

Leo Augusta gets \$250K donation

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A new academy for childcare slated to open in Blooming Prairie next spring may not have its nonprofit status yet, but that isn't stopping the organization from raising money to make the center a reality.

In a unique partnership, Leo Augusta Academy has teamed up with Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) to help with its fundraising goals. Until Leo Augusta is granted 501c3 status as a nonprofit organization, which has been delayed because of COVID-19, SMIF is shepherding

the money donated to the academy. Last week Leo Augusta received its second major donation – a \$250,000 anonymous check, which SMIF received and will in effect hold onto for the academy. “We are the tax-exempt entity to take the contribution,” said Tim

Penny, SMIF president. “We are the host for the community funds. We will be here until they get nonprofit status.” In accepting the \$250,000 check last week, Penny said, “Two million dollars a year is invested in childcare across southern Minnesota. We have a lot of experience.”

Besides helping with the fundraising, SMIF also assists with training for teachers, technical help and resources to keep state licensure. From its beginning stages more than two years ago, Leo Augusta has utilized SMIF's resources to develop the childcare center,

which is expected to serve more than 100 children. Recognizing that not all models fit all communities, Leo Augusta worked with SMIF to determine the best fit for this particular center. Penny said SMIF worked with 59 communities throughout its

See **LEO** on A5 ►

Group puts spotlight on school book list

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

Angie Langlie read aloud from a book at last week's Owatonna School Board meeting that she said is on a shelf of the local middle school library, which serves sixth- through eighth-grade students.

The book, “Flamer,” is a graphic novel – meaning it uses sequential art, much like a comic book, to tell the story.

It's about a 14-year-old Filipino American boy who is coming to terms with being gay. “Flamer” takes place at Boy Scout camp and contains vulgar language and crude, sexually-based behavior.

It was clear that visitors and school board members alike were uncomfortable listening to Langlie read a few excerpts.

A co-founder of United Patriots for Accountability, Langlie said she was “unraveling what's offered in our schools' libraries.”

But “Flamer” isn't on the shelves of any Owatonna school libraries, said Superintendent Jeff Elstad.

“First and foremost, the book that was referenced at the school board meeting never went into circulation for our students,” he said. “We have a process when we order books; the additional step we take is our media specialists review them and read every one of them. If the books are deemed inappropriate, we pull them and never put them in circulation, then we destroy them.”

Langlie insists the book can be found on the shelf Owatonna Middle School, though the book she used last week was checked out from the Owatonna Public Library's adult section.

“Obviously I can't check anything out of the school library, because I'm not a student,” she said.

Langlie used the list of 850 books that Texas legislator Matt Krause wants to ban and cross-referenced it with Owatonna's online media center list.

“Yes, it's (at the middle school), and I even

See **GROUP** on A3 ►

'Because I'm Grateful'



Glenn Kruckeberg of Claremont takes a big bite of turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy. He and his wife, Carol, were two of about 800 people who enjoyed the Thanksgiving Day meal served on Thursday.

Volunteers, attendees enjoy Thanksgiving meal

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

“We smelled turkey in the air,” said Carol Kruckeberg of Claremont. Kruckeberg and her husband, Glenn, were two of 250 people who attended Owatonna's annual community meal at the VFW on Thanksgiving Day. It was the Kruckebergs first time at the event. Their family gathering will be held in a couple of weeks. Volunteers served 790 meals – 250 in-house and 540 take-out, according to Mike Meyer, one of the events organizers. He and fellow co-organizer Joe Falteysek expected to serve 1,000 meals – with 500 eaten in-house and another 500 delivered to people

who can't get out and don't have family in the area. “We were a couple of hundred below pre-COVID levels,” said Meyer, adding that none of the food went to waste. It was delivered to the Hospitality House of Owatonna, a home for homeless men. There were plenty of volunteers on hand

to help serve or deliver this year's meal, which included turkey and all the trimmings: mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing, green beans, cranberries, salads and a piece of pumpkin pie. First-time volunteer Lu Fischer of Owatonna said she decided to volunteer because she has a lot to be grateful for. Among them: She's a

breast cancer survivor. With this year's Thanksgiving meal done, Meyer and Falteysek have their eyes on the future. They will join forces, once again, to organize the community meal on Christmas. “We already have a start on the Christmas turkeys,” said Falteysek, referring

to turkeys donated for Thanksgiving that weren't cooked. It's a start, but more turkeys will be needed. The community dinner will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Christmas Day. Those who would like a meal delivered are asked to call 507-451-1001 after 7:30 a.m. on Christmas Day.



Lu Fischer of Owatonna fills the mashed potatoes serving dish at community dinner held at the VFW in Owatonna on Thanksgiving Day. Before starting her volunteer shift at the event, Fischer ran the 5K Turkey Trot in Faribault.



Volunteers began cooking turkeys for Owatonna's Thanksgiving Day community dinner at 6 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 22. By 9:30 a.m., they were slicing the turkey so it would be ready to serve on Thanksgiving Day. The event was organized by Mike Meyer and Joe Falteysek of Owatonna.



Ten-year-old Noah Larson of Plum City, Wis., takes a break and eats his Thanksgiving Day dinner at the VFW in Owatonna. He and his sister Haleigh, 11, were two of the younger volunteers working at the Thanksgiving Day meal. They were in town visiting their grandparents for the holiday.

OUR VIEW

Merger is historic, and serves all as well

The recently announced merger of the Steele County Historical Society and the Minnesota State Public School Orphanage Museum in Owatonna serves not only the past, but also the present and the future. The state school's history is unique to Owatonna, to the state and perhaps most important to the more than 10,000 kids who called the orphanage home during its 60 years of operation and their family members. The late Harvey Ronglien, who along with his wife, Maxine, successfully spearheaded efforts to establish and expand the orphanage museum in Owatonna, would surely be happy to know that the story he worked so tirelessly to tell will continue to be told – and well into the future. Ronglien was a walking encyclopedia when it came to the orphanage's history. The state school was his home for most of his childhood. In her eulogy at Ronglien's funeral, his friend Sandy Dinse – whose mother also lived at the orphanage as a child – said: "Living at the State School was a test of survival for those kids. Some left with scars that would last them a lifetime. Yet both Harvey and my mom had the same philosophy of the orphanage. They had a place to sleep and something to eat, but there was never any love given those kids. "He considered it home and he wanted the kids remembered," said Dinse. No doubt, the merger will help ensure that Ronglien's story and those of the other state schoolers live on. That's a good thing...a very good thing. Our collective heritage says so much about where we've come from and where we are headed.

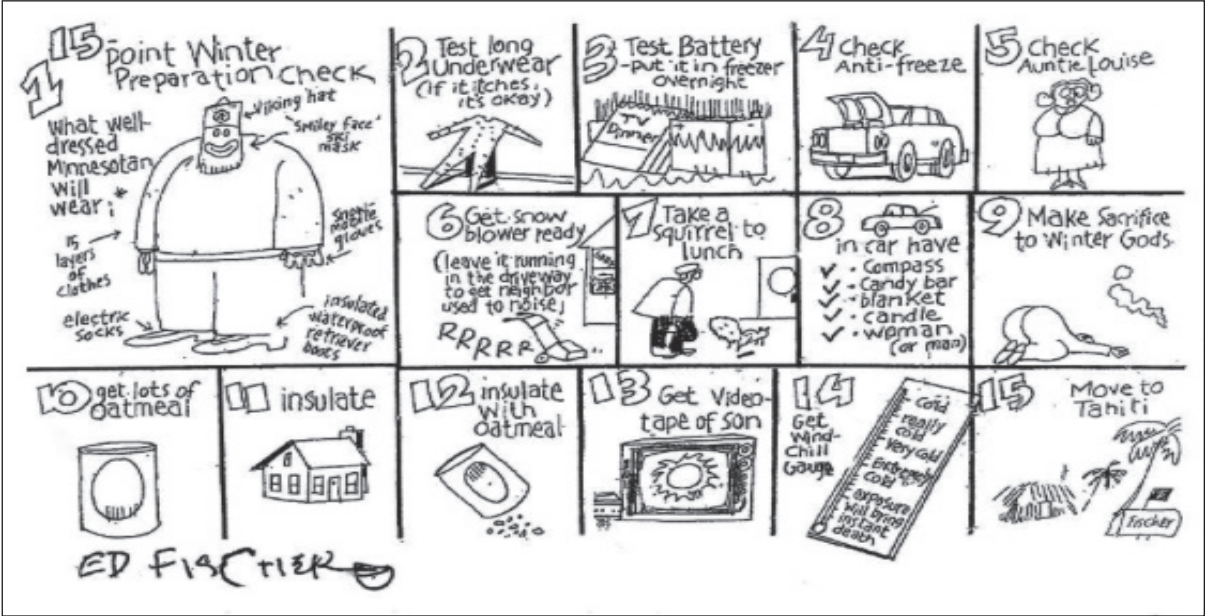


Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

I love the Christmas holiday season. However, something happened earlier in November that took me by surprise. As I was flipping through radio stations while driving to my parents on Nov. 6, I came across a Twin Cities station offering non-stop Christmas music. I about drove off the road with visions of

Let the holiday season begin

sugar plums dancing in my head. It seems like Christmas keeps creeping up earlier and earlier every year, which, I guess, isn't necessarily a bad thing. It's just a little shock to the system when your mind is still focused on fall colors and apple orchards and suddenly Christmas is being blasted in front of you. I'm quite content with the Christmas season starting the day after Thanksgiving. It seems like it should be etched on calendars that the holiday season officially begins on the last Friday of November (the day after Thanksgiving). I took great satisfaction in finding out that many large retailers pulled back from allowing holiday shopping on Thanksgiving as they had done for several years. Some have gone to the extreme, saying they will never be open on Thanksgiving again. That's as it should be. A few years back, I blasted those same retailers for taking precious time away from families to make a few extra bucks. Now that we are officially into the holiday season, at least by my account, there are many great opportunities taking place throughout the region for the holidays. I encourage you to read about many of the events in our newspaper in the coming weeks. See LET on A5 ▶



GUEST COLUMN

And it only took one hour...

BY AL SMITH
It is inordinately difficult to imagine a lush, beautiful tropical island with shimmering crystal-clear waters, transparent blue skies, gently waving palm trees in a soft ocean breeze with the scent of tropical flowers in the air and at the same time, to think about dive bombers, torpedoes and bombs exploding, the rattle of machine guns and death. Yet it happened one quiet Sunday morning on Dec. 7, 1941, when the Japanese Imperial Navy attacked Pearl Harbor in an unprovoked attack to destroy and sink the United States Naval Pacific Fleet. It was a typically quiet and peaceful Sunday morning and it was a day for leisure and minimal duty. Then, in a flash, the peaceful and tranquil atmosphere of that island was suddenly shattered by the silver and black Japanese aircraft swirling and diving throughout Pearl Harbors famous "Battleship Row." With machine guns blaring, they strafed, dropped bombs and hurled torpedoes toward their gigantic targets. For America, it was the beginning of World War II. And our President Franklin D. Roosevelt said it is a date that would "live in infamy." In its attempt overpower its adversaries and dominate the world, Japan decided to draw the United States into a war by gaining the upper hand and launch a surprise attack on the United States Naval Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor. The Japanese force consisted of 33 ships, including three aircraft carriers. About 100 U.S. vessels of all kinds... battleships, destroyers, cruisers, mine sweepers, submarines and a wide assortment of auxiliary ships were moored in port that morning and airplanes were parked in neat rows, wingtip to wingtip. The surprise attack was over in an hour. The Japanese struck hard and fast and it was a complete surprise to the Pacific Fleet. In one hour, the Japanese sunk seven ships including five battleships; two ships were not repairable and four others were severely damaged; 188 aircraft were destroyed and 159 were damaged; 2,403 men were killed and 1,178 were wounded. The attack inspired the American people to a fierce commitment to total victory over the Japanese with an absolute vengeance. Barely 10 minutes into that fateful attack, the Japanese dropped a 1,770-pound armor-piercing bomb, scoring a direct hit on the famed battleship Arizona. It crashed through the deck and ignited the forward ammunition magazine with an earth-shattering explosion. The giant leviathan rocked and was ripped open and sank taking 1,177 lives of crew lay entombed forever in its wreckage on that fateful day in 1941. In 1960, in the memory of that fateful day and the acknowledgement of the men who died on the Arizona, the United States built a special monument across the sunken hull from side to side in honor of the men who died there that day and to pay homage to all others who were killed that day as well. The monument was designed by architect Alfred Preis. The entrance houses the salvaged ship's bell and the main assembly area is open and gives a dramatic view of Arizona's sarcophagus-corroded and encrusted. On a marble wall inside the memorials Shrine Room, there are 1,177 names inscribed of the sailors and marines who died that fateful day. It has a hushed and contemplated atmosphere for the visitors to be totally aware of the tragedy that took place there 80 years ago. On a recent vacation to Hawaii, my son and family made it a destination to visit the Arizona Memorial. While visiting the Shrine Room, as he read the names listed he took a picture of a grouping of names and emailed it to me. As I read through the names, I became quiet inside and was lost in my thoughts and pensive as I read the name "R.N. Dahlheimer," a brother of a friend of mine. **Al Smith lives in Owatonna and is a retired ad man.**

BY BRANDON BALZER
This is in response to the article in the Nov. 17 edition paper titled "Caron's last day spent on front line." No end of virus in sight. We'd like to thank Amy Caron for her 20 years of service in public health in both Dodge and Steele counties. All public and private healthcare workers are everyday unsung heroes, especially so during the past 19 months, and we are forever grateful for their work. So one has to ask, why the controversy? For clarification, last month we stated that Caron's comments concerning unvaccinated individuals of our community were "inflammatory and divisive." We see this not as a criticism but a fact. In our previous article, we raised a series of questions, none of which were answered publicly or privately by Caron. We are asking for a respectful 2-way dialogue on this issue because being unable to ask questions outside the mainstream narrative leaves out vital information about what is happening in the community. Currently, 42.5% of residents in Steele County and 41.8% of residents in Dodge County are unvaccinated. We know there are many of those vaccinated and partially vaccinated individuals that were bullied or coaxed into vaccination, hoping to help put COVID-19 behind them. They now are unhappy to still be subjected to masks and social distancing rules. Others were advised by medical professionals not to continue with the COVID-19 vaccine program due to adverse side effects they suffered. Without open dialogue many citizens remain unaware of the full story of the COVID-19 vaccination program. We feel Public Health is responsible to serve all of the public. A large portion do not want the shot and have serious questions that need to be answered without ridicule. Nineteen months after "two weeks to slow the spread" we know the vast majority of the population has a COVID-19 survival rate greater than 99%. Entire countries have stopped their vaccination programs due to adverse effects caused by the COVID-19 vaccinations. Many countries have kept COVID-19 from gaining a foothold by supplying their citizens with low-cost prophylactics. An entire province in India crushed COVID-19 by supplying their citizens with Ivermectin. Scott Gottlieb, the former FDA commissioner, is currently sitting on Pfizer's board of directors. Pfizer was the first company in the world to get EUA approval by the federal government. (Read those last two sentences again). Nurses, whom just last year were hailed as heroes and "essential workers," are getting walked off the job because they won't comply with the vaccine mandate required by their employers. They are willing to lose their job, what do they know? We can no longer criticize Caron as she is no longer at Steele County Public Health. However, we do agree that the public health structure is crumbling, or better described as "captured." Why give it more money? It seems like Pfizer, Moderna and J&J fund and control it perfectly. So perfectly in fact, that they feel no need to answer to the public anymore. We are to "trust the science" as the virus perpetually rages onward. **Brandon Balzer is a member of the Steele County United Patriots for Accountability, and the column reflects the opinion of the organization.**

GUEST COLUMN

There is another side to COVID-19

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.

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BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

Mental Health: Owatonna Police responded to a mental health incident in the 1100 block of Hoffman Dr. NW at 10:44 a.m. on Nov. 21. They took a subject into custody.

Owatonna man sent to prison

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

An Owatonna man with a history of assaulting women has been sent to prison after breaking into a home, getting into bed with a woman, then punching her husband.

Christopher Stephen Prince, 36, pleaded guilty to one count of first-degree burglary last week in Steele County District Court. In exchange for the plea, a second count of first-degree burglary and one count

of firth-degree assault were dismissed. All are felonies.

Judge Karen Duncan sentenced him to 67 months in prison, with credit for 36 days served.

The charges were the result of an incident Oct. 20, when the couple reported someone had entered their apartment, punched the man, left and was then kicking and pounding at their door.

When police arrived, they found Prince at the top of the stairs. He appeared to be drunk,

the reports said, made comments about fighting officers and resisted arrest until he was tased.

Meanwhile, the victims told another officer that Prince had entered their apartment while the husband was in the shower; his wife and her son were in their bedrooms. Prince went into the woman's bedroom, took off his shirt and said he was there "to hang out and have fun."

She eventually recognized his name as someone who had been to her home three years ago, but hadn't seen him

since. When her husband came out of the bathroom, Prince was trying to hug him, touching the man's chin and telling him he was sexy.

According to the complaint, Prince then punched the husband in the face, and said he'd only leave because the woman told him to.

Police arrived after Prince left, but he was still at their door, allegedly trying to get in.

A review of his criminal history indicates convictions for domestic assault for a pair of incidents in August 2020.

Two different women reported similar incidents a day apart, with Prince entering their home and assaulting them.

He was sentenced on both cases about three months ago, and remained on probation. In the felony case, Prince was sentenced to 350 days in jail, but with credit for time served, had already completed his minimum.

He was charged again in June of this year with first-degree burglary for breaking the window out of a home and stealing a



Christopher Prince

computer from inside. Prince asked that his stayed 33-month prison term be executed, to be served concurrently with the October case.

COURT NEWS

Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Nov. 15 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding: Jesse J. Devlaeminck, 42, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony theft. He was sentenced to \$3,353.83, 94 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 3 years of supervised probation.

Kurt L. Warn, 60, Emmetsburg, IA, previously appeared and was convicted of felony theft. Warn was sentenced to \$125, 1 day in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no possession of firearms, 232 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Nov. 15 – 21:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Noah L. Juenger, 37, Austin, cancelled license, \$75, 1 day in county jail, Ignition Interlock and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Cody W. Wagaman, 26, Brownsdale, expired tabs, \$105; Micah D. White, 20, Bloomington, expired tabs, \$105.

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Patrick J. Connelly, 64, St. Paul, discharge firearm on public highway, \$275.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

David W. Benson, 57, New Prague, unsafe lane usage, \$125; Marcello Bermea, 38, Owatonna, revoked license and possession of marijuana, \$325; Hernan Calzada, 25, Abbottsford, WI, speeding and no insurance, \$325; Megan M. Fossum, 32, Ellendale, cancelled license, stay of adjudication, \$75, 3 days

in county jail, 30 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Jessica O. Freerksen, 50, Mankato, speeding, \$135; Alyssa I. Gonzales, 24, Rochester, window tint violation, \$125; Gabriel B. Hanson, 29, Minneapolis, expired tabs and no insurance, \$305; James R. Hayes, 28, Albert Lea, no insurance, \$275; David R. Hodo, 62, Garland, TX, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$155 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Jakob S. Jensen, 31, Easton, no insurance, \$275; Nina N. Johnson, 25, Rochester, speeding, \$135; Nathan T. Jones, 27, Mounds View, no license and revoked license, \$375; Mikayla C. Kincart, 26, Minneapolis, speeding, \$125; Dustin J. Klemmensen, 19, Claremont, speeding, \$215; Adam B. Kruger, 21, Andover, speeding, \$125; Lucero D. Lopez Martinez, 34, Apple Valley, speeding, \$115; Ka P. Moo, 27, Albert Lea, no license, \$175; Sheilla G. Nyambane, 20, Minneapolis, speeding, \$215; Derek E. Oakland, 38, Albert Lea, speeding, \$275; Gregory J. O'Connell, 48, Richfield, speeding, \$135; Edwin B. Oigo, 27, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$115; Evelyn Y. Perez Guerra, 26, Kansas City, MO, no license, \$175; Alex J. Petersen, 28, Omaha, NE, speeding and careless driving, \$235; Taylor S. Phelps, 27, Owatonna, DWI, \$600, substance abuse subtle screening inventory, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Michael D. Reagin, 61, Oklahoma City, OK, speeding, \$135; Rachel F. Samuelson, 31, Minneapolis, speeding, \$125; Lionel O. San Jose, 32, St. Paul, speeding, \$215; Mohamed A. Shakur, 35, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Liza Shurman, 62, Plymouth, speeding, \$135; Graci J. Svoboda, 17, Geneva, speeding, \$115; Christopher A. Swenson, 47, Minneapolis, speeding, \$125; Alexander T. Trdan, 27, New Hope, speeding, \$115; Christopher A.

Withrow, 33, Springville, IA, DWI, \$375, 1 day in county jail, attend MADD impact panel, chemical assessment; Krista N. Young, 26, Neshkoro, WI, speeding, \$115.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Joshua D. Anhorn, 31, Waseca, speeding, \$115; Zachery L. Bongers, 29, Faribault, revoked license, \$275; Cody H. Borwege, 27, Medford, careless driving, \$175; Martell D. Brooks, 31, Henderson, NV, theft by swindle, \$785.98; Jorge Campos Avila, 27, Medford, DWI and no insurance, \$100 and 6 months of supervised probation; Cliff L. Caron, 25, Warsaw, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, \$150, 23 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, maintain employment and 2 years of supervised probation; Jose L. Cintron, 32, Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; Suamy A. Contreis, 19, Owatonna, invalid license and no insurance, \$375; Abdnasir H. Dahir, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Rome C. Hayes, 38, Waseca, revoked license, \$275; Camden R. Hernandez, 18, Owatonna, possession of paraphernalia, \$125; Tytiana N. Jackson, 20, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175; Cassandra N. Khamda-Phingpha, 23, St. Paul, expired tabs, \$105; Carrie A. Larson, 31, Owatonna, suspended license and no insurance, \$475; Hanah R. Maas, 20, Owatonna, DWI, \$450, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, obtain permission to leave the state, maintain employment, 224 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Kari K. Peterson, 51, Dodge Center, disorderly conduct, \$125 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Moises Rodriguez, 66, Owatonna, stop sign, \$125; Brock D. Routh, 18, Owatonna, left turn violation, \$125; Abbie L. Segura, 31, Owatonna, suspended license and no insurance, \$475; Anthony P. Semo, 53, Mahtomedi, speeding, \$275; Trace M. Stanley, 24, Owatonna, theft,

\$174.53 and 24 days in county jail; Michael A. Tabor, 42, Northfield, theft, \$200, 2 days in county jail, maintain employment, obtain permission to leave the state, 20 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Miguel A. Torres Morales, 48, Blooming Prairie, revoked license, \$275; Dion E. Wadley, 22, possession of marijuana, \$125 and 1 year in county jail; James R. Young, 28, Owatonna, running at large violation, \$125 and 1 year of unsupervised probation.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Justin T. Ambrus, 34, Owatonna, no insurance, \$275; Stephen A. Brandt, 38, Austin, cancelled license, \$125 and 91 days in county jail; Ray D. Cabrera, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$215; Kelly M. Cleveland, 49, Waseca, no insurance, \$451; Chloe A. Cockram, 18, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$200, substance abuse subtle screening inventory, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation; Corey T. Davis, 24, Redwood Falls, revoked license, \$275; Sylvia A. Dominguez, 50, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Alexander B. Gallegos, 20, Janesville, speeding, \$115; Rosendo F. Garcia, 32, Ellendale, cross divided highway, \$125; Christian Gonzalez, 19, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175; Nathan T. Holland, 36, Chaska, revoked license, \$275; Rachel I. Jennings, 45, Rochester, revoked license, \$275; Kenneth B. Nelson, 44, Minnesota Lake, no insurance, \$275; Derek E. Oakland, 38, Albert Lea, speeding, \$215; Brenda L. Peterson, 60, Dodge Center, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, \$375, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 2 years of supervised probation; Brian E. Poe, 55, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Korissa L. Pratt, 27, Waseca, speeding, \$215; Salvador Robles Rivera, 42, Medford, invalid license, \$175; Kevin G. Roemhildt, 50, Owatonna, permit offense, \$175; Melissa S. Rongve, 39, Dodge Center, speeding, \$135; Dylan T. Schmit, 21, Medford, DWI, \$225, attend MADD impact panel, substance abuse subtle screening

inventory, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation; Abbie L. Segura, 31, Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; Dana L. Standke, 17, Ellendale, speeding, \$115; Milo S. Weckwerth, 45, New Richland, DWI, \$650, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend MADD impact panel, Ignition Interlock program, 240 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Kevin R. Willette, 61, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$125; Brandon P. Woessner, 19, Stewartville, tamper with fire alarm, \$445 and 25 days in county jail; Chueyee Yang, 29, St. Paul, speeding, \$115; Shane D. Zvorak, 51, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, stay of adjudication, \$75, chemical dependency evaluation, no contact with victim and 1 year of supervised probation.

POLICE BLOTTER

Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

Nov. 20 Assault: Police responded to an assault in the 100 block of 2nd St. NW at 2:32 p.m.

OWATONNA POLICE

Nov. 19 Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Franklin Ave. SW at 2:18 p.m.

Nov. 20 Domestic: Police arrested a subject following a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of Phelps St. E. at 9:17 a.m.

Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 100 block of Rice St. E. at 5:44 p.m.

Nov. 21 Hit and Run: At 8:04 p.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Nov. 22 Mental Health: At 2:06 p.m., a mental health incident occurred in the 500 block of 15th St. NE.

Nov. 23 Fire: Police responded to a fire call in the 400 block of Adams Ave. NW at 5:28 a.m.

Fraud: Fraud incidents occurred in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 9:33

a.m. and the 200 block of Oak Ave. N. at 3:22 p.m.

Shoplifting: Police arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 1:01 p.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 7:37 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Nov. 21 Suspicion: Deputies received a report of suspicious activity in the 5100 block of Kenyon Road in Merton Township at 4:55 p.m.

Nov. 22 Juvenile: Deputies received a juvenile complaint from the 6900 block of Rose St. in Havana Township at 6:54 p.m.

Nov. 23 Harassment: At 2:28 p.m., a harassment incident occurred in the 200 block of Pearl St. in Owatonna.

ARRESTS

Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Jonathan Mark Slack, 42, arrested at 10:53 a.m. Nov. 20, domestic assault/assault, held for court. Jesse Keith Moe, 35, arrested at 8:48 p.m. Nov. 21, probation violation warrant arrest, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Jacob John Daniels, 21, arrested at 6:57 p.m. Nov. 19, warrant arrest, held for court.

COURT NEWS

Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Nov. 7 – 14:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Desiree L. Arseneau, 45, Owatonna, parking violation, \$32; Walter R. Coleman, 31, Rochester, revoked license and expired tabs, \$310; Heather M. Coughlin, 18, Webster, speeding, \$140; Skyler S. Eaton, 21, Owatonna, speeding, \$140; Mark C. Freerksen, 46, Dodge Center, hands free violation and seat belt, \$155; Raul G. Guel

See **BLOTTER** on **A6** ►



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WARRANTS:

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

1. Mario Rocha – domestic assault - \$10,000 bail

2. Antonio Rodriguez – DWI - \$1,000 bail

3. Carlos Rodriguez – DWI - \$12,000 bail

4. Joseph Rodriguez – theft by check - \$1,000 bail

5. Syrena Rodriguez – disorderly conduct - \$800 bail

6. Deandre Rogers – revoked license – no bail

7. Pedro Roldan-Mirjarez – false name - \$3,000 bail

8. Jose Rosales – criminal sexual conduct – no bail

9. Zane Rose – drugs – no bail

10. Legenda Rostas – theft - \$2,000 bail

11. Cole Roushar – DWI, give false name – no bail

12. Sonny San – DWI - \$2,000 bail

13. Demitrius Sanchez – theft - \$5,000 bail

14. Roberto Sanchez – criminal sexual conduct – no bail

15. Maurice Scott – speeding - \$1,000 bail

16. Yennifer Serban – drugs – no bail

17. Jered Sheets – domestic assault - \$6,000 bail

18. Ricky Shelton – assault – no bail

19. Thomas Siagiannis – seat belt - \$1,000 bail

20. Oscar Sias – terroristic threats - \$25,000 bail

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Leo Augusta gets \$250K donation

◀ **LEO** from A1 service area on daycare last year alone. “It’s really a complicated industry,” he said, adding safety is extremely important and parents demand quality.

Rae Jean Hansen, vice president of Early Childhood for SMIF, said families want choices when it comes to daycare. She said having a center is not necessarily better than in-home daycare, but it gives people another option.

Hansen said she expects Leo Augusta to pull families from the neighboring communities around Blooming Prairie.

Childcare has become a big issue for businesses over the past eight years, according to Hansen. “We’ve had plants close down on certain days of the week because their workers don’t have childcare,” she said, adding the conversation of childcare has “really grown” in recent years.

Both Penny and Hansen agreed that it’s tough for manufacturers and other businesses to attract workers without quality childcare available in the area.

“Solutions have to come from the community,” Penny said, adding quality childcare is important to lifelong success.

Penny said he is impressed with what he is seeing with the Blooming Prairie facility. He said it’s unusual from other centers because it plans to offer before- and after-school care.

Sara Winzenburg, who provides childcare and serves on the academy board, said Blooming Prairie has amazed her since she moved to the area. “Blooming Prairie does what it needs to



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Representatives of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) accept an anonymous \$250,000 donation earmarked for the Leo Augusta Academy of Blooming Prairie. Accepting the donation are Rae Jean Hansen and Tim Penny of SMIF, from left, and Amy Hinzmann, Doug Anderson and Sara Winzenburg of the academy. The Academy has now raised \$1.25 million of its \$3 million goal.

provide opportunities to grow and stay here,” she said. “There is unbelievable support.”

With a \$3 million fundraising goal, Leo Augusta has raised \$1.25 million to date. In June, the Kruckeberg family donated the buildings and property in addition to a monetary donation totaling more than \$1 million. It is the largest single donation in the community’s history.

“We’re getting there. We’re 35% of the way there already,” said Amy Hinzmann, chairperson of Leo Augusta. “In two years, we would like to be free and clear of any debt.”

Hinzmann, who also serves as CFO for Kruckeberg Industries, said operating a childcare center is “very different from other industries.” She said SMIF is helping to implement financial and business ideas for the academy.

Meanwhile, renovation has begun at the former Minimizer corporate office on the north end of Blooming

Prairie. Metal fencing has also been added around the building to allow for outside play areas for children.

The academy, which is expected to open on

April 1, will be 18,000 square feet on 3 acres of land that includes a full-sized gym and commercial kitchen area, classrooms and work areas for teachers.

Let the holiday season begin

◀ **LET** from A2

There are too many holiday events to acknowledge in this column individually, but I would like to draw attention to a couple of them.

Blooming Prairie police officer Dan Peach kicks off his “Have a Very Prairie Christmas” on Wednesday. Peach is offering holiday magic at the empty downtown lot. I’ve heard rumors Santa may even show up Saturday afternoon. The rest of the magic runs through the end of December.

Another holiday favorite takes place in downtown Owatonna Thursday night. The lighted holiday parade will wind through downtown, followed by carolers and the official tree lighting at Central Park.

And next Thursday, Dec. 9, Beth Fink and

the rest of her neighbors on 16th Street S.E. in Owatonna will be hosting their own holiday fun with lights, decorations, music, Santa Claus and treats for all those who drive through the neighborhood.


Fink started the holiday parade last year during COVID-19 when her youngest son identified it as a random act of kindness. Oh, what comes out of the minds of 6-year-olds!

My staff and I are working on our own Christmas surprise for readers. You’ll find it in our Dec. 22 edition.

While I may have been turned off slightly a month ago with all this holiday hoopla, I’m certainly now in hot pursuit of going full steam ahead with the holidays. Look out, Mr. Grinch.

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John Connor, staff member

Following a 40-year career at KRFO AM-FM in Owatonna, John joined the business family of the Brick – Meger and Medford Funeral Homes as a staff member.

John and his wife Lori, a retired teacher at St. Mary’s School, are proud parents of two adult children and grandparents to five.

John is a member of the Owatonna Knights of Columbus. He is past president of the Noon Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellow which is conferred by Rotary International. He served as a volunteer coach in Park and Rec sports and has been the public address announcer at Owatonna High School athletic events for over 30 years.

John takes pride in helping families in their time of need.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

◀ BLOTTER from A4

Jr., 24, Claremont, parking violation, \$32; Carrie H. Saxton, 38, Owatonna, speeding, \$140; Payton G. Wallaker, 18, Rochester, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$90 and 6 months of unsupervised probation.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Todd M. Bauer, 53, Byron, suspended license and passing parked emergency vehicle, \$330; Jaron R. Fite, 47, Mankato, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$80 and 6 months of unsupervised probation.

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Colton P. Aaker, 20, Kenyon, failure to have legal lifesaving device on watercraft and possession of paraphernalia, \$155.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Keegan G. Jerdee, 22, Rochester, speeding, \$120; Aidan J. Ebner, 22, Owatonna, speeding, \$140; Ashley M. Homme, 24, Dodge Center, speeding, \$140; Drew N. Miller, 28, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Kou Moua, 30, St. Paul, no license and speeding and no insurance, \$420; Terry L. Nihart, 69, Stewartville, drive through barricade, \$120.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Donavan D. Dahlen, 19, West Concord, possession of paraphernalia, \$130.

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History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago Nov. 29, 2011

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Diane Lembke has been the manager of the Cenex c-store and gas station in Blooming Prairie since it opened 17 years ago. Next month, she will also be the last manager of the business. The convenience store side will be closing permanently on Dec. 10, citing space limitations and stiff competition for its decision. “We especially want to thank Diane for her hard work and dedication to the store and the co-op. We are pleased and proud, not only with the level of service she has given our customers and the community, but with the way she has represented Central Valley Co-op.”

Student athletes this week are: Tessa Ivers, named MVP of the Awesome Blossoms girls’ cross-country team; Adam Driessen was named MVP of the Awesome Blossom boys’ cross-country team.

20 Years Ago Nov. 27, 2001

ELSIE SLINGER, EDITOR

“Most of our team is now at the stage where they need to not just to compete with the top wrestlers in the conference and section, but post wins!” stated coach David Pfeifer. Our 2001-2002 wrestlers are: Grant Johnson, Sam Tashima, Brad Klemmensen, Billy Lindquist, Jeff Wondra, Luke Nelson, Ryan Klemmensen, Jon Vogt, Jay Salinas, Steven Salinas, Pat Wallace, Mark Grant and Reese Hageman.

A total of 18 students from Blooming Prairie are included in the 35th Annual Edition of Who’s Who Among American High School Students – 2000-2001. Traditionally, 99% of the students named to Who’s Who have a grade point average of “B” or better and 97% are college bound. Local students selected include: Noah Bartelt, Jennifer Burt, Amanda Busho, Michael DeWeese, Benjamin Hansen,

Amanda Haubenschild, Hilary Jones, Liz Kollar, Kristin Lueth, Kraig Olson, Eric Prihoda, Jill Prihoda, Amanda Schland, Misty Smith, Corey Wencil, Emily Wencil, Sam Wencil and Laura Wurst.

50 Years Ago Dec. 1, 1971

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE
KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Neil Ingvalson, Blooming Prairie, and 14 other top U.S. farmers have been named to receive Ford Motor Company’s 1972 Ford Farm Efficiency Awards for outstanding agricultural accomplishments. Neil is the winner in the eggs category. Ingvalson believes a family-sized operator planning to compete with the large commercial poultry farms has to manage a minimum of 20,000 layers and market the eggs. Mr. Ingvalson and his wife have six children and he is a National 4-H Club leader and active in the Farm Bureau.

Birthdays being celebrated at Prairie Manor are: Mrs. Jessie Nelson, 84 on Nov. 11; Mrs. Margaret Anderson, 89 on Oct. 23; Miss Evelyn Gutherie, 83; Ed Motl, 75 on Nov. 18; Miss Hazel Dysslen, 77 on Nov. 20.

75 Years Ago Nov. 28, 1946

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

At a class meeting held Nov. 13, three seniors from Blooming Prairie High School were honored by their fellow classmates when they elected them to compete with seniors from throughout the United States and Territories for the 121 four year college scholarships and more than 600 \$50 certificates being offered this year by the Pepsi-Cola Scholarship Board. Chosen among the 57 of their classmates are Delores Johnson, Eleanor Kubista and Donald Morrison.

Blooming Prairie has produced the champion bowler of the Waterville Tournament for two consecutive years. Last

year Bernard Coufal took 1st prize for totaling the largest number of fallen pins. This year’s champ is Roger (Nip) Peterson who won the tourney and the \$100 prize with a score of 650 for three games. Nip set the winning record on Sunday, Nov. 10.

OWATONNA PHOTO NEWS

31 Years Ago Dec. 6, 1990

TOM SHEA, PUBLISHER

The dream of almost every performer is to someday play Carnegie Hall and a group of Owatonna young people have just learned this dream will come true. The Owatonna Concert Choir is going to perform at Carnegie Hall. No one knew until the first day of school when Director, Roger Tenney announced the exciting news. They have been invited to sing for the 100th birthday of Carnegie Hall. Only one high school vocal group and one instrumental group had been selected to perform. Congratulations to all the choir members.

The VFW Post #3723 and the Ladies Auxiliary have announced this year’s winners of the Voice of Democracy Program. The theme of this year’s speech was “Democracy-The Vanguard of Freedom.” The winners Owatonna Christian School are: 1st place Andrew Potter, Owatonna; 2nd place, Caroline Bartlett, Owatonna; 3rd place, Dan Brower, Claremont; 4th place, Ryan Johnson, St. Ansgar, Iowa; 5th place, Micah Langmaack, Owatonna. Medford High School winners are: 1st place, Carrie Redman, Morristown; 2nd place, Judy Dulas, Medford; 3rd place, Molly Curran, Medford; 4th place, Melinda Rhodes, Medford; 5th place, Wendy Calder, Medford. Owatonna High School winners: 1st place, Jolene Arthur, Ellendale; 2nd place, Terry Stavoe, Owatonna; 3rd place, Jamie Valdiva, Owatonna; 4th place, Kim Barry, Owatonna. First place winners will go on to district judging in December.

A young cowboy from six decades ago



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This little buckaroo recently celebrated his 66th birthday at the end of November. You may know him today as Brad Trom of Blooming Prairie. Trom’s life story became known around the world in the hit movie, “Brokeback Mountain.” He also helps on the family farm in Westfield Township located northeast of Blooming Prairie.

Edward Jones[®] MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

What to know about early IRA withdrawals

While you’re working, you may be contributing to an individual retirement account (IRA), which can provide a tax-advantaged way to save for your future. So, is it ever a good idea to tap into your IRA before you retire?

Ideally, you should leave this account intact until your retirement. After all, you could spend two or more decades in retirement, so you’ll need a lot of financial resources. Still, life is unpredictable, so there may be times you’ll consider taking money from your IRA. You’ll need to be aware, though, that if you withdraw funds before you turn 59½, you will generally trigger a 10% penalty. Plus, you’ll be taxed on whatever you take out, thereby losing, at least in part, the benefits of tax-deferred earnings offered by a traditional IRA. (With a Roth IRA, you can withdraw your contributions free of taxes and penalties, but the earnings may be taxed and penalized if you take them out before you’re 59½.)

If you need to withdraw funds from your IRA before you’re 59½, you may be able to avoid the 10% early withdrawal penalty if you meet an exception, such as one of these:

Paying for college – You are allowed to take penalty-free withdrawals to pay for tuition and other qualified higher education expenses for you, your spouse, children or grandchildren. However, since the withdrawals may be considered taxable income, they could reduce the student’s eligibility for financial aid.

Buying a first home – You and your spouse can each withdraw up to \$10,000 from your respective IRAs to buy your first home. To qualify as a first-time homebuyer, you (and your spouse) need to have not owned a home for the two years preceding your home purchase.

Having a child – Following the birth or adoption of a child, you and your coparent can each withdraw up to \$5,000 from your respective IRA without paying the 10% penalty.

Covering medical expenses – You may be able to avoid the early withdrawal penalty if you use the money to pay for unreimbursed medical expenses (for you, your spouse or dependents) that exceed 7.5% of your adjusted gross income. You may also qualify to take a withdrawal without penalty to pay for health insurance premiums if you are unemployed. In the case of a disability, the 10% early withdrawal penalty also may not apply.

These aren’t the only exceptions to the 10% withdrawal penalty, but they do cover many of the common reasons that people may consider an early withdrawal from their IRAs. And if you do need to take an early withdrawal, consult with your tax advisor to determine your eligibility for avoiding the 10% penalty.

Keep in mind, though, that you do have ways to potentially reduce the necessity of withdrawing from your IRA early. One proven technique is to build an emergency fund containing at least three to six months’ worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid account. You might also consider opening a line of credit. A financial professional can help you explore other options, as well.

Ultimately, if you can leave your IRA intact until you retire, you’ll be helping yourself greatly. But if you do need to tap into your account early, at least be familiar with the possible drawbacks – and how you might avoid them.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Group adds new words to data request

◀ **GROUP** from A3

“I wanted to gauge how much it would potentially cost,” she said. “I did (searches) for four words – and it was over 14 grand just for that. I said, no, I can’t do that to the taxpayers.”

On Nov. 11, the group was scheduled for another review of the documents compiled so far, but didn’t come in.

“I received a notice that evening from their attorney, James Dickey, that said they couldn’t make it,” Picha said. “Then he made a second data request.”

The group had dropped seven words or phrases from its initial request of 33; the new request added six different ones.

Those include James Dickey and his law firm, Upper Midwest

Law Center; United Patriots for Accountability, the number 200,000; and the name and email address of a local reporter who wrote a story about the data request.

Picha said she’s gotten through eight of the 26 original terms.

Some of those, she said, result in 2,500 documents, “but I haven’t even gotten to the words that we know might be over 10,000. I will work on it, I have to make a reasonable, good-faith effort, because that’s my obligation, but I’m going to be up-front and say I can’t work every weekend.”

The second request – those six new keywords – has a deadline of 13 business days.

“I should be able to get it done,” Picha said. “I think they thought

we’d have a lot (of documents with the phrases), but we don’t.”

The original terms, though, will take much longer.

“Would I love to say by the end of this school year? Yes, but I could have something big happen in my other (school district) work, and I couldn’t spend as much time as I am now,” she said about how long it may take.

Picha sighs before answering many of the questions.

“I’ve never been

told personally what (UPA’s) purpose is,” she said. “I’ve heard they want the district to be transparent, but they’ve never said that to me.

“I just wish we could sit down and have a conversation, just agree to disagree,” Picha said. “We aren’t indoctrinating. We consider the whole child; we’re doing all of that, and doing the best we can for all kids, so let’s just move on.

“I just want to do my work.”

National Guard to assist in area

◀ **NATIONAL** from A3

themselves. Owatonna hospital continues to be operating at full capacity, according to Aaseth. As of Nov. 23, the local hospital reported between 30 and 50 COVID-19 cases, she said. She added new patients coming into the hospital are often left in the emergency room because there are no available beds currently in Minnesota.

Public Health continues its weekly vaccine clinics on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A special incentive of a \$25 gift card is currently being offered to people who have not been vaccinated.

Aaseth said they had a few first timers come through the clinic last week. “We are hoping to get more people that haven’t been vaccinated,” she said.

BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 1 Kelly Lamotte Andy Krebs Marilyn Meshke Stephanie Emanuel	Dec. 4 Judy Johnson Diane Nelson James Jerdet
Dec. 2 Fran Coughlin Nicole Leigh Greene	Dec. 5 Brandy Holmberg Scott Anderson
Dec. 3 Jessica Ressler Aurora Musel Carter Sorensen Carl Peterson Trent Swenson Nora Gardner	Dec. 6 Harriet Severson
	Dec. 7 Lance Lembke Roger L. Hanson Mark Lembke Marilyn Heinz Kyle Rossow

ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 1 Luke & Anna Miller	
Dec. 2 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Trotman Greg & Courtney Hackensmith	
Dec. 3 Brad & Wendy Hines	

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Lois Doyle, 96, Owatonna

Lois Mary (Erding) Doyle, 96, led a life of love and laughter, faith and family. We said goodbye to her on Nov. 24, 2021. Surely, the gates of heaven were lined with a welcome party that included her husband of 57 years, Robert, and her infant son, Charles.

Also preceding her in death were her parents, Harry and Frances (Feils) Erding, her brother, David, and her sisters Patricia, Audrey, and Marie.

Born in Plainview, Lois grew up during the Great Depression. Childhood highlights included her mother's fresh-baked pies, a bountiful garden, the library where she fueled her love of books, and each performance as a drum majorette. She could twirl a baton the rest of her life, and she offered lessons to her grandchildren.

Lois recalled the thrill of winning "Movie Bank Night" at the local theater. With the \$100 prize, Lois bought her high school class ring, graduation announcements, and invitations. The \$45 balance went toward a sleeping room in St. Paul, near the spot where she would train and work as "Rosie the Riveter," helping assemble B-24s for the war effort.

Meantime, Lois earned high marks at radiology technician training and, afterwards, worked alongside a family doctor in Owatonna. Down the block from that office, she met her future husband, Robert, "the handsome fellow" on duty behind the pharmacy counter.

Robert and Lois had six boys, losing one son at birth, followed by three girls. Lois excelled in the kitchen: canning excess from the garden, trying new recipes (although tuna pizza was not a hit), and



Lois Doyle

pleasing everyone with cinnamon rolls, pies, and magical rhubarb desserts. While her husband was Postmaster, she delivered trays of homemade sweet rolls to letter carriers each Christmas. Losing her life partner was devastating, and Lois talked aloud to Bob for the remainder of her life.

Lois was grounded in her Catholic faith and reflected a quote from St. Teresa of Calcutta, whom she deeply admired: "if you want to change the world, go home and love your family." Lois did that well.

Lois was devoted to family. Catholic education was paramount. Lois was a constant presence at St. Joseph's Church, St. Mary's School, and Marian High, volunteering for everything from pancake breakfasts to teaching catechism. She led Boy Scouts, organized funeral lunches, and enjoyed the friendships from her church guild, quilt guild, and celiac group. In later life, she and Bob were Hospice volunteers and census workers. Lois loved tight hugs; daily Mass; Adoration; the Rosary; reading books and the newspaper from cover to cover; jigsaw puzzles; piano music, especially if played by a family member; chocolate ice cream; strawberry milkshakes; coffee with cream; comics; a paper map; all travel, but especially to Ireland; handwritten letters; and drives along the back roads.



Lois always had a sewing machine nearby. Early on, she made dresses for herself and her daughters. Later, she quilted countless yards of fabric, entered her quilts in county and state fairs, and gifted these works of art to others. You could find her mending something for a friend well into her nineties.

Lois was direct, firm in opinion, and filled with advice. She relished family time, with special fondness for "Camp Doyle" lakeside and its talent shows. She treasured her children, their spouses, and their offspring. She eagerly shared cooking and sewing tips and welcomed each "nifty" update on her 20 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Left to remember her affectionately are her children: Michael (Sarah), James Patrick (Linda), John (Faye), Paul (Bev), Mark (Susan), Anne Blim (John), Beth Murphy (Tim) and Cathy Doyle-Burris (Ron).

Grandchildren: Philip and Brian Doyle, Ben and Sam Wuest, Katie Aguilera (Alvaro), Jeff Doyle (Beth), Mark Doyle (Pao), Anne Jensen (Logan), Joe Doyle, Matt FayDoyle (Theresa), Emily Doyle, Chelsea Perera (Tilan), Jack Doyle, Clare and Kathleen Blim, Elizabeth Quinlivan (Ryan), Katheryn Watkins (Mitchell), Charlie Murphy, Luke (Raven) and Mar Burris.

Great-grandchildren: Andrea, Enrique, and Jonathan Aguilera; Magnus and Hattie Doyle; Patrick and Thomas Quinlivan; Max Perera; James Robert Watkins; River Rush; baby boy Quinlivan (due May 2022).

Lois is survived also by her sister, Dona Mussman; brother, Gene Erding; sister-in-law, Sharon Erding; and a host of nieces and nephews.

A private funeral Mass for family was held to honor Lois. A wider celebration of life will be planned for a later date.

Memorial gifts can be directed to St. Mary's School in Owatonna, the charity of your choice, or mailed c/o Anne Blim, 419 Trinity Hills Lane, Louisville, KY, 40207.

Enjoy the welcome party, Lois. We miss you down here. And, yes, we will go home and love our families.

Susan Harty, 57, Owatonna



Susan Harty

Susan M. Harty, 57, of Owatonna, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by friends and family on Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021. She lost her brave battle with interstitial lung disease and was a cancer survivor twice.

She was born June 5, 1964 in Mankato, the daughter of Dean and Eileen (Kopp) Harty. Sue grew up in Mankato, where she attended Mankato East High School. She graduated in 1982. Sue continued her education at Mankato State University and she received her Educational Administrative degree at St. Mary's University.

On Oct. 21, 2016 she married her best friend, Debra Bunn at Gunflint Lodge on Gunflint Lake. It was a beautiful ceremony with Deb and Sue amidst family and friends.

Sue worked in the field of education as a

teacher for 30 years. She taught 11 years in Chisholm and taught her last 19 years at the Owatonna Middle School. She had a profound impact on all of her students of whom she adored.

Sue's passions in life were her family, especially her nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly, friends, her dogs and her students. Sue absolutely loved mentoring children and looked forward to going to work every day. Sue's impact on education will be everlasting.

Sue could create synergy within a room with her infectious laughter and smile. Everyone gravitated to Sue because she always made everyone feel so special. Sue truly had a beautiful soul.

Sue is survived by her loving wife Deb Bunn of Owatonna, brother Steve (Diane) Harty, Skokie, Ill., brother Scott (Tempe) Harty, Lenexa, Kansas, sister Sheri (Jeff) Howe, St. Cloud, brother-in-law David (Jennifer) Bunn, Hartland, sister-in-law Julie (Dean) Hunt, Owatonna, brother-in-law Steven (Dawn) Bunn, Hayward, Wis. She is also survived by

many nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father, Dean and Eileen Harty, and mother and father-in-law, Merrill and Berniece Bunn.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021, at St. John Lutheran Church commencing at 12 p.m., followed by funeral services at 1 p.m. officiated by Pastor Dave Klawiter. A luncheon will be served at the church following the service. Join the family for a celebration of life at 3:30 p.m. to be held at the Owatonna Elks Club, 126 E. Vine Street, Owatonna. The family respectfully requests all in attendance wear a mask.

Interment service will be held Sunday morning, Dec. 12 at St. Peter's Cemetery in New Richland.

For more information or to leave an online message of condolence, go to www.megercares.com.

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Mildred Kubat, 92, Claremont



Mildred Kubat

Mildred Mae Kubat, 92, of Claremont, died Thursday, Nov. 25, 2021 at Owatonna Hospital.

She was born April 16, 1929 in Owatonna Township, Steele County, the daughter of Adolph and Libbie (Junek) Standke. She was baptized and confirmed at St. John Lutheran Church in Owatonna. Mildred graduated from Owatonna High School in 1947.

She worked at Jostens for a few years before marrying Jerome Kubat on Sept. 1, 1951 at St. John Lutheran Church in Owatonna. The couple lived on the Polachek farm, then

moved to Ellendale and later purchased a farm near Claremont. Along with raising her three children, Mildred worked at Johnson Motor Company and North Central Plastics in Ellendale.

She was a faithful member of First Lutheran Church in Ellendale where she enjoyed serving with the Ruth Circle. She was also a member of the Owatonna VFW Auxiliary.

In her younger years, Mildred enjoyed cross country skiing on the farm, gardening and canning. More recently, she enjoyed crocheting, cross stitch and bird watching. She enjoyed fall and spring trips to visit extended family in Wisconsin and drives in the country. A highlight was meeting at the Kitchen in Owatonna to celebrate birthdays with the Standke cousins.

She is survived by her children, Sharon Menefee of Ellendale,

Stuart (Gala) Kubat of Clarks Grove and Spencer (Barbara) Kubat of Webster; grandchildren, Angie Menefee, Grant (Mai) Menefee, Jessica (Jay) Eidem and Mitch (Rachel) Kubat; step-grandchildren, Stacy (Nathan) Tempel, Nicole (Mark) Caldron and Erik Seath and four great-grandchildren, Henry Eidem, William Eidem, Millie Menefee and Mabel Menefee.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Adolph and Libbie; husband, Jerome and brother Milton (Lucille) Standke.

A Funeral Service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021, at Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna with visitation one hour prior. Pastor Dave Klawiter will officiate. Interment will be in Steele Center Cemetery south of Owatonna.

Michaelson Funeral Homes of Owatonna is handling the funeral arrangements.

Daniel Morman, 56, Rochester



Daniel Morman

Daniel Scott Morman, 56, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021, in Rochester.

Dan was born to Don and Dorothy (Outka)

Morman in Owatonna on Oct. 23, 1965. He graduated from high school in Des Moines, Iowa. Following high school, he attended and received a Bachelor's Degree from Iowa State University.

Dan was most recently employed in Rochester. His hobbies included fishing, boating, and cross-country skiing. Dan is survived by his daughter, Breana Daniels Morman of Tracy; mother, Dorothy Morman of Owatonna; sister, Debra (Jason)

Leuzzi of Brisbane, Australia; brother, Douglas Lukas of San Diego California; niece, Kiva Lukas and nephew, Sasha Lukas both of San Diego, California. Memorial services will be held at a later date at St. Joseph Church in Owatonna. Brick-Meger Funeral Home of Owatonna is handling the arrangements.

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PANTHER OF THE WEEK



JUSTIN POSSIN

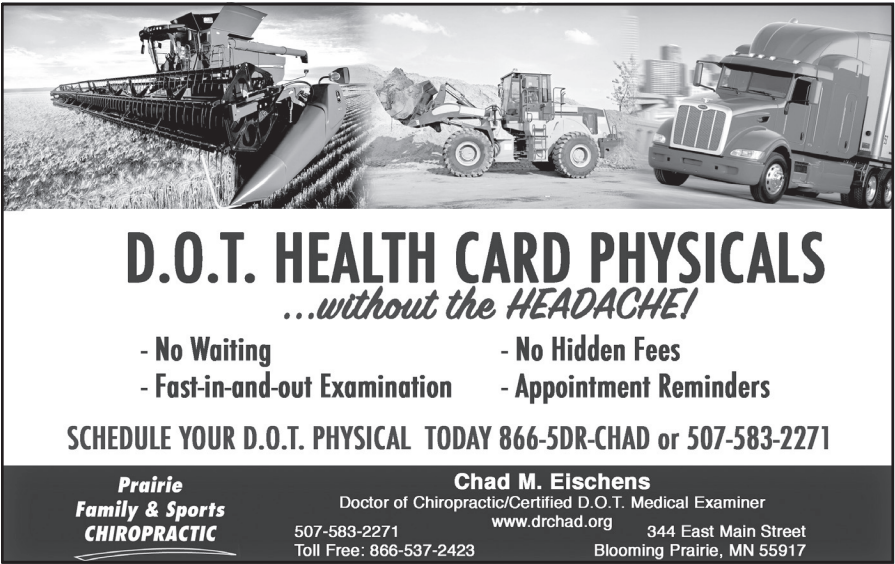
This week's Panther of the Week is **Justin Possin**. He is the son of Layne and Jillian Possin, and they reside in Wells. Justin is in Mr. Beynon's third grade class.

Justin is very respectful and loves pointing out when other classes are showing Panther Pride so they can get a Panther Pride slip. In class, Justin listens very well and is a great friend to those around him; he can get along with anyone!

Justin loves playing with his little brother, Logan, and he loves playing with his dogs! Keep up the great work!



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STEELE COUNTY TIMES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021

A9

Tree reminds us of wondrous love of the season



Rev. Leandra Anderson

RED OAK GROVE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
AUSTIN

My spouse and I put up our Christmas tree before Thanksgiving this year. I know that this is heretical to some,

but this year for more reason than one, it really felt like we needed some of that extra happiness this year that is associated with Christmas.

Christmas lights add an extra twinkle to our lives that brighten these longest nights of the year. I am not sure why it feels like we might be breaking some unspoken rule about decorating for Christmas before December, but I think at some point we decided to throw that rule directly out. Christmas is coming early because on a par-

ticular level sparkles and lights were needed. Though, I did keep out a little basket of cloth pumpkins for the last fall occasions.

Evergreen trees were often thought to symbolize and remind people all the way back to ancient empires that the winter will not last forever and that the sun and the deciduous trees would bloom and grow once again. That the warmer weather and greenery of winter would soon be upon us once again after the middle of winter. Branches and wreaths

from the evergreen trees would be hung on doors to repel things like negativity and ill will. The practice of using these trees made its way to the candlelit trees that were the ancestors to our Christmas trees. These beliefs can still be found in communities around the world.

For those of us who are Christians, the Evergreen trees that are Christmas trees, were known to symbolize a few things. The shape of the triangle reminds us of the Trinity, the evergreen tree can remind

us of the everliving Christ that is Jesus, and the lights on the tree remind us of Jesus as the light of the world. I also like to think of the lights as mirroring those guiding lights of Bethlehem that showed the Magi and the shepherds the way home. The tree is a bright spot in our Christmas decor that reminds us of the wondrous love of the Christmas season.

As we begin Advent, the message of the tree rings true throughout Advent and Christmas. The light of the world is on the way, much like

entering a season of waiting for the summer greenery once again. As we expect the coming of Christ, we await a star brighter than any other. That is the good news that we needed from the early Christmas tree this year. No matter if your tree is real or artificial and no matter if you put up a Christmas tree for decoration, symbolism, or to chase away those negative feelings of the winter, I hope that you find the happiness and the light that enters our space as we walk through the month of December.

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

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA
30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin
Leandra Anderson, Pastor
507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000
www.roglutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

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

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

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

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Pastor Barb Finley-Shea
507-438-1998
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Intern: Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
507-451-2165
Sunday worship: 10 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520
tlcowatonna.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Buegler; Associate Pastor: Rev. Amanda Floy
Deacon: Kris Oppgaard
Worship: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.- Sanctuary and 10:45 a.m.- Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m.- Live Stream at facebook.com/tlcowatonna and tlcowatonna.org/worshiplive
9:30 a.m.- Live broadcast on KRUE 92.1 FM
Video on Spectrum (Ch. 181), Jaguar TV (Ch. 900) and 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 – LCMS
108 Third Ave. SW., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
507-451-0447
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday & 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS
57043 300th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Intern: Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Sunday worship: 8:30 a.m.

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1909 St. Paul Road, Owatonna
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Associate Pastor: Lisa Carlson
Visitation Pastor: Rev. Ron Huber
Traditional Worship 8:15 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Contemporary Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday
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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.
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CHRISTIAN

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

PENTECOSTAL

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

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST
43089 180th St., Medford (Seven miles west of Medford on CR 23)
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 Cirksema
507-684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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

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Pastor Aaron de Neui
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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.
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.

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Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.

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jigsaw puzzles that can be taken at no cost. The selection changes often, so stop by and find one that appeals to you. Or drop off ones that you no longer want.

Did you know that there are jigsaw puzzle competitions? One of the nation's largest is at the St. Paul Winter Carnival. To get in on the fun, the Blooming Prairie Branch Library will be hosting our very first Jigsaw Puzzle Competition on Thursday, Dec. 30 at 2 p.m.

There will be two categories: Adult and Junior (10 and younger). Each team will consist of 2 players;

adults will be given a 500-piece puzzle and juniors a 300-piece puzzle. Each team will be given the same puzzle in their categories. Whoever completes their puzzle first will be the winner! Prizes are yet to be determined depending on the number of entrants we have. Snacks will be provided.

Since we need to get the puzzles soon, we are asking that you call the library at 507-583-7750 to register by Dec. 15. When you register you will be given a list of the guidelines for the event. That week between Christmas and New Year's can be long and boring, so consider puzzling with us at the library!

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- In-house box office opens November 29 - December 12.
- Mon. - Wed. 5-6:30 (By Phone Only)
- Thurs. - Sat. 5:30-7:30
- Sun. 12:30-2

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Officers recognized for life-saving efforts

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

If ever there was a time for a lesson to stick, it was Oct. 12. That's the day an inmate at the Steele County Detention Center collapsed, apparently from a cardiac issue. Greg Huebbe was in the pod that morning when the man's cellmate "came out, hysterical, calling for help." When Huebbe got to him, the man had no pulse and was experiencing agonal breathing — a sign he wasn't getting enough oxygen. The first report Leah Kent received was that the man had fallen, but she knew his history of cardiac trouble. "I got the AED, got the ambulance rolling, got down there and initiated CPR," said Kent, a longtime nurse who has been at the deten-

tion center for 14 years. She teaches CPR and first aid at the facility, but it was the first time she'd been involved in a "full code." "The crew jumped right into action," Kent said, "and they remembered everything I taught them." That crew included Huebbe, Jesse Steneman and Matt Gwin. All four were recognized last week by the Steele County Board of Commissioners for their life-saving efforts. Sheriff Lon Thiele made the presentation. Steneman, a corporal at the facility, wasn't close to the pod when the man collapsed, "but it's always our job to respond," he said. He joined Kent and Huebbe, who were already performing CPR. Gwin also arrived, and the four took turns doing chest compressions



STAFF PHOTO BY KAY FATE

Steele County Sheriff Lon Thiele, left, talks about the day four employees at the Steele County Detention Center saved an inmate's life. Sgt. Greg Huebbe, Cpl. Jesse Steneman and nurse Leah Kent performed CPR for several minutes after the man's heart stopped. Officer Matt Gwin was also part of the crew, but wasn't able to attend the presentation at last week's county board meeting.

and rescue breathing. Finally, after several rounds of CPR and five shocks from the AED, "we got a very faint pulse," Huebbe said. Paul Prissel, the assistant administrator of the detention center, was in charge that day. "As soon as I heard them call for the crash cart, I knew it was bad," he said. "I went down there to just help navigate things, and stayed out of the way. They worked very

well together; they did everything they were supposed to do, they did it well, and they're heroes for doing it." Huebbe still gets emotional about the incident, which he said taught him to be aware of medical issues inmates may have so that he can be prepared. "He was an inmate, sure, but he's a human first." The man, who was not identified, has recovered.

Child's random act of kindness leads to holiday parade of visitors

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Beth Fink and her neighbors know how to throw a party, at least when it comes to the Christmas holiday season. Last year they decided at the last minute to host a holiday parade of visitors to their Owatonna neighborhood along 16th Street S.E. In what they thought would attract maybe 10 people ended up attracting thousands, Fink said. It was so busy that it created a traffic jam in the neighborhood.

"We're hoping to have that issue again this year," Fink said, adding she hopes even more people will get involved than last year. They will host another parade through their neighborhood on Thursday, Dec. 9, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The fun will feature Christmas lights and decorations, holiday music, a visit from Santa Claus and hot cocoa and cookies to pass out as cars drive through the neighborhood. The neighbors will also be taking up donations for We All

Play and Toys for Tots, a pair of nonprofit organizations benefiting the community. Last year, they raised about \$5,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters and Rachel's Light. "We did it last year with COVID knowing that people needed some holiday cheer," said Fink, a special education teacher with Owatonna High School. The idea arose out of Fink and her husband Eric completing a family project with their sons, Max, 9, and Zac, 6. As part of 25 Days of Random Acts of Kind-

ness during December, Zac thought it would be fun to do a parade. "Seeing how much they enjoyed it was so worth it," Fink said. "Having them give back to others and give back kindness was cool to see." Fink doesn't know exactly how many neighbors are participating in the event, but she has noticed more are putting out lights than last year. "My neighbors have worked hard on this," she said. "We have worked together to try and make it bigger and better."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Beth Fink and her sons, Max, left, and Zac are eager to spread holiday cheer in their Owatonna neighborhood. They are hosting a holiday parade on Thursday, Dec. 9, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on 16th Street S.E.

Help raise the roof and be a holiday hero



STAFF PHOTO BY DEB FLEMMING

Construction on the new building for Community Pathways is underway. The new building will abut the existing structure at 155 Oakdale St. Plans call for a central vestibule allowing entry into either side. Once built, two other non-profits, Let's Smile and Steele County Transitional Housing, will be housed in the facility.



Steele Talkin'
ROBIN STARR

We are looking for some holiday heroes to help us Raise the Roof and Deck the Halls for a brighter future for Steele County families. Community Pathways started 2021 with a \$2.6 million capital campaign for an expansion of our building so we may better serve the

community. With your help, and the generosity of our wonderful partners in the community, we have raised over \$2 million to date and hope to finish the year strong with the additional \$300,000 that we need to reach our final goal. We are so thankful to everyone that has donated their time and energy in making this campaign a success. The construction of the new building is officially underway! When you stop into Unique Finds and The Marketplace, you'll see the team from MOHS as they are currently excavating the site for the foundation of the new space. See STEELE TALKIN' on B2 ►

Drug court graduates thankful

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

Lorita Placencia and Tanya Ackerman were both smiling as they accepted accolades from Third Judicial District Chief Judge Joseph A. Bueltel. The two women are 78th and 79th graduates of the Steele Waseca Drug Court. They began the program within days of one another in November 2019. Placencia told the judge and those attending her graduation ceremony the day before Thanksgiving that she was thankful for drug

court. "I had to ask myself, do I want better for myself? Do I want a life of freedom? Do I want to keep going back to jail? Do I want better relationships with my family members?" The answer was "yes," but the journey was far from easy, said Placencia, adding that she now wants to become a licensed alcohol drug counselor and is working on her bachelor's degree in Human Services. "I told my probation officer, I need help. This is not who I want to be," Placencia said. "I told

her I'm going to die out here or end up in jail." Ackerman said it was ironic that the two were graduating together. Prior to entering drug court, she said the two hung out together and used drugs together. Placencia faced 48 months in prison when she entered the program after several probation violation on a felony third-degree controlled substance sale case. Ackerman also faced prison time when she entered the program after several probation violations on a felony second-degree controlled substance sale case.


On graduation day, they had 743 days of sobriety combined. Since its inception in July 2014, Drug Court Coordinator Nicole Gram said the drug court program has served more than 200 participants with more than 100 either withdrawing — to serve their jail or prison time or transfer to another drug court — or being terminated because of new criminal behavior or rejection of services. As an alternative to incarceration, drug courts throughout the country reduce the costs of repeatedly processing high-risk, high-need sub-



STAFF PHOTO BY DEB FLEMMING

Tanya Ackerman, left, and Lorita Placencia began their Thanksgiving celebrations a day early. The two became the 78th and 79th graduates of Steele Waseca Drug Court on Wednesday, Nov. 23.

stance abusers through the courts, jails, and prisons while providing offenders a pathway to recovery. Participants are required to abstain from substance use, to be accountable for their behavior and to fulfill the legal responsibilities of the offenses they have committed. There are currently 31 participants in the local drug court.



Reflections

HOWARD LESTRUD

Oh, deer! That was a close one. When on the highway, my wife Judy is always in charge of deer hunting — meaning that it is imperative to watch both sides of the highway. It's almost a given that anyone who has been driving Minnesota roadways at least 10 years has either struck

Look out, there's a deer coming our way

a deer or has come close to smashing into the four-legged animal.

Just the other night, Judy and I were traveling on Highway 30 near Ellendale, heading east toward Blooming Prairie. Actually, we were making a right-hand turn

from the Interstate 35 ramp onto Highway 30.

Judy was behind the wheel, and at the same time, we both said we saw a weird formation in the woods on the other side of the roadway. "I'm not moving until I see if a deer is moving," Judy said.

Again, at the same time, we began counting 1-2-3-4-5 deer cross-

ing Highway 30 toward woodlands to the south.

Whew! I breathed as we waited to see if there were more deer entering our traffic lanes.

Usually, autumn is a time when our whitetail deer population thinks it has the right of way on our travel ways.

Be careful when traveling Minnesota roads at night. If the temperature is between 15 and 40 degrees, it is possible that deer are on the move.

This most-recent warning brought to mind my close calls of smashing into a four-legged species.

One of our weirdest encounters came when

Judy and I were shopping for a used car in Wisconsin. The salesman encouraged us to take a low mileage car for a test drive.

We just went a few miles through a wooded area when a huge buck deer crossed in front of us. Slamming on the brake, I avoided a collision, but I did manage to clip him with the right front bumper.

With no damage done, we sealed the deal and bought the deermobile.

I also had another experience with a deer when I was about a mile from home. A deer decided to play "chicken" with me.

The deer won, taking out my right-front fender. I pulled to the shoulder of the road, looked back for the deer and saw no sight of it. All I could see were parts of my car covering one lane of the road.

Maybe, the craziest, almost serious deer run-in was described by Darrell and Cindi Hansen, relatives from Blooming Prairie.

The two were returning home in their convertible on Highway 30 when a huge deer used the Hansens' car as a hurdle on a racetrack. The deer cleared their convertible (top was down). They had to stop and asked one another:

"Did we really see what we saw?"

Deer-vehicle crashes peak in the autumn months, but Minnesota's large deer population makes them a safety hazard on the road all year long. Deer crashes are especially dangerous for motorcyclists — a group which accounted for 17 of the 20 vehicle-deer related deaths over a five-year period (2015-2019).

Always be alert when traveling country roads. If a deer pops into your lane of travel, don't try to avoid a crash by slamming on the brake. It sounds strange, but safety efforts say it is best to take the deer head on.

BPES students gobble up the fun

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

"Odin, they're not being mean — they're drawing them."

Sometimes, when you're 8, and the bingo numbers being called aren't the ones on your card, you need a reminder.

"We never know, do we second-graders? It's pure luck," said Angela Anderson, who was soothing ruffled feathers during last week's Turkey Bingo at Blooming Prairie Elementary School.

It was a fitting kickoff to the Thanksgiving break, and it had lots of moving pieces.

The students stayed in their classrooms while Principal Jacob Schwarz called the numbers over the office intercom. Winners of each game — there were often several — had to "gobble" their way to the office to collect a prize. Walking like a turkey was also encouraged.

Silas Zylstra, one of

Anderson's students, won during the second of five games.

His prize: "One of those farty things," Silas said. "You know, like if you sit on it?"

A whoopee cushion, for those unfamiliar with Silas's description.

Down the hall in Karlee Ruen's first-grade class, there were two winners.

Ruen kept busy, writing the numbers on the whiteboard. Some required explanation.

"G-58," she said. "That's a 5, then an 8 beside it."

It's a little tricky, Ruen said, when numbers surpass the students' counting or number-recognition level, "but we're having fun."

The youngest students, those in pre-school, Bridges and kindergarten, partnered with third-, fourth- and fifth-graders to watch and mark their cards.

Last year was the first time the school



First-grader Eleanor Bell watches the action in classroom through the eye of her Turkey Bingo prize. She was one of two winners in Karlee Ruen's class.

played Turkey Bingo — over ZOOM, no less.

Because students were distance-learn-

ing, Schwarz became somewhat of a Santa, driving to each winner's home to deliver their prize.

The Blooming Prairie Education Foundation provided the funding for the prizes.

Help raise the roof and be a holiday hero

◀ STEELE TALKIN' from B1

To help reach our final campaign goal, Community Pathways is hosting a virtual giving event. Each day in December we will be sharing stories from our clients, staff, volunteers, and community partners about the impact Community Pathways' services have had on their own lives and others' in Steele County. These stories will be featured on our social medias along with our website, Communitypathwayssc.org, where you'll be able to make much appreciated contributions directly through the donation links. For every \$100 donated, you will be entered in a drawing to win an LED flat screen TV!

Each donation, no matter how small, helps to put food on the table and keep clothes in the drawers of the families that utilize our services. Your gifts will make a difference this holiday season by helping our community members to access these necessities that are often taken for granted.

Robin Starr is the community and outreach coordinator for Community Pathways of Steele County.



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LOOK WHO'S BEING AWESOME!

Blossoms Students of the Week

Blooming Prairie Elementary School



Greg Olson – 3C
Ms. Schmidt's Class
Parents: Steve & Mary Olson
Greg is an awesome choice for showing Prairie Pride! He is always willing to lend a hand and takes pride in doing his class jobs well. Greg works well with any partner, and we love when he contributes to class discussions. He has an infectious smile that will brighten your day. Keep up the great work, Greg! We are so proud of you.



Braxton Clayton – 4A
Mrs. Volgarino's Class
Parents: Michael & Katy Clayton
Braxton is an excellent example of Prairie Pride at BPES! Braxton comes to school each day with a positive attitude and willingness to always do his best. He is often caught setting a positive example in our classroom by showing respect and kindness to all teachers and classmates. Way to go, Braxton! 4A is so proud of you!



Addison Braaten – 5C
Mrs. Hadrath's Class
Parents: Gregg & Billie Braaten
Addi is an AWESOME student! She is a great friend with a kind heart. She loves to learn new things and works hard to do her very best. I am very proud of her! Keep being an Awesome Blossom, Addi!

Blossoms of the Week

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County discusses Covid-19 mandate

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

With the federal vaccine mandate currently facing litigation in courts, businesses and government entities across the country are beginning to discuss how to enforce the orders.

"We have been — in the last year and a half — adjusting to and reacting to federal and state orders," County Administrator Scott Golberg said. "There's two federal rules that have been handed down, one of which pertains to employers with over 100 employees and that currently is under a stay order with the courts."

Due to being bogged down in litigation, the county currently is not obligated to act on that first order, however there is an additional federal order. "The other one is one that pertains to the Medicare and Medicaid services and that one took effect

Nov. 5," Golberg said.

The CMS order pertains to certified Medicare and Medicaid providers and for the county that counts the public health department. "We will have to comply with that since it is not on a stay order in the courts and this one does mandate vaccines unless someone can claim an exemption," Golberg said. Exemptions include medical or religious beliefs.

Time is ticking for the county to enforce the public health vaccine order. "We don't have a lot of time, it went into effect Nov. 5 and technically 30 days after that the staff at our public health facilities has to undergo their first dose unless they claim exemption," Golberg said. The county has been working on a policy for the board to draft and adopt as it pertains to this federal order.

"What if we don't

comply with the mandate? I'm not advocating either way, but I feel it's unfair to put our employees in a position where they have to choose between their beliefs and in some cases their careers," Commissioner Jim Abbe said. "It feels like government overreach to me."

The county already has a staff shortage in healthcare. "Now we're going to have some of our employees having to choose whether or not they continue to work or get a shot?" Abbe asked. "It's wrong in my opinion."

Golberg said that should the county not comply then they would be enforced to comply starting in January. "That can be a number of things but it is typically an aggressive type of thing, and that's what we're subjected to," he said.

Commissioner Greg Krueger asked whether the exemptions are reasonable enough for employees who wish to opt out due to religious or health concerns

A medical provider will need to sign off on

any health exemption, but it is the religious belief caveat that remains questionable. "That's the one that will be determined by the county whether that request will be approved or denied," Human Resources Director Julie Johnson said.

The board was adamant that those who want an exemption should get it, however the requirements handed down for exemption are not clear at the moment. "That's how poorly this all has been thought out," Krueger said.

As it stands now the board will need to convene during a work session in order to hammer out a policy to adopt. "We have to get their exemptions in and review them and grant them or not so they can get their vaccinations that Sunday, Dec. 5," Golberg said

"I don't want the county to get in the position of being a policeman and picking or choosing," Commissioner James Brady said. "I think if someone wants an exemption, they should get it."

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

DEC. 4
6 p.m. — Christmas Light Parade

DEC. 7
10 a.m. — Online Storytime, BP Library Facebook Page
7 p.m. — Annual Ladies Christmas Tea,

DEC. 12
10:30 a.m. — Nativ-ity Brunch & Bake Sale, St. Columbanus Church

DEC. 15
Chamber Holiday Party, F&M Bank

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

DEC. 3
11 a.m. — SEMCAC, Community Building

DEC. 6
11 a.m. — SEMCAC, Community Building
6 p.m. — Ellendale Fire Dept. Meeting, Community Building

DEC. 8
11 a.m. — SEMCAC, Community Building

DEC. 9
7:30 p.m. — Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

DEC. 4
8 a.m. — Steele County 4-H Shop with Santa, St. John Lutheran ELCA
10 a.m. — Holiday Customer Appreciation Weekend, Uncle Tom's Corn Burning
10 a.m. — Christmas in the Village, Village of Yesteryear
7:30 p.m. — Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some), Little Theatre of Owatonna

DEC. 5
Noon — Holiday Customer Appreciation Weekend, Uncle Tom's Corn Burning
2 p.m. — Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some), Little Theatre of Owatonna

DEC. 6
6:30 p.m. — Open Arms Suicide Monthly Meeting, Owatonna VFW
7 p.m. — Steele County Planning Commission Meeting,

DEC. 7
10 a.m. — Genealogy Club, History Center
10:30 a.m. — Online Storytime, Owatonna Library Facebook Page
5:30 p.m. — Meet 'n Greet New City Employees, City Hall
7 p.m. — Owatonna City Council Meeting, City Hall
7 p.m. — Steele County Board of Adjustments Meeting, County Admin Building

DEC. 8
5:30 p.m. — Medford EDA Meeting, City Hall

DEC. 9
5 p.m. — Airport Commission Meeting, Airport Lounge
7 p.m. — Heritage Quilt Guild, St. Joseph Catholic

DEC. 10
7:30 p.m. — Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some), Little Theatre of Owatonna

Nativity brunch Dec. 12

St. Columbanus Church of Blooming Prairie will be hosting a nativity brunch and bake sale. It will take place on Sunday, Dec. 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the church at 114 E. Main St. The church will feature beautiful nativity inspired decorations. The children's Advent program will follow 10 a.m. mass. The brunch menu consists of break-fast burritos, hash browns, fresh baked breakfast breads, fruit and refreshments. A free will offering will be taken.

Sudoku Corner

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

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

Berne to celebrate season with live nativity

A live nativity will be featured at the outdoor stage at Zwingli United Church of Christ at Berne.

The event will take place on Saturday, Dec. 18 from 7 to 9 p.m. It will be a drive-thru event.

The church is inviting everyone to come celebrate the Christmas season with live animals. This is a free event. However, donations will be accepted for the area food shelves.

This is the same church that offers Berne Pizza Concert series throughout the summer on Wednesday nights.

The Berne church is located at 23148 County Road 24, West Concord.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Zwingli United Church of Christ at Berne will be hosting a live nativity on Saturday, Dec. 18.

Shop with Santa this Saturday

Steele County 4-H will be having its Shop with Santa Event on Saturday at St. John Lutheran Church, 1301 Lincoln Ave. S. in Owatonna. Numbered bags will be distributed from 7 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Shopping will begin at 8 a.m. and go until noon. Check out our *Steele County4h* Facebook Page under Events for more details.

For those of you who don't know what Shop with Santa is, it is an opportunity for children sixth grade and under to do their very own Christmas shopping (without parents!) in a safe, easily accessible location, and at a very reasonable cost. Gifts are made and donated by Steele County 4-H'ers, their leaders, parents, friends, and grandparents and are all priced at \$5 or below with most ranging between \$1 and \$2.

In the past, there have been wooden puzzles, squirrel feeders, aprons, dish towels, wall hangings, craft items, sports accessories and the list goes on and on!

The best part of Shop with Santa is that the children get to shop without parents trying to peek. Each shopper will be assisted by one of "Santa's helpers" who are available to aid the shoppers with their selections. When they are done shopping, they return to their waiting parents, with their gifts wrapped and tagged.

Arts Center Christmas display opens Sunday

The Owatonna Arts Center's annual Christmas display "It's the Holiday Season" opens Sunday and runs through Dec. 31. Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, closed Mondays and Dec. 24 and Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas.

To delight the young at heart the galleries are decked out with dazzling Christmas Trees and Elf is always finding a new place to take in the sights and waiting to be found. Marching through the galleries is a parade of nutcrackers of all shapes and sizes.

The Owatonna High School Carolers will be singing traditional songs of the season at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 5. Santa will be at the center Saturday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to noon. Mrs. Clause will be at the piano playing Christmas Carols.

Rice Lake State Park closed during hunt

Rice Lake State Park will be closed to all visitors on Dec. 4 — 5 for a special deer hunt. The purpose for the hunt is to prevent overpopulation of deer and to protect resources.

Hunts also will take place at other Minnesota state parks and recreation areas this fall, and access to the parks will vary. Some will remain open to all visitors, some will have limited public access and some will be open only to hunters with special permits. The deadlines have passed for youth and adults to apply for the permits to participate in these state park and recreation area hunts, which include regular firearms, muzzleloader and archery options. "Too many of one animal or plant species in an area can start to throw off the balance of other species in that area," said Tavis Westbrook, a natural resource program coordinator with DNR's Division of Parks and Trails. "When there are too many deer in a park, they feed too much on certain trees and native plants, so occasionally we allow deer hunts as a way to protect natural resources."

The DNR thanks visitors for their patience and understanding during the hunts.

For a list of parks and recreation areas that are open, partially open or closed during the 2021 hunting season, visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/hunting.html or contact the DNR Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us or call 888-646-6367 (8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sat.). Details on specific areas affected by the special deer hunts can also be found in the "Visitor Alert" boxes on the individual park and recreation area website pages at www.mndnr.gov.

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Off-Sale: 4 – 5:30 pm
Holiday Tasting • Wine Sale • Lottery Promo
Light Parade – 6 pm • Stocking Stuffers
Gift Certificates

DEC. 11: "Harvey's Holiday Cheer"
4 – 7 pm
Join us as we celebrate the Holiday Season

DEC. 18: Euchre... 1 pm
(2 PERSON TEAM, CALL TO SIGN UP)

Holiday hours:
Dec. 24 – 10 am – 5 pm
Dec. 25 – Closed
Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve Party
Appetizers 5 – 8 pm
Champagne at Midnight

Jan. 1 – Closed HAPPY NEW YEAR

Turkey winners announced

The winners of the turkey giveaway in Blooming Prairie have been announced.

Area businesses joined in with the Steele County Times to extend special thanks for supporting small businesses and organizations, especially over the past year and a half during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The winners were Loretta Wurst of Blooming Prairie- MBT Bank; Kim Gauthier of Owatonna- Dr. Deborah Lien; Geraldine Berg

of Blooming Prairie- Hometown Insurance; Ron Nelson of Blooming Prairie- Floor Tech; John Gerold of Medford- Vandal's Family Market; Georgia Minard of Owatonna- Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner PA; Marilyn Styndel of Bixby- United Way of Steele County; Layla Lujan of Blooming Prairie and Leah McCarthy of Owatonna- Steele County Times.

They all received a turkey from Vandal's Family Market in Blooming Prairie.

SEMAC awards arts grant

The Board of Directors of the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC) recently awarded 54 grants for a total of \$419,420 in funding for the arts, including a \$4,000 programming grant to the The Merlin Players for Production of the Musical "La Cage Aux Folles".

This included 21 Legacy grants for \$193,085, twelve Programming Grants for Arts Organizations for \$57,750, four Small Towns/Rural Areas grants for \$17,010, two Arts Management Training Grants for \$1,575, and fifteen General Operating Support grants to arts organizations for \$150,000.

SEMAC is the State Arts Board-designated granting authority for local/regional arts producing and sponsoring organizations and disburses funds allocated for this purpose by the Minnesota State Legislature. The SEMAC region includes the counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele.



Steele Sports
JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

Ex-Husky defeats defending champion

Former Owatonna Huskies wrestler Peyton Robb recently shook up the college wrestling world, beating the defending national champion at 157 pounds in the Nebraska Cornhuskers' meet against the University of North Carolina.

Robb, a sophomore at Nebraska, defeated Austin O'Connor by points in a 5-2 victory that helped propel Nebraska to a 27-6 team win against the Tarheels.

"It's almost like so much is going through your mind that nothing is going through your mind at that point. It's pretty hard to think when you're that tired. Like after a long, hard-battled match you've got the exhaustion. So, I just tried to stay focused in the moment and not give up anything," said Robb.

According to Robb, everything went as planned and he was able to secure two take-downs while relying on his strong "gas tank" to outwork his opponent.

Robb secured his first two-point take-down right before time expired in the first period on a successful shot at the edge of the out-of-bounds section of the mat.

Robb said that the timing of the takedown worked in his favor as time expired without his opponent having the opportunity to try and escape to earn himself a point.

Leading 2-0 going into the second period, O'Connor chose the bottom in the referee's position to attempt to earn an escape point and draw closer to Robb's lead.

After applying some pressure and resistance, O'Connor managed to escape to make the score 2-1, however, Robb said that he felt that he was able to take a good amount of energy from O'Connor which played in his favor.

See STEELE SPORTS on B5 ►



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

Freshman forward Anna Mollenhauer focuses in before a faceoff attempt in the offensive zone. Owatonna managed to control possession of the puck for most of the game as a result of regularly winning faceoffs.

Huskies dominate Century

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna girls hockey team beat Rochester Century 3-0 last week, outshooting Century by 42 to four while dominating possession of the puck and time on attack.

Owatonna gained a 1-0 lead 12:26 into the first period thanks to a goal by sophomore forward Izzy Radel, who tipped junior defenseman Sarah Snitker's

shot from the offensive zone blue line into the top of Century's net.

The goal was the only score of the first period, giving the Huskies a 1-0 lead going into the second period.

Owatonna once again found the back of the net when sophomore forward Molly Achterkirch scored on a shot redirected into the net off a Century's athlete's skate 14:12 into the second period. Achterkirch was

assisted by freshman defenseman Alia Kubicek and senior forward Gabriella Lamont on the play.

Despite a plethora of scoring opportunities, the Huskies were held to just one goal in the second period and entered the third period with a 2-0 lead.

Snitker earned her second point of the night by scoring a goal on a blue line blast with 4:45 remaining in the third period.

Senior goaltender Ava Wolfe was left mostly unchallenged in the Owatonna defensive zone as Century managed only four shots, with two shots coming in the last minute of the game.

Wolfe earned the win to improve her overall record to 3-0 while also recording her first shutout of the season.

The Huskies improved their season record to 3-0 overall

and 2-0 in-conference with the win.

Owatonna currently sits atop the Big Nine Conference standings with four points, tied only with Albert Lea.

Owatonna last won the Big Nine Conference in 2020 with Northfield claiming the conference title in 2021.

Owatonna hits the road Thursday, Dec. 2., to face Winona at the Winona Bud King Ice Arena at 7:15 p.m.

OHS finishes last scrimmage

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Huskies unofficially beat the Bloomington Kennedy Eagles 4-3 last week to round out Owatonna's pre-season scrimmages.

Owatonna's first goal of the scrimmage came halfway through the opening 30-minute period when senior captain Casey Pederson found the back of the net with a well-placed wrist shot to the top corner of the Bloomington Kennedy net.

Goaltender Sam Pfeiffer started the first half of the period and held a shutout before being replaced by senior goaltender Preston Meier with 15

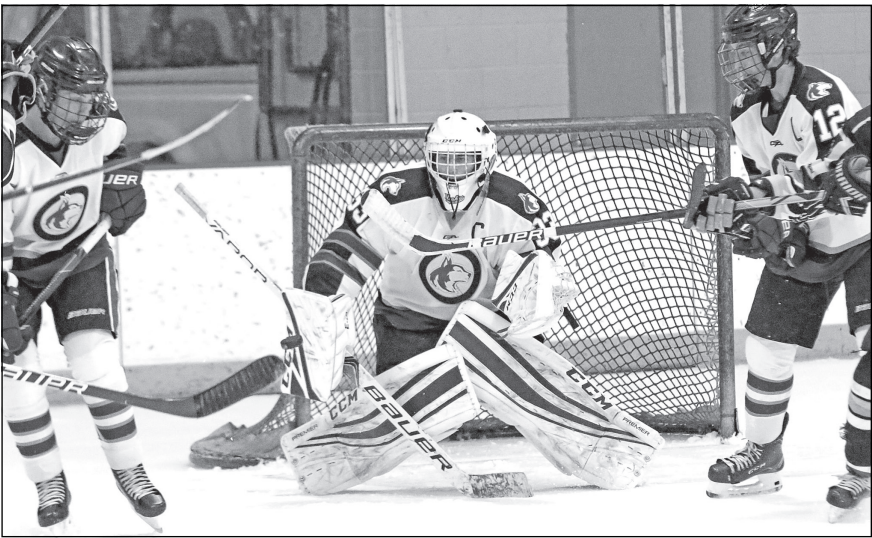
minutes remaining.

Meier kept Bloomington Kennedy off the board until the Eagles netted a goal on a shot from a quick, one-two pass with four minutes remaining in the first period.

The two teams finished the first period tied 1-1 and decided to continue the scrimmage for an additional 10 minutes with a running clock.

Bloomington Kennedy capitalized first in extra time with a goal 29 seconds into the period on a loose puck in front of the Huskies' net to go up 2-1.

However, Owatonna answered quickly as senior forward Caleb Vereide scored less than two minutes later



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

Senior goaltender and captain Preston Meier attempts to save a shot attempt by Bloomington Kennedy while senior defenseman and captain Joey Dub lifts an Eagles player's stick out of the way.

by finishing a rebound in front of the net to tie the game at 2-2.

Senior defenseman Jack Sande gave Owatonna the lead again at 3-2 only 1:25 later by driving to the Bloomington Kennedy net and finishing a backhanded shot.

Just 35 seconds later

it was Sande again finishing on a shot in front of the Eagles net for his second goal of the game to make the score 4-2 with 5:50 remaining in the second period.

Bloomington Kennedy made a late push and scored with 18 seconds remaining in the

period, but it came too late as the Eagles were unable to score again before time expired.

The Huskies will begin the regular season in their game against non-conference opponent Minnetonka at the Four Season Centre on Thursday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m.

BP, NRHEG boys hit the court in Hayfield

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Panthers ran a fast-paced offense against Schaeffer Academy and Lyle-Pacelli Saturday during the first of two scrimmages played in Hayfield Saturday.

Head coach Isaiah Lundberg substituted athletes in and out of the game constantly,

allowing fans and coaches alike to see a multitude of different looks throughout the scrimmage.

The Panthers found success in transition and by moving the ball around the outside with its guard-heavy offense.

NRHEG brought out some familiar faces from seasons prior as senior guard Porter Peterson, senior forward

Benjamin Schoenrock and sophomore guard Dexter Lee all made appearances in the scrimmage.

"I was pleased for the most part. There were good improvements from earlier in the week. We just have to get used to each other and learn to trust one another," said Lundberg.

Bloomington Prairie came out to face

Fillmore Central and Mabel-Canton after NRHEG finished its second scrimmage of the day.

Awesome Blossoms gridiron standouts Drew Kittelson, Colin Jordison and Brady Kittelson began the game for Bloomington Prairie and showed their team chemistry from the opening tip-off.

Jordison ran the

point with Brady Kittelson and moved the ball around creating plays, while Drew Kittelson resided mostly in the paint offering kick-out passes and a big presence underneath the basket.

"Overall I would say I'm pretty happy. There are certainly things that we still need to work on and get better at, but after only a week of practice in a new system, I

thought the boys played pretty well. We made some nice adjustments in the second game and really competed," said Bloomington Prairie head coach Cameron Rutledge.

NRHEG and Bloomington Prairie are set to face one another in their first regular-season game in New Richland on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 7:15 p.m.



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Ex-Husky defeats defending champion

STEELE SPORTS from B4

After the escape, O'Connor followed with a shot of his own that Robb stuffed to negate his opponent the opportunity at two points.

The score remained at 2-1 at the end of the second period.

To begin the third period, Robb chose the bottom in referee's position to earn an escape point of his own and go up 3-1.

With takedowns earning two points, Robb said that he wanted to ensure that he had a lead that could not be beaten by a single takedown.

He scored another successful takedown on what he described as a "sucker drag" with one minute remaining in the third period.

The takedown moved the score to 5-1 where Robb said he felt like he had "iced" the match as O'Connor would need two takedowns just to tie his score.

One more escape by O'Connor made the match 5-2; the final score when the third period ended.

The emotion poured out of Robb as the referee raised his hand.

However, according to Robb, business was not finished.

"Right after the match I ran off into the tunnel and my coaches made me do a bunch of cardio work right after it like sprints and stuff to build the gas tank up. So, like right after that it wasn't too much fun, but good for the gas tank," said Robb. "After

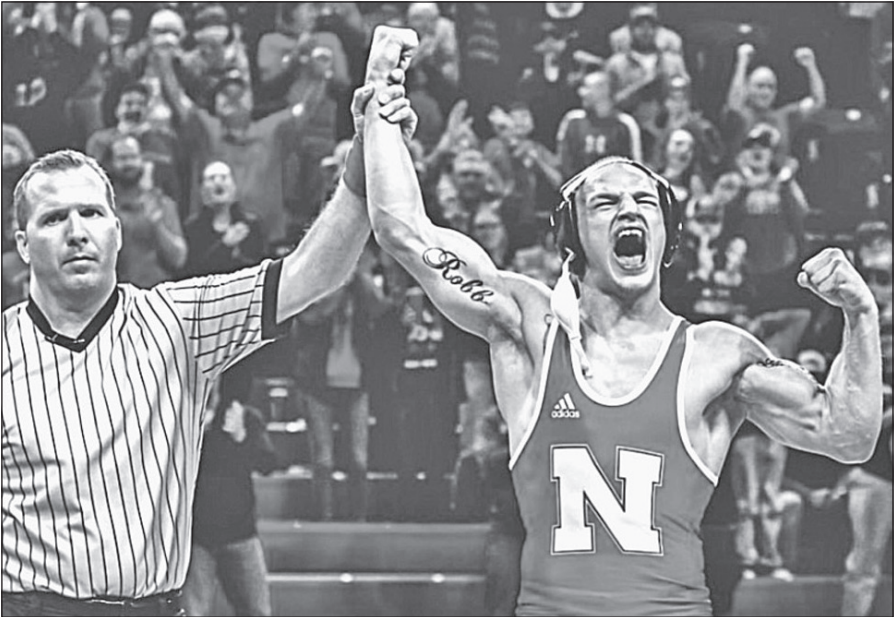
that, I talked with my coaches and they were super pumped up. They reminded me that you have to go into this expecting this every time."

Ranked at No. 16 in the nation before the match, Robb took on No. 2 Austin O'Connor as an underdog in the biggest wrestling match of Robb's career.

However, Robb's victory on the big stage shouldn't come as a surprise to those who have followed his illustrious wrestling career.

A three-time state champion in high school for Owatonna, Robb compiled an overall record of 155-6 over his four years.

Robb took home the state title in 2015, 2016 and 2018, while coming



Nebraska sophomore wrestler Peyton Robb lets the emotion pour out as he gets his hand raised. Robb defeated defending national champion Austin O'Connor of the University of North Carolina in the two's match on Wednesday, Nov. 17.

in second place in state in 2017.

After defeating O'Connor, Robb said that his biggest goal is helping get his team to the national championship and earning a trophy.

The win improved Robb's record to 2-0 on the season, while the Nebraska Cornhuskers as a team improved to 3-0 overall.

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.

WEEK 9 WINNER: Keith Stark of Blooming Prairie breaks away from a three-way tie as this week's winner by picking the Golden Gophers to beat Wisconsin Badgers. He was the only contestant in this week's pool to pick the Gophers to win. Great job, Keith!

ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

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18 _____

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4. Atlanta Falcons vs. Carolina Panthers

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5. Seattle Seahawks vs. Houston Texans
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7. Baltimore Ravens vs. Cleveland Browns
8. Dallas Cowboys vs. Washington

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9. Jacksonville Jaguars vs. Tennessee Titans

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12. Buffalo Bills vs. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

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13. Chicago Bears vs. Green Bay Packers



OWATONNA PROUD

B6 | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021

OWATONNA SCHOOLS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Showing gratitude for life

BY KHALID MOHAMED
OHS MAGNET WRITER

It is the month of giving thanks and many people at OHS are reflecting on their lives and the things they are most grateful for. Throughout the year, students and teachers alike have found new moments that brought them a sense of gratitude and have reminded themselves of older memories and moments that shaped them to be who they are today.

For many people at OHS, this extends to the people in their lives and the experiences they had at OHS. OHS Social Studies teacher Ms. Laura Epland said, "I am most grateful for my childhood and how I was raised. I had a really close knit family who supported me, which was awesome." Students also have reflected on opportunities they received. Senior Max Guenther said, "Joining the All-

State choir because it provided me with lots of opportunities after college and gave me scholarships." Many people at OHS value family. Guenther said, "They provide for me and give me a home and all those basic things, but also because they got me to be the person I am today."

Not only are people thankful for their families, they are also thankful for music. Ms. Epland said, "I'm really grateful for music. I like to play the guitar and the piano. Music really does a lot to help you connect with what's happening." Guenther feels the same, as he said, "R&B and rock really connect with me and I like the message that a lot of the songs have."

Technology is also something that students and staff at OHS feel grateful for, although it can come with its faults. Ms. Epland said, "I'm grateful

for the technology; I use most of the time. I think sometimes we become too dependent on our technology and sometimes that can have a negative impact. But overall, technology has made my life a lot easier." Technology has also been impactful for students. OHS senior Gabriella Lamont said, "I'm grateful for it since it helps me connect with my friends and stay closer to them." Some students aren't so grateful for their technology. OHS freshman Angel Barajas said, "I'm grateful for technology but also not because it can be something you can use to get you to where you want to be but it can lead you to bad places as well."

Many people at OHS have a special place in their heart that helped shape their lives. Ms. Epland said, "My aunt and uncle used to live on a lake and that was always my favorite place in the whole

world. Just sitting at the dock going fishing and waiting in the water watching the sunset. I always felt like that was the most beautiful place in the world." For others, it may be somewhere completely different. Guenther said, "Probably Montana. I like going out to Montana because it's really nice. It's remote and there's lots of cool things to see."

This month also helped people at OHS recall the hard times that they ended up being grateful for. Ms. Epland said, "I have had some really difficult times since I started teaching. I've had some difficult times in college. But ideally you work through it and you come out the other side." But, people have also used this month to reflect on the acts of kindness that made them feel grateful. Guenther said, "I volunteer with the St. Vincent DePaul Society and I really enjoy being

able to give people furniture, especially when they don't have any other means of getting it. So it's always great seeing how happy they are."

November has been a month that helped staff at OHS reflect on their relationships with students. Ms. Epland said, "Every year, at some points in the semester, I'll get random notes from students thanking me for being their teacher and impacting their lives. Those notes always mean the most to me. I keep them and look at them sometimes when I need inspiration." Students also reflected on their relationships with staff. Guenther felt most grateful for Mr. Fish. Guenther said, "He taught me how to write good papers and have good grammar and he's a great guy." OHS senior Madeline Koslosky also felt grateful for Ms. Drever. Koslosky said, "Ms. Drever helped me

a lot with math and she is a great teacher." OHS senior Bianca Avalos is grateful for Mr. Kuehn. Avalos said, "Mr. Kuehn inspires a lot of kids and I loved having art with him."

Throughout all of this year, students and staff alike have felt very grateful for being able to come back to school in person. Ms. Epland said, "I am honestly most grateful that we are back in person so I can see my students every day in front of me, because it was hard and disheartening sometimes last year to not be able to interact with my students." Guenther also felt the same. He said, "I struggled a lot being online and I'm very happy that I can see all my friends and be able to actually learn at school." OHS has had a rollercoaster of a year, but students and staff are still able to find something to feel grateful for in the midst of it all.

Choir student inspires excellence at OHS

At the School Board Meeting on Nov. 22, Superintendent Jeffrey Elstad recognized Alec Harris, OHS student who participated in Minnesota's All-State Choir this year.

Our All-State Music students inspire excellence with both their academic abilities and their musical talents!

Also recognized were the Owatonna Public Schools secretaries who have helped navigate us through these challenging times and are the "Swiss army knives" in our build-



ings. They are our frontline employees who are faced with a wide variety of tasks. We cannot thank them enough for all they do from the time they start working in our district until they leave in retirement!

We are #OwatonnaProud of our staff and students!

Look what we're doing!



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Learning is a new adventure, especially for kindergarteners at Owatonna. The little ones work on patterns, sight words and happy numbers as part of their learning adventure.

Who says learning can be boring?



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Students at Lincoln Elementary School are finding out that learning can be a fun adventure. Here, they are identifying and documenting details about a variety of coniferous trees and making prints of their favorites.

Students of the Week

Elementary School

Middle School

High School



Graham Stanislaw
Fourth Grade
Parents: Matthew and Jamie Stanislaw

Graham continues to push himself to do the best he can and, in doing so, leads other students to do the same. His bright personality, contagious smile, his friendliness, and work ethic are all characteristics that add to our classroom each and every day. Graham is a joy to have around and will continue to be an awesome student at our school and beyond.



Christina Bell
Eighth Grade
Parents: Joel and Meredith Bell

Christina is an amazing student in class, and a great leader for the OMS Student Council. She always sets the tone for class and for meetings and leads by example by enabling others to do their best for the benefit of all involved. Christina shows impressive initiative and is a self-starter; it is a joy to have her in class and as a leader in the organization.



Kyra DeWitz
Sophomore
Parents: Jed and Shannon DeWitz

Kyra is a bright and hard-working student. She sets high standards for herself and always gives her best effort to achieve them. Kyra is a leader in her groups and is quick to help students around her understand the material being covered. Kyra is also a member of Students Helping Others Choose and sets a great example for younger students. Congrats, Kyra!

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KIDS OF CHRISTMAS

MEET JAMARR

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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Wood for model planes
- 6 Moreover
- 10 Runner's goal
- 14 Preserved, in a way
- 15 Hearty laugh
- 16 Live anagram
- 17 Open, as a cage
- 18 Stately
- 20 Aromatic herb
- 22 Bring to a boil?
- 23 Role player
- 24 Racing-stable V.I.P.
- 25 Swerve wildly
- 27 "Rio Bravo" star
- 28 2001 Will Smith biopic
- 29 Sticker for model cars
- 31 Put into law
- 35 Cut the crop
- 37 Harshness
- 39 ____ noted
- 40 Pavarotti, e.g.
- 42 Trivial Pursuit edition
- 44 Grammy category
- 45 Renewable energy source
- 47 Complain
- 49 Emulate Pollock
- 52 Hysterical
- 53 Head honcho
- 54 Party tray items
- 57 Green veggie in spears
- 59 Like a new candle
- 60 Fuzzy fabric

- 61 Bad thing to blow
- 62 Cabaret fixture
- 63 Priceless?
- 64 One's partner
- 65 Boat propeller

DOWN

- 1 Attack
- 2 Fictional Karenina
- 3 Book keeper?
- 4 Hard to find
- 5 Carbonated
- 6 Intense feeling
- 7 Butcher's offering
- 8 Sofa problem

- 9 Bad-tempered
- 10 Become pals with
- 11 Bird-related
- 12 Military attack
- 13 Person to respect
- 19 Senseless
- 21 One beyond hope
- 24 Prey grabber
- 25 Shopper's item
- 26 On the safe side, at sea
- 27 Belmont transaction
- 30 Humid item
- 32 Hearing-related

- 33 Highlands family
- 34 It can be bold
- 36 Follow in time
- 38 Beyond the 'burbs
- 41 Chopper spinner
- 43 Parodies
- 46 Smooth, in music
- 48 Meal on a blanket
- 49 Part of SSgt
- 50 Phony
- 51 Waldorf salad ingredient
- 52 Amble along
- 54 Hair piece
- 55 Pitchfork part
- 56 Stash away
- 58 Cotton machine



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Senior alert: Cellphone may not work in 2022

Dear Savvy Senior, My 80-year-old father has an old flip phone he carries around with him for emergency purposes, but I've heard that these devices will soon be phased out. Is this true? If so, how can we know if his phone will be affected, and where can I find him a simple new one that he can operate.

Searching Daughter

Dear Searching, Yes, it's true! If your dad's mobile phone is more than a few years old, he will probably need to upgrade it in the very near future.

Why? Because all of the major cell phone carriers – AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile – are shutting down their older 3G networks in 2022 to free up airwaves for 5G and other advanced services. So, if your dad is using an old 3G phone, like millions of other older Americans, he'll need to get a new device if he wants to make calls, text or reach 911.

But you should also know that it's not just

older cellphones that will be obsolete. Older home security systems, medical devices and personal emergency response systems that still harness 3G will also be affected. Adding to the confusion, older 4G phones that don't support modern cellular voice technologies, such as Voice Over LTE or HD Voice, are impacted, too. Those customers may need a software upgrade or a new phone.

Here are the timelines for the 3G shutdowns: AT&T – Feb. 2022; T-Mobile – July 1, 2022; Verizon – Dec. 31, 2022; Sprint (which is owned by T-Mobile) – March 31, 2022; and Sprint LTE – June 30, 2022. Other smaller carriers like Tracfone, Cricket, Boost and Straight Talk, will also be affected, because they rely on airwaves from the big three.

Send your senior questions to: **Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org.**



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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That Default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: 05/10/2018

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$50,000.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Eugene A. Blaker, single man

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Plains Commerce Bank

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: 05/15/2018 as Reception No. A000418205 in the Office of the County Recorder in Steele County, Minnesota.

The mortgage was assigned for value as follows:

Assignee: Citizens Bank, N.A.

Assignment dated: 03/23/2020

Assignment recorded: 03/25/2020

Assignment recording information: Reception No. A000428345

All in the records of the County Recorder in Steele County, Minnesota.

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Abstract Property STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 160 24th PI NW, Owatonna, MN 55060

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Plains Commerce Bank

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Citizens Bank, N.A.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE: \$51,996.20 AS OF 12/09/2021.

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes. Pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the mortgaged premises will be sold by the Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota at public auction as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: 01/11/2022 at 10:00 AM

PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, 204 E. Pearl, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said Mortgagor(s) or Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23, the mortgagor must vacate the mortgaged property by 11:59 p.m. on 07/11/2022, or the next business day if 07/11/2022 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: NONE

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Publication to begin the week of: 11/21/2021 - 11/27/2021

CITIZENS BANK NA f/k/a RBS CITIZENS NA, Mortgagee/Mortgagee Assignee

The Sayer Law Group, P.C., By Brian G. Sayer, Attorney for Mortgagee/Mortgagee Assignee 925 E 4th St., Waterloo, IA 50703

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

11/24TG

NOTICE

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis from 11/9/2021

Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website: Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

- Glynn/Krueger to approve the agenda. Ayes all.
- Public comment – Roger Wacek and Dale Wilker
- Gnemi/Abbe to approve the Consent Agenda. Ayes all.
 - Approve the minutes of October 26, 2021
 - Approve Bills and Journal Entries
 - Approve Personnel Report
 - Approve Final Payment Resolution for Contract No. 212101; CP 074-021-001 to Sir Lines-A-Lot, LLC in the amount of \$1,033.36
- Approve the 2022 Non-Union Employee General Wage increase/COLA of 2.25% effective 01/01/2022
- Approve the Arbitrage Reporting Agreement

- with Government Capital Securities
- Approve renewal of the USI Consulting Group Contract and authorize the Treasurer to sign
 - Approve backfilling the Accounting Support Specialist position in the Auditor's Office
 - Approve backfilling the Records Specialist position in the Sheriff's Office
 - Glynn/Abbe to set the 2022 Fee Schedule Public Hearing for Tuesday, December 28, 2021 at 5:15 p.m. Ayes all.
 - Krueger/Gnemi to approve the three-year Joint Dispatch Lease Agreement with Steele County/City of Owatonna and Rice/Steele County 9-1-1 Center for 2022-2024. Ayes all.
 - Krueger/Glynn offered a Resolution to adopt approving the 2022-2026 Highway Capital Improvement Plan and amending the use of the Transportation Sales Tax. Ayes all.
 - Glynn/Abbe to approve the purchase of Veeam Backup for Microsoft Office 365 for three years at a cost of \$11,868 to be paid by the Tech Fund. Ayes all.

LISTING OF BILLS 11/09/2021

Advanced Correctional Healthcare Inc	8,447.35
Block Plumbing & Heating Inc	2,478.06
Central Farm Services	21,708.42
Counties Providing Technology	4,222.00
Four Seasons Centre	5,250.00
H & H Excavating Inc.	13,300.00
High Point Networks	5,926.50
Houston Engineering Inc.	4,000.00
Liberty Tire Recycling LLC	2,375.00
Mike's Repair	3,421.09
Mn Pollution Control Agency	55,880.93
Olympic Fire Protection Corp	10,000.00
Owatonna Public Utilities	32,793.87
Schwicker's TedaAmerica LLC	14,349.82
SHI International Corp	11,821.00
Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc	11,931.66
Steele County Highway Dept	8,306.20
Steele County Soil & Water Conserv Dist	4,924.50
Strechers Inc	2,331.98
Summit Food Services LLC	7,914.48
105 Payments less than 2,000	40,176.21
Total:	271,559.07

- Gnemi/Abbe to adjourn to the Call of the Chair at 5:26 p.m. Ayes all.

12/1

CITY OF BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Notice of Public Hearing

The Blooming Prairie City Council will conduct a Public Hearing regarding the issuance of an OFF-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE for the property located at 419 Hwy Ave S in Blooming Prairie on Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Center located at 138 Hwy Avenue South, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917.

Andrew Langholz, City Administrator

12/1

ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS®
From the Hosts of the Under The Hood radio show.

By Shannon Nordstrom and Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics,
Guys I've listened to the show for years and I feel I'm well versed in the basics of auto repair so when I was told I had killed my car because of something I had done dozens of times in the past on other vehicles I was concerned. I purchased a used 2010 Toyota Prius Hybrid for the fuel savings and the technology. After a few weeks of driving the battery failed in my driveway and I could not get it started. I figured I would just give it a quick charge then drive to the store to pick up a new battery and that's where it all went bad. I connected my charger for a few hours and then tried to start it, but it would still not run. I then installed a new battery and the car powered on but would not move. I had it towed to the dealer and they inspected it then called me to say that charging the car caused a failure in two of the vehicle computers. They did not tell me why, but I had no choice, so I just fixed it. How can this be?

Chris in Berkley California

Dear Chris,
Chargers can put out 20 volts or more without a load so when connected to a totally dead battery that voltage can destroy the computers. Always verify the proper charging procedure before charging your car to avoid this kind of damage. .

Take care, the Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics,
I'm all shook up literally. I can't seem to get my car to stop vibrating at all speeds. The problem seems to be worse when I am less than 30mph, but I feel it all the time. Sometimes at low speeds the steering wheel even shakes left to right. The vibration started a few months back and seems to be about the same. My tires are about two years old and have 20k miles on them and appear to be in good shape with no excessive wear. My mechanic said the front-end components all look very good and that my tires are properly balanced. Do you have any thoughts?

Juanita in Sioux Falls South Dakota

Dear Darla,
It sounds like you may not have a tire balance issue but rather a tire belt issue. You can balance a square tire, really you can, but it will only be smooth on the tire machine. What I'm saying is even if the weight of the tire is balanced out the tread can be irregularly shaped causing a hop or side to side movement when in contact with the road. With the vehicle on the shops hoist ask them to observe the tread of the tire and see if it stays steady as the tire rotates. If it has a lot of movement up and down or side to side, you may have a broken belt which is causing the shaking you are experiencing.

Take care, the Motor Medics

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Wednesdays
10:30 AM-4:30 PM

WHERE:
Steele Co. Highway/Public Works Building
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CALL 507-444-7650 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

Preregistration encouraged but not required. Forms available on SCPH website
https://www.co.steele.mn.us/public_health/covid-19_vaccine.php

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12/2p

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11/4T6pd

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12/2T2

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Applications must be postmarked by Dec. 19, 2021. | E.O.E.

12/2T3

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The Steele County Times
is looking for a sales
support specialist to facilitate
our expansion into Owatonna.

The candidate will operate our new office at 109 W. Rose St. in Owatonna. The position will be a combination of front office work as well as assisting the sales team with inside sales and development and management of sales projects. The ideal candidate must possess great customer skills, computer knowledge and be very detail oriented. This will initially be a 20-hour position with the likelihood of it growing into full time. Salary plus commission/incentives. Join the excitement of a growing newspaper that is focused solely on local community news.

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