

*Serving
Blooming Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893*

OUR VIEW

With freedom comes enormous responsibility

In 1776, the founding fathers of a new nation declared independence from Great Britain. Those 13 colonies would become the United States of America. Four years later, the dream of independence was realized.

This Fourth of July we are celebrating the 240th anniversary of winning that independence from a tyrannical monarchy.

Ironically, 2020 is marked by internal turmoil, much like that which was evident 244 years ago. On this Independence Day it might be appropriate for all citizens to reflect on the thoughts that went into the founding of this nation.

“On every question of construction (let us) carry ourselves back to the time when the Constitution was adopted, recollect the spirit manifested in the debates, and instead of trying what meaning may be squeezed out of the text or invented against it, conform to the probable one in which it was passed,” our Constitution’s author Thomas Jefferson stated years after it was passed as our founding document.

His words ring true to day. Our nation was founded on principles of freedom, freedom from a tyrannical government.

“The power under the Constitution will always be in the people. It is entrusted for certain defined purposes and for a certain limited period, to representatives of their own choosing; and whenever it is executed contrary to their interest, or not agreeable to their wished, their servants can and undoubtedly will be recalled,” said the nation’s first President George Washington.

In a nutshell, Washington was reminding those to whom he was speaking (and future generations of this great nation, that while the U.S. is a representative republic, the government is embedded in the will of the people. Those truths remain in place today.

We have learned in the first six months of 2020 we have differing opinions of what America should be. Some are advocating for the status quo. Others want to move toward a socialistic form of governance. Still others want to move into the breach of all out revolution.

Whatever our outcome might be as a result of today’s turmoil one thing remains:

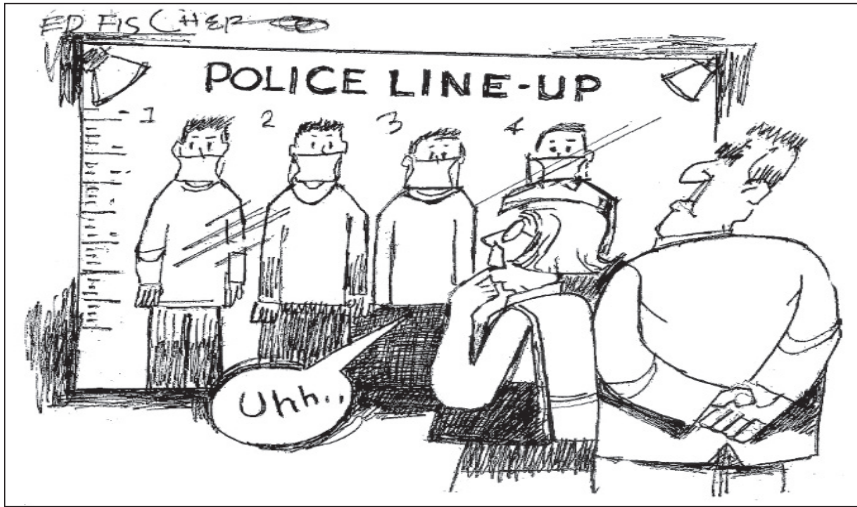
“If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable to government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself,” stated The Federalist, No. 51 – Essays by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and James Madison.

Power is given to the government by “We the people...” and has never been rescinded. However, it would appear that our representatives and senators have been locked in on the notion that they are the source of power. It is our right and responsibility to manage the control of their representative power either by our vote at the ballot box or by enacting term limits.

While we celebrate July Fourth on Saturday, let’s keep in mind our responsibility extends far beyond flipping burgers, brats and spending time at the pool.

Once again we have an enormous responsibility in November. Yes, we will choose a president, but we will also be charged with the selection our representatives and senators at the national and state levels of government.

Between now and Nov. 3, we must take our responsibility as voters to understand the principles driving each candidate who wants to serve as our representative. It’s not about Democrat or Republican, socialist or Green Party, but rather, the platform on which a candidate is running for election. Does the candidate’s ideas mesh with the will of the people?



GUEST COLUMN

Session ends in frustration

BY PEGGY BENNETT

I want to update you on the many nuances of our recent special session, which ended in frustration early Saturday morning.

The legislature was called into special session on Friday, June 12 due to the Governor extending his emergency powers for another 30 days. Under law, a governor must call the legislature into session whenever his/her emergency powers are extended to give the legislature the opportunity to deny that extension. While a bipartisan majority in the Senate voted to end the Governor’s unilateral decision making, the Minnesota House DFL majority did not, meaning the extension continues.

While in special session, lawmakers were expected to address several topics, including a bonding bill, the distribution of federal COVID funds to local units of government, and police accountability. After a week of discussions, talks broke down and both the House and Senate adjourned.

SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS

A plan passed by both bodies was approved that will provide grants (rather than loans) to small businesses that were forced to close due to Governor Walz’ executive orders. The bill provides \$30 million in grants for Greater Minnesota and \$30 million for the metro area. Each awarded grant will be up to \$10,000. Applications

will be accepted by DEED until July 2, after which grantees will be selected by lottery.

POLICE REFORM

There were a number of law enforcement accountability provisions brought forward that an overwhelming majority of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle supported, including proposals like bans on chokeholds and requiring officers to step in if a fellow officer is using excessive force on a suspect. There were also more extreme provisions proposed by some, such as dismantling police departments and felon voting. In the end, none of the provisions came to fruition.

SEE SESSION ENDS, A7

A scary moment while in search of fair food

By now, everyone probably is aware of my love for the fairs. As many fair lovers are finding out this year, the COVID-19 pandemic is crimping our lifestyle for the summer.

On Saturday, I set out in the search of fair food to at least wet my appetite with some treats. I brought my oldest daughter and my parents along for the Drive-In Dairy Days at the Steele County Fairgrounds.

As soon as we got there, our eyes collectively zeroed in on the gyro stand. Despite the long line, we decided to jump in to wait for our gyros. Little did we know what was yet to come, a wait that would even test the most patient person in the world and a scary moment to top it off.

While my daughter and mother waited in line, I began snapping some photos and interviewing people at the promotion. I came back several times to check on them and it seemed like they had hardly moved an inch. I found I had plenty of time to get done what I needed.

I later found out there had at one time earlier in the day when as many as 75 people waited in line for gyros. Part of the problem was the gyro vendor was running the show by himself with-



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

out any help, which, of course, slowed down everything tremendously.

Once they got closer to the window, I joined them in line. And it’s a good thing I did.

As I looked over at my mother, I noticed she was beginning to sway and stumble on her feet, giving the impression she was about to go down. I quickly grabbed onto her and we found a stool to have her sit down. No sooner had we done that, and she went completely out and starting turning colors. She fell backwards off the stool. Luckily, between my daughter and I, we were able to prevent her from falling hard onto the pavement.

A bystander quickly called 911 and within minutes Mayo Ambulance arrived to help my mom. I was relieved to see paramedic Rick Ellingson, whom I’ve gotten to know over the years, along with another para-

medic. I knew my mother was in good hands.

It turned out my mother fainted from dehydration. She had been in the gyro line for almost two hours under a hot sun with no shade in sight. She had a water bottle, but unfortunately, had not taken a sip of it during the entire time. We quickly pumped her with some fluids and she sprung back to life in no time. After finding her vitals were normal, the paramedics gave her the clean bill of health to continue on with her evening still in search of fair food.

By now, we had reached the gyro window. Seeing what happened, the vendor was gracious enough to give my mother a gyro for her trouble. We jokingly told mom later that she’d do anything to get a free gyro. Our search for fair food turned up more than we bargained for, but mom is fine. We are just thankful it wasn’t something more serious.

I hope this also provides everyone with an important lesson. Do not mess around in warm temperatures and keep yourself hydrated with lots of fluids, particularly water.

And certainly it’s vital if you’re going in hot pursuit of more fair foods at other events throughout the summer.

YOUR VIEW

Work together and keep wearing masks

To-the-Editor:

Steele County is a community of philanthropic spirit, breadth of culture, and opportunity and diversity of industry and local businesses. At United Way of Steele County, we take our mission to heart: Together, we change lives by mobilizing and optimizing the caring power of our community.

COVID-19 and emergency orders to mitigate it have had significant impact to our community. Changing Schedules, processes, perspectives, and reactions have affected every citizen of Steele County. Many are confused about the messages they read and hear. People are asking:

- How can I help?
- Is re-opening our local economy safe?
- How can I protect myself and my neighbors?

Thank you for the leadership you provide to this community, without which, we wouldn’t be as vibrant as we are! We believe that a united mes-

sage will help to clear up confusion and promote community safety and prosperity. Together we can set a strong example, while organically slowing or reducing the spread of the virus by:

- Wearing masks around others. Supporting our local economy is important, as is acknowledging local cases are on the rise. Things are not back to “normal,” and we must continue to model and encourage taking recommended precautions such as wearing masks.
- Expressing sensitivity to how our neighbors and friends are dealing with this. For example, “We respect your opinion.” “Let’s do the hard work together,” “Let’s take care of one another, especially those most at risk.”
- Sharing a consistent message. The United Way of Steele County and you, our trusted community leaders, must ask; “How are we protecting our neighbors?”, “How are

we leading by example?”, and “What have we learned that could be shared with our community?”

We appreciate you and the work you are doing. Will you join us in continuing to wear masks and encourage others to do so? We are turning to you with optimism that Steele County residents can continue to work together and rely on one another during this incredibly difficult time.

We would love the opportunity to partner with you in this safety campaign and post pictures on our website of you rocking your favorite mask. We look forward to additional dialog on this topic. We can be reached at 507-455-1180 or via email at uwadmin@unitedways-teelecounty.org.

United Way of Steele County Executive Board
Dave Albrecht, Jane Rolloff, Shane Sattler, Rachel Peterson, Faizal Lakha, Jeff Elstad, Stephanie Olson

Pensive thoughts

Shhh---
Be still.
Be still, be silent.
Turn off the world.
Relax your busy, worried mind, if just for a moment, or an hour.
Even better, give your soul peace, for an entire day.
Appreciate what God has given for you to cherish and love, often referred to as gifts from above.
Your family, your

friends, all of those upon whom you depend.
Be in awe of the sun on this beautiful day.
Those singing birds, the wonderful children at play.
Show your love for all whom you meet.
Give a warm greeting to all people you might meet on the street.
Count all the blessings, which God has provided, for your use on earth.

Look around you at all of this, for nothing do you own.
As has been said many times, “From God, all this is just on loan.”
Nothing but you, is displayed, at the Funeral Home. Turn off the world Be still, be silent, Shhh---
May you rest in final Peace.

Bud Peka
Owatonna

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Times

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A state and national award winning weekly

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

2020—9 state awards

2019—7 state awards

2018—6 state and 4 national awards

2017—2 state and 3 national awards

2016—8 state and 6 national awards

2015—7 state and 4 national awards

2014—3 state and 5 national awards

2013—7 state and 2 national awards

2012—2 state awards

2011—4 national awards

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

COURTS DELIVER: FROM A1

high” and “high” priority cases through remote technology. Within the past few weeks, things have loosened up somewhat where more cases are now being taken on remotely by the courts. Courthouses across the state opened at least one public service counter on June 15.

“As in so many walks of life, the situation is less than ideal,” admits Steele County District Court Judge Karen Duncan. But she and other court personnel are doing their best to make the most of a tough situation during these unprecedented times. “We continue to strive to serve the public to the best of our abilities in ensuring both safety and justice,” she said.

Court administrator Robin Hoesley says it has been a “very challenging” time for everyone in the court system. She pointed out that Zoom requires more court resources in which it basically takes an extra person just to facilitate the technology part of it all. “Extra time is needed to have a good Zoom experience,” she said.

This is Hoesley’s second major crisis in her five years with Steele County. A few years ago a pipe burst in the courthouse, displacing the courts for almost a year. While that experience was not easy and proved to be challenging, she said she would rather go through another pipe burst than deal with the COVID crisis, which has

placed a greater strain on her department. Keeping the public’s best interests in mind has been a focus of the courts through this coronavirus crisis. “We are happy to be working and are thankful to be in an area where all the agencies involved in the criminal justice system have worked and continue to work collaboratively to ensure we are doing everything we can to mitigate the damage and inconvenience to court users,” Duncan said.

During the pandemic, Duncan has been working from the courthouse generally while Judge Joseph Buetel is usually working remotely. In Duncan’s case, she comes to the courthouse because her home internet is not stable enough to reliably handle a full Zoom court session.

For Judge Duncan, utilizing remote technology brings on a variety of advantages and disadvantages. She said the benefits of using Zoom are it saves people time, travel costs and can make people feel a bit less anxious because they are participating from familiar surroundings such as their own living rooms or cars.

But there are also drawbacks to using Zoom. Duncan said there can be a lack of privacy, such as joining the session by speaker phone in the parking lot at work, anxiety over using the technology and deficits in the technology.

The courts have allowed those people who do not have internet or who have unstable internet to participate by phone. “Those who can only participate by phone (without video) face problems when other participants are being both seen and heard by the Court and each other while the one participant is only heard and can only hear but not see other participants,” Duncan said. She pointed out research shows that successful communication is part verbal but also in large part nonverbal.



Judge Karen Duncan

“This is a challenge for everyone,” Duncan said. “Judges have additional concerns for hearings in which one or more participant has a chemical health problem. We can spot signs of use/impairment when we are all together in court but those cues are much harder to pick up over video and/or phone.”

Zoom technology also produces concerns for the court regarding the lack of formality. “The trapping of court—the austere surrounds, the flags, the deputies, the judge’s black robe—are meant to serve as a reminder to people of the seriousness

of the business conducted in the courtroom,” said Duncan, who has been on the bench since 2013. “I do worry that litigants may not as thoughtfully consider the choices they are making when they are participating in a court hearing using the same technology as they may use to chat with family and friends,” she said. “The hearing may feel like no big deal, but choices made can carry long-term consequences,” she added.

Generally speaking, Duncan said, no one would contemplate breaking out a snack during a hearing or lighting up a smoke, but both have happened during remote hearings. “We are trying to always remind people at the outset that this is a court proceeding and that everyone must behave in the same manner as if they were physically present in the courtroom,” she said.

Another challenge Duncan has found with remote hearings is being able to determine whether someone is fully understanding what is happening. “The stress and anxiety of a court proceeding can too often cause someone to agree with everything just to get the hearing done,” she acknowledges. “But as judges we have a responsibility to do what we can to make sure that people truly do understand what is happening in their cases.”

There are other significant challenges that can potentially impact the delivery of justice, according to Duncan. “Not seeing



people can not only make it harder to fairly assess the litigants’ relative credibility, but it also prevents the Court from knowing if there is another person or persons in proximity to a litigant or witness who might be impacting the testimony,” Duncan says.

Handling exhibits during contested proceedings is particularly “fraught with peril” for people representing themselves, Duncan said. The most common example is that someone has a photograph or text message on their phone that they want to show the judge, but they are using the phone to appear for the hearing. “If a person is participating in the remote hearing using their phone, a lot of time is consumed trying to find a work-around to get the evidence submitted,” she noted. “Sometimes people elect not to use that potential evidence because it is too hard to figure out the technology. This can affect the outcome of a case,” she added.

With remote technology, Duncan finds herself spending more time getting things done and done properly, which results in it taking more time to accomplish less.

Duncan empathizes with people who are frustrated that their cases did not fit the court’s definition of being a priority. Minnesota Chief Justice Lorie Gildea set the perimeters of what district courts would take on during the pandemic. Duncan said many people are still waiting for their previously scheduled hearings to be reset.

In Steele County, things haven’t been as backlogged in the courts as other areas of the state, Duncan said. “We move our cases fairly quickly as compared to some other Minnesota counties,” she said. “We were fortunate to not have much of a backlog when the first emergency order was issued. So the snowballing backlog has not been as large for us as it is in other places.”

Duncan pointed out court staff in Steele County is working diligently and efficiently to get the backlogged hearings scheduled back onto the court calendar. She added attorneys and people representing themselves can contact court administration for scheduling if there is a reason to expedite their cases.

Judge outlines what’s ahead for future court

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

After months of shutdown from the COVID-19 pandemic, the courthouse and courtrooms are back open for business in Steele County. Well, sort of.

Hearings that were public hearings before are still public hearings, and the public and press can come to court to observe hearings. However, if participants are using

Zoom, public spectators will be watching the participants on a TV screen at the courthouse.

District Court Judge Karen Duncan noted the courthouse is being “diligently cleaned and sanitized daily” by county staff. Sanitation supplies are readily available for people to use while at the courthouse. She highly encourages people to wear masks when they

SEE JUDGE OUTLINES, A7

Steele pushes past 200 mark for COVID-19 cases

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A jump of 22 cases has pushed Steele County past the 200 mark of positive cases for COVID-19, Public Health Director Amy Caron said Monday.

Steele County has now recorded 215 cases since the pandemic began in March, according to Caron. Of those cases, 166 have recovered, two are currently hospitalized and there have been no deaths. Caron said 80% of Steele County’s cases have involve people in the 18-59 age group. “That tells me our more vulnerable population (65 and older) is doing a good job of isolating themselves and staying in their home,” she said.

In Dodge County, there have been nine new cases over the past week. There are 79 confirmed cases with 57 recovered,

no current hospitalizations and no deaths.

“Some of our stats are back up again,” Caron said. “It’s kind of a roller coaster.”

Caron attributes some of the increases in both counties over the past week to the cluster cases at bars and restaurants in the Twin Cities and Mankato areas.

Caron attributes the spikes to “people who have a false sense of security” right now. She said with bars and restaurants opening back up to 50% capacity, the surges in COVID are not totally unexpected.

Caron pointed out that in some states where they had an all or nothing approach to being open, some businesses are now being forced to shut back down because of large increases in COVID.

SEE STEELE PUSHES, A5

There are many **heroes** in our midst... but only **YOU** can help us identify them!



Let us know about your personal story of how a hero in our communities has touched your life during the coronavirus pandemic.

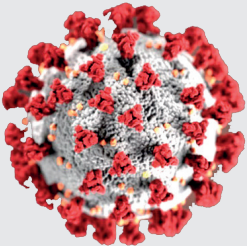
Share your hero and you could win a prize!

- In 200 or less words, send us details highlighting your hero and how they helped you survive COVID-19.
- Two easy ways to submit:
Email: bptimes@frontiernet.net
Mail: Steele County Times
 - P.O. Box 247
 - Blooming Prairie, MN 55917Please include: Name, Phone Number and Address and/or Email
- Submissions will be published in a special Hero section later this summer.
- **PRIZES** will be awarded to the best submissions as selected by our judges.
 - Gift Cards to area stores and restaurants
 - Subscriptions to the Times
- **HURRY!** Send your submissions by Friday, July 10

What’s your **COVID-19 HERO** story?
We’re waiting to hear from you today!



COVID-19 UPDATE



World.....10,200,000
Deaths503,000
Recovered....5,170,000

U.S.2,590,000
Deaths128,000
Recovered.....789,000

MN.....35,584
Deaths1,460
Recovered.....28,205

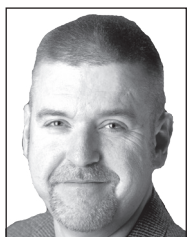
Steele.....215
Deaths0
Recovered.....166

Dodge 79
Deaths 0
Recovered..... 57

AS OF JUNE 29, 2020

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: At 12:18 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S.



Behind The Badge
SHERIFF SCOTT ROSE

Watching a handful of the nation’s larger school districts openly and enthusiastically cancelling contracts with their local law enforcement for their School Resource Officers leaves many of us in law enforcement both puzzled and concerned.

School District officials have indicated in many of these larger communities that the presence of armed police officers prohibits many students and staff from feeling fully safe. Some teachers and students say they consider officers in the schools a danger. Some districts complain of unnecessary use of force and targeting of minorities. While many of these districts have experienced problems, they would be better off tapping the brakes on this kind of drastic measure – put politics aside and look at the training and hiring process for these officers, look at the policies and procedures established, identify and focus on what your goals

SROs are more than safety

are, and move forward to improve these programs and continue to work to keep your schools and your kids safe.

One of the biggest goals for our School Resource Officer (Deputy Dave Skadson) in the Triton and Hayfield School Districts is to develop positive relationships and trust with our youth, and collaborate with educators and mental health professionals to proactively address safety issues in our schools. His goal is to develop those relationships, especially with at-risk students, and help guide them thru challenges and keep them out of the juvenile justice system. He also gets an opportunity to know the parents and help guide them to resources and assistance when needed. The relationships that Deputy Skadson has developed in the schools last beyond these kid’s school years – he has had young adults reach out to him after graduating with questions or problems they are dealing with because they trust him. There is nothing more valuable with this program than the opportunity for us to build relationships with our next generation of leaders.

Some people think of our deputy as simply armed security – School Resource

Officers (SROs) were never meant to be armed guards at the entrance. They are not hall monitors. They receive training in counseling and other skills that help them be effective problem solving with kids.

Obviously, safety is a primary goal. SROs increase safety in and around the schools; they increase perceptions of safety, and improve response times to emergencies within the schools and their events. Everyday Deputy Skadson heads out to the schools he knows there are hundreds of parents and community members relying on him to work closely with their school administration and community to help keep the campus’s safe.

We hand pick deputies for this position that we feel will best interact with and connect with the students and staff. These are some of the busiest law enforcement professionals we have. They don’t go in with the attitude of being there to make more arrests contrary to the belief of some – these men and women are trained to arrest when only absolutely necessary, while in most cases using their training and verbal communication skills to positively intervene when a problem comes up.

We are there to help

provide a sense of safety for the students as well as the staff. We all know there have been far too many tragic incidents of active shooters in schools across the United States over the last several years. Having an established SRO program in our schools not only builds relations and trust with the community and our kids, it also helps dissuade bad actors (students and adults) considering causing harm to our kids and the great men and women educating them.

We appreciate all the support we have received from both Triton and Hayfield Schools regarding our partnership, and we are very proud of the work Deputy Skadson does in our schools. As I have said many times before – your satisfaction is the greatest measure of our success.

If you have any questions about our program and the work we do in our schools, please email me at scott.rose@co.dodge.mn.us or feel free to call me at 507-635-6200.

Your Sheriff,
Scott

Scott Rose is in his second term as sheriff of Dodge County. He writes regularly for this newspaper.

CRIME BRIEF

Man charged as stolen gun surfaces in Owatonna home

A stolen handgun taken from a parking lot of a Twin Cities casino has surfaced in Owatonna.

On June 10, Owatonna Police assisted Prior Lake Police with a case that had ties to Owatonna. The case involved a handgun that was stolen out of a vehicle parked at Mystic Lake. According to police, surveillance video identified an Owatonna man as a suspect.

Later on June 10, an Owatonna officer spotted a vehicle believed to be used in the theft and two occupants were questioned about the theft. With information learned from the questioning, a search warrant was drafted for 422 N. Cedar Ave, police said.

During the search, the stolen Glock 9mm was recovered under a couch. Officers also found the suspect and arrested him. He was later heard stating that he should have “sent some rounds through the door,” police said.

Nicholas Dube, 27, of Owatonna has been charged with unlawful possession of a firearm and receiving stolen property, which are both felonies. Court records indicate Dube has been previously convicted of a crime of violence and is ineligible to possess a firearm.



Nicholas Dube

Police: Drive smart, slow down, obey speed limit

Extra Speed Enforcement underway until July 19

With reduced traffic the last several months, it would seem the risk on Minnesota roads would be reduced. Unfortunately, many drivers have chosen to use the open roads as a license to speed.

To help put the brakes on speed-related deaths and educate motorists, officers, deputies and troopers began working overtime shifts June 22 until July 19. Law enforcement agencies across the state will participate in the campaign coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS).

Excessive speeding over recent months is troubling and requires

Minnesotans to commit to slowing down this summer.

From April 1–May 21, the Minnesota State Patrol pulled over 232 drivers traveling more than 100 mph. That’s compared to 93 drivers during the same time period last year, a 149% increase. Of the 232 drivers, 179 were 30-years-old or younger.

Overall fatal crashes and fatalities from March 16-May 31 increased over last year despite reduced traffic.

While a crash can have more than one contributing factor, speed was the most frequently cited factor.

All fatal crashes and fatalities for March 16-May 31:

- 2020: 61 (67 deaths)
 - 2019: 52 (55 deaths)
 - 2018: 65 (71 deaths)
 - 2017: 62 (65 deaths)
 - 2016: 66 (70 deaths)
 - 2015: 81 (85 deaths)
- Preliminary reports show speed has already contributed to 36 motorists dying on Minnesota roads in 2020, compared with 27 at this time last year.
- Speed-related traffic fatalities:** 2010: 86, 2011: 85, 2012: 74, 2013: 76, 2014: 94, 2015: 78, 2016: 89, 2017: 88, 2018: 113, 2019: 75.
- Long-term trends are also discouraging. When comparing preliminary numbers for the five-year periods of 2010 – 2014 to 2015 – 2019:
- There has been a 7% increase in speed-related fatalities.

- In 2010-2014, 22% of all serious injuries were speed-related. In 2015-2019, it was 27%.
- “The open roads due to reduced traffic doesn’t give anyone a license to speed,” said Mike Hanson, OTS director. “Fewer vehicles on the road doesn’t mean less danger. And now with more vehicles on the road, going the speed limit and slowing down are critical to us all coming home to our loved ones at the end of the day.”
- Summer and Speed – Make the Safe Choice**
- Drivers who think speeding is not a big deal risk more than just a speeding ticket:
- During the 100 most traveled days (Memori-

- al Day – Labor Day) in 2019, preliminary numbers show speed played a role in 31 fatalities.
 - During the 100 most traveled days in the past five years (2015-2019), preliminary numbers show that 125 people lost their lives in speed-related crashes.
 - In 2019, speed was a contributing factor in 26 percent of single-vehicle crashes.
- Consequences**
- Citations could cost \$100 or more plus court fees.
 - Increased insurance fees.
 - A motor vehicle crash involving speed could result in criminal or civil penalties.
- Higher Speeds, Bigger Problems**

- Greater potential for loss of vehicle control.
 - Increased stopping distance.
 - Less time for driver response for crash avoidance.
 - Increased crash severity leading to more severe injuries and death.
- If Confronted With an Aggressive Driver:**
- Get out of their way; disengage. Move right, if you are able.
 - Stay calm – reaching your destination safely is your goal.
 - Do not challenge them.
 - Avoid eye contact.
 - Ignore gestures and don’t return them.
 - Report aggressive driving (vehicle description, license

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 15 with Judge Joseph A. Buellet presiding: Adam N. Miller, 37, Medford, previously appeared and was convicted of felony fleeing in motor vehicle and felony possession of cocaine or methamphetamine. He was sentenced to \$131 and 78 months in St. Cloud State Prison. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 15 – 21:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT
James A. Berg, 58, Eden Prairie, speeding, \$125; Soe Hping, 23, Austin, speeding, \$135; Preston L. Rieken, 19, Blooming Prairie, no insurance, \$275.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER
Ross C. Harding, 56, Rochester, speeding, \$115; Tanveer -E-Fatema R. Hassam, 35, Minneapolis, speeding, \$115; Philip C. Junkins, 52, Clinton,

WI, unsafe lane usage, \$125; Miranda L. Kluge, 21, Morristown, hands free violation, \$125; Kirk S. Layton, 65, Lubbock, TX, no ID for interstate carrier, \$175; Danielle A. Lynch, 19, St. Clair, speeding, \$115; Abdi H. Nuh, 46, Faribault, unsafe lane usage, \$125; Sai P. Pandiripally, 28, Rch Cucamonga, CA, speeding, \$215; Jose Pimentel Vazquez, 37, Faribault, no license, \$175; Hunter J. Reed, 20, Rollingstone, speeding, \$115; Jason J. Rich, 49, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Tristan S. Ringhofer, 19, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Tayla B. Rizzo, 21, West Palm Beach, FL, speeding, \$135; Delana M. Routh, 34, Elko New Market, illegal entry or exit on controlled access highway, \$125; Joshua T. Schroeder, 36, Rochester, seat belt, \$100; Shawn M. Smith, 48, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Jeffrey P. Valek, 44, Faribault, speeding, \$115; Randy L. Ward, 51, San Antonio, TX, speeding, \$135; William Wei, 27, Woodbury, speeding, \$125; Kloeey J. White, 17, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT
Charles A. Brooks, 37, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$131 and 105 days in county jail; Gerardo

A. Gutierrez Pacheco, 23, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Taylor M. Hartenstein, 20, Medford, hands free violation, \$125; Caleb A. Hernandez, 32, Owatonna, no child passenger restraint system, \$125; Julie A. Moe, 57, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Sobeida Valdespino-Castillo, 54, Medford, revoked license and hands free violation, \$325; Brandon D. Wencl, 25, hands free violation, \$125; Kayla A. Wimer-Wood, 31, Owatonna, speeding, \$135.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Mohamed M. Abrone, 32, Owatonna, permit violation, \$125; Jackson D. Baltazar-Miranda, 19, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$115; Sherri A. Bauer, 49, Owatonna, domestic assault, stay of adjudication, diversion program and 1 year of supervised probation; Dylan T. Coulter, 21, Lincoln, NE, speeding, \$115; Victor J. De Alba, 18, Owatonna, hands free violation and revoked license, \$325; Roy H. Dehoff, 36, West Concord, speeding, \$135; Bryanne A. Deno, 21, Albert Lea, speeding, \$115; Shannon J. Huckabee, 49, Hudson, WI, DWI, \$400, 1 day in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, substance

abuse subtle screening inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Bronte G. Karvel-Fuller, 27, Northfield, speeding, \$275; Adreana M. Laabs, 26, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Bryce T. McCarty, 20, Medford, hands free violation, \$125; Camerick A. Museus, 20, West Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$135; Derrick M. Nelson, 56, Claremont, DWI, \$400, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, substance abuse subtle screening inventory, 224 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Cameron J. Potz, 17, Clarks Grove, speeding, \$135; Keith B. Rapp, 59, Woodbury, speeding, \$115; Dante L. Robertson, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Paige K. Sailor, 21, Faribault, speeding, \$115; David M. Schoeneman, 18, Owatonna, stop sign, \$125.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of June 14 – 21:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Michael T. Carr Jr., 16, Owatonna, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Zachary M. Gedicke, 22, Owatonna, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Riley S. Krebs, 24, Rochester, domestic assault and possession of marijuana, 25 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, mental health evaluation, cognitive skill training, domestic abuse evaluation, no possession of firearms, 50 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Andrew T. Mitchener, 33, Goodhue, speeding, \$120; Brady W. Radke, 21, Oronoco, littering, \$180; Viridiana A. Villarreal, 18, Blooming Prairie, failure to yield and failure to keep to the right, \$180; Carl E. Weis, 65, Pine Island, failure to have burning permit, \$105.

Kasson Police Department

Steven Atkinson, 49, Morrison, CO, hands free violation, \$130; Garret A. Bauer, 36, Plum City, WI, DWI, \$480 and indeterminate amount of unsupervised probation; Heidi J. Blen, 34, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$130; Jonathan T. Burnes, 24, Kasson, possession of paraphernalia, \$180, write letter of apology; Sarah L. Casper-Rabe, 47, Mantorville, hands free violation, \$130; Brady R. Dahl, 21, Hayfield, hands free violation, \$130; Joshua J. Fjerstad, 44, Kasson, hands free violation, \$130; Samuel A. Lorentz, 28, Kasson, DWI, \$505, 2 days in county jail, 28 days of electronic home monitor, chemical dependency evaluation, and 1 year of unsupervised probation; John A. Lufkin, 34, Kasson, DWI, \$980, Ignition Interlock, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Shala L. Sanson, 31, Kasson, no insurance, stay of adjudication, \$180 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Jason T. Stromback, 44, Kasson, failure to obey traffic control device, \$130.

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RV Travel Tips in the Summer of COVID



THE SAVVY SENIOR

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Dear Savvy Senior,
Can you write a column on RV travel for novices? My husband and I have been cooped up all spring and summer because of the coronavirus and would like to take a trip using a rented RV but could use some tips and want to be safe.
Recently Retired

Dear Recently,
Recreational-vehicle (or RV) travel has become a very popular option among U.S. retirees over the past few decades and is probably one of the safest and most convenient ways to get away this summer.

Because it's a small home on wheels, RV travel will allow you to distance yourself from crowds of people and reduce your risk of COVID exposure that comes with other forms of travel, i.e. air/train travel, hotel/Airbnb lodging and eating in restaurants. But there are still risks – especially in public places like gas stations, shared restrooms and picnic areas – so exercise caution. If you've never traveled by motor home or RV, here are a few tips to consider.

Renting an RV

To help you determine the RV size and model you need for your trip, consider your budget, destination and the number of travelers. If it's just you and your husband, and you're visiting several locations and driving lots of miles you may want a smaller motor home with better fuel economy. But if you're taking other family members or friends, you may want a larger RV with slide outs and more sleeping areas. See GoRVing.com for a breakdown of all the different types of RVs available today.

To locate an RV rental dealer near you visit CruiseAmerica.com, one of the largest RV rental companies in the world or search the Recreation Vehicle Rental Association at RVRA.org. Or use peer-to-peer RV rental sites like RVshare.com or Outdoorsy.com, which are usually a little cheaper.

Rental costs will vary greatly depending on what you choose and how far you drive, ranging anywhere from \$50 up to \$500 per day.

When renting a rig, be sure you get detailed instructions from the owner or rental company on how to use the RV's systems, including the generator, air-conditioning, leveling, slide outs, electric and entertainment, as well as how to empty waste tanks and refill fresh water.

You should also know that because of COVID-19, most RV rental companies are vigilant about cleaning and disinfecting their units. But if you want to be extra safe, the CDC offers tips at CDC.gov/COVID19 – type "Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Home" in the search bar.

Trip Planning Tips

It's always wise to map out your trip route and reserve your campgrounds in advance, especially now during the pandemic, because some campgrounds and RV parks, as well as local, state, and national public parks may be closed or operating with restrictions.

A free tool that can help you plan your trip is Roadtrippers.com, which lets you plot out routes, calculate mileage and travel time, and will identify RV campgrounds, points of interest and restaurants along the way.

You should also consider becoming a Good Sam Club member (GoodSam.com/club, \$29/year), which provides access to its web-based trip planner, camping and fuel discounts, and a copy of the Good Sam Guide Series that features detailed information on more than 12,000 private RV parks and public campgrounds.

Most RV parks rent spaces on a nightly or weekly basis with rates typically ranging from \$30 to \$50 per night, however some in city and country parks may be \$10 or even free.

RV parks can also range from rustic facilities with limited or no utility hookups, as are more often found in state and national parks, to luxury resorts with amenities that rival fine hotels.

For first-time RV renters, staying at a fully loaded RV park or campground with full hookups, a dump station, and staff on site is highly recommended. Look at [Kampgrounds of America \(KOA.com\)](http://KampgroundsOfAmerica.com) or ReserveAmerica.com to browse the accommodations.

And for more safe travel tips this summer, visit Coronavirus.gov – click on "specific resources for travelers."

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.

10 Years Ago

July 6, 2010

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Saturday July 3rd was a scorcher, but that didn't keep the kids from their opportunity to be in the pedal tractor pull sponsored by The Blooming Prairie Lions Club and Vavra Farms. To the chant of "Pedal, Pedal, Pedal" each child put forth their best effort. Winners were: 4-year-old class – Nathaniel Bachelder, 1st; Ross Tremayne, 2nd; Luke Heimgartner. 5-year-old class – Jacob Warren, 1st; Evan Beckman, 2nd; Kaiden Alwes, 3rd. 6-year-old class – Thomas Warren, 1st; Isaac Potter, 2nd; Alivia Schneider, 3rd. 7-year-old class – Jackson Kennedy, 1st; Logan Murphy, 2nd; Cole Christianson, 3rd. 8-year-old class – Aiden DeVriese, 1st; Charlie Heimerman, 2nd; Zach Archer, 3rd. 9-year-old class – Braeden Scheffel, 1st; Tim Wolf, 2nd; Dylan Shaw, 3rd. 10-year-old class – Cole Rollins, 1st; Skyler Brown, 2nd; Emma Christianson, 3rd. 11-year-old class – Isabel DeLuna, 1st; Taylor Peterson, 2nd; Marissa Larson, 3rd.

WWII Medic, Francis Misgen remembers his tour like it was yesterday. Misgen was a medic with an engineering battalion for almost three years. He has been bringing that memory back with him for the last 18 years in the Blooming Prairie Fourth of July Parade. He owns a replica weapons carrier. This is the first year he will not be driving, but don't think he will miss riding in the parade. He will be sitting in the passenger seat while his son, Jim takes the wheel.

20 Years Ago

July 4, 2000

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Melissa Meyerhofer, Blooming Prairie, and Angella Grant, Austin, have been named recipients of the William and Byrne Griffith Scholarship given by the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences. Meyerhofer will be a junior animal science major at SDSU. She is the daughter of Robert and Dawn Meyerhofer of Blooming Prairie. Grant will be a senior ag economics major at SDSU. She is the daughter of David and Sandy Grant of Austin.

Both are graduates of Blooming Prairie High School.

Grades 1-6 at the elementary school held a "Feel'n' Good" mileage Club that started in March and ended in May. Congratulations to all who took steps towards a healthier life. The walking was done over their noon hours. The top three overall walkers received key chains with a glow-in-the-dark foot, along with a certificate with the total miles they walked on it. The top winners are: First, Matthew Zellmer, 3rd grade (21 miles); Second, Kelcie Drissen, 2nd grade (19 miles); and Third, Jessica Bremseth, 1st grade (14 miles).

It was a grand 'ol reunion held in Blooming Prairie this weekend. About 400 hundred people participated in the first ever All School Reunion on Saturday and Sunday (July 1 and 2), ranging from dancing to sharing tales of yesteryear. Some of the oldest graduates from the 1930s and 40s had the most stories to tell, but pride was shown amongst even the most recent alumni of BPHS. There were a few four generation families, most notably was Lucille Morton's, who has the only living four generation clan graduating from BPHS. Chuck Coughlin (1949) and wife Loretta Simon Coughlin (1950) have the distinction of graduating 12 children from Blooming; Ruth Bates Thompson (1934) came the furthest from Riverside, Calif.; Madonna Curtin taught for many years and was considered the oldest teacher returning for the reunion.

50 Years Ago

July 1, 1970

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Hayfield High School Class of 1920 held its 50th reunion last Saturday, June 27. The group met for supper at the Viking House in Hayfield, followed by a memorable program and refreshments were held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Smith. Eight of the original thirteen graduates were present, they were: Madge Adams Lee, Carl (Marie Gandy) Bakke, Everett (Ruth Fossom) Finley, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Kording, Alf (Laura Mohn) Larson, Thomas (Mary Kruger) O'Connor, Sr., Paul (Carol Johnson) Smith, and Aden (Faye Graves) Thronson.

SMIF offers COVID grants for small towns

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) is currently accepting applications for its Small Town Grants: COVID-19 Response Program.

Towns with populations of 10,000 or less in SMIF's 20-county region are eligible to apply. Requests of up to \$10,000 will be considered.

This year, through a generous partner donation, the Small Town Grant Program will be focused on helping small towns respond and recover from the hardships created by the COVID-19 crisis and the effects on the community. Requests will be prioritized for projects that address a community issue that was created by COVID-19 and supports vulnerable community members. Requests will also be prioritized for projects that address economic gaps, educational gaps or racial inequities that were manifested or made worse by the current crisis.

"We know that the COVID-19 crisis has created economic and community hardships for many, and that our smallest towns may need extra assistance in their recovery," said Tim Penny, president and CEO of SMIF. "We hope that this grant will support small towns in addressing the critical needs they are currently facing."

While the Small Town Grant typically supports towns that are 5,000 or less, this special grant round will serve towns that are 10,000 or less. Non-profit organizations and units or agencies of local, state, and federal government are encouraged to apply.

Applications are due to SMIF by July 30 at 4 p.m. Awards will be made in mid-August. For the application and guidelines, visit www.smifoundation.org or contact Jennifer Heien, grants coordinator, at 507-214-7040 or jenniferh@smifoundation.org.

STEELE PUSHES: past 200 mark for COVID

FROM A3

With that in mind, Caron encourages people to refrain from going back to normal until the numbers decrease. "We don't want to go backwards," she said.

Despite the increases, Caron is happy that neither Steele nor Dodge has experienced any deaths associated to COVID-19. Noting that 85% of the deaths in Minnesota have taken place in long-term care facilities, Caron attributes the no deaths locally to the quick actions of the long-term care facilities in both counties since the outbreak began in March.

Four facilities in Steele County have shown positive cases for COVID-19. They are Medford Senior Care, Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie, Timberdale Trace of Owatonna and Valley View Assisted Living in Owatonna. One of those facilities has had three cases, but Caron declined to specify which one. The rest have had one or two cases.

Fairview Care Center in Dodge Center is the only facility in Dodge County to have the coronavirus, Caron said.

"They have been doing a good job of containing the spread," she said of all the long-term care facilities. Caron said the facilities have done one of two things: either keep in out entirely or take swift action when they get a positive case.

Dr. T E Nealy announced that he has moved his office to the newly remodeled quarters in Blooming Prairie which was last occupied by Peoples Natural Gas Co. The building is owned by the First National Bank and is probably better known as the old Rex Theater. The interior of the building has been made into office quarters, examinations rooms, x-ray room and is most suitable for a doctor's quarters.

Boy scout Troop 261 of Blooming Prairie spent a most enjoyable week at Camp Hok-si-La, near Lake City. Twenty-two boys under the leadership of Harold "Bud" Hansen departed for the camp June 21st and returned June 27th. Hansen stated that it was a very pleasant week an energetic group of boys. They received a goodly number of promotions and enjoyed a week of fun. All of the scouts received some advancements and a Court of Honor will be held this fall. There was also a good attendance of parents and friends at the Thursday night chicken BBQ.

75 Years Ago

July 5, 1945

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Sgt. Buddy Coufal arrived on his first furlough home Friday night last week. He will spend until August 4th with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Coufal and other relatives and friends. Buddy will report to Ft. McCoy, WI at the end of his furlough. He has been in the service 3 1/2 years, three of which have been spent overseas.

W H Toothman is now the sole owner of the former Ruzek recreation parlor, purchasing out his partner W F Cole's interest this week. The Cole family returned to Iowa, their former home. Mt Toothman has changed the name of his place of business from Prairie Pool to Prairie Recreation.

Ninety relatives from Carpenter, Cedar Falls, Mitchell and Rowley, Iowa and Austin, Corning and Blooming Prairie attended a picnic at Todd Park near Austin on Sunday. The gathering was in honor of S/Sgt. Harvey R Todalen who is home on furlough after several months service on the Bunker Hill Carrier in the Pacific.

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THE BOLD LOOK OF **KOHLER**



On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

Populations of true armyworm (Mythimna unipuncta) exceeding economic thresholds have been reported in Minnesota. Be sure to scout corn that was planted into a grass cover crop or where dense grassy weeds were controlled post-emerge. It may be worth the effort to check near grassed waterways or grassy field margins, as well.

It can be confusing, but these true armyworms are not the same as the tent caterpillars that feed on broadleaf trees and shrubs. Adult moths are attracted to areas of dense grass vegetation to deposit eggs. These grasses include grassy weeds, live rye or wheat cover crops, or grasses in field borders. True armyworm larvae prefer to feed on grasses, which is why the adults lay their eggs in grass. When the larvae's food source is depleted, they will migrate in groups to find a new food source. These migrating swarms or "armies" eat and destroy crops as they move. They can easily cross a road and feed well into a field on the other side, and can do so quickly.

Because grassy weeds are attractive to the moths, pay

Be sure to scout for true armyworm

close attention to field borders and areas within the field that have or had high grass weed pressure. If not killed before moths arrive, grass cover crops, particularly winter rye, may also be attractive egg laying sites.

While scouting for armyworm, check for chewing damage on crop leaves and the presence of feces, called frass, as well as looking for the larvae themselves. Armyworm larvae tend to feed at night and hide in whorls (in corn) or under leaf litter throughout the day. Be sure to check deep in the corn whorl if you're scouting on a sunny day. Armyworms are often more active on cloudy days, and it's generally best to scout early in the morning or at the end of the day around sunset.

Whenever live larvae are present, there's potential for future damage. Treat whorl stage corn when 25% of plants have two larvae per plant or if 75% of plants have one larva or more.

If you detect armyworms migrating from areas bordering fields, you may want to spot treat these infested areas which can be effective if you identify the problem early enough. Watch for armyworms mi-

grating out of maturing small grains into corn.

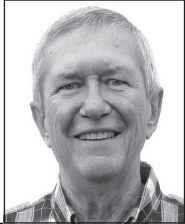
All Bt traits can have difficulty controlling large populations of large armyworm larvae. Typically, an armyworm issue means larger, less susceptible larvae moving from weeds and field borders into corn. Additionally, insects must eat the Bt to be affected. As a result, damage armyworms can do considerable damage to corn even with an effective Bt protein.

There's a Handy Bt Trait Table that shows which Bt proteins control various insect species. While several Bt traits control fall armyworm (FAW) only, the Vip-tera trait is promoted for control of true armyworm. You can find the trait table at <https://z.umn.edu/HandyBtTable>.

If control is necessary, contact your local Extension Educator, Claire LaCanne or visit <https://extension.umn.edu/corn-pest-management/armyworm-corn> for more information.

Claire LaCanne is the agricultural Extension educator for Steele and Rice counties. Her column appears in this newspaper regularly.

Shorty was no fun at all



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

Why was Shorty so short?

Shorty was a name that had been coined by the Albert Lea Tribune years ago for one of our Guernsey bulls.

Even though, this column is about Shorty, it is a rather lengthy story.

I grew up on a small dairy farm about 7 1/2 miles southwest of Blooming Prairie on Highway 251 in Newry Township. We had mainly Guernsey cattle, with the exception of one Holstein milk cow named Buttons.

Shorty is the hero, or maybe the goat in this story. He was kept in our barn to romanticize our cows. We raised Shorty from a calf with the idea of utilizing him as a lover to his non-relative female friends. He had no name at the time.

With another bull in a separate stall, my dad decided to sell Shorty to a farmer near Oakland. We will use a fictitious name for the farmer. How about Ray Long!

My dad made a deal with Mr. Long on a



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This is a photo of a Guernsey bull that resembles Shorty the bull. The Guernsey was bred on the British Channel Island of Guernsey; it is first documented in the nineteenth century, and its origins are unknown.

Sunday. My dad helped load the animal on Mr. Long's truck.

Like we did on most Sunday afternoons, mom, dad and I traveled just a few miles, still in Newry Township, to visit with my Grandmother Cena.

We were gone for most of the afternoon and returned just in time for the evening milking.

When we entered the cow barn, we were surprised and shocked to see Shorty in his same stall. Apparently, Mr. Long had returned Shorty because, as he told my dad, he was too short to perform adequately.

After a few phone calls and a desire to have the sale still completed, my dad contacted an attorney and explained what had happened. The attorney, Luther Bang of Austin, agreed to take the case.

My dad's attorney ar-

gued in court that a sale was a sale. He said my father deserved the price he originally had negotiated for Shorty. Mr. Long's attorney objected, saying his client should get his money back.

After a short jury trial, it was ruled that a sale was a sale and Mr. Long should come and pick up Shorty, plus pay for feed my dad had invested in Shorty after his return.

Remember, this took place in the early 1950s. My dad was also to receive a damage settlement of \$25. "Well, we at least won the case," said my disappointed dad.

This trial made the Tribune newspaper with a photo of a Guernsey bull running in front of a ladies rest room. The caption read: "Could this be Shorty?" That's how he got his name.

Oh well, that's the long and the short of the story.

A LOVE AFFAIR: with gardening FROM A1

a lot of time with the Nelson grandchildren.

Back to the gardening. Nelson actually starts to prep his gar-

den in the winter, growing tomato and pepper plants inside. The real planting begins in the spring.

Nelson has been gardening for 47 years. During the planting season, Ron gets up at 5:30 a.m. and he's planting at 6 a.m.

Why has gardening become such a favorite pastime of Ron's? He and Diane say it's because raising four kids they needed to live healthy. Their kids, and now their grandchildren, have helped with the gardening.

"Our grandchildren love Grandpa's garden," says Diane. Asked how long he will continue to garden, Ron says, "Until I can't crawl."

Ron spends about 20 hours a week doing weeding and tilling. A key to having a successful and plentiful garden is to give it TLC (Tender Loving Care) and "be patient," Ron emphasizes.

Nelson has some good ground in which to plant his garden. He tills in manure and uses no chemicals. All of his weeding is done by hand.

The peak of his harvest will be in mid-July. He plants everything by seed. He also takes to heart a poster in his house that reads: "Do all things with love."

Let's take a walk through Ron's garden. He immediately boasts a lot of heirloom vegetables. He pulls up a shallot, which is also called a type of onion. He plants six rows of shallots. They are milder than onions, with a hint of garlic.

One bulb makes numerous pencil-like onions. Diane puts them in freezer bags and then puts them in chili. "They are yummy," Ron says.

Ron also plants garlic, three rows to be exact. Now, we see some cilantro. This is good for salsa and Mexican dishes. "I plant this on the edge of my garden, otherwise it will take over," Ron informed.

"I try not to waste any ground," he says assuredly.

His garden, which is shaped like a large triangle, also includes watermelon, sweet corn, spinach, lima beans, lots of lettuce, peas, sweet basil, yellow beans, cabbage, red beets, green beans, carrots, kohlrabi, cucumbers, dill, potatoes (Kennebec, Russet and Norland red), muskmelon, squash (Buttercup and spaghetti).

Diane makes yellow bean pickles amongst other favorite canned vegetables.

Ron's garden seeds are mainly Burpee and Livingston. His potatoes are grown from certified seed.

Lifting up a potato leaf, Ron reveals a potato bug. "I try to stay on top of them, otherwise they destroy the potato leaf," Ron said. He has planted 3 1/2 rows of potatoes.

"Almost everything in the garden is healthy," Ron smiles. He plants okra, Swiss chard and parsley, good for salads. "Not too many people plant okra," he says.

Moving on through Ron's garden, you will find 23 tomato plants, pumpkins and zucchini.

Putting his index finger to his lips to signal quiet, Ron whispers, "Isn't it peaceful here!"

Ron plants another garden, too, this one for his uncle Victor Fischer who is 92. He lives on the farm about one mile away.

The Nelsons do some camping near the Deer Creek Speedway. They take some of Diane's tasty pickles for some regular customers.

Any extra produce that is not eaten by themselves, or by others in the family, goes to the Steele County Food Shelf in Owatonna.

Gardening runs in the family as Ron's mother Evelyn and Diane's mother, Bernadine Klecker, were avid gardeners.

"For years, gardening was a failing art but that has changed," Nelson said.

A CENTURY PLUS FARM OPERATION

THE KRELLS

There has been a member of the Krell family working the land north of Blooming Prairie for more than a century, 110 years to be exact. The Krells now offer a fourth generation on the family farm.

Rodney grew up on the farm and started working with his parents as a young boy. Following college graduation, Rodney came back to help run the dairy and crop farm with his father, Robert Krell. In 1999, Rodney and Michelle purchased the farm from his father. They milked about 110 cows until 2004, when the dairy barn was lost in a fire. Through the years, the Krells have raised corn, soybeans, peas, sweet corn, oats, wheat and alfalfa.

Son Justin has joined the farm operation. In addition to farming, Justin works as a technical agronomist for LG Seeds. Justin's wife, Kristin, works for Environmental Tillage Systems as a marketing and communications manager. Daughter Jenna is a fourth grade teacher at Blooming Prairie Elementary School and her husband, Joe, is a sales agronomist for Central Farm Services in Hayfield.

Besides running a diversified crop farm, the Krells also have livestock on the farm. "We believe in conservation and being good stewards of the land by implementing certain practices that improve soil and preserve water qualities," the Krells say.

The Krells are committed to continuing the farm family tradition. "Farming is a way of life for us and has been a great way to raise a family," Rodney and Michelle say. "Our children have learned that passion, hard work and dedication are characteristics that help you be successful in life." They added enjoying time together as a family brings them great joy.

"Working hard on the farm and knowing you are producing food to support other families is satisfying," the Krells said. "We enjoy watching our crops grow until harvest comes, and seeing the benefits of the growing season."

As farmers, the Krells work hard to preserve and improve the environment while producing food. "Technology has helped farmers become better stewards of the land," they said.



The Krell farm family operation includes, from left: Justin Krell and his wife, Kristin, their daughter Kaylee Krell held by Rodney Krell, Leah Krell (Justin and Kristin's daughter), Michelle Krell, Jenna Volgarino and her husband, Joe.

This week's farm family is brought to you by:



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CENTURY TRADITION: *to end in BP* FROM A1

makes and models of vehicles.

New vehicle sales will now go to Austin Ford in Austin. Longtime Krejci salesman Mark Symes will depart Krejci Ford in late July when the Krejci franchise is ended.

Rick and Cheri will remain as a husband-wife combo in the vehicle service and repair business.

Doug Hillson will stay on as manager of



CHERI KREJCI

the service department. He has been with Krejci Ford for 30 years.

Two other service department employees who will remain include Tim Hansen and Jeff Moe. Tim has logged 29 years with Krejci and Jeff has been with Krejci Ford for 30 years.

Cheri Krejci said rumors were floating around, saying that COVID-19 was the rea-

son Krejci was resigning its Ford franchise. “That’s not true,” said Krejci.

She said several reasons led to this decision:

- Owner Rick Krejci is soon reaching the retirement age of 65.
- New vehicle sales were falling off because of the farm economy and the Internet.
- Owner Rick Krejci’s injury forced him out of commission for several months.
- Fewer vehicles were being manufactured by Ford because the factory was manufacturing ventilators.

Ford said it would not be able to catch up with vehicle manufacturing until the first of the year.

“We tried to keep the franchise in Blooming Prairie,” Cheri re-emphasized. The decision was announced on Facebook on June 20.

Ford parts will be returned by the end of July and signs will



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Krejci Ford of Blooming Prairie will be no more, come the last part of July, reports the ownership. Krejci Ford has made what it calls a difficult decision to resign the franchise.

be taken down during that same time deadline.

The Krejci family will be able to continue warranty work through the company with which it was affiliated, National Auto Care. Factory recalls will be done by a Ford dealership.

Cheri has been the store office manager

for 34 years and will continue in that role.

“We have had lots of loyal customers over the years,” she remarked.

Cheri said the Krejci family has had many customers ask where they will be able to buy Ford vehicles now. She said her answer is “through any Ford dealership.”

“It’s also going to take time to answer phones differently with a new business name,” Cheri says.

The Krejci family has been very community minded over the years and under its new name, this will continue, says brothers Rick, Roger and Bruce.

SIGNS OF POLICE: *support available in Owatonna* FROM A1

The signs are available free of charge at Owatonna City Administration at 540 W. Hills Circle. There are 500 in the initial batch, which became available on Monday. The donor is willing to do more if necessary.

The donor says he felt compelled to do something because of the way the police are being treated. “I’ve lived through the Vietnam War and this is worse with all the destruction of property and anarchy,” he said, adding he

wonders where it will all stop and when.

He expressed disappointment in how Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz handled the initial stages of the protests. He is specifically appalled with the governor who is quite familiar with the National Guard after serving in it for many years. “To let that happen, it should have never happened,” the donor said.

The lifelong resident describes himself as a philanthropist who has

been a sponsor of many big projects around Owatonna throughout his life. “To who much has been given, to much is expected,” he says generously.

He said he got the idea for the signs through a Zoom meeting of Rotary. Something similar had been done in the Twin Cities suburb of Edina. Another individual involved with the project who went on a cross-country trip saw several smaller towns with signs and thought “it would be

good for Owatonna.”

The donor took his idea to the Owatonna City Council in June where he was given overwhelming support for the signs. In his presentation, he used many different adjectives to describe the police department. Some of them included to give courage, tolerate, to help, advocate, keep steady and carry the load.

“This is just a moral support,” he said. “I want people on the (police) force to understand they are respected.

They are an important part of our community. I certainly hope it gives them a feel good that we are doing our part.”

As the signs start to dot the neighborhoods throughout Owatonna, police are grateful for all the community support they have been receiving during these turbulent times, said Capt. Jeff Mundale of Owatonna Police. “This includes the trust and support from our mayor, our city administrator, our city council, local businesses and citizens of all

ages that have reached us through words of encouragement, appreciation and gestures of kindness in the form of emails, gift cards, gift baskets and treats purchased from local businesses,” he said.

“We are truly honored and fortunate to serve the local businesses and citizens of Owatonna.”

The donor says he feels “very positive” about his latest gift to the community. “I am fortunate to be able to do it,” he said. “It has got to be done.”

SESSION ENDS: FROM A2

This is one thing that frustrates me greatly about the progression of legislation at the Capitol. If we are talking about a topic that is multi-faceted – and police accountability certainly belongs in that category – then why don’t we immediately approve the provisions where nearly all of us agree, and then begin working on the more contentious or controversial items? Doing so would show the public that we take the issue seriously and that we are working together to find consensus. Far too often the two sides adopt an “all or nothing” approach, which in this case sadly led to a “nothing” result.

COVID-19 FUNDING

The federal CARES Act has allocated approximately \$841 million for COVID-19 funding to be distributed to Minnesota counties, cities, and towns. Though Minneapolis and St. Paul have already received federal COVID funding through separate distributions, the rest of Minnesota’s local governments have not. This funding is desperately needed and will help pay for local government programs related to COVID-19 testing, COVID-19 response for hospitals, PPE for front-line workers, financial support to local businesses, and other additional expenses.

I was very proud of the bipartisan work that knit together a final compromise CARES Act bill, which was agreed upon by all four (majority and minority) legislative caucuses in the House and Senate. The bill passed almost unanimously in the Senate but sadly came to a screeching

halt in the House when the Governor’s roughly \$300 million in unrelated spending proposals was amended onto the bill at the last minute. I was extremely disappointed by the scuttling of this agreement. Because of this, the bipartisan plan ultimately failed.

This was very frustrating and is a perfect example of why I have been pushing legislation that requires bills to have only a single subject. In my opinion, the Governor’s spending proposals should have come as a separate bill and not forced onto an unrelated bill. Though I do not agree with additional state spending right now due to the looming billions of dollars in deficit that we are facing, I would certainly have been willing to look at his proposals and we could have determined if some were emergencies that needed immediate funding.

However, these proposals should never have been amended onto an already agreed upon bill. Because they were, it took down our county and city federal funding.

NEXT SPECIAL SESSION

The next special session is scheduled for July 12. Until then we will continue to work on all these issues, including the bonding bill. Hopefully, we can focus on working together to find common ground and agreement before the next special session is called.

Peggy Bennett is state representative for District 27A, which includes the City of Blooming Prairie, southern Dodge County and most of Freeborn County. She lives in Albert Lea and is up for re-election this fall.

YOUR VIEW

Recognizing suicide risk during COVID-19

To-the-Editor:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, some people with mental health problems may be at elevated risk for suicide. This is because the levels of stress that many are experiencing can lead to feelings of hopelessness and despair. People who are already in treatment for suicide risk may need additional support. This includes people who are having suicidal thoughts as well as those with a recent history of suicidal thoughts or a suicide attempt. Other people may experience an exacerbation of existing or emerging mental health problems. This includes those with psychiatric disorders as well as individuals who struggle with aggressive or disinhibited behavior and find it difficult to manage

strong negative emotions. It is important to speak up about your or your family member’s needs during this time, and to accept that additional help may be needed.

We can all learn to recognize the warning signs of suicide. Such recognition, combined with expressing caring concern and assisting the person with the next step toward getting professional help, may be lifesaving.

If you are concerned about someone’s possible suicide risk, we recommend that you share your concern and ask the person if they are having thoughts of suicide. We also recommend that you look out for worrisome behavior changes, particularly when these follow or are related to a loss, painful or shaming

experience, or change in life circumstances.

Some warning signs for suicide include:

- Talk or written words about killing self, hopelessness, no reason to live, a burden to others, feeling trapped or unbearable pain.
- Behaviors: Increased use of alcohol or drugs, withdrawal from usual activities, searching for a way to end life, isolating from family or friends, highly worrisome changes in behavior.
- Mood: Depression, anxiety, loss of interest, irritability, humiliation/shame, agitation/anger, relief/sudden improvement.

If you are concerned for a friend or family member, share your concern with this individual, noting that you care for them. We encourage

you to a.) listen to and validate the person’s emotional pain; b.) ask if he or she is having thoughts of suicide; c.) stay with the person until they are linked with needed help or with another person who will assist them in getting such help.

If you or someone you know is in need of help, reach out to any of the following at any time for help:

- National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255).
- Crisis Text Line: Text HOME or START to 741741 to reach a crisis counselor.
- Crisis Response for Southeast MN: 1-844-CRISIS2 (274-7472).

Mark Jacobson
Peer Support
Specialist
Winona

JUDGE OUTLINES: *what’s ahead for future court* FROM A3

are conducting business at the courthouse.

Court administrator Robin Hoesley said jury trials are expected to resume Monday at the courthouse, pending final state approval this week of COVID safety protocols by the Minnesota Judicial Branch. “We will have our first pandemic jury trial on July 6,” she said.

At this time, only jury trials are planned to take place in person. All other court hearings will be done remotely by Zoom most likely through the end of the year. Hoesley said. Part of the reason for that is the court is trying to be mindful of an expected surge in COVID-19 cases coming later this fall. “We are erring on the side of caution to keep people safe,” she said.

Some highlights of the plan for jury trials include rather than having the jury pool of 20-30

or more people assemble all together, the court will be having smaller groups of 8-10 report at staggered times. People can wear their own masks, and the court will also have masks available for jurors who do not have their own.

Anyone summoned for jury duty who is in a COVID high-risk group or lives with someone who is at high risk can contact court administration and receive a deferral of their jury service to a later date.

“We know Steele County jurors take their responsibility to serve very seriously,” Judge Duncan said. “We want to do everything we can to help jurors focus on the facts and apply the law without being distracted by health concerns,” she added.

Potential jurors will be seated six feet apart during the jury selection. Those seated on the jury

will also be seated six feet apart during the trial and deliberations. People can bring their own pens, or the court will provide disposable pens. When necessary, meals provided to the jury will be in individual boxes.

The courts, Duncan said, are continuing to digest the steady stream of public health and scientific information. They are also regularly communicating with justice partners to update and improve protocols.

“At this point we expect to continue with remote hearing for most matters for the near future, possibly through the end of 2020,” Duncan says. “This means our backlog of cases will get bigger, but we are regularly reviewing cases to ensure that we are properly prioritizing what gets scheduled with the calendar requiring greater time for each hearing so fewer

hearings can be scheduled,” she said.

The judge is confident that Steele County will effectively and efficiently address the backlogged cases when the pandemic abates.

There is some speculation that the pandemic is going to change the way the courts do business in the future as some people are suggesting that remote hearings will be the court’s new normal permanently. However, Judge Duncan has some reservations about taking such a drastic measure.

“While there is some room to handle certain types of hearings remotely on a more permanent basis, I firmly believe people will generally be better served by in-court appearances,” Duncan said. “We will need to return to in-court hearings if we are to address the backlog and keep up with new filings moving forward.”

OBITUARIES

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Diane Smith, 67, Geneva



Diane Kay Smith, 67, of Geneva, died Saturday, June 27, 2020 at her home.

She was born May 2, 1953 in Austin the daughter of Clifford and Betty (Harber) Bruggeman. Diane graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1971. She married Douglas Smith Feb. 5, 1972 at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church. The couple moved their family to Geneva in 1978 after purchasing Geneva Meats. Once her children were school age, Diane started working at Geneva Meats where she was still currently employed.

Diane was an active member of Community Lutheran Church in Geneva where she previously served on the church council, was active with WELCA and helped with various programs over the years. She was always there for others when they needed help, never saying “No.” Diane was an amazing cook, a loyal Minnesota Vikings fan, and loved spending time with her friends. She also enjoyed fishing, playing cribbage and listening to the oldies (loudly). Above all, she was always there for her family. She never missed her kids or grandkids’ events; often times going to multiple events in one day. Her grandchildren were her world!

She is survived by her daughter, Sara (and Chris) Ihrke of Geneva; son, Erik (and Anissa Driscoll) Smith of Rosemount; grandchildren, Blake Ihrke, Bailey Ihrke, Bree Ihrke, Makenna Smith, Olivia Smith, Kylie Driscoll, Noah Driscoll; brother, Doug (and Ann) Bruggeman of Blooming Prairie and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, David Brugemann.

Memorial services were held Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. at Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna with Pastor Kristen Venne officiating.

COLLEGE NEWS

Louks named to Dean’s List

Lauren Louks of Blooming Prairie has achieved academic excellence at Rochester Community and Technical College.

Louks was one of about 320 students who made the Dean’s List for Spring Semester 2020 ending in May.

To qualify for the list, a student must successfully complete 12 or more letter-graded credits in the same semester and achieve a GPA between 3.5 and 3.99.

Riverland names top academic students

Several area students have been named to the Dean’s List at Riverland Community College in Austin for 2020 Spring Semester.

They include: Cole Christianson, Ashleigh Alwes, Morgan Anderson, Alexis Beckett, Reese Millam, Alexis Olivo and Emily Trihus, all of Blooming Prairie and Laura Sorensen of Waltham.

To be eligible for the Dean’s List students must have completed 12 credits per semester with letter grades and have earned a GPA of 3.25 to 3.99.

Owatonna student earns Dean’s List at RIT

Brayden Wachowiak of Owatonna was named to the Dean’s List at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y. for the 2020 Spring Semester.

Wachowiak is in the game design and development program at RIT.

Degree-seeking undergraduate students are eligible for Dean’s List if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.4, they do not have any grades of incomplete, D or F and they have registered for and completed at least 12 credit hours.

BOOK NOOK

One Book/One Minnesota at the library



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

One Book/One Minnesota is a statewide book club for Minnesotans of all ages that was begun by the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library.

The purpose of the program is to “read a common title and come together virtually to enjoy, reflect, and discuss.” It was formed this spring during the COVID-19 shutdown to bring people closer together during a time of social distancing and stress. The first book chosen was Because of Winn-Dixie by Minnesota author Kate DiCamillo. There was a live program and discussion with the author.

All Minnesota residents are invited to take part in the next installment of One Book/One Minnesota. The book that will be read and discussed is A Good Time for the Truth,

edited by Sun Yung Shin, and published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press. Sixteen Minnesota writers share their experiences of what it is like to be a person of color in Minnesota. As we all confront our biases and discomfort over recent issues, reading this book together can be a way to better understand each other and to begin conversations that we may have avoided in the past.

If you would like to read A Good Time for the Truth, there are several options. You can check the book out from the Blooming Prairie Branch Library – call or go online to reserve a copy. You can also read a copy online through ebooksmn.org. Ebooksmn.org has a great variety of books for kids and adults, and both fiction and non-fiction. Take a look at their site to find more books to read!

If people are interested in doing so, the library will organize an online book discussion. In addition, all can join the statewide virtual conversation with the author in August. Stay tuned for an exact date!

June 6 a special day for the great grandpa Bills

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Kendra Johnson of Blooming Prairie will long remember her eighth birthday. It was pretty special.

The daughter of Randi Peterson, Kendra celebrated her eighth birthday with special family and friends.

After opening her presents and enjoying birthday cake on June 6, 2020, Kendra joined family members on a trek to the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial, located just east of the BP Servicemen’s Club.

Two extra special guests who attended the party were Kendra’s Great Grandfather Bill Goette and Great Grandfather Bill Johnson. Both are military veterans and both were honored on Kendra’s special day, which just happened to be the 76th anniversary of D-Day.

A battle began on June 6, 1944, also known as D-Day when some 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of France’s Normandy region.

Since Kendra’s birthday and the D-Day anniversary occurred on the same day, it was thought appropriate to honor her great grandfathers, too. Kendra loves to tell people how both of her great grandfathers are named Bill.

Quilts of Valor were presented to the two great grandpa Bills in front of the veterans memorial.

Originally, the two Quilts of Valor were to be presented with others on Memorial Day at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club but due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the event was cancelled.

Because of the uncertainty of future scheduling, their families requested the quilts be given to them now. Both quilts were pieced together by Nancy Peterson of Blooming Prairie and quilted by Bev Wacek of Owatonna.

Great Grandpa Bill Goette is Grandpa Dean Goette’s father. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served his country from 1955-56.

He volunteered for the draft with some friends from Albert Lea, on a whim, and the next thing he remembers is basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

From there, he was shipped out to Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. He spent 16 months in Hawaii and was honorably discharged in 1956 as a SP4 (Specialist 4th Class).

Great Grandpa Bill Johnson is Kim Goette’s father. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served his country from 1954-56. He also volunteered for the draft, and was inducted April 18, 1956. His basic training was at Fort Leonard Wood. For him, it was off to Seattle, by troop train and from there, to be shipped out to Korea.

Johnson said Korea was very hard and coming home to the U.S. took some R & R, but he considers himself lucky to have had an assignment in Korea as a supply sergeant. His years of service were

21 months and 20 days. Johnson was honorably discharged Oct. 18, 1962 as a Specialist Third Class.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation is a national organization founded in 2003 by Blue a Star mom, Catherine Roberts. The Foundation recognizes and acknowledges the “war demons” that plague soldiers from all wars and conflicts.

The Quilts of Valor mission is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing.

The first quilt the foundation made was for a young soldier from Minnesota who had lost a leg in Iraq in 2003.

Tom Peterson of Blooming Prairie contributed to this story.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Flashing a wide smile on her eighth birthday is Kendra Long of Blooming Prairie. Kendra and her two great grandfathers celebrated together as Kendra observed her birthday and her two great grandfathers were honored with Quilts of Valor.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial is a collection of history. Two Quilts of Valor were presented to Bill and Bunny Johnson on the left and to Bill and Lorraine Goette on the right.



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Recipe Corner

Calico Beans

2 cans kidney beans
1 can butter beans
2 cans pork’n beans
1-1/2 pounds hamburger, browned
1 onion, chopped
1 pound cooked bacon
3/4 cup brown sugar
1 cup ketchup
1 tablespoon vinegar
1/2 cup molasses

Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

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Mountain Dew, the news, and the Gospel



Pastor Micheal Simmerman

BETHEL CHURCH
OWATONNA



As a teenager one of my go-to “drinks of choice” was Mountain Dew. I loved the taste with donuts for breakfast, it made a great after-school snack, went with pizza for dinner, or could simply a night cap before bed.

My parents, however, were pretty good about limiting our soda intake, so opportunities to go the store and buy another 12 pack of the gloriously green bubbly goodness were often met with much excitement. One particular trip to the store, however, has never left my mind, and the events in our world in the last few months have got me thinking about that fateful day again.

I went to the store with my mom and dart-

ed straight to the soda section in the back. I grabbed the first case of Mountain Dew I could find, and brought it home with eager expectation that it would be satisfying and delicious. After unpacking it from the car however, two things left me with nothing but disappointment in the end. First, as I opened the package I realized while the label on the outside said “*Mountain Dew*,” the cans on the inside were *diet* (they had mislabeled the package). On top of THAT when I looked closely at the expiration date on the bottom – I learned the whole case had expired a whole month before. So, expired and untrue – it left me with only one choice (after

trying to drink one sip of one can) – I threw it all away.

And as odd as it sounds (and maybe you’ve felt this) reading “the news” today can feel a lot like that case of Mountain Dew. With the information overload and changing nature of the world around us it seems as quickly as something is relevant, something else comes along and makes the stuff we were talking about only a week ago seem long expired and irrelevant. Or what’s worse, is that the information people were so sure about weeks (or sometimes days) ago, is later reported to be false because of new information we’ve learned. Personally, I can’t remem-

ber I time in my life when I’ve trusted “the news” less, and longed for something more reliable, as advertised, and always relevant.

Enter the Gospel.

The Gospel is actually an Ancient Greek word for “Good News” and in the Bible it’s used to describe the actual events of Jesus Christ living a perfect life (he never sinned), dying for all of us on the cross, and then rising from the dead three days later. For anyone who believes this and follows Jesus as Lord, they have eternal life. And while there are so many incredible things about this news, what’s worth noting in the world we live in now, is that *this news* (in the last 2,000 years) has

never changed, expired, or proved false; AND it continues to give us hope beyond this broken world we clearly live in now.

Meaning, if you’re tired of the kind of news in our day, that seems quickly outdated and at the end of the day may not even be true (kind of like my case of Mountain Dew so many years ago), there’s BETTER NEWS for you to read. Reliable news of hope beyond this world. If you’re interested in that – pick up (or download) a Bible this week and read it. Start in Philipians if you’re not sure where to start, but I have to believe no matter where you begin – you’ll “taste and see” that the Lord is good.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

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

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

FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC
503 Radcl Ct., Ellendale
Pastor Richard Sliper
507-684-2451
Men’s Bible Study: 8 a.m. Saturday
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
(Kids church- 9 a.m. and Confirmation- 10:15 a.m.)
Jesus and Me: 3:30-5 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday
Call to Prayer: 7 p.m. Tuesday
Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday
Wednesday School: 6:15-7 p.m.
followed by Youth Group- 7-9 p.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Senior Pastor: Rev. Heidi Heimgartner
Associate Pastor: Rev. Mike Waleries
507-583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com
Worship Service- 9 a.m.
Sunday School- 10 a.m.

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS
2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna
Pastor Greg Schlicker
507-451-4125
goodshepherdowatonna.com
Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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

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

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

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA
30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin
Leandra Anderson, Pastor
507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000

www.roglutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

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

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN- ELCA
1301 Lincoln Ave. Owatonna
Pastors Dave Klaviter and Jacie Richmond
507-451-7293
stjohnowatonna.org
Worship: 5 p.m.
Thursday & Saturday;
8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Summer Services:
8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Sunday

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

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

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN – ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
507-451-2165
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520
tlcowatonna.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Buegler
Associate Pastor: Rev. Amanda Floy
Deacon: Kris Oppegard
Worship: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School:
8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS
108 Third Ave. SW., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
507-451-0447
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS
57043 300th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272

Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

OUR SAVIOR’S LUTHERAN – ELCA
1909 St. Paul Road, Owatonna
Senior Pastor:
John Weisenburger
Associate Pastor: Lisa Carlson
507-451-4853
oursaviorsowatonna.com
Worship: 8:15 a.m. - Traditional,
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School/Adult
Education
10:45 a.m. - Contemporary

CATHOLIC

CHRIST THE KING
205 Second Ave. NW, Medford
507-451-6353
Father James Starasinick
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat.
Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 SW First St., New Richland
Father Antony Arokiyam
507-234-6244
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave Owatonna
Father John Wilmot
507-583-2784
www.litomysl.webs.com
Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m.
Litomysl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other month
Litomysl Summer Festival has been cancelled for 2020

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St., Hayfield
Father John Wilmot
507-477-2256
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday
Reconciliation: 3:45 pm Saturday

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

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

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna

Father James Starasinick
Deacon Patrick Fagan
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat.
Daily Mass:
8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri.
(Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday)
Adoration Chapel available
Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
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CHRISTIAN

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

PENTECOSTAL

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

METHODIST

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

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

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

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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



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

DESTINY CHRISTIAN
2515 Harvest Lane NW, Owatonna
Pastors Rich and Amy Pettet
507-456-4775
www.destinycc.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
6:30-7:30 p.m. 1st and 3rd
Wednesday

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

NEW BEGINNINGS
332 14th St. NE., Owatonna
Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson
507-413-0209
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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

MENNONITE

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

MORMON

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

PRESBYTERIAN

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
109 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Kirk Johnston

507-477-2631
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
P.O. Box 66, Claremont
507-528-2320
Pastor Douglas Walters
10 a.m. Worship

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Brian Beavers
651-955-4032
Worship: 11 a.m. Sat.
Bible Stud: 9:30 a.m. Sat.

UCC

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

BAPTIST

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

FIRST BAPTIST (Owatonna’s oldest church)

123 E. Main St., Owatonna
Pastor Carla Nelson
507-272-9834
www.firstbaptistowatonna.com
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

BETHEL BAPTIST
1611 Hemlock Ave. Owatonna
Pastor Michael Simmerman
507-451-8548
www.bethelowatonna.com
Worship: 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VICTORY LIFE
105 2nd St NE Geneva
Pastor Diane Butler
507-402-0960
Worship on Sundays
Prayer Service: 7:30 a.m.
Church Service: 9:30 a.m.
Children’s Church: 9:45 a.m.

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For teen friends, it's all about working towards college

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Owatonna High School juniors Julia Christenson and Alyssa Schmidt share a vision. That vision is to get a college education.

The two teenagers, Christenson, 15, and Schmidt, 16, have known one another since they were 3 years old. They have been neighbors all of that time.

Since eighth grade, the two friends have been making jewelry and selling it at the Owatonna Farmers Market on Saturdays.

Neither has a driver's license and both have been taxed to the Farmers Market by their parents. They usually work from 5:45 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. "I'm an early bird," says Schmidt. "I'm a night owl," admits Christenson.

They have also marketed their creations by consignment at Prairie Home Floral, Decor & Gifts in Blooming Prairie and at Past & Present Antiques & Gifts in Waseca and at Zinnia's Boutique in Waseca. They also sell their jewelry at craft shows in the area.

These two young girls have proven to be quite the entrepreneurs. They are definitely extroverted young women who have a goal in mind, college education, and plan to achieve it.

Neither Christenson or Schmidt are sure of where they will go to college, or what they will be "when they grow up," but both know they are having fun on the way, fun making jewelry and selling it at a profit.

Asked where she plans to attend college, Christenson answered honestly, "I don't have

a clue." Schmidt agrees with Christenson, saying "I don't know." She did hint, however, that she might like to enter nursing or some type of medical career.

The girls' jewelry business started out as a fun hobby and expanded to selling to the public, explained Schmidt.

They picked up ideas from Party Plus Crafts of Owatonna.

"We both love to make jewelry," and in addition to raising money for college, making jewelry keeps the two busy.

"We also get to hang out with one another and share quality time," says Schmidt. "They haven't killed one another yet," interjected a neighboring

vendor at the Owatonna Farmers Market.

"We have gotten to know the community because of our business," Schmidt confesses.

"We did better than we expected during our first year," Schmidt admits. "We have learned from our experiences," Christenson says. "We have stepped into the real world setting prices and handling inventory," Schmidt volunteered.

What sells the best for these two entrepreneurs? Christenson says their dainty jewelry is popular. Schmidt chooses layered necklaces as being top sellers.

The jewelry carries a price tag from \$8 to \$18. "We try to make

our product affordable," said Schmidt. "We also will custom make jewelry and adapt to the situation," added Christenson.

Christenson participates in marching band at high school and is also involved in concert choir and orchestra and in speech. Schmidt plays guitar. She is also involved in her church, Bethel Lutheran.

Both have pets. Schmidt has a cat named Clara and a dog (Yorkie). Christenson has a Golden Doodle dog.

Christenson and Schmidt both have other jobs. Christenson works at a Japanese restaurant, Mizuki's, as a hostess.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Best of friends since age 3, Julia Christenson, left, and Alyssa Schmidt, run a business together. They make their own jewelry and have been selling it at the Owatonna Farmers Market the past three years.

Schmidt is a cashier at Fareway.

Both agree that it was difficult to find motivation at first with distance learning. "It's faster," Christenson pointed out.

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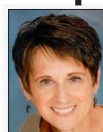
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STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Workers at the Kona Ice stand serve up tropical shaved ice for customers hoping to get their fix of fair food during the Drive-In Dairy Days in Owatonna last weekend. Kona Ice was one of 10 food vendors allowed to participate in the special promotion after the Steele County Fair and other events canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Craving Fair Food

Drive-In Dairy Days provide fix for treats



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

It was a masked family affair for the Worden family of Owatonna. John and Julie Worden brought their two children, Lydia and Nathaniel, to the Drive-In Dairy Days at the Steele County Fairgrounds.

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Disappointment overcame the Luke Possehl family of Claremont when they found out county fairs across the state have been shuttered this summer because of the coronavirus pandemic. They are fair junkies at heart. Last year alone, the Possehl family attended 15 county fairs around Minnesota. “We were pretty sad when the fairs canceled,” said Possehl. That’s why the Possehl family didn’t waste any time to jump at the opportunity to enjoy fair foods at the Drive-In Dairy Days on the Steele County Fairgrounds last weekend. It certainly wasn’t the fair experience they have come to enjoy, but at least they got a chance to get their fix of fair foods. The Possehls came to indulge in a variety of foods, including corn dogs, donuts, cheese curds and malts. “It’s

worth the trip,” Possehl said as he watched his 5-year-old daughter, Ivy, grin while munching on a large corn dog on a stick. “It’s not the healthiest, but I’m willing to sacrifice a little of my health,” he said. Possehl wasn’t alone in his craving for fair foods. Hundreds of people lined up at the fairgrounds to enjoy 10 food vendors invited to take part in the Dairy Days promotion initially sparked by the Steele County American Dairy Association. With the 2020 Steele County Fair and other summer festivals canceled due to COVID-19, visitors and vendors alike are looking to food to fill the void left by the loss of the most beloved annual gatherings. Classic carnival treats, usually available only a limited number of days throughout the summer, have become summer’s unofficial

SEE CRAVING, B4

Medford woman takes over United Way

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Annette Duncan didn’t have very far to go to tackle her new career opportunity. All she had to do is walk across the hall. On June 1, Duncan, of Medford, began as the president of the Steele County United Way after spending the past three years as executive director and a volunteer for many more years of the Exchange Club Center for Family Unity. Both organizations are located in the same office complex on Austin Road in Owatonna. She replaces Kim Schaufenbuel, who has accepted a new position with Federated Insurance. Duncan’s passion for helping others doesn’t really change with her career shift, just in a different way. With the Exchange Club, Duncan focused on helping solve child abuse in families. And now in her new role, she will be changing lives by mobilizing and optimizing the caring power of Steele County. But the decision to walk across the hall and leave one organization behind didn’t come easy for Duncan. “It was extremely tough. I had lots of tears,” she said of the change. “The center is always going to be near and dear to my heart. It was one of the hardest decisions I’ve had to make in my life. God

provides our path and it’s not always easy.” The United Way isn’t anything new for Duncan. She had been involved in United Way fundraising campaigns while working at Josten’s in Owatonna. She has also served on the Board of Directors in the past. “I have been involved in United Way in some shape or form for at least 20 years,” she said. “I have always wanted to help people in other capacities and help people make better positions in their life,” she added.



Annette Duncan of Medford has taken over as president of the United Way of Steele County.

Duncan says she is not one to come into an organization and change everything. She will be focused on identifying the needs of the community after the coronavirus pandemic. She believes United Way can do even more because of its connections in the community.

SEE MEDFORD WOMAN, B8

Voting underway for state primary election

Early voting for Minnesota’s Aug. 11 primary election kicked off Friday. Absentee ballots for the primary election are available now through Monday, Aug. 10, according to Steele County Auditor Laura Ihrke. Ihrke said the Auditor’s Office will be open on Saturday, Aug. 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to handle absentee voting for the primary. One of the largest races on the primary ballot for all voters throughout Minnesota is for U.S. Senate. Sen. Tina Smith currently holds the senate seat. There are 12 people on the ballot for her seat. In Blooming Prairie, voters will not only vote for U.S. Senate, but also State Representative for District 27A, which is currently held by Peggy

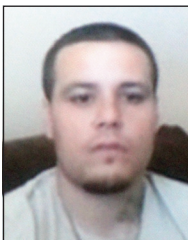
Bennett. Also on the ballot are two DFL candidates, Thomas Martinex and Joe Pacovsky. Election officials say there could be a jump in people voting over the next month and a half in an attempt to avoid Election Day crowds during the coronavirus pandemic. In Steele County, two precincts will be voting by mail this year instead of going to the polls. They are the City of Ellendale and Berlin Township. Voters may also look up their sample ballot and polling place information and apply for an Absentee Ballot application online by going to www.sos.state.mn.us, Ihrke said. If anyone has questions about the primary election, they can call Ihrke’s office at 507-444-7410.

‘I needed a kick in the pants’

For grad, drug court is the answer

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

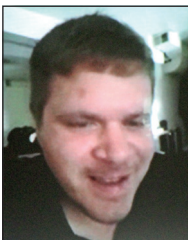
“It’s really strict and I needed that,” confessed recent Steele Waseca Drug Court graduate James Beadell of Owatonna. Beadell, 41, said he needed “a kick in the pants” after receiving a third DWI. Beadell, father of four children, said he was happy to see the police lights go on when he was pulled over for a third time. “I was so sick that I couldn’t change my ways on my own,” said Beadell. “I chose drug court, and honestly, it has meant everything to me,” he added. Beadell, Nathaniel Henderson and Michael Burciaga, all of Owatonna, became the newest grads of the SWDC, which now totals 58. They graduated during a ceremony on June 24 via a live ZOOM broadcast. Following a regular Wednesday Drug Court session, also done on ZOOM, the three graduates, Judge Joseph A. Bueltel, Drug Court Co-



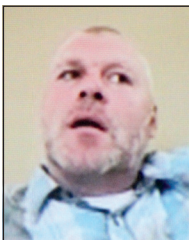
Michael Burciaga



Judge Bueltel



Nathan Henderson



James Beadell

"I've been given a second chance at life."

Michael Burciaga
Drug Court Grad

ordinator Nicole Grams and three probation officers participated in a computerized graduation ceremony. A remote hookup was set up in Courtroom B of the Steele County Courthouse. Only two persons, Steele County Commissioner Rick Gnemi and Times staffer Howard Lestrud viewed the graduation ceremony. Most Steele County court sessions have gone virtual. “I wish I could give you your plaques and coins but that will come later,” remarked Judge Bueltel. He also read letters of congratulations to the

three graduates from U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar and from District 24B Rep. Brian Daniels. “You have shown a determination to maintain your sobriety,” wrote Klobuchar. “It takes a lot of courage to make a change for the better,” added Rep. Daniels. Planning for SWDC began in 2013 and it was implemented on July 1, 2014. The program responds to a high need shown by substance abusers who continued to cycle in and out of the local justice system. Grams said drug courts are the most effective response based

on research for these particular offenders to reduce recidivism and to assist them in their pathway to recovery. Coordinator Grams said the main theme of drug court is to provide treatment and to connect the addicted offender to the recovery community. The drug court program was enhanced with a grant in 2016 and again in 2017 by a DWI track grant. Grams said the SWDC has served 197 participants with 93 who either withdrew, electing to serve their jail/prison time, transferred to another drug court, or were terminated based on new criminal behavior.

SEE I NEEDED, B2

Google is an amazing tool



Steele Talkin'
STEPHANIE KIBLER

Google: verb search for information about (someone or something) on the Internet using the search engine Google. With all the information we have at our fingertips, why are we not researching before we post or debate about current affairs on our social media accounts?

It is so easy to share a meme or a post that is funny, or triggers us. It is just as easy to re-search before we share. Too often we are putting false information or half-truths on our social media accounts. It’s easy to do. We get caught up in a meme we think is funny, we are angry about a situation and react with emotion and not facts. I have been guilty of misunderstanding a post or story, I have naively shared stories with half-truths, and I have been called out for posting them. It is my being lazy when this happens. And I need to own that.

SEE GOOGLE, B8

Ground broken for regional crisis center in Rochester

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
COUNTY WRITER

Representatives from 10 southeastern Minnesota counties, Mayo Clinic, Olmsted Medical Center, the southeast Minnesota chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), health plans, as well as Minnesota State Senator Dave Senjem met in Rochester on June 23 to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Southeast Regional Crisis Center (SERCC). The SERCC is being built directly behind the 2117 building (2117

Campus Drive SE) on the Olmsted County government campus in Rochester.

During the groundbreaking event, Olmsted County Commissioner Stephanie Podulke explained that the SERCC will provide the right care, at the right time, at the right place.

“The crisis center will serve individuals of all ages living with mental illness who will be seen by professionals who will greet them with understanding, compassion, and mental health expertise,” Podulke said.

As for the right time, Podulke explained that

the SERCC will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week “to people of all ages, regardless of the type of mental health crisis or ability to pay.” And, once the SERCC opens its doors in spring 2021, people in southeast Minnesota will “no longer have to wait hours or longer in busy emergency rooms for help.”

And for the right place, Podulke said the SERCC is being designed to be “a safe, calm, and welcoming environment designed to meet the unique needs of people experiencing a crisis.” She also noted

that it will be in Rochester near other county community services.

The facility is needed in the region, Podulke said, because nearly 1 in 5 U.S. children is diagnosed with a mental disorder, but only 20% receive care from a specialized mental health care provider; on average, more than 500,000 adults in Minnesota have a mental illness, yet only 48% receive treatment and suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S. – about one death every 11 minutes.

“The Southeast Regional Crisis Cen-

ter will help us in our shared responsibility to aid some of our most vulnerable citizens and fill serious gaps in care for those experiencing mental illness,” noted Podulke.

The Southeast Regional Crisis Center will provide care to individuals in southeast Minnesota who are experiencing a mental health care crisis. Services will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The facility is being built in Rochester, Minnesota and expected to open in 2021. The center will serve Steele, Dodge,

Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Wabasha, Waseca and Winona counties. The Southeast Regional Crisis Center is being made possible thanks to a collaboration between the Olmsted Medical Center, Mayo Clinic, the southeast chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the Collaborative Resource Education Services and Technology (CREST) initiative, and several other partners.

The Minnesota Department of Human services awarded \$5 million in funding to the center in 2019.

18 scholarship winners from hospital auxiliary

The Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary has awarded scholarships totaling \$17,800 to 18 area students who are attending an accredited educational institution in pursuit of a nursing or healthcare related career.

The Donald Sanford Nursing Scholarship is for those individuals who are pursuing a career in nursing and are entering their first year or more of school. The Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship is for those individuals in their second year or more studying a health-related career.

Recipients of the 2020 scholarships are:

- Caitlin Anderson attending Winona State University majoring in nursing.
- Michelle Benson attending Augustana University majoring in biology (pre-genetic counseling).
- Karissa Buck attending Augsburg University majoring in doctorate of nursing practice-family nurse practitioner.
- Natily Buck attending Riverland Community College majoring in nursing.
- Molly Busho attending Walden University majoring in master of science-nursing leadership and management.
- Jamie Davison attending the University of Wisconsin-Superior majoring in biology pre-health (chiropractor).
- Timon Higgins attending the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine majoring in doctor of medicine.
- Sydney Langeslag attending Augustana University majoring in nursing.
- Courtney Liming attending Capella University majoring in master’s of science

in nursing-nursing leadership.

- Carter McCauley attending the University of Minnesota Medical School-Duluth majoring in doctorate of medicine.
- Meagan Nowariak attending the University of Minnesota Medical School majoring in doctor of medicine.
- Gretchen Ramaker attending Riverland Community College majoring in radiography.
- Dawson Ringhofer attending North Dakota State University majoring in exercise science (occupational therapy).
- Logan Ringhofer attending the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh majoring in nursing.
- Margaret Schlicker attending Valparaiso University majoring in physician assistant.
- Britt Schultz attending Augsburg University majoring in nurse practitioner.
- Evan Steiger attending the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse majoring in biology (pre-physical therapy).
- Grace Valen attending Augustana University majoring in Biology and Spanish (pre-med).

To be eligible for a scholarship, students must have declared a health-related major and be a Steele County resident.

Proceeds from Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary’s Festival of Tables go towards the funding of these scholarships. The Festival of Tables and other Auxiliary fundraisers have been canceled this year. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to our scholarship program, please mail it to Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary, Attn: Scholarship Program, 2250 NW 26th St., Owatonna, MN 55060.

County back up running again after COVID shutdown

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

During last week’s regular county board meeting, Steele County Commissioners officially adopted a reopening plan for the county.

“This is a bit of an after the fact action,” County Administrator Scott Golberg said. “We have been implementing a preparedness and reopening plan for about a month.” The county began reopening with limited access in late May and fully reopened on June 1.

All county facilities are open to the public and in-person services are available, however the county is

still promoting remote services due to the current pandemic. “It’s always a good thing to have you formally adopt these planned policies,” Golberg explained.

The board also continues to move forward with the sale of two former highway shop properties. “I think it would be appropriate at this time to give another shot at an RFP and if we do not get any proposals or bids on that then we can just place this on the open market for sale,” Golberd told the board.

This is the second RFP authorized on these properties. The first was issued in the fall of 2017 when build-

ings were still present on the property. All the buildings have since been removed. “We got by really good on this,” Commissioner James Brady said of removing development costs on the properties.

Steele County may soon be downstream of federal funding dollars due to the CARES Act. “It was, and is a potential source for us to help with some of our costs,” Golberg said. “I think we would also like to –if the funding eventually comes to us –look at how to utilize the funding for businesses and local economic support.”

The U.S. House of Representatives

passed the CARES ACT bill on March 27. The over \$2 trillion relief package then was apportioned to each state to determine specifics and divide the funds between local governments.

The bill was passed by the state senate 62 to 4 and was stalled in Congress hinging on a special session. “it’s something that would help all of the citizens of Minnesota, not just Steele County,” Commissioner Greg Krueger said.

On June 26, Governor Tim Walz unveiled his plan for distributing \$853 million statewide to aid local governments and businesses during the current pandemic.

I NEEDED: a kick in the pants FROM B1

The first SWDC graduation came in April of 2016. The program currently has 49 participants. It is a rigorous program that has five phases and lasts a minimum of 18 months.

Addressing the three graduates, Judge Bueltel said, “When I see people at their worst, they are definitely at their worst. I get to see the growth in you as an individual.”

Bueltel said he was “super proud” of the graduates. “You can consider yourself lucky because not everybody makes it through this program,” he further stated.

Henderson, 33, started in the program on June 10, 2016. He has participated for about 48 months. He entered the program on DWI charges. The court stayed 42 month of prison time for him. He has underwrent 356 tests and logged 668 sobriety days.

“It has been a long run and you have learned a lot about yourself,” the judge told

Henderson. “I’m glad I stuck it out and I am happy where I am at in life; it feels good,” said Henderson.

Directing comments to Beadell, Judge Bueltel said Beadell was “super determined” to make changes in his life. Bueltel called Beadell a quiet leader. “For once in my life, I feel pride in accomplishment,” responded Beadell.

Judge Bueltel told Burciaga that he looked like a college prep boy.

Burciaga, 29, became part of drug court after being charged with drug possession (heroin) and theft. Burciaga has a 2-year-old son and another child on the way. He challenged others in the drug court program to “keep going” with their journey against addiction.

The Times interviewed all three graduates independent of the ZOOM session.

Beadell says he received three DWIs in the past 10 years. “I’m driving again and

have had 789 says of sobriety,” Beadell said proudly. “I was looking at a year in jail,” he related.

Beadell, employed by Josten’s as a customer service representative, has four children: Logan, 11; Neelia, 9; Aubree, 7 and Maloree, 6. “I think my kids are proud of their dad. I wanted them to know that dad did wrong and he had to be punished.”

Josten’s has been “so understanding” of Beadell’s situation, he said. “They didn’t look down on me,” he added.

Burciaga said Drug Court gave him a chance to live a life and to raise a family. “I’ve been given a second chance at life,” he remarked.

Burciaga was assigned to drug court after he faced drug possession charges of using heroin. Burciaga, a manager at GNC in the Burnsville Mall, said he grew up in a family using drugs. “My mom and dad did drugs and it was normalized in my family,” he said.

When Burciaga’s mother passed away, he started using drugs. He said drug court helped him break the cycle of addiction in his family. He is now in school to be a personal trainer.

Without drug court, Burciaga said he would either be in prison or dead. He has totaled 129 days of sobriety.

“Thank you drug court for allowing me to be the person I prayed I could be,” Burciaga said.

Drug court helped Henderson put his life back on track and for that, he says he is grateful. “It has kept me sober for 668 days,” he said.

Drug court forced Henderson to be organized. “My life is a lot better than it was five years ago,” he says with assuredness. Henderson has an 8-year-old son.

Henderson said he believes it is essential to be connected to a recovery community. He also likes to fish, golf and work on cars. “I’m pretty busy,” he says.

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STEELE COUNTY TIMES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2020

B3

Big lunkers help Owatonna snag runner-up title in fishing tourney

The fishing team from Owatonna High School came away a big winner during the Leech Lake RSATT Qualifying tournament June 21.

With 172 two person teams and 39 different schools competing, Owatonna finished in second place with its top three teams catching 21 bass weighing in at 58.53 pounds.

Owatonna placed just behind Grand Rapids High School with 64.27 pounds and ahead of Becker High School with 57.91 pounds and Minnetonka with 49.46 pounds.

Owatonna's top three placing teams of Brady Schran, Trey Hiatt and Morgan Hansen and Sierra Spindler each had 19.69 pounds placing tied for eighth place and ninth place. They were closely followed by the team of Wyatt Kriesel



Kaden Finholdt, left, and Wyatt Kriesel of Owatonna finished in 12th place at the fishing tournament at Leech Lake June 21.

and Kaden Finholdt with 19.15 pounds in 12th place.

The three teams also qualified for the Tournament of Champions held in August.

Coach Larry Kriesel said that he was incredibly pleased with all the teams competing in the

tournament.

Rounding out the field was Walker Krampitz and Brady Matz in 25th place, Jack Strom and Eathan Koziolk, 66th; Jacob Mohs and Skylar Melom, 70th; Riley Myrom and Tanner Stendal, 93rd; James Henrikson and Trace



The fishing skills of Sierra Spindler, left, and Morgan Hansen helped the Owatonna Fishing Team take the runner-up title at Leech Lake June 21.

Walderon, 99th and Evan Melby and Scott Weckman, 135th.

Owatonna also competed in the Virtual Tournament on Saturday. The Virtual was where teams were allowed to fish on any lake in Minnesota of their choosing, accord-

ing to Kriesel. He said they could fish with an adult, alone, or with another student using a canoe, kayak or even fishing from shore.

The team of Jake Strom and Ethan Koziolk finished in 26th with the biggest fish of the day at 5.39 pounds,

Morgan Hansen and Brady Hansen finished 49th place, Dibble and Dibble 51st place, Adamek and Harguth, 54th place, Jacob Mohs with Boat Captain Nick Lewis came in with 13.3 lbs. and Devan Jirele and Jayden Jirele had 10.9 lbs.

Chateau opener reset for Friday

BY MATTHEW GRAGE
RACING CORRESPONDENT

The excitement had been building for the return of racing and the season opener at Chateau Speedway in Lansing. Unfortunately heavy rains early Friday Morning and into the afternoon made it appear the likelihood of that happening was slim. And with radar showing another round of rain likely about 4:00 the decision was made to postpone the Season Opener for a week.

Even more unfortunate was the fact that that second big wave of rain never arrived and it turned out to be a beautiful Friday Night with no fans in the stands and no cars in the pits. Track officials were disappointed and vowed to wait a little longer next time before making the decision to cancel. The track was plenty wet and muddy through the afternoon but as officials looked at it closer to what have been race time, they agreed that that they

probably could have had the track ready in time.

Fans will have to wait a week to see all the improvements and changes made at Chateau since last fall.

The opener will now be Friday at 7:15 p.m. with the first of two weeks of kids events. With Friday being the start of the Fourth of July Weekend and many activities already cancelled in the area, the track will be serving up Root Beer Floats for all the kids as they file in Friday Night.

On July 10, it will be a special kids night with the popular bicycle giveaways and rides in the Stock Cars. The track always puts up a few bikes for the kids and than other people, drivers and fans alike get into the spirit and bring out some extra bikes and before long there is a long row of bicycles for the kids to enjoy for the summer. This year the track has already been contacted by a local Bike Group that wants to add to that night's giveaways as well.

Despite losing some of the early shows of the season, the track still has plenty of exciting nights and activities on the schedule. There are still two Traditional Sprint shows on the schedule and the "Spirit of 83" Memorial, which was postponed back in May, will be rescheduled. The popular USMTS Modifieds are also on the schedule for Labor Day Weekend. The date has not been set for that yet but should be announced soon.

Seven classes of cars will be filling the pits each and every Friday Night the rest of this summer and into the fall with the 3rd Annual Chateau Speedway Autumn Extravaganza still scheduled for the first weekend in October. The track will be featuring five WISSE-TA Sanctioned Classes this year with Super Stocks, Street Stocks, Pure Stocks, Hornets and Midwest Modifieds, and two USRA Sanctioned classes with the A and B Mods.



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ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS
By Shannon Nordstrom and Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics, Guys, I have an older car, but I love it and it is in wonderful condition. It really looks like it is only a few years old instead of a few decades old. My problem is that the air conditioning system has failed and due to the year, my shop will not fix it or even look at it. The car is a 1990 Olds Delta 88 Royale and it has 70k miles on it. I keep it garaged here in Arizona and I do not let it sit outside during the mid-day heat. What are my options to repair the system?

Frank in Yuma Arizona

We love the older cars that are still in great shape and hope that they stay on the road a long time. It is always fun to see something different than the average car of today cruising down the road. You are in the same spot may folks are with a pre about 1994 vehicle using r12 refrigerant. What used to be available at almost every convenience store for 1\$ is now hard to find even with a refrigerant license and can cost more than 50\$ a lb. The first step is to determine what's wrong with the system. If your shop will not do it, others will. Find one and get an estimate. It could be as simple as a leaky seal and a recharge. Parts should still be available and retrofit kits are too.

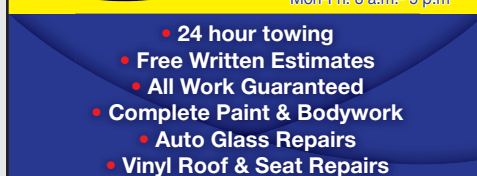
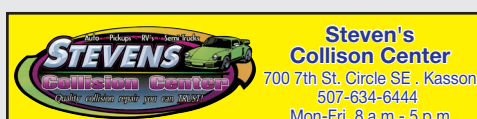
Take care, The Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics, I have an old Caddy that is bouncy. I can hit a bump and it hops up and down for a block before it stops. A person could get seasick riding in this thing. I've asked my shop to get me a price to repair it a couple times and so far, it's almost 4 thousand dollars out the door and that's just crazy cash for a 2001 Seville. Is there anything I can do to get this thing back to a better ride for less money? It does not have to be perfect just less bouncy.

Ray in Milbank South Dakota

We have seen these bouncy old Cadillacs and they are not pretty. Every few months one comes into our shop and we know the value of them and know that it just does not make sense to spend that much money to repair one. On the other hand, it does not make sense to throw one away just because of a little strut issue. The problem is the struts on most of these are either electronically controlled or air cushioned or both making them very expensive for a factory part. We have found alternatives available at both parts stores and on the internet to convert the struts to a standard non-electronic no air ride unit. We have found that this cuts the cost more than half and the ride quality is acceptable too. Ask your shop about alternatives for you.

Take care, The Motor Medics



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Searching for fair food

PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUD AND RICK BUSSLER



Steele County Dairy Princess Sam Fredin serves up another malt during the Drive-In Dairy Days Saturday in Owatonna.



Ivy Possehl, 5, of Claremont, was all smiles as she munched on a large corn dog on a stick. Her family enjoys fair foods. Last year alone, they attended 15 county fairs around the state.



Owyn Nelson, 3, of Austin, wears his patriotic clothes and enjoyed a slush during his visit to Drive-in Dairy Days at the Steele County Fairgrounds last Saturday.



Signs urging people to maintain 6 feet of distance greeted visitors at the dairy promotion last weekend.



Denise O'Connor un.masks husband Tim at Drive-in Dairy Days as they carry out some goodies to enjoy.



The gyro stand got overwhelmed Saturday afternoon as some people waited in line for nearly two hours to get their gyros. The event was limited to 10 food vendors.



The fair painted white markings on the pavement so people could practice social distancing while enjoying the food vendors.

CRAVING: *Fair Food* FROM B1

“Not in my wildest dreams did I think it would be this busy.”

Milo Dahlin
Schem's Kettle Corn Operator

menu as many long-time food vendors set up their stands in parking lots, on roadsides, outside breweries and at dormant fairgrounds.

“We’re selling an amazing amount of product,” said Gail Zollner of the Steele County Dairy Association as she took another \$20 bill for folks waiting to have the ever-popular dairy malts. “The line has never been empty,” she said, noting the promotion began at 10 a.m. on Saturday and continued until 8 p.m.

She said people didn’t seem to mind waiting in line to get their malts. “We’ve had fabulous response from the community,” Zollner said. “There have been no grumpy people.”

The dairy group set up a money counter in front of the malt stand. As people ordered their favorite malts, Zollner maneuvered a protec-

“Everyone has lost what they do,” Kozelka said of the canceled events. “For many, this is their living.”

One of those vendors is Milo Dahlin of Ellendale, who operates Schem’s Kettle Corn. He relies on proceeds from the stand as a supplement to his retirement income.

On Saturday, Dahlin had trouble keeping up with the demand of kettle corn. “It has been crazy,” he said. “I think Steele County wanted fair food. They came out in droves. Not in my wildest dreams did I think it would be this busy.”

Dahlin plans to bring his kettle corn stand to other communities throughout the summer. Weather permitting, he will be in the parking lot of Vandal’s Family Market in Blooming Prairie every Thursday from 12 to 7 p.m. “It’s nice to get into the small towns,” he said.

Operating the stand has become therapeutic for Dahlin. “You meet some of the great people of your community,” he said.

Piggy Blues was forced to shut down about four hours early on Saturday because it was completely wiped out of food.

Some people waited in line for nearly two hours to get a gyro sandwich on Saturday. Kozelka said one vendor reported that this past Saturday topped their best day in sales during the county fair.



CONGRATULATIONS

NRHEG HONOR ROLL STUDENTS

Great job to the following NRHEG High School students for achieving academic excellence by being named to the Fourth Quarter Honor Roll:

A Honor Roll

GRADE 6

Holly Bartness
Jordan Brouwers
Meela Budach
Hudson Chrz
Kaitlyn Dobberstein
Kyera Eustice
Carter Flatland
Kaleb Hughes
Olivia Johnson
Jozie Klimmek
Wyatt Larson
Gavin Lewison
Alexis Loken
Vienna Loverink
Devon Nelton
Deven Parpart
Winter Pederson
Chloe Riewer
Gabrielle Schlaak
Trevor Selover
Adalyn Stadheim
Cheyann Torres
Abigayle Viktora
Kayden Warke
Owen Wayne
Emma Yokiel

GRADE 7

Violet Aronson
Owen Bartlett
Andrew Broitzman
Hannah Brunsen
Alden Dobberstein
Eden Eads
Katelyn Grinnen
Benjamin Hagen
Lia Johannsen
Madelynn Kofstad
Brady Koopal
Sierra Misgen
Gracie Morgan
Jay Muilenburg
Tayla Sandry
Aidan Schlaak
Talon Smith Vulcan
Anju Stafford
Grace Starman
Aspyr Stenzel
Kaylei Thompson
Rielly Weitzel
Olivia Wencil

GRADE 8

Anna Blatti
Grace Borchert
Kia Buendorf
Parker Bunn
Payton Bunn
Jackson Chrz
Julia Churchill
Aubri DenHerder
Levin Kitzer
Jordis Kruger-Diaz
Keira Lenort
Sydney Lewer
Addison Loken
Kiyah Mikesell
McKenzie Mueller
Madison Murray
Preslie Nielsen
Elijah Nussbaum
Evelyn Nydegger
Samuel Olson
Erin Peterson

Annabelle Petsinger
George Roesler
Clay Routh
Tayler Schmidt
Elsie Schultz
Hallie Schultz
Brenna Sommer
Isabel Stadheim
William Tuttle
Gracie Williams
Malonna Wilson

GRADE 9

Evan Beckman
Faith Borchert
Andrea Briggs
Alexus Chambers
Levi DenHerder
Aidan Deyle
Anton Domeier
Trinity Evans
Raquel Fischer
Wyatt Groskreutz
Bree Ihrke
Erin Jacobson
Olivia Kofstad
Conner Nelson
Vada Nelson
Valerie Nelson
Sidney Schultz
Tatum Smith Vulcan
Trinity Smith Vulcan
Mayla Soulisak
Brooklyn Strand
Josie Strom
Ethan Thompson
Eva Wayne
Grace Wilkenson

GRADE 10

Jaxon Beck
Hunter Bogue
Autumn Combs
Alex Dobberstein
Rylee Gruenhagen
Elsabet Gushwa
Ashley Hagen
Cora Harpel
Jordan Horejsi
Madison Johannsen
Dakota Ketterling-Kormann
Brenlee Knudson
Cassie Kormann
Kylee Kruger
Ava Kylo
Miranda LaCanne
Trevor Lenort
Lex Lewison
Tyler Malakowsky
Rhys Martin
Matthew Mueller
Cameron Nicholson
Jack Olson
Ethan Peters
Anna Peterson
Porter Peterson
Nikolas Petsinger
Brittney Rocha
Ralph Roesler
Clay Stenzel
Sophie Stork
Journey Utpadel
Torri Vaale
Nathan Vanek
Haley VanWinkle
Alisa Witikko

GRADE 11

Gavin Anderson
Bridgette Blowers
Isaac Borchert
Tory Christenson
Hanna Crabtree
Aubrey Fischer
Luisa Gaona Quezada
Tewodros Gushwa
Avery Hill
T'Shayla Hinderscheit
Anna Jacobson
Ashton Johnson
Kendall Johnson
Julia King
Madison Knudson
Katie Lee
Dylan Loken
Cassidy Martin
Josh Martin
Daniel Nydegger
Caden Riewer
Kordell Schlaak
Jonah Stafford
Lorelei Strom
Courtney Techau
Grace Tuft

GRADE 12

Katie Cliff
Alexandra Combs
Madison DenHerder
Addison Deyle
Jayna Domeier
Mason Ferber
Blake Ihrke
Emmablu Jameson
Summer Kath
Paige Knudson
Madison Kormann
Margueritte Maloney
Jenna Nelson
Tanner Oquist
Paige Peterson
Severin Eads
Mia Williams
Diamond Woollard

B Honor Roll

GRADE 6

Evan Berg
Madison Bogue
Kalia Calderon Medrano
Bailey Dalbec
Brenna Dalbec
Isabelle Duncan
Charlie Fuller
Fikadu Gushwa
Adrianna Gutierrez-Chesley
Thomas Hasbrouck
Jerzy Knudson
Jacklynn Kress
Jared Lee
Jakob Loverink
Hope Mikesell
Ezekiel Morrison
Brody Mudgett
Cloe Muilenburg
Leo Patrick
Ava Schember
Olivia Vaale
Zoe Wilson

GRADE 7

Ava Cummins
Jayden Fleming
Aaden Hanna

Aryanna Howe
Cole Hutchens
Jozie Johnson
Jozlyn Johnson
Jase Knudson
Lainee Krohn
Owen Krueger
Colton Kruger
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Carter Martens
Bo McCamish
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Carmine Raab
Avah Reich
Cohen Riewer
Rayden Roberts
Greyson Schaefer
Logan Schiell
Mallory Schlinger
Ethan Service
Seth Staloch
Jayden Tonkin
Gabriella Willaert
Brock Ziemke
Georgia Zimprich

GRADE 8

Ned Bell
Gavin Briggs
Kyra Cain
Danny Deniz-Clark
Drake Hershberger
Carter Johnson
Kyli Johnson
Graden Karl
Daxter Lee
Payden Loverink
Dacoda Malakowsky
Elleana Matheny
Kaeden Neitzel
Faith Nielsen
Brian Possin
Jason Reese
Debra Rollins
Kyra Spies
Annalina Stevermer

GRADE 9

Sean Beauvais
Aden Berg
Tarynn Besser
Avyana Boyd
Maverik Bueltel
Natalie Butler
Samuel Christensen
Jaylee Christopher
Kara Doyle
Rozlynn Duncan
Sarah George
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Spencer Swenson
Will Utpadel
Neela Wencil
Noah Wilder-Gottland
Gavin Wilkenson
Ashley Wobschall
Bradley Wobschall
Katelyn Zimmerman

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Bo Budach
Kylie Doyle
Cale Flatness
Isaiah Huisman
Asa Johnson
Cole Kath
Austin King
Gabrielle Ladlie
Miguel Martinez
Emily Pater
Ashton Raimann
McKenna Schiell
Benjamin Schoenrock
Isaac Smith
Dana Standke
Walker Thompson
Ulrich Woollard
Samuel Zimmerman

GRADE 11

Morgan Besser
Dakota Bogue
Cameron Cantu
Riley Chicos
Trenten Duncan
Emily Grinnen
Zachary Hagen
Andrew Hoelscher
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Maxwell Seltun
Amy Shaw
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Nicklas Staloch
Carter Stencil
Jenika Tonkin
Alexis Tuft

GRADE 12

Madelyn Broton-Anderson
Destiny Calderon-Medrano
Evan Fell
Dillon Kohnert
Karter Koziolk
Sydney Koziolk
Derek Lee
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State reminds Frontier customers to apply for rebates

July 20 is the final day to apply for rebates or bill credits for past and current Frontier Communications customers. Former and current Frontier Communications customers may be eligible based on past service quality and reliability problems. Those eligible are urged to act fast because the settlement claim period, which began in April will end July 20.

“More than 2,000 Minnesotans across the state have already filed a claim for rebates or bill credits from this settlement,” said Commerce Commissioner Steve Kelley. “Many more current and former Frontier customers may be eligible and should review the settlement categories to see if they qualify. The window to make claims is open now through July.”

Applications for refund or bill credit are available online at <https://frontier.com/forms/minnesota-bill-credit>.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ordered the rebates and bill credits, consistent with negotiated terms reached between the Minnesota Department of Commerce and Frontier. Customers of Frontier Communications of Minnesota, Inc. and Citizens Telecommunications of MN, LLC, collectively referred to as Frontier, should have received notice from Frontier in bill inserts and direct mail in April.

“This settlement provides some relief to those who dealt with less than adequate service,” said Commissioner Kelley. Frontier customers from across the state came forward with concerns and complaints about Frontier’s practices, unreliable service and being over-

charged for their phone service.

“It is important to note that both current and past Frontier customers may be eligible,” added Kelley.

The settlement resulted in the following categories for which a former or current Frontier customer may claim a refund or bill credit.

- Telephone was out-of-service and not restored within 24 hours.
- Incorrect billing for service related to vacation rate.
- Late fees charged for phone service despite bill being paid on or before due date.
- Frontier did not cancel telephone service upon request, resulting in additional charges.
- Charged to receive a paper bill for telephone service.
- Charged for three-way calling without subscribing to the service.
- Wrongly charged for directory assistance or 411 calls.
- Charged an early termination fee on or after January 1, 2016, without having signed an agreement.
- Inappropriately charged fees to reconnect telephone service.
- Telephone disconnected without proper notice.
- Refusal to install local telephone service.
- Inability to use the telephone due to static, cross talk, or other notice.
- Installation delay of more than 3 business days for primary local service line.
- Same trouble on the same line within 30 days.
- Frontier missed a repair appointment for telephone service.

• Customer service representation claimed no trouble report exists from an earlier call regarding the same phone issue.

The above categories of complaint addressed a significant portion of the complaints received from Frontier’s Minnesota consumers. But, consumers should be aware that the Department is continuing to investigate a number of issues that were not settled.

Frontier Communications of Minnesota, Inc., and its affiliate, Citizens Telecommunications of Minnesota, LLC, provide telephone service to approximately 75,000 Minnesota households and businesses, as well as internet service to many more households, in many parts of Greater Minnesota and the Twin Cities metro area.

Applications for refund or bill credit are online at <https://frontier.com/forms/minnesota-bill-credit>.

Wherever you are in Minnesota, the Department of Commerce is with you every day. Whether you’re filling up on gas, purchasing a home, working to reduce energy consumption or rebuilding after a disaster—we are with you, no matter what.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce oversees more than 20 regulated industries, ensuring that Minnesota businesses are strong and Minnesota consumers are protected. Our mission is to protect the public interest, advocate for Minnesota consumers, ensure a strong, competitive and fair marketplace, strengthen the state’s economic future and serve as a trusted public resource for consumers and businesses.

HE DIGS: his job FROM B10

“We did a lot of crazy things to dig a hole,” he added.

And, he admits, a few accidents happened along the way. One time they accidentally blew up a grave marker. He had to pay \$2,800 to replace it. “It was just unbelievable,” he said.

In 1964, Bohlman was working for the United Methodist Church as a janitor. The church job didn’t pay enough to support his family. He decided to team up with his father, Leo. They dug together for about 12 years before Lyle went on his own. Lyle’s son, Leon, joined him in 1998. “We thought ‘let’s dig together’ because we both are outdoor people,” Lyle said.

At one time, Bohlman dug graves at 14 area cemeteries stretching from Kenyon and Berne to Ellendale and Meriden and everything in between.

The grave digging business has been in the family for four generations. His grandson, Brandon, has taken over the full burials in recent years while Lyle focuses on the cremations.

He has buried a lot of veterans throughout his career with the worst being the Vietnam War era. “We lost a lot of kids from town that I buried,” Bohlman said of the Vietnam years.

Bohlman has also had to dig up a few bodies over the years. Sometimes people want to move deceased family members to another



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Lyle Bohlman completes yet another grave digging job-- something he has been doing for more than half a century.

cemetery. One time he had to dig up the body of a person who had been shot for further investigation with state authorities.

Bohlman describes grave-digging as being peaceful work. He continues doing it because it keeps him outdoors and he gets to see wildlife. “You don’t get that sitting in the house. I like to do something,” he said. “I would never trade this job for anything. I enjoy every minute of it.”

He joked about how nobody has gotten upset with his work. “There is nobody in the cemetery that is going to complain,” Bohlman said. “Nobody bothers you, you do your own thing.”

He has never given any consideration to retirement. “What do you do if you don’t work?” Bohlman said. “I have to keep these old bones going,” he added.

And his doctor agrees with him. “My doctor has told me as long as you can lift a shovel, you should keep on a diggin,” Bohlman said.

For Bohlman, the

key is to not even think about how old he is. “A lot of days I feel like I’m 70 years old. Just keeping working,” he said. “It’s not good for people to sit around.”

He has had a few health setbacks, but nothing that has prevented him from flexing his muscles and shoveling. “I don’t know when I will throw the spade in,” Bohlman said. “I have to think it through,” he added.

Bohlman says he never gets tired or sore from digging dirt. “When I was younger, I’d knock out my back, but the older I got, the stronger I became,” he related.

Bohlman said the real test will come this fall when he turns 87. Both his father and a brother died within a couple months of turning 87. “My odds are kind of bad of making 87,” he said. “Boy I’m getting to be an old man now.”

His advice for longevity?

“Eat good and have a good, cold drink,” Bohlman says, adding he likes to have a cold beer after a hard day of digging.

Congratulations Tiger Honor Students!



It gives us great honor to salute the following students for achieving the fourth quarter honor roll at Medford High School:



HIGH HONOR ROLL

Grade 12

Conrad Blome
Wyatt Brewer
Jerone Chavis
William Chester
Kylie Cumberland
Boden Devoe
River Disher
Jordan Edel
Devon Federly
Taylor Fette
Zachary Finholdt
Juan Gamez
Shelby Ganske
Yazmin Gonzalez
Kaylin Hanson
Riley Hill
Alyvia Johnson
Shawn Johnson
Logan Keppers
Emma Kniefel
Hannah Knutson
Morgan Langeslag
Sierra Larson
Yeslin Mena
Hannah Mundt
Kiley Nihart
Mackenzie Paulson
Brendan Rahn
Kevin Robles
Sawyer Shaffer
Carson Sobrack
Jordyn Stadler
Dylan Stenzel
Jeremiah Sutcliffe
William VonRuden
Zachary Wetmore

Grade 11

Braden Barbeau
Brayden Beede
Jenna Berg
Adam Cammock
Kinsey Cronin
Roberta Domstrand
Cole Dusek

Isaac Enzenauer
Garrett Fitzgerald
Alissa Freelove
Johanna Grant
Lizabeth Gutierrez
Josiah Hedensten
Kaelan Hermanstorfer
Gavin Hermes
Catrina Herr
Madison Jaster
Matthew Knutson
Ernesto Lazaro
Angela Lippert
Xena Lopez-Bermudez
Devin Luckey
Sierra Lustig
Brock Merritt
Mason Nagel
Luz Peralta
Brooke Purrier
Lily Roehrick
Peyton Seiler
Isabella Steffen
Tyler Stursa
Chloe Van Ryn
Alex Vandereide
Haley VonRuden
Hanna VonRuden
Miya Weber
Layla Wenker
Gunner White
Halli Zumbrunnen

Grade 10

Jacob Andrews
Jake Barten
Carter Blome
Caydon Budde
Logan Bueckslar
Jordan Capello
Emma Corbin
Reed Cumberland
Isabel DeLeon
Cheyenne Fedder
Ryllei Federly
Henry Grayson
Nicole Harfmann

Johnathan Houston
Isabelle Huizel
Nathan Johnson
MacKenzie Kellen
Megan Klein
Clara Kniefel
Hunter Laue
George McCarthy
Samantha Miller
Jessica Neuharth
Julia Niles
Jack Paulson
Elizabeth Peterson
Justin Ristau
Jayme Stransky
Logan Schak
Nicole Schrot
Hannah Schull
Brielle Smith
Anna Sobrak
Erika Thurnau
Ava Jae Westbrook
Jared Zuniga
Jeancarlo Zuniga

Grade 9

Andrea Bock
Samantha Bueckslar
Casey Chambers
Rian Cloutier
Emma Crooks
Kylie Dusek
MaKenna Enzenauer
Austin Erickson
Abigail Fitzgerald
Dylan Heiderscheidt
Tate Hermes
Josephine Homeier
Adyn Johnson
Connor Jones
Morgan Jones
Emily Kappes
Grace Keller
Adalia List
Jenesis McGuire
Jack Meyer
Riley Norland

Cohen O'Connor
Payton Ristau
Martina Smith
Tyler Steffen
Reagan Sutherland
Annabelle Troester
Isis Walters
Mackenzie Zacharias

Grade 8

Maizee Alberts
Mia Amberg
Riley Babcock
Mya Borwege
London Caron
Kelsie Casper
Ava Clark
Abigail Cloutier
Ava Cottrell
Avery Dressen
Jayden Kennedy
Kylee Krause
Emma McAdams
Madyson McCarty
Addison Poe
Saige Polzin
Adrianna Schlund
Lauren Smith
Taylor Smith
Josef Sutcliffe
Clara Thurnau
Addison Vandereide
Gavin Zacharias
Josue Zuniga

Grade 7

Aiden Ahrens
Meghan Amberg
Alexia Benton
Amanda Bock
Kadence Caron
Hailey Chambers
Mason Delaney
Delaney Driscoll
MaKayla Fedder
Makenna Gare
Aaliyah Gonzalez
Tayden Grambart
Kaden Harfmann
Makailyn Hedberg
Lydia Heiderscheidt
Hailey Hemann
Anna Herr
Cain Johannes
Jillian Kellen
Jayden Kennedy
Tyler Ernste
Lily George
Broderick Goodnature
Omar Guerrero
Sadie Kern
Annette Kniefel
Beau Lawson
Emely Lazaro
Luis Lopez
Dakota Mahlum
Isabel Miller
Liliana Murphy
Evan Noble
Addison O'Connor
Adrianna O'Neill
Jesse Ortiz
Hunter Perdue
Carolina Perez
Alaina Rivers
Kynnedie Schauer
Evan Schweisthal
Peyton Snow
Tessa Underdahl
Sarah Wall
Jade Wegner

REGULAR HONOR ROLL

Grade 12

Natily Buck
Emily Cloutier
Sviatlana Danilyuk
Jacey Dressen
Sebastian Duncan
Madison Klein
Alexander Paul
Logan Pleschourt
Isabel Reuvers

MaKayla Smith
Abigail Tellijohn
Lanaya Wacek
Alorah Weise

Grade 11

Krista Esch
Nathan Galvan
Brennon Hoffman
Mikayla Janke
Malia Kircher
Shea Lambert
Alexander Oatway
Antonio Ortiz
Jesse Phillips
Nevaeh Smith
Jeffrey Westergaard

Grade 10

Payton Caron
Makenna Christenson
Paul Cole
Hailey Cuevas
Emmit Culver
Paige Davis
Jacob Ernste
Dawson Gasner
Bryce Grayson
Noah Honsey
Kimberly Jarvi
Jacob Kucera
Lynn Larson
Bridgette Lemke
Kaden Meixner
Journey Palluck
Malachi Sutcliffe
Rylan Warner

Grade 9

Joshua Bluhm
Landon Driscoll
Jacob Esch
Jamie Gibbons
Nicolas Hill
Kaden Jones
Lydia Krenske
Beau LaCroix

Dylan Luckey
Carter Luebbe
Preston McCarty
Aidan Murphy
Kael Neumann
Camrin Rodriguez
Josephine Schell
Charles Spitzack
Paige Stadler
Justin Voegele
Parker Vogt
Anahi Zuniga

Grade 8

Bailee Amberg
Bowen Beede
Grant Cuevas
Natas Doyon
Elizabeth Kennedy
Aiden Little
Rachel Miller
Dylan Pleschourt
Mataya Roos
Eric Sarmiento
Ethan Solomon
Lauren Stinocher
Kourtney Stoneking
Montana Strommer

Grade 7

Layton Anderson
Mason Degrood
Theressa Ellis
Skyler Fouquette
Ellory Grund
Alivia Kappes
Owen Mechura
Jake Nihart
Regino Ortega
Harvey Prins
Erika Schrot
Michael Schrot
Micah Snyder
Cole Sundahl
Genesis Vasquez
Bryson Warner
Malaki Weber

Congratulations to Medford's Honor Roll Students!



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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

- JULY 4**
10 p.m. – Fireworks

JULY 7
10:30 a.m. – Storytime Online, Facebook Live
- JULY 13**
7 p.m. – City Council Meeting

JULY 14
2:30 p.m. – Public Utilities Meeting

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

- JULY 3**
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

JULY 6
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
6 p.m. – Ellendale Fire Department Meeting, Community Building
- JULY 8**
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

JULY 9
7:30 p.m. – Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

- JULY 4**
7 a.m. – Farmers Market, Central Park
10 p.m. – Fireworks, Steele County Fairgrounds

JULY 7
9:30 a.m. – Garden Time, Owatonna Library
10 a.m. – Genealogy Club, History Center
10:30 a.m. – Storytime Online with Darla, Facebook Live
- Noon – West Hills Commission Meeting, Jaycee Park
7 p.m. – Owatonna City Council Meeting, City Admin Building

JULY 9
10:30 a.m. – Storytime Online with Darla, Facebook Live
5 p.m. – Airport Commission Meeting, Airport Lounge
7 p.m. – 7@7 Concert – Generation Gap, Central Park

BIRTHDAYS

July 1
Imogene Symes
Barb Lorenzen
Brittany Schewe
Mia Amberg
Nichole Borg
LaVerne Klecker

July 2
Steve Ingvalson
Kaden Thoams
Haley Ann McIntosh
Steve Braaten

July 3
Benton Prouty
Mark Noble
Hilary Jones
Ashley Valek
Ashton Chase Greene
Luke Larkoski

July 4
Sheila Wiese
Kelli Naatz
Jay Braaten
Bernice Stender

July 5
Brenna Peterson
John Hines

July 6
Sarah Esplan
Micalyn Trihus
Rachel Klemmesen
Breanna Koster
Nick Schiefert
Orene Dennis

July 7
Jill Trotman
Dawson Heuer
Tyler Bruggeman
Derek Levon

ANNIVERSARIES

July 1
LaVerne & Linda Klecker

July 2
Nancy & Brad Clark
Rob & Margo White

Chuck & Betty Iherdina

July 6
Bob & Loretta Ingvalson

This weekly feature sponsored by:
Dornink & Sons Carpentry
Gene Dornink
507.206.8449

Sudoku Corner

		3		1	5	7	9	
	8	6			9	2		1
			2	6				
9	2	4	6					
		7	4	3	1	8	2	9
	1		9			6		
7			5	9			8	2
	3	5		8	2			
8		2		7	6	4		

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Answers

9	1	7	9	2	8	7	6	8
2	9	6	7	8	1	9	8	7
7	8	9	7	6	9	1	9	2
7	9	9	2	7	6	8	1	8
6	7	8	1	8	7	2	9	9
8	2	1	8	9	9	7	7	6
8	7	9	8	9	7	6	2	1
1	8	7	6	7	2	9	8	9
9	6	2	9	1	8	8	7	7

Summer fun on Beaver



With temperatures exceeding 90 degrees, it was time to take the board to Beaver Lake near Ellendale and have some fun.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Village Affair for 2020 is cancelled

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The Village Affair, a fall event in Blooming Prairie, is the latest community event to be cancelled.

This popular bazaar/craft show would have been held on Saturday, Oct. 24. This would have been the 48th annual show.

“It would be difficult to use the school, because of current conditions caused by the coronavirus,” says Pam Folkens, one of the organizers representing AAUW. The Women of Today co-sponsors The Village Affair.

“There would be a lot of people in a closed space,” remarked Folkens. The event draws over 300.

The Village Affair, in actuality, is a holiday bazaar that brings items that coincide with the upcoming holidays of Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Each year brings these creations: hand sewn items, holiday items, hand woven rugs, scrap booking materials, baked goods, jewelry, ceramics, candles, handbags, pottery, wood pieces, painted wood, fabric items, jams and jellies, home decor items and much, much more.

Next year’s Village Affair is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021.

Hormel Home offers summer camps

Hormel Historic Home offers modified Autism Summer Camp programming due to COVID-19 situation.

This year is the 10th Anniversary year of the Hormel Historic Home offering summer camp opportunities to youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder in the Austin community. Although their typical on-site/ in the community camps cannot be provided, camp directors are working diligently to offer ‘camp kits’ which can be picked up for registered campers on Monday, July 6 from 3-6 p.m. at the south garden entrance of the Hormel Historic Home.

Kit contents, activities, and method of implementation vary based on which camp youth are eligible for.

Circle of Friends Camp: Youth entering grades 1-5 who are typically able to work in small groups and have a functional communication ability.

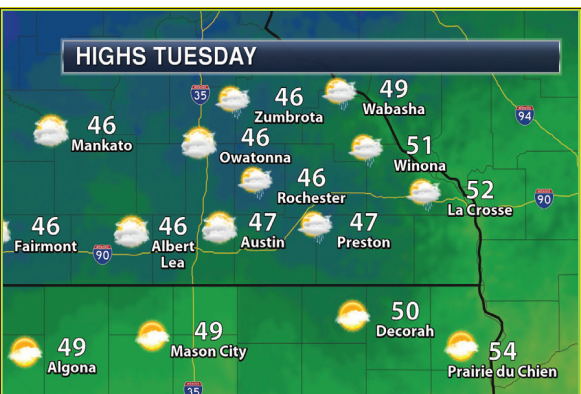
All Access Community Explorations: Youth in grades 6-12 who are typically able to work in small groups and have a functional communication system.

Camp Just For Me: Youth in grades 1-12 who typically need one to one support.

Kits are available at no cost to eligible youth.

For more information or to register your child contact autism@hormelhistorichome.org or call 507-433-4243.

HIGHS TUESDAY



Weekday Weather Forecast
7am • Noon • 6pm • 9pm
KSMQ TV
The Better Choice

Online Advance Care Planning classes now available from Allina

Since the COVID-19 pandemic has temporarily ended the ability to provide live advance care planning (ACP) classes, Allina Health is now offering virtual online classes.

Twelve classes have been scheduled in July. The focus of the online class is the same as the in-person class – to explain how to fill out a health care directive and explain how to get it to the appropriate people and into your electronic health record.

A health care directive provides written information to others about your health care goals, preferences and wishes in case illness or injury prevents you from telling them yourself. Advance care planning is designed to help anyone, healthy or sick, communicate their wishes for medical treatment. This planning process will clarify what your family and friends need to know if you become unable to make health care decisions for yourself.

Online classes are available on the following dates and times. Email PatientEducation@allina.com to register for one of these classes.

Monday, July 6, 3-4 p.m.
Wednesday, July 8, 1-2 p.m.
Thursday, July 9, 10-11 a.m.
Monday, July 13, 3-4 p.m.
Wednesday, July 15, 1-2 p.m.
Thursday, July 16, 10-11 a.m.
Monday, July 20, 3-4 p.m.

Wednesday, July 22, 1-2 p.m.
Thursday, July 23, 10-11 a.m.
Monday, July 27, 3-4 p.m.
Wednesday, July 29, 1-2 p.m.
Thursday, July 30, 10-11 a.m.

Q: What is advance care planning?
A: Advance care planning is the process of giving information to others about your health care choices in case illness or injury prevents you from telling them yourself. Talk with members of your care circle (family, friends or others close to you) about your health care choices. This is a time for you to share:

- what kind of care and treatment you do or do not want
- your wishes, goals and values and how they relate to your health care choices for the future.

Q: What is a health care directive?
A: A health care directive is a written document of your health care choices. Members of your care circle and health care providers use this to interpret and understand your wishes, goals and values for future health care needs if you cannot tell them yourself.

Everyone 18 years or older should have a health care directive, even if you are healthy. You do not need an attorney to fill out a health care directive. You can change your health care directive any time.

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Socializing at the Bar
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Starts again July 6 • Must be 21 to play

Events Cancelled due to COVID-19
July 3rd Street Dance • BOB RIDE
See you again in 2021!!

Seating available inside the bar and under the tent on the patio.

BAR HOURS
Monday – Friday • 10 a.m. to close
Saturday • 9 a.m. to close

OFFSALE HOURS
Monday – Friday • 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Saturday • 9 a.m. – 10 p.m. Sunday • Closed

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NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

JUDICIAL DISTRICT
THIRD DISTRICT
COURT
PROBATE COURT
DIVISION
Court File No.
74-PR-20-549

ORDER AND NOTICE
OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In RE: Estate of Elvina Leone Anderson, Deceased

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 3rd day of August, 2020, at 1:30 p.m., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at 111 E Main St., Owatonna, MN 55060, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above named decedent, date June 13, 1996, and for the appointment of Beth Krebs, whose addresses is 421 NW 3rd Street, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 as personal representative of the estate of the above named decedent in unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That if proper, and no objections are filed, said co-personal representatives will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the administration, the co-representatives shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereunto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate. Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said co-personal representatives or to the Clerk of the Court within four months after the date of this notice or said claim will be barred.

/s/ Karen R Duncan
Judge of District Court

Jason J. Iacovino
Attorney at Law
HENEFIELD &
IACOVINO LAW OFFICE
415 E. Main St.
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
(507) 583-6663
Attorney Registration
Number 0386770

6/24, 7/1

NOTICE

SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT
#756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE,
MINNESOTA 55917
MONDAY,
JULY 20, 2020
HIGH SCHOOL
MEDIA CENTER
PROPOSED TENTATIVE
AGENDA

6:00 a.m. Thursday, July 16, 2020 *Regular School Board Work Session – High School Media Center
7:00 p.m. Monday, July 20, 2020 *Open Public Forum – High School Media Center
7:15 p.m. Monday, July 20, 2020 *Regular School Board Meeting – High School Media Center
Any person may raise a question to the School Board. The Board will not act on any item presented to them, which is not on the agenda, until the following Board meeting. Also, the Board would like persons to limit themselves to five minutes, with a maximum of 15 minutes per topic. These limitations are needed for us to run a timely and orderly Board meeting. Persons are requested to identify themselves prior to speaking.

I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON
II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
III. ROLL CALL – CLERK
IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS
VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

- A. Consent Agenda
Minutes
Bills
Treasurer's Report
Resignation
Donations
B. Employment
C. School Board Meeting Dates
D. Work Sessions
E. School Board Per Diem
F. Public Hearing on Property Tax Levy Payable 2021
G. Cheer and Fine Arts Fees
H. Health & Safety Policy
I. LTFM Ten Year Plan
J. Designation of Identified Official with Authority for the MDE External User Access Recertification System
K. Policy and Procedures for Speech Telepractice Services
L. District Audit
M. Student Activity Fund
VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
A. 2020-2021 School Year Plans for All Three Scenarios (MDE)
B. Family Education Rights and Privacy Act
C. Committee Reports
D. Enrollment Data
E. Dates to Note
VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS
IX. ADJOURNMENT
*Agenda may be subject to changes

Local pheasants chapter helps with Clean Water Legacy projects

Minnesota Pheasants Inc., Steele County Chapter in cooperation with the DNR has recently implemented two Clean Water Legacy Grant projects in Steele County.

The first project was the establishment of 26 acres of diverse native prairie on the Somerset Wildlife Management Area adjacent to the Straight River south of Owatonna. This diverse native prairie contains

16 different species of wildflowers and eight different species of native grasses, according to Dan Arndt, vice president of the local chapter. He said the addition of this prairie to the Somerset WMA will provide wildlife habitat, support pollinator insects, and protect water quality in the Straight River.

The second project was the restoration of seven acres of grassland on the Aurora

DNR Wildlife Management Area. The project consisted of removing invasive trees and brush, controlling the existing brome and reeds canary grass, and establishing native prairie.

Arndt said 90% of the cost for the projects was paid through the CPL program with MN Pheasants Inc. paying a match of 10%.

The Clean Water Legacy (CPL) Grant Program funds conser-

vation projects that restore, enhance, or protect forests, wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife in Minnesota. Funding for the CPL, grant program is from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, created by the people of Minnesota. The CPL, Program has been recommended by the Lassard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council to (and approved by) the MN Legislature annually since 2009.

MEDFORD WOMAN: takes over United Way FROM B1

“I want to rebuild our community,” Duncan said. “What can United Way do to put it all back together and how can we be stronger.”

The new director said the United Way isn’t always about raising money so she plans to work with other organizations to find out what their needs are and how the United Way can help them. Duncan plans to use the month of July to get out into the community to

see how United Way can help. “I want to strengthen relationships and be more accessible in the community,” she said.

One of Duncan’s other goals is to identify what programs and services are missing in Steele County.

“I believe we can do more,” Duncan says. “We have the ability to come and make a difference for so many people,” she said. She added she wants to figure out how United Way can aid in mak-

ing transformational change within the community.

Duncan expects some big challenges in the months ahead with all events being canceled because of COVID-19. But, she stressed, “necessity is the best mother of invention.” She said it’s a challenge, but also an opportunity. “We are forced to become more creative.”

Duncan, who grew up in California and moved to Minnesota in the late 1990s, has a

bachelor of arts degree in organizational management and a master of arts in non-profit management.

Her goal has always been to transition into non-profit work where she can give of her talents. “It fills my heart. Any opportunity I turn to give, I take advantage of it,” Duncan said. “I’ve always felt it was my calling. I feel we have an obligation to help others and be there for them. We should not be self-serving,” she added.

GOOGLE: is an amazing tool FROM B1

Social media is a great tool for staying in touch with friends and family we do not live close to. Wonderful venues for sharing pictures of our children and grandchildren, vacations, family reunions. It is also a valuable platform for social justice issues and politics.

We need to slow down, take a moment and think about whether the information we are sharing is true, false or somewhere in between. We need to recognize that if we in-

advertently post a false narrative or half-truth we will likely be called out on it. All the more reason to research before posting.

Google is bipartisan, pulling news stories from sources around the world in a matter of seconds. From there it is easy to read through articles, fact check the story or comment you are posting. When googling add “fact check” to your search bar and you will see a wide-range of resources that, in many

cases, have done the research for you.

There are days that I think ‘damn you Facebook!’ But then I realize this is not the responsibility of social media, whatever medium we use, it is OUR responsibility. We must do better. The anger these shares inspire is dangerous. Even more so today as we navigate COVID, protests, the economy, riots. It is a long list of things that not only frustrate us, but scare us as well.

We owe it, not only to ourselves, but to

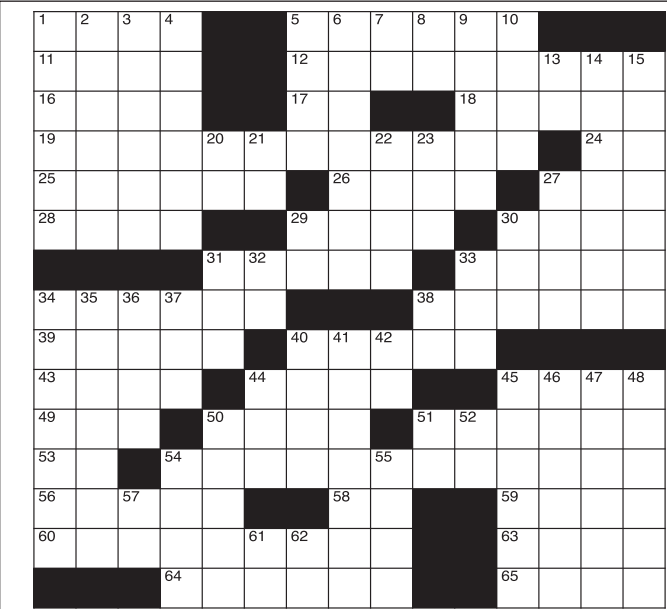
our community, both online and the one that we live in to avoid sharing misinformation. The truth matters!

Stephanie Kibler resides in Ellendale and serves on the Ellendale City Council. She is also executive director of the Freeborn County Historical Society in Albert Lea. Steele Talkin is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

TURN OFF the television...

Encourage your children to make reading the newspaper a part of their everyday routine for lifelong learning.

STEELE COUNTY TIMES
Always local, all the time.



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Elaborate silk garment
 - Fleet
 - Egyptian deity
 - Hundredth anniversary
 - Chew the fat
 - Doctor of Medicine
 - Large, edible game fish
 - Revitalization
 - Personal computer
 - Unfettered
 - Clumsy persons
 - Japanese classical theater
 - Part of a ship
 - Rate of movement
 - How much
 - Image taken with a camera
 - Sharp mountain ridge
 - Czech capital
 - One who treats poorly
 - By right
 - Relating to odors
 - As soon as possible
 - Israeli Olympic swimmer
 - Scored perfectly
 - Financial ratio (abbr.)
 - Unpleasant emotion
 - Sign of the zodiac
 - Promotional material
 - Your parents' parents
 - Monetary unit
 - Farm state
 - One of Hollywood's Bridges brothers
 - Not the plaintiff
 - "Night Train" novelist
 - Martens valued for their fur
 - Discount

- CLUES DOWN**
- Bone in the lower back
 - Goddess of wisdom
 - Comedic honors
 - A way to grasp
 - Apex
 - British soldier
 - Manganese
 - Indicates position
 - Decompressions in scuba diving (abbr.)
 - Soon
 - Blood type
 - Clever reply
 - One who travels by luxurious boat
 - Once more
 - Rural delivery
 - Mexican dish
 - Nigerian City
 - Is not (Span.)
 - Italy's longest river
 - Grand __, vintage
 - Monetary unit
 - The man
 - Basics
 - Poster
 - Small remains
 - Gelatinous substance
 - A narrow opening
 - Artificial intelligence
 - Algerian coastal city
 - Canned fish
 - Milligram
 - Carrot's partner
 - Single-celled animals
 - Movie theater
 - Necessitate
 - A state of not being used
 - Small folds of tissue
 - Gallium
 - Trauma center
 - Commands to go faster
 - New England's football team
 - Pianoforte
 - Unit of loudness
 - Atomic number 13

PUZZLE SOLUTION

S	A	R	I		A	R	M	A	D	A	
A	T	O	N		C	E	N	T	E	N	A
C	H	A	T		M	D		C	O	B	I
R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N
U	N	T	I	E	D		O	A	F	S	
M	A	S	T		P	A	C	E		C	O
					P	H	O	T	O		
P	R	A	G	U	E			A	B	U	S
L	E	G	A	L		O	S	M	I	C	
A	S	A	P		P	R	A	G		A	C
C	I	R		F	E	A	R		G	E	M
A	D		G	R	A	N	D		P	A	R
R	U	P	E	E		I	A		B	E	A
D	E	F	E	N	D	A	N	T		A	M
		S	A	B	L	E	S		S	A	L

Let's get you movin'!

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Dated: June 15, 2020
By Order of the School District
Pam Hameister, School District Clerk

7/1, 7/8

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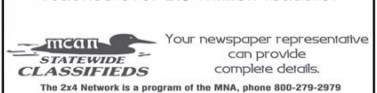
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HE DIGS HIS JOB



Lyle Bohlman of Owatonna pitches yet another scoop of dirt at a gravesite at Memorial Gardens Cemetery on a recent afternoon. He has been digging graves for the past 56 years mostly around Steele and Dodge counties.

At 86, Bohlman keeps pitching dirt to lay others to eternal rest

STORY AND PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER

To say Lyle Bohlman digs his job may one of the greatest understatement in many ways.

With a shovel in hand, Bohlman keeps pitching dirt and digging graves throughout Steele and Dodge counties. It's something the gravedigger has been doing for 56 years, digging one gravesite at a time.

"It takes the right breed to do it," Bohlman says of being a gravedigger. "You have to work."

Bohlman doesn't know for sure how many graves he has dug, but estimates at least 3,800 over the years. In a normal year, he was involved in about 120 burials. "It's unbelievable how many were dug by hand," he says.

It typically took Bohlman about 4 ½ hours to dig a single grave by hand. He said the only

good place he could dig a little faster was in the cemetery by Claremont where it was "sugar sand." Forest Hill Cemetery in Owatonna was the worst because of trees, roots and rocks.

By the year 2000, Bohlman began utilizing a backhoe to assist with the digging. However, he still had to dig some by hand because they were unable to get the machine in between the stones.

The funeral industry has changed significantly in recent years as more people are going to cremation burial. Bohlman's work is a lot less these days as he is involved in about 50 cremations—all dug by hand—every year. Some cremation sites are larger than others depending on whether the family uses a vault. Last week, Bohlman dug a 20 by 20 by 30-foot hole for a vault cre-

mation at Owatonna Memorial Gardens. The graves for regular cremations without a vault require a hole about one-third of the size.

The cost for full burial digging is \$600 and cremations \$450.

Business has slowed a little over the past few months since the COVID-19 outbreak brought life to a stand still. "Since this virus, they've been putting them on the shelf," Bohlman said.

Grave digging, Bohlman said, requires being available seven days a week in all elements, including rain, shine, snow or blowing. The worst job he remembers was digging with wind chills at -70. "We would take turns digging. That's one puppy I'll never forget," he said.

Bohlman marvels at how his job has changed over the years. During the 1970s, he

"What do you do if you don't work? I have to keep these old bones going."

Lyle Bohlman
Area Gravedigger

dumped gas onto a log pile and lit a plot of land on fire in order to thaw the ground so the grave could be dug. He also recalls one time using a stick of dynamite. "If somebody saw me doing it now, they would kill me or I would end up in jail," he said.

SEE HE DIGS, B6

