



# Huskies 8th-grade boys basketball wins Hastings Spiral Tournament / 2B

# OWATONNA People's Press

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## TRAVEL

# UP IN THE AIR

### Uncertainty about Minnesota driver's license use for travel prompts rise in Steele County passports

By ASHLEY STEWART  
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OWATONNA — A curly-haired toddler stood with a wide grin on her face in front of a camera at the Steele County Recorder's Office on Tuesday.

"She likes getting her picture taken," the toddler's mother, Kristi Hassing, said.

Hassing brought her 2-year-old daughter, Amelia, to the Steele County Administration Building Tuesday morning to apply for a passport, something she, herself, has had since high school.

"I figure I have one, so she should get one, especially with travel requirements constantly changing," she said.

And traveling requirements may change for Minnesotans this year, but when exactly is unknown.

In December, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security rejected the state's request for an extension to comply with the REAL ID Act, a law passed by Congress in 2005 requiring driver's licenses or identification cards to meet federal requirements to curtail identity fraud and boost security.

The list of required fixes for driver's licenses is relatively short. Among other changes, the state would have to begin verifying Social Security numbers and proof of residence and add a new, federally approved mark on licenses.

The Minnesota Legislature passed a law in 2009 that banned the state from implementing or even planning to comply with Congress' 2005 measure, citing concerns about cost and data privacy.

But a result of the state's extension rejection, Minnesotans may not be able to use their driver's licenses to board a commercial flight within the U.S. beginning later this year. Instead, they would need a passport, passport card or an Enhanced Driver's License.

However, the State of Minnesota has been told the Department of Homeland Security will provide at least 120 days' notice before the rules take effect, granting Minnesota and three other states time to get in line.

Continued news headlines surrounding that topic are what prompted Hassing's visit to the recorder's office.

### HOW TO APPLY FOR A PASSPORT, PASSPORT CARD OR ENHANCED DRIVER'S LICENSE:

#### Requirements

- All persons applying for a passport, regardless of age, must appear in person at the Steele County Recorder's Office.
- Children 15 years old and younger must be accompanied by both parents with photo IDs, and children 16 and 17 years old, must be accompanied by one parent with photo ID.

Individuals are required to bring a certified copy of their birth certificate or naturalization papers and have a passport photo taken at the recorder's office, Walgreens or Walmart.

Adults must bring their driver's license or another form of photo identification.

#### Fees

For the U.S. Department of State: \$110 for a passport for people 16 years old and older; \$80 for a passport for children 15 years old and younger; \$30 for a passport card for people 16 and older and \$15 for children 15 and younger.

For the Steele County Recorder: \$35 including the \$10 photo cost  
Questions: Call 507-444-7450.

#### For an Enhanced Driver's License:

Visit Driver License Exam Stations in Austin, Mankato, Rochester or the metro.

Applicants must be 16 or older and provide proof of identity, including full legal name, Social Security number, photo ID, Minnesota residency and U.S. citizenship

An interview questionnaire will also need to be completed at the time of applying.

#### Fees

- \$15 in addition to the fee required for a driver's license or non-driver photo ID card transaction
- Questions: Call 651-297-3298

The number of passport applications have doubled in Steele County over the last year with growing concern about Minnesota driver's licenses not being accepted for domestic flights in 2016. (Minolta DSC)



See LICENSE on 2A

# Law enforcement worker charged in connection with firearm

By WILLIAM MORRIS  
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OWATONNA — Three people, including a local law enforcement employee, have been charged in connection with an illegally obtained firearm.

Sarah Dillon, 37, of Owatonna was charged Wednesday with aiding a felon in possession of a firearm, a felony which carries between five and 15 years in prison and up to \$30,000 in fines. She also was charged with purchasing a firearm for an ineligible person, transferring a pistol to a disqualified person and falsely reporting a crime, all misdemeanors. Dillon works in the records department at the Owatonna Law Enforcement Center, which is maintained jointly by the Owatonna Police Department and the Steele County Sheriff's Office.



Dillon

Also charged Wednesday were Kia Lee, 25, and Frank Tubbs, 38, both of Owatonna. Both face a single count of possessing a firearm as a convicted felon, which also carries between five and 15 years and \$30,000 in penalties.



Tubbs

The criminal complaints weave together several reports and interviews beginning Saturday, when police met with a caller who reported witnessing an assault on New Year's Eve. The caller told police she saw Lee and Tubbs parked in a driveway and saw Tubbs point a pistol at Lee's head. Lee and Tubbs then struggled for the pistol, and the caller said she reached into the vehicle to help secure the gun for Lee, who then ran off. The caller said they later met with Lee at another woman's apartment, where they put the gun for safekeeping, and Lee said a woman named Sarah gave Tubbs the gun. Tubbs reportedly also later came to the caller's residence to ask for the gun.



Lee

Police also spoke with the other woman at whose apartment the gun was left, and obtained permission to search it, but did not locate the weapon. On Monday, Dillon told police she needed to report the theft of a firearm. She told an OPD detective that on New Year's Eve, she went out to a bar and a bowling alley with Lee and Tubbs, but drove back to her house because Tubbs was angry and she didn't want to be with him.

See FIREARM on 3A

# Owatonna Public Schools hold interviews in search of construction manager

By KIM HYATT  
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OWATONNA — On Wednesday three construction firms were vying for the contract to manage \$78 million referendum projects in the Owatonna Public Schools.

District officials and school board members held interviews with Kraus-Anderson, RA Morton, and Donlar construction companies and within 24 hours, a recommendation would be made to give to the board at this upcoming Monday.

The board will vote on that recommendation at Monday's work session to see which company will see through district-wide construction over the next three years. Following the vote, meetings between the selected construction company and Wold Architects and Engineers will kick off to start mapping out the plan.

When the district last had major construction in 1996 with the successful passage of the \$29.9 million referendum, Bossardt Corporation — now part of Wenck Associates Inc. in Maple Plain — was hired as the construction management team.

Wenck sent in a proposal for Owatonna's recent construction projects, but the company didn't make the top three.

"We felt these three demonstrated a greater understanding and met the districts need at a higher capacity," said Tom Sager, director of finance and operations.

Sager added that there is a "potential a lot of local contractors and subcontractors" could be hired to carry out construction because that was the case

back in 1996.

A scoring rubric was used to evaluate the construction proposals of each company on Wednesday and they had 60 minutes to present construction management experience related to public schools.

Donlar, the last company interviewed on Wednesday afternoon, gave an overview of schools it has worked on in the past including several educational projects the company has worked on with Wold.

The first project Donlar worked on with Wold was 30 years ago in Princeton and since then the two companies have done more than 20 projects together with the most recent being in the Wayzata Public School district.

See SCHOOL on 2A



Owatonna's director of buildings and infrastructure, Bob Olson, superintendent Peter Grant and school board member Jolayne Mohs listen to Donlar Construction during an interview on Wednesday. The district is in search of a construction management team to carry out the \$78 million projects included in the referendum. (Kim Hyatt/People's Press)

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