



Steele County Times

Wednesday, June 2, 2021
www.SteeleCountyTimes.com
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

MOO—VING ON!

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Just days before the end of the school year and officially moo—ving on to first grade, kindergarten students from St. Mary's School enjoy a field trip to the Rick Balzer dairy farm north of Owatonna. A young boy didn't waste any time in grabbing some hay to feed to the cows as they check him out. See page A3 for more photos.

Pathway to a brighter future

Grant aims to keep inmates out of jail

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Inmates going into jail often struggle to make ends meet financially, but a new state grant hopes to reverse course and help them overcome barriers to find meaningful jobs.

The Steele County Detention Center has teamed up with Workforce Development, Inc. (WDI) to offer Pathway

Home Grant, a two-year project offering more than \$500,000 in training for incarcerated folks. The training portion is part of a \$1.6 million grant for the program.

Steele County has served as a pilot for the project, according to Molly Titchenal, career navigator with WDI.

"We have received funding to connect with people while in jail,"

said Titchenal. "We want to provide them with services once they leave jail."

The program began in January and will continue for another 18 months. It involves Steele, Rice, Dodge, Freeborn, Mower, Fillmore and Olmsted counties. The U.S. Department of Labor awarded the grant.

Titchenal is working closely with Cindy See **PATHWAY** on A3 ▶



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Cindy Fowler, left, and Molly Titchenal are teaming up at the Steele County Detention Center to offer inmates an opportunity to gain job skills while in custody at the jail. The goal is to get inmates gainfully employed with good-paying jobs so they don't wind up back in jail.



Joseph Bueltel

Bueltel elected top judge of 3rd Judicial District

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

Judge Joseph Bueltel been elected to a two-year term as chief judge of Minnesota's Third Judicial District. The position is filled by an

election conducted by district judges who serve in the Third Judicial District. His term as chief judge will begin on July 1.

Bueltel was appointed to serve on the Third Judicial District bench

in April 2002. Before serving as a judge, he spent six years in private practice, and seven years as an assistant public defender and two years as the chief public defender in the Third Judicial District.

He graduated with his juris doctorate degree cum laude from William Mitchell College of law, and has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota. Bueltel's chambers are located in

the Steele County Courthouse in Owatonna.

Former assistant Steele County Attorney, Judge Christine A. Long was elected to a two-year term as assistant chief judge in See **BUELTEL** on A3 ▶

Sad day for group committed to wildlife display at fairgrounds

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

For Ted Mittelstadt, it's a sad ending to something he has been involved with for most of his life.

As president of the Izaak Walton League, Mittelstadt has led a group of volunteers over the past few weeks in moving out of a building the Ikes have occupied on the Steele County Fairgrounds for more than 80 years.

"It has been a source of pride," Mittelstadt said. "We were part of the fair, and people have enjoyed the building."

Although Ikes members didn't track official numbers, Mittelstadt estimated about 3,000 people per day came through the building, which was constructed in 1938 as part of the Works Progress Administration Project. The WPA was an American New Deal agency, employing millions of job-seekers to carry out public works projects, including the construction of public buildings and roads.

"It was built to be a game and fish building for the fair," Mittelstadt said pointing to its rustic look for wildlife.

See **SAD** on A3 ▶



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Ted Mittelstadt, president of the Izaak Walton League, moves a large glass case containing a pair of fawns that were killed in the early 1960s in Owatonna. Mittelstadt and other fellow Ikes have been moving many displays out of a building that they have occupied at the Steele County Fairgrounds for more than 80 years. The fair board decided against renewing a lease with the Ikes.

Owatonna hires new fire chief

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

Owatonna recently hired Ed Hoffman as its new fire chief.

Hoffman, from North Mankato, succeeds Mike Johnson, who retired May 28 after 20 years as fire chief for the city.

For the past five years, Hoffman has worked for the City of Mankato as one of its two public safety commanders. He was responsible for training Mankato's firefighters and for the city's hazmat training. He also served as an on-call firefighter for See **OWATONNA** on A3 ▶

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OUR VIEW

Congratulations and good luck

Class mottos are more than something to throw on a yearbook page or a graduation program.

They often tell a story – about the graduates’ hopes and dreams for themselves and the world in which they live.

That’s true of the mottos selected by this year’s graduating seniors throughout the area. Yet, like so many other things this past year, the mottos also point to the contradictions of our time.

For example, Medford’s graduating seniors want everyone to remember that “Success is not a matter of chance, it’s a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for; it is a thing to be achieved.”

But NRHEG’s graduating seniors don’t want anyone to forget what’s been learned from this past year. Their motto is “Our year of apparent contradictions: school outside school, games without opponents, and rising above when times are low.”

There is no question that graduates in the Class of 2021 will have stories to tell their children – about the year when nothing was normal. More important, however, they will carry with them the skills gained during this year of abnormality – tenacity, grit and the willingness to adapt.

Those skills will have them pursue their dreams and relationships as if there is no tomorrow.

COVID-19 disrupted their junior and senior years; it will also drive them to succeed – and not by chance, but by choice.

There are many people to credit for each graduate’s development – friends, families, teachers, clergy and mentors all deserve recognition.

Yes, coming of age during a pandemic tested these seniors. It’s also shown them the importance of staying connected with loved ones – friends and family alike. That, in and of itself, is sure to shape a generation that’s willing to do what’s necessary to succeed in the workplace, but not at the expense of spending quality time with their family.

Yes, there will be success. But, as they’ve done these past months, these seniors will be able to rise above when times are low.

Congratulation and good luck!

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Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

I’d be lying if I said I loved every aspect of the newspaper business. I have a confession to make. I hate news deadlines.

In this business, we are constantly under the gun with various deadlines in cranking out a newspaper every week. It seems like we just finish one edition when we immediately start the cycle all over again to put together the next edition.

That’s especially true during a holiday week. In this case, it was Memorial Day.

Last week, we finished the May 26 edition late Monday, May 24. There was little to no turn-around time to

Newspaper deadlines are brutal

begin piecing together the next newspaper for the June 2 edition because we had to have it at the press early by Friday, May 28. So basically, we had four days to put together a newspaper that we usually have seven days to deal with.

Throw in two special graduation sections on top of everything else within the same four-day window, and well, you get my point. We do work ahead on special projects, but it seems like no matter how far ahead we work, they always come down to the wire trying to finalize last-minute details.

To put it mildly, it was a madhouse around our operation over the past couple of weeks. I think we drove each other crazy trying to get everything done.

But somehow, a little miracle seems to happen every week: a newspaper is born and published once again for everyone to enjoy. I’ve never totaled it up exactly, but I would guess we put at least 500 hours of work between all of our employees into each publication.

With so many human hours dedicated to producing a newspaper, there will always be room for error. And that’s when mistakes happen in the newspaper. We strive for 100% accuracy, but we’re smart enough to know we’re not perfect.

I can tell you no one beats me up more when we make mistakes than myself. I hate missing a name, getting a headline wrong, having a grammatical error in a sentence or misspelling

a word. I’m thankful for spell check to rely on for the most part, but even that doesn’t always catch everything. Unfortunately, once the paper is printed, we have no way to go back and undo what has already been done incorrectly. As they say, it’s the nature of the beast.

We take great pride in our work. I apologize if we sometimes don’t meet your expectations, but I hope you understand just a little bit of where we’re coming from.

If any of us seem a little frazzled at times, it is probably because of deadlines. There is no way to sugarcoat it. Deadlines are brutal.

Guess what? It’s time to go in hot pursuit of putting together yet another newspaper. See you in the next edition!



It’s time to celebrate birthdays again



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

Yes, it’s your birthday and you can celebrate it like you once did.

The pandemic, which crippled the United States for over a year, changed birthday celebrations in ways we had never seen. Now, we can celebrate birthdays the way we should.

Because of social distancing and orders not to mingle together, we had to think of other ways to honor our birthdays. There’s nothing

more enjoyable than to invite family and friends to a party paying tribute to someone’s birthday.

Becky Braaten called me soon after the pandemic began and asked if I would be interested in taking photos at her grandson Cale’s virtual birthday. She said family and friends were going to serenade Cale at his driveway.

Cale’s party featured sidewalk chalk greetings on the driveway. Family and friends brought balloons and treats.

This virtual party was one of the first in Blooming Prairie and triggered many more as the pandemic raged on. I was part of a drive-by birthday party for my

sister-in-law Cindi Hansen. This is when people began to wear masks.

Cindi’s neighbor Corinne Swanson was next and had a car caravan go by her house, honking honors and stopping to sing for Corinne from a distance.

I even had a drive-by at my house. Cindi paid me back by putting up a sign on the front yard, “Honk, it’s Howard’s birthday.”

It’s always fun to share birthdays with other family members and friends. Some families have the same birthdays among them. Benji Bishop and son Carter Bishop have the same birthday.

My wife Judy has the same birthday as a close

friend, Linda. Judy and Linda were born on the same day. Shhhhhh! Nov. 24, 1948.

Someone squealed about my birthday this year and had it announced during church services Sunday at First Lutheran Church. This “Tweety Bird” had to be my chirping sister-in-law, Cindi.

It’s a custom in our family to call family members on their birthday and wish them a happy birthday by chanting: “Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday Dear Friend, Happy Birthday to you, Cha Cha, Ooh La La, it’s your birthday Ha Ha Ha!”

One of my favorite birthday songs was created by the Beatles.

It goes like this:

“Birthday”
They say it’s your birthday
It’s my birthday too, yeah
They say it’s your birthday
We’re gonna have a good time
I’m glad it’s your birthday
Happy birthday to you

Ah
Ah
Ah
Come on
Come on

Yes we’re going to a party party
Yes we’re going to a party party
Yes we’re going to a party party
I would like you to dance

(Birthday)
Take a cha-cha-cha-chance (Birthday)
I would like you to dance (Birthday)
Dance yeah

Oh
Come on

I would like you to dance (Birthday)
Take a cha-cha-cha-chance (Birthday)
I would like you to dance (Birthday)
Oh dance! Dance
They say it’s your birthday
Well it’s my birthday too, yeah
They say it’s your birthday
We’re gonna have a good time
I’m glad it’s your birthday
Happy birthday to you

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Help wanted: Special deputies for events

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Steele County is looking for a few good men and women who want to give back to their community in an effort to replenish the roster of the special deputies.

With the recent retirements of two special deputies who had combined service of nearly 60 years, the organization, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Steele County Sheriff's Office, needs more help.

Special deputies are unlicensed officers who assist at festivals, fairs, sporting events, dances and other venues throughout the county. They do not carry fire-

arms, but they receive some training.

The ideal candidate for special deputies is anyone 18 years or older who has graduated from high school, according to Wyonne Priebe, coordinator of the special deputies. "This is for people who want to give back to the community and this is a way to do it," she said.

The special deputies work part-time hours and need to be available a couple of weekends every month. Most of the events covered by the deputies take place Friday and Saturday nights. They are paid \$20 per hour and guaranteed four hours per event. Candidates must

pass a successful background check, Priebe said. She hopes to hire at least two in the next few months.

"We want people who are responsible and professional," said Priebe, who has been involved with the program since 2015. "They have to act professional when they are out there because they are representatives of the Steele County Sheriff's Office," she said.

The county provides CPR, defensive tactics and other training for the special deputies. Priebe said the new hires are also paired up with more experienced deputies for about six events before they are considered fully

trained.

The deputies also receive the majority of their uniforms and equipment from the county.

Priebe said the special deputies provide a valuable service to the community. "They keep things safe at events going on," she said. "It's good that they are out here."

"For me, I take pride in the deputies being trained well and able to help other people," Priebe said. "I am proud of every deputy that works with me," she added.

A complete job posting is available under employment opportunities at www.co.steele.mn.us.



COURTESY STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Steele County special deputy Gene Linse assists with the Shop with a Cop program held every holiday season. The county is searching for people who would like to be special deputies to help at area festivals, fairs and events.

Dairy field trip



STAFF PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER

Kindergartners from St. Mary's School in Owatonna close out their school year with a field trip to the Balzer Family Dairy farm located north of Owatonna. Shown with the class are Cathy and Rick Balzer, owners of the dairy farm.



Sad day for group committed to wildlife display at fairgrounds

◀ SAD from A1
Last month, the Steele County Fair Board decided to end its lease with the Ikes, leaving volunteers scrambling to find a new home for more than 30 taxidermy mounts, dozens of African mounts and glass cases that have been displayed at the fair for decades.

"For 40 years I have been doing something here," said Mittelstadt as he sighed after moving some items on a recent Saturday afternoon. "I'm sad about it."

But Mittelstadt is trying to keep himself and the rest of his group optimistic for the future. And he's adamant the Ikes' passion for community service will not

disappear because of this latest setback.

"We are not going to reduce what we do for the community," Mittelstadt said. "We will have to figure out a new way of community outreach. This is a new chapter in life... we'll figure out something else to do."

As for the items that have been stored at the fairgrounds, Ikes members are moving them to the chapter house, which is known as the Albert F. Reding Environmental Education Center located south of Owatonna.

One of Mittelstadt's favorites is a glass case with a painted woods background containing a pair of fawns

that were killed in Owatonna when he was growing up in the early 1960s. He recalled how his father Clarence latched on to the fawns after a vehicle crashed into the doe. "The doe got hit and the fawns flew out," he said, adding his father initially stored the fawns in a deep freezer at their house for a few months.

"I have this connection (with the fawn case). I want it to stick around," said Mittelstadt, adding the case will be one of the items moved to the chapter house.

Some of the North American items have been donated to the Owatonna High School, which has the proper permits to keep wildlife, Mittelstadt said.

While the Ikes will miss

their spot at the fairgrounds, Mittelstadt said they are excited about the Woody Reserve, a spot of 100-acres of donated land that is being turned into a wilderness area for the public's enjoyment. The land is located on County Road 45 south of Steele Center.

"We have done all the trail work out there so people can enjoy it," said Mittelstadt, adding there are deer, turkeys and pheasants in the area. No hunting is allowed in the area.

The Ikes will be holding a rummage sale Friday evening and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the fairgrounds as a fundraiser for the organization, which has 60 members in Steele County.

Bueltel elected top judge of 3rd Judicial District

◀ BUELTEL from A1
the Third Judicial District. Long joined the bench in June 2010. Prior to joining the bench, she spent eight years in private practice, and 19 years as an assistant Steele County Attorney.

Long received her juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School, and her Bachelor of Arts degree from Luther College. She is chambered at the Rice County Courthouse in Faribault.

According to state statute, the chief judge of a judicial district exercises general administrative authority over the courts within the district, including assigning judges to serve in locations throughout the district. The chief judge of each judicial district also serves as a member of the administrative policy-making authority for the Minnesota Judicial Branch, the Minnesota Judicial Council. No judge may serve as chief judge or assistant chief judge for more than two consecutive two-year terms.

The Third Judicial District has 24 judges, 1 family court referee and 120 staff who handled over 55,000 cases in 2020 in the counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca and Winona

Owatonna hires new fire chief



STAFF PHOTO BY DEB FLEMMING

Ed Hoffman is the City of Owatonna's new fire chief.

◀ OWATONNA from A1
the city of North Mankato, where he lives.

Hoffman said he and his wife are looking to purchase a home in Owatonna, but they want to find the right house.

Why Owatonna?
"I was looking for a change," said Hoffman. "I liked the size of the department."

"They've done a lot of good things here," said Hoffman. "The department's very proactive on the fire prevention end of things. And that helps prevent fires."

In his first few weeks on the new job, Hoffman said, "I've been watching, asking a lot of questions."

As fire chief, Hoffman will also be taking on the

role of emergency management director for the city, a position that was previously shared with the county.

And residents can expect more of that, according to Hoffman.

"I want to be open and get to know people," he said, adding that he'll maintain an open-door policy.

"I want to hear from people," he said.

Pathways to a better future with federal grant funds

◀ PATHWAY from A1
Fowler, coordinator of programming for the detention center. Requirements include inmates must live in one of the 10 counties involved and be incarcerated at least 20 days and no more than 180 days, Fowler said.

The program allows inmates to obtain job search assistance, employer connections, career planning, resume assistance, interview preparation, skill-building and community resources.

WDI has teamed up with area colleges, including RTC in Rochester, Riverland in Austin, Albert Lea and Owatonna and Minnesota State College Southeast in Red Wing.

They can provide

specialized training like welding and forklift operating. The welding program, for example, consists of 40 hours of training.

"We want to give them skills they need to be successful on the job," Titchenal said. "Hopefully, this will change their lives to get them on the right path."

Because of COVID-19, Titchenal has been working with inmates on an individualized basis exclusively through Zoom. However, she hopes that will change within the next six months so that she can begin helping them one-on-one.

Fowler said many inmates come into jail often working at low-paying, mini-

mum-wage jobs. This program will help train inmates to achieve jobs averaging \$20 per hour and even up to \$30 to \$40 per hour, she said.

"That gets their attention," Fowler said. "It beats the \$8 to \$9 per hour jobs they are used to."

It's Fowler's job to recruit potential candidates in the jail. Once she identifies someone who qualifies, she meets with them individually to make them aware of the program, which is available to them at no charge. Fowler said inmates are often surprised to learn about the program and don't believe it's real.

The reaction Fowler is used to getting from inmates is: "Why do you

care so much?"

Fowler counters by telling them that she believes in them, and in turn, they need to believe in themselves.

"They lose hope. I like to show them they are capable and they can be successful," she said, adding they often don't have the support system in place to guide them.

For Titchenal, it doesn't bother her that she is working with people who have committed crimes. "I just see them as people in a tough situation and how can I help them," she said. "I'm humble. I don't discriminate on who I want to help."

Titchenal said she doesn't abandon the inmates once they have completed the program

and get released from jail. She sticks with them and acts as a resource to help them find jobs and maintain employment.

"It's huge to have someone believe in them," said Anthony Buttera, administrator of the detention center. "It has an impact on them."

Buttera said the model of corrections has changed significantly in recent years with more of a focus on helping inmates with life skills to keep them from going out and committing more crimes.

He said the program hasn't taken off quite as they hoped because of the pandemic restrictions. But, Buttera added, it's a great opportunity and has had an

impact on inmates.

Titchenal said some employers don't want to work with inmates regardless of their stories and improved training. She makes notes of those and doesn't steer inmates to those companies.

In her 18 years at the detention center, Fowler said she has never seen a program like this. "This has been a dream," she said. "Instead of holding them here, let's help them so they can succeed in the community. Corrections is changing and this is a positive direction."

Added Titchenal, "We hope we are successful and there will be another round (of funding) when this ends."

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

On May 20, Owatonna patrol officers Anna Martin and Jeremy Katz spent the early evening at Roosevelt Community School for an outreach event. They met with kids showing them their squad cars and handing out junior officer stickers. Anyone interested in having police come out for a community event, contact Pam Roberts at OPD at 507-774-7200.

Sex offender to make home in Claremont

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A high-risk sex offender has moved into Claremont.

Dodge County Sheriff Scott Rose revealed the details about James Peter Zylstra, 66, at a community notification meeting last at the Claremont American Legion. Rose's office

and the Minnesota Department of Corrections provided information at the meeting on Zylstra.

Rose did not release any details about Zylstra until after he moved into the community. He first notified the media about Zylstra's release on May 27.

He said there are circumstances where

individuals end up moving unexpectedly and cannot provide the required five-day prior notification to law enforcement. If a sex offender's actions indicate any intent to defeat or mislead the registry with police, then charges



James Zylstra

could be filed. However, Rose said this is not the case with Zylstra.

"We have no indication that there was any intent of this type with Mr. Zylstra," said Rose, adding all issues would be addressed at the June 1 meeting.

Zylstra has lived in the Owatonna area for several years. He has a history of sexual contact with known and unknown female victims ranging in ages 12 to adult. Contact included sexual touching and indecent exposure. The adult victims were vulnerable.

He has served his sentence and has been

transitioned into the community since his release. Police note the notification is not intended to increase fear but rather raise awareness. Law enforcement believes that an informed public is a safer public.

Zylstra has been labeled as a Level 3 offender, which authorities consider the most likely to re-offend.

Courts ramping up for in-person proceedings

The Minnesota Judicial Branch has announced the next steps in a deliberate, gradual return to more in-person court proceedings and modifications to its COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

"The Minnesota Judicial Branch has relied on public health experts throughout the pandemic," said Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Lorie S. Gildea. "Based on revised guidelines at both the federal and state level, we will continue our gradual return to more in-person proceedings in court facilities in a deliberate and responsible manner that prioritizes health and safety."

A new statewide order expands in-person court proceedings in accordance with revised health and safety protocols in the Minnesota Judicial Branch's COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. Under the order, the following is in effect June 14 – Sept. 6:

- **Criminal jury trials** will be held in person.
- **Civil jury trials** can be held in person.
- **Major Criminal, Juvenile Protection (including**

Child in Need of Protection or Services and Permanency cases types), and Juvenile Delinquency trials and contested hearings will be held in person.

- **Criminal settlement conferences** will be held in person.
- **Grand jury proceedings** will be held in person.
- **Mandatory Misdemeanor Criminal trials and contested hearings** are to be held in person beginning August 2, 2021.
- **All other district court proceedings** will be held remotely unless the chief judge of the judicial district grants permission for an in-person proceeding based on extenuating circumstances.

• **Appellate courts:** Proceedings in appeals before the Minnesota Court of Appeals and the Minnesota Supreme Court will continue as scheduled by those courts.

• **Public Service Centers:** At least one public service center in each county, and one in the appellate courts, will be accessible between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.,

Monday – Friday, excluding court holidays. Counter service can be provided remotely, by appointment, or in person.

• **Self-Help Services:** Self-Help services will continue to be conducted by appointment, remotely, or by telephone.

• **Courthouse Terminals:** Courthouse (public access) terminals are available to the public and media based on hours established by the local district court.

Face coverings required

The Minnesota Judicial Branch has modified its COVID-19 Preparedness Plan based on recent changes in guidance from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Health. Currently, all state courts require six-foot social distancing and mandatory use of face coverings in all areas of a court facility. Beginning June 14:

• **Social distancing** is not required in court facilities for brief interactions or when people are wearing

face coverings. Brief interaction is defined as when two or more different households are within six feet of each other for less than 15 minutes total within a 24-hour period.

• **Face coverings** are required inside courtrooms and in jury deliberation spaces. Presiding judges may allow for removal of face coverings in the courtroom if deemed necessary, as long as six feet of physical distance can be maintained while the face coverings are removed. Face coverings in public areas of a county-owned court facility will be required if local government guidelines mandate their use. Any person who wishes to wear a face covering in a court facility may do so.

Because court proceedings involve people from multiple households and often last longer than 15 minutes, masking helps manage risk in courtrooms and allows for the safe, gradual expansion of the types of cases that are most effectively conducted in person.

CRIME BRIEF

Man accused of violating order by sending flowers

A man is suspected of violating a restraining order by sending a woman some flowers through their child.



Matthew Novak

Matthew Novak, 39, of Owatonna has been charged with violating an Order for Protection, which is a gross misdemeanor.

According to police, the victim alleged Novak sent a card and flowers to her through a child they share. Novak is ordered to not have any direct or indirect contact with the victim.

Police found Novak in Wabasha County and transported him back to Owatonna where he was put in jail.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 17 – 23:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jose L. Carlos Alejo, 29, Austin, revoked license, no license in possession and no insurance, \$495; Andrew D. Hertges, 40, Austin, revoked license, no insurance and expired tabs, \$505; Robin J. Hofius, 48, Blooming Prairie, cancelled license, \$375 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Robert L. Marshall, 46, Adams, no insurance, \$275; Ahmed I. Mohamed,

20, St. Paul, possession of marijuana, \$225; Ariet O. Obach, 21, Mankato, theft, \$6,029.92, 14 days in county jail, maintain employment, 10 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Arrianna L. Retterath, 21, Austin, unsafe passing, \$125; Hanna L. Sperrazza, 19, Savage, no insurance, \$275.

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Scott T. Kelly, 31, Hayfield, take fish without angling license, \$175.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Anthony I. Amaya Garcia, 20, West Des Moines, IA, possession of paraphernalia,

\$125; Kathleen S. Christopherson, 42, Austin, speeding, \$135; Luis E. Crisanto, 28, St. Paul, speeding, \$215; Edgar Cruz Bernal, 31, Montrose, speeding, \$125; Eric G. Delgado, 31, Faribault, speeding, \$115; Sean R. Gerlach, 20, Medford, speeding and seat belt, \$300; Alexander D. Grant, 38, Jacksonville, FL, speeding and no license, \$475; Amber L. Hammer, 38, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; Dakota M. Hermann, 21, Faribault, speeding, \$135; Patricia Hutton Snair, 62, Palm Springs, CA, speeding, \$215; Abdullahi M. Jeylani, 35, Minneapolis, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$125 and 1 year of unsupervised

probation; Shin Kyi, 68, Aurora, CO, speeding, \$135; Loan K. Ly, 28, Apple Valley, speeding, \$115; Heather E. Madison, 45, Dover, speeding, \$125; Palvi Maharaj, 22, Mankato, speeding, \$135; Priscilla R. Mendoza, 26, Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; Kelly L. Metcalf, 39, Kenyon, speeding, \$115; Mathew K. Morales, 18, Merkel, TX, speeding, \$115; Josephine B. Moreno, 22, Albert Lea, speeding, \$135; Benjamin K. North, 18, Woodbury, speeding, \$215; Andrew K. Pike, 22, Brownsdale, speeding, \$115; Lindsay R. Puchalla, 27, Crystal, speeding and suspended license, \$415; Neal A. Rodenkirk, 41, Des Moines, IA, seat belt, \$100; Edward P.

Schlichter, 69, Austin, inspection decal violation, \$175; Matthew A. Schneider, 36, Zumbro Falls, following vehicle too closely, \$115; Pamela G. Schoenbauer, 58, New Prague, expired registration, \$105; Brenda G. Segovia Rodriguez, 19, Des Moines, IA, seat belt, \$100; Eh H. Sheh, 26, Albert Lea, speeding, \$215; Casey C. Sivret, 29, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Dustin G. Smitty, 20, Blooming Prairie, revoked license, \$275; Keith R. Spoons, 59, Mankato, speeding, \$115; Antwon E. Stevenson, 26, St. Paul, speeding, revoked license, window tint violation, no insurance and no license, \$725; Galan A. Thompson, 56, Tama, IA, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$175; Joshua J. Vanmeter, 38, Morgantown, WV, speeding, \$115; Aaliyah T. Weston, 17, Ellendale, speeding, \$115.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Austin T. Aase, 19, Medford, speeding, \$135; Bryan N. Bell, 18, Albert Lea, theft, \$425.10, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Erik A. Boxrucker, 21, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; David B. Cashman, 63, Owatonna, no insurance and expired tabs, \$305; James J. Chesney, 59, Bovey, cancelled license, stay of adjudication, \$100; Ignition Interlock program and 1 year of supervised probation; Tami J. Dahn, 25, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; Patrick M. Daniels-Simmons, 21, Owatonna, theft, \$1,050.63 and 1 year of supervised probation; Jorge M. Fernandez, 61, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175; Martelia K. Godwin, 42, Owatonna, speeding and no insurance, \$325; Edgar J. Gonzalez Diaz, 20, theft, stay of adjudication,

\$50, no trespassing at Walmart and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Cassandra C. Hall, 24, Owatonna, enter road from non-roadway, \$125; Caressa D. Hubbell, 35, Troy, TX, speeding, \$215.

OWATONNA FIRE

May 21
Alarm: Fire responded to an alarm system at 205 24th Ave. S.W. at 7:42 a.m. The alarm sounded due to a malfunction.
May 22
Electrical: Fire handled an electrical wiring/equipment problem at 240 16th St. S.W. at 8:12 a.m.
Burning: Fire responded to an unauthorized burning complaint at 415 Vine St. E. at 10:29 p.m.
May 24
Gas Leak: Fire handled a natural gas or LP leak at 622 Florence Ave. N.W. at 2:24 p.m.
Power Line: A pair of power lines were reportedly down at 423 14th St. N.E. at 4:47 p.m. and 451 Larch Ave. N.E. at 4:55 p.m.
Car Fire: Fire responded to a passenger vehicle fire on Bigelow Avenue N.E. at 5:01 p.m.
May 25
Alarm: Fire responded to an alarm system activated at 2250 26th St. N.W. at 10:09 a.m. It was determined to be a malfunction.
May 26
Fire: Firefighters battled a chimney fire at 205 24th Ave. S.W. at 3:04 a.m. The fire was confined to the chimney or flue.
May 27
Alarm: At 4:48 p.m., fire responded to an alarm system activation at 800 Oakwood Lane S.E. No fire was reported and it was determined to be unintentional.
Carbon: Fire responded to a carbon monoxide incident at 1054 Cardinal Dr. S.E. at 6:01 p.m.



Blooming Prairie
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

THANK YOU!

The Blooming Prairie Education Foundation would like to thank you for helping make our 2021, Eighteenth Annual Education Foundation Auction a great success! With over \$60,000 in proceeds, this will definitely help us give the students of the Blooming Prairie Schools the opportunities that would not otherwise be possible. Over the years, we have been able to provide in excess of \$1,000,000 in programs and activities to our kids. This year's auction results are nothing short of amazing! The thought that we can raise \$60,000 in one night is truly a statement of the kind of community we live in. Whether you are a bidder, donor, or just a school supporter, your contributions are appreciated so much! Whether your contributions are large or very small, or whether they are of services, material items, or if you helped in any way, we want you to realize that it is all of those things together that make our efforts a success. It is because of this entire community and the love of its kids and school system that allows our foundation to be able to continue to help give the children of School District #756 the best education possible.

True meaning of awesome!



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Visit federatedinsurance.com for COVID-19 resources.

How to downsize your home for a move

Dear Savvy Senior, What tips can you offer for downsizing? My husband and I would like to relocate from our house into a retirement community condo near our daughter but need to get rid of a lot of personal possessions before we can move.

Overwhelmed Willa

Dear Willa, The process of weeding through a house full of stuff and parting with old possessions is difficult and overwhelming for most people. A good place to start is to see if your kids, grandkids or other family members would like any of your unused possessions. Whatever they don't want, here are a few tips and services that may help you downsize.

Sell It

Selling your stuff is one way to get rid of your possessions and pad your pocketbook at the same time. Selling options may include consignment shops, a garage sale, estate sale and selling online.

Consignment shops are good for selling old clothing, household furnishings and decorative items – they typically get 30 to 40 percent of the sale price. A good old-fashion garage sale is another option, or for large-scale downsizing you could hire an estate sale company to come in and sell your items. See *EstateSales.net* and *EstateSales.org* to locate options in your area. Some estate companies will even pick up your stuff and sell it at their own location – they typically take about 35 percent of the profits.

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Selling online is also a great option and opens you up to a wider audience. The OfferUp app (*OfferUp.com*), Facebook Marketplace (*Facebook.com/marketplace*), Craigslist (*Craigslist.org*) and the CPlus for Craigslist app (*Yanflex.com*) are great options for selling locally, which can eliminate the packing and shipping costs and hassle. These websites and apps also don't take a cut of your sales, but you're responsible for connecting with your buyer and making the exchange of money and goods.

Donate It

If you itemize on your tax returns, donating your belongings to charitable organizations is another way to downsize and get a tax deduction. The Salvation Army (*SATruck.org*, 800-728-7825) will actually come to your house and pick up a

variety of household items, including furnishings and clothing. Goodwill (*Goodwill.org*) is another good option to donate to but they don't offer pickup services.

If your deductions exceed \$500, you'll need to file Form 8283, "Noncash Charitable Contributions" (*IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8283.pdf*). You'll also need a receipt from the organization for every batch of items you donate and will need to create an itemized list of the items donated. To calculate fair market value for your stuff, use the Salvation Army's donation guide at *SATruck.org/home/donationvalueguide*.

Toss It

If you have a lot of junk you want to get rid of, contact your municipal trash service to see if they provide bulk curbside pickup services. Or, depending on where you live, you could hire a company like 1-800-Got-Junk (*1800gotjunk.com*, 800-468-5865) or Junk-King (*Junk-King.com*, 888-888-5865) to come in and haul it off for a moderate fee.

Another disposal option is Bagster (*TheBagster.com*, 877-789-2247) by Waste Management. This is a dumpster bag that you purchase for around \$30, fill it to a limit of 3,300 pounds and schedule a pickup, which costs anywhere between \$100 and \$300 depending on your area.

Get Help

If you want or need some help, consider hiring a senior move manager. These are professional organizers who help older adults and their families with the daunting process of downsizing and moving to a new residence. To locate one in your area, visit the National Association of Senior Move Managers at *NASMM.org* or call 877-606-2766. You can also search at Caring Transitions (*CaringTransitions.com*), which is a large senior relocation and transition services franchise company that has more than 200 franchises nationwide.

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.

History from the News Archives

Gone, but not forgotten: Newry Creamery closes



FILE PHOTO

After 54 years of continuous operation, Newry Co-op Creamery ceased processing butterfat in May 1946. Early settlers of the Newry community regret to learn of the passing of an institution that did so much in the development of the dairy industry in this area.

10 Years Ago

May 29, 2011

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Blooming Prairie announced its valedictorian and salutatorian at the Senior Awards Banquet on Wednesday, May 11. Valedictorian is Kristin Hagen, daughter of Laura Hagen and Don Hagen. Kristin is a very involved student, working hard and enjoying participating in volleyball, basketball and track. Her favorite classes are math, loves finding solutions to problems and art, relax time and concentrate on her creativity. She is planning to attend University of Wisconsin, Madison. Salutatorian is Daniel Hansen, son of Harlan and Rae Jean Hansen. Daniel says he put in a lot of work on his studies, but also made sure to have fun and stay active. His favorite areas of study include calculus and graphic arts. He is planning to attend Drake University.

Dan Jacobusse, Jake to his friend, is retiring after 24 years teaching here in Blooming Prairie. He started out at Central College in Iowa, then moving to Wisconsin where he worked some different jobs. His first teaching job was in Albert Lea for three years after which he switched to farming in Hollandale for 12 years. He arrived in Blooming Prairie to resume teaching in 1985. Jake taught U.S. History, economics, government and psychology. He also had an active coaching career, both as head coach and assistant in track, volleyball, cross-country and football. Superintendent Olson said, "Jake has provided a quality education to 1200 students and contributed much to our athletic programs. We appreciate all he has done and will miss him at BPHS."

20 Years Ago

May 29, 2001

ELSIE SLINGER, EDITOR

The Blooming Prairie Library and Friends of the Blooming Prairie Library announced the winners of the poetry contest, which was part of the 25th anniversary celebration. Winning entrants in five categories: 1st-3rd Grade, Amanda Wanous; 4th-6th Grade, Katelin Strad; 7th-9th Grade, Laura Williamson; 10th-12th Grade, Robert Salinas; Adult, John Neal. Thank you to all those who submitted poems.

Both the girls and boys in track have a number of entrants in the section track meet at Lake City on Thursday. A tip of the hat to the 8 boys' entries and the three girls' entries. Kyle Verley was a double winner in the 100m and 200m dash, and Lisa Ingvalson, who won the 300 hurdles and the 200m dash.

50 Years Ago

June 2, 1971

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Three Blooming Prairie area youths were injured in a motorcycle accident on Highway 218 Monday

at about 12:15 pm. The accident occurred when a car was passing another vehicle and was in the path of the oncoming motorcyclists. The car did not stop. Those injured and taken to the hospital were Gary Trom, David Bakke, Craig Bishop and David Anderson. Trom was the most injured with a broken shoulder, lacerations and bruises. He remained in the hospital and the other three youths were treated for cuts and bruises and released. The woman from California who caused the accident was located a short time after the accident.

The BPHS golf team finished the regular season play with a 5-2 mark. In addition, they won their own invitation at the local Country Club against nine other teams. This Friday the three district qualifiers will participate in the regional tournament in Rochester. The qualifiers are Bill Schaffer, Steve Heinz and Carl Peterson. Will be vying for spots in the State Tournament on June 11.

75 Years Ago

May 29, 1946

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

The Legionnaires are coming! Literally they will take the town over next Monday when delegates from Legion Posts representing Hayfield, Ellendale, Austin, Albert Lea, Dodge Center, Owatonna and Claremont will be present to take part in a mass swearing in exercise at the high school auditorium. Besides the large number of GI's that have affiliated themselves with the Legion Post, many veterans of WWII coming with the delegates will also take the Legion obligation. It is expected approximately 150 or more new Legion members will be sworn in.

Owatonna Photo News

May 31, 1990

Seventh graders at Owatonna Junior High School captured the top score in Minnesota, and the fifth in the nation in the recent National Science Olympiad. Students whose test scores were entered in the competition, and their teachers are: Barry Olson, Lori Ann Johnson and Rod Nakagaki, teachers; students, Andrew Champion, Erik Kenward, Sara Cramer, Ryan Greenwood, Elizabeth Goodhue, J.T. Crosbie, Jason Stursa, Mat Wangen, Michele Schroeder, Jennifer Havelle, Aaron Balzer and Sonja Peterson. Aaron Balzer had the top score and received a gold medal.

The Owatonna High School Concert Choir will present the annual graduation concert at St. John Lutheran Church on June 2. This annual performance of the Concert Choir features music selected by the choir members from the repertoire they have developed throughout the year. Roger Tenney, director, announced that this year the choir has selected all sacred pieces for presentation.

Recipe Corner

Touchdown Spareribs

Sauce:

- 1 C catsup
- 1 C cold coffee
- 1/2 C Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 C brown sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 4 T chopped onions

Brown 3 to 4 pounds of spare ribs and drain. Put sauce over and simmer until done (3 to 4 hours). Or put in crock pot.

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The Steele County Times is available at the following locations:

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Ellendale	Kwik-Trip
Casey's	Frontage Rd
Lerberg's	Kwik Trip
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OWATONNA PROUD

A6 | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2021

OWATONNA SCHOOLS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

COVID-19 vaccine distribution promises a better tomorrow

BY EVAN DUSHEK
OHS MAGNET WRITER

The COVID-19 pandemic has made the last year more difficult than most could have imagined, but with recent efforts making the vaccine accessible to anyone age 16 or above, people hope that they can put these hard times behind them and continue to grow.

Minnesota vacci-

nation numbers are growing significantly, as of now more than 61% of Minnesotans have received at least one dose. Well over two million residents have completed their vaccine series and nearly three million are currently in the process. Owatonna high school junior Adelaide Broughton said, "The vaccine makes me and others around me feel more safe."

One major change coming with the large number of vaccinated Minnesotans, is the recent announcement that the Minnesota face mask mandate, set into place in July 2020 is coming to an end. Citizens see this as a sign that these vaccines are working and things are beginning to go back to how they once were.

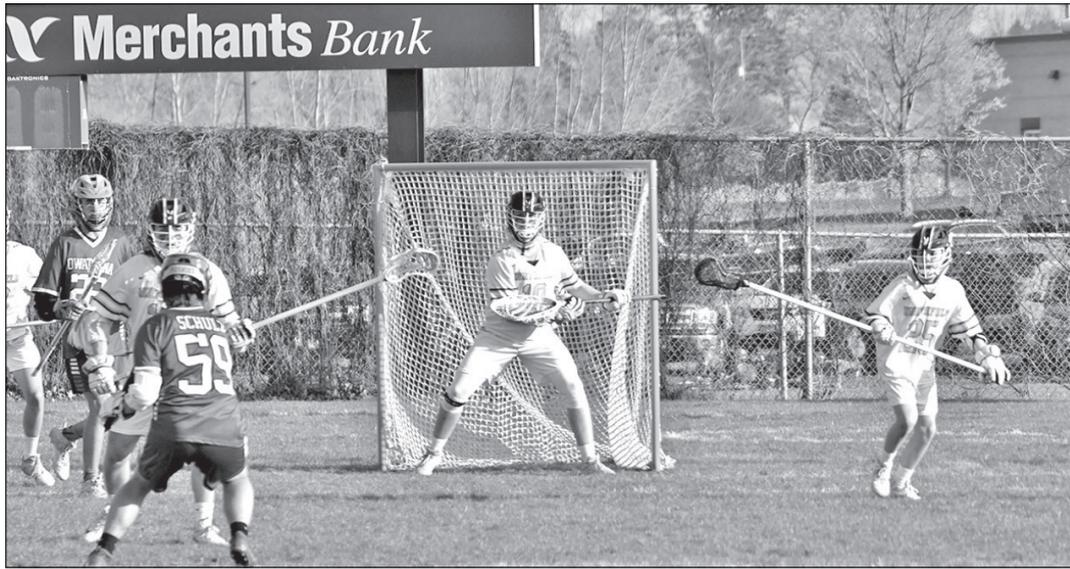
Businesses will be free to make their own

decisions about whether to ask customers or employees to mask up. Minnesota health officials will still encourage mask wearing among those who are not fully vaccinated, but that guidance will not have the legal force of a mandate. Owatonna Public Schools still require face coverings to ensure the safety of those that have not received the vaccination.

That idea may be held by various companies, stores, restaurants and other public gathering spaces. The major hope is that the number of vaccinated Minnesotans continues to grow and more steps like this can be implemented into people's daily lives.

There are three COVID-19 vaccines that have received emergency use authorization in the US, made

by Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson. These vaccines are highly effective in preventing you from getting sick from COVID-19. If unaware of how to receive COVID-19 vaccine, people can visit <https://www.vaccines.gov/search/> and type in their zip code to find nearby locations, select a location and schedule the vaccination appointment best for them.



Senior Fletcher Schultz battles against Northfield defenders.

OHS MAGNET PHOTO BY BRITTANY SACKET



Audrey Franklin



Elise Eghert



Fardouza Farah



Jackson Hemann



Julia Christenson



Megan Copeland



Samuel Buegler



Zach Liebl

Students are inspiring excellence

At the May 24 school board meeting, Superintendent Jeff Elstad recognized some Owatonna High School student award winners for inspiring excellence:

- **Speech competition:** Owatonna High School had four students advance to the state: Jackson Hemman, Julia Christenson, Megan Copeland and Fardouza Farah.

- **Music awards:** Elise Eghert and Samuel Buegler (John Philip Sousa Award), Audrey Franklin (National School Orchestra Award), Zach Liebl (Choir Director's Award)

Congratulations to these inspiring students! We are #OwatonnaProud!

Each month at the regular meeting, the School Board of Owatonna Public Schools recognizes individual students and/or staff members who exemplify the district's mission of inspiring excellence – every learner, every day.

Student of the Week High School



Danielle Abbe
Freshman
Parents:
Lori Johnson
and Josh Abbe

Danielle Abbe is an amazing person who absolutely loves learning and doesn't shy away from a challenge. It's just a joy to watch her process while working on a difficult task and an even greater joy to listen to her as she reflects on the whole experience. We are proud of how she embraces learning and excited to see where it takes her in life! Go, Dani!

Boys lacrosse wins Big 9 and heads into sections strong

BY ZACH KUBICEK
OHS MAGNET WRITER

The OHS boys lacrosse team is nearing the end of its season full of momentum. They have a current record of 11-2 and are first in the Big 9 conference. In the team's most recent game, they won 21-11 against New

Prague.

The boys are playing their best leading up to sections, they are aiming for the fourth seed or better in sections to earn a home game. Senior captain Caleb Belting said, "I thought we played our best game this year against Northfield. We need to play

like we did against them from now on."

The boys have been practicing hard for the section tournament. Head coach, Scott Seykora said, "Consistency is the key to having a successful post-season. We have battled hard every game and played team lacrosse and as long as

we continue to trust each other on the field we will be successful."

With an aggressive offense and well-rounded defense, the OHS Boys Lacrosse team has the potential to extend their season and have a successful run in sections. Sections begin Wednesday, June 2.

Welcoming safe spaces

BY JANELLA MOORE
OHS MAGNET WRITER

Recently in OHS, there has been a new comfort space called safe spaces. These safe spaces provide a calm and comfortable environment with snacks, water and quiet spaces. It was first held in the small group forum but the location of the safe space may change depending on the date. Students and staff discuss what would make OHS better. It allows students to be out of the crowd and be given the opportunity they need to be alone.

Safe Spaces in OHS came to be from the overwhelming times of the Derek Chauvin trial. This trial was hard for many OHS students. It was a time full of emotions. These emotions may be hard to handle around other people. The goal of these safe spaces is to give the students an area to process these feelings with no judgement and speak out about how they feel. The first safe space was held after the George Floyd vigil, it was held in the small group forum with an adult and some snacks.

These spaces are open to anyone in the OHS but have been used by students who were constantly surrounded by the traumatic chaos. These students had chances to debrief and feel their genuine emotions. They didn't have to put on a presentable face to the public like they did throughout the Derek Chauvin trial. Anxious is an understatement to describe that week. Not only for students at OHS but people across the country.

Fardouza Farah, an organizer of the safe spaces, says "I loved working on these safe

spaces and I really hope OHS adopts a permanent general mental health safe space."

Safe spaces have also been a significant addition to OHS. There are many benefits to this space. It can be used for more mental health issues as well as traumatic experiences. This is a step in the right direction for OHS and other schools that have made spaces like these available in their schools. When these rooms are available, students will be able to hear about it through the weekly announcement.

Staying mentally healthy



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Owatonna High School Counselors brought awareness to students for Mental Health Awareness Month by encouraging students to take a snack and check in with a friend.



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South Country Health Alliance updates board

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

South Country Health Alliance (SCHA) recently updated Steele County commissioners on the organization's progress.

Reporting positive numbers two years in a row, SCHA officials said they are looking to continue to provide area residents with health plans while maintaining growth in membership and a positive financial curve.

SCHA is a county-based purchasing health plan governed through a Joint Powers Agreement between eight counties: Wabasha County, Goodhue County, Brown County, Dodge County, Kanabec County, Sibley County, Steele County, Waseca County.

"For the 2020 year, we finished with a net income of \$2.3 million," said Chief Financial Officer Scott Schufman, adding that net income in 2019 was \$1.8 million.

These positive numbers are a good trend for SCHA after a disastrous 2018 year. "Last year, we had favorable revenue and our membership was significantly above budget with the national pandemic members stayed enrolled," Schufman said.

"We do a very good job with a small staff," he continued. "We did see a reduction in medical costs year over year, so that did create favorable variances in what I would call normal medical costs." Some of those costs were eaten up by COVID-related costs.

According to Schufman, the COVID-related expenses did not offset the favorable costs for SCHA. "There was a return to normal in the fourth quarter, and we've seen that continue in 2021," said Schufman, adding that SCHA compares relatively

favorably to competition providers.

After the exodus of three counties following that 2018 year of lost income, SCHA officials said they are hoping to continue moving in an upward trajectory in terms of net income. "Our 2021 budget calls for a net income of \$1.2 million, so if we achieve that it will be three years in a row of positive results," Schufman said.

Membership is also expected to rise by 12%. "We didn't see that drop again in January, in fact, we saw January and February grow," Schufman said. "That member represents a monthly average this year of 29,900."

Schufman said there were just under 40,000 members before losing three counties and a third of SCHA's membership. "Now with the eight counties, we've grown back to close to 30,000 again, so that's a decent grow," he said. "We're recovering very nicely."

"We are now working on getting vaccination information for all of our counties," said CEO Leota Lind. "We want to express our thanks and gratitude to the staff, public health, essential works, law enforcement and all those on the frontlines."

BERNE

WOOD-FIRED PIZZA

2021 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

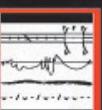


JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
June 2nd	July 7th	August 4th
Root River Jam COUNTY LINE DRIVE	After School Special JT & THE GUNSLINGERS	ARTISAN MARKET NIGHT The Local Hooligans HAIR METAL RADIO
June 9th	July 14th	August 11th
CLASSIC CAR CRUISE-IN The Ripdozers STREET TALK	CLASSIC CAR CRUISE-IN Scott Jasmin & the Gracenotes GOPHER TONES	CLASSIC CAR CRUISE-IN The Vintage Tones WRECKLESS
June 16th	July 21st	August 18th
Bells & Whistles THE CHUBS	True North INCOGNITO	The SUITS BRANDED: HOT COUNTRY
June 23rd	July 28th	August 25th
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June 30th	FIND US ON 	
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11:00 am - 1:00 pm

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

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Menu: Pulled Pork Sandwich, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Chips, Strawberries, Shortcake and Water

There will be a special Quilt Raffle
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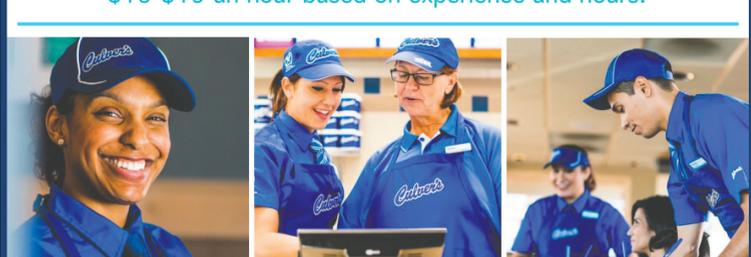


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Hello Steele County!



Steele Talkin'
KRYSTAL VIKTORA

My name is Krystal Viktora and I am the new Extension educator for the Steele County 4-H program.

A little bit about me: I grew up and still reside on my family's beef and crop farm near Hollandale. I am passionate about all things agriculture and you can often find me out with the cows. I have a degree in animal science, and am currently working on my masters in agriculture education. I grew up participating in the Freeborn County 4-H program, and recently served as the extension educator in Chippewa County.

Although COVID has forced us to think in new ways, and I am See **STEELE TALKIN'** on A15 ▶

Community honors students opting to join the workforce

BY LOLA SHAFFER
TIMES INTERN

The SteeleCo Works initiative honored eight local high school seniors opting to enter the workforce after graduation at a signing ceremony Wednesday.

SteeleCo Works is "one of the coolest" programs in the area, said Owatonna School District Superintendent Jeff Elstad, who was a guest speaker at the event.

Representatives from the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce, local employers and SteeleCo Works spoke on the initiative's goal and celebrated the students' decision to work in the community.

See **COMMUNITY** on A15 ▶



STAFF PHOTO BY LOLA SHAFFER

Local business leaders and educators celebrate the decision of area students to join the local workforce after graduation. Students signing work agreements with local firms were (front row, left to right, Deyjah Weaver, Sam Cummins, Candace Goodsell, Gavin Rein, Saide Rodriguez, Blake Lawson, Timothy Loverink. Zinash Valen, not pictured, was also honored at the event.

Medford opts for new engineering firm

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

During Medford's council meeting this week the city accepted an agreement with WHKS Professional Services to serve as the city's new engineering firm.

According to Administrative Director of Operations Jed Peterson, he, Mayor Danny Thomas, and City Clerk Elizabeth Jackson met with the firm a couple of times before an agreement was reached.

"We met with them in order hit the ground running,"

said Peterson. The firm, with headquarter in Rochester, Iowa and Illinois, was founded in 1948. Medford's prior engineering firm was Bolton & Menk.

The city also chose to enter into an ongoing maintenance agreement with David Drown & Associates in order to review job descriptions, annual market analysis, and pay equity reporting. The city will need to file a pay equity report at the end of 2021 and has worked with David Drown & Associates since 2018.

"The whole point of the pay

equity report is so the State of Minnesota can make sure you're paying correctly and that there are no big discrepancies between pay grades," said Jackson.

Back in 2018 after the company performed a classification and compensation study for Medford, the council chose not to enter into a three-year agreement. However, this time the council felt that a three-year agreement would help to with pay equity and city employees' job descriptions.

"We have to file a pay eq-

uity report in January either way," Council Member Chad Langeslag said of the practicality of the agreement. The cost for the city will be \$1,823 for the 2021 year, \$2,430 for 2022 and 2023 totaling \$6683 for all three years.

After some issues with mailbox damage in the winter, the city adopted an ordinance specifying that it will be the responsibility of the owner to repair said mailbox. If damage was caused by city equipment, such as a snowplow, the city will reimburse the owner up to \$50.

Road now open after pipe collapse

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

In an unusual twist of fate, a sewer pipe under a roadway collapsed in downtown Owatonna, leaving crews scrambling to make emergency repairs to the road.

Steele County Highway 19, also known as Rose Street, from Hoffman Drive to Oak Avenue was shut down for about five days as crews made the repairs. The roadway reopened on Friday, May 28.

Paul Sponholz, assistant county engineer, said there was a "huge hole" under the pavement that gave way after a clay sewer pipe cracked and collapsed. "If the pavement had broken, we would have had a car in it," he said.

No vehicles were damaged from the collapse.

See **ROAD** on A15 ▶



STAFF PHOTO BY KAREN HALE

Crews repair a road collapse on County Road 19, also known as Rose Street, in downtown Owatonna. The road was shut down for several days as workers repaired a sewer pipe under the roadway. The road reopened on May 28.

Man charged after police chase, crash

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The man seriously injured after crashing the stolen vehicle he was allegedly driving has been charged with theft in Steele County.

Dylan Edward Jackson, 28, of Minneapolis, faces a felony charge of motor vehicle theft in Steele County District Court.

The April 25 incident began to unravel when Jackson allegedly stole a 2011 White Ford Fusion from the Holiday Gas Station parking lot on Bridge Street in Owatonna. Police said the keys were left inside the car.

After police arrived to take the report from the victim, the State

Patrol reported they were behind the stolen vehicle on Interstate 35 north of Owatonna. A trooper tried to stop the car, but it took off.

The State Patrol continued to chase the vehicle northbound into

Lakeville, at which time it dropped out for safety reasons. However, Rice County deputies still continued the chase into Bloomington. The deputies finally terminated the pursuit as well at 102nd Street in Bloomington after the vehicle entered the interstate going northbound in the southbound lanes.

Just moments later, the stolen vehicle crashed head-on into another car

See **MAN** on A20 ▶



Dylan Jackson

Graduation 2021

Nguyen: New country, new language, new diploma

BY KAY FATE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Navigating a new school – in a new city – can be difficult for the most confident of people.

Throw in a new language, and it can seem impossible.

So you'll forgive Hong Nguyen who said she thought about giving up when she started her sophomore

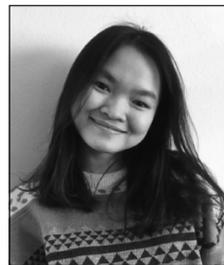
year at Owatonna High School.

Instead, the 19-year-old will graduate with her classmates on June 2, with her "very happy" family cheering her on.

Nguyen enrolled in classes at Owatonna High School after she and her mother moved to Minnesota from Vietnam nearly four years ago, not speaking any English.

"The school helped me improve my English a lot during my time there," Nguyen said. "Sometimes there are many difficult words and I can't

See **NGUYEN** on A16 ▶



Hong Nguyen

NRHEG grads are 'biggest competitors, biggest supporters'

BY KAY FATE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The New Richland Hartland Ellendale Geneva School District is one of few in the area that still names a valedictorian and salutatorian for its graduating class – and this year, it was close.

Just four-hundredths of a grade-point separates the No. 1 student from the No. 4 student in the class.

Kendall Johnson's 4.0 GPA made her the valedictorian; Grace Tufte, with a 3.98 GPA, is salutatorian.

Their graduating class is filled with "our biggest competitors, but also our biggest supporters," Johnson said. It's a very competitive group of friends, vying for various sports positions as well as spots on the academic ranking list. Like most small



Grace Tufte



Kendall Johnson

schools, there is ample opportunity to participate in nearly everything the district has to offer, from sports to the arts to student government.

"The best part is the connections we get to make," Johnson said of their graduating class. Both girls are "100% sincere about wanting the best for everyone. We only push each other because we want all of us to succeed, and

all of us to get better."

The majority of the 71 graduates in the Class of 2021 have gone to school together for 12 years, when the students went from kindergarten in their respective towns to the consolidated NRHEG.

"We had kindergarten to ourselves, but actually the first year we combined (elementary schools) was when we were in first grade,"

See **NRHEG** on A20 ▶

Chamber ambassadors welcome 3 new members



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Ambassadors from the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism visit Box Babes 110 N. Cedar Ave., Owatonna, to welcome the business as a new member. Tanya Henson opened Box Babes as a spotlight downtown Owatonna. Each month Box Babes has a different theme for the boxes filled with unique items. Monthly subscriptions are available.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Ambassadors from the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism visit Graif Clothing, 202 Bridge St., Owatonna, to welcome the business as a new member. Marissa and Matt Brostrom are the owners, and Maddie Strable is the store manager.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Ambassadors from the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism visit Hat Chic Clothing Company/ Embroider Everything, 110 N. Cedar Ave., in Owatonna, to welcome the business as a new member. Tanya Henson is the owner, and Lisa Cochran is the sales manager. Hat Chic Clothing Company is customized head-toe apparel for the whole family, specializing in silkscreen, embroidery, twill, vinyl, glitter, foil and rhinestones.

FREELANCE WRITER WANTED

The STEELE COUNTY TIMES is seeking a freelance writer & photographer to cover Blooming Prairie & Ellendale area news. Perfect opportunity for a retiree who loves to write & attend community events.

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Varkey named president of Mayo Clinic Health System

Prathibha Varkey, M.B.B.S., has been named president of Mayo Clinic Health System, effective Aug. 16. Dr. Varkey will partner with Mary Jo Williamson, chief administrative officer, Mayo Clinic Health System, to lead the strategy and operations of the health system's 17 hospitals and nearly 50 community clinics across Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

"We're very excited to welcome Dr. Varkey back to Mayo Clinic. She's well-positioned to help us realize Mayo Clinic Health System's vision to be the nation's leading community

health system, setting the standard in every dimension as an innovative, forward-looking system of care with top quality, safety, affordability, diversity and performance," says Gianrico Farrugia, M.D., president and CEO, Mayo Clinic.

Varkey, who is board-certified in internal medicine and general preventive medicine, previously practiced medicine at Mayo Clinic in Rochester for 11 years. During her tenure, she also led several initiatives in quality improvement, faculty development and medical education, and managed consum-

er-facing health care business products.

She left Mayo Clinic in 2013 to serve as CEO of Seton Clinical Enterprise in Austin, Texas. Since 2016, Varkey has served as president and CEO of Northeast Medical Group within Yale New Haven Health in New Haven, Conn.

"I admire and respect the relentless pursuit of excellence and patient centered care at Mayo Clinic, and I am excited to come back to what feels like home," said Varkey.

Varkey succeeds Bobbie Gostout, M.D., who retired from Mayo Clinic in December 2020.

STEELE COUNTY **Times**
Always local,
all the time.

Restrictions loosening at Mayo Clinic, 2 visitors allowed

Patients are now permitted to have two visitors in inpatient and outpatient settings at Mayo Clinic Health System sites at all southeast Minnesota locations. The change is being made in response to consistently lowered COVID-19 positivity rates in the region and is subject to change should the situation change.

Mayo Clinic Health System asks that all visitors continue to comply with masking and other COVID-19 safety precautions.

Inpatient visitors do not need to be the same two people and do not need to be documented in the patient chart. The visitors can come and go during visiting hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with exceptions for births, deaths and

other vulnerable medical circumstances.

All visitors should be 5 years or older. No visitors are permitted for inpatients with COVID-19 or who are waiting for COVID-19 test results.

Updated information will be posted on the Mayo Clinic Health System website and social media channels, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

TIGERS OF THE MONTH

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TOP ROW left to right:
Kindergarten – Archer Angelow
1st Grade – Cicilia Jones
2nd Grade – Greta Hanson
3rd Grade – Addison Lique

BOTTOM ROW left to right:
4th Grade – Aleia Glende
5th Grade – Daniel Limon
6th Grade – Kyle Vatsaas

HIGH SCHOOL

7th Grade – Mylie Born
8th Grade – German Vasquez
9th Grade – Jonathan Finke
10th Grade – Anahi Zuniga
11th Grade – Anna Sobrack
12th Grade – Peyton Seiler

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A MOUNTED LEGACY

STORY AND PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER

Moose head offers century-long tradition at Lerberg's Foods

Most supermarkets have high tech security systems watching things, but Lerberg's Foods relies on something a bit more unconventional that has been keeping a pulse on the store for more than a century.

Since 1919, a moose head has been hanging in the same spot on the wall and greeted shoppers at the Ellendale grocery store.

"He's the night watchman," Ross Sletten, owner of Lerberg's, said with a smile.

The store's founder, Andrew Lerberg, went by train to Grand Marais where he bagged a moose in fall or early winter of 1919 with a 401 Winchester rifle. After the successful hunt, Lerberg laid the moose on a flatbed rail car and brought it back to Ellendale. He cut up it up and gave the meat away.

And what about the head?

Well, that's what ended up on the wall of the grocery store and has been keeping an eye on customers ever since.

Lerberg's, which was Ellendale's first retail business, opened in 1901. According to Lerberg's grandson, Andrew Lerberg, who took over the store in 1972 and ran it until 2007, the existing store was built in 1913 to replace the original wood structure, which was torn down soon afterwards. "When he saw business was going to be good, he upgraded," said Lerberg, adding his grandfather died in 1929.

Lerberg doesn't know exactly why his grandfather decided to hang the moose in the store. "I suppose he was just proud of it," he said. And ever since it end-

ed up on the wall, it has become quite the talk with old-time regulars as well as new customers alike. "It has always been a conversation piece," Lerberg said. "We'd miss it if it wasn't there."

Throughout the years, both Lerberg and Sletten have enjoyed the innocence of children looking and commenting about the moose. "It's pretty overwhelming when you're young," Lerberg said, adding it has always been mounted in the same spot.

said. "That's how they identify us."

Sletten recalls coming to the store as a young child in the 1960s with his grandpa who traded eggs for groceries. And, of course, he couldn't come in to the store without admiring the moose. "I remember walking by the moose and thinking about how big it was," he said.

The moose has suffered only one slight casualty besides getting shot. A few years back one of the moose's eyeballs fell out.

"It sets us apart. That's how they identify us."

Ross Sletten

Lerberg's Foods Owner

Shoppers coming into the store for the first time "can't believe we have a moose head hanging on the wall," Sletten said, adding they find it pretty unique.

In fact, Sletten wouldn't be surprised if his is the only grocery store in Minnesota to feature a hanging moose head. Moose or no moose, he knows for sure he is the oldest grocery store in Steele County and the second oldest in Minnesota.

"It sets us apart," Sletten

"It has had an eye transplant," said Sletten, who purchased the store from Lerberg in 2007.

Lerberg is thrilled to have someone like Sletten take over his store and continue the legacy of the moose. "We are darn fortunate to have someone take over and do a good job," Lerberg said referring to Sletten.

Lerberg still has his grandfather's rifle that was used to hunt down the moose. "It's a beautiful



Andrew Lerberg, left, and Ross Sletten, marvel at the large moose that has been hanging at Lerberg's Foods in Ellendale for the past century. The moose was shot with the gun Sletten is holding in northern Minnesota in 1919.

gun. You wouldn't know that gun is from 1910," he said as he showed it off one recent afternoon at the store. "I was lucky enough to get it."

Sletten has felt sorry for the moose after all these years. "The moose is a bachelor and needed a wife," he said.

That's when Sletten developed a marketing gimmick for the store and the idea of Moose bobble heads named "Ellen" and "Dale." Sletten has incorporated the moose heads into the store's advertising.

As for the moose on the wall, Sletten has no plans to move it. "That's sacred ground," he said, adding he can't believe all the world events that have transpired during the time the moose has been displayed in the store.

Other than an occasional vacuuming to clean the moose, it's off limits and will stay put.

Besides the moose, the store also features the original wooden floors.

"I never want to see those two things changed," Sletten says.



Andrew Lerberg bagged a large moose while hunting near Grand Marais in fall or early winter 1919. After shooting the moose, he brought it back to Ellendale by train to hang in his grocery store.



Ross Sletten, owner of Lerberg's Foods, has enjoyed a little fun with the moose over the years. He created a marketing campaign in honor of the moose head by getting some wooden bobble heads named "Ellen" and "Dale."

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

JUNE 4 Man Online, BP Library
7 p.m.- Graduation Ceremony at high school

JUNE 8 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Central Park/BP Library

JUNE 7 11:30 a.m. – Zoo

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

JUNE 4 11 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

JUNE 9 11 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

JUNE 7 11 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
7 p.m. – Ellendale Fire Dept. Meeting, Community Building

JUNE 10 8:30 p.m. – Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

JUNE 5 7 a.m. – Farmer's Market, Central Park

JUNE 6 2 p.m. – OHS Graduation, Four Seasons

JUNE 7 9 a.m. – Bright Star Theatre Summer Camp, Little Theatre of Owatonna
9:30 a.m. – Zoo Man Online, Owatonna Library

JUNE 8 9 a.m. – Bright Star Theatre Summer Camp, Little Theatre of Owatonna

10:30 a.m. – Online Storytime, Owatonna Library Facebook

JUNE 9 9 a.m. – Bright Star Theatre Summer Camp, Little Theatre of Owatonna
5:30 p.m. – Medford EDA Meeting, City Hall

JUNE 10 9 a.m. – Bright Star Theatre Summer Camp, Little Theatre of Owatonna
6 p.m. – Flag Folding and America Flag History, Steele County Honor Guard
7 p.m. – 11@7 Concert Series, Central Park

Strawberries with a twist

Red Oak to provide a different look for annual festival

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The 80th edition of the Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church Strawberry Festival will have a different look on Tuesday, June 8.

Rather than have the traditional dine-in format, because of COVID-19 regulations, the festival will be a drive-up affair. Customers will approach the church's circle drive from the south and tell waiters how many meals they wish.

Food will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4 to 7 p.m.

Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church is located seven miles south of Blooming Prairie.

Menu for the day will include pulled pork,

cole slaw, baked beans, strawberry shortcake and water. A freewill offering is asked.

Linda Christianson and Nancy Wesely are co-chairs of the event.

Christianson said it was challenging this year to find strawberries. She said Aldi stores in Owatonna, Rochester and Austin supplied the berries to the purchaser, Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church.

Organizers hoped to get 220 pounds of strawberries.

Volunteers from the Red Oak Grove WELCA group de-stemmed the berries. Doris Draayer of Austin was again the eldest volunteer. WELCA is sponsoring the festival event.

A feature of festivals in the past has been a



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Doris Draayer of Austin was once again the oldest and most experienced volunteer preparing strawberries for the upcoming Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church Strawberry Festival. The festival is scheduled for Tuesday, June 8.

raffle of a homemade quilt. This year, a quilt made by Linda Christianson and quilted by Cathy Lightly will be the raffle prize.

Judy Wambeam, head of the quilting group at Red Oak, says a tent sale of quilts will be featured outdoors at the front of the church.

SCHS presents Parochial School round table

The Steele County Historical Society announces a Parochial School Round Table Discussion from 6 to 7 p.m., Thursday, June 3 at the Steele County History Center, 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna. Past parochial school students and admin-

istrative staff will tell stories while presenting insight to the difference between public and parochial school education. The panelist will be asked questions by the moderator and program guests will have the opportunity to ask questions. This program is

in conjunction with the Parochial School exhibit featured in the Steele County History Center at this time. The exhibit hall is open before or after the program for anyone to tour.

The cost of this event is free to members, \$5 for non-members. SCHS

memberships will be available to purchase when entering the History Center. Please wear face coverings and maintain distancing when attending this event.

Please call for 507-451-1420 if you have any questions regarding this community event.

Talent show entry forms available

Entry forms are now available for the Owatonna People's Press Amateur Talent Show held at the Steele County Free Fair on Sunday, Aug. 22 at 1 p.m.

Entrants must be from Steele County.

There are three divisions of competition: pre-teen (12 and under), teen (13-18) and open (any age). Winners in each division will receive \$75 cash and a chance to compete at the Minnesota State

Fair. The second-place winner will receive \$25 cash and be eligible, if the first-place winner is unable to attend, to perform at the Minnesota State Fair Sunday, Sept. 5 in front of the grandstand.

Entry forms are available on the fair website at scff.org, the fair office and at the Owatonna People's Press.

This year's talent show will be held at the Elmer Reseland stage in KRFO Town Square.

COLLEGE NEWS

WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY

Emily Heimer of Blooming Prairie recently received a Bachelor of Science, Nursing degree from Western Governors University (WGU) in Salt Lake City. The online, nonprofit university has graduated over 218,000 students from across the country since its inception in 1997.

WGU has recognized 14,146 undergraduate and 15,640 graduate degree recipients, who have completed their degrees since July 2, 2020. The average time to graduation for those earning a bachelor's degree was 2 years, 3 months, while the average time to degree for graduate programs was 1 year, 4 months. The average age

for those who graduated is 37 years old.

UNIVERSITY OF SIOUX FALLS

Madison Roushar of Owatonna, recently graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology from University of Sioux Falls.

Roushar and more than 400 students were celebrated for graduation in the spring commencement ceremony. Watch the ceremony at youtube.com/usioxfalls.

HAMLIN UNIVERSITY

Ibrahim Abdullahi and Jalisa Mathews-Schmidt of Owatonna were among 640 students to make the Dean's List this spring at Hamline University. To qualify for the

Dean's List, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher and complete a minimum of 16 credit hours. In the Spring 2021 term, students were required to have completed a minimum of 12 credits graded on the standard letter-grade scale for the term.

Founded in 1854, Hamline was the first university in Minnesota and among the first coeducational institutions in the nation. Today, Hamline University provides a world-class education for undergraduate and graduate students. Our faculty, staff, and students cultivate an ethic of civic responsibility, social justice, and inclusive leadership.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STOUT

Zach Weber, of Blooming Prairie, was named to the University of Wisconsin-Stout Dean's List for the spring 2021.

The award is presented to students who have a grade point average of 3.5 or above.

UW-Stout, Wisconsin's Polytechnic University, has 47 undergraduate majors and 24 graduate programs, including

one doctoral degree. UW-Stout, established in 1891, prides itself on the success of its students in the workplace, with an employment rate above 97% for recent graduates. The university was awarded the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award in 2001.

SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY

Christine Tabias of Owatonna has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Winter 2021 President's List. And, Matthew Schrom of Medford was named to the Dean's List. The winter term runs from January to May.

Full-time students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above are named to the President's List.

Full-time students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 are named to the Dean's List.

Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students must earn 12 credits in fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 credits.

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Monday - Wednesday - Friday: 11:30 AM to close
Tuesday - Thursday: 10 AM - close
Saturday: 9 AM to close
Sunday: Closed

Bar: 1 AM Closing
Off-Sale: 10 PM Closing
Bar Bingo: Monday at 6:30 PM (Must be 21 to play)
Wine Club: Tuesday 7 - 8:30 PM
May 18th and June 8th (Masks & Covid protocol will be followed - Reservations required)

JULY 3RD: Street Dance
"Red Dirt Road"
8 PM - Midnight
\$5 cover charge - 21 and over

July 4th: Off-Sale open 11 AM - 6 PM
=Bar - Closed

July 24th: B. O. B. Ride "Toys for Tots" - Details Later

Sudoku Corner

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

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



New Richland • Hartland • Ellendale • Geneva PANTHER OF THE WEEK



Rafe Knudson

This week's Panther of the Week is Rafe Knudson. Rafe is the son of Katie and Kevin Knudson and they reside in New Richland. Rafe is in Mrs. Jensen's Kindergarten class.

Rafe is a very kind and considerate student. He is constantly helping other students that missed the directions or need a bit of extra help. He loves to go to his cabin and ride the golf cart.

He lives by Beaver Lake and has an older brother and two older sisters. He is always trying to do his best! Keep up the great work Rafe!



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Huskies claim Big 9 lacrosse title

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

After seeing its undefeated season come to an end the previous week, the Owatonna girls lacrosse team bounced back in impressive fashion by beating Rochester Mayo 14-2 to clinch the Big 9 Championship. It then followed that up with a 10-4 road win over Rochester John Marshall/Lourdes on Thursday, May 20.

The Huskies (9-1) were clear favorites when they faced the John Marshall/Lourdes Rockets (2-7) and scored three early goals, two by Elizabeth Harder and one by Madi Bruessel, but led by just one goal, 3-2, after the first 15 minutes of the game.

Although Owatonna has been a high-scoring team most of the season, Head Coach Dani Licht wasn't surprised that her team didn't get off to a fast start.

"We were working on a lot of new things during the JM game and although we succeeded on those things in practice it takes a little bit of time for those skills to set in during the game. We are also very much a second half team; it takes is a little bit of

time to flip that switch each game," she said.

The Huskies seemed to flip that switch with about 10 minutes left in the first half.

"At that point in the game, they finally began hitting their stride in the midfield. We had fully processed what their defense was attempting to do and our players began picking it apart," said Licht.

Junior attacker Audrey Simon's goal got the scoring surge started and just a couple minutes later Harder added another goal, achieved a first-half hat trick and extended the Huskies' lead to 5-2.

Then, with just a few minutes left in the first half, freshman attacker Maddie McGinn scored and sophomore midfielder Anni Moran followed with her first goal of the game and just like that Owatonna led 7-2 at halftime.

Since the Huskies held a commanding lead, Licht mentioned that they were able to use the second half as a time to work on their offense.

"There are a few attack plays that we were working on in the second half. A lot of the movements were very new to our players but I see us succeeding in the



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Husky senior midfielder Madi Bruessel looks for an open teammate after three Rockets converge on her. Bruessel is Owatonna's third-best goal scorer with 11 this season.

future by practicing at game speed," she said.

While it would have been nice if the Huskies could have worked on their offense and cruised to a win, that wasn't what happened. Instead, the Rockets scored two quick goals and cut their deficit to 7-4 less than four minutes into the second half.

"We were changing up some things on defense in the second half to give more players an opportunity in the game. We've got all great defensive players on the field but we did put some different combinations on the field to see how well they worked together. There were a few communication errors that resulted in fouls and an opportunity for JM to score," Licht said.

Fouls ended up being an issue for the Huskies as they committed six in the second half.

"JM has always been an extremely aggressive team. Things got a little chippy and the officials wanted to keep the game under control and safe," she said.

Thankfully, for Owatonna, all but one of John Marshall/Lourdes' penalty shots were either blocked or off target. The only one that went in was one of the Rockets' first two goals of the second half.

Licht was pleasantly surprised with how the Huskies' fared against the Rockets' penalty shots.

"This is actually something we struggle with normally. On Wednesday in practice, we worked on cutting off the shooter to prevent a high percentage," she said.

Meanwhile, when Owatonna's offense had the ball, the Huskies did a good job of getting the ball into the crosse [stick] of Anni Moran, the Huskies' leading goal-scorer. She made the Rockets pay by scoring three goals in the second half. Moran's third goal gave her a third consecutive hat trick and her fourth goal increased Owatonna's lead to 10-4.

Licht explained that Moran's vision is a big reason she's so good at getting the ball in the back of the net.

"Anni sees the field better than any player we've ever had. She finds the open space on the field and drives directly to the net," she said.

In addition to Moran, she noted that senior attacker Annika Brown, who recorded two assists, stood out for her performance against

the Rockets.

"Annika Brown had a great game on against JM, she was great in catching the outlet pass and giving her team good passes to go to net," she said.

Licht was also impressed with how her midfielders, defenders and goalie Zoe Anderson held John Marshall/Lourdes to just four goals.

"They played an aggressive game and prevented JM/L from getting a good angle on the net," she said.

Owatonna's 10-4 win increased its record to 10-1.

The Huskies' last regular season game was last Tuesday, May 25. They ended the regular season with an 11-2 record.

Owatonna stats:
Anni Moran – 4 goals, Audrey Simon – 1 goal and 3 assists, Elizabeth Harder – 3 goals, Madi Bruessel – 1 goal and 1 assist, Maddie McGinn – 1 goal, Annika Brown – 2 assists and Allie Keller – 1 assist. Goalie Zoe Anderson – 9 saves on 13 shots on goal.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Owatonna senior Elizabeth Harder drives down the middle of the Rochester John Marshall. Just seconds later she shot and scored to give the Huskies a 5-2 lead in the first half.

Moran, Simon lead Huskies into the playoffs

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

The Owatonna girls lacrosse team has already had a very successful season, going 11-2 during the regular season and winning the Big 9 Championship and a significant reason for its success has been the play of sophomore midfielder Annika "Annie" Moran and junior attacker Audrey Simon.

Moran leads the Huskies in points, 65, and goals, 54, and is second on the team with 11 assists, while Simon leads the Huskies in assists, 30, and has the second-most points, 62, and goals, 32.

Simon believes what makes her and Moran so effective at scoring goals and recording assists is the Huskies' strong team bond and communication.

"My grade has been playing with the

seniors a while now so we definitely have that connection on the field. Also, I've been playing with Annie for a while so I've been working with these girls for almost my whole lacrosse life," she said. "They're always helping us get open shots. It wouldn't be possible without them."

Head Coach Dani Licht agreed.

"They [Moran and Simon] are wonderful players who work their butts off to make sure that they are the ones driving to the net, but the rest of the team and a lot of the seniors work their butts off to get them some of those opportunities," she said. "I think it's a huge collective effort of working our behinds off just to get to the other side and then these guys make it look nice and easy and put it in the back of the net."

While their teammates help get them those scoring chances,

it's up to Moran and Simon to take advantage of those opportunities.

Moran is able to capitalize on her scoring chances, Simon said, due to her assertive playing style.

"She's really aggressive and works really hard. Me and her we just have a great connection on the field, I'm always able to find her for a quick pass. We just work really well together," she said.

Moran agreed that their connection is evident on the field.

"I agree with what she said about how we are just able to find each other," she said. "I know she's really good at looking up and passing the ball. She's also good at taking the ball and scoring."

Not only are both Moran and Simon good at scoring, but Licht said they're good at scoring often.

See MORAN on A13 ▶



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Husky junior Audrey Simon, shown here battling a Northfield defender for a loose ball, often faces double or triple teams since she leads Owatonna in assists, 30, and is second on the team in points, 62, and goals, 32. Thanks in part to her and Annie Moran's strong offense, the Huskies recently won the Big 9 Championship.



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FREE CONSULTATIONS

Medford track teams earn silver medal at conference meet

NRHEG boys take home third, BP girls tie for fifth place

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

It was a positive day for most Steele County boys and girls track and field teams that competed in the Gopher Conference meet last Monday. In fact, all but one team finished tied for fifth place or better out of eight teams.

Out of all the Steele County Gopher Conference teams, Medford was the most successful – both its boys and girls team won second place. Both of NRHEG's track and field teams also finished in the top four with the boys coming in third place and the girls taking home fourth. Last but not least, the Blooming Prairie girls team finished tied for fifth place while the boys team came in sixth place.

Medford's boys team, which came in second place by just 10 points, was once again led by its 4x800 meter relay, which is composed of Tyler Stursa, Brock Merritt, Garrett Fitzgerald and Cohen Stursa. They finished nearly 40 seconds before the next finisher.

The Tigers' 4x200 relay team, which consists of Merritt, George McCarthy, Cohen O'Connor and Kael Hermanstorfer, also finished in first place with a time of 1:37.95.

Like Merritt, Henry Grayson was a two-time event winner. He crossed the finish line in 23.48 seconds to take first place in the 200-meter dash and it



Blooming Prairie eighth-grader Brady Kittelson twists and turns his body just enough to clear the bar. He cleared 7 feet, which was good for 20th place and added 11 points to the Awesome Blossoms' team score during the Section 1A true team meet.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

took him just 52.15 seconds to earn first place in the 400-meter dash.

The Tigers' final track first-place winner was Tyler Stursa who won the 800-meter run with a time of 2:08.05.

In the field events, Medford had two more first-place finishers. First, McCarthy won the pole vault by clearing 11 feet, 9 inches. Second, Hermanstorfer won the shot put. His winning throw went 44 feet and 2 inches.

On the girls' team, the Tigers were paced by Clara Kniefel who won first place in two

events. She finished in 2:41.89 to claim first place in the 800-meter run and she was a part of Medford's winning 4x400 meter relay team, along with Payton Ristau, Peyton Snow and Annette Kniefel, that crossed the finish line in 4:30.76.

Freshman Jackie Cole also earned first place in two events and her wins came in two very different events. She beat all her 100-meter dash competitors by finishing in 12.95 seconds and she was victorious in the long jump; her winning jump went 16 feet, 6 inches.

NRHEG's boys team achieved the next best result, third place, by scoring 83 points in 18 events.

The only male Panther that win first place was Sawyer Prigge who defeated all his high jump competitors by clearing 5 feet, 8 inches.

Despite only having one event winner, one reason the NRHEG boys came in third place overall is because they had three second-place finishers, including Jaxon Beck who also cleared 5 feet, 8 inches in the high jump but lost on the tie-breaker.

The Panthers' other two second-place finishers were Daniel Nydegger who completed the 800-meter run in 2:11.09, just three seconds behind the winner and its 4x400 meter relay team, which is made up of Nikolas Petsinger, Prigge, Max Seltum and Nydegger, which

finished in 3:46.31.

The NRHEG boys' team also had two third-place finishers: Jacob Karl finished the 3200-meter run in 11:39.13 and Brandon Howieson whose 38 feet and 6-inch throw earned bronze in the shot put.

Meanwhile, NRHEG's girls team came in fourth place, thanks to its girls winning four events.

The Panthers' 4x800 meter relay team, which is made up of Journey Utpadel, Torri Vaale, Quinn VanMaldeghem and Evelyn Nydegger, won with a time of 11:23.32.

Nydegger also earned first place in the 400-meter dash by finishing in 1:06.88.

VanMaldeghem joined Nydegger in the two-event winners club by prevailing in the 3200-meter run. Her winning time was 12:55.95.

Last but not least Natalie Johnson won the 100-meter high hurdles with a time of 17.82.

NRHEG's girls team didn't have any second-place finishers, but they did have five third-place finishers: Vaale finished the 1600-meter run in 6:29.93, Johnson who took 53.68 seconds to complete the 300-meter low hurdles, Utpadel finished the 800-meter run in 2:47.57, Nydegger achieved 30 feet and 2.75 inches in the triple jump and the Panthers' 4x400 meter relay team, which consists of Utpadel, Chloe Riewer, Holly Bartness and

Nydegger, finished in 4:38.59.

The Blooming Prairie girls team tied with Hayfield for fifth place overall with 81 points. The Blossoms lost out on tying for fourth-place by just one point.

The Blooming Prairie girls were led by its five second-place finishers. Annaka Forsberg cleared 5 feet, 2 inches in the high jump, Megan Oswald jumped 30 feet and 7.5 inches in the triple jump, Micalyn Trihus achieved a distance of 97 feet, 4 inches in the discus throw, the 4x400 meter relay

team, which is made up of Anna Kittelson, Oswald, Abigail Hefling and Emily Miller, which crossed the finish line in 4:38.31 and the 4x800 meter relay team, which consists of Kittelson, Lila Quail, Chloe McCarthy and Miller, which finished in 11:48.39.

Meanwhile, the Blooming Prairie boys team came in sixth place with 54 points.

The Awesome Blossoms' point total was given a 10-point boost when the 4x100 meter relay team, which includes Ezra Kiley, Derek Kubicek, Xavier Rennie and Bradley Simon, won first place by finishing in 46.24 seconds.

Sam Skillestad added eight more points when he finished in second place in the 400-meter dash with a time of 53.76 seconds.

Blooming Prairie also had two third-place finishers. Simon finished the 100-meter dash in 11.63 seconds and Xavier Rennie completed the 110-meter high hurdles in 17.25 seconds.

The Blossoms will next compete in the varsity sub-section meet at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 3, at Stewartville High School.

The Panthers' varsity sub-section meet is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 3, at Maple River High School.

Editor's note: The Tigers' varsity sub-section meet was this past Tuesday, but due to the Times' Monday deadline we don't yet know the results.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Awesome Blossom senior Anna Kittelson put some distance between herself and her Medford, Hayfield and Kenyon-Wanamingo competitors during the 4x800 meter relay.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Medford's Hailey Hemann didn't let some rainy conditions prevent her from competing in the triple jump at the Section 1A true team meet in Dodge Center.

Moran, Simon lead Huskies into the playoffs

◀ MORAN from A12
"These guys in particular are scoring a lot of goals every single game. There's only been one game where it's been a lit questionable

about how many they're going to put in the back of the net and it was the Century game. And that was both of these two were doubled and tripled every single

second that they had the ball or even doubled and tripled to make sure the ball didn't go to their stick," she said. "Every other opportunity they've had they get

themselves open and get themselves opportunities."

While the Huskies' overtime loss to Rochester Century ruined their undefeated season, Licht views it as a blessing in disguise.

"It gave us the ability to evaluate where we're at and it gave them a lot to learn in that next practice to make sure that they're getting themselves open as well as protecting their sticks," she said. "I see a continued streak of multiple goals coming from these guys."

To keep scoring multiple goals each game, Moran and Simon will have to find ways to elude defenses that will try to double or triple them.

When she's facing two or three defenders, Moran said she tries, "my best to pull it out and look for the open

"I think it's a huge collective effort of working our behinds off just to get to the other side and then these guys make it look nice and easy and put it in the back of the net."

Dani Licht
Lacrosse Coach

girl and sometimes I'll pull myself away from the play to draw defenders with me and leave more openings for other people."

Likewise, Simon said having extra attention on her should benefit Owatonna's offense.

"It definitely opens me up more for assists because if there's defenders who are more focused on what's going on behind the net, we're able to get a lot more cutters through and

then I can pop it in and able to get a score," she said.

Given how Simon and Moran have learned to handle getting double or tripled and how the Huskies have grown since their loss to Rochester Century, Owatonna seems to be in a good position to make a deep run in the section playoffs.

The only question that remains is: How far can Simon, Moran and the Huskies go?



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Owatonna sophomore midfielder Annie Moran is a threat to score anytime she gets the ball near the opposing team's net. She leads the Huskies in points, 65, and goals, 54, and is second on the team with 11 assists.

SPRING SPORTS ROUNDUP

Owatonna boys lacrosse wins Big 9 Championship

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

LACROSSE

Owatonna 21, New Prague 11

The Husky boys ended the regular season with five straight road games and after beating the New Prague Trojans by 10 goals, Owatonna have 4-1 in that span with their lone blemish being a one-goal loss.

The Huskies led 3-1 after the first quarter, but the Trojans erupted for seven goals in the second quarter and the score was tied 8-8 at halftime.

However, the second half was all Owatonna as the Huskies scored seven goals in the third quarter and six more in the fourth.

Zach Kirsch tied a school record with eight goals. He now shares the top spot with Michael Schmitz who scored eight goals in one game in 2014. Kirsch ended the season with 51 goals.

Head Coach Scott Seykora said the players of the game were Kirsch, Lane Karsten, who was the Huskies' long stick midfielder, Casey Johnson who scored one goal and provided "great transition play" and Tate Gfrerer who was a "substitution master."

BASEBALL

Mankato West 14, Owatonna 4

Thanks to a 3-2 win over Albert Lea, the Huskies got an opportunity to compete for the Big 9 title, but the team standing in their way, the top-ranked team Section AAA – Mankato West, proved to be too much as they scored 10 runs in the first three innings and cruised to a win on Monday, May 24.

The Huskies got off a strong start when Payton Beyer led off the game with a triple to deep right-center field and Grant Achterkirch drove him in with an RBI double. Achterkirch scored on an RBI single by Brayden Truelson and Owatonna led 2-0 after the top of the first inning.

However, the Scarlets' bats were even hotter – they scored five runs in the first inning and four more in the third to take a 10-2 lead.

Mankato West ended up scoring four more runs and beat Owatonna 14-4 in five innings.

The Huskies' offense was led by Beyer who went 2-3 with a triple, Truelson who went 3-3 with a double and an RBI and Achterkirch who was 1-3 with a double and an RBI.

NRHEG 7, Blooming Prairie 6

The Panthers and the Awesome Blossoms came into this game with similar records so this game would go a long way in determining seeding for the section playoffs. Both teams seemed to know the significance of this game as it took two extra innings to decide a winner, but eventually the Panthers came away victorious on Monday, May 24.



Blooming Prairie junior outfielder Melanie Winzenburg is safe by a foot on a close play at first base during a recent game against Hayfield.

He also led Medford's offense with three hits, including the Tigers' only RBI.

In its final game of the regular season, Medford honored its three seniors: Vandereide, Josiah Hedensten and Peyton Seiler.

The Tigers end the regular season with a 10-7 record.

SOFTBALL

Owatonna 12, Albert Lea 2

The Awesome Blossoms took an early lead by scoring four runs in the first inning, but, NRHEG Head Coach Mark Lee said, the Panther pitchers shut them down after that.

NRHEG starter Kordell Schlaak went 2 and 2/3 innings and gave up four runs, Alex Dobberstein relieved him and surrendered two runs in three innings and Dexter Lee saved the best for last, striking out five and giving up zero runs in 3 and 1/3 innings. Lee was named the winning pitcher.

"The Panthers won the game thanks to George Roesler getting hit by a pitch, stealing second, then stealing third and scoring on a wild throw to third that ended up in left field and George scampered home for the win," he said.

After a later loss to United South Central, NRHEG ends the regular season with a 7-11 record.

After a later loss to Hayfield, Blooming Prairie finished the regular season with a 6-11 record.

Medford 1, Bethlehem Academy 0

Following a heart-breaking walk-off loss to Blooming Prairie, the Tigers got back in the win column by beating the Bethlehem Academy Cardinals 1-0 on Monday, May 24.

The Tigers had scored four runs in their past three games, but against the Cardinals they needed just one because AJ Vandereide put on a pitching clinic. He tallied 15 strikeouts in a complete game shutout

After their first two attempts fell through, the Huskies finally got to celebrate their four seniors, Haylee Mullenbach, Alyssa Ringhofer, Ana LaDuke and student manager Hailee Olson, and they got a big win to wrap up the regular season to boot.

Head Coach Jeremy Moran said the biggest highlight of the night was the play of Ana LaDuke. She was 3-3 with 6 RBI and 2 home runs in her first two at bats.

"After the big win yesterday, it was good to see the team come out and keep that momentum going in tonight's game. Ana got our offense going by driving in five of the first six runs of the game for us. Then the rest of the team started to really hit the ball well and we were able to put the game away," he said.

NRHEG 6, Blooming Prairie 0

After suffering its second loss of the season against Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, the Panthers bounced back with three straight wins, including a 6-0 win over the Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossoms last Monday.

Head Coach Wendy Schultz said a lot of Panthers made big plays.

"Cloie Arndt had the hot bat again tonight going 2-4 with a triple and homerun over the fence. Hallie Schultz started out the first inning with a double and Grace Tufte bunted her to third base. Sophie Stork drove Hallie in. With two outs, Cloie came up and hit a home

run. This is the second game in a row that she hit one over the fence. Brenlee Knudson also hit well going 4-4. Hallie, Brenlee, and Brenna Sommer all hit doubles. Defensively, Faith Nielsen and Hallie made some tough plays for us, as well as Brenlee making a tough catch in centerfield," she said.

NRHEG pitcher Sophie Stork once again had a great game, striking out 13 and giving up just 2 hits and 1 walk.

Combining both her games against Blooming Prairie this season, she's given up 0 runs in 14 innings.

Medford 10, Bethlehem Academy 8

Following a heartbreaking 11-10 loss to Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, the Ti-

gers once again scored 10 runs, but this time it was enough to beat the Bethlehem Academy Cardinals on the road on Monday, May 24.

Medford ends the regular season with a 6-13.

The Tigers began the Section 2AA playoffs with a road game against Fairmont this Tuesday.

GOLF

Owatonna boys place third at Big 9 Championship

Owatonna's top four golfers combined for 330 strokes, which was just one stroke less than Rochester Century and gave the Huskies' third place at last Tuesday's Big 9 Final Tournament.

Individually, Owatonna had three golfers

achieve a top 25 finish, including Jonny Wall whose 79 landed him in 10th place. Brody Homan shot an 81, which was good for 14th place, and Sam Snitker shot an 84 and finished in 25th place.

The Huskies' team score was rounded out by Quinn Thompson who shot an 86 and finished in 35th place.

Owatonna's Head Coach Mark Langlois was proud of the progress the Huskies have made.

"It was great to see us move up in the Big 9 standings. It was evident their hard work, solid ball striking and decision-making were the difference-makers," he said. "Continued work on our short game will be a focus as we get ready for sections next week."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE OF THE WEEK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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60					61				62			
63					64				65			

ACROSS

- 1 Distant
- 6 Apex
- 9 Jobs
- 14 "ER" actress --- Tierney
- 15 "--- Believer", Monkees hit
- 16 Start playing!
- 17 Tap
- 19 "Fear of Flying" author --- Jong
- 20 Snow runner
- 21 Less common
- 22 Buoyant
- 23 Old-fashioned cab
- 25 Lightweight tropical hats
- 27 Elite group
- 28 Gene Pitney was only 24hrs from here
- 29 Downloadable program
- 32 Small lake
- 34 Natter
- 35 Tenor --- Bocelli
- 37 Sidestepped
- 39 Splendors
- 40 Demeanor
- 41 Total
- 42 Capital of Norway
- 43 Source of formic acid
- 44 Jambalaya ingredient
- 46 Little one
- 47 "Band of Gold" singer Freda ---
- 48 Miscrants
- 51 Economist
- 54 Succeed

- 56 One of New York's finest, perhaps
- 57 Nautical fastener
- 58 To
- 60 Carroll's rabbit-hole explorer
- 61 Wyo. neighbor
- 62 Extended area of land
- 63 Waterproofed as many showers are
- 64 Affirmative vote
- 65 Solemn promises

DOWN

- 1 Pennsylvania Mennonites
- 2 Sri ---, formerly Ceylon
- 3 Ahead of the field
- 4 Mineral source
- 5 Litter of pigs
- 6 Bracket
- 7 Stimulus
- 8 Security detachment
- 9 Anna Paquin won an Oscar for this film, aged 11
- 10 Spanish winds
- 11 The pen
- 12 Recoil
- 13 Remain
- 18 Rotating engine part
- 24 Welcome
- 26 Old Testament song

- 28 Sliver
- 29 Nobleman
- 30 Rind
- 31 --- doble (dance)
- 32 One of the Three Bears
- 33 "--- Almighty", in which Morgan Freeman played God
- 34 Nixon's successor, informally
- 36 Drivel
- 38 At peace
- 39 Rev up
- 41 --- Todd, barber
- 45 Chest pain
- 46 Am disposed
- 47 Serenity
- 48 Pro
- 49 Gun handle nick
- 50 Notices
- 51 Get outta here!
- 52 "--- want is a room somewhere..." ("My Fair Lady")
- 53 Bridal wear
- 55 Start of a Hamlet soliloquy
- 59 Geological time composed of periods

S	H	T	V	O	E	Y	V	D	E	L	I	T
T	C	V	R	T	B	E	N	E	C	I	L	T
O	T	R	E	O	R	O	N	I	A	E	L	C
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Women's bowling champs



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The bowling team of Farmers & Merchants State Bank in Blooming Prairie has bowled its way to being the 2020-2021 Wednesday Nite Ladies League Champions! Featured from left are Becky Noble, Joann Nielsen, Maren Herdina, Judy Esplan and Amy Simon. Missing are Carol Heimerman and Brandi Wanous. Congratulations ladies!

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Financial tips for the self-employed

Being self-employed has some benefits: You get to choose your own hours, you don't have to count "vacation days" and you'll never worry about getting downsized. On the other hand, you're truly on your own - there's no employer-sponsored retirement plan and no benefits package. So, if you've recently started a business or become a "gig worker," possibly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, what can you do to get on the road to financial security?

There are several steps you can take, including the following:

Establish a budget. When you're self-employed - and especially when you're first starting out - you need to keep tight control over where your money is going. So, establish a budget and stick to it.

Open a retirement plan. As a self-employed individual, you can choose a retirement plan, such as a SEP-IRA, a SIMPLE-IRA or an "owner-only" 401(k). When your earnings are limited, you can contribute modest amounts to any of these plans, but when your income rises, you can boost your contributions. While these retirement plans have some things in common, including tax-deferred growth of earnings, they differ in other areas, such as contribution limits, and one plan may be more suitable for you than another, depending on whether you have employees. You may want to consult with a financial advisor to determine which plan is best for your needs.

Build an emergency fund. When you work for a business or other organization, your income is predictable - but that's usually not the case when you're self-employed. And when your earnings are uneven, you can be vulnerable to financial stress when you face an unexpected expense. To help protect yourself from these threats, try to gradually build an emergency fund containing a few months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account.

Pay down your debts. Some debts, such as loans to help your business, may be unavoidable - and even productive. But other debts, especially those that can't be deducted from your taxes and carry a high interest rate, are far less useful, so you may want to set up a repayment plan. With your other expenses, you might not be able to whittle these debts down as fast you'd like, but, over time, your efforts can pay off.

Put money aside for taxes. Because no employer is withholding taxes from your paychecks, you will likely have to make quarterly estimated payments. Plus, you're responsible for all your Social Security taxes, which, if you worked for someone else, would be split between you and your employer. To make sure you've got enough money available to pay your taxes, you might want to set up a special account - one that's not used for any other purpose.

Get proper insurance. Depending on the nature of your work, you may or may not need some type of business insurance, but if you have a family, you should certainly consider the need for life insurance, and you may also want to consider disability insurance.

Self-employment can be quite fulfilling - and you'll find it even more rewarding when you make the right financial moves.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Community honors students opting to join the workforce

◀ **COMMUNITY** from A8
Among the honorees were Timothy Lovrink, Blake Lawson, Zinash Valen, Saide Rodriguez, Gavin Rein, Candace Goodsell, Sam Cummins, and Deyjah Weaver. During the event, the students and their employers' representatives signed a certificate symbolizing their employment.

Workforce Coordinator, Anisha Zak, said that she helps connect students from the SteeleCo Works program with local employers

and will continue to counsel them through their work experiences.

This ceremony intends to recognize successful students who have interests outside of attending a traditional 4-year university, said Zak, adding that this particular initiative means a lot to her because "it's important for all students to have support."

Zak said that she has worked with more than 400 students through this program.

One of the honor-

ees, Deyjah Weaver accepted a work offer from Timberdale Trace, represented by Carol Armendariz. Weaver said that she started working with Zak about a month ago, and, so far, "it's been really fun." On her new job, Weaver said that she is excited to work with more people and make one-on-one connections with her co-workers.

Weaver will be graduating from the Owatonna Alternative Learning Center this spring.

Steele County has one of the highest concentrations of manufacturing jobs in Minnesota - more than double the state average. It also outpaces the nation in the percentage of finance/insurance jobs - a mark of its skilled, diverse workforce.

SteeleCo Works is a collaboration between United Way of Steele County, Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce, Workforce Development, Inc., and the Owatonna Public Schools.

Road now open after pipe collapse

◀ **ROAD** from A8
Sponholz said the heavy rain around May 18-20 was the "final straw" that caused the sewer pipe to collapse.

While the roadway is at least 50 years old, Sponholz is unable to confirm the age of the pipe. However, judging by the pipe being clay, he wouldn't be surprised if the sewer pipe was older. "The pipe is old," he said, adding he was surprised to find the pipe was clay.

Even though the road was opened again last Friday, the county still needs to pave the roadway. That will be done in the next few weeks.

Sponholz did not have any idea how much the repairs would cost. There were no scheduled repairs for that particular roadway. "This was something we didn't anticipate," he said.

Owatonna city crews assisted the county with the emergency repairs.

Hello Steele County!

◀ **STEELE TALKIN'** from A8
excited to start here in Steele County with a fresh outlook.

A few areas of interest that I would like to program on in Steele County include: animal science, culinary arts, STEM, and natural resources just to name a few. If you have an interest in any of these topics and would like to partner with 4-H please contact me!

4-H is busy preparing for summer. In June, 4-Hers will take part in S.P.L.A.S.H. (Summer Party of Learning, Art, Science, and Happiness) 4-H camp at Camp Victory. 4-Hers will spend three days and two nights at Camp Victory enjoying games, songs, crafts, educational programs, great food, cabin life, outdoor adventures, reflective campfires and more! The Minnesota 4-H Camping program develops leadership and

responsibility skills for teen counselors, while providing a safe and fun opportunity for the campers through activities, which allow them to gain knowledge and develop social skills while meeting new friends.

Day camps, wild-life retreat, and much more are actively being planned for summer. Watch our website, Facebook page, or give us a call to find out more. I look forward to working with youth and volunteers in Steele County.

Here is to a great summer!

Krystal Viktora
is the 4-H program coordinator for Steele County. *Steele Talkin'* is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.



ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS
From the Hosts of the Under The Hood radio show.
By Shannon Nordstrom and Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics, I am on the fence about installing a replacement engine in my Silverado truck or just selling it to a yard for scrap. I have owned it for ten years and really like it and if the engine would not have failed, I would not even think of getting a different vehicle. I have already spent a lot of money on repairs the past two years including a new transmission and brakes and tires to name just a few. When should you keep a vehicle verses scraping one?

Peter in Park Rapids MN
We advise people on this subject carefully. In the end it is your decision but here is what we have to offer. First you need to look at the value of your vehicle assuming it had a good running engine. What are those vehicles selling for? Once that is established find out what it will cost to repair yours with a new or low mileage used engine and do some math. Selling a vehicle for scrap is one of the lowest prices you will get and often you can put a used engine in and recover the cost of the engine plus a decent amount for the vehicle when running correctly. You have already put a lot into it, so you know the vehicle well. If your cost to fix it is comparable to buying another similar model vehicle, you are likely better off than buying someone else's problem.

Take care, The Motor Medics
Dear Motor Medics, I am a diehard Chevy fan just like my father and his before him and it's time for a new truck and I'm really looking hard at a Dodge diesel truck like my neighbor has. I feel like I am being disloyal to Chevy if I purchase a Dodge, but I really like the towing capacity and the looks of the new ones compared to past models. Being a guy who has never owned one I am concerned about the reliability of them and the service I will get. How do I find out accurate information about them?

Joe in Salina Kansas
The tale of Ford VS Chevy VS Dodge and now Toyota and other trucks goes back as far as trucks themselves. Like most of the things we make up our minds about, we need to look, do the research on our own, and make our decisions based on facts. Too many times people hear someone give their opinion about something and take it as fact when often the person the information is coming from does not own the item and may never have had any contact with it. All the trucks offered today by the big manufacturers seem to be decent as judged by what we see hands on in our own shop. Get on the internet and read the forums written by actual consumers of the product and see what they have to say about actual use of them.

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AMERICA'S SBDC MINNESOTA

Let's talk: Your voice matters

BY ANNETTE DUNCAN

Have you ever heard the saying, if you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all? While, I agree with this sentiment, I challenge you to think about this differently. Are you adding value with what you are saying? If your intent is to bring to light challenges in hopes of finding resolution, that adds value. Your voice matters.

United Way of Steele County is committed to identifying the obstacles that prevent people from having a good quality of life and convening the people and organizations necessary to develop solutions. How do we determine what these issues are? By working with our community partners and by listening to YOU. Your voice matters and we want to hear from you. Are you are interest-

ed in participating in a small focus group or even in having a one-to-one conversation to discuss the needs of our community, from your perspective? Do you belong to a group or service organization that works with the community and has insight to share? We'd love to hear from you. Are you just interested in hearing about the work of United Way, here in Steele County, and how we

might work together to create transformational change in our community? Please reach out so we can schedule some time together. Your voice matters. This is how we LIVE UNITED.

Annette Duncan is President of United Way of Steele County. She can be reached at 507-455-1180 or via email by president@unitedwaysteelecounty.org.

Nguyen: New country, new language, new diploma

◀ NGUYEN from A8 speak, but my English is also much better than before."

The biggest challenge in high school, she said, was "probably when people around me talk and I don't understand anything. I get annoyed sometimes and I just have to try."

Nguyen credited a former ESL teacher named Lopez, as well as OHS equity coach Rachael Bird for getting her through.

"Many teachers helped me," Nguyen said, "but those two are the most impressive and most helpful. They were always there for me when I have difficulties."

But the biggest

influence? Her mother, who "advised and encouraged me so I was motivated from there. She said that studying is good for the future, and later I looked back and realized that my mother's words were right. Isn't it good that I graduated, thanks to my mother?"

Nguyen said she plans to be a nail technician after graduation, working with her mother at a salon in Hastings.

The family moved there a few months ago, but Nguyen continued her online studies at OHS.

Getting her diploma is important, she said, "because after I graduate, I know English

to communicate with strangers, and it will make my job better."

She's able to practice with her stepfather, "the only one in the family who's American. He also taught my family a lot about improving communication," Nguyen said.

A brother who arrived in Minnesota less than six months ago will be a freshman next year, starting the educational path his sister is just finishing – including learning a new language.

His sister has some advice for him, should he find himself struggling:

"I want to tell (any ESL students) to just believe in yourself,"

Nguyen said. "If you think that you can do it, you will be able to do it and will be more successful in speaking English. Don't be afraid; as long as you try, you will succeed."

BIRTHDAYS

<p>June 2 Samantha Andrews</p> <p>June 3 Camden Heimerman Kendra Long Gabriel Hagen Emma Trom Madelyn Harvey Isabella Kohn</p> <p>June 4 Paul Stender Brenda Salinas Lance Ingvaldson Stephane Bruggeman Pam Schwarz</p> <p>June 5 Lantry Houillion Doug Johnson Kara Trotman</p>	<p>June 5 Zach Prouty Nor Klemmensen</p> <p>June 6 Greg Snider Maren Forystek Bailee Klemmensen</p> <p>June 7 Loretta Ingvalson Leigh Yentsch Veronica Brown Monica Lea Kevin Tocko Doris Lea Tyler Bluedorn</p> <p>June 8 Ella Klemmensen</p>
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ANNIVERSARIES

<p>June 3 Jeff & Sue Zwiener Andrew & Emily Savaria</p> <p>June 4 Mike & Alyssa Ressler</p>	<p>June 5 Brian & Christine Wencil Gloria & Vern Dennis</p> <p>June 8 Cletus & Sharon Glynn</p>
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8th Grade Graduates



ALIA KUBICEK

"Grateful my parents chose SMS because I have made so many friends and the whole school is so welcoming and like a huge family."

"My favorite tradition at SMS is definitely Spirit day!"

"I will miss the school being small and knowing everyone in your grade. I will also miss the family structure of SMS."

"I'm most excited for all the different types of classes I am going to take at the high school."



ADDY HAYES

"Grateful my parents chose SMS because I got a great education and I have some of the best friends anyone could ever ask for."

"My favorite memory is Mrs. Kasper's science class!"

"I will miss recess and field trips."

"I'm most excited for not having a dress code at the high school!"



AMANDA CLUBB

"Grateful my parents chose SMS because St. Mary's is a second family to me. I know that I have people who will support and love me when I come to school, which is something that is so unique to SMS. I am so grateful for being sent to St. Mary's because I am who I am because of this school. I've been taught so many lessons and ways to be more like Christ by people that really care about me."

"My favorite St. Mary's tradition is school Mass. It's so fun to have kids lead and participate in the Mass. The teachers and priests do an amazing job making Mass special for everyone."

"I am going to miss the feeling of knowing everyone in my class. We've been together so long and we know each other so well that everyone is friends with everyone. We've all talked to each other, laughed at each other's jokes, and worked on projects together."

"I'm excited to meet new people and try new things! There are so many new opportunities in high school."



APRIL KONZ

"Grateful my parents chose SMS because I was able to express my faith every day with my classmates and teachers. I will miss praying after each class and before meals at the high school."

"My favorite tradition at SMS is Spirit Day! I always loved dressing up with the 8th graders. It was really fun to walk around eating candy and competing with other groups."

"I will miss being able to spend a lot of time with the people I kind of grew up with in the SMS family."

"I'm most excited to meet new people and try out classes that are not available at SMS at the high school!"



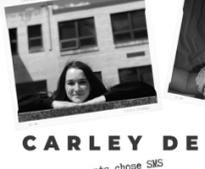
BRODIE MRACEK

"Grateful my parents chose SMS because the positive atmosphere here is great. I am glad to have met many great people here."

"My favorite memory is Spirit Day but I also enjoy the winter carnival"

"I will miss all the teachers and my fellow classmates in the other grades."

"I'm most excited to meet all the other Junior High students and other people at the high school."



CARLEY DEWITZ

"Grateful my parents chose SMS because we are like a family here. Everyone is so kind and so helpful. We have created so many amazing memories here and I will never forget the amazing time I had at SMS."

"My favorite tradition at SMS is either Spirit Day or the Marathon"

"I will miss the small class sizes. I'm also going to miss the family feeling."

"I'm most excited to keep growing in life and my education. I'm not ready to leave SMS but I am ready to keep moving in life."



CHLOE GARTEN

"Grateful my parents chose SMS because if they didn't I wouldn't have met all the great people, my best friends or some of the best teachers. I wouldn't have learned about God or how to find my self."

"My favorite traditions are the marathon, graduation, and fun things like: winter carnival, student games, teacher vs students, and track a field day. My favorite memories are all the things we do with the little kids."

"I will miss the small classes. I will miss the teachers, everyone here, and having fun things to do"

"I'm most excited for meeting new people at the high school and I can get my permit."

Note: There are 34 graduates of the 8th Grade class. We will be featuring each of them over the next several weeks.

This feature sponsored by a proud St. Mary's Alumnus

Worship & Faith

STEELE COUNTY TIMES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2021

A17

Ask yourself: Who's watching?



Pastor Paul Hauschild

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
HAYFIELD

The 1964 Philadelphia Phillies will always be known as the team that suffered one of the great collapses in sports history. They let a huge division lead slip away by losing 10 games in a row at the end of the season. Despite the collapse, the Phillies' season had its share of memorable moments, including a perfect game and ninth-inning home run by a Phillie to win the All-Star Game.

But maybe the most remarkable moment of the entire season occurred after a game, not during it. Clay Dalrymple, a Phillie pitcher, was asked to assist a blind girl who had requested a chance to walk out on the field. Dalrymple took the girl to home plate where she reached down and felt the plate. They walked to first base, second base, and third base before ending up at home plate once again.

While Dalrymple was showing the girl around the bases, he never noticed the fans remaining in the stadium had stopped to watch him and his companion. He just assumed that the silence in the stands meant the fans had gone home. But when the two of them finally reached home plate, the ballpark erupted. Dalrymple was shocked by the applause. When he looked up, he saw thousands

of fans giving him a standing ovation. Later, Dalrymple told a Sports Illustrated reporter, "It was the biggest ovation I ever got." Sometimes we forget that our efforts to be Christlike are observed by others - even though we may be unaware that they're watching. Remember, it's not the big things that matter, but it's the right things we do. This past Memorial Day has reminded me

to keep my eyes open and honor those who have served and those who have given their lives for our nation. We must never forget what they have done. And for those who are still alive... we honor you, too! You may say it's not a big deal, but your community says it's all the small things you have done that have made our country free and great. We've watched, and we stand and applaud you.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Interim Pastor:
Rev. Dale Svendsen
507-451-2819
office@auroralutheranchurch.org
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: 8:30 a.m. Sunday

FIRST LUTHERAN - AFLC
503 Radel Ct., Ellendale
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
Indoor Worship:
Sundays 9 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Online Worship: Sundays 9
a.m. or anytime on website

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 Klawiter 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
Vicar Jackie Short
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
Intern: Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
507-451-2165
Sunday worship: 10 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN - ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520
tlcowatonna.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd
Buegler; Associate Pastor:
Rev. Amanda Floyd
Deacon: Kris Oppgaard
Worship: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30
a.m.- Sanctuary and 10:45
a.m.- Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m.- Live Stream at
facebook.com/tlcowatonna
and tlcowatonna.org/
worshiplive
9:30 a.m.- Live broadcast on
KRUE 92.1 FM
Video on Spectrum (Ch.
181), Jaguar TV (Ch. 900)
and owatonnaonline.com
- Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.,
Wednesday at 6 p.m. and
Sunday at 11 a.m.

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN - LCMS
108 Third Ave. SW., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
507-451-0447
Worship: 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Education Hour: 9 a.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
Intern: Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Sunday worship: 8:30 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
507-451-4845
Father James Starasinich
Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat.
Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 SW First St.,
New Richland
Father Brian Mulligan
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 8:15 a.m.
Litomysl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other
month

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 Swaminatha
Pothireddy Parochial Vicar
507-451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Masses: Saturday 5 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m., 10 a.m.,
and Noon (Spanish)
Daily Mass 7:15 a.m.
Tuesday through Friday
Reconciliation 4 p.m. Saturday
Adoration - Thursdays 8
a.m.-7 p.m.

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC
114 E. Main St.,
Blooming Prairie
Father John Wilmot
507-583-2784
www.stolumbanuschurch.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 Starasinich
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)
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Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
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or weekends

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

PENTECOSTAL FIRST UNITED 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 Cirksena
507-684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST
815 E. University, Owatonna
Rev. Lisa J. Vick Pastor
507-451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship
(Pathways):
9 a.m. Sunday

NON-DENOMINATIONAL 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 Pette
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.

MENNONITE PRAIRIE MENNONITE
13638 750th St.,
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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
Interim Pastor Wendell
Anderson
507-684-3421
www.vibrantlifeag.com
Worship: 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday
Kids Church: 9 a.m.

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.

FREE CHURCH CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
1500 18th St. SE, Owatonna
Pastors Scott Sheets and
David Shaw
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www.cornerstoneowatonna.
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Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.

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NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA April 19, 2021

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756,

Bloomington Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center on April 19, 2021 at

7:15 p.m. (Open Forum at 7:00 p.m.).

OPEN FORUM: A school patron inquired about in-person every day high school attendance along with voicing concerns regarding critical race and transgender bathrooms.

I. CALL TO ORDER — CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL — CLERK
Dean Meshke, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Melissa Stoen, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools, Elementary School Principal, High School Principal, School Patron, Member of the Press

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Reports given by Mr. Schwarz and Mr. Worke.

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

A. Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Resignations, Donations
Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Melissa Stoen to approve the school board minutes, bills, treasurer's report, resignations, termination, and donations. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

B. Employment

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve the employment of Hannah Apold as an English teacher for the 2021-22 school year. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve the employment of Cameron Rutledge as a high school physical education teacher for the 2021-22 school year. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Melissa Stoen to approve the employment of Frank Cacich as a high school special education teacher for the 2021-22 school year. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve the employment of Angela Anderson as an elementary teacher

for the 2021-22 school year. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

C. Volunteer Coaches
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve Tommy Braaten as a volunteer golf coach. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay/1 Abstention by Braaten)

D. Resolution for MSHSL Membership
Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve a resolution for MSHSL membership in 2021-22. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

E. Title I Resolution
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Melissa Stoen to approve a Title I resolution for 2021-22. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

F. Student Insurance Program
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve participation in the "Student Assurance Services, Inc." voluntary insurance coverage program for the 2021-22 school year. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

G. Budget Revision FY 21
Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve a budget revision for FY 21. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

H. Facility Study
Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Melissa Stoen to approve moving forward with a facility and demographic study. Wold Architects to provide a facility analysis/long-range planning study and Hazel Reinhardt to provide a demographic study/enrollment projection. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

I. Education Identity & Access Management Board Resolution

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve Christopher Staloch as the designated identified official with authority for the MN Department of Education's EDIAM. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY:

A. Class Sizes/Sections
Mr. Staloch presented an update for the 2021-2022 school year with a tentative decrease in kindergarten and preschool students than previously expected.

B. Learning Models
Currently elementary school students attend in-person four and one-half days per week and high school students attend in-person four days per week. Five day in-person attendance is being explored as well as summer school.

C. Strategic Planning/Long-Range Planning
The long-range planning committee had good discussion along with receiving a presentation from Wold Architects. Transparency is extremely important in this process.

D. Committee Reports
Committee report updates were given for the following committees: Education Foundation, Needs Assessment, and ZED.

E. Enrollment Data
Enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year as of April 14, 2021 is approximately 428 at the elementary school (grades K-6) and 363 at the high school (grades 7-12) (352 attending BPHS and the equivalency of 11 full-time attending PSEO). The PSEO numbers consists of approximately 10 full-time and 2 part-time students.

F. Dates to Note
The Board noted dates of importance.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

1) ZED updates being received on a weekly basis.
2) Approximately fifty high school students were quarantined on April 19th.
3) Thanks to a school patron for voicing his concerns.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Pam Hameister to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday,

May 13, 2021, at 6:00 a.m. in the High School Media Center.

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Meeting will be Monday, May 17, 2021, at

7:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center (Open Forum begins at 7:00 p.m.)

A complete copy of the official minutes may be found in their entirety in the official minute book located in the superintendent's office at the high school; however, they will not be available until approved by the School Board.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Hameister
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Bloomington Prairie, Minnesota 673

NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA April 15, 2021

A regular school board work session was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 15, 2021 in the High School Media Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Meshke, Jenny Thurnau, Melissa Stoen, Rodney Krell, Pam Hameister

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jon Sunde, Kelly Braaten

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools

DISCUSSION ITEMS:
General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the April 19, 2021 regular school board meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Hameister
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Bloomington Prairie, Minnesota 673

NOTICE

State of Minnesota
Steele County

District Court
Judicial District: 3rd
Court File Number:
74-FA-21-757
Case Type: Domestic Abuse

In the Matter of:
Isela Bermudez and on Behalf of Minor Children

Notice of Issuance of Emergency (Ex Parte) Order for Protection by Publication (Minn. Stat. § 518B.01, subd. 8)

vs.
Silvestre Bermudez
Respondent

To Respondent named above:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an Ex Parte Order for Protection has been issued in the above matter. A hearing will be held via Zoom (remote technology) on June 10, 2021 at 2:30 PM. You may obtain a copy of the Ex Parte Order for Protection from the court administrator's office at the following address: 111 East Main St. Owatonna, MN 55060.

Failure to request a hearing or to obtain a copy of the Ex Parte Order will not be a defense to prosecution for violation of the Court's order.

Dated: 5/28/21
/s/ Court Administrator / Deputy 673

NOTICE

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 5/11/2021

Complete Minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website:

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. Abbe/Krueger to approve the agenda with the addition of item #21b, regarding the Detention Center Discussion. Ayes all.
2. There were no comments from the public.
3. Correspondence acknowledged.
4. Krueger/Abbe to approve the following Consent Agenda items. Ayes all.

A. Approve the minutes of April 27, 2021

B. Approve the minutes of May 3, 2021 Work Session

C. Approve Bills and Journal Entries

D. Approve Personnel Report

E. Approve the Final Payment to Innovative Masonry Restoration for the Courthouse Tuckpointing Project in the amount of \$27,700.17

F. Approve annual renewal request for Tobacco Licenses

G. Approve Resolution accepting Public Health Donations

5. Glynn/Krueger to approve Proclamation designating May 16-22, 2021 as National Public Works Week in Steele County. Ayes all.

6. Glynn/Abbe to approve the renewal of CUP #316, Bishop Excavating, with review in April 2026, allowing the mining, processing and washing of sand and gravel and the stockpiling and processing of recyclable aggregate material on property owned by Benji Bishop located in the NE ¼, SE ¼, Section 27, Aurora Township, with conditions per the Planning Commission and to approve the Findings of Fact. Ayes all.

7. Abbe/Glynn to approve CUP #302, MN Paving & Materials-Quarry, f.k.a. Southern Minnesota Construction, which allows the mining and quarrying of sand, gravel and aggregate material, the stockpiling of aggregate material and the stockpiling and processing of recyclable aggregate material located in Section 33 of Clinton Falls Township between the River and Cedar Ave with an amendment to condition #25 to receive three seismographs readings to be taken for each blast performed and the data provided to the planning and zoning office. Seismographs shall be located as close as possible to 1365 NW 36th St., 3016 Northridge Lane NE and south of the quarry with conditions per the Planning Commission and to approve the Findings of Fact. Ayes all.

8. Glynn/Krueger to approve IUP #2021-04, Ulland Bros.-Bergland Pit, to mine sand and gravel including the crushing and stockpiling of aggregate material and the stockpiling and processing of recyclable aggregate material on 5 acres owned by Brad Berland located in the NW ¼ of the SE ¼, Section 15, Berlin Township with conditions per the Planning Commission and to approve the Findings of Fact. Ayes all.

9. Glynn/Abbe offered the following Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Abbe to Re-Appoint Gregg Ilkka as Steele County Highway Engineer commencing June 1, 2021 and expiring May 31, 2025. Upon the vote being taken, four Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Gnemi absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Auditor's Office. 673

10. Krueger/Abbe to authorize the Administrator to search options for the procurement of labor-employment law services. Ayes all.

11. Krueger/Glynn to approve a.50 FTE Family Connections Specialist Position in Family Health to 1.0 FTE Nurse. Ayes all.

12. Glynn/Abbe to deny the Union Request to Re-open Contract (Road Deputies). Ayes all.

13. Motion by Commissioner Abbe, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to authorize the Administrator to contact Waseca County to engage in regional jail discussions and to assist in filling vacancies. Ayes all.

14. Motion by Commissioner Abbe, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to set a Board Work Session for May 25, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. to discuss Telecommuting and Detention Center. Ayes all.

15. South Country Health Alliance CEO Leota Linda and CFO Scott Schufman appeared to give a presentation to the Board.

LISTING OF BILLS 5/11/2021

7 Rivers Recycling LLC	5,118.27
Acorn Solutions	2,444.00
Advanced Correctional Healthcare Inc	7,939.62
American Solutions for Business	10,186.48
American Tower Corporation	7,471.36
Ban-Koe Companies	2,072.87
Carquest Auto Parts	2,135.70
Counties Providing Technology	4,253.00
General Parts LLC	2,053.85
Hancock Concrete Products Co LLC	4,309.10
Kendell Doors & Hardware LLC	7,597.00
L & L Street Rods & Sports Trucks	2,583.90
Medford Sand & Gravel ... LLC	4,155.02
Minnesota Valley Testing Labs	5,513.50
Mn Dept of Transportation	2,389.02
Mn Pollution Control Agency	55,880.92
Owatonna Public Utilities	4,789.66
Pictometry International Corp	24,474.67
SCR	7,487.91
Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc	3,492.71
Steele County Highway Dept	5,541.01
Summit Food Services ... LLC	11,858.23
Waste Management of ... Wi-Mn	51,791.00
81 Payments less than ... 2,000 2	8,396.52
Final Total:	266,935.32

16. Abbe/Krueger to adjourn to the Call of Chair at 6:45 p.m. Ayes all. 673

PUBLIC RECORD

Steele County Births June 2020

Sydney Grace Proehlabott, Parents: Shannon and Eric, June 1.
Jack Jacob Brittain, Parents: Ruth and William, June 3.
Issa Abdirizak Nur, Parents: Ayan Abdi and Abdirahman Nur, June 3.
Kenlee Marilyn Nelson, Parents: Amy and Casey, June 4.
Chloe Ann Dresselhaus, Parents: Sarah and Bryan, June 5.
Anzal Mohaed Shaale, Parents: Sahara Omar and Maktub Abdikadir, June 5.
Patrick Louis Graupmann, Parents: Jennifer and Andrew, June 5.
Hannah James Delaney, Parents: Kortney and Derek, June 7.
Oktavia Oakland Reyes, Parents: Dusty and Andy Peterson, June 7.
Alicia Leilani Powell, Parent: Esmeralda Degollado, June 8.
Elijah Navon Calhoun, Parent: Miranda Brede, June 10.
Angel Kobe Lee Cordova, Parent: Karen Morales, June 10.
Almas Mohamed Saeed,

Parents: Hanadi Ahmed and Mohamed Nur, June 10.
Charlie Nicole Geesman, Parents: Lindsay and Thomas, June 12.
Ziva Jolene King, Parents: Terry and Gerald, June 15.
Tucker Michael Foels, Parents: Amanda and Mitchell, June 16.
Aleah Leonore Ahumada, Parents: Rebekah and Richard, June 17.
Daania Muad Al Haj, Parents: Samira Abdi and Muad Al Haj, June 17.
Carlos Lopez, Parents: Maribel and Carlos, June 17.
Liam Nicholas Remund, Parents: Amanda and Matthew, June 18.
Brooks Kohlson Goodew, Parents: Kylie and Christopher, June 18.
Olivia Fay Johnson, Parents: Mackenzie Riihl and Tristin Johnson, June 19.
Joelle Grace Olson, Parents: Joran and Zachary, June 20.
Gianni Elijah Samarron, Parents: Blenny and Guillermo, June 20.
Ananiah Joyous Shoemaker, Parents: Karyssa and Tyler, June 20.
Cooper Neil Sime, Parents: Erin and Eric, June 22.

Laylen Lillian Zimmerman, Parents: Melissa and Ross, June 23.
Brylen Brynn Zimmerman, Parents: Melissa and Ross, June 23.
Sophia Annalise Anderson, Parents: Stephanie Jimenez-Ruiz and Scott Anderson, June 25.
Isaiah Samuel Ellis, Parents: Elizabeth and Kevin, June 26.

Steele County Deaths June 2020

Jackie Dean Webster, 86, Waseca, June 1.
Ruth Florine Phillips, 87, Austin, June 1.
Randolph Lee Bennett, 63, Rochester, June 2.
Russell Warren Carver, 87, Faribault, June 2.
Nathan Sylvester Magnuson, 88, Bloomington Prairie, June 2.
Wilmer Albert Grunklee, 87, Owatonna, June 9.
Michael Alfred Seykora, 65, Owatonna, June 9.
Edward Bernard Sanders, 92, Owatonna, June 11.
Shirley Juanita Grass, 95, Owatonna, June 11.
Daniel Scott Severson, 62, Owatonna, June 12.
Sylvia Ludmilla Rezac, 91,

Owatonna, June 12.
Iris Lorraine Champion, 86, Owatonna, June 13.
Estelline Mary Fischer, 89, Bloomington Prairie, June 14.
Dean Vincent Clark, 95, Owatonna, June 14.
Maxine Elizabeth Schrader, 96, Faribault, June 16.
Debra Kay Nelson, 57, Owatonna, June 17.
Helen Genevieve Denton, 97, Owatonna, June 17.
Lorraine Alice Bosshardt, 88, Owatonna, June 18.
Lonnie Edward Vore, 88, Owatonna, June 18.
Leo John William Fette, 87, Owatonna, June 19.
Irene Mary Oliver, 104, Owatonna, June 19.
Donald O. Noyce, 89, Owatonna, June 20.
Mark William Schumacher, 69, Owatonna, June 20.
Richard Arden Moen, 93, Owatonna, June 20.
Leonard Herman Wolfe, 93, Albert Lea, June 21.
Bryce Aubrey Wahl, 92, Medford, June 21.
Doris Marie Hahn, 94, Owatonna, June 22.
Mildred Rochelle Knoepke, 82, Rochester, June 26.
Wyman D. Jensen, 89,

Owatonna, June 26.
Margella Lavoy Johnson, 86, New Richland, June 27.
Dorothy Mae Hruska, 95, Owatonna, June 29.
Brenda Dale Jueland, 72, Owatonna, June 29.
Joan Margaret Driessen, 91, Owatonna, June 30.
Mary Ann Sorenson, 78, Owatonna, June 30.

Steele County Marriages June 2020

Riley Olivia Resler and Patrick John Standke, June 5.
Mark Duane Wannarka and Kari Anne Lombard, June 5.
Stephanie Kay Johnson and Luke James Andersen, June 6.
Elizabeth Mary Pichotta and Louis Martin Bogowith, June 6.
Jonathan Michael Gwilt and Melissa Marie Horejsi, June 6.
Tyler James Keller and Courtney Joy Still, June 12.
Janzen Evan Saska and Shelby Joan Randall, June 13.
Jessica Kelly Tryhus and Scott Elliott Villery, June 13.
Leah Brittan Morstad and Dylan Ray Mosher, June 13.
Victoria Lynn Neitge and Ronald Scott Bultman, June 13.
Frankline Fonyuy and Thao Ngoc Pham, June 16.

Dorothy Marie Jackson and Wilfred Clennon Jr., June 17.
Katherine Marie Alvarez and Michael James Wurdeman, June 20.
Brandy Lanelle Thompson and Michael Lee Rutledge, June 20.
Michael Eldon Kath and Shelley Marie Tenlen, June 20.
Holly Joann Zimmerman and Tyler C. Jewison, June 20.
Robert Michael Spahr and Wendy Marie Davis, June 20.
Sara Ann Bicknase and Michael Donald Bail, June 20.
Nicholas Ben Klinkner and Danielle Elise Prestegard, June 20.
Michael Wayne Rietsema and Penny Ranae Schultz, June 20.
Tonette Genevieve Van Esch and Kelly Jean Maas, June 20.
Camrin Lee Bryant and Elizabeth Ann Cavazos, June 25.
Jacob Peter Belina and Mackenzie Taylor Nagel, June 27.
Kendra Lee Donkers and Erik Michael Wilson, June 27.
Jonathan Charles Kytola and Katie Elizabeth Austin, June 27.
Ethan Konrad Scholz and Gabrielle Monet Anderson, June 28.

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2 BD - CLAREMONT. Rent based on income! Open July. Month to month leases and deposit pay plans. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity 6/3T2

2 & 3 BD - DODGE CENTER. Smoke free two story townhomes with garages! Open July. 5/20T6pd

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GARAGE SALE

KASSON
203 13th Ave NW., Kasson. **GARAGE SALE:** Thursday, June 3, 3-6 and Friday, June 4, 9-4. Cleaned out every room in the house! From furniture, men/women's clothing, and kitchenware to lawn equipment. 6/3pd

GARAGE SALE: 71 4th AVE SE, Kasson Thur., June 3, 4:30-6:30, Friday June 4, 8AM-6PM, and Sat. June 5, 8AM-12AM. Designer purses, nice plus women's clothing, men's clothing, women's professional clothing, home décor, costume jewelry shoes, boots, games, toys, and pack and play. 6/3pd

VENDORS NEEDED

OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET at Rochester fairgrounds on Sundays. Opens at 7AM. Looking for vendors. Setup fee is \$15 for all the space you need. Please contact Bob for more information at 507-606-2923. 6/3pd

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A High School Diploma or GED equivalence and a valid Driver's License is required. The wage is \$20.00 per hour.

To view the job posting and apply, go to Steele County's Website at: <https://www.co.steele.mn.us/> and click on Employment Opportunities. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. Equal Opportunity Employer.

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ACCOUNTING CLERK

The City of West Concord is accepting applications for the position of accounting clerk. This **PART-TIME POSITION** is responsible for general bookkeeping and accounting tasks including payroll and general ledger. Starting pay \$17.50 to \$20.00 per hour depending on qualifications.

For more information and required application packet contact: City of West Concord by website: westconcordmn.com, Telephone: (507) 527-2668, or e-mail: mike@westconcordmn.com. Position opened until filled.

Applications received by 4:00 p.m. on June 15th will receive priority.

The City of West Concord is an equal opportunity employer. 6/3

The **CITY OF HAYFIELD** (pop. 1340) is accepting applications for the position of maintenance worker. This position includes a variety of tasks necessary to the successful operation of the day-to-day functions of the city.

An application may be obtained at:

Hayfield City Hall
18 West Main Street
PO Box 53
Hayfield, MN 55940
507-477-3535
hayfieldcityclerk@gmail.com

Starting salary depends on qualifications. **Applications will be accepted until noon on Thursday, June 10th 2021.** A background check and drug test will be required upon hire.

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GOT NEWS? EDITORDCI@KMTel.COM

NRHEG grads are 'biggest competitors..'

◀ NRHEG from A8 Tuftte said. "And let me tell you, there was some butting heads."

"We just knew that they were 'the other school.' We'd heard about them, but we had never met them," Johnson said. "You put a bunch of first-graders in a room, and..."

Now, "there's always a friendly face; there's never a face that you don't know," Tuftte said.

That's saying something - especially for a district that covers about 235 square miles. That means lots of carpooling, another opportunity for creating lasting memories, Tuftte said.

Johnson was chosen to address her classmates about their past; Tuftte is a co-speaker for commencement's parent appreciation message.

Tuftte, who lives in New Richland, will head to the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Business this fall to major in accounting. She said that while the move to a larger city can feel intimidating, "I'm glad I have my home roots for when I get there, but I don't want to miss out on an opportunity to go somewhere else."

Johnson, who lives on a farm outside Geneva and Ellendale, said most of her classmates find comfort in their small communities, "but are also ready to leave. I do want to push myself and see what else is out there in the world, and I think that's what motivates most of us."

She will attend Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., with an undecided

major. She's considering "communications and the STEM field, but I'm interested in a lot of different things."

Tuftte used the word "connected" when reflecting on her education at NRHEG; Johnson said "community" is the one word that comes to mind.

"There's a special bond ... when you're with someone for 12 years, and now they're like a part of your family," Johnson said.

That's thanks to another "C" word, they said: Compromise; a necessity in a small school.

"I think the biggest feeling we have right now is that we're excited to leave, but also a little scared," Johnson said. "It's sad, but it's also the most exciting time in our lives."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

NRHEG senior Kendall Johnson was involved in many parts of high school life, including Knowledge Bowl, National Honor Society, student council and sports. A guard on the Panthers' girls basketball team, she's pictured here on the right during a game with Medford earlier this year.

Commencement exercises will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 6.

GARDENING TIP OF THE WEEK

Early June Gardening Tips

- Because hanging baskets need frequent watering, be sure to fertilize regularly.
- Do not remove tulip leaves until they die back, often not until late June. These are helping provide food for the bulb next year.
- Mulch a tree to slow moisture loss and discourage weeds.
- Using a tree protector not only slows animal damage, but alerts the weed whip operator.
- Watering a lawn after dark encourages fungus to develop. The grass is already cooling down and does not look for water, so the roots sit in water.

Michele Waddell Steele County Master Gardener

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Man charged

◀ MAN from A8 at 82nd Street. Jackson was found behind the wheel and suffered serious injuries. The occupants of the other vehicle were uninjured.

Video surveillance obtained by Owatonna police showed Jackson walked over to Holiday from nearby Burger King. The video showed Jackson initially went into Holiday before walking out and the vehicle leaving the area, the complaint said.

Authorities later discovered Greyhound bus tickets in the stolen vehicle. Burger King is a bus stop for Greyhound.

Jackson also faces charges in Rice and Hennepin counties in connection with this incident.

The theft charge carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

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STEELE COUNTY TIMES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2021

B1

Owatonna Graduation Ceremony

Sunday, June 6, 2021
Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Owatonna High School Football Field
Class Speakers: Wilo Omot and Megan Copeland
Keynote Speaker: Kory Kath Owatonna High School Principal



Hudson Aase



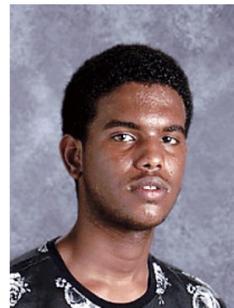
Yahya Abdi



Shamsu Abdullahi



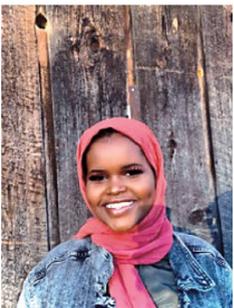
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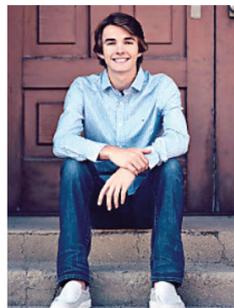
Brianna Bailey



Mariah Bailey



McKenna Baker



Aaron Bangs



Lindsay Bangs



Cora Barrett



Lila Bartkowiak



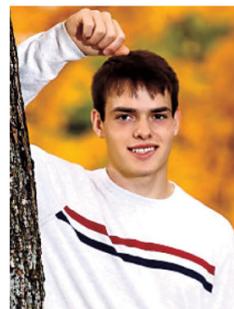
Angelina Bartz



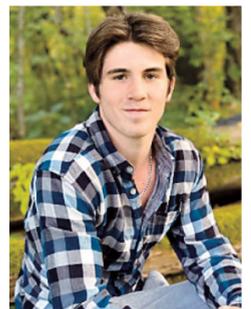
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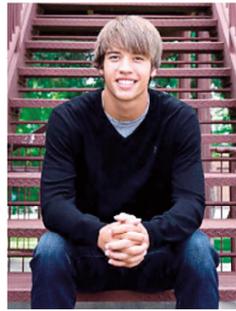
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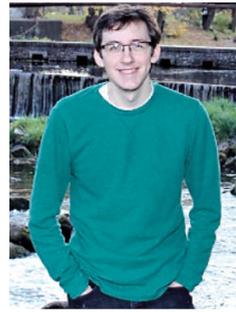
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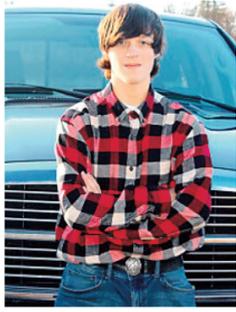




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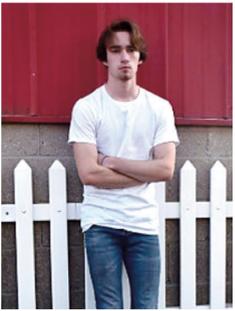
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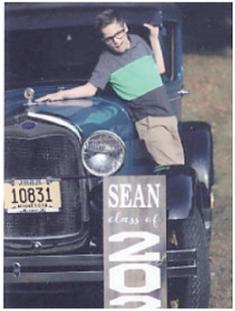
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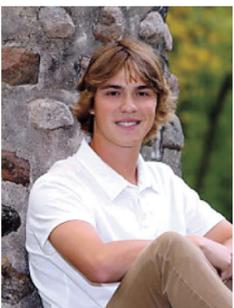
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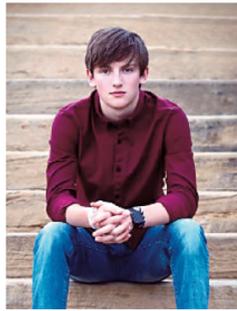
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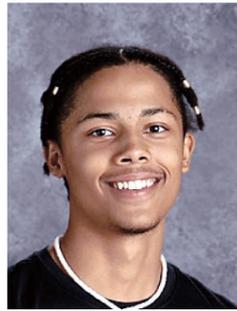
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Jake Little



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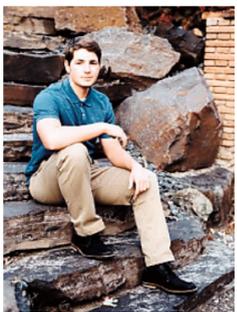
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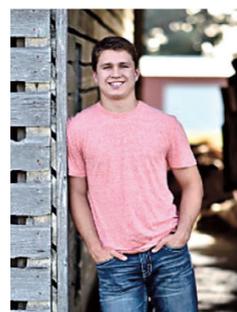
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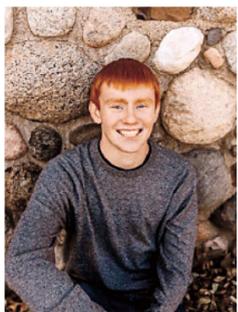
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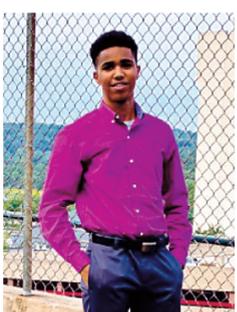
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Abigail Smith



Alexis Smith



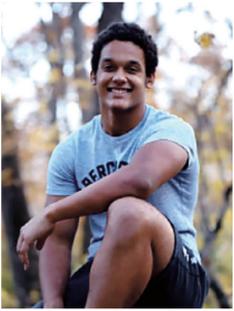
Cheryl Smith



Grace Smith



Joseph Smith



Nathan Smith



Samuel Snitker



Blake Sommers



Jenna Spatenka



Samantha Spears



Jacelyn Stenzel



Kylee Stirens



Abe Stockwell



Ella Stockwell



Cameron Stoen



Grant Stowe



Zacharia Stransky

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Hollandale Owatonna





Preston Studnicka



Alexander Tekautz



Ashlie Tesch



Kobe Thomas



Jay Thompson



Nora Thompson



Sepaltura Thompson



Owen Thorn



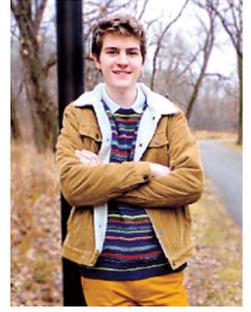
Jack Titchenal



Kaden Tomlinson



Cameron Tracy



Gabriel Tratz



Braden Trivelpiece



Brayden Truelson



Madilyn Trupe



Alex Ulrich



Zinash Valen



Dominic Valento



Chase Vandenberg



Calishia Vang



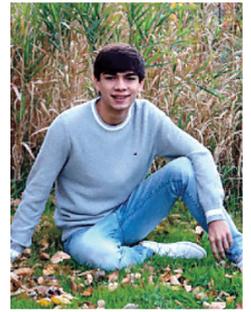
Evelyn Vasquez



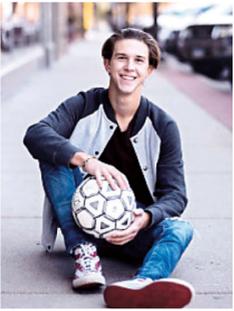
Onelia Velazquez



Lane Versteeg



Anthony Villarreal



Riley Voracek



Trace Walderon



Jonathan Wall



Jared Warn



Deyjah Weaver



Abigail Webster



Jamie Wells



Jeremiah Wencil



Tristan Wencil



Joby Werk



Connor Whalen



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Lillian Willcox



Sydney Winch



Morgan Winter



Casey Wittmer



Grace Wolfe



Cade Woltman



Blake Worrell



Angela Zaccaria



Chase Zak



Haley Zempel

Graduates NOT PICTURED:

Lawndale Adams
 Jayden Ayala
 Jonathan Bautista
 Ben Berg
 Dashantae Capote-Schroht
 Megan Caywood
 Emily Christjansen
 Carlita Cox
 Abdinasir Dahir
 Ikran Dahir
 Matthew Davis
 Garrett Dahlen
 Riley Davis
 Daniel Esparza
 Jeremy Figueroa
 Colon
 Griffin Flemming
 Frances Garcia
 Deshawn Greeney
 Isaac Guzman
 Tammy Guzman

Alex Hancock
 Lorraine Huerta
 Asma Hussein
 Bianca Ibarra
 Clayton Irvin
 Tyger Jensen
 Waylon Kraudy
 Piper Love
 Justin Luchi
 Daisy Martinez
 Mohamed Moalim
 Mahad Munge
 Mohamed Mursal
 Tysen Navarro
 Wyatt Oldefendt
 Emani Palacios
 Yesenia Pineda
 Devon Porter
 Devyn Raschke
 Carlos Rodriguez
 Lane Roemhildt

Elisha Ronquist
 Sahyme Salinas
 Jacob Schmidt
 Michael Schroeder
 Payton Schwartz
 Alexander Stenzel
 Wayne Stokes Jr.
 Gustavo Tamayo
 Garcia
 Isaiah Tellijohn
 Judith Terra Barriga
 Anna Tiller
 Natalie Utoft
 Mattheus
 Vanderpoel
 Lucas Vieths
 Kyleigh Weaver
 Levi Whitehead
 Malory Wilson
 Jordan Wimbush
 Anthony Young



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2021 NRHEG SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Recipient	Scholarship	Amount
Katie Lee	Ellendale Fire Dept. Relief Association	\$500
Charles Pittman	Ellendale Fire Dept. Relief Association	\$500
Morgan Besser	Darrol & Pauline Sponberg	\$500
Luisa Gaona	Darrol & Pauline Sponberg	\$500
Kendall Johnson	E.F. Johnson Foundation	\$3,000
Avery Hill	New Richland Lions Club	\$500
Courtney Techau	Ellendale Lions Club	\$500
Anna Jacobson	VFW-Waseca	\$500
Grace Tufte	Open Arms Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention	\$500
Anna Jacobson	Open Arms Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention	\$500
Aubrey Fischer	Open Arms Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention	\$500
Grace Tufte	Federated Insurance	\$1,000
Daniel Nydegger	S.W.C.E.	\$500
Avery Hill	Zola Mae Reese Memorial	\$500
Grace Tufte	Zola Mae Reese Memorial	\$500
Anna Jacobson	Zola Mae Reese Memorial	\$500
Kendall Johnson	Basketball Boosters	\$500
Ashton Johnson	Basketball Boosters	\$500
Morgan Besser	Lyle & Helen Wayne Memorial	\$1,800
Sarah Johns	Lyle & Helen Wayne Memorial	\$1,800
Sarah Johns	Ag Education	\$500
Avery Hill	Finley Budach Memorial	\$1,000
Elli Baker	Finley Budach Memorial	\$1,000
Anna Jacobson	Finley Budach Memorial	\$1,000
Courtney Techau	Finley Budach Memorial	\$1,000
Hanna Crabtree	Finley Budach Memorial	\$1,000
Cambria Nissen	Finley Budach Memorial	\$1,000
Caden Riewer	Finley Budach Memorial	\$1,000
Katie Lee	Education MN-NRHEG	\$500
Aubrey Fischer	Education MN-NRHEG	\$500
Luisa Gaona	Education MN-NRHEG	\$500
Morgan Besser	Waseca Sleigh and Cutter	\$1,000
Julia King	Wayne Broecker Memorial	\$1,500
Tewodros Gushwa	NRHEG Alumni	\$200
Courtney Techau	NRHEG Alumni	\$200
Charles Pittman	Community Foundation of Ellendale-Trades Program	\$500

Recipient	Scholarship	Amount
Elli Baker	Community Foundation of Ellendale-Health/Education/ Human Services	\$500
Caden Riewer	Harold & Bonita/Myron & Caryn Wendt	\$350
Julia King	Harold & Bonita/Myron & Caryn Wendt	\$350
Anna Jacobson	Harold & Bonita/Myron & Caryn Wendt	\$350
Katie Lee	Ingeborg Rugroden Memorial	\$1,000
Charles Pittman	Maple Island Park Association	\$750
Anna Jacobson	Maple Island Park Association	\$750
Elli Baker	State Bank of New Richland	\$250
Hanna Crabtree	State Bank of New Richland	\$250
Anna Jacobson	State Bank of New Richland	\$250
Kendall Johnson	State Bank of New Richland	\$250
Madison Knudson	State Bank of New Richland	\$250
Cassidy Martin	State Bank of New Richland	\$250
Cambria Nissen	State Bank of New Richland	\$250
Caden Riewer	State Bank of New Richland	\$250
Lorelei Strom	State Bank of New Richland	\$250
Grace Tufte	State Bank of New Richland	\$250
Luisa Gaona	Ellendale Community Action Group	\$500
Aubrey Fischer	Band Boosters	\$250
Brody Johnson	Memories Car Club	\$500
Andrew Hoelscher	Memories Car Club	\$500
Hanna Crabtree	Kenneth L. Meives Christian Scholarship	\$500
Hanna Crabtree	Red Cross	\$250
Avery Hill	MCCA Honor Team	\$1,000
Caden Riewer	Mayo Health Clinic System	\$1,000
Elli Baker	Naeve Auxillary	\$1,000
Elli Baker	Naeve Alumni and Nurses	\$1,000
Hannah Crabtree	Naeve Alumni and Nurses	\$1,000
Brody Johnson	Achieving Dreams for Disability	\$500
Aubrey Fischer	Achieving Dreams for Disability	\$500
Cambria Nissen	LeSueur River Lutheran Church	\$750
Anna Jacobson	LeSueur River Lutheran Church	\$750
Dylan Loken	LeSueur River Lutheran Church	\$750
Kendall Johnson	Jennie-O-Turkey Store	\$1,000
Kendall Johnson	Freeborn Mower Electric	\$2,000
T'Shayla Hinderscheit	Donald Eustice Memorial	\$500
Dylan Loken	MN Land Improvement Contractors of America	\$1,000

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SALUTING THE CLASS OF 2021 NRHEG High School

STEELE COUNTY TIMES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2021

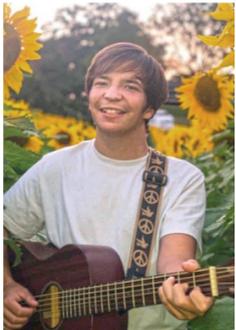
B12

NRHEG Graduation Ceremony

Sunday, June 6, 2021
2 p.m.
High School

Student Speakers: Kendall Johnson and Caden Riewer and Ashton (A.C.) Cords
Class Flower: Red Rose
Class Colors: Black, White and Gold

School Colors: Red, Black and White
Motto: Our year of apparent contradictions: school outside school, games without opponents, and rising above when times are low.



Gavin Anderson

Plans: United States Air Force



Cloie Arndt

Parents: Kelly and Tiffany Arndt
Plans: United States Marine Corps



Elli Baker

Parents: Darian and Candy Baker
Plans: St. Benedict's



Caden Beauvais

Parents: Matt and Carina Beauvais
Plans: Entering the Workforce



Morgan Besser

Parents: Chris and Dayna Besser
Plans: University of North Dakota



Bridgette Blowers



Dakota Bogue

Parents: Aaron and Sara Bogue
Plans: Further his education to become a lineman



Isaac Borchert



Riley Chicos

Parents: Aaron and Lara Chicos
Plans: Rochester Community Technical College



Tory Christenson

Parents: Craig and Gail Christenson



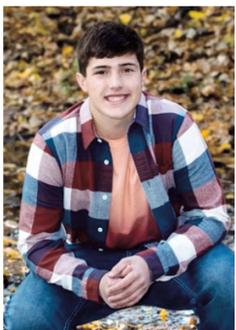
Ashton Cords

Parents: Jeff and Sheena Cords
Plans: Pursuing music



Hanna Crabtree

Parents: Scott and Melanie Crabtree
Plans: Winona State University



Nathan Cross

Parents: Bob Cross and Ann Reich
Plans: Undecided



Kelly Dobberstein

Parents: Brian and Angie Dobberstein
Plans: Riverland Community College



Aubrey Fischer

Parents: Ronald and Stacie Fischer
Plans: Winona State University



Emily Grinnen

Parents: Jeff and Kim Grinnen
Plans: Post-secondary programming/childcare



Tewodros Gushwa

Parents: John and Kristen Gushwa



Zachary Hagen

Plans: Entering the Workforce



Tatianna Hancock

Parents: Kelly Delacruz
Plans: Minnesota State University, Mankato



Avery Hill

Plans: San Diego State University



T'Shayla Hinderscheit

Plans: Minnesota State University-Mankato



Andrew Hoelscher

Parents: Matthew and Shauna Hoelscher
Plans: Riverland Community College



Brandon Howieson

Parents: Sherri and Duane (late) Howieson
Plans: Entering the Workforce



Hannah Huisman

Plans: Vermillion Community College

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Anna Jacobson

Parents: Erik and Heidi Jacobson
Plans: University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse



Sarah Johns

Parents: James and Amy Johns
Plans: North Iowa Area Community College



Ashton Johnson

Parents: Chris Johnson and Cassie Schlaak
Plans: University of Nebraska



Brody Johnson

Parents: Brian and Lynette Johnson
Plans: Riverland Community College



Kendall Johnson

Parents: Chad and Rachelle Johnson
Plans: Georgetown University



Julia King

Parents: Ronnie and Jaade King
Plans: Minnesota State University, Mankato



Cameron Kitzman

Plans: Entering the Workforce



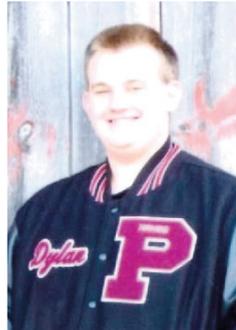
Madison Knudson

Parents: Eric and LeAnn Knudson
Plans: Winona State University



Katie Lee

Parents: Mark and Kathy Lee
Plans: Riverland Community College



Dylan Loken

Parents: Dallas and Nicole Loken
Plans: Winona State University



Cassidy Martin

Parents: Mitch and Shannon Martin
Plans: University of Nebraska, Lincoln



Josh Martin

Parents: Joel and Susan Martin
Plans: Minnesota West Community and Technical College



Zachary Neitzel

Parents: Chad and Elizabeth Neitzel
Plans: Entering the workforce



Alexander Nelson

Parents: Brad and Lori Nelson
Plans: Entering the workforce



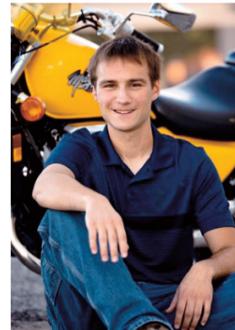
Dakota Neste

Parents: Terry Kohnert and Christy Podratz
Plans: Entering the workforce



Cambria Nissen

Parents: Ryan and Holly Nissen
Plans: University of Minnesota, Twin Cities



Daniel Nydegger

Parents: Larry and Michelle Nydegger
Plans: Minnesota West Community and Technical College



Christopher O'Brien



Connor Okland

Parents: Jamie Harshman and Mychelle Lynch
Plans: Entering the workforce



Charles Pittman

Parents: Sam Pittman and Relissa Kreisel
Plans: Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Wadena



Brianna Purdie

Parents: David and Lana Purdie
Plans: Undecided



Cristal Quezada



Evan Reyna

Parents: Brian and Nicole Bergland
Plans: Entering the workforce



Caden Riewer

Parents: Andy and Jodi Riewer
Plans: University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

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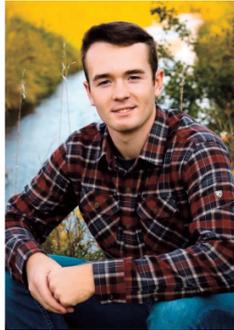
Owatonna, MN

Jesse Routh
507-383-7892



Coddie Roberts

Parents: Steven and Regina Roberts
Plans: Hennepin Technical College



Thor Routh

Parents: Travis and Lisa Routh
Plans: Kirkwood Community College



Kordell Schlaak

Parents: Justin and Kim Schlaak



Riley Schultz

Parents: Matt and Emily Schultz
Plans: Iowa Lakes Community College



Maxwell Seltun

Parents: Jeff and Melissa Seltun
Plans: Minnesota West Community College



Amy Shaw

Parents: Robert Shaw, Kelly Delacruz and Tami Shaw
Plans: Minnesota State University, Mankato



Cary Solland

Parents: Gary and Carly Solland
Plans: Attending community college in Arizona



Jonah Stafford

Parents: Shawn and Amy Stafford
Plans: University of St. Mary's



Nicklas Staloch

Parents: Chad and Ronda Staloch
Plans: Entering the workforce



Carter Stencil

Parents: Sarah and Daryl Raimann and Todd and Patty Stencil
Plans: Arizona State or Morningside



Lorelei Strom

Parents: Brenton and Kelli Strom
Plans: Riverland Community College



Amy Tasker

Parents: John and Susan Tasker
Plans: Rochester Community College



Courtney Techau

Parents: Rick and Renae Techau
Plans: Riverland Community College



Jenika Tonkin

Plans: Furthering education



Alexis Tuft

Parents: Paul and Kristina Tuft
Plans: Pursuing a career in real estate



Grace Tuft

Parents: Paul and Melissa Tuft
Plans: University of Minnesota, Twin Cities



Jazmyne Urschitz

Parents: Dan Urschitz and Tina Robran
Plans: Entering the workforce



Kayleigh Wilkie

Parents: Trevor McDonnell and Holly Wilkie
Plans: Waldorf University

Graduates NOT PICTURED:

Luisa Gaona Quezada

Marciela Martinez

John McGinnis

Danielle Nappin

Caleb Smith

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Blooming Prairie FFA Senior Profiles



Cole Christianson

Senior Cole Christianson has been in FFA for 6 years. He is currently the President of the FFA chapter. He joined FFA because he wanted to be involved in agriculture. His favorite FFA memory was going to National Convention and his favorite FFA activity is general livestock judging. A funny story Cole has from being in FFA is "On the general livestock trip to SDSU I wasn't feeling great, I no more than fill out my judging sheet and I ended up running outside and puking, I filled out my whole sheet and got it highlighted after the second class and sat outside and puked the rest of the time." His advice to future FFA member's is to get involved with many different things. The thing he said he was going to miss most about FFA is being around the FFA members and the good times they always seem to have. Cole's future plans are to study AG Economics at Oklahoma State University.



ended up getting scolded a couple times because we couldn't stop laughing at basically nonsense." Her advice to future FFA members is to don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone, try everything you possibly can even if you're unsure. It might turn out to be something you love. The thing she is going to miss most about FFA is the CDE's and just overall being around people that enjoy being in FFA and love agriculture. Erin's future plans are to attend University of Minnesota to major in Animal science and Minor in Agriculture Business.

Ethan Grant

Senior Ethan Grant has been in FFA for 5 years. He is currently the student advisor in the FFA chapter. He joined FFA because his parents told him he would like it. His favorite memory is going to the Garth Brooks concert and his favorite FFA activity is any of the conventions. His advice to future FFA members is do as many events as possible. One thing he is going to miss most is meeting new people at the conventions. Ethan's future plans are to attend Riverland in Albert Lea to get an Electrician Construction certificate.



Allison Krohnberg



Senior Allison Krohnberg has been in FFA for 5 Years. She joined FFA because she liked showing cows and figured dairy handling would be a similar experience to that. Her favorite FFA memory is going to the Rodeo every year for Christmas and her favorite FFA activity is farm safety day. Her advice to future FFA members is to be more involved and don't take for granted the opportunities you have. The things she said she

was going to miss most about FFA is the doughnuts at every monthly meeting. Allison's future plans are to attend Southwest Minnesota State University and she plans to major in Elementary Education.

Maggie Bruns



Senior Maggie Bruns has been in FFA for 6 years. Her response to why she joined FFA is "Well I wasn't going to be in FFA because I didn't really know about all of the different contests, but when I was in 7th grade Kalyn Naatz came and pushed me into my locker and told me I was joining FFA and doing dairy handling (don't worry, it was in a nice way and I'm very glad she did it)." Her Favorite FFA memory is going to state convention in 7th grade and competing in dairy handling. Even though she got drug out of the arena by a red and white cow she still enjoyed it. Her favorite activities are dairy handling and farm safety day. A funny story Maggie has is walking with some of the older FFA kids to a gas station next

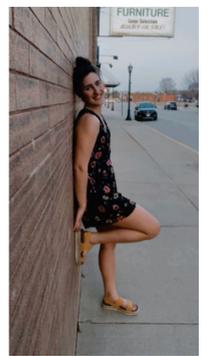
door to the hotel at like 9 pm during State Convention because they were craving ice cream. Her advice to future FFA members is to participate in lots of different events, you get to meet some pretty cool people and make some very unique memories at all of the different events. The thing she is going to miss most about FFA is all of the inside jokes and all of the fun times, especially on bus rides, and all of the people in FFA. And definitely the Chick-Fil-A stops on the way to the rodeo. Maggie's future plans are to attend Gustavus-Adolphus in St. Peter to major in nursing.

Megan Oswald

Senior Boone Carlson has been in FFA for 6 years. He is currently the Sentenal of the FFA chapter. He joined FFA because when he was visiting the high school in 7th grade the FFA poster was one of the first ones he seen and wanted to join a club. So, he thought it would be fun and got his friends involved. His favorite FFA memory was placing 5th overall at a judging contest. He was very proud of himself. His favorite FFA activities were going on the Nation Convention to Indianapolis and going on officer retreats at the waterpark to get to know the fellow officers better. A funny story Boone has from being in FFA is "It was on farm safety day and my mom brought my old pony so the kids could see a horse, I climbed on it and tried backing off of him(because I am tall enough to walk right over him) but then he started bucking and kicked me where no one wants to get hit." His advice to future FFA members is to have fun and meet new people and make friends and to go outside your comfort zone and explore the world. The thing he is going to miss the most about FFA is the judging contests with his friends because he had fun going to SDSU with his friends and meeting new people. Boone's future plans are to go to Riverland of Albert Lea to be an electrician.



Senior Megan Oswald has been in FFA for 5 years. She joined FFA because she has grown up on a farm her whole life and she enjoyed the people, atmosphere, and opportunities that FFA presented. Plus, her siblings participated in FFA before her, so she was exposed to it from a young age. Her favorite FFA memory is stopping to eat on the bus rides home from events or eating donuts before drive your tractor to school. Her favorite FFA activity is farm safety day. A funny story Megan has is "We were helping with farm safety day at the elementary and Boone Carlson was trying to show how to correctly walk behind a pony, when he got kicked in the crotch and fell to the ground." Her advice to future FFA members is to participate in all of the events you are interested in because you will always have a blast in them. One thing she is going to miss most about FFA is meeting new people and hanging out with my friends at FFA events. Megan's future plans are to attend University of Jamestown in Jamestown North Dakota pursue a bachelor's degree of Science and Chemistry while playing basketball for the Jimmies.



Chris Naatz



Senior Chris Naatz has been in FFA for 6 years. He joined FFA from the help of his cousin Kayln who pushed him into it. His favorite FFA memory is farm safety day and his favorite FFA activity is general livestock judging and the corn drive. A funny story Chris has from being in FFA is "when Boone tried to ride the miniature horse at farm safety day." His advice to future FFA members is to try new things and expand your horizon. You can

always learn new things and met new people from new experiences. The thing he is going to miss most about FFA is the rodeo every year. Chris's future plans are to attend Riverland to be an electrician.

Erin O'Brien

Senior Erin O'Brien has been in FFA for 4 years. She is currently the Vice President of the FFA chapter. She joined FFA because Rink came to her one day and told her about FFA and that he thought she would really enjoy it. Later that week, she went to an ice cream social, paid her dues and became an FFA member. She said it was the best decision she ever made. Her favorite FFA memory was the National and State convention and also the officer retreats. Her favorite FFA activity is dairy judging and dairy handling. A funny story Erin has from being in FFA is "One particular story that stands out to me is going to an H2O leadership conference. I was able to meet some really great people but also the group that I was in we created nicknames for each other, which were given to us by a state officer, we spent the whole day laughing with each other about our nicknames and they became a kind of inside joke that the group I was in shared. The officer that was in our group with us



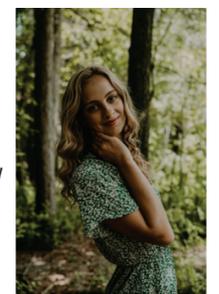
Tim Loverink



Senior Tim Loverink has been in FFA for 5 years. He joined FFA because Rink recommended it to him, and he figured it would be a fun experience. His favorite activity is dairy handling. His favorite FFA memory/Funny story is "memory was at dairy handling when Erin lost control of a cow and I ended up grabbing its chain and being drug 30 yards." His advice to future FFA members is to be active in FFA and go to as many events as you can. The things he is going to miss most about FFA is spending time with friends and listening to rink joke with him. Tim's future plans are to take a year off of school to work and have fun and next year he will be attending Riverland community college for diesel technician.

Greta Sunde

Senior Greta Sunde has been in FFA for 6 years. She joined FFA because her friends were involved, and she wanted to get out of school. Her favorite memory was state convention and her favorite FFA activity is floriculture judging. She would tell future FFA members to get involved. One thing she is going to miss most about FFA is people she doesn't usually see on a day to day basis. Greta's future plans are to attend University of Minnesota, Mankato to major in communication sciences and disorders.



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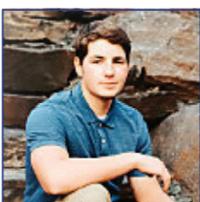
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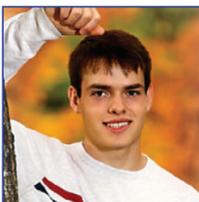
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