



STEELE COUNTY Times

SAFETY DRILL B8 | **HOPS FOR HABITAT** A3



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022

BP honors 'true heroes'

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

David Bellis is used to presenting signs to the newest Purple Heart cities, but he clearly wasn't familiar with the way Blooming Prairie does things. "This is as impressive as can be," he said Saturday. "We don't usually present to a

group; we normally go to a city council meeting and they read their proclamation and we make our presentation. This is absolutely fantastic." Bellis, the Minnesota Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, was in town with Terry Anderson, the Region 2 Commander of the MOPH, who oversees 10 states.

"The big thing is, you have the American Legion, the VFW and the city all going together – it's just a wonderful combination," Anderson said of the event that not only commemorated Blooming Prairie's new status, but also recognized two dozen Purple Heart recipients from southern Minnesota.

"It's good to find a community that wants to be involved," Bellis told the crowd of nearly 150. They brought four signs, which will be posted at the city's entrances. The MOPH provided two; BP Mayor Curt Esplan bought two additional signs. His brother, Ken Esplan, spearheaded See **TRUE HEROES** on A3 ▶



STAFF PHOTO BY KAY FATE

Each Purple Heart recipient attending last weekend's event marking Blooming Prairie's status as a Purple Heart City was given a hat, a coin, a lapel pin and a certificate. Two dozen veterans were recognized.

Reading with mom



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Blooming Prairie preschoolers share a special afternoon with their moms last Thursday by reading with them. Ashley Watson reads to her son, Carter, left side, while Kelly Lang enjoys some book time with her son, Weston. The moms also shared muffins with their children. The kids enjoyed special days with their dads and grandparents earlier in the school year. The preschool instructors are Amy Simon and Laura Hanson.

"This is a story about a miracle, second chances and forgiveness. I am blessed to be a survivor."

Mandie Kender
Abuse Survivor

A survival story of childhood abuse

For Kender, loving your enemy means forgiving dad

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

It wasn't until years later, after becoming an adult, that Mandie Kender finally realized her childhood was far from normal.

And for Kender, loving your enemy meant forgiving someone very close to her heart—her father.

Kender grew up in a dysfunctional home with an abusive father who physically and emotionally scarred his children for years. As the oldest child, she took on the role of being a "surrogate parent" to raise her siblings.

"He was very abusive, and I was angry," Kender said of her father. "I excused his behavior See **SURVIVAL** on A8 ▶



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Mandie Kender, executive director of the Exchange Center for Family Unity, has forgiven her father, Michael Bolton, for the years of childhood abuse she endured from him.

BP gets another police officer

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

It was a meeting with a heavy police presence – on the agenda.

The Blooming Prairie City Council on Monday hired its second part-time police officer in as many months; accepted the resignation of another part-time officer; and approved the conditional hire of a new full-time officer.

Police Chief Greg Skillestad swore in Joseph Martin, who has been at the job since March 20. It is his first job in law enforcement.

Part-time Officer Nathan Taarud, of Farmington, was sworn in during February's Council meeting.

Leaving the department is part-time Officer Brooke Baker, who has resigned.

Skillestad and City Administrator Andrew Langholz believe even with her departure, the city doesn't need to hire additional part-time officers.

Council members also gave the nod to the hiring of a full-time officer, filling the vacancy left by Sgt. Mark Lang, who last month was "terminated in good standing from the city of Blooming Prairie. His termination (was) not due to any sort of lack of performance, misconduct, or disciplinary reasons."

Lang was hired by the city in 1999, giving him more than 20 years of service with the department.

The new officer, who wasn't identified, has more than four years of full-time experience. He was offered the job, contingent on passing the background and medical evaluations.

In other business, as summer approaches, City Council members were tasked with finding a solution to issues with the Pine Springs Pool See **POLICE** on A2 ▶

Student Council wins national award

BY JONI HUBRED
NEWS EDITOR

The Owatonna High School Student Council starts planning in May and works through the summer each year to create an unforgettable Homecoming celebration for their schoolmates.

That kind of hard work and dedication earned the 45-member group a 2022 National Council of Excellence award from the National Student Council (NatStuCo). The NatStuCo program is supported by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

Advisor Sandra Justice said Student Council members learned about the program through the Minnesota Association of Student Councils. Dylan Meiners and Lauren Thamert spearheaded an effort to collect documents and examples of the group's work to build a positive culture and climate during and outside of the school day.

"It was an extremely arduous application process," she said. "It took about three to four weeks to pull everything together."

NASSP CEO Ronn Nozoe said the award "reflects the amazing dedication of the students and school to See **STUDENT** on A12 ▶

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AREA DEATHS

Larry Tande, 83, Medford
Brenda Staska, 58, Owatonna
Rosemarie Grubish, 86, Owatonna
Eleanor Harms, 101, Austin
Marion Kruckeberg, 91, Formerly of BP
Ronald von Arb, 84, Owatonna

Serving
Blooming Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893

Absentee available for special primary

Absentee ballots for the upcoming Congressional District 1 Special Primary Election on May 24 are now available.

The Steele County Auditor's Office began offering absentee ballots on Friday. Ballots will continue to be available until Monday, May 23.

In addition to regular business hours during the week, the Auditor's Office will also be open on Saturday, May 21 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Voters may also look up their sample

ballot and polling place information and apply for an Absentee Ballot application online by going to www.sos.state.mn.us.

The special election came about due to the recent death of Congressman Jim Hagedorn. He died in February after battling lung cancer.

No less than 20 candidates will appear on the ballot for the special election.

If you have any questions you may contact the County Auditor's office by calling 507-444-7410.

Owatonna task force backs historic property developer

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

There's an answer – sort of – to what will become of the existing Owatonna High School, once the new facility opens in the fall of 2023.

The citizens' task force that was charged with reviewing community ideas and creating suitable use criteria for the current high school campus made its recommendation Monday night to the Owatonna School Board.

The district is expected to enter into a development agreement with Grande Venues, a real estate development company based in Sleepy Eye that bills itself as having "practical solutions for historic properties."

There are no specifics for the redevelopment of the property; Grande Venues/Former Owatonna High School LLC has requested an additional 180 days to fully vet interested potential tenants, and to find partners.

The task force initially received two viable proposals.

The group held meetings with both proposers; after revision time was granted, just one came back: Grand Venues/FOHS.

The task force members "were generally excited at the interest/potential of the proposal, while still having many questions," they said in their summary.

The group will re-assemble to provide more information – likely near the end of the six months requested by the developer – before the School Board makes a final decision.

The community has allowed up to \$11 million for the district to re-purpose the existing building/campus for its own use.

To that end, the task force also recommended consolidating the Rose Street buildings and the district offices on Bridge Street into the C Plaza of the current high school and the VoAg building, also on the campus.

The existing gymnasium and locker rooms should be retained for district and/or community use, the group said.

UKRAINIAN RELIEF



Volunteers served baked and fried fish and sides during Saturday's Lenten Fish Fry at the Columbian Hall in Owatonna.

Knights fry up fish to help war-torn Ukraine

BY JONI HUBRED
NEWS EDITOR

When it came time to pick a beneficiary for its next-to-last Lenten fish fry this year, Knights of Columbus in Owatonna looked well beyond the borders of its own community.

During the April 8 event at the Columbian Center on Elm Street, they raised funds for a national drive providing food, clothing, shelter, and other supplies to the people of Ukraine. The Knights served about 400 people, with a free-will donation as admission.

Randy Balausky, who worked the ticket table with Greg Nelson, said the group chose the Ukraine Solidarity Fund, organized by the national Knights of Columbus, for one important reason.

"We didn't want a middleman or administrative fees or anything like that," he said. "We wanted 100% to go to the cause."

"The money gets funneled from us and goes right to those people," Nelson added. "We're here to help people help people, and what better way?"

According to the charity's website, more than \$10 million has already been raised to support refugees in Ukraine.

Across from where Balausky and Nelson took checks and cash donations, the Catholic Daughters of Owatonna sold cookies, rolls, pies, and other baked treats to support the cause.

Philomena Seykora said the group is part of the largest Catholic women's organization in the world and draws from area Catholic churches.

More than 100 members brought items to the event, enough to keep two sale tables full all evening long.

"Our motto is unity and charity," Seykora said. "We're looking to help our community."



Representing Catholic Daughters of Owatonna, Philomena Seykora, left, and Deb Hebel sold baked goods during Saturday's Lenten Fish Fry.

The final 2022 Lenten fish fry will be held Friday from 5-7 p.m., at the Columbian Center, 820 South Elm St. Volunteers serve baked or fried fish, mashed potatoes and gravy, cole slaw, veggies, and a dinner roll.

Purchase advance tickets from any 4th Degree member, from Duane Ludewig 507-676-470, Greg Nelson 507-676-1748, Laverne Klecker 507-456-6738, and at the Hall.



Officer Joseph Martin is the newest member of the Blooming Prairie Police Department. Chief Greg Skillestad swore him in Monday, with council member Marcy Sundine pictured in the background.

BP gets another police officer

◀ **POLICE** from A1

– namely, not enough lifeguards to safely run it.

Last year's staff of 13 lifeguards wasn't enough to keep the pool open every day throughout the season.

So far this season, the city has received just five applications, leaving it significantly understaffed.

Typically, Langholz said, a shift has five lifeguards: Two handling admission and concessions and three watching the water, with 45-minute rotations.

According to state law, while minors can be lifeguards, they must be under constant adult supervision; so far this year, only one applicant has been 18.

In order to allow

Pine Springs to open – and remain safe – Council members approved lowering the minimum age for a lifeguard at the pool to 15, and gave Langholz the ability to hire pool attendants, set wages and coordinate other operations of the pool.

Pool attendants don't have to be lifeguards; they essentially just monitor the daily operation of the facility. While eliminating the requirement to be a lifeguard, an attendant who is a certified lifeguard will be paid a premium.

The Council discussed wages, as well, and instructed Langholz to offer a "competitive" rate.

Currently, first-year lifeguards earn \$11.50 per hour; first-year managers earn \$12.50 per hour.

Sheriffs donate tactical gear

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Sheriffs throughout Minnesota are joining forces to help war-torn Ukraine with tactical gear that can no longer be used locally.

The Minnesota Sheriff's Association (MSA) is coordinating an effort to collect old equipment from departments across the state. As of late last week, more than 600 ballistic and tactical vests and riot helmets had been collected, according to Steele County Sheriff Lon



Steele County Sheriff Lon Thiele, left, and Fillmore County Sheriff John DeGeorge are doing their part to help people in war-torn Ukraine. The sheriffs are sending expired police gear to help Ukrainians.

Thiele, who serves on the MSA Board.

Last week, Fillmore County Sheriff John DeGeorge showed up at the Steele County Law Enforcement Center

with about 24 vests and helmets to add to Steele County's pile of tactical gear. The equipment has been transported to MSA in the Twin Cities before being routed to Ukraine over the next few weeks.

"This is a proud moment where we can help the defenseless Ukrainian in whatever aspect," said Thiele.

"These vests and helmets will assist families who are getting shelled at without protection."

In Steele County's case, the tactical gear is expired and can no longer be used on patrol, Thiele said. For example, the ballistic vests are warrantable for five years by the manufacturer. After that, companies will not

guarantee them so officers must change them out for new ones.

"We have to supply our deputies with new vests every five years," Thiele said.

"Nothing happens to the old vests other than they sit around in our basement. So the items in our basement can now go to great use," he added.

Thiele said they have done some proven exercises with the expired gear showing it is still effective. "We have taken some of the gear to the gun range and found the vests still stop certain calibers of firearms," he said.

"This is something is better than nothing plan for the Ukrainian," Thiele said.



Sheriff's offices in Steele and Fillmore are donating more than 60 ballistic vests, tactical vests and ballistic helmets for use by soldiers in Ukraine.

Hundreds enjoy biggest-ever Hops for Habitat

BY JONI HUBRED
NEWS EDITOR

The Four Seasons Centre in Owatonna buzzed with conversation and laughter Saturday, during an annual craft brew and cider tasting fundraiser for Two Rivers Habitat for Humanity. Spokesperson Ken Quattrin said Hops for Habitat drew more than 500 people and 30 breweries, with attendees coming in from around the region. “It’s the biggest Hops we’ve ever had,” he said. “The distances people are driving is incredible.” Pat Heydon, who took over April 11 as

Two River Habitat’s executive director, was involved with the first two Hops events. She said it’s exciting to see how the event has evolved. “It’s great to see the support for Habitat for Humanity,” she said. “I am in awe of the breweries that are willing to support the mission... and we have an awesome group of volunteers who come back year after year.” South by Southeast Brewing Co.-SXSE for short—made its first Hops for Habitat appearance Saturday. Owners Tessa Leung and Ann Fahy-Gust, a master brewer, founded their brewery in Pine



Anna and Erin Hutton of Giesenbräu Bier Co. pour samples of their craft brews during Saturday’s Hops for Habitat fundraiser.



Owatonna native Travis Thamert performs while Hops for Habitat attendees enjoy samples of craft beer and cider. Around 500 people attended the fundraiser.

Island to make beers that would showcase southern Minnesota, Leung said. They participated Saturday because “we like to choose events that support community... and the community can be anywhere,” she added. “This was just a natural fit for us. It’s a really well-run and beautiful event.” Heydon said the real purpose of Hops for Habitat is to share information about the agency’s mission. Supported by volunteers, Habitat for Humanity builds and remodels houses for people who couldn’t otherwise afford home ownership. In 2018, the Rochester area and Steele-Waseca area agencies merged to form Two Rivers Habitat for Humanity, which serves Steele, Dodge, Olmsted, Wabasha and Waseca counties. “It’s getting the word out and helping people understand the need for affordable housing and to understand how important it is for all our communities,” Heydon said. “Stable housing keeps communities connected. It keeps people engaged.” Quattrin said Saturday the total raised for the event was still being tallied. Attendees voted Angry Hog Brewery & Taproom from Austin as their fan favorite.

BP honors ‘true heroes’

◀ **TRUE HEROES** from A1 the event – almost 52 years to the day he was injured by a mortar shell during his service in Vietnam. He tracked down the other area recipients through the help of the Veterans Administration. According to the proclamation, “Bloomington Prairie appreciates the sacrifices our Purple Heart recipients made in defending our freedoms, and believe it is important that we acknowledge them for their courage and show them the honor and support they have earned.” Ken Esplan and Bryce Schlichter, both of Bloomington Prairie, were honored. BP natives Steve Garness and David Hickman were also recognized, but were unable to attend. Hickman received three Purple Hearts during his service in Vietnam. The rest of the veterans traveled from

“It’s good to find a community that wants to be involved.”

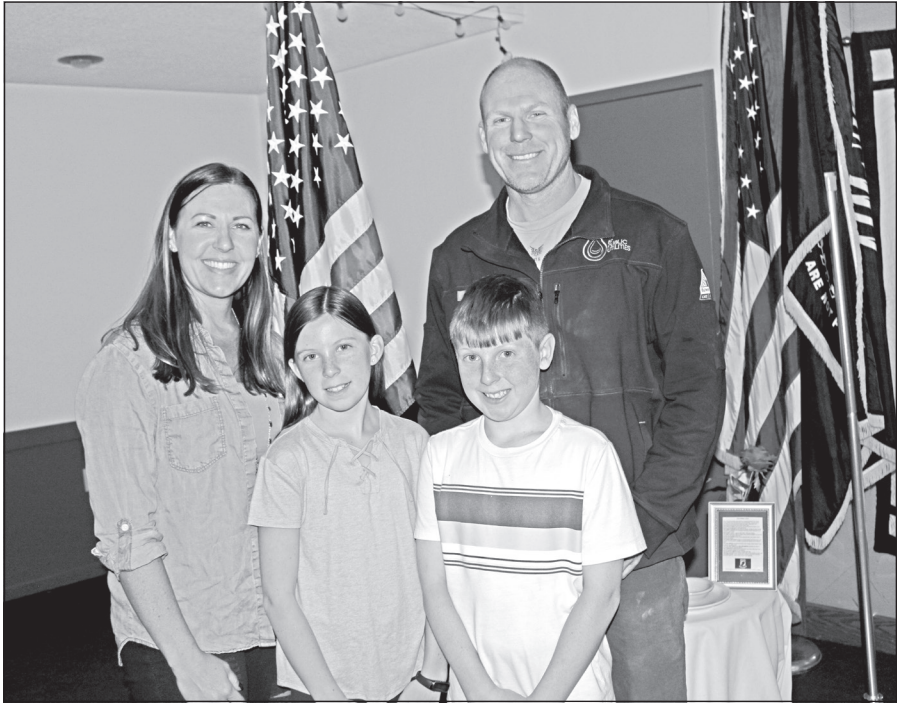
David Bellis
Purple Heart Commander

Owatonna, Austin, LeRoy, Rose Creek and Taopi. “These people are true heroes,” Bellis said, “every one of them. They sacrificed themselves, and they all served the community, this state and our country, and they’re very appreciated.” Each veteran was introduced by name, with their date and location of service. They all received a certificate; a Purple Heart coin – purchased by the service organizations and the city; a lapel pin and a hat that recognizes them as a Purple Heart recipient. They were given the opportunity to speak, but most simply saluted and returned to their seat.

Ed Levene, of Owatonna, served in Pleiku, Vietnam, in 1967. Wearing a chestful of medals, he spoke quietly. “It’s hard to believe that this day has come,” he said. “We need to pray for our troops and the lost servicemen, and those that haven’t come home.” Robert Padilla, also of Owatonna, served in Vietnam in 1969-70; he paid homage to three of his “brothers that aren’t here,” including David Wencil, of Claremont, and John Schrom, of Owatonna – who were both killed in action. “I’ll tell you a story, but it’s not a combat story,” said Randy Kurth, of Owatonna. “It’s about a drink called a mai tai.” He told the crowd that on his way to Vietnam in 1965, he had a two-hour layover in Hawaii. Three days shy of his 19th birthday, he found a bar – and ordered the drink. Though the bartender thought he looked too young, Kurth told him he was on his way to Vietnam, and the bartender served him. “At that time, I promised myself that the next time I came to Hawaii, I was going to stop and have my second mai tai,” he said. He returned and served a year state-side and in Germany, then thought, “you know, if I go back to Vietnam, I might be able to get that second mai tai. So I did. But somebody had a different idea, because when I came back, I came back on a medevac. No mai tai.” Kurth paused. “Forty years later, to the month, my wife and I went to Hawaii,” he said, breaking down. “And I had my mai tai.”



Ken Esplan, of Bloomington Prairie, takes his turn at the microphone during Saturday’s event marking the city’s new status as a Purple Heart City. He received a Purple Heart in 1970 after being injured during the Vietnam War, and spearheaded last weekend’s dinner and presentation ceremony that also recognized two dozen medal recipients from southern Minnesota. Terry Anderson, the Region 2 Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, looks on.



The Schlichter family is very involved in Bloomington Prairie veterans activities. Shown with their parents Jaclyn and Bryce Schlichter are Haley and Mavrik Schlichter.

For BP couple, military shaped civilian life

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Bryce and Jaclyn Schlichter have an emotion-packed story to tell. Both are willing to turn the page and reflect on how military life has shaped their civilian life that they are now enjoying. They use their military experiences as their book-mark for the future. “It was a life-changing experience,” Bryce said. The Schlichters, veterans of service in the Army National Guard, were present at a Purple Heart City event held Saturday night at the Bloomington Prairie Servicemen’s Club. Bryce was wounded and suffered significant injuries when ambushed on patrol. Both served in the Austin transportation company. It was very appropriate that the Schlichters sat side by side and learned of other veterans’ close calls while serving their country. Bryce was one of 22 veteran soldiers who were recognized at this special event. The military brought the Schlichters together. They were dating while serving in Iraq during the early 2000s.

They married after returning to United States soil. The Schlichters are the proud parents of Mavrick, 10 and Haley, 12. Bryce and Jaclyn turned the clock back for this exclusive interview, reviewing their military time served in Iraq. Both joined the Austin National Guard transportation company at age 17. Their parents had to sign for them to join the Army. The Schlichters met at a National Guard drill in Austin. Jaclyn is a native of Grand Meadow. She graduated as a Super Lark in 2003. She joined the Army National Guard in 2002 and was discharged in 2008. Bryce was born and raised in Bloomington Prairie, graduating as an Awesome Blossom in 2001. Bryce joined the Guard in 2000 and was discharged in 2006. The Austin National Guard unit is part of the Red Bull Division. Jaclyn and Bryce both carried an 88M MOS (Military Occupational Specialty). They practiced that MOS while deployed at the same time in Iraq. After completing training in New Jersey, the Schlichters were deployed to Iraq as part of a company of 200 sol-

diers from Minnesota and with about 50 soldiers from New Jersey and New York. While in Iraq, Jaclyn drove five-ton straight trucks and functioned as gate security. Bryce drove 500 straight trucks and 500 tractor trucks (HETT). “Those HETT (heavy vehicle) trucks were the biggest I had ever driven,” remarked Bryce. He said the trucks have eight wheels in front and were supported by 40 car tires. Bryce was part of convoy security. “Our purpose was to transport supplies from base to base,” Bryce said. He said the ultimate goal was to liberate Iraq. Bryce will never forget this date: July 21, 2005. That’s when he was part of Rat Patrol 1. He was sitting in the turret of a vehicle leading a convoy. He manned a .50 caliber gun. A roadside bomb struck Rat Patrol #1 as it headed to the Speicher base located 20 miles north of Tikrit. Convoys number 20 to 100 vehicles. Remnants of the vehicle sent shrapnel into Bryce’s body and forced two of his gunnery mates to bail from the vehicle. He remained in the ve-

See **BP COUPLE** on A5 ►

BP AREA PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Larry Rowe | David Ree | Gerald Meixner |
| Bryce Schlichter | Terry Warner | Bob Mollenhauer |
| Rodney Borg | Greg Soderberg | Robert Padilla |
| Arnie Earl | Dan Stewart | Gary Wandrey |
| Fred Harvey | George Struthers | Randy Kurth |
| Lloyd Johnson | Larry Wilson | Ken Esplan |
| Mike Littlefield | Ed Levene | Steve Garness |
| Matt Moritz | John McNulty | David Hickman |

OUR VIEW

Don't risk the pain of distracted driving

"No text message is worth dying for."

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar spoke those sobering words during an April 4 press conference on the dangers of distracted driving. During National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, law enforcement agencies across the country will crack down on drivers who aren't paying attention to the road.

And texting isn't the only problem.

In a 2022 survey commissioned by Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, an advocacy group based in Washington, D.C., nearly two-thirds of respondents said they had used their phones to call, text, and even video call while driving. More than a third checked their social media accounts and used smartphone apps.

Distracted driving is even more of a problem for people whose jobs require them to be on the road. More than 70% in that group reported talking, texting, or video calling behind the wheel, with 45% checking their social accounts.

But we don't need a survey to tell us distracted driving is a serious problem.

In 2019, the same year Minnesota passed its "hands free" cell phone use law, Dodge Center resident Tanner Kruckeberg admitted to distracted driving in a crash that killed Rachel Harberts, 43, also of Dodge Center and her 8-year-old daughter, Emerson. Jaxon Harberts, then age 12, suffered life-threatening injuries, but has since recovered.

This past December, the family of Owatonna teen Tyler Maas-Schlie indicated it wants to donate the wreckage of his vehicle to Dodge County Toward Zero Deaths coalition, to help the group raise awareness about distracted driving. According to the family's GoFundMe page, Tyler is still in therapy and dealing with the injuries he suffered in a Nov. 29 head-on crash.

Those stories should be enough to keep people from distracted driving, but we all know they won't. Plenty of folks will end up paying the \$120 fine for a first-time offense. Some may even shell out the \$300 for every subsequent ticket.

All of us at Steele County Times encourage you to avoid the risk of personal and financial pain, and just put down your phone while you're driving.

You've got a lot of stories left to live, and we want to tell them.

GUEST COLUMN

Signs along the journey of life

Signs, signs, everywhere a sign --Five Man Electrical Band 1971

BY JAN MITTELSTADT TIPPETT

Signs are important.

They let us know practical things in words, such as what direction to take, as well as profound things such as seeing the first robins to let us know when spring is on the way.

Granted, dear readers three, some observations we take as signs may not be true. And it is absolutely true that sometimes people don't follow signs. Take, for example, the octagonal red sign at corners that clearly says S-T-O-P.

Back in the day of driver's education with Owatonna High School teacher Harvey Golberg, Mr. Golberg as he was certainly called then, was clear about what that sign meant. It meant a complete stop, feeling your wheels almost retract. It didn't mean sliding through or coasting through or looked both ways (or not) and just going.

Clearly, there are Steele County drivers who didn't have Mr.

Golberg for driver's education because coasting through stop signs is evident every day. I challenge you to count how many times in a day you observe drivers coasting while you come to a complete stop. And I hope you do.

The right turn after stop at a traffic light (called red lights in Pennsylvania) also means stop. It doesn't mean a pause or a glide. We didn't have the right turn after stops at a traffic light when I was 15 in driver's education so I don't hear Mr. Golberg in my head about that rule as I do about looking left, right and left at intersections.

Countries outside the United States often have different words than we are used to seeing on road signs. S-T-O-P seems to be universal but it is "give way" for yield in Great Britain and Australia.

Another road near Bath, England would be very beneficial in Owatonna. The sign said "road markings worn," letting you know that the lines and arrows were nearly invisible. After the winter here, we are all called to dredge

See SIGNS on A5 ►



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

There are some topics people would rather not talk about. But silence is not productive, especially when it comes to child abuse.

This week we are sharing an in-depth story about child abuse and how years of abuse has impacted one area family. The focus is on Mandie Kender and her father, Michael Bolton. You may not know them, but you will likely see much more of at least her in the coming months as she has taken over as executive director of the Exchange Club Center for Family Unity.

"I never thought I would tell my story," Kender said, acknowledging she has put herself in a "vulnerable" position in doing so. "This job has captured me."

I hope you will take time to read her compelling story elsewhere in this edition.

Vulnerable, but steadfast in ending child abuse

Although there has been an increased need for domestic violence support, including crisis centers and domestic violence shelters, during COVID-19, there has been a decrease in reports to child protective services across the county.

So that must mean the need has diminished for child abuse services, right? Not so fast with that thought.

"The reason is because during the pandemic, many children were not in school so educators did not report abuse as they were not seeing it," Kender explained. "However, pediatric centers saw an uptick in numbers of children coming in due to abuse."

This shows two things, according to Kender.

"First, educators are heavily relied upon to report abuse and the rest of the community needs to be educated and aware so they can

report as well. We can't just rely on educators to protect children," she says. "Secondly, parents are under enormous amounts of stress and need additional support."

Statistics show that violence against women and children is pervasive. About 30% of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives. And what's worse, 3 to 10 million children witness that abuse each year.

Abused children and those exposed to adult violence in their homes may have short and long-term physical, emotional and learning problems, including increased aggression, decreased responsiveness to adults, failure to thrive, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety and eating and sleeping problems.

So with that information in hand, it appears we still have our work cut out for us in curbing abuse within the home.

Mandie Kender is ready to stand up for children. "We need to make ourselves aware that child abuse is a huge problem," she said, noting lots of abuse goes unreported.

Kender, who grew up in Owatonna, currently lives in Minneapolis. She said the drive from home to the Exchange Center allows her ample time to think about her own healing from an abusive childhood as well as how she can weave in the support to help others. She has been encouraged by friends to write a book about her experiences.

More than anything, Kender wants to provide hope for others in similar situations as what she grew up in. She wants to bring the darkness into light.

Both Mandie and her father know they can't change the past. But what's glorious now is that they're in hot pursuit of changing the future, a future without children suffering from abuse.



Owatonna officials build a platform for scooter success



Heart Of Steele
JONI HUBRED

I am not what you'd call a "daredevil."

You're more likely to find me tapping away on a keyboard or sitting with my nose in a book than doing anything adventurous. When we were kids, my cousins snowmobiled in the winter and rode motorcycles in the summer, but those activities were

just not my thing.

In fact, the first time I climbed onto a snowmobile, I fell off backward almost as soon as the driver hit the gas.

But I do look forward to trying out the Bird scooters expected to arrive on the streets of Owatonna this summer. They look like fun and provide a reliable, inexpensive way to get around town.

City officials have built a platform for success with an ordinance, a fee structure, and a license agreement. With final approvals, they paved the way last week for at least 50 scooters this year. Bird could provide up to 200, if there's a demand.

From 4 a.m. to midnight, we'll be able to

track down the nearest scooter on the Bird app, unlock it with the tap of a screen, and ride off into the sunset—or sunrise, as the case may be.

While I've seen them in operation on the streets of Minneapolis, I did not expect to have access to scooters around here. Thanks to Bird's strategy of launching in smaller cities, they're popping up all over. And people are making use of them.

Bird has rolled out fleets in Marshall, Albert Lea, Grand Rapids, and this year in Hastings, as well as Twin Cities suburbs Brooklyn Park, St. Louis Park, and Golden Valley. Two reporters for KEYC-TV in Mankato tried out scooters in

New Ulm, where folks have used them to get to work and to local restaurants during their lunch hour.

According to the company's website, a fully charged scooter will take you around 15 miles, but I'm thinking of shorter rides—from our Steele County Times office in downtown Owatonna to the Steele County Free Fair, where I wouldn't have to find a place to park. Or to Lake Kohlmeier, for a lunchtime nature break.

While scooter popularity is impossible to predict, I'm hoping these cool rides do well and that they create even more excitement and fun in the heart of our community.

STEELE County Times

www.SteeleCountyTimes.com

Offices:

- Blooming Prairie: 411 E. Main St.
- Owatonna: 109 W. Rose St.

Customer Service:

news@steelecountytimes.com
507-583-4431

Deadlines:

News- 12 p.m. Friday
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Times Staff:

- Rick Bussler, Publisher and Owner
952-224-6331, rbussler@steelecountytimes.com
- Joni Hubred, News Editor
507-583-4431, jhubred@steelecountytimes.com
- Sherrie Pechan, Office Manager
507-583-4431, news@steelecountytimes.com
- Wyonne Priebe, Sales Specialist
507-456-4299, wpriebe@steelecountytimes.com

Postmaster:

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Johnnie Phillips, Sports Editor
507-583-4431, jphillips@steelecountytimes.com

Kay Fate, Staff Writer
507-583-4431, kfate@steelecountytimes.com

Charlene Wolff, Owatonna Office/Sales
507-583-4431, cwolff@steelecountytimes.com

A state and national award winning weekly

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

2022—12 state awards (1st place- General Excellence)	2017—2 state and 3 national awards	2013—7 state and 2 national awards
2021—16 state awards	2016—8 state and 6 national awards	2012—2 state awards
2020—9 state awards	2015—7 state and 4 national awards	2011—4 national awards
2019—8 state and 4 national awards	2014—3 state and 3 national awards	

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

Organ donation is the right thing to do

As we approach Easter, we should take a moment to reflect on how we were given another chance to live because of Jesus' death on the cross.

The hope of everlasting life is a strong conviction made by our Lord.

Organ donation gives us another chance to live a normal life.

Twenty-seven years ago, I wrote about organ donation. "Don't take your organs to heaven – heaven knows we need them here."

LifeSource, an organ procurement agency, provided two chances for our daughter Tammi, who passed at age 22 on Aug. 29, 1995. She died in surgery having a second liver transplant.

Tammi received word on Good Friday night that she was getting a new liver the next day.

The gift of organ donation is a wonderful gift, a gift that our family will never forget

and a gift that we hope we can give some day, or a gift that we can convince others to give.

Prior to her transplant, Tammi said that organ detonation was something she was committed to, not just as a possible recipient but as a donor. Tammi received that precious gift twice. Due to the nature of her condition, she was unable to donate her organs.

Tammi was recovering from her first transplant during the week we were observing National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week.

Liver transplant survival statistics. According to a study,



TAMMI JO LESTRUD

people who have a liver transplant have an 89% chance of living after one year. The five-year survival rate is 75%.

To prove that organ donations work in most cases, a friend of Tammi's, Patti Funni, is the oldest living female liver transplant in Minnesota at age 79. She had her liver transplant on Nov. 6, 1984.

Patti likes to tell the story that she got the call for a new liver when she was having liver and onions at a Scandia restaurant.

Patti wrote in Tammi's book, Never Forgotten, that she shared a zest for life and living with Tammi, surviving and walking in faith with Jesus Christ.

Patti said it is hard to walk a path with someone and then to have to say goodbye."

Tammi has another friend, Dan Baldwin, who had a liver transplant the same year as Tammi. He was 10 at the time and is still living. He resides in San Francisco.



Reflections

HOWARD LESTRUD

Miracles do happen! Say a prayer at Easter time that miracles will come the way of those in need.

Grief is also something with which we must deal. Grief is all-consuming. Healing takes time. It's good to know others care. They may not know what to do or what to say; but they can pray.

I have written about Tammi in these columns previously and I continue to write about her journey because talking about it gives us healing.

If interested in reading more about Tammi Jo, please contact me at hlestrud@gmail.com.



STAFF PHOTO BY KAY FATE

Blooming Prairie has four signs that will be posted at entrances to the city, denoting its status as a Purple Heart City.

For BP couple, military shaped civilian life

◀ **BP COUPLE** from A3 hicle for a short while but also rolled out of the burning vehicle. He was then rushed to a field hospital. Bryce suffered a bruised hip and was struck by shrapnel in his right hand and multiple places in his back.

Jaclyn was not part of the convoy and learned of Bryce's injuries later at base when a Headquarters soldier made an announcement that Bryce's convoy was hit."

"I put my book away; it was very scary," said Jaclyn.

Bryce recovered at a Samarra, Iraq hospital. He says he wanted to get out of there as soon as possible because he was part of a bay that housed Iraqi nationals. "I wanted to go to my own bed," he said.

"I was very resentful and thought the war wasn't really accomplishing anything," Bryce said judgmentally. Jaclyn concurred with husband Bryce's analysis of the Iraq War. "You just felt a lot of anger and bitterness," Jaclyn said.

Both admitted they picked up lots of skills. Bryce works for the City of Blooming Prairie while Jaclyn is employed by Cedar River Counseling of Austin.

Bryce and Jaclyn are in 100% agreement in saying that Blooming Prairie is a very generous and supportive community. "We are blessed," said Jaclyn.

The Schlichters said Blooming Prairie is very dedicated to its veteran community. Jaclyn currently serves on the BP Veterans Memorial Committee. The Schlichter tandem has two spots on the memorial which will be continued to be expanded with more pavers.

"Veterans feel safe here in Blooming Prairie," Jaclyn observes.

In closing, Bryce said he and Jaclyn have developed some lasting relationships during their time in the armed services.

"We have developed a lot of pride in our country after seeing how people appreciate their veterans," said Jaclyn.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This is what is left of a U.S. Army vehicle that was bombed in Iraq. Bryce Schlichter of Blooming Prairie was riding in the turret of this Rat Patrol vehicle at the time of the bombing. He suffered serious injuries.

Signs along the journey of life

◀ **SIGNS** from A4 up memories in our minds how the lanes go and woe to the visitor who has no idea what to do.

Other non-American signs I have liked over the years include "tank crossing," "queues likely," "public footpath," "speed watch area," "bin your litter," "loose chipping" (loose road rocks), "Beware of pickpockets," "this is a permissive path owned by Great Eagle Hotels. There is no right of way for the public," and "Slow Down. High Crash Area."

And then there is "Caution. Low wall. Long drop," "Please do not touch the objects. Only people on the Touch Tour are permitted to touch certain sculpture," "Please do not climb on the guns as you may get hurt. The Trustees of the Imperial War Museum will

not accept responsibility if you do," and one of my favorites, "Without music life would be a mistake."

The Five Man Electrical Band song tells about "long-haired freaky people need not apply" but that was the 1970s when those older than we are and were worried a lot about long hair for boys and men and girls not being allowed to wear pants. With all the job openings today, I think the need not apply is gone – or I hope so.

The song ends: *I made up my own little sign. I said, Thank you, Lord, for thinking about me. I'm alive and doing fine.*

I joyfully join in singing along with that sign.

Happy Easter.

Jan Tippet is a retired newspaper publisher who lives in Owatonna.

GUEST COLUMNS

Senate bill will keep public safety

BY JOHN JASINSKI

Public safety continues to be one of the top issues I hear about from folks around the district. Recently we passed a comprehensive public safety bill that provides critical funding to hold criminals accountable and keep Minnesota's communities safe. It focuses on all aspects of the criminal justice system and courts, including youth intervention, criminal laws, sentencing guidelines, police, prosecutors, public defenders, judges, prisons, and probation.

The bill also includes a provision I have been working on this session. Senate File 2850 will increase the amount of time that criminals spend behind bars from two-thirds of their sentence to three-quarters.

The bill has three main objectives: to provide support for law enforcement recruitment and retention, toughen penalties for criminal activity, and increase transparency and accountability in

judicial and prosecutorial actions.

The bill strengthens our support for law enforcement by addressing the central issues currently facing Minnesota's law enforcement officers: recruitment, retention, education and training, and equipment.

Minnesota is experiencing a dangerous increase in violent crime across the state because criminals are not being held accountable for their crimes. The Public Safety Committee adopted several "tough on crime" bills that increase penalties for repeat offenders, carjackers, and violent crimes involving firearms. There is also enhanced support for the Violent Crime Enforcement Teams (VCET), which have been successful at targeting drugs and guns across the state.

Prosecutors and judges are too frequently letting criminals off easy only to see them commit additional, and often worse, crimes. This bill takes several steps to improve

transparency for the decisions made by prosecutors and judges that lead to early releases and failures to charge criminals to the fullest extent possible.

Recruiting Workers

When I talk to small businesses in our area, they tell me that one of the biggest challenges they are facing is a shortage of workers. The pandemic certainly didn't help, but many of these issues have been a problem for years – especially outside the metro.

Recently, the Higher Education Committee heard my bill that would help Owatonna and Steele County recruit and retain talented workers by providing funding for Owatonna's Learn to Earn program. The program is a partnership of The Owatonna School District, the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, and Riverland Community College aimed at expanding and attracting a talented workforce.

The \$1 million bill

will provide funding for three main objectives:

- To develop educational learning spaces with state-of-the-art equipment and student support services in high-demand career pathway programs
- To create learn-to-earn opportunities for students and employers with tuition reimbursement or scholarships and part-time work options and school schedules for employees who participate in continuing education
- To conduct a comprehensive local needs assessment to examine current and future workforce needs in the region.

If you have any questions about the issues we are working on at the legislature, feel free to contact me any time at sen.john.jasinski@senate.mn or 651-296-0284. It is a privilege to serve you!

John Jasinski represents District 24 in the Minnesota Senate. District 24 includes Steele and Rice counties. Jasinski lives in Faribault.

Turkey remains safe to eat despite outbreak

BY JOHN PETERSBURG

Many of you remember an avian flu outbreak in 2015. Because this flu was so contagious to turkeys and chickens, the outbreak ultimately caused the death of 9 million birds throughout our state. As you can imagine, this had disastrous impacts not only on our poultry farmers, but Minnesota's agricultural economy as well.

Recent news suggests another outbreak may be on the way, as cases of the highly pathogenic avian flu (HPAI), continue to be detected in the upper Midwest. More than a dozen flocks in Minnesota have already been hit.

The good news is that Minnesota is in a better spot today to handle an outbreak than it was in 2015. Back then, the legislature provided

significant funds to help deal with the emergency and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) instituted numerous biosecurity measures meant to slow the spread of avian flu if another outbreak came to Minnesota.

I want to take this opportunity to remind residents that even though you may be hearing a lot about HPAI in the news in the weeks and months ahead, turkey and chicken products remain safe to eat.

In the past, we've seen a decline in the purchase of turkey and chickens (avian flu) and pork (swine flu) because people fear they might be eating contaminated meat. The reality is the poultry products that are available on the market are perfectly wholesome. In fact, consumers would be doing the poultry industry

a great service if they bought more turkey and chicken from the supermarket during these uncertain times.

It's not just huge turkey farms that are impacted by HPAI, as the outbreak could just as easily affect backyard chicken flocks. So, if you own 3 birds or 300, I strongly encourage you to visit Minnesota's Board of Animal Health websites to learn more about HPAI and what you can do to combat it.

Tips for backyard poultry owners can be found at www.bah.state.mn.us/media/HPAI-Notice-Backyard-Final.pdf. Comprehensive poultry biosecurity steps can be read at www.bah.state.mn.us/poultry/#biosecurity.

Work Zone Safety

Recently I took part in a Capitol press conference designed to raise awareness for

traffic safety on Minnesota's roadways.

The Minnesota Transportation Alliance held a press event to call attention to the need for greater transportation funding against a backdrop of 502 traffic cones – one for each person killed in 2021 on Minnesota roads. Organizers also stressed the need for drivers to be cautious around highway construction projects this spring and summer.

With the snow gone, it won't be long before road construction season begins. Please drive safely.

John Petersburg represents District 24A in the Minnesota House of Representatives. District 24 includes Steele and Waseca counties. Petersburg lives in Waseca.

How to Choose a Medicare Advantage Plan

Dear Savvy Senior,
I will be 65 and eligible for Medicare in a few months and am interested in getting a Medicare Advantage plan to cover my health care and medications. What tips can you provide to help me pick a plan?

Ready to Retire

Dear Ready,
Medicare Advantage plans have become very popular among retirees over the past 15 years, as nearly half of all new Medicare enrollees are signing up for Advantage plans, which accounts for about 42 percent of the entire Medicare market. Here are some tips and tools to help you pick a plan that fits your needs.
First, let's start with a quick review. Medicare Advantage plans (also known as Medicare Part C) are government approved health plans sold by private insurance companies that you can choose in place of original Medicare. The vast majority of Advantage plans are managed-care policies such as HMOs or PPOs that require you to get your care within a network of doctors.
If you join an Advantage plan, the plan will provide all of your Part A (hospital insurance) and Part B (medical insurance) coverage like original Medicare does. But many plans also offer extra benefits like dental, hearing and vision coverage along with gym/fitness memberships, and most plans include prescription drug coverage too.
Medicare Advantage plans are also cheaper than if you got original



THE SAVVY SENIOR

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Medicare, plus a separate Part D drug plan and a Medigap policy. Many Advantage plans have \$0 or low monthly premiums and don't always have a deductible, but they also typically have a high out-of-pocket maximum. In 2021, Advantage plan participants on average were responsible for a maximum of around \$5,100 for in-network care, and about \$9,200 when out-of-network care is included.
How to Choose
To help you pick a plan, a good first step is to call the office managers of the doctors you use and find out which Advantage plans they accept, and which ones they recommend. Then go to the Medicare Plan Finder tool at [Medicare.gov/plan-compare](https://www.medicare.gov/plan-compare) to compare Advantage plans in your area. This tool provides a five-star rating system that evaluates each plan based on past customer satisfaction and quality of care the plan delivers. When comparing, here are some key points to consider:
Total costs: Look at the plan's entire pricing package, not just the premiums and deductibles. Compare the maximum out-of-pocket costs plus the copays and coinsurance charged for doctor office visits, hospital stays,

visits to specialists, prescription drugs and other medical services. This is important because if you choose an Advantage plan, you're not allowed to purchase a Medigap policy, which means you'll be responsible for paying these expenses out of your own pocket.
Drug coverage: Check the plan's formulary – the list of prescription drugs covered – to be sure all the medications you take are covered without excessive co-pays or requirements that you try less expensive drugs first.
Dental, vision and hearing: Many Advantage plans come with dental, vision and hearing benefits, but are usually limited. Get the details on what exactly is covered.
Coverage away from home: Most Advantage plans limit you to using in-network doctors only within a service area or geographic region, so find out what's covered if you need medical care when you're away from home.
Out-of-network coverage: Check to see what's covered if you want to see a specialist in a hospital that is not in a plan's network. You can get a list of doctors and hospitals that take part in a plan on the plan's website.
Need Help?
If you need help choosing a plan, contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program at [ShipHelp.org](https://www.ShipHelp.org) or call 877-839-2675. Also see the HealthMatrix Research 2022 Cost Comparisons Report at [MedicareNewsWatch.com](https://www.MedicareNewsWatch.com) that lists the best Advantage plans based on health status.
Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](https://www.SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

History from the News Archives



FILE PHOTO
These Owatonna Business Professional students attended the Region 9 Spring Leadership Conference in Rochester in April 1991. They placed in one or more of the 20 events. The students included, from left: Dana Schroeder, Beth Thompson, Lisa Nelson, Julie Ashley, Holly Vaith, Nikki Knutson, Jessica Lehrer, Kim Ballstadt, Diane Lloyd, Liz Callahan and Denise Lloyd.

10 Years Ago

April 10, 2012

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

In what has been its most significant expansion thus far, Minimizer of Blooming Prairie has opened a new shipping warehouse on the south end of the city. Tyler Kruckeberg, shipping and light manufacturing manager, said growth of the company has created the need. It is a 55,000 square foot pole barn like structure to store products and in turn ship them out to clients across the country. This is the fourth building on the Minimizer campus.
Jeremy Doerhoefer is the first runner from Blooming Prairie to qualify for the Boston Marathon. He qualified for the Boston Marathon by completing the Grandma's Marathon in Duluth and finishing in 3 hours, 16 minutes and 4 seconds. "Qualifying was my secret," Doerhoefer stated, "as I didn't tell anyone that I was going to try to make it. I was pretty relieved and happy when it happened." He will be participating in the Boston Marathon on April 16.

20 Years Ago

April 9, 2002

ELSIE SLINGER, EDITOR

The high school Triathlon team will take their stuff to the state competition again on May 4th in Collegeville after taking first at the regions at Stewartville on April 5. This is the second straight year a BP team has advanced to state – many of the same individuals are on this team from last year's elementary team. The team competed in the Cross Trainers competition (junior high) and took first place in the "party-in-the-box" and Face-off competitions (oral and written). Those advancing are: Kate Fogarty, Candace Zak, Ashley Masching, Sam Tashima and Marcus Zellmer.
On Wednesday, April 3 around 6 am, walkers at the high school reported broken glass and vandalism to the police. Superintendent Barry Olson figured the break-in occurred between 11 pm and 5 am. Although there was damage to a classroom window and damage to doors when they broke into room containing computers, offices, ag rooms. However, the only things missing were a pair of eyeglasses and about \$50. "It definitely seems like they were looking for something. No equipment or data was taken, just petty cash." Replacing the glass in doors and window and replacing a file cabinet, the damage estimate is over \$1,000. There was also a break-in reported at the Dairy Queen the same night, plus the Servicemen's Club was burglarized twice last month.

50 Years Ago

April 12 1972

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Howard Bode, Vocational Agriculture Instructor at the Blooming Prairie High School, has been named "Outstanding Young Agriculture Instructor" for District 14, FFA District. Bode was elected for this by his fellow vocational instructor teachers in the district and is now a nominee for honor in the state. Howard is a native of Courtland, MN and joined the staff in Blooming Prairie in 1968 after finishing his practice teaching here. He has been advisor for the FFA Chapter and the boys in his group have won many district and state awards.
The spring sports season is upon us and there is a major change in programming. This year girls will be competing in two sports with schedules in both track and soft-

ball. For the past several years the schools of the Gopher Conference have had a track and field day, but this yer triangular meets have been scheduled and the girls will have the opportunity to advance for further competition with the M.S.H.S. sponsoring regional as well as state track meets. In addition to track an extra mural softball program has been arranged under the direction of Julie Engebretsen. Under an extra mural program a school may play a maximum of 3 scheduled games. With over 85 girls involved, 2 teams will be formed and two games will be played simultaneously on two diamonds allowing more girls an opportunity to play. It is expected that with growing interest that competition in other sports will be provided the girls.

75 Years Ago

April 10, 1947

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Recognition is due a group about the school who give cheerfully and willingly of their time and energy without the praise such work earns in organized sports. This group is the journalism class which meets each day to enable the Red and Black Chronical to go to press each week. Members of this hardworking class are: Carol Mueller, Beverly Robinson, Adeline Wurst, Alice Magladry, Arlene Johnson, Ora Schrom, Donna Ruzak, Marlys Anderson, Marion Fjerstad, Dorothy Meyer, Hilda Friebig, Betty Motl, Mary Butler, Carol Rockne, Eleanor Kubista, Constance Brainerd, Art Olson, Arlene Strand, Diane Osby, Mathilda VanHal, Luella Jensen, Barbara Brantley, Eileen Jolson, Delores Johnson, Charlotte Brantley, Verna Trom, Jane Cipra, Pauline Anderson and Mrs. Hanson, advisor.
More funds for Blooming Prairie's new baseball team continue to pour in. The amount reported up to Wednesday morning of this week by Vice-president C J Coggins has grown to \$1,204.39. Thank you to the many contributors.

OWATONNA PHOTO NEWS

31 Years Ago

April 11, 1991

TOM SHEA, PUBLISHER

Michelle Oberstein, licensed Child Care Provider, was presented with the 2nd annual TLC (Tender Loving Care) Award at the Festival on the Mall. There were twenty-two women nominated for the award. The nominations came from parents whose children are in the care of these women. Michelle and her husband, John, have five children and she currently cares for children from five families. Michelle has been doing child care for over six years. She has always taken summers off to spend time with her family and now plans to retire from Child Care. "I will be looking for work outside the home, but still would like to work with children," stated Michelle.
Members of the Owatonna Gymnastics Club will be competing this weekend in Minnesota Amateur Gymnastics Association Division 1 Meet at Hamline University. According to Coach Christine Klinkner, "The competition promises to be extremely intense. You will see some of the finest gymnasts in the state." Klinkner has been the coach for the last six years along with her assistant, Karin O'Brien. Members of the team are Becky Gunderson, Julie Dey, Nicholle Michels, Britney Rue, Mel Anderson, Nikki Bongers, Jamie Jensen, Steph Luger, Laura Krause, Anne Haberman, Rachel Halverson, Roberta Bongers, Tanya Fukushima, Amanda Stanislav, Katie Benson, Amy Spellman and Katie Armstrong.



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PANTHER OF THE WEEK



This week's Panther of the Week is **Trinity McFarland**. She is the daughter of Tyler and Traci and they reside in New Richland. Trinity is in Mrs. Kitzer's second grade class.

Trinity sets an amazing example for her classmates. She's very curious and always asks insightful questions. She's very respectful to her teachers and classmates and she always comes to school with a positive attitude.

Trinity loves reading books and playing board games. Keep up the great work Trinity!



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DON'T miss out on

Times

STEELE COUNTY

THIS WEEK!

The Steele County Times is available at the following locations:

Blooming Prairie

- Casey's
- Vandal's
- Steele County Times office

Owatonna

- Hy-Vee
- Kwik Trip Oak St.
- Kwik Trip Mineral Springs
- Sterling Drug
- Cashwise
- Kwik-Trip Frontage Rd
- Kwik Trip
- Kwik Trip Clinton Falls

Ellendale

- Casey's
- Lerberg's Grocery Store

Join us for Holy Week and Easter services

Alleluia! He is Risen!

Easter Worship Services
6:30 AM
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
2781 SW 92nd Ave.,
Meriden

8:30 AM
ZION LUTHERAN
7126 SW 98th St.,
Ellendale

ELCA Congregations
Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Presiding

Holy Week Mass Schedule

Holy Thursday | 7pm
Sacred Heart Hayfield

Good Friday | 5:30 pm
Saint Columbanus

Holy Saturday | 7:30 pm
Holy Trinity Litomysl

Easter Sunday | 8:15 am
Sacred Heart Hayfield
10:00 am Saint Columbanus



HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 2022
7:30 p.m. with Holy Communion
Good Friday, April 15, 2022
7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. with Holy Communion

Worship services are in-person and live streamed
facebook.com/oursaviorsowatonna.com

Rev. John Weisenburger
Rev. Lisa Carlson
Rev. Ron Huber

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1909 Saint Paul Rd., Owatonna
507-451-4853
www.oursaviorsowatonna.com

Easter Sunday Service

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE FRIDAY APRIL 15TH 4 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET 8 a.m.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

104 First Ave.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2673
www.fbcbloomingprairie.org

First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie

2022 EASTER SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday, April 14
6:30 pm Worship
Grade 5 Communion Milestone
Special Music by Senior Choir
Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 15
Noon Community Worship
Tenebrae-Service of Darkness
Soloist Megan Lynch

Easter Sunday, April 17
7am Sunrise Worship
with Holy Communion
Senior Choir, Pipe Organ, Brass

9am Celebration Worship
with Holy Communion & Live Radio Broadcast
Worship Team & Special Music

hot breakfast served 8am-11am / reservations requested

ALL SERVICES LIVESTREAMED
[FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTLUTHERANBP](https://facebook.com/firstlutheranbp)

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Visitors Expected!
#stillthewelcomeplace

Easter
SUNDAY
• HE IS RISEN •

Maundy Thursday,
April 14, 2022 @ 7PM

Good Friday,
April 15, 2022 @ 7PM

Easter Worship Service,
April 17, 2022 @ 9:00AM

CORNERSTONE

1500 18th ST SE Owatonna | 507-446-5850
cornerstoneowatonna.com

Easter
AT GOOD SHEPHERD
IN OWATONNA

SUNRISE WITH HYMNS
6:30am

EASTER SERVICE
8:30am & 10:30am

EASTER BREAKFAST
Between All Services

Good Shepherd

2500 7th Ave NE
GoodShepherdOwatonna.com

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday
Worship Service with Holy Communion 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday
Worship Service
12:00 p.m. Noon

Contemporary Easter Vigil
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
with Holy Communion

Easter Sunday
Worship Service with Holy Communion
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Dave Klawiter and Pastor Jacie Richmond

St. John Lutheran Church
1301 Lincoln Avenue, Owatonna

EASTER SUNDAY

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Easter Sunday Service

Sunday April 17, 2022
9:00 a.m.

1054 Truman Ave,
Owatonna MN 55060

507-451-2720
redeemerowatonna.org

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Maundy Thursday, April 14
12pm (in-person only) & 6pm, Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 15
11am, Children's Service, Fellowship Hall
7pm, Sanctuary

Easter Vigil, April 16 - 5pm, Sanctuary

Easter, April 17
6am, Sunrise, Sanctuary
8am, Traditional, Sanctuary
9:30am, Traditional, Sanctuary
(9:30am broadcast on KRUE 92.1 FM)
10am, Contemporary, Fellowship Hall
(in-person only)
11am, Traditional, Sanctuary

All services in-person and online unless noted.
Links to online worship found at tlcowatonna.org
(YouTube, Facebook, Website)

TRINITY Lutheran Church
609 Lincoln Avenue | Owatonna MN 55060
507.451.4520 | tlcowatonna.org

CELEBRATE THE EASTER TRIDUUM

SACRED HEART CHURCH, OWATONNA
ST. JOSEPH PARISH, OWATONNA
CHRIST THE KING, MEDFORD

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 1
MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
5:00 pm Christ the King, Medford
6:30 pm Sacred Heart Church
7:00 pm St. Joseph Parish

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2
CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
12:10 pm St. Joseph Parish
1:00 pm Sacred Heart Church
3:00 pm Christ the King, Medford
6:30 pm Sacred Heart Church

EASTER VIGIL, APRIL 3
EASTER SERVICES IN THE EVENING
8:00 pm Sacred Heart Church
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A survival story of

◀ **SURVIVAL** from A1 as a kid because I didn't know what normal was." Adding to the complexity of the situation, Kender's mother, Ann Bolton, was often away from home working in the military. "I shut my feelings down so I could take care of the family," Kender said. However, the anger really didn't set in until after she left the house to go to college. "As I got older, I realized his behavior wasn't right," she said, adding, "I became more upset with dad once I was away from him." Kender and her father are now sharing their story of abuse, second chances, and forgiveness in hopes that other families don't go down the same path they endured. "It's a miracle," Kender said of surviving an abusive childhood.

Growing Up
In some ways, Michael Bolton's life seemed to be doomed from the start. He grew up in a foster home in Wisconsin after his mother was committed to a mental institution while his father was in prison. "My earliest memory was going to the mental hospital to see my mother," said Bolton, noting she suffered from bipolar disorder. As he grew up, Bolton found little hope of becoming anything, mostly because he lacked a family support system. "I remember being in the foster home for three years, and I never once heard that anyone loved me. That affects your psyche... I thought I wasn't worth anything," Bolton said. "My grandmother always said 'you're going to end up in prison like your father' and constantly tore me down." Bolton married Ann in 1974, and they had children in 1976, 1977, 1985 and 1988. He said he knew from early on in his marriage that something wasn't right. "I was struggling so hard," he said.

The Abuse
Michael Bolton admits to abusing all four of his kids, who lived in fear of their father slapping, hitting, pushing and shaking them. "What I did is criminal," Bolton confesses. Mandie Kender recalls when she was 4 years old, a Sunday School teacher at

church spotted a welt on her body from her father hitting her with a belt. That led to a child protection worker coming into the home to inspect her body. "It was humiliating," Kender said. One time her brother ended up with a deep bruise on him. That became the turning point for the family as Kender's mother reached out for help to Crisis Resource Center of Steele County. There was also a time when Bolton slapped his wife while they were traveling on the highway. That's when it really hit home that things were bad. "I thought, you low life scum," he said. But the physical abuse was only part of the trauma suffered by family members.

"The emotional abuse was the worst," Kender says, noting she and her siblings endured years of it. "The emotional abuse is as bad as the physical abuse." Said Bolton: "I went through the cycle of mad dad, happy dad, mad dad, happy dad. I could get a bill in the mail and just blow up. I would explode and overreact to many things. Emotional and intelligence were not in the same category for me." As he looks back on the years of abuse, Bolton bristles at the fact that his wife often told their children "don't do anything to set him off."

"It starts with a dominant male, and it all goes downhill from there," Bolton acknowledged. "With abuse, if it starts at the top, there are the poor children at the bottom." "I struggled for years that I'm not a good enough man. The bad thing is you hate yourself," he added. Kender referred to her father as the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde story, which focused on the complexities of science and duplicity of human nature. "That was my dad," Kender said, noting he never drank alcohol or abused drugs. "I was really confused as a child because I saw two different people." In 1993, Ann Bolton reached her breaking point and filed for divorce. "That was a gut hit," Michael Bolton said of the time he was served with divorce papers. "It takes the wind out of it."



Mandie Kender shares a hug with her father, Michael Bolton, as they spoke about an abusive childhood that he put his

With his marriage on the line, Michael Bolton finally reached out for help. "My world was falling apart," he said.

The Diagnosis
When he initially sought help, a doctor told Bolton "it wasn't that bad," and tried to dismiss what had been boiling inside of him for years. "I told the doctor, 'you don't have the devil inside or the demons living inside of you like I do,'" he said. What made things even worse was that no family members or friends tried to intervene, even though Bolton claims they knew what was going on. With a history of mental illness in his family, Bolton kept telling doctors something was wrong with

him. He was finally diagnosed as bipolar, a mental disorder that causes unusual shifts in mood, energy, activity levels, concentration, and the ability to carry out day-to-day-tasks. "I was either happy or I was mad. There was no in between," Bolton said, adding he was like a steam engine with steam rolling inside of him before finally blowing. Speaking directly to her father, Kender added, "There were times when you blew up and people saw us being abused. All of us have struggled on our own because of the abuse." Doctors put him on medication, which he has religiously taken ever since and says he will never stop taking. Asked about the bipolar diagnosis, Bolton said: "It was a godsend, period. The diagnosis saved my life. It was not the same as having a child being born, but it was right up there."

He's happy with what has resulted from the diagnosis and subsequent medication. "It rescued me and my family from the monster," Bolton said. "They are saved now. I can't truly put it in words... it's night and day different. The stuff that overcame me is now being overcome." And it saved his marriage. Ann dropped divorce proceedings, and they are still married. Even with the stigma



Despite years of abuse within the family, Michael Bolton and his wife Ann are still married.

often involved with mental illness, Bolton has no problem sharing his story. "I would shout it from a rooftop. I'm not ashamed of it," he said. "The wonderful thing is there is help out there. If you think there is something wrong inside that you can't control, get help."

Two Worlds
Mandie Kender said she grew up living in two worlds. "I was raised in a loving and a volatile home," she said. "I was confused. I grew up in a home of laughter, but there was also fear. We knew there was love, but we weren't secure in it." Kender said she hid the abuse for years, through high school and during her first years in college. A part

of her wanted to forget all about it. "As a victim, I thought I did something wrong," she said, noting she received so many conflicting messages from her father. It wasn't until graduate school that Kender sought therapy. Ever since she got help, "it has made me an advocate for people that are struggling," she said. Forgiving her father didn't come easy. "It's hard. I didn't really want to engage with my family because I was hurt," Kender said. Though he has changed, Kender said the real hero is not her father. "My mom is the hero of the story because she finally said, 'no more, I'm done with this.' If she would not have said no more abuse, it could have ended badly." And there is no arguing that fact with Bolton. "I agree with that 100%," he said. "She put up with 16 years of garbage." Added Kender, "The generational abuse is stopping with my family."



Mandie Kender overlooks Kathy Huisman, who also works at the Exchange Club Center for Family Unity in Owatonna. They are offering support, education and hope for abuse victims across southern Minnesota.

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childhood abuse



family through for many years. The two have reconciled and now share a message of hope for all abuse victims.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

"I told the doctor, 'you don't have the devil inside or the demons living inside of you like I do.'"

Michael Bolton
Abusive Father

and darkness. We're all in this together. I don't demonize the perpetrators."

In January, Kender signed on as director of the Exchange Center for Family Unity, which serves Steele, Rice, Waseca, Dodge and Freeborn counties. The Center provides dependable and efficient support-based in-home mentoring to parents who can use additional support to be successful.

"I left Owatonna to find myself and separate myself from the abuse," said Kender, now 46. "It was like full circle to come back and help in the area that our family struggled with."

Darkness to Light

After years of healing herself, she is ready to engage the community in ending the cycle of abuse.

"I am so close to the mission," she said. "I have a clear understanding of the issues, and I think it makes me easier to help people."

Kender recognizes that it's a "vulnerable thing" to put her family's story out there. In fact, it's one that she never thought would happen.

"I wanted to hide from it," she admits.

But she has developed a deep passion to help others and wants them to know there is hope.

"This darkness, I really wanted it to come into light. In order to get help you have to face the unhealthy and ugly parts. You have to make changes and face your demons," Kender said. "I want them to know our story. This is a story about a miracle, second chances and forgiveness. I am blessed to be a survivor."

Because of her abusive childhood, Kender said she has often struggled with being a parent herself. She

and her husband, Lexy, have two children: Grace and Lucas.

"I was afraid of myself and didn't know if I would be a good mother," Kender said. "I had to figure out what was healthy and unhealthy."

One of her professional battles, Kender said, is that society doesn't see child abuse as a problem. She wants all parents to have a better relationship with their children.

"I don't want other people to go through this," she said referring to abuse. "I want to help change the trajectory."

As she looks back, Kender's hope is for the community to advocate for children.

"No one spoke up for us," she said. "People minimized it even when dad tried to get help."

People often do not understand the complexities behind abuse, Kender said, creating the need for education, treatment and support.

More than anything, Kender wants children to "feel love and feel safe in it."

"If we love our children, they will take care of the world," she said. "We need to teach our kids how to love."

Though April is designated Child Abuse Prevention Month, both Kender and her father feel raising awareness should happen every month.

"I've seen healthy relationships and I want that for everybody," Kender said.

Unfortunately, in her case, it took an unhealthy childhood and first-hand knowledge to reach that point.

Kender's husband has a tattoo on his arm that reads, "Love your enemy."

"Sometimes your enemy might be a family member," she said, adding she once looked at both her mother and father in that light. "You need to have forgiveness."



Mandie Kender, back right side, is shown during her younger years with her three siblings.

"It has made me an advocate for people that are struggling."

Mandie Kender
Abuse Survivor

Career Path

The family's struggles helped define Mandie Kender's professional path. After graduating in 1994 from Owatonna, Kender went to the University of Northwestern in St. Paul and Colorado Christian University, where she obtained a master's degree in counseling.

Most of her career has been focused on mental health and domestic violence programs. Among other roles, Kender served as associate director of community and family supports services at Accord in St. Paul.

"My career path is to help others," Kender said. "I have the ability to help both the light

New director focuses on education in the prevention of abuse

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Only a few months on the job, Mandie Kender refers to her new position as a "calling that has captured me."

She took over in January as executive director of the Exchange Club Center for Family Unity in Owatonna.

"I want to be a voice for children because my siblings never had that voice," said Kender referring to an abusive childhood she and her siblings endured in Owatonna. "I feel captured in a good way with this job," she said, adding she has never felt this before in her life.

Kender brings many years of first-hand experience of living in an abusive childhood to the Exchange Center.

"This job is a blessing," she said. "All these years that we suffered and wrestled with abuse haven't gone to waste."

In her role, Kender wants something to hap-

pen that didn't take place while she was growing up. She wants people to learn to speak up when they suspect or recognize abuse going on.

Kender said people were afraid to say anything when her family was going through abuse. "They suspected what was going on, but never did anything about it," she said. "If someone spoke up sooner, there would have been less abuse and dad would have been diagnosed sooner," she added.

While it has been operating since 1984, Kender hopes to elevate the center's status in the community to one that has never been achieved before.

One area that Kender wants to target is education around domestic abuse and sexual abuse directed at churches and other community organizations. "Schools are trained, but churches and organizations where kids interface with are not," she explained. "Ed-

ucation is such a huge component."

She is convinced that had there been more education when she was growing up "there would have been less years of abuse and suffering for our family."

In the past, the Exchange Center has focused on more intervention services such as Order for Protections for abuse victims and child custody visitations. Kender wants the focus to become more parenting and mentoring groups.

"Community education is needed so we can prevent abuse from happening," Kender says. "Let's keep our eye on kids and support our parents."

One of the challenges currently facing Kender is that she is a part-time director of 20 hours per week serving five counties. The plan is to make the position full time, but that likely won't happen until the end of 2023.

"There are challeng-



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Owatonna native Mandie Kender has taken on the role as executive director of the Exchange Club Center for Family Unity serving several area counties. Her abusive childhood provides hope to all victims who are being tormented by family members or others.

es, but they don't seem overwhelming," she said.

For now, Kender is focusing on prioritizing the greatest needs of the organization, which has one full-time and three part-time workers. "I have a phenomenal staff that cares so much about families," she said.

Kender said she has

a huge vision for the Exchange Center. She wants to fully expand the center's services into every county currently involved: Steele, Rice, Waseca, Dodge and Freeborn. "I want to reach more people in the five counties," she said. "I want our agency to be well known and well es-

tablished where families can reach out for help."

And along with the awareness regarding child abuse, she wants to create more chatter in the community.

"I want more people to talk about it," she said. "I want people to be compassionate and supportive of people struggling."





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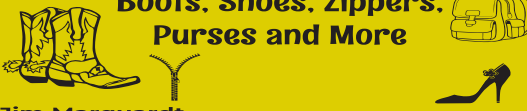

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Something Rotten offered at Little Theatre

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

In the newest Little Theatre of Owatonna production famed playwright William Shakespeare finds inspiration for his next work in a group of actors who frequent the Globe Theatre, among them Nick Bottom.

The musical is flavored with period-authentic flair and a whole lot of wit as Shakespeare is busy working on his newest play “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” Through his interactions with Nick Bottom and company Shakespeare begins to pull influence from the real world into his play.

“Something rotten is a line taken from Shakespeare’s Hamlet,” Director Jeffrey Jackson explained. “In fact, the whole play, plays with Shakespeare and the life and times of Shakespeare. It takes place in 1595 in Elizabethan London.”

The play portrays Shakespeare as a literary thief. “He’s got two rivals in here and his main rival is another playwright,” Jackson said. “This writer becomes a character in

Shakespeare’s Midsummer Night’s Dream and the joke is that he made people around him into characters in his plays.”

“We’re having fun with the tradition of Shakespeare and at the same time you can see that there is a love for Shakespeare,” Jackson said with a smile. “I know I love Shakespeare and I have for most of my 50 years involved with theatre.”

Although fans of Shakespeare will find much to love about the play, so will fans of musicals. “There are a lot of references being made throughout this show to different musicals,” Jackson explained. “Those who appreciate musical theatre will truly enjoy some of the references here. This is an incredibly entertaining show.”

Director Jackson helms his 11th play for the Little Theatre in what is a bombastic return to large-scale production. “We were originally going to do it last spring but due to COVID we had to do a smaller play with a two-person cast,” he explained.

Now that most of the restrictions are limited



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Actor Mark Place tries on a costume for director Jeffrey Jackson for the upcoming production of “Something Rotten.”

Jackson and his large cast and crew are busy bringing the bard and his fellow Globe Theatre residents to life. Actor Patrick McColley, who plays Nick Bottom, jumped at the chance to be part of the show.

“He’s a writer and he’s under a lot of pressure because he’s competing with Shakespeare so he’s trying to come up with an idea to make things work with his brother,” McColley said of the character. “He goes to great lengths to beat Shakespeare at his own game and comes up with a musical.”

McColley used a Shakespeare line to

pitch the show. “To thine self be true, that’s kind of the core of the show so if there’s one thing the audience takes away it should be that,” he said. “I think a musical is more fun in certain ways, but it’s also hard in certain ways. It’s a really, really funny show.”

“The choreography in the show is extremely difficult and the they have been working very hard to bring this to life,” Choreographer Megan Proft said. “The choreography tells a story in a beautiful way so sometimes you see Shakespeare doing something, you see a lead do something or

the chorus do something. It’s a difficult show to do and there’s even a lot of tap dancing. I think it demands a lot of the cast in a wonderful way because it challenges them.”

Norma Louis, Jan Partridge, Janice Kautz, Tonya Goettl, Mary Gontarek, and Gail Plathe had the task of finding and designing period specific costumes for the play. “The first thing I’m going to say about the costumes is I have the most talented team in the world,” Norma Louis, who spearheaded the effort, said.

“It’s a renaissance time frame so we have renaissance costumes, there’s dancing, there’s singing, we have costumed changes, most of the cast have multiple roles so they have multiple costumes,” Louis said. “We’re working hard but we’re having a lot of fun and it’s a great show!”

“The actors and the crew are fantastic. Musicals are tough, because you have to learn the character and the lines and become the character but you also have to sing and dance,” Director Jackson said. “The crew is not just the

people who work on the stage, like the people who work in costumes for instance are having to do so many things.”

The play stars Tim Van Gelder as Shakespeare, Patrick McColley as Nick Bottom, Cody Jensen as Nigel Bottom, Jamie Jennissen as Bea, Courtney Kryzer as Portia, Heather Burke as Nostradamus, Zackery Knapton as Brother Jeremiah, Mark Place as Lord Clapham, William Wood as Shylock, and Maggie Jones as Minstrel.

It features Alexis Ayers, Amber Holven, Bin Huang, Curt Jorgensen, Diane Skala, Dianne Suarez, Elijah Ayers, Gail Zollner, Gaylene Steckelberg, Holly Jorgensen, Kate Falvey, Michaela Shaw, Nathan Black, and Vidette Ostermeier as ensemble and dancers. With direction by Jeffrey Jackson and technical direction by Kathy Purdie.

“Something Rotten” will premiere on April 21, with shows running from April 21-23 and April 28-30 at 7:30 pm and matinee shows April 24 and May 1 at 2:00pm.



STAFF PHOTO BY KAY FATE

The cast and crowd at “History Uncorked” were shocked to learn there was a table full of descendants of the man on trial during last week’s program. Members of the Herdina family who attended are, from left, Mary Herdina Idso, Ivan Idso, Becky Herdina Jensen, Andrea Herdina Simon, Tom Simon, Ken Esplan and Judy Herdina Esplan. The women are the daughters of Chuck and Betty Herdina, of Blooming Prairie, and are the great-great-granddaughters of the night’s defendant, Frank Herdina Sr.

BP family history goes on trial

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

Chances are, it had been a few years since the Herdina girls – Judy, Mary, Becky and Andrea – had made their father, Chuck, unhappy.

He’s in his 90s now, and they’re all grown with children of their own, but that didn’t stop him from sharing his displeasure about their plans last week: “Why are they bringing all of this up again? There were plenty of Petersons and Johnsons that were tried, too,” Herdina told Becky Herdina Jensen.

It had fallen to her to tell Chuck that a bit of family history was going to be back in the public eye – nearly 145 years after it happened. “He wasn’t happy

about it,” she said.

Judy Herdina Esplan, Mary Herdina Idso, Jensen and Andrea Herdina Simon had all grown up hearing the story of their great-grandfather, Adolph Herdina, who spent four years in prison for a fight

back in July 1877 on a dusty lane in Somerset Township.

“My grandmother always said they were railroaded,” Idso said. That grandmother had married Adolph Herdina’s son, Adolph Jr.

Of course, family lore being what it is,

the women figured the exact details were probably lost to time – until a poster caught Esplan’s eye.

It was an advertisement for “History Uncorked,” a program at the Steele County History Center that invites guests to be the jury as actors share historic case law by bringing historic legal battles to life.

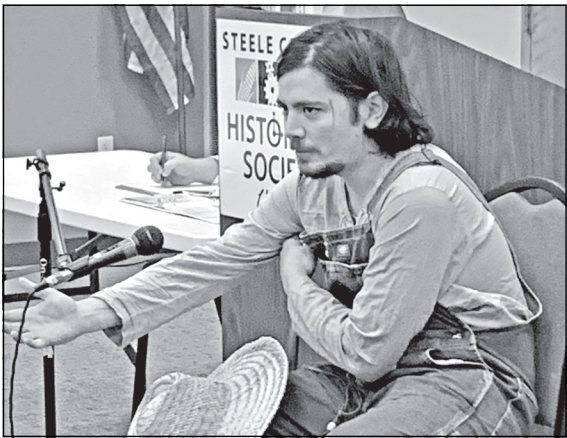
At the bottom of the poster: The State of Minnesota v. Herdina.

It had to be her ancestors, and it had to be the case they’d grown up hearing about, in bits and pieces.

Esplan got the word out to her siblings, and the four sisters and their spouses watched as the story became real – sort of.

The Program “History Uncorked” is a partially inter-

See **BP FAMILY** on A12 ▶



STAFF PHOTO BY KAY FATE

Walter Prescott, playing the role of stabbing victim William Barker, prepares to show the scar he carries on his arm after the attack. Prescott is a law clerk for Steele County District Court Judge Joseph Bueltel when he’s not acting.

Veterans Roundtable suspends operations

On March 8, the Owatonna Veterans Roundtable Board voted to immediately terminate operations.

The organization was formed in 2013 with the mission to hear and video the stories of area veterans from all branches of the military as told by the veterans themselves. Veterans from WWII, Korea, the Cold War, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan as well as those deployed in peace time to various areas of the world to serve in varying missions. Ten events were scheduled from September through June each year.

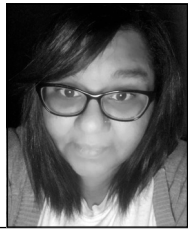
The decision to terminate operations was difficult and carefully considered. Factors that influenced this decision included COVID-19 and the

resulting uncertainties regarding scheduling speakers and dealing with ever changing guidelines involving large groups and venues. As the COVID crisis continued it became apparent that attitudes toward large gatherings was changing as evidenced by slow attendee return to religious services and other public functions. This change was most apparent among the 60+ age group that accounted for the majority of attendees at these events.

Lastly, and of major significance, was difficulty locating and scheduling veterans willing to tell their stories. Generational interests change over

See **VETERANS** on A13 ▶

What is co-parenting?



Steele Talkin'
HEATHER RIEKEN

When raising children, we always want what is best for them. Sometimes our relationships with our children’s other parent do not work out. What happens to the relationship with your children when this happens?

As the parents you will need to learn to co-parent together for the best interest of the child/children.

What is Co-Parenting?

Co-Parenting is where divorce occurs, parents are not living together or are not in a relationship at all. One of the most important things when co-parenting is that the child/children maintain a healthy relationship with both parents (if they are safe for them to be around). This is not always an easy task. Here are a few tips that can make your co-parenting easier.

See **CO-PARENTING** on A14 ▶



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Farm days come to life at Arts Center

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

If one were to walk down the halls and through the galleries of the Owatonna Arts Center they would be immediately transported to agricultural spaces of the past and present. Memories of days on the farm, wind blowing through the field, suns above roofs, places lost to the industrial agricultural sprawl, baseball games of yesterday, and children at play.

The new exhibit features over 50 paintings done by artists Lorraine Ortner-Blake and Roberta Condon. The show, which has gained attention from art publication *The Pastel Journal* and French magazine *Practique des Arts*, will be touring the Midwest through the summer of 2023.

Both artists have chosen an agrarian theme for their featured paintings, using the inspiration from midwestern settings to bring to life farms of the past and ephemeral spaces of the present which echo the steady march towards modernization from early and mid-twentieth century farming to the present day.

Inspired by the changes on the family farm and this shift from smaller-acreage spreads to the large, modern operations, both Condon and Ortner-Blake capture the little moments, challenges, and beauty that traditional family farming brings.

Recollections from the past are a heavy inspiration for Lorraine Ortner-Blake. “My mom is 90 and when you get that age sometimes those stories that are oldest are the best,” said Ortner-Blake, whose work is one-part storybook and one-part Chagall. “You can be a little fantastical and mess around with scale. Living in those memories is so dream-like.”

“I use gouache, it’s a form of watercolor but



Roberta Condon stands next to two of her paintings featured in the Owatonna Arts Center's newest exhibit. Condon was inspired by the disappearing rural landscape in her pastel work.

it’s not transparent so you can layer it, you can make it thick but it’s also water soluble so you can rub it with water and take it off your paper again,” Ortner-Blake said of her technique.

Walking through the exhibit Ortner-Blake explains the inspirations of each painting. “There I am,” she exclaimed of one in which a young girl practices art at the kitchen table while other family members go about their chores.

“I started with stories from my mom but then I also started including stories from my family, like the wedding of one of my sisters, so it’s kind of my mother growing up to me growing up on the farm,” Ortner-Blake said. “I feel like family farms are certainly changing, it’s a large business and to pass that on from generation to generation is definitely hard. It’s important for us to tell our stories.”

Ortner-Blake’s paintings and the recollections of her mother’s time on the farm, with additional contributions from the siblings her mother grew up alongside, are collected in her book “We Always Had Chickens.”

Meanwhile Roberta Condon takes a more

elegiac approach with her landscape work. Initially inspired by the scenery during her commutes between her small Wisconsin town and her job in Madison and walks through Wisconsin trails, Condon captures the disappearing beauty of the rural Midwest.

“One of the things that got me started was every day driving to work I would pass this farm that was like a Christmas card, it was perfect and I’d think that I have to paint that, and I also passed this beautiful copse of trees,” Condon recalled.

Before she could stop to paint or photograph the scenery, both the barn and the thicket of trees were gone. A steel pole barn had replaced the old red one, and a storm had torn through Condon’s perfect patch of trees. “We learn our lessons the hard way,” Condon said. “That just told me that I needed to get this done and it was a really important project to me.”

Condon works with pastel for this series, creating scenes from her memories after

long walks, or drives through the countryside. These paintings are rendered with a beautiful array of colors. “I think I have an eye for color the way some people might have an ear for music,” she explained while describing a painting of an orchard.

Condon’s book “Agriculture All Around – Agriculture Run Aground” collects 26 of her landscape paintings alongside facts and information about Midwestern farming. This collection is a reminder to stop and take in the disappearing beauty of the traditional countryside before it succumbs to modernization.

The 52 paintings of Ortner-Blake and Condon can currently be viewed at the Arts Center in Owatonna. The exhibit titled “Long Time Passing,” runs through April 24. All those who wish to take a trip down memory lane and catch a glimpse of the midwestern agricultural landscape as presented by these artists shouldn’t hesitate to visit. Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.



Lorraine Ortner-Blake's portion of the exhibit showcases dreamlike paintings inspired by memories of growing up on the farm.

BP family history goes on trial

◀ BP FAMILY from A11 active event; after attendees watch the trial, recreated through available court and newspaper records, they become the jury. There are discussions about the testimony, the evidence and the attorneys’ handling of the case, then each table of participants renders its verdict.

The cast is often made up of local legal experts – Steele County District Judge Karen Duncan was the host of last week’s event – and the performances are convincing.

She acknowledged the trial was “not entirely historically accurate,” and that while the word “murderous” was often used, no one actually died.

Prior to the testimony beginning, the jury selection process was replicated. Those chosen had to be landowners, men and white. In this case, they could not be Bohemian.

The Case
The defendant was actually one more generation removed from the Herdina girls; it was the trial of their great-great-grandfather, Frank Herdina Sr.

He was travelling by wagon with his sons Frank Jr. and Adolph, his daughter, Agnes, and a friend, John Kroulik, when they encountered another wagon, carrying a wealthy farmer, his family and two of his hired hands.

Both sides agree that Adolph produced a knife and stabbed one of the hired hands, William Barker. They also agree that Frank Sr. had already broken up one altercation between the two parties earlier that day – started by Barker.

In that dust-up, Barker threw a rock at Frank Jr., who was singing loudly and off-key. A skirmish started, but was quickly stopped by the elder Herdina.

What was less clear was who started the second incident, the one that led to the stabbing, and whether Frank Sr. was trying to break up that fight or enter into the fray.

He was charged with one count of assault with intent to do great bodily harm.

Though he was defended by an able attorney, much was made of the fact that the Herdinas were Bohemian; Bohemia was the western part of the Czech Republic.

Their work ethic was mocked and much was made about the fact that they were drinking – though Barker admitted on the stand that he, too, had been drinking. “They’re hotheads

and alcoholics,” said Walter Prescott, a law clerk for Judge Joseph Bueltel who played the role of Barker. “You can’t trust these folks.”

Frank Sr., played by former Owatonna Police Chief Gene Fisher, also took the stand, downplaying his own stab wounds. He was “trying to get Barker away so nobody would get hurt,” he said, by getting in the middle of it all.

The Verdict
Because his attorney made it clear there was no intent – or event an assault, really – by Frank Sr., the 100 or so ad hoc jurors at “History Uncorked” overwhelmingly found the defendant not guilty.

The Herdina girls, though, knew the truth. “He didn’t even speak the language,” one of them said, though during the performance, a translator was provided.

“We were told there was no translator,” Jensen said.

“There wasn’t,” Duncan confirmed. “We took a little creative license.”

The rest of the crowd was shocked to hear Frank Sr. had been convicted and spent a year in prison. Frank Jr. got two years and even Kroulik served time.

It certainly wasn’t a jury of his peers, one woman said, and the discrimination was evident.

The majority of the participants said it was the lack of intent that formed their decision – but “that was not an argument the defense made at the time,” said Esther Sherman, who played the female version of Frank Sr.’s attorney, Amos Coggs-well.

In reality, however, Coggs-well did take the case to the Minnesota Supreme Court. The justices upheld the verdict in a landmark ruling that “a parent has no right to protect his child in the commission of a crime.”

The child in question, Adolph Herdina, was still a teenager when he went to prison. He would go on to marry and have children, including Adolph Jr., whose granddaughters seemed to feel a sense of vindication that a jury today would have acquitted Frank Sr.

“Maybe I’ll go home and tell Dad how it went,” Jensen said with a smile. “It might make him feel better.”

There was one more order of business, one that brought the mood up.

“I just want you to know,” said Ivan Idso, Mary’s husband, “that these Herdinas still can’t sing.”



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Blossoms Students of the Week

Blooming Prairie Elementary School



Ryder Anderson – 1C

Mrs. Schiller's Class

Parents: Amber Anderson

Ryder is such an AWESOME student! Ryder works extremely hard in 1st grade every day. He comes to school eager, excited, and so HAPPY! He takes his school work seriously and works hard to complete every task given. Ryder is also a funny kid; he brings much laughter and joy to 1C! Keep up all the great things you do!



Ava Bergeron – 4C

Ms. Hasleiet's Class

Parent: Angie Haberman

Ava is an outstanding student, friend, and role model. She gives it her all in everything she does and has such a positive attitude. She is so kind and sweet to everyone around her. I catch her showing Prairie Pride even when she doesn't know anybody is watching. Congratulations, and keep up the great work, Ava. We're all so proud of you!



Haley McIntosh – 6B

Mr. Kittelson's Class

Parent: Andrew Kasperek & Anna McIntosh

Haley has been such a positive member of our classroom this year. She is always smiling and treating everyone she encounters with kindness and respect. Her work ethic and determination are two characteristics she should be extremely proud of. She leads by example and shows each and every day what Prairie Pride should look and sound like!

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE & AUSTIN

WAY TO GO KIDS!



Student Council wins national award

◀ STUDENT from A1 make their community a better place.”

“Owatonna High School has gone above and beyond in elevating student voice to ensure they are establishing a positive climate and culture, as well as fostering academic and social growth for all,” he said.

When Justice arrived in Owatonna nine years ago, Student Council members were elected. Two years ago, the application process was opened to everyone, “because why would you turn somebody away who wants to improve their school culture and climate?”

Applicants now submit an essay and teacher evaluation, then meet

Members of the award-winning Owatonna High 2021-2022 Student Council are: top row, from left-Lauren Thamert, Audrey Simon, Kate Sande, Jenna Dallenbach, Madison Moen, Donte Miller, Char-lie Dulas, Carsen Phelps and Henry Hilgendorf; third row-Dylan Meiners, Jack Ruiter, Natalie Vesterby, Jayeden Tjon, Riley Schmolli, Amanda Clubb, Cora Hess, Nathaniel Ranslow, Betsy Wunderlich and Faridousa Farah; second row-Lilieggh Nguyen, Kiara Gentz, Ava McMains, Norah Kath, Bailey Manderfeld, Ava Hess, Madison Reese and Isabella Schult; front row-Isabella Voight, Kennedy Katzung, Alayna Wanarka, Theresa Wunderlich, Laine Rahn, Grace Nirk and Savannah Erler.

with the outgoing board from the senior class.

“We try to get more of a sense of what they’re going to bring to the council,” Justice said, adding the change has increased

the group’s diversity.

Applications for next year’s Student Council are open until April 20. Interviews begin shortly after, and then appointments are an-

nounced in May.

“This group of kids puts in so many hours, and it’s often things that aren’t even seen,” Justice said. “Their time commitment is just amazing.”

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

APRIL 19

10 a.m. – Online Storytime, BP Library

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

APRIL 15

11 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

APRIL 20

11 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

APRIL 18

11 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

APRIL 18

6:30 p.m. – Author Talk, Owatonna Library

APRIL 19

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

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

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

APRIL 20

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

7 p.m. – Medford Capital Advisory Board Meeting, City Hall

APRIL 21

4 p.m. – Charter Commission Meeting, City Hall

6 p.m. – Book of Golden Deeds Award, Torey's

7:30 p.m. – Something Rotten, Little Theatre of Owatonna

APRIL 22

7:30 p.m. – Something Rotten, Little Theatre of Owatonna

APRIL 23

St. Mary's School Night of Knights Auction

Auditions set for LTO's summer production

Little Theatre of Owatonna (LTO) has announced auditions for its summer 2022 production of The Color of Stars by Dwayne Hartford.

The auditions will take place on Sunday, April 24 and Monday, April 25 from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Sharon Stark Auditorium at West Hills. Please see LTO's website at www.littletheatreofowatonna.org/upcoming-auditions/ for more information.

Shelley Fitzgerald is the director and Courtney Kryzer the technical director.

Set in Maine during World War II, 'The Color of Stars' is a story of family, patriotism, fear and prejudice. Eleven-year-old Eddie Winthrop has been sent to live with his grandparents, Alfred and Mabel Winthrop, on the family farm while his father fights in the Pacific and his mother works at a shipyard in a large city.

Mabel sister, Isabel and her husband, Alfred, are the Winthrop's neighbors and the two couples are very close.

When a stranger, Felix Stetler, arrives in town to survey the local woods for trees to use in building Navy minesweepers, events are set in motion that will challenge the ties of family and friendship and question the definitions of patriotism and civic duty.

Eddie finds himself in the middle of it all and is faced with some difficult moral and ethical dilemmas.

LTO is looking to cast:

- Eddie Winthrop – a boy that can look 11 years old, – he is troubled, misses his parents terribly and is not happy about having to leave his mother to come live on the farm.
- Luke Winthrop – a male actor that can look in his 50s or so – Eddie's grandfather, he is the definition of 'stolid' – calm, dependable but showing little emotion or animation.
- Mabel Winthrop – a female actress that can look in her 50s or so – Eddie's grandmother, life hasn't been easy but she does her best to maintain a positive frame in mind regarding the world in general
- Isabel Perkins – a female actress that can look in her late 40s or so – Mabel's sister, she has a curt tongue, is judgmental and makes up her mind immediately about people.
- Albert Perkins – a male actor that can look in his 50s or so – Isabel's husband, he is haunted by his time fighting in World War 1, extremely suspicious of anyone who is not just like him.
- Felix Stetler – a male actor in late 20, early 30s – a government work, private about himself, a heart condition has kept him from fighting so he just wants to serve his country any way he can.

LTO encourages diversity in casting. Actors of all races, ages, and ethnicities are encouraged to audition.

In the support of the safety and well being of its patrons, cast and crew, LTO requires all cast and crew to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination to be part of any production.

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

Any questions, please contact the director Shelley Fitzgerald at gogaftz@gmail.com.

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. June 10,11,17 & 18 with matinee performances at 2 p.m. June 12 and 19.

The Color of Stars is produced by special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Co. of Woodstock, Ill.

Rachel's Light celebrates mothers on May 7

Rachel's Light, a Steele County nonprofit that offers transitional housing for women and children, will host its annual Mother's Day event, "Celebrating Women Everywhere," on May 7, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at Torey's in Owatonna.

Along with a brunch buffet, the event includes speakers and music. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by writing to rachelslightevents@gmail.com.

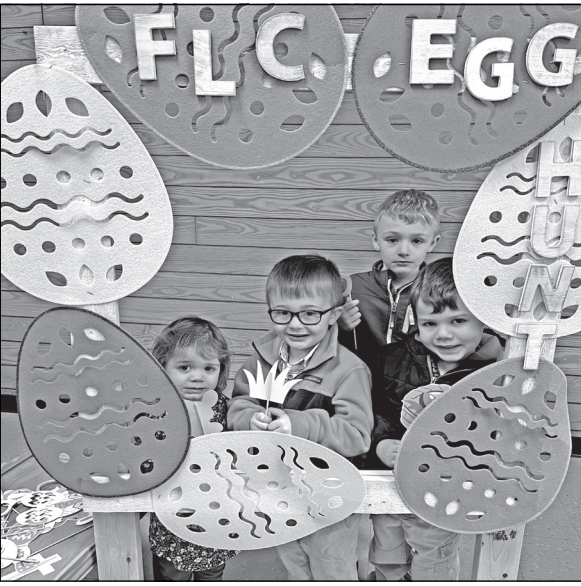
Final Knights fish dinner set for Friday

The Knights of Columbus Lenten benefit fish dinner will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 15 at the KC Hall.

The "All you care to eat" dinner will be served in the KC Hall and in the Lounge and features baked and fried fish, whipped potatoes with country gravy, vegetable, roll, coleslaw, coffee and milk. Cost is \$13 in advance and \$14 at the door, with children under the age of 6 eating free.

Advance tickets can be purchased from Izaak Walton League members or Dennis Ebeling at 507-573-1210 and at the KC Hall, 820 S Elm Ave.

Early jump on Easter



First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie had an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 10. Pictured from left are: Mia Kramer, Khyson Ostrander, Liam Ostrander and Cal Kramer.

Veterans Roundtable suspends operations

◀ VETERANS from A11 time which also affects attendance.

After nearly two years of attempting to re-start only to pause for another COVID issue the decision was reached to terminate the program.

"The Owatonna Veterans Roundtable Board would like to thank everyone that supported our veterans by attending these events," said Dick Baumer of the board. "We owe a special thanks to all of the Veterans who told their stories, the local businesses, the

Blooming Prairie VFW, Owatonna VFW, and American Legion, Good Shepherd Church and Limberg Productions all of whom provided much needed support."

At the board meeting it was also voted to distribute the remaining funds on hand to the following three organizations: 1.) The Owatonna Veterans Memorial Program, 2.) Bellevue – Northfield (a veteran service dog trainer) and 3.) American Red Cross for Ukraine support.

St. Mary's community comes together for Night of Knights

BY JONI HUBRED
NEWS EDITOR

Organizers of this year's Night of Knights fundraiser for St. Mary's School in Owatonna aren't making it easy for bidders in the annual auction.

"We'll have 100 to 125 baskets for the silent auction," said Bryon Wolf, who serves on the auction committee. "There'll be something there for everybody."

The goal for the April 23 event at the school is to raise \$150,000 for general operating costs and \$50,000 for classroom furniture. Wolf said the school tested some alternative-style furnishings and now plans to add them in every classroom.

Along with serving grades K-8, St. Mary's also has a preschool program. The school's roots date back to 1877, with the building on Cedar Avenue constructed in 1952. One hundred percent of auction proceeds go toward educating the 273 students in grades K-8 and 58 preschoolers.

Last year's event was held virtually because of pandemic concerns. This year, the doors open at 4 p.m., with food and beverages served throughout the evening.

Wolf said Night of Knights starts with the silent auction and raffles. Premier packages will feature a Nintendo Switch gaming system, Blackstone grill, a Ring doorbell system, and high-end jewelry. Baskets made by each classroom are always popular, he added.

Everyone moves into the school gymnasium for the live bidding on items like a wine tour and a getaway at a cabin in Hayward, Wis. Wolf said the committee is also trying to put together a "Taste of Owatonna" package, with gift certificates to local restaurants.

A popular item from last year, tickets to the Extreme Sandbox heavy equipment adventure in Hastings, will return. Another package includes a grill and half a hog. In all, 35 packages will be on the live auction block.

Wolf is in his third and final year on the committee. The school rotates membership, with four or five couples coming in each year to keep new ideas flowing.

"It's good we're getting back in person this year," he said, "so families can experience the event, and maybe they'll realize, hey, this is a good thing to be a part of."

"The school is like a tight-knit family," Wolf added. "It's so cool to see the families come together and support the school."

To learn more about the Night of Knights fundraiser, visit stmarys-owatonna.org/night-of-knights-auction.

Sudoku Corner

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

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

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MetroNet - 13, 105, 106, 107
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OBITUARIES

Eleanor Harms, 101, Austin



Eleanor Harms

Eleanor Almira (Karsjens) Harms went to her heavenly home on Monday, April 4, 2022 just seven weeks short of her 102nd birthday. Eleanor was born May 28, 1920 to Reint and Mary (Eckhoff) Karsjens in Bradford, Iowa. Her education was at the Bell Country School in Freeborn County. She worked at the Hemp Mill in Blooming Prairie and as a dietary assistant at St. Olaf Hospital in Austin. Eleanor was married to Doede Harms for 73 years. They were united in marriage on

April 12, 1941 by Pastor Sandgren at the Baptist Church in Austin. They made their first home in Blooming Prairie where they lived for over 70 years and raised their four children. They were members of the First Baptist Church in Blooming Prairie for 30 years and Grace Baptist Church in Austin for over 40 years. She was also a member of the Christian Women's Club and Steele County Extension. Eleanor was an all-around homemaker who enjoyed cooking, baking, canning, sewing, gardening and growing beautiful flowers. As a family, camping and fishing were enjoyed regularly. In retirement, they traveled across the United States, which included Alaska and spent several winters in Arizona. Most of all, she loved and treasured her family and prayed for them regularly. She trusted in God's promise of salvation and

looked forward to going home to her heavenly Father. She was happy to share her faith and love wherever she went. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Doede in 2014; son, Dean Harms in 2021; great grandson, Magnus Ingvaldson in 2015; brothers, Orval, Edward and Walter Karsjens; sisters, Leonora Miller, Matilda Waalkens, and Inez Waalkens. Eleanor remains loved and cherished by her family: son, Daniel (Barbara) Harms, Deer River; daughters, Juanita (Dennis) Ingvaldson, Grand Rapids, Darla (Kenneth) Hjelman, Lillian, Ala.; daughter-in-law, Beverly Harms, West St. Paul; nine grandchildren, Jay (Laura) Harms, Justin (Kisha) Harms, Barrett (Sara) Ingvaldson, Troy (Michelle) Hjelman, Derek (Corrine) Hjelman, Lance (Melissa) Hjelman, Tanya (Dennis) Mooney, Tara Harms, Thad (Andrea)

Harms; great grandchildren, Zachary and Zoe Harms, Milianna and Helen Harms, Eleanor and Ulysses Ingvaldson, Julia Phillips, Carson, Emily and Claire Hjelman, Ryland, Sawyer and Chandler Hjelman, Tanner Ruiz, Riley Moen, Kaidence, Ava and Jacob Harms; brothers, Dwight (Delores) Karsjens, Delbert (Judy) Karsjens; sister, Lauretta (Bill) Barnett; brother-in-law, Bill Lockett, sisters-in-law, Eva Karsjens, Bonnie (Andy) Bowles and Violet Pohlman; and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 16 at Grace Baptist Church in Austin with Pastor Dan Mielke officiating. Visitation will be at the church one hour prior to the service. Interment will be at the Blooming Prairie Cemetery. Clasen-Jordan Mortuary of Austin is in charge of arrangements.

Marion Kruckeberg, 91, formerly of BP



Marion Kruckeberg

Marion Joy Kruckeberg, 91, went home to the Lord on Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022, at Fortress Nursing and Rehabilitation in College Station, Texas. Marion was born on Thursday, Aug. 28, 1930, to Albert and Emma (Lee) Yentsch in Blooming Prairie. She was the youngest of four children. Marion was a 1948 graduate of Blooming Prairie High School. On Sunday, June 21, 1953, Marion and Milton Kruckeberg were united in marriage at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie. From this union, three children were born. Milton and Marion farmed for several years. Marion was employed by First National Bank of Blooming Prairie, Claremont Creamery, Owatonna Savings & Loan, the City of Claremont, and Coldwell Banker Klinkhammer Real Estate in Owatonna. Milton and Marion liked to travel; dividing their time between Texas and Minnesota. Marion liked to cook, camp, fish, crochet, and play the organ, but most of all, she enjoyed spending time with her family. Marion was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was a devout Luther-

an. Retirement, unfortunately, was short lived. In 2001 Marion suffered a life-altering stroke. In 2003 Milton passed. From that moment on, we realized that life would never be the same. Marion is survived by her children: Larry (Merry) Kruckeberg of Claremont, Debra Patranella of Iola, Texas, Kris (Rick) Foss of International Falls; grandchildren: Anne (Tim) Schmidt, Tim (Michelle) Kruckeberg, Marion (Josh) Raysor, Madison Foss, Brittan Foss, Hayden Foss; great-grandchildren: Chase, Emma, Scarlett, Katlena, Megan; brother-in-law, Jerry Kruckeberg of Albert Lea; other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Albert and Emma Yentsch; husband, Milton Kruckeberg; brothers, Ernest (Donna) Yentsch, Wayne (Benita) Yentsch, Donald (Elayne) Yentsch; son-in-law, Frank Patranella; great-granddaughters, Katerina and Lena; sisters-in-law, Rosalyn Kruckeberg, Lois (Jim) Conrath, Ruth (Lester) Christiansen; and other extended family members. A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, April 23, 2022, at 11 a.m. at St John Ev. Lutheran Church Havana Township in rural Claremont. Rev. Alan Broadwell will officiate. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Interment in the church cemetery and a lunch reception at the church will follow the service. The church is accessible via the Claremont Rd (old Hwy 14) and CR 16 in rural Steele County. Blessed be her memory.

What is co-parenting?

◀ CO-PARENTING from A11 enting experience go better. 1. Both parents need to work together to learn to trust one another. • Being able to have trust in the one that is taking care of your child/children when you are not is very important for you to be able to relax during your time alone. 2. Having mutual respect is another very important aspect of co-parenting. • There is a reason that you are no longer together; however that reason is not

your child/children. Finding a way to have respect for the other parent will help in all the parenting decisions that need to be made together. 3. Having healthy communication skills will be something that will make every conversation go more smoothly. • Communication is the key to any good relationship. Being able to communicate assertively and effectively will save many disagreements and make transitions smooth. 4. The most import-

ant thing to remember when co-parenting is it is not about you! This is very important to remember. • Whatever happened between the two of you in the past, is in the past. You now must find a way to work together to give your child/children the best possible life that you guys together can. It is important when dealing with the other parent to not bring in your own feelings from the past because it clouds your judgment and it makes whatever it is that you and the other parent are trying

to accomplish almost impossible. These are just a few tips that I have learned along the way. At the Exchange Club Center for Family Unity, we do offer co-parenting classes and we have amazing staff and resources that can help in this transition. We are always here and willing to help! Heather Rieken is the parent mentor coordinator for the Exchange Club Center for Family Unity in Steele County. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

Can a GrandPad help this woman enjoy her streamed worship services?

Dear Live Grand: I'm an older woman moving to an assisted living complex due to the limitations of severe arthritis. I'll live too far from my preferred church to attend in person though frankly since they started streaming services, I've found the online version a more comfortable option anyway. Since I dislike using a cell phone, my adult son suggested that I might be more comfortable using a GrandPad. While I'd like to know more about the options available on a GrandPad, my most pressing question is if a GrandPad would allow me to attend my virtual church services without a lot of bother.? – BK

Dear BK: You've made a well-thought-out plan that should enable you to continue living your best life in a care setting where you can increase services as you need them. To answer your primary question, a GrandPad would support your wish to attend online church services without any bother at all. The family admin would simply add the appropriate website to your Internet app and at the appropriate time, you'd tap the link. Your family may even want to virtually join you on their phones or computers. Your Internet app would also provide you with safe and easy access to YouTube, as well as websites like Next Avenue, Growing bolder, and AARP. These

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all provide interesting articles and podcasts of interest to people over 50. The Radio app is another place where you could find both information and entertainment. GrandPad radio offers music and talk and if there's a particular station that you enjoy, your family admin could add that to your app so it's only a click away. GrandPad's Music app would offer you a wide variety of music including Christian, classical, rock, country, and show tunes. You'd even be able to build your own list of favorites for your Music Collection. Do you enjoy games? The Games app provides all kinds of challenges ranging from bridge to hearts and crosswords, and the memory game allows you to choose your own level of difficulty. Video calls with a GrandPad are a snap. You'd just tap your Calls app and then select the person you want from your pre-entered contacts. One more tap and you're connected. Did you also know that you

could also join Zoom calls? GrandPad's dedicated Zoom app makes that easy, too. If you should wonder about how to best use a GrandPad feature or want to be coached on something you'd simply tap your HELP button, and your personal (human) representative would answer to assist you 24/7, 365 days a year. There's much more that you could do with a GrandPad, BK, but we don't want to forget to mention one of the best features. Your family admin could upload cherished photos to your phone, and you'd be able to view them yourself and easily show them to your new neighbors. We envision this tablet helping you continue to enjoy a rich social and intellectual life as your care needs change. Live Grand is a weekly column brought to you by GrandPad – the simplest, safest tablet-based solution that helps reconnect families. To submit your question, see: www.LiveGrand.me.

St. Mary's School

Shining Knights

Student Name:
NOELLE
Grade: **8th Grade**
PARENTS: **Ron and Kim Kubicek**

Noelle exemplifies a shining knight in so many ways. She is determined to do well, always asks questions, stays on top of her school work, and goes above and beyond with the work she turns in. Noelle does all of this, while being active in activities at school and outside of school. She is a busy young lady. She is always prepared for class and ready to learn. I appreciate her involvement and participation in religion class, as well as her positive attitude, kind heart, smile, and how she always says thank you at the end of class. Noelle is great with the younger students, especially when it comes to Spirit Groups. She does whatever she can to make St. Mary's the best it can be. She doesn't shy away from responsibilities or leadership roles. In student council, she helps lead meetings and listens to the other members. She does many behind the scene jobs that people don't see that are helpful in making our events successful. She truly cares and loves St. Mary's School and the students that go here. Noelle, thank you for being a shining knight, your light shines bright.

Student Name:
DYLAN
Grade: **7th Grade**
PARENTS: **Barry and Jaclyn Homuth**

Dylan Homuth displays everything I think a SMS Shining Knight should be about. Dylan is one of the most enthusiastic learners I have ever met. He enters the classroom with such positive energy that he is ready to take on and solve any challenge presented to him. Dylan is honest and trustworthy and displays the utmost respect towards his teachers and his classmates. Dylan looks for the good in everyone and sets an example of positivity and cooperative behavior. What I enjoy most about Dylan is his vibrant smile and hearty laugh. Thank you, Dylan, for being you!

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OBITUARIES

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Brenda Staska, 58, Owatonna



Brenda Staska

Brenda L. Staska, of Owatonna, died April 6, 2022, of natural causes at her home in Owatonna. Funeral service was Monday, April 11, 2022, at Brick-Meger Funeral Home in Owatonna. Friends greeted the family one hour before the funeral on Monday. Burial followed at Owatonna Memorial Gardens.

Brenda was born in Owatonna on April 18, 1963, the daughter of John and Florence (Barber) Staska. Brenda attended Owatonna High School and graduated in 1982. After high school, Brenda attended college in Waseca and Faribault. She worked for Gopher Sports and most recently worked for Client Research in Owatonna for over 25 years.

She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, and Associated Church, where she was baptized and confirmed. Life interests included watching the Vikings and the Twins, vacationing, playing cards and hanging out with her friends and family.

Brenda will be missed by her mother Florence Ptacek and brother John Staska, Aunt Donna (Larry) Rhoades of Nebraska, and her cousin Melisa (John) Vick of Owatonna.

She was preceded in death by her father, John.

Memorials may be directed to the building fund of the Steele County Humane Society. For more information or to leave a condolence message go to www.megercares.com.

BRICK-MEGER & MEDFORD
 FUNERAL HOME

Rosemarie Grubish, 86, Owatonna



Rosemarie Grubish

Rosemarie Grubish, of Owatonna, died Thursday, April 7, 2022, at Homestead Hospice House.

Friends greeted the family Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at the Brick-Meger Funeral Home in Owatonna.

Rosemarie was born on April 27, 1935, the daughter of Anton and Kathleen (Kolman) Spinler. She grew up living in rural Steele County, spending most of that time dedicated to helping on the family farm in Steele Center. She attended school in District 87 and the Owatonna High School.

Not long after, she met the love of her life, Eugene Grubish, and they were united in marriage on Oct. 29, 1955 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Owatonna. They started their marriage on the family farm by Rice Lake, before purchasing their own near Steele Center where they raised five daughters. Rosemarie dedicated her whole life to working beside her husband and supporting the family's dairy farm, which included a variety of livestock and poultry.

She could often be found outdoors, in her garden where she grew a variety of foods for canning and the yard was always lit up with flowers. Although it was a rare occasion, her and Gene loved to sneak away to enjoy a good old fishing trip. She cherished spending time with her family, especially now with the

great-grandchildren.

She was very talented in a variety of crafts, including baking, sewing children's clothes, embroidering, and crocheting and loved to share these gifts with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She also had a deep love for her many cats over the years.

Rosemarie was a very active member of Western Fraternal Life Association ZCBJ, where she took pride in her role of sending out holiday and sympathy cards to its members. She was also a member of the Hospital Auxiliary and the neighborhood card club.

Rosemarie is survived by daughters Cindy (Doug) Phillips, Owatonna; Tammy (Curt Higgins) Nelson, Claremont; Patricia Grubish, Owatonna; and Sandra Grubish, Altura, Minn.; five grandchildren: Ted (Angela) Nelson, Daren (Amber) Phillips, Jessica (Jason Andrews) Holland, Peter (MJ) Grubish, Terry Nelson; three step-grandchildren: Todd Harris, Cristi Nelson, Elijah Higgins; eight great-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren, brother, James Spinler of Michigan and many extended family members.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Eugene, and sister, Audrey.

Memorials may be sent to the donor's choice.

BRICK-MEGER & MEDFORD
 FUNERAL HOME

Ronald von Arb, 84, Owatonna



Ronald von Arb

Ronald James von Arb, 84, of Owatonna, passed away Saturday, April 9, 2022 at his home.

He was born in Sioux City, Iowa on Oct. 21, 1937 to Paul and Barbara (Noethe) von Arb. He attended school at St. Mary's Academy in Alton, Iowa and graduated in 1955. Ronald continued working at the family farm and enlisted into the Army National Guard.

Ronald married Sondra Miller on June 27, 1959, in St. Clair, Minn. They had two children: Rochelle (Shelly) and Brian. He worked at the Mankato Fire Department for 28 years and eventually moved to Owatonna in 2003. He was a "jack of all trades" and loved working with his hands. He prided himself on the meticulous care of his lawn and gardens. He adored his dog, Chuckles.

Ron loved to be in the outdoors especially fishing and hunting. Many friends and family enjoyed playing cards with him. Ron and Sondra started Grandparents for Education and subsequently were honored at the American Music Awards.

He is survived by wife of almost 62 years Sondra; daughter, Shelly (Tim) Chicos; son, Brian (Carmi) Von Arb; five grandchildren, Perry (Emily) Chicos, Lauren (Dylan Vandal) Chicos, Maria (Mitch Leonard) Chicos, Hannah (Daniel Borup) Von Arb, Zachary (Amber Leiser) Von Arb; great-granddaughter Quinn Chicos; two brothers: Paul (Pauline) Von Arb, Robert (Glenda) Von Arb; nine sisters: Charmaine List, Patricia Jungers, Margie Klein, Carolyn (Vern) Langenfeld, Arlene (Leon) Schoo, Bev (Don) Delperdang, Clarissa Doggart, Ione Nabor, Judy (Frank) Mousel.

He is preceded in death by parents, brothers, Melvin, Everett "Bud", Orville.

Funeral Service will be Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 11 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 120 Church St., St. Clair, MN 56080. Friends may greet the family 1 hour prior to the service at the church.

For more information or to leave an online condolence visit www.megercares.com.

BRICK-MEGER & MEDFORD
 FUNERAL HOME

Larry Tande, 83, Medford



Larry Tande

Larry Tande, of rural Medford, always referred to life as a JOURNEY. Now at 83 years of age and 15 challenging years of multiple myeloma, his journey on earth has come to an end. Larry

passed away Saturday, March 26, 2022, at his home.

Visitation was Friday, April 8, 2022, at the Medford Funeral Home. Funeral service was Saturday, April 9, 2022, at First English Lutheran Church in Faribault, with the visitation continuing at the church one hour prior to the service. The service was live streamed on Facebook.

Oh, what a journey Larry has traveled!

Larry Anton Tande was born Dec. 19, 1938, to Leslie and Gertrude (Hennis) Tande of rural

Madelia. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith at Rosendale Lutheran Church, resulting in a strong Christian faith his entire life. His formal education began in country school, followed by Madelia High School where he was active in FFA. After graduating with honors in 1956, he continued his education at the U of M where he majored in ag education.

After student teaching in Mountain Lake, he felt the classroom form of teaching was too confining and was not for him, and that Extension would be a better fit. He was hired by the U of M Extension Service in 1960 as assistant ag agent working with the 4-H program in Steele County. This was a great fit for Larry as he had been an active 4-Her in Watonwan County, winning a trip to National 4-H Club Congress representing Minnesota as the 4-H Dairy Project winner and two years later to the National 4-H Dairy Conference. His final 4-H Dairy Show at the Minnesota State Fair, showing "Flash," his purebred Holstein cow, resulted in a champion ribbon and silver coffee service.

The Steele County 4-H program flourished under his leadership with 1,250+ members in 32 clubs. Larry also went on to earn his Master's degree in dairy science and horticulture at the U of M during this time. Larry left Steele County in 1973 and joined the State 4-H Staff as State 4-H Livestock Specialist. During this time ID's were started as well as the rate of gain program for the meat animal projects and genetic awards for dairy. He also rewrote/updated all the 4-H livestock manuals/bulletins.

When Russ Gute, Steele County ag agent, retired, Larry was lured back to Steele County as Steele County ag agent and County Extension director. This was followed by serving as Extension Regional Director supervising staff in South Central and Southeast Minnesota until his retirement after 42 years with the Minnesota Extension Service.

At a Southeast District Extension Conference, Larry met Carolyn Opjorden, the Rice County Extension home agent. A few months later, Larry was strongly encouraged by a co-worker of his to invite Carolyn to attend a movie with him that was playing in Owatonna. He was sure she wouldn't go, but finally called. She said, "Yes," but it would have to be the second show because she had choir practice earlier. (The movie was "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.") As they say, "The rest is history."

Larry and Carolyn were married Oct. 11, 1964, at Kviteseid Lutheran Church in Milan, Minn. They have been blessed with two children: Tara (Mountlake Terrace, Wash.) is a German tour guide and emergency and incident coordinator for Rick Steves' Europe and Thane (Prior Lake) owns the Knotty Oar Marina in Prior Lake. Seven grandchildren are special blessings: Tatum, Tana, Dakin, Dahvi, and Dassi Tande and Poppy and Sage Swenson.

Along with his career in Extension, Larry bred Registered Holsteins beginning with two that were 4-H projects for Tara and Thane. The herd continued to grow and under the Tande prefix, 98% of the herd was home bred. You could often see them in the ring at the Steele County Fair as well as at the Minnesota State Fair. He bred his cattle for production and type and his classification BAA for his herd was among the top 25 in the nation. The Progressive Breeders Registry Award was awarded several years. The highlight was seeing Tara's Holstein heifer, "Ajax," win Reserve Junior Champion at the 1980 World Dairy Expo. The herd was dispersed in 2013.

Larry considered his membership in organizations to be leadership opportunities. He served on several

committees at First English Lutheran Church including church council, president of church council, chair of a call committee, and member of the LEAD team. Of course, helping during the annual lefse making days at Christmas time was much fun! He served on the Minnesota Holstein Board of Directors, was president, and in 1989 was the chair of the National Holstein Convention held in Minnesota.

In 2001, he was elected to the Holstein Association USA Board of Directors serving for six years, followed by two years as vice president and two years as president. During this time, he was involved in developing training conferences for those who wished to be judges of dairy cattle. This approved list is now used for shows at all levels. He also led the work for updating the illustrations of the true type Holstein cow and bull, setting the standards for Holstein type around the world. He was Open Class Dairy Superintendent of the Minnesota State Fair for several years. He had leadership roles in numerous other organizations including: Minnesota PDCA Board of Directors, Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association Board of Directors, National PDCA Board of Directors, World Dairy Expo Board of Directors, Holstein Foundation Board of Trustees, President of Minnesota Association of Extension Agents, to name a few.

Larry was a well-known and sought-after dairy cattle judge. He judged over 620 dairy cattle shows--most of the Minnesota county fairs, many district shows, many state fairs, three times at World Dairy Expo and several foreign dairy shows including Mexico, Argentina, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Brazil, Peru, Dominican Republic, Spain, Columbia and Ecuador as well as many U.S. National shows. He was well known for his descriptive and easy to understand reasons and sharp eye. He taught several state, regional and national judging conferences for all breeds. He was known for his work, teaching and supporting kids from beginning 4-H members to college judging teams--helping them learn to evaluate and select good cattle. He loved working with the youth and was well respected. He always offered a kind and encouraging word of support. When asked during an interview if he ever received a negative remark about a placing, he replied, "Very few. I simply agree with them. They had the right to their opinion, but that day I was the judge and I got paid for mine." Integrity and kindness were important to him.

With his leadership skills appreciated by so many, he humbly accepted numerous awards: Steele County Livestock Hall of Fame; Minnesota Holstein Association President's Award, Person of the Year Award, Longtime Meritorious Service Award; Minnesota PDCA Distinguished Breeder Award, Distinguished Service Award; Minnesota Livestock Hall of Fame; U of M Gopher Dairy Club Distinguished Service Award, Golden Graduate Award; National Association of Ag Extension Agents Distinguished Service Award; National Pedigree Livestock Council Distinguished Service Award; Steele County ADA Livestock Achievement Award; and the National Dairy Shrine Pioneer Award. The list goes on.

Larry has now begun a different journey, his Heavenly Journey. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of over 57 years, Carolyn. His children, Tara and Thane, will always have peace remembering his unconditional love and pride in them. His grandson, Dakin, and granddaughters, Tatum, Tana, Poppy, Dahvi, Sage, and Dassi will carry on the fun as they remember Grandpa's yummy caramel rolls, abundant tomatoes from his garden, and the many corners of his farm to explore. Larry is also survived by his brothers Gerald (Arla) and Paul and brother-in-law Luther (Martha) Opjorden as well as by several nieces, nephews, cousins, and a host of colleagues and friends around the world.

Larry shared his final words to be shared with all: "I've had a good life. Don't cry for me. I have been so blessed with my family and career. I couldn't have asked for more!"

Memorials may be directed to Owatonna Homestead Hospice Patient Care Fund, National Holstein Foundation for Dairy Youth Programs, or donor's choice. For more information or to leave an online condolence message visit megercares.com.

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Steele County settlement has rich Czech history

BY JONI HUBRED
STAFF WRITER

The unincorporated Steele County town of Litomysl may be small, but the area is rich in history.

Blooming Prairie resident Steve Wencil shared the story of the original settlement during a Saturday presentation at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, which has played a large role in the community. He said he decided to record the history when he real-

ized Litomysl celebrates its 160th birthday next year.

The first Czechs settled in Somerset Township between June 12 and October 10 of 1863, Wencil said. Anton Seykora, Frank Seykora, Joseph Rypka, Joseph Horsky, Joseph Pichner, Wencil Wanous, and John Renchin named their new settlement after the largest Czech speaking city near the homes they left behind.

Surprisingly, the name Litomysl has no

specific meaning in the Czech language, Wencil said. In his research, he learned it likely is derived from Lutomysl, the name of an early castle lord.

The new Americans arrived in the United States during a difficult time in history but quickly rose to the challenge.

“What was neat about this tiny little group of people, by December 1, 1863, Frank Seykora and Joseph Pichner joined the Army for the Civil War,” Wencil said.

According to information provided in a hand-out, both men served in Company C of the 2nd Minnesota Cavalry Regiment. Seykora mustered in at age 23 and was discharged on disability March 22, 1865, apparently dying soon after. Pichner served as a trumpeter and mustered out on November 17, 1865.

Renchin signed up later, joining Company G of the 1st Minnesota Battalion of Infantry on March 14, 1865. He was 39 years old, and another Steele County resident paid him \$300 to serve in the man’s place. Renchin mustered out just four months later.

Wencil dismissed the idea of “free land” for settlers. Under the Pre-emption Act of 1841 (which was followed by the Homestead Act of 1862), anyone could stake their claim of up to 160 acres. Within 30 days, they had to register with the nearest land office and then had a year to pay the cost of \$1.50 an acre, plus 50 cents to the registrar.

Some settlers acquired land from veterans who had received it in exchange for military service but lived outside of Minnesota. Railroad



Attendees listen to historian Steve Wencil talk about the history of Litomysl, which celebrates its 160th birthday next year.

companies also sold off the right-of-way land that stretched 7-10 miles along either side of the tracks.

Not only did the railroads sell the land, Wencil said, they also cut and sold lumber to settlers who were building homes.

By 1875, the Litomysl settlement had grown south past Highway 30. Residents worshipped in a schoolhouse until the church priest convinced them to build a church. Anton Seykora donated land for the church on March 15, 1878, the same day Joseph Skalicky donated land for the cemetery.

They chose the name Slovanik Bohemian Church, Wencil said, because “they really wanted to make sure everybody knew they weren’t German. They were Slavic.”

Eight men with teams of horses rode to Owatonna to collect lumber and then built the church. The name Most Holy Trinity was adopted on May 21, 1885.

Wencil also shared an interesting sto-

ry about the Czech National Cemetery in Summit Township, established in 1893. The year before that, he said, a Holy Trinity church member died. After the funeral, the casket was carried to the church cemetery.

There, church elders stopped the procession, because the family had fallen behind on its pew rent. When they demanded immediate payment, a fight broke out, and the body was eventually buried on the family’s farm.

Not surprisingly, the incident caused a rift in the church, with one family donating enough money to purchase land on a hilltop to establish a new cemetery.

“They buried Catholic, non-Catholic... you could be free-thinking, you could be Protestant, you could be a pedestrian,” Wencil said, “but you had to be Czech.”

The original Holy Trinity church building was torn down to make way for the current structure, built in 1939-1940. In a dry year, when the grass is

brown, you can still see the outline of the first foundation.

Saturday’s presentation drew about 70 people. Bonnie Joachim’s family came to the area in the 1800s. She was baptized at Holy Trinity church and said she has a keen interest in genealogy and history of the area.

“I know the stories,” she said. “(The Czech people) stuck together. They were kind of looked down upon.”

Janet Miller grew up in the area and has stayed because “my roots are here.”

“I think the people are all so great and sociable, whether you’re Catholic, Lutheran or whatever. We all get along,” she said.

Bob and Carol Prokopec are active in the church and enjoy tracing their family roots.

“It’s always interesting to find new people and new relatives,” Carol said, adding she enjoyed Wencil’s Litomysl history “refresher.”

“He covered it well,” Bob added.

Recipe Corner

PEANUT BUTTER CREAMS



1/4 c. powdered sugar
1 c. chocolate chips
1/2 c. sweetened condensed milk
1 c. peanut butter

Put sugar in bowl, add chips, milk, and peanut butter. Stir everything together with a spoon. Drop onto waxed paper and chill.

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BIRTHDAYS

April 13
Joel Invalson
Suzy Kramer

April 14
Jackie Wagner
Linda Wolf
Jayden Schewe
Jaqueline Werks
Taylor Klemmensen
Waco Vandal

April 15
Pat Ingvalson (Mrs. Steve)
Asher Miller
Margo White
Anna Thorson

April 16
Richard Schwartz

April 17
Angie Avery
Jesse Christiansen
Kathryn Piller
Timothy Adam Greene
Matt Braaten
Mary Beth Swenson

April 18
Ty Forystek
Brian Wencil
Marc Braaten
Rachel Pirkle
Dale Underwood

April 19
Grady Steckelberg
Hazel Trom
Rachel Winzenburg
Pam Doerhoefer



ANNIVERSARIES

April 14
Joe & Kaylee Farr
Teresa & Luke Swenson

April 18
Kurt & Terri Underwood



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NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

Over the months of February and March 17 avid readers kept track of the books that they were reading – a total of 105 entries! It was all part of the Bookish Bingo Winter Reading Program at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library.

Library prepares for book sale

Congratulations to Diana Horan whose name was randomly drawn from the entries. She is the grand prize winner of a \$50 gift certificate from Sweet Reads Bookstore in Austin. Thanks to the Friends of the Library for providing the gift certificate.

When you come into the library, please excuse our mess! We are getting ready for two big projects. The first is the Annual Friends of the Library book sale, which will be happening May 12-14, the weekend of the City-Wide Garage Sales. I may be wrong, but I believe that this is going to be the largest book sale we have had in the 15 years I have been here! Boxes of books are piled up in closets, on carts, and wherever we can find space. If you have some books you would like to donate to the book sale, please wait until the beginning of May to bring them, or you may not be able to find the staff among the piles of books. Next week I'll tell you about our second project.

Thank you to those who have brought in plastic jars with lids (about mayonnaise size) for our summer crafts. We have received some lovely sea shells that will thrill the children who receive them. If any of you have thin (about 1/4" wide) colored ribbon that you will not be using, we have craft ideas for them. (Think jellyfish and rainbows!) Thanks for your help.

The city offices and the library will be closing at noon on Friday, April 15 for Good Friday observance.

Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree



Fish Dinner

Friday, April 15th
5 to 7 PM

\$13 in Advance
at KC Hall or Beneficiary

\$14 at the Door
Kids under 6 eat FREE
ALL YOU CARE TO EAT

MENU

Fried or Baked Fish Plate

Vegetables
Mashed Potatoes with
Country Gravy

Coleslaw, Roll, Milk Coffee



Please join us for dinner and support the

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE

The Columbian Center - 820 South Elm - Owatonna

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

Blooming Prairie Elementary School

April 14-18- No School
April 19- Spaghetti, garlic bread-stick, turkey BLT wrap, roasted asparagus, Caesar side salad, canned fruit bar.
April 20- Grilled cheese sandwich, ham deli sandwich, homemade tomato soup, cucumber slices, fresh fruit bar.

Blooming Prairie High School

April 14-18- No School
April 19- Spaghetti, garlic bread-stick, turkey BLT wrap, sausage pizza, roasted asparagus, Caesar side salad.
April 20- Grilled cheese sandwich, ham deli sandwich, crispy chicken sandwich, homemade tomato soup, cucumber slices, fresh fruit bar.

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

Contact the Steele County Times Today!

STEELE COUNTY

Times

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**Pastor
Lisa Vick**

UNITED METHODIST
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OWATONNA

Psalm 23:6
*Surely goodness and
mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the
house of the Lord
my whole life long.*

This year our church
is using the book
“A Way Other Than

Our Own” by Walter
Brueggemann for
our Wednesday Night
Lenten Services. Rev.
Dr. Brueggemann’s
devotions are a thought-
provoking alternative
to our self-indulgent
culture and as people
of faith we are called
to walk an alternative
path of humility, justice
and peace. Which I
know can be very hard
to do! So I want to share
with you one devo-
tion that has helped
me navigate through
this turbulent Lenten

Season- Caught by God
– based on Psalms 23rd.

The sixth verse of
Psalms 23 says that
“goodness and mercy
shall follow me.” What
does it mean to be fol-
lowed by God? It means,
according to Bruegge-
mann, God’s friend-
liness and kindness
will run after us and
chase us down, grab us
and hold us. The verb
“follow” is a powerful
active verb. God is not
casually strolling after
us on this road of life –
no, we are being chased

by God’s powerful love.

Chased by God’s Love
– think about that for a
moment – how does it
feel to know that God is
desperate to be in a re-
lationship with you and
me-with all of us? God is
doing all the hard work
and all we have to do is
stop running, let God
catch us. Yet, for many
of us that is not easy to
do. Why is it so hard?

Perhaps, we fear
this goodness because
it calls for us to give
up our need for con-
trol. Our need to be in

control is what drives
us further and further
away from each other
and from the source of
all goodness. Trust in
God’s mercy, and be-
lieve in God’s goodness
and trust in God’s plan.
Being caught by God –
means that you and I
will dwell in the house
of the Lord always.

Lent is a time to quit
running, to let our-
selves be caught and
embraced in love, like
sheep in a safe pasture,
like a traveler offered
rich and unexpected

food. Our lives are not
meant to be lived in a
constant state of fear
and anxiety. Rather we
are meant to be em-
braced in God’s loving
arms. Yet in order for
that to happen we need
to be caught by God!

Let us pray:

*Pursue and catch us,
Good Shepherd –em-
brace us in your love.
Help us to trust you and
desire you more than any-
thing else, that we may
know the joy and free-
dom of life in you. Amen.*
Blessings

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 28TH St., Owatonna
507-451-2819
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.
Sundy School: 10:15 a.m.
office@
auroralutheranchurch.org

**COMMUNITY
LUTHERAN – ELCA**
106 Third St. SE, Geneva
507-256-4288
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Every 3rd Saturday at 5 p.m.
communitylutherangene-
vamn@gmail.com

**FIRST LUTHERAN-
AFLC**
503 Radel Ct., Ellendale
507-684-2451
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
Sunday School and Adult
Bible Study 10:15 a.m.
Call to Prayer Monday 7 p.m.
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.
firstlutheranellendale@
yahoo.com

**FIRST LUTHERAN –
ELCA**
434 First St. SW, Blooming
Prairie
507-583-6621
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
Sunday School 10 a.m.
firstluthoffice@yahoo.com

**FIRST LUTHERAN –
LCMC**
8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope
507-451-3854
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
Sunday School and
Adult Ed 10:15 a.m.
fichopemn@gmail.com

**GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN – LCMS**
2500 7th Ave NE, Owatonna
507-451-4125
Sunday Hymn Service
8:30 a.m.
Sunday Praise Service,
Sunday School & Bible
Class 10 a.m.
info@gsowatonna.com

**PONTOPPIDAN
LUTHERAN – ELCA**
9651 SW 75th St., Ellendale
507-213-0281
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School 9 a.m.
pontoppidanlemond@
outlook.com

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN
– LCMS**
1054 Truman Ave.,
Owatonna
507-451-2720
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
Sunday Education Hour
10:15 a.m.
redeemerowatonna@
outlook.com

**RED OAK GROVE
LUTHERAN- ELCA**
30456 Mower-Freeborn Rd.,
Austin
BP: 507-402-9333
Austin: 507-437-3000
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
www.rogllutheran.org

**ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN
– LCMS**
4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
507-528-2404
Sunday Worship 10:30
a.m. (2nd & 4th Sunday Holy
Communion)
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Wednesday: Advent 7 p.m.
(with Holy Communion)
sjlcoffice@frontiernet.net

**ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN
– LCMS**
28959 630th Ave., Sergeant
320-674-0351
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School 9 a.m.
www.saintjohnssergeant.
jimdo.com

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN –
ELCA**
1301 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-7293
Sunday & Summer Worship
8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.
Thursday Worship 5:30 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
info@stjohnnowatonna.com

**ST. MICHAEL’S
LUTHERAN- ELCA**
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
507-567-2474
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
Pastor Barbara Finley-Shea
FB - St. Michael’s Youth
Activities Waltham, MN

**ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN
– LCMS**
202 E Park Ave., Hollandale
507-567-2272
Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
www.motorcitychurch.org

**ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN
– ELCA**
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
507-451-2165
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
deaconbilliejo@gmail.com

**TRINITY LUTHERAN-
ELCA**
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520
Sunday Worship -Sanctuary
8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.,
Fellowship Hall 10:45 a.m.,
Live Stream 9:30 a.m. at
facebook.com/tlcowatonna
and tlcowatonna.org/
worshiplive
Live broadcast 9:30 a.m.
on KRUE 92.1 FM, Video
on Spectrum (CH181)
Metronet TV (Ch 900) and
owatonnaonline.com Tuesday
at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday at 6
p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m.
www.tlcowatonna.org/

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

**TRINITY LUTHERAN –
LCMS**
108 Third Ave. SW, Medford
507-451-0447
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
tlcmedfordoffice@gmail.com

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

**ZION LUTHERAN –
ELCA**
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.
deaconbilliejo@gmail.com

**OUR SAVIOR’S
LUTHERAN – ELCA**
1909 St. Paul Rd., Owatonna
507-451-4853
Sunday Worship- 8:15 a.m.
- Traditional Service & 10:45
a.m. - Contemporary service,
also livestreamed
on Facebook.
www.oursaviorsowatonna.
com

**EMMANUEL
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN**
750 Jeffery St., Owatonna
507-455-2729
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.
www.emmanuel-
wels-owatonna.com

CATHOLIC

CHRIST THE KING
205 Second Ave. NW,
Medford
507-451-4845
Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat
Mass: 9 a.m. Mon & Fri
parishoffice@
stjosephowtonna.org

**CHURCH OF ALL
SAINTS**
307 SW First St.,
New Richland
507-234-6244
Saturday Mass: 5 p.m.
www.stannjan.com

**HOLY TRINITY
CATHOLIC CHURCH
OF LITOMYSL**
9946 SE 24th Ave.,
Owatonna
507-583-2784
Rev. Bill Becker
Sunday Mass: 8:15a.m.
www.litomysl.webs.com

**SACRED HEART
CATHOLIC**
150 NE Second St. Hayfield
507-477-2256
Rev. Bill Becker
Saturday Mass: 5p.m.
www.stcolumbanuschurch.org

**SACRED HEART
PARISH**
810 S Cedar Ave., Owatonna
Mass Times: Daily Tuesday-
Friday at 7:15 a.m.
Saturday Mass: 5 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 a.m., 10 a.m.
12 p.m. (Spanish)
Reconciliation 4 p.m.
Saturday
Adoration Thursdays 8 a.m.
and 7 p.m.
www.sacredheartowatonna.org

**ST. COLUMBANUS
CATHOLIC**
114 E Main St.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2784
Rev. Bill Becker
Sunday Mass: 10:00 a.m.
www.stcolumbanuschurch.
org
columbanusbp@gmail.com

**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC
PARISH**
512 S Elm Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4845
Daily Mass: 8 a.m. Tues.,
Wed. & Fri.

Communion Service 8 a.m.
Thursday
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Adoration Chapel available
Mon-Fri. 7 a.m. -5:30 p.m.
(Key fob required after hours
or weekend)
www.stjosephowatonna.org

CHRISTIAN

**CHRIST COMMUNITY
COVENANT**
540 SE 18th St., Owatonna
507-451-1032
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.
Sunday Connections:
10:15 a.m.
www.
owatonnacovenantchurch.org

**CHRISTIAN FAMILY
CHURCH**
2300 Heritage Pl. NW,
Owatonna
507-455-3205
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
www.cfchurches.org

**VICTORY CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**
1380 Rice Lake St. E., Owatonna
507-451-8111
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.
www.victorymn.org

PENTECOSTAL

**FIRST UNITED
PENTECOSTAL**
230 Locust Ave., Owatonna
507-363-3046
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Wednesday Service: 7 p.m.

METHODIST

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UNITED METHODIST**
43089 180th St., Medford
(Seven miles west of
Medford on CR. 23)
507-835-8726
Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
www.bloominggroveumc.org

**ELLENDALE UNITED
METHODIST**
200 Sixth St. NW, Ellendale
507-382-2483
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
www.ellendaleumc.org

**OWATONNA UNITED
METHODIST**
815 E University St. – Owatonna
507-451-4734
Sunday Traditional Worship
(Pathways) 9 a.m.
www.owatonnaumc.org
NON-DENOMINATIONAL

CEDAR CREEK
30 E Main St., Hayfield
507-477-2255
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
www.cedarcreekchurch.org

DESTINY CHRISTIAN
2515 Harvest Lane NW-
Owatonna
507-456-4775
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.
Wednesday Worship: 6:30-
7:30 p.m. 1st & 3rd every month
www.destinycc.org

ELEVATION NORTH
2002 Austin Rd., Owatonna
507-363-3099

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

NEW BEGINNINGS
332 14th St. NE, Owatonna
507-413-0209
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Wednesday Service: 7 p.m.
www.nbclife.org

SIMPLY CHURCH
105 2nd St., Geneva
507-438-5418
Sunday Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday Worship: 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday Worship: 5:30 p.m.

MENNONITE

PRAIRIE MENNONITE
13638 750th St. –
Blooming Prairie
507-583-7532
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Pray Meeting:
7:30 p.m.
www.prairiemennonite.org

MORMON

**CHURCH OF JESUS
CHRIST OF LATTER
DAY SAINTS**
404 31st St. NW, Austin
507-433-9042
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.
www.churchofjesuschrist.org

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

**SEVENTH DAY
ADVENTIST**
2373 Seventh Ave NE,
Owatonna
651-955-4032
Saturday Worship: 11 a.m.
Saturday Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.
www.owatonnasdachurch.org

UCC

**CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
211 Main St. S, Medford
507-451-4596
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
www.ucc.org

PRESBYTERIAN

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
109 E Main St., Hayfield
507-477-2631
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
www.
firstpresbyterianhayfield.com

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
P.O. Box 66
121 East St. N., Claremont
507-528-2320
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
www.faithstreet.com

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST
104 First Ave., Blooming Prairie
507-583-2673
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Sunday Bible Study: 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday Service: 6:30 p.m.
www.fbcbloomingprairie.org

**FIRST BAPTIST
(Owatonna's
Oldest Church)**
123 E Main St., Owatonna
507-272-9834
Sunday Fellowship: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
www.firstbaptistowatonna.com

**GRACE BAPTIST-
OWATONNA**
65 26th St., Owatonna
507-451-3494
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Sunday School: 8:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening: 5 p.m.
Wednesday Adult
Service 7 p.m.
Wednesday Youth
Service 7 p.m.
gracebaptistministry.org
info@gracebaptistministry.org

BETHEL BAPTIST
1611 Hemlock Ave., Owatonna
507-451-8548
Sunday Worship:
9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

FREE CHURCH

**CORNERSTONE
EVANGELICAL FREE**
1500 18th St. SE, Owatonna
507-446-5850
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
www.cornerstoneowtonna.com

**NORTHIDGE
CHURCH OF GOD**
1650 7th Ave. NE, Owatonna
507-451-5467
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Prayer: 7-8 p.m.
www.churchnorthridge.com

BRIDGE OF HOPE
500 Dunnell Dr., Owatonna
507-215-2249
Sunday Bible Study: 9 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Friday RU Recover pfm: 7 p.m.

**ST. PAUL EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**
220 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
507-451-5319
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. and
1 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 11 a.m.
Wednesday Evening: 7 p.m.
www.stpaulsowatonna.org

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valleyviewofowatonna.com



Excited to share gardening knowledge

Mastering Gardening

LORRIE RUGG

The Steele County Master Gardeners have been in brainstorming and planning mode for the last couple of months. Being able to do in-person programming again has us excited to be back at doing the things we all love, sharing our gardening knowledge with others.

I thought I would give you a brief run-down on some of the programs we will be doing and where you can find us this summer.

We are partnering with the Owatonna Public Library to assist them in getting the garden outside the library turned into a Pollinator Garden. We will be adding new plant materials as well as some other interesting features in the garden. That then leads to helping with a children's program that will begin in June once school is out. So check out the details at the Library.

Our Plant Sale is coming back! It will be held at the Community Center on the Fairgrounds, on May 20, from 3-7 p.m., and on May 21, from 8-11 a.m. Our Master Gardeners are already busy tending to plants they have started from seed and others will be digging and dividing plants from their own gardens.

We will be helping with the 4-H Agronomy project. We help the 4-Hers get their projects started for this year's County Fair. We are also helping with a 4-H Agronomy Day Camp that will be held at our Community Garden and following up in the Fall with a 4-H Canning Workshop.

Our Community Garden sign-up is just about complete, so we are waiting on warmer weather to get the garden tilled. Our gardeners are anxious to get their hands dirty! Plans are being made to host an Open House at the garden sometime in July for our stakeholders and the general public. We are bringing the opportunity for our community to grow their own fresh vegetables. We also grow food in our Master Gardener plot to donate to the Food Shelf.

The Gardens that we maintain, the Pollinator Garden at the Extension Office is due for a major overhaul this spring and summer, and The Rain Garden area at the Fairgrounds will be getting new signage to identify the plants for walk-by learning.

We will also return to the Outdoor Event Center with our Master Gardener booth at the County Fair. We will be there to answer your questions and provide great gardening conversation.

The Master Gardeners will also be providing gardening tips throughout the summer in our local newspapers, so watch for them!

This is just the beginning of things we have planned for the summer and I am sure more will be added to our calendars. So watch for the Master Gardeners to be out and about this spring and summer.

I have office hours on Monday and Thursday mornings, or if I miss you, leave a message and I will return your call. We are here to answer your questions and help you with your gardening projects.

Lorrie Rugg is the coordinator of Steele County Master Gardener program through the University of Minnesota Extension for Steele and Rice counties. She may be reached at 507-444-7687 or brow3298@umn.edu.



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Time to Think Spring

GARDENING TIP OF THE WEEK

MID APRIL GARDENING TIPS

- Lightly rake your lawn to remove dead grass, sticks and debris
- Seed bare spots in lawn make sure seeds have direct contact with bare soil
- Add fertilizer to roses, apple trees, grape vines, strawberries and asparagus
- Cut back dead tops of perennials
- Divide flowering perennials remove whole plant return part and share rest with other gardening friends

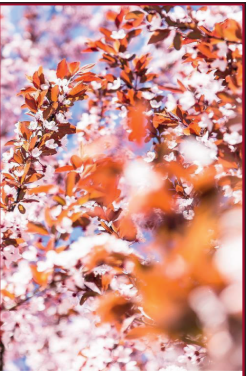


COURTESY: Julie Wanous • Steele County Master Gardener

ST. COLUMBANUS
COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

SPRING FAIR

SUNDAY, APRIL 24
10:30AM - 1:00PM
St. Columbanus Catholic Church
114 E. Main St.
Blooming Prairie, MN



You are invited to join us for a Sunday of fellowship and food!

Enjoy a delicious Roast Pork dinner, purchase treats from the Bake Sale, and buy chances for the Silent Quilt Auction.

Games and Activities will also be available for Children:
Kid's Carnival – prizes, raffle baskets, face painting and more!
5 tickets/\$1 or 1 ticket for \$0.25

Meal Price: \$12 Adult, \$6 Children
6-12, 5 and under are FREE.

Roast Pork Dinner
Roast Pork with mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable, roll and butter, homemade desserts, beverage selection

Silent Quilt Auction
Bake Sale

Kid's Carnival

TIGERS OF THE MONTH

MEDFORD ELEMENTARY • MARCH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



KINDERGARTEN
Skyler Karsten



1ST GRADE
Aurora Dubay



2ND GRADE
Ryan Bierlen



3RD GRADE
Sophia O'Neill



4TH GRADE
Nazayeh Kellis



5TH GRADE
Marni Wencel



6TH GRADE
Gabriel Bermea

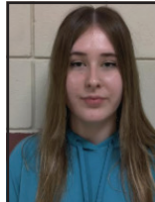
MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL • MARCH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



7TH GRADE
Will Van Ryn



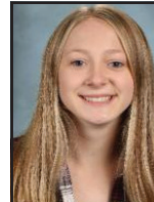
8TH GRADE
Mylie Born



9TH GRADE
Emma Ardolf



10TH GRADE
Jade Wegner



11TH GRADE
Kylie Dusek



12TH GRADE
Megan Klein

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Medford Teacher's Union

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DAY 2: BOSTON CITY TOUR – PLYMOUTH – CAPE COD

DAY 3: MARTHA'S VINEYARD

DAY 4: CAPE CODE NATIONAL SEASHORE – PROVINCETOWN – CRANBERRIES

DAY 5: NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

DAY 6: NANTUCKET ISLAND

DAY 7: CAPE COD – BOSTON FLIGHT HOME

CONTACT BEV'S FRIENDS & FAMILY TOURS TO RESERVE SPOT
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BEV'S FRIENDS & FAMILY TOURS PRESENTS:

SPRING into a MYSTERY DAY

??

Thursday, MAY 19

We will have a highpoint for you, a time to reflect, old world charm and goodness, a sweet drop-in and perhaps we will spice up your life a bit.



Price includes motor coach transportation, all attractions and lunch.
\$125 per person
Reserve Immediately. Payment due no later than May 1st.
Checks or cash only. No refunds.
Bring 6 quarters for Bingo

Departure times:
Faribault State Bank Mall location7:00 am
Owatonna Perkins7:30 am
Albert Lea Walmart8:00 am

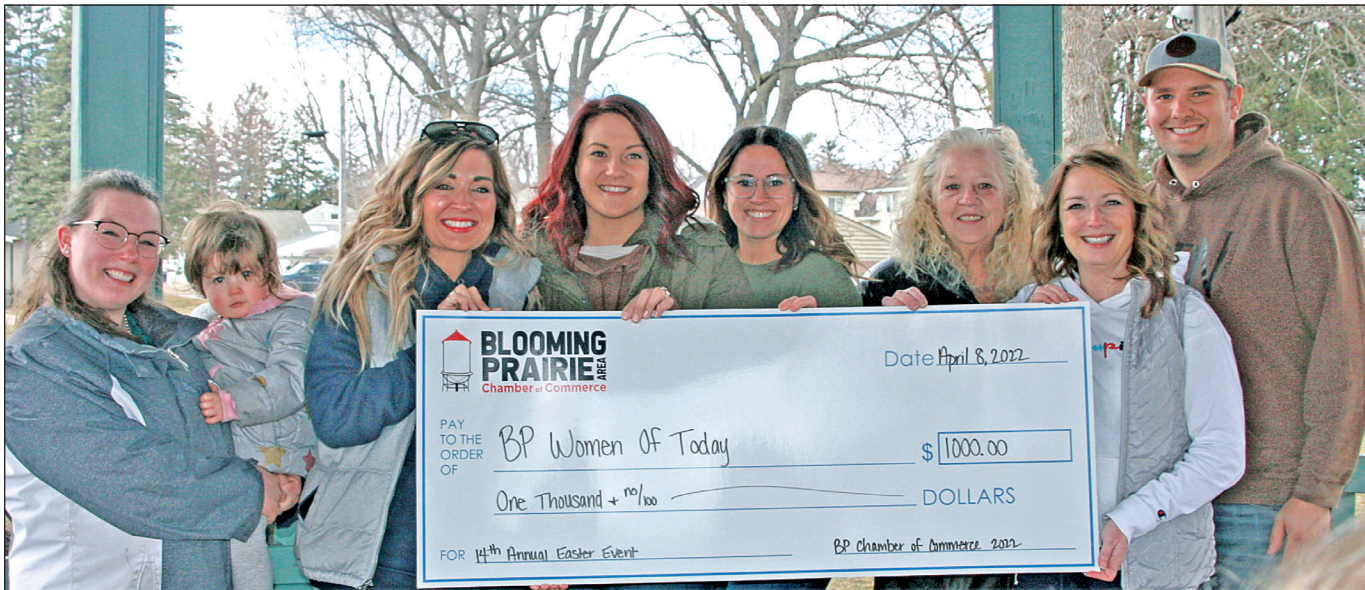
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507-451-8695
jblysne@charter.net.
Mail check to
318 SW 13th Street, Owatonna, MN 55060.
Or contact Kim at the State Bank of Faribault

BP Chamber Section

STEELE COUNTY TIMES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022

B1



STAFF PHOTO BY KAY FATE

Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce representatives Emily Glaser, far left, holding her daughter Kymberly, and Michael Clayton, far right, present a \$1,000 donation to the BP Women of Today. Accepting on behalf of the women are, second from the left, Mandy Doocy, Lachelle Wondra, Jenny Kelner, Tammy Bordeaux and Naomi Smith. The money will be used to help fund the 14th Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

BP Chamber provides financial boost for many

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

It appears the Blooming Prairie Women of Today have a little more hop in their step this Easter — and with good cause.

The group has an extra \$1,000 in its bank account, all earmarked for its annual Easter egg hunt.

The bump in funds is courtesy of the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce, which is hoping to step up its own philanthropy game.

“We have several accounts we can use for funding applications from businesses, non-profits and community members looking for some help,” said Emily Glaser, executive director of the Chamber.

In the past, no firm records have been kept of the amount donated annually by the group, but the Chamber is “behind the entire Fourth of July” celebration each year in Blooming Prairie, she said.

“We use local businesses, local Chamber members, to sponsor the events,” Glaser said, including the fireworks, children’s activities, the 5K and more.

Though “commerce” tends to bring to mind the business side of the organization, “the Cham-

ber of Commerce not only benefits businesses, but the community as well,” she said. “Boosting profits of local businesses and growing local businesses can bring people here to see our beautiful little town, and inspire other people to move here,” whether it’s for family or for business.

“It provides a never-ending circle of growth and improvement for businesses and community members,” Glaser said.

The local chapter has more than 100 members,

including folks who don’t own businesses.

A \$75 fee brings “associate member” status, people Glaser called “our eyes and ears of the community.”

To become a member, or to apply for funds from the BP Chamber of Commerce, visit bloomingprairiechamber.com and click on the appropriate tab.

The goal, said Michael Clayton, a member of the Chamber’s Executive Committee, is to put “the funds available right back into the community.”

The BP Women of Today will use its first-ever Chamber money to defray costs — including the plastic eggs, candy and prizes — for its 14th annual Easter Egg Hunt, set for 11 a.m. Saturday in Central Park.

The donation is especially welcome this year, said Mandy Doocy.

“This is helpful, because we haven’t been able to have any fundraisers for two years,” she said.

Children ages 10 and under are welcome.



STAFF PHOTO BY KAY FATE

Michael Clayton, a member of the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee, writes out a giant check for \$1,000, payable to the BP Women of Today. Funds are available through the Chamber; an application may be found on its website.

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chamber aims to get down to basics

BY EMILY GLASER

I was transplanted in Blooming Prairie in 2018 when my husband, Ryan, and I moved here. Since then, we have grown our family by two: Kymberly, 2, and Connor, 3 months.

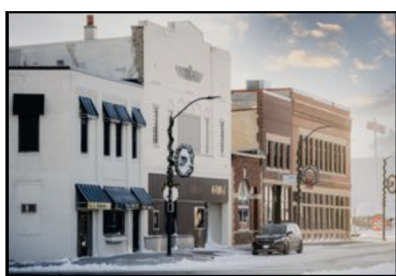
There are many new things happening in the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce — we’re getting down to the basics and foundation of what the Chamber is and does for our community. Looking at our membership numbers, how to reach more people, keep connections with our members, having more events that benefit our members and community and have a greater presence in the community.

We have a weekly newsletter that goes out to all our members — Finally, Friday — with loads of information with Business of the Month, local jobs, real estate available (commercial and retail), upcoming events, volunteer opportunities and much more! It really is the go-to newsletter with all the information!

If you’d like to be more involved in the Blooming Prairie community — come to a Chamber meeting. We meet every third Wednesday at the Pizza Cellar Party Room at 5 p.m. At meetings we discuss the upcoming chamber events, volunteer opportunities, financials, and new projects the Chamber can create and/or facilitate.

Anyone can become a member: businesses, home-based businesses, non-profits (i.e. churches, schools, organizations etc.), retail, restaurants, financial institutions, insurance, graphic design, gas stations, community members and others. The Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce invites everyone and anyone to join our community! In fact, NEW Members receive their first-year membership FREE! Just give me a call at 507-583-4472 or visit our website at www.bloomingprairiechamber.com/become-a-member today!

Emily Glaser took over as executive director of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce in February 2021 after long-time director Becky Noble retired.



Join the Chamber of Commerce Today

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TENTATIVE 2022 CHAMBER SCHEDULE

APRIL
20 — Chamber Meeting

MAY
14 — Spring City Wide
Garage Sale
18 — Chamber Meeting

JUNE
15 — Chamber Meeting

JULY
2-4 Old Fashioned 4th
of July
20 — Chamber Meeting

AUGUST
2 — National Night Out
10 — Chamber Meeting

16-21 — Steele County
Free Fair

SEPTEMBER
17 — Golf Fun Day
18 — Fall Garage Sale
21 — Chamber Meeting

OCTOBER
19 — Chamber Meeting

NOVEMBER
4 — Beer & Wine Tasting
16 — Chamber Meeting

DECEMBER
TBD — Holiday Dazzle
14 Chamber Meeting —
MBT Bank

Current BP Chamber Members

B to Z Hardware
Beede Apartments
Bishop Excavating, Inc.
Blooming Prairie Cue Co.
Blooming Prairie Backpack Program
Blooming Prairie Cancer Group
Blooming Prairie Country Club
Blooming Prairie Public Schools
Blooming Prairie Public Utilities
Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club/Foxhole
Blooming Prairie Youth Club
BP Bus Company Inc.
BP Fire Department
BP Women of Today
Brittni Gross, Realtor partnered with EXIT Realty Refined
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Bunkies Grille & Lanes
Busy Bee's Daycare
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H20 on the Go, Inc.
Heavy Metal
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Hometown Insurance
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Prairie Plumbing & Heating
R&R Insurance Agency, LLC
Rodney & Michelle Krell
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Stinar
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Sparkling American pride



FILE PHOTO

The Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce has a way of sparkling American pride through its Old Fashioned Fourth of July celebration that attracts thousands of people every July.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

Focused on promoting Blooming Prairie

**BY TREVOR
KRUCKEBERG**

The Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce was formed as a local area business networking association that was social in nature. The ultimate goal is to promote the Blooming Prairie Community. Promoting all businesses, retail, manufacturing, construction, restaurants, home based business and non-profits alike helps us to grow the local businesses climate in Blooming Prairie and the surrounding areas.

The Chamber is the liaison between the City of Blooming Prairie, the Economic Development Authority (EDA), new businesses that are looking at Blooming Prairie, current local business and new individuals that are looking to make Blooming Prairie their new hometown. The chamber is the place to go for information regarding commercial property that is for sale or lease, homes that are for sale or rent, and for information on who can do what, such as construction or manufacturing and financing available, such as the EDA.

The chamber has information for many different business resources that are available such as:

- EDA Revolving Loan Fund
- Grant Monies
- Department of Trade and Economic Development (DTED) monies
- Small Business Administration (SBA) Assistance
- Southeastern Minnesota Development Corp Assistance

The Chamber also has several events designed to promote Blooming Prairie, such as:

- **The Old Fashioned Fourth of July:** This event brings in tens of thousands of people to Blooming Prairie. Many Blooming Prairie families use this celebration as their family reunion and many new families are able to see what Blooming Prairie has to offer. We have a clean, beautiful community that is friends and focuses on what is best for the whole community. Blooming Prairie is a great place to raise a family. We are proud of our town and we have to show it off.
- **City Wide Garage Sale:** Spring and Fall are great times to go through the household and see what can catch a fair price. With an average of 20+ garage sales in May & September — it's a great time to cruise Blooming Prairie to see what's available.
- **Holiday Dazzle:** This event is usually held on a weekend in December. It's another event to showcase our wonderful community. Main Street is transformed to a Winter Wonderland with stores open with Holiday Deals, vendors from the surrounding areas, kids activities, a Holiday Parade to round out the events, and a special visit from Mr. & Mrs. St. Nicholas!

The Chamber is a separate entity from the City — and raises its

funds through membership dues and fundraisers. The Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce has several fundraisers throughout the year:

- **Golf Fun Day:** Promotes networking with local, surrounding businesses and members
 - **Holiday Beer & Wine Tasting:** local Beer and Wine Vendors bring their best variety for the Community members to enjoy.
 - **Cornhole Tournament:** Let the Bags Fly! A great way to get to know your neighbor with some friendly competition.
- The Chamber not only helps promote the community but its members as well:
- **Business of the Month** — drawn monthly, your business is highlighted on the Chamber Social Media outlets and through Steele County Times!
 - **Manufacture Luncheon** — businesses in the manufacturing & construction field are invited to this luncheon for networking and a presentation
 - **Retail Luncheon** — Selling Something? We've got a luncheon for you -new this year!
 - **Citizen of the Year Award** — One lucky Blooming Prairie Citizen receives this high honor and a night of celebration

- **Ribbon Cuttings**
— new business in town? We'll set up a special visit to help promote your new business!

I appeal to all businesses, big and small, to join the Chamber. I've heard many times, "What does the Chamber do for me?" To some, we're a resource for networking and marketing, to others we are where business and community come together to celebrate, and to many we are a source of information and the voice of business. The Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce is an organization whose sole mission is to help your business thrive.

Remember isn't about just one business. It is about all the businesses in Bloomington. It's about town recognition, clean streets, low crime, a great school system and a vibrant community. These things are good for all of us.

If you'd like to join the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce please contact Emily Glaser at 507- 583-4472 or visit our website at www.bloomingprairiechamber.com/become-a-member.

Trevor Kruckeberg serves as president of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce. He is also the manager at Kruckeberg Services.

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Chamber fun throughout the year

The BP Chamber has a little of everything to offer—Golf Fun Day, Manufacturer's Luncheon, Christmas festivities and of course, the Fourth of July Parade.



BLOOMING PRAIRIE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Executive Director: Emily Glaser
138 U.S. Hwy. 218 S.
(Located in the City Center)
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Chamber Benefits:

- Associate Members**

 - Member Decal Window Cling (Physical)
 - Monthly/Weekly Newsletter (Finally Friday, Job Openings, Networking)
 - Serve on any of the Seven Chamber Councils/Committees — (Executive, Civic/Promotion, Fourth of July, Beautification, Ambassador, Government Relations, Financial)
 - Submit Events for Community Calendar
- Submit Events for Community Calendar
 - Social Media Promotions of New Members
 - Business referrals
 - Ribbon Cutting/ Ground-Breaking Ceremony
 - Membership Mailing Address List
 - Business Directory Listing (Physical/Digital)
 - Qualify for Business of the Month/Year
 - Website Directory
 - Radio announcements on KRFO 1390AM & KOWZ Morning Show (business/community events)
 - Free Entry into Fourth of July Parade (Value of \$100*)
 - Submit Job Opportunities
 - Attend/Host Business After hours
 - Discounted Rate for Townsquare Media Fourth of July Advertisement**
 - Social Media Promotions of New Members
 - Encouragement for local spending through promotions and BP Bucks
- Business Chamber Members (Employees 1-26+, Home Based Business, Non-Profits)**

 - Member Decal Window Cling (Physical & Digital)
 - Monthly/Weekly Newsletter (Finally Friday, Job Openings, Networking)
 - Serve on any of the Seven Chamber Councils/Committees — (Executive, Civic/Promotion, 4th of July, Beautification, Ambassador, Government Relations, Financial)



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Land sale may help bring 48 jobs to Owatonna

JONI HUBRED
NEWS EDITOR

Waseca-based KAMP Automation took a step closer to relocating in Owatonna last week, as council members approved the purchase of land owned by the Owatonna Economic Development Authority (EDA).

The company will pay \$155,073.60 for the 4.45 acres north of Gopher Sport near Lemond and 24th Avenue S.W.

Founded in 2015, KAMP builds custom equipment for manufacturing companies around the Midwest. Along with 25 employees from Waseca, the company plans to add 23 jobs over a period of two years.

As part of its request for funding, KAMP indicated most of its engineering positions fit with the city's focus on bringing "high-skilled, high-paying" jobs to Owatonna.

Community Development Manager Greg Kruschke said the EDA purchased the land 10 years ago, with the intent of selling it. KAMP expects to start building its 50,000-square-foot, \$6 million facility this fall.

The company wants to cover the land purchase through Tax Increment Financing (TIF) assistance, pending council approval. The economic development tool captures the difference between

a property's original taxable value and the increased value after improvements are made.

Officials will hold a May 7 public hearing on the TIF request.

The project is also contingent on approval of state incentives. The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) has tentatively indicated the company could receive a Jobs Creation Fund (JCF)

award of up to \$800,000, and Minnesota Investment Fund (MIF) support through a \$148,000 forgivable loan or a \$580,000 repayable loan, Kruschke said.

The City of Waseca also played a role in the request for state funds. Whenever a business applying for assistance moves out of a city, those officials must send a letter of support. Waseca city council approved their letter on March 15,

Kruschke said.

There was no comment during a public hearing on the MIF grant application. Council member Kevin Raney asked the only council question, about whether there was a city-owned pond near the property.

"This project will have to meet storm water requirements, and that could potentially be done through the pond or on-site," Kruschke said.



PHOTO BY PAUL BIRD, MINNESOTA DIGITAL

A new indoor digital network is operating at nine locations, including this one at Studio One Salon, throughout Owatonna. The network features news headlines from the Steele County Times and advertising from various businesses throughout the area.

New digital network rolls out in Owatonna

An indoor digital news network has been unveiled at various venues throughout Owatonna.

Nine large screens are featured on the network at various establishments around Owatonna. They include: Lava Burger, El Loro Restaurant, Eagle's Club, Beauti Nails, Plaza Morena, Snap Fit-

ness, Studio One Salon, Olivia's and Don Juan's. In a few months, Bridge St. Tavern will be added to the network.

In addition to featuring advertising from clients, the network will also inform and engage readers with local community news. News headlines will roll throughout the loop of advertisements.

The network is a joint partnership between Minnesota Digital and the Steele County Times. It will operate under the name of Steele Digital, according to Rick Bussler, publisher of the Times.

"This network will captivate the hometown news that people have come to expect from us in our regular newspaper," explained Bussler. "We want to highlight the positive things going on in the greater community of Steele County."

Steele Digital targets high-traffic venue locations like restaurants, bars, gyms, beauty salons and nail salons. The network, which will be shown during regular hours at



PHOTO BY PAUL BIRD, MINNESOTA DIGITAL

This is one of nine new screens as part of a new digital network at restaurants, bars and salons in Owatonna.

each of the businesses involved, reaches more than 100,000 customers in the Owatonna venues each month.

Minnesota Digital is the largest indoor digital billboard network in Minnesota, said Paul Bird, founder of Minnesota Digital. "We have over 250 venue locations that feature our indoor digital billboards," Bird said, adding many of the locations are in

partnership with local newspapers.

Bird and his company have become known as the "king of indoor digital billboards" in recent years. He has recognized that the advertising world has come into a new way of doing things. As attention shifts more toward digital channels, companies are looking to build more prominent brand awareness with the right marketing

providers. That's where this digital network comes into play.

"We are thrilled to offer something that hasn't been done before in this area," Bussler said. "This is a great opportunity for us to give businesses another venue to advertise and reach customers."

Anyone interested in advertising on the network can reach out at 507-583-4431 or www.steeledigital.net.

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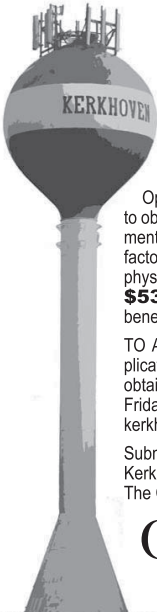
SMMPA earns top safety award

Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) has been awarded a Safety Award of Excellence by its national trade association, the America Public Power Association. SMMPA was one of 135 public power utilities across the country to be recognized for their dedication to safety.

"We take the safety of our employees very seriously," said SMMPA Chief Executive Officer Dave Geschwind. "We are pleased to be recog-

nized for our dedication to safety and even more pleased that it results in avoiding potentially tragic accidents."

Entrants were placed in categories according to their number of worker-hours and ranked based on the most incident-free records during 2021. A utility's incidence rate, used to judge entries, is based on its number of work-related reportable injuries or illnesses and the number of worker-hours during 2021, as defined by OSHA.



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TO APPLY: All applicants must complete and submit an application for employment packet. Application forms can be obtained at City Hall Monday-Thursday from 8am-5pm and Fridays 8am-noon or by calling 320-264-2581 or by email: kerkhovenclerk@gmail.com.

Submit completed applications in drop box or by mail to: City of Kerkhoven, 208 N 10th St, PO Box 116, Kerkhoven, MN 56252. The City of Kerkhoven is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Blossoming Community Foundation

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WANTED

The Blossoming Community Foundation is looking for an executive director to assist in the day-to-day operations of the foundation.

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Call Sue Zwiener with any questions at
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South Central Human Relations Center is a comprehensive community mental health center that provides a full continuum of care. SCHRC employs over 130 staff in 15 programs in 3 counties. SCHRC is accepting applications for the following position:

Full-time or Part-time overnight Front Desk Positions at Youngdahl Living which is a 16 unit apartment complex that provides permanent supportive housing for individuals. This can be a sleep position if the building is quiet. The minimum qualifications are 1 year of mental health experience. This can be working with someone in a group home that has mental health, family member or their own. This is a great job for retired people or even young people over the age of 18 years old or someone attending college.

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BLOTTER
SPOTLIGHT

Restraining Order: Owatonna Police arrested a subject for violating a restraining order in the 500 block of 22nd St. NE at 5:48 a.m. on April 2.

VFW helps Sheriff's K-9



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of the Owatonna VFW hand over a \$500 check to deputy Caleb Buck of the Steele County Sheriff's Office for the K-9 program. Shown from left are Terry Warner, Jordon More, Buck with his K-9 partner, Willow, and Mike Meyer. The sheriff's office also received two private donations of \$250 and \$100, bringing the total received to \$850.

Illegal voting charges thrown out of court

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

Criminal charges against two Owatonna men accused of unlawfully voting in the November 2020 election have been dismissed. According to court documents, the cases were dismissed "after further review of the evidence," in the local case, as well as reviewing the outcome of a "substantially similar case" in Red Lake County. "There is not a reasonable likelihood of success at trial of proving beyond a reasonable doubt" that the defendants intended to break the law, said the State's dismissal filing. Luis Armando Galvan-Maldonado, 57, was charged in Septem-

ber with one count of unlawfully voting more than once in the same election. According to the criminal complaint, Galvan-Maldonado voted by absentee ballot on Sept. 12, 2020, then registered in person and cast a vote on Nov. 3, 2020. Not only was it reportedly his second vote, he was also at the wrong precinct, based on his address. Galvan-Maldonado told an investigator he had submitted an absentee ballot, but didn't receive any confirmation of the vote being accepted, so he went to the nearest polling place. Because he went to the wrong precinct and registered as a new voter, both of his votes were allegedly counted during the election. Robert Francis

Grover, 43, was charged in September with one count of being an ineligible voter who knowingly votes. According to that criminal complaint, Grover also voted by absentee ballot in the November 2020 general election, but was on probation for a 2012 felony conviction. The investigator's notes say that Grover allegedly acknowledged he did vote by absentee ballot, because he was "told by family and friends that he was allowed to vote, but never sought clarification from his probation officers or the court." Both cases were discovered by the Steele County Auditor's office, which contacted the Steele County Attorney's office.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 28 — April 3:

Blooming Prairie Police Department
Destiny R. Heath, 24, Medford, revoked license, \$275.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Rebecca A. Anhorn, 37, Faribault, speeding, \$215; Theodore C. Baas, 37, St. Joseph, speeding, \$125; Juan M. Barguiarena, 50, Austin, no license, \$175; Petrona E. Brito-Marcos, 20, Webster City, IA, speeding, no license and no insurance, \$435; Sara M. Byron, 37, Rochester, speeding, \$215; Andrew S. Choh, 31, Apple Valley, possession of paraphernalia, \$125; Ronald K. Day, 58, Columbia, MO, speeding, \$215; Justin D. Featherstone, 33, Ham Lake, speeding, \$115; Shawn P. Hoffrogge, 41, Edina, speeding, \$125; Mackenzie F. Kachinske, 27, Bloomington, speeding, \$135; Courtney A. Kellogg, 29, Plymouth, revoked license, \$275; Michelle L. Kennedy, 54, Buffalo, speeding, \$125; Tony A. Knott, 56, Burnsville, speeding, \$135; Chase A. Kraft, 20, Minneapolis, speeding, \$135; Elijah M. McLannan, 19, Northfield, speeding, \$125; Eh Nyaw, 27, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$135; Ignacio Ochoa Zarate, 26, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; Addison L. Parrish, 24, Johnston, IA, speeding, \$125; Jose G. Pineda Cortez, 31, Minneapolis, no license, \$175; Nestor Pizano-Barrientos, 34, Richfield, no license, \$175; Natalie A. Pracht, 19, Princeton, speeding, \$215; Elvio Reyes, 49, Perry, IA, speeding, \$135; Peter J. Riley, 51, Minneapolis, speeding, \$115; Jared A. Rivard, 22, Inver Grove Heights, speeding, \$215; Edwin A. Roa, 21, Torrance, CA, speeding, \$215; Haylen M. Robotka, 20, Hayward, WI, speeding, \$215; Michael D. Ross, 40, Eagan, speeding, \$115; Juana L. Sanchez Lemus, 23, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Kayla M. Schermer, 39, Zimmerman, window tint violation, \$125; Ryan S. Schmidt, 17, Chisago City, speeding, \$125; Griffin A. Schram, 21, Indianapolis, IN, speeding, \$135; Amanda S. Schuchard, 40, Chatfield, speeding, \$215; Joan M. Sweeney, 76, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Eddy W. Thorson, 28, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Adria G. Wellinghoff, 17, Faribault, speeding, \$215; Chelsea M. Young, 39, Owatonna, speeding, \$115.

Owatonna Police Department

Nicholas S. Beaver, 41, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Isaac M. Bonilla, 18, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$175; Madio G. Callahan, 20, Austin, theft, \$232.96 and 40 days in county jail; Felipe J. Carrizales, 27, Albert Lea, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Garrick M. Comeaux, 63, Owatonna, unlawful passing, \$125; Jaydan T. Feuring, 19, Owatonna, window tint violation, \$125; Marcus A. Frank, 19, Hastings, window

tint violation, \$125; Domico I. Kelly, 32, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Marllys E. Knopik, 76, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Israel J. Kraling, 19, Owatonna, speeding and possession of paraphernalia, \$175; Deimer Maldonado, 24, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175; Meghan E. McMahon, 31, Eagan, revoked license, \$275; Jeffrey C. Michel, 36, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$100; Drew R. Randall, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Salvador Sanchez Perez, 47, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Matthew M. Schmidt, 42, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Colton D. Spinler, 31, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; William D. Swain, 35, Owatonna, failure to keep to the right, \$125; Eduardo Velazquez, 22, Northfield, cancelled license, \$275.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Dominick L. Applegate, 18, Faribault, speeding and invalid license, \$235; David Barajas, 29, Medford, revoked license, \$275; Dillon J. Bartosch, 16, Medford, speeding, \$215; Tracy A. Bednar, 51, Owatonna, no insurance and failure to yield, \$325; William D. Brewer, 58, Waseca, speeding, \$275; Jonathan D. Calcamuggio, 44, New Richland, speeding, \$215; Rachel L. Heinrichs, 31, Medford, speeding, \$115; David Hernandez, 19, Waseca, speeding, \$215; Patricia A. Ingvaldson, 54, Albert Lea, speeding, \$115; Ethan M. Koziolek, 18, Geneva, speeding, \$115; Zoe E. Kustritz, 27, Cambridge, MA, speeding, \$125; Eric F. Myers, 45, Dodge Center, speeding, \$135; Charlie R. Nissen, 17, New Richland, speeding, \$115; Andrea B. Ponder, 22, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Estella M. Rodriguez, 20, Claremont, speeding and invalid license, \$315; Timothy P. Shannon, 31, Arlington Heights, IL, speeding, \$115; Anthony M. Suazo, 26, Owatonna, DWI, \$75, substance abuse subtle screening inventory, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Adria G. Wellinghoff, 17, Faribault, speeding, \$115.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

April 1 Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 200 block of 1st St. NW at 4:35 p.m.
April 3 Arrest: Police arrested a subject during a traffic stop at Highway Ave. S. and 6th St. SE at 1:19 a.m.

OWATONNA POLICE

April 1 Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 100 block of 18th St. SW at 9:16 a.m.
Juvenile: Police received a juvenile complaint from the 1100 block of Rose St. E. at 12:21 p.m.
Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 1100 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 8:07 p.m.
April 2 DWI: Officer made a DWI

arrest in the 1000 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 2:32 a.m.
April 3 Drugs: Drug activity was reported in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 12:09 a.m.

Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity at Vine St. E. and Pine Ave. NE at 11:08 a.m. They took a subject into custody.
Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 1400 block of Oak Ave. S. at 2:52 p.m.

April 4 Arrest: Police arrested a subject during a traffic stop at St. Paul Road NE and 26th St. NE at 10:31 p.m.

April 4 DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest at Rice St. W. and Oak Ave. S. at 12:56 a.m. and the 100 block of Rose St. W. at 3:21 p.m.

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Mosher Ave. SW and School St. W. at 1:42 a.m.
Shoplifting: At 2:39 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 3900 block of Cabela Dr. NW.

Drugs: Drug activity was reported in the 300 block of School St. W. at 4:35 p.m.
April 5 Disturbance: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 2300 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 4:03 p.m.

April 6 Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at North St. E. and Cedar Ave. N. at 5:51 a.m.

Theft: Officer took theft reports in the 2300 block of 46th St. NW at 8:53 a.m. and the 600 block of Lincoln Ave. S. at 7:53 p.m.

Shoplifting: At 7:10 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 100 block of Vine St. E. at 8:15 p.m.

April 7 Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 700 block of Vine St. E. at 8:31 a.m. They took a subject into custody.
Fraud: Officer took a fraud report in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 12:39 p.m.
Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 400 block of North St. W. at 4:36 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

April 1 Threats: At 9:08 a.m., a subject was making threats in the 700 block of 2nd Ave. NE in Medford.

Fraud: Deputy took a fraud report in the 200 block of Central Ave. W. in Medford at 10:43 a.m.

Harassment: At 1:32 p.m., a harassment incident occurred in the 700 block of 2nd Ave. NE in Medford.
Child Protection: Deputies received a child protection report from Forest Lane SE and 6th St. SE in Medford at 3:54 p.m.

April 2 Disturbance: Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 700 block of School St. in Ellendale at 9:01 a.m.

Arrest: Deputies arrested a subject in the 6800 block of Frontage Rd. W. in Medford at 7:25 p.m.

April 3 Arrest: Deputies assisted another agency with arresting a subject at Highway Ave. S. and 6th St.

SE in Blooming Prairie at 2:41 a.m.

April 4 Arrest: Deputies assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 5600 block of 38th St. SE in Havana Township at 3:08 p.m.

Arrest: Deputy arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Hoffman Dr. NW and 28th Ave. NW at 7:15 p.m.

April 5 Pursuit: Deputies arrested a subject following a pursuit at State Ave. NW and Hoffman Dr. NW in Owatonna at 4:53 a.m.

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 8:34 a.m.

ARRESTS
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Cody Hans Skow, 35, arrested at 3:31 a.m. April 4, felony fleeing, firearm-ineligible person and firearm serial name removed/changed, held for court. Thomas Alan Krabbenhoft, 53, arrested at 5:55 a.m. April 5, felony fleeing in motor vehicle and drugs, held for court. Charles Herbert Cannon, 43, arrested at 9:05 a.m. April 7, domestic assault, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Zachary Martin Ahrens, 19, arrested at 6:10 p.m. April 4, felony probation violation, held for court.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of March 20 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Romario L. Luke, 27, previously appeared and was convicted of felony fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle. Luke was sentenced to \$655, 39 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, mental health evaluation, cognitive skill training, 50 hours of community service and 4 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of March 20 — 27:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Samuel E. Duarte, 19, Dodge Center, permit violation, \$130; Brandon D. Engelke, 28, Austin, DWI, \$1,005, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, 90 days of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Troy R. Flatness, 45, Egota, suspended license, \$280; Daunte L. Grafe, 20, Rochester, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$150 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Raul G. Guel Jr., 25, Claremont, parking violation, \$32; Kenneth D. Heins, 30, Hayfield, See **BLOTTER** on B8 ►

Man accused of using knife during fight

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

A drunken fight in the middle of the night has landed an Owatonna man in jail, facing a felony charge of second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon.

Nicholas Greg Bergan, 28, is scheduled to make his initial appearance Thursday in Steele County District Court, where he also faces misdemeanor counts of fifth-degree assault and obstructing the legal process.

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

The charges stem from an incident March 31, when police responded about 2:20 a.m. to a home in southwest Owatonna for a report of someone trying to kick in the door.

When officers arrived, they heard a moan coming from the bushes near the house, where they found



Nicholas Bergan

Bergan. The reports say Bergan wouldn't respond to the officers' commands, actively resisted and pulled his hands under his body to avoid being handcuffed.

Police then learned that a man had been assaulted at the house next door; the alleged victim had a lump on his forehead, a cut above his eye and cuts on his lower back, right arm and chin.

The man said earlier that night, he'd passed out after drinking with Bergan at the home; he woke up "tussling" with See **BERGAN** on B8 ►

Cannon accused of threatening woman with a gun

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

An Owatonna man is in custody after authorities say he threatened a woman with a gun.

Charles Herbert Cannon Jr., 43, is scheduled to appear Tuesday in Steele County District Court, where he's been charged with possession of a firearm after a conviction for crime of violence, second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon and threats of violence, all felonies. He also faces one count of misdemeanor domestic assault.

The investigation began the morning of April 7, when Owatonna police received a report of a domestic assault, called in by the alleged victim's sister.

According to the criminal complaint, officers met with the victim, who said Cannon



Charles Cannon Jr.

Jr. had threatened her with a handgun he was carrying in his waistband. He reportedly told her he would put it in her mouth and pull the trigger, and also said he would kill her "and no one is going to be able to do (expletive) about it."

The woman said the incident had started the night before, and Cannon wouldn't let her go to sleep; she told officers she was afraid Cannon Jr. would use the gun on her, the report says. See **CANNON** on B8 ►

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A victim is rescued after falling while on duty at Cargill of Blooming Prairie. This was a safety drill.

Safety scenarios carried out at Cargill drill

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Cargill, Inc. of Blooming Prairie took a page out of the Arkema safety notebook last Saturday.

An estimated 50 individuals participated in the well organized safety drill. Participants included four Blooming Prairie police officers, five ambulance crew members, 12 firemen and 27 employees of Cargill.

Arkema officially became Cargill during a transition period last September.

Arkema turned over the keys to Cargill and also presented a stellar safety record that had been carved out over the years. Arkema recently was named the recipient of a Governor's Safety Award.

Loan Trinh, Environmental Health Safety Quality manager, will accept the award on May 4 in the Twin Cities.

Saturday's drill at the plant located on Highway 218 just north of Main Street, began with Trinh and plant manager Michael Green outlining aspects of the drill. The drill was to proceed with two scenarios.

Scenario No. 1 involved a Cargill worker trapped in a fire on the north part of the plant. Scenario No. 2 was to be carried out with an employee (manikin) injured after falling while at the loading station on the rail line.

The first scenario went "pretty much" without a hitch, said Trinh. Cargill employees called 911 after an employee was reported to be trapped by fire.

The fire department responded in less than five minutes. "We were actually at the fire hall but usually the response time would be



It was a believable accident but thank goodness it was only a drill. Donald Shawbeck, Cargill employee, played the role of a burn victim in last Saturday's safety drill at the Cargill plant. Loan Trinh was Don's makeup artist.

between 8-10 minutes," said Chief Dean Naatz.

Twelve were dispatched with two trucks. Upon reaching the stranded employee, firefighters pulled the worker out of the fire and into a safe location.

Donald Shawbeck was the victim. His makeup applied by Trinh made him look like a real victim, remarked plant manager Green.

The second scenario was to take place at 10 a.m. However, the scenario was scrubbed when a train pulled into the loading dock and prevented the scenario from happening.

Trinh and Cargill workers then pivoted with a new plan. They mounted a "dummy" on top of a large container on a Cargill roof.

Firefighters and ambulance crew members reached the top of the roof to rescue

the injured employee. Firemen fastened a ladder to a metal wall and brought another worker to safety.

Following the completion of the scenarios, agency workers and Cargill employees gathered in a warehouse on the north section of Cargill property to present a critique on their drill.

"The drill went nice and smooth," said Police Chief Greg Skillestad. "Everybody is trained and represent lots of experience," he pointed out.

Good communications were necessary to pull off the drill, said Fire Chief Naatz. "Everyone did a great job," he said.

"The more communications the better," said Kathy Piller of the ambulance squad.

In a situation where many First Responders are needed, Naatz said mutual aid would be

sought. He said maps were also available at the plant to help First Responders do their job.

Green praised the efforts of Cargill employees and of the three local First Responder agencies. "These First Responders are well trained and it is helpful for them to know the plant," he said.

"We want to present real life scenarios but don't want to jeopardize safety of others in the process," Green explained.

"We always learn things with these drills," Green commented. He added that he was proud of Cargill's safety records in recent years. "We have not had one accident in the four months since the transition of Arkema to Cargill in September of 2021."

Trinh thanked everyone who participated in the drill. She has logged 28 years with Arkema/Cargill. "It was very good for our Cargill team to work with these First Responders," said Trinh.

Three cooperative trainees were involved in the drill. They are still employed by Cargill until June of this year. Participating in the cooperative were Gavin Kreutzer, Amy Wesolowski and Ali Alismaili.

Cargill's policy is to conduct all business activities in a manner that protects the environment and the health and safety of its employees, contractors, customers and communities.



Four Blooming Prairie Police Department officers helped Loan Trinh, right, of Cargill, simulate some real scenarios during a safety drill at Cargill in Blooming Prairie last Saturday.

Man accused of using knife during fight

◀ **BERGAN** from **B7**

Bergan, and ended up in the kitchen.

According to the criminal complaint, the victim said Bergan stabbed him in the chest "a couple times," hit him with a closed fist "I don't know how many times" and at one point was on top of him, holding the knife.

The man ran out of the house and knocked on the neighbor's door, but when he returned,

Bergan was gone.

The injured man reportedly told officers, "I was thinking I was going to die. I did not have the upper hand."

The complaint says Bergan provided a preliminary breath test that registered 0.367; due to his intoxication level, he was taken to a detox facility in Rochester.

A neighbor showed police video of the injured man running to their house.

Cannon accused of threatening woman with a gun

◀ **CANNON** from **B7**

The woman eventually called her sister and asked her sister to call the police; Cannon Jr. ran out of the home when he overheard the call.

Police found the handgun in Cannon's father's room, where the woman said he had returned it.

Officers found Cannon Jr. on East Rose Street and arrested him.

According to court records, Cannon Jr. was convicted in 2009 of third-degree criminal sexual conduct in Hennepin County, which is a felony crime of violence.

PUBLIC SAFETY

◀ **BLOTTER** from **B7**

suspended license, \$280; Blake D. Henry, 28, West Concord, revoked license, no insurance and speeding, \$530; Calvin D. Johnson, 21, Dodge Center, school bus stop arm violation, \$580; Michael K. Levorson, 30, Austin, possession of marijuana, \$455, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, 30 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Christopher A. Noble, 34, Dodge Center, DWI, \$1,005, 30 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 28 days of electronic home monitor and 2 years of supervised probation; Justin L. Peterson, 44, Rochester, DWI, \$1,005, Ignition Interlock, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 2 years of supervised probation; Jessie J. Phelps, 41, West Concord, zoning ordinance violation, \$580 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Tiffany L. Sinclair, 33, Stewartville, possession of marijuana, \$455, 5 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, 30 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Derek E. Tolbert, 33, Wanamingo, controlled substance crime, stay of adjudication, \$900, 43 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, 90 days of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Erica M. Wiseth, 42, Minneapolis, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$215 and 6 months of unsupervised probation.

Kasson Police Department

Adam J. Blackwell, 47, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Larry L. Chestnut Jr., 35, Kasson, assault, 14 days in county jail; Kala N. Eastman, 33, Wabasha, speeding, \$580; Tyler M. Fox, 17, Byron, speeding, \$220; Malik A. Gazali, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$220, 14 hours of community service and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Logan A. Holmes-Gertner, 19, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Seila A. Ibrahim, 22, Burnsville, suspended license, \$280; Naomi R. Mielke, 35, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Trenton L. Rockvam, 19, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Earnest N. Sorensen, 52, Mantorville, DWI, \$1,080, 4 days in county jail, 26 days of electronic home monitor, chemical dependency evaluation, do not enter liquor establishments, 90 hours

of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Nicholas M. Stewart, 26, Rochester, speeding, \$220; Megan L. Verdouw Gustine, 40, Waltham, suspended license, \$280; Kamryn A. Westphal, 19, Stewartville, possession of paraphernalia and suspended license, \$330.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Miguel A. Aguilera-Cendejas, 24, Mantorville, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$150 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Leo R. Gaxiola, 42, Owatonna, cancelled license, stay of adjudication, 6 months of unsupervised probation; Carlos A. Hernandez Arevalo, 30, Altura, suspended license and hands free violation, \$350; Nathan R. Murphy, 21, Austin, speeding, \$220; Brian S. Niessen, 48, Owatonna, speeding, \$130; Gavin Z. Osland, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$380; John C. Steele, 76, Hayfield, speeding, \$130; Daniel S. Strader, 25, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Jose G. Sustaita Aguilar, 34, Rochester, speeding and no license, \$230; Grace E. Weber, 18, Claremont, speeding, \$120; Quentin T. Young, 24, Roseville, speeding, \$140.

West Concord Police Department

Russell A. Amiot, 46, West Concord, unsafe equipment, \$120; Dale M. Bale, 64, Wanamingo, suspended license, \$280; Christopher L. Black, 40, Mable, no insurance, \$280; John T. Thomforde, 42, Stewartville, cancelled license and no license in possession, \$300.

OWATONNA FIRE

April 1 Building Fire: Firefighters responded to a building fire in the 400 block of Oak Ave. N. at 11:27 a.m.

Gas Leak: At 4:56 p.m., a natural gas leak occurred in the 900 block of Brook Lane NE.

April 3 Assist: Fire personnel assisted police in the 400 block of Main St. E. at 11:37 a.m.

April 5 Grass Fire: At 10:53 a.m., a grass fire occurred on Interstate 35.

April 6 Crash: Fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle and pedestrian accident at Cedar Ave. and North St. at 5:52 a.m.

Medical: Fire rescue assisted with a medical emergency in the 600 block of Hilltop Ave. SW at 6:06 a.m.

WARRANTS:

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

- Alex Vanerp – theft - \$500 bail
- Zachery Vangen – DWI – no bail
- Andres Vargas – criminal vehicular operation – no bail
- Jose Vazquez – DWI - \$1,000 bail
- Alejandro Vegas – no insurance - \$100 bail
- Juan Vela Sr. – DWI - \$1,000 bail
- Jose Villaandrade – DWI - \$6,000 bail
- Tiffany Wadley – malicious punishment – no bail
- Lar Wah – attempted theft – no bail
- Anthony Walker – controlled substance - \$35,000 bail
- Deontavious Walker – domestic assault – no bail
- Dale Walters – possession - \$30,000 bail
- Jajuan Ward – forged check - \$10,000 bail
- Paul Wechtur – stalking - \$3,000 bail
- Joseph Wencl – DWI – no bail
- Reginald Wilberton Jr. – assault - \$500 bail
- Antwaine Williams – violation of restraining order – no bail
- Craig Williams – theft - \$5,000 bail
- Howard Williams – theft/false name - \$5,000 bail
- Jonathan Williams – theft – no bail



Steele Sports
JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

NFL wants
flag football
at 2028
Olympics

Just when you think the sports world couldn't get any wilder after 2020 and 2021, the world decides that it is time for football to make its long-awaited return to the Olympics – albeit in an interesting way.

According to the NFL and Sports Illustrated, there have been rumblings of flag football being introduced to the 2028 summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

The NFL will push for the sport to be introduced at the 2028 Olympics in an attempt to grow the game even further internationally.

If the sport is brought back to the Olympics, it will be the first time football has been a part of the games since 1932 when it was introduced as a demonstration sport.

From a business standpoint, I understand why this move makes sense.

With the Olympics being held in the United States in 2028, it will have the perfect platform to promote one of America's biggest sports while also putting itself in a position to almost guarantee it increases its gold medal count by plus one at the games.

However, as a football fan, I'm curious to see how this will play out.

When I close my eyes and picture what flag football may look like at the Olympics my first thoughts are almost comedic.

I'm picturing stars such as Justin Jefferson and D.K. Metcalf running around a field with a flag belt on while legendary coaches such as Bill Belichick and Pete Carroll waltz around the sidelines with fancy headsets and clipboards.

Quite honestly, I'm not sure what message the United States will send to the world by trotting out a super team of some of the sport's best athletes, but one thing I do know is that it would be highly entertaining.

The entertainment factor will play perfectly into both the NFL and the Olympic Games' hands as the media exposure would surely bring even more eyes to the games than before.

While the NFL will get to promote itself to the world, the Olympics will also surely benefit from a host of new people tuning in to watch the spectacle.

On top of this, there is the potential that viewers will benefit from something other than just the game itself.

An opportunity that the Olympics cannot miss is to introduce Super Bowl-quality commercials into the game.

Whether it be new commercials or even old re-runs, it would be a blunder for the NFL to not try and show off some of its best content when the players aren't performing.

While it may be weird to think of initially, I think that the potential for this event to be massive is definitely there.

I will anxiously await the Olympic Committee's decision on whether the sport will be introduced, and definitely hope to see flag football at the 2028 Olympics.



Owatonna's Katelyn Bentz beats the Panthers' throw home to score for the Huskies. Bentz and the Huskies took down Rochester Century in both games of the doubleheader.

A twin bill sweep for Huskies

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna Huskies softball team took home two wins in its double header against Rochester Century on Monday.

Owatonna opened the home doubleheader against Rochester Century with a 3-1 win thanks to a strong all-around defensive display.

The Huskies started the game with an early deficit after Rochester Century scored on an RBI single in the top of the first inning.

However, the Huskies rallied back in the bottom half of the first inning with a leadoff triple from Katelyn Bentz, who later scored after Parris Hovden reached first on an RBI single tie the game at 1-1.

Both teams struggled to find offense in the following two innings, but it was Owatonna who crossed the plate next to take the lead.

In the bottom of the fourth inning, Zoie Roush

hit a one-out double and Paiton Glynn knocked her home with a two-out single to give Owatonna a 2-1 lead.

Owatonna managed to hold Century scoreless the next half inning before striking again in the bottom of the fifth after a leadoff walk for Katelyn Bentz and a follow-up triple by Izzy Radel leads to a 3-1 lead for Owatonna.

The Huskies managed to hold their 3-1 lead for the rest of the game as both teams set up for the second half of the doubleheader.

Hovden earned the win on the mound and pitched all seven innings for the Huskies.

Owatonna managed to win its second game by an even larger margin, beating the Panthers 14-0 after five innings.

The Huskies struck first early in the second game of the day with two runs in the bottom of the first inning.

A single by Radel was

followed by an RBI triple from Hovden, who scored on an RBI double by Samantha Bogan to give Owatonna an early 2-0 lead.

Owatonna applied the pressure again in the bottom of the second inning by scoring five runs on four hits to take a 7-0 lead.

Collecting RBIs on the four hits were Krause, Averie Roush, Bentz and Bogan.

Down 7-0 in the top of the third inning, Rochester Century threatened Owatonna with a triple, but was unsuccessful in getting the runner home to score.

Instead, it was Owatonna again finding runs scoring three more times to make the score 10-0 with Zoie Roush and Hovden collecting RBIs.

The Huskies proceeded to put the dagger in Rochester Century's chances in the fourth inning by scoring four more runs thanks to RBIs from Bentz and Radel to make the game 14-0.

Radel's RBI single would be Owatonna's last score of the game with the Huskies winning by the 10-run mercy rule after five innings. Earning the win for Owatonna was Kennedy Hodge-man.

Up next for the Huskies is a home matchup against Rochester John Marshall on Thursday at 5 p.m.

Player Stats

vs. Century (Game One)			
	H	R	RBI
Bentz	1	2	0
Hovden	0	0	1
Krause	1	0	0
Z. Roush	1	1	0
Glynn	1	0	1
Radel	1	0	1
vs. Century (Game Two)			
	H	R	RBI
Bentz	3	3	3
Radel	3	2	1
Hovden	1	1	0
Z. Roush	0	1	0
S. Bogan	1	0	2
Glynn	1	1	0
Krause	1	1	0
A. Roush	1	2	1
K. Bogan	0	1	1



Huskies pitcher Parris Hovden winds up as third baseman Zoie Roush gets set against Rochester Century. Owatonna had a big Monday en route to winning both games against the Panthers.



Dr. Deborah I Lien

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Back row left to right: Mia Armstrong, Brooke Hagel, Sophia Hanson, Grace Thiele, Aleesia Guzman and Alexandra Herget. Front row left to right: Lauren Prestegard, Kaylee Smith, Lauren Pechacek, Hailey Butler, Samantha Nechanicky and Scarlet Vance. Not pictured Ava Kjersten.

Cheering to first at US finals

Owatonna girls team captures top prize in Kansas City

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna youth cheerleading team – comprised of local sixth through ninth-grade athletes – took home first place at the U.S. Finals in Kansas City last week after a wild string of events led the Huskies team to the winner’s circle.

After competing in the traditional recreation category of the regional tournament, the Huskies’ squad found out they had won the competition in a way that was anything but traditional.

“We were the last team to perform in the session, and results came pretty much immediately after we finished. Interestingly enough, they actually made a miscalculation when they were announcing all of the teams. They didn’t allow enough time for the judges to get their final scores in after our performance, and they actually announced another team as the winner,” said Owatonna Youth Cheer Head Coach Stephanie Hanson.

After initially accepting the results and leaving the competition venue with her team, Hanson said that she then received some shocking news on her phone.

“As some of the athletes and parents were starting to leave I received an email. As I was scrolling through, I was looking at all of the recreation teams and noticed that we were the highest score. I was trying to check that the scores were right, and I spent about a half-hour trying to track down the right person. When I found someone to talk to, they let me know that the computers hadn’t refreshed after our performance and that we were indeed the

winners.”

After receiving the news, Hanson went to collect her team and bring them back to the venue where the entire squad was greeted with a championship banner and the coveted white jackets that come with winning first place.

According to Hanson, the team’s time together after receiving the news was filled with nothing, but pure happiness and relief following a long season of preparation.

In order to earn its way to Kansas City,

Owatonna had to win the highest score at the NCA Classic in Minneapolis back in February.

The Huskies squad once again competed in the traditional recreation category of the competition, where teams are required to perform in a mixture of dance, stunting and traditional cheer.

In order to earn points and impress the judges, traditional recreation teams are evaluated on complex scales considering technique in dancing, stunting and the ability

to lead an audience in a cheer.

While Hanson said she was extremely impressed by how her team performed in Minneapolis, she said she knew her team was going to have to take their game to the next level in order to compete at the top of the competition in Kansas City.

“When we won the Minneapolis competition, our choreographer, Patricia Kurtz, came up to me and said, ‘Okay, we are definitely going to step it up for the Kansas City competition.’ So

she did rework a good chunk of our routine to make it harder and make our girls eligible to earn higher points in the competition.”

The gamble paid off for the Huskies, who were able to impress the judges and eventually take home first place.

While the first-place finish came with all of the spoils of victory, there was an even larger sense of accomplishment in the air as the squad celebrated.

“It was a huge relief because it felt like we had finally found our

spot. This is where the girls could shine and show off all of their skills.”

Winning the U.S. Finals brought with it a sense of validation that the team could cherish after facing an uphill battle with funding and training over the season.

Even though cheerleading is recognized as an organized sport by the Owatonna Public School District, the sport is only recognized during school events – meaning that it does not help with funding competition at all-star events such as the U.S. Finals.

Fortunately for Owatonna, the team’s win at the NCA Classic earned it a “Golden Ticket,” which covered all expenses toward helping the team compete in Kansas City.

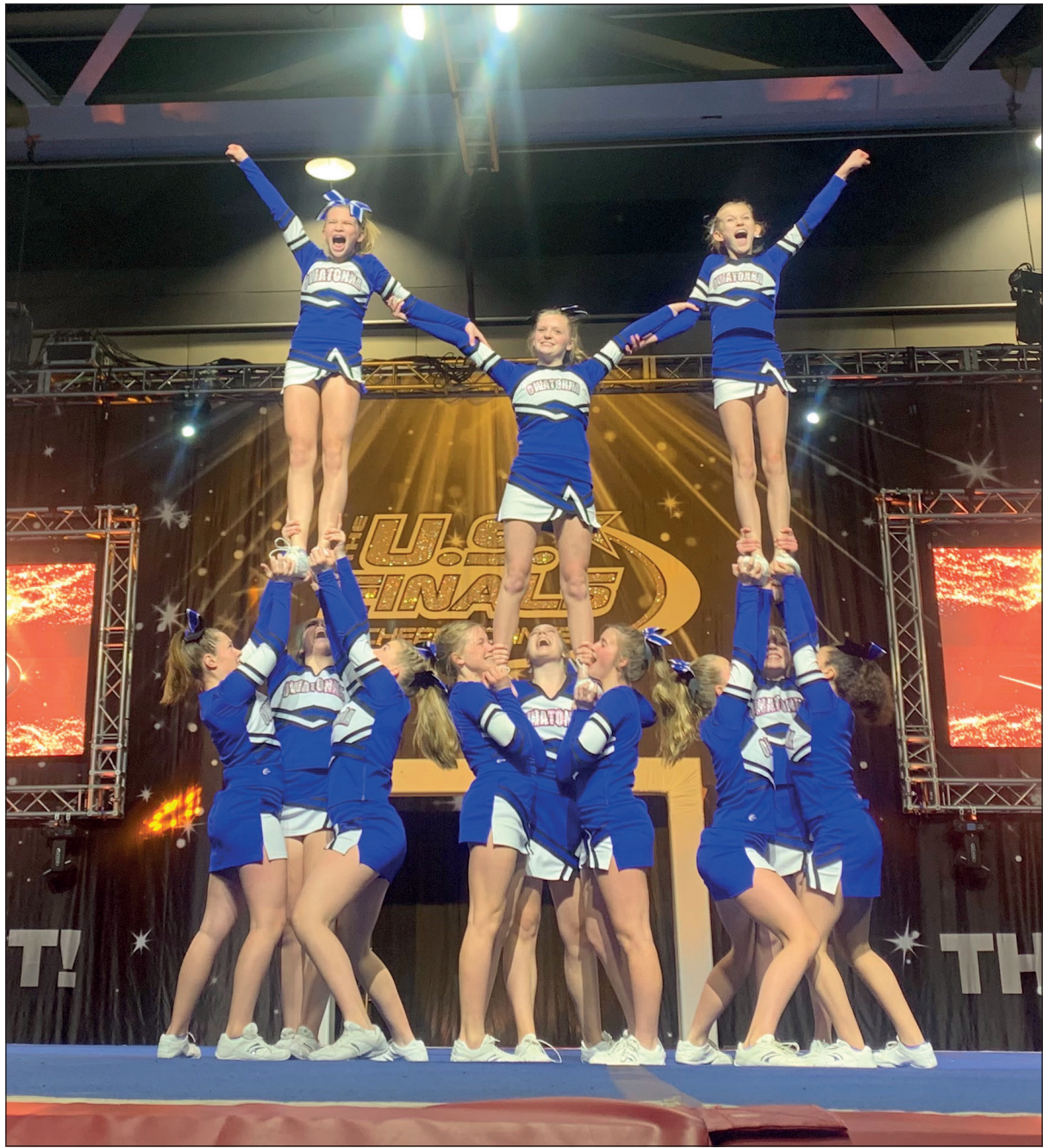
However, Kansas City may not be the team’s last hoorah for the season.

With the U.S. finals being part of a 12 city regional circuit, the top-scoring teams in their respective levels will receive a video of their performance that will ultimately be sent to judges at the NCA for final evaluation to decide an outright winner for the U.S. Nationals.

Based on its performance in Kansas City, Owatonna is eligible to win the national title and break even more new ground in the team’s seventh year of competition.

Results from the national competition – which will just feature video evaluation and no in-person performances – are pending as judges from the NCA decide the fate of youth cheer squads around the nation.

According to Hanson, a win at nationals would be something of a cherry on top of an already incredible season.



The Owatonna youth cheer team performs a stunt during the U.S. Finals competition in Kansas City. Owatonna took home first place at the tournament in the traditional recreation category.



OWATONNA PROUD

OWATONNA SCHOOLS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022 | B13

A look into scholarships offered at OHS

BY JANESEA MOORE
OHS MAGNET WRITER

With graduation approaching, OHS seniors need to start planning for their future, whether that be going into the military, the work force or college.

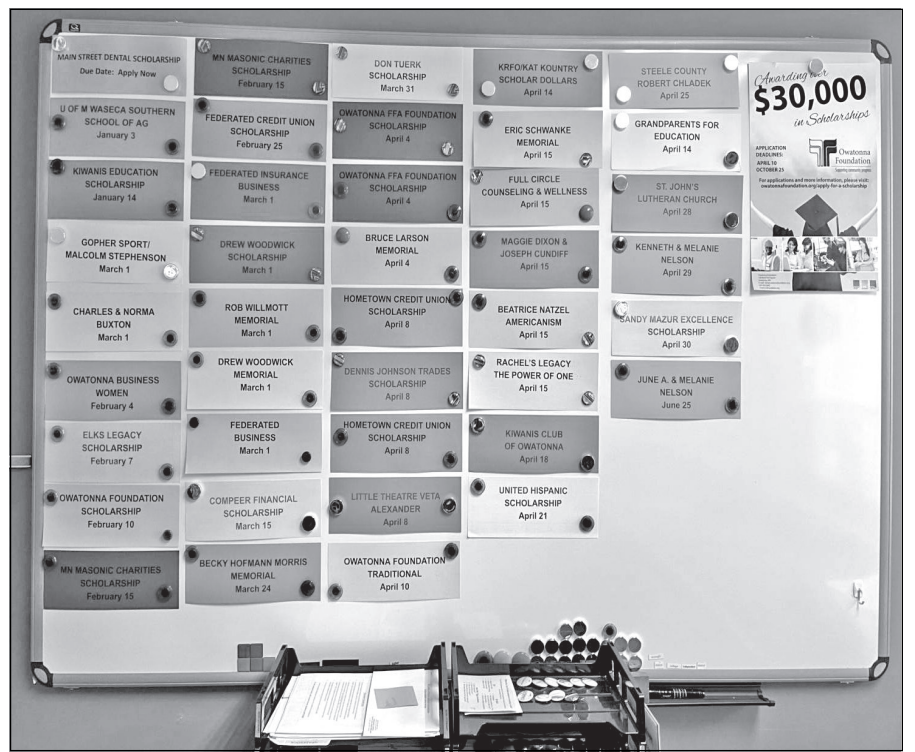
For many, college would be their route of choice. College is well worth it for many students but it is not cheap. Thankfully, there are many scholarship opportunities available. They can be based on intended major, clubs you have been involved in throughout high school, GPA and more. The career center has sent emails containing numerous scholarships that seniors can apply for. Students can always look to find a scholarship that fits

their criteria.

A new scholarship to OHS this year is the Mixed Roots scholarship. Ms. Holly Choon Hyang Bachman, the Mixed Roots founder, created this scholarship for students who have made an impact in their community by upholding Mixed Roots values of unity and diversity. The Mixed Roots Foundation will award two students with \$1,000 who have shown success by writing an essay that outlines their own work in education, diversity, and the community. The scholarship focuses on Mixed Roots members, but is open to all seniors who qualify. Ms. Bachman said, "I wanted to go back to my roots of where it all started to recognize

and honor students who are like me and all of the students, staff and faculty who helped form the group in its inception." The application is due April 29 and the winners will be announced sometime in early May.

These are a few but far from all the scholarships that are available. Senior Abby Medo says, "I'm applying for scholarships because my college tuition is high and I don't want to have as much debt after college." To find more information, go to the OHS scholarship website (ohs.isd761.org/students/scholarships). Ms. Shannon Dewitz updates this regularly. It includes national and local scholarships and other quick links to scholarships.



OHS MAGNET PHOTO BY JANESEA MOORE

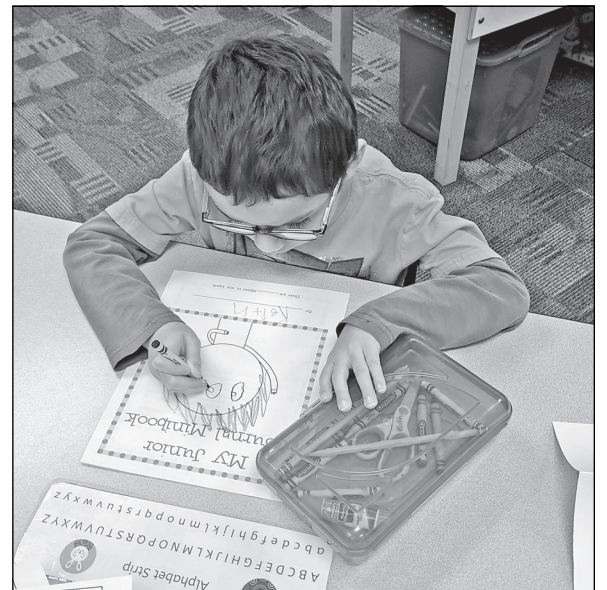
The career center's board is filled with a colorful array of scholarship opportunities for graduating seniors at OHS.



A lesson in money

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Junior Achievement volunteers visit the elementary schools to share lessons on money management and making decisions between needs and wants.



Idea simulator rolls into OHS

The "Big Ideas" mobile lab simulator is in Owatonna on Wednesday, April 20, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The simulation lab provides learners with interactive experiences to explore in-demand jobs. The lab has a fully immersive virtual reality system to introduce

welding, industrial painting, and CAT excavation.

An additional learning space in the trailer allows for students to select from over 20 trade simulations. Local industry partners will also be on hand that day to visit in-person with students to showcase

career opportunities and future learning opportunities with their companies.

High school students and interested community members may contact Brian Coleman at bcoleman@isd761.org or 507-444-8814 to register for this Career Exploration Day.

Students of the Week

Elementary School

High School



Jorrie Seykora
Fifth Grade
Parents: Clint and Jennifer Seykora
Jorrie is an amazing classmate and leader. She exemplifies leadership and character through her interactions with peers and daily work ethic. She brings a lot of joy to our classroom and makes everyone feel valued and welcomed.



Ridwan Mohamud
Fifth Grade
Parent: Roda Mahamud
Ridwan has an eye for detail and works diligently each and every day to ensure that his final product is just right. He is a helpful classmate, volunteering to help others when he finishes his own assignments, and he does so with a kind, compassionate heart.



Kassidy Hart
Junior
Parents: Corey and Kris Hart
Kassidy is a leader in our Early American History class. She goes above and beyond on all her assignments, works well with her classmates in small groups, and is always on task throughout the class period. Keep up the great work, Cassidy!

Owatonna School Calendar

Important Upcoming School Dates
April 15: No school
May 30: No school
June 2: Last day of school
June 3: Graduation

Upcoming School Board meetings
April 25: 5:30 p.m. – School Board Meeting
May 9: 5:30 p.m. – School Board Work Session

May 23: 5:30 p.m. – School Board Meeting

All School Board meetings are held in the Small Group Forum at Owatonna High School

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Will your money last as long as you do?

We all hope for long, healthy lives. But there's a serious "side effect" of longevity – the possibility of outliving our money. How can you help prevent this?

It's useful to know the seriousness of the threat. Consider this: About 41% of all U.S. homes in which the head of the household is between 35 and 64 are projected to run short of money in retirement, according to the Employee Benefit Research Institute.

While this statistic indicates a cause for concern, it certainly doesn't mean that you are necessarily headed for trouble – because there's a lot you can do to help build and manage enough resources to last a lifetime. Here are a few suggestions:

Consider your estimated longevity. On average, a 65-year-old man can expect to live another 17 years, while a 65-year-old woman can anticipate about 20 years, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Of course, you'll want to take into account your health and family history of longevity to arrive at a reasonable estimate. You can then use this figure to help determine how much money you'll eventually need. To play it safe, you might even want to try to build an income stream that can last beyond your estimated lifespan, possibly up to age 90.

Don't overlook health care costs. When budgeting for retirement, allow enough for your health care expenses, which can be considerable. Even with Medicare, you can expect to spend anywhere from \$4,500 to \$6,500 per year, per person, for traditional medical costs. Also, you may want to prepare for two to three years of long-term care expenses, which currently range from about \$50,000 per year for home health care to over \$100,000 per year for a private room in a nursing home.

Keep building assets for retirement. While you're working, constantly try to put away as much money as possible for your retirement years. Each year your salary goes up, increase your contributions to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. You may also want to contribute to an IRA, depending on your goals. And within your retirement savings, make sure you devote a reasonable percentage of your investment dollars to growth-oriented vehicles that align with your goals and risk tolerance.

Seek out sources of guaranteed income. As a retiree, you will receive Social Security benefits – and the longer you wait before claiming them, the bigger your monthly checks will be. But you might also consider investments that can provide a source of income you can't outlive, such as annuities.

Revisit your strategy before you retire. As you near retirement, you may want to review your investment strategy, possibly adjusting your risk level so that your portfolio would be somewhat less susceptible to market volatility. This is also a good time to review your spending needs in retirement.

Maintain a reasonable withdrawal rate. Once you are retired, you'll likely need to start withdrawing from your 401(k), IRA and other investment accounts. To avoid taking out too much money too early in your retirement, you'll need to set a reasonable, sustainable withdrawal rate based on your assets, age and retirement lifestyle. A financial advisor can help you determine an appropriate rate.

It will take dedication and determination to help ensure your money doesn't run out during your lifetime. But you'd probably agree that it's well worth the effort.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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To learn more, call today.



Jeffrey M. Hall
Financial Advisor

143 W. Bridge St.
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ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS®
From the Hosts of the Under The Hood radio show.

By Shannon Nordstrom and Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics,

My business purchased a brand-new vehicle and during the delivery at the dealership they told me to bring it back to them for all service to ensure the warranty will remain in effect. They did not tell me directly that the warranty would be void if I had it serviced elsewhere but they strongly implied so. I have been a faithful customer of another dealership for many years, but my company decided to go with this model and being a company supplied vehicle that is free for me to drive I have to live with their choice. They do give me the choice of where to have my service work done as I live 80 miles from that dealership. My question to you is can they void my warranty because I have my general service work done elsewhere? This is my first car I have driven that has had any kind of warranty at all. My personal cars have all been 3-5 years old when I buy them.

Thank you, Belinda in Friendly, Minnesota

Dear Belinda,

The dealership would love to have you back for all your service work. Most dealerships can assure that you can get all the service that you need to take care of your car, however, so can almost any independent repair facility out there. You can choose to have your non-warranty work performed anywhere as long as the parts used meet or exceed factory specifications.

Take care, the Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics,

I am in need of a third set of intake gaskets on my car in an eight-year period. I now have 150,000 miles on my car and the first set went out at 40,000. I have searched the internet and found countless people with the same engine style in their cars and vans with the same issue. How can the manufacturer have so many failures out there and not have a recall on them? I have owned other cars with recalls for things that weren't even broken, and I could not find anyone else with the issue, these gaskets are almost an epidemic with no recall. Why don't they recall them?

Thank you, John in Owensboro, KY

Dear John,

I know what you mean. I too own a car that I've had to pay for repairs on myself many times over and I felt the parts should have been designed better. For a recall to be issued complaints must be filed with the government safety office and then they are investigated to determine if they are safety related which could cause consumer harm. Recalls are not usually issued if there is no safety concern. A manufacturer does not have to repair a vehicle out of its warranty period unless a repair is deemed to be a safety hazard and a recall has been started. On occasion, some manufacturers have extended warranty coverage as a good faith measure to retain customers.

Take care, the Motor Medics

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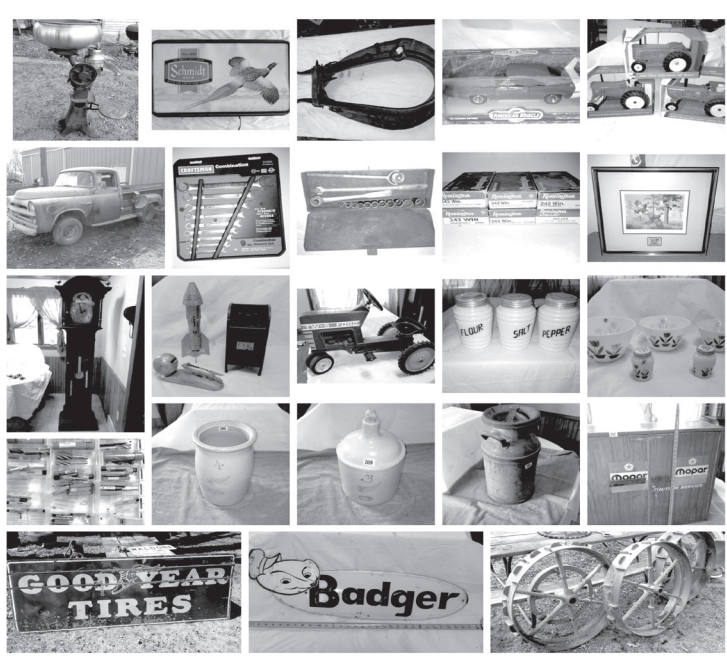
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4/14Pd

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4/14T2pd

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hobby, clothing tools, music (guitar, record player & records, music boxes), furniture, children's clothing, toys, books, games. Horse items including tack, blanket, combs, and MORE! PLUS food: beverages, baked goods, Mexican meals: sloppy Jose's, taco chips with dips.

4/14T2pd

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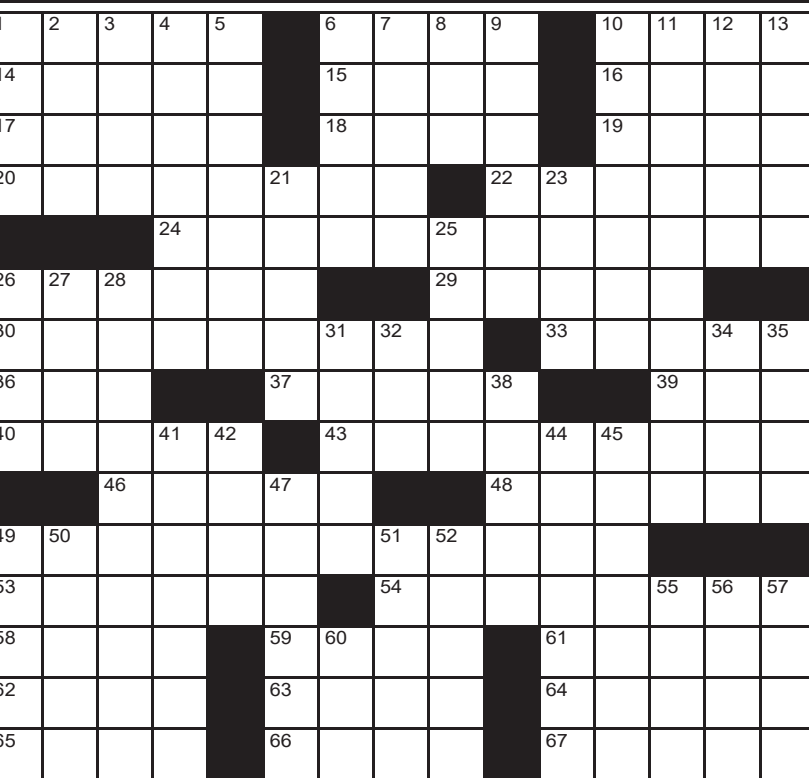
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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 "Under the weather", e.g.
- 6 Get ready, for short
- 10 Company car, maybe
- 14 Hitchcock's Mrs. Bates
- 15 Contact, e.g.
- 16 Place for a roast
- 17 Mr. Eastwood
- 18 Capp of the comics
- 19 CD predecessor
- 20 Be indecisive
- 22 Famous No. 5
- 24 Unsportsmanlike
- 26 Laughable
- 29 Fancy footwear
- 30 French eatery
- 33 Model stick-on
- 36 "One" anagram
- 37 Quarters
- 39 WNW's opposite
- 40 Cocktail garnish
- 43 Pulmonary problem
- 46 Brownish-gray
- 48 Catch some rays
- 49 Cathedral window art
- 53 Like nobles
- 54 Nitwit
- 58 Spicy stew
- 59 Astronaut Bean
- 61 Roping venue
- 62 Nostril wrinkler
- 63 Minnelli of "Cabaret"
- 64 Specialized slang
- 65 Farm enclosures



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- 66 Fortune teller
 - 67 Ferris Bueller's peers
- DOWN**
- 1 Short distance
 - 2 Parcel (out)
 - 3 Eye part
 - 4 Collected works
 - 5 90's sitcom, "Family ____"
 - 6 "The Republic" writer
 - 7 Avoid cancellation
 - 8 Conclusion
 - 9 Freud topic
 - 10 Fit to drink

- 11 Fleeting
- 12 Ward off
- 13 Posed to propose
- 21 Birch relative
- 23 Consideration
- 25 Kind of park
- 26 Look out for, say
- 27 Sweat site
- 28 Hygienic disposal of waste
- 31 Snared, as a steer
- 32 Charged bit
- 34 Atlas section
- 35 Like Sprat's cuisine
- 38 Black-eyed ____

- 41 Popeye and Bluto
- 42 Fiddle with a fiddle
- 44 Aquatic rodent
- 45 Like some breezes
- 47 Bicycle pair
- 49 Sitting spot
- 50 Squiggle over an "n"
- 51 Pottery finish
- 52 Type of eclipse
- 55 Border
- 56 2005 film, "____ Flux"
- 57 Polka followers
- 60 Deception



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APRIL BLOSSOMS OF THE MONTH
Blooming Prairie High School



The senior high student of the month is senior, Bradley Simon. His favorite class is contemporary literature because he “likes to read.” “Bradley is a bright student who dives into class material and challenges himself to connect personally with it,” said one of his teachers. “He is an independent thinker and capable leader in and out of the classroom.” Other teachers added these comments about Bradley:

- “Bradley is a strong leader.”
- “Bradley is very mature for his age. He has adult-like problem solving skills that allow him to provide good insight during collaboration.”

Bradley’s special interests are athletics, speech and music. He has three siblings: Payton, 21; Mason, 16 and Brooklyn, 8. He also has three dogs: Cletus, Nala and Appa.

Bradley Simon - Senior



Blooming Prairie’s other student of the month is freshman, Sean O’Brien. His favorite class is agriculture because he “uses hands, life lessons and active.”

Some comments shared by Sean’s teachers include:

- “Sean O’Brien doesn’t have a mean bone in his body, very nice and polite young man, always has a smile on his face and always has a funny story to share about his dogs or a hunting story. Can’t really say a bad thing about him!”
- “Sean is friendly to everyone.”
- “Sean is cheerful and creative. He will always have a story or joke to tell, often relating to class material! He is easygoing and helps maintain a positive classroom environment.”

Sean enjoys hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking and running. He has a sibling, Erin, 18, and two dogs, Ozzy and Moira.

Sean O’Brien - Freshman

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Technical Director Kathy Purdie

Choreographer Megan Proft

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• In-house box office opens April 18 - May 1

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