dark in color), squid, oysters and octopus. Holman and Esplan said they both sampled Vietnamese beer and said it was "pretty good." It was called "333" beer.

The trip to Vietnam became possible after Judy Esplan saw a Groupon advertisement online about a trip to Vietnam. "We thought it was a scam but it wasn't," Ken Esplan said. Holman and Esplan were the only two veterans in their tour group.

Temperatures were extremely hot during the trip made by the Holmans and Esplans. "It was 6:30 at night one night and the temperature showed 94 degrees," Esplan said. Vietnam is 12 hours behind Minnesota.

Holman and Esplan said they had beautiful views from their hotels, one looking over a beautiful outdoor swimming pool.

Much of the population in Vietnam travels by scooters or Mo-Peds.

Holman, wearing a humorous t-shirt from Vietnam, explained Vietnam stop lights: green, "I can go;" yellow, "I can go;" and red, "I can still go."

Looking at a tablet filled with photos taken in Vietnam, Esplan pointed to a clothing store called "Blooming." He said they "went all the way to Vietnam to see a Blooming sign."

On their many tours of Vietnamese cities, the Holmans and Esplans said they saw many Buddhist temples. "They were all different but kind of alike," Esplan said. The American tourists were also amazed by the big buildings located in between little shanty towns. "It was just like 50 years ago," Holman said.

"I don't think I would be afraid to anywhere over there," Esplan said. He said he would have liked to have taken a side trip to the jungle areas where he served. One of their tours was an overnight train trip from Hanoi to Hue.

During their time relating experiences from their return trip to Vietnam, Holman and Esplan couldn't help but flash back to their time served in the jungles and cities of Vietnam.

Holman was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1966 at age 19. He completed Basic Training and Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and then was sent to Vietnam in September of 1966. He served one year in Vietnam working with supplies in the Headquarters Division of the 4th Transportation unit. He was a personnel specialist.

Following his service in Vietnam, Holman was assigned to a CID unit in Fort Leavenworth, KS and discharged in March of 1968 as a Specialist Fifth Class.

Esplan was inducted into the Army in January 1969 at Fort Campbell, Ky. He underwent Basic Training there and then went to Fort Polk, La., for advanced mortar training. He served from July of 1969 to August 1970 in Vietnam.

Esplan was in the heart of some battles, doing reconnaissance during the day and setting up ambushes along trails at night. He helped set anti-personnel mines. Esplan recalls he and some of his fellow soldiers taking a C-4 explosive and warming their C-rations with it.

Esplan was part of a platoon containing 22 men. "We were in an open fire zone not friendly," Esplan related.

Specialist Fourth Class Esplan was wounded two different times, sent to a military hospital but soon returned to the front with his unit. Ten of the 22 in his platoon didn't make it.

Holman and Esplan said they had no choice but to be drafted. This was before the lottery was instituted.

Both Holman and Esplan said they "had to do it" and "pretty much knew it was about a 70 percent chance they would be sent to Vietnam." Esplan said some of the guys wanted to go to Vietnam but ended going to Germany instead.

Serving in Vietnam a year apart, both recall flying into Vietnam on commercial air, landing and quickly whisked away in their clean fatigues. "We were scared," admitted Esplan.

Holman flew into the Tan Son Nhot International Airport that served Saigon. Esplan flew into an air field at Cameron Bay.

"I don't remember being nervous; we thought we were invulnerable," Holman said. They also vividly recall their departure from Vietnam to return home. "As we waited to board aircraft to go home, we watched the new slick sleeves (new recruits) come into the airport," Esplan said. Holman remembers flying out of Vietnam and as soon as the wheels left the ground, the soldiers let out a large cheer. "There was more tension going out than coming in," he said.

Esplan remembers stewardesses telling the soldiers as they departed that they were not entering international air space. Soldiers responded by tossing their hats into the air," he said.

Going back to their thoughts about their recent return to Vietnam, Holman and Esplan said they were impressed with the number of people who spoke English. They were also surprised by the number of young people living in Vietnam.

"The further south you went, the more open things were," Holman said.

A guide in Hanoi told Holman and Esplan that he had Facebook but couldn't say what he may have wanted to say. "You can talk to me on the bus but don't talk to me on the street," he told the American visitors. Prices were reasonable on the trip, the Holmans and Esplans said. To get $100 in American equivalent money, we had to have 2 million Dongs (Vietnamese money). Holmana and Esplan said Uncle Ho is pictured on the paper money.

Holman said he would not go back to Vietnam because there are many other places he would like to visit.

Esplan said the trip opened his eyes to what the country was like.

"I never felt unwanted and people there were always trying to sell us trinkets," he said.

Both Holman and Esplan earned military service medals during their enlistment in the U.S. Army.

Holman received the Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

Esplan received the Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Purple Heart, Army Battlefield Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star, two overseas bars and a Vietnam Combat Medal.

BP council approves liquor licenses

By DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

It was relatively uneventful at May's Blooming Prairie City Council on Monday, May 14, but council members did approve several licenses for liquor establishments.

The council approved liquor licenses and fees for the year, July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

J&H Liquor, Blooming Prairie Cue Company and Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club were approved for on-sale licenses. The Cue Company and the Servicemen's Club were also approved for On-Sale Wine Licenses.

J&H Liquor and 218 Off-Sale were approved for Off-Sale Licenses, Vandal's Family Market was approved for an Off-Sale Malt Beverage License and Bunkie's Grille and Lane was approved for a On-Sale Malt Beverage License.

IN OTHER BUSINESS, THE COUNCIL:

• Discussed the idea of having a circus come to Blooming Prairie, but there was not enough volunteers to make the event work. The circus traditionally comes to Hayfield during Hay Days, but the site used by the circus will not be available in Hayfield this year. The Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce has offered the project to some other organizations, but have not received any responses at this time.

• Approved Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce's premises permit application to conduct lawful gambling at the Cue Company and Bunkie's. The chamber plans on conducting E-gambling at both locations, but before they can be issued a license to conduct gambling, the council had to approve the premises permit.

• Granted an application for a permit to consume liquor in a park for a wedding reception in the Firemen's Park Pavilion on July 14.

• Approved an application for a permit to consume liquor in a park for a class reunion in the Firemen's Park Pavilion on July 7.

• Approved the Servicemen's Club's request for 11 temporary On-Sale Liquor Licenses for Bloody Mary Bars. Some of the events are connected with pancake breakfast benefits, but some will just be Bloody Mary Bars. The proposed dates are: June 24, Sep. 9, 16 and 23, Oct. 7 and 2, Nov. 4, 18 and 25 and Dec. 2 and 16.



GARDENING TIP OF THE WEEK

Compliments of
Steele County Master Gardeners

As you start your garden projects this year do you best to include some flowers that will provide for pollinators. Ideally clusters of plants that bloom from April to September are desirable. There are many shrubs, trees, and perennials that can be used, but some annuals will do the trick also. A few snapdragons or zinnias added to the vegetable garden aid in pollinating. Even the tomato blossom provides protein for the bees. Even though dandelions are the bane of some homeowners, consider viewing them differently. They are some of the first sources of food for the bees.

Did you know

When selecting plants for your garden or yard look for the following:

1. Healthy looking leaves, stems and roots.
2. Are surrounding plants healthy?
3. Will it do well in the area you to enhance (Read the tag)
4. Suitable for zone hardiness- Steele County is Zone

Remember-Proper plant for proper location!

If you have questions about gardening, lawn care, insects, soil, please contact Steele Co

This gardening feature sponsored by:

FRANK & TOM'S GARDEN PLANTS
Highway 218 South, Blooming Prairie

FOR SALE

Blooming Prairie Industrial Park • Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Farmers and Merchant State Bank

Jim (507) 583-6688

Zoned: Commercial Industrial

Land Area: 1.72 AC (74923.2 SF)

For Sale Price: $219,000



Sale Notes:

Building 1: Is a 48-foot by 80-foot 3,840 SF with in-floor heat, clear span shop, 3 insulated doors, 2 doors aligned so trucks can be unloaded inside and drive out. With 16-foot side walls. A 4-foot concrete wall around the perimeter for protection and walls insulated with washable commercial freezer panels.

Building 2: 3,144 SF is a smaller shop previously used as office space. Includes cold storage, a loading dock, and what was a small woodworking shop. The building needs some work to be usable

With 1.72 acres there is plenty of space to expand. The property may be split up if desired. Financing is available to a qualified buyer.

Call **Jim** at **507-456-8464**

OBITUARIES

Marlin E. Miner, 75, Blooming Prairie



Marlin E. Miner, 75 of Blooming Prairie, passed away Wednesday, May 16, 2018, of respiratory failure, with his wife Jan and kids by his side, at Mayo Clinic Health System in Austin.

Marlin Everett Miner was born Aug. 3, 1942 at his home in Hayfield to Everett and Harriet (Boe) Miner. He was a 1960 graduate of Blooming Prairie High School. On Sept. 8, 1968, Marlin was united in marriage to Janice Elaine Lebakken at the First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie. The couple made their home in Blooming Prairie and together had four children.

He was a seed corn dealer for many years and also farmed and milked cows. Along with farming, Marlin worked for the Central Co-op in the LP department. In 1970, Marlin started Miner Salvage, a snowmobile salvage yard and repair shop. Miner Salvage evolved into Miner's Outdoor, where Marlin was not only an owner, but where he worked part-time after his retirement from Central Co-op in 2005.

In 2010, Marlin suffered a stroke, and has been home with his wife since. Marlin played an important role in his grandkids lives. He was a very smart man, Marlin would always have an answer to any question you would have asked him and was always right. He was a man of many words and knew just about everyone.

Marlin had a love for Nascar racing, every year he would travel to the Daytona 500 in the "Toter." He was a lifelong member of the Blooming Prairie area and of First Lutheran Church. Marlin will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Survivors include his wife Janice Miner of Blooming Prairie; children Tammy Miner-Gruidl of Lakeville, Douglas (Kristi) Miner of Blooming Prairie, Lisa (Wes Gresham) Reese of Blooming Prairie, Dan (Becky) Miner of Blooming Prairie; grandchildren Alex Gruidl (30), Audrey Jo Gruidl (25), Elizabeth Miner (12), Derek Miner (8), Alexa Miner (5), Maverick Miner (3), Marnie Reese (19), Raylee Miner (8), Elaina Miner (10 months); brother Roger (Beverly) Miner of Brownsdale; sister Linda (Steve) Lysne of Colby, Wis.; son Scott Miner of Milton, Ga.; and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

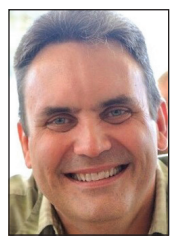
He was preceded in death by his parents Everett and Harriet Miner, and his aunts and uncles.

A funeral service for Marlin was held Saturday, May 19, 2018 at the First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie, with Rev. Heidi Heimgartner officiating. Interment was in First Lutheran Cemetery in Blooming Prairie.

Family prefers memorials to the Blooming Prairie Veteran's Memorial, Blooming Prairie Fire Department, Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club, or recipient of donor's choice.

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

Randall "Randy" Moe, 58, Owatonna



Randall "Randy" Scott Moe, 58, of Owatonna, died Tuesday, May 15, 2018, while enjoying one of his favorite things, a run along Lake Kohlmeier.

He was born Sept. 15, 1959 in Owatonna, the son of Donald and Loretta (Rassman) Moe. As a young boy, his family moved to Bixby where he grew up. He graduated from Blooming Prairie High School, Class of 1977.

His work career began at Sirloin Stockade as a cook, Perkins where he was kitchen and assistant manager, Bridgeman's where he was the kitchen manager and Viracon where he was currently in his 30th year of employment.

He married Julie Sorensen on May 7, 1983, at St. John Lutheran Church in Owatonna. The couple has lived their entire married life in Owatonna where they raised their family.

Randy was an avid Minnesota sports fan especially the Twins and Vikings. He would watch sports 24 hours a day if he could. In 2017, he realized one of his dreams, to attend Spring Training for the Twins in Florida. He also loved fishing, reading, watching the old-time TV programs, bowling, playing pool and playing softball. He enjoyed many years of playing league softball, bowling and pool.

He is survived by his wife, Julie Moe; sons, Derek (Abby) and Evan Moe; daughter, Anna Moe; grandsons, Nico and Beckett Moe; sister, Julie Maxwell; unofficially adopted son, Jacob Otto, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; Donald and Loretta; brother, Scott Moe; maternal grandparents, John and Gertrude (Heidi) Rassman and paternal grandparents, Obert and Bernice (Baldwin) Moe.

A memorial service was held Monday, May 21 at St. John Lutheran Church with Pastor Dave Klawiter officiating. Interment was at the Aurora Lutheran Cemetery.

Michaelson Funeral Home of Owatonna handled the arrangements.

LIBRARY BOOK NOOK

Check out the Academy for tutorials



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

If you have been trying to figure out how to manage your library account from home, or want to know how to find the cutest crafts on Pinterest, your Blooming Prairie Branch Library card is the ticket you need!

When going to our Library Catalog site, which is available through the website www.bloomingprairie.com, simply click on the right hand side Tutorial Tab. This will take you to SELCO Academy. The first time you do this, you may sign up for an account, a process that literally takes one minute. Then you can begin searching!

At this time there are 19 tutorials in the Academy. There are lessons to teach you how to manage your library account; how to get eBooks from Overdrive, and how to search the SELCO online catalog. But there are other tutorials that will direct you through Learning Express, College Admission Test Preparation, and even Chilton's Auto Repair. In addition you can get directions on how to sign up and use several social media platforms, like Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. Although I have used Pinterest for several years, I learned more about it and better ways to search it through the SELCO Academy.

Some of the databases require a library card to login from home, so a stop at the library to get your very own library card may be needed. More tutorials will be added in the future so check back. Thanks to SELCO for helping all of us learn how to navigate the ever changing cyber-world.

Medford man picked as outstanding alumni at South Central College

Daniel Kaiser of Medford has been named one of South Central College's 2018 Outstanding Alumni.

Kaiser was honored Thursday on the campus of Minnesota State University in Mankato. He was South Central's North Mankato campus honoree.

Joining Kaiser as Outstanding Alumni is Mike Bauer of Delano. Bauer was South Central's Faribault campus honoree. He is the owner and president of Bauer Design Build, a commercial general contracting firm in Plymouth.

Kaiser is a deputy state fire marshal for the State of Minnesota. He received his degree in architectural drafting from South Central College (then Mankato Area Vocational Technical Institute) in 1978.

Following several years as a draftsman in the housing industry, Kaiser was recruited to become a designer in a new and upcoming industry – fire sprinklers. During his 16 years with a southern Minnesota Fire sprinkler contractor, he advanced from a sprinkler designer to vice president of the company.

In 1996, Kaiser took the leap into self-employment and started Fire Protection Services (FPS), which is still in existence and completes plan reviews for many cities in Minnesota.

In 2005, he began working with the state as a deputy fire marshal. Working in the Fire Sprinkler Division, Kaiser has achieved the highest level of certification from the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies and has also been recruited by them to assist in their test writing sessions.

Kaiser sits on several state and national committees. In 2015, he received the prestigious Fire Sprinklers Save Lives Award from the American Fire Sprinkler Association.

Kaiser and his wife of 39 years, Mona, reside in Medford and have three grown children and eight grandchildren. He has served as a council member for the city of Medford and was the city's mayor for 18 years. He is currently active in his church and currently serves as president of the congregation.



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GRIEF RELIEF



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

Direction with dignity from Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna.



Cory Michaelson

Michaelson FUNERAL HOME
Direction With Dignity
www.michaelsonfuneral.com
507-451-7943

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

MAY 22
TRICIA IMKER
ISABELLA SCHILLER
HOWARD LESTRUD
ROGER HEIN
MAY 23
ALICIA LEVON
NELDA HABERMAN
NATALIE SCHIECK
MAY 24
JACOB PETERSON
MARGARET SWENSON
BELLA HERNANDEZ
LEAH THOMPSON
MAY 25
JOHN WELCH
PORTER FRANCIS DEYOUNG
MADDIE BROTEN ANDERSON
MAY 26
ALYSSA RESSLER
SEAN INGVALSON
CONNIE WILLIAMSON
MAY 27
DARRICK SCHEWE
MARY MALHEREK
AMY SIMON
JENNY HAUGEN
MAY 28
JILL LINDEMAN
KRISTIN LUETH KOENING
ELEANOR HARMS
KAREN VALENTINE
JERRY INGVALSON
ISAAC ILLE
JENNIFER WONDRA
JESSE HERNANDEZ
KOLBY VIGELAND
MAY 29
BRIAN KERRIGAN
DEB FARR
GRAYSON SPINLER
BELLA ROSONTHAL
ELLA SALINAS

ANNIVERSARIES

MAY 23
GREG & LAURA THOMAS
MAY 24
PAUL & JACKIE SMITH
VAL & ASHLEY GARCIA
CLARENCE & DIANA BOYD
MAY 25
MR. AND MRS. L. DEAN CHRISTIANSON
MAY 26
STEVE & NELLIE WOLLENBURG
SARAH & ADAM BUMGARNER
MAY 28
MR. & MRS. DOUG KRELL
MAY 29
MR. & MRS. LERALD FARROW
MAY 30
MICHAEL & KATHLEEN IVERSEN

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$1.50 off
20 Savers Points





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PASTOR'S CORNER

Appreciate the power of a flame



Rev. Stephanie Wood
AURORA LUTHERAN AND TRINITY LUTHERAN OWATONNA AND BLOOMING PRAIRIE

This past week I sat at my first bonfire for the season. As I sat there and watched the flicker of the fire and heard the crackling of the wood, I was struck by the transformation taking place.

The wood that was once a living tree, with a spark becomes heat. I watch sitting by the fire how that wood slowly turns to the sparkling embers that dance in the darkness of the night. Fire, whether in a controlled setting or in the burning of a forest, transforms all that it touches. It can melt, mold and refine. While in the wild it can appear to bring only destruction, its presence also allows for new life and healthy renewal of the forest.

As such, it is appropriate that this element, along with wind, most often represents the Holy Spirit. This past Sunday, the 20th of May, many Christian churches will celebrate Pentecost. The 50th day after Easter and in doing so remember how the Christian church began and how the Holy Spirit continues to guide Jesus' followers today.

In Acts we hear of a group of followers who are given by the Spirit the ability to speak in multiple languages. The Spirit led them and equipped them for a journey they never expected and a journey for which they were never alone.

The Spirit ignites faith and trust in God. The Spirit comes to our baptismal font and in the water and word, washes away our sins. The Spirit is like a mighty wind or in Hebrew ruah as mentioned in the Old Testament. In the Greek it is referred to as paraclete meaning advocate and counselor. All these images and metaphors are used to help us understand the work of the Spirit as she comes to walk alongside of us and to equip and empower us. Like the wood that is transformed into heat and embers, the Spirit transforms us. Just as the forest needs the fire to be made new, so do we need the Spirit to renew us.

She often comes calling to our hearts and urging us to action through the silence of our thoughts, the voice of an another or in the power of prayer.

When you next gather around a fire, take a moment to appreciate the power of that flame and ask the Spirit to transform you. Prayerfully consider this: Where is the Holy Spirit calling you to be at work in this world today?

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696
Worship: 9:00 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
106 Third St. SE., Geneva
Pastor Kristen Venne
507-256-4288
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC
503 Radel Ct., Ellendale
Pastor Richard Sliper
507-684-2451
Saturday: 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/ Confirmation
Tues.: 7 p.m. Call to Prayer, open to all churches
Wed.: 9:30 a.m. BibleStudy; 3:30 – 5 p.m. Jesus and Me; 6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:30 p.m. Youth Group

FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Rev. Heidi Heimgartner, 507-583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com
Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sundays
Education Hour: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

FIRST LUTHERAN – LCMC
8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope
Pastor Sandy Miller
507-451-3854
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School, Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m. Sun.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS
2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna
Rev. Mark Rosenau, Senior Pastor
Rev. Greg Schlicker, Associate Pastor
507-451-4125
www.goodshepherd owatonna.com
Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

MOLAND LUTHERAN – ELCA
7618 NE 84th Ave., Kenyon
Pastor Nancy Edwardson
507-789-6661
Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN – ELCA
9651 SW 75th St., Ellendale
Pastor Mike Walerius
507-465-8366
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sun.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN – LCMS
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
507-451-2720
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sun.

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
Pastor Alan Broadwell
507-528-2404
Worship: 6 p.m. Saturday; 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
28959 630th Ave., Sargeant
Pastor Collin Duling
507-251-5568
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Pastor Dwight DoBell
507-567-2474
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar
507-451-2165
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

TRINITY LUTHERAN
5881 SE 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
(First Sunday of the month)

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Rev. Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor
Rev. Dean Smith, Associate Pastor
Rev. Amanda Weinkauf, Associate Pastor
507-451-4520
www.tlcowatonna.org
Worship: Saturday: 5 p.m.; Sun.: 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 6 p.m.
Sunday School: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
104 First St. SE., Hayfield
Pastor Paul Hauschild
507-477-2248
www.trinityhayfield.org
Worship: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS
108 Third Ave. SW., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
507-451-0447
Worship: 8 a.m. & 10:30 Sun.
Education Hour: 9:15-10:15 a.m. Sun.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS
57043 300th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar
507-451-2165
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

CATHOLIC

CHRIST THE KING
203 Second Ave. NW., Medford
507-451-6353
Father Kevin Connolly
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.
Monday Mass: 9 a.m.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 SW First St., New Richland
Father Raul Silva
Fr. Adam McMillan, Parochial Vicar
507-465-8217
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
Father John Sauer
Fr. Jose Morales, Weekend Presider
507-451-1588
www.litomysl.webs.com
Reconciliation: 8:45 a.m. 1st & 3rd Sundays
Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Children's Church for Preschool – 1st Grade began Sept. 24
Faith Formation for Kindergarten – Confirmation: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays
Adult Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St., Hayfield
Father Thomas Niehaus
507-477-2256
Mass: 8 a.m. Sun.
& 8:30 a.m. Thursday
Reconciliation: 7:30 a.m. Sun.

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
Father John Sauer
Fr. Jose Morales, Parochial Vicar
507-451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:30 a.m. &10 a.m. Sun.
Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat.
Adoration: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Thurs.

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
Father Thomas Niehaus
507-583-2784
www.stcolumbanuschurch.com
Mass: 10 a.m. Sun.
& 8:30 a.m. Friday
Reconciliation: 9 a.m. First Friday & Saturday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna
Father Kevin Connolly
Deacon Patrick Fagan
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat.
Daily Mass: 8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri. (Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday)
Adoration Chapel available Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Key fob required after hours or weekends

CHRISTIAN

CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT
540 SE 18th St., Owatonna
Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
507-451-1032
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.

PENTECOSTAL

FIRST UNITED PENTECOASTAL
230 Locust Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
507-363-2240
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST
43089 180th St., Medford
(Seven miles west of Medford on CR 23)
Pastors JJ & Stefanie Morgan
507-835-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
200 Sixth St. NW., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirksena
507-684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST
815 E. University, Owatonna
Loren Olson, Pastor
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
Joyce Parker, Associate Pastor
507-451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship (Pathways): 9 a.m. Sunday

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY
130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna
Pastor Keith Haskell
507-215-2249
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun.
Reformers Unanimous Meetings: 7 p.m. Friday

CEDAR CREEK
30 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
507-477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

DESTINY CHRISTIAN
Owatonna Campus
422 North St., Owatonna
Pastors Tyler & Jessica Braucht
507-254-8514
www.destinycc.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

ELEVATION NORTH
2002 Austin Road, Owatonna
Pastor Doug Jones
507-363-3099
www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com
Worship (English): 10 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Worship (Spanish): 2 p.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Spanish Evangelism & Prayer: 7 p.m. Friday

NEW BEGINNINGS
332 14th St. NE., Owatonna
Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson
507-721-1366
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
Gateway Connection: 6 p.m. Sun.

SIMPLE CHURCH
4515 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna
(Country Goods building across the freeway from Cabela's)
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5661
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday

MENNONITE

PRAIRIE MENNONITE
13638 750th St., Blooming Prairie
Bishop Dennis Martin
507-583-7532
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Wed.

MORMON

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
404 31st St. NW, Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
507-433-9042
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

PRESBYTERIAN

ASSOCIATED CHURCH
Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ
800 Havana Road, Owatonna
507-451-1546
www.associatedchurch.org
office@associatedchurch.org
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. (Fellowship, Church School, and Adult Discussions follow)
Wednesday Activities: Sept – May (see website for schedule)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
109 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Kirk Johnston
507-477-2631
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Bob Brauer
507-340-7143
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sat.
Bible Study: 11 a.m. Sat.

UCC

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
211 Main St. S.
Medford
Rev. Richard Waters
507-451-4596
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Pastor Patrick Stitt
507-684-3421
www.vibrantlifeag.com
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST
104 First Ave. NE, Blooming Prairie
Pastor Matt Fennell
507-583-2673
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
& 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Bible Study: 11:30 a.m. Sun.

Minimizer
www.minimizer.com
800-248-3855
Blooming Prairie

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VETERANS MEMORIAL: *dream comes true*



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Many friends of local military veterans participated in groundbreaking ceremonies for the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial. Ceremonies were held at the site just east of the BP Servicemen's Club.

"Discussion became a reality," said Motl, referring to the many meetings of organizers talking about the possibility of building a memorial.

"We have strong roots and take care of our veterans," remarked a fired-up Motl.

Peterson said the Sons of the American Legion gave him the authority to form a Veterans Memorial Committee with members representing the Ameerican Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, the Servicemen's Club and the Sons of the American Legion.

Peterson also pointed to the Veterans Memorial Committee (Committee of seven) as being instrumental in this project. He saluted members Tom Walters, Marilyn Meshke, Doug Miner, Sandy Jones, Fred Vokoun, Ken Vermilyea and Peterson.

'Discussion became a reality.'

Joe Motl
Sons of the American Legion

Jon Olson has worked with the committee as construction superintendent.

The Veterans Memorial Corporation consists of directors Keith Holman, Kurt Blome, Jaclyn Schlichter and Doug Miner.

Peterson reported that Wall 1 (the West Wall) and Wall 2 (the North Wall) are filled. Total contributions to date are $166,449.12, which is 66.5 percent of the $250,000 goal. "We have $83,550.88 to go so keep those contributions coming and reserve a paver for your veteran in Phase III," said Peterson. Peterson called representatives of the service organizations and contractors to grab a shovel and participate in the groundbreaking.

He called the following forward: Joe Motl, commander of Squadron #52 of the Sons of the American Legion; Bruce Kubicek, American Legion; Brian Hoveland, Post 878 of the VFW; Jaclyn Schlichter, Legion Auxiliary president; Joyce Johns, VFW Auxiliary president; Doreen Blome, BP Servicemen's Club president; the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial Committee of Seven and Jon Olson, construction superintendent; the BP Veterans Memorial Corporation; and the various contractors previously mentioned.

Concluding his remarks, Peterson said "for the love of the United States of America and to honor all the men and women throughout the nation who have served. . .and will serve . . . we are dedicated to encourage and foster patriotism and provide recognition to all veterans for their courage and willingness to give all for their country, we hereby formally break ground for the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial."

Peterson introduced World War II veteran Milton Ruhter, 96, of Austin. He watched the ceremonies from the vehicle of his son. Ruhter served four years in the U.S. Army, much of it spent in Germany. "That was a long time ago," said Ruhter. Following the groundbreaking, many of the people moved into the club to eat a delicious pulled pork meal and to participate in a silent auction as part of Spring Fling activities.

"I am a happy man today," smiled Peterson widely as he said two walls (144 pavers each) have been completed "and we are 20 pavers into Wall #3."

Recipe Corner

Grilled Chicken Skewers

Serves 6

- 6 boneless chicken thighs, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon ground coriander
- 1 tablespoon dry oregano
- 1 teaspoon turmeric

Toss the chicken with all the other ingredients and let marinate in the refrigerator for 4 hours (up to 24 hours is ideal). Thread chicken evenly onto 6 wooden or metal skewers. Prepare a grill on medium-high heat and grill the skewers for about 5 minutes per side, until chicken is cooked through.



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WIND FARM:

FROM A1

buy the homes of two families who have long complained about excessive noise. Trom Eayrs encourages local citizens to join in the fight against the proposed wind project in Steele and Dodge counties. "DCCC would like to motivate and coordinate local citizens to get organized," she said. She added that if people care at all about rural Minnesota, it's important for them to get involved. "Silence is acceptance," Trom Eayrs said. "All these battles are occurring in (small) hometowns. It's all taking place in rural America." No dates have been set yet for the public hearings with the MPUC. State records show wind farm proposals have rarely been contested before the MPUC.

FILINGS:

FROM A1

election this year. In Steele County, they include county sheriff, county treasurer, county auditor, county attorney, county surveyor and county commissioners for District 1 and 2. Steele County also has two spots up for election on the county soil and water conservation board for District 1 and 3.

Steele County auditor Laura Ihrke said the process is fairly simple for candidates to file. She said they will be required to fill out a registration form with basic information and pay a filing fee. The filing fees are $20 for soil and water, $50 for county offices, $100 for state offices and $300 for judges and federal offices.

Ihrke said the requirements to be a candidate include being at least 21 years old, maintain residency in the district for at least 30 days prior to the election, have not filed for multiple offices and eligible to vote.

The auditor's office is responsible for all election matters. The primary election is set for Tuesday, Aug. 14 while the general election will be Tuesday, Nov. 6.

Ihrke said she will be unveiling new voting machines for this year's election in Steele County.

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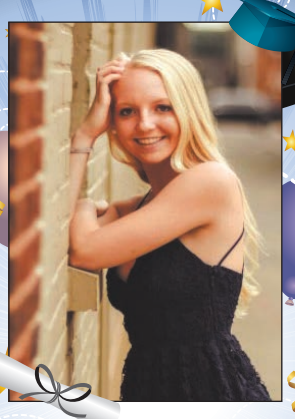
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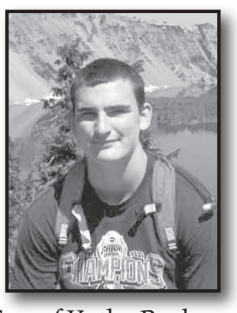
CONGRATS Graduates 2018

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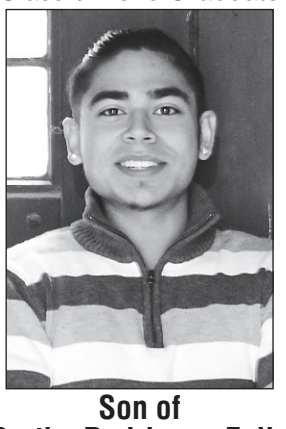
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Mitchell Oswald
Class of 2018 Graduate



Son of Kathy Paukner and Phil Oswald

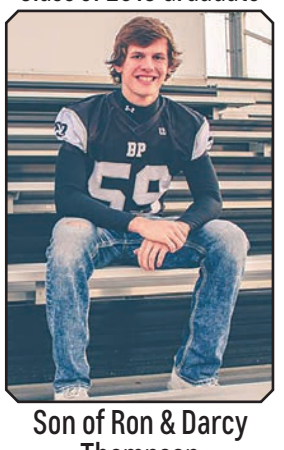
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BP moves ahead in search for new city administrator

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

With long-time city administrator Mike Jones set to retire on Oct. 9, the Blooming Prairie City Council approved advertising for a new City Administrator.

The council also authorized the Employee Replacement Committee to interview candidates and submit recommendation for the council's consideration.

"It might be early, but we discovered you don't always find the most qualified individual in the first round of interviews," Jones said. "That's kind of how I came in the back door. The first few interviews didn't work out as we hoped, and I was offered the job of being the interim City Administrator at the time."

Jones said by starting the process early, he is hopeful the new City Administrator will be present at the September and October City Council meetings, and it will also them they plenty of time to give notice at their current place of employment.


MIKE JONES

"I thought we shouldn't bury our feet too far," he said. "If we advertise in May and June, hopefully we can interview people in July, and if we bring someone on by August they could possibly help me with the budget in September or at least have some knowledge of where the budget is at."

The primary objective of the City Administrator is to be responsible for planning, organizing and managing all municipal activities. The position serves at the pleasure and the under the direction of the City Council. The City Administrator serves as the chief administrative officer coordinating all of the day-to-day affairs of the city government.

Some of the essential duties and responsibilities of the city administrator include:

• Overseeing and coordinating the operations of all departments; establishing programs, goals and objectives to accomplish work; evaluating potential projects, programs and services to determine feasibility and community impact; making recommendations to the City Council and analyzing use and of technology to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of city services.

• Keeping the City Council updated regularly on the status of city projects, activities and programs; communicating with the council members through written updates and reports, personal conversations and electronic messages; supervising all city staff directly or indirectly; acting as personal officer for the city and serving as final authority on all personnel actions subject to approval of City Council.

• Coordinating the development of implementation of the city's goals and strategic plan; developing short-term and long-term goals with the city council; overseeing implementation and action plans; ensuring that all ordinances are enforced; approving all resolution and ordinances prepared for the City Council and monitoring city operations to ensure compliance with laws and regulations, rules, policies and ordinances.

Jones said he is willingly to return on a part-time basis in 2019 to help with the city audit, if he is needed. "If we hire an experienced City Administrator they might know how to do that," he said. "But I think you might find that a lot of City Administrators don't always depend on themselves to do the audit reports."

Mayor H. Peterson said of Jones, "I can't believe he had been doing all this stuff for what we are paying him. We have been getting a good deal."

The city wants an administrator with a bachelor's degree in public administration, business, finance, accounting or related field. Public sector administrative experience is also preferred as well as good communication skills.

As administrator, the candidate will need to have the ability to present reports and make recommendations to the City Council and other entities. In addition, the administrator must have the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing with elected and appointed officials, staff, other public officials, volunteer departments and the general public.

Arkema plant earns Governor's Safety award

The Arkema Inc. plant in Blooming Prairie was recognized for excellence in workplace safety and health at the Governor's Safety Awards luncheon on May 10 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Arkema is one of 279 employers to be honored through the awards program, coordinated by the Minnesota Safety Council. The company was one of 38 employers recognized with the program's highest award.

"Congratulations to the team at Arkema Inc. for helping to make life safer inside their organization and beyond," said Paul Aasen, president of the Minnesota Safety Council. "Safety may start at work but it extends to the roads and to home and we are all safer due to the good work by Arkema Inc."

"Arkema is very proud of its employees in Blooming Prairie," said Loan Trinh, Arkema's Health, Environment & Safety manager at Blooming Prairie. "This is the second year our plant has received the Award of Honor, which is evidence of our employees' dedication and hard work."

"This honor also shows the value of Arkema safety initiatives such as our Behavior Based Safety program, Safety Committee, Responsible Care Management System (RCMS®), and OHSAS 18001 certification," added Trinh. "Through such programs, we have created a culture in which our employees constantly look out for each other's safety and the safety of our neighbors, visitors and contractors."

Since 1934, the annual Governor's Safety Awards program has honored Minnesota employers with exceptional safety performance. Applicants are judged on several years of injury data as it compares with their industry's national statistics, and on their progress in implementing a comprehensive safety program. Winners are recognized at three levels:

• Meritorious Achievement (182 winners): Incidence rates that are better than the industry average for at least three years, and a score between 50 and 74 on a 100-point safety program evaluation scale.

• Outstanding Achievement (59 winners): Continuing improvement and/or a continuing outstanding record with incident rates that are 51-90 percent better than the industry average, and a score between 75 and 90 on the safety program evaluation scale.

• Award of Honor (38 winners): Incidence rates at least 91 percent better than the industry average, and a score between 91 and 100 on the safety program evaluation scale.

Arkema Inc. received an Award of Honor.

The Governor's Safety Awards luncheon is part of the 84th annual Minnesota Safety & Health Conference, coordinated by the Minnesota Safety Council. The conference is the oldest and largest gathering of workplace safety and health professionals in the region. The Minnesota Safety Council, founded in 1928, is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Minnesota by preventing unintentional injuries ("accidents").

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SEE ARKEMA, B7

BID WITH YOUR HEART



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS BALDWIN



Hundreds of people celebrated Mai Fest Saturday night in honor of long-time Owatonna auctioneer Jeff Kath, who died earlier this year. Top: Jeff's son, Kory Kath, and cousin, Tammy Lewison, help Larry Born and his staff call out bids during the live auction. There were 105 items for the silent auction and 10 for the live auction. Left: Steve Kath and his sister Rhonda Michaletz took to the floor for polka for two.

Mai Fest celebrates a long legacy of giving

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

In Owatonna Jeff Kath's name was synonymous with auctions. As an auctioneer for over 35 years, Kath drew local residents to each event with his entertaining approach to the art. It is a skill only few can master, and one which requires both personality and passion.

Kath passed away earlier this year, and his friends and family knew they had to do something to honor his name and keep his legacy alive. That's when the idea for the Jeff Kath Memorial Mai Fest first came about.

The memorial benefit was held on Saturday, May 19 at the Retrofit Building in Owatonna and offered live music, a silent and live auction, and German themed food and beverages.

"It's about celebrating our German heritage and the idea of gathering together to honor him," Kath's son Korey explained. During the night's auction, Kory helped to announce some of the larger or more unique items while his father's old partner, Larry Born, did his best to replicate the skill of his late friend.

There were 105 items for the silent auction and 10 for the live auction, but Kory took an old trick he learned from his father and added an extra item or two.

"Jeff always had a surprise item, and here someone just dropped off fresh asparagus," Kory announced to the audience of bidders in the humorous style of his father. "It's fresh and its ready, and I'm not sure what its worth, but I'm thinking around $1,500."

The asparagus sold for $125. It was just one of several unique items available, including a cabin stay up north, Twins tickets, a BBQ party for up to 20, and a handmade table with "Jeffisms" printed on it.

Kath's sister, Rhonda Michaletz, explained that "Jeffisms" are some of the famous sayings her brother was known for. These include: "It takes a big dog to weigh a ton," "you can't hold what you don't have in your hand," and, "bid with your heart, not with your head."

Those in attendance were definitely ready to bid with their hearts in memory of the man who inspired them to do so on many occasions. "When he was selling for a benefit there was nothing to stop him," Tammy Lewison, Kath's cousin recalled.

Another cousin, Bill Schendel, remembers a time when Kath was auctioneering in St. Michael, Minn., and had managed to sell an old wooden duck decoy for $750 before convincing the winning bidder to donate it back. Kath then turned around and sold the decoy to another bidder for $750.

It was stories like this that united all those in attendance. "My dad always wanted people to have fun, and if it was for a purpose then it was even more fun," Kory said.

"He was just a fun person, a people person, and he always knew everyone by name," Allyson Yennie, Kath's daughter explained. She was grateful for all that the community had contributed to the event. "It's amazing how giving Owatonna is, and that is why my dad loved Owatonna," she said. Many in town were eager to show their support of their good friend.

For instance, when he heard about the event, Born was ready to help anyway he could and brought his staff in tow. Another old friend was there to DJ the post-auction celebrations.

According to Kory, Jeff and DJ Chopper had first met while competing against each other in

SEE KATH BENEFIT, B7

Contested race brewing for Steele commissioner

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

At least one contested race will take place for Steele County commissioner this fall.

Sylvia Archer of Berlin Township has announced her candidacy for Steele County Commissioner in District 1.

District 1 includes the cities of Ellendale and Medford as well as the townships of Berlin, Clinton Falls, Deerfield, Lemond, Medford, Meriden, Merton, Somerset and Summit.

Archer has been a property owner and resident of Steele County since 1995. She is semi-retired and has been an active volunteer for many years.

She says she will "bring integrity, financial responsibility and creative problem solving to the position." She is looking forward to meeting county residents, learning more about their concerns and being an active partner toward common viable solutions.

James Brady, who currently holds the District 1 seat, told the Times Monday that he also plans to file for re-election. He has been embroiled in controversy over the last year after being charged with a gross misdemeanor involving officials not to be interested in contracts. The court case is still pending as a judge determines if the case should be thrown out.

"I'm not going to run away. I'm going to run," Brady said. "Ultimately the jury is going to be the voters come election time."

Brady admits his legal problems have made his job more difficult, but he's not ready to back down. "I'm going to hold my head high. I'm not afraid to go to court as I've done nothing wrong," he said.



Steele Talkin'
MISSY KOCH

Steele County 4-H gives back



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Club council officers with Steele County 4-H help sort, bound and bag shoes for a community project they have been involved with this year.

Steele County 4-H Club Council Officer team takes on a challenge each year to give back to the community with a local community collection project.

Last year they raised over 800 pounds of food for the Steele County Food Shelf, and this year they took an extra step

SEE STEELE TALKIN', B7

Ellendale students perform Alice in Wonderland play

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Ellendale students sing while Alice plays the Queen in a pink flamingo golf match during Prairie Fire Children's Theatre's presentation of Alice in Wonderland at the elementary school May 10.

Prairie Fire Children's Theater made its yearly trip to Ellendale Elementary recently to work with students and help develop a love for the arts at a young age.

"It's cool for the kids to get the opportunity to tryout acting," Ellendale fifth grade teacher Jessica Williams said. "We don't have a lot of acting in our school for the younger kids. It gives them a little taste of that.

"It's really cool to let them have the opportunity," she said. "I just think it's cool for some of kids who aren't involved with sports and things like that to get the opportunity to do there own thing for a week or two."

The culmination of the week was when students put on Prairie Fire's original musical version of Alice in Wonderland on May 10 and 11.

Students auditioned on May 7 and practiced for three days after before putting on the play.

"I just want to acknowledge the kids," Williams said. "They worked really hard. They come right here after school and they are here til around bedtime. It's a lot of hard work for them."

She said she think an activity like this is important for the students to just have the option.

"We still have the art options in our high school," she said. "There is choir, band and some art classes, but in the elementary school there are not as much."

Ellendale sixth grader Gracie Williams played role of Alice in the play.

"It was kind of stressful memorizing lines but it turned out to be pretty easy," she said. "It was just fun."

She said she has been participating in the activities with Prairie Fire since she was in second grade.

Some of the other plays she has been a part of are Snow White, Sleeping Beauty and Robin Hood.

Gracie Williams said she learned a lot of their guests from Prairie Fire and taking part in theater and drama is definitely something she wants to do it the future.

Prairie Fire Director Jakob Gomez said it's important to get arts into a children's life as soon a possible.

"It's kids that are up on stage right now, these are the kids that are going to grow up loving the arts and want to get out there and do more of the arts," he said. "Art broadens people's horizons. It's going to introduce them to things these kids might never even know about. Now they growing up and they are wanting to do arts in high school and beyond. I think that is really incredible."

Like athletics and other extracurricular activities, participating in the arts can lead to scholarship and other career opportunities.

"I have lots of friends I went to college with that had their whole ride taken care of because they were actors in high school," Gomez said. "They applied for the right scholarships and now they don't have to worry about it."

In addition to practicing for the play each night, Prairie Fire went into the students classrooms all week long to perform workshops with the students.

The topics included improvisation, acting and creative dramatics.

"We are out there in the classrooms and teachers that I hear back from [says] they love it," Gomez said. "We run games with them, we teach them acting tips and we give tools that we use everyday on stage like how to explore your imagination and how to be observant about the things around you."

Gomez said he also received a lot of positive feedback from parents.

He said an example was when one parent thanked him for casting their child because they spending time every night going over there lines instead of spending time watching television or surfing the internet.

"The kids love it," he said. "The are so excited everyday to get started. They are so excited to learn all the songs and dances. They love it, we love it, it's great."

Gomez said it was important for family and friends to support children, especially the elementary-age children, when they are involved with extracurricular activities.

"The support that they get from their parents and loved ones at home that really is the driving factor," he said. "If you have a kid that is doing a show, always come see them. The effect it has on them is unimaginable.

"When I was growing up, it was a lot of those kids that were doing theater were also out there doing track, hockey and all these other activities," Gomez continued. "I think it's important to teach the kids that it doesn't have to be an either or kind of deal. Kids can do both."

Gomez reiterated that he just wants the children to have the opportunity at a young age to explore something that could ultimately become their passion.

"Even if a lot of these kids don't grow up to be actors, maybe they can go out there and support the arts in some other ways," he said. "There are always opportunities out there and if we can get that love of the arts in them right away, it opens doors like they can't believe."

Gomez said that Prairie Fire also offers opportunities for students outside of acting like wardrobe design, set design, lighting and sound.

Millers donate to Ellendale Community Foundation

The Community Foundation of Ellendale (CDFE) has announced that the foundation received a $10,000 matching challenge grant from Dennis and Jackie Miller. The grant Millers will match dollar-for-dollar all donations from individual or corporate supporters whose donation is $100 or greater throughout 2018.

CFE is a local non-profit organization whose mission, striving to strengthen and enhance the Ellendale area community today and for future generations, invites citizens to join in growing the community.

"Ellendale was a wonderful place to grow up," said Dennis Miller. "I have many fond memories and lifelong friends in the Ellendale area. That's why Jackie and I want to help," he added.

One of the main goals of ECF CFE is to invest in people, programs and organizations that benefit our community. In order to support the group's mission, the group has partnered with Southern Minnesota Initiative Fund (SMIF), a regional development and philanthropic organization that fosters economic and community vitality in a 20 county region of southern Minnesota through a culture of collaboration and partnership. They will serve as the fiscal agenthost, providing investment services, trainings and financial support and seed money, and offer grant-matching opportunities.

Gifts can either be contributed to the endowment fund, which will provide ongoing grant dollars for the community of Ellendale into perpetuity. Or the dollars can go to CFE's current project updating the community center.

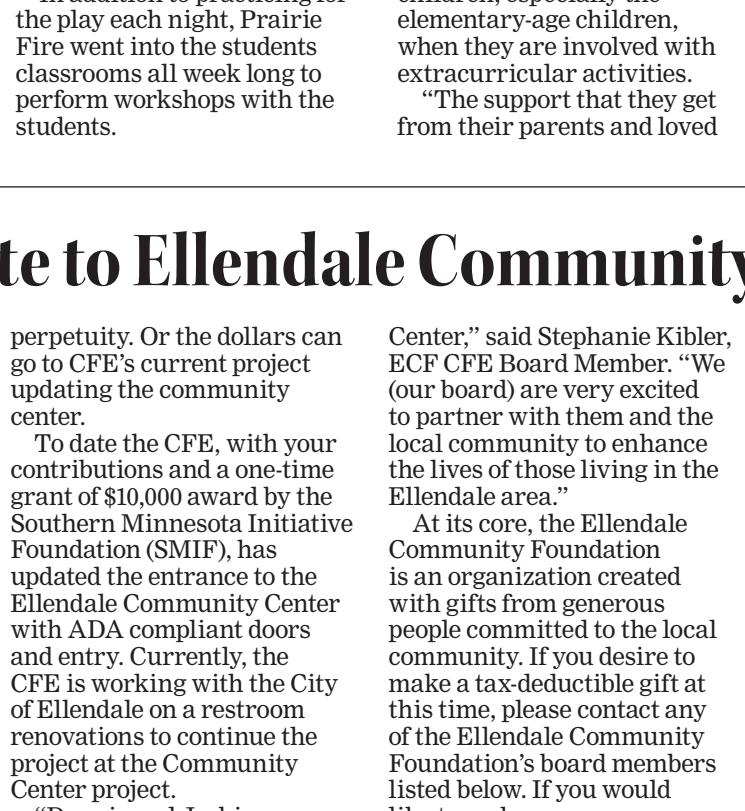
To date the CFE, with your contributions and a one-time grant of $10,000 award by the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), has updated the entrance to the Ellendale Community Center with ADA compliant doors and entry. Currently, the CFE is working with the City of Ellendale on a restroom renovations to continue the project at the Community Center project.

"Dennis and Jackie Miller's generosity provides the foundation with an opportunity to grow its endowment fund as well as move forward with the updating of the Community Center," said Stephanie Kibler, ECF CFE Board Member. "We (our board) are very excited to partner with them and the local community to enhance the lives of those living in the Ellendale area."

At its core, the Ellendale Community Foundation is an organization created with gifts from generous people committed to the local community. If you desire to make a tax-deductible gift at this time, please contact any of the Ellendale Community Foundation's board members listed below. If you would like to make an anonymous contribution, you may do so by contacting SMIF at 507-455-3215, or by going online, smifoundation.org and click the "DONATE" tab located in the top left corner of the website.

Board members are Coleen Brekke, president, 507-456-5428; Emily Otto, vice president, 507-475-0363; Peter Paulson, treasurer, 706-962-1749; Sherry Schott, secretary, 507-456-5269; Arlen Brekke, director, 507-391-4196; Stephanie Kibler, director, 612-203-6883 and Larry Otto, director, 507-475-1023.

Other information is available on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/EllendaleCommunityFoundation.







SALUTE TO VETERANS



Joseph J. Prokopec

Branch of service: U.S. Army
Entered service: Jan. 13, 1954
Discharge date: Jan. 12, 1956
Where served: Basic training in Fort Riley, Kansas (Company Able 87)
Fort Lewis, Washington (Company 546)
Unit served: Able 87 in Fort Riley and 546 Field Artillery Battalion

My Story:

I had eight weeks of basic training in Fort Riley. It was in January and February so it was a little cold out. There was a lot of marching to the firing range and a lot of wind and sand blowing most every day. We were next to the last unit to have basic training in Fort Riley before they closed it up. We had good times on weekends in Junction City, Kansas.

In Fort Lewis, I was a truck driver most of the time hauling soldiers around. We made about 10 trips over the mountains to Yakima, Wash., for training. I was in a service batter, so we had a lot of trucks. I was in a 155 Howiter Division, so we hauled the ammunition out in the field for them to fire off. Each one of the shells weighed 99 pounds. There was a lot of lifting.

The last six months of service I was in the motor pool changing oil, replacing batteries and whatever needed to be done to the trucks. It rained a lot, but never really got wet. We had good times going to Seattle, Tacoma and Olympia, Washington. We were on the north port of Fort Lewis, so we got to see a lot of the guys from Blooming Prairie go over to Korea.

A special thanks for your bravery and sacrifice in defending our country!

THIS MESSAGE SPONSORED BY:

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Blooming Prairie
We're proud supporters of our area veterans!

NRHEG PANTHER of the Week

Sponsored by: Steve's SMOKEY ACRES
Award Winning Home-Cured Meat Products
ESTABLISHED 1973



Mallory

NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

This week's Panther of the Week is Mallory Groskreutz

This week's Panther of the Week is Mallory Groskreutz. Mallory lives in the country by Waldorf with her parents, Jodi and Adam Grozkreutz. She is in Mrs. Ihrke's second grade class.

Mallory is a soft-spoken, sweet girl with a heart of gold! She is quick to notice if someone needs help with something and without being asked, she goes to help that person. She is kind to everyone, and works so hard in the classroom every day. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful example of some-one who shows Panther Pride at our school!

Mallory loves to sew, do crafts, and help her mom paint wood that she uses for crafts. She also likes to play with her friends. In school, Mallory enjoys math and reading Judy Moody books. Keep up the great work Mallory!

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

Blotter Spotlight: Domestic: Officers responded on May 6 to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of Allan Ave. SW at 9:14 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Man suffers injuries in one-vehicle crash by BP

By HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie first responders were quickly on the scene of a one-car crash just north of Blooming Prairie at about 10 a.m. Monday, May 14.

A 2003 Mercury Marquis driven by Randall Joseph Lien, 21, of Fridley veered out of control, entered a ditch and landed near the intersection of Highway 30 and 218.

The Mercury was northbound on U.S. Highway 218 when it left the roadway to the left entered ditch and came to a stop on Highway 30. The vehicle's air bags were not deployed.

The driver of the Mercury was taken by BP Ambulance to Mayo Health Systems in Austin. Lien reportedly suffered non-threatening injuries and was treated and released.

Road conditions were reported dry at the time.

The Minnesota State Patrol led the investigation of the crash. The patrol said Lien was wearing his seat belt and no alcohol was involved.

Assisting the State Patrol at the crash scene were Blooming Prairie Police Department, BP Fire Department and the BP Ambulance



A Fridley man, Randall Joseph Lien, 21, was slightly injured in a one-vehicle car crash near the intersection of Highways 30 and 218. His car left the roadway, entered a ditch and then came out of the ditch and ended on Highway 30 roadway. (Staff photo by Tracie Anderson)

Crash by Lansing Corners seriously injures teen

An Austin teenager has been seriously injured in a two-vehicle crash at Lansing Corners.

Megan Marie Erie, 17, was transported to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester with life-threatening injuries after the vehicle she was riding in collided with another vehicle on U.S. Highway 218 at 270th Street May 14 at 4:11 p.m.

The driver of the vehicle, Jazmin Claudia Portillo, 18, of Austin, was transported to the hospital in Austin. Her injuries were categorized as non-life threatening. She was driving a 2001 Chevrolet Cavalier.

Portillo's vehicle collided with a 2017 Chevrolet pick-up driven by Burton Jay Iversen, 79, of Austin.

According to the State Patrol, Portillo's vehicle was traveling westbound on County Road 2 when it collided with the pick-up going southbound on Highway 218.

All people involved in the crash were wearing their seat belts, the patrol said. No alcohol was involved.

The Mower County Sheriff's Office, Austin Fire and Gold Cross Ambulances assisted the patrol at the scene.

Failing to buckle up is like riding a rollercoaster without protection

Extra enforcement underway in Steele County

Imagine hopping on a rollercoaster, speeding at 70 mph and going upside down. Now close your eyes and imagine riding that same rollercoaster unbelted. It only takes a split second to realize the tragic consequences of an unbelted rollercoaster rider. If you wouldn't ride a rollercoaster without a seat belt, why would you ride in a car without one? The two seconds it takes to buckle up in a vehicle can save your life if you are ever involved in a crash.

To continue educating motorists that seat belts save lives and it's the law to buckle up, more than 300 law enforcement agencies across the state will be participating in the statewide Click It or Ticket campaign, which began May 21 and continues through June 3. The Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety coordinates the extra enforcement and education campaign. Owatonna Police is taking part in the extra enforcement.

Good news, bad news

Fortunately, most Minnesotans are making the life-saving decision to buckle up.

· According to the 2017 Minnesota Seat Belt Survey, 92 percent of front seat occupants are wearing their seat belts.

· Severe injuries are also going down. In 1987, there were 4,176 vehicle occupants who suffered severe injuries in traffic crashes. That number dropped to 1,317 in 2016.
For those choosing not to buckle up, the results are tragically hurting families across Minnesota.

· In 2016, 79 unbelted motorists lost their lives on Minnesota roads.
Owatonna Police Department – Exceeding Expectations!

· In 2016, 76 percent of the unbelted deaths occurred in Greater Minnesota (outside the seven-county metro area).

· In 2016, 30 percent of motor vehicle deaths were unbelted.

Speak up

An unbelted motorist can crash into a windshield and get thrown into other passengers. Often times, an unbelted occupant is ejected from the vehicle and killed.

Drivers are in charge of their vehicles and of the safety of their passengers. They can refuse to start the car until every passenger is belted. Passengers also can speak up if the driver is endangering everyone in the vehicle by not buckling up.

Law is for safety

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

Child Car Seat Law and Steps

· In Minnesota, all children must be in a child restraint until they are 4'9" tall, or at least age 8, whichever comes first.

· Rear-facing seats - All infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car seat until they have reached the height and weight limits allowed by the car seat manufacturer. It is safest to keep children rear-facing up to the maximum weight limit of the car seat.

· Forward-facing seats with harness - Toddlers and preschoolers who have reached the height and weight limits of the rear-facing car seat should use a forward-facing seat with harness until they reach the weight limit of the harness allowed by the car seat manufacturer.

· Booster seats - For school-age children who have reached the height and weight limits of the forward-facing seat. The booster must be used with a lap and shoulder belt.

· Seat belts - For children over 8 years old or have reached 4 feet 9 inches. Your child is ready for an adult seat belt when they can sit with their back against the vehicle seat, knees bent comfortably and completely over the vehicle seat edge without slouching, and feet touching the floor.

CORRECTION

In last week's Public Safety special section, several names of the special deputies for Steele County were inadvertently omitted. Below is the full list of special deputies. The Times apologizes for the error.

SPECIAL DEPUTIES- STEELE COUNTY
Andy Bateman, Thomas Bendorf, Charlie Berg, Brennon Brase, Kyle Clausen, Gene Fisher, Paul Hanson, Jeff Kirchner, RJ Kniefel, Mark Kreutter, Eugene Linse, Lewis Luedtke, Michael Meyer, Adam Miller, Rachel Olson, Matthew Pace, Wyonne Priebe, Marty Rethemeier, Jackie Saemrow, Mark Schultz, Tom Stockwell, John Sweet, Lance Ulrich and Steve Wrede.

Man charged with making terroristic threats in BP

By RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A man has been charged with allegedly making terroristic threats at a residence in Blooming Prairie.

Chad Leo Roche, 26, of Wells, faces a felony count of terroristic threats involving reckless disregard risk and a gross misdemeanor of stalking with intent to injure.

Police responded to a burglary-in-progress at a house in the 200 block of First Street NW on May 16 at about 2:56 a.m. Dispatch advised responding officers that a man was heard yelling and trying to break into the residence.

When police arrived, they made contact with the homeowner, who appeared to be in a "scared state of mind." She told police that Roche was screaming and trying to break into her house through the front door to get at her daughter. They never went to the front door because they were scared. Roche left the area prior to the arrival of officers.

The homeowner said Roche threatened to pull her daughter out by her hair and beat her up. He also had threatened to kill the daughter, who has tried to break off a relationship with him "because he's too violent."

The daughter told police that Roche has grabbed her by the hair several times in the past, hit her with a closed fist, thrown things at her and punched her in the stomach. She also said Roche has told her in the past that he could kill her and leave her in the ditch.

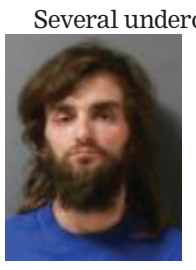
Police put out an alert to the surrounding area looking for Roche in connection with this incident. A short time later Albert Lea Police advised they were out with Roche. Blooming Prairie Police went to Albert Lea and took custody of Roche. He was transported to the Steele County Detention Center in Owatonna.

In a police interview, Roche stated he was arguing with the victim on the phone. He admitted to going to Blooming Prairie to talk to the vicim.

If convicted of terroristic threats, Roche would face a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a $10,000 fine.

Undercover drug buys around the area land Austin man in jail

By RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER



BITTRICH

Several undercover drug buys involving the South Central Drug Investigation Unit has led to the arrest of a 28-year-old Austin man. The suspected drug deals took place in Waseca, Owatonna and Blooming Prairie.

Kerry Charles Bittrich has been charged in Steele County District Court with first-degree sale of methamphetamine. He is accused of unlawfully selling one or more mixtures totaling 17 grams of meth on one or more occasions within a 90-day period.

According to the criminal complaint filed against Bittrrich:

The investigation revealed that on March 27, a confidential reliable informant notified the SCDIU that a quarter ounce of meth for $300 could be purchased from Bittrich in Waseca. The CRI rode with an undercover agent to the Walmart in Waseca to make the purchase. The agent provided the CRI with $300 cash buy funds to finalize the deal.

While monitoring the transmitter device placed on the CRI, the agent heard Bittrich tell the CRI to go to the north side of Walmart by the liquor store. The agent saw the CRI get into Bittrich's truck where the deal went down.

The agent met with the CRI to collect a clear plastic baggie containing a white crystal substance that appeared to be meth. The CRI told the agent that when he got into Bittrich's vehicle, Bittrich weighed out a quarter ounce and put it in a baggie. The baggie was found to be 7.1 grams in weight.

On March 28, the agent executed a search warrant for a mobile GPS tracker to be placed on Bittrich's vehicle.

The CRI advised the drug agent he could purchase 10 or 11 grams of meth for $400 from Bittrich on April 6. The agent provided the CRI with $400 to make the deal.

Bittrich sent the CRI a dropped pin on goggle maps on Southwest 18th Street in rural Owatonna for the deal to be made. At about 2:57 p.m., the CRI allegedly made another drug deal with Bittrich on the west side of Owatonna near the John Deere dealership.

Police weighed the plastic baggie and found it to be 10.5 grams of meth.

On May 2, the CRI notified drug agents that a quarter ounce of meth for $250 could be purchased from Bittrich, who wanted to meet the CRI at the grocery store in Blooming Prairie on May 3. The deal allegedly ended up taking place in the parking lot of Casey's.

The CRI sent Bittrich a Facebook message stating, "I need a q oz." Bittrich responded, "Ok I'll hit my dude up." The CRI responded, "How much?" Bittrich responded back, "I'll ask him, probably 250."

On May 6, Bittrich informed the CRI that he would not be getting the meth or the money because Bittrich's guy was sketched out and gave Bittrich "bogus stuff."

Drug agents arrested Bittrich at his residence in Austin on May 13.

When police interviewed Bittrich about the alleged drug deals, he admitted to the buys. During one of the deals, he told police he made the person drive all over "because she sketched me out and I thought she was a cop."

Court records show Bittrich has a prior first-degree controlled substance possession conviction from June 2015.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 7 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Jesse K. Moe, 31, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony predatory offender registration violation. He was sentenced to $281, 30 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, obtain permission to leave the state, cognitive skill training and 5 years of supervised probation.

Seth G. Nevala, 25, Gibbon, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. Nevala was sentenced to $4,020 and 36 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

Daniel J. Stockwell, 30, Claremont, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. He was sentenced to $181, 38 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

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

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Charity A. Braulik, 38, Shakopee, revoked license and no insurance, $481.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

AHMED O. AHMED, 35, WEST Des Moines, IA, speeding, $131; Zainab A. Alaka, 21, Chicago, IL, no license, $181; Brian L. Althiser, 25, East Moline, IL, no license, $181; Juan E. Bibiloni-Rivera, 19, Ames, IA, reckless driving, $381, 20 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Edwin Bushnell Jr., 50, Houston, TX, no license, $181; Tia J. Cannedy, 27, Rochester, no license and revoked license, $381; Floyd L. Carlson, 32, St. Cloud, suspended license, $281; Troy T. Cook, 34, Faribault, speeding, $131; Jeremy L. Gabby, 36, Rochester, seat belt, $106; Marquis J. Jackson, 25, New Brighton, seat belt, $106; Kyle D. Johnson, 43, New Richland, speeding, $121; John H. Kong, 20, Northfield, speeding, $131; Lorenzo Mendoza-Barrios, 27, Albert Lea, no license, $181; Nicholas L. Milbrett, 32, Waseca, suspended license, $281; Abdikerim B. Nur, 20, Faribault, speeding, $121; Hilario Ortiz-Vital, 22, Brooklyn Park, revoked license, $281; Yuku Y. Paye, 35, Brooklyn Park, unsafe change of course, $121; Mark E. Sellors, 51, Mountain Brk, AL, possession of paraphernalia, $131; Stephen P. Shaw, 55, San Antonio, TX, speeding, $141; Luke R. Siemon, 20, Belle Plaine, suspended license, $281; Siearre J. Smith, 27, Minneapolis, revoked license, $281; Hok F. Wong, 25, Ames, IA, speeding, $221; Alyssa E. Zabel, 24, Owatonna, following vehicle too closely, $131.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Lamar D. Allen, 45, Waseca, false name to peace officer, stay of adjudication, $156 and 120 days of unsupervised probation; Kai S. Backous, 21, Owatonna, give peace officer false information, $181 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Ricky B. Barnes Jr., 25, Owatonna, no license, $181; Devon A. Block, 23, Faribault, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, $181; Curtis T. Boettcher, 34, Owatonna, parking violation, $27; Shayne D. Bowers, 28, Faribault, give peace officer false information, $131, 38 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Cinthia Castillo del Bosque, 71, Owatonna, no insurance, $281; Kalley J. Chadderdon, 20, Faribault, revoked license and no insurance, $481; Robert M. Deetz, 24, Minneapolis, texting while driving, $131; Andrew C. Ehrich, 29, Owatonna, hit and run accident, $131; Brandi M. Grant, 37, Owatonna, theft by

WARRANTS: The following individuals have active warrants in Steele County. The Sheriff provides this information as a public service

1. Bashir Sudi – theft by check - $10,000 bail
2. Santana Syhakhoun – contempt of court - $500 bail
3. Pablo Tagle – theft by swindle - $1,000 bail
4. Brandon Tate – domestic assault - $2,000 bail
5. Alvin Taylor – DWI - $3,000 bail
6. John Tedd – domestic assault – no bail
7. Allen Telschow – DWI – no bail
8. Ramiro Terrones – DWI - $500 bail
9. Norma Thibodeau – dishonored check - $1,000 bail
10. James Thomas – theft – no bail
11. Carla Thompkins – stalking - $35,000 bail
12. Larry Thompson – obstruction – $3,000 bail
13. Timothy Tillman – assault - $20,000 bail
14. Richard Topple – DWI – no bail
15. Albert Torres – theft, false name - $1,000 bail
16. Enrique Torres – theft - $300 bail
17. Julio Touchet Campos – criminal sexual conduct - $250,000 bail
18. Jaime Tovar – DWI – no bail
19. Jeremy Trevino – drugs - $500,000 bail
20. Santos Trevino – suspended license, no insurance, $1,000 bail

Disclosing active warrants promotes public safety and aids in the identification and apprehension of wanted individuals

Luring funds for fishing

Isaak Walton League holds rummage sale to benefit OHS Fishing Team

By CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

With the Owatonna High School starting up a new fishing team to compete statewide, the local Isaak Walton League chapter saw a perfect opportunity to help reel in some additional funds.

After Arrow ACE Hardware's downtown move they were left with extra stock at the old location. That's when Michael Bail, the Owatonna store's manager, decided to donate the items to the Owatonna Isaak Walton League to sell at a rummage sale.

Roughly 30 percent of the sale's profits will go to benefit the new fishing team while the remainder will be used for the Isaak Walton League's many wildlife conservation efforts within the region.

Greg Schwartz, a member of the Isaak Walton League for over 40 years and current secretary, was grateful for Arrow ACE's donations. "It was really generous of them," he said. He estimated the value of all of the items at around $10,000 and said that Bail, told him to, "just take everything." Schwartz recalled that it took them several trips to load up all of the donated items.

The rummage sale was held in the Isaak Walton Building at the Owatonna Fairgrounds for the last two weekends, where interested buyers could peruse the items and give a little back at the same time.

Isaak Walton was an English writer and angler who was known as the "father of flyfishing." Walton wrote The Compleat Angler in 1653, and has inspired countless generations of fishermen to protect fishing opportunities for future generations since then.

The League was started in his name in 1922 in Chicago, Ill., and has spread out across the country since then. The Owatonna Chapter has operated out of the building at the fairgrounds since 1945. The building itself was built in 1938.

As their namesake owes a debt to Walton and the sport of fishing in general, the Owatonna members knew this would be a perfect chance to directly help future generations of anglers. "Getting kids active in nature is extremely important to us," Schwartz explained. "We are an outdoor group."



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Greg Schwartz, secretary of the Owatonna Isaak Walton League, displays some of the items during the Rip Roar'n Rummage Sale held at the fairgrounds. Thirty percent of the profits are to be donated to the new fishing team at Owatonna High School.

Schwartz thinks that those participating on the new fishing team will get a lot out the experience. According to Schwartz, each team will compete over a weekend, with most tournaments ending on Saturday but larger ones will extend to Sunday.

Fish will be gauged by both length and weight, depending on each tournament's individual rules, and students will have to take part in at least two tournaments to qualify for state. The first contest will be in mid-June.

The Owatonna Fishing Team is a new addition to the school's extracurricular roster, and will be split into teams of two during competitions. Each team will be relegated to a boat, many of which will be driven by parents.

Participation on the team is open to both boys and girls, and will include students in grades 7-12. Younger students who join the team will be paired up with their older teammates. There are now several other fishing teams around the state, and this year's competition events will be held throughout the summer. The team was officially organized in late January and held its first meeting on Feb. 1. Larry Kriesel, whose grandson is on the team, was already impressed by the early participation after deciding to be the team's head coach.

"I thought we'd have eight or 10 kids and we ended up with 54, so we're excited so many want to be involved," he said. Kriesel feels that the students who participate on the team will get much from being outdoors.

"Getting them outdoors and off the couch will be good," he said. "It's a great pastime for them, and the team will bring a competitive aspect to it." Although the team has all of its ducks in a row, Kriesel and the school are still looking for some additional volunteers to help drive the boats.

But thanks to the local Isaak Walton League, they will have some extra funds to put towards the new team. In all the rummage sale raised $1,448 over the course of its four-day operation. Although just a hair above 30 percent, Schwartz hopes to donate $435 of that to the OHS Fishing Team.

The rest of the profits will go into local environmental and conservation efforts, while the remaining items are being donated to other organizations within the area. These include the Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity stores in Mankato and Rochester, among others. Kriesel and his team of anglers will be more than happy to put the money raised to help further the sport. "There's a big push to get these kids doing something they love," he said when speaking on the team.

Members of the Isaak Walton League know this fondness firsthand. "I love being out and about and away from everyone else on my boat," Schwartz said of his love of fishing. "My wife's a pretty good angler, too."

CarCare Center

Are your headlights ready for your next road trip?

By Brian Noble, Marketing Manager at SYLVANIA Automotive

Most drivers need to do at least some driving at night, and with the days getting shorter, the time spent behind the wheel during darker hours will surely increase. While properly functioning and properly aimed headlights are always important, this season, they're necessary.

Before hitting the road, drivers should be sure their vehicle is ready for nighttime driving. The following headlight maintenance tips will help travelers better prepare for the open road ahead, and improve vehicle safety year-round.

Headlight Maintenance 101

Replace before burnout: Headlights can dim over time, so replacement before burnout is suggested. Vehicles with burned-out headlights often can be found traveling on dark roads, posing a risk to both the driver, and others on the road. If a vehicle owner cannot remember the last time headlights were changed, it's probably time to replace them.

Always swap in pairs: It's very important to replace headlights in pairs. Since headlights dim over time, a new bulb paired with an old bulb creates an uneven field of vision for drivers, which can be a major distraction on the road.

Upgrade: It's no secret – better headlights can help increase further downroad visibility, which in turn can help nighttime drivers feel safer and more secure. If there is an object on the road, headlights help drivers react sooner. Many consumers don't realize they have options when it comes to headlights, but they do. And any upgrade above a basic headlight replacement helps to create a better, safer experience for the driver. Look for headlights that offer greater downroad visibility with a whiter light for maximum clarity. Whiter light improves contrast, allowing a driver to better distinguish objects on the side of the road.

Consider DIY: Changing a vehicle's headlight bulb is a simple process that doesn't require a mechanic or service professional. Various online guides and resources exist to help consumers swap out headlight bulbs in a matter of minutes. Consult the vehicle's owner's manual for bulb/headlight replacement procedures, needed tools and safety precautions. Always wear safety glasses and work gloves as well.

Restoration as an option: The average age of vehicles on the road today is 11 years old. Many of these vehicles have faded, cloudy plastic headlight lenses. This cloudiness, caused by degradation from the sun's bright rays, reduces and diffuses the light going through the lenses, making it difficult to see when driving in the dark. Consider DIY restoration kits that restore clarity and remove the hazy yellow appearance on headlight lenses.

Properly aim your headlights: It's important to properly align and aim your headlights to ensure that the light is projecting down the road, and not into the eyes of oncoming drivers. If your headlights' aim is off, it can drastically decrease nighttime visibility. This simple DIY fix can make a tremendous difference and improve safety.

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A salute to the Fine Arts

groups at Blooming Prairie

Annual Staff



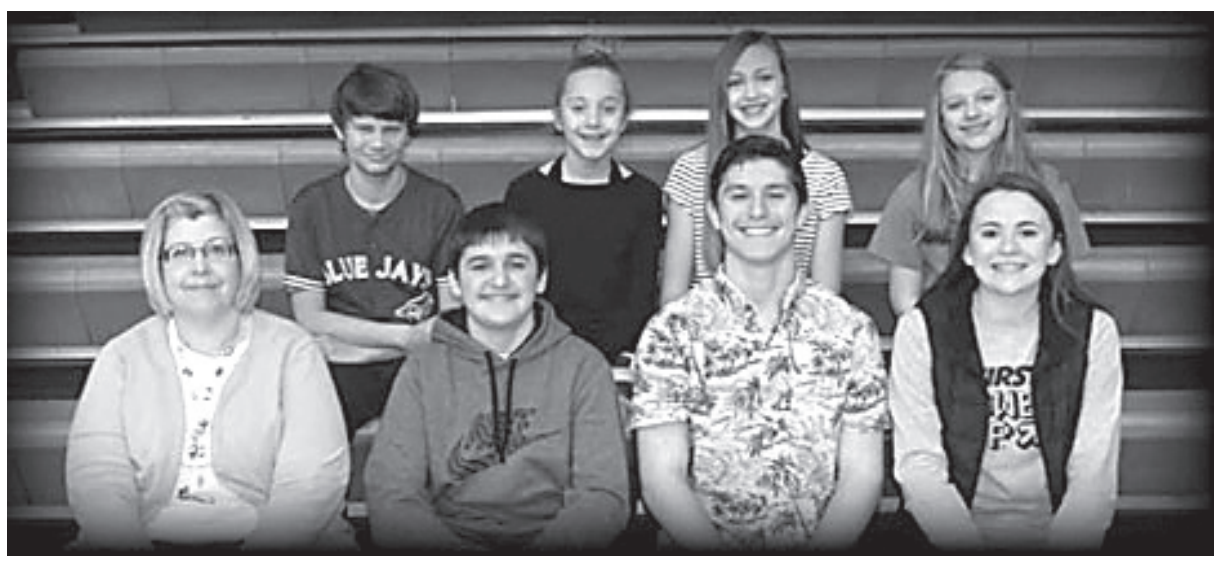
The 2018 annual staff includes: front (left to right) advisor Jan Anderson and Haley Ryks; back Bradyley Staska, Austin Behne and Jake Ressler.

Musical



The 2018 Musical included: front Reese Millam, Riauna Bishop and McKenna Hein; middle Levi Ryks, Payton Simon, Dylan Nirk, Zach Weber, Halle Strunk, Greta Sunde, Jacob McHenry and Julia Worke; back Linnea Byers-Sunde, Luke Larkoski, director Tamzen Johnson, director Kari Bottin, Baylee Sorensen and Gabriel Hagen.

Speech



Members of the Speech team include: front advisor Michelle Southworth, Charlie Heimerman, Payton Simon and Baylee Sorensen; back Thomas Donnelly, Susan Smith, Sierra Larson and Asha Lighthizer.

We're proud of your awesome accomplishments throughout the past school year!

Musical Cheerleaders



The cheerleaders for the musical included Greta Sunde, Rachael Oswald, Kiya Thompson, Reese Milliam, McKenna Hein, Riauna Bishop, Halle Strunk, Julia Worke and Baylee Sorensen.

Musical



Other participants in the musical included: Hazel Michaud, Ian Wayne, Rachael Oswald, Samantha Wurst and Charlie Heimerman.

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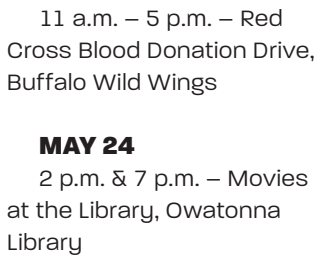
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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

MAY 23
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library

Noon – Memorial Day Program & Lunch, Servicemen's Club

MAY 28
11 a.m. – Memorial Day Program, BP City Cemetery


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ELLENDALE/GENEVA/HOPE

MAY 23
3:30 p.m. – Community Ed Babysitting Training, NR Media Center

7:30 p.m. – Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building

MAY 24
6:30 p.m. – NRHEG Community Ed Summer Rec Meeting, NR Lower Commons

MAY 29
6:30 p.m. – Karate, Ellendale Gym North

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OWATONNA/MEDFORD

MAY 23
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, Buffalo Wild Wings

MAY 24
2 p.m. & 7 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library

MAY 25
SCHS Operation Tombstone, Steele County Cemeteries
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, Famous Dave's

MAY 26
SCHS Operation Tombstone, Steele County Cemeteries
7 a.m. – Farmers Market, Central Parks

MAY 27
SCHS Operation Tombstone, Steele County Cemeteries

MAY 28
10 a.m. – Memorial Day Parade Starts, St. Joseph Catholic Church
10:30 a.m. – Memorial Day Service, Four Seasons Centre

Button design winner

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD



Ella Salinas, a fourth grader at Blooming Prairie, has been selected as the winner of the Fourth of July button design contest. Chamber director Becky Noble presented Salinas with a button and t-shirt featuring the button design at the elementary spring concert May 4. Buttons were sold door-to-door in Blooming Prairie last week and will be available at local businesses in the upcoming weeks leading up to the Fourth celebration. Salinas is the daughter of Brooke and Hay Salinas.

Take a tour back to 1918 in BP

HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie Librarian Nancy Vaillancourt shared some exciting news with BP Area Chamber of Commerce members at a monthly meeting Wednesday, May 16 at Bunkie's Grill & Lanes.

The Blooming Prairie Chamber will sponsor a walking tour of downtown Blooming Prairie to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Minnesota Home Guard coming to Blooming Prairie and shutting down three saloons.

The troops were there for several weeks until October when it was decided that the local law enforcement should take over from the state Home Guard.

Steve Wencl always says that the troops would be given beer and would be in the back of the saloons while the saloons were open as normal.

The tour will be held on Sunday, July 1.

Using information from the National Register of Historic Places and through interviews with business owners, a walking tour of the business area will be led by Chamber members.

Learn about past uses of the buildings, stories that have been passed down, and photographs of the buildings from the past.

Admission will be a 4th of July button, which will be available that day for $3. The tour will begin on the west end of Main Street and will include the two blocks up to the highway.

Dunnell Lenort who played music at the Chamber's golf outing last year at the BP Country Club will perform from 2-4 p.m.

Refreshments will be available.

Details are still being worked out, Vaillancourt told the Chamber group.

In routine business, Chamber President Greg Johnson reported on upcoming Chamber activities and also asked for motions to approve the minutes of the last Chamber meeting and also to approve the Chamber treasurer's report.

An update was also given on the chamber's gambling sites and on the summer golf outing planned for July 18.

Next Chamber meeting will be June 20 at the Brookside Campgrounds, just southeast of Blooming Prairie. Dondi and Karla Stender and their son D.J. will host the outing.

Spend the day on the Como-Harriet Streetcar Line

The Steele County Historical Society invites you to join in on a nostalgic ride on the Como-Harriet Streetcar Line and a tour of Lake Minnetonka aboard the Steamboat Minnehaha on Tuesday, June 19.

The bus will depart from Steele County History Center at 8:30 a.m. and returning at approximately 4:30 p.m.

The day will begin with a ride on the historic Como-Harriet Streetcar Line, which follows original streetcar right-of-way between Lake Harriet and Lake Calhoun and is operated by the Minnesota Streetcar Museum. Step back to the days when the streetcar was king — when Twin Citians went to work, to school, and to play by trolley! Your Motorman will provide interesting information about the car and Minnesota streetcar history.

The group will enjoy lunch at Jake O'Connor's Public House, a former hardware shop turned into something comfortable and convivial, replete with a fireplace, buttoned-leather booths, stained-glass dividers, and soft lighting.

The afternoon will be spent aboard the Steamboat Minnehaha touring Lake Minnetonka. Between 1906 and 1926 the streetcar boats provide fast and reliable transportation for the residents of Lake Minnetonka, operating on hourly circuits along a total of four different routes. In 1926, the decision was made to discontinue all steamboat service on Lake Minnetonka. Three of the streetcar boats, including the Minnehaha, are scuttled (purposely sunk) in deep water north of Big Island that summer. In 1979, a professional diver named Jerry Provost locates one of the wrecks approximately sixty feet below the surface. Despite being submerged for more than fifty years, the wreck is in good condition due to the low oxygen levels found in deep water. For six years volunteers work to restore the Minnehaha back to her original condition. Ownership of the Minnehaha has since been transferred to the Museum of Lake Minnetonka, an all- volunteer, nonprofit organization founded in 2004. Today the Minnehaha sails regularly from the lakeside communities of Excelsior and Wayzata throughout the summer and autumn seasons, acting as perhaps the most vivid reminder of Lake Minnetonka's colorful history.

Tickets for the tour are available at the Steele County History Center. Member rate is $65; non-member rate is $75. Space is limited and filling quickly.

Sunset Field Day coming to Waseca

The University of Minnesota Extension's Fruit and Vegetable program is hosting an evening field tour for vegetable growers on June 14 from 5-8 p.m., at the U of MN Southern Research and Outreach Center.

Activities include: touring research plots on mechanical weed management, scouting and managing vegetable insect pests, and optimizing sprayer performance. Sprayer demonstrations will be led by Ken Frost of Frost Inc. and The Spray Barn in St. Croix Falls, Wis. This event is ideal for anyone growing and selling vegetables in Minnesota.

The event is $15/person, including refreshments. Register online at https://z.umn.edu/3g6q or calling Susan Hickey at 612-301-1206. Registrations at the door are accepted by check or exact cash. The Southern ROC is located at 35838 120th St., Waseca.

MAI FEST: *Kath Benefit*

FROM B1

softball tournaments years ago, and from there decided to join forces at many events. It was friends like DJ Chopper and Born who were pivotal in helping to put on the memorial.

Joel Dulas, one of Born's fellow auctioneers, remembered Kath as a man who could sell anything to anybody. Dulas has been auctioneering for almost 20 years, and said he learned much from Kath's approach.

"I learned a lot from him, and he was always entertaining the audience," Dulas said. "It was always fun to do an auction with Jeff," he said. Dulas helped during the live auction by pointing out bidders and assisting Born in calling.

Many still wished they could have seen the master in action. "If he could see this he would be very humbled, but I think if he was putting this on he would be selling and hooping the place up," his sister Karlene Just mused.

Despite the celebratory mood, they were all there to pay respect to a man who did so much for the community. "It's fun to see all of these people," Jeff's sister Rhonda explained. "But it's bittersweet. There's a lot of tears."

With the goal being 400 tickets, the benefit surpassed that early in the evening, having sold over 700 before the auction was even half over. It was just another testament to the power Kath's name still elicits in people's hearts, and minds.

ARKEMA: *Safety Award*

FROM B1

spans High Performance Materials, Industrial Specialties and Coating Solutions. Arkema's globally recognized brands are ranked among the leaders in the markets it serves. Reporting annual sales of $9.4 billion in 2017, Arkema employs around 20,000 people worldwide and operate in some 55 countries.

The company is committed to active engagement with all its stakeholders. Arkema's research centers in North America, France and Asia concentrate on advances in bio-based products, new energies, water management, electronic solutions, lightweight materials and design, home efficiency and insulation.

STEELE TALKIN': *4-H*

FROM B1

in the right direction. Steele County 4-Her's and their friends and families gathered 375 new or gently used shoes for the charitable organization Sole4Souls.

Sole4 Souls believes everyone deserves a new pair of shoes and Steele County youth helped provide opportunities for individuals the ability to start small businesses by of providing a steady supply of high-quality, low-cost product; a powerful and sustainable way for people to lift¬ themselves and their families out of poverty. Not only will it help support a family building their business it will also providing footwear and clothing to those in need during times of disaster.

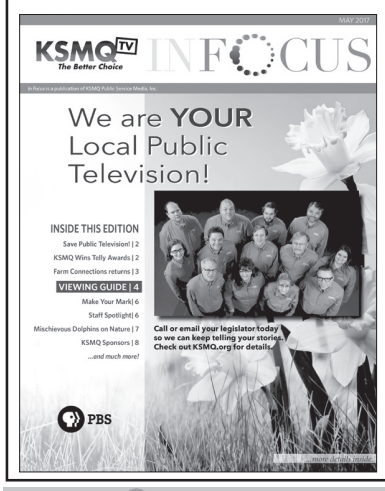
The 4-H program held drop off locations around the county during the month of April and were able to meet the satellite drop site in Brooklyn Park this May to add to their semi-trailer full of shoes. These shoes collected here in Minnesota will next travel south to warehouses in Georgia and Florida, where they will be sorted and placed for the needs of a particular area. Shoe donations ranged from flip flops to boots, and many tennis shoes will help provide a step in a positive direction.

It was truly a great opportunity for youth of Steele County to be able to take on this task to support the Sole4Souls commitment to provide shoes for everyone young and old. And a BIG thank you to all of you who helped make a difference and donated your shoes!

For more information about 4-H please contact us at University of Minnesota Extension - Steele County at 507-444-7685, or through http://www3.extension.umn.edu/local/steele.

Missy Koch is a 4-H program coordinator for Steele County. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors from various organizations throughout Steele County.

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2018 EVENTS
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• **July 3:** Street dance (21 and over only)
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• **July 4:** Open 9 a.m. to close
• **July 21:** B.O.B. ride: "Toys for Tots"

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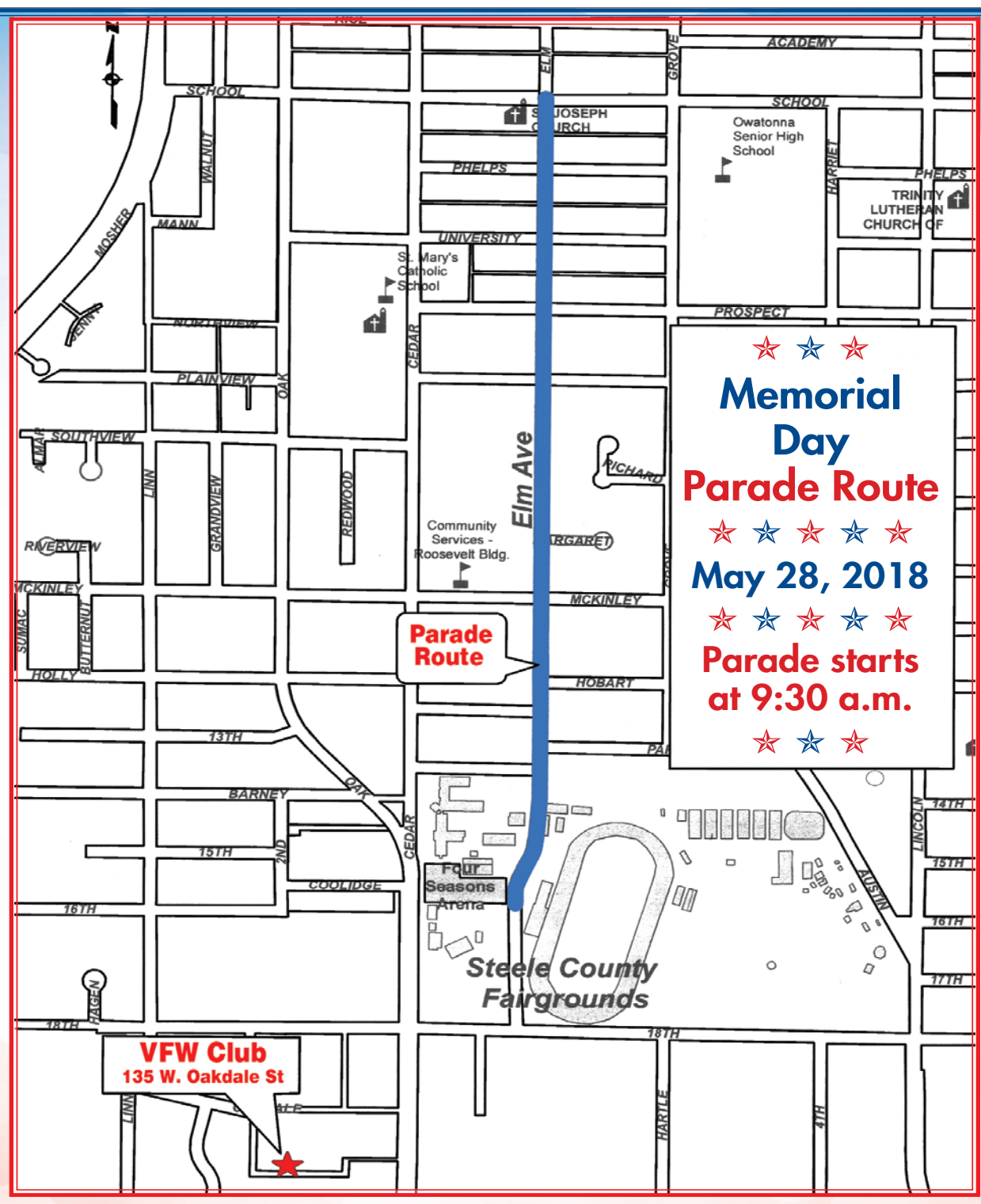
ALL EVENT DETAILS AVAILABLE AT J&H LIQUOR

PARADE ROUTE

Commences at the corner of South Elm Avenue & East School Street, moving South on Elm to the Four Seasons Building located at the Steele County Fairgrounds.

Parade to start at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Questions:
If anyone has questions regarding the parade or program, call the VFW Monday morning between 7:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. 507-451-1001



MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

The Memorial Day program will commence at the Four Seasons Building following the parade, at approximately 10:30 a.m.

If the parade is cancelled due to weather, the program will still be held at 10:30 a.m. in the FourSeasons Building. Weather cancellation announcements for the parade will be made by 9:00 a.m. Monday morning of the 28th.

VFW Post 3723 & American Legion Post 77
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507-451-1001

Calendar of Events

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540 West Hills Circle, Owatonna • Office Phone: 507-444-4321 • www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation

Tennis & Fitness Center 507-444-4290 | SeniorPlace 507-444-4280 | Brooktree Clubhouse 507-444-2467 | Park Maintenance: 507-774-7086 | River Springs Water Park 507-774-7370
Facebook: Owatonna Parks and Recreation | Email Address: parkrec@ci.owatonna.mn.us | Fax 507-444-4299

Summer Programs:
T-Ball • Squirt Ball
Day Camps • Little Tykes Camps
Farm Camp • Learn to Skate Hockey
Track • Jr. Golf • Tennis Lessons
Swim Lessons

Ways to Register:
Owatonna Park and Rec has a new registration system, so be sure to follow the prompts on the website to create a new account!

On-Line:
www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation/online-registration

Walk-In Registration:
at the Park and Recreation office at 540 West Hills Circle.
Office hours are 7:00am-5:00pm Monday – Friday

Call In:
Call our office at 444-4321

Programs coming in the Fall Brochure
(released July 24)
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Swim Lessons

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Three new courses have been added to the reciprocal card for Season Pass holders:
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May Hours: 8:00am-8:00pm

Special Events
Rec on the Go
Kid's Safety Camp • Owatonna Weekend Out
Movies in the Park • Calendar Photo Contest
River Springs Water Park 10 Year Anniversary
River Springs Water Park Ducky Dash
Themed Birthday Party Packages
Rockin' Around Owatonna
Crazy Days • Woofstock
Archery Day

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River Springs Water Park 2018
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MAY 30
Youth T-ball and Squirt Ball coaches meeting

June 1: River Springs Water Park OPENS!!!!
June 4: T-ball and Squirt ball Begins
June 5: National Women's Golf Day-specials at Brooktree Golf Course
June 6: North Straight River Parkway grand opening!
June 6: Rec on the Go
June 7: Steele County Safety Camp
June 8: Steele County Safety Camp
June 10: River Springs Water Park 10 Year Anniversary Special
June 11: Summer Track & Field begins
June 11: Session 1 Swimming Lessons begin
June 12: Learn to Skate Hockey begins
June 13: Rec on the Go
June 17: Father's Day Special at Brooktree Golf Course
June 18: Games Galore Camp 2 begins
June 20: Rec on the Go
June 22: Movie in the Park
June 24: River Springs Ducky Dash
June 25: Big Outdoor Adventures begins
June 27: Rec on the Go
July 7: Ken Bey Tournament at Brooktree Golf Course
July 9: Junior Golf begins
July 9: Session 2 Swimming Lessons begin
July 13: Movie in the park
July 13-15: Owatonna's 8th Annual Weekend Out
July 16: Games Galore Camp 1 begins
July 18: Rec on the Go
July 19: Fall co-rec kickball registration deadline
July 23: Session 3 Swimming Lessons begin
July 24: Fall Brochure released
July 25: Rec on the Go
July 26: Fall adult softball registration deadline
July 26-28: Crazy Days in Owatonna
August 1: Rec on the Go
August 6: Aviation Discovery
August 7-9: Aviation Exploration
August 13: Farm Camp Minnesota
September 14: Movie in the Park

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Huskies' baseball and lacrosse teams claim conference titles

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Owatonna pitcher Jon Klecker throws a fastball for the Huskies.



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Skyler Eaton scores a goal for the Owatonna Huskies against Northfield on Friday, May 11.

The Owatonna Huskies added three Big 9 Conference Championship to the already impressive legacy left by Class of 2018 on Friday.

The Huskies' baseball team earned their first Big 9 Championship since 2014 when they defeated Winona (10-6, 8-3) by the score of 10-0.

"It's a special group that's very positive," Owatonna baseball coach Tate Cummins said. "They all get along and really rout for each another."

Sol Havelka pitched all five innings. He had six strike outs and allowed just two hits and no runs.

Noah Budach was 3-for-3 and had Owatonna's only extra base hit, a double.

Brady Schuster had three RBIs, and Abe Havelka, Parker Alstead, Ben Zappa and Jake Miller each had one.

"They are just an athletic group," Cummins said. "We have eight seniors and I think seven of them are multi-sport athletes. So they have been competing throughout the year.

"They like to show up and do well, and they put the time in to make that happen. They have a little bit of everything on the baseball diamond."

The Huskies' baseball team earned the Big 9 title after a hectic week where the team played five games in four days.

Owatonna dominated Faribault (5-12, 1-8) in a doubleheader on Tuesday, May 15 winning the two games by a combined score of 32-1.

The Huskies won the first game 20-1 with Jon Klecker earning the victory from the mound.

Abe Havelka was clutch at the plate by batting 3-for-5 with four RBIs.In total, the Huskies collected 12 hits on the day. Havelka and Budach, Dawson Leer and Nolan Malo each had a double, and Schuster smashed a home run in the first inning. Ethan Walter and Schuster had three RBIs each, Budach had two and Miller, Parker Westphal, Noah Hudrilik, Leer and Malo each had one.

Parker Westphal hit a two-run homer in the second inning to propel Owatonna over Faribault 12-0 in the second game.

Schuster pitched the complete game (five innings). He allowed just six hits, walked one and struck out five in the shut out victory.

Miller had the Huskies' only other extra base hit in the game, a double. He and Alstead each finished the game with two RBIs. Leer, Walter and junior Ben Zappa each also had a RBI.

Owatonna bounced back to win the second game of a doubleheader against Northfield (6-8, 5-5) on Thursday.

In the first game, the Raiders beat the Huskies 11-10 in 10 innings, thanks to a walkout single by Northfield's Mitchell Stanchina.

Malo took the loss. He allowed two runs on two hits and walked three.

Schuster hit a double, Budach a triple and Alstead had another home run.

Budach, Schuster and Alstead each had two RBIs, while Miller, Leer and Walter had one.

Klecker earned his second victory of the week in the following game when the Huskies picked up a 7-1 win.He surrendered just one run on three hits and had seven strike outs. Junior Tyler Sackett earned the save. He allowed one hit in two shutout innings and struck out five batters.Leer and Sol Havelka each had a double. Budach and Alstead both had two RBIs, and Malo and Leer each had one.

Cummins said the Huskies have what it takes to go all the way.

"It's definitely a team that can fight through our section," he said. "We'll to face some adversity and we have the ability to come back when we are down, but we are going to continue to have fun and work hard. We will keep putting in the time to be ready."

Although the section tournament seeding aren't released until Thursday at noon, the Huskies already know they will be be hosting a game on Saturday.

Cummins said he projects the Huskies will receive one of the top seeds in the section tournament.

"Right now we are ranked above everybody," he said. "We are probably a No. 1, 2 or 3 seed. All depending on how these last few days play out."

Owatonna finished the season with an overall record of 15-3 and a 9-1 conference mark.

BOYS LACROSSE

The Owatonna boys' lacrosse team was second to win a conference title when the team defeated Rochester Century 15-3.

This is the Huskies (10-2, 5-0) second consecutive Big 9 Championship in boys lacrosse. Owatonna and Northfield shared the title a year ago.

"To win it outright this year is pretty cool," Seykora said. "We have a big group of seniors this year that have played together for a long time and they were pretty pumped up about winning the Big 9 title."

Josh Nelson and Nathan Smith each scored four goals for the Huskies, while Landon Thurnau had three, Walker Nelson had two and Mason Oland and Tyler Johnson each had one.

"Every game that we play we just get a little better," Seykora said. "The kids have been great at practice this year and we have improve one or two things from each game to the next. Really focusing on the fundamentals and the little things."

Walker Nelson and Thurnau each also had four assists. Josh Nelson added two assists and Tyler Johnson and Smith had one each.

Kenneth Johnson played most of the game for Huskies at goalie. He received the win after making six saves on seven shots on goal. Breck Henderson also played at goalie and allowed two goals on three shots.

"I can't say enough about our senior leadership," Seykora said. "They work to improve and even though we win some these games 15-3, they are adamant about watching film and getting better."

Owatonna also defeated Mankato, 15-3, on Monday, May 14.

Thurnau scored five goals and had four assists. Josh Nelson added four goals. Walker Nelson and Oland had two and Tyler Johnson and Dom Wondra each scored one.

"Right now, we have a strength on both side of the ball, which is fun to see," Seykora said, adding Mitch Wiese and Braeden Meier are just as important to the offense as anyone, despite not putting the same numbers as some of the others.

"He gets the ball up the field," he said. "He has great ball controlled. He's able to pass to open guys and make cuts and clear out defense for some of our shooters. Those great are just as important, on both sides of the ball."

Cummins referred to Kade Serbus, Jacob Dub and Kadyn Mulert as his "Big 3" on defense.

"Those guys are in there most of the game," he said. "They're a big presence. Kadyn Mulert has big stature and can I push guys around in the cease. Jacob Dub had great stick skills and a lot of speed and Serbus is kind of mix both them.

"It's pretty tough for any offense to get anything going against them when they are in the game."

The Huskies also rely on Dylan Meier and Brody Veach on defense.

"They also do a great job," Seykora said. "I am confident with any of those five guys in the backfield."

Kenneth Johnson earned the win at goalie. He had five saves on eight shots on goal.

Huskies final regular season game is on Thursday at Rochester John Marshall.

"Our first step is to finish off the regular season," Seykora said. "We haven't won a playoff game since 2008, and that was actually a play-in game. We have never made it to the section semifinals.

"We are going to take it one game at a big. Although we know that ultimately that we will likely have to go through both Lakeville North and Lakeville South to make an state tournament bid for the first time ever."

GIRLS LACROSSE

The Owatonna girls lacrosse team was the final squad to claim a title. The Huskies (6-3, 4-1) defeated Rochester Century, 17-3, on Friday to earn a share the title with Mankato (8-3, 4-1).

Laura Ebeling led the Huskies with five goals and an assist. Sophie Amundson and Jade Huseby each had three goals and an assist, while Skyler Eaton had two goals.

Accomplished group of Blossoms sign letters of intent

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Blooming Prairie's Jake Ressler, Alec Ille, Nick Thompson, Max Romeo and Brad Staska pose for a photo in the school's library on Wednesday, May 16 after signing their letter of intents to play college athletics.

A unique group of five Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossoms athlete signed to continue their athletic career in college on Wednesday, May 16 in the school's library.

"They all have worked hard in there individual sports and have had success in what they have done," Activities Director Alison Mach said. "These are the type of students that we want our young athletes to look up to because they work hard, follow the rules, behave in the classroom and are academically strong. They do all of the things that we ask them and they are being rewarded."

Mach said she is confident all five individuals will have success in college because of the dedication and commitment she has personally seen from them.

"The fact that these kids are willing to take that time and do that is great," she said. "But we do have many other athletes from our senior class that have the talent and ability, but depending on their career paths and what they want to do in the future; they don't want to put that time in. It is hard to be a college athlete."

JAKE RESSLER

The 6-foot-8-inch center from the boys' basketball team signed with Rochester Community and Technical College.

Ressler said he visited the campus, talked to the coach and thought why not.

"The coach seemed like a nice guy and it seems like they have good program," he said. "I have always thought about it and it's always been in the back of mind. I felt like if I didn't do than I would regret it in the long run."

Ressler led the Blossoms in rebounds this past season. He had a total of 219 and averaged 11.2 per game. Ressler also averaged more than three blocks per game and had a total of 80 in the season.

He said he will likely either major in engineering.

I'm thinking mechanical or civil," Ressler said. "But I'm not sure yet. Engineering is so bode that don't really know yet."

He said he hopes to make enough of an impact at RCTC in his two years, that he will earn an opportunity to play at a four-year university.

"It would be great to, hopefully, transfer to a four-year school and get some of school paid for," Ressler said. "College is always rough to pay for."

Ressler will be joined at RCTC by fellow Awesome Blossom, Brad Staska, who signed for play for the school's baseball team.

"It's definitely going to really good," Ressler said. "The college scene is going to be so much different than what I am used to, so It's going to be nice to have a familiar face around."

BRAD STASKA

Staska said the plan is for him and Ressler to be roommates while at RCTC.

"It will be really nice," Staska said. "I want to meet new people, but it will be nice to not have start complete over making relationships and forming friendships."

Staska said he will probably play first base, but he could also see some time at designated hitter for the school's baseball team.

"My main goal is to just go there and help the team win games," he said. "But I like most, I would also like to become an All-American in college.

"I really liked the campus when I went and checked it out. They were the first school that actually showed interest in me, so I kind of wanted to be loyal to the team."

Staska is currently batting over .400 this season. He's hit one home run and six doubles, and as a junior, he batted .530 with a home run, eight doubles and 16 RBIs.

Staska said RCTC's solid coaching staff, exceptional sports facilities and the school's location all played a factor into his decision

"I was kind of a boost," he said. "I have family member that live over there I can live with and I won't have to pay for housing, which will be nice."

Staska said he plans to major in general studies and complete his core requirements at RCTC before transferring to play baseball at a different school.

ALEC ILLE

Ille signed to run for the Wartburg College's indoor and outdoor track and field and cross country teams finishing 41st at this past season Class A Boys' State Cross Country Meet with a time of 16 minutes and 59.6 seconds.

Wartburg College is a Division III school in Waverly, Iowa.

"At first, I wasn't really interested at all," Ille said of attending Wartburg. "But it felt like home after I made my visit and met the coach and the team."

Ille said the events he will participate in for the track team is still up in the air.

I could run anything from the 800 to the 10K," he said. "It just going to be what my coach wants me to do at that point."

Ille said his goal is to make the men's cross country national team and he looking forward to getting to work for his new coaches and teammates.

"Long-term, I either want to be an All-American in cross country or track," he said. "In Blooming Prairie I don't really have a lot fo training partners and I know when I get to college i will be training with a lot of people who are either at the same level or better than me.

"Just having that atmosphere of people who have

SEE SIGNINGS, C3

BASKETBALL

Wagner waived by Lynx

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Minnesota Lynx waived former Minnesota Gopher and New Richland native, Carlie Wagner, on Tuesday, May 15.

The Lynx drafted Wagner, the third all-time leading scorer in Gopher's history, with the 36th pick of the 2018 WNBA Draft on April 12.

Lynx coach Cheryl Reeve said the team didn't draft Wagner because of her hometown roots.

"[We drafted her] because we thought she would add value to our training camp," Reeve said.

"Everything that we hoped she would be — she was. Obviously she is a quality individual, which is important to us. She plays really hard and fights every position."

Reeve said Wagner overcome the stigma of a player who came out of zone system.

"She did well," Reeve said. "We talked about the areas of improvement. This is not the end, it's the beginning of professional career.

"Like a lot of player that we like, we will keep an eye on them and see if there is a opportunity down the road."

Reeve said she believes Wagner will have the opportunity to plan overseas, if that is sometime she desires.

"She has numbers behind her," she said. "She has quality training camp experience behind her. She was drafted. All those things bode well for a prospect and she has a good agent."

Minnesota lost its regular season opener on Sunday to the Los Angles Spark, 77-76, when Chelsea Gray nailed a buzzer beater.

SIGNINGS: *Romeo to Eau Claire*

FROM PAGE C1

the ambitions as you is sometime that I am looking forward to in college."

MAXWELL ROMEO

Romeo signed to play football at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire after scoring15 touchdowns and gaining more than 1,000 all-purpose yards for the Blossoms this past season.

'I really liked the campus," he said. "The city is really pretty and there is a lot of stuff to do. I love football and this is just something that I wanted to do."

Romeo said he will play running back at Eau Claire.

"They have a spread offense too," he said. "But they run the ball a lot more and don't pass the ball as much. It's a little different but I like it."

Romeo plans to major in business administration with a possible minor in technology.

He said his goal is to work himself up the depth chart and see what happens after that.

"We'll see," Romeo said. "Maybe I will transfer, but we will just have to see how things go.

"I just want to thank my coaches and my family for everything they have done to help me get to this point. I couldn't have got here without them."

NICK THOMPSON

Thompson to be a member of Wartburg College's first official bowling team.

"I'm hoping to just help get it off the ground," Thompson said. "Be successful in the first year and after that, just continue to build onto that success."

Thompson was an All-Conference honorable mention selection this past season while bowling for Blooming Prairie.

Thompson visited the campus in January and was the program's first commit.

"It just felt like home when I got there," he said. "It's kind of secluded, but it's not completely cut off from the town. It has its own nice, little community there."

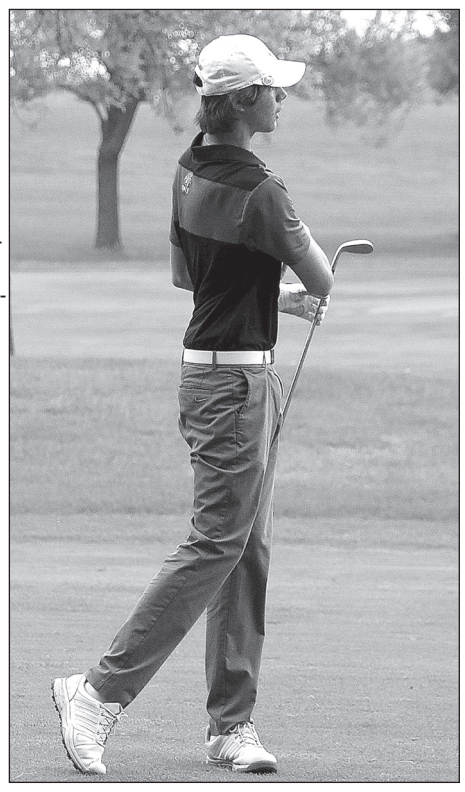
Thompson said he will major in biology and hopes earn a master's degree in athletic training after he complete his bachelors.

"I just want to thank my coaches, parents and God," he said.

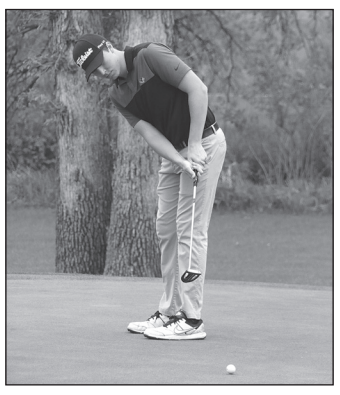
GOLF

Huskies working to become more consistent

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR







STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

At left, Cory Gander of Owatonna watches his shot in Saturday's Federated Insurance Open at the Owatonna Country Club. Above, Brody Homan hits a shot; below, Matt Steele putts.

The Owatonna boys' golf team finished seven out of nine teams on Saturday at the Federated Insurance Open at the Owatonna Country Club.

Northfield won the event with a score of 308. The Raiders were followed by Rochester Mayo (310), Lake City (312), Forest Lake (321), Prior Lake (332), Forest Lake's second team (340), Owatonna (352), Rochester Lourdes (358) and Decorah 367.

Northfield's Casey Parker, Forest Lake's Ben Muntifering and Rochester Mayo's Micah Harber finished tied at 73 for medalist honors.

Owatonna's Corey Gander had an 83, Matt Steel had an 88, Mac Baumgartner had a 90, Jonny Wall had 91, Brody Homan had a 92 and Sam Snitker had a 94.

"We did some good things," Owatonna coach Mark Langlois said. "We have been around the 350-range this year. Our best score this season is 346.

"We have really just had a hard time getting all four scores for us to post a good number."

Homan (82), Gander (83) and Steele (84) each had personal best on Wednesday at Rochester Mayo Invitation at Eastwood Golf Course in Rochester.

"Every one of guys has had those moments," Langlois said. "We have had some really good rounds. We are just working on trying to be a little bit more consistent. Hopefully that will change this week and we can get down, maybe, in the 330s or 320s."

The Huskies will travel to Northfield Golf Club on Wednesday for the Big 9 Conference Meet.

"We have our best round coming up," Langlois said. "Guys are improving and making progress. We will go out and shoot the best scores we can and see what happens. Hopefully we will pull it all together and be able to move up in the standings."

Saints claim NRHEG Invitational

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

It was great day to golf at about 70 degrees and with calm winds as the Saint Peter Saints won the 11-team New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Invitational at the Waseca Lakeside Golf Course on Monday, May 14 with a score of 320.

Waseca was second with 325, followed by Maple River with 327, Waseca's junior varisty team with 353, Blooming Prairie with 359, United South Central with 362, Saint Clair Loyola 371, Truman/Granada-Huntley-East Chain/Truman with 394, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton with 400 and NRHEG with 434. Hayfield participated, but did not have a complete team.

Maple River's Andrew Hoppe and Mason Sohre, Saint Clair/Loyola's Noah Roe and Saint Peter's Carter Doose finished tied for medalist honors with scores of 76.

Jake Ressler led the Blossom contingent with 87, Kollyn Alwes and Colin Jordison both carded an 88 and Jon Herron shoot a 96.

Austin Behne (104) and Nick Thompson (108) also golfed for the Blossoms.

Ross Lenort shot a 93 to lead the Panther scoring. Jacob Blatti shot a 105, Tory Christianson a 113 and Chuck Pittman a 123. Nash Howe (147) and Josh Martin (133) also golfed for NRHEG.

GOLF

Blossoms third, Panthers fifth at conference meet

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Maple River Eagles golf team claimed the Gopher Conference Championship on Thursday at the Waseca Lakeside Golf Course.

Maple River finished with a score of 671, followed by United South Central 705, Blooming Prairie 742, Faribault Bethlehem Academy 755 and New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva 837.

The final conference scores took into account each team's eight lowest scores from meets from on May 3 at Faribault Golf Course and Country Club (nine-holes), May 10 at Riverview Golf Course in New Richland (nine holes)and May 16 and 17 at the Waseca Lakeside Golf Course (18 holes).

Blooming Prairie's Colin Jordison (180) shot a 49 at Faribault, 43 at Riverview and a team-best 88 at Lakeside; Jake Ressler (182) shot a 43 at Faribault and Riverview and 96 at Lakeside; Jon Herron (193) had a 49 at Faribault, best-team 39 at Riverview and a 105 at Lakeside; Nick Thompson (201) carded a 50 at Faribault, a 54 at Riverview and a 97 at Lakeside; Kollyn Alwes (200) shot a 53 at Faribault, a 51 at Riverview and a 96 at Lakeside and Austin Behne (204) had a 58 at Faribault, a 49 at Riverview and a 97 at Lakeside.

Bethlehem Academy's Khrystjan Peterson (145), Maple River's Andrew Hoppe (148), Mason Sohre (170), Teien Murphy (176) and Evan Klein (179), and USC's Nolan Magnuson (171) and Andrew Heggen (171) earned All-Conference Honors.

BP's Jordison and Ressler finished eighth and ninth, respectively, and along with USC's Blake Legred (182) and Maple River's Grant Klein (189) earned All-Conference Honorable Mention honors.

NRHEG's Ross Lenort carded a 50 at Faribault, a 53 at Riverview and a 100 at Lakeside; Charles Pittman shot a 50 at Faribault, a 59 at Riverview and a 100 at Lakeside; Tory Christianson had a 50 at Faribault, a 57 at Riverview and a 102 at Lakeside; Jacob Blatti had a 55 at Faribault, a 52 at Riverview and a 102 at Lakeside; Nash Howe had a 66 at Faribault, a 58 at Riverview and a 110 at Lakeside and Josh Martin had a 71 at Faribaut, a 60 at Riverview and a 117 at Lakeside.

In the girls' season Morgan Pyzick of USC took top honors for the season with NRHEG's Kyra Possin the runner-up. Sydney Koziolek gained an Honorable Mention All-Conference pick for the Panthers, as well.

BASEBALL

Blossoms come up short of Gopher Conference championship

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

It took more than two weeks, but Medford sent the Blooming Prairie baseball team to its third straight loss in a 6-4 victory on the Blossoms' home diamond Friday, May 18.

The loss deprived BP a share of the Gopher Conference Title and pushed them into third place.

It was a weird end to a game that began a couple of weeks ago and was stopped in the third inning with the Tigers leading 6-3.

Medford had scored all 6 runs in the first inning of the original contest, when it was stopped because of rain. Try as they might, the Blossoms were unable to catch the Tigers, although they tallied one run in the fifth inning.

Willie Von Ruden took over the pitching duties for Medford, as Nate Meixner had hurled the first three plus innings, and he went 4.67 innings, striking out eight BP batters, walking three and allowing only one run. Von Ruden earned the win and finished 3-of-4 in the Medford attack.

Max Romeo had three hits for BP, Brad Staska ripped a double and Peterson tripled to score in the fifth inning run. He pitched all four innings and did not allow a run, while striking out three and walking just one. Medford had six runs, nine hits and an error; BP had four runs on eight hits and made three errors.

WALKS LEAD TO LOSS

Double digit walks and costly errors sent the Awesome Blossom baseball team to its second straight ten-run loss, this time to a visiting Mankato Loyola contingent. It dropped the BP record to 9-6 for the season.

The Blossoms trailed just 5-3 after five innings, but the Crusaders put up four runs in each of the final two innings to pull away comfortably. Walks and some untimely errors hurt the Blossom chances. BP scored all three of its runs in the fourth inning. Tim Wolf drove in two of the runs in the third with a line drive single. In total, five of the Loyola runs were unearned from walks and errors.

Lucas Noble took the loss, giving up eight earned runs on four hits and walking eight. Ethan Arett and Seth Peterson pitched in relief. BP managed only six hits in the game. Loyola had 13 runs on seven hits and an error; BP had three runs on six hits and three errors

BP FALLS TO VIKINGS

One of the few failings for the Awesome Blossom baseball team this season appeared in a non-conference battle at Hayfield Wednesday, May 16. A dozen walks, three hit batters and some untimely errors doomed the Blossoms in this game, as they fell to the Vikings 14-4 in six innings and stopped a four game winning streak.

"It is pretty obvious when we minimize our errors and get the ball over the plate we have success," BP coach Matt Kittelson said. "When we don't the outcome is predictable. We had chances today, but we couldn't get the big hit when we needed it, and we clogged the bases with Vikings way too many times."

BP trailed 2-1 in the top of the third inning, when it loaded the bases with no outs. But Hayfield pitcher Zach Nelson wiggled out of the jamb. Peterson grounded out and Staska hit into a double play to end the threat. The Vikings then promptly exploded for seven runs in the bottom of the inning and kept the pressure on the rest of the way. Nelson helped his own cause with a two-run single with two outs.

The Blossoms did tally three runs in the fifth, after Max Romeo, Peterson and Staska each drove in a run, but it was too little too late. Hayfield tacked on five more runs in the bottom of the sixth to end the game. Staska took the loss for BP, with Simon in relief. Nelson picked up the win for the Vikings, as he pitched the entire game.

Simon and Romeo both had three hits for the Blossoms, with Staska driving in two runs. Nelson, Patrick Towey, Brady Nelson and Kolby Tapp all had two hits for Hayfield, with Tapp knocking in three runs and Easton Frichter and Nelson adding two each. Nelson struck out six and walked just one. Staska and Simon issued seven and five walks and combined for three hit batters. Hayfield had 14 runs, nine hits and no errors; BP had four runs on eight hits and committed three errors. Hayfield upped its record to 10-4.

BP WINS AGAIN

The BP baseball team won its fourth game in a row when it came from behind to take down Bethlehem Academy 9-4 at Faribault on Monday, May 14. The conference win kept the Blossoms in the thick of the conference battle.

Payton Simon singled and eventually scored to give the Blossoms a 1-0 edge, but BA counted two runs in the third for a 2-1 advantage. Both teams scored twice in the fourth, but in the fifth inning Simon, Romeo, Staska and Trent Swenson got hits, and three runs crossed home for the Blossoms.

BP put the game safely away in the top of the seventh with three more runs in timely hitting and a Cardinal error. Junior Ian Wayne pitched all seven innings for the Blossoms to get the win.

"Wayne doesn't throw real hard or fancy, but he throws strikes, and he doesn't get rattled," Kittelson said. "That gives him a real advantage and earned him the mound victory. This was another good win for us in the conference."Wayne allowed just four hits and struck out just one batter, but he walked only three in his seven innings. Simon had three hits for BP. Romeo, Staska and Swenson all added two hits. Romeo slashed a double and drove in three runs. Swenson and Colin Lerum both drove in two runs. BP had nine runs, 11 hits, and two errors; BA had four runs on four hits and five errors.

BP UNSEATS KNIGHTS

The Awesome Blossom baseball team kept their winning streak intact with a wild 16-11 victory over the Alden-Conger at Glenville on Saturday, May 12. The win upped the Blossom record to 8-2 and marked their third straight victory.

It was all hands on deck for this non-conference contest, as 12 players got into the game, several of them underclassmen and getting their first taste of varsity action. BP took a 5-2 lead after three innings, scoring three runs in the second and two in the third. The lead mounted to 11-2 on a five-run fifth, but the Knights closed the gap to 11-9 with seven runs in the bottom of the sixth. The Blossoms eased the pressure with another five runs in the seventh and then held off a two-run rally by AC in the bottom of the inning.

BP pounded out 11 hits in the game, and Seth Peterson and Trent Swenson each drove in two runs. Ian Wayne had two hits, and ten other players had one hit each. Peterson pitched three innings in relief to pick up a save. Dylan Nirk earned the win on the mound. Peterson pitched hitless ball in his stint on the hill.

"We used a lot of players n this game, some in unfamiliar positions," Kittelson said. "But we still managed to claim the victory. Pitching and defensively we played pretty well again in this game."

BP had 16 runs, 11 hits and no errors; Alden-Conger had 11 runs, eight hits and four errors.



SOFTBALL

Blossoms shut out Knights

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

It took much of the season, but the Awesome Blossom softball team finally reached the .500 mark with a shutout win over Kenyon-Wanamingo in the final regular season contest.

The Awesome Blossoms defeated the Knights 1-0 on their home diamond Thursday, May 17 and McKenna Hein earned the victory from the circle, going all seven innings.

The game was scoreless going into the bottom of the third when the Blossoms got on the board. Linnea Sunde walked and stole second base. Emma Christianson then stroked a double to left center field, driving home Sunde with the run. It turned out to be the only run Hein needed in the game.

Hein had pressure in only two innings. The Knights had three straight hits in the top of the third, but catcher Maya Lembke gunned down a potential base stealer after the first hit, and the next two were stranded on one of Hein's five strikeouts.

The Knights started the fourth inning with two hits, but a short fly ball, a groundout and another strikeout killed that threat. KW went down in order in the final three innings.

BP had a run on two hits and committed no errors. KW had no runs on six hits and a error. The Awesome Blossoms finished third in the Gopher Conference with a regular season record of 8-8.

BP SWEEP USC

A return trip to Wells proved fruitful for the BP softball team, as they won the game 4-3, that was tied earlier in the season and then took the nightcap 5-2 over United South Central on Wednesday, May 16.

The wins pulled the Blossoms within one game of a .500 record and gave them two important conference victories.

The score was tied 3-3 until the bottom of the fifth, when Lembke singled and moved to second on a passed ball. Hein then stroked a base hit to drive Lembke home and give BP the victory.

BP won the second game 5-2 in a five-inning contest.

The winners counted a pair of runs in the third on a double by Marti Snider, a walk and stolen base by Sunde and a single from Hein. The Blossoms added three runs in the fourth and then held off the Rebels for the doubleheader win.

Lila Carlson led off the inning with a single, moved to second on a wild pitch, and scored when Snider stroked another single. Sunde took another walk, and snider came home on a passed ball.

Emma Christianson then capped off the rally with a base hit.

"Hein got the win in both games," BP coach Lonnie Lembke said. "She pitched well both times. We just about reached .500, and we will keep trying for that mark. Those wins were good conference victories."

BLOSSOMS EDGE CARDINALS

Blossom pitcher Riauna Bishop grounded a double into left center field in the bottom of the fifth inning to drive in a go-ahead run and then held Faribault Bethlehem Academy scoreless over the next two innings for a victory. The score had been tied 5-5 going into the bottom of the fifth.

After a thoroughly forgettable Saturday, when they were dismantled by host Randolph 26-2 and Mayer Lutheran 12-0 in five inning games, the Awesome Blossom softball team had a nice bounce back game to edge the Cardinals, 6-5, on Monday, May 14.

The conference win on a wet home field helped BP to get back to winning ways.

"The girls needed a win like this after the way they played last Saturday," Lembke said. "Hopefully, this will carry over now, as we continue in the season."

The Cardinals took a 2-0 lead in the second when Kate Jasinski launched a home run over the left field fence, but the Blossoms came right back in the bottom of the inning with two runs of their own; three singles and two walks accounted for the runs. BP jumped to a 5-2 lead in the bottom of the fourth but the visitors came right back in the top of the fifth to tie the game; four singles and a groundout counted the B.A runs.

Lembke drove in two runs in the fourth inning for BP. Hein also doubled to drive in the third run. That set the stage for Bishop's clutch hit in the bottom of the inning, and she made the double stand up for the win.

Bishop gave up four earned runs on nine hits, two strikeouts with two walks. The Blossoms managed only five hits, with doubles by Lembke and Hein being the big blows in the game. BP had six runs, five hits and an error; BA had five runs, nine hits and three errors.

SOFTBALL

Panthers ground Eagles

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

A five-run second inning was enough for the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva softball team, but the Panthers added a pair of runs in the fourth in earning a 7-3 victory at Maple River on Friday, May 18.

The win upped the final overall record to 9-7, and the team finished 3-3 in conference play. Sophie Stork pitched an excellent game, allowing just four hits and no earned runs. She struck out 11 batters and walked just one. NRHEG scored five runs in the second inning, and Sarah Johns hit a home run in the fourth inning, which was her third of the season. The Panthers used eight hits and five errors by the Eagles to ensure the win. Johns and Paige Knudson each had two hits and Grace Tufte drove in two runs with a hit.

'It was a good team win for us," NRHEG coach Wendy Schultz said. "We combined hitting and aggressive base running. It's nice to go into the playoffs playing good softball."

CARDINALS WIN SQUEAKER

Bethlehem Academy edged NRHEG, 6-5, at Faribault on Thursday, May 17.

The Panthers allowed a single earned run, as five errors, especially in the sixth inning, contributed heavily to the loss.

Stork took the loss in the circle, allowing five hits and just the one earned run. Tess Glenzinski got the win for the Cardinals. Arndt and Ava Kyllo had three hits each, and Tufte added two hits. NRHEG had five runs, 12 hits and five errors.

NRHEG TAMES TIGERS

Stork scattered three hits in the Panthers' 7-1 conference victory over Medford at home on Tuesday, May 15.

Sidney Schultz had a trio of hits, scored a run and drove in a pair of runs. Knudson stroked a double and had three RBIs in the contest, and Gabby Muri also had a double and two RBIs.

Stork had seven strikeouts and walked just two batters in her 7-inning stint. NRHEG had seven runs, nine hits and zero errors; Medford had a single run on three hits and six errors.

PANTHERS SPLIT A PAIR

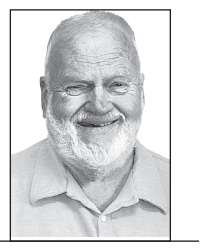
In an invitational tourney at Hayfield on Saturday, May 12, the NRHEG softball team split a pair of games, defeating Kenyon-Wanamingo, 12-0, before losing to Mabel-Canton, 9-6.

The Panthers tied the game 4-4 in the second inning, after Mabel-Canton had jumped to a lead in the first inning. The game was tied 5-5 after the third, before NRHEG edged ahead 6-5 with a run in the top of the fourth, but the Cougarstallied four runs in the bottom of the fifth to take the victory.

Kenidi McCabe got the win in the circle for Canton, allowing nine hits and two walks. She struck out just one batter. Stork took the loss for the Panthers, as she gave up just four earned runs on six hits, while striking out seven and walking six. Johns and Muri both had home runs. Schultz, Muri and Kyllo each had two hits, Knudson stroked a double and six different players had at least one RBI. NRHEG had six runs, nine hits and a single error.

In the tourney opener, pitcher Stork spun a one-hitter, and the Panthers earned 12-0 shutout over the Knights. Stork struck out four batters and walked only one in her effort. Johns and Muri each added homers in this game also. NRHEG had 12 runs on seven hits and an error.

THE WEEK IN SPORTS



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

The season is rapidly winding down, and multiple contests took place almost every day this past week.

Now the playoffs begin for all the spring sports, and it will be a busy and active couple of weeks.

It took the whole regular season to accomplish it, but the Blooming Prairie softball team reached the .500 mark for the season, finishing 8-8 by virtue victory over non-conference Kenyon Wanamingo in its final game.

I give a lot of credit to the girls for their determination and their positive attitude, despite all of the obstacles the weather presented.

Sophomore Riauna Bishop and senior McKenna Hein had success in the circle for the team, and the offense provided enough pop to compete in most of the games.

By the time readers see this, we will know if their first game in the playoffs went their way. We will hope so and then anticipate another battle with No. 1 seed Hayfield again Thursday.

The best of luck goes to the team and its coaching staff.

The baseball team also had a successful season, although it missed a chance for a share of the Gopher Conference Championship with the rain-interrupted loss to Medford on Friday.

That loss marked the third in a row for the Blossoms in a mild-late season slump.

The season was a big turnaround for the team, after it had suffered three seasons of futility previously.

One big reason for the change is that the boys are now mostly upperclassmen, while they were playing as young as eighth-grade in former years. There is a lot to say for maturity, and this team showed a lot of that this year.

The team still showed signs of inconsistency, especially in the pitching department. Bases on balls hurt the team effort in many cases, and that is something that certainly could be improved. Several players had pretty good seasons at the plate, including Max Romeo, Payton Simon, Seth Peterson, Brad Staska and Trent Swenson, and we hope the bats and the pitching both come alive in the playoffs. BP will host a first Section 1A contest on Wednesday.

Although the track teams didn't place very highly in the various meets, some individuals are posting very successful seasons and making excellent performances. I don't want to miss anyone, but for the boys, one has to recognize Alec Ille, as he continues to impress everyone with his times in both the 1,600-meter and 3,200 runs.

San Wurst leads the girls with top places in the 400 and the high jump, while also making important contributions in at least one of the relay events. The girls, especially, are still a young team and they can continue to get better as they mature in the sport. The track teams will both be competing in the section playoffs later, and we wish all of them the best of luck.

Finally, the golfers finished third in the conference for the season behind Maple River and United South Central.

Their chances to advance in the section meet are slim, but there is always the chance that one golfer will have a career day. Colin Jordison, Jake Ressler and Jon Herron have all led the team at one meet or another, and we will see if someone can rise up and shine again.

WHAT IS UP

Living alone as I do, I sometimes forget some events. This past week I was remiss in not wishing all the mothers the very best Mother's Day.

I sincerely hope that it was a good day for all of them, and my only thought is that it should be Mother's Day every day. They certainly deserve credit all the time for sacrificial service they offer in their families.

Next weekend we celebrate another great holiday, when we observe Memorial Day. This offers us a chance to recognize all the sacrifices of all the service personnel in our community and around the country. I think it is imperative that in this time of political unrest and relative incorrectness that inhabits our national landscape, we take time to seriously honor and think about all our service personnel and the many sacrifices they have made still to keep us a democracy. Democracy isn't the only type of government in the world, but I think it is the best one.

This week also marks the end of high school education for the area's graduating classes, with commencement just a little over a week away. These students will find a lot of upheaval in their lives shortly, and I am confident that the education they have received here in the local school system will stand them in good stead and have adequately prepared them for the outside world.

Whether it is vocational school, a two or four-year college, the service or a path directly into the work world, we wish them the best of luck in whatever path they may choose.

There are certainly many options awaiting, and we are all rooting for them. Hats off to the graduates.

There will be a Memorial Day observance at the Servicemen's Club and at the cemetery at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 28.

The final day of school is on Thursday, May 31 for all students and commencement services will be held in the high school gymnasium at 2 p.m.

Enjoy continued good weather, and we'll talk again.

TRACK

Panther boys earn gold, girls take silver

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva boys' track team claimed first place in the seven-team Gopher Conference track meet at Maple River on Tuesday, May 5.

The Panther girls placed second behind Maple River.

The BP boys placed fifth in the meet, just one point out of fourth, and the Blossom girls finished sixth.

NRHEG boys earned six first place, eight second place and six third place finishes. The Panther girls had five second place and three third place finishers. Depth on both teams allowed them to pile up the impressive team totals. Brady Agrimson led the boys with three individual wins.

He won both hurdle races in 25.31 and 41.82 seconds, and also won the high jump with a leap of 5-feet-8-inches.

Ryan Hannengrefs took the other individual first by leaping 43-6 in the triple jump.

NRHEG's 1,600-meter and 3,200 relay teams of Daniel Nydegger, Teddy Gushwa, Jacob Schuller and Jarrett Utpadel each earned victories.

NRHEG pick up the silver with Lonnie Wilson in the 400 [54.49], Mason Ferber in the 300 hurdles, Nydegger in the 1,600 with a time of 5:90.26 and when Ben Lewer timed an 11:24 in the 3,200.

Alex Buckmeier was runner-up in both the shot put and the discus with throws of 45-0 and 122-10, respectively.

Hannengrefs also leaped 5-8 in the high jump for second.

The 800 relay team of Ferber, Schuller, Utpadel and Hannengrefs ran a 1:40.50 for second. Ferber, Gushwa, Schuller, Hannengrefs, Agrimson and Nathaniel Techau all earned third place finishes for the boys.

The Panther girls claimed silver from Madysin Buetel in the 3,200 [12:57.0], Caitlin Goette in the 400 [1:06.57], Darian Pearson in the shot put [33-2] and Hannah Budach in the discus [92-9].

The 3,200 relay team of Buetel, Hailey Westrum, Tori Vaale and Journey Utpadel timed a 10:56. 67 for the other second place finish. Lauren Herrmann, Utpadel and Vaale all earned bronze in other events.

Alec Ille had the Awesome Blossoms' only individual win in the 3,200 at 10:5.10. Bl

Zach Weber [400 in 56.25], Gabe Hagen [100 in 11.75] and the team of Mitch Fiebiger, Sam Smith, James Wohlferd and Xavier Jimenez [400 relay in 48:05] earned third place finishes for BP.

The girls 400 relay team of Gemini Johnson, Ayren Ingvalson, Sam Wurst and Abby Braaten took first with a time of 1:52.82.

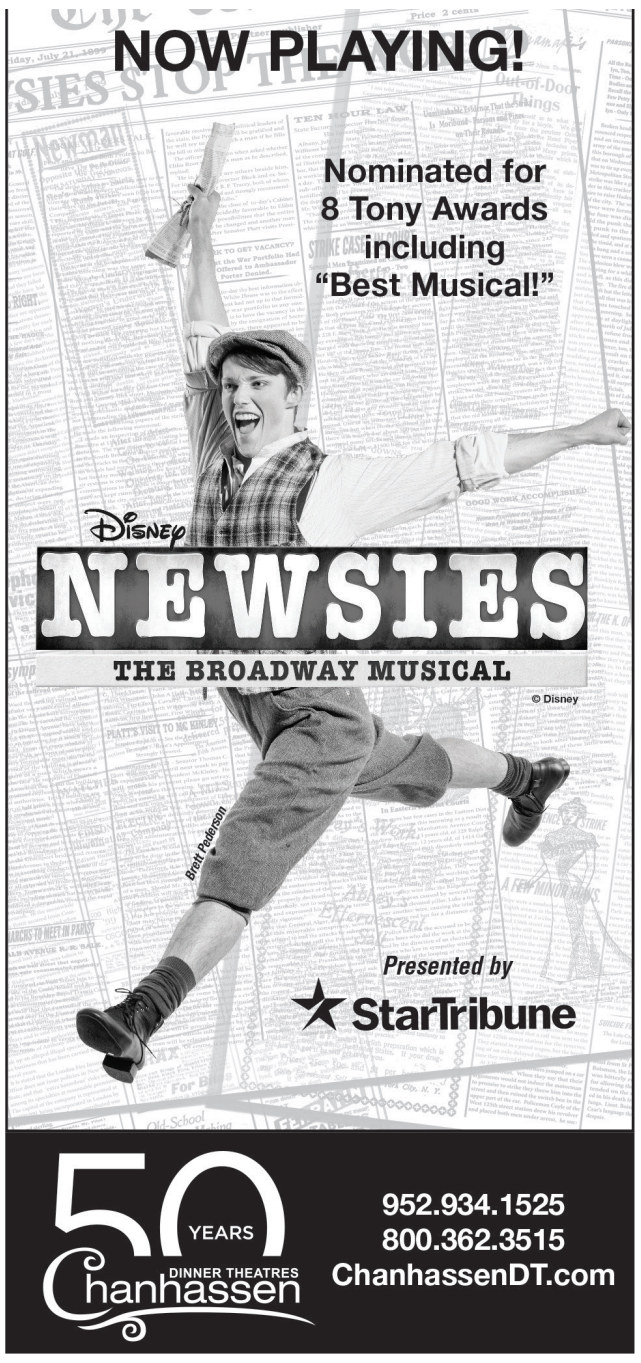
Wurst also won the 400 in 1:03.33 and picked up the bronze in the high jump at 5-0.

Johnson leaped 15-7.5 in the long jump, and Braaten ran the 200 in 28.29 for two more thirds.

"A key performance came from the girls' [400-meter] relay team that just edged WEM for first," BP coach Chelsea Van Roekel said. "Alec Ille ran a smart race to win the 3,200; Sam Wurst won the 400, and the boys' [800-meter relay] team also placed first. That was a good result in the midst of some very tough competition from the seven schools involved."







FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE 18-108522

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 22, 2007
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $280,000.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Timothy J. Nelson and Stacy A. Nelson, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN #: 100024200017549680
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: American Brokers Conduit
SERVICER: Specialized Loan Servicing LLC
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed June 26, 2007, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000350611
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP; Dated: October 23, 2009 filed: November 20, 2009, recorded as document number A000367871; thereafter assigned to Specialized Loan Servicing LLC dated February 2, 2018 recorded February 9, 2018 as document number A000416923.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Lot 2, Block 2, Emerald Acres No. 3
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 618 Birchwood Ln SE, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-593-0202
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $309,989.03
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: July 6, 2018, 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 January 6, 2019, or the next business day if January 6, 2019 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.
"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: May 7, 2018

Specialized Loan Servicing LLC
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

5/15,5/22,5/29 6/5,6/12,6/19

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No: 74-PR-18-921

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In RE: Estate of Janice Gaye Boe, a/k/a Janice Austin-Boe, Decedent

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that an application for informal probate of the above named decedent's last will, dated May 5, 2011, has been filed with the Registrar herein, and the application has been granted informally probating such will. Any objections may be filed in the above named Court, and the same will be heard by the Court upon notice of hearing fixed for such purpose.

Notice is hereby further given that informal appointments of Erick R. Boe whose address is 233 Elmwood Avenue, Le Sueur, Minnesota 56058 as Personal Representative of the estate of the above named decedent has been made. 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, and the Personal Representative is empowered to fully administer the estate including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of the letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate, unless objections thereto are filed with the Court (pursuant to Section 524.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Kris Schmitz
Registrar
5/11/2018

Gary L. Monahan (#126214)
Monahan Law Office
419 North Main Street
Le Sueur, MN 56058
507-665-3329

5/22, 5/29

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WABASHA

DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No: 79-JV-18-241

Summons and Notice Child in Need of Protection or Services Matter

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of: Shanoah Elaine Barajas, parent

NOTICE TO: Diego Barajas, above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s).

1. A Child In Need of Protection or Services Petition has been filed in the Office of the Clerk of Juvenile Court located at **848 17th St E, Suite 4, Wabasha,** Minnesota, alleging that the child(ren) of the above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s) is/are in need of protection or services.

2. **Notice is hereby given** that the matter of said Child In Need of Protection or Services Petition will be called for hearing before the Juvenile Court located at **848 17th ST E, Courtroom #2, Wabasha,** Minnesota, on June 20, 2018 at 10:15 a.m. or as soon after as the Matter can be heard.

3. **YOU ARE ORDERED** to appear before the Juvenile Court at the scheduled time and date.

4. You have a right to be represented by counsel.
5. If you fail to appear at the hearing, the Court may still conduct the hearing and grant appropriate relief, including taking permanent custody of the child/ren named in the Petition.

WITNESS,
the Hon. Debra A. Jacobson
Judge of District Court

Julie Welt, Court Administrator
By: Michelle Kreye, Senior Court Clerk

5/22

Crossword solution

G	N	A	R	P	■	■	S	E	P	■	R	E	O	G
A	R	I	E	B	■	N	E	D	A	■	E	D	O	N
L	A	A	B	■	S	I	D	I	M	■	T	I	B	O
S	E	G	A	R	E	V	E	B	■	D	E	T	A	M
■	■	■	S	A	R	R	A	■	G	E	M	■	B	H
A	M	S	■	E	P	A	■	S	E	R	I	S	■	■
P	A	N	S	■	Y	M	R	E	D	I	X	A	T	■
S	D	E	E	S	■	E	A	T	■	S	A	M	A	M
■	E	T	I	L	L	E	T	A	S	■	T	I	L	A
■	■	A	N	A	I	L	■	R	O	N	■	M	P	R
A	N	■	N	E	M	■	S	E	R	A	M	■	■	■
T	O	B	A	S	■	S	E	D	A	N	E	R	E	S
A	N	R	R	■	R	E	B	O	S	■	D	I	A	M
I	G	O	Y	■	E	L	I	M	■	F	O	O	L	A
R	A	S	T	■	P	A	R	■	■	S	M	L	A	H

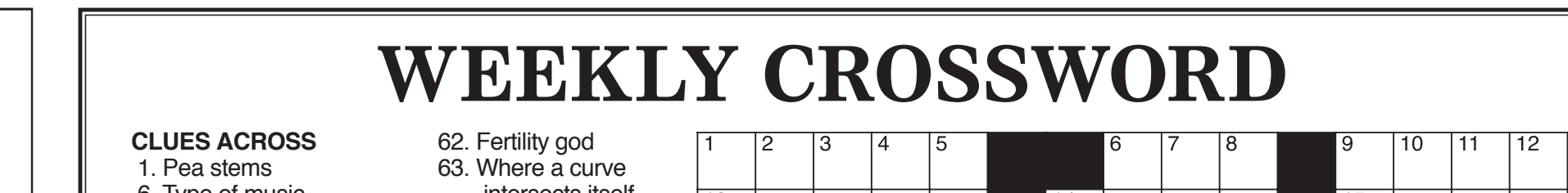
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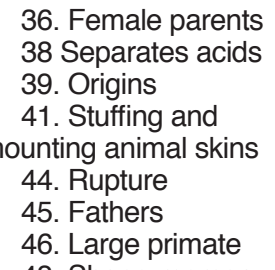
WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS
1. Pea stems
6. Type of music
9. Leader
13. Distant
14. 5,280 feet
15. Beloved Yankee great
16. A female domestic
17. Free from alcoholism
18. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
19. Entertains with song
21. Wooden shoe
22. Female horses
23. Group of males
24. Sodium
25. Revolutions per minute
28. Neither
29. Woody climbing plant
31. Dismounted
33. Orbits the earth
36. Female parents
38 Separates acids
39. Origins
41. Stuffing and mounting animal skins
44. Rupture
45. Fathers
46. Large primate
48. Shape-memory alloy
49. Halfback
51. "Family Guy" daughter
52. Irish mountain chain
54. Paired
56. Drinks
60. Death notice
61. Skirts
62. Fertility god
63. Where a curve intersects itself
64. Red Sea port
65. Mozambique seaport
66. Leaver
67. The human foot
68. Crash

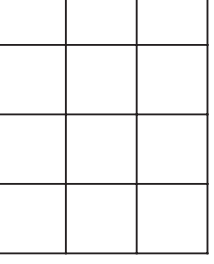
CLUES DOWN
1. Excessively theatrical actors
2. Wings
3. French river
4. Internet device
5. Where Tony Bennett left his heart
6. Flowering shrub that bears gooseberries
7. Brews
8. For each
9. Dictatorships
10. Slavic person in Saxony
11. Nobel laureate Shmuel
12. Lasso
14. Tones down
17. Lunar period
20. Leavened Indian bread
21. Military elite
23. One thousandth of an inch
25. L.A. footballer
26. Land plan
27. A satellite of Saturn
29. "Cat Ballou" actor
30. Obscure aspect of Sun God and a group of asteroids
32. Indicates the fare
34. __ and feather
35. Round Dutch cheese
37. Begat
40. Relaxing place
42. __ Hit'an of Alaska
43. Belgian city
47. Organ of hearing and balance
49. Isolated Southeast Asian people
50. "Power Rangers" villain
52. Yellow-fever mosquitos
53. Heavy cavalry sword
55. Laundry detergent
56. A way to wait
57. Mother and wife of Uranus
58. Justly obtain
59. Stony waste matter
61. Helps you find places
65. Oil company



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Memorial Day

To honor veterans of The Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club provided this list of these deceased veterans.



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

Franklin Burke, Robert Oswald, Robert Rasmussen, Howard Lysne, Richard Trom, Lowell Ingvalson, Ronald Underwood, John Smith, Carl Fiebiger, Allen Peterson, Edgar Bock, Harold Miller, Orville Williamson, Darrell Rasmussen, Richard Peterson, Jerry Peterson, Howard Butler,

John Cashman, Mark Coughlin, Kenneth Lysne, Nathan Christenson, Francis Marchwicki, Robert Dandelet, Gordon "Spencer" Lindquist, Ralph Trom, Ralph Berg, John Haubenschild, Lynwood Ditlevson, Ray Bass, Everett Carlsen,

Harrison Oswald Jr., Merlin Madsen, Helmer Peterson, Raynold Knudtson, Robert Hunter, Edward Habberstad, Arnold Hanson, Vyrle Krejci, Helen Lee (Gold Star Mother), Hubert Swenson, Kenneth Lea, Joseph Wacek Sr., Rev. Ernest Johnson, Donald Nordine, Ronald Anderson, Warren Iversen, Victor Jirele, Harvey Ille, Edward Possin, Donald Kaplan, Lyle Hanson, Roger "Nip" Peterson, Edward Walsh, Lloyd Schoer, Leslie Hoffman, Duane LaMaack, Gale Leek, Harris Peterson, Keith Colee, Ralph Stoen, Donald "Red" Trom, George Tonolli, Arden Wold, James Thorn, Al Jorde, Milton Kaplan, Dale Njos, Dean Johnson, Lyle Jensen, Rickard Ilk, Robert LeBeau, Raymond Wencl, Lawrence Lysne, Obert Christiansen, Harlan Kittelson, George Davis, Arthur Helleck, Benjamin Bishop, Col. Roger Ingvalson, James Maxfield Jr., Burton Ingvalson, John M. Christenson, Donald "Gus" Nordine, Ronald Anderson, Darrell "Pickle" Johnson, Henry Halstenson, Ronald Reese, Joanne VanWyck, John Ulland, Donald Brown, Maurice Basness, Charlie Ressler, Roger Braaten, Sr., John Ryan, Daniel Emanuel, Robert Grooters, James Pechacek, John Cashman, Francis Jeno, David Sponheim, Allen Michaelson, Leo Coughlin, Hubert Pelinka, Darrel Trom, Robert Becker, Floyd Sorenson, Robert Lenort, William Walsh,

Milo Hoel, Roger P. Johnson, Derwin Hillson, Raymond Seaton, Willis (Bud) Miller, Gerth (Bud) Anderson,

Ronald Malecha, Jerome, Severtson, Edward Lindquist, Loren Rasmussen, Vince Thoreson, Marvin Jensen, Vernon Paulson, Kenneth Baumann, Frank Thissen, Roland Dahl, Howard D. Underwood, Paul J. Ingvaldson, William "Bill" Bailey, Bernard Coufal

Marvin Bennett, John Dwain Todalen, Samuel Dandelet, George O. Jacobson, Gordon H. Diesch, Stanley Gronseth, George Clunis, Edmund Wurst, Joseph Wurst, Dale A. Hanson, Maylon Heinz, Holger Robertson, LloydWobbrock, HermanGrunklee, Eugene Kaplan, and James W. Johns.

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