



STEELE COUNTY

Times

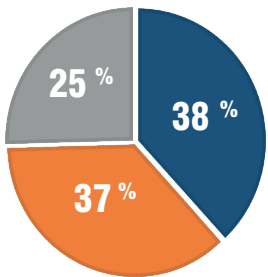
Wednesday, October 13, 2021

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

STAFF PHOTO BY JOEY BUNTON
This drone shot provides a view, looking north, of work on the two new holes on the south parcel of the Blooming Prairie Country Club. Additional land has been acquired on the north side of the current golf course, running around Oak Glen Lake. For the story, see Page A9.

BP School Referendum
Estimated Source of Payments

Question 1: \$27,590,000 and
Question 2: \$6,400,000
Bond Issue, 25 Year Term



- Residential/Commercial/Public Utilities, Railroad, Non-Homestead Properties, etc.
- Ag Land & Buildings (Levy)*
- Paid by State Aid (Ag Credit)*

*Chart shows estimated sources of payments for debt service on the proposed bonds over the life of the bonds. Estimates assume no changes in property values, state equalizing factors, or in state law. "Ag Land & Buildings" excludes taxes on the house, garage and once acre of land, which are included with "Residential/Commercial/Other."

Tax relief may be key in referendum vote

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

When Margo and Rob White were considering a move after their active military service ended, they drew up a list. Blooming Prairie was one of the choices, and at the top of the list of positives, Margo said, was education. That's why, four years after returning to her hometown, she has served on all of the committees involved in assessing the need for a bond referendum for Blooming Prairie Public Schools. "And now I'm on the advocacy committee," White said last week, after the first of two informational meetings to discuss the nearly \$34 million, two-question referendum. "We're out there articulating what it

means, educating people on what they can expect." After an overview of the projects proposed, the public was offered the opportunity to speak to representa-

tives of Baird Financial to discuss tax impacts, a representative from Wold Architects and Engineers to talk about the design plans, and members See TAX on A13 ►

Tax Impact of BP School referendum

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL					AGRICULTURAL				
Property Type	Estimated Market Value	Q1 Annual Tax Impact	Q2 Annual Tax Impact	Total	Property Type	Estimated Market Value	Q1 Annual Tax Impact	Q2 Annual Tax Impact	Total
Residential Homestead	\$50,000	\$35	\$9	\$44	Agricultural Homestead (Average value per acre of land & building)	\$6,000	\$1.39	\$0.37	\$1.76
	\$150,000	\$147	\$38	\$185		\$6,500	\$1.51	\$0.40	\$1.91
	\$250,000	\$274	\$72	\$346		\$7,000	\$1.63	\$0.43	\$2.06
Commercial/Industrial	\$100,000	\$174	\$46	\$220	Agricultural Non-Homestead (Average value per acre of land & building)	\$6,000	\$2.79	\$0.73	\$3.52
	\$250,000	\$494	\$129	\$623		\$6,500	\$3.02	\$0.79	\$3.81
	\$500,000	\$1,075	\$282	\$1,357		\$7,000	\$3.25	\$0.85	\$4.10

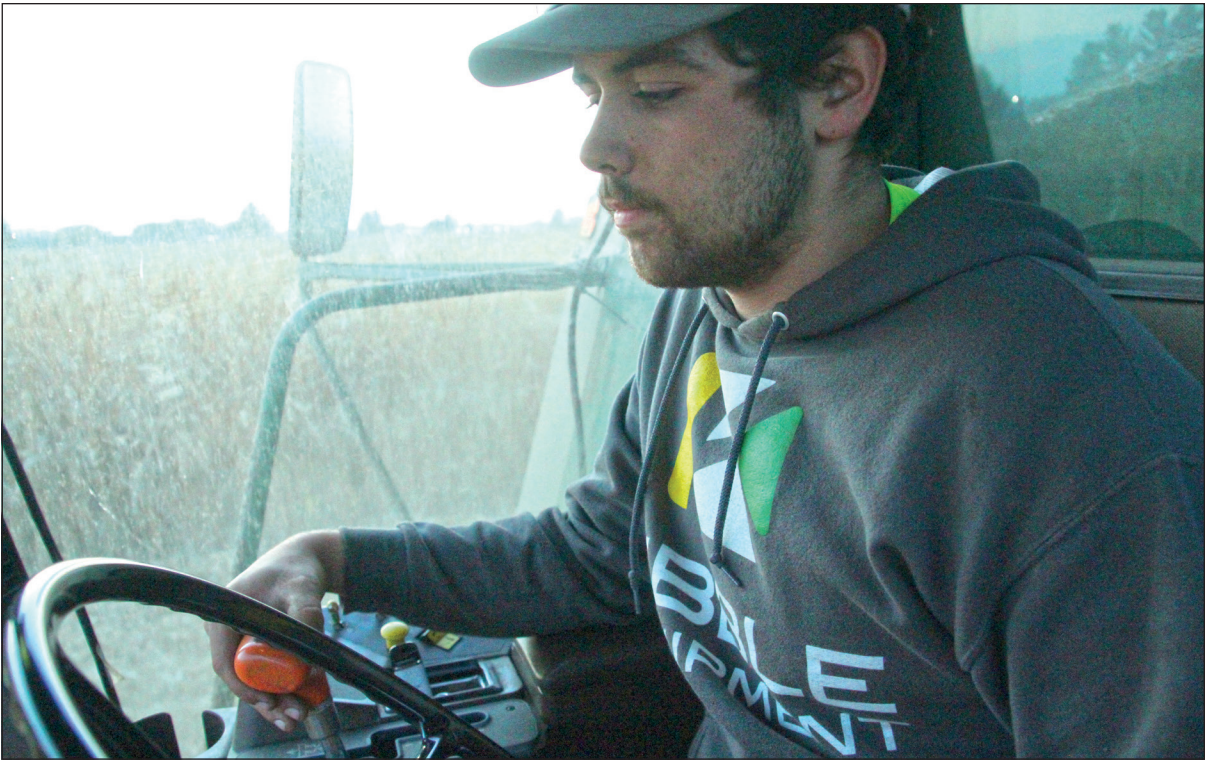
Does not include residential property tax refunds.
For an estimate of your individual tax impact, visit the tax calculator page on the District's website at www.blossoms.k12.mn.us.

Weather aside, harvest looking to be average

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

First, it was drought-like conditions for most of the summer. And then a windstorm came along in late August, knocking down large corn stalks. Nevin Schroeder, 20, of rural Owatonna, hasn't been farming for long, but he knows things could have been much worse and he's banking on an "average" harvest of corn and soybeans, despite

a growing season of weather challenges. "We had a lot of corn go down this year from the wind at the end of August," said Schroeder. "The wind just came and knocked everything over." In the hardest-hit fields, Schroeder is expecting below-average crop yields. "It varies from place to place," he said. He said the downed corn makes it extremely difficult to navigate See WEATHER on A3 ►



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER
Nevin Schroeder of rural Owatonna maneuvers his combine through a cornfield near Clinton Falls late Friday afternoon. Schroeder faced significant wind damage in this particular field, cutting down the yields even more from an already precarious situation caused by the drought this summer.

CENSUS: County's population up 830

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

Steele County's population grew by 830 residents the past decade, according to figures recently released by the U.S. Census Bureau. And most of growth occurred in the city of Owatonna.

The county's population now sits at 37,406, compared to 36,576 in 2010. That represents a 2.2% growth overall. Two cities, Owatonna and Medford, recorded growth, while Blooming Prairie and Ellendale saw slight population declines. The total population in area town-

ships also declined. According to the Census Bureau: • Owatonna's population in 2020 stood at 26,420 compared to 25,599 in 2010. That's up 821 people or 3.1%. • Medford's recorded a population of 1,315 in 2020, compared to its 2010 population of 1,239.

The city's additional 76 residents represent a 5.8% increase in population, the largest percentage increase recorded in the county. • Blooming Prairie's population in 2020 stood at 1,974, compared to 1,996 in 2010. That's a loss of 22 residents, or a 1.1% decline in population.

• Ellendale lost 15 residents between 2010 and 2020. The city's current population is 676, compared to 691 in 2010, for a 2.2% decline. There are also fewer residents residing in rural Steele County – 7,021 in 2020 compared to 7,051 in 2010, for a 0.4% decrease.

The county's population accounts for 0.6% of Minnesota's population, which stands at a little more than 5.7 million people. City officials were not surprised by the results of the census and say the relatively small changes in pop- See CENSUS on A14 ►

\$1.00 | Volume 130, No. 12



507-583-4431 | bptimes@frontiernet.net

INSIDE

Business.....	A7	Farm Living.....	A6	Owatonna School Page.....	A8
Calendar.....	A11	History.....	A13	Public Notices.....	B7, B12
Classifieds.....	B13	Hometown Living.....	A9	Public Safety.....	A12
Community.....	A18	Manufacturing.....	A4-5	Sports.....	B1-B9
Faith.....	A19	Opinions.....	A2		

AREA DEATHS

Portia Johnson, 92, Owatonna
Trisha Wayne, 31, Geneva

Serving
Blooming Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW

2020 census figures in, impact yet to come

The 2020 census figures are in and Steele County grew from 36,576 residents to 37,406 residents between 2010 and 2020. That's an increase of 860 people or about 2.2%.

Now the fun begins.

How will our 2% growth impact legislative districts in our county and the surrounding counties? Will the geographic borders of Senate District 24 change? Currently, Sen. John Jasinski represents most of Steele County and parts of Dodge, Rice and Waseca counties and Sen. Gene Dornink represents the southern part of the county.

How about the legislative districts? Part of the county is represented by Rep. John Petersburg; other parts by Rep. Brian Daniels and Rep. Peggy Bennett.

What about the 1st Congressional District now held by Rep. Jim Hagedorn?

The U.S. Constitution requires that each district be as close to equal as possible – to ensure equal representation.

And the census numbers will provide a road-map. They will be used to draw our new political map, but in the end, it is politicians who are responsible for drawing those lines.

Minnesota doesn't have a great track record when it comes to redistricting. Our governors and state lawmakers aren't often able to agree on where the lines should be drawn. If that happens, the issue moves to the courts to rule.

This year, the matter is already before the courts – the plaintiffs fully expecting our lawmakers to fail in their redistricting responsibilities.

Meanwhile, the process continues.

Earlier this week, the Minnesota Redistricting Panel began a series of public hearings across the state to provide the public an opportunity to present information regarding the redistricting process. The first hearing was held in Woodbury. The closest scheduled hearing for Steele County residents will be held in Rochester on Oct. 21. There will also be a Zoom hearing, for those interested in participating via the internet, on Oct. 26.

Those wishing to speak in person were required to make that request by Sept. 24, but written statements will be accepted until Oct. 29. Details are available on the panel's website at www.mncourts.gov/2021/RedistrictingPanel.

If you have an idea on how to improve the redistricting process, get involved. Provide the panel with a written statement.

YOUR VIEW

Caron's comments divisive

To-the-Editor:

This is in response to the article in the Sept. 22 edition paper titled “*Caron: Pandemic of the Unvaccinated.*” (Amy Caron, director of Steele County Public Health).

We first want to state that Ms. Caron should absolutely get a platform to speak her piece in the Steele County Times. However, her deliberate inflammatory and divisive statements concerning unvaccinated individuals in our county deserve swift condemnation. There must be accountability for everyone occupying a public position and that does include the director of Steele County Public Health.

How is she able to make such broad claims about an individual's personal health situation? Why does she get to hammer on unvaccinated people? What about natural immunity? What about personal beliefs? What about health issues that prevent a vaccination to be administered? What about hesitation due to the numerous vaccine deaths/injuries reported on the VAERS system? What about informed consent? Why hasn't public health put out prophylactic protocols of over-the-counter solutions that have been proven beneficial in keeping people out of the hospitals as has been done in other countries?

We have seen people in our community mysteriously die only days after their vaccination. There are others who are reporting new health problems after vaccination and are expressing regret.

So yes, Ms. Caron we very hesitant and want answers. Can we have a two-way respectable dialogue? No public official should be allowed freely to shame unvaccinated people and further push fear and division on the general public.

**Steele County
United Patriots for Accountability**

Sigler's CRT views disgusting

To-the-Editor:

I hope someone else was as disgusted as I am with Gary Sigler's guest column regarding critical race theory (Times- Oct. 6, Page A2). I couldn't believe what I was reading. I'm ashamed of this paper for printing this unsubstantiated, unresearched, yellow journalism.

This country was literally stolen from its indigenous peoples and our ancestors practiced cultural genocide at the State School in Owatonna. To talk about CRT as anything other than adding to students understanding of reality is dangerous.

Shame on you for printing this garbage.

**Tim Michaud
Blooming Prairie**



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

It's a real gut-punch to newspapers that's sucking the life out of rural Minnesota. Well, at least in some parts of the state.

A few weeks ago, a colleague of mine, Reed Anfinson, a very well-respected publisher in western Minnesota, wrote about the gutting of rural newspapers. Anfinson owns several small-town weeklies, including the

Swift County Monitor-News in Benson.

Anfinson pointed out how it's the job of newspapers to assess the information of both sides and give citizens a balanced story, especially when it comes to the impact of government on local communities. He was also quick to say if there is still a newspaper in the community and if it has the staff to report.

He singled out Granite Falls, where the local newspaper no longer covers the city council, school board or

county board. Anfinson was appalled.

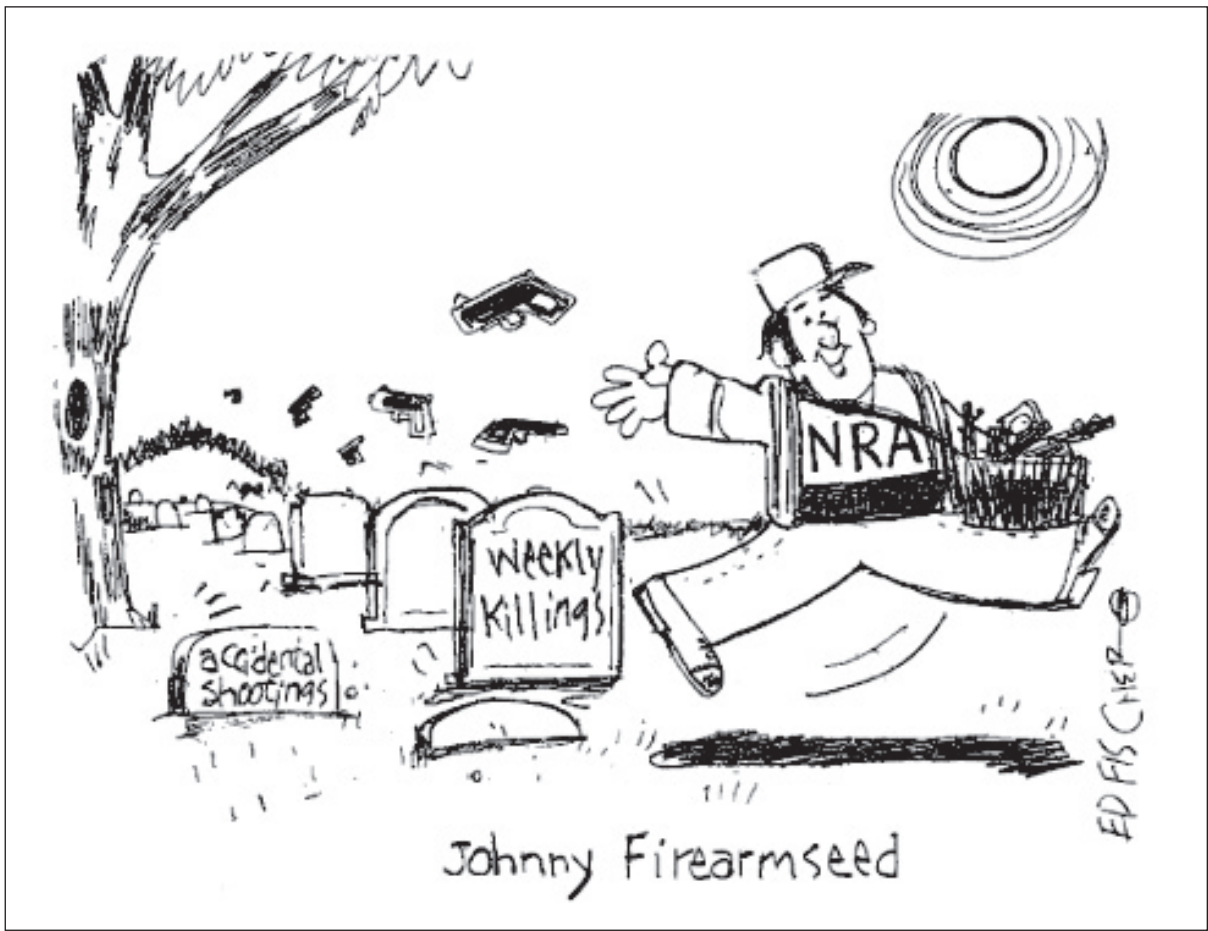
It's no secret that the internet has wreaked havoc on newspapers over the past few decades. But, as Anfinson said, there is a close contender for that unwelcome distinction—corporate ownership of newspapers.

The problem is corporate ownership is far removed from rural America with the singular goal of feeding dividends to investors. It is simply not interested in the communities they supposedly serve.

Readers of the Granite Falls Tribune, Montevideo American-News and Redwood Falls Gazette are discovering what corporate ownership does to their communities. The trio of newspapers is owned by Gatehouse, which bought Gannett and formed the largest newspaper company in America. The company took the better-known name of Gannett.

The rationale handed down by the corporate giant is that they need to improve profitability

See **SUCKING** on A16 ►



GUEST COLUMN

We need to support our babies, not kill them

BY GENE DORNINK

I hope everyone has enjoyed their last weeks of summer and the first days of fall. We are entering a beautiful time of year with leaves changing and family celebrations. As a member of the Capital Investment committee, I will be spending some of my fall on tours around the state, looking at many of the local projects that require state funding. It has been great seeing these communities all around the state and I'm looking forward to next month when we visit our district. These bonding tours allow legislators to see and understand the importance of state funding in our community.

Recently, Minnesota Democrats have formed the 'Reproductive Freedom Caucus.' I want to be very clear; I will always support life from conception to natural death. This new group will push a radical agenda and target human decency. During their press conference announcing this new 'caucus,' Democrat lawmakers claimed this is an attempt to go on the offensive against abortion restrictions.

They went so far as to say, "we can no longer be playing defense." I find it reprehensible that Minnesota Democrats think it necessary to go on the offensive against our unborn children. We need to defend and support our babies, not kill them.

Every child has the right to live, and Minnesota should be the best place to have and raise any child. No woman should ever feel pressured or coerced by anyone that abortion is the best or only choice for her and her baby. So, unlike the democrats who continue to push for abortion expansions and advertisement, Minnesota Republicans have made strides toward making life easier. Our proposals include funding grants for basic infant supplies, eliminating fraud and abuse in our Child Care Assistance Program, paid work breaks for pregnancy needs, job training for new mothers, medical assistance, and so many more. My colleagues and I have worked hard to make choosing life easy and we have been met with open hostility. When it comes down to it, Democrats encourage

abortion while I encourage life.

Here in Minnesota, our laws are contradictory in regards to unborn children. We have statutes outlining the act of and punishment for the murder of unborn children. If your act "causes the death of an unborn child with premeditation and with intent to effect the death of the unborn child or of another", you will face life in prison (MN Statute 609.2661). The rationale behind this and other laws protecting our unborn is that life begins at conception. They have a heartbeat as early as 5 weeks into a pregnancy, a complete human body at 12 weeks, and have survived outside the womb at 21 weeks and 5 days. Everything we learned in class and know to be true says life begins at conception. Yet, bizarrely enough, we have almost unrestricted abortions in Minnesota, despite our laws protecting the unborn. This is a clear double standard. If we agree that life begins at conception in one area, we must acknowledge that same fact in another.

Choosing life doesn't need to be a partisan issue. We can all work together to reduce and eliminate abortions across our State and that starts with supporting expecting mothers. I am deeply saddened that Minnesota Democrats have chosen this path as opposed to the bipartisan path toward saving lives. I would implore all of you to investigate the new 'Reproductive Freedom Caucus', their radical agenda, and join me in saving Minnesotan lives. I want to see Democrats and Republicans coming together to promote and support expecting mothers to choose adoption in place of abortion, as well. What a win-win concept... the child lives and another family receives a blessing.

As always, I am here for you if you have any comments, questions, or concerns. Please feel free to reach out to me by email at Sen.Gene.Dornink@senate.mn or call me at 651-296-5240.

Gene Dornink is a Minnesota senator representing District 27, which includes Blooming Prairie, southern Dodge County and most of Freeborn and Mower counties. He lives in rural Hayfield.

STEELE COUNTY

Times

Founded in 1893

Bussler Publishing, Inc.

www.SteeleCountyTimes.com

Email: bptimes@frontiernet.net

USPS 058-340

Published weekly on Wednesdays

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

Steele County Times

P.O. Box 247

Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Phone: 507-583-4431

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

Publisher	Rick Bussler
News Editor	Deb Flemming
Office Manager	Sherrie Pechan
Sales Specialist	Wyonne Priebe
Sports Editor	Johnnie Phillips
Staff Writer	Kay Fate
Staff Writer	Chris Baldwin

DEADLINES

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower \$49
Elsewhere in State \$52
Out of state..... \$56

A state and national award winning weekly

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

2021—16 awards

2020—9 state awards

2019—7 state awards

2018—6 state and 4 national awards

2017—2 state and 3 national awards

2016—8 state and 6 national awards

2015—7 state and 4 national awards

2014—3 state and 3 national awards

2013—7 state and 2 national awards

2012—2 state awards

2011—4 national awards

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

Lien awarded top orthodontic honor

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A Blooming Prairie area orthodontist has been recognized with a top national service award in her profession.

Dr. Deborah Lien received the Earl E. Shepard Distinguished Service Award by the Midwestern Society of Orthodontists on Oct. 2 in Milwaukee. The award was created in

1987 to honor Dr. Shepard and recognize those orthodontists who perform service to humankind in a combination of service to orthodontics and service in other areas of dentistry.

Lien, who lives in Rochester, has been operating her orthodontic practice in Blooming Prairie since 2000.

She has been involved in organized dentistry and orthodontics

as well as community organizations all her adult life. She attended Mankato State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in biology and public health and an associate of science in dental hygiene degree. She graduated summa cum laude with high distinction from the University of Minnesota in 1983.

Lien was immediately accepted into the

Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, where she received her master's degree in biological science in 1986.

During her career, Lien has served locum tenens for many colleagues needing to take medical or personal leave from their practices.

Proud to have grown up on a hog farm in southwestern Min-

See LIEN on A16 ►



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dr. Ken Dillehay, president of the American Association of Orthodontists, presents Dr. Deborah Lien, a Blooming Prairie area orthodontist, with the Earl E. Shepard Distinguished Service Award on Oct. 2 in Milwaukee.

‘We’re in better shape than a lot of districts’

Companies faring well in bus driver shortage

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

As the stories of school bus driver shortages sweep across news feeds, people like Steve Hale can't help but feel fortunate.

“We’re in pretty fair condition,” said Hale, the general manager of Owatonna Bus Company. “We haven’t had any instances where we haven’t been able to put a driver in every seat. We feel very fortunate.”

Mikel Akers, the Blooming Prairie Bus manager, shared a similar story.

“We’re in better shape than a lot of districts,” he said. “We have enough to cover the routes, and the extra routes.”



STAFF PHOTO BY KAY FATE

A driver for Owatonna Bus Company, center, operates the automatic lift on the side of the bus used to transport children with mobility limitations. The company manager said it's in “pretty fair condition,” compared to other districts with driver shortages.

Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School District, manages nine regular routes in addition to trips.

Like Hale, she hasn't had to cancel a trip yet because of a lack of drivers.

“We’re always looking for substitute drivers, though,” she said. “We’re needing to build that pool, because my concern is the retirement of our current drivers.”

The district has eight drivers, “but within that, there are limitations because of their other jobs,” said Christopherson. “The challenge right now is for our drivers who are involved in agriculture.”

Some staff members at NRHEG are licensed to drive a school bus, and more are planning to get licensed, she said.

At Owatonna Bus Company, “we all maintain our own bus driver licenses, so if there's a need, we can jump in,” Hale said. His roster includes 80 drivers, including substitutes, who haul 3,500 students in the district daily.

“I think after bringing in three or four (more drivers), maybe a half-dozen, we’d start to wonder what we were going to do with someone else,” he said.

The manager of Medford Bus Company didn't return calls seeking comment.

Sara Harkema, who works for Hale as office supply, has also been a route driver for special needs students for about nine years.

“I think we’re looking for more drivers, just to give us a little breathing room,” she said. “We have a few

new drivers since school started, and there are one or two more who are working on getting their testing done.”

That testing may be a factor, Hale said.

Though “there's very little incentive for an unemployed person to go back to work,” he said, “I’ll have to admit that the licensing process is a little tangled up. I hope (state officials) are willing to look at that and revisit it.”

So how is his company able to avoid those stories of canceled trips and combined routes?

“I’m positive – positive – that it has to do with the huge spiritual guidance that our chief in command exercises on a daily basis,” Hale said of Bill Regan, who started the company back in 1968.

“I’m positive that pulls us through.”

Weather aside, harvest looking to be average

◀ **WEATHER** from A1

the combine through the field when corn stalks are twisted in every direction. He also will lose some of the crop because wind knocked the ears of corn close to the ground out of the combine's reach.

Schroeder farms with his grandfather, Duane Schroeder. They operate about 650 acres by their home place near Meriden and Clinton Falls.

They have spent the past week or so bouncing back-and-forth between harvesting soybeans and corn. They started on corn during the first weekend of October, switched to beans earlier last week and went back to corn again later in the week.

For corn, the Schroeders are averaging about 215-220 bushels per acre. He said that's down from what they would like to see, mostly attributing it to the wind-damaged fields. The moisture has been coming in at 18-20%, leaving them to dry it down to about 15%.

The soybeans are coming in at about 50-60 bushels per acre for the Schroeders.

Claire LaCanne, an agricultural educator with the University of Minnesota, said most farmers in Steele and Rice counties are look-

ing at average yields for this year's harvest. “About average is good in a drought year,” LaCanne said, adding this was the worst drought experienced in many years.

Many other parts of the state are below average because of the drought, according to LaCanne.

Unlike recent years, one positive thing going for area crop farmers like the Schroeders this harvest season is the commodity prices. Corn is coming in at about \$5 per bushel, while soybeans are at nearly \$12 per bushel.

The Schroeders usually take their crops to Crystal Valley in Hope, which is only about 8 minutes from their farm.

“They are pretty much begging for corn right now,” Schroeder said. “They need so much of it,” he added.

The most recent crop report from the USDA on Oct. 3 shows 62% of the soybeans had been harvested while 20% of the corn had been picked. Soybeans are two days ahead of last year and two weeks ahead of the average, while corn is about three days ahead of last year and 11 days ahead of the average.

No current report was available at press time because of Monday's holiday.



As farmers are busy harvesting, Schroeder has one simple request for motorists.

“You have to have patience when you're behind farm equipment,” he said. “We're not trying to be slow. It's just that tractors

and combines go slow.”

Schroeder said by all accounts this year is an early harvest.

“We're in good shape this year,” he said, holding his breath and adding, “Just so we don't get our first snowfall yet.”



STAFF PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER

Nevin Schroeder of rural Owatonna farms with his grandfather, Duane Schroeder. They operate about 650 acres by their home place near Meriden and Clinton Falls.

CELEBRATING MANUFACTURING MONTH

- Manufacturing adds \$52.7 billion to state’s economy
- Minnesota employs 324,000 manufacturing jobs
- Manufacturing has second largest payroll: \$22.1 billion
- Average salary: \$68,081

TOP MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES:

- Food: 47,422
- Computer and electronic products: 45,386
- Fabricated metal products: 43,595



**FoamCraft
Packaging Inc.**
Quality Packaging Products & Services

400 Alexander Drive SW, Owatonna, MN 50060
507-455-2893 Phone 507-455-2912 Fax
www.foamcraftpackaging.com

Flexible Options • Custom Built

We offer a wide variety of options for the builder.
We can panelize almost any type of building,
using our materials, or we can use yours.

Custom Building Components, Inc.
507.444.3912 • Medford, MN

HELP WANTED



Benefits

- Competitive Pay
- Medical, Dental, Vision & Prescription Coverage
- Flex Spending Account
- Life, Short & Long-Term Disability Insurance
- 401(k) Retirement Plan
- 10 Paid Company Holidays
- Employee Assistance
- Tuition Assistance
- Shoe Reimbursement

NEWER WAGES
Entry Level
Earnings
Starting at
\$20.25
Per Hour

Apply Now



AT Careers

or visit
www.amesburytruth.com/careers
**\$1,500 sign-on bonuses available,
paid out over 6 months.**

AmesburyTruth.com | 800.866.7884 | 700 W. Bridge Street, Owatonna, MN 55060

HERE'S A SALUTE TO THE MANUFACTURERS AROUND STEELE COUNTY:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE AREA MANUFACTURERS

Arkema
Bio-Plastics
Easton Products
Extreme Powder Coating
Smooth Moves
Heavy Metal
Metal Services, Inc.
National Coatings Restoration, Inc.
Stinar Corp.
Tandem Products
Todd Manufacturing

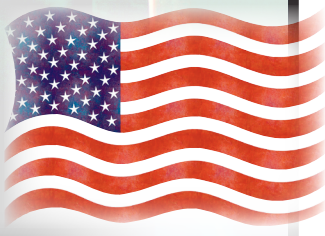
OWATONNA AREA MANUFACTURERS

Advantage Cabinets
Al-Corn Clean Fuel
Amesbury Truth
Bosch Automotive Service Solutions
Carroll Seating Company
Chicago Tube & Iron Co.
Christian Brothers Cabinets
Climate by Design International
Complete Custom Cabinets
Crown Cork & Seal Company
Cybex
Dagry Tooling, Inc.
Daikin Applied
Dotson Woodworking

EVAPCO, Inc.
Foam Craft Packaging, Inc.
Gandy Company
J&J Cabinet Works, Inc.
Lakeside Foods
Metal Services of Blooming Prairie
Minimzer
Modern Metal Products
NAPA
Distribution Center
Pearson
Pinnacle Group
Rush Creek Lumber
Sputtering Components, Inc.
Viracon
Wenger Corporation
Zumbro River Brand, Inc.

MEDFORD AREA MANUFACTURERS

Custom Building Components
Poly Pak Plastics



DAGRY TOOLING, INC.

For your complete machining and welding needs

- MACHINING
- ENGINEERING
- PROTOTYPE
- FARM REPAIR

www.dagry.com

5220 Lemond Rd. Owatonna
507-451-2626



POLY PAK PLASTICS
Medford

We Are Hiring

Apply in person or send application to:
sales@polypakplastics.com
Phone: 800-842-3113



This TANDEM PRODUCTS, INC. facility is proudly located in the Blooming Prairie community.



TANDEM SECOND SHIFT TEAM



TANDEM FIRST SHIFT TEAM



TANDEM WEEKEND TEAM

TANDEM EMPLOYEE TEAM

Pedro Almaraz	Tom Jensen	Javier Reyes Espino
Jennifer Alwes	Brandon Jutzi	Willie Salazar
Amy Amidon	Lah Khu Ignacio	Santiago Maruri
Jon Bain	Isaac Knox	Kristine Schlaak
Andrew Bakke VanDyne	Jennifer Kriesel	Brandon Schmidt
Aaron Brandt	Aung Lay	Joshua Skou
Juan Campa	Eduardo Lopez	Robert Slegh
Andy Cheng	Andrew Maricle	Thomas Slinger
Cody Cremeans	Brian Martin	Curtis Smith
Juan Davila	Eve Martinez	Patrick Smith
Christine Ferguson	McCade Mays	Ryan Strand
Miguel Gallegos	Grant Meany	Curtis Thoeny
Guillermo Garcia	Mark Miller	Jesus Tirado Rosario
Heather Gavin	Matthew Montes	Chris Tobar
Jim Gilbertson	Nay Moo	Gar Too
Mohammed Gouma	SaLay Moo	Joseph Underdahl
Chad Green	Wah Moo	Preciliano Valle
Larry Hanson	Meressia Mullenbach	Mallory Veldman
Douglas Harris	Keven Nelson	Nathan Wallin
David Healy	Rick Nelson	Jason Waters
Victor Hernandez Maldonado	Raw Ner	Samantha Weir
Paul Hjelman	Lisa Noble	Trenneddy Wells
Eh Hla	William Olson	Brian Wendl
Hser Hla	Jaime Paulsen	Matthew Wilberding
Marc Horan	Tha Paw	Christopher Wisemore
Justin Hultgren	Isabel Paz Hernandez	James Wohlferd
Doug Jax	Pah Poe	David Zilm
Theresa Jennings	Israel Posas	
Taylor Jensen	Chris Pudil	





Mastering Gardening
LORRIE RUGG

What is bugging you at your house? With the warm fall weather that we have been having, that I am certainly enjoying, it brings some unwanted guests to our door. I have been seeing some clips on television about boxelder bugs being present in large numbers. So what do we do about them and why are there so many? First a little background on the little critters – the cool weather draws them from the places where they’ve been feeding on plants or other insects and they want to find places for the winter to hunker down. So we see them in large numbers on the sunny and warm sides of our homes, trees, and buildings. They love the warm sun on buildings with southern and western exposure. It is an insect that is native to Minnesota, and they feed on boxelder, maple and ash trees. We tend to see more of them when we have hot and dry summers, like we have just experienced. The insects are nothing more than a nuisance. They don’t cause major damage to plants, trees or people. They don’t bite and they don’t spread disease. They just are kind of creepy. The best thing you can do is lock down

Here’s how to control little critters

your house to keep them out. Check around your windows and doors for gaps. Look at areas where cords, cables and vents leave your house and seal them up. Don’t give them access to your home and it might keep other critters out – especially those 4-legged cheese eaters! If you have boxelder trees, don’t think you have to cut down those trees. We generally have increased numbers about every 5 years. So don’t lose the benefits of that tree, because the removal of the tree won’t guarantee that the bugs will be gone. So if you want them gone, you can physically remove them. Shop vacs work wonderfully and then dispose of them in the garbage. Pesticides can be used, but make sure you read the label. Make sure it will be a product that can be used outside, or the exterior of buildings. Another little critter that you might run across is the Brown marmorated stink bug. Personally I think this guy is not very handsome, when compared to the Emerald Ash borer or the Japanese Beetle. Not that I like those guys, but you have to admit they are pretty and colorful. Stink bugs are an invasive species. They feed on many fruits, vegetables and row crops. They spend the winter in buildings and may invade your home. Adults are shield-shaped, mottled brown in color and have a smooth rounded shoulder. They give off an unpleasant odor if disturbed or crushed. We do not see major damage in Minnesota from this insect. Watch for them on apples, beans, eggplants, grapes, peppers, sweet corn, swiss chard and tomatoes. Their populations are at the highest from mid-August through October. Remember they are looking for a place to hang out for the winter. Getting your house sealed up for the winter will also help your utility bill! We also see the very popular Multicolored Asian Lady Beetles. They have been around for a few years and I am sure we all know the smell they omit when squished. They, too, are a nuisance, but control measures should be taken to prevent them from entering your home. They are looking for a home for the winter, just like the other two insects I talked about. So the bottom line is get your house buttoned up for the winter. That is the best way to keep them from bugging you!


Lorrie Rugg is the coordinator for the Steele County Master Gardening program. She may be reached at brow3298@umn.edu or 507-444-7687.






On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

This time of year, you may see clusters of what looks like yellow blisters or some nasty disease on the tops of milkweed. If you look closer, you’ll notice that it’s not blisters – it’s a group of aphids! Oleander aphids are often abundant and apparent on milkweed plants this time of year. You might be thinking, I thought milkweed was toxic and only monarch caterpillars could eat it!” Oleander aphids are a non-native species that have proven to have quite the appetite for milkweed. And in fact, they’re not the only non-monarch insect that munches on milkweed. Milkweed actually feeds a few different insects in Minnesota, believe it or not. Oleander aphids are bright yellow with black “tailpipes” or cornicles on their rear end. The bright yellow and black coloring is called aposematic coloring – or warning colors. Oleander aphids tend to cluster toward the top of the plant, on the stem, flower, or the very top leaves. We also have a native species of yellow aphid that can be found on milkweed, too; the pale yellow milkweed aphid. As their name suggests, they are paler yellow than oleander aphids. They are also much less common and are usually found on the undersides of leaves instead of on the stems. Not many insects are able to feed on milk-

Oleander aphids and other milkweed lovers

**Monarch caterpillars on milkweed**

**Milkweed leaf beetle**



PHOTOS COURTESY CLAIRE LACANNE

Oleander aphids on swamp milkweed.

weed. The sticky white sap that gives milkweed its common name contains toxic chemicals to discourage mammals and insects from feeding on the foliage. The leaves contain this chemical as well. Only specific insects which have evolved to be able to deal with those chemicals without being poisoned can thrive on these plants, and have become milkweed specialists. The flowers and nectar of milkweed do not contain these chemicals so bees, flies, and butterflies can drink nectar and pollinate the plants without being affected. Though there are not many insects that can feed on milkweed, the insects that have evolved to be milkweed specialists have all adapted to somehow handle milkweed toxins. Monarch caterpillars accumulate and concentrate the toxins in their own bodies, which gives them a bitter taste and protection against predators. Some of the other milkweed insects have developed ways to use the toxins in their defense, too. The insects that have this ability to make themselves distasteful to predators typically have aposematic markings, or warning colors to advertise their toxicity. Think of the bright orange and black coloring of the monarch butterfly or a brightly colored poison dart frog. This defense or warning mechanism is why so many insects found on milkweed plants have conspicuous black and yellow, red, or orange markings. Keeping in mind that many milkweed specialists are brightly colored, they are conspicuous and you’ll likely notice them right away if they are present. You might notice milkweed bugs – which look similar to boxelder bugs – bright red longhorn milkweed beetles, orange and black milkweed leaf beetles, and fluffy little caterpillars that are the young of milkweed tussock moths. Just remember: milkweed isn’t only for monarchs!

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

On the farm for nearly 6 decades

THE JANNINGS

What results in a love of working the ground? In the case of a Blooming Prairie area man, it has meant farming for 59 years. Included in that for Ronald Janning is 57 years at his current farm located in Blooming Prairie Township. He farms 240 acres. Corn and soybeans have been the staple crops throughout the years with him rotating every year. He farms with his wife Glenda. They have three grown children: Naomi Jirele, Patrick Janning and Anissa Disher, all of Owatonna. John Janning is deceased. “Raising four kids on the farm was important because they were able to learn how to work hard and smart,” said Janning. He added going to church on Sundays was important to the family and a day to rest and visit grandparents. Janning’s love for farming began when he was a kid. He developed that love when his father bought him a little B tractor. He also grew up helping his father do custom baling for neighbors. A fond memory Janning has is when he went with his dad to work on a threshing crew to pick oats bundles in the Blooming Prairie area, including his own Grandpa Pelinnka’s farm. They enjoyed a big dinner with nine other farmers who worked together threshing. Janning was only 7 years old at the time. “That was a very strong influence on my desire to farm,” Janning said of threshing. When Janning came of age, his dad found the current site, which is only one and a half miles from where he grew up. Janning paid \$200 per acre and utilized the FHA loan option. Asked what his greatest joy of farming is, Janning says: “When harvest time comes and I get to take the harvest in. It is very rewarding.” Janning added he is grateful to be producing food for America. One wish Janning has is that more family farms pop up again. “It’s vital to America and the future health of the next generations,” he said. In addition to farming, Janning enjoys an antique tractor collection, which at its peak numbered 31 tractors, including a 2545 Rumbly Oil Pull. A special purchase he just made is a 1950 Super A Demonstrator tractor, which was designed for farmers to try out on the fields and check out all the new updates on the tractor. This was a free service from International Harvester to each farmer. The tractors came with in-head valves on a 4-cylinder 123 cubic inch engine, live hydraulics and hydraulic lift hitch. It is actually white because of being only a demonstrator tractor. Janning said he is excited to own the tractor because there are very few, if any, left like it.



Ronald Janning has been farming north of Blooming Prairie for the past 57 years. He tends to 240 acres of crop land. In addition, Janning also has an antique tractor collection.

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

**KIBBLE EQUIPMENT**

**JOHN DEERE**

Owatonna | 507-451-4054

www.KibbleEq.com

Your Farm. Your Future. Our Focus.

**Jensen** 256-4712
Heating, A/C, & Plumbing
Geneva
Registered Showroom

- Quality plumbing & heating products for your remodeling or new home construction.
- Serving our area for over 40 years.
- We'll treat your home as if it were our own.

THE BOLD LOOK OF KOHLER

Loken Excavation & Drainage
YOUR **DRAINAGE PROJECT** PARTNER

WE CAN HELP YOU WITH:
Aggregate Products • Waterway Cleaning
All Excavation Projects • Hauling & Septic

Call **DALLAS** for your **DRAINAGE** needs!
507-451-2873
LOKEN
Excavation & Drainage Inc.

3695 Hoffman Drive NW • Owatonna
loken@qwestoffice.net | Toll-free 855-298-2568

GARDENING TIP OF THE WEEK



Mid-October Gardening Tips:

- Continue to water trees and shrubs until the ground freezes
- Empty or move containers under cover to prevent them from cracking
- Trim dead or diseased branches from trees and shrubs. Wait until spring or summer for major pruning
- Do not till areas where you are hoping to reseed annuals
- Finish planting garlic cloves
- Finish planting perennials. The later you plant, the less time perennials have to get established and run the risk of winterkill
- Thoroughly water new bulb plantings

Happy Gardening!
Janice Jensen, Steele County Master Gardener

STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS

Young entrepreneur opens online shop

BY LOLA SHAFFER
TIMES INTERN

CC Nicholson of Owatonna opened Angels Attic, an online shop for hand-made and vintage design clothing, during the pandemic.

After Gov. Tim Walz issued his first stay-at-home order in March of 2020 to curb the spread of COVID-19, Nicholson said she struggled being away from her friends and was looking for a way to remedy her boredom. What was supposed to last two weeks turned into four, then six and soon Walz announced that students would not be returning to in-person learning.

That's when Nicholson turned to thrift shopping.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Each item created by CC Nicholson carries her 'Made by CC' signature logo.

At the time, the young entrepreneur had just four months left in her senior year of high school. Perusing the racks of thrift stores, Nicholson said she found many beautiful items that weren't necessarily her style, but that others might like.

Today, the 19-year-old designs and creates hand-crafted crewnecks, tees, hoodies, pants and sweaters for young adults.

Nicholson said that she prefers vintage pieces. The quality and individuality of vintage clothing are unbeatable in today's fast fashion industry, she said.

Using only what she buys from thrift stores and "whatever old scraps are lying around," Nicholson said she cuts, rearranges, and sews what is old and tired into new, fresh designs. Committed to creating sustainable fashion, she does not buy any new fabric. All packaging for orders is eco-friendly as well, said Nicholson, adding that she does purchase about 10 spools of thread each month.

For her most popular item, the "half and half" flannel shirt, Nicholson cuts two flannels in half and sews the opposite pieces together. Each shirt takes about 10 minutes to complete, she said, while clothing with multiple pieces of fabric might take closer to 30 or 40 minutes.

Nicholson said that she looks to "street style" and 80s fashion for inspiration. Also citing Princess Diana, Nicholson said that she loves how



CC Nicholson

the late Princess' style was a blend of "classy and cool."

In the early days of Angels Attic, Nicholson uploaded photos of the clothes to social media platforms like Instagram. However, to cater to her growing customer base, Nicholson soon built a website <https://shop-angels-attic.myshopify.com>.

"It felt like I was taking it to another level," said Nicholson, noting the added professionalism of her brand. Each piece is marked with a signature "Made by CC" label.

Nicholson recently started her second year at Winona State University, where she majors in business and fashion marketing.

Balancing her education and busi-



SUBMITTED PHOTO
"Half and half" flannels are Nicholson's most popular item. Each shirt is a one-of-a-kind design, according to Nicholson.

ness hasn't been easy, but she said she is learning how to prioritize.

"There were times when I just wanted to sit and make clothes, but I had to do homework," Nicholson said that she tries not to feel discouraged. Chuckling, she said that she asks herself, "Do you think Bill Gates was never down bad?"

"You can do anything you want to do, even starting small," she said.

New employees join Community Bank Owatonna

Locally owned and operated Community Bank Owatonna and its Board of Directors announce two new additions to the bank.

Shannon Fawley has joined as vice president, chief information technology/operations officer while Cory Shaw is the new assistant vice president, commercial real estate lender and business lending specialist.

Fawley received her degree in Computers/Information Management and has been in the technology field for over 20 years. In addition to her technology experience, she has over 20 years of experience in the banking industry. She has a passion for customer service and is excited



Shannon Fawley

to be part of a local community bank. She and her husband have resided in Owatonna since 2005.

Shaw received his degree from the University of Minnesota-Mankato majoring in finance. He has more than 22 years of experience in the banking industry. Shaw's area



Cory Shaw

of specialty is small business lending in the areas of real estate financing, equipment financing and operating lines of credit.

"We are excited for Shannon and Cory to join the Staff of Community Bank Owatonna," said Steve Grams, president/CEO of Community Bank Owatonna.

Medford schools awarded Dollar General Literacy Grant

Dollar General Literacy Foundation recently awarded a \$1,500 youth literacy grant to the Medford School District.

In Minnesota, the foundation awarded more than \$20,000 to teachers, libraries and nonprofit organizations.

The youth literacy grants are expected to positively impact the lives of more than 1,117 Minnesotans.

"At Dollar General we're committed to being here for what matters most to the communities we call home," said Todd Vasos, Dollar

General's chief executive officer and Dollar General Literacy Foundation board member. "The urgency to support childhood literacy has never been greater, and we are honored to support the teachers, school officials, library staff and a network of nonprofits working every day to ensure the next generation is able to build the skills necessary to thrive and achieve their ambitions."

Nationwide, the foundation awarded 760 literacy grants.

Applications for the 2022 Dollar General Literacy Foundation grant cycle will be available at DGLiteracy.org in January 2022.

Welcoming new members



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Ambassadors from the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism visit with Pizza Ranch at 142 W. Broadway in Owatonna to welcome the restaurant as a new member. Kristal Clear is the restaurant's manager. Pizza Ranch offers pizza, broasted chicken, salad bar and dessert on its buffet served all day, every day. Pizza Ranch also offers to-go and delivery service.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Chamber ambassadors also visit with Principal Financial; 202 West Bridge ST, in Owatonna, to welcome the firm as a new member. Geoff Stamp is the office's financial representative. Principal Financial offers retirement planning for pre-retirees and retirees. Principal also works with farmers and business owners on estate and succession planning.

New broadcast center coming



COURTESY ERIC JOHNSON, AUSTIN DAILY HERALD
KSMQ Public Service Media employees break ground on "The Broadcast Center" Thursday in Austin. KSMQ began construction on the facility in downtown Austin with a ceremonial groundbreaking event. Local and state business and political leaders were in attendance. Some of them included: former Rep. Jeanne Poppe and former Sen. Dan Sparks both of Austin and Sen. Dave Senjem of Rochester. Once complete, the center will provide a state-of-the-art broadcasting facility, which serves 700,000 people in 20 counties throughout southern Minnesota and northern Iowa.

misgen
auto parts

Full-service & self-service
automotive recycler
Late model cars & trucks

12880 SW 72nd Ave.,
Ellendale, MN 58026
800-358-4902
507-684-210
www.misgen.com

misgen
auto parts

since 1972

m2
misgen auto parts

classic parts

80658 120th St. | Glenville, MN 56036
507-448-7111 (by appointment)

COLE'S ELECTRIC, INC.

Residential Farm Industrial Commercial

Whether you own a home or a business, expert wiring is crucial to your safety and comfort. When you need the best in wiring, call on the qualified, licensed electricians at Cole's Electric, Inc.

800-801-1387 • 507-451-1387

7596 NW 40th St. Owatonna • www.ColesElectric.com

RETAIN to award grants

Workforce Development, Inc. (WDI) is releasing a Request for Proposal and will be awarding up to \$222,800 to organizations which place an emphasis on providing career services to a diverse participant population.

Additional information can be found at www.workforcedevelopmentinc.org/programs/retain-program/.



OWATONNA PROUD

A8 | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021

OWATONNA SCHOOLS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Homecoming King and Queen picked

BY SYDNEY HALL
OHS MAGNET WRITER

After an anticipated wait on who the crown will go to, it was proudly announced that Dylan Meiners and Jenna Dallenbach are the OHS 2021 Homecoming King and Queen. Coronation took place Oct. 1 in the OHS gym.

Homecoming court in Owatonna is a huge tradition and something that everyone looks forward to. OHS Principal Mr. Kory Kath said, "I think the whole purpose of the homecoming court is truly about honoring students that embody good character within our school." The importance of royalty being elected is to give students that moment to be recognized for their integrity.

The court is voted on by the students and only the students. Seniors first vote for top 12, followed by seniors and juniors voting for top five and lastly the whole student body votes for king and queen. Principal Mr. Kath said, "What I really appreciate is that the top twelve tends to be a wide variety of students, people that excel in so many different areas, or have connections in so many different areas of our

school." Homecoming is a great way to honor seniors after being involved over their four years in high school.

This year has been pretty similar to all the previous years with the voting for royalty. The same tradition applies on who votes for who. Although, something different this year is that the voting turnout was much higher than normal. Student Council Adviser Ms. Sandra Justice said, "Statistics-wise we're actually above average in the number of votes that we normally have turned in and so we've had really good participation from the students." The above average student participation is awesome considering this year is the first normal homecoming since 2019.

After three rounds of the voting process, OHS Homecoming 2021 King is Dylan Meiners. He is involved in cross country, tennis, robotics, Knowledge Bowl, Student Council and NHS. This year, he is looking forward to taking AP Calculus II with Mr. Maine. His favorite memory from high school so far was taking AP Statistics with Nic Pilcher.

In the future, he plans to major in aerospace engineering and fly in the United States Air Force. There are many rewarding things about being Homecoming royalty. Meiners said, "It's a good recognition from your peers. It means a lot to be because it shows that people appreciate you. It's just

an honor." This is a huge honor awarded and lots will be taken away from it. Something Meiners would say to his younger self is "don't change." Meiners is ready for the week ahead and the fun in store.

The OHS 2021 Homecoming Queen is Jenna Dallenbach. She is involved in Student Council, SHOC, DECA, DIG, Green Team and Girls United. This year, she is looking forward to making new memories with classmates and graduating. Her favorite memory so far from high school is the school dances. In the future, she plans to attend a four-year university somewhere warm. She

hopes to do something with design or interior design. There are so many rewarding things about Homecoming court and being honored. Dallenbach said, "It is a really surreal feeling to be recognized for your character and it means a lot to me." This is something one would love to tell their younger self how they felt in the moment, how amazing it was and all the emotions from it. Dallenbach said, "Who would have thought?"

The tradition of Homecoming court at OHS is a big deal and most who win are humbly surprised and grateful. The Class of 2022 has missed out on a lot along with many other classes and students, but something rewarding is to finally have a normal homecoming for their senior year. Dallenbach said, "You only get to do high school once, and we haven't had the most original high school experience. Being able to do these events this year makes me more appreciative."

Another huge congratulations to the 2021 Homecoming King Dylan Meiners and Queen Jenna Dallenbach. This year's homecoming is sure to be a memorable one.



Homecoming Queen Jenna Dallenbach and King Dylan Meiners

OHS MAGNET PHOTO BY SYDNEY HALL

Work-It Wednesday



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The fall weather has been more than ideal for outdoor physical education classes. These are some students enjoying physical activities outside at Wilson Elementary School.

Join Our Team!

Owatonna Public Schools has found it increasingly challenging to recruit candidates, especially in the following positions:

- Substitute Teachers (4-year degree required)
- Special Education Paraprofessionals
- Custodians

- School Aged Care Assistants
- Nutrition Services Staff
- MORE!

Why join our ISD761 team

- Make a difference for kids in your community
- Chance to work near home

- Personal and professional growth opportunities
- Competitive wages
- On the job training

Please apply today or help us bring new talent to Owatonna Public Schools by referring applicants to our team. Apply at www.isd761.org/careers.

Students of the Week

Elementary School



Jada Herron
Kindergarten
Parents: Mark and Jessa Herron

Jada has been an outstanding leader in the K4 classroom! She gives her best effort in everything she does, she is active in always trying to help her classmates and is always kind and welcoming to others. Keep up the great work Jada!



Abel Kidder
Third Grade
Parents: Justin and Samantha Kidder

Abel has been amazing to have in class! He works very hard on all his assignments to make sure he has everything completed on time. He is not afraid to seek help to understand and then he follows through. He leads our class with his work ethic, but still is humble and kind.



Mason Ortega
Fifth Grade
Parents: Courtney Rosenau and Jason Ortega

Mason has an enormous heart and goes above and beyond to help his classmates. He is a true leader both in and out of the classroom whether it's in the hallway, as a patrol captain, on the football field, or on the hockey rink. Way to go, Mason! Thanks for helping make Wilson such a great place!

Middle School

High School



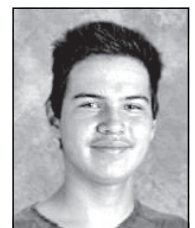
Keira Schoenfeld
Eighth Grade
Parents: Gordon and Margaret Schoenfeld

Keira is an exceptional band student. Her resolve to play the oboe has shown perseverance that is second to none. Her work ethic with practicing her instrument will take her great places. We are #OwatonnaProud of you!



Madison Homuth
Sophomore
Parent: Casey Homuth

Madison is always on time for class, works hard on assignments, and advocates for herself by asking questions in class. The FCS Department at OHS would like to thank Madison for all the extra help she offers. Keep up the good work!



Kaleb Ortiz
Junior
Parents: Olivia Hughes
Grandparents: Doug and Bev Hughes

The ALC would like to recognize Kaleb Ortiz for his hard work this quarter. He is focused on getting his work done and puts time and effort into his assignments. Kaleb's quick wit and humorous disposition make him a joy to be around. We are so proud of him!

TRUST US TO HANDLE WITH CARE.



Glen



Mike



Brett

Brick-Meger Funeral Home & Medford Funeral Home
507.451.1457 | megercare.com

PROUDLY SERVING STEELE COUNTY

HOME OF THE HONEST MECHANICS!



Monday-Friday
7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

1125 S. Oak Ave. • Owatonna
507-431-4576 • www.Honest1Owatonna.com

Meeting emotional needs during COVID

Many aspects of our day-to-day lives have changed as a result of COVID-19. There are safety regulations in place that determine where we can go and how closely we can be in proximity to others. This includes social outings, school, recreational activities, meetings for work, as well as medical and other healthcare appointments.



Steele Talkin'
BOBBI MATHERNE

For some of us, it is a welcome change from the hustle and bustle of an overly packed schedule; a chance to relax and enjoy the little things in life. For others, it is a time of increased responsibilities, financial stress, deep loneliness, sense of loss, boredom, stress, or intense fear. Many people find themselves experiencing a wide array of these emotions, depending on the day or even the hour.

With Transition Comes Stress:
It is common during times of significant transition to feel stressed and overwhelmed. Increased stress can affect your mental health, physical health, and lead to unhealthy habits such as overeating or under eating, not getting exercise, not engaging in fulfilling activities, spending too much time on screens, and using alcohol or drugs to cope.

Telehealth – A Safe Way to Provide Mental and Chemical Health Care:

One way that COVID-19 has impacted our society is the way in which we communicate with each other. Thankfully, technological advances allow us to easily connect with family, friends, coworkers, and health care providers over the phone, through two-way video, and with social media.

Community Mental Health Centers recognize that the need for support is greater now than ever before. We are still here for you, even though we are not seeing people in our offices. Through Telehealth, we are able to deliver the same quality of mental health and chemical health care that we have always provided but in the safety of your home. Telehealth appointments occur when the provider and client are in different locations, communicating through live two-way video or standard audio-only phone calls. Telehealth is HIPAA compliant and secure, so you don't need to worry about your privacy being compromised. Telehealth appointments are reimbursable by insurance plans, just as face-to-face sessions are. Community Mental Health Centers offer therapy (individual, family, and couples), group therapy, psychiatric care, medication management, case management, and other community mental health services through telehealth.

See MEETING on A10 ►



STAFF PHOTO BY JOEY BUNTON

This view, looking southeast, shows the two new holes going in on the south side of the Blooming Prairie Country Club. The holes to the east of the clubhouse, visible in the upper left, will eventually be phased out, according to the proposed design.

Work progresses on BP golf course

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

It was a good summer for golf – and a good season for construction. The land south of the current course is revealing what the two new holes planned for that parcel will look like, thanks to a drone's-eye view. Those two holes, and two more on the north side of the current course, are on their way to being completed – possibly by next golf season.

The changes come ahead of the expiration of the lease between the country club and the Blooming Prairie Gun Club. The land lease that expires in 2024 will result in the loss of two complete holes and two

partial holes that for now are a part of the nine-hole course.

In order to reconfigure the course layout, the club acquired some land – referred to as the “north parcel” – that runs around Oak Glen Lake. It also bought land south of the course; both parcels will hold two new holes.

PGA professional Rodney Cole is in charge of the design of the course. President of the Board of the Blooming Prairie Country Club Doug Johnson said when announcing the project that once the new holes are in place, the club will change its focus to modifying the three existing holes with a new tee, new green and a different layout so they're ready for the 2024 season.

Johnson said the country club is doing the work in phases, so members always have nine holes to golf throughout construction.

“The game plan is to always have a minimum of nine holes available up until 2024, when we have the nine holes of the new course and they'll be all new holes,” he said.

In addition to all new holes, Johnson noted that the location of the holes will also change.

The course now has five holes east of the clubhouse, four to the west; when the construction is complete, all nine holes will be west of the clubhouse.

Something that won't change much: the distance between the holes.

“It'll be pretty much the same,” Johnson said. “There's a little less yardage and we'll go from a par 36 to a par 35, but our goal is to keep it very close. Until we're actually on the land, it's hard to get an exact measurement.”

The finished course will include a practice area on some of the land to the east of the golf course, a large putting green, a driving range and possibly three par-3 holes for junior golfers to help encourage them in the sport.

“My goal is to have the premiere nine-hole golf course in southern Minnesota, and give golfers a unique experience,” Johnson said. “That's our vision. That's what we're trying to get done.”

New group strives to get voices heard

After hearing God speaking, Jirele mobilizes United Patriots

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Naomi Jirele has drawn on her faith in her most recent venture to help keep local public servants accountable. Jirele and a friend, Angie Langlie, have formed the United Patriots for Accountability (UPA) in Steele County. UPA, which started in June, is

a group that continues to grow every month. In fact, Jirele said she's had people she didn't even know show up for meetings at her house.

With 30 in attendance, the group has outgrown Jirele's house and now meets at Victory Church in Owatonna at least once and sometimes twice a month.

See NEW on A10 ►



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Angie Langlie, left, and Naomi Jirele are the co-founders of United Patriots for Accountability, a newly formed organization in Steele County to help keep local public servants accountable.



STAFF PHOTO BY KAY FATE

Janice Jensen, left, hands a voting ticket to Rachael Eustice Saturday at the Ellendale Fall Festival. In addition to an arts and crafts fair, the event was designed to raise money and interest in replacing or restoring a downtown mural that depicts the city in the 1800s.

Festival vendors 'tickled pink'

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

Though the Ellendale Fall Festival is over for the year, voting for the downtown mural continues.

“I'm leaving it in the grocery store,” said Gwen Reiss, who is spearheading the drive to restore or replace the artwork depicting 1800s Ellendale. The current mural, a once-vibrant scene that hangs on the side of the building that houses the Ellendale Caf?, has faded to grays.

Reiss provided jars for the “ballots” of residents and former residents to weigh in on which version they'd like to see. Voting was steady during the festival, which drew 36 vendor booths.

Proceeds from booth rental went toward the mural fund, which now sits at about \$4,600, according to Reiss.

“It's a slow climb, I'll tell you,” she said


of the fundraising effort. The current mural was painted in 2010 at a cost of nearly \$9,000. It faded, Reiss said, about three years later.

Creating and installing a new mural, with a no-fade guarantee, will be about \$16,000.

Reiss said she plans to leave the voting jars in Lerberg's Foods, the grocery store that sits in downtown Ellendale at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Second Street. She hopes to have the jars in place until May.

The festival on Oct. 2 “was very successful; everyone was very pleased. I'm glad they all came out and shopped,” said Reiss. “And the vendors were tickled pink; they can't wait to do it again.”

Reiss said she is also planning a spring festival for April or May of 2022, with proceeds again going toward the mural fund.



Reflections

HOWARD LESTRUD

Want a dream vacation spot in the north woods?

Judy and I had the opportunity recently to take a three-day vacation in the north woods of Crosslake and adjoining chains of lakes.

Our reason for going north was to pay a visit to Judy's brother Curt and his family. Curt is a retired Minnesota State Trooper who fell in love with the north woods while he resided eight miles east of Brainerd.

It's like taking a permanent vacation

Another reason for going north for a fall retreat was to see the vibrant fall colors near their peak the farther north you go.

Crosslake is part of the Brainerd Lakes Area, consisting of nearly 460 lakes within a 25-mile radius of Brainerd. Crosslake was incorporated in 1959. In 1972, nearby North Cross Lake was formally absorbed into the city of Crosslake.

Crosslake is nestled inside of many alluring lakes. The beautiful small town is a city in Crow Wing County.

There's plenty of wildlife dominating the Crosslake area. Deer are everywhere and it's even possible to have a run-in with a black bear.

Curt and Gail's three children, located within the Brainerd Lakes area, have all seen bear come close to their habitat. "I was going around a corner outside the garage when I was met by a big bear looking for garbage," remarked Ben, a son of Curt and Gail.

Curt has also had some close encounters with the Minnesota black bear. "I was out snowshoeing and looked behind me to see bear that must have been watching me for some time," said Curt.

We saw no bear during our recent visit but we did see a bushy tailed red fox and many deer.

What's is so appealing about Crosslake is that it is scenic and it is a fun place to summer,

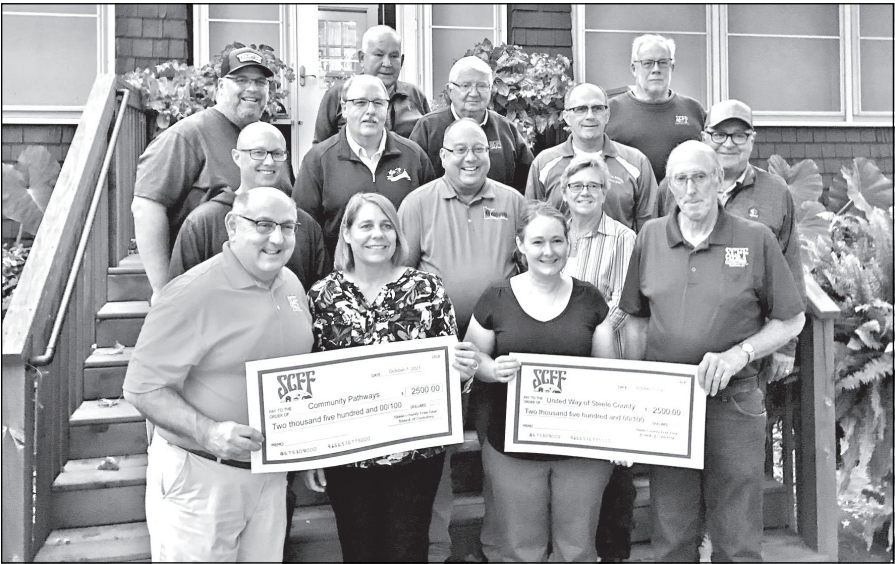


The colors are very vibrant in Crosslake this fall. This small northern Minnesota city is a vacation haven for many.

to winter and to spend retirement years.

Visit Crosslake any time of the year. It's many appealing sites will draw you there. Former Gold Medalist skater Kristi Yamaguchi has a permanent home near Crosslake. Other celebrities including Tom Cruise and Oprah Winfrey have been spotted in the Whitefish Chain of Lakes.

Many people travel to other states, or to other countries for enjoyment. Stay within Minnesota and GO NORTH!



Steele County Fair Board members present checks totaling \$2,500 to Nancy Ness of Community Pathways and Annette Duncan of United Way of Steele County. Back row from left to right: Doug Meier, Gene Fisher, James Linder, Glen Meger, and Mark Ditlevson. Middle Row from left to right: Josh Prokopec, Tim Arlt, Mike Hamilton, Sandy Jirele, and Wayne Steele. Front row: Scott Kozelka, Nancy Ness, Annette Duncan, and Dan Deml.

Fair board reports \$300,000 in net income

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Due to the success of the Jason Pritchett free concert held during this year's fair, the Steele County Fair Board decided to give back to the two organizations that sponsored the event.

Before last week's monthly meeting, the board presented a check for \$2,500 to both United Way of Steele County and Community Pathways for their support of the fair.

"This truly is a community effort," Nancy Ness from Community Pathways told manager Scott Kozelka before sharing a hug.

During the meeting, Treasurer Tim Arlt reported that the 2021 fair's net income was up about \$50,000 from 2019. Due to the pandemic, the board canceled the fair in 2020.

Revenues totaled about \$1,582,775 and were up about \$300,000 from the 2019 level, said Arlt. "So, it was a good

year for us and we can't complain about that."

Expenses, which totaled about \$1.25 million, we also up, according to Arlt. He said grandstand shows, insurance, the beer garden and repair and maintenance of The Great Outdoors Center were some of the bigger ticket items this year.

"I'll have a better handle on it once I get to do it line by line," said Arlt. "Basically, we have around \$2.23 million in assets, so I think we're in good shape."

Now that the board has had a chance to review attendance figures and financials, it's already time to look toward next year's fair. The annual meeting of the Steele County Agricultural Society will be held on Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Steele County Community Center.

During the meeting, five board members will be up for reelection. President Dan Deml, and directors Roger Noble, Doug Meier, Mike Hamilton, Sandy Jirele.

Meeting emotional needs during COVID

◀ **MEETING** from A9

Feedback about the quality of services delivered has been quite positive. Some people prefer to talk with providers from the comfort of their homes. Some appreciate the decrease in drive time and gas money. Some feel more comfortable talking over the phone or over the computer to a face-to-face interaction when discussing difficult topics.

How to Schedule an Appointment:

Call your local Community Mental Health Center to schedule an intake appointment. We will walk you through filling out the intake paperwork and get you scheduled with a qualified mental health or chemical health provider. We will help you set up the technology to be able to meet with your provider virtually.

Our Regional Mobile Crisis Team is also meeting with people through telehealth or telephone. If you or someone you care about is struggling with a mental health crisis, even if it is not to the point of suicide, call the crisis line at 844-274-7472 or Text MN to 741 741. You should call 911 if you or someone you care about is actively suicidal.

If you are in a situation where it is unsafe to talk, such as domestic violence, you can text-to-911. Simply enter the numbers "911" in the "to" field; then type your location and emergency in the text message. Be ready to answer questions via text and follow instructions. Use simple words, not emojis, pictures, or slang.

Breathe!

Bobbi Mathern is a licensed marriage and family therapist, and the clinical director of the South Central Human Relations Center in Owatonna. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

New group strives to get voices heard

◀ **NEW** from A9

"I felt like the Lord said, 'Mobilize,' and that's what I'm doing," said Jirele, noting they are approaching 200 members online. "I pray and I pray about this. I'm going to follow what the Lord told me to do and mobilize."

She said the group is totally grassroots. "We are still very loosely formed," Jirele said. "It's pretty informal. We have a loose agenda, we say the Pledge of Allegiance and we pray."

UPA is hosting a rally, "We Choose Freedom," Saturday from 4-8 p.m. at the Owatonna VFW. The rally is free and open to the public. There will be various speakers, including Dr. Mike Peterson, a chiropractor from Owatonna.

Only a few months into the organization, Jirele already has a different feel about UPA. "This isn't just sit around coffee and talk about how to save the world," she said. "I like encouraging people, and I want to help give them a voice."

Patriot members, Jirele said, are focused on digging up what's really going on in America. "We feel a story is being told nationwide, but not the whole story," she said. "We want to be able to ask questions

and feel we aren't being bullied or scorned. We want to get our voices known and heard."

Jirele's group is committed to informing the public about what's going on with various forms of government. "There are law-abiding citizens not paying attention to the city council, school board and county board," she said.

On the local level, Jirele is especially concerned with the Owatonna School Board. "We feel they are not listening to us, and we feel like they are humoring us," she said. "We want them to start hearing us and put action toward

what we are saying."

Jirele and other UPA members recently got involved with public discussions on Critical Race Theory at the school board meetings. "CRT was the big, red flag for me," Jirele said. "We are trying to start a conversation. We prefer the terms racial equity," she said, adding no one should be bullied if they state their views.

For Jirele, organizing the patriot movement comes naturally. She has been involved as a volunteer with the Steele County Free Fair, Owatonna Arts Center Board and Little Theatre of Owatonna. She also has served as a

WE CHOOSE FREEDOM

Who: United Patriots for Accountability
What: Health freedom rally
Where: Owatonna VFW
When: Saturday, Oct. 16, 4-8 p.m.
Why: Keep public servants accountable

youth pastor.

She credits her father, Ron Janning, for being a strong advocate for community involvement over the years. He served on the Blooming Prairie School Board for many years. "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree," she said.

"It has always been my heart to be involved in the community," said Jirele. "I respected my dad, who taught me if you are going to be a good citizen, get involved."


Jirele said she resents some of the labels she has been given on social media over the past few months. "It's very un-American to do this," she said. "My mind says I'm going with the Lord if we have people wanting to get involved."

While Jirele doesn't know where her group will go in the future, she is sure about one thing. "We want to build neighborhoods that are strong," she said. "This is about coming together as a community. I have invested a lot in the community that shows my heart."

BIGELOW

HOMES

Tradition. Excellence.



Office: 507-529-1161

www.bigelowhomes.net

NFG

National Fleet Graphics LLC

LOGO DESIGN • SIGNS • BANNERS

APPAREL • FLYERS • CUSTOM GRAPHICS

VEHICLE WRAPS



www.nationalfleetgraphics.com

507.374.7069 | 318 South Street - Dodge Center, MN 55927

ASE

HONEST-1[®] AUTO CARE

Honest-1 Auto Care



1125 S Oak Ave

Owatonna, MN 55060-3701

507-451-5990

www.Honest1Owatonna.com

Mon-Fri 7AM-6PM

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

OCT. 16

1:30 p.m. – Dog’s Colorful Day Storywalk, BP Library

OCT. 19

10 a.m. – Online Storytime, BP Library Facebook Page

OCT. 17

9 a.m. – Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast, Holy Trinity Catholic Church

OCT. 20

5 p.m. – Chamber Meeting, Servicemen’s Club

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

OCT. 15

11 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

OCT. 20

11 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

OCT. 18

11 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

OCT. 16

7 a.m. – Farmer’s Market, Central Park

10 a.m. – Dog’s Colorful Play Storywalk, Owatonna Library

7 p.m. – Romantica Concert, History Center

7:30 p.m. – The Marvelous Wonderettes, Little Theatre of Owatonna

OCT. 19

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

4:30 p.m. – Library Board Meeting, Owatonna Library

7 p.m. – Owatonna City Council Meeting, City Hall

OCT. 20

4 p.m. – Owatonna EDA Meeting, City Hall

OCT. 21

7:30 p.m. – The Marvelous Wonderettes, Little Theatre of Owatonna

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

Blooming Prairie Elementary

Oct. 14- Crispy chicken tenders, brown rice, chicken Caesar salad, steamed carrots, celery sticks.

Oct. 15- Cheese-burger, Chicken Caesar salad, golden French fries, steamed green beans.

Oct. 18- Crispy chicken nuggets, whole grain dinner roll, ham and cheese flatbread, steamed peas, baby carrots.

Oct. 19- Hotdog, BBQ rib sandwich, baked beans, cucumber slices

Oct. 20-22- No school–MEA Break

Blooming Prairie High School

Oct. 14- Orange chicken, brown rice, chicken Caesar salad, steamed carrots, celery sticks.

Oct. 15- Cheese-burger, turkey BLT flatbread, golden French fries, steamed green beans.

Oct. 18- Hotdog, BBQ rib sandwich, baked beans, baby carrots.

Oct. 19- Cheese personal pizza, ham deli sandwich, steamed corn, cucumber slices.

Oct. 20-22- No school–MEA Break

Octoberfest Foundation Style



The Owatonna Foundation celebrated its first “Oktoberfest” event on Oct. 6 with the Brian Raichle Band as part of Owatonna Foundation Week. The non-profit organization held its annual Legacy Luncheon the following day, awarding its Spirit of the Community Award to the entire community for its response during the Covid-19 pandemic. Brad Meier, president and CEO of the Chamber accepted the award, which will be housed at the Chamber on behalf of the community.

Toys for Tots applications available

Applications for the 2021 Steele County Toys for Tots are available for download on the Toys for Tots website and at various Steele County locations.

Applications for the Steele County Toys for Tots Program are available at the following locations:

- Minnesota Prairie County Alliance, 630 Florence Ave., Owatonna;
- Community Pathways of Steele County, 155 Oakdale St., Owatonna;
- Owatonna Public Library – Children’s area, 105 N Elm Ave., Owatonna;
- Salvation Army, 1810 Cedar Ave. S., Owatonna;
- Steele County Public Health, 635 Florence Ave., Owatonna;
- Lerberg Foods, 120 5th Ave., Ellendale;
- Ellendale Food Shelf, 200 Sixth St., Ellendale;
- First National Bank, 9087 SW 37th Ave., Hope;
- State Bank of Red Wing – Medford, 115 1st St. NE., Medford; and
- Blooming Prairie Library – 138 Hwy Ave S, Blooming Prairie.

Applicants must fill the applications out and mail back no later than December 1.

Completed applications may be returned to Minnesota Prairie County Alliance or Community Pathways of Steele County or mailed to: Steele County Toys for Tots/Family To Family P.O. Box 199, Owatonna, MN 55060

For more information about Steele County Toys for Tots visit their website <http://owatonna-mn.toysfortots.org>. For updates, go to the Steele County Toys for Tots Facebook page.

County Ag Society meeting set

The Annual Meeting of the Steele County Agricultural Society will be held at the Community Center on the fairgrounds, Owatonna at 7 p.m. to elect directors.

The meeting will include reorganizing, giving of annual reports, and long range plans.

LTO to perform ‘All Together Now!’

Little Theatre of Owatonna announced that they will be joining thousands of theatrical organizations around the globe by producing their own local production of Music Theatre International’s All Together Now! A Global Event Celebrating Local Theatre.

Theatrical licensor

Music Theatre International (MTI) created this revue for theatres across the globe to use as a local fundraising event performed over the same weekend of Nov. 12. Currently over 5,300 performances are scheduled to take place!

Little Theatre of Owatonna’s performances are scheduled for Friday Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 14 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna. All proceeds will benefit the Raise the Curtain Campaign geared towards essential safety updates to the lighting and rigging systems.

All Together Now! features songs from


MTT’s beloved catalogue of musicals including Rent, Into the Woods, Disney’s Beauty and the Beast, Fiddler on the Roof, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Annie, and many more!

Tickets can be purchased for \$20 on our website: <https://littletheatreofowatonna.org/buy-tickets/>


Sudoku Corner

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

Sponsored by:

**VALLEYVIEW ASSISTED LIVING**

1212 W Frontage Rd Owatonna, MN
507-451-0722 • valleyviewofowatonna.com



Make new friends.

Newly Remodeled

County Assistance Accepted

Pet Friendly

LTO auditions begin Sunday

Little Theatre of Owatonna (LTO) has announced auditions for its 2021 Holiday production of *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some)* by Michael Carleton, James FitzGerald, and John K. Alvarez

The auditions will take place on Sunday, October 17 and Monday, October 18 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. at the Sharon Stark Auditorium at West Hills. Please see our website at: <https://littletheatreofowatonna.org/upcoming-auditions/> for more information.

Zackery Knapton is the director and Kristi Westergaard the technical director.

Instead of performing Charles Dickens’ beloved holiday classic for the umpteenth time, three actors decide to perform every Christmas story ever told – plus Christmas traditions from around the world, seasonal icons from ancient times to topical pop-culture, and every carol ever sung. A madcap romp through the holiday season!

LTO is looking to cast: Three (3) males.

John – The Comical One. John is the definition of a kid on Christmas morning. He just wants to have fun, tell all the B.H.C.’s of his childhood, and avoid “A Christmas Carol” at all costs.

Jim – The Straight Shooter. He wants to perform “A Christmas Carol” more than anything else in order to keep tradition alive. Jim does all he can to keep the other two from going completely off the rails. Also, he doesn’t believe in Santa.

Michael – The Father Figure. Michael is like the dad of the other two. He has a ton of Christmas knowledge and just wants to see the other two having a good time. Michael humors John with all of his antics (sometimes at Jim’s expense) and feels like the moral center of the three.

Audition packets are now available at the Owatonna Public Library and online at: <http://littletheatreofowatonna.org/upcoming-auditions/>

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 3, 4, 10, 11 with matinee performances at 2 p.m. Dec. 5 and 12.



Farm connections
Thursday Evenings, 7:30



Dan Hoffman, Executive Director



KSMQ TV
The Better Choice Public Television


Southeastern MN / Northeastern IA

J & H LIQUORS

340 E Main Blooming Prairie

Phone: 507-583-7557

- **BAR BINGO:** MONDAY @ 6:30 PM (MUST BE 21 TO PLAY)
- **WINE CLUB:** SCHEDULE AVAILABLE AT J & H
- **HOLIDAY DAZZLE WINE TASTING**
THUR. NOV. 4th. 6:30-9 PM
HELD AT THE SERVICEMEN’S CLUB
TICKETS: \$15.00 ADVANCE / \$20.00 DOOR
AVAILABLE AT J & H AND THE CHAMBER OFFICE.
(PURCHASE TICKET BY OCT. 16th. NAME ENTERED INTO A DRAWING)
- THE 22ND ANNUAL B.O.B. RIDE DONATED \$18,335.00 TO THE STEELE COUNTY TOYS FOR TOTS ORGANIZATION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS.



BAR & OFF-SALE HOURS

Monday-Wednesday-Friday: 11:30 AM – Close
Tuesday-Thursday: 10:00 AM – Close
Saturday: 9:00 AM – Close
Sunday: CLOSED
Bar Closes at 1:00 am Off-Sale Closes at 10 pm

Romantica Concert Saturday

The Steele County Historical Society, (SCHS), announces the return of Romantica for a concert on Oct. 16 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. The concert will take place at the Steele County History Center, 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna. Tickets for this concert are available now at the Steele County History Center and Kottke Jewelers. Cost of the tickets is \$20 for members and \$25 non-members.

Romantica is led by Ben Kyle, a Belfast born singer/songwriter from the Twin Cities area blends folk, rock, and Americana style of music into a rich unique sound. Romantica has performed at the Steele County History Center previously and is back by popular demand. Doors to the Steele County History Center will open to the public at 6:30 PM. Assorted wine and beer will be available to purchase before and during the concert.

This concert is sponsored by North Risk Partners.

BLOTTER
SPOTLIGHT

Arrest: Police responded to an open door in the 100 block of Broadway St. W. at 12:13 a.m. on Sept. 30. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Man faces multiple felonies for burglary, assault

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

An Owatonna man will make his initial court appearance next week after police say he burglarized an apartment and stole surveillance cameras, lights and a sledgehammer.

Troy Jonathon Gunderson, 42, has been charged in that incident with felony counts of first-degree burglary and possession of burglary tools, as well as misdemeanor theft.

In addition, he'll appear on charges of felony domestic assault for an August incident where he allegedly choked a woman and slashed her car tires before grabbing her phone and running away with it.

The woman in the August incident was reportedly driving Gunderson away from the scene of the burglary – in the car he's accused of damaging.

The latest charges stem from Oct. 6, when Owatonna police were sent to Pine Avenue for a report of a burglary in progress.

Officers met with

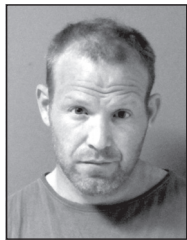
two people who said they were sleeping when they heard someone opening a window near the fire escape. They yelled at the person to leave, pulled the fire alarm in an attempt to scare him, then ran out the front door when the person continued to make entry.

Once outside, the two noticed a red car pulling away, and said Gunderson, a former neighbor, had a friend who drove a similar car.

Gunderson had been evicted a month earlier, but had been accusing the victim of taking some of his belongings.

Officers discovered a window to the apartment propped open with a metal bar; a pry bar was on the fire escape landing and a hammer was on the window sill.

According to the criminal complaint, the victim said Gunderson had threatened to come back and take all of the man's cameras and lights, because the man



Troy Gunderson

wouldn't return his calls.

Those items were missing from the outside of the building when police arrived.

Video captured before the cameras were removed showed a man wearing a gray sweatshirt, jeans and Adidas shoes walking around the building.

Another officer spotted the suspect vehicle a couple of blocks away; when he stopped the car, Gunderson allegedly admitted being at the residence and trying to open the apartment window, but said he didn't break anything.

Gunderson's clothing reportedly matched what the man on the video was wearing, and an officer could see cameras, lights and a two-pound sledgehammer on the back floorboard of the car.

The alleged victim identified the sledgehammer as his, and said Gunderson "must have been inside the apartment."

Gunderson was with a woman who called police on Aug. 26, but the call was cut off. On call-back, a man answered the phone and said "everything is OK," but wouldn't answer any more questions.

According to that complaint, a woman at the scene told responding officers that Gunderson, who had left, "slashed her tires with a knife, assaulted her and took her cell phone when she was calling 911."

The alleged victim said Gunderson opened her car door, reached inside, grabbed her by the throat and squeezed. She claimed he stole her phone because there "were recordings on it he did not want to get out," but declined to elaborate about the content.

A review of Gunderson's criminal history shows a stalking charge and two restraining order violations in December 2018 and a restraining order violation in September 2019.

He remains in custody in lieu of \$10,000 conditional bond.

CRIME BRIEF

Competency exam ordered for man accused of arson

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

An Owatonna man accused of setting a car on fire – which then spread to the side of a home – remains in custody, held without bond.

Beau Patrick Wanner, 34, was charged with felony counts of first- and third-degree arson after the Oct. 2 incident.

Steele County District Court Judge Karen Duncan ordered an evaluation for competency to proceed in criminal court; the ruling on Wanner will be returned within 60 days.

The case began about 1:30 a.m. on Oct. 2, when a caller reported someone might be trying to break into their house.

The caller's surveillance system showed a man walking around their property; when the caller went outside to confront the man – later identified as Wanner – he allegedly lit a car parked in the driveway on fire, then ran off. The flames then spread to the caller's house.

The fires were put out by the Owatonna Fire Department.

According to the complaint, when officers viewed the camera footage, they saw Wanner pouring gas on the car, trash cans and house, while smoking a cigar.

A search warrant was drafted after an officer recognized Wanner, who asked for a cigar to smoke as he was being arrested on Oct. 4.



Beau Wanner

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Sept. 27 – Oct. 3:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jo Ann M. Erickson, 53, Austin, hands free violation, \$125; Cole E. Kjarland, 20, Minneapolis, speeding and registration violation, \$245; Brandon T. Wacek, 33, Blooming Prairie, public nuisance, \$175.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Lisa A. Blunk, 41, Maxwell, IA, speeding, \$115; Cody L. Brady, 19, Sparta, TN, speeding and no insurance, \$335; Allen I. Esquivel, 21, Owatonna, speeding, \$375; Dylan

R. Jarvis, 19, Kenyon, seat belt, \$100; Allen R. Kabindi, 52, Shakopee, speeding, suspended license and failure to yield, \$435; Anna M. Keady, 21, St. Louis, MO, seat belt, \$100; Emmanuel R. Keady, 21, St. Louis, MO, seat belt, \$100; Joseph V. Keady, 57, St. Louis, MO, speeding, \$215; Macy J. Koester, 20, Red Wing, speeding, \$115; Madison C. Lange, 19, Brook Park, speeding, \$135; Jie Lin, 19, Monterey Park, CA, speeding, \$135; Candy F. Martin, 45, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Alan P. Moriarity, 42, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Jabir H. Noor, 21, Faribault, speeding, \$215; Harley D. Olson, 62, New Richland, seat belt, \$100; Marc R. Paradise, 52, White Bear Lake, speeding, \$125; Keith L. Richardson, 39, Dodge Center, speeding, \$215; Lydia M.

Ruppert, 22, Minneapolis, speeding, \$115; Benjamin D. Schepers, 25, Minneapolis, speeding, \$135; Kiana N. Stewart, 34, Anoka, no license and no insurance, \$375; Dalten W. Wincell, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Teresa F. Zakrzewski, 68, Maplewood, speeding, \$125.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jayson J. Bailey, 24, St. Paul, permit violation, no insurance and suspended registration, \$625; Jose L. Cintron, 41, Owatonna, invalid license and no insurance, \$375; Holly K. Degen, 43, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Monday O. Emuariah, 54, Brooklyn Center, restricted license violation, \$125; Eric A. Esquivel, 24, Owatonna, license plates violation, \$105; Payden

R. Foster Erickson, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Jhovani Garcia Pina, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Geovanna G. Gonzalez Portillo, 20, Austin, speeding, \$115; Joel C. Holst, 31, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Jorge L. Lopez, 52, dangerous dogs-removal of microchip, \$125, 1 day in county jail and 1 month of unsupervised probation; Travis G. Mitchell, 26, Fairmont, theft, \$75, 11 days in county jail; Luis A. Rebolloado Avila, 25, Oakdale, suspended license, \$275; Yulissa S. Rocha, 24, Faribault, revoked license and possession of marijuana, \$425; Seyd W. Straube, 19, Waseca, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Josh D. Watkins, 35, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Brian T. Woods, 44, Rochester, invalid license and no

insurance, \$375; Rocio A. Zuniga-Arambula, 32, Plainview, DWI, \$400, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ahmed A. Abikar, 35, Louisville, KY, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Malichi A. Carlson, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Kael D. Glenn, 19, Fredericksburg, IA, speeding, \$135; Cole J. Graham, 19, Chanhassen, speeding, \$115; Mathias J. Heinrichs, 26, Medford, speeding, \$115; Hunter S. Janovsky, 17, Faribault, speeding, \$115; Ronal G. Leon Ramirez, 28, St. Paul, speeding and invalid license, \$235; Devan C. McIntyre, 24, Roseville, speeding, \$275; Brianna M. Stinnett, 28,

New Richland, permit violation, speeding and suspended license, \$465; Lyncin S. Torres, 21, Waseca, speeding, \$275; Theresa E. Webinger, 49, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Ross N. Wirt, 26, Willmar, speeding, \$135.

ARRESTS
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Trace Michael Stanley, 24, arrested at 1:18 p.m. Oct. 1., felony financial credit card fraud, held for court.

Carlos Pineda, 25, arrested at 7:22 p.m. Oct. 2, DWI-test refusal, no license and failure to maintain lane, held for court.

Rebecca Lynn Danner, 25, arrested at 2:34 p.m. Oct. 4, warrant arrest, \$3,000 bail.

See **BLOTTER** on **A14** ►

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

1. James Lambert – revoked license – no bail

2. Anthony Lapoint – theft – \$10,000 bail

3. Matthew Lewis – DWI – \$12,000 bail

4. Elliot Lightbourne – forgery – \$10,000 bail

5. Jordan Lindeman – financial card fraud – \$1,000 bail

6. Herasmo Lino-Crisanto – false name – no bail

7. Ever Lopez-Verde – DWI – \$12,000 bail

8. Leah Ludwig – theft – \$2,000 bail

9. Gary Luedtke – DWI – no bail

10. Freddy Lwin – DWI – \$5,000 bail

11. Robert Lyons – DWI – no bail

12. Irving Madison – DWI – \$500 bail

13. Caleb Malek – drugs – no bail

14. David Martinez – DWI – \$500 bail

15. Felipe Martinez – DWI – no bail

16. Jabier Martinez – DWI – \$12,000 bail

17. Noah Martinez – assault – \$1,000 bail

18. Victor Martinez – obstruct legal process – \$12,000 bail

19. Jessica Martir Velazquez – theft – \$500 bail

20. Shemika Mason – give false name – \$3,000 bail

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

SUBSCRIBING
MADE EASY!

4 convenient ways to subscribe:

► On-line at SteeleCountyTimes.com (hit "subscribe" tab at the very top right side of the page)

► Call 507-583-4431

► Email bptimes@frontiernet.net

► In-person at **Blooming Prairie office**

ESTATE SALE - LOG HOMES
PAY THE BALANCE OWED ONLY!!!

AMERICAN LOG HOMES
IS ASSISTING **JUST RELEASED**
ESTATE & ACCOUNT
SETTLEMENT ON HOUSES.

4 Log Home Kits Selling for **BALANCED OWED, FREE DELIVERY**

1. Model #103 Waco \$22,780 BALANCE OWED \$14,500

2. Model #302 Dakota \$49,950 BALANCE OWED \$24,500

3. Model #303 Little Rock \$38,525 BALANCE OWED \$16,000

4. Model #403 Augusta \$42,450 BALANCE OWED \$16,500

Before Calling View House Plans at www.americanloghomesandcabins.com

NEW - HOMES HAVE NOT BEEN MANUFACTURED

• NO TIME LIMIT ON DELIVERY

• Comes with Complete Building Blueprints & Construction Manual

• Make any plans designs you desire

• Windows, Doors & Roofing not included

Serious Only Reply Call (704) 368-4528 Ask for Acct Dept.

800 441-BATING

LIFE LINE SCREENING®
The Power of Prevention

Are you at risk for stroke or cardiovascular disease?

Screenings are easy, painless and non-invasive.

Call Life Line Screening at 877-881-3319

Special Offer for Readers
5 screening package for \$149

FEDERATED INSURANCE
It's Our Business to Protect Yours

Visit federatedinsurance.com for COVID-19 resources.

How to find a better prescription drug plan

Dear Savvy Senior,
Is it important to compare Medicare Part D prescription drug plans every year? My pharmacist highly recommends it, but it's such a hassle sorting through all those different plans. Is there an easier way to shop and compare Medicare drug plans?

Lazy Beneficiary

Dear Beneficiary,
Because Medicare's prescription drug plans can change their costs and benefits from year-to-year, comparing Part D plans every year during the open enrollment season (which is Oct. 15 – Dec. 7) is always a smart idea.

Even if you're happy with your current coverage, there may be other plans out there that you're not aware of that offer better coverage at a lower cost. You never know until you look. Here are some tips to help you shop and compare Medicare drug plans.

Medicare Online

If you have internet access and are comfortable using a computer, you can easily shop for and compare all Medicare drug plans in your area and enroll in a new plan online if you choose, and it only takes a few minutes.

Just go to Medicare's Plan Finder Tool at [Medicare.gov/find-a-plan](https://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan),



THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by:

Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus

220 3rd St. NW,
Blooming Prairie
583-4434

and choose the type of coverage you're looking for, enter your ZIP code, financial assistance (if you receive any), select the drugs you take and their dosages, and choose the pharmacies you use. The plan finder does the math to identify the plan in your area that covers your drugs at the lowest cost.

This tool also provides a five-star rating system that evaluates each plan based on past customer service records and suggests generics or older brand name drugs that can reduce your costs.

When you're comparing drug plans, look at the estimated drug costs plus premium costs that shows how much you can expect to pay over a year in total out-of-pocket costs.

Also, be sure the plan you're considering covers all of the drugs you take with no restrictions. Most drug plans today place the drugs they cover into price tiers. A drug placed in a higher tier may require you to get prior authorization or try another

medication first before you can use it.

Any changes to coverage you make will take effect Jan. 1, 2022. If you take no action during open enrollment, your current coverage will continue next year.

Need Some Help?

If you need some help choosing a new plan, you can call Medicare at 800-633-4227 and they can help you out over the phone. Or contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which provides free Medicare counseling. They also conduct seminars during the open enrollment period at various locations throughout each state. To find a local SHIP counselor see [ShiptaCenter.org](https://www.shiptacenter.org) or call 877-839-2675.

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.

Tax relief may be key in referendum vote

◀ **TAX** from A1
of the school board and administration for any other questions and concerns.

The main issue is space – or the lack thereof. The plan calls for moving the fifth- and sixth-graders to the high school building, freeing up the space they currently occupy in the elementary building.

The space will be used to provide more room for special education classes, move band lessons out of storage closets and move art classes out of the cafeteria. Kindergarten classrooms will be retrofitted with bathrooms, and improvements will be made to the indoor air quality systems in the gym and cafeteria. The parking lot and roof would be repaired, as well.

At the high school building, new classrooms are proposed for the northwest end of the school; art and music spaces would be added; industrial tech upgrades would be made; the Commons are expanded; and a performing arts center would be built.

Also, part of Question 1: new baseball and softball fields, work on parking lots, and converting the high school stage area to a cardio area.

The projects carry a \$27.6 million price tag; Question 2 asks for \$6.4 million for "the acquisition and betterment

of school sites and facilities," including a new high school gym.

A look at the district's enrollment numbers in just the last year indicate why space is at a premium: The 2020-21 school year began with 386 elementary school students; this school year began with 470 students, plus about 80 children in pre-kindergarten.

Bond questions also mean questions about tax impacts to district residents.

"I never say, 'taxes only go up this much,'" said Superintendent Chris Staloch. "It isn't 'only' when it comes to taxes."

Traditionally, ag land owners took the biggest hit when it came to tax increases to pay for bond referendums, because they're often the people who own the most land in rural districts.

"Before, about 65% of our tax base was ag land," Staloch said. "Now, it's about 25%."

That's thanks to the Ag2School Tax Credit, which was signed into Minnesota law in 2017.

The law initially provided a credit of 40% on property taxes for agricultural property for existing or future school district building debt. It was updated during the 2019 legislative session, providing even greater benefit.

The ag credit for taxes payable in 2021 is 55%; it increases to

60% in 2022, and to 70% in 2023 and beyond.

In short: Ag landowners will pay less taxes in 2023 than they did in 2017.

"It's definitely a different landscape for ag owners than it was before," said Staloch.

Residential homeowners are also eligible for an annual tax refund: Homeowners with an income under \$116,180 are eligible for a property tax refund of up to \$2,840.

Renters, too, can receive a refund.

A special residential property tax refund is also available, if the net property tax has increases by more than 12%, and is at least \$100.

If the referendum in Blooming Prairie passes, a home valued at \$150,000 would pay an additional \$185 per year in taxes.

But with the regular property tax refund of \$123, the net impact drops to an additional \$62 per year.

Still, Staloch said he recognizes any increase has an effect on families.

"I don't live in their shoes," he said. "I'm just trying to do what's best for our kids now and in the future."

Another informational meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday in the BPHS Commons.

Election Day is Nov. 2, with polls open from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Blooming Prairie City Council Chambers.

History from the News Archives

A new King and Queen in BP



FILE PHOTO

Highlighting the Homecoming Coronation ceremony in October 1981 at Blooming Prairie High School was the crowning of Gina Reese and Tom Winzenburg as King and Queen. Gina is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Reese and Tom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Winzenburg.

10 Years Ago

Oct. 11, 2011

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Blooming Prairie athletes of the week are: Lindsey Prior, filling in as P libero and was the leading point server in the L-O Invitational; Michael Tomas, caught a touchdown pass and was second leading tackler in the Crusader game.

Student leaders from area high schools are joining forces to tackle alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention. Representatives from Bloom-

ing Prairie, Owatonna, Medford and Faribault for an all-day retreat. Their mission is to help snuff out underage use of these products. The Steele County Safe and Drug Free Coalition and MADD sponsored the event.

20 Years

Oct. 16, 2001

ELSIE SLINGER, EDITOR

Having a fun visit to the Fire Hall on Oct. 11 during Fire Prevention Week was Mrs. Clausen's KA-2 kinder-

garten class. The following children were shown around the fire hall by firefighters, Nick Schiefert and Jim Wobschall – Megan O'Connor, Dallas Anderson, Morgan Hagen, Sara Noble, Sydney Basness, Mellissa Machin, Ashley Krohnberg, Hunter Rudlong, Phillip Ramsey, Ryan Doerhoefer, Brett Wacek, Matthew Worke, Collin Yankoviak and Victor Peterson.

Blooming Prairie Elementary students, teachers and staff surrounded the flagpole outside the school on Friday morning to say the Pledge of Allegiance in honor of the war on terror and those who died on 9/11. A double bonus came as the children sang "My Country Tis of Thee" after saying the Pledge.

50 Years Ago

Oct. 13, 1971

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Letters of Commendation honoring them for their high performance on the 1971 National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test have been awarded to three students at Blooming Prairie High School. The students are: Vicky Frey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Frey; Ronald Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Johnson; and Richard Kubista, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kubista. They are among 35000 students who scored in the upper 2 percent.

All 18-year-olds in Minnesota who are otherwise qualified may vote in town elections. on Nov. 2nd. This will be the first major election date since the national voting age was reduced to 18.

75 Years Ago

Oct. 14, 1946

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Dr. H J Kurtin has tendered his resignation by letter to the Board of Education. Dr. Kurtin feels that he

can not devote enough of his time to the school's interest and also look after his large medical practice.

Albert Bray, 78, well-known prominent farmer was severely injured last Friday afternoon at his farm. While attempting to fasten a rope to a tree trunk, the top round gave way and he plunged to the ground. He received two crushed vertebrae and three broken ribs.

OWATONNA PHOTO NEWS

31 Years Ago

Oct. 18, 1990

TOM SHEA, PUBLISHER

The Owatonna area has received two new faces in the community, Roger Weber and Terry Carlyle, will be helping as athletic trainers for the Owatonna High School. They will replace Paul Kapla. A cooperative effort between Health One Hospital and the School District began this contract four years ago. Roger works as Restorative Services Manager for departments including occupational and physical therapy and sports medicine. Weber recently was the co-director of Health Reach in Albert Lea, along with regular physical therapy, he was also trainer for in-town hockey tournaments.

Kristen Numedahl, director of Crossroads of Owatonna, spoke to a group of adolescents at St. Mary's School on Tuesday. After more than a year of planning, Crossroads the new youth crisis shelter designed for youths ages 10-17 opened its doors three weeks ago. The shelter is a temporary place for youth who need a safe place to go during personal or family problems. They can come on their own or be referred by social services, schools, law enforcement or the courts. It has already provided shelter for 10 kids from four counties, most being for one night.

Upgrade Your Home with a

NEW METAL ROOF

Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!

Call today to schedule your
FREE ESTIMATE
1-877-386-1058

60% off
YOUR INSTALLATION
+
TAKE AN ADDITIONAL
10% off

Install for Military, Health Workers and First Responders

ERIE
Metal Roofs

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of ERIE Construction Ltd. and is not a contract. Please read the full terms and conditions on the back of this offer. Offer expires December 31st, 2021. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone. All other messages, emails, and electronic messages are sent to you via email and are subject to our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on www.erieconstruction.com. All rights reserved.

BOGO

40% OFF

ENDS 12/31

Call for details



RENEWAL
by **ANDERSEN**

FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

THE FULL-SERVICE
REPLACEMENT DIVISION OF **ANDERSEN**
CORPORATION

833-314-1217

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.

If interested, please email
Rick Bussler at rbprick@frontier.com.



DURING NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, IT'S AN IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR EVERYONE THAT SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES!

- Make sure you have working alarms
- Check smoke alarm batteries monthly
- Replace alarms every 10 years



PLEASE CHECK YOUR FIRE ALARM!





Kappys
OWATONNA'S COLLISION SPECIALIST

STAY HAPPY! SEE KAPPY!

kappysauto.com

kappysauto@gmail.com

Charlie & Al Kaplan

507-451-8989



Worlein
FUNERAL HOME

Thank You for your dedicated service to our community!



418 Hwy. Ave S., Blooming Prairie

507-583-7561

www.worlein.com

KINDERGARTENERS FROM BLOOMING PRAIRIE are finding out that fire prevention can never start too young. The classes made their annual trip to the Blooming Prairie Fire Department in preparation for National Fire Prevention Week to learn about fire safety. They include: front row, from left: Aubrey Rodriguez, Frankie Penkava, Malaya Miller, Brooklyn Peterson, Pearl Vesely, Tyler Kelly, Tosca Beckstead and Salem Cremeans; middle row: Luke Holland, Delaney Mueller, Walter Olsen, Jacob Deml, Hayden Olsen, Raegan Nelson, Madeline Sorensen (partially covered), Liliahna Rosendahl, Henry Hendrickson, Nezmay Wilson-Cordes, Hailey Harvey, Sydney Anderson, Leah DeKok and Camille Haroldson; back row: Henry Sundine, Evey Veldman, Andrew Dornquast, Rayne Slowinski, Gracie Rouse, Stiles Tovar, Haven Matyas, Reed Olson, Macey Pyburn, Bailey Hering, Harrison Hemingway, Sailor Lea, Gavin Masching, Cooper Gross, Emily Smith and Autumn Wasson. The teachers are Lisa Bruns (far left) and Leah Haugland.



CASH WISE
Employee Owned
www.cashwise.com

Welcome to fresh...

Fresh Produce • Deli • Meat & Seafood • Bakery • Dairy
Pharmacy • Floral • Liquor • Friendly Staff

496 W N Street, Owatonna MN 55060 | 507-451-7220 | Online at cashwise.com

Thank You Firemen!




583-2296
Blooming Prairie

Thank you Firefighters!


Sweet
TOWING & REPAIR



507-451-3424
24 Hour Complete Towing Service
215 Cedar Dale Dr SE
Owatonna



A SPECIAL THANKS FROM 4-H



Steele County 4-H would like to extend its deepest appreciation to area businesses, individuals and organizations for their amazing support during the 4-H Market Sale at the Steele County Free Fair. Through your generosity, more than \$110,000 was raised for the youth in our 4-H program. We couldn't do it without your continued support!

AWARD SPONSORS

ABS Global - Casey Nelson Advantage Cabinets, Inc. Ag Partners Coop Ahrens Family Boar Goats Alan and Judy Schaefer Alexander Lumber Allen and Jane Nelson Arett Family Livestock Balanced Healthcare Barb Erler Becky Noble Berkshire Hathaway Advantage Real Estate, Gail Buckingham & Diane Holland Berneice Schroht Family Better Life / WFLA Lodge #127 Bill & Lori Stenzel Bill & Vicki Arthur Family Bixby Feed Mill Blooming Prairie Bus Company Boer Goat Central - Zach Finholdt Bosch Automotive Brad & Lorrie Rugg Brent & Roxanne Underwood Brian & Lisa Ahrens Family Brian & Michele Rysavy Brian & Michelle Syndt Family Bruce & Rose Ann Kubicek Bryon & Carla Brady C.S.A. Lodge MN #210 Calverley Family Central Farm Service Christine & Jim Behne CliftonLarsonAllen Clover Glen Farms Compeer Financial, Jared Franke & Shawn Lewis Craig Hansen & Family Curly Girlz Candy Curtis & Bernie Jensen Curt's Tracy & Diesel Dagry Tools Dahlin Family Dairyland Seeds Dan & Kathy Hansen & Family Dan & Vickie Deml Dave & Becky Hoffman Family Dave & Sue Wavrin David & Cynthia Johnson Family Dennis & Lyanne Hermel Dietz Construction Don Loken Drainage Don Schroht Family	Dr. Brian & Kari Bunkers Edward Jones - Jeff Hall Eric and Trish Melby & Family Exchange Club of Steele County Express Pressure Washers, Inc. Fareway Meat & Grocery Farm Front Futures, LLC Farmers Feed & Pet Supply Federated Insurance First National Bank of Ellen- dale, Hope & Waseca Four Seasons Electric Friend of FFA Gene Fisher Family Gillis Ag LLC Godfather's Pizza - Owatonna Gold Star Amusements Greg and Cathy Nelson Guthrie and Larson Families Happy Hustlers 4-H Club Heartland Animal Hospital Heinz Insurance Holland Family Dental, Dr. Tim Holland Home Federal Saving Bank Hometown Credit Union Howard & MaryJo Schoenfeld Howard and Kay Anderson Hugo Matejcek VFW Auxiliary 3723 Hy-Vee - Owatonna IBA Dairy Supplies Izaak Walton League Owatonna Chapter Izaak Walton League Owatonna Chapter J & J Cabinet Works J & S Farms, Ellendale, MN Jayme and Hilary Under- wood & Family Jenna Hansen & Family Jensen Stump Grinding Jensen Tree Moving Jerry Katzung Family Jim & Sherry Harbal Jim Andrews Family Joan Robbins Joe & Ev Stransky Joan & David Richards Judi Thiesse K & J Construction Kathy Moving & Transfer Kathy Zeman Kecks Kwik Lube, Inc Keck's Repair Ken & Lyn Finholdt	Kerncrest Holsteins KFS of Hope Kid's Korner Educare Centers Klecker Farms Kleckers Kreations Koch Family Kraig Thoreson - Cedar Pines Poultry Lemond Snappy Boosters 4-H Club Let's Ride Boots & Apparel Linda & Bob Noble Lisa Demmer, DVM Lisa Voss Lorraine Jirele M & P Hay Company Mark & Carol Rykpa Mark and Gail Zollner Marv & Alice Bronner Marvin Purrier Concrete Mary Larson Medford Bus Company Medford Go Getters 4-H Club Megan & Spencer Copeland Merry Lane 4-H Club Mike & Cheryl Paulson Mike's Repair Morning Glory Hill Riding School Mulert's Southside Simmentals Nash Farms Nelson Klub Lambs New York Life Insurance - Susan Zweiner Nick & Deb McGregor Northland Farm Systems -Owatonna Ole & Lena's Ostrander Family Owatonna Arts Center Owatonna Bus Company Owatonna Motor Company - Ford Owatonna Mutual Fire Insurance Owatonna RC Modelers Paul & Jean Gillis Paul & Cindy Hokanson Family Phyllis Urch Pichner Family Farms	Prairie Ridge Orthodontics Quiggle Quality Remod- eling R & K Electric Rian & Jennifer Copeland Richard Steinberg Family Rick Demmer Ringhofer Insurance Rod, Norma & Michelle Hoffmaster Ron & Tammy Schroht Schuette Enterprises, LLC SEMONS Southeastern MN Oral Surgery Sheriff's Mounted Posse Square One Contracting & Repair Steele County ADA Steele County Farm Bureau Steele County Free Fair Steele County Master Gardeners Steele County Pork Producers Steele County Fair Vendors Stephen Krumm, DVM Steve & Marisa Schroht Family Straight River Stars 4-H Club Stransky Farms Studio 122 Superior Foods & Catering Tim & Deb Arlt Tim Van Gelder Family Tim's Auto Service TLC PETS Tone Music Tracy & Joleen Mollenhauer Tralo Companies Tri-M Graphics Triple J Farms - David Janke Family Turnlund Family United Prairie Bank Vern Wilker VFW Post #3723, Owatonna, MN Whispering Creek Farm, Brenda Mandersfeld Wilbur-Ellis Wolff & Sons Wottreng Family Dental
--	--	--	---

Sucking the life out of rural Minnesota

◀ **SUCKING** from A2 by targeting operational “inefficiencies.” With employees being the biggest cost of operations, they are the victims of those inefficiencies.

Since the directive, there is one editor for all three newspapers. Previously, there had been one editor in each community. Anfinson argues there isn't enough staff to do the primary function of a community newspaper as a watchdog of local government.

“How does a representative democracy function when its citizens are ignorant of the actions of their governments?” Anfinson asks.

One person suggested to Anfinson that the city of Granite Falls hire someone to get the news out about important issues. But, as Anfinson asserted, the idea of government being the source of news for citizens is not a good one. He makes a valid argument: “While we can't afford to support our independent community newspapers, we spend public dollars hiring government officials to write the news?”

He implies if that happens, we will be left with rumors, lies, opinions and lightweight stuff of Facebook for our news.

Corporate ownership of newspapers isn't foreign to southern Minnesota either. However, this newspaper is not part of a corporate chain.

I hope our readers understand how lucky they are to have an independently owned newspaper with the Steele County Times. We are focused on all communities in our coverage area and do our best to cover the actions of the local governments throughout the county.

Our readers tell us that good local journalism by a dedicated staff of journalists is important to them. That's why we focus on bringing the local news every week. I plan never to stray away from being hyper-local.

I am committed to going in hot pursuit of remaining true to our communities and not sucking the life out of rural Minnesota.

Lien awarded top orthodontic honor

◀ **LIEN** from A3 nesota, Lien said she witnessed the need for improving healthcare in rural communities. “My passion is to help patients in outstate and rural Minnesota attain the best possible healthcare and for them to achieve total, whole-body health,” she said.

“Although my parents thought 11 years of post-high school orthodontic education was lunacy, they came around to my way of thinking after seeing the positive impact and self-esteem boost that I provided to many family members and patients I cared for,” Lien said.

Lien said her volunteer efforts are very broad and extremely extensive. “When you get me to volunteer, you'll get someone who will contribute for years to come,” she said.

She has served on several committees and as an officer with the Minnesota Association of Orthodontists and the American Association of Orthodontists.

Currently, Lien serves on the AAO Political Action Committee and has been involved in fundraising for members of Congress.

“My passion is to help patients in rural Minnesota attain the best possible healthcare and for them to achieve total, whole-body health.”

Dr. Deborah Lien
Orthodontic Service Award Winner

Lien has worked extensively for legislative change at the regional, state and federal levels. Some of her projects have been advocating to assure children have preventative medical and dental care, lobbying to reduce student loan debt and allow graduate students to defer their loan interest payment. She has also been a proponent for raising the cap on flexible spending accounts and improving employee benefits for health savings accounts.

“Advancing bills in Congress to assist patients, staff and fellow orthodontists has been a lifelong mission for me,” Lien said.

Lien, however, isn't only about orthodontics. She has also been involved in the dental world in Minnesota. She has served through all chairs, culminating as president of the Zumbro Valley Dental Society as well as serving the Southeastern District Dental Society and the Minnesota Dental Association.

She has been involved in an eclectic array of community organizations from figure skating, youth and high school hockey, Zumbro Lutheran Church and Good Earth Bible Camp. She has been a donor to the Blooming Prairie Boys and Girls Club and Blooming Prairie Education Foundation.

Lien has served as a VFW Honor Flight guardian on multiple trips to Washington, D.C., allowing veterans to stand witness to the memorials and dedications made in their honor.

She and her husband, Dale Norell, have two adult children and two grandchildren. Her daughter, Dr. Ana Norell, is a family physician.

OCTOBER BLOSSOMS OF THE MONTH Blooming Prairie High School



Cobey Sandte, Junior

The senior high student of the month is Cobey Sandte, who is a junior. His favorite class is forensic science. “I enjoy investigating cases,” he said. “Cobey is always a polite, respectful kid,” said one of his teachers. “He looks out for his peers too.”

Other teachers offered these comments about Cobey:

- “I appreciate how respectful Cobey is, even if he isn't thrilled about the task at hand, he does what is asked and expected. He also tries to be a positive leader among his peers when it comes to classroom etiquette and expectations.”
- “Cobey is very appreciative whenever I help him. He is an old soul, which other students can learn from when dealing with others.”

His special interests are football, wrestling and Army, including exercise, moving and discipline.

Cobey has a sister, Jossie, 15. He also has two dogs, Sampson and



Addison Lyman, Freshman

The junior high student of the month is Addison Lyman, who is in ninth grade. Her favorite class is Spanish I. “The teacher makes it fun and interesting,” she says.

Some comments shared by Addison's teachers include:

- “Addison is always willing to work hard and is eager to learn new things. She is kind, helpful and respectful.”
- “Addison is a hard worker with a positive attitude. She is always willing to participate in class and make sure she is doing her work correctly. She is kind to her classmates and always willing to help them when she can. She is a joy to have in class.”
- “Addison is always on task and is eager to help others.”

Her special interests are softball, dance and long boarding. Addison's siblings are Casey, Corey and Ava. She has a dog, Macey, and a cat, Stella.

The Blossom of the Month is sponsored by this community booster:

Your one-stop shop for Blossom logo wear.

Sportstitch
& More, Inc

623 6th Street SE • Blooming Prairie
507-583-7001 • www.sportstitch.net



STEELE COUNTY 4-H

If you're interested in joining this amazing youth program, contact our office at 507-444-7685.

Huskies Homecoming 2021

PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER AND DEB FLEMMING



Under ideal fall conditions, thousands of people lined the streets of Owatonna Friday afternoon for the annual Homecoming Parade. Members of the high school band kept the beat going during the parade.



With a box of candy zipping past Dylan Meiners' head, this year's Homecoming King and Queen at Owatonna High School toss candy to parade goers. Meiners was the king while Jenna Dallenbach reigned as queen.



It was crowning by light for the king and queen candidates as Jenna Dallenbach's light shines letting everyone know she was queen. At left, Dylan Meiners was all smiles when his light came on letting him know he was the new king.



Macy Manka, 7, and her brother, Max, 4, hold a sign they made letting everyone know their love for the Huskies.



The Link Crew ride on a parade float.



Freshman Cody Shaw shows his true Huskie pride by painting his face and spiking his hair.



Members of the Owatonna Soccer team attempt to pump school spirit into parade goers while (right) a youngster watching the parade gets into it by expressing her love for the Huskies.



Let's push against fear



**Deacon
Kris Oppegard**

TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH
OWATONNA

Two hunters came across a bear so big that they dropped their rifles and ran for cover. One man climbed a tree while the other hid in a

nearby cave. The bear was in no hurry to eat, so he sat down between the trees and the cave to reflect upon his good fortune. Suddenly, and for no apparent reason, the hunter – in the cave – came rushing out, almost running into the waiting bear. The hunter hesitated, and then dashed back in again. The same thing happened a second time. When he emerged for the third time, his companion – in the tree – frantically called out,

“Woody, are you crazy? Stay in the cave till the bear leaves!” “I can’t,” panted Woody, “there’s another bear in there!” Do you ever feel like fear is giving us the run around? Although there are a lot of scary things going on in the world these days and perhaps even in our own personal and professional lives, God wants us to remind us that He has not called us to live in fear. He has called us to stand strong in His confidence, knowing that He is in control!

He’s called us to live lives full of faith, trust, and love!

Psalm 27:1-3, 13-14 reads, “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strong-hold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—my adversaries and foes—they shall stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be

confident. I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Dr. E. Stanley Jones said “I am inwardly fashioned for faith, not for fear. Fear is not my native land; faith is. I am so made that worry and anxiety are sand in the machinery of life; faith is the oil. I live better by faith and confidence than by fear, doubt, and anxiety. In anxiety and

worry, my being is gasping for breath—these are not my native air. But in faith and confidence, I breathe freely—these are my native air.”

Psalm 27 is a cry for help, and ultimately a declaration of belief in the greatness of God and trust in the protection God provides. It is a Psalm that we can take to heart during these uncertain times. Friends, let us push against fear. Let us put our hope in the Lord today and always.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna
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: 9:30 a.m. Sunday

FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC
503 Radel Ct. – Ellendale
Pastor Kyle Smith
507-684-2451
Worship: Sunday 9 a.m.
Sunday School and Adult Bible Study: Sunday 10:15 a.m.

Call to Prayer: Monday 7 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: Wednesday 9:30 a.m.
Confirmation: Wednesday 6-7 p.m.
Youth Group: Wednesday 7-9 p.m.
Men's Bible Study: Saturday 8 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA
434 First St. SW., BP
Senior Pastor: Rev. Heidi Heimgartner
Associate Pastor: Rev. Mike Walerius
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 – LCMC
2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna
Pastor Greg Schlicker
507-451-4125
goodshepherdowatonna.com
Hymn Service: 8:30 a.m. Sunday
Praise Service, Sunday School & Bible Class: 10 a.m. Sunday

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 – LCMC

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.rogolutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMC
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 – LCMC
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 – LCMC
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 Floy
Deacon: Kris Oppegard
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 owatonnalive.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 – LCMC
108 Third Ave. SW., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
507-451-0447
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday & 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMC
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
Visitation Pastor: Rev. Ron Huber
Summer Worship: 9:15 a.m.
507-451-4853
oursaviorsowatonna.com

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
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
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
507-583-2784
www.stcolumbanuschurch.com
Mass: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Reconciliation: 9 a.m.
First Friday & Saturday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna
Father James 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)
Adoration Chapel available Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Key fob required after hours or weekends

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

PENTECOSTAL
FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL
230 Locust Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
507-363-2240
Worship: 10:30 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)
Pastor Kathy King
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

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.

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 Pettet
507-456-4775
www.destinycc.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
6:30-7:30 p.m. 1st and 3rd Wednesday

ELEVATION NORTH
2002 Austin Road, Owatonna
Pastor Doug Jones
507-363-3099
www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com

Worship (English): 10 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Worship (Spanish): 2 p.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Spanish Evangelism & Prayer: 7 p.m. Friday

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

SIMPLY CHURCH
105 2nd St., Geneva
Pastor Todd Lundgren
Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Sunday
6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday

MENNONITE
PRAIRIE MENNONITE
13638 750th St., BP
Bishop Dennis Martin
507-583-7532
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Wed.
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.

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.

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

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST
104 First Ave. NE, BP
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
507-446-5850
cornerstoneowatonna.com
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.

Monuments LEGACY MONUMENT SALES
Leon's Cell 507-456-7864
Lori's Cell 507-456-3735
landlbo@gmail.com
Call for a catalog to view in the comfort of your home. We are here to help you create your monument by email or phone.

LEON & LORI BOHLMAN

LERBERG'S FITNESS CENTER & CAR WASH
118 5th Ave. Ellendale
507-684-2471


Building Healthy Smiles!
132 2nd Ave NE
Blooming Prairie 507-583-6613
FREE CONSULTATION

United Way
GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED.
1850 Austin Rd Ste 103
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-455-1180
www.unitedwaysteelcounty.org
Text UWSC2021 to 202-858-1233

Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner P.A.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
314 E. Main St.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-7528
685 W. Bridge St.
Owatonna
507-451-9136
133 N. Broadway
New Richland
507-465-3810

Vandal's FAMILY MARKET
Locally Owned & Operated
237 Hwy. Ave. S.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-6671

Owatonna GRANITE & MONUMENT
"Creating Your Story in Stone"
1180 Frontage Rd E • Owatonna
507-455-9551
www.owatonnagranite.com

FLOOR TECH
322 East Main St.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2276

FARMERS INSURANCE
Mike Bishman
121 W. Broadway St.
Owatonna
507-451-0193

REALIFE COOPERATIVE
Vibrant Living For Individuals 55 & Older at a Reasonable Price
Call Jon Arnett @
455-3735 for a tour
236 22nd St. SE • Owatonna

VALLEYVIEW OF OWATONNA

Make new friends.
1212 W Frontage Rd Owatonna, MN
507-451-0722
valleyviewofowatonna.com

Economic development grant deadline Oct. 26

Applications for the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) Economic Development Grant program are due by Oct. 26. Requests of up to \$20,000 will be considered.

The goal of the Economic Development Grant is to support initiatives which enable communities to create more prosperous local economies. SMIF seeks applications that support economic development and entrepreneurship. Cities, counties, Economic Development Authorities, other public institutions and IRS-designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in SMIF's 20-county re-

gion are encouraged to apply for the grant. Individuals and businesses are not eligible.

"The future of economic development in southern Minnesota is powered by the innovative people in our region and their creative ideas for growth," said Pam Bishop, vice president of economic development at SMIF. "The Economic Development Grant can turn those ideas into reality."

For the application and guidelines, visit www.smifoundation.org or contact Jennifer Heien, Grants Coordinator, at 507-214-7040 or jenniferh@smifoundation.org.

Need a Medicare de-complicator?

I'm just around the corner.
Call me to find the best plan for you.

A FAMILY FIRST INSURANCE AGENCY

325 N. Cedar Avenue
Owatonna, MN 55060

507-451-0539

service@helpingyouinsure.com

www.HelpingYouInsure.com



ucare
people powered health plans

Y0120_8143_082020_C
U8143 (08/2020)

Little Theatre of Owatonna

The Marvelous Wonderettes

Written & Created By Roger Bean
Musical Arrangements By Brian William Baker
Vocal Arrangements By Roger Bean & Brian William Baker
Orchestrations By Michael Borish

Performance Dates:
October 14-16, & 21-23 | 7:30pm
October 17 & 24 | 2:00pm

Sponsored By
FEDERATED INSURANCE

Directed by Bev Cashman | Technical Director Kathy Purdie

Online & Tri-M Box office for members opens on September 25.
Online general public ticket sales start October 2.
In-house box office opens October 11-24, Mon-Weds 5-6:30 (By Phone Only)
Thurs-Fri. 5:30-7:30, Sat 12:30-2, Sun 12:30-2 (In-Person or By Phone)

Little Theatre of Owatonna • 560 Dunnell Drive
LittleTheatreofOwatonna.org

Presented by special arrangement with Stage Rights (www.stagerights.com)

Holiday-Dazzle Wine Tasting

Thursday • November 4 • 2021

Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club

6:30-9 PM

\$15 in advance or \$20 at the door.

Purchase tickets by Oct. 16th for drawing.

Purchase tickets at: BP Chamber Office,
J&H Liquor or online at
bloomingprairiechamber.com.

Must be 21+ to attend.

Questions? Please call J&H Liquor at (507) 583-7557.

Proceeds donated to the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce.



HERE'S MY CARD

AUCTION

BigIron
AUCTIONS

www.bigiron.com

Always Unreserved | No Buyer Fees

AGRICULTURE | CONSTRUCTION | TRANSPORTATION

BigIron provides full service auction support to efficiently turn used equipment into cash.
Contact your local representative today to start planning your auction with BigIron!

JOSH ULLAND, BIGIRON SALES REP
507-481-5047
josh.ulland@bigiron.com

INSURANCE



A FAMILY FIRST INSURANCE AGENCY
AUTO • HOME • HEALTH • LIFE • BUSINESS

325 N. Cedar Owatonna, MN 55060
service@helpingyouinsure.com • helpingyouinsure.com

Retired...or want to retire but health insurance is a concern?

We offer MNsure, Medicare plans, and more.

507.451.0539



ACCOUNTING



Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner P.A.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

ACCOUNTING AND TAX SERVICES FOR
SMALL BUSINESS AND INDIVIDUALS

314 East Main St., Blooming Prairie | 507-583-7528 | Fax: 507-583-2389

AUTOMOBILE

Mike's REPAIR

507-455-0388
Fax: 507-455-0486



870 32nd Ave. NW
Owatonna, MN 55060

Mike Hartle
Owner

All tire sizes, sales and service for ag and truck!
After Hours: 507-455-0483

COLLISION

THE ONLY AREA SHOP certified to work on the 2015 Ford Aluminum F150



CSI:
www.csiaustinmn.com

Collision Specialists Inc
507.437.2837

CONSTRUCTION

J.A. Gwilt Siders, Inc.

Siding, Windows, Gutters, Roofing & Decks

Call 507-456-1504
for your FREE estimates!

Serving Steele County for 20 years.



Known for our exceptional quality of material and labor.

CONSTRUCTION



Johnson Construction & Tree Service

Tree & Stump Removal • Trimming & Topping • Tree Moving
Lot Clearing • Backhoe/Skidloader • Hauling General Construction
24 Hr. Emergency Services • Year Round Work • Licensed & Insured

KYLE JOHNSON • 507-583-7592
AUSTIN & BLOOMING PRAIRIE

EXCAVATING

SEPTIC SYSTEMS

• Design • Installation
• Compliance Inspections



State License # 1844
Serving the Area Over 12 Years
BISHOP BE
EXCAVATING, INC.
• EXCAVATION • BASEMENTS
• DEMOLITION • DOZER WORK
Commercial & Residential Sitework
507 583-2999
Aggregates • Hauling • Washed Sand • Black Dirt • Fill • Gravel

GARBAGE SERVICE

SKJEVELAND ENTERPRISES

Sanitation & Recycling Services
Pride in service since 2007

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

• Sanitation & Recycling Services
• Roll-Offs & Dumpsters
• Rubbish & Garbage Removal
Contact Skjeveland Enterprises today!

507-528-9900



GRANITE & MONUMENT

Owatonna GRANITE & MONUMENT

"Creating Your STORY in STONE"

1180 Frontage Rd E • Owatonna
507-455-9551
www.owatonnagranite.com



John and Barb Heerema

ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST

Dr. Deborah J. Lien, DDS, MBS
ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST



drdeborahlienorthodontics.com 507.583.6613

PETS



Bennett's PET HAVEN CEMETERY, INC.

"Professional Cremation and Burial Services for your loving pet"

Larry & Donna Bennett
4151 N. City Rd. 45
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 451-2203

Shorty & Sue Schroht
857 Mosher Ave.
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 455-3204

PREPLANNING

A Simple, Thoughtful Act of Caring
PREARRANGEMENT AND PREFUNDING



Mary Kittelson
NFDA Certified Preplanning Consultant
Licensed Agent • Purple Cross Plans

507.583.7561
www.worlein.com

Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home
418 Highway Ave S • Blooming Prairie MN

GREENHOUSE

STARRY BLOOMS
GREENHOUSE AND NURSERY

KIM STOLLARD 507-383-3435
SHELLEY PEDERSON 507-391-3150
OWNERS

8139 Hwy 30 E
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
jkhauens@frontiernet.net

Annuals
Vegetables
Herbs
Easy to Grow
Bee and Butterfly
Friendly
Hardy Perennials
Custom Potting
Gifts
Garden Consulting

AUTOMOBILE

HOME OF THE HONEST MECHANICS!

HONEST-1 AUTO CARE

Mon-Fri 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

1125 S. Oak Ave. • Owatonna
507-431-4576 • www.Honest1Owatonna.com

Unique names on area rosters



Steele Sports
JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

As a person whose name returns more than 365 million results on Google, it's safe to say that I am not the only Johnnie Phillips you might run into in this lifetime.

I've always wanted a name that is impossible to forget; one that has some serious style to it.

Covering sports in Steele County, I've found myself a bit envious with number of unique names I've run across.

These names - selected by yours truly - are some of my favorites.

Leading off my list of personal favorites: Tate Hermes.

The first thing that stands out about this name is the surname, Hermes.

Hermes in ancient Greek mythology is known as the messenger of the gods.

Couple this with "Tate," which in Norse means "cheerful," and you have a name that roughly translates to the "cheerful messenger of the gods."

A name like that carries some serious responsibility, which Medford's Hermes is accustomed to as the Tigers' middle linebacker and leading tackler on defense.

Up next on my list is a pair of teammates who share names that just roll right off the tongue.

I'm talking about Bo Budach and Porter Peterson.

The two, same-letter initials pack a one-two punch, much like Budach and Peterson do on the gridiron for the NRHEG Panthers football team.

A quarterback and wide receiver duo, the two have linked up for three passing touchdowns so far with one coming in each of the team's first three games of the season.

Don't think that I forgot about the girls too.

On the ladies' side, possibly the best outside hitter name I've run across in volleyball in the Big Nine Conference is that of junior, Lauren Bangs.

The surname Bangs fits perfectly with role of the outside hitter, whose objective is to strike the ball with a loud "bang" of the hand, spiking it into the opposition's side.

Bangs is no stranger to this aspect of the game, as she is one of Owatonna's leading offensive players in kills.

Another notable mention on the awesome name list is Quinn VanMaldeghem, an eighth-grade runner for NRHEG cross-country who recently earned her first first-place finish of the season.

Next time you're at a game make sure to listen to the announcer's calls, as these big-time names all belong to big-time players.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Receiver Colin Jordison (2) leaps up to make a spectacular catch from Drew Kittelson in Saturday's football contest against Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop in Winthrop. After the catch, Jordison went on to score one of many touchdowns for the Blossoms, who killed GFW 54-8 to take sole possession of first place in the conference.

BP smokes GFW, 54-8

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Awesome Blossoms secured their biggest win of the season, beating undefeated GFW, 54-8 in Winthrop.

Blooming Prairie jumped out to an early lead early thanks to a 48-yard rushing touchdown from senior running back Tyler Archer.

After a blocked extra point, Blooming Prairie found itself up 6-0.

Once again it was Archer who scored on the team's next possession, this time taking a run to the house for a 76-yard touchdown.

Another failed extra point conversion put the game at 12-0.

Next to score in the contest was GFW, who capitalized on a short rushing touchdown and converted on a two-point attempt to make the score 12-8 in the first quarter.

Blooming Prairie responded to the GFW score, as Archer once again found pay dirt,

this time on a pass from senior quarterback Drew Kittelson.

The reception resulted in a 37-yard touchdown for the Awesome Blossoms. A two-point conversion put the score at 20-8.

The second quarter featured two touchdowns for Blooming Prairie, as Kittelson found his rhythm and passed for two more scores.

The first passing touchdown was caught by senior fullback and tight end Xavier Rennie, who took the pass for a 25-yard score to put the Blossoms up 27-8 after another successful extra point.

Next it was senior wide receiver Colin Jordison who reached the end zone, catching a pass from Kittelson and running it in for a 43-yard score.

The touchdown was followed by a successful point after attempt to make the score 34-8.

See **BP ROLLS** on B2 ►

Vikings name Gimbel Coach of the Week

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Minnesota Vikings recently awarded Blooming Prairie head coach Chad Gimbel with their Gatorade Coach of the Week award.

"I'm very honored, as there are so many great coaches and programs around the state. It's a testament to our coaching staff

and players. This is a total team award," said Gimbel.

The award brings with it a \$1,000 prize for the Blooming Prairie football team.

"We will use the money to buy equipment. That way, the money goes back to the players in some aspect."

Gimbel's undefeated Awesome Blossom squad ranks No. 1 in

the Associated Press Class AA football poll. Blooming Prairie has outscored teams by almost a 6-1 margin in every game and its defense has only allowed double-digit points to one team this season.

As for the offense, the team has two 50-plus point games this season and has only scored less than 40 points once this season



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

It was high-flying action on the gridiron Saturday afternoon in Winthrop as the Blossoms proved to be un-relentless against GFW. Here, Xavier Rennie (18) leaps in the air to snag a GFW ball handler.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

After pulling down a long pass and going on to score a touchdown, Colin Jordison (2) celebrates with Drew Kittelson (4) in the end zone by leaping in the air and exchanging fist bumps.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

With a tackler wrapped around him, Blooming Prairie's Sam Smith (11) attempts to make a catch in Saturday's conference match-up against GFW. Though Smith wasn't able to make the catch, the Blossoms had little trouble in handling the T-Birds.



FREE CONSULTATIONS

Dr. Deborah J Lien

DDS, MBS

ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST

www.drdeborahlienorthodontics.com

583.6613

132 2nd Ave NE
Blooming Prairie

VOLLEYBALL

NRHEG wins 1, loses another

The NRHEG Panthers went 1-1 last week, losing to Hayfield 1-3 on Tuesday, Oct. 5, before winning 3-0 against JWP on Thursday, Oct. 7.

NRHEG won 3-0, but the sets were all closely contested, as NRHEG topped JWP by scores of 25-17, 25-22 and 25-23.

Offensively, junior middle hitter Bree Ihrke led the Panthers, recording eight kills, one assist, three ace blocks and two ace serves and junior outside hitter Erin Jacobson followed with 12 kills, two digs and one ace serve.

Defensively, senior libero Sidney Schultz led the team with 16 digs.

In the early week, the Panthers lost in four sets to Hayfield, losing the first two sets 27-29 and 20-25, before winning the third set 25-17 and losing the fourth 19-25.

Jacobson and senior outside hitter Sophie Stork led the team all around the court, combining for 15 kills, 14 digs, one assist and three ace blocks.

OHS volleyball 2-1 for week

The Owatonna Huskies volleyball team went 2-1 on the week, earning two victories against Faribault and John Marshall, and losing to Byron.

The Huskies started the week with a loss to Byron on Monday, Oct. 4, losing in four sets by scores of 26-28, 25-22, 17-25 and 21-25.

Junior outside hitter Ava Eitrheim led the team with nine kills and seven digs.

Owatonna bounced back after the loss, beating Faribault on Tuesday, Oct. 5 in another four-set game by scores of 25-20, 19-25, 25-23 and 25-20.

Sophomore outside hitter Mehssa Krause led the team with 15 kills and one block, while Eitrheim also recorded double-digit kills with 12 to her name to go along with one block.

The Huskies kept the momentum rolling into Thursday, Oct. 7, beating John Marshall by a score of 3-1.

Owatonna won the first set 25-19 before losing the second set 25-16, eventually winning the next two sets 25-20 and 25-21.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Hernandez comes in second

The Blooming Prairie boys and girls teams placed fifth and eighth respectively in the Chatfield Invitational on Tuesday, Oct. 5.

Leading the girls' team was seventh-grader Gloria Hernandez, who finished in second place with a time of 21:54.

Her second-place finish is her best finish of the season.

Junior Hosea Baker led the boys with a time of 19:15, good for 11th place in the race.

The team also featured two top-25 finishers in juniors Chloe McCarthy and Jesse Cardenas, who finished in 25th and 23rd place, respectively.

Tough week for Panthers

The NRHEG Panthers cross-country team had a tough day in Waseca, unable to field a scoring team for the girls, while the boys finished last.

For the girls, senior Torri Vaale placed 11th with a time of 21:50.

Vaale's time of 21:50 is her fastest race ever as a Panther and was one spot outside of a medal finish.

Eighth-grader Devon Nelton led the boys, finishing in 20th place with a time of 19:24.

Nelton's time of 19:24 was also a personal best for him as a Panther.

NRHEG was also excited by the return of eighth-grader Jacob Karl, who finished 22nd with a time of 19:31.

Karl had missed the team's past few meets due to illness.

NRHEG will also host the conference meet in New Richland on Tuesday, Oct. 19, at 4 p.m.

OHS girls finish 3rd, boys 4th

The Owatonna girls and boys cross-country team had a strong showing at the Ev Burg Invitational in Owatonna on Thursday, Oct. 7, as the girls finished in third place, while the boys finished in fourth place.

The Ev Burg Invitational is Owatonna's home meet and takes place at the Brooktree Golf Course in Owatonna.

Sophomore runner Carsyn Brady, who finished ninth place with a time of 19:41, led the girls.

Following Brady were seventh-grader Anna Cox and senior Jaci Burtis, who finished in 21st and 24th place, respectively.

Cox posted a time of 20:31, with Burtis following close behind with a time of 20:41.

For the boys, senior Preston Meier finished in fifth place, posting a time of 16:21.

Close behind, and finishing just outside of the top ten, was senior Conner Ginskey, who finished the race in 11th place with a time of 16:38.

- COMPILED BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

At the 40-yard line and barely into the playing field, BP's Tyler Archer (25) carefully keeps his footing and breaks away from a GFW tackler. Archer went on down the side line scoring a touchdown in the first quarter.

Blooming Prairie rolls past GFW, 54-8

◀ **BP ROLLS** from **B1**

The score remained at 34-8 going into half-time.

Coming back from half, Blooming Prairie had more answers to the GFW defense, as another Kittelson pass to Jordison resulted in a 24-yard score putting Blooming Prairie up 41-8 after a successful extra point.

After a streak of four passing touchdowns, Kittelson scored another touchdown, this time using his legs to rush in for the score from 13 yards out, pushing the score to 48-8 after another successful extra point.

Blooming Prairie's last score of the game came in the fourth quarter when Brady Kittelson, brother of Drew Kittelson, made it two rushing scores for the brothers on the night, scoring from 63 yards out.

The extra point attempt after the score was not successful, putting the final score at 54-8.

Up next for Blooming Prairie is a home game against NRHEG on Friday at 7 p.m.

Player Stats

Passing

#4 Drew Kittelson – 9-14 202 yards 4 TD; #9 Brady Kittelson – 1-1 12 yards

SCOREBOARD					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Final
Blooming Prairie	19	14	14	7	85
GFW	8	0	0	0	8

Rushing

#25 Tyler Archer – 10 att. 199 yards 2 TD; #9 Brady Kittelson – 3 att. 70 yards 1 TD; #4 Drew Kittelson – 3 att. 27 yards 1 TD; #23 Carson Brennecke – 3 att. 46 yards; #24 Cole Wangen – 6 att. 18 yards; #6 Gage Mullenbach – 1 att. -3 yards

Receiving

#2 Colin Jordison – 4 rec. 92 yards 2 TD; #4 Xavier Rennie – 2 rec. 52 yards 1 TD; #25 Tyler Archer – 1 rec. 37 yards 1 TD; #23

Carson Brennecke – 2 rec. 21 yards; #21 Jeff Swenson – 1 rec. 12 yards

Defense

#12 Alex Lea – 10.0 tackles 5 solo 10 assist; #2 Colin Jordison – 6.5 tackles 4 solo 5 assist; #4 Drew Kittelson – 5.0 tackles 4 solo 2 assist; #18 Xavier Rennie – 4.0 tackles 3 solo 2 assist 1 TFL; #25 Tyler Archer – 6.5 tackles 3 solo 7 assist; #16 Garret Farr – 5.0 tackles 5 solo

Kittelson commits to MSU Mavericks

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

Blooming Prairie senior quarterback Drew Kittelson has made his college decision a bit earlier than the average high schooler, committing to Minnesota State University, Mankato to continue his academic and athletic careers.

Kittelson's commitment is a verbal one and allows him to withdraw his commitment at any time before he signs his letter of intent in February to officially ink him in as a Maverick.

"I can't wait to get started. I picked them because they have been interested since Day One. They would text me a lot and check in and put a priority on getting me on campus for a game day visit. I still can't believe it's all come true and I'm extremely grateful," said Kittelson.

With the commitment comes a significant change for Kittelson.

Starting at both quarterback and cornerback for the Awesome Blossoms, Kittelson will be playing wide receiver for the Mavericks in the coming year.

"It's completely new for me. I've played receiver two times this summer at camps and that's it."

Athletically, Kittelson has an ideal frame for a wide receiver, standing at 6-foot 4-inches and weighing 185 pounds.

Another attribute



Blooming Prairie senior quarterback Drew Kittelson announces via Twitter that he has committed to Minnesota State University, Mankato to continue his academic and athletic careers.

that Kittelson boasts is an understanding of how quarterbacks and defensive backs think, having played both positions.

Despite the challenge of learning a new position, Kittelson said he feels confident that he'll be able to step in and be a quick learner.

Blooming Prairie head coach Chad Gimbel also believes in Kittelson's ability, saying that he thinks that the transition will be a good one for Kittelson, allowing him to tap further into his athletic potential.

Gimbel also said he believes that Kittelson's confidence since being a dual-sport athlete has brought his game to another level.

Regardless of what lies ahead for him in college, Kittelson says his main objective for this season hasn't changed.

"We want to be state champs in the end. That's the goal."

Steele County Blades are back in action

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Steele County Blades season is under way again, marking the beginning of the program's 10th season in Steele County.

Eight-year head coach Nick Adamek coaches the Tier 3 juniors program in the U.S. Premier Hockey League (USPHL). The team is currently 3-1 on the season.

"We return 17 players this season and the coaching staff is excited about this team. But the players are also excited about how the team is shaping up, so we're dealing with a team that has some pretty high expectations," said Adamek.

The Blades, a pay-to-play format team, features athletes who range from 16 to 20 years old, all of whom are hoping to attract the attention of higher tier programs and college coaches.

As is the case with many junior hockey teams, the program also features players from a multitude of countries.

Current center and captain Connor Lee is from Australia, where his family still lives while he is in the United States.

Adamek said players like Lee are common, and that he has players currently on the roster from Canada and Belarus; also having coached players from Russia, Ukraine and even Mexico in the past.

The team plays a broad range of teams that sometimes require some a bit of travel to compete.

The Blades, while having a lot of local competition in cities such as Hudson and Blaine, also travel to destinations such as California and Massachusetts for games.

Overall, the Blades

Blades Home Schedule			
Saturday, Oct. 16	Hudson Havoc	Blades	7 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 17	Minnesota Moose	Blades	3 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 22	Rum River Mallards	Blades	7 p.m.
Saturday, Oct 23	Minnesota Blue Ox	Blades	2 p.m.
Sunday, Oct, 24	Dells Ducks	Blades	3 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 6	Wisconsin Rapids Riverkings	Blades	7 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 7	Wisconsin Rapids Riverkings	Blades	3 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 12	Minnesota Blue Ox	Blades	7 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 5	Hudson Havoc	Blades	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 12	Minnesota Moose	Blades	7:05 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 14	Minnesota Mullets	Blades	12 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 15	Minnesota Moose	Blades	7 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 23	Minnesota Mullets	Blades	7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 4	Dells Ducks	Blades	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 19	Minnesota Blue Ox	Blades	7:05 p.m.

play 44 games on the season and use the Four Seasons Centre as their home ice.

Active captains for this season are 20-year-old center Conner Lee and 19-year-old defenseman Evan Axell.

The team has plans to promote two more athletes to assistant captains, but has made no official Dec.ision yet.

Up next for the Blades is a home game against the Hudson Havoc at the Four Seasons Centre on Saturday, Oct. 16.

The Havoc come into the game with a 1-0 record on the season.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
Sophomore starting quarterback Connor Ginskey sends senior tight end Luke Wottreng in motion across the formation in the team's 41-0 win against John Marshall. Ginskey, only in his third start of the season, has acquired a perfect 3-0 record since stepping in for injured senior quarterback Taylor Bogen.

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

With senior quarterback Taylor Bogen out for the rest of the season with a torn ACL, the Huskies turned to sophomore quarterback Jacob Ginskey to fill the starting role.

Making his first appearance late in the Huskies' 42-0 loss against Mankato West in Week No. 3, head coach Jeff Williams said Ginskey's playmaking ability caught his eye at the end of the game.

"He threw against West late in the game and did some pretty good things. And you know, he caught our attention. He really impressed us with his ability to move in the pocket, to extend plays and find open receivers," said Williams.

Ginskey was not originally slated as the team's backup quarterback, as senior outside linebacker Cael Dowling

is listed as a two-way athlete, also on the quarterbacks' depth chart.

Dowling started the West game and completed four of his five pass attempts, gaining a total of 11 yards.

The passing game's inefficiency led to Ginskey getting a chance, where he earned the reigns of the offense.

Ginskey said that he was told the following Monday that he would be practicing with the first team in preparation for his first varsity start against Austin on Friday, Sept. 24.

Since taking over, Ginskey has completed 41 of 66 passes for 577 yards and eight touchdowns to four interceptions.

While completing only 62.1% of his passing attempts, the good news for the Huskies is that his average yards per completion is currently 14.1, above the 10.0 yard per completion threshold that most quarter-

backs are compared against.

On the ground as a rusher, Ginskey has had some struggles, losing 9 yards on 19 attempts and adding one touchdown so far on the season.

However, according to Williams, the rushing stat line doesn't define his ability to use his legs.

Williams is excited about Ginskey's ability to move as a passer, spreading the field by getting to the edge and becoming a dual-threat quarterback with the ability to hurt a defense as both a rusher and a passer.

"I think, because of his mobility, we are moving the pocket a little bit more than we would have with Taylor. Our ability to move the pocket with some of our play actions, bootlegs and our sprint out game, I think, suits his skillset a little bit better. So we'll probably emphasize those packages as time

goes on," said Williams.

Ginskey agreed, saying he too believes that his ability to escape the pocket and create plays is one of his biggest strengths as a quarterback.

Williams also noted Ginskey's ability to scramble and find open receivers downfield.

He said that it offers the receivers the ability to play in a "street-ball" fashion, where they can adapt on the fly and find open space without needing to follow a route.

That style of play has been effective, as the Huskies have gone from 1-2 to now 4-2, pushing Ginskey's record as a starter to 3-0.

Up next for Ginskey and the Huskies is an away matchup against New Prague on Friday at 7 p.m.

The New Prague Trojans are currently 4-2 and come into the game after losing to Rochester Mayo, 45-0.

Huskies shut out John Marshall, 41-0

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna Huskies football team added to its record again on Friday, Oct. 8, beating John Marshall in dominant fashion, 41-0.

Everything was clicking for the Huskies, who put up their second-most points on the season on offense while holding John Marshall to a season-low zero points defensively.

"I thought overall team defense stood out. We had hustle plays like [Caleb] Vereide on that strip fumble... I thought that was a big play. I thought our outside linebackers [Cael] Dowling and [Conner] Grems played very well... that really made me feel good that they settled in and did their jobs. Grant Achterkirch was all over the place. Just a total defensive effort," said head coach Jeff Williams.

The defense created turnovers all over the field with two recovered fumbles, two interceptions and a blocked punt.

The turnovers gave the Owatonna offense favorable field position most of the night, leading to the Huskies' many scoring drives.

Offensively, the Huskies benefited from a balance of successful running and passing plays.

According to Williams, the running game started a bit slow, but the team was able to gain momentum as the night went on.

Senior running back Dylan Maas led the Huskies in rushing yards posting 75 yards on the ground in 17 attempts, adding a score to the Huskies' total.

Yet, it was the passing game that showed up for the Huskies in a big way.

Sophomore quarterback Jacob Ginskey passed for a season-high 222 yards on the night while completing 17 of 24 passes for three touchdowns.

Williams said that he was impressed by Ginskey's poise and ability to distribute the ball to multiple different players.

Senior wide receiver Nick Williams led the team in receiving, turning eight receptions into 75 yards.

Junior wide receiver Ayden Walter cashed in on his receptions, taking both of his two receptions to the house, one for 46 yards and the other for 19.

Coming up next for the Huskies is an away



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
Owatonna head coach Jeff Williams walks off the field as the Huskies offense takes a knee to begin running out the clock in the team's 41-0 win against John Marshall on Friday, Oct. 8. The win is Owatonna's third straight since, rebounding the team to 4-2 after falling to 1-2 early in the season.

matchup against New Prague on Friday at 7 p.m.

The Huskies enter the game on a three-game win streak. New Prague is coming off of a 45-0 loss to Rochester Mayo.

Player Stats

Passing
#13 Jacob Ginskey – 17-24
222 yards 3 TD

Rushing
#4 Dylan Maas – 17 att.
75 yards 1 TD; #2 Conner Grems – 4 att. 15 yards 1 TD; #13 Jacob Ginskey – 8 att. -30 yards; #12 Grant Achterkirch – 1 att. 3 yards; #34 Dezmond Nichols – 5 att. 6 yards; #17 Noah Wellnitz – 1 att. 4 yards; #21 Marco Mendez – 1 att. 1 yard



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
Senior wide receiver Nick Williams and the Owatonna offense celebrate junior running back Conner Grems' 3-yard, first quarter touchdown.

Receiving
#5 Nick Williams – 8 rec. 72 yards; #3 Ayden Walter – 2 rec. 65 yards 2 TD; #1 Lane Wagner – 1 rec. 23 yards; #18 Collin Vick – 3 rec. 35 yards; #4 Dylan Maas – 1 rec. 11 yards 1 TD; #12 Grant Achterkirch – 1 rec. 9 yards; #81

Caleb Hullopeter – 1 rec. 7 yards

Kicking
#19 Drew Henson – 2/2 FG 5/5 PAT

Defense
#26 Caleb Vereide – 5.0 tackles 5 solo 1 FF; #12 Grant Achterkirch – 3.0

tackles 1 solo 4 assist 1 FF 1 BK; #16 Cael Dowling – 2.0 tackles 2 solo 1 FR; #2 Conner Grems – 2.0 tackles 2 solo 1 int; #17 Noah Wellnitz – 2.0 tackles 2 solo 1 int; #8 Luke Wottreng – 3.0 tackles 3 solo



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
Senior running back Dylan Maas stiff arms a John Marshall defender during a big run in the first quarter for Owatonna. Maas had 75 rushing yards and one touchdown in Owatonna's 41-0 victory against John Marshall on Friday, Oct. 8.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
Senior tight end Luke Wottreng and senior offensive lineman Eli Spurgeon celebrate with Maas after his one-yard rushing touchdown. The Owatonna offense dropped 41 points against John Marshall, and winning their third straight game on Friday, Oct. 8.



Senior wide receiver Tyler Buck cuts inside against NRHEG on one of his 10 rushing attempts in Medford's 39-6 loss against NRHEG. Buck finished the game with 15 yards rushing and eight yards receiving.

NRHEG pounds Medford 39-6

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

The NRHEG Panthers defeated the Medford Tigers 39-6 at Medford on Friday in a conference matchup. NRHEG jumped out to a 13-0 lead in the first quarter. Junior running back Andrew Phillips scored on a 16-yard rushing touchdown at the nine-minute mark of the first quarter to put the Panthers up 6-0. The score remained 6-0 as the extra point attempt was no good. Phillips reached the end zone a second time in the first quarter, taking in a nine-yard rush for the score and tack-

ing on an extra point to go up 13-0 after the first quarter. In the second quarter, NRHEG's passing game found its stride as junior wide receiver turned quarterback Charlie Nissen found senior wide receiver Bo Budach for their first passing touchdown of the night on a 50-yard score. The touchdown put NRHEG up 19-0, where the score remained at halftime after Medford blocked the NRHEG point-after attempt. The Panthers continued their scoring attack after halftime, putting up 20 points in the third quarter. Familiar faces were responsible for the Panthers'

points as Phillips led off the third-quarter scoring with a 63-yard rushing touchdown at the 11:35 mark. The extra point was good this time to put the Panthers up 26-0. Big plays were in abundance as Nissen once again found Budach for a passing touchdown, this time on a 76-yard strike to put the Panthers up 33-0 after another successful extra point. Budach and Nissen also accounted for NRHEG's last score of the night, this time scoring on a 26-yard passing touchdown to go up 39-0 after a failed extra point. Budach finished the night with 152 of Nissen's 158

SCOREBOARD					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Final
NRHEG	13	6	20	0	39
Medford	0	0	0	6	6

passing yards, displaying the on-field chemistry between the two. Medford scored in the fourth quarter with eight minutes left, on a two-yard rushing touchdown to make the score 39-6 after a failed two-point conversion. The score remained at 39-6 for the rest of the game, giving NRHEG the win. Up next for NRHEG is a road matchup against No. 1 Blooming Prairie on Friday at 7 p.m. As for Medford, the Tigers will also go on the road to face St. Clair in Mankato on Friday at 7 p.m.

NRHEG Player Stats

Passing
#4 Charlie Nissen – 4-9 158 yards 3 TD 1 Int; #6 Alden Dobberstein – 1-2 -2 yards

Rushing
#29 Andrew Phillips – 11 att. 125 yards 3 TD; #4 Charlie Nissen – 9 att. 27 yards; #7 Porter Peterson – 3 att. 13 yards; #34 Clay Stenzel – 2 att. 8 yards; #82 Alex Dobberstein – 1 att. 6 yards; #10 Nash Howe – 1 att. 1 yard; #13 Jack Olson – 1 att. -8

yards; #6 Alden Dobberstein – 1 att. -11 yards

Receiving
#2 Bo Budach – 3 rec. 152 yards 3 TD; #34 Clay Stenzel – 1 rec. 6 yards; #29 Andrew Phillips – 1 rec. -2 yards

Defense
#34 Clay Stenzel – 12.0 tackles 10 solo 4 assist; #13 Jack Olson – 4.0 tackles 3 solo 2 assist 0.5 TFL; #2 Bo Budach – 3.5 tackles 3 solo 1 assist 1 TFL 1 Int; #65 Walker Thompson – 3.0 tackles 2 solo 2 assist; #42 Ethan Thompson – 3.0 tackles 3 solo 1 TFL; #85 George Roesler – 3.0 tackles 3 solo; #8 Sawyer Prigge – 1 Int

Medford Player Stats

Passing
#12 Justin Ristau – 6-14 47 yards 2 Int

Rushing
#28 Garron Hoffman – 13 att. 36 yards 1 TD; #12 Justin Ristau – 11 att. 32 yards; #4 Tyler Buck – 10 att. 15 yards; #8 Jesse Ortiz – 3 att. 9 yards

Receiving
#33 Charley Elwood – 2 rec. 26 yards; #4 Tyler Buck – 2 rec. 8 yards; #8 Jesse Ortiz – 1 rec. 7 yards; #17 Connor Jones – 1 rec. 6 yards



Senior quarterback Justin Ristau tucks the ball to run in Medford's 39-6 loss against NRHEG on Friday. Ristau finished the game with 47 yards passing and 32 yards rushing, accounting for 79 of Medford's 139 yards of total offense.



Senior quarterback Porter Peterson cuts to evade a Medford defender in NRHEG's 39-6 win against Medford. Peterson has spent time cycling between quarterback, wide receiver and running back so far on the season.



Senior wide receiver Bo Budach takes one of his three receiving touchdowns to the house in NRHEG's 39-6 win against Medford. Budach scored three touchdowns on three receptions in the game and finished with 152 yards receiving.

Boys come back to win on senior night

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna Huskies boys soccer team finished the regular season in winning fashion, taking home two victories against Mankato East and Red Wing.

The Huskies first beat East 4-3 on senior night at Lincoln Elementary in Owatonna, before heading to Red Wing, where they won 4-0.

"It's the resilience. These guys did not want to have their last home game as a senior end the way that it was leaning toward most of the way... but the ability for us to battle back and fight back and not accept giving up those goals says a lot about us as a team," said head coach Robert Waypa.

The team's comeback against East was a statistical outlier for the Huskies on the season, as they had not typically fared well when giving up an early lead.

"This year, when we concede a goal in the first 20 minutes, we haven't won a game. When we get past that first 20-minute mark, we're 8-1. So, our goal is to get past the first 20 minutes and we're going to usually win most games. Well, they scored 15 minutes in. Now you have to do something we haven't done all year."

East's first-half goal was the only one of the half, putting them up 1-0 at halftime.

However, junior defenseman Braden Leonard found the back of the net next for Owatonna, scoring on a header from a free kick awarded to Owatonna at the 35-minute mark in the second half to make the score 1-1.

Goals came in clusters after Leonard's goal, as East answered in less than a minute, making the score 1-2 in favor of East.

Seventeen minutes later, it was Owatonna's turn, equalizing



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

Seniors Ryan Gregory and Benjamin Bangs celebrate Gregory's game-tying goal late in the second half. The Huskies went on to win 4-3 on Owatonna's senior night.

the score at 2-2 as senior forward Benjamin Bangs caught East's goalie out of position with a shot to the lower right corner of the net.

Yet, East once again retaliated, scoring another goal just inside of

a minute after Bangs' scored.

This time it was a through ball that led to a breakaway that did the Huskies in to make the score 3-2.

The Huskies quickly retaliated, scoring 30

seconds after the East goal on a header by senior forward Ryan Gregory, assisted by a cross from sophomore midfielder LeRoy DeLaRosa.

Tied at 3-3, the Huskies executed another

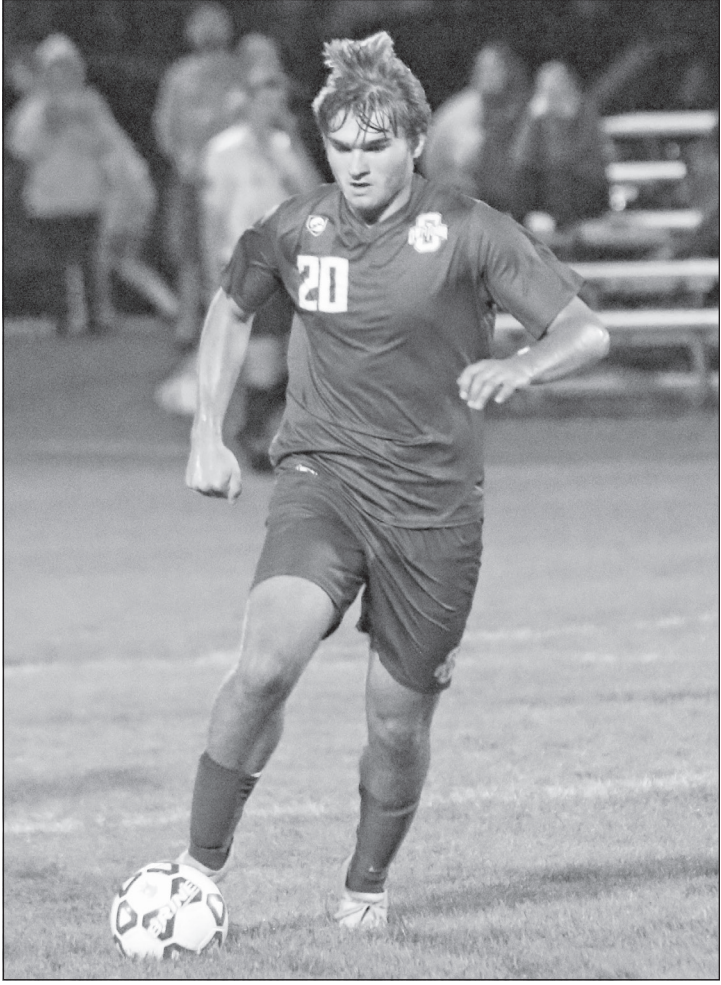
scoring opportunity to go up 4-3 as Thomas Hanson put a loose ball in the East penalty box into the back of the net.

Owatonna's first lead of the night was the last lead, as they went on to win 4-3.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

Senior Midfielder Preston Katzung loads up to kick the ball downfield to an open teammate against Mankato East on Tuesday, Oct. 5. The midfield had a strong presence in the Huskies' attack, moving the ball through defensive alignments all night.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

Senior forward Benjamin Bangs makes a run in Owatonna's 4-3 victory against Mankato East on Tuesday, Oct. 5. Bangs scored a goal to tie the game at 2-2 in the second half.

Huskies girls soccer goes 1-1 in final week

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Huskies girls soccer team went 1-1 in their final week of the regular season, losing to Mankato East and beating Red Wing.

The Huskies finished their regular season on a high note in a thrilling 4-3 comeback victory against Red Wing at home on Thursday, Oct. 7.

Owatonna struck first in the game, going ahead 1-0 on a centering pass from junior midfielder Ezra Oien that found senior forward Hillary Haarstad right in front of the Red Wing net for a quick tap-in goal at the 30:18 mark of the first half.

However, Red Wing retaliated twice after the opening goal adding two goals at the 23:52 and 16:12 marks of the first half.

The Huskies, how-

ever, were able to find an equalizer going into halftime as the combination of Oien and Haarstad once again connected for a score late in the half.

Going into halftime the score remained 2-2.

Head coach Nate Gendron said that the team made some adjustments at halftime to be able to win the possession battle and take over the game.

"We switched from a 4-5-1 formation to a 4-4-2, and moved Ezra from midfield to attack with Hillary."

Gendron said that a big reason for the change was the rhythm that the two players had found in the attacking half.

With two goals for Haarstad and two assists for Oien, the tandem was supplying the vast majority of the team's offense, and Gendron felt it was best

to allow them a full opportunity to create plays in the attacking half.

The move paid off as the Huskies came out from half and scored the next two goals of

the game; one of which being the game-winning goal.

Junior defender Emily Schmidt got involved in the scoring next, capitalizing on a long free kick to put the

Huskies up 3-2.

"The shot was about 15-20 yards outside of the box and placed perfectly in the upper right corner. It was unsavable. Just a great shot," said Gendron.

The Huskies' fourth and final goal was scored by Oien who added a goal to her two-assist night, finishing with three scoring plays on the night.

See **HUSKIES** on B6 ►



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

Senior forward Hillary Haarstad attempts a shot off of a volley in the Red Wing penalty box. Haarstad finished the game with two goals in Owatonna's 4-3 win against Red Wing on Thursday, Oct. 7.

Medford loses to WEM, goes 0-2 on week

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Medford Tigers volleyball team lost to Kenyon-Wanamingo (KW) on Tuesday, Oct. 5, and dropped their next game against WEM on Thursday, Oct. 7, losing both games by 1-3.

The Medford Tigers put up a fight at home against WEM before ultimately falling short in four sets to the Gopher Conference's No. 1 team.

"We just haven't been able to find that rhythm. We sent way too many free balls over, or pushes over, where we have to attack the ball more than we have been," said head coach Melissa Underdahl.

The Tigers won the first set of the match 25-16 but were swept in the final three sets by scores of 15-25, 22-25 and 23-25.

Aside from the first set where they won, the Tigers only held one other lead over four points when they jumped out to a 22-17 lead in the fourth set before a WEM rally derailed the Tigers comeback attempt.

Senior middle hitter Isabel DeLeon led the

team in the contest with 12 kills and two ace serves on offense, while senior Clara Kniefel ended with eight kills and two ace serves.

Senior setter Julia Niles once again topped the 30-assist mark, recording 33 set assists with one kill and one ace serve.

DeLeon and junior teammate Andrea Bock led the charge on defense, recording 16 and 15 digs each.

In their first game of the week, the Tigers started slowly in their 1-3 loss to KW, losing the first two sets 19-25.

The Tigers came back to win the set 25-14.

However, the comeback was quickly stuffed by KW, who won the fourth set 25-17 to end the match.

"We've just had too many valleys. We have peaks and then we dip down, but we stay down for too long where we can come back out of it," said Underdahl.

The two losses put Medford's overall record to 12-6-2 and moved the team's Gopher Conference record to 5-3.

Up next for the Tigers is an away match against NRHEG on Thursday at 7:15 p.m.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
Senior middle hitter Isabel DeLeon attempts to place a shot over the hands of the WEM defenders and find the soft spot in the middle of the court. DeLeon led the team in kills with 12 credited to her name.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
Senior Alex Huemoeller, above, speaks with head coach Curt Matajcek between sets in her win against Waseca on Tuesday, Oct. 5. Huemoeller, right, went on to win the match in two sets by scores of 6-1 and 6-0.

Huskies come up short

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna girls tennis team won their first match of the section tournament against Waseca on Tuesday, Oct. 5, before falling short in the quarterfinals against Lakeville North on Thursday, Oct. 7.

The Huskies beat Waseca 7-0, winning every match between the two sides, to move

on to the quarterfinals, where they lost to North, 4-3.

The Huskies played dominantly, winning every match in two sets with only one double set going to a 7-5 decision.

The match against North was the second time the two teams met this season.

Owatonna was on the wrong side of a 6-1 loss against North earlier in the season before once again losing to North

4-3 on Thursday.

This time around, the match was quite different.

Owatonna's biggest struggle on the day was in doubles competition.

All three doubles positions lost in two sets, giving North three out of their four, team points in the match.

In total, North beat the Huskies by a margin of 36-5 points across the three matches.

In singles, it was a

different story. Owatonna won three out of its four matches.

Senior Alex Huemoeller, junior Olivia McDermott and freshman Emma Herzog each won their matches.

Huemoeller and McDermott managed to win their matches in two sets, while Emma Herzog finished with scores of 6-1, 3-6 and 6-1.

However, the first position matchup between senior Olivia Herzog



and North's Kiera Kelly favored Kelly in two sets, 6-1 and 6-2.

The match was the differential between the two teams, giving North the 4-3 win on the day.

The Huskies athletes have another chance to earn themselves titles at the Section Individual Tournament beginning on Thursday.

OHS girls win

◀ **HUSKIES** from B5

According to Gen-dron, a perfect volley and shot to the upper right corner once again resulted in an unsavable goal.

A late goal by Red Wing brought some hope back to the opposing side, however, the game ended 4-3 in favor of Owatonna before Red Wing could find an equalizer.

Earlier in the week the Huskies were on the wrong side of a close game, losing 2-1 to Mankato East.

Mankato East scored first in the match, going up 1-0 at the 23:11 mark.

Haarstad once again got involved in the scorecards, scoring a goal at the 7:13 mark of

the first half.

A header off of a long free kick from Schmidt in the attacking half made the game 1-1 going into half.

However, it was East who found the game winner in the 38-minute mark of the second half on a breakaway goal.

East won the game by a final score of 2-1.

Senior goalkeeper Auna Johnson was busy in the defending half, putting up 14 saves on 16 shots to keep the Huskies in the game.

The Huskies finished the regular season with a 9-7-0 record overall and a 7-4 in-conference record, good for sixth in the Big Nine Conference.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
Freshman midfielder Kennedy Schammel crosses up a Red Wing defender on her way to the net in Owatonna's 4-3 win on Thursday, Oct. 7. Schammel came into the game multiple times during the match to give the Huskies fresh legs in the attacking half.

Coming Soon...

Second Office

for

Steele County Times

steele**COUNTY**times.com

To better serve our readers throughout the county, the Steele County Times will be opening a second office on **Oct. 4**. We will still have our main office in Blooming Prairie. We're excited to serve you from two great locations!

STEELE COUNTY

Times

NEW LOCATION

109 W. Rose St., Owatonna

MAIN LOCATION

411 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 756

(BLOOMING PRAIRIE), MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 756 (Blooming Prairie), Minnesota, on November 2, 2021, between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. to vote on the following questions:

School District Question 1 • School Building Bonds

Shall the board of Independent School District No. 756 (Blooming Prairie), Minnesota be authorized to issue general obligation school building bonds in an amount not to exceed \$27,590,000 for acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities including, but not limited to, construction to relocate 5th and 6th grade to the high school, additional high school facility improvements including performing arts addition and elementary facility improvements?

BY VOTING “YES” ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

SCHOOL DISTRICT QUESTION 2 • SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS

If School District Question 1 is approved, shall the board of Independent School District No. 756 (Blooming Prairie), Minnesota be authorized to issue general obligation school building bonds in an amount not to exceed \$6,400,000 for acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities including, but not limited to, construction of an additional gymnasium facility at the High School?

BY VOTING “YES” ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The polling place and precincts served by the polling place for the special election will be as follows:

COMBINED POLLING PLACE:

Blooming Prairie City Council Chambers

City Center

138 Hwy. Ave. South

Blooming Prairie, Minnesota 55917

PRECINCTS SERVED:

All School District precincts

All qualified electors residing in the School District may cast their ballots at the polling place designated above during the polling hours specified above.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in the special election. Unregistered individuals may register to vote at the polling place on election day.

Dated: October 4, 2021

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

/s/ Pamela Hameister, Clerk

PUBLIC RECORD

Steele County Births

January 2021

Wesley Shai Blum, Parents: Chaya and Chase, Jan. 7.

Victor Juve Cruz, Parents: Gloria Contreras and Javier Cruz Maldonado, Jan. 8.

Emmy Mae Arnold, Parents: Erika and Matthew, Jan. 10.

Rhett Lee Standke, Parents: Riley and Patrick, Jan. 10.

Jaxton Scott Schrot, Parents: Ashley and Aaron, Jan. 12.

Joy Christina Nelson, Parents: Annie and Johnathan, Jan. 12.

Edith Ann Hayes, Parents: Lisa and Brett, Jan. 12.

Toryn Asher Hareid-Ortiz, Parents: Alyssa Hareid and Jesus Ortiz, Jan. 13.

Kinsley Marianne Johnson, Parent: Nicole, Jan. 14.

Beckett Richard Majerus, Parents: Abby and Jacob, Jan. 14.

Michael David Introne, Parents: Amy and David, Jan. 15.

Owen William Borland, Parents: Amber and Dana, Jan. 17.

Marshall Joe Ness, Parents: Jill and Matthew, Jan. 19.

Ambrose Edward Ness, Parents: Jill and Matthew, Jan. 19.

Eliza Susan Griswold, Parents: Amanda and Kenneth, Jan. 19.

Mateo Rocha, Parents: Ruby Vargas and Joshua Rocha, Jan. 21.

Colton Lloyd Wimer, Parents: Katelyn and Matthew, Jan. 21.

Arlo William Keck, Parents: Caitlin and Jason, Jan. 22.

Harper Jo Hardecopf, Parents: Samantha and Andrew, Jan. 23.

Wyatt Timothy Schultz, Parents: Lindsay and Luke, Jan. 27.

Gracelyn Rose Rupprecht, Parents: Anna and Isaac, Jan. 30.

Steele County Deaths

January 2021

Mary Marcella Berg, 89, Owatonna, Jan. 3.

Delores Elaine Flint, 92, Owatonna, Jan. 3.

Gary Howard Durner, 77, Owatonna, Jan. 6.

Susan Kathleen Frykman, 70, Waterville, Jan. 6.

Carroll Jeanne Evenson, 85, Owatonna, Jan. 8.

Lola Mae Rions-Pruett, 91, Owatonna, Jan. 8.

Linda Ann Van Lear, 73, Warsaw Township, Jan. 8.

Todd Christopher Nelson, 51, Blooming Prairie, Jan. 10.

Bradley Dean McGovern, 55, Owatonna, Jan. 13.

John Frederick Olson, 68, Owatonna, Jan. 13.

Mary Louis Phillips, 97, Owatonna, Jan. 15.

Lisa Ann Trnka, 50, Owatonna, Jan. 16.

Amalia Vela Schweim, 75, Owatonna, Jan. 18.

Corleen Kay Stephan, 73, Owatonna, Jan. 19.

Timothy Dean Dahle, 52, Owatonna, Jan. 20.

Lora Lee Sokel, 82, Owatonna, Jan. 22.

Doreen Romona Johnson, 88, Blooming Prairie, Jan. 23.

Chester Eugene Louks, 88, Owatonna, Jan. 25.

Dorothy Venetta Fitzgerald, 82, Owatonna, Jan. 29.

Steele County Marriages

January 2021

Nicole Katherine Brekken and Nathan Donald Hager, Jan. 1.

Rachel Grace Kegley and Collin Lee Bruns, Jan. 2.

Andrew Thomas Langholz and Jennifer Ann Ludemann, Jan. 9.

Yesenia Angelita Galvan and Jonathan Ortiz Lazu, Jan. 12.

Paul Daniel Klancher and Lora Ann Wilson, Jan. 12.

Dylan Mychel Radel and Jennifer Rose Hager, Jan. 23.

Bala Rohit Reddy Peddireddy and Priyadarshini Padmanapan, Jan. 24.

Alyssa Grace Elzen and Wesley Ray Hager, Jan. 23.

David Alonso Garcia Cortez and Jennifer Abigail Esquivel, Jan. 30.

Steele County Divorces

January 2021

Shawn Michael Price and Alicia Marie Price, Jan. 4.

Kelly Ann Karsten and Gregory Scott Karsten, Jan. 7.

Christopher Jon Hermes and Alicia Laura LaVonne Hermes, Jan. 13.

See PUBLIC RECORD on B11 ▶

Pheasants for Hospitalized Veterans Auction

Please join us on

Saturday, October 23rd, 2021

VFW Club Room, 135 Oakdale St., Owatonna

Silent Auction: 5 p.m.— 6:45 p.m. Live Auction: starts @ 7 p.m.

Wine Pull and Meat Raffles start at 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Kitchen open from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Bar opens at 4 p.m.

All proceeds go to approximately 1,850 hospitalized veterans for a pheasant meal with wild rice and all the trimmings. All dinners are served in 15 veterans hospitals and homes across the state and are sponsored by the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

*Funds raised will also support other veteran programs such as:

-Trolling for Troops

-Disabled Veterans Deer & Turkey Hunts

-Venison Dinners

TAX IMPACT

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

Property Type	Estimated Market Value	Q1 Annual Tax Impact	Q2 Annual Tax Impact	Total
Residential Homestead	\$50,000	\$35	\$9	\$44
	\$150,000	\$147	\$38	\$185
	\$250,000	\$274	\$72	\$346
Commercial/Industrial	\$100,000	\$174	\$46	\$220
	\$250,000	\$494	\$129	\$623
	\$500,000	\$1,075	\$282	\$1,357

AGRICULTURAL

Property Type	Estimated Market Value	Q1 Annual Tax Impact	Q2 Annual Tax Impact	Total
Agricultural Homestead	\$6,000	\$1.39	\$0.37	\$1.76
	\$6,500	\$1.51	\$0.40	\$1.91
	\$7,000	\$1.63	\$0.43	\$2.06
Agricultural Non-Homestead	\$6,000	\$2.79	\$0.73	\$3.52
	\$6,500	\$3.02	\$0.79	\$3.81
	\$7,000	\$3.25	\$0.85	\$4.10

! Does not include residential property tax refunds. See the page to the right for this and additional tax relief measures.

For an estimate of your individual tax impact, visit the tax calculator page on the District's website at www.blossoms.k12.mn.us.

TAX RELIEF MEASURES

Residential Property Tax Refunds

Regular Residential Property Tax Refund (Annual Refund for Eligible Households): A homeowner with a household income of up to \$116,180 is eligible for a property tax refund of up to \$2,840. The following table refers to homeowners.

There is also a refund program for renters. A renter with a household income of up to \$62,960 is eligible for a property tax refund of up to \$2,210.

Special Residential Property Tax Refund: If you are a homeowner, you may also be eligible for a special property tax refund. This refund has no income limit, and the maximum refund is \$1,000. You qualify if your net property tax increased by more than 12%, and the increase is at least \$100.

For more information, visit www.revenue.state.mn.us/property-tax-refund

EXAMPLE FOR A HOMEOWNER: REGULAR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAX REFUND

Sample Home Value	Annual Household Income	Tax Impact Before Regular Property Tax Refund is Applied	Regular Property Tax Refund (without Special Refund)	Net Impact After Regular Property Tax Refund is Applied
\$50,000	\$27,500	\$44/year	\$22/year	\$2/month
\$150,000	\$60,000	\$185/year	\$123/year	\$62/year
\$250,000	\$100,000	\$346/year	\$111/year	\$111/year

*Property Tax refund examples are for homes located in the City of Blooming Prairie. Calculations are for a homeowner, based on the regular residential property tax refund only and do not consider the special residential property tax refund, for which residents are also eligible.

Estimated Source of Payments | Q1: \$27,590,000 & Q2: \$6,400,000 Bond Issue, 25 Year Term

25%

37%

38%

Residential/Commercial/Public Utilities, Railroad, Non-Homestead Properties, etc.

Ag Land & Buildings (Levy)*

Paid by State Aid (Ag Credit)*

*Chart shows estimated sources of payments for debt service on the proposed bonds over the life of the bonds. Estimates assume no changes in property values, state equalizing factors, or in-state law.

Ag Land & Buildings excludes taxes on the house, garage, and one acre of land, which are included with "Residential/Commercial/Other."

Ag2School Tax Credit

Ag landowners will pay less taxes in 2023 than in 2017.

Est. Annual Tax Impact of one homestead agricultural acre assessed at \$6,500

Year	Est. School Portion of Taxes	Q1	Q2
Pre 2017 (2016)	\$4.17		
Pre 2018 (2017)	\$4.17		
Pre 2019 (2018)	\$4.00		
Pre 2020 (2019)	\$3.88		
Pre 2021 (2020)	\$4.07		
Pre 2022 (2021)	\$4.31	\$0.81	\$0.81
Pre 2023 (2022)	\$3.81		

Existing Debt

New Debt

All public school bond projects in Minnesota now benefit from this tax credit to our farmers and ag community.

Ag land owners receive the annual Ag2School Tax Credit of **60% in 2022** and it increases to **70% in 2023 and Beyond**

St. Mary's School

Shining Knights

Molly Simmons

Grade: 6th Grade

Nominated by: Mr. Ostermeier

Parents: Amy and Brandon

Leighton Goluba

Grade: 6th Grade

Nominated by: Mrs. Seykora

Parents: Bridget and Phil

Molly shows great leadership and confidence in the choir. She is talented and enthusiastic and always tries to do her best. She often shows her appreciation for her teachers by thanking them after class. Her smile and energy are contagious and it is clear that she has that light given to her by the grace of God that guides her every step of the way. Great job, Molly!

Leighton has done a fantastic job tackling the academic challenges of transitioning from 5th grade to 6th grade this fall. He is on top of his day-to-day responsibilities with materials and assignments. He is also stepping up in the classroom by sharing his thoughts and volunteering to answer questions. I'm excited to see where the year takes Leighton and watch him continue to grow through this year.

SM ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

730 South Cedar Ave. Owatonna

507-446-2300

stmarys-owatonna.org

THIS FEATURE SPONSORED BY A PROUD ST. MARY'S ALUMNUS.

GOPHER CONFERENCE STANDINGS

FOOTBALL		
Gopher Conference		
	Conf.	Overall
Blooming Prairie	3-0-0	6-0-0
NRHEG	3-0-0	3-3-0
Bethlehem Academy	2-1-0	5-1-0
Randolph	1-1-0	3-3-0
United South Central	1-1-0	3-3-0
Kenyon-Wanamingo	1-2-0	2-4-0
WEM	1-2-0	3-3-0
JWP	0-1-0	0-6-0
Hayfield	0-3-0	2-4-0
Medford	0-3-0	0-6-0

Mid Southeast – White Division		
	Div.	Overall
Blooming Prairie	3-0-0	6-0-0
Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop	2-1-0	5-1-0
St. Clair/Loyola	2-1-0	4-2-0
NRHEG	2-1-0	3-3-0
WEM	1-2-0	3-3-0
Medford	0-3-0	0-6-0

Volleyball		
	Conf.	Overall
WEM	7-0-0	8-8-0
Bethlehem Academy	6-0-0	10-8-0
NRHEG	6-3-0	11-9-0
Kenyon-Wanamingo	5-1-0	8-2-0
Medford	5-3-0	11-6-0
United South Central	2-4-0	5-9-0
Triton	0-4-0	3-11-0
Randolph	2-5-0	2-10-0
Maple River	1-5-0	1-10-0
JWP	1-6-0	4-8-0
Blooming Prairie	2-7-0	7-12-0



Blooming Prairie's Xavier Rennie (18) flies into end zone Saturday afternoon for a touchdown against GFW. The No. 1 state ranked Blossoms grabbed their biggest win of the season by dumping GFW 54-8. The Blossoms take on NRHEG Friday night in Blooming Prairie.

BIG NINE CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Football		
Big Nine Conference		
	Conf.	Overall
Mankato West	5-0-0	6-0-0

Rochester Mayo	4-1-0	5-1-0
Owatonna	4-2-0	4-2-0
Faribault	3-0-0	4-2-0
Mankato East	3-0-0	5-1-0
Northfield	3-2-0	3-3-0
Albert Lea	0-3-0	0-6-0
Winona	1-3-0	3-3-0
Red Wing	1-3-0	1-5-0
Rochester John Marshall	1-3-0	1-5-0
Rochester Century	1-4-0	1-5-0
Austin	0-5-0	0-6-0

Big Southeast – Red Division		
	Div.	Overall
Mankato West	6-0-0	6-0-0
Rochester Mayo	5-1-0	5-1-0
New Prague	4-2-0	4-2-0
Owatonna	4-2-0	4-2-0
Northfield	3-3-0	3-3-0
Rochester John Marshall	1-5-0	1-5-0
Rochester Century	1-5-0	1-5-0
Austin	0-6-0	0-6-0

Good Luck
This Season Teams!
From the
Bloomington
Bus Company

Moving kids forward



AREA SPORTS BOOSTERS

These businesses and organizations are proud supporters of the Steele County Times' expanded county wide sports coverage. We wish all local teams the best success throughout the season.
Go Blossoms, Go Tigers, Go Huskies and Go Panthers!









Jennifer Walsh
REAL ESTATE

Jennifer Walsh

507-438-6676
jenwalsh@kw.com
jenwalsh.kw.com

Powered by 

MBT Bank

Serving
Southern
Minnesota &
Northern Iowa

www.mbtbank.bank
Member FDIC

DQ

Good Luck Blossoms!

583-2296

Bloomington

COMMERCE BANK

Agri Finance
Group
a division of

101 Central Ave S, Geneva, MN
507.256.7235



PROUDLY SERVING
STEELE COUNTY

Brick-Meger Funeral Home
&
Medford Funeral Home

megercares.com
507.451.1457

BLOOMINGTON
Chamber of Commerce



138 Highway Ave. South
507-583-4472
bloomingtonchamber.com

Koster's
CAR KORNER

Rod, Tess,
Breanna and Reeves

On the point • HWY 218
Bloomington
507-583-2018
www.kosterscarkorner.com



GOOD LUCK
TO ALL OUR
TIGER TEAMS!

THE MEDFORD
SCHOOL
IS PROUD OF YOU!

FOUR SEASONS
Electric

• COMMERCIAL
• AGRICULTURAL
• RESIDENTIAL
• INDUSTRIAL

3127 S County Road 45
Owatonna MN 55060
507-446-8415
fax 507-455-1305
Ryan Spindler - Owner
ryan@fourseasonselectric.com

ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST

Dr. Deborah Lien
DDS, MBS
drdeborahlienorthodontics.com
507-583-6613
FREE CONSULTATION
132 2nd Ave NE | Bloomington

Building Healthy
Smiles





SALINAS AUTO
SALES & REPAIR INC.

507-583-6620

656 3RD ST. NE
BLOOMINGTON

MINER'S
Outdoor & Rec

507-583-2712

Hwy 218 South,
Bloomington, MN

Outdoor Power Equipment,
Golf Cart: Sales, Service,
Parts & Accessories

www.minersoutdoor.com



Good Luck
on your
Sports Seasons!

Medford Teacher's Union

usbank

Bloomington
Prairie
Branch



USBANK.COM

Vandals
FAMILY MARKET

Locally Owned & Operated

237 Hwy. Ave. S.
Bloomington

Hours: 8 am - 7 pm
7 Days a Week

 507-583-6671
vandalsfamilymarket.com

MICHAEL
BISHMAN

121 West Broadway Street,
Owatonna
Phone: 507-451-0193
1-800-856-9864

Monday - Friday 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Saturday & Sunday Closed
Available after hours by appointment

 Like us on Facebook



JENSEN HEATING,
A.C. & PLUMBING



If you've ever called Jensen
Heating, AC & Plumbing for any
work, you already know they're
the best around and why
Amana recommends them.

104 Central Ave N,
Geneva, MN
507-256-4712

Lerbergs
Fitness Center
& Car Wash



118 5th Ave
Ellendale, MN
507-684-2471



Mon-Sat
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

LERBERG'S FOODS
Steele County's Oldest Grocery Store!
Since 1901
120 5th Ave, Ellendale 507-684-2472
Like us on Facebook
Visit our website: lerbergsfoods.com

Good Luck
This
Season Teams!
From the
Owatonna
Bus Company

Moving kids forward





AMESBURY
TRUTH
.com

HOME OF THE
HONEST
MECHANICS!



Mon-Fri 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

1125 S. Oak Ave. • Owatonna
507-431-4576
www.Honest1Owatonna.com

Blossom Logo Wear
One Stop Shop

623 6th Street SE
Bloomington
507-583-7001
www.sportstitch.net



United Way
GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED

1850 Austin Rd Ste 103
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-455-1180
www.unitedwaysteelecounty.org
Text UWSC2021 to 202-858-1233



GO PANTHERS!!

507-684-9422
Ellendale

T.FIN
Building Solutions

Quality products
Integrated design



GO TIGERS!!

www.tfinbuildingsolutions.com



POLY PAK PLASTICS

MEDFORD



Main Street Dental Clinics
comfortable dentistry

Comfortable and
Comprehensive Dentistry

Bloomington Owatonna
405 E. Main St. 1170 East Frontage Rd.
507-583-2141 507-455-1000

New Richland
132 Broadway Ave. N.
507-463-0502

GOOD LUCK
TIGERS!

Moving Kids
Forward

MEDFORD BUS COMPANY
MOVING KIDS FORWARD



Steele Co. Self STORAGE

1010 Hoffman Dr. NW, Suite C
Owatonna, MN 55060

507-451-1112
www.steelecountyselfstorage.com

RESERVE ONLINE OR
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!

BIG NINE CONFERENCE STANDINGS			Girls Tennis			Girls Soccer		
Big Southeast – Blue Division								
	Div.	Overall	Conf.	Overall		Conf.	Overall	
Stewartville	6-0-0	6-0-0	Rochester Mayo	11-0-0	16-1-0	Mankato East	9-1-0	12-2-1
Mankato East	5-1-0	5-1-0	Mankato West	10-1-0	16-4-0	Rochester Century	9-2-0	10-4-2
Kasson-Mantorville	4-2-0	4-2-0	Rochester Century	8-1-0	10-4-0	Rochester Mayo	8-2-1	8-4-2
Faribault	4-2-0	4-2-0	Owatonna	8-4-0	11-6-0	Winona	7-3-1	10-3-2
Winona	3-3-0	3-3-0	Winona	7-4-0	13-9-0	Mankato West	7-3-1	10-4-1
Red Wing	1-5-0	1-5-0	Northfield	4-4-0	4-5-0	Owatonna	7-4-0	9-7-0
Byron	1-5-0	1-5-0	Rochester John Marshall	5-5-0	6-5-0	Red Wing	6-5-0	9-6-0
Albert Lea	0-6-0	0-6-0	Austin	4-7-0	6-10-0	Northfield	3-6-2	3-8-2
			Mankato East	3-7-0	3-12-0	Rochester John Marshall	3-7-1	3-8-1
			Red Wing	2-8-0	5-9-0	Austin	2-9-0	2-12-0
			Albert Lea	1-10-0	2-12-0	Albert Lea	1-10-0	2-14-0
			Faribault	0-10-0	0-17-0	Faribault	0-10-0	1-14-0
Volleyball			Boys Soccer			Swim & Dive		
	Conf.	Overall	Conf.	Overall		Conf.	Overall	
Northfield	8-0-0	16-4-0	Rochester Century	10-1-0	13-2-0	Rochester Century	6-0-0	6-1-0
Rochester Mayo	7-0-0	13-5-0	Rochester Mayo	9-2-0	11-3-0	Mankato East	4-1-0	5-2-0
Rochester Century	6-2-0	16-5-0	Mankato West	7-4-0	12-4-0	Mankato West	4-2-0	5-2-0
Mankato West	6-2-0	12-9-0	Winona	6-4-1	9-5-1	Winona	3-2-0	5-2-0
Owatonna	4-3-0	11-10-1	Austin	6-4-1	6-5-3	Rochester Mayo	3-2-0	3-2-0
Red Wing	5-4-0	12-10-3	Owatonna	6-4-1	10-5-1	Northfield	3-2-0	3-2-0
Mankato East	5-4-0	9-11-0	Mankato East	5-5-1	9-6-1	Red Wing	3-2-0	3-2-0
Faribault	2-5-0	9-13-0	Rochester John Marshall	3-5-3	5-5-4	Austin	2-4-0	3-4-0
Rochester John Marshall	2-6-0	9-11-0	Faribault	5-6-0	7-8-0	Rochester John Marshall	2-4-0	2-4-0
Albert Lea	2-7-0	6-10-0	Northfield	4-6-1	5-6-1	Albert Lea	1-4-0	2-4-0
Winona	1-7-0	1-13-0	Albert Lea	0-10-1	2-12-1	Owatonna	1-4-0	1-4-0
Austin	0-7-0	1-17-0	Red Wing	0-10-1	0-13-1	Faribault	0-5-0	0-6-0

2021 FOOTBALL MANIA

FEATURING: LOCAL • COLLEGE • PRO TEAMS

Football Contest Rules

CONTEST PERIOD: Sept. 22-Dec. 8. Different games will be featured each week in the newspaper.

HOW TO WIN: Read the advertisements on this page and pick the team you think will win each game. Write the team’s name in the blank with the corresponding number. Cut out and drop off at Steele County Times, 411 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie or 109 W. Rose St., Owatonna (Mailboxes outside both buildings, if office is closed), mail to Steele County Times, P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 or email to bptimes@frontiernet.net. Must be returned by 5 p.m. on Tuesday prior to the games.

(PLEASE NOTE: The selected games are for the following week, not the current week because of production and mailing schedule.)

TIE-BREAKER: You must enter a score for the tie-breaker game or you will be disqualified.

PRIZES: We will award the winner a gift card to the Kernel Restaurant in Owatonna. There will be a grand prize awarded to the person who picks the most correct games throughout the entire 12 weeks. All decisions by judges are final.

ELIGIBILITY: Anyone can enter ages 12 or older, excluding staff of newspaper.

This week’s winner is...**STEVE ZAK** of Blooming Prairie. He won by missing only two games (Chicago Bears vs. Las Vegas and Alabama vs. Texas A&M).

ENTRY FORM

Name

Address

Phone

1

TIE BREAKER GAME - MUST INCLUDE SCORE

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

KERNEL Restaurant

1011 HOFFMAN DR. NW • OWATONNA

507-451-2585

www.kernelpies.com

1. **Blooming Prairie vs. Medford**

2. NRHEG vs. WEM

Loud and Proud

Awsome Blossom Football Fans help us

Change the World...Order Your T-Shirt Today

and help our community

Recover, Reimagine, and Rebuild.

LIVE UNITED 2021 T-SHIRT DESIGN

\$25

www.unitedwayssteelecounty.org

Artist: Kaleb age 16

Proceeds benefit Health, Education, and Financial Stability programming in Steele County.

3. Owatonna vs. Kasson-Mantorville

4. Denver Broncos vs. Cleveland Browns

AT

www.amesburytruth.com

5. Kansas City Chiefs vs. Tennessee Titans

6. Green Bay Packers vs. Washington

ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST

Dr. Deborah Lien

DDS, MBS

507-583-6613

132 2nd Ave NE • Blooming Prairie

drdeborahlienorthodontics.com

7. Carolina Panthers vs. New York Giants

8. Atlanta Falcons vs. Miami Dolphins

HOME OF THE HONEST MECHANICS!

H1 HONEST-1 AUTO CARE

1125 S. Oak Ave. • Owatonna

507-431-4576

www.Honest1Owatonna.com

9. Chicago Bears vs. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

10. Cincinnati Bengals vs. Baltimore Ravens

STEELE COUNTY Times

ALWAYS LOCAL. ALL THE TIME

507-583-4431

steelecountytimes.com

11. Minnesota Gophers vs. Maryland

12. Ohio State vs. Indiana

Steele Co. Self Storage

1010 Hoffman Dr. NW, Suite C

Owatonna, MN 55060

507-451-1112

www.steelecountyselfstorage.com

RESERVE ONLINE OR BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!

13. Tennessee vs. Alabama

14. Oregon vs. UCLA

JK Routh Contracting, LLC

Owatonna, MN

Jesse Routh

507-383-7892

Wick Buildings

15. Oklahoma State vs. Iowa State

16. Northwestern vs. Michigan

RJ'S ON 5TH AVE BAR & GRILL

PANTHERS

507-684-9422 • ELLENDALE

17. USC vs. Notre Dame

18. San Diego State vs. Air Force

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

IN 2020 IN MINNESOTA

18 WOMEN • 4 CHILDREN • 6 MEN

WERE VICTIMS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Domestic violence has been worse than ever during the pandemic. Many victims have been forced to shelter in place with their abusers resulting in 28 intimate partner deaths in 2020 and 20 so far in 2021 statewide.



Let's remember and memorialize the 28 victims of domestic homicide in 2020:



Joseph Abraham McRunnel
Abigail Elise Simpson
Monique Saraya Robbins
Angela Lynn Mesich
Brandon Jose Nieves
Richard Alhag Stephen
Ashli Koren Johnson
Kim Laen Theng
Lauren Summer Koffi-n'guessann
Brandon Jerome Salter
Keona Sade Foote
Miyona Zayla Miller
Patricia Ann Valley
Julio Cesar Guadalupe Rodriguez
Yuliya Khort
Klara Eugenie Wright
Maria Fernanda Bliss Pew
Jackie Ann DeFoe
Kevin Lee Shabiash Jr.
Loretta J. Billman
Kevin Logan Jr.
Nigar Mammadzada
Leneesha Helen Columbus
Leneesha LaDell Columbus
Todd Anthony Gerleman
Encarncion Encarncion Gutierrez Quixan
Pauline Hollman
Yang Liu



STOP THE VIOLENCE!

For help, contact
**Crisis Resource Center of
Steele County**
507-451-1202

**National Hotline
for
Domestic Violence**
800-799-7233

Sponsored by these
local businesses.

Johnson, Doerhoefer
& Miner P.A.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

314 E. Main St.
Bloomington
507-583-7528

685 W. Bridge St.
Owatonna
507-451-9136

133 N. Broadway
New Richland
507-465-3810

**TRY HOPE
BUTTER FOR
YOUR BAKING!**

507-684-2019

SALINAS AUTO REPAIR INC.
656 3rd St. NE • Bloomington, MN

Robert Salinas
Family-Owned
507-583-6620

**322 East Main St.
Bloomington
507-583-2276**

1125 S. Oak Ave. • Owatonna
507-431-4576
www.Honest1Owatonna.com

237 Hwy Ave. S • Bloomington 583-6671

Text UWSC2021 to 202-858-1233
1850 Austin Rd Ste 103 | Owatonna, MN 55060
www.unitedwaysteelcounty.org

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED

**LARGE SELECTIONS
LOW PRICES**

**495 West N. ST.
Owatonna**
507-451-7220

"like" us on facebook

Building Healthy Smiles!

132 2nd Ave NE • Bloomington
507.583.6613 * FREE CONSULTATION

Ag & Truck Tire

870 32 Ave. NW, Owatonna
Emergency or on the farm repair
507-455-0388
(After hours 507-455-0483)

Geneva, Mn
507-256-7258

507-684-2100
12880 SW 72nd Ave, Ellendale

PUBLIC RECORD

◀ PUBLIC RECORD from B7

Nancy Ann Cunningham and Mark Thomas Cunningham, Jan. 15. Jessica Ruth Bell and Daniel Jonathan Bell, Jan. 21. Bridget Oestreich and Cory Oestreich, Jan. 22. Shannon Michael Montanye and Keri Faye Montanye, Jan. 22. Desirae Lynn Brown and Roger Dale Brown, Jan. 29.

Steele County Births February 2021

Calvin Matthew Simon, Parents: Shelby and Brian, Feb. 3. Ty Jeffrey Berg, Parents: Katie and Jacob, Feb. 4. Ayden Lee Masso, Parents: Courtney and Jesse, Feb. 5. Remington Margaret Banister, Parents: Laura and Timothy, Feb. 5. Kaylin Grace Krogh, Parents: Willow and Anthony, Feb. 7. Ryan Christopher McKnight, Parents: Stephanie and Ryan, Feb. 9. Saanvi Sharma, Parents: Sonirani Parivara Janardhan and Subir Kumar Sharma, Feb. 9. Adelaide Jo Beaupre, Parents: Katelynn and Benjamin, Feb. 10. Eva Victoria Duran, Parents: Aurora and Jorge, Feb. 12. Mahdiya Abdiwali Mohamoud, Parents: Fadumo Abdullahi and Abdiwali Abdillahi Mohamoud, Feb. 15. Thomas Woodrow Rypka, Parents: Danielle and Brian, Feb. 15. Silas Thomas Savor, Parents: Elise and Coltin, Feb. 17. Nuradin Khalif Yusuf, Parents: Fatumo Mursal and Khalif Mursal, Feb. 17. Rodric Scott Clements, Parents: Jennifer and Thomas, Feb. 17. Eli Richard Mueller, Parents: Heather and Luke, Feb. 18. Noah Franklin Mueller, Parents: Heather and Luke, Feb. 18. Rafe Edward James Cline, Parents: Madeline and Nicholas, Feb. 18. Jameson Marvin Sommers, Parents: Kirsten and Brian, Feb. 18. Tucker Hayes Thorson, Parents: Lisa and Dustin, Feb. 18. Levi Benjamin Trom, Parents: Libby and Benjamin, Feb. 20.

Case Patrick O'Connor, Parents: Krystal and Patrick, Feb. 20. Charles Haven Asprey, Parents: Lauren and Charles, Feb. 21. Ellie Anne Newhouse, Parents: Sarah and Micah, Feb. 21. Waylon Dale Sorensen, Parents: Melanie and Kirby, Feb. 23. Hadley Jean Ann Arnold, Parents: Ariel and Dylan, Feb. 25. Hayes Michael Arnold, Parents: Ariel and Dylan, Feb. 25. Zayne Timothy Joseph Twite, Parents: Julianna Lamotte and Trevor Twite, Feb. 25. Jose Angel Morales-Ortiz, Parent: Cruz Martinez Ortiz, Feb. 25. Falen Marie Kozelka, Parents: Lauren and Kyle, Feb. 25. Joseph Gael Garcia Luna, Parents: Ana Luna Guerrero and Jose Garcia Pina, Feb. 27. Brooks Allen Weigel, Parents: Skyler and Darik, Feb. 28.

Steele County Deaths February 2021

Marilyn Jeanette Schroeder, 96, Owatonna, Feb. 2. Lorraine Augusta Kruckeberg, 84, Blooming Prairie, Feb. 3. Duane Clayton Urch, 83, Owatonna, Feb. 3. Donald Albert Arndt, 86, Owatonna, Feb. 4. Larry Duane Plumley, 67, Owatonna, Feb. 5. Gertrude Halverson, 87, Owatonna, Feb. 7. Elrose Mae Milverstedt, 107, Owatonna, Feb. 8. Nathan Dale Witzel, 60, Owatonna, Feb. 8. Marcella Patricia Randall, 84, Owatonna, Feb. 9. Laura Ann Nelson, 84, Faribault, Feb. 9. Gilma Irene Jones, 94, Owatonna, Feb. 10. Kyle Norman Wolfe, 61, Owatonna, Feb. 12. Donald L. Horness, 87, Medford, Feb. 13. Mary Ellen Lerberg, 76, Ellendale, Feb. 13. Merrill Dean Bunn, 92, Ellendale, Feb. 15. Donald A. Resler, 95, Owatonna, Feb. 16. Felix John Wochnick, 96, Owatonna, Feb. 17. David Ernest Kranda, 75, Owatonna, Feb. 18. Donald William Standke, 94, Owatonna, Feb. 18. David Frank Vaith, 82,

Owatonna, Feb. 18. Norman Lavern Rieck, 76, Owatonna, Feb. 18. Shirley Ann Harris, 80, Owatonna, Feb. 19. Katherine Ann Heathman, 59, Owatonna, Feb. 20. Carl Laurence Stewart, 87, Owatonna, Feb. 21. Jeanette Bergman, 85, Owatonna, Feb. 22. Harland Gene Strohschein, 92, Owatonna, Feb. 22. Maynard Robert Schoenrock, 86, Owatonna, Feb. 23. Mohamed Qassim Arif, 38, Owatonna, Feb. 26. Theodore Andrew Stadler, 69, Medford, Feb. 28.

Steele County Marriages February 2021

Margaret Mary Therese Seidel and Kenneth Andrew Hauer, Feb. 5. Scott Thomas Jonas and Tamara Michele Johnson, Feb. 6. Matthew Thomas Weatherley and Victoria Anne Bath, Feb. 13. Jaileene Guel and Juan Isaac Nunez Esquer, Feb. 14. Mirian Palestino Mejia and Felix Murillo Vazquez, Feb. 20. Kimberly Diane Mueller and Justin John Graves, Feb. 26.

Steele County Divorces February 2021

Christopher Glenn Gadzinski and Christy JoAnn Gadzinski, Feb. 1. Jacob Newman and Jennifer Newman, Feb. 1. Sarah M. Chelmo and Brian R. Chelmo, Feb. 2. Joseph Timothy Skusa and Mikayla Irina Skusa, Feb. 3. Jeffrey Joseph Larson and Tammy Lanette Larson, Feb. 3. Ryan Dean Chapman and Belinda M. Chapman, Feb. 8. Sandra Kay Hinchley-Wolters and Robert Glenn Wolters, Feb. 8. Cara Elizabeth Ramsey and Lee Dale Ramsey, Feb. 11. Ann Marie Weedman and Quentin Lynn Weedman, Feb. 16. Samantha Jo Alida Prokopec and Dylan Bradley Prokopec, Feb. 16. Dillon Gordon Anderson and Nicole Anna Anderson, Feb. 18. Nina Marit Sanford and George Edward Sanford, Feb. 19. Sabrina Lynn Louks and Shawn Michael Louks, Feb. 22. Peter Thomas Graves and Tracy Kay Graves, Feb. 22. Karen Colleen Homan and Daniel Joy Homan, Feb. 26.

Steele County Births March 2021

Luna Camila Ramos Salas, Parents: Meili and Edilser, March 1. Ellie Marie Lynch, Parents: Megan and Tyler, March 1. Archer James Lurken, Parents: Emily and John, March 1. Oliver Thomas Butler, Parents: Allison and Matthew, March 2. Layla Ann Christey, Parents: Megan and Joseph, March 3. Nawaal Omar Isse, Parents: Naimo Hassan and Omar Halane, March 4. Carter Shannon Aanenson, Parents: Brianna and Thomas, March 4. Karsen James Lewis, Parent: Kaytlynn Thordor, March 6. Beckett Micheal Hopkins, Parents: Bailie MacIntosh and Micheal Hopkins, March 7. Josephine Grace Meyer, Parents: Connie and Joel,

March 8. Otto Nobyl Elmore, Parents: Courtney and Cayden, March 8. Selah Ivy Pettet, Parents: Kallie and Richard, March 9. Samuel Weston Ferris, Parents: Rachel and Anthony, March 9. Easten Eric Jorgensen, Parents: Victoria and James, March 9. Rue Jean Cultice, Parents: Kellie and Chad, March 11. Liam Javier Arellano Toga, Parents: Raquel Toga Castanon and Ivan Arellano Cabrera, March 12. Wilfred Bear Jones, Parents: Jesika and Dustin, March 12. Leo Michael Pospisil, Parents: Katy and Brett, March 15. Henry Allen Pospisil, Parents: Katy and Brett, March 15. Emberlynn Marie Wacek, Parents: Kristin and Brandon, March 17. Iris Elizabeth Everhard, Parents: Lauren and David, March 18. Vincent Ezra Sosa-Vargas, Parents: Brianna Vargas and Jose Sosa-Venegas, March 19. Sawyer Ann Marik, Parent: Jackie Janovsky, March 19. Bodie Mack Amundson, Parents: Megan and Steven, March 22. Jalen Eugene Rosburg, Parents: Meghann and Jevin, March 22. Ryder Ethan Hagen, Parents: Angel and Ethan, March 23. Clementine Reina Reinsbach, Parents: Genesis Zapata and Joshua Reinsbach, March 26. Esteban Rosas, Parents: Guadalupe and Alfredo, March 29. Cleo Madeline Anderson, Parents: Madline and Drew, March 29. Remy Johanna Simmons, Parents: Emily and Erik, March 30. Zoey Lynn Koepp, Parents: Erica and Joshua, March 31.

Steele County Deaths March 2021

Alan Gary Heide, 63, Owatonna, March 2. Robert Wayne Black, 74, Owatonna, March 2. Cindy Jane Green, 52, Ellendale, March 3. Dolores Jean Fink, 92, Sioux Falls, SD, March 3. Neil Orvis Thompson, 83, Owatonna, March 4. Douglas Owen Cassity, 66, Owatonna, March 6. Bernice Eleanor Reisenauer, 93, Owatonna, March 7. Edward Cyril Mountain, 96, Owatonna, March 8. Teresa Louise Craig, 70, Owatonna, March 8. Catherine Mary Elton, 91, Owatonna, March 9. Judith M. Staley, 93, Owatonna, March 10. Delores Edythe Wilke, 87, Owatonna, March 11. James John Schulte, 94, Owatonna, March 13. Bernard Pribyl, 97, Owatonna, March 14. Renee Fern Hedberg, 85, Owatonna, March 16. Lois May Johnson, 79, Owatonna, March 18. Rene Theresa Erickson, 60, Owatonna, March 19. Luella Louise Hustad, 95, Owatonna, March 20. Louis Clement Perron, 75, Faribault, March 20. Marvin Ronald Camerer, 73, Blooming Prairie, March 20. Gerald Charles Anderson, 75, Faribault, March 22. John Wesley Newman, 64, Austin, March 22. Marcella Henrietta Dombrock, 99, Owatonna, March 24. Judy Ann Dombrosky, 60, Owatonna, March 28. Norma Ann Pauline Schwartz, 86, Owatonna, March 31.

Lori Ranee Arthaud, 61, Blooming Prairie, March 31.

Steele County Marriages March 2021

Joseph Maurice Davis and Angelica Felipa Montemayor, March 8. Marissa Lee Torres and Smilie Frank Granadoz, March 8. Ciera Dawn Federly and Kyle John Wilson, March 13. Lukas Scott Ewest and Anissa Marie Greiner, March 13. Madison Marie Hadoff and Kyle Michael Melcher, March 21. Cameron Daniel Carns and Cassandra Lynn Nelson, March 26.

Steele County Divorces March 2021

Marco Antonio Maldonado Martinez and Guadalupe Maldonado, March 2. Cassandra Mary Gilgenbach and Jordan Joel Gilgenbach, March 2. Jennifer Michele Johnson and Davin Thomas Johnson, March 19. Andrea R. Bremer and Kenneth M. Bremer, March 19. Charity Jewel Slack and David Michael Slack, March 22. Deanna Marie Erlitz and Robert Alexander Erlitz, March 29. Claudia Yvette Martinez and Juan Carlos Martinez Ontiveros, March 31.

Steele County Births April 2021

Lionel Mezhiah Garza-Aragon, Parents: Lluvia Aragon and Jessie Garza, April 1. Olivia Marie Crowley, Parents: Samantha and William, April 3. Taven Allan Bastian, Parents: Resha and Nathan, April 3. Rowan Allen Schiltz, Parents: Jana and Bradley, April 10. Gavin Samuel Newhouse, Parents: Monica and Samuel, April 13. Bronx Antonio Padilla, Parents: Stephanie Padilla and John Adams, April 14. Brady Lee Madery, Parents: Amanda and Mathew, April 15. Alexander Mark Halbleib Hanson, Parents: Sarah and Benjamin, April 16. Destiny Diamond Flowers, Parents: Jennifer Tinsley and Dyllin Flowers, April 16. Conway Philip Runden, Parents: Matha and Philip, April 19. Zakir Kader Hadi, Parents: Zemzem Alinur and Kader Abdi, April 20. Nicholas Ervin Nelson, Parents: Kayla and Nicholas, April 20. Maya Joanne Linday, Parents: Kari and Anthony, April 21. Maverick Horst Schwartz, Parents: Lanelle and William, April 22. Kingsley Marvel Masopust, Parents: Felicia and Sean, April 22. Alice Josephine Terpstra, Parents: Rachael and John, April 23. Aisha Yasin Ali, Parents: Zeinab Mohamud and Yasin Abdi, April 23. Cooper Kenneth Sletten, Parents: Courtney and Jesse, April 23. Oliver John Thomez, Parent: Meredith Hurrle, April 23. Dax Laddie Eggert, Parents: Nicole and Tyler, April 30. Cash Henry Leiven, Parents: Lora and Nicolas, April 30.

Steele County Deaths April 2021

Claire Virginia Todahl, 92, Owatonna, April 1. John D. Johnson, 96,

Owatonna, April 1. Phillip Roger Briggs, 77, Ellendale, April 7. Timothy Duffy Moberg, 44, Ellendale, April 7. Barbara Joan Pogue, 83, Faribault, April 8. Judy Lynn Larson, 61, Lemond Township, April 8. Marie Amelia Jones, 93, Owatonna, April 8. James Nass Whiteis, 88, Owatonna, April 10. Ralph Dale Schrader, 89, Owatonna, April 10. Sherry-Lyn Buscovick, 69, Medford, April 13. Mary Helen Schullo, 76, Owatonna, April 13. Dylan Alexander Lauwers, 15, Owatonna, April 13. Linda Ann Jakobson, 76, Blooming Prairie, April 14. Clayton George Kukacka, 84, Owatonna, April 14. Kim Catherine Slezak, 58, Owatonna, April 14. Lawrence Chester Knudsen, 86, Owatonna, April 15. Larry Joe Noble, 72, Owatonna, April 15. Glenn Irvin Beckman, 74, Owatonna, April 15. Evelyn Arelene Lee, 89, Owatonna, April 16. Robert Luvern Swearingen, 96, Blooming Prairie, April 16. Richard Jerome McCann, 91, Owatonna, April 17. Kenneth Ronald Casperson, 85, Owatonna, April 17. Mark Warren Sawyer, 67, Ellendale, April 17. Lawrence Fritz Ruehling, 98, Owatonna, April 18. Clinton Dale Kazemba, 83, Waterville, April 19. Sondra B. Woods, 67, Owatonna, April 19. Donald Edwin Meyer, 84, Owatonna, April 21. Arthur John Grinnell, 85, Faribault, April 25. Jennifer Lynn Duenes, 36, Owatonna, April 25. Jennie Amelia Wetzel, 97, Medford, April 26. Marlys Jean Harvey, 83, Blooming Prairie, April 28. Adeline Elisabeth Schmoll, 83, Owatonna, April 28. Helen Louise Ulrich, 92, Owatonna, April 28. Deborah Ann Brown, 77, Ellendale, April 30. Gary Allen Ringhofer, 70, Owatonna, April 30.

Steele County Marriages April 2021

Brian Daniel Forcelle and Renae Hope Thevenot, April 1. Kathryn Taylor Kreiermuth and David Jesse Beraza, April 2. Katlin Margaret Joersz and Christopher William Boelter, April 9. Carlos Manuel Reyes Aponte and Nageli Rivera Vazquez, April 11. Jennifer Lynn Gavin and Todd James Finholdt, April 14. Sarah Rebecca Garner and De'Kyra Kapre Walston, April 20. Renaye L. Crawford and John Thomas Odell, April 28.

Steele County Divorces April 2021

Becky Jo Sipes and Jeffry Allen Sipes, April 1. Kiley Rae Glynn and Steven Patrick Glynn, April 8. Benjamin Michael Goodpaster and Maria Lynn Goodpaster, April 9. Holli Leona Loken and Kevin Leroy Loken, April 19. Blaire Ann Ehmke and Scott Robert Ehmke, April 19. Jeffrey Donald Kendall and Elizabeth Marie Fetzer, April 20. Lorraine Vivian Njos and Randy Lawrence Njos, April 22. Michelle Renae Taylor and Henry Thomas Taylor Jr., April 26. Dale O. Kasfeldt and Lamai C. Kasfeldt, April 29.

STEELE COUNTY
SECOND HALF

REAL ESTATE TAXES

Due October 15, 2021

We have several options for you
to pay your real estate taxes.

- Our Office or Drop Box at:
630 Florence Avenue
- Online at www.co.steele.mn.us

- Mail to us - must be post
marked by October 15th at:

Steele County Treasurer
PO Box 890, Owatonna, MN 55060

9/29, 10/6 & 13

Recipe
CornerEasy Hot
Cider Punch

1 gallon apple cider
6 whole cloves
6 whole allspice
2 tsp. nutmeg
1 (6 oz.) can frozen lemonade
1 (6 oz.) can frozen orange juice
1 cup packed brown sugar
1 cinnamon stick

Simmer 2 cups of cider, cloves, allspice, nutmeg, and cinnamon for 10 minutes. Add remaining ingredients and heat until hot. Do not boil. Makes 18 cups or 36 half cup servings.

Sponsored by

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITEDUnited Way
of Steele County

507-455-1180

unitedwaysteelecounty.orgBUSINESS
-of the-
MONTH

**Congratulations to Jennifer Walsh Real Estate powered
by Keller Williams Premier Realty of Rochester for
being recognized as the Chamber of Commerce Business of the Month!**

Jennifer Walsh Real Estate

Jennifer Walsh has a long history of being a Blooming Prairie Chamber member. She started with Walsh Garbage Service and continues today with her real estate business.

Walsh is celebrating 10 years of being in the real estate business. She works all over southeastern Minnesota with offices in Austin and Rochester as well as out of her home in Blooming Prairie. Reach out if you're looking to buy or sell your home. Visit Walsh on Facebook by searching Jennifer Walsh Real Estate or give her a call at 507-438-6676.

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL
DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No.
74-PR-21-1329

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

Estate of
Tracy Johnson, also
known as Tracy R.
Johnson and Tracy
Robin Johnson,
Decedent

NOTICE OF LOCATIONS WHERE
BALLOTS WILL BE COUNTED

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT NO. 756
(BLOOMING PRAIRIE), MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the election
judges shall count the ballots cast at the spe-
cial election that has been called and will be
held in and for Independent School District No.
756 (Bloomington Prairie), Minnesota, on Tuesday,
November 2, 2021 between the hours of
4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at the following locations:

COMBINED POLLING PLACE:

Bloomington Prairie City Council Chambers
City Center
138 Hwy. Ave. South
Bloomington Prairie, MN 55917

ABSENTEE BALLOTS:

Bloomington Prairie High School
Board Room
202 4th Ave. NW
Bloomington Prairie, MN 55917

Dated: October 4, 2021

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
Pam Hameister, Clerk

10/13T3

Notice is given that an application for informal probate of the Decedent's Will, dated May 21, 2021, ("Will"), has been filed with the Registrar. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Registrar has informally appointed Alison M. Johnson, whose address is P.O. Box 911, Bloomington Prairie, Minnesota, 55917, as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed with the Court (pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will or appointment of the Personal Representative must be filed with this Court and will be heard by the Court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: October 7, 2021

/s/ Deanna Verdick
Deputy Deputy Registrar

Robin Hoesley
Court Administrator

Attorney for Personal Representative
Lauren L. Fink
MASER, AMUNDSON & BOGGIO, P.A.
6601 Lyndale Avenue South, Suite 320
Richfield, MN, 55423
Attorney License No: 0393093
Telephone: (952) 925-4147
FAX: (952) 925-1926
Email: lfink@maserlaw.com

10/13T2

NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE
MINNESOTA
SECRETARY OF
STATE

Minnesota Limited
Liability Company/Articles of Organization
Minnesota Statutes,
Chapter 322C

The individual(s) listed below who is (are each) 18 years of age or older, hereby adopt(s) the following Articles of Organization:

ARTICLE 1 - LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
NAME: RebKal Properties LLC

ARTICLE 2 - REGISTERED OFFICE AND AGENT(S), IF ANY AT THAT OFFICE:

Name:
Address: 513 4th Street NE Medford MN 55049 USA

ARTICLE 3 - DURATION:
PERPETUAL

ARTICLE 4 - ORGANIZERS:
Name: Linda Peterson
Address: 513 4th Street NE Medford MN 55049 USA

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: Beau A. Hartman

MAILING ADDRESS:
None Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: beau@beau-hartmanlaw.com

Work Item
1258738900023
Original File Number
1258738900023
STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
09/27/2021

/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State

10/06T2

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL
DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
COURT FILE NO.
74-PR-21-1199

NOTICE AND ORDER
FOR HEARING ON
PETITION FOR
DESCENT OF
PROPERTY

Estate of
Marilyn J. Mikel,
Decedent

A Petition for Determination for Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago, leaving property in Minnesota and requests the probate of Decedent's last Will (if any), and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property.

Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted.

IT IS ORDERED and Notice is further given, that the Petition will be heard on November 15, 2021, at 8:45 AM via Zoom, by this Court at 111 E. Main Street, Owatonna, MN 55060.

1. Notice shall be given to all interested person (MINN. STAT. § 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-204.

2. Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by: Mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.

Dated: 09/21/2021

BY THE COURT
/s/ Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court

Robin Hoesley
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
David L. Forman
Baudler, Maus, Forman & King, LLP
108 N. Main Street
Austin, MN, 55912
Attorney License No: 206039
Telephone: (507) 433-3293
FAX: (507) 433-9530
Email: dforman@baudlerlaaw.com

10/06T2

Description of Proposed School Construction Project

Bloomington Prairie Public Schools, ISD #756-01 is proposing a two question referendum on November 2, 2021. The first ballot question would authorize \$27,590,000 in bonding authority to finance facility upgrades at the elementary and middle/high schools. The second ballot question would authorize \$6.4 million in bonding authority to finance a two-station gymnasium addition to the high school.

The district is projecting an increase in enrollment over the next several years. The existing elementary school is located on a small site with limited potential for building additions. The proposed projects at the high school will help alleviate overcrowding at the elementary school and provide needed building space to accommodate 5th and 6th grade students.

Proposed projects would be scheduled for completion in the 2022-2023 calendar years. Cost estimates by ballot question/project type are as follows:

Ballot Question #1			
High School		Elementary School	
Performing Arts Addition	\$12,850,000	Kindergarten Restrooms	\$200,000
5-6th Grade Building Addition	\$3,200,000	Special Ed. Classroom Renovations	\$200,000
Media Center Renovations	\$800,000	Art Area Modifications	\$100,000
Art / Music Area Renovations	\$2,000,000	Deferred Maintenance Projects	\$4,000,000
CTE Upgrades	\$850,000		\$4,500,000
Commons Area Expansion	\$565,000		
Flex Learning Area Renovations	\$275,000	Districtwide Costs	
Convert Stage to Fitness Area	\$300,000	Bond Issuance	\$418,278
New Ballfields	\$250,000		
Deferred Maintenance Projects	\$2,000,000	Total - Ballot Question #1 Projects	\$28,008,278
	\$23,090,000		
Ballot Question #2			
Gymnasium Addition	\$6,400,000		
Bond Issuance	\$86,697		
	\$6,486,697		

The \$27,590,000 bond issuance for ballot question #1 is expected to generate a premium of an estimated \$418,278 and the \$6.4 million bond issuance for ballot question #2 is expected to generate a premium of an estimated \$86,697. Bond premiums result from the school district accepting a slightly higher interest rate on the repayment of bond funds in exchange for the additional funds associated with the premium dollars up front to the school district.

The district has supplied cost estimates to operate and staff the additional building space and it appears existing revenues will be sufficient to fund any associated operational cost increases. The proposed projects appear to be in the long-term interest of the school district.

If the bond referendum is successful and bonds are sold, the debt service on the bonds will be eligible for debt service equalization under Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.53, subdivision 3, if the bond schedule is approved. The amount of debt service equalization aid, if any, the district receives is determined annually and is dependent upon property wealth, student population, and other statutory requirements.

Review and Comment Statement

Based on the department's analysis of the school district's required documentation and other pertinent information from sources of the Minnesota Department of Education, the Commissioner of Education provides a positive review and comment.

Additional Information is Available

Persons desiring additional information regarding this proposal should contact the school district superintendent's office.

Heather Mueller, Ed.D.

Heather Mueller, Ed.D.
Commissioner

October 8, 2021

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

1500 Highway 36 West ▪ Roseville, Minnesota 55113 ▪ 651-582-8200 ▪ mde.contactus@state.mn.us ▪ @MnDeptEd

10/13

DEALS ON WHEELS

Sell your car, bike, RV, trailer, and anything on wheels today!!

Over 16,000 in households

Serving Steele, Mower, Freeborn, Dodge, and Olmsted Counties

BARGAIN FINDER

Sell your items for \$50 or less. Run it for four weeks. ONLY \$5!

www.steeledodgenews.com

TO PLACE AN AD

Steele County Times
507-583-4431
bptimes@frontiernet.net
411 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

3-WEEK SPECIAL: \$32

BUY TWO WEEKS,
GET THE THIRD FREE
UP TO 20 WORDS; 10c FOR EACH WORD AFTER

TO PLACE AN AD

Dodge County Independent
Dodge County Advantage
507-634-7503 • dci@kmtel.com
301 S. Mantorville Ave., Suite 200, Kasson, MN 55944

GARAGE SALES

HUGE INVENTORY CLEARANCE SALE!
Lots of brand new items including: 1990's Star Wars collection, sports jerseys and t-shirts, baseball cards. 25% off everything in the store, Wednesday, October 13, thru Friday, October 15. Open 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. all three days! Plus 50% off most items in the store, including all things mentioned above on Saturday, October 16 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. only at DANO'S CONSIGNMENT STORE, 32 E Main St, Dodge Center. Lots of nice gift ideas for Christmas!

10/7T2pd

CAR FOR SALE

FOR SALE: 2018 Honda Accord. Low mile one owner car in almost new condition. Has all the newest safety options, push-button start, back-up camera, alloy wheels, Honda warranty. Reasonable price. Jensen Seed. Clarks Grove. 507-402-0952

9/29T3pd

FOR RENT

KASSON 1 bd smoke-free apt for 62+ or disabled persons open November. Month to month leases and deposit payment plans. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity

10/7T2

CLAREMONT Rent based on income! 2 bd apt open NOW! 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

10/7T2

DON'T miss out on
STEELE COUNTY Times
THIS WEEK!

The Steele County Times is available at the following locations:

Blooming Prairie	Owatonna
Casey's	Hy-Vee
Vandal's	Kwik Trip
Steele County Times office	Oak St.
	Kwik Trip
	Mineral Springs
	Sterling Drug
	Cashwise
Ellendale	Kwik Trip
Casey's	Frontage Rd
Lerberg's	Kwik Trip
Grocery Store	Kwik Trip
	Clinton Falls

CLASSIFIEDS



mcAn

Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

EMPLOYMENT	MISCELLANEOUS	MISCELLANEOUS
LONG TERM SUBS Elementary Teacher - Kindergarten. New London-Spicer Schools. MN licensure required. For more information, see www.nls.k12.mn.us/employment	FREON WANTED: We pay \$\$\$ for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient. Certified Professionals. Call 312/291-9169 or visit: RefrigerantFinders.com	AT&T WIRELESS Two great new offers! Ask how to get the iPhone 11 or Next Generation Samsung Galaxy S10e on us with AT&T's Buy one, Give One offer. While supplies last! Call 855/332-0464
PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT PCA wanted for young man with developmental disabilities. St. Paul location. Must be kind, responsible, energetic and safety conscious. Send resume to jobs@crocuspplacecompanions.com	DISH NETWORK \$64.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing fast internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & get a FREE \$100 Visa gift card. FREE voice remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE streaming on ALL devices. Call today! 855/562-4309	LOOKING FOR ASSISTED LIVING memory care, or independent living? A Place for Mom simplifies the process of finding senior living at no cost to your family. Call 888/715-1720 today!
SAVE MONEY! Call your local newspaper or MNA 800-279-2979 to find out how you can save money by placing your advertisement here!	THE COVID CRISIS has cost us all something. Many have lost jobs and financial security. Have \$10K In Debt? Credit Cards. Medical Bills. Car Loans. Call National Debt Relief! We can help! Get a FREE debt relief quote: Call 844/205-5439	THE GENERAC PWRCELL A solar plus battery storage system. Save money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down financing option. Request a free, no obligation quote today. Call 888/913-5895



Owatonna Bus Company

AIDES AND DRIVERS

needed for both AM and PM routes.

Stop by the Owatonna Bus Company for an application and to meet our team.

1145 Park Drive, Owatonna
Call 507-451-5262

COME DRIVE BUS

PAID TRAINING & LICENSING
FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

TURN OFF the television...



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

STEELE COUNTY
TIMES
Always local, all the time.



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

Dear Motor Medics,
I'm having a problem with my lights on my 2000 Ford Taurus. Both the front and rear lights have water in them. The rear looks like a bathroom mirror after a hot shower on both sides and the front has water collected towards the bottom of the driver side headlight. When the weather is dry for long periods they will clear up, but if I wash the car or it rains once they fog right back up. The bulbs themselves seem to be working ok and this has gone on for a couple of years. What can I do to fix this? I just don't like the way it looks.

Doug in Clarksville Tennessee

Dear Doug,
Many vehicles have this issue. The moisture comes from the seal around the plastic lens leaking where it's bonded to the inside light reflector housing. During hot sunny days the heat generated by the sun will break down the seal and moisture will occur. In some cases, the lens will separate completely from the reflector. We have seen people try many things to repair their existing lights but usually the most effective fix is to replace the assembly. Check several places for the best deal. Auto recycling facilities, the dealer, and auto parts stores usually carry the assemblies. Once you find a good light at a reasonable cost, you could possibly install them yourself. You will want to have the front aimed by a professional though.

Take care, the Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics,
I have a 2001 Ford F150 and I would like to know more about using synthetic oils in order to extend the life of the truck and increase fuel mileage. Am I on the right track here? Can I expect to see a big increase in mileage if I switch to all synthetics and is there a risk that I might damage something by switching now after 150,000 miles using regular oils? I have changed the fluids according to the manuals severe service ratings on time ever since I purchased the truck new.

Mark in Fargo North Dakota

Dear Mark,
You can switch all the fluids over to synthetics but don't expect a huge gain in mileage. If you have all conventional oils now and were to change everything in the drivetrain over, you may see a slight increase in the highway mileage, and you will help extend the life of any parts that are not already worn severely. The oil itself should not hurt your vehicle but you must stick with the factory approved type. On some older vehicles changing may result in leaks. Consult with your dealer to be sure. Synthetics don't break down as fast as conventional oils and they hold their viscosity more consistently which is the main boost for the mileage. Changing over to synthetics can be expensive so if you do it you may want to change one at a time when that service comes due.

Take care, the Motor Medics

Kappys COLLISION CENTER
OWATONNA COLLISION SPECIALIST
Now using PPG Waterborne Paint
STAY HAPPY
www.kappysauto.com
kappysauto@gmail.com
SEE KAPPY
Charlie & Al Kaplan
507-451-8989

Schaeffer's SPECIALIZED LUBRICANTS
Bruce Freerksen
(507)273-9110
brucewithschaefferoil@gmail.com
West Concord, MN

LAD Recycling, Inc.
Scrap Iron & Metals
WE BUY ALL METALS!
507-527-2408 • LDR Recycling.com
55976 STATE HWY 56, West Concord, MN

ASE HONEST-1 AUTO CARE
Honest-1 Auto Care
1125 S Oak Ave
Owatonna, MN 55060-3701
507-431-4576
www.Honest1Owatonna.com
Mon-Fri 7AM-6PM | Sat 8AM-3PM

BOE AUTO CENTER
115 Highway 56 N • West Concord
507-527-2241
www.boeautocenter.com

LET THESE SPONSORS KNOW YOU APPRECIATE THESE COLUMNS!

FOR ENTERTAINMENT ONLY.

ALWAYS CONSULT YOUR LOCAL SHOP AND FOLLOW ALL SAFETY PROCEDURES BEFORE REPAIRS.

Come visit the Motor Medic® online at underthehoodshow.com



1010 Hoffman Dr. NW, Suite C
Owatonna, MN 55060

507-451-1112

www.steelecountyselfstorage.com

RESERVE ONLINE OR BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!

FALL IS HERE

VISIT THESE APPLE & PUMPKIN PATCHES

TRUMPS ORCHARD
EST. 1964

We look forward to seeing you at the Orchard!

Mon - Sat **8:30 - 6** & Sun **9-6**
1020 St. Paul Ave. Faribault
sandctrump@charter.net
507.334.5167

OPEN EVERYDAY THRU HALLOWEEN

- ★ Games
- ★ Photo Ops

Giant Pumpkin Bounce House

- ★ All Carving Pumpkins - **Only \$5**
- ★ Large Fall Mums - **\$14.99**
(after hours cash box in the patch)

Downtown Blooming Prairie

PUMPKIN Patch →

← **APPLE PICKING**

CORN MAZE →

FARMER JOHN'S PUMPKIN PATCH

CELEBRATING 33 YEARS

**COME FOR THE PUMPKINS
STAY FOR THE FUN!**

WHERE KIDS CAN BE KIDS

FREE PUMPKIN FOR YOUR BABY BORN AFTER 10/15/2020 **ADMISSION** TO PICK YOUR PUMPKINS!!
WAGON RIDES SATURDAY & SUNDAY • 1-4PM

MON-FRI-3-6PM & SAT & SUN-NOON-6PM

90537 273RD ST • AUSTIN
507-437-9180

Fireside Orchard & Gardens

Celebrating 48 Years • Open Daily 9-6
Zestar!, Sweetango, Honeycrisp, Haralson, Fireside & other favorite Minnesota varieties.
ENJOY OUR BEAUTIFUL GARDENS.

507-663-1376

1-1/2 MILES EAST OF I-35 ON HWY 19 NORTHFIELD MN

firesideorchard.com

SCHOOL BUS

SAFETY WEEK

October 18-22, 2021

tips for a safer bus ride.

- Be aware of moving traffic.
- Leave plenty of time to get to the bus stop.
Don't rush.
- Pay attention to your surroundings.
- Stay at a safe distance from the street and don't play around while waiting for the bus.
- Stay 10 giant steps away from the outside of the bus while the bus is pulling up so the driver can see you.
- Wait for the bus to stop completely before you move towards it to get on, or before you stand up to get off.
- Be cautious of clothing or backpacks with drawstrings, toggles, or key chains that can get caught on the bus handrails and doors.

- Hold the handrail going up and down the stairwell so you don't trip.
- Find a seat, sit down immediately and remain seated till your stop.
- Be courteous and respectful to your driver. Listen to directions.
- Don't put your head, arms, papers or anything out the window.
- Don't pick up anything you drop near the bus. The driver may not see you. Instead, ask the driver for help.
- Wait to cross the street until the driver lets you know it's OK.
- Stay away from the bus wheels at all times -the driver cannot see you.

Sponsored by Blooming Prairie, Medford and Owatonna Bus Companies

SAFETY FIRST!
be on time