



STEELE COUNTY TIMES



Fourth of July Section D

\$1

www.steeledodgenews.com

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

Uncorking Sunday liquor sales

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

For the first time since the start of Prohibition, alcohol sales at liquor stores are legal on Sundays.

On July 1, Minnesota joined 38 other states and the District of Columbia that now allow some form of Sunday retail liquor sales.

But local liquor owners are

not necessarily crazy about the idea of being able to open their stores yet another day.

Blooming Prairie's 218 Liquor has joined liquor stores across the state in offering wine, beer and spirits on Sundays. The store was open on July 2, the first day allowed by state law for Sunday liquor sales. The city's other off-sale liquor establishment, J&H Liquors

on Main Street, was also open for the first weekend, but does not plan to do so on a regular basis.

"It definitely wasn't beneficial," said Nancy Farr, owner of J&H Liquors. She said the store would be open on Sundays in the future only if it falls on a holiday weekend. Otherwise, J&H plans to keep the Sunday liquor sales corked.

But it was a different story at 218 Liquor, a family owned store, located on the south end of Blooming Prairie on the inaugural Sunday for liquor sales. "It was fabulous," owner Miranda Goff said.

The novelty of buying booze on a Sunday seemed to draw many shoppers to 218 Liquors, but Goff admits forward thinkers stocking up for Independence Day could

also have explained the initial rush.

Goff said she plans to have her store open every Sunday through the summer and reassess the situation this fall.

"We're just split on it," Goff said, noting her father, Doug, who started the business in 1994, wants to be open while

LIQUOR

Continued on page 3A

Waseca man killed in rollover

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

It proved to be a deadly weekend on Minnesota roadways. There were at least five fatalities across the state, including one in Steele County.

On Sunday, a 54-year-old man died on a Steele County road on the western side of the county. The Steele County Sheriff's Office has identified the victim as David Johnson of rural Waseca.

Deputies responded to a one vehicle rollover at 6:49 a.m. in the 3800 block of NW 97th Avenue. Johnson, who was alone in the vehicle, was pronounced dead at the scene.

According to Sgt. Gary Okins, the crash possibly happened around 2:30 a.m. when power reportedly went out to surrounding homes in the area.

A resident who lives in the area noticed he didn't have power when he woke up and went to his son's place who lives nearby. Upon coming back home, the resident saw "the top of the vehicle sticking out of the weeds," and called police, Okins said.

Okins said Johnson missed the curve in the roadway. The impact of the crash snapped a power pole, causing power to go out in the area.

Johnson was not wearing his seatbelt and alcohol is believed to have been a factor, Okins said. He added Johnson has also had some medical issues in the past, but it's unknown if those problems played a role in the crash. An autopsy was being performed in Rochester.

Assisting the sheriff's office at the scene were Waseca County Sheriff's Office, Minnesota State Patrol, Gold Cross Ambulance, Owatonna Fire Department, Owatonna Public Utilities, Xcel Energy and the Steele County Coroner's Office.

Other fatalities occurred over the weekend in Dakota County, Pine County, Arden Hills and East Bethel.

Safety experts say July is the beginning of the 100 deadliest days to drive on Minnesota roads. Police officers are currently cracking down on speeding in an effort to avoid the serious and deadly crashes.

Fourth of July frenzy



Staff photo by Rick Bussler and Mark DeLap

Left: Surrounded by flags, Steele County Sheriff Lon Thiele maneuvers his way on a horse through the Fourth of July parade in Blooming Prairie. The sheriff's mounted posse was one of about 100 units in the parade, which attracted an estimated 25,000 people to town. Weather conditions were ideal for the old-fashioned celebration that has become a trademark of Blooming Prairie for decades. Upper Right: "Looking fabulous at 150" was the theme of the sesquicentennial celebration being held all year long in Blooming Prairie. The famous birthday cake rode atop a flatbed trailer as local celebrities such as former Steele County Dairy Princess Kalynn Naatz passed out candy and noisemakers. Lower Right: During Blooming Prairie's 150th birthday party on July 2, Brody Johnson, left, and Peyton Peterson celebrated by operating a toy fire truck in Central Park. People of all ages had a great time marking BP's milestone. Full coverage in Section D.

Man accused of setting own house ablaze

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

A man has been charged with burning down his own house in Owatonna.

The Steele County Attorney's Office has charged Richard Hernandez, 30, with first-degree arson in connection with the fire Friday around 4:15 p.m. in the Colonial Manor Park on 25th Avenue NW. If convicted of the crime, he faces 20 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine.

The blaze destroyed the

mobile home estimated at \$15,000, according to Marlin Kath, commander with Owatonna Fire. In addition, the fire caused another \$8,000 in damage to a neighbor's house and some out buildings, Kath said.

When firefighters arrived on the scene, they found the home engulfed in flames. The fire department focused its attention on saving the other structures next to the burning house, Kath said.

According to the criminal complaint, a person at MGM

Liquor reported that Hernandez came into the store stating he "had burned down his house." A police officer found Hernandez wandering around the Walmart parking lot.

Hernandez reportedly began walking away from the officer when he was ordered to stop and lay on the ground. After the officer handcuffed and searched him, a blue butane torch was located in his back pack.

Police took Hernandez to the fire scene where he told investigators exactly where he

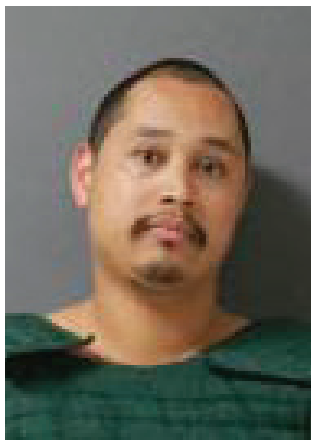
started the fire. He said he set the fire near the main door by his bed. He also said he wished he had been inside the trailer when he set it on fire.

Hernandez told police that people are trying to kill him so they could take over his house when he died. He said he started the fire so those people couldn't get it.

Police also spoke to an employee at a nearby Kwik Trip store. The complaint said

FIRE

Continued on page 3A



Richard Hernandez



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Vol. 125, No. 50

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Opinion

Our view

OOOOOHs and ahhs abound

We would hope that the good people of Blooming Prairie have taken a well-deserved break from the delightful madness that turned a town of approximately 2,000 people into a metropolis of approximately 25,000 people this past week-end.

And it isn't the first time this has happened. In fact, it happens every year. Which is probably one of the reasons that the celebration comes off without a hitch. Some of the townspeople have been there all their lives and have had parents who have lived there all their lives. And this year it seemed as if the entire town participated in the prep, the participation, the parade or the post cleanup.

It is said to be a community where nobody wants to leave. Of course, that is a bit overstated as the population has only changed give or take 200 people in the past 50 years.

It is a town that comes together to batten down the hatches to accommodate the massive holiday crowds, puts together an impressive parade with triple digit entries, and provides just about every form of summer entertainment that one could hope for in a place where summer is never taken for granted due to its fleeting nature.

And it all happened this year in the span of four days. The challenge was posed to come and try to attend or participate in every activity on the schedule. Although a monumental task of course and nearly impossible, some may have actually made it.

There were things for every age group and even some activities that bridged the age gap as people witnessed 4-year-olds and 40-year-olds in the hula-hooping contests. There were stick horse races, 5K runs and 2K walks, rib cooking, fine arts, helicopter rides, a simulator and a car driven by a racing legend, tractors pulling huge loads and children pedal-pulling their way to pedal-pull hardware.

There were bands that played late into the night, revelers that turned main street into a dance floor, open houses, tours from an antique firetruck, and enough food to put Alka-Seltzer back on the sold-out lists.

People came away with trophies from the events, bloating from the food, blisters from the dances, a million pictures being uploaded and shared on social media and the chance to have been part of a city's 150th birthday.

But most of all, we all came away with memories that will last well into old age. Marriage proposals at the gazebo, tears from a favorite song, a chance to view the city from the sky and raspy throats from the hooting, hollering, oohing and ahhhhing from a firework display that was so popular that all roads leading into the city had traffic jams.

And the bottom line? The magic that turned the local weather prognosticators into fools and held the storms at bay until every last event was officially over. The threat of inclement weather had reared an ugly head for a week before the festivities, and all signs pointed to heavy thunderstorms and hail and possibly a tornado scheduled right during the parade.

But the skies were clear. The sun had never shown brighter on a little city. And the voices of 150 years of ancestors passed on were praying in the wind and holding back the rain until that last firework went out.

It was a birthday miracle and if you were in Blooming Prairie, our hometown, this past week, you became a believer.



HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

Memorial Day through Labor Day is usually the cause for great celebration as it is summertime in Minnesota. But it is also a dreaded time, at least on Minnesota roadways.

To police officers, this time period is known as the 100 deadliest days for drivers. Statistically speaking, this is when most serious injury and fatal crashes happen. Going to the cabin, vacation, schools out and other reasons lead to a high volume of traffic on our roadways.

There are things we can't control like the weather and construction projects. However, there is one thing we can control. It's how we drive.

One state trooper recently said, "This does not need to be our reality if people just make those smart choices."

Smart choices? Life is all about smart choices. Unfortunately, smart choices don't always happen.

The 100 deadliest days of summer

Sadly that appears to be the case with a Steele County fatality over the weekend. On early Sunday, a Waseca man drove off the road into a power pole and flipped over. According to police, he was not wearing a seat belt and alcohol was believed to have been a factor. Though the investigation isn't complete, speed likely contributed to this crash as well.

The 54-year-old man, who was only a mile or so away from his residence, never made it home. His wife drove up on the scene just as law enforcement officers were wrapping up their investigation and had to notify her that her husband had been killed. She had been trying to call his cell phone for several hours, but was unable to reach him. The crash is believed to have happened several hours before it was discovered.

The inability to make smart choices for whatever reason caught up with him and ended his life in a tragic way.

Last year, there were 392 deaths on Minnesota roads—120 of those happened during the 100-day stretch

over the summer. Of those fatalities, 24 involved alcohol, 21 were speed-related, 11 had to do with distracted driving and 21 involved people who weren't wearing their seat belts.

From now until July 23, Minnesota officers are working extra patrols to crackdown on those with a lead foot. The emphasis will switch to impaired driving in mid August through Labor Day.

To improve safety during the 100 deadliest days on Minnesota roadways, state safety experts urge motorists to drive sober, be attentive, slow down and always buckle up when in a vehicle.

While we should always exercise great caution with driving, it wouldn't hurt to be extra, extra careful through the rest of the summer until we're out of the woods with the 100 deadliest days.

We all want to have fun over the summer, but please take some extra time and go in hot pursuit of making smart choices while behind the wheel.

- Rep. John Petersburg

CONTACT YOUR FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE

Congressman Tim Walz

Washington D.C. Office
1034 Longworth House
Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-2472
Rochester Minnesota
Washington, DC Office

Mankato District Office

527 ½ South Front Street
Mankato, MN 56001
Phone: 507-388-2149
877-846-9259

Sen. Al Franken

Washington DC Office
309 Hart Senate
Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-5641

Rochester Office

1202-1/2 7th Street NW
Suite 213
Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 288-2003

Sen. Amy Klobuchar

Washington D.C. Office
302 Hart Senate
Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-3244
Fax: 202-228-2186

Southern Office

1130 1/2 7th Street, NW,
Room 212
Rochester, MN 55901
Main Line: 507-288-5321
Fax: 507-288-2922

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1-888-224-9043

CONTACT YOUR AREA MAYORS

Blooming Prairie Mayor

H. Peterson
507-583-7573

Ellendale Mayor

Russ Goette
507-684-2681

Hayfield Mayor

Rich Fjerstad
507-477-3535

Medford Mayor

Lois M Nelson
507-390-4553
dlnelson1167@q.com

Owatonna Mayor

Thomas Kuntz
507-774-7342
Fax: 507-444-4394
mayor@ci.owatonna.mn.us

Guest Column

New Minnesota laws took effect JULY 1

The 2017 Legislative Session will be remembered as one of the most productive sessions we've seen in the past several years. Working together in bipartisan fashion, we passed numerous provisions that will benefit middle-class Minnesotans, and many of these new laws went into effect on July 1.

It's worth remembering that we delivered the largest tax relief package for Minnesotans in nearly two decades. While tax changes did not specifically take effect July 1, the 2017 Tax Relief bill delivers \$650 million in tax relief to

Minnesota families over the next two years, and \$790 million in 2020-2021. The following highlights all are in effect for either tax year 2017 (for filings made in 2018), or in calendar year 2018 (the property tax provisions):

- Social security tax relief for nearly 284,000 senior citizen tax returns (single and married filing jointly).
- Property tax relief for small business owners by eliminating the state property tax on the first \$100,000 of value on commercial real estate.
- An increased child care tax credit so a family of four

making \$50,000 will get \$1,200 more.

- A student loan credit that will give 65,000 students an average of a \$414 reduction.
- A 40% reduction in school levy property taxes on farmland.

Lawmakers also approved the largest investment in roads and bridge infrastructure in state history without a gas tax increase. In total, the law appropriates roughly \$6.5 billion in the 2018-19 biennium primarily from the Trunk Highway Fund; County State-Aid Highway Fund; and the Municipal State-Aid Street

Fund.

The law reallocates \$300 million in motor vehicle-related state sales tax revenues from the General Fund to go toward transportation spending. This includes the remaining share of general sales tax from motor vehicle leases that is not already allocated to roads and transit; the short-term motor vehicle rental tax; the general sales tax from short-term motor vehicle rentals; and a portion of general sales tax from motor vehicle repair and replacement parts.

Finally, July 2 marked the day that you can legally

buy off-sale alcohol from a liquor store in Minnesota on Sundays. The new law removes the prohibition on off-sale Sunday liquor sales, allowing stores to sell alcohol between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and barring those stores from receiving deliveries on Sundays.

As always, residents are encouraged to contact me at any time with questions or concerns. I can be reached at rep.john.petersburg@house.mn or by phone at 651-296-5368.



A STATE AND NATIONAL AWARD WINNING WEEKLY

2017
2 State Awards

2016
6 National Awards
8 State Awards

2015
4 National Awards
7 State Awards

2014
3 National Awards
3 State Awards

2013
2 National Awards
7 State Awards

2012
2 State Awards

2011
4 National Awards

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



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DEADLINE

News: Noon Fridays. Web: 11 p.m. (Daily)
Advertising: 4 p.m. Thursdays.

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

ETHICS

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower\$42
Elsewhere in Minnesota\$44
Out of state\$46

Second Front

2017 Retail Challenge for Downtown announced

How about opening a retail shop in historic downtown Owatonna? The MainStreet Owatonna 2017 Retail Challenge is offering an incentive package worth up to nearly \$25,000 for a winning retail business that will open in Owatonna’s historic downtown district by November 1, 2017. Contestants will take their dreams and fill in the detail, to determine how they can open and operate a retail shop in downtown Owatonna.

Business concepts eligible for the competition are:

- New retail business
- Second or third retail satellite business from an existing location in another town
- Significant expansion of a current downtown retail business that includes an added business concept

The MainStreet Retail Challenge 2017 is an entrepreneurial start-up competition. It’s designed to spur economic growth in Owatonna’s historic downtown area. Our goals in creating the

Retail Challenge were to recruit businesses that will enhance the business mix in downtown Owatonna and provide businesses a head start during the toughest year of operation (the first year).

MainStreet Owatonna is a part of the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. The winning proposal will receive an incentive package worth approximately \$25,000, including up to \$20,000 from the city of Owatonna Economic Development Authority, EDA. The contestants will move through the process of developing a concept, business planning and pitching their ideas to a panel of judges.

There are 3 phases to the Retail Challenge:

-Phase 1: Business Concept due July 17

-Phase 2: Business Plan due August 22

-Phase 3: Final Pitch week of August 28

In 2016, the first year of the challenge, the winning retail

proposal was Straight River Rug Hooking (and Fiber Arts!). It is a local retail store (instead of driving 50 miles), that is a source for fiber art supplies for rug hooking, applique, braiding rugs, wool felting, stitchery, knitting, crocheting and more. Fiber artists now also have a place to gather and work on their projects or attend fiber art workshops offered on Wednesdays and Saturdays. You may see out of town folks stopping in for supplies and then doing a little shopping downtown after a class or having a bite to eat at a local eatery. Joyce Weise, who took a few minutes away from a class to talk to us, is the owner of Straight River Rug Hooking and Fiber Arts. She said one of the best things about the challenge process, after winning the \$25,000 in prizes, was working with the Owatonna Business Development Center and developing her business plans. “It was a little work, but worth it! I decided to open up a shop.” The process of

gathering the information and numbers gave me the confidence to move forward. Joyce had help from her son in developing the presentation pitch and then he advised her to just talk and not worry, “you know the information and are passionate about it.”

MainStreet is putting together a list of vacant storefronts for contestants to consider and tour in downtown Owatonna as they start organizing their ideas for a retail shop.

Where can I find information?

The MainStreet Owatonna Retail Challenge 2017 information packets and applications are available on the chamber blog and the MainStreet page of the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism website at owatonna.org.

Keep checking back to the website for updates as more businesses are contributing to the prizes which range from up to \$20,000 from the Owatonna Economic Development



Submitted photo

Authority, EDA, advertising with Owatonna Peoples Press & Owatonna.com, KOWZ & KRUE Radio, legal services from Einhaus, Mattison & Carver, and an online business class through Riverland Community College. Contestants Concepts are due July 19th by 5 PM.

Spread the word to friends who may be interested in starting

a shop. Mention the competition to your favorite shops that would be a good fit for Owatonna and are looking to expand to a 2nd or 3rd location or contact Shirley Schultz, MainStreet Director. Phone: 507-451-7970 or email: ssschultz@owatonna.org. The MainStreet Retail Challenge is beginning!

218 Liquor joins stores all over the state

LIQUOR: from page 1A

she isn’t real sold on the idea. For now, her father plans to work every Sunday to offer sales on a day that Miranda Goff would like to keep as a family day.

The store will be open during the legal hours of 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays. In addition, 218 Liquor is open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

“It’s not an easy business,” Goff said. “You’re married to the job.”

She is appreciative of having help from her father so she can maintain her family time on Sundays.

Goff says in the long run she doesn’t think Sunday sales will make a difference in overall revenue for her store.

Part of the challenge Goff faces is losing customers to other cities like Owatonna and Austin. “We don’t want them to go to the other cities,” she said, adding that’s part of dilemma they face in whether to be open or not on Sundays.

“They’re coming because we’re convenient and local and we don’t want to make it inconvenient for them,” Goff said. “We want to maintain our customer base.”

FIRE:

FIRE: from page 1A

Hernandez came into the store to buy cigarettes. The employee noticed a huge cloud of smoke coming from the trailer park and when she asked if he was okay, he allegedly told her, “I just started my house on fire.”

The state fire marshal assisted Owatonna Fire with the investigation of the blaze.

No one was injured during the fire.

Owatonna Fire received mutual aide assistance from Waseca Fire.

No one injured in fire



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

Firefighters work to extinguish a blaze Friday afternoon at a trailer home in the Colonial Manor Park on the northwest side of Owatonna. By the time the fire department arrived on the scene, the trailer was engulfed in flames. Richard Hernandez, the owner of the trailer, has been charged with setting his own house on fire. The blaze not only damaged Hernandez’s trailer, but also a neighbor’s trailer and a couple out buildings.

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BP audit complete

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

At June’s Blooming Prairie city council meeting, the formal audit report for 2016 was presented, so the state of the city’s finances could be assessed.

An overview of the city’s revenues and expenditures can be found in reviewing the general fund. The general fund includes all general governmental functions of the city which are not accounted for in separate funds.

The largest source of revenue to the general fund was intergovernmental aid, as it has been in years past. That’s money from the state in the form of fire aid, police aid, and local government aid (LGA). Aid in 2016 totaled \$556,084, which is only a slight increase from years previous.

The second largest source of revenue for the city remained taxes. In 2016, Blooming Prairie collected \$556,084 in taxes and increase of \$33,428 from 2015’s \$522,656.

The largest expenditure from the general fund in 2016 was public safety, which was also the case in 2015 and 2014. Public Safety accounts for what the city spends on police and fire. The overall amount spent on public safety decreased in 2016, in part because the city is no longer paying off its newest fire truck, acquired in 2014.

HELP WANTED

The new Straight River northbound & southbound rest areas near Owatonna will be opening soon. Several **senior workers will be needed for PT custodial work.** If you are **55 or older** please call Green View at **651-639-1913**

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TIMES

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Area Church Spotlight

First Baptist Church, Blooming Prairie

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Pastor's corner: Free water!

That sign hung for three days in a little white tent in Blooming Prairie's park. I wonder if you saw it. Recently we had the joy of celebrating not only the 241st birthday of our nation, but also the 150th birthday of the town of Blooming Prairie. In the spirit of those celebrations, and with good will to our neighbors our church provided a refreshment tent with picnic tables where people could rest from the heat, chat with one another, or enjoy the food they had purchased in the park. By far the most popular aspects of this activity was the free water and free pop-ice we distributed. Most were thankful many were baffled. What's the catch? Are you asking for donations? No catch or money needed, our simple reply, "This is just something we wanted to do to bless the

town in which we are located." To me the most interesting aspect of the day was the many who walked across the park to purchase a bottle of water for \$2.00. Some didn't know it our gift was available. Some perhaps suspected a catch, or that we might try to pressure them into something. Such was never our intent, but each has the right to choose. Some perhaps didn't feel their need until they had walked away. Perhaps these felt a free bottle of water, or frozen treat were not worth the trip back. Saddest of all, some may have just been too late. We were only able to staff the tent until shortly after the parade started. We have cases left over that were not used for the intended purpose. I hope those who put off accepting the free bottle of water did not miss it too greatly

when the opportunity was passed; however, in the grand scheme of things it really doesn't matter.

God also has a free water offer available. God's offers, however, is infinitely more consequential! In Chapter 4 of the Gospel of John. Jesus compares Himself to living water. Like our's His offer is freely given. One only need receive it by grace through faith. (Romans 6:23) Sadly many yet do not know of this magnanimous gift. Christians, that is our fault and shame. Others however do know; and yet for what ever reason wether, fear, indifference, unbelief or some other perceived hinderance they reject the free water of life. I pray each will reconsider their position before God's offer to them has expired. 2 Corinthians 6:2 For he saith, I have heard thee in a



time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. Have you been to the cross and received your free water?

Pastor Matthew Fennell
First Baptist
Blooming Prairie

Area Church Schedule

Lutheran

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 38th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696

Trinity Lutheran Church (5881 118th St, Blooming Prairie) Joint summer worship, Sundays at 9:00 am

(Location rotates between Aurora and Trinity, beginning with Trinity on June 4th). Check the website for specific dates: www.auroratrinitylutheran.org

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
5881 S.E. 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696

Aurora Lutheran Church (6329 SE 38th St, Owatonna) Joint summer worship, Sundays at 9:00 am
(Location rotates between Aurora and Trinity, beginning with Trinity on June 4) Check the website for specific dates: www.auroratrinitylutheran.org

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Jeff Sandgren, Interim Pastor
Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor
(507) 583-6621

firstlutheranbp.com
Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

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

Services: 9 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN—LCMS
2500 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna
The Rev. Mark Rosenau, the Rev. Gregory Schlicker
(507) 451-4125

www.goodshephardowatonna.com
Services: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
9651 SW 75th Street Ellendale
(507)465-8366

Family Choir 9:00-9:15 a.m.
Sunday School/Adult Education 9:15 a.m. Sunday, Worship 10:15 a.m.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN—ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Minister Dwight DoBell
(507) 567-2474

Service: 8:30 a.m. Sunday
RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN—ELCA
30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin
Pastor Lindsay Stolen
(507) 583-2038 or (507) 437-3000
www.roglutheran.org

Service: 9 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School (Sept-May): 10:15 a.m.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
(507) 451-2720

www.redeemerowatonna.org
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH — LCMS
4532 S.E. 84th Ave., Claremont
The Rev. Alan Broadwell
(507) 528-2404
sjlcoffice@frontiernet.net

Weekly Church Services:
Saturday Evening at 7 p.m. with Holy Communion, Sunday Morning at 10:30 a.m. with Holy Communion offered during the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
28959 630th Ave., Sergeant
Pastor Collin Duling
Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
104 First St. S.E., Hayfield
The Rev. Paul Hauschild
(507) 477-2248

www.trinityhayfield.org
Services: 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN—LCMS
57403 300th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN—LCMS
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272

Service: 8:00 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
106 Third St. S.E., Geneva
Pastor Kristen Venne



(507) 256-4288
Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Interim Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar
(507) 451-2165
Worship 8:00 AM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
108 Third Ave S.W., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
(507) 451-0447

Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education hour: 10 a.m.

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2781 S.W. 92nd Ave., Meriden
Interim Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar
(507) 451-2165
Worship 9:30 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor
Dean Smith, Associate Pastor
(507) 451-4520 www.tlcowatonna.org
Worship Services: Saturday: 5 p.m.
Sunday: 8:15 & 9:30 a.m.
Sunday: 10:45 a.m. Contemporary
Holy Communion served
All Saturdays & 1st/3rd Sundays
8:15 & 9:30 am Sunday School

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Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor Richard Sliper
Saturday - 8 a.m. Men's Bible
Study Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship:
10:10 Coffee and Fellowship
Tuesday - 6 a.m. Call to Prayer, open to all Churches; 7 p.m. Call to Prayer
Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:15 Hands of Praise; 6:30 Confirmation; 6:30 p.m. Youth Group

MOLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH
7618 NE 84 Ave, Kenyon
Pastor Nancy Edwardson
(507) 789-6666
(Sept. - May) 10:45 a.m. Worship
(June - Aug.) 9:00 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Catholic

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St. Hayfield
The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 477-2256
Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.
Reconciliation: Before Mass
Adoration: Thursdays 9 to noon

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC PARISH
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 583-2784
stcolumbanuschurch.com

Sunday Mass: 10 a.m. Sunday.
Office hours: M-F, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 First St. SW, New Richland
The Rev. Raul Silva, Pastor
The Rev. Adam McMillan, Parochial Vicar
(507) 465-8217
Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer, Pastor
Fr. Jose Morales, Weekend Presider
(507) 451-1588
www.litomysl.webs.com
Reconciliation: after Mass 1st Sunday
Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.
Litomysl Summer Festival, Sunday July 30 10 a.m.

Polka Mass Festival 11-4:30 p.m.

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810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer
The Rev. Jose Morales, Parochial Vicar

(507) 451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Sunday Mass: Vigil 5 p.m. Saturday, 8:30 a.m., & 10 a.m.
Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sunday
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Saturday
Adoration: Thursdays 9 a.m.- 10 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
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Fr. Kevin Connolly
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sat. Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation 3-3:30 p.m. Saturday
Daily Mass 8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri
(Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday)
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CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING
205 NW Second Ave., Medford
(507) 451-6353
Fr. Kevin Connolly, Pastor
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.
Monday Mass: 9 a.m.

Christian

CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH
540 18th St. SE, Owatonna
Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
507-451-1032
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Connections 10:15 a.m.

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Owatonna Campus
422 W. North Street, Owatonna
Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
507-254-8514 www.destinyycc.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

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230 Locust Ave, Owatonna
Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
(507) 363-3046
www.upcowatonna.com
Sundat Service: 10am

Methodist

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
43089 180th St., Medford
(7 miles west of Medford on CR 23)
Pastor Cindy Kennedy
(507) 835-8726
Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday

ELLEDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 Sixth St. N.W., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirksena
(507) 684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday
Free home style meal on the first Sunday of the month through Dec. 2016. Worship is at 10:30 a.m. followed by the free meal at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome.

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

Contemporary Worship: 10:45 a.m.
Church School/Adult Classes: 10 a.m.
*Starting June 4, there will be one service at 9 a.m. followed by coffee time.

Non-Denominational

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
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Pastor Keith Haskell
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Sundays 10:00 AM
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Fridays at 7 p.m.

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH
30 E. Main St. P.O. Box 224,
Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neu
(507) 477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

ELEVATION NORTH CHURCH
2002 Austin Rd.
Pastor Doug Jones
(507) 363-3099
www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com
Sun 10 a.m. English Service
10:30 a.m. Service & Kids Zone
2 p.m. Spanish Service
Wed. 7:00 Bible Study
Fri 7:00 Spanish Outreach

NEW BEGINNINGS CHURCH
332 14th St. N.E., Owatonna
Pastor Scott Peterson
(507) 721-1366
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Gateway Connection: 6 p.m. Sunday

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Owatonna Campus
422 W. North Street, Owatonna
Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
507-254-8514
www.destinyycc.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

SIMPLE CHURCH
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5661
Sundays 9:30
Meeting in the Country Goods building across the freeway from Cabela's.
Other gatherings? Please call.

Mennonite

PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH
13638 750th St., Blooming Prairie
Dennis Martin
(507) 583-2081 & (507) 477-3216
Services: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Mormon

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
404 31st St. N.W., Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
(507) 433-9042
Service: 9 a.m.-10:10 a.m.

Presbyterian

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
109 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Steven Robertson
(507) 477-2631
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

Seventh-Day Adventist

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
2373 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna
Pastor Robert Brauer
(507) 340-7143
Service: 11 a.m. Saturday
Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m. Saturday

UCC

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
211 Main St. S., Medford
Pastor Louise Bender
(507) 451-4596
Confirmation: 9 a.m. Sunday
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10 a.m. Sunday

Assembly of God

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Pastor Patrick Stitt
(507) 684-3421
Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
vibrantlifeag.com

Baptist

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
104 First Ave. N.E., Blooming Prairie
Pastor Matt Fennell
(507) 583-2673
Services: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

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Obituaries

Phyllis Langer, 93 of Northfield

Phyllis Langer, lifelong resident of Steele County died July 2, 2017, at Three Links Care Center in Northfield. Friends greeted the family from 5:00-7 p.m. Wednesday, July 5, at Brick-Meger Funeral Home and one hour before the time of services at the church.

Interment took place at Dania Cemetery. Mass of Christian Burial was Thursday, July 6, 2017, at 11 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Owatonna.

Langer was the daughter of Hans and Anna (Sorenson) Rasmussen born June 9, 1924, in Owatonna Township. She attended school in District 22 Owatonna Township and graduated from Owatonna High School in 1942.

Following high school, she attended nurses training in Faribault. She was united in marriage to the love of her life, Alphonso Langer, on June 11, 1946, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Owatonna. Langer was employed at Montgomery Ward as a check writer and Cedarview Care Center as a nursing assistant.

Most her life, she was a homemaker and mother, raising her nine children on the family farm. Langer enjoyed cooking and baking for her family, crocheting, square dancing, playing cards and bingo. Langer was the co-founder of the Owatonna TOPS Club. Her greatest joy was being around her family sharing a meal and playing cards.

Langer will be missed by her husband, Al, of 71 years and her nine Children, Joan (Roger) Nass, Ames, Iowa; Joyce Edwards, Alameda, California; Rodney (Janann) Langer, Owatonna; Judy (Dave) Daniels, Rochester; Janet (Patrick) Gannon, Rochester; Jeanne Hanson, Minneapolis; Steve (Deb) Langer, Owatonna; Dave Langer, Owatonna; Ken (Melissa), Owatonna.

She was also survived by 23 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren. Langer was preceded in death by son-in-law, Phillip Edwards and grandson, Lamar Owen.

Memorials may be directed to Three Links, 815 Forest Avenue, Northfield, MN 55057 or Alina



Hospice Patient Care Fund, Alina Health Hospice Foundation, 3915 Golden Valley Rd, Minneapolis, MN 55422 HospiceFoundation@allina.com. To leave a message go to www.brick-megerrfuneralhome.com

Gloria Louise Kubalsky, 92 of Medford

Gloria Louise Kubalsky, age 92, of Medford, died June 30, 2017, in Shakopee.

Funeral service was 10:30 a.m. Friday, July 7, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Medford, with interment at Owatonna Memorial Gardens.

Kubalsky was born July 17, 1924, to parents Elmer and Louise (Lowe) Rietz in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Kubalsky

married Edgar Kubalsky July 1, 1946.

She was a business instructor at Buffalo, Faribault and Montgomery, Minnesota, until retirement. She also was employed by the Kelly Company and Borden Company in Owatonna. Kubalsky was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Kubalsky is survived by sis-

ter-in -law, Beth Rietz-Walth, Aberdeen; brother - in -law, Charles (Fern) Kubalsky of Brownsville, Texas; and many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by, husband, Edgar; Brother, Edwin Rietz and parents. For more information or to leave an on-line condolence message go to www.medfordfuneralhome.com



Gloria Louise Kubalsky, 92 of Medford

Lorna Marie Schmeling, 73, formerly of Coon Rapids, and recently from the Waters of Mayo Wood in Rochester, died at Homestead Hospice in Owatonna, on June 30, 2017, after a three-year battle with cancer.

Schmeling was born Nov. 13, 1943, the daughter of Glenn and Esther (Kording) Schmeling in Rochester. She graduated from Hayfield High School.

Schmeling was employed by Citizens State Bank in Hayfield from 1961-1967; Brooklyn Center Bank from 1967-1969; Northwest Automatic Products,

from 1969-1985; J.C. Manufacturing and Pioneer Metal Finishing from 1985-1987; Merit Corp./Scotia Technologies from 1987-2004; and Arrow Tank and Engineering from 2004-2014.

Schmeling is survived by her brothers, Evan (Linda) Schmeling, Hayfield; Alan (Sue) Schmeling, Hayfield; sister, Diane (Jack) Crawford, Owatonna, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and sister, Marion Schmeling.

Schmeling enjoyed traveling, bowling, sewing, music and was a Twins Fan. Above everything

else was her love of family.

Visitation was held from 5:00-7 p.m. Wednesday, July 5, 2017, at the Czapslewski Family Funeral Home, 501 second Street NW in Hayfield and one hour before the service at the church Thursday.

The funeral service was held at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, July 6, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 104 1st Street SE in Hayfield with Reverend Paul Hauschild officiating. Interment was at the Fairview Cemetery in Hayfield.

In lieu of flowers the family prefers memorials to Homestead Hospice in Owatonna, Mayo



Hospice in Rochester or donor's choice. Blessed be her memory. www.czapslewskifuneralhome.com

V. Henry Peterson, 89 of Ellendale

V. Henry Peterson, 89, died at his home on the farm site on June 29, 2017.

He was raised on that farm and went to school in Ellendale. He graduated from school in 10 years and went on to Bethel Col-

lege for two years. Following Bethel College, he completed four years of schooling at Southern Baptist Seminary and became an ordained minister.

In 1955, he came home because his father was ill. His father

died and Peterson continued to farm and kept his flock of sheep, until he was no longer able.

We would like to thank all the people who helped Peterson during his illness, especially Tim Enzenauer.

There was a short grave side service at Forest Hill Cemetery Thursday, July 6, at 3:30 p.m. For more information or to leave an online condolence message go to www.brick-megerfuneralhome.com

Milestones

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays	Anniversaries
June 12 Cindi Leonard, Addison Doocy Suzie Pechacek, Jacob Vogt Robert Salinas, Dinna Mae Strand Tiffany Thompson, Marion Amundson, Ella Dahl	June 11 John and Mary Worke Joel and Dawn Inghvalson
June 13 Shelley Prihoda, Julie Strand Tim Andrews, Jordan Paulson	June 12 Paul and Laura Iversen
June 15 Hailey Hensrud Karen Kruckeberg, Tommy Meyer	June 13 Maylon and Marilyn Heinz Brandon and Stephanie Emanuel
June 16 Jason Hoveland Michael Hines, Daniel Hanson Paul Haberman	June 14 Nolan and Linda Christianson
June 17 Colin Campbell, Doug Miner Nancy Vaillancourt Logan Konz, Cierra Coughlin	June 15 Mary Ann and Ernie Betlach Frank and Norma Henefeld Bob and Diane Hanenberger Joe and Lisa Kubista
June 18 Chris Klemmensen Emma Kormann	June 16 Jim and Kristi Fiebiger Bruce & Tammy Wolf Gloria & Ken Trom
	June 18 Paul and Haley Tollefson Herman and Connie Lembke Pat (Buck) and Julie Cochlin Jared and Kristine Smith

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SEMCAC senior menu

June 11 Salisbury Steak Confetti Rice Broccoli Pineapple/Peach Cranberry Mold with Whipped Topping	Carrot Raisin Salad Fresh Fruit Cup	Potatoes Beets Mandarin Orange Dessert
June 12 Hawaiian Chicken Parslied Butter Potatoes Asparagus	June 13 Chilli Blanca Crackers Toamato/Cuke Salad Pumpkin Crisp	June 17 Swiss Steak in Sauce Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Dinner Roll Pear with Caramel Sauce
	June 14 Baked Fish Alt: Beef Patty Oven Browned	

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RECIPES FROM THE FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COOKBOOK 2006 ED.

BARBECUED HAMBURGER

Ingredients:
1 lb. hamburger
3/4 c. catsup
1 T. vinegar

1 tsp. sugar
1 tsp. salt
1 T. mustard
1 lg. onion, minced fine

Instructions:
1. Put all ingredients in a saucepan.
2. Simmer about 30 minutes.
3. Serve on hamburger buns.

BY TERESA FERRINGTON

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Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

The cooking team of Porkers Do It Best won first place in the People's Choice competition for ribs at Ribfest in Blooming Prairie on Saturday, July 1. Shown from left to right are: Shania Kieowski, Dave Wradislavsky, Kathy Johnson and Greg Johnson.

350 slabs of ribs prepared

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Are you hungry?
If you are, think of consuming 350 slabs of barbecue ribs. That's what was prepared for legions of guests attending the Seventh Annual Blooming Prairie Boys and Girls Club Ribfest on Saturday, July 1.
In addition to the ribs, 200 pounds of chicken wings were prepared.
Fourteen cooks participated in the competitive event at the Blooming Prairie

Servicemen's Club.
Eric Lofthus of Dodge Center is the founder of Ribfest in Blooming Prairie. "It has become a fun event and one that helps raise money for a good cause," said Lofthus.
Chris Lee of Seven Bones BBQ of Rochester won first place in the ribs category. He received a plaque and \$475 in cash. Lee also won first place, a plaque and \$50, in the best sauce category.
Winning first place in the steak category was Ronny Hoffman of Waseca. Second

in steak was Big Joe's BBQ (Shawn and Joe Sundine) of Blooming Prairie. Patrick Roles of Brownsdale finished third.
Taking second in the sauce category was Big Joe's BBQ of BP. Rich Clark of Brownsdale finished third in the sauce category.
Big Joe's won first in People's Choice for wings. Porkers Do it Best took first in ribs People's Choice. The Porkers team consisted of Greg Johnson, Kathy Johnson, Dave Wradislavsky and Shania Kieowski.

Awards were presented by Lofthus and by BP Youth Club board member, the Rev. Charlie Leonard.
In between cooking and judging of the contest, Lofthus took time to visit about his involvement with rib cooking.
"I've been on first in competition this year," said Lofthus.
Lofthus recently came home with two firsts, a fourth, a sixth, 22nd and 54th in national cooking competition at Fort Worth, Texas. He also competed in

sauses at Douglas, GA and placed second in a field of 77.
In Kansas City this May, Lofthus became a three-time winner in sauces. He tied with a man from California, each a half point off from a perfect score. Lofthus will return to KC and American Royal competition in August.
"I'm pretty proud of what we've done, beating the best of the best," Lofthus said.
Music was provided by the Potluck String Band and by the Thrillbillies.

Library builds better world



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

Our Summer Reading Program theme this year at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library is Build a Better World. We have focused on different ways to make this world a better place, such as friendship, peace, as well as actual construction. This week will highlight ways that we can care for the earth.
We began the week on Monday with a movie about youth who fight to keep a habitat for an endangered species. Storytime will follow on July 11 at 10:30 a.m. for all preschoolers, their families, and friends.
The highlight of the week will be a program on Thursday, July 13 at 1 p.m. by the International Owl Center from Houston, Minnesota. Children ages three and up can help Build-An-Owl! In addition to building an owl, the group will learn facts about owls, and be introduced to living owls. This project is made possible with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund and the people of Minnesota for Library Legacy activities.
We have similar activities every week, so stop in or call 583-7750 for more information. See you at the library!

Kid at heart pushing pedals

By MARK DELAP
Managing Editor

Iowa resident, Rick Scholbrock, introduces himself as one who has "a long German name in a Norwegian community." He can be seen at fairs and celebrations all over the Midwest with his pedal pull tractors and his famous line, "Common. Just a little further. Commmmmon. Good Job."
Scholbrock owns a pedal pull tractor attraction called Kid Power Pedal Tractor Pulls is based out of Hanlontown, Iowa, and draws hundreds of children each summer to the sport of pedal tractor pulling. As he begins to open the big back doors of the equipment trailer, the first thing that catches your eye is the small pedal tractors, each one painted a different color.
For most men and some women, growing up in the 50s or 60s in both the country and the

city here in the Midwest meant you most likely had your own pedal tractor.
From the Kid Power pedal tractor pulls website, Scholbrock states, "I serve many communities in our local area. However I am also available for pedal pulls in the surrounding region and the Midwest. Kid Power is an associate member of the Iowa, Minnesota and Florida fair board associations. Last year we pulled 8000 kids. I will travel to your event and make sure your participants and your community enjoys the fun! Pedal tractor pulls are great family fun for all ages."
He got started when his own daughters began competing in pedal pull competitions when they were only 4 years old. From that first humble pull, his girls have received 450 local titles and wins, 28 state titles, 4 national titles and 5 international titles.

"My kids just loved it," he said. "So you just do what your kids enjoy."
As to how he went from having participating children to being an owner was what he termed a thought provoking offer. "A lady had owned this business from Medford and unexpectedly passed away," Scholbrock said. "Her kids came to me about three weeks after she passed and asked me if I would like to buy the business. I reluctantly said, 'yes.'"
He said that he didn't actually think we would be good at it and said that he was "scared to death."
He evidently overcame any phobias that came with the business' purchase as he started with 20 events and now has 120 events each year. Kid Power is sanctioned in Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. He is also scheduled to do the North Dakota State Fair this year.
As far as the financial commitment that it takes to pedal into this business, Scholbrock said that one set of equipment for a trailer would most likely cost between \$10 and \$15 thousand. That does not include the tractor maintenance and trailer and other extras. Kid Power has three trucks and trailers that go out every weekend.
A natural showman with the kids and crowds, Scholbrock cites two reasons for his success. "I'm a kid at heart and I'm having the time of my life."
An overachiever with very little time in his life for much leisure, he has to be a man that loves his jobs. Plural. He is also a welder for Winnebago Industries and is also the Mayor of Allentown. He wears many hats, but the most popular one to the kids is when he is pedaling his tractors.



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Kid Power pedal tractor pulls are a favorite event of summer fairs and celebrations in the Midwest. Allentown, Iowa Mayor, Rick Scholbrock and owner of Kid Power sits atop one of his pedal tractors in Blooming Prairie last week as the pedal pull competition was a part of the BP Fourth of July celebration.

Steele County Toys for Tots recognized as top 20 local community organization

For the second consecutive year, the Steele County Toys for Tots was recently recognized as a top 20 Local Community Organization in the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation national and regional campaigns.
After completing internal audits and sorting through 792 sites participating in the 2016 National Toys for Tots Campaign, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation selected the national and regional campaigns and coordinators of the year that will be recognized at their annual conference in September.
"It is an extremely difficult process to determine the winners. Each year Toys for Tots see improvements in the operation of local campaigns, and while it makes our job much more difficult, it ensures that your communities are served by a first-rate organization. "The Key to the success of a local campaign is the organization put together to ensure nothing is left to chance," said Brian A. Murray, Major, USMC (Ret)/Vice President for Operations of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation.
Winners were determined by a number of different criteria including: scope of campaign and area covered, responsiveness to the foundation, responsiveness to local requests/inquiries, interaction with local businesses/media/schools/other organizations, maximizing use of monetary donations for the purchase of toys, accuracy in record

Steele County
TOYS FOR TOTS
keeping, and timeliness in depositing donations, submitting supporting documentation and completing reports.
Don Overlie, Steele County Toys for Tots Assistant Coordinator commended the work of the Steele County Toys for Tots program, participating businesses, donors and volunteers, "I'm proud of the dedication and effort that got us into the top 20 LCO's (Local Community Organization)".
Toys for Tots volunteer MaryAnne Higgins, commented on the achievement, "I am so honored to be a part of this wonderful program in Steele County. It is a true testament to the stable committee we have assembled in Steele County and to the leadership of our founders, Jerry and Helen Shore, along with Don and Marlys Overlie. We have brought Christmas joy to so many families in Steele County with the help of many businesses and volunteers of this area, this is remarkable!"
In 2016 the Steele County Toys for Tots Program distributed 4,154 toys, 1,415 books, and 4,000 stocking stuffers. Monetary donations allowed the program to purchase 1,071 toys, 1,043 books, and 1,123 stocking stuffers. The national Toys for Tots program provided 714 toys.
There were 526 families that completed applications for a total of 1,188 children served by the Steele County Toys for Tots Program. Each child received two gifts, several stocking stuffers, and one book. Each family received at least one game and one stuffed animal. Teenagers received a "grab bag" of stocking stuffers put together by students from the Owatonna Alternative Learning Center (ALC). The ALC students suggested the idea three years ago and this year prepared 180 bags for the teenagers served by the Steele County Toys for Tots Program. A special thank you to the staff and students of the ALC and all the Steele County businesses, volunteers, and donors who support the Toys for Tots Program of Steele County.
For more information about Steele County Toys for Tots visit <http://owatonna-mn.toysfortots.org> or "Like" Steele County Toys for Tots on Facebook.

HometownLiving Community Calendar

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

July 11th:
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
7pm - 8pm Steele Co Brd Mtg, Admin Center
7pm - 8pm Veterans Open Roundtable, Good Shephard Lutheran Church, Owatonna
4pm - 5pm Medford Veterans Committee Mtg
July 13th:
2pm - 3pm OPL Independent & World Films
2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Medford Manor
5:30pm - 6:30pm Owatonna Airport Commission, Airport Lounge
6:30pm - 7:30pm OPL Family Story Time
July 17th:
2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Medford Manor
7pm - 8pm Medford Planning & Zoning Brd Mtg, City Hall
July 18th:
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
10am - 11:45am OPL So Many Books...So Little Time Book Club
4:30pm - 5:30pm OPL Brd Mtg, Gainey Rm
7pm - 8pm Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall
July 19th:
4pm - 5pm Owatonna EDA, Council Chambers, City Hall
7pm - 8pm Ft Robert Carlin Knights of Columbus Council, Medford

Event Spotlight: Health Care – What are We Facing?

Matt Dean, Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee will be in Owatonna on Monday, July 17th to share with us where Minnesota is at related to the Affordable Care Act and the future of Health Insurance in this state.

In light of many companies pulling out of Group Health, including Federated Insurance Company this will be a timely presentation.

Matt has served in Minnesota's House of Representatives since 2005, serving as majority leader from 2011 to 2013. As chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, he will be sharing his thoughts and plans for the future of health care coverage for the state of Minnesota.

This event is open to all and will take place on Monday, July 17th at 7 PM at the VFW Hall in Owatonna Minnesota.



Event Spotlight: Owatonna Farmers Market Fun Day

The Owatonna Farmers Market will be hosting its first Family Fun Day from 8:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, July 15th. The Farmers Market takes place at Central Park.

The Steele County Healthy Eating Group are supporting the Owatonna Farmers Market Fun Day with technical assistance, marketing and event organization.

"This is a great opportunity to get kids and families to the market to enjoy new foods and have fun," says Jane Nyquist, Steele County SHIP Coordinator.

Owatonna Farmers Market Fun Day will have plenty of fun activities for the whole family. The first 200 children age 2-12 will receive \$2 worth of Allina Bucks to spend on fruit or vegetables at the market.

The first 50 kids can build a tool caddy with Habitat for Humanity and pick up educational materials from Learning Zone Express. The United Way will handle the reimbursement for vendors that accept Allina Bucks and will also bring enrollment forms for the Imagination Library and the Preschool Bus including ride scholarships. The Food Shelf will bring their Meals in Motion van and a typical food package.

The Steele County Master Gardeners will do a several projects with youth and 4-H will do a science experiment. Allina Health/Owatonna Hospital will have a fun veggie toss game in addition to providing the Allina Bucks, Hy-Vee will do painting with vegetables, and the WIC nutrition program will do face painting and more!

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

July 11th:
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North
July 13th:
5:30pm - 6:40pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
July 17th:
6:20pm - 7:40pm NRHEG Yoga, Media Center
July 18th:
All day Hope Curbside Recycling S of 42nd Av
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North
July 19th:
All day Hope Curbside Recycling N of 42nd Av

HAPPENING NOW

Mantorville Theatre's "Under the Spell of Love"



Submitted photo

Written and directed by Sandra Hennings Miller, the show runs every Friday and Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. and every Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m., through July 23, 2017 at the Mantorville Opera House.

Dr. Ulysses Viper has rolled into town advertising DR. VIPERS ELIXIR: THE WONDERS OF THE AGES! To be sure, his fluids have some substantial effect on those who imbibe (oops! we mean ingest) them. Will our local rancher Fuller Moneypockets find himself a bit short? Will he ever find his long-lost son? Will his daughter ever find true love? Join us to find out!

LAST YEAR



Archived photo by Karen Nafe

Last year's New Richland Farm and City Days were filled with games and good food, as well as wonderful parade.



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July 11th:
All day BP Card Club & Luncheon
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
July 12th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time
July 18th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
4:45pm - 5:45pm BP Boys N Girls Club Brd Mtg
July 19th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time

Annual Meeting Notice

Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club

**Thursday, July 20
at 7 p.m.**

Servicemen's Club
210 Fourth St. N.E. • Blooming Prairie • 507-583-7884

Event Spotlight: Monthly Historic Walking Tours

The MainStreet Program will be kicking-off monthly Historic Walking Tours this Saturday, July 15th. The tours will be on the third Saturday of each July and August, starting at 10 AM at the Farmer's Market. September and October dates to be determined. There is no cost to participate. Individuals interested in participating should meet at the Central Park Fountain slightly before 10 AM.

Dates: July 15, August 19, September TBD, October TBD

Resident historian Nancy Vaillancourt will be leading the tours monthly. Vaillancourt is an expert in the community's history and has many great stories to tell about the downtown.

For more information, call Shirley Schultz at 507-451-7970 or Nancy Vaillancourt at 507-583-7750.

Event Spotlight: Steele County Historical Society's 3rd Annual Gus' Station Breakfast and Car Show

The Steele County Historical Society, in partnership with the Ellendale Heritage Society, invites you to the 3rd Annual Gus' Station Breakfast and Car Show being held on Saturday, July 22, 8:30 AM to noon at the Steele County History Center, 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna, MN.

Classic cars of all ages, new and old, domestics and imports will be on display throughout the facility parking area at the Steele County Historical Society, ensuring there is something for everyone to see.

In addition to being able to view all the cars, guests will be allowed to stroll through the Village of Yesteryear and purchase commemorative items in Gus' Station. Or join us for breakfast catered by Superior Catering with egg bake, fresh fruit and cinnamon rolls. The breakfast will be held from 8:30 to 10:30 AM. The cost is \$10 per person; children 5 and under eat free with paid adult. Tickets are available at the SCHS, Tri M Graphics and Kottke Jewelers. Admission to the car show is free, however donations are always appreciated. All proceeds go to Gus' Station Restoration and proposed addition of a recognized service bay to be located next to Gus' Station.

Immediately following the car show, there will be a car run to the Ellendale Muni. Join us for live music, food and drink specials, preferred parking to car show participants.



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JULY 3: STREET DANCE
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\$5.00 Cover charge
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JULY 4TH : OPEN BAR / OFF-SALE
9 AM- CLOSE

JULY 22: B.O.B. RIDE: "TOYS FOR TOTS"

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Pete and Karen Kasper Family recognized as 2017 ‘U of M Farm Family’ of the year



Staff photos byxxxx

Karen and Pete are the heads of Kasper Dairy, but its really a family affair. Their son Tony helps run the farm, and the rest of their family is no stranger to the dairy business.

The Pete and Karen Kasper Family of Owatonna has been named Steele County’s “2017 Farm Family of the Year” by the University of Minnesota.

Pete Kasper grew up on a family dairy farm near Ellendale and Karen grew up in Medford. Kasper Dairy began as a dream in 1980 when Pete and Karen married, and became a reality in 1987 with 65 Holsteins. In 2002, Karen returned to the farm from her off-farm job to manage the dairy operation as it grew. And grow it did.

Today, the Kaspers milk over 400 cows, a mix of registered Holstein and Jersey. Their cows are housed in a free stall barn where they are free to roam and have access to mattress stalls, fresh feed, and water. They milk twice a day in a double 8 parallel parlor that was built during their expansion in 1997. To maintain their animals, they plant 200 acres of corn for silage and harvest 1,000 grass hay bales and 3,500 corn stalk bales for bedding. Their son Tony also does some custom baling.

Pete and Karen have three children: Tony, Caitlin, and Steph. All were active FFA and 4-H members and the family has fond memories of showing cattle at the Steele County Fair. Pete, Karen, and Tony share the daily work and management of the farm. Their daughter, Steph and daughter-in-law, Betsy help with feeding calves and milking when they’re able.

The Kasper family is involved in their community and they value giving back to their local organizations. Pete is a Steele County American Dairy Association board member, an Associated Milk Producers Inc. director, a Dairy Herd Improvement Association director, and a member of a Mayo Clinic research team. Karen is a Midwest Dairy Association director, the Associated Milk Producers Inc. district secretary, and she serves on the Monsanto Grow Agriculture grant review board. Whenever the opportunity arises, Karen also conducts presentations to share the story of the Kasper farm.

The other family members are deeply involved in their agricultural community, too. Tony and Betsy are members of the I-35 Holstein club, Holstein Association USA, and the American Jersey Cattle Association. Steph is the Seed Sales Manager at Shell Rock Ag. and is on the Freeborn County Corn and Soybean grower’s board. Caitlin is the Marketing Director at Environmental Tillage Systems and grows produce to sell to local stores. Both Caitlin and her husband, Jason are involved with Farm Bureau; Caitlin serves on the local board. The Kaspers have found that giving back is their way to stay connected in the ever-changing world of agriculture.

Families were selected for “Farm Family of the Year” by their local county Extension committees for demonstrating commitment to enhancing and supporting agriculture and agricultural production. “These farm families are a major driver of Minnesota’s economy and the vitality of Minnesota’s rural communities,” said Bev Durgan, dean of University of Minnesota Extension. “The University of Minnesota is proud to recognize these farm families for their contributions to agriculture and their communities.”

At the local level, the Kasper family will be honored during the ‘Hall of Fame’ ceremony at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 15th at the Steele County Free Fair. The Kaspers will also be recognized during the statewide “Farm Family of the Year” recognition ceremony at 1:15 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 3rd at the annual Farmfest near Red-

wood Falls. Profiles of the 2017 honorees and information on the recognition event will soon be posted on the University’s farm family website, <http://mnfarmfamilies.cfans.umn.edu/>.

Farmfest runs Aug. 1st to 3rd at the Gilfillan Estate, near Red-

wood Falls, MN. Event hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 1st and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 2nd and Aug. 3rd. Admission is \$12 per person and free for those 18 and under.

Along with Farmfest, University units sponsoring the recog-

niton event include University of Minnesota Extension, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, the University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, and the College of Veterinary Medicine.



Kasper Dairy milks over 400 cows and farms over 200 acres of crops to support its livestock. When not running the family business, Pete and Karen Kasper are actively involved in their local ag community.

Minnesota Crop Report



Hot and humid weather arrived the week ending July 9, 2017, allowing for **5.7 days suitable for fieldwork** according to USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. Despite some storms in the west central part of the state, many Minnesota farmers hope for rain in the coming weeks to aid in crop development. Field activities for the week included cutting forage and hay, and a few reports of spraying fungicides on wheat.

Topsoil moisture supplies decreased slightly from the previous week, rating 2 percent very short, 17 percent short, 78 percent adequate and 3 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** supplies also decreased slightly, rating 1 percent very short, 10 percent short, 85 percent adequate and 4 percent surplus.

There were scattered reports that **corn** had begun silking. Corn crop condition rated 80 percent good to excellent. **Soybean** blooming was four days behind the five-year average with 25 percent of the crop at or beyond the blooming stage. Soybean condition rated 73 percent good to excellent.

The **spring wheat** crop was nearly finished heading, with 95 percent of the crop headed. Fifteen percent of spring wheat was coloring. Spring wheat condition rated 85 percent good to excellent. Ninety-two percent of the **oat** crop had reached the heading stage, with 26 percent of oats coloring. Oats condition was 82 percent good to excellent. The **barley** crop nearly finished heading, with 95 percent of the crop headed, and 14 percent of the crop coloring. Barley condition rated 84 percent good to excellent. Eight percent of the **dry edible bean** crop reached the blooming stage, and dry edible bean condition rated 72 percent good to excellent. **Sunflower** crop condition was rated 88 percent good to excellent. **Potato** condition was rated 93 percent good to excellent. **Sugarbeet** condition was unchanged with a rating of 68 percent good to excellent.

The second cutting of **alfalfa hay** progressed to 66 percent complete. All hay condition was rated 85 percent good to excellent. **Pasture** condition rated 74 percent good to excellent.

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Concord Township Zoning Ordinance

The Town Board of Concord Township adopted Ordinance No. 2017, which shall serve as the Township’s zoning ordinance and replaces the zoning regulations previously adopted by the Town Board. The new ordinance adopts by reference the Dodge County Zoning Ordinance, except that it imposes a 1,320 foot setback for new feedlots requiring a conditional use permit from residences and certain others. The same setback applies for new residences from existing feedlots containing 30 animal units or more. The County will be administering the new ordinance for the Township and all zoning applications are to be submitted to the County. The full text of the ordinance is available by contacting the Town Clerk. A copy of the full ordinance is also available at the West Concord public library, the county law library, and will be recorded in the office of the county recorder. The Town Board also adopted a fee resolution which adopts the County’s zoning related fees.

Michael Jones
Concord Township Clerk

Z:30p&sh

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Auto safety devices that can help seniors with older cars

Dear Savvy Senior,
Do you know of any auto safety products that can help seniors with older cars? My 80-year-old father, who drives his beloved 2004 Toyota Avalon, is still a good pretty driver but he has limited range-of-motion, which makes looking over his shoulder to back-up or merge into traffic very difficult.

Inquiring Son

Dear Inquiring,
To help keep your dad safe and extend his driving years, there are a number of auto aids and new safety technology products that can be added to his car to help with various needs. Here are several to consider.

Backup Aids

To help your dad increase his visibility when backing up, a simple product that can be added to his car is an All-View Mirror (\$60, Allview-Mirror.com). This is an oversized rear view mirror that attaches to his existing mirror to widen his rear visibility and eliminate blind spots so he can see traffic without significant neck or body rotation. It also helps during parking.

Another option is a backup camera. These come with a weatherproof, night vision camera, which attaches to the license plate on the rear of the car. When the car is in reverse, it sends live images wirelessly to a small monitor that mounts to the dash or windshield. The

Yada Digital Wireless Backup Camera (\$140, Amazon) with 4.3" Dash Monitor is a good option. Or, if your dad doesn't want a monitor in his car, the Auto Vox Wireless Backup Camera (\$140, Amazon.com) is one that displays the images in a rearview mirror.

Blind Spot Helpers

To help your dad see better when switching lanes or merging into traffic, purchase your dad some "blind spot mirrors." These are small convex mirrors that would stick to the corner of his side view mirrors to improve side and rear vision. They can be purchased in any store that sells auto supplies for a few dollars. Or, for a high-tech more

comprehensive solution, there's the Goshen Blind Spot Detection System (\$239, Goshers.com). This system uses small sensors installed on each side of the rear bumper that monitor the sides of the vehicle, and will alert your dad with a light indicator, installed inside the car, if any object detected within 10 feet.

Safety Products

For extra safety, you may also want to consider a collision warning/lane departure device for your dad's vehicle like the Mobileye 630. This is a smart camera that attaches to the windshield and will alert your dad if he speeds, drifts out of his lane, gets too close to the car in front of him, or



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gets too close to a pedestrian or cyclist. Sold only through retailers (see Mobileye.com/en-us/find-a-retailer), this device can be purchased and installed by a Mobileye-certified technician for around \$1,100.

If you're interested in something a little less expensive, there are also dashboard cameras that can double as collision warning systems. Garmin's Dash Cam 35 (\$129, Amazon.com), for example, monitors up to 130 feet in front of the vehicle, so if your dad is going 30 mph or faster, it will issue audio and visual alerts of impending collisions.

Another product that can help keep your dad safe in emergency situations is the Hum (Hum.com). This nifty device will automatically call emergency services if your dad has been in an accident. It also sends alerts to drivers' phones if there's a mechanical problem and lets driver's press a button if they need roadside assistance. Hum works in cars built in 1996 or later, and costs \$10 per month with two-year required subscription, and one-time set-up and activation fees totaling \$50.

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



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STEELE COUNTY FREE FAIR

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Fair coverage
back for
another
season



Kyrie Bussler

Extensive and in-depth coverage of the Steele County Free Fair is back for another season as the countdown to the big fair begins this week.

Fair coverage kicks into gear with this edition of the Steele County Times. Beginning this week and continuing up until the fair, the Times will showcase special features, stories, columns and photos highlighting the state's largest county fair. The Times will devote at least one page to the fair to share the important details of the upcoming extravaganza.

The fair runs Aug. 15-20 in Owatonna.

Kyrie Bussler has returned as the Times' special projects coordinator and will focus on the paper's fair coverage. She also coordinated last year's fair coverage.

She is a recent graduate of the nation's top journalism college at the University of Missouri-Columbia with degrees in journalism and political science. She graduated with magna cum laude honors.

Bussler is well acquainted with fairs as she was a 4-H member during her childhood. She was actively involved with 4-H on the local level in Dakota County and served as a Minnesota 4-H ambassador for a couple years.

Each week Bussler will navigate readers through an interesting and exciting path of special coverage featuring what has become the best fair in Minnesota.

The newspaper also plans to publish a special section devoted exclusively to the fair on Aug. 8.

The fair has played an important role in the fabric of life in Steele County. We hope to capture some of that magic through our special stories on the people who are devoted to making the fair special.

Rick Bussler
Times Publisher



Staff photos by Kyrie Bussler

Young kids get a glimpse of life on the farm through a simulation game that allows them to drive a tractor or combine for two minutes. The Ag Cab Lab will be at the Steele County Free Fair and have a simulation game, as well as an Ethanol Racer game, iPad games and Crop Barn with facts about crops.

The farm comes to the fair

Ag Cab Lab gives kids a hand at farming

By KYRIE BUSSLER
Fair Correspondent

People have moved farther and farther away from the farm. In fact, Farm Bureau cited that the average American is three generations removed from living on a farm. Farm families are only about 2 percent of the country's population.

With the growing disconnect from the farm, comes a general lack of knowledge of the agriculture industry.

At the fair, kids will have the opportunity to learn more about what happens on the farm without actually having to step foot on a farm. AgInspire, a nonprofit organization, will be bringing the farm to the fair through an educational and interactive exhibit called Ag Cab Lab.

In the Ag Cab Lab, kids get to have a taste for what it's like to drive a combine through a simulation game. Sitting in the actual cab of a combine, kids have the opportunity to use a steering wheel, throttle and hydraulics to harvest a crop in two minutes.

“We try to make it as real as possible,” said Jeff Beckman, founder of AgInspire who is also a dairy and crop farmer in Dennison.

While the tractor will be present at the Steele Fair, AgInspire has also a combine cab that it brings to fairs.

There will be three other interactive activities with the exhibit for fairgoers, as they wait for their turn at driving the combine.

As an arcade game, Ethanol Racer lets fairgoers race around a track to collect ethanol cans to highlight how ethanol impacts

air quality.

In an interactive display in the shape of a barn, families can learn about eight different crops including the uses of each crop.

iPads will feature four different games including Memory Match, a word scramble, multiple choice questions and MyPlate, which allows users to pick a part of the plate and learn about a specific farm that produces products in that category.

Fairgoers will find local 4-Hers, FFAers and Corn and Soybean Association Members manning the exhibit. Beckman said that he's found it to be effective to have someone from the area there to answer questions. Also, he likes to use 4-H and FFA members, as interactions at the fair are a way to build public speaking, leadership, critical thinking and listening skills.

In 2000, Beckman created the Ag Cab Lab when a number of his friends who lived in the city were interested in his family's activities on the farm and wanted to drive the combine.

“My kids love to actually drive things, and to us, it seems like something that everybody gets to do, but we got to realizing that we're really blessed. Not everyone gets the opportunity to ride in a combine, ride in a tractor,” said Beckman. “So the desire was like if they can't come to the farm, we bring the farm to them.”

The exhibit's first home was at the Children's Museum at Heritage Halls in Owatonna. Farm Bureau eventually took over the exhibit and upgraded it to a simulator. Two years ago, Beckman founded AgInspire with his family with the goal of

keeping the Ag Cab Lab going after Farm Bureau didn't want to do it anymore.

Since taking over, Beckman added the Ethanol Racer, Crop Barn and iPads. The iPad games are a new feature this year.

Last year, the tractor had over 90,000 riders on the tractor, according to Beckman. He has 29 events in five states scheduled for this year including county and state fairs.

County fairs are a natural place for the exhibit, as fairgoers are looking for things to do while learning and having fun.

He wants fairgoers to be able to connect that the fields they see driving down the road are used for food, feed and fuel. Kids need to understand that food doesn't just come from a grocery store.

He sees that there is a lack of understanding of what actually goes on the farm, as farming is just projected as the old ways of doing something.

But it doesn't just teach fairgoers about the origins of food.

Two years ago, Beckman was approached by an unemployment center to use the Ag Cab Lab. He said that many people don't realize the wide variety of jobs offered in the agriculture industry. It's not just the production jobs like raising animals or growing crops that seem to be the stereotypical jobs of the industry.

People can go into technology, nutrition, engineering, veterinarian sciences or even bookkeeping, and still be a part of the industry.

“The goal is helping kids not only understand where their food comes from, but as they get to be teens and graduating

and going to college, that don't rule agriculture because there's lots of good high paying jobs that need top skilled people,” said Beckman.

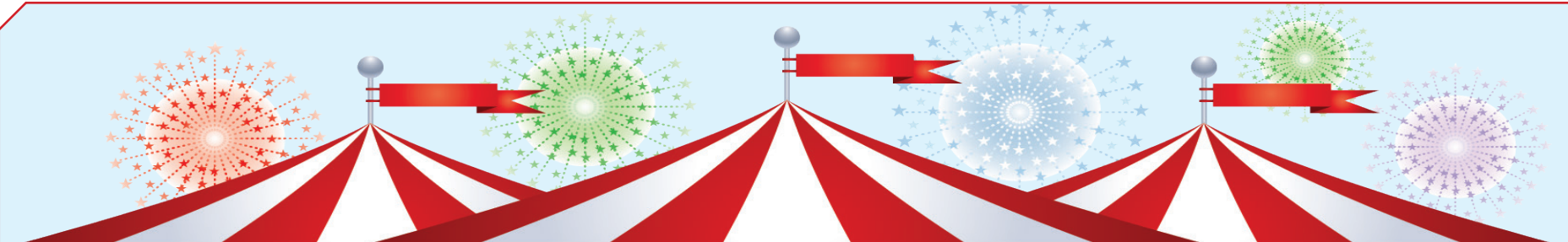
Beyond learning about the industry, the exhibit allows for conversations to be started between fairgoers and local farmers. It lets people to ask questions about some of the hot button topics going on in the industry right now, such as the use of GMOs or the rBST hormone.

As the decision to use these is left up to the individual farmer, Beckman said it's important for the public to understand why a local farmer may use it or may not use it.



Staff photo by Kyrie Bussler

Kids will get an opportunity to learn about farm life at this year's Steele County Fair through the Ag Cab Lab.



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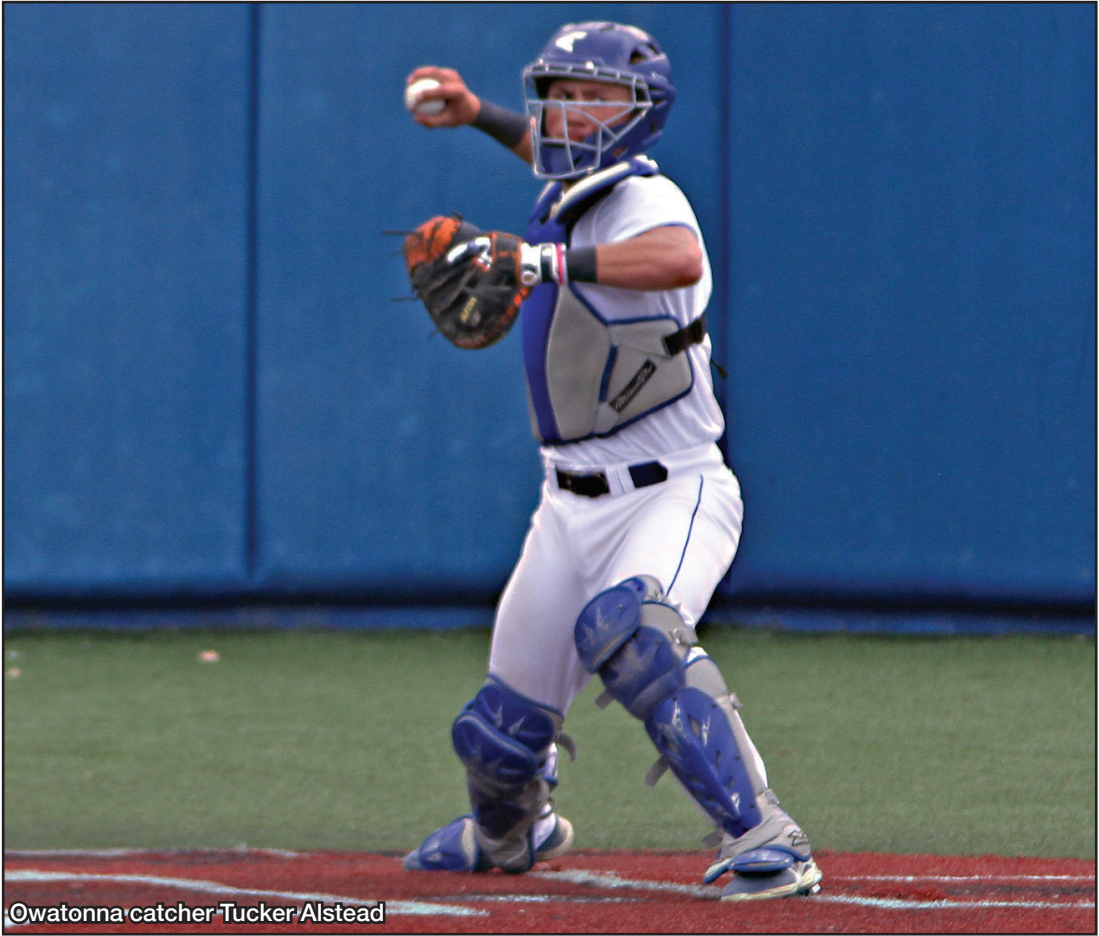


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Fore!
If you were anywhere around Brooktree Golf Course Saturday, you made that heard that belted a time or two.
However, you may have also heard a bevy of laugh, cheers and jeers.
For the last 16 years, the Owatonna High School Football program has conducted the Ken Bey Football Classic to support the school's football program.
This year, event coordinator and varsity offensive line coach Marc Wiese extended an invitation for me to join the classic this year and boy, was the weather as good as it could be.
Now, just to get this out of the way I am in no way, shape or form a great golfer. In fact, I feel fairly confident that I could throw the ball farther than an attempt from the tee box.
Through 36 holes, the theme was quite simple.
Give your teammates a hard time, crack jokes and talk football.
The more I sat back and just watched the interactions of the 144 competitors that were entered into the tournament, it became very clear to me that this was more than just getting out and supporting Huskies football.
It was like time went back.
Whether it was giving one person a hard time about an old high school girlfriend, or just reminiscing about recent summer vacations, the bonds that were created - some nearly 20 to 30 years ago - appeared stronger than ever.
"We got guys in the four somes that know everything that goes into playing the game," added Wiese. "It's a unique bond that we have."
The cheers and jeers weren't just limited to the golf course. After all 36 teams completed thier rounds and dinner was consumed, OHS head coach Jeff Williams displayed the same excitement and energy passing out raffle awards that is shown on the sidelines in the fall.
Announcing names with a smile on his face, it was easy to see the amount of pride and true enjoyment for the event.
One moment that made many in attendance laugh was when the last place team was awarded throwback jersey from Faribault's coaching staff. Wiese would later tell me the Falcons' coaching staff has been in attendance for years and that members of the Owatonna staff would partake in thier event also.
"There's the rivarly, but it's more of a cool bonding relationship," Weise said.
Any chance you get to relive old rivalries or moments from your playing days, you take it.
For former Huskies, Saturday's event is their chance to do that and to witness it all unfold is something I'll remeber for years to come.

TALENTS ON DISPLAY



@owatonna/catcher Tucker Alstead

Staff photos by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna catcher Tucker Alstead throws the ball to second base during the MSHSBCA Gopher Classic Junior Showcase at Minnetonka High School Thursday. Alstead was joined by Blossoms first baseman Brad Staska and Medford catcher Jarvis VonRuden for the showcase that featured 200 of Minnesota's top upcoming seniors.



Bloomington first baseman Brad Staska



Medford catcher Jarvis VonRuden

Trio of Steele County
ballplayers compete
in MSHSBCA
Junior Showcase

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

MINNETONKA - While the 2016-2017 high school baseball season has been finished for nearly a month, a trio of Steele County ball players had the opportunity to showcase their talents amongst the state's best players.
Blooming Prairie's Brad Staska, Medford's Jarvis VonRuden and Owatonna's Tucker Alstead - all upcoming seniors - received invitations to join 197 of the state's top ballplayers for the 2017 Minnesota State High School Baseball Coaches Association's Gopher Classic Junior Showcase held at Minnetonka High School's baseball stadium on Thursday.
"It's really cool," commented Staska. "To be one of the top 200 kids in the state to get invited to this, it's awesome to be here and show what you have. It's nice to know that you're one of the those top kids to play."
VonRuden, a fellow Class A and Gopher Conference ballplayer, added that it's a once in a lifetime moment.
"It's a good opportunity to come here and showcase my stuff," he added.
For Staska and VonRuden, it was the first opportunity to play amongst not only the state's best, but to have every movement, action and reaction watched like a hawk by collegiate scouts.
For Alstead, the nerves may have been a bit mellower than his fellow Steele County participants.
The upcoming senior has enjoyed a hectic summer circuit. The Honorable-Mention Big Nine catcher has been traveling the state participating in numerous showcases; already partaking in a pair of Prep Baseball Report showcases and was recently in a tryout for the Area Code games.
However, that doesn't mean that the upcoming senior doesn't enjoy adding to his impressive resume.
"It's a huge accomplishment," he added. "You can't beat anything like it."
Thursday morning proved to be an early one for most players, as the MSHSBCA required all players to be at the ball field by 7 a.m. prior to the slated 8 a.m. start. Broken up into their respective position groups, players conducted the lone numerical test - a 60-yard dash - the showcase had scheduled prior to the on-field drills.
Once the drills for the outfielders were completed, Staska finally had a chance to step onto the turf infield to show scouts one of the reasons why he was selected as a First-Team Class A first baseman. Meanwhile, VonRuden and Alstead were forced to wait nearly another thirty minutes before they were in the spotlight.
First taking his chances at scooping an incoming throw for the other infielders were being put through fielding drills, the Blossoms first baseman had a chance to show his glove, snagging a pair of one-hop throws.
When it was time for the first baseman to officially conduct drills, Staska showed that big guys can have fast feet too. Moving laterally to not only showcase his movement skills, but his ability to quickly reposition his glove to make the stop, he was able to successfully make the throw to third base. Staska noted afterward that despite successfully making the throws, it could have been better.
"My arm wasn't feeling as strong as it normally does," he added.
After waiting nearly two hours to conduct their drills, the catchers were able to finally step behind the plate to showcase their talents. Going in numerical order, Alstead was front and center to start the drill. While he quickly displayed his ability to pop up from his catcher's stance, he did have a pair of errant throws.
"I'm not going to lie, it's frustrating," added Alstead. "But, knowing that you have more coming after that getting the right throw after is pretty much it."
He was asked to come back through to conduct a pair of throws for scouts in attendance.
VonRuden on the other hand, was dialed in.
In his attempts behind the plate, he displayed just enough arm strength to get the ball tho second base without a one-hop. However, the accuracy was arguably the best of the group. He mentioned that that felt like he could have thrown a bit harder during the field drills and added that his performance acted like a measuring stick compared to the other players in attendance.
"It shows where I'm at compared to the best of the best," he added. "But, there's still a lot to be done."
VonRuden ended by saying that the first thing he was going to do when he got back to Medford was tell his brother Willie - a standout pitcher for the Tigers as a freshman - about the experience.
"I'm sure he'll get his opportunity to come here sooner or later."
All three players had the chance to display their power inside the cage as each player had a few balls that soared to the middle of the outfield during the batting practice portion of the showcase.

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Future NASCAR Hall of Famer Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s car displayed in Blooming Prairie



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

During Blooming Prairie's Fourth of July Festivities, NASCAR star Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s Nationwide No.88 showcar was on display in City Park Tuesday, July 4. The rig that carried the car also carried a simulator where event goers could test their skills behind the wheel.

Blooming Prairie baseball, girls track season review

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Although freshman Gemini Johnson claimed the point leadership for the Awesome Blossom girls in track, junior Sam Wurst proved the biggest star on the team, advancing to compete at state by finishing in a tie for first in the Section 1A Meet at Triton High school. Wurst made tremendous improvement over the season and leaped 5-0 to qualify for the state meet.

Johnson accumulated 151.25 points to become the highest point getter, edging Wurst by just three points. Rachael Oswald finished third in points with 134, Leah Inwards placed fourth with 103, and Leah Schiefert rounded out the top five with 90.5 points. Six other girls finished the season with over 50 points, and a total of 23 athletes scored points for the track team.

Approximately 30 girl athletes

competed on the team this season, with five seniors providing excellent leadership for the younger competitors. Leah Inwards claimed the Most Valuable honors by her teammates, with Oswald voted the Most Improved, and Ashleigh Alwes the True Trackster. Wurst made the All-Conference team, with Schiefert named an Honorable Mention. Sixteen letters were awarded, including to seniors Kylie Forystek, Leah Inwards, Alison Pryor, and Leah Schiefert.

Coach Kari Bottin summed up the season by commenting, “We had some good individual accomplishments this season, and Wurst really came on with her improvement. This was a great bunch of girls with which to work, and a number of underclassmen showed promise to becoming very good athletes in the track program. There is reason for some optimism, for sure.”

Staska an All-State selection

On the baseball diamond, Coach Matt Kittelson’s team still struggled to pick up victories, although they performed better and played several close game over the season. The team finished 4-16 overall and managed just two wins in the conference. The season highlight came in the presence of first baseman/pitcher Brad Staska, who earned a spot on the Class A State baseball team.

Staska batted .530 (a new school record), with nine doubles, two triples, 23 RBIs, and a 4.25 ERA on the mound. He was named to the section 1A team, after claiming an All-Conference pick as well. Seth Peterson was named a conference Honorable Mention.

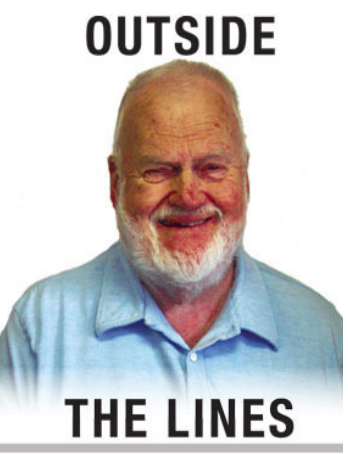
The Most Valuable Player award went to Staska, Gold

Glove honors fell to Payton Simon, and Kory Rafdal claimed the Most Improved award.

On the academic side, Camden Heimerman was named to the Academic All-State team, and Simon, Peterson, Max Romeo, Heimerman, and Ethan Arett all made the Academic All-Conference squad. The team will miss four seniors next season- Heimerman, Connor Getchell, Luke De La Cruz, and Richie Feeney.

According to Coach Kittelson, “Our main trouble this season was the inability to throw strikes consistently. We often had to struggle through one bad inning, which put us in holes out of which we just couldn’t overcome.

“We played a lot of close games, and we should be a better team next season, if we can get the pitching to come around a little better. Hopefully, that will happen.”



THE LINES
LeMar Nelson

What a celebration

There is something about the Fourth of July that stirs up in me a vast sense of patriotism and thankfulness in my country and its independence. I think it is more a deeper respect for our forefathers. They labored tirelessly to devise a document so powerful and so timeless that it is still as relevant today, as it was on the occasion of its signing.

Whatever it is, I, and I hope everyone else who celebrated that great holiday, remembered what the holiday is all about and honored the day and the history behind it. It is certainly such an occasion. There is a tendency to view the days and months after the Fourth as “down days”, but I think everyone has plenty of good memories to move the days ahead in an accelerated pace.

Now that the big four-day celebration of ribfest, the 150th birthday party, and Fourth of July activities fade into memory, it might be

beneficial to take inventory of the events and put them into some historical perspective.

Certainly enough happened to provide some great remembrances.

Chronologically speaking, the Boys & Girls Club ribfest began the four days of activity and declared itself an unqualified success. This was the last fundraiser for the organization as a Boys & Girls Club, as starting in September, the group will become the Blooming Prairie Youth Club. The club directors and the community supporters expressed optimism that the group will continue to be a worthwhile organization and provide programming for approximately 100 kids in the area.

As for the ribfest itself, the thirteen cooks and the steady stream of patrons guaranteed the event would be popular.

The music provided throughout the day had listeners tapping their toes and even doing little dances, and the lids’ games in Firemen’s Park kept the little ones occupied and happy.

Overall, just a great day.

The big birthday party in the park on Sunday also had to be measured as a wonderful extravaganza, complete with a group picture and a balloon release. The chamber office has already received several emails from individuals in Wisconsin and Iowa who found a balloon. It was just a great way to celebrate 150 years of existence for our town and community.

The two days of activities celebrating the fourth kept everyone active and enjoying all the events. The parade Tuesday and the fireworks

display to climax the entire four days provided a fitting end to a once in a lifetime experience. Happy birthday, Blooming Prairie!

Spring athletes recognized

Several spring sports athletes recently received recognition for their accomplishments. Tommy Braaten and Taylor Christianson already were honored for their achievements in golf, but some baseball and softball players also garnered their share of awards. Pitcher/first baseman Brad Staska led the group with an All-State Class A team honor, after first earning all-Conference and All-section picks. It was a true honor for the junior athlete.

Staska also garnered All-Area honors, as did Seth Peterson. Payton Simon received an Honorable Mention nod. Staska batted .530, had 11 extra base hits, and struck out only six times.

His batting average set a new school record in that category. Peterson, just a sophomore, reached base nearly half the time, batted .390, and played both third base and shortstop admirably.

In softball three girls earned All-Area honors, and freshman catcher Maya Lembke received an Honorable Mention. Senior pitcher Elly Strunk compiled a 2.24 ERA and batted .320, senior Bria Baldwin hit .373 and knocked in 17 runs, and sophomore Linnea Sunde batted .377 and was an ultimate base runner with 27 steals. Those accomplishments by spring athletes were well deserved, and are awarded some big tips of the hat.

A check-in on the pros

With so little sports action at the high school level, we can focus on a couple of weeks on the state’s professional teams.

It hardly seems possible, but the Vikings will report for training camp in just a few short weeks. The team will definitely have a somewhat different look with all the subtractions and additions to the squad. It should be an interesting season next fall.

And what a difference a year makes. The Twins are doing a pretty good job of hanging near the top of the Central division. It has been a fun first half of the season, and I personally think the team has enough young talent to make following their progress a good pastime.

The most successful team in the state continues to be the Lynx in the WNBA. A win over Las Angeles Thursday night left them with a 13-1 record, the same record that the team had at this juncture last year. I hope they can again play for the league championship, as the players (with the exception of Maya Moore) are mostly in their thirties, and Whalen Augustus, Brunson, and Fowles probably don’t have many productive years left. Here’s hoping the team has at least one more good run in them.

Finally, a lot of excitement has been generated for the Timberwolves and the Wild, because of acquisitions in the off-season. It will definitely be a season to watch with avid interest for both teams.

Enjoy this summer heat, and we’ll talk again.

Minimizer Bandit Big Rig Series heads to Hawkeye Downs July 15th

Blooming Prairie – The Minimizer Bandit Big Rig Series is taking things up a notch by visiting Hawkeye Downs Speedway, Saturday, July 15th.

“This will be our midwestern debut, and we can’t wait,” Bandit Director of Operations Brian Madsen said. “Up until this point, all of our races have taken place in the southeastern United States.”

Emotions are running high for the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, race, and yet another sellout crowd is expected.

“They’ve been sold out of food and drinks everywhere we’ve been,” team owner and driver Craig Kruckeberg said. “The response has been fantastic.”

To avoid the hassle of long lines, fans can buy tickets in advance by visiting www.ticketfly.com.

“Our series is headquartered in the upper Midwest, and I know our fans will be rocking the house at Cedar Rapids, July 15th,” Madsen said.

The last time the Bandits hit the track, Mike Morgan picked up his second straight win, besting series leader Ricky Rude at Highland Rim Speedway.

“It was a sellout (at Highland Rim), and those fans got a chance to see what this series is all about,” Morgan said.

“The fans at the Rim were arguably the loudest of the season, and we can’t wait to see what the Iowa fans bring to the table,” Madsen said.

Rude and Morgan are one-two in the points standings, respectively, with Justin Ball in third.

Drivers race for a \$50,000 purse at every Bandit event, with the winner of the feature race taking home a \$10,000 check.

Seven races remain in 2017, which has seen many Bandit firsts, including the first time a father/son have competed (Bob & Tommy Boileau) as well as an entire family of Bandits (Craig, Tyler & Trevor Kruckeberg).

Grandstands open at 5 p.m. July 15th and the racing action starts at 7:30 p.m.

About Bandit Big Rig Series

The Minimizer Bandit Big Rig Series returns big rig tractor truck racing to the short track in the United States. The series was designed to be affordable and accessible for anyone wishing to put together a race team.

For additional information, please contact Elijah Van Sice at (320) 212-0290, or email elijah@abanditseries.com.



These are the results from the Chateau Raceway at Lansing for the week of June 30

No results due to being rained out

This racing feature sponsored by:

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These are the results from the Chateau Raceway at Lansing for the week of July 7

Results

Chateau Pure Stocks
Feature 1 (15 Laps): 1. Jesse Stahl-Austin; 2. Chris Hotovec-Dodge Center; 3. Dan Guttormson-Austin; 4. Troy Maas-Faribault; 5. Zack Ehmkie-Dexter; 6. Beau Stevens-Albert Lea; 7. Jack Dunbar-Zumbrota; 8. Trey Anderson-Janesville; 9. Danielle Maas-Owatonna; 10. (DNF) Tyler Nelson-Albert Lea; (DNS) Josh Nelson-Stillwater.
Heat 1 (6 Laps): 1. Danielle Maas; 2. Chris Hotovec; 3. Zack Ehmkie; 4. Dan Guttormson; 5. Tyler Nelson; 6. (DNF) Josh Nelson.
Heat 2 (6 Laps): 1. Jesse Stahl; 2. Troy Maas; 3. Beau Stevens; 4. Trey Anderson; 5. Jack Dunbar.

WISSOTA Midwest Modified
Feature 1 (18 Laps): 1. Ryan Wetzstein-West Concord; 2. Ryan Goergen-Stacyville IA; 3. Josh Mattick-Rose Creek; 4. Dan Wheeler-Savage; 5. Garritt Wytaskie-Austin; 6. Mitch Weiss-Scandia; 7. Brayten Cisneros-Blooming Prairie; 8. Dustin Steinbrink-Austin; 9. 79-Jeremy Misgen-New Richland; 10. 53-Tianna Mithun-New Richland; 11. Don Schaefer-Eyota; 12. Scott Simmons-Lakeville; 13. Darryl Hainka-Wannamingo; 14. Harland Morehart-Rochester; 15. Robbie Franklin-Shakopee; 16. Jesse Hernandez-Blooming Prairie; 17. Luke Hainka-Wannamingo.
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. Ryan Wetzstein; 2. Dan Wheeler; 3. Ryan Goergen; 4. Josh Mattick; 5. Dustin Steinbrink; 6. Darryl Hainka; 7. Luke Hainka; 8. Scott Simmons; 9. Don Schaefer.
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. Garritt Wytaskie; 2. Brayten Cisneros; 3. Mitch Weiss; 4. Jesse Hernandez; 5. Robbie Franklin; 6. Tianna Mithun; 7. Jeremy Misgen; 8. Harland Morehart.

WISSOTA Street Stock
A Feature 1 (15 Laps): 1. Blake Adams-McIntire IA; 2. Zach Elward-Hayfield; 3. Kory Adams-Stacyville IA; 4. Ken Adams-Stacyville IA; 5. Cody Hyatt-Waseca; 6. Fred Prudoehl-Winona; 7. Noah Grinstead-Austin; 8. Mike Blowers-Waseca; 9. Jason Newkirk-Austin; 10. Brent Holland-Glenville; 11. Jacob Bennett-Austin; 12. (DNF) Bobby Blowers-Austin.
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. Ken Adams; 2. Jason Newkirk; 3. Kory Adams; 4. Cody Hyatt; 5. Brent Holland; 6. Jacob Bennett.
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. Zach Elward; 2. Blake Adams; 3. Mike Blowers; 4. Noah Grinstead; 5. Bobby Blowers; 6. Fred Prudoehl.

USRA B Mod
Feature 1 (18 Laps): 1. Anthony (AJ) Zvorak-Blooming Prairie; 2. Scott Demmer-Ellendale; 3. Kadden Kath-Owatonna; 4. Jerry Young-Blooming Prairie; 5. Nate Chodur-Lake Mills IA; 6. Jett Sorensen-Rochester; 7. Nick Wagner-Osage IA; 8. Jayden Larson-Mankato; 9. Channing Warner-Owatonna; 10. 44-Matthew Brooks-Austin; 11. Jesse Baer-Minnesota Lake; 12. Ryan Stebbins-Dundas; 13. Raey Hastings IV-Austin; 14. Justin Murray-Owatonna; 15. Tim Gerber-Austin; 16. Caleb Korpi-Claremont; 17. Christian Warner-Owatonna.
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. Z29-Anthony (AJ) Zvorak; 2. Kadden Kath; 3. Jayden Larson; 4. Nate Chodur; 5. Channing Warner; 6. Jesse Baer; 7. Jerry Young; 8. Nick Wagner; 9. (DNF) Ryan Stebbins.
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. Scott Demmer; 2. Jett Sorensen; 3. Raey Hastings IV; 4. 17-Justin Murray; 5. 86-Christian Warner; 6. Caleb Korpi; 7. Matthew Brooks; 8. Tim Gerber.

USRA A Mod
Feature 1 (25 Laps): 1. Greg Pfeifer Jr-Austin; 2. Brandon Aggen-Miltona; 3. Brian Shaw-Brownsdale; 4. Doug Hillson-Blooming Prairie; 5. Darwin Karau-Kasson; 6. David Wytaskie JR-Garad Meadow; 7. Jacob Stark-Austin; 8. Dwaine Hanson-Lakefield; 9. Alan Wagner-Orchard IA; 10. Kyle King-Hastings; 11. Greg Jensen-Albert Lea; 12. Alex Hanson-Northwood IA; 13. Troy Gudmonson-Savage.
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. Brandon Aggen; 2. Greg Pfeifer Jr; 3. Doug Hillson; 4. Dwaine Hanson; 5. Jacob Stark; 6. Alan Wagner; 7. Troy Gudmonson.
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. Brian Shaw; 2. Darwin Karau; 3. Greg Jensen; 4. Kyle King; [6]; 5. David Wytaskie; 6. (DNF) Alex Hanson.

Hornets
Feature 1 (12 Laps): 1. Nate Coopman-Mankato; 2. Nick Sillman-Minnesota Lake; 3. Jerry Coopman-Mankato; 4. Jeremy LaBawa -Waconia; 5. Bob Knutson-Marion; 6. Curtis Wilson-Austin; 7. Mike Ryan-Rochester; 8. Pat Wells-Faribault; 9. Jason McShane-Waseca; 10. Ryan Timm-Austin; 11. Cody Hyatt-Waseca; 12. Corbin Giesler-West Concord; 13. Dan Lewison-Dexter; 14. Kaitlyn Bennett-Austin; 15. Nikolas Aasen-Hayfield; 16. Kristofer Aasen-Hayfield; 17. Tommie Cruz-Janesville; 18. Cale Giesler-West Concord; 19. Alan Schmidt-Hayward; 20. Caylie Blowers-Waseca; 21. Mike Wright-Eyota; (DQ) Brian Adams-Shakopee.
Heat 1 (6 Laps): 1. Alan Schmidt; 2. Cody Hyatt; 3. Jason McShane; 4. Mike Wright; 5. Kaitlyn Bennett; 6. Dan Lewison; 7. Nikolas Aasen; 8. Curtis Wilson.
Heat 2 (6 Laps): 1. Jerry Coopman; 2. Brian Adams; 3. Nick Sillman; 4. Ryan Timm; 5. Bob Knutson; 6. Cale Giesler; 7. Mike Ryan.
Heat 3 (6 Laps): 1. Nate Coopman; 2. Pat Wells; 3. Jeremy LaBaw; 4. Tommie Cruz; 5. 34CJ-Caylie Blowers; 6. Kristofer Aasen; 7. (DNF) Corbin Giesler.

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Public Safety



Woman charged with assaulting an officer

A woman faces a felony charging of assaulting a police officer after targeting the officer with bodily fluids.

Krystal Laroque has been charged with fourth-degree assault to a police officer in addition to misdemeanor obstructing legal process and domestic assault.

Owatonna Police responded to a domestic disturbance at Cedar Green Townhomes in the 300 block of 22nd Street SE July 3. When officers arrived, a female victim directed them to the suspect inside the residence. Four children were inside on the floor with two of them sleeping through the altercation, police said.

During the investigation, officers learned that Laroque attacked a woman with punches, scratches and by pulling her



Krystal Laroque

hair. The victim had redness and scratches to her face, neck and arms.

Laroque was taken into custody with some resistance. According to police, she was kicking and using her legs as leverage to prevent the officers from getting her into the squad. During the transport to jail, she began gagging and vomiting in the squad.

While at jail, Laroque is accused of spreading spit, vomit and blood to a police officer.

Forgery. Police received a report of counterfeit money in the 400 block of North St. W. at 10:08 a.m.

Fraud. Police took fraud reports in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 10:37 a.m., in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 3:19 p.m. and in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 3:41 p.m.

Domestic. Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of School St. E. at 5:34 p.m. They made an arrest at the scene.

July 6

Theft. A motor vehicle was reported stolen from Oak Ave. N. and Vine St. W. at 2:49 a.m.

Fraud. Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 10:23 a.m.

Suspicion. Police responded to suspicious activity in the 100 block of Holly St. SW at 10:52 a.m.

Theft. Police took theft reports in the 300 block of Riverside Ave. NW at 4:12 p.m. and in the 100 block of Pearl St. W. at 8:14 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff

June 29

Warrant. Deputies made warrant arrests at the detention center at 10:14 a.m. and in the 100 block of Main St. E. in Owatonna at 2:16 p.m.

June 30

Traffic. Deputies arrested a motorist following a traffic stop on Hoffman Dr. NW in Owatonna at 12:35 a.m.

DWI. Deputies made a DWI arrest in the 3700 block of Havana Road in Havana Township at 7:59 p.m.

July 4

Domestic. Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance on 3rd St. SE in Medford at 5:43 p.m.

Animal Bite. At 10:54 p.m., an animal bite occurred in the 5200 block of Cedar Ave. in Clinton Falls Township.

Domestic. Deputies arrested a subject following a domestic disturbance on 4th Ave. W. in Ellendale at 11:30 p.m.

Crash. A motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 8300 block of 7th Ave. NW in Deerfield Township at 11:35 p.m.

Warrant. Deputies made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 11:45 p.m.

July 5

Theft. Deputies took a report of theft on Interstate 35 in Owatonna Township at 7:50 a.m.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 6700 block of Frontage Rd. W. in Medford at 10:57 a.m.

Child Protection. Deputies received a report of child protec-

tion from the 4100 block of 6th St. NW in Medford Township at 6:09 p.m.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 26 with Judge Joseph A. Buetel presiding:

Rylee L. Burns, 22, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony aid and abet burglary. Burns was sentenced to \$511.22, 55 days in county jail, 24 months in St. Cloud State Prison, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 80 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

John Mason, 29, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault. He was sentenced to \$131, 59 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, no alcohol or controlled substance use, anger management, no contact with victim, 100 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation.

Janiffer L. Suchanek, 33, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony terroristic threats and gross misdemeanor controlled substance crime. The defendant was sentenced to \$281, 9 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 26 – 30:

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Magdaline M. Abrams, 23, Faribault, suspended license, \$281; Delanio C. Adams, 32, St. Paul, revoked license, \$281; Norberto Cruz-Garcia, 25, Austin, invalid license, no child passenger restraint system and no insurance, \$481 and 6 months of supervised probation;

Israel Villar-Rodriguez, 43, Austin, revoked license, \$281; Anthony J. Zadra, 47, West St. Paul, speeding, \$131; Kaye E. Ziegler, 70, Austin, unsafe passing on left, stay of adjudication, \$20.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Diana M. Abrego Chicas, 31, Hudson, WI, speeding, \$141; Richard R. Bartz, 69, Waseca, over legal tandem axle weight, \$131; Tamlynn L. Cobian, 52, Inver Grove Heights, move over law violation, \$131;

Bradford T. Gilson, 33, Olathe, KS, speeding, \$131; Matthew C. Gosewisch, 22, Faribault, permit violation, \$131; Ryan C. Harren, 31, Mankato, speeding, \$221; John D. Hill, 66, Dodge Center, revoked license, \$281; George R. Motto, 55, St. Peter, speeding, \$121; Alexandra L. Ohm, 20, Elgin, speeding, \$141;

Lual A. Omot, 39, St. Cloud, speeding, \$221; Miriam Pliego-Leana, 33, St. Paul, no child passenger restraint system and no license, \$231; Tyler G. Sahr, 29, Rogers, seat belt, \$106; Michael R. Sirek, 34, Faribault, seat belt, \$106; Paul D. Sorenson, 30, Tomahawk, WI, seat belt, \$106; Noah M. Tilsen, 33, St. Paul, speeding, \$100; Deangelo D. Williams, 34, St. Paul, suspended license, \$281.

Owatonna Police Department

Cassandra S. Britt, 24, suspended license, \$281; Jeffry J. Bryant, 40, Kensett, IA, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, \$50, 63 days in county

jail, no possession of firearms, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 80 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation; Cherie L. Cline, 26, Owatonna, speeding, \$121;

Juan A. Cordero, 39, Faribault, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Jakob R. Crouch, 18, Austin, speeding, \$131; Casey L. Cumberland, 16, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Michael Dacam-pora, 34, Lake Ronkonkoma, NY, speeding, \$141; Brady L. Edwards Jr., 27, Owatonna, controlled substance crime, stay of adjudication, \$300, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Latasha K. Elder, 28, Rochester, cancelled license, \$131, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of supervised probation; Stacy J. Erdner, 26, Fridley, controlled substance crime, stay of adjudication, \$381, 7 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 2 years of supervised probation; Alba L. Escobar, 37, Hesperia, CA, speeding, \$141;

John E. Felver, 46, Culver, obstruct legal process, \$181, 1 day in county jail and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Austin O. Gale, 24, Faribault, speeding, \$131; Tony Garza, 22, Faribault, suspended license, \$281; Kasey A. Grunwald, 23, Medford, host or allow juvenile party, \$131 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Matthew J. Huskey, 25, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, \$131;

Megan M. Janning, 23, Blooming Prairie, theft, \$181; Stacy A. Kasten, 35, Owatonna, speeding, \$181; Tori M. Keck, 18, Owatonna, suspended license and crossing road from non-roadway, \$331; Larry A. Knutson, 61, Albert Lea, improper turn, \$131; Wuilson A. Lopez Reyes, 37, Willmar, revoked license, \$281;

Cindi M. Luna, 18, Owatonna, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$181; Miller Obed, 44, Owatonna, DWI and no license, \$406, 3 days in county jail, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Matthew J. Peters, 30, Owatonna, criminal damage to property, \$131 and 90 days in county jail; Candice J. Rath, 36, Kasson, speeding, \$121;

Dennis P. Simon, 61, Owatonna, failure to stop for traffic control signal, \$131; Maria Sosa-Ver-mont, 48, Owatonna, no license, \$181; Ryan S. Theissen, 34, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Jose E. Vielma, 28, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Triston C. Armstrong, 21, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Scott L. Berg, 33, Wanamingo, stop sign, \$131; Buffy J. Bergland, 44, Ellendale, speeding, \$121;

Craig C. Blumers, 38, Pine Island, speeding, \$121; Nicole L. Botten, 22, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Yawosse A. Dagban Ayivon, 33, Northfield, speeding, \$131; Seven Day, 31, St. Paul, speeding, \$381; Sheila M. Distel, 49, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Tiffany N. Gehloff, 44, Ellendale, speeding, \$121; Macy A. Hanson, 17, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Maria D. Hemann, 56, Austin, no license, \$181;

Jason L. Horner, 32, Austin, speeding, \$221; Gregory D. Idso, 31, New Richland, revoked license, no insurance and speeding, \$531; Linda M. Larson, 56, New Richland, speeding, \$221; Helen M. McGannon, 49, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Molly R. McWhirter, 27, speeding, \$121; Mason S. Oland, 16, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Shane A. Ryan, 52, New Richland, seat belt, \$106; Sean R. Samlaska, 41, Faribault, speeding, \$141; Lisa M. Schlund, 38, Owatonna, speeding, \$121;

Jack J. Schrot, 16, Faribault, seat belt, \$106; Gregory R. Schwering, 29, West Concord, speeding, \$121; Jessica L. Smith,

35, Lake Mills, IA, speeding, \$141; Shawn M. Valstad, 37, Zimmerman, revoked license and speeding, \$331; Delwyn D. Whitefeather, 47, Geneva, suspended license and no insurance, \$481.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 241 complaints during the week of June 28 – July 4. Some of them include:

June 28

Child Endangerment. Deputies responded to a child endangerment incident in the 500 block of 7th Ave. SE in Dodge Center at 4:30 a.m.

June 29

Harassment. At 10:42 a.m., a Hayfield woman reported receiving harassing phone calls.

Domestic. Deputies responded a fight between brothers in the 400 block of 4th St. NE in Hayfield at 4:27 p.m.

June 30

Vandalism. At 2:20 p.m., a Dodge Center resident reported that all the mailboxes were open and flags were up in the 300 block of 2nd Ave. NW the previous day.

July 1

Civil. Deputies assisted with a civil matter regarding a lighter found in a yard in the 400 block of 2nd St. W. in Claremont at 11:36 a.m.

Domestic. At 2:49 p.m., deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 700 block of 3rd Ave. NW in Dodge Center.

Burglary. At 7:01 p.m., deputies began an investigation of a burglary in the 17800 block of 540th St. in West Concord. Items were missing out of a shed.

Disturbance. Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 700 block of 3rd St. SE in Dodge Center at 7:44 p.m.

Noise Complaint. At 9:21 p.m., a woman called deputies when young boys were making noise and trespassing in the 1200 block of 5th St. NW in Dodge Center.

July 2

Intoxication. Deputies responded to an intoxicated individual at Main St. E. and 1st Ave. SE in Hayfield at 12:56 p.m.

Disturbance. Deputies responded to a verbal disturbance in the 100 block of 6th Ave. NE in Hayfield at 2:43 a.m. and in the 200 block of 6th Ave. NE in Hayfield at 4:01 p.m.

Domestic. A domestic disturbance occurred in the 60300 block of 209th Ave. in Dodge Center at 11:52 a.m.

July 3

Narcotics. Deputies responded to a narcotics incident in the 300 block of 1st St. NE in Dodge Center at 11:21 a.m.

Complaint. Deputies received a complaint of an older male, who was possibly intoxicated, pushing children into the pool in the 500 block of 1st Ave. NE in Dodge Center at 6:22 p.m.

July 4

Disturbance. Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 2:31 a.m.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of June 26 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Jeremy J. Jerde, 40, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony check forgery and theft. He was sentenced to \$205 and 21 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of June 26 – July 3:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Amanda M. Bale, 41, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Jacob G. Boettcher, 29, Dodge Center, revoked license, 90 days in county jail; Travis A. Clark, 25, Hayfield, intent to escape tax, \$980 and 2 years of probation; Tequilla M. Dunn, 25, Minneapolis, disorderly conduct, 10 days in county jail;

Catrina O. Fjerstad, 19, Mantorville, minor consumption, \$180; Gina G. Gimbel, 18, Mantorville, minor consumption, \$180; Eric S. Holland, 37, Blooming Prairie, disorderly conduct, \$455, domestic abuse evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of supervised probation; Jon R. Kerr, 33, Kenyon, speeding, \$140; Jacob J. Klejeski, 18, Claremont, speeding, \$120;

Evan A. Munthe, 19, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Brandon A. Pfeiffer, 21, Blooming Prairie, no insurance, display revoked plates and no license in possession, \$600; Rickie R. Rajala, 61, Fort Myers, FL, no insurance, \$280; Scott W. Ramey, 53, Rochester, cancelled license, stay of adjudication, \$275 and 1 year of probation; Chad L. Sarver, 51, Dodge Center, barking dog, \$100; John P. Simonette, 17, Claremont, speeding, \$140;

Brandon M. Steedman, 20, Mantorville, speeding, \$140; Jamison A. Vondersiitt, 19, Dodge Center, possession of paraphernalia, \$130; David J. Wolkenhauer, 34, Owatonna, speeding, \$120; Joshua D. Ziemann, 29, Byron, seat belt, \$105.

Kasson Police Department

Lisa M. Allen, 27, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Kurt T. Baumgarten, 26, Rice Lake, WI, seat belt, \$105; Katherine R. Carpenter, 18, Byron, speeding, \$120; Todd L. Donley, 55, Byron, seat belt, \$105;

Parker M. Hiller, 18, Kasson, sale of marijuana, stay of adjudication, \$1,075, 3 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, maintain employment, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation; Trevor G. Minnick, 20, Rochester, speeding, \$140;

Janelle M. Murry, 45, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Jack A. Phelps, 51, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Justin W. Phelps, 28, Rochester, seat belt, \$105; Bruce A. Prescher, 65, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Jacqueline P. Tozier, 32, West Concord, texting while driving, \$130.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Dominic C. Baudoin, 39, Mantorville, seat belt, \$105; Adam D. Burr, 31, Cannon Falls, seat belt, \$105; Kolten A. Christenson, 22, Waseca, seat belt, \$105; Miranda L. Cross, 23, Hahira, GA, speeding, \$130; Dylan R. Dalbec, 23, Howard Lake, log book violation, \$130; Mackenzie R. Damerow, 19, Byron, speeding, \$130;

Patricio C. Gargollo, 42, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Kari S. Huseth, 51, Elbow Lake, speeding, \$130; Barbara B. Lentz, 54, Mantorville, speeding, \$130; Albino Mancilla, 63, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Andrew C. Miller, 37, Owatonna, speeding, \$140; Jason R. Shadow, 40, Kasson, DWI, \$1,005, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, Ignition Interlock program and 2 years of supervised probation; Benjamin E. Storing, 28, Kasson, seat belt, \$105.

West Concord Police Department

Amanda B. Parkinson, 35, Saginaw, MI, display revoked plates, \$380.

The following individuals as they have active warrants in Steele County. The sheriff makes this information available as a public service.

- Roger Allen – false information - \$1,500 bail
- Juan Alvarez – cont delinq minor - \$6,000 bail
- Ben Ambrose – open bottle - \$181 bail
- Darren Anderson – theft by check - \$5,000 bail
- Norman Anderson – assault - \$2,000 bail
- Darla Andrews – theft by check - \$19,000 bail
- Andrew Anzaldua – DWI - \$1,000 bail
- Jose Aquilas – DWI - \$12,000 bail
- Jorge Arias – DWI – no bail
- Michael Armstead – DWI - \$500 bail

- Mariia Arredondo – theft - \$1,000 bail
- Marcus Aye – soliciting without permit - \$500 bail
- Jose Ayon – DWI – no bail
- Thomas Baker – theft - \$10,000 bail
- Lionel Baldwin – weapons - \$3,000 bail
- Ramon Barajas-Pulido – motor vehicle theft - \$10,000 bail
- Jesus Barrera – controlled substance crime - \$100,000 bail
- Kristopher Barta – false name - \$500 bail
- Claudia Bautista – theft - \$10,000 bail
- Richard Bazan – DWI - \$1,000 bail

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

ARREST
Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police
Cameron James Brown, 20, arrested at 11:57 p.m. July 4, disorderly conduct, held for court.

Owatonna Police
Robert Martin Miller, 50, arrested at 5:30 p.m. July 3, felony possession and cancelled license, held for court.

Krystal Rae Laroque, 26, arrested at 11:15 p.m. July 3, felony assault on peace officer, obstruction with force and domestic assault, held for court.

Stephen Dejon Strickland, 28, arrested at 8:31 p.m. July 4, felony simple robbery and disorderly conduct, held for court.

Blake Anthony Yearling, 19, arrested at 1:20 a.m. July 5, felony possession of marijuana, held for court.

Antonio Taylor, 36, arrested at 5:50 p.m. July 5, domestic assault/assault, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff
Amber Lee Rubitschung, 28, arrested at 9:21 a.m. July 2, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.

Sara Elaine Katra, 38, arrested at 2:58 p.m. July 2, warrant arrest, body only.

Kathryn Michelle Lundstrom, 35, arrested at 7:44 a.m. July 4, warrant arrest, \$10,000 bail.

Robert Harold Stuart, 37, arrested at 12:30 p.m. July 5, domestic assault/assault, contempt of court, obstruction of legal process and misuse of 911, held for court.

Michael James Worden, 39, arrested at 6:52 p.m. July 5, warrant arrest, body only.

OWATONNA FIRE

June 24
Crash. A motor vehicle accident with no injuries occurred on Cedar Ave. at 9:24 p.m.

June 26
Cooking Fire. At 6:56 p.m., fire fighters responded to a cooking fire confined to a container in the 400 block of Elm Ave. N.
Building Fire. Fire fighters responded to a building fire in the 2800 block of Bridge St. W. at 8:22 p.m.

June 28
Rubbish Fire. A waste fire occurred on Hwy. 14 W. at 4:03 p.m.

June 29
Building Fire. Fire personnel responded to a building fire in the 600 block of Hilltop Ave. SW at 5:30 p.m.

July 2
Elevator. Fire rescue removed a victim from a stalled elevator in the 2200 block of Hartle Ave. at 8:50 a.m.

July 5
Carbon Monoxide. Fire personnel responded to a carbon monoxide incident in the 1700 block of Mineral Springs Parkway at 8:02 a.m.

July 6
Public Service. Fire personnel assisted with a public service matter in the 100 block of Elm Ave. N. at 2:29 p.m.

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Safety tips for heading out to the fair

SHERIFF ROSE



Scott Rose

Summer in Dodge County is filled with fun events and festivals for family’s young and old. Out of all of our summer events, the Dodge County Fair, which runs July 19-23, is by far the biggest event and busiest for our staff. It’s an event I look forward to every year – I’ve been attending the Dodge County Fair since I was a kid growing up in Kasson. The fair is a great place for everyone in the family, but please make sure to take steps to keep it a safe and fun experience for everyone.

Please lock your vehicles and never leave valuables in them while enjoying the fair. If you must leave items in the vehicle, make sure they aren’t visible from the window.

Be careful to make sure everyone is safe crossing the street. This is the worst week of the year for traffic in Kasson. With all the distractions the fair crowd and traffic brings, don’t assume that the car coming down the road sees you and your kids. Always keep your kids close and use intersections and crosswalks to get across the street.

While at the fair, parents and caregivers need to remember to keep a close eye on their children. With everything there is to see at the fair, getting separated in a large crowd can happen very easily and can be very stressful for your family, your kids, and for law enforcement. If your

kids are venturing to areas of the fairgrounds without you, have a planned meeting spot for everyone to meet at the end of the day. Make sure your kids know where and how to find a deputy if they get separated from you

We will have deputies in several areas of the fair again this year. We’ll be patrolling the midway, the exhibit areas, and the grandstands. We’ll have two areas where you can find deputies if you need assistance – the Sheriff’s Building (front of the bathroom building) at the main entrance of the fair, and our Emergency Command RV that will be parked southeast of the Four Seasons Arena building. If you go to one of those locations and don’t find law enforcement, call our dispatch at 635-6200 and ask for a deputy to respond to your location.

Make sure to stay hydrated. We’ve had some warm and humid fair weeks in the past. This can be dangerous to young and old if you aren’t drinking enough water and staying hydrated. We will have cold drinking water at both of our locations available to the public.

If you are allergic to bees – make sure you have your medication with you. In the last few years we’ve had a handful of bee stings that have required medical attention. If you or any of your kids are allergic to bee stings, make sure you have the proper medication with you in the event you encounter any bees at the fair.

Amusement Ride Safety. Going on the amusement rides at the fair can be very exciting for people of all ages. No matter what your age make sure you remember safety. Make sure to read all the posted rules and instructions before going on. It is not a bad idea to watch the ride while in

motion before going on to make sure you understand what will happen. Always obey the height, weight and age restrictions. Sneaking someone on who does not meet the requirements is very dangerous and can result in serious injury.

Safety in the animal buildings. Visiting the animals is a must at the fair. The animal exhibits are also a very important area to keep safety in mind. Good hand-washing hygiene is a must around animals. There are several hand-washing stations available near the barns. Wash your hands both before and after being around animals even if you are not touching them. Handwash-

ing stations will be available outside the buildings. If you are with young children around the animals, make sure that they do not get too close to the animals and do not stick their fingers, feet, or anything else in cages. That could not only be harmful to them, but also the animals.

Be sure to have a sober driver. Alcohol is served at all the grand stand events as well as in the beer garden. We want everyone to come to the fair and have a great time, but if you plan on drinking alcohol please have a plan for a sober driver.

These tips should not only be remembered at the Dodge County Fair, but any of the summer

festivals you plan on attending with your family and friends this year. The Dodge County Fair is a great place for family and friends to gather and there is always a ton of things to see and do. Having safety in mind can help make it a fun and safe experience for all!

Enjoy the fair everyone! Hope to see you there!

Your Sheriff,
Scott

Scott Rose has been sheriff of Dodge County since 2015. His column runs monthly and is also available on the sheriff’s website at co.dodge.mn.us.

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

Digital coupons offer another way to score deals

Coupons enable cost-conscious consumers to save money on the goods and services they frequently use. As a marketing tool, coupons can help drive up sales and promote brand or store loyalty, leading to an increase in repeat customers.

The first coupon issued in the United States was believed to be a ticket for a free glass of Coca-Cola, issued in 1888. Grape Nuts soon followed, offering one cent coupons for discounts on cereal. Today, billions of dollars are saved thanks to the use of retail and manufacturer coupons.

Although coupons help people save money, they also serve as important market research tools and a means to advertise products. Today, coupons come in many different forms.

According to the coupon provider RedPlum, 76 percent of coupon-seekers utilize newspapers as their primary sources for deals and coupons. Coupon book publishers and those that produce coupon magazine vouchers still promote paper coupons, which remain popular among consumers. However, thanks to the ever-growing popularity of mobile phones, digital coupons have carved out a place in the retail environment. Savvy shoppers use both traditional and digital coupons to earn big savings, according to Valassis, one of the nation’s leading media and marketing services.

Digital coupon is a broad term used to represent various deals offered in digital form. Rather than clipping paper coupons, shoppers can access online and in-store discounts in various ways. Some of the coupons available to consumers include:

- Downloaded coupons: These types of coupons can be downloaded from a company’s website, through email or through social media.
- Mobile coupons: Mobile coupons are created by ecommerce platforms to drive mobile shopping.
- Coupon codes: Shopping online has contributed to the rise of coupon codes. A code is entered at the point of sale, and the discount is automatically deducted.

- Loaded coupons: One of the more popular ways to redeem digital coupons, particularly those offered by supermarkets and other high-volume retailers, is to “load” coupons to a smartphone through an applicable store app. Shoppers often create an account that is tied to their store’s loyalty card number. By browsing the online circular or sales/coupons listed in the app, consumers can select the deals they want to load to their accounts. The deals are then redeemed at checkout either by scanning a code or automatically when the loyalty card is activated at the register. Just like traditional paper coupons, digital coupons feature expiration dates. Many such coupons are only redeemable once and are not subject to doubling unless advertised. For time-strapped individuals, digital coupons can be an efficient way to save on products without worrying about forgetting paper coupons at home. However, paper coupons still are widely available and continue to dominate the discount market.

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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- ___ fi (slang)
- Former CIA
- Parts per billion (abbr.)
- Fermenting vat
- News organization
- Paddle
- Agent in alchemy
- Small amount
- Wholeness
- Suppliers
- Type of head pain
- Canadian province
- Jiminy is one
- Shelf
- Diarist Frank
- Honored
- Boat race
- Cash machine
- Linguistic theory (abbr.)
- Highway material
- Gracefully slender
- Not often found
- Baghdad is its capital
- Deriving from Asia
- Large, veterinary pills
- Boxer
- Give the right to
- Iranian city
- Body part
- A citizen of Iraq
- Australian bird
- Consume
- A basketball hoop has

CLUES DOWN

- Shorttail weasel
- Type of sword
- A way to acquire
- Peddled more
- Relaxing place
- A small carrier attached to the side of a motorcycle
- Decanting
- For all ills or diseases
- Building material
- “Much ___ About Nothing”
- Type of Buddhism
- Refers to something unique
- Thus far
- Make angry
- Greek mythological character
- Used on driveways
- Relating to the ears
- Doctors’ group
- Chinese philosophical principle
- Stomach
- A particular period
- Coin of ancient Greece
- Place to clean oneself
- One of the Great Lakes
- Ruled
- State of being free
- Fe
- Soup cracker
- Escorts
- Credit term
- Institute legal proceedings against
- Put within
- New Jersey is one
- Red deer
- Type of whale
- Swiss river

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Cancer Corner

Support the fighters, Admire the survivors, Honor the taken.

Understanding inflammatory breast cancer

Many women know that a lump, pain or some other abnormality in the breast may be indicative of breast cancer. But a rash, redness or swelling may also be linked to a rare form of breast cancer known as inflammatory breast cancer. Inflammatory breast cancer, or IBC, accounts for roughly 1 to 5 percent of all breast cancers in the United States. The symptoms of IBC can differ from symptoms of other forms of breast cancer, and a rash-like appearance may be part of it, according to Healthline.

The National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.,

says IBC is a fast-growing breast cancer that infiltrates the skin and lymph vessels of the breast. When IBC is present, no distinct tumor or lump can be felt and isolated in the breast. Instead, earlier symptoms include the appearance of a rash or small irritation that may be mistaken for an insect bite. Over time, the irritation can become more red, swollen and warm. Other changes to the breast skin may occur, including nipple inversion or flattening, a pitted appearance to the skin or dimpling. This dimpling is caused by a buildup of fluid in the breast that's due

to cancer cells blocking the lymph vessels. This prevents the fluid from draining normally. IBC is a very fast-moving cancer. By the time symptoms are discovered, IBC may already have advanced to Stage 3, necessitating aggressive treatment. This usually includes a combination of surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, and hormone treatments. Breast cancer comes in many different forms and can present in various ways. Never overlook any abnormality on or around the breast.

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Movie Review: Spider-Man: Homecoming



BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Another superhero swung into theaters this weekend, and he is a welcome addition. *Spider-Man: Homecoming* is exactly the superhero movie the summer needed. Following the adventures of Spiderman, alias Peter

Parker, the movie picks up after the events of *Captain America: Civil War* with the teenage superhero back in high school after his epic debut with the Avengers. Unfortunately, regular life seems slow compared to Peter's big league heroics, and his mentor Tony Stark is content having him stop bicycle thieves instead of super villains. When high-powered weapons start turning up in the hands of street thugs, Peter is on a quest to find the arms dealers and prove he's ready for a full-time spot on the Avengers' line-up. This is the third Spiderman reboot in 15 years, and it's the best. Tom Holland plays a better Peter Parker than either of his predecessors. He's the first one to play a convincing high school student. Holland's facial expressions are a joy to watch, and his Parker is the high school kid we all were. After the hyper-gritty superhero adaptations of the last few years, there's been a push back to a brighter tone with movies like *Wonder Woman* and *Guardians of the Galaxy*. Spiderman: Homecoming joins the push and doesn't try to bog down a teenage superhero story with needless bleakness. As the first Spiderman to join the Marvel Cinematic universe, audience members will also be treated to appearances from favorite Avengers. Robert Downey Jr. as Tony Stark is prominent in the story, while Chris Evan's Captain America also gets fun cameos, particularly in a second post-credit scene. Join the fun and let *Spiderman: Homecoming* save your summer.

Rated: PG-13

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150th kicks off Fourth of July



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

Left: Linda Klemmensen, with Ardis Krejci at her side, traces Krejci newspaper history during a Cemetery Walk in Blooming Prairie on Saturday, July 1. Right: More than 75 locals participated in a cemetery walk sponsored by the the Blooming Prairie Sesquicentennial Committee.

Finding history in the city and Catholic cemeteries

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

How can you learn about the ancestors of your community? Just take a walk around a local cemetery and the roots of history come alive.

An estimated 75 persons took a Blooming Prairie Cemetery Walk on Saturday, July 1. The walk, sponsored by BP Sesquicentennial Committee, invited individuals to tour the Blooming Prairie city cemetery and the St. Columbanus Catholic Cemetery.

Committee members Mary Kittelson, Nancy Vaillancourt and Carol Iverson coordinated the two-hour tour divided into three time groups.

Cemetery tours are not new but in Blooming Prairie, they are. City officials said Saturday's cemetery tour tied in with the 150th city celebration, is a first for this small southeastern Minnesota community.

Feedback from those

attending Saturday's event was very positive with many saying they would like to see the same tours again, plus tours of other area cemeteries.

Organizers of this event keenly lined up historians in their own right to tell the visitors about certain Blooming Prairie notables.

"We encourage you to wander around the cemeteries," said Kittelson as the first group ended its tour. "Nancy (Vaillancourt) deserves credit for preparing the scripts for presenters of historic information.

Some of the identifiable names associated with history of Blooming Prairie included: Big Swede Ahrlberg; Hughes/Wewerke; Vollharth; Morton; Bray; Ille children; Dr. Melby; Schutt; Habberstad; Krejci; Betlach; Bell; Dennis; Coggins; Mott/Ressler; Zwiener; Brainerd and Ferrington.

Doug and Judy Myers were first to recite history of some former BP residents.

Doug asked if anyone knew history about Big Swede. "He was BIG," maybe 6 ft. 3 in. or more, he said. Myers said he remembers as an eight-year-old being on crutches after suffering an injury and after falling, seeing a giant hand being pushed toward him. It was the hand of Big Swede, Nels Ahlbert.

"Big Swede was one of the strongest men in town," Myers said. Big Swede delivered ice around town. He could smash concrete with one hand while swinging a mallet.

Big Swede was 67 when he died. He was buried by the county and had a marker put up for him by Jack "Buckshot" Jellinek.

Myers, an educator himself, related some history on Maurice McFarlin who was superintendent of Blooming Prairie Schools for 32 years.

McFarlin, named as an outstanding school administrator in 1963, was very active in his community, Myers said. Myers revealed

that McFarlin put aside his salary during the year before his retirement and dedicated it to Dollars for Scholars.

Myers also provided historical background on the Vollharth family. Christopher Vollharth reportedly built the Union Hotel. He also was instrumental in building the West Hotel.

Cemetery visitors then moved on to an area where the Mortons were buried. Judy (Morton) Myers related family history.

Thomas Morton was said to be the first mayor of Blooming Prairie. He was also a Ford dealer in town.

Alan Morton, 88, joined Judy at the gravesite to provide details of the Morton family. Alan said his great grandfather was a an Army veteran. He was only 4 ft. 10 in. Alan produced his great grandfather's military belt which would only go around his midsection part way.

The Mortons spanned four generations of volunteers for the local fire department.

Alan Morton also showed cemetery visitors an artist's rendition of the execution of 38 Sioux Indians at Mankato on Dec. 26, 1862.

Alan served four years in the U.S. Army, serving in Japan and Korea. He carried a master plumber's license, was a refrigeration engineer and held a pump license.

Moving close to the border between the city cemetery and St. Columbanus Catholic Cemetery, visitors heard Keith Holman provide background on the town physician, Dr. Benedik Melby.

"Much of this information provided was only the tip of the iceberg," said Kittelson.

Blooming Prairie Mayor H. Peterson, walking the route of the cemetery tour, said it was "very enlightening."

Linda (Krejci) Klemmensen traced history of her grandfather, father and uncles, all involved in the newspaper business in Blooming Prairie. Linda's mother Ardis Krejci was seated next to her during Linda's presentation.

Now, visitors stepped across the road into the St.

Columbanus Cemetery and visited with Ernie Betlach and his nephew Brian (Barney).

Ernie, 93, told of his involvement with a gas station in Blooming Prairie. Ernie remembers gas selling at 6 cents a gallon.

During his 93 years, he said his places of residence have not been more than 50 yards apart. Ernie is a World War II veteran, of the U.S. Navy serving from 1943-46. He served in the South Pacific.

Next, cemetery walkers heard Steve Wencil talk about the history of Archie Bell who was involved in bootlegging in the BP area. He was arrested in Owatonna and convicted.. He came back to BP and opened a liquor store until 1954.

More prohibition history was provided by Jerry and Judy Coggins of the Twin Cities. Judy said bootlegging was a big operation in the 1930s.

Nearing the final stop on the cemetery walk, participants heard Jeff Zwiener talk about

his family tree. He talked about his grandfather being nicknamed "Shine." We don't know why, said Zwiener, expressing pride in his German heritage.

Zwiener talked about many locals going to Civil War. He said the oldest burial in the St. Columbanus Cemetery was 1793 with Aaron Pettie. He served in the War of 1812.

Becky Noble, BP Area Chamber of Commerce executive director spoke about the Ferringtons and Brainerds being part of BP history.

Jack Brainerd was elected to the Minnesota Legislature in 1894. He later was part of the movement to start a bank in Blooming Prairie. As a side story, Noble told about the First National Bank being blown up by robbers who ran away with \$3500.

Both cemeteries have made efforts to be restored, said Kittelson proudly. "We hope to do this tour again sometime," she added.



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Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

One visitor who participated in the Blooming Prairie Cemetery Walk on Saturday, July 1 came all the way from Anchorage, Alaska. He was Vincent Holman, three-year-old grandson of Carol and Keith Holman.

Returning to a time gone by

LITTLE THOUGHTS
ON THE PRAIRIE



MARK
DELAP

The fact that the Fourth of July was on a Tuesday this year added to the longevity of the celebration that, for all intents and purposes, began the previous Friday as campers and visitors began pulling into Blooming Prairie.

The streets were abuzz with the anticipation of the coming events of the next four days and for a town of almost 2,000, it started to look like a small metropolis. Vendors were already setting up for the Saturday Ribfest.

With all the large crowds in a small community, the attitude was festive and Blooming Prairie police officer Dan Peach said that there were no major altercations. Most found it a time to return to the old-fashioned fun of a bygone era.

Ribfest vendors and contestants in the rib cooking contests had some of their grills and smokers going early and many BP residents awoke to the smell of the sweet south making the morning doughnuts seem insufficient and unsatisfying.

The event kicked off the old-fashioned Fourth of July in fine fashion as reports said that over 500 people had been served ribs. The band, Thrillbillies, who finished the night set with a large crowd catered to all ages and genres in the country music scene. It played well into the theme of what an old-fashioned county fair atmosphere was all about. Videos of the band and pictures can still be seen on the Steele County Facebook page.

Sunday was the Blooming Prairie birthday bash and things began with the thought that a younger generation would one day be leading us.

The kiddie parade began the birthday party with a parade down the local streets. This was followed by a large picture in the park where over 250 people appeared for the celebratory birthday photo.

There were balloons, birthday cake and ice cream honoring the towns 150th birthday. And, what would a birthday be without some incredible entertainment? Blooming Prairie’s own Janelle Kendal who has an incredible band called “Walter’s Wheelhouse,” and in addition to wowing the crowd with popular pop-music from two centuries, shared some great Blooming Prairie memories. Videos from the band and pictures from the day can be seen at the Steele County Facebook pages.

Lemar Nelson, a longtime resident of Blooming Prairie and who rode in the parade as a cancer survivor offered up this summation of how the big Fourth of July festivities started.

“The annual Lions club breakfast on the Fourth of July morning surpassed last year’s total and appeased the appetites of the many who took advantage of the opportunity for a wholesome breakfast. Lions club President Per Kvalsten, who made up part of the cleanup crew after the closing commented. It turned out to be a pleasant morning and a well-attended event. It couldn’t have gone any better.” Lion member H Peterson remarked, “We served approximately 450 people, which made the breakfast almost 100 better patrons this year. That was great news for the organization.

“The annual breakfast at Prairie Manor provides a fitting start to all of the Fourth of July activities carried on throughout the day. The event is just one of many projects carried on by the local Lions club throughout the year, projects that benefit several community projects and causes.”

There was a 5K race and tractor pulls, hula-hoop contests, bands playing into the nights, helicopter rides and a spectacular fireworks display that arrived and

finished just moments before it began to storm and hail.

Perhaps nature’s grand finale was a fitting tribute to a day that many will remember for a lifetime.

Here are some of the winners from some of the contests at the extravaganza:

Winners for Pedal Tractor Pull

- 4 yr olds - Landon Lindell of Rosemount
- 5 yr olds - Weston Johnson of Ellendale
- 6 yr olds - Alec Wyrum of Hartland
- 7 yr olds - Landon Olivio of Blooming Prairie
- 8 yr olds - Logan Beadell of Blooming Prairie
- 9 yr olds - Hope Miskell of Ellendale
- 10 yr olds - Lucas Smith of Blooming Prairie
- 11 yr olds - Kyah Miskell of Ellendale

Winner of Pie contest Lily Graves of Blooming Prairie . It was a fabulous French Silk pie with a wonderful flaky homemade crust!!

Winner of Pickle was “Daniel’s grandma” with a jar of fantastic Dill Pickles!!!

The first five to walk/run 150 miles were Ron Fisher, Marcy Sundine, Brian Betlach, Connie Haberman, & Carol Iverson. They were all done with their 150 miles by June 26!

Tractor Pull Results:

- Farm Stock
- 3,500 – 1st Paul Haberman – Ellendale, 2nd Allen Yule – Medford
- 4,500 – 1st Jarrett Larson – BP, 2nd – Brad Spinler – Morristown
- 5,500 – 1st John Rehtzigel – Kenyon, 2nd Sid Kasper – Northfield
- 6,500 – 1st John Kraling – BP, 2nd Jacob Holst – Dexter
- 7,500 – 1st Carl Larish – Kenyon, 2nd Kristin Krell – BP
- 8,500 – 1st Justin Krell – BP, 2nd Brad Spinler – Morristown
- 9,500 – 1st Dean Wegge – Owatonna, 2nd Tom Strand – Ellendale
- 12,000 – 1st Lucas Bailey – Ellendale, 2nd Mark Lee – Ellendale

Antique/Classic

- 4,000 – 1st Marty Schott – Nicollet, 2nd Jarrett Larson

- BP
- 4,500 – 1st Jarrett Larson
- BP, 2nd Jarrett Larson – BP
- 5,000 – 1st Tony Foster – Ellendale, 2nd Jerry Schultz – New Richland
- 5,500 – 1st Jonny Kraling – BP, 2nd Tony Foster – Ellendale
- 6,000 – 1st Jerry Schultz – New Richland, 2nd Tim Nelson – Ellendale
- 6,500 – 1st Jerry Schultz – New Richland, 2nd Jonny Kraling – BP
- 7,500 – 1st Elwood Wittler – Rochester, 2nd Jonny Kraling – BP
- 8,500 – 1st Jonny Kraling – BP, 2nd Scott Basness – BP
- 9,500 – 1st Sydney Basness – BP, Derek Lee – Ellendale

Open Class

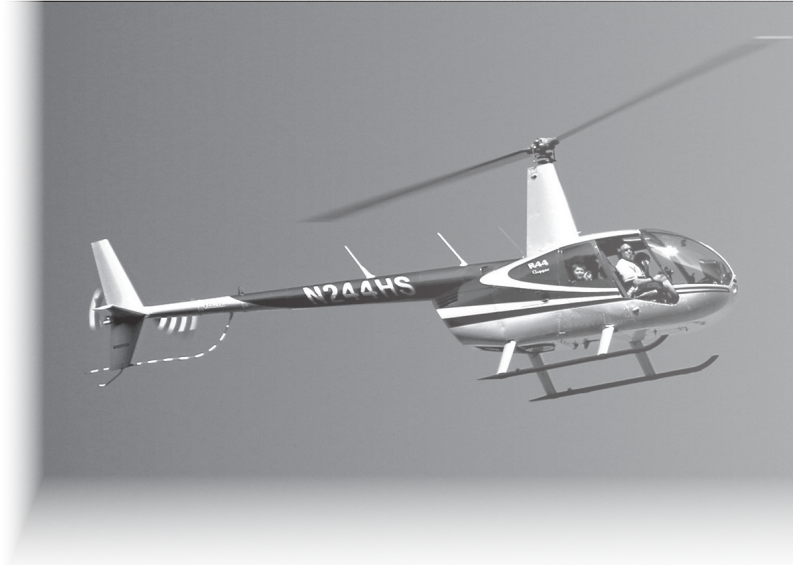
- 4,100 – 1st Tony Foster – Ellendale, 2nd Joe Reese – Geneva
- 4,600 – 1st Joe Reese – Geneva, 2nd Butch Vlasak – Montgomery
- 5,600 – 1st Marty Schott – Nicollet, 2nd Joe Hinderscheik – New Prague
- 6,600 – 1st John Kraling – BP, 2nd Marty Schott – Nicollet
- 7,600 – 1st Jason Davis, 2nd John Kraling – BP
- 8,600 – 1st Dylan Mortensen – Pemberton, 2nd Justin Mortensen – Pemberton

Antique/Classic

- 10,500 – 1st Brian Duban – Lonsdale, 2nd Lucas Bailey – Ellendale

5K Results

- Women 60 and over
- Mary Kittleson
- Women 50-59
- Amy Coker
- Women 40-49
- Jennifer Johnson
- Women 30-39
- Emily Beugen
- Women 20-29
- Kuri Peterson
- Women 19 and under
- Jesse Schewe
- Men 60 and over
- John Holst
- Men 50-59
- Carl Walters
- Men 40-49
- Mario Minelli
- Men 30-39
- Gary Tashima
- Men 20-29
- Andreas Braclich
- Men 19 and under
- Alec Ille



Flying the Fourth

By MARISSA LARSON
Staff Intern

This Independence Day, Blooming Prairie commemorated its 150th Old-Fashioned 4th of July Celebration. Once again, this small town did not disappoint, but rather brought in well over 25,000 people for the festivities. Perhaps one of the largest attractions

was something new this year: helicopter rides. Ride the Sky Helicopters were staged across the road from Victory Field. Rides began at 9:00 in the morning and were scheduled to wrap up at 6:00 in the evening. However, they proved to be a big hit, as they continued well into dusk. The wait time at any given point was typically around 45 minutes.

A short ride, lasting for about 4 minutes, costed \$80 for two riders and \$100 for three. To double the experience, passengers could go for an 8 minute ride costing \$120 for two, or \$150 for three. Fellow intern Seth Bedenbaugh and I were lucky enough to experience our first helicopter rides here in our very own hometown. After a lengthy wait, it

was finally our turn. As the people ahead of us landed, we ran with the workers to the landing site and loaded. Before we knew it, we were lifting off the ground. I am usually not a fanatic about heights, which accounted for the uneasiness in my stomach during take-off. Despite the initial discomfort, my attention soon shifted to the breath-taking view. Seeing

the town I’ve known for 18 years from a birds’ eye perspective was amazing. The pilot flew us over the fields, but we mainly circled around above Blooming Prairie. We got a good look at the city outline, as well as businesses, residential areas and the Pine Springs Pool. I was expecting a sudden plunge of a landing, but it couldn’t have been any

smoother. Another Independence Day is in the books, and to no surprise, Americans flocked into small town Blooming Prairie from every which direction. You never really know what festivities are going to make their way, but this year everyone who found the helicopters will tell you it is a memory to hold onto.

130 pictorial cancels given out for BP 150th

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Blooming Prairie postal officials were busy helping customers savor 150 years of history of this small town on Friday, June 30. To celebrate the 150th anniversary, a 150th anniversary committee led by the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce worked with the United States Postal Service in sponsoring a day to affix pictorial cancels to mailings going out on this date. Some of the cancels were placed on envelopes which were designed to be kept as collector’s items. All envelopes carried proper First Class postage. Michele A. Lawson, Officer in Charge at the BP Post Office, said 55 individuals brought in items to be cancelled. She said 130 pictorial cancels were given out. Blooming Prairie resident Brad Trom brought in 48 envelopes to be cancelled. He purchased special colored #10 envelopes that contained a variety of postage stamps including the American flag and stamps honoring President John F. Kennedy. The Post Office really got into the swing of promoting



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Customers at the Blooming Prairie Post Office on Friday, June 30 were able to get a special pictorial cancel commemorating the 150th birthday of Blooming Prairie. Here, Postmaster Michele Lawson cancels a letter. The 150th logo was created by Carol Iverson of the 150th committee.

this commemorative event. A spinning wheel was set up in the interior lobby, giving customers a chance to spin a wheel for prizes including pens, key chains and special

prizes. The special cancel contained the 150th logo created by 150th committee member Carol Iverson.



Staff photo by Seth Bedenbaugh

Pam Ingvalson showing off the first place Dill Pickles. There were two participants for the pickle contest, and the winner was a Blooming Prairie resident.

Pick of the pickles and pie

By SETH BEDENBAUGH
Staff Intern

This 4th of July, Blooming Prairie’s City Park was packed with food, friends and festivities. Of the many contests, one was a Pickle and Pie Eating Contest. At 12:30 p.m., several participants gathered on the stage on the north side of the park. There was three contestants overall, one pie participant and two pickles.

After the judges got a taste of each homemade creation, a winner for each food category was chosen. Lily Graves of Blooming Prairie took first in the pie contest. “I found this French Silk Pie recipe in a cookbook,” quoted Graves. The winner of the pickle contest was also a resident of Blooming Prairie. She made some tasty dill pickles. A \$20 award was given out to the winners of each

category; the Chamber of Commerce sponsored the money. Pam Ingvalson helped run the event. She hopes for a better turn out next year, “We would love to have more entrance next year.” Ingvalson said. When Independence Day rolls around next year, consider joining the pickle and pie-eating contest.

Music and food star at ribfest

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Writer

If a lot of people were complaining last Saturday night of a stomachache, one could probably blame it on the 7th annual ribfest at the BP Servicemen’s Club. A steady stream of enthusiasts roamed the venue all day and into the night, feasting on ribs, chicken wings, a free pulled pork dinner, and plenty of “down home” music, which entertained the crowd throughout the entire event. Thirteen competitors cooked up a tantalizing recipe of ribs and chicken wings all afternoon, and approximately 600 hungry eaters took advantage of the event. Winners of the rib competition included Chris Lee, 1st’ Andy Evans, 2nd’ and Joe Week, 3rd. Steak winners were Ron Hoffman, 1st; Shawn Sundine, 2nd; Pat

Roles, 3rd. Best BBQ sauce awards went to Chris Lee, 1st; Shawn Sundine, 2nd; Rich Clark, 3rd. Raffle winners included Ali Hoesktra, 1st; David Wradislavsky, 2nd; and Elaine Vermilyea 3rd. Leza Engle took home raffle planter raffle. Tickets for the raffles had been sold in advance and also at the ribfest itself. Finally, the awards for the kids’ hamburger cook-off went to Brandon Week ,1st; Jayden Kvalsten, 2nd; Ryan Week, 3rd. The competition proved stiff in all categories, and it provided great enjoyment for cooks and food enthusiasts alike. A number of people also took advantage of a free meal of pulled pork, baked beans, and cole slaw. Of course, the food was just one part of the day’s entertainment. A last year’s favorite, the Potluck String Band, had

onlookers listening avidly and even tapping their toes and doing little dances, with almost three hours of good country tunes. The band proved very popular last year, and it was a welcome return for the day. Later in the evening, The Thrillbillies, a country trio, took the stage and wound up the event’s musical performances. While the rib competition and the music filled the space, a number of kids took part in several games in the Firemen’s Park across the street from the Servicemen’s Club. A bounce house, dunk tank, and other games remained busy throughout the proceedings. Visitors in attendance had favorable comments about the entire event. One anonymous visitor remarked, “This was a lot of fun, and both the food and the music provided fun entertainment”. Lions

Club President, and activity volunteer Per Kvalsten added, “I thought the affair was well organized, and the kids’ games pleased the little ones. I would have hoped for an even bigger crowd, but I think the club did okay. At least I hope so.” Unit director Marcy Sundine remarked, “It looks like we will do pretty well. A steady stream of patrons has been wandering the area most of the day.’ Although a receipt total still was unavailable, the event sponsor, the BP Boys & Girls Club, reported enough success, which should help continue the programming for the rest of the year. The 100 members of the club and the 90 who are participating in the summer program continue to have a great time with all the activities. It should be noted that on Sept. 5, the Boys & Girls Club will officially

dissolve its partnership with Rochester and will become the Blooming Prairie Youth Club. The Club wants to thank the many supporters of its program that will make it possible to continue the work

and operation of a youth club in Blooming Prairie. The club gets active support from many individuals and businesses, and it ensures continued operation of this valuable community organization



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Little Norah Hull, 2, of Faribault, enjoys some barbecue wings at the 7th Annual Ribfest in Blooming Prairie on Saturday, July 1.



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

The Sesquicentennial celebration for the Blooming Prairie Fourth of July celebration included a parade that featured over 100 different entries. Following the Blooming Prairie police cars was the official banner that would forever go down in history as “THE 150th parade.”



Staff photos by Rick Bussler

Left: Johnson Construction of Blooming Prairie appropriately showed off a big log during the annual Fourth of July parade. The chamber estimates about 25,000 people attended the parade. Right: A banner marking Blooming Prairie’s sesquicentennial is displayed on a light pole along Main Street with the BP water tower in the background. The city was founded in 1867.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

“It’s amazing someone will put together history on such an old tractor,” said an admirer of the work of Alan Severson, rural Blooming Prairie. Severson is responsible for building The Big Four during a seven-year time span. The tractor was manufactured by Gas Tractor Co., patented in 1905, 07 and 1910. Samantha Johnston and Stevie Johnston and dad Travis Johnston are shown with the tractor on display near Victory Field during the 4th of July celebration in Blooming Prairie.



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

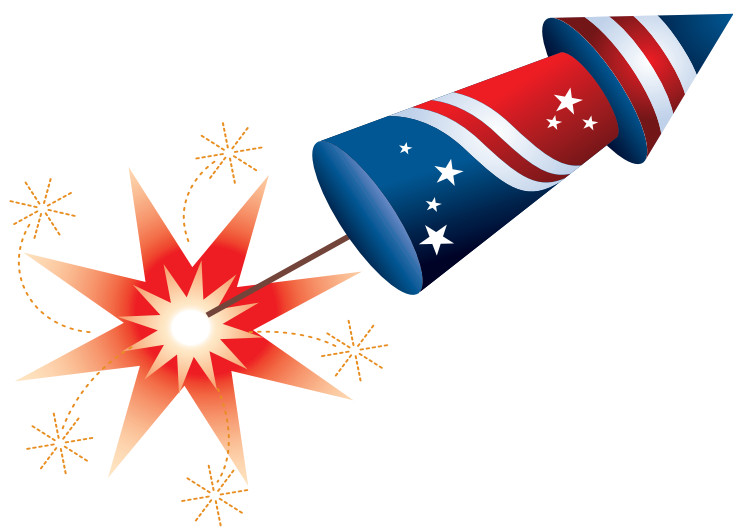
The Fourth of July parade featured many unique units, including a fire-breathing dragon run by a Shriners Club that blew off some steam as it passed by parade goers. Other Shriners Clubs from around the area also participated in the parade riding motorcycles and small-motorized cars in elaborate patterns.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Birthday guests at Blooming Prairie’s 150th birthday party at Central Park on Sunday, July 2 had an opportunity to have their photo taken by Jay Iverson, BP fireman. He took the photo from the city fire truck

Kids rule the Fourth



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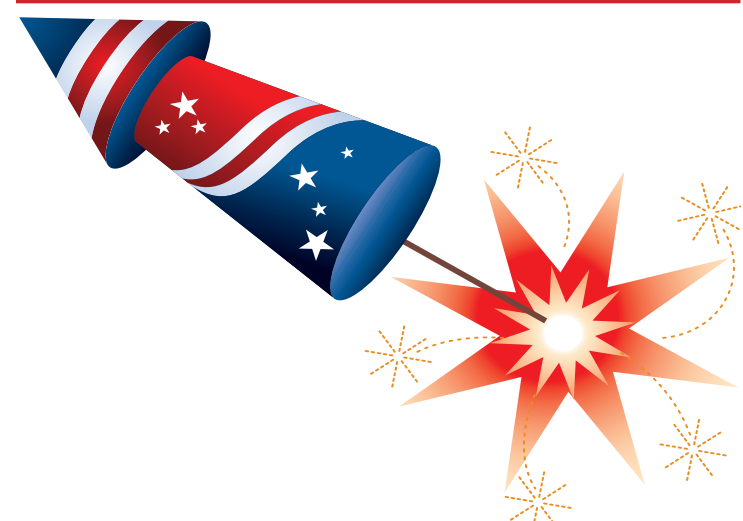
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