



Under the watchful eye of his father, Jeff, Harvin Hall, 9, of Owatonna delivers a chip shot during the Owatonna Junior City Open Thursday afternoon at Havana Hills. Harvin played in the Junior Boys 7-9 division. About 40 youngsters took part in the junior open, which has been featured for the past three years. The adults took part in the city open on the previous weekend. For complete results of both tournaments, see Page B7. There is also a feature on the Hall family on Page B10.

MSHSL realigns major fall sports due to COVID

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It was a decision that many Minnesota high school student athletes and coaches were waiting to hear.

The decision of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Board of Directors came at a meeting on Aug. 4. The major announcement approved

moving forward as scheduled with four fall activities.

Girls tennis, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls soccer and girls swimming and diving will begin on Aug. 17 with limitations.

Bloomington Prairie will only have cross country as a sport this fall. John Bruns is coach of the boys and girls teams.

The MSHSL Board of Directors also approved moving football and volleyball to a modified spring season. The state football and volleyball schedules will run from March 15 to May 15.

The typical spring sports of baseball, softball, golf and track will run from May 15 to July 15.

Bloomington Prairie High School Activities

Director Alison Mach said she wasn't surprised about the changes. "I knew we wouldn't be able to proceed as normal," she remarked.

Mach says the goal of the MSHSL task force and for AD's across the state is to provide as many opportunities as possible for all high school student athletes. "We knew that in order to do that, there was a

need to be creative," she explained.

The seasons may not look the same but schools now will be able to provide more opportunities for student athletes. "That's what is most important," says Mach.

Chad Gimbel, coach of the 2019 Class 1A state championship football team, also said he was not "overly sur-

prised" by the MSHSL board's decision.

Gimbel said the Minnesota Football Coaches Association had sent out questionnaires and the decision seemed to be moving toward having football in the spring. "It will be different for sure and it is not a great scenario but in the middle of a pandem-

SEE MSHSL, A3

Healed from life's storms, Vick ready to serve as pastor again

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Lisa Vick knows first hand how quickly things can change in life.

Within 10 weeks of each other, her parents died suddenly. A short time later she got divorced. After experiencing those life storms, Vick left the ministry in 2014 not knowing what the future would hold for her.

"I felt like I wasn't able to do ministry and take care of myself," Vick said. "I decided to take a break from the ministry to heal those wounds," she added.

Vick is now in a much better place in her life. She got married again in 2017. And within the past year, she has come back to being a pastor again and just took over the pastoral duties at United Methodist Church in Owatonna on July 1. She has lived just down the street from the church since getting married again.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Rev. Lisa Vick has taken over as pastor at United Methodist Church in Owatonna. She began her pastoral duties in the midst of a pandemic on July 1.

SEE HEALED, A5

Governor's car mandates stir criticism

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Tim Walz's proposed car mandates are leaving some feeling they are a bad idea and don't fit Minnesota.

On Wednesday

morning, Aug. 5, local residents were able to attend one of eight informational sessions to educate consumers on the negative impact of the governor's proposed car mandates. The event was held at the VFW in

Owatonna and hosted by the Center of the American Experiment.

"What he is doing is imposing California car standards on Minnesota," said Scott Lambert,

SEE GOVERNOR'S CAR, A10

Worleins stir up cookbook aimed at grieving spouses

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Mix in a collection of recipes with memories and what do you get? You get a tremendous resource, a "Stir Gently" cookbook created

by Worlein Funeral Home of Austin and Bloomington Prairie.

The 68-page cookbook just recently released contains recipes for those who have lost a spouse or loved one, and feel lost in the kitchen.

It is a challenge to cook for one and that's what the cookbook hopes to be of assistance.

Artist Sandy Jones of Bloomington Prairie created the colorful

SEE WORLEINS STIR UP, A8



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The staff of Worlein Funeral Home of Austin and Bloomington Prairie helped put together a resource cookbook. From left to right are: Mary Kittelson, community services director; Hayley Newman, funeral director; Anna Severson, office manager; Paul Worlein, owner and funeral director; Mark McGuire, funeral director; Veronica Carrillo, funeral director and Martha Hauschildt, receptionist.

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AREA DEATHS

Serving
Bloomington Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW

Advertising support is a paper's lifeline

Keeping a community newspaper operating is a tricky adventure, especially right now during these unprecedented times of COVID-19. While daily newspapers have had a particularly tough time across the country, it's no picnic for weekly newspapers either, especially when it comes to people who have a direct influence on potential support to keep the papers thriving. Advertising support generated from businesses and community organizations keeps newspapers functioning. Simply put, it's the lifeline for papers to continue operating.

The reason we are able to go out and cover the activities our readers expect and want to read about every week in the newspaper is because of the support we get from advertisers. A much smaller portion of our revenue, subscription fees, generally pays the printing and postage.

For years, our newspaper's policy has been that we offer 50% discount on advertising for non-profit organizations, churches and benefits/fundraisers. It's our way of giving back to the community on top of the coverage we typically provide for most any event or gathering throughout our coverage area.

Two recent incidents involving Blooming Prairie area businesses cause one to wonder if a newspaper is really valued here or not. Without revealing names to save embarrassment, the first involved a for-profit seasonal business and the other a public agency that services the entire community. When the for-profit business owner was approached about advertising, the response: "Oh, we have it on Facebook and it has been covered all over the state." Makes one scratch your head and wonder who from Duluth or International Falls is going to come down to Blooming Prairie to make a purchase.

The other has a yearly fundraiser later this month. This organization falls into our non-profit rate category, which would have given them a 50% discount from our normal advertising rates. Their response, "Our committee has decided not to advertise in the paper this year. We are doing social media advertising instead."

Our response in both cases, "Keep it up, great way to kill the local newspaper." Perhaps that's not the intent of the people involved in both of these situations, but it's quite honestly the reality of what could happen long term as a result of their actions.

This kind of behavior is no different than sitting at home and placing your household order on Amazon. It's going to kill small businesses and small communities.

The local newspaper has a targeted audience of readers who want local news and advertisements, and they are engaged in supporting their local community. Nobody provides local reliable information better than the newspaper, which has a longer shelf life than most social media. And to make things even worse for social media, there is overwhelming distrust with information that appears on it.

How often do you see Facebook, google or any other social media platform make any sort of investment in Blooming Prairie, Steele County or anywhere close by? Your local newspaper does each and every week in a variety of ways.

Our wishes are to remain in the community providing a service that readers want and enjoy every week. But our survival remains threatened by the ignorance of those who choose to avoid supporting the local newspaper through advertising.



YOUR VIEW

Forever Friend

To-the-Editor:
Here's another poem to share with your readers. I just renewed my subscription to the best paper in Southern Minnesota.

Old friends you have treasured
for a long, long time,
are valuable indeed,
they are there for you,
and you for them,
in any hour of need.

You tell your troubles to them
likewise, they to you,

the best advice is given,
that is what we do,
consolation is a loving virtue.

When this friend is called away,
to answer the call by the Father,
for that loss we can only pray,
God will also love His son or
daughter,
and we pray that He will send,
another trusting, loving,
forever friend.

Bud Peka
Owatonna

CORRECTION

In last week's photo of Making Hay on Page B1, the Times inadvertently misidentified the driver of the tractor. Behind the controls was Jacob

Johnson. He was working in the field with his brother, Josh Johnson. Their father is Jeff Johnson. The Times apologizes for the misidentification.

Patience urged with this year's elections

Just like most everything going on in our lives this year, the election will also take on a different twist because of the COVID-19 pandemic. And it's something that may require an extra jolt of patience from all of us.

The pandemic is testing all of us in ways we never imagined. Every one of our institutions has been shaken at their core during the coronavirus.

This past week Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon made an important announcement regarding the upcoming election, which will be a historic one in the face of COVID-19.

More and more Minnesotans every year are choosing to vote by absentee ballot. In 2018, as many as 24% turned in a ballot outside of Election Day. Simon is expecting far more than that to vote absentee this year.



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

Processing, storing and tabulating a significantly higher number of mailed-in ballots is presenting Simon's office as well as counties, cities and townships with an incredible challenge.

Absentee voters previously had to have their ballots received by Election Day and may be accepted within two days later, Aug. 13 for the primary, and seven days later, Nov. 10, for the general election.

Simon is asking for patience from everyone

during this year's election. While we've become spoiled in recent years getting election results within hours of the polls closing at 8 p.m., Simon warns it's going to be different this year. "The public needs to understand that in 2020, results will not be complete on Election Night," he said, noting this is common in other states that have historically had a postmark requirement or provisional ballots.

The secretary notes it may take a few days or up to a week until ballots are all in and counted. Simon stresses this doesn't mean anything has gone wrong.

For this week's Primary, the Legislature granted 48 hours of relief after Election Day to allow election officials sufficient time to count ballots. That means official results may not be known until

SEE PATIENCE URGED, A8



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

Who's that masked man?

Since I've been a youngster, I have been intrigued by masks. Now, I wear one almost every day.

The coronavirus has forced all of us to wear a mask for health and safety reasons.

My obsession with masks started when I was a kid and watched The Lone Ranger, aka Clayton Moore, on television. My obsession continued with Walt Disney creating the character Zorro, played on TV by Guy Williams.

I also was drawn into the guessing game of who was behind the mask worn by the Masked Marvel, a professional wrestler.

A friend of mine said the other day, "I feel like a bank robber."

My attraction to a mask is because of the mystery of not knowing who was behind that mask. With the Lone Ranger, I knew it was Tonto's best friend, a Texas Ranger. With El Zorro, I knew it was Don Diego Delevega.

As a follower of Zorro, I remember making my own Zorro replica mask. I also picked up a kid's Zorro outfit that I donated to my grandson Ryan who was 4 years old at the time. Because of his grandfather's infatuation with Zorro, Ryan became a fan, too.

Now, all of my family members, including Ryan, must wear a mask.

Who's behind that mask?



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Masks are worn by all ages. Here, Alecia Peterson and her two children, Brooklyn and Peyton wear masks as they attended a recent outdoor church service at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie.

Wearing a mask in 2020 is a requirement mandated by Gov. Tim Walz. More than 35 of the 50 states require everyone to wear a mask when out in public.

The coronavirus has motivated many seamstresses to get out their sewing machine and make some home-made masks. There are special medically approved masks called N95, personal protective equipment.

Sports teams have even created masks with the team logo printed on them. Minnesota Twins players wear masks with the twins logo affixed to them.

Linda Klemmensen of Sportstitch has designed some attractive Avenue Blossom masks. I have a black one and Judy has a gray one.

Wearing a mask is advocated by the CDC (Center for Disease Control), especially in places where you can't socially distance. Wearing a mask may prevent the spread of the coronavirus to others.

Masks have become controversial but it is agreed by most that masks can prevent the spread of droplets into the air that could infect people.

Even though it's not guaranteed to protect you from getting the virus, there can be some psychological benefit that comes from the feeling of protection. This will help reduce a person's anxiety.

Masks also stop you from touching your face. Face masks are not a substitute for social distancing and hygiene, but they will help reduce your exposure to the virus.

As I write this column, I am maskless but it feels like I am wearing one and that's because of the frequency I have begun to wear a mask.

Masks are no longer a part of the movies; they have become a part of life. Wear a mask to prevent the virus from spreading. It is the proper thing to do.

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Publisher.....Rick Bussler
Office Assistant.....Sherrie Pechan
Staff Writer.....Howard Lestrud
County Writer.....Karen M. Jorgensen
County Writer.....Chris Baldwin

DEADLINES

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Steele, Dodge,
Freeborn & Mower \$46
Elsewhere
in Minnesota \$49
Out of state \$52

A state and national award winning weekly

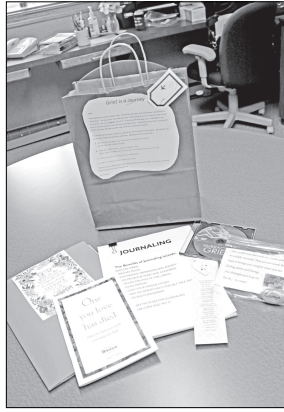


MINNESOTA
NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION

2020-9 state awards
2019-7 state awards
2018-6 state and
1 national awards
2017-2 state and
3 national awards
2016-5 state and
6 national awards

2015-7 state and
4 national awards
2014-3 state and
3 national awards
2013-7 state and
2 national awards
2012-2 state awards
2011-4 national awards

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



A special Grief Support Care Kit is given by the Worlein Funeral Home of Austin and Blooming Prairie to those who have lost loved ones. Many items designed to help people going through grief are included in the kit.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Grief Care Kits available from Worlein Funeral Home

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Because of COVID-19 Worlein Funeral Home's Grief Support five-week sessions have been suspended.

In spite of the disruption by COVID-19, Worlein Funeral Home of Austin and Blooming Prairie is distributing Grief Support Care Kits to people who have lost loved ones.

The kits can be personalized for loss of spouse, loss of child, etc. The Care Kit contains:

- Newly released "Stir Gently" cookbook
- Comfort/pocket rock (brings you strength and hope in

- the days to come
- 16.9 fl. oz. water (stay hydrated)
- DVD Embracing Grief
- Booklet: "One You Love Has Died"

- Journaling packet
- Folder on grieving
- Kleenex
- Book mark with seeds in a heart (plant the seeds of hope)

- Mints
- Herbal tea
- Call Mary Kittelson, community services director, for a Grief Support Care Kit, at 507-583-7561.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The Worlein Funeral Home of Blooming Prairie Library has worked with the Blooming Prairie Library to give people who are grieving a special comfort rock. Here's some of the rocks that will be given out.

Options for those who have lost health insurance

With recent reports illustrating the growing number of uninsured Americans across the country, MNSure is reminding Minnesotans that there are options. For those who have lost their health insurance, seen a change in income, or experienced a qualifying life event, enrollment opportunities may be available.

"The last couple of months has brought tremendous uncertainty to many families across the state," said MNSure CEO Nate Clark. "It's important that Minnesotans know

there are enrollment opportunities available if they lose their health insurance. MNSure is here to help."

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 100,000 Minnesotans have come through MNSure to find health insurance coverage.

For new customers, you may be eligible to enroll if:

- You were enrolled in a plan off MNSure and it became unaffordable
- You lost or are losing coverage through your job

SEE OPTIONS, A8

MSHSL: FROM A1

ic, it gives everybody the opportunity to play their favorite sport," Gimbel said.

The Blossom football team members will be able to practice in the fall. He said the MSHSL has not set a practice schedule as of yet. Football players practiced four days last week in anticipation of starting the season as normal.

Gimbel said the Awesome Blossoms will play six games. Playoff schedules have yet to be determined, he said. "AD's will have to set up schedules and we have some time yet."

Gimbel said a couple of his football players approached him about going out for cross country. He encouraged this.

Jennifer Wayne, first-year varsity volleyball coach, said some of her team members also inquired about going out for cross country. She, too, encouraged her athletes to take advantage of another opportunity to compete.

The change from fall to spring "doesn't really bother me," said Coach Wayne. "Since I am a first-year coach, I will be able to have more time to prepare for the season," she said.

Wayne has been ninth grade volleyball coach for the past eight years.

Coach Gimbel, entering his 24th year as varsity football coach in Blooming Prairie, said safety because of the coronavirus is driving

these changes. "It's the kind of world we are looking at," he said.

AD Mach said schedules will be drafted "once we have a better understanding of what the start and end dates will be for each sports season," she said.

Cross country will have nine weeks of a regular season and can participate in a maximum of seven events. No more than three teams will be allowed at each meeting. Competition should remain local if possible, said Mach. There is a limit of two events per week. No decision has been made on post season competition or a state meet.

All of these changes will certainly be an adjustment, said Mach.

The MSHSL board said scrimmages, tournaments and captains practices cannot occur under the new sports seasons arrangements.

"Our Board of Directors recognizes the importance of the League's activities in supporting the mental and physical well-being of our students and has worked very hard to provide some level of participation in all activities," commented Erich Martens, MSHSL executive director.

In addition the board recognized its responsibility in focusing on the health and safety of all who participate in or support these opportunities, Martens said.

COVID claims another life in Steele

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The COVID-19 virus has claimed another life in Steele County, making it the second death since the pandemic broke out in March.

Public Health Director Amy Caron reported a woman in her 80s, whom she described as being in the "vulnerable population for COVID" died within the past week from the coronavirus. Caron said the

woman had been hospitalized for quite some time and was not in a long-term care facility.

Caron said two deaths may not seem like a lot, but it's yet another family having to cope with the loss of a loved one. She hopes others will learn from this death and perhaps change their ways when it comes to curbing the spread of the virus.

Steele County's cases jumped by another 20 over the past week,

including 13 over the weekend, to 351 confirmed cases since the start of the pandemic. This is the second week in a row that Steele's cases have gone up by 20. Previously, most of the cases have been centered on people in their 20s to 40s, but many of last week's new cases involved people in their 50s and 60s, according to Caron.

Most of the new cases have been scattered and people can't seem to

pinpoint where they are contracting the virus, Caron said. She added it is frustrating for public health officials when they can't identify figure out how people are coming down with COVID.

"Our statistics are just a roller coaster. I have no idea what's going on," Caron said when asked about the latest trends. "It has me scratching my head right now."

SEE COVID, A4

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



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

Share your hero and you could win a prize!

- In 200 or less words, send us details highlighting your hero and how they helped you survive COVID-19.
- Two easy ways to submit:
Email: hptimes@frontiernet.net
Mail: Steele County Times
o P.O. Box 247
o Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
- Please include: Name, Phone Number and Address and/or Email
- Submissions will be published in a special Hero section later this summer.
- **PRIZES** will be awarded to the best submissions as selected by our judges.
o Gift Cards to area stores and restaurants
o Subscriptions to the Times
- **HURRY!** Send your submissions by Friday, August 14

What's your COVID-19 HERO story?

We're waiting to hear from you today!

STEELE COUNTY Times

COVID-19 UPDATE

World.....19,900,000	U.S.5,600,000	MN.....60,939	Steele.....351	Dodge 129
Deaths732,000	Deaths163,000	Deaths1,698	Deaths2	Deaths 0
Recovered....12,100,000	Recovered.....2,310,000	Recovered.....28,205	Recovered.....266	Recovered..... 109

AS OF AUG. 10, 2020

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of July 27 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

CASEY A. ADAMS, 41, Eden Prairie, previously appeared and was convicted of felony domestic assault. Adams was sentenced to \$125, 40 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, domestic abuse evaluation, no possession of firearms and 3 years of supervised probation.

JOEL D. BROWNELL, 40, Dexter, previously appeared and was convicted of felony violation of predatory offender registration. He was sentenced to \$181, 2 days in county jail, psychological evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms, 40 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation.

JORDAN A. KANE, 29, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony domestic assault. The defendant was sentenced to \$125, 150 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, psychological evaluation, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms and 5 years of supervised probation.

RYAN J. PATZER, 29, Center City, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of stolen property and gross misdemeanor DWI. He was sentenced to \$1,500, 97 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no contact with victim, psychological evaluation, cognitive skill training, attend MADD impact panel, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms and 3 years of supervised probation.

TRAVIS T. STIGNEY, 34, Duluth, previously appeared and was convicted of felony violation of order for protection. Stigney was sentenced to \$581, 68 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, domestic abuse evaluation, no possession of firearms and 3 years of supervised probation.

TRAVIS L. TRITTE, 22, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony domestic assault. The defendant was sentenced to \$575, 58 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, domestic abuse counseling, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation. The following

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

misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of July 27 – Aug. 2:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

STEVEN G. APPLEBAUM, 66, Brooklyn Park, speeding, \$275; Lila A. Carlson, 19, LeCenter, possession of marijuana and no insurance, \$425; Cesar H. Hernandez, 32, Austin, invalid license, \$175; Shane D. Hilbert, 39, Algona, IA, malicious punishment of a child and domestic assault, \$575, 79 days in county jail, alcohol monitor, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, psychological evaluation, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Donna J. Hodgkins, 50, Waseca, stop sign, \$125; Per Kaw, 57, Austin, invalid license, \$175; Si V. Moo, 20, St. Paul, invalid license, \$175; Lah S. Paw, 22, St. Paul, permit violation, \$125; Daniel J. Rivera Escandon, 19, Blooming Prairie, suspended license, \$275; Luis G. Serna, 57, Northfield, suspended license and no insurance, \$475; Sophia A. Walder, 21, Mankato, expired tabs, \$105; Josiah A. Wood, 29, Austin, speeding, \$115.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

FERNANDO A. ALVAREZ, 19, Huntsville, AL, speeding, \$125; Brandon R. Bahr, 20, Lakeville, speeding, \$215; Curtis D. Beier, 20, Berthoud, CO, speeding, \$215; Michael S. Bocher, 49, Chicago, IL, speeding, \$115; Nanson Z. Butler, 57, Brooklyn Center, speeding, \$135; Israel Ceballoslopez, 19, Los Angeles, CA, speeding, \$115; Brian J. Connolly, 30, Germantown, MD, speeding, \$115; James W. Higgs, 31, Rochester, speeding and windshield tint violation, \$175; Edward E. Hillman, 33, Mulvane, KS, speeding, \$215; Adam J. Holstein, 58, Burnsville, speeding, \$275; Tori W. Holt, 45, Lakeville, speeding, \$115; Jose J. Ibarra, 44, Brooklyn Center, speeding, \$125; Tyler P. Landkammer, 23, Farmington, speeding, \$115; Meghan A. McCullough, 28, Prior Lake, speeding, \$125; Jose S. Moreno-Medina, 39, Boaz, AL, no license, \$175; Elizabeth G. Normy, 19, Houston, TX, speeding, \$115; Samuel D. Odden, 25, Burnsville, speeding, \$115; Benita B. Olegario, 22, St. Paul, no license, \$175; Charles Pha, 28, Westminster, CO, speeding, \$115; Jaime L. Rinehart, 23, Maple Grove, speeding, \$115; Lauren J. Robbins, 20, Maple Grove, speeding, \$115; Lucas W. Schultz, 39, Ramsey, speeding, \$125; Ronna L. Speake, 35, Hampton, IA, speeding, \$115; Vanessa H. Thap, 23, Coon Rapids, speeding, \$215; Min T. Win, 30, Austin, speeding, \$135.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

MARY C. BJERKE, 54, Rochester, speeding, \$125; Dawson D. Halvorson, 18, Monticello, speeding, \$125; Melissa J. Hansen, 44, Austin, speeding, \$125; Eric R. Hinson, 35, Kasson, theft, \$175 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Hunter B.

JAHNKE, 20, St. Peter, speeding, \$115; Stacy H. Kjos, 33, Albert Lea, stop sign, \$125; David J. Klecker, 39, Owatonna, speeding and no insurance, \$325; Ricardo Kletschka, 68, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Tajah L. Lee, 19, Rochester, speeding, \$155; Lacey N. Manuel, 26, Kasson, theft, \$175 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Codie J. Moore, 27, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$575, 3 days in county jail, maintain employment, psychological evaluation, no possession of firearms, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, domestic abuse evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Marcus G. Priebe, 18, Waseca, speeding, \$115; Stephanie L. Puttman, 35, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Aden A. Sagar, 23, Faribault, hands free violation, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Linda Santibanez, 33, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Andrea K. Saufferer, 28, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Bartolo Sosa Castillo, 53, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Deontavious D. Walker, 27, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$131, 11 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, domestic abuse evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 1 year of supervised probation; Jeremy J. Weber, 33, Waterville, speeding, \$125.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

JEFFREY J. CHALUPSKI, 37, Oak Grove, speeding, \$115; Ryan M. Crall, 21, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$125; Travis L. Duchene, 21, Rosemount, speeding, \$115; Jenna N. Gasner, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Ryder J. Hunsley-Hall, 16, Rochester, speeding, \$115; Oscar A. Jaime Alvarez, 25, Lakeville, speeding, \$115; Brittney P. McWilliams, 22, Marshall, speeding, \$135; Abram A. Medrano, 24, Rochester, speeding and no insurance, \$315; Cecelia D. Nicholson, 18, Nur M. Nur, 26, Columbia Heights, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Alexis H. Roehrick, 22, Faribault, speeding, \$115; Robin M. Roseland, 38, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Larry A. Schultz, 52, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Stephen J. Steinbauer, 68, Owatonna, DWI, \$375, attend MADD impact panel, chemical assessment and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Todd M. Thompson, 48, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Beatriz Vela, 19, Waseca, invalid license, \$175; Bradley D. Waas, 31, Faribault, speeding, \$135.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

JULY 31

Suspicion: Officers responded to suspicious activity in the 300 block of Oak Ave. S. at 12:14 a.m.

Theft: Police received theft reports from the 200 block of Phelps St. E. at 9:03 a.m. and 9:35 a.m.

AUG. 1

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 1600 block of Wood Duck Lane NE at 6:25 a.m.

Disturbance: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 700 block of Truman Ave. SE at 12:04 p.m.

Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 4:39 p.m.

Mental Health: Officers responded to a mental health incident in the 400 block of St. Paul Place NE at 10:57 p.m.

Aug. 2

Domestic: Officers responded to domestic disturbance in the 400 block of State Ave. NW at 2:01 a.m. and the 1500 block of St. Paul Road NE at 3:29 p.m.

Aug. 3

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 3600 block of County Road 45 N. at 2:28 p.m.

Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 200 block of 12th St. NE at 5:16 p.m.

Property: At 11:53 p.m., stolen property was recovered in the 2200 block of 4th Ave. SE.

Aug. 4

Animal: Police assisted with a dangerous dog in the 500 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 3:46 p.m.

Restraint: Officers arrested a subject for a restraining order violation in the 100 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 4:31 p.m.

Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 300 block of Cedarale Dr. SE at 4:41 p.m.

Aug. 5

Theft: Police received a theft report from the 300 block of Grove Ave. N. at 8:10 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 200 block of Vine St. E. at 1:48 p.m.

Hit and Run: At 6:58 p.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 400 block of Cherry St. NE.

DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest in the 2400 block of County Road 45 S. in Owatonna Township at 10:11 p.m.

Drugs: Police arrested a subject for drug activity in the 1800 block of 4th Ave. SE at 10:29 p.m.

Aug. 6

Crash: Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at West Hills Circle NW and State Ave. NW at 1:55 a.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

JULY 31

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 400 block of Central Ave. W. in Medford at 9:31 a.m.

Aug. 2

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Deputies began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 700 block of 5th St. S. in Ellendale at 1:42 a.m.

Aug. 3

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 8:57 p.m.

Crash: Deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at County Road 45 N. and 270th St. E. in Medford Township at 11:20 p.m. They took a

CRIME BRIEF

K-9 helps nab man wanted for warrants

Vegas, the K-9 crime fighter with Owatonna Police, assisted officers in finding a man wanted for multiple warrants.



Tyler Lockman

On Aug. 1, police received information that a man wanted had arrived home in the 700 block of N. Oak Avenue. Tyler Lockman, 32, was wanted for four outstanding felony probation violation warrants for drugs, weapons and fleeing in a motor vehicle.

When officers arrived, the homeowner consented to a search of the property. During the

search, an out-building was found and appeared to be locked from the inside. Officers gave numerous warnings to anyone

inside the shed to exit. They received no response.

After Vegas got on the scene, officers issued a final warning that the K-9 would be deployed. Again there was no response.

Officers forced the door open and the K-9 was deployed. Lockman was inside the shed and apprehended by Vegas. Lockman was arrested and booked on the warrants.

subject into custody.

Aug. 4

Suspicion: Deputies responded to suspicious activity in the 6700 block of 128th St. SW in Berlin Township at 2:09 p.m.

Aug. 6

Crash: At 5:18 a.m., a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage occurred at Interstate 35 and Highway 14 in Owatonna Township.

Off the Road: Deputies responded to a vehicle that ran off the road at 64th Ave. SE and Highway 30 E. in Blooming Prairie Township at 11:18 a.m.

Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 400 block of 6th Ave. W. in Ellendale at 1:13 p.m.

ARRESTS Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Daniel James Stockwell, 32, arrested at 11:43 p.m. Aug. 5, felony possession and sale of controlled substance, held for court.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of July 26 – Aug. 2:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

LEAH J. BARBOSA, 31, Rochester, speeding, \$220; Tanner J. Becvar, 23, Hayfield, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Anthony Canty, 25, Rochester, speeding, \$220; Jason E. Gruniken, 37, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Tyler D. Laue, 35, Byron, speeding, \$220; Jerome M. Monnin Jr., 60, Clarksville, CH, speeding, \$130; Haley M. Pike, 19, Pine Island, failure to notify owner of damaged property, \$350; Mark L. Roles, 44, Dodge Center, DWI, \$505, chemical assessment and 1 year of supervised probation; Cody J. Thoma, 29, Byron, damage to

property, \$180; Ryan J. Williams, 30, Mantorville, speeding, \$140.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Brandon I. Barski-Gamboni, 22, Zumbrota, possession of drugs, stay of adjudication, \$1,000, 3 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation; Mark L. Freitag, 45,

Kasson, speeding, \$380; Jennelynne P. Meliahi, 30, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Alexandra L. Sexton, 29, Dodge Center, speeding, \$130; Zachary E. Weichert, 24, Janesville, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised probation.

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jaydon N. Ozuna, 18, Rochester, leave vehicle overnight, \$130.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Abdifatah A. Abdi, 39, Owatonna, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Talie R. Bernard, 30, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Carl V. Bodunov, 53, Rochester, speeding, \$120; Alison Hrobak, 38, Rochester, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$80 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Peter J. Hubbard, 52, Sauk Center, speeding, \$140; Martin Rodriguez-Montes, 23, Kasson, DWI, \$250, 3 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of supervised probation; Consuelo G. Romero de Dios, 36, Dodge Center, no license, \$180; Auden W. Round, 18, Dodge Center, speeding, \$220; Tyler G. Speltz, 29, Winona, seat belt, stay of adjudication, \$80 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Trent E. Strunk, 23, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, stay of adjudication, \$80 and 6 months of unsupervised probation.

COVID: claims another life in Steele FROM AS

Public Health is focusing its attention right now on helping area schools develop their learning models for the upcoming school year. "A lot of our work will focus on how we can assist our schools," Caron said.

School and Public Health officials are all

monitoring the numbers, specifically the rate per 10,000 people, very closely in determining which learning model to utilize. The 0-9 rate is recommended for in-person learning while any rate higher calls for a hybrid model of distance and in-per-

son learning. As of Saturday, Steele County's rate is 10.33. "Steele County seems to be on the bubble," Caron said.

Caron believes this year is going to be very challenging for school districts, who may have to room back and forth between different learn-

ing models throughout the year. She added that no matter what learning model schools go with, parents will still have the chance to keep their children at home for distance learning.

Schools, Caron said, have been sharing their plans with Public Health. "They have some very well thought out plans if they end up with

a positive case," she said, noting that school officials have been willing to take Public Health's recommendations.

Caron said it will probably be another week before Public Health is able to get any good numbers to measure the effectiveness of the governor's recent mask order. Caron has noticed some places fol-

low the mask order like they should while others are not following it at all. The worst offenders, she said, are bars and restaurants where people may go in with a mask on but immediately take it off when they sit down putting the workers at greater risk. "I get the challenges, but I think it could be better," she said.

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How to Keep a Watchful Eye on an Aging Parent



Dear Savvy Senior,
Can you recommend any services or technology that help me monitor my elderly mother who lives alone? Since the coronavirus pandemic started last March, my sister and I have noticed that my mother's health has slipped a bit, so we would like to find something that helps us keep tabs on her when we're not around.
Concerned Daughter

Dear Concerned
Depending on how closely you want to monitor your mother, and what she's comfortable with as well, there are check-in call services along with some new monitoring technology devices you can turn to for help. Here are several to consider.

CHECK-IN CALLS

If you just want a simple check to make sure your mom is OK every day, consider signing her up with a daily check-in call service program. These are telephone reassurance programs run by police or sheriff's departments in hundreds of counties across the country and are usually provided free of charge.

Here's how they work. A computer automated phone system would call your mom at a designated time each day to check in. If she answers, the system would assume everything is OK. But if she didn't pick up or if the call goes to voice mail after repeated tries, you (or her other designee) would get a notification call. If you are not reachable, calls are then made to backup people who've also agreed to check on your mom if necessary.

The fallback is if no one can be reached, the police or other emergency services personnel will be dispatched to her home.

To find out if this service is available in your mom's community, call her local police department's nonemergency number. If it's not offered, there are other organizations or companies you can turn to that provide similar services.

One that I love that's completely free to use is Mon Ami (monami.io, 650-267-2474), which offers a volunteer phone bank that provides phone or video calls daily, weekly or anything in between. The volunteer will contact with your mom, provide companionship and make sure everything is OK. And, they'll let you know if they detect a problem.

MONITORING TECHNOLOGY

Technology also offers a variety of new ways to help you keep an eye on your mom when you can't be there.

One nifty new option is the Electronic Caregiver's (electroniccaregiver.com) "Premier" product, which is a wearable wrist device that provides activity monitoring, a 24/7 emergency help button, medication reminders and a GPS locator so you can determine your mom's whereabouts when she's away from home.

It's also linked to a family caregiver app to keep you and other loved ones in the loop. The device is free with a monthly subscription that costs \$40 to \$60 a month, depending on the level of monitoring.

If your mom is primarily homebound, another option to consider is a sensor-monitoring system like Caregiver Smart Solutions (caregiversmartsolutions.com). This uses small sensors (not cameras) placed in key areas of your mom's home to track her activities — everything from whether she used the coffee pot to how much she's watching TV — and will let you know if something out of the ordinary is happening. For instance, if she went to the bathroom and didn't leave, it could indicate a fall or other emergency.

You can also check up on her patterns anytime you want through the system's website or app. And for additional protection, it offers emergency call buttons that can be placed around the house. Caregiver Smart Solutions starts at \$99 for their activity sensors, plus a \$29 monthly service fee.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

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History from the News Archives

OWATONNA PHOTO NEWS

10 Years Ago

Aug. 17, 2010

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Nearly 300,000 people are expected to flock to Owatonna this week for the largest county fair in Minnesota. The Steele County Free Fair opens today and continues thru Sunday. This year's fair will be extra special as the fair celebrates its 150th Anniversary. Fair officials are keeping the tradition alive of being a free fair. Steele has not charged gate admission since 1927.

A celebration of WWII veterans was held Sunday to honor the 65th anniversary of the end of the war. Thirty-one local veterans were on hand to enjoy a great meal and listen to the program. The night was a fun time for all the veterans, their families and friends. It was really an all-out effort by everyone to win the war — Thank you veterans for the lives we enjoy today.

20 Years Ago

Aug. 15, 2000

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Several young ladies from Blooming Prairie attended the Just for Kicks Camp held in Austin August 3-5. The camp ended with a performance for parents and the community. Erin John, daughter of Doug and Tammy Johnson of Blooming, competed in the solo division of the Wee Kicks. Erin was awarded Just for Kicks Champion for her routine. Erin is 8 and will be attending third grade at Blooming Prairie Elementary in the fall.

Dale and Betty Betlach represent a proud and dying generation of farmers that had a homestead handed down through the family and now celebrate a century on the land. Actually the Betlachs are the third generation on the 120 acre spread five miles west of Blooming Prairie and it qualified 17 years ago, when Dale's grandfather, Joseph Betlach started paying on a mortgage on the land. However, because the county didn't record the sale until the final payment was made. So officially the farm made its start in 1890.

50 Years Ago

Aug. 12, 1970

VICTOR, VERNON & VYRLIE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Advanced registration for the 1970-1971 school year at Blooming Prairie High School was completed last week. A preliminary estimate indicate that approximately 645 students in grades 7 - 12 will enroll at the local high school. This would compare favorably with the enrollment of past years and might possibly even be a slight raise in enrollment. Attempts are being made to see that all students get their choice of subjects, but sheer numbers in many elective classes have required some changes for some students. School will be opening August 27th.

The Serviceman's Club rooms were the site of the annual American Legion Auxiliary Annual Flower Show. The show was a big success with 99 floral entries competing for prizes. Public voting for favorites in each of the eleven categories produced the following winners. First place winners were: Petunias arrangement — Hazel Brandt; Gladiolus — Hermina Haubenschild; Corsage — Olive Herrin; Mixed flower arrangement —

Mrs. Dorcas Daggett; Table Centerpiece — Ella Peterson; Bouquet one type flower — Hermina Haubenschild; Miniature bouquet — Hattie Anderson; Zinnia arrangement — Mrs. Ted Helleck; Roses — Agnes Strand; Dahlia stalk — Hannah Fredrickson; Wild Flower — Tammy Trom

75 Years Ago

Aug. 16, 1945

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

"WAR'S OVER" The thrilling news that electrified the entire world, received here Tuesday evening shortly before six was the announcement by President Truman stating that the war with Japan had ended. The news hit residents of Blooming Prairie with a "bang." The fire siren, the hemp mill whistle, fire bell, church bells, car horns, pans, kettles, in fact anything from which a sound could be produced were brought into action to herald the news that a terrible war had ended. Business came to a stand still almost immediately. Taverns closed and remained closed the following day. Banks, all service stations, business places closed on Wednesday. Rural letter carriers even did not make their routes on Thursday. Expressions of happiness were heard everywhere. Those having loved ones in the service realized that the end of the war was the only thing that would speed the day when they would return home and regain their families. Never before in the history of Blooming Prairie had the village closed down as tight as Wednesday. V-J Victory announcement and the day following are events that will never be forgotten by our residents.

31 Years Ago

Aug. 9, 1989

TOM SHEA, PUBLISHER

Over 160 children, grades K - 6, participated in the St. Joseph Sacred Heart Religious Summer School program at St. Mary's School. The theme for the week was "We Are Church." The children participated in music, art and religious education. The program was open to all children and their friends. Some of the participants were: Eric Holland, Katie Rypka, Amanda Salisbury, Shawn White and Joyce Wicks, OJHS teacher. Led by four Franciscan sisters, over 25 volunteers, including students and parents helped with the program.

Many retired farmers spent last weekend on the Zilm farm, where their boyhood memories became reality once again. For two days the sound of antique farm machinery fueled by gas or coal transformed to steam, roared at capacity, as they unmercifully as farmers toiled in the fields or operated the saw mill and lathing machines. Sunday brought relief with cooler temperatures and a breeze. Daniel and Theresa Zilm and their eight children hosted one of the largest thrashing bees, farm toy show and exhibit of antique machinery and tractors held in Minnesota.

The Court Sports and More Girls' softball team will be attending the Amateur Softball Association National Tournament in Tifton, Ga. They qualified for the tournament in the 19 and under division by taking second place in the State Tournament in Duluth. The team finished the season with a 25-3 record. The team includes: Jenny Abbe, Missy Fisher, Tina Gordon, Kin Honsey, Jessica Hughes, Lisa Mosher, Jenny Peglow, Brenda Staats, Val Staats, Toni VanEsch and Angie Wright. They are coached by Jim Mosher, Kathy Gordon and Marshall Wright.

HEALED: FROM A

Vick used to walk to the church to talk to former pastor Loren Olson, who has since retired.

"Who knew in a few years I would be sitting in the office being the pastor," Vick says. "I still can't believe it."

The pastor admits it's one of the strangest times to take over a parish. "Everything is different," Vick says.

"Getting to know people at a time when you can't know them face-to-face."

Since taking over United Methodist, Vick still hasn't had a service in the church, which stopped worship services when COVID-19 hit in March. They have tried drive-in services in recent weeks, but nothing in person. She is focusing her time and energy on how to make the church more welcoming, especially during the pandemic. "I have always had a passion for welcoming people," she said.

Like many churches, United Methodist has resorted to livestreaming services on Facebook as well as the local cable channel. Vick videotapes her service on Wednesday nights to

give them enough time to make them available for weekend services.

The video services, Vick noted, are opening up many new opportunities for the church so it can stay connected with people. She said a friend of hers from years ago has been watching her services in Texas. "We have become more out in the world," she said. "The parish is almost anybody. There is no barrier unless you don't have internet."

While it's hard to know how things will shake out for the church once the pandemic is over, Vick accepts the opportunity to bring the message to an entirely different group of people than the regular members. "I think there is hope," she stresses.

One of her goals as pastor is to reach out to people "in small ways that probably have more meaning."

As a pastor, Vick works hard to dispel a popular myth about church. "Our doors have to be open," she said. "People think they have to be perfect to

come through the door of a church," she says, quickly pointing out, "No one is perfect."

United Methodist has historically offered a traditional service. However, with the video tapings, the services are becoming more of a blended service of traditional and contemporary, Vick said. Once the pandemic lifts, she would like to add a second service.

She prides herself on offering "down to earth" sermons every week. Vick often preaches from the old testament to showcase what Jesus is saying and what he is trying to tell everyone. For example, she said, if Jesus says to feed the sheep, he is referring to people.

"We need a message of hope," Vick said. "It speaks across to generations. The world is changing awfully fast and it makes people afraid," she said. She added she focuses on "how are we being the hands and feet of Jesus in the world."

Vick points out the "Methodist DNA" is singing. "We love to sing and not to care if we're not a good singer. Singing hymns is such a big thing of who we are," she said, pointing out disappointment that singing can't really be done right now.

But she understands the importance of keeping people safe. "You don't want to open at the cost of endangering people," Vick said.

For Vick, being a pastor during a pandemic is not easy. While worship can't be in person right

now, Vick is making every effort to connect by phone with members on a regular basis.

"There is no fellowship. You have to try to get to know people on a different level," she said.

Part of the struggle for pastors is that churches are being forced to change faster than they want to. "We are going to have to adapt," Vick said.

Vick, who grew up in Montevideo, got interested in ministry after working with youth at a church in Minneapolis. After that experience, she felt the call to parish ministry. She graduated from seminary in New Brighton in 2007. She served as associate pastor at a church in Eden Prairie for a short time before going to Ellendale in 2009. She has also served at small congregations in Brownsdale and Sargus.

Vick's husband, Shannon, works for the grounds and maintenance department at Owatonna Schools.

During her recent hiatus from the ministry, Vick worked at Sisters Salon in Owatonna providing facials for about two years. She actually used that experience to help her return to the ministry. "I heard from people what was keeping them from going to church," she said. "It gave me this beautiful insight into how people felt."

In addition to serving in the ministry, Vick enjoys traveling and spending time with her two grandchildren, ages 3 and 1.

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STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS

Stinar Corp. growing in Blooming Prairie



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUJ

Blooming Prairie businessman Craig Kruckeberg thrives on getting involved in new projects. He has been working diligently with his team to expand Stinar Corp., a holding he gained out of bankruptcy two years ago.

BY HOWARD LESTRUJ
STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie continues to be a growing manufacturing community and one of the reasons it is strong is because of the addition of Stinar Corporation late last year.

Stinar is now a major part of the manufacturing fabric of Blooming Prairie.

Craig Kruckeberg, former owner and chief visionary of Minimizer, is the chief architect of Kruckeberg Industries,

which added Stinar to its roster of businesses. He is now chief executive officer of Stinar.

Kruckeberg always challenges himself to continually add pieces to the Kruckeberg Industries organization. He is keen on investments. "I love small towns and that's why I live here and do business here," he said.

When he is not building other business ventures, Kruckeberg is writing a book. It's a business book. He's

working with an author and says he is not revealing the title of the book at this time.

"Give me a blank piece of paper and it will stay blank," Kruckeberg says. "Put something on that paper and I will try to make something of it," he promises.

Kruckeberg Industries currently includes KIK Marketing, Kruckeberg Services, Stinar, Kruckeberg Motorsports, Bandit brands and Bandit Series.

Kruckeberg's twin sons are very active in

the Kruckeberg Industries framework. Tyler Kruckeberg is president and general manager of KIK Marketing. Trevor Kruckeberg is president and general manager of Kruckeberg Services, which includes a garbage disposal business.

For more than 50 years, Stinar has been manufacturing products for the world-wide aviation industry used in loading, servicing and maintaining all types of aircraft for both government and commercial operations.

All Stinar manufacturing is done in Blooming Prairie in 60,000 square feet of space gained through the purchase of a building on the east edge of town from Lyndon Johnson.

Stinar makes the airplane stairway that the President of the United States walks down, Kruckeberg said.

He says when the late President George H.W. Bush's body was taken to Washington, D.C., the family walked down a Stinar stairway.

Stinar also manufactures high lift maintenance trucks, catering and cabin service trucks, stairways truck mounted and towable, portable water and lavatory carts and portable water and lavatory trucks.

A newly reorganized Stinar Corp. is building lifts and creating parts for existing ground aviation needs.

"We've been slowly putting Stinar back together and it's going well," says CEO Kruckeberg. With an employee force of 16, Kruckeberg said he is hoping to add five more employees. His needs are in the engineering, welding and drafting areas.

Stinar ships out parts on a regular basis. "Some of the airline parts may be 30 to 40 years old but they are durable and still extremely useful," Kruckeberg said.

Stinar is expanding its business to service roofers and municipalities. A 20-foot lift is being designed for a roofing business.

The company also just submitted a bid for 27 mobile stairs units.

New ideas for expansion of Stinar are always explored by engineers Bernie Norte and Mike Trom and by draftsman Dustin Heimer.

Kruckeberg says he also gets to "put in his two cents" of guidance based on his 30 years of business experience. "We have a great team at Stinar and throughout Kruckeberg Industries," says Kruckeberg.

Kruckeberg is a hands-on kind of guy and has a habit of showing up in many different Stinar departments. He recently completed 21 days of working in the shipping department.

"It's work but there's nothing else to do," he laughs.

Turning the page, Kruckeberg has enjoyed his involvement in

Bandit racing. He says the business has been very fluid because of the coronavirus threat and due to threatening weather. A race was scheduled for June 20 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa but was called off due to inclement weather.

Kruckeberg is hopeful that pay for view will promote truck racing. He said some upcoming races hopefully will include, Tennessee and Salem, Indiana.

Another project led by Kruckeberg has been converting a former blacksmith shop into an office building. It is located at 301 Main Street just east of F & M State Bank of Blooming Prairie.

His father Dick who started Minimizer works on stained glass projects in one of the offices.

Three offices are still open. "This gives us room to grow," Kruckeberg said.

There's been talk of building a new water tower in Blooming Prairie. If that happens, Kruckeberg says he is interested in buying the old water tower.

Pointing out that he was a transplant in moving to Blooming Prairie at age 12, he says he is still a Blossom through and through.

Kruckeberg also enjoys working with young entrepreneurs and is proud of many Blooming Prairie Blossoms who have returned to make their living here in this Steele County community.

"I am proud to be a part of this little town," Kruckeberg professes. "Things are changing, but that's not all bad," he concluded.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUJ

Elevated on one of Stinar's lifts are these employees in Blooming Prairie: Eli Van Sice, Robert Wakefield, Jeff McCabe, Jason Williamson, Dustin Heimer and Jason Johnson.

Bridges adds new chiropractor



Dr. Robert Hansen

Bridges Chiropractic Health Clinic of Owatonna is pleased to welcome Dr. Robert Hansen to its healthcare team.

Dr. Hansen is a native

of northern Wisconsin, he played college football at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point where he graduated with a B.S. in Health Sciences and continued graduating Magnum Cum Laude from Palmer Chiropractic College in 2016 with his Doctor of Chiropractic degree.

He has since been in practice in Bozeman, Mont. and in the Minneapolis area. Hansen utilizes a variety of adjusting and treatment techniques to fit each individual patient. He believes each patient should be given

different options for a variety of treatments that aligns with their individualistic health goals.

Hansen is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys fitness and

strength training. He and his wife Cortney are newly married, just purchased a home in Owatonna, and are excited about the opportunity to serve the community.



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STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS



Angel Haven offers alternative in elder care

BY KAREN
M. JORGENSEN
COUNTY WRITER

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit care centers for the elderly at a particularly hard rate.

As families wonder how to best take care of the most vulnerable, facilities like Angel Haven in Byron offer an alternative to larger care facilities, said Debra Kline, the founder of the facility.

Angel Haven, Kline said, is officially licensed as adult foster care. The facility provides 24/7 care for the residents.

Although the number of residents varies, she is permitted to care for five individuals.

This smaller number, she said, has been especially important to the families of residents during the months larger care facilities in the state were in lockdown.

Angel Haven, and similar adult foster care residences, were not required to do a

total lockdown of their homes. Family members were still allowed to visit residents, Kline said, although under stringent conditions and following the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the state. The benefit to the residents, she said, was they were still able to have some contact with their families. For the family, they were able to see in person that their loved ones were okay.

Kline said she is well equipped to operate an adult foster care facility. With 25 years nursing experience, she said, she operated one from 2003 to 2008 when she took some time off to care for her own elderly parents.

She then did private nursing care for a while before returning to adult foster care in 2018.

While the pandemic has of course limited any outside activities, Kline said that under more normal circumstances her residents are able to enjoy a freedom

that is not possible in many other situations. Angel Haven offers a home environment, Kline said, which means the residents are able to do a variety of things such as going shopping or out to eat or visiting Oxbow or just driving around to see the leaves turning in the fall or the Christmas lights.

These excursions, like the in-home activities, are generally decided on jointly by Kline and the residents.

Kline said since especially since the pandemic began she has been having more inquiries about adult foster care. With adult day cares closed and nursing homes operating with very strict restrictions on visitors the idea of smaller adult foster care homes is drawing more attention. She said that anyone who would like more information about adult foster care and Angel Haven should give her a call at 507-208-8111.

Premier unveils revolutionary new trailer coupling

Trailer separations frequently occur in North America – at a rate of more than two and a half per day – but Premier Manufacturing, a subsidiary of Minimizer, Blooming Prairie, says it hopes the new SaFT-Latch leads to fewer accidents.

The SaFT-Latch – part number 820ELA – is connected to a Premier air chamber. If a driver forgets to close the hitch manually, the coupling is designed to close when the emergency brake is released.

“This new product is intended to be a fail-safe in the event an operator forgets to close the latch on the hitch,” said Paul Grycko, president of Premier Manufacturing.

“We have no doubt this product will



A new SaFT-Latch manufactured by Premier Manufacturing will lead to fewer accidents, claim Premier engineers.

reduce the number of disconnects occurring, which improves industry safety,” he added.

Premier says it has had discussions with fleets to develop a product like the 820ELA to further enhance their own current safety protocols.

“Fleets have approached us and asked that we help find a

solution to trailer separation events,” Grycko said. “We think the new 820ELA is an additional safety measure that will help do that.”

Premier highlights that it is always the responsibility of the person making the coupling connection to ensure the latch is closed and the driver’s responsibility to verify that the equipment is correctly connected before moving the vehicle. If the coupling is not properly closed, the 820ELA is there to help avoid a catastrophic failure.

For more information, visit premier-mfg.com.

Minimizer and Capital Partners acquired Premier Manufacturing Co. in January of this year.

Hy-Vee now accepts SNAP/ EBT for grocery pickup

Hy-Vee, Inc. announces that all of its store locations that offer Hy-Vee Aisles Online grocery pickup now accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) as payment at time of pickup.

SNAP/EBT beneficiaries now can shop online for groceries at Hy-Vee.com or via the Hy-Vee Aisles Online mobile app and collect their order curbside at a Hy-Vee store. Pickup service is available at more than 250 Hy-Vee stores throughout its eight-state region.

To use Aisles Online pickup, SNAP/EBT recipients can select their preferred store location on Hy-Vee.com or the Hy-Vee Aisles Online app, shop for their groceries, choose a pickup date and time,

and pick SNAP/EBT as the payment method.

Once notified that their groceries are ready, customers go to the store, look for the pickup signs in the parking lot, and pull into the designated spot and call the number on the sign. An employee then brings out the order and loads it into the customer’s car.

When customers go to pick up their order, they must bring both their SNAP/EBT card and a credit/debit card to pay for those items that are not EBT-eligible. Cash or checks will not be accepted as payment for curbside pickup orders.

Please note that Hy-Vee cannot currently accept SNAP/EBT payment for home delivery orders.

“By offering SNAP/EBT as a payment

option for pickup, we can now serve more customers with our Hy-Vee Aisles Online pickup service,” said Tom Crocker, senior vice president of e-commerce for Hy-Vee. “As we work to continually improve our e-commerce offerings, this is just one more way we can help our customers who want to shop from the comfort of their home versus venturing to the grocery store.”

With pickup service experiencing higher order volume during the COVID-19 pandemic, Hy-Vee has hired more Aisles Online team members, added more order pickup slots and increased communication.

For more information, please visit <https://www.hy-vee.com/grocery/customer-service/frequently-asked-questions.aspx#Snapebt>.

Unemployment falls to 8.6% in June

Minnesota’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 8.6% in June down from 9.5% in May according to numbers released by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).

Minnesota added 84,700 payroll jobs in June on a seasonally adjusted basis, up 3.2%, with the private sector adding 84,400 jobs, up 3.8%, during the month.

The government added 300 jobs. Seasonally adjusted employment gains in May were revised upward from 9,800 to 28,200 or 1.0%.

“Many Minnesotans who were laid off are beginning to return to work – which is a good sign. Yet our unemployment rate remains more than double what it was before the pandemic,” said DEED Commissioner Steve Grove.

Commissioner Grove continued, “To continue to see positive trends in our economy, we need to continue to be safe as we reopen our economy to avoid the volatility we’re seeing in other states that are dialing back due to troubling COVID-19 outbreaks. That means wearing masks and practicing social distancing.”

June’s employment numbers capture the job situation immediately after the reopening of indoor service at restaurants and bars.

Seasonally adjusted gains in June were led by leisure and hospitality, up 35,300 (24.9%), with accommodation and food service gaining

31,400 of the jobs (26.0%) and arts, entertainment, and recreation gaining 3,900 jobs (8.7%), followed by trade, transportation, and utilities up 19,100 with most of the gains in retail trade, up 17,300 jobs (6.4%) and education and health services up 16,900 jobs (3.4%) with 10,600 jobs added in health care & social assistance (2.4%) and another 6,300 jobs added in Education Services (11.3%).

The small supersector called other services (including personal services) added 11,300 for an over the month growth rate of 12.9%, the strongest growth rate of any supersector after leisure and hospitality.

Only three supersectors saw seasonally adjusted job losses in June: construction lost 2,000 jobs, down 1.6%; information lost 200 jobs, down 0.5%; financial activities lost 1,500 jobs, down 0.8%. Financial activities losses were entirely in real estate, rental and leasing, which lost 1,700 jobs, down 5.5%.

The U.S. gained 4.800 million payroll jobs in June, up 0.6% with the private sector gaining 4,767 million, up 4.3%. Minnesota’s unemployment rate continues to trend better than the national unemployment rate, which fell to 11.1% on a seasonally adjusted basis in June, down from 13.3% in May.

In Minnesota, the number of people unemployed dropped by 35,440 to 267,526 in June while the number employed rose 81,822 to 2,848,800, which put it above

where employment stood in April (2,789,493). Minnesota’s labor force grew by 46,382 people in June, 4,933 people short of where it was in February 2020 on a seasonally adjusted basis, with labor force participation at 69.9%, just above the March rate.

Over the year in June, Minnesota shed 273,776 payroll jobs, down 9.1%, while the private sector shed 232,053 jobs, down 9.0%. Despite improvement since May, all supersectors lost jobs in June over the year in Minnesota. The percent of job losses was still greatest in leisure and hospitality, down 34.4% over the year. Logging and mining was down 19.9%, information was down 15.6% and other services was down 15.2%.

Overall, Minnesota’s private sector bounced back more than the nation’s in June, with over the year job declines of 9.0% in Minnesota compared to 9.6% nationwide.

Employment fell in June over the year in all Minnesota Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

DEED is reminding Minnesotans receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits that the \$600 additional payment authorized by the CARES Act, known as the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUIC) is scheduled to end later this month.

Unless the program is extended by the federal government, the last week that FPUIC may be paid in Minnesota is the week ending July 25.

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Koda Living takes on new name

The Benedictine Health System recently engaged in a system-wide rebranding initiative resulting in a new naming structure for its living communities, a new corporate logo, and a new organizational name: **Benedictine**.

In Owatonna, Koda Living Community is now Benedictine Living Community-Owatonna.

"We may have revised our organization's name and look, but our Benedictine-based dedication to serving older adults has not changed," said Jerry Carley, president and CEO of Benedictine. "We see our new name and logo as a visual representation of the renewed energy our teams are using to approach new challenges ahead. Benedictine integrates decades of mission-focused purpose with modern care practices to keep our residents safe and secure during

unprecedented times such as these."

In elevating "Benedictine" in the new naming structure, Benedictine leadership is honoring the health care mission and ministry of its sponsor, the Benedictine Sister of St. Scholastica Monastery in Duluth.

"We have changed our name, however, the excellent care that we strive to provide each and every day will not change," said Lisa Kern, executive director of Benedictine Living Community-Owatonna.

A complete list of all Benedictine Living Communities with their new names can be seen at www.benedictineliving.org/together.

The Benedictine system is celebrating its 35th year throughout 2020. Benedictine Living Communities can be found in Minnesota, North Dakota, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

COLLEGE NEWS

Area students graduate from UND

Several area students have graduated from the University of North Dakota during spring 2020. They are Marissa E. Rahlf of Hayfield with a master of occupational therapy, Jacob K. Deml

of Owatonna with a bachelor of business administration and Hanna M. Hosler of Owatonna with a bachelor of arts.

Hosler graduated from her class as magna cum laude.

OPTIONS: for those who have lost health insurance FROM A3

You are eligible for Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare (an individual making less than \$25,520 may be eligible) or are a member of a federally recognized American Indian tribe

For current customers, a decrease in income may change your eligibility:

You become newly eligible for an advanced premium tax credit (APTC).

You become eligible for no- or low-cost coverage through Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare.

You can change plans or make changes to your current plan because you or someone in your household lost or is losing insurance through a job.

Current customers should report income changes right away. Additional information may be found at MNsure.org.

All four medical insurance companies that sell private health insurance plans through MNsure are waiving co-pays, co-insurance and deductibles related to COVID-19 diagnostic testing, and cost sharing for in-network COVID-19 hospitalization. Additionally, the Minnesota Department of Human Services has removed any cost-sharing for the diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 for all Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare members.

Help is available: MNsure has a statewide network of expert assisters who can help Minnesotans apply and enroll over the phone, free of charge.

MNsure's online help tools can be used to access frequently requested services.

The MNsure Contact Center is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday, at 651-639-2099 or 855-366-7873.

Try these recipes from Stir Gently

BREAKFAST IN A SKILLET

Ingredients:
2 slices of bacon
1 cup frozen cubed hash brown potatoes
1 tbsp onion
1 egg
salt and pepper to taste

Directions

Cut bacon into pieces and fry until crisp. Remove and set aside. Add the frozen potatoes, add salt and pepper and cook until almost done. Add the chopped onion and continue cooking. Stir in bacon. Make a well and crack in one egg. Cover and turn off heat. Cook until the egg is done.

Cook's tip: You can use frozen hash brown potatoes or regular hash browns for this recipe. Fresh potatoes can also be used. You can also sprinkle shredded cheddar cheese over the top.

MAIN DISHES SLOW COOKER SALISBURY STEAK

Submitted by Darrell Larson, in memory of Karen Larson

Ingredients:
2 lbs. ground beef
1 envelope dry onion soup
1/2 cup Italian seasoned bread crumbs
1/4 cup milk
1/4 cup flour
2 tbsp. vegetable oil
210.75 oz. condensed cream of chicken soup
1oz. dry au jus mix
3/4 cup water

Directions:

Mix the beef, soup mix, bread crumbs and milk and shape into 8 patties. Heat oil in a skillet and dredge patties

in flour and brown. Place patties in slow cooker in a pyramid form. In a bowl, mix cream of chicken soup, au jus mix and water. Then pour over the meat. Cook on low setting for 4-5 hours or until ground beef is well done.

SALADS & SIDES GRAPE SALAD

Submitted by Connie Hatle in memory of David Hatle

Ingredients:
2 lbs. green grapes
2 lbs. red grapes
8 oz. sour cream
8 oz. cream cheese
1/2 cup sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
Topping:
1/4 cup brown sugar
1 cut chopped pecans

Directions

Blend cream cheese, sour cream, sugar and vanilla till smooth then stir in grapes. Sprinkle topping over the top before serving.

SWEETS AND TREATS NUT GOODY BARS

Submitted by J. Pacovsky in memory of Darleen Pacovsky

Ingredients:
1/2 cup butter
6 oz. chocolate chips
6 oz. butterscotch tips
1/2 cup peanut butter
1 cup Spanish peanuts
1 cup miniature marshmallows

Directions:

In a double boiler, mix all the ingredients except the marshmallows and heat until it is melted. In a 9 x 13-inch pan, spread 1 cup of marshmallows and pour the melted mixture over them. Then, refrigerate.

PATIENCE URGED: with this year's elections FROM A2

late Thursday night. Simon says when you see the delay in reporting, know that it is by design, by law.

"Our commitment to accuracy and maintaining our longstanding system of safe, secure elections remains strong," Simon says. "This year, it's just going to take more time."

On Election Night, the secretary will not know how many absentee ballots are outstanding. Some counties have indicated they will not be

reporting any numbers on Election Night as they have until Wednesday at midnight to do so.

Due to the extended processing time, results will be updated as the Secretary of State's office receives them. And, Simon points out, it may be difficult to infer the results of specific races until ballots are fully counted.

Patience is a virtue we all need to go in hot pursuit of demonstrating especially in the face of a pandemic.

BOOK NOOK

Create a calming reading environment



NANCY VAILANCOURT

For many of us the last few months can best be described as surreal. New routines, new schedules, and dealing with so many changes can make our heads spin. Maybe it's been hard to concentrate and even to relax by reading a book.

Laurie Hartzel of the Star Tribune recently gave her advice on what to do to create a calming reading environment at this time of social and emotional upheaval. Here are some of the ideas she shared:

• Read something light at night. That isn't the time of day to be reading a doom and gloom book, either fiction or non-fiction. Find an author or series with characters who you enjoy and with whom you want to spend the waning hours of the day.

• Read in the morning. I know a few retired people who say that is their special quiet time to read. For those of us rushing

out the door to work, maybe give that a try on weekends.

• Read something uplifting. Some books leave you with a feeling of hope and others with a feeling of despair. At this time focus on hope!

• Switch genres – try a new variety of book. If you only read mysteries, try some science or historical fiction. Or find a book of short stories, especially if you have trouble concentrating.

• Put down your phone and pick up a book!

• Schedule reading time.

• Join a book club. There are several in the Blooming Prairie area. Ask around or call us at the library to join our monthly group. We have been meeting in park shelters while the weather cooperates.

• Re-read something you love. Remember a book that was extra special to you? Pick it up again. You may find new perspectives from this different time of your life.

Remember, the Blooming Prairie Branch Library is open for short visits to use computers and to browse for books. Our open hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Let us help you find books to enjoy.

WORLEINS STIR UP: FROM A1

design for the cover.

Jen Haugen, a local registered dietician, was an expert consultant for the cookbook.

The cookbook is dedicated to all who have lost their "chef" or the person they loved to cook for.

Many of the recipes in the cookbook were submitted by past grief support group members who have experienced the challenge of cooking for one. Recipes were also submitted by families served by Worleins and by Worleins staff.

Cookbook features are divided into these categories: Breakfast, Main Dishes, Salads and Sides and Sweets and Treats.

In addition to offering recipes, the cookbook also offers nutrition tips and provides grocery shopping for one tips. Meal planning is also addressed.

Among the many challenges of adjusting to the loss of a spouse is eating well when you really don't feel like eating at all, says nutritionist Haugen.

The pages of "Stir Gently" include information on how healthy eating can play a role in healing after a loss and in overall good health.

The book includes recipes for one as well as recipes from loved ones who have experienced the challenges of cooking after the loss of a loved one.

The new cookbook comes in a spiral bound format. It has a washable cover and is done in the colors of the Worleins logo, blue and white. Colorful photos accompany many of the recipes inside the book.

Mary Kittelson, community services director for Worleins, says the project took about nine months from start to finish. "It is a resource book," she added.

For many of those who are bereaved, life was centered around the kitchen and meal preparation. During grief support sessions, Kittelson said it is often mentioned by survivors as a secondary loss that they have not lost a spouse but also part of their identity as "cook" or "baker."

For many, especially men, they have lost the one who cooked for them or perhaps did the grocery shopping.



STIR PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTROD

The Worleins Funeral Home of Austin and Blooming Prairie has recently published a special cookbook for those who have lost a spouse or loved one. The cookbook is entitled "Stir Gently."

In a recent aftercare visit, an elderly gentleman reportedly stated, "I was married for over 60 years to someone seven years younger than me. I thought I had a cook for life, now what?" He also no doubt had never done grocery shopping.

Anna Severson, office manager for Worleins, helped set up the book. A local printer, Diamond Ridge Printing, published the book.

"Stir Gently" already has been widely distributed in the community served by the Worleins Funeral Home.

The cookbook is available in the Little Free Libraries located on the grounds of Worleins Funeral Home. Copies are also available at the Austin Public Library, Mower County Senior Center Library and the Blooming Prairie Public Library.

Recipe Corner

Beat these ingredients together:

- 3 beaten eggs
- 2 C sugar
- 2 squares unsweetened chocolate melted
- 1 C salad oil
- 2 C grated zucchini
- 1 tsp vanilla

Add:

- 3 C flour
- 1/4 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt

Fold in 1 C mini chocolate chips

Bake at 325 degrees for 50 minutes or test with toothpick and bake until it comes out clean.

Makes 2 large loafs or 3 smaller loafs.

Sponsored by

STEELE COUNTY Times

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Worship & Faith

STEELE COUNTY TIMES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020

A9

Rejoicing in a sinful world



Pastor Matt Fennell
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Philippians 4:4
"Rejoice in the Lord always,
and again I say, Rejoice."

The word "rejoice" is defined by Strong's as, "a primary verb; to be 'cheer'—full, i.e. calmly happy or well-off; impersonally, especially as salutation (on meeting or parting), he well—farewell, be glad, God speed, greeting, hail, joy(-fully), rejoice."

Notice that this clause is in the imperative case with an understood subject of "you." This is universal grammatical code for a command. Paul here is not just giving a suggestion. He is passing on an order from "High Command." Therefore,

it is expected to be obeyed or carried out, but what does it mean? What is the expectation? Does the Lord really expect me to always be happy. How is this possible?

The simple answer is that it's not. This world is full of sin and therefore full of sorrow. Difficult and sad things occur on a regular basis. The shortest verse in Scripture is "Jesus wept." If even the Lord himself was moved to tears it cannot be shameful or sinful to experience periods of sorrow for He was without sin. Psalm 56:8 speaks of the tenderness the Lord has for us in our sorrow and suffering. He most certainly does not reproach us for sadness when he himself was a "man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief."

What then can this mean. Perhaps the meaning might be revealed by looking at an illustration from a very unlikely place. As a child, my I saw the movie Mary Poppins. In this fictitious tale, Mary Poppins says to the children, "In every task that must be

done there is an element of fun. Find the fun and snap the jobs a game!" Could this possibly give us some insight? If we look at things from this perspective then it is not so much the events and circumstances that are of utmost importance here, but rather our response. Much of the "circumstance" of our lives are unchangeable. There are many events over which we have no power or influence. They simply are. I view these as backgrounds or canvases. They are what they are and we then are given the choice of what we will do with them. What colors or elements we choose to add. Sometimes they are canvases of hopefulness, success, or delight. Others we are given are far darker. However, in all our canvases even those of sorrow we have a responsibility to respond in a Biblical manner.

Notice the rejoicing is in no way connected to our circumstance. The rejoicing is independent of anything else that may be going on in my life

for the object of my rejoicing is in the Lord. Whether in times of prosperity and delight or overwhelming pain and even persecution we choose to switch our focus from the what to the who. Remember where Paul is and what he is experiencing as he writes "he is imprisoned and his enemies are thriving! There is nothing that he can do about any of that, but he can look to the Lord. He can choose to be "cheer"ful, i.e. calmly happy or well-off in his relationship and confidence in the person of Jesus Christ. Into the Lord's capable hands we are to place our burdens, and rest in him. I heard a speaker address this topic at a conference once. I don't recall the speaker but I have always cherished the way he put it. He stated that we can not trust the situation we find ourselves in we can still trust the heart of the God who is seeking to lead us through them.

The "element of fun" if you will is the unfailing person of our great God. We can rejoice

because of the promises and person of the Lord. What is he like? Why can we rejoice? Meditate on these few Scriptures that reveal His character and intent.

Heb 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Mt 28:20 b... and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mt 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Romans 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

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

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

FIRST LUTHERAN - AFLC
503 Kadel Ct., Ellendale
Pastor Richard Sliper
507-684-2453

Men's Bible Study: 8 a.m. Saturday
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
(Kids church 9 a.m. and
Confirmation: 10:15 a.m.)
Jesus and Me: 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday
Call to Prayer: 7 p.m. Tuesday
Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday
Wednesday School: 6:15-7 p.m.
Followed by Youth Group: 7-9 p.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN - ELCA
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Senior Pastor: Rev. Heidi Heimgartner
Associate Pastor: Rev. Mike Valerius
507-583-6621

FIRST LUTHERAN - LCMC
8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope
Pastor Sandy Miller
507-431-8454
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN - LCMC
2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna
Pastor Greg Schlicker
507-431-4125
goodshepherdowatonna.com
Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN - ELCA
9651 SW 75th St., Ellendale
507-465-8366
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

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

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN - LCMC

4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
Pastor Alan Broadwell
507-528-2404
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN - LCMC
28959 68th Ave., Sargeant
Pastor Collin Duling
507-251-5568
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

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

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN - ELCA
30456 57th Ave., Waltham
Pastor Dwight Dohell
507-567-2474
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN - ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
507-451-2165
Worship: 9 a.m. outdoors only,
weather permitting
507-431-4125
goodshepherdowatonna.com
Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN - ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520
krowatonna.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Buegler
Associate Pastor: Rev. Amanda Floyd
Deacons: Kris Oryegregard
Worship: 5 p.m. Saturday: 8:15 a.m.,
9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School:
8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN - LCMC
108 Third Ave. SW., Medford
Pastor Mark Biggishauer
507-451-0447
Worship: Sunday 9 a.m. in Sanctuary
Wednesday 6:30 p.m. outdoor south
side lawn, bring lawn chairs
507-567-2272

TRINITY LUTHERAN - LCMC
57043 30th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Kruemerk
507-567-2272

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN - ELCA

1909 St. Paul Road, Owatonna
Senior Pastor:
John Weitenberger
Associate Pastor: Lisa Carlson
507-451-4853
oursaviorsowatonna.com
Worship: 9:15 a.m. Traditional,
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School/Adult
Education
10:45 a.m. - Contemporary

CATHOLIC

CHRIST THE KING
205 Second Ave. NW., Medford
507-451-4533
Father James Starasnick
Deacon Patrick Pagan
Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat.
Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 SW First St., New Richland
Father Brian Mulligan
507-534-6244
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9945 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
Father John Wilmut
507-583-2784
www.litomyslweb.com
Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m.
Litomysl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other month
Liturgy Summer Festival has been
cancelled for 2020

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

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

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

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

CHRISTIAN

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

PENTECOSTAL

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

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST
4308 180th St., Medford (Seven
miles west of Medford on CR 23)
Pastors J & Stefanie Morgan
507-835-8728
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
200 Sixth St. NW., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirkema
507-477-2256
www.ellendaleum.org
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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

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

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

CELEBRATION OF FAITH
1001 1st St. SE., Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
507-477-2255
www.celebrationchurch.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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

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

NEW BEGINNINGS
332 14th St. NE., Owatonna
Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson
507-411-0309
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

SIMPLE CHURCH
4513 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna
(Country Goods building across the
freeway from Cabela's)
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5661
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday

MENNONITE

PRAIRIE MENNONITE
13638 75th St., Blooming Prairie
Bishop Dennis Martin
507-583-7532
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Wed.

MORMON

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
404 31st St. NW, Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
507-433-9042
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

PRESBYTERIAN

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

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Diving platform repaired for Pine Springs Pool

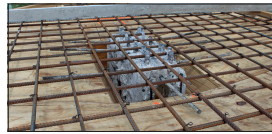
BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, many youngsters expressed disappointment that the Pine Springs Swimming Pool could not be opened this summer.

The Blooming Prairie City Council voted in May not to open the pool for the 2020 season. COVID-19 was not the only factor causing the pool not to open. A major repair was needed on the large diving platform on the eastern edge of the pool.

The top of the 10 by 10 foot platform had to be replaced, city administrator Andrew Langholz told the council. Cost of the project was listed at nearly \$17,000.

Repair on the diving platform took place last week under the direction of Scott Carlson, local general contractor and mason.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
This is a birdseye view of the diving platform at the Pine Springs Pool in Blooming Prairie. Re-bar is in place for concrete to be poured on the platform.

He was assisted by Jeff Davis and Vern Dahl. "I remember 54 years ago when there were a bunch of young hoodlums who played on that platform," Carlson said. He admitted to being one of those "young hoodlums."

The platform contains a concrete table, two yards of concrete, or 8,000 pounds of concrete were placed on the platform. This is equivalent to the weight of two pickup trucks.

"I like a challenge like this, working over the water," said



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
More concrete is brought from the northwest part of the Pine Springs Pool to be placed on the table of the diving platform. The platform is elevated 9 feet.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
The history of the Pine Springs Pool is recorded on this plaque that pays tribute to the pool's founder, Glenn Thorson. The plaque commemorates the 25th anniversary of the pool in 1986.

Carlson. The platform is nine feet off the ground.

The concrete for the platform was supplied by Ready Mix Concrete Co. of Austin. A special concrete mix was ordered for the platform.

Don Schocker of Austin Ready Mix helped bring in concrete for the sides of the pool 20 years ago. Carlson worked on that project, too.

"All the trades come together on projects like this," said Schocker.

GOVERNOR'S CAR: mandates stir criticism FROM A1

president of the Minnesota Auto Dealers Association. "He said it would do three things: clean the air and fight climate change, it would save consumers money, and everyone could still purchase any vehicle they want."

The proposed mandates would be spearheaded by the Governor's office and would sidestep any legislation. "The legislature is not consulted on this," Lambert explained to the audience. "This is a huge, huge policy change."

"There's two ways to stop this, number one if the population just rears up says that the Governor is going too far and too fast or if the legislature passes a bill that says you can't do this," Lambert said, adding that the House is currently controlled by the DFL. "They're not likely to go against the Governor, and the Governor would have to sign it anyways."

According to Lambert, these mandates would put California bureaucrats in charge of regulation and the ability to determine what kind of cars Minnesotans can drive. The mandates would also increase the cost of gas-powered vehicles by up to \$2,500.

"What he's doing is giving responsibility for tail-pipe emission standards to the California Air Research Board," Lambert explained. "They write rules to fix California air quality, and once we take on these rules they can't be amended, they can't be changed, and they can't be modified. These are California rules imposed on Minnesota."

Currently, 13 other states have adopted these regulations. "They are all states with air quality issues," opined Lambert. All of the states that have adopted these regulations have Colorado are located on the East or West coast.

"The environmental affect from this is negligible. We would argue that there really is no environmental gain on this at all," Lambert said. Unlike the other states that have adopted these regulations, he said that Minnesota is without such air quality issues. "Minnesota has clean air and it's getting cleaner."

While Lambert is opposed to the mandates Governor Walz has proposed, he is not opposed to electric cars. "Eighty-two percent of our new car market are trucks," he said. "Min-



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN
Scott Lambert, president of the Minnesota Auto Dealers Association, gives a presentation on Governor Walz's proposed car regulations Aug. 5 at the VFW in Owatonna.

nesotans love their trucks. Minnesotans live differently from Californians and we have different demographics."

"The real impact from this will be fewer choice of vehicles as we can only sell the vehicles the California Board will allow," explained Lambert. One reason why a truck in particular is popular in Minnesota is due to the cold weather and the long distances many consumers have to tackle.

Lambert said that such regulations will not only lead to the aforementioned limited choices, but also harm dealers by forcing them to carry a limited stock while upping the amount of less profitable electric models on their lot. "There's nothing wrong with electric cars, if people want to buy them, we'll sell them all day long," he said. "But the demand is not there right now."

"We hope to present them with a petition on this," Lambert said of what to do if you are opposed to Governor Walz's proposed mandates. "Governor Walz needs to hear from people, he needs to hear from people who are out of the metro area that this is simply a bad idea for Minnesota. It doesn't fit Minnesota."

Both Lambert and Rep. John Petersburg, R-Waseca, urged those in attendance to share their opinions with the Governor if they are concerned with the proposed mandates. "Electric vehicles may be coming, but I think the free market can handle that," Lambert said. "If there's more demand we'll sell them, but I don't know why we have to have a government mandate."

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Did I see what I thought I saw? Yes, it was a table moving down the street with a couple enjoying some refreshments on a summer afternoon. The movable picnic table is the creation of Tom and Jodi Rudnick of Blooming Prairie. The table moves with the parts of a motorized wheel chair. It can spin around with precision.

B to Z buys empty lots that once housed Bakery, Sportstitch

BY HOWARD LESTRUO
STAFF WRITER

What's the latest on downtown development to replace The Bakery and Sportstitch lots? The news is there is no news, says Jeff Peach, owner of B to Z Hardware store. Peach did confirm the fact that he purchased six lots adjoining the hardware store.

What are his plans for the open lots? "I have no idea at this time," he says.

B to Z Hardware is a family venture including his wife Sheri,

daughter Katie and son Dan. The Peaches have owned the B to Z store for more than 20 years. Greg Johnson is currently the store manager.

Peach bought B to Z from Brian Betlach and Jeff Zwienier.

Much conjecture has spawned rumors that the open lots would be the home of an expanded hardware store, or the home of a new restaurant.

Peach said he had not heard those rumors but had heard it mentioned that speculation was leaning toward

constructing some apartment buildings.

The open lots measure 22 by 100 and 44 by 100. Peach owns all of this property.

Fire destroyed The Bakery and Sportstitch on Jan. 29.

Keith Johnson Construction demolished The Bakery and Sportstitch buildings. The Bakery was owned by Gregg Fristedt and the Sportstitch building was owned by the Amundsen family. The Bakery was located in a former bank building.

Peach says he has no timeline in develop-



Jeff Peach

ing the open property. He previously owned hardware stores in Owatonna, Mapleton and Albert Lea. He said personal health reasons forced him to sell the stores.

Peach is proud of his hardware store in Blooming Prairie, saying it has a loyal following of local customers. He said the store's prices are very competitive with larger stores located nearby.

"Who knows what the future will hold for these open lots," said Peach. He said he plans to keep communications open with the leaders of city government in Blooming Prairie.



Blooming Prairie's Main Street has some open lots with their development in the future unknown. Jeff Peach, owner of B to Z Hardware, purchased the six lots which were the home of The Bakery and Sportstitch.

Soldier follows in dad's footsteps in U.S. Army Reserves

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER



Owatonna native Staff Sgt. Dan Wieman has served in the U.S. Army Reserves for almost 20 years. He returned a few weeks ago after serving a one-year deployment in Africa.

For 19-year veteran Staff Sgt. Dan Wieman, he is following in his father's footsteps of military service.

The Owatonna native just returned from serving a year long deployment with the U.S. Army Reserves to Djibouti, Africa where he took part in Operation Enduring Freedom. This was Wieman's third deployment as he previously served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He was one of 102 soldiers from the Mankato unit involved in the most recent deployment.

Wieman credits his father, Carl Wieman, for drawing him into the military. Carl was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1972 for two years before transferring to the

Army Reserves for another 25 years.

Carl retired in 1998.

As a senior at Owatonna in 2001, Dan Wieman enlisted into the Army Reserves.

Carl recalls talking to his son about joining. "I told him that if he joined, there is no turning back no matter how much he may not like it," Carl said.

"I also gave him the positives. You do get to travel, maybe not always to a place that you want to go to," he added.

Dan Wieman was in Basic Training in Oklahoma in September 2001 when the 9/11 attacks put the world on edge. Nobody really knew what would happen next. At one point, they were all told they might become infantry, even though Dan had entered to

SEE SOLDIER, B2

It's a go for 4-H Fair Board gets update on this year's shows

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

During last week's regular monthly meeting, the Steele County Free Fair Board heard from 4-H liaison and livestock director Tracy Ignaszewski on upcoming 4-H events.

The local 4-H and the Steele County arm of the University of Minnesota Extension Service have been formulating their plans all summer on how to best approach this year's 4-H shows. From the beginning they knew that they couldn't let their members down.

Initially plans were in place for a virtual showcase but as things slowly started coming together and certain restrictions were lifted, they quickly worked on a plan to do controlled livestock shows that adhere to current standards.

"We start our showcase Saturday," Ignaszewski said of this year's shows. The showcase will begin with static, or general projects. "We're able to condense and keep our 25 groups."

Due to current re-

strictions, each event is spaced out to ensure that proper social distancing is being adhered to and crowd size is appropriate. "A week from Sunday we start with the livestock," Ignaszewski said. "We have to change our shows around a little bit, they have to be a little longer and a little different to utilize space to spread out."

"If we fence in our grounds, there's able to be food trucks in another area, softball games going on, if something happens at the Four Seasons then they would still be able to do that as long as we are still in a controlled area," she explained.

"We're going to be around 190 people at our biggest events, so not even over 200 or near the 250 max."

While 4-Hers will still be able to show their livestock and projects, spectators will not be allowed. "We can't be open to the public," Ignaszewski said. "We will have people at the gates basically asking for a wristband."

"We're at probably about an upper 30 to the

SEE IT'S A GO, B2

Celebrating World Breastfeeding Week



Steele Talkin'
LISA WAYPA

With the world in the midst of a global pandemic, it is a good time to recognize the important role breastfeeding plays in protecting babies from germs all across the planet.

The Steele County WIC Program is celebrating Minnesota Breastfeeding Awareness Month throughout August. The theme for World Breastfeeding Week, Aug. 1-7, is "Support breastfeeding

for healthier families, healthier communities, healthier planet." The theme for Black Breastfeeding Week, Aug. 25-31, is "Revive, Restore, Reclaim."

As the world's leading scientists race to find a COVID-19 vaccine, humans have their own, natural way of protecting the next generation. Moms, through breast milk, pass on helpful antibodies that fight germs.

Though it is too early to know for sure, researchers are finding evidence that moms who previously had COVID-19 may pass on helpful antibodies that can fight the virus.

Parents may worry about the safety of breastfeeding during the pandemic. However,

SEE CELEBRATING, B5

More ambassador visits in Owatonna



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Ambassadors from the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism continue visiting several businesses throughout the community. On July 23, they stopped at Finholdt Repair, 435 26th St. NE, to welcome them as a new member. Nate and Ariana Finholdt are the owners. Finholdt Repair is an automotive shop you can trust. Nate is ASE certified and has over 20 years experience. Their visit continued with Edina Realty, 120 Landmark Dr., to welcome them as a new member. Jennifer Dvorak is the manager. Edina Realty offers an office of local experts and a skilled support staff backed by the market-leading visibility and networking capabilities of Edina Realty to help you achieve your real estate goals.



Owatonna Proud
JEFF ELSTAD

Editor's Note: Beginning this week, the Steele County Times will offer a monthly column from Owatonna Schools Superintendent Jeff Elstad. The Times will be introducing other additional school coverage in the coming weeks.

I recently received the local paper complete with the "Back to School" advertisement. Typically, this is a sure sign that soon our fall activities will be starting, the Steele County Fair is right around the

corner and class lists will be coming out soon. After a brief thought of normalcy, I was quickly reminded that this school year will be anything but ordinary.

The question on everyone's mind right now is, "What will school look like this fall?" The answer is: it depends in large part on how well our community works together to contain the spread of COVID-19. We miss our students and desperately want them back in school. But we can't do it alone.

Governor Walz recently provided a set of guidelines and tools to help school districts plan their return to learning this fall. The State outlined a multi-step decision-making process that considers the COVID-19 rates at the county level, as well as each district's ability to safely implement all required safety

protocols while staffing schools with enough custodians, nurses, teachers and paras to support students.

Some of the main points of the State's back-to-school recommendations include: • School districts will use different learning models based on the current COVID-19 infection rate in their county: In-Person Learning, Hybrid (combination of In-Person and Distance Learning) and Distance Learning.

• As COVID-19 infection rates increase or decrease locally, schools may need to switch between different learning models throughout the year.

• Regardless of the learning model, school districts are required to offer distance learning to students who may be medically vulnerable or otherwise unable or uncomfortable about

returning to in-person learning.

Over the past six weeks our district leadership team has been carefully planning for the three learning scenarios. Mapping out safety procedures, sanitizing and disinfection processes, social distancing protocols, teaching and learning tools, transportation planning, protective equipment for staff and students, food service protocols, technology needs, and most importantly how we will continue to build relationships with students and families. All of this planning was coupled with the feedback collected from many parents, students and staff members regarding our plans and how this may impact them.

Based on this work, we have developed a safe learning plan that will allow us to

Little Theatre names Hall of Famers

Little Theatre of Owatonna names 12 new members to the LTO Hall of Fame. These 12 outstanding volunteers will be inducted into the LTO Hall of Fame at the upcoming annual meeting. Joining the current 94 Hall of Fame members are Brenda Hager, Todd Hale, Jeffrey Jackson,

Naomi Jirele, Deb Seath, Jerry Shore, Kevin Steinbauer, Diane Suarez, Glenice Swenson, Drew Whitehead, Bill Wood and Gail Zollner. Please join LTO in celebrating the exceptional individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to LTO and their communities.

Back to school: anything but ordinary

shift between learning scenarios as needed while we:

- Prioritize the safety of students and staff
- Prioritize in-person learning, especially for younger learners
- Consider infectiousness and transmission risk among different ages

We have been keeping parents informed of our progress and planning over the summer, and the final decision about how school will start will be shared on Aug. 17, using the most recent COVID-19 data in Steele County.

During these past several months, unpredictability reigns supreme. We are still in the midst of a global health pandemic and the circumstances continue to change. Ongoing decision-making about our school model will be a direct result of local COVID-19 data.

We must all do our part by taking necessary precautions if we would like students to return to, and remain in, school.

Not knowing is difficult – for students, families and our staff. There are many great questions coming to me every day. I have questions myself. But what I know is that our staff are dedicated to our students, we all want to make this school year the best it can be, and the safety of our students and staff has always been, and will continue to be, our top priority.

Thank you in advance for your support, patience, and understanding as we work to implement the State's guidance and provide Owatonna students with the best – and safest – education possible. We remain always #OwatonnaProud.

SOLDIER: follows in dad's footsteps FROM B1

be a truck mechanic. It was a time Dan's mother, Denise, had wished she talked him out of serving the military.

During Dan's tour in Iraq, his enlistment came up. He decided to reenlist for another six years. He hasn't looked back ever since making that decision. He is approaching his 20th anniversary of service.

"Dan has learned a lot in those years that he would not have learned in a normal civilian job," Carl says. "Everything from how to get along with all kinds of people to now as a SSC and Squad Leader of how to protect and train your young soldiers. He has also had to help a few young-

er soldiers through some tough times while overseas," he said. "We are very proud of him and even though he is our young son, he is like a father figure to some of the younger soldiers."

During his most recent deployment to Africa, Dan's work focused mostly on air travel operations. He was attached to a special forces unit. Dan is assigned six soldiers in his squad. He related how it's easier to make six soldiers excellent rather than supervising the next level of 28 soldiers doing sub-par work.

Dan especially enjoyed being assigned to special forces because he got to work with people from various

branches of the military, including Marines, Air Force and Army. "It was fun getting to know people from all different walks of life," he said. "We took care of each other. We all worked together," he noted.

What complicated the deployment was the COVID-19 outbreak. "It took us out of our normal routine," Dan said. "They restricted us on where we were going and what we did."

While Dan is proud of following in the shadows of his dad, he jokes about putting his father in his place at times.

"He tries to put his two cents in on what he did when he was in, but I remind him that times have changed," Dan

says. "There have been many changes since dad was in," he added.

Dan began his most recent deployment on Aug. 16, 2019. When he's not deployed, he commits one weekend every month and two weeks during the year for training with the Army Reserves.

He will return to work at the end of August as a truck driver for a company out of Faribault.

"It is great to see Dan making a career in the U.S. Army Reserves following my footsteps," Carl said. "We are proud of his military accomplishments. He has received many accommodations and awards, and he is a person that does not brag about them," he said of his son. "He still stays very humble."

IT'S A GO: for 4-H FROM B1

highest is a 53% drop in youth attendance, so we're hanging in there," she explained. "A lot of the counties we've talked to say that probably a fourth of their 4-Hers have participated to even an eighth of 4-Hers participating."

In order to avoid a large impact on the budget, the veterinarian has donated their time, some of the judges were able to donate their time as well, and a lot of the supplies have been donated. "We've tried to do what we can and hope for the best and hope for good weather," Ignaszewski said.

All of the shows will be livestreamed on Owatonna Live for friends and family who want to see their 4-Hers compete. "So, if there are

those grandparents and those people who can't watch them, they will still be able to see that show and see that show live," Ignaszewski explained.

KRFO-Radio will also be on-site to report on the shows. "People are reaching out and trying to help us out so that the kids can have their show," manager Scott Kozelka said after noting all of the work, cooperation, and donations that went into making this possible. "I think a lot of people are talking about Steele County and how great our Extension office is."

The 2020 Steele County 4-H showcase began on Saturday, Aug. 8 and will run until Thursday, Aug. 20 at the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna.

ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS
By Shannon Nordstrom and Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics, I am in love with my 1998 Isuzu truck but the air conditioning has gone out. I have had the truck into a couple shops over the past two years but they both say that the hose I need is no longer available. At this point I either need to fix it or sell it because the air is out. I have health concerns that do not allow me to go without the air. Is there a way to get parts no longer made? I am not ready to give her up just yet.

Shianne in Montgomery Alabama We service and repair a large number of air conditioning systems in our own shop every year. We occasionally run into a parts availability problem on one and we must start looking. Often a parts house will have one in old stock and a dealership can do a search to locate one but if not sometimes one can be made. We often take the ends from the existing hose on the vehicle and replace the rubber component of it then we are able to evacuate and recharge the system. If one hose has failed and the system has been discharged this long, you will also need a receiver/drier/accumulator. At the age of the truck it would also be a good idea to check the other hoses and replace them if they are showing any signs of wear. Good luck with your repairs.

Take care, The Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics, My 2000 GMC Yukon has a noise under the front of the vehicle. It has many noises, but I cannot narrow it down. It makes a click when I turn to the left or right while moving and a loud pop when I am stopped, and I turn all the way to the right. It does not pop when I return the wheel to the center again. When I drive straight down the road it roars like a loud fan and it gets worse when I swerve left and right.

Joyce in Redwood Falls Minnesota We can help you discern the noises. It sounds like you have a few different things going on. The noise when you swerve that sounds like a fan is likely a wheel bearing and that can be replaced as a complete unit without too much trouble. While they are in there, they will want to look at the axle shafts. Those shafts can make a clicking sound when moving and turning due to a failed joint. As for the popping sound when turning to the right, you need to get that checked right away. This could be a safety issue. One possibility would be a ball joint that is failing but it could be any number of components in the front end. All of the steering and suspensions components are safety issues if they wear so have a shop inspect the front end for any failed parts.

Take care, The Motor Medics

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STEELE COUNTY **Times**

Sprint cars and fireworks highlight racing action

BY MATTHEW GRAE
RACING CORRESPONDENT

Chateau Speedway welcomed in the Upper Midwest Sprint Car Series (UMSS) Non Wing Traditional Sprint Cars for the second time in the last month Friday Night to be a part of a big show which included a gigantic fireworks display.

The track paused the night's racing action at about 10 p.m. to light up the sky with the Flashing Thunder Fireworks Display. It was the second year in a row that they moved the display off the Fourth of July weekend and made it part of the August Sprint Car show and the fans seem to enjoy the show coming about a month after all the other shows.

A good field of cars once again made for plenty of thunder on the historic track that has sat in Lansing on the banks of the Cedar River for 64 years. Friday night's show was sponsored by KS Engineering of Albert Lea and Eagle Prairie Insurance of Blooming Prairie and featured the largest car count of the season with 120 cars filling the pits.

Leading the way for the 15-car field of UMSS Sprinters was Cam Schafer of St Paul. After managing only a fourth place finish in his heat, he worked from the outside of row two to second place on lap one behind Brian VanMeveren of Woodbury who started on the outside of the front row. VanMeveren had picked up a heat win earlier in the night in a car that won that 1997 WISSOTA Sprint Car Championship for Jimmy

Kouba of Byron who was also on hand. Schafer dogged VanMeveren for five laps before moving to the point where he stayed the rest of the way. VanMeveren faded to fifth by the end of the feature as Jon Lewerer of Andover put together a strong run to take second.

Highest Individual car count for a class was 22 in the USRA B Mod Class. Michael Wytaske of Hartland drew the pole for the feature and had things his way for 18 of the 20 lap feature. Wytaske had survived a couple restarts but after completing lap 18 he suddenly pulled to the infield with mechanical issues and gave the lead over to AJ Hoff of Mantorville. Hoff led the field around to the white and onto the checkers as he picked up his second straight feature win. Caleb Korpi of Claremont, who started outside of Wytaske on the front row, came home in second ahead of Noah Grinstead, Matt Brooks and Dustin Steinbrink all of Austin.

The French's Repair USRA A Mod Main Event had plenty of drama all the way to the checkers as Ryan Wetzstein of West Concord and Jason Cummins of New Richland swapped the lead a few times during the event. The two started side by side on the front row with Wetzstein getting the advantage on lap one. After several side by side laps, Cummins was shown the caution on lap five only to see Wetzstein go back to the point a lap later. The pair was in lapped traffic by lap nine and that made for some interesting choices as the two would go high and low at the same time to

move around cars and keep racing each other. Wetzstein took home his first feature win of the season with Cummins right behind him. Joel Alberts of Mantorville made it a three car battle down the stretch but had to settle for third. A pair of Kasson drivers, Joe Hordahl and Darwyn Karau rounded out the top five.

Jason Newkirk of Austin grabbed his second feature win of the season in the Adam Graphix WISSOTA Street Stock Class as he held off last week's winner Kory Adams of Stacyville, Iowa. The two were bumper to bumper much of the race as Adams looked for an opening to slip by. Braden Brauer of Eyota, making his first start of the year in the class came home in third followed by Zach Elward of Hayfield and Jesse Stahl of Austin.

The Action Builders WISSOTA Midwest Modified Feature saw Josh Mattick of Rose Creek get to the point about two thirds of the way through the race when leader Anton Nelson of Hayfield slipped up high in turn four and opened the door for the rest of the top five. Nelson fell back several spots. Mattick drove into victory lane after holding off Greg Pfeiffer Junior of Austin and Kobie Kath of Owatonna.

It took three passes for the lead before it finally stuck for Andrew Elschens in Power 96 WISSOTA Pure Stock action. Two straight cautions negated his passes for the lead in the main event before he finally took over the top spot and went on to score his third feature win of the year. Troy Maas of Faribault had a couple good runs on Elschens and

the pair ran side by side under the checkers with Elschens claiming the win.

It took till the final feature of the night to get a caution free main event. Nick Sillman of Minnesota Lake jumped from the outside of the second row to the point and led flag to flag for his first feature win of the year. Troy Tuma of Owatonna came out of row three to close up on Sillman down the stretch but it would be Sillman's night. Matt Wieman of Owatonna, Brian Schott of Mazeppa and Josh Winsky of Rochester made up the rest of the top five.

The track had a big announcement on the night. They were able to announce the rescheduled date for the "Spirit of 83" Memorial Race on Friday night. The race was postponed when the racing season had not started yet back in May. The track was holding off on picking a spot for the Marquee event honoring the memory of Mike Guttormson and those that had his spirit and love for Chateau Speedway. When it was announced this past week that the WISSOTA 100 would be cancelled for this year, the track decided to jump into that Friday night slot on Sept. 18.

Seven classes of cars will once again fill the track Friday night for week seven of action at Chateau. After a week off, the Brauer Roofing WISSOTA Super Stocks will be back on the schedule along with the WISSOTA Hornet, Pure Stock, Street Stock and Midwest Modified as well as the USRA A and B Mods. Action begins at 7:15 p.m.

CHATEAU SPEEDWAY RESULTS

Aug. 7 Kruckeberg Services WISSOTA Hornet
A Feature 1 (15 Laps): 1. 5-Nick Sillman-Minnesota Lake(4); 2. 201-Troy Tuma-Owatonna(6); 3. 16M-Matt Wieman-Owatonna(5); 4. 21S-Brian Schott-Mazeppa (10); 5. 97X-Josh Winsky-Rochester(2); 6. 33-Daniel Knish-Kilkenny(9); 7. 88-Matt Tighe-Austin(7); 8. 79T-Taylor Pearson-Prior Lake(11); 9. 14-Justin Schellitzche-Cologne(8); 10. 3X-Brandon Blanchard-Spring Valley(3); 11. 6-Timothy Barnett-Owatonna(12); 12. 21-Brandon Downs-Austin(1); 13. 15-Bo Noble-Faribault(15); 14. 169-Taylor White-Rochester(14); 15. 511-Shawn Poston-Red Wing(13); 16. 53-Nicole Kelzer-Plato(16); 17. 51X-Gary Schumacher-Maplewood(17); 18. (DNS) 3-Bob Carver Jr-Maplewood
Heat 1 (5 Laps): 1. 97X-Josh Winsky(1); 2. 3X-Brandon Blanchard(3); 3. 21-Brandon Downs(4); 4. 21S-Brian Schott(6); 5. 511-Shawn Poston(2); 6. 53-Nicole Kelzer(5)
Heat 2 (5 Laps): 1. 20T-Troy Tuma(2); 2. 33-Daniel Knish(3); 3. 16M-Matt Wieman(1); 4. 79T-Taylor Pearson(6); 5. 169-Taylor White(5); 6. (DNF) 3-Bob Carver Jr(4)
Heat 3 (5 Laps): 1. 14-Justin Schellitzche(1); 2. 88-Matt Tighe(2); 3. 5-Nick Sillman(3); 4. 6-Timothy Barnett(4); 5. 15-Bo Noble(5); 6. 51X-Gary Schumacher(6)

Action Builders WISSOTA Midwest Mods
A Feature 1 (20 Laps): 1. 1M-Josh Mattick-Rose Creek(3); 2. 00JR-Greg Pfeiffer Jr-Austin(8); 3. 83K-Kobie Kath-Owatonna(9); 4. 1S-Cole Neisius-Hastings(13); 5. 79-Jeremy Misgen-New Richland(12); 6. G12-Ryan Goergen-Stacyville (A)(6); 7. RED1-Dan

SEE CHATEAU SPEEDWAY RESULTS, B7

RED HOT FIRE SALE

All remaining BLOSSOM items that were in Sportstitch during the fire in January have been washed and donated to the BP Chamber of Commerce. Many blank items too!




Stop by the BP City Park on Tuesday, August 18th from 4-7 pm. All items will be 50% off or more! All of the money collected will go directly to the BP Chamber to support local events.

Tuesday, August 18th

Rain date - Wednesday, August 19th same time

City Park Pavillion 4 pm - 7 pm

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On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANIN

You may have already heard about this strange occurrence, but it is worth mentioning again as the weirdness continues. Just to add one more bizarre thing to 2020, Minnesota residents are receiving unsolicited "mystery" seed packets that appear to be coming from China.

Mystery seeds: What should you do if you receive seed you never ordered?

As it turns out, Minnesota is not alone in this oddity. Officials in other states, including Louisiana, Utah, Virginia and Washington, have reported similar situations. Only Minnesota is receiving a package of seeds they did not order should contact the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). Overall, do not plant these seeds, and do not just throw these away. If you receive a

seed packet, contact MDA's Arrest the Pest line at 1-888-545-6684 or arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us and provide your name, contact information, and the date the package was received. Officials will coordinate shipping the packaging and contents to the MDA Seed Program. It was initially unknown what could be in these packets; speculations ranged from seeds from an invasive

plant to seed that might contain a seed-borne disease we don't have in the USA. Additionally, some packets appeared to have an unknown seed treatment applied to them, meaning that the safety of the product is unknown. In a July 31 update, the MDA stated that the packages they've analyzed have contained a variety of seeds. Seed analysts

SEE ON THE FARM, B6

CELEBRATING: World Breastfeeding Week

FROM B1

the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends breastfeeding. The benefits simply outweigh the potential risk of spreading the virus to the baby. In addition, researchers have not found the infectious virus in breastmilk. Even when a mother has COVID-19, she is advised to still breastfeed while doing hand hygiene and wearing a mask when with baby.

This year's worldwide breastfeeding week also emphasizes how "green" and climate friendly breastfeeding is. Human milk is a natural, renewable food produced and delivered to babies without pollution, packaging, or waste.

Finally, promoting and removing barriers to breastfeeding for people of color is one way to address structural racism in Minnesota. COVID-19 has disproportionately affected Black, people of color, and American Indians in Minnesota due to underlying social, economic, and health disparities. These same underlying factors have made it more difficult over the years for Minnesotans of color to breastfeed.

Supporting breastfeeding through culturally appropriate care increases initiation and duration rates across all racial and cultural

groups. Along with Steele County Public Health, the Owatonna Hospital, Owatonna Clinic, Amazing Newborn Clinic, Baby Caf? and Le Leche League support moms preparing for breastfeeding and help them meet their breastfeeding goals.

The Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative has reduced racial disparities in breastfeeding rates. The Minnesota Department of Health recognizes maternity centers that have taken steps toward implementing friendly practices through the Minnesota Breastfeeding Friendly Maternity Center Designation Program.

Given all we face in 2020, remember to promote breastfeeding. Breastfeeding at the start of life is one pathway to health, with far reaching benefits for families, communities, and the planet.

For more information, contact Steele County Public Health at 507-444-7650 or SCPHN@co.steele.mn.us.

Lisa Waypa is the WIC coordinator for Steele County Public Health in Owatonna. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

ONE OF TOP DAIRY HERDS IN STATE

THE SEYKORAS

The Seykora dairy farm has not only consistently been one of the top dairy operations in Steele County, but also the entire state.

Brian Seykora operates a 50 cow dairy herd on a farm south of Owatonna near Litomysl. Joining him in the operation is his wife, Mary Beth, who is also an elementary school teacher in Owatonna, and their sons, Matthew, 17, and Mitchell, 14.

Brian is the sixth generation of Seykoras to farm. His father, Dale, still farms on the home farm. "I've been around it my whole life," Brian says.

The Seykoras have been in the top 10 in Minnesota for having the top producing dairy herds, which is measured by production per cow.

In addition to dairy, the Seykoras farm 790 acres of corn, soybeans, small grains and alfalfa.

Besides being around farming his entire life, Brian said a major reason he went into it is because he is always up for new challenges which are present every year. Another reason is "the anticipation of harvest and hopefully seeing the hard work and decision-making payoff," he said.

The greatest satisfaction Brian gets out of farming is watching his dairy herd grow genetically. He also likes being outside working with the animals and land and making advancements with technology.

Brian noted that they have had schools and friends come in groups to tour their farm and be exposed to farm life. "They have complimented our operation, which gives us a sense of satisfaction that we are helping to feed the world in a respected manner," he said.

The Seykoras have employed many young people to help out on their farm. "We feel the responsibility, knowledge and commitments they learn will help them succeed throughout their lives," Brian said.



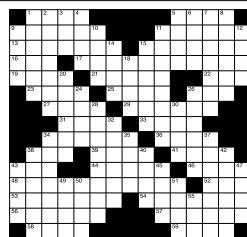
The Seykora farm family operation includes, from left: Matthew, Mitchell, Brian and Mary Beth Seykora.

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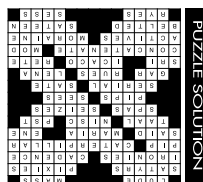


CLUES ACROSS

1. Methamphetamine pill (slang)
5. Religious service
9. Woodland gods (Greek myth)
11. "Where Is My Mind?" rockers
13. Deliberately contrary states of affairs
15. Inflection of the voice
16. "Great Expectations" character
17. Becomes a butterfly
19. Spoke
21. Tennis player Shapovalov
22. Midway between northeast and east
23. Athletics
25. No instruction set computing
26. Pacific Standard Time
27. Relaying places
29. Confidantes
31. Gladys Knight's fellow performers
33. Witnesses
34. Taking place in a series
36. Satisfy
38. Freshwater fish of N. America
39. Lancets
41. "Gin" creator Dunham
43. Indian title of respect
44. Cocoa plum
46. Network of nerve cells
48. Link together in a chain
52. Cool "ho crew" ("The Squad")
53. Persons engaging in energetic pursuits
54. Accumulation of glacial debris
56. Fastened
57. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
59. Whiskey and bread are two
59. Scottish tax

CLUES DOWN

1. Rape used to lasso
2. Mythic places
3. Field force unit
4. Gutter great Clapton
5. Slung for type of skirt
6. Figure skating jump
7. Innocent
8. Mathematical ratio
9. Slowly drinks
10. Line where edges meet
11. Offices of the pope
12. Dry or withered
14. "the Man" Musical
15. Difficult situations
18. Greek goddess of discord
20. Marked by smartness in dress and manners
24. Habit
26. Annoy constantly
28. Full of life
30. Great energy
32. HBO and say are two
34. Virtuous
35. Not fatty
37. Foes
38. Merchandiser
40. Dishonest scheme
42. Repents
43. Protective crust
45. Native American people
47. Any place of bliss or delight
49. Bring up
50. Boats
51. Geological times
55. Consumed



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10:30 a.m. –
Storytime Online,
Facebook Live

AUG. 18
4 p.m. – Sportstitch
Fire Sale, City Park
Pavilion

ELLEDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

AUG. 14
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,
Community Building

AUG. 19
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,
Community Building

AUG. 17
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

AUG. 15
7 a.m. – Farmers
Market, Central Park
10 a.m. – Free
Shoe Fitting and Gait
Assessment Clinic,
Owatonna Shoe

AUG. 17
4:30 p.m. –
Owatonna Park Board
Meeting, City Admin
Building

AUG. 18
9:30 a.m. – Garden
Time, Owatonna Library
10:30 a.m. –

Storytime Online with
Daria, Facebook Live
4:30 p.m. – Library
Board Meeting,
Owatonna Library
7 p.m. – Owatonna
City Council Meeting,
City Admin Building

AUG. 20
10:30 a.m. –
Storytime Online with
Daria, Facebook Live
11 a.m. – Drive in
Fair Fest, Fairgrounds
6 p.m. – Ice Cream
Social & Yard Games,
History Center

BIRTHDAYS

Aug. 13
Connie From
Natalie Soenen
Elena Salinas
Darwin Peterson
Ryan Kubisa

Aug. 14
Naomi Smith
Joel Kubisa
Elron Hernandez Sr.
Greg Thomas
Isabel Dickel
Ryan Weber

Aug. 15
Elena Salinas
Garret Mott

Aug. 16
Shirley Johnson
Marissa Block

Aug. 17
Ron Nelson
Nancy Fox
Melody Benson
Payton Simon
Greg Johnson
Heath Garcia
Barb Peterson

Aug. 18
Loni Christensen
Diane Verhoff
Zackary Hein
Barb Blome
Allan Severson
Cameron Rank
Bekah Dennis
Denise Krell
Gabriel Hein

Aug. 19
Jasper Doocy
Noelle Tecko
Nick Nelson
Donna Gullikson
James Smith
Cheri Kreejci
Parker Greene

ANNIVERSARIES

Aug. 13
Nick & Amanda Schlofer
Brad & Stephanie Bruggeman
Lantry & Laura Houlliton

Aug. 15
Roger & Leann Hanson
Corey & Nikki Borg

Aug. 16
Darrell & Naomi Erickson

Aug. 17
Ken & Betty Behnken
Gene & Sylvia Myre

Aug. 18
Justin & Kelly Peterson

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Sudoku Corner

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

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

Lemonade



How do you cool off on a hot summer day when the mercury climbed over 90 degrees? Well, you get a nice glass of cold lemonade. These young entrepreneurs were selling lemonade. Pictured above from the Schumacher family are: Natalie, Kaydence, Hailey and Justin.

Free autism event planned in Austin

Autism Friendly Austin, which is an initiative of the Horned Historic Home, is offering a free educational/informational Back to School event the end of August.

It will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 25 from 6-8:30 p.m. both in person at the Horned Historic Home in Austin or via livestream. The Autism Society of Minnesota and Autism Friendly Austin will present on assistance for transitioning your loved one with ASD back to school with practical ideas, resources and strategies. No matter

what the school format looks like, AFA will provide examples of social narratives, task analyses, data sheets, visuals and more to support the process.

The Autism Society will have a variety of resources for sale.

Participants will be able to attend in person (max 40) or online. Those interested must pre-register and instructions will be sent by Aug. 21 for both in person and virtual participation.

For more information, contact autism@hornedhistorichome.org or call 507-433-4243.

LTO Annual Meeting set for Aug. 20

Little Theatre of Owatonna is pleased to announce its 55th Annual Meeting on Thursday, Aug. 20 at 7 p.m. in the Sharon Stark Auditorium at West Hills, 560 Dunnell Dr., Owatonna, and via Zoom.

Hall of Fame inductees will be recognized for their contributions to LTO throughout their many years of commitment to helping create live theatre in the Owatonna community and surrounding areas. Board members will be recognized for their service, as well as the LTO annual report will be shared. LTO has three board members that have completed their years of service on the board and will be retiring this year; they are as follows: Michael Jensen, Sandee Hardy-Hagen, and Craig Kautz. There will be an election to fill these three seats. One additional seat is also up for election this year.

A formal unveiling and introduction of the 2020-2021 season will also take place at this year's annual meeting.

All members of LTO are asked to join us for the informative evening. All volunteers throughout the years are invited to be recognized for the hours of work and dedication they gave to continue the tradition of bringing live theatre to the community. The event is encouraged and open to visitors as well, however they will not be able to vote on motions presented before the body. Please contact LTO for Zoom meeting information. Live Theatre in Owatonna is only made possible through the generous support of our membership and business within this community. Safety guidelines will be followed with face coverings required and physical distancing within the facility.

SCHS offers Ice Cream Social

The Steele County Historical Society announces Ice Cream Social and Yard Games, a free event to take place 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20 on the patio at the Steele County History Center, 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna.

This event is a supplemental program to the exhibit Country School: The Beating Heart of Rural Community. Donations will be accepted to help defray the cost of this event.

During this fun-filled evening, Steele County residents will be able to gather and reminisce about days gone

by when many rural American families socialized at their school. Played outdoor games, and ate ice cream treats. Everyone attending this event will be able to step back in time to the one-room school and tour the school built in the exhibit hall. This school depicts the role of country schools in the life of children 1856 through the 1960s.

SCHS hopes to see everyone for the fun evening.

If you have any further questions regarding this event, please contact SCHS for more information.

Taste of Mower County goes online

The 10th annual Taste of Mower County to benefit life in Mower County has become an online auction for this year.

The virtual event will take place of the canceled taste that was set to happen on Aug. 23. Due to COVID-19 concerns, organizers decided an online event was the best way to still connect with supporters and the community.

The online auction will begin Monday, Aug. 17 at noon and close at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 23, followed by a short program on Facebook Live. The auction is open to anyone. Organizers ask people to pre-register before the event to bid on auction items.

Anyone with questions can call 507-433-8994.

ON THE FARM: FROM B5

with the MDA Laboratory have identified some as cosmos, radish, mung bean, juniper, basil, cucumber, and zinnia. While these are not seeds from invasive plants, the seeds may carry diseases or pests. So far, there is no indication these unsolicited seeds have gone through appropriate inspection or that they are properly labeled.

Again, you should do the following if you receive an unsolicited package of seeds:

- DO NOT throw away the package or its contents.
- DO NOT plant the seeds.

Contact Arrest the Pest line at 1-888-545-6884 or arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us and provide your name, contact information, and the date the package was received.

Another update from the MDA noted that some recipients have already planted the seeds. They advise, "While plants and soil are usually prohibited from trash collection, in this unusual situation, pull up the plants, double bag them and the surrounding soil, and dispose of everything in the trash. Do not compost the seeds, plants, or soil."

Please notify the MDA if you have disposed of any seeds.

Some general advice from the MDA: buy seeds from a reputable source. According to Minnesota law, all seeds sold in the state must be properly labeled, and those selling seeds are required to have a permit from the MDA. You can look up seed permit holders on the MDA website at www.mda.state.mn.us/. Never plant unlabeled or unknown seeds.

The MDA is working with the United States Department of Agriculture's Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance Program on identification and destruction of the seeds.

If you'd like more information, please see the MDA's most recent press release at: www.mda.state.mn.us/minnesotans-continue-report-unsolicited-seeds-arriving-mail.

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

HIGHS TUESDAY

46 Mankato 46 Zumbrota 49 Wabasha 49 Owatonna 51 Mounds 52 La Crosse

46 Fairmont 46 Albert Lea 47 Austin 47 Preston 49 Duluth 54 Prince Rupert

Weekday Weather Forecast

7am • Noon • 6pm • 9pm

KSMQ TV
The Better Choice

J & H LIQUORS
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507-565-7557
Owners: Harvey & Nancy Farr

Socializing at the Bar
Bar Bingo: Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
Starts again July 6 • Must be 21 to play

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your patronage.

Dr. Deborah J. Lien
DDS, MBS
ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST

583.6613
132 2nd Ave NE
Bloomington
www.drdeborahtienorthodontics.com

FREE CONSULTATIONS

CHATEAU: Chateau Speedway Results FROM B4

Wheeler-Savage[7]; 8. 4-Brayten Cisneros-Blooming Prairie[5]; 9. 44Z-Anton Nelson-Hayfield[2]; 10. 86-Noel Hoppe-New Richland[10]; 11. 33-Darryl Hainka-Wannamingo[1]; 12. (DNF) 79H-Luke Hainka-Wannamingo[14]; 13. (DNF) 53-Tianna Mithun-New Richland[4]; 14. (DNS) 23B-Britt Olson Jr-New Richland; 15. (DNS) 17-Trevis Underdahl-Northern Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 00JR-Greg Pfeiffer Jr[2]; 2. 1M-Josh Mattick[3]; 3. RED1-Dan Wheeler[5]; 4. G12-Ryan Goergen[7]; 5. 83K-Kobie Kath[6]; 6. 23B-Britt Olson Jr[4]; 7. 15-Cole Neisius[1]; 8. (DNF) 17-Trevis Underdahl[2]

Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 53-Tianna Mithun[2]; 2. 44Z-Anton Nelson[1]; 3. 4-Brayten Cisneros[7]; 4. 33-Darryl Hainka[5]; 5. 86-Noel Hoppe[4]; 6. 79-Jeremy Miesgen[5]; 7. (DNF) 79H-Luke Hainka[6]

Power 96 WISCONSIN Pure Stock

A Feature 1 (15 Laps): 1. 7X-Andrew Eischens-Taopi[8]; 2. 1-Troy Maas-Faribault[5]; 3. 3-Jack Paulson-Morristown[4]; 4. 26-Brad Krohnberg-Walters[7]; 5. 17-Michael Wick-Faribault[12]; 6. 96-Kyndra Neis-Chatfield[11]; 7. 21-Noah Lund-Waseca[2]; 8. 33-Jim Briggs-Waseca[3]; 9. 44-PJ Duchene-Faribault[14]; 10. 35-Edward Jones-Elko New Market[18]; 11. 07-Dylan Pederson-Austin[6]; 12. 06-Kyle Kotek-Owatonna[1]; 13. 81-Broderick Diekmann-Waltham[10]; 14. (DNF) 31-Raey Hastings-Austin[9]; 15. (DNF) 7L-Devin Losee-LeRoy[13]; 16. (DNF) 1GX-Brandon Shaner-Owatonna[6]; 17. (DNF) 4-Jordan Allen-New Richland[15]; 18. (DNS) 13-Zach Olson-Blooming Prairie

Heat 1 (6 Laps): 1. 3-Jack Paulson[5]; 2. 1GX-Brandon Shaner[1]; 3. 1-Troy Maas[3]; 4. 21-Noah Lund[2]; 5. 31-Raey Hastings IV[6]; 6. 96-Kyndra Neis[4]; 7. 7L-Devin Losee[8]; 8. 35-Edward Jones[9]; 9. 07-Dylan Pederson[7]

Heat 2 (6 Laps): 1. 26-Brad Krohnberg[5]; 2. 33-Jim Briggs[4]; 3. 7X-Andrew Eischens[7]; 4. 08-Kyle Kotek[1]; 5. 81-Broderick Diekmann[2]; 6. 17-Michael Wick[6]; 7. 44-PJ Duchene[3]; 8. 41-Jordan Allen[8]; 9. 13-Zach Olson[9]

Adams Graphix WISCONSIN Street Stock

A Feature 1 (18 Laps): 1. 32-Jason Newkirk-Austin[4]; 2. 01-Kory Adams-Stacyville IA[5]; 3. 34JR-Brad Brainer-Eyota[6]; 4. 15-Zach Elward-Hayfield[7]; 5. 21-Jesse Stahl-Austin[3]; 6. 0-Brian Adams-Montgomery[10]; 7. 34JR-Bobby Blowers-Waseca[8]; 8. 16K-Kevin Vogt-Rose Creek[9]; 9. 42-Cody Hyatt-Waseca[11]; 10. 18-Jacob Bennett-Austin[12]; 11. 2-Marcus Berndt-Austin[13]; 12. (DNF) 46-Stacy Krohnberg-Walters[14]; 13. (DNF) 4-Chris Hotovec-Dodge Center[2]; 14. (DNF) 147-Brent Holland-Glenville[1]

Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 32-Jason Newkirk[4]; 2. 01-Kory Adams[3]; 3. 4-Chris Hotovec[2]; 4. 147-Brent Holland[1]; 5. 16K-Kevin Vogt[6]; 6. 42-Cody Hyatt[5]; 7. 2-Marcus Berndt[7]

Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 15-Zach Elward[1]; 2. 34JR-Bobby Blowers[3]; 3. 34JR-Brad Brainer[5]; 4. 21-Jesse Stahl[4]; 5. 0-Brian Adams[6]; 6. 18-Jacob Bennett[7]; 7. 46-Stacy Krohnberg[2]

USRA B-Mods

A Feature 1 (20 Laps): 1. 55H-Aaron Hoff-Mantorville[5]; 2. 51K-Caleb Korpi-Claremont[2]; 3. 99-Noah Grinstead-Austin[6]; 4. 44-Matthew Brooks-Austin[7]; 5. 33S-Dustin Steinbrink-Austin[11]; 6. 7W-Drew Williams-Rochester[9]; 7. 35JR-Garitt Wytaski-Austin[21]; 8. 3A-Taylor Ausrud-Hayfield[10]; 9. 14-Steven O'Brien-Red Wing[14]; 10. 45-Cole Longergan-Dexter[15]; 11. 40-Larry Scott-Northfield[16]; 12. 0D-Thomas Rolfe-Carpenter IA[17]; 13. (DNF) 38-Michael Wytaski-Hartland[1]; 14. (DNF) 17-Justin Murray-Owatonna[18]; 15. (DNF) 4W-Tucker Williams-Rochester[13]; 16. (DNF) 454-Patrick Kelley-Columbus[3]; 17. (DNF) 21-Taylor Ovrebo-Welle[4]; 18. (DNF) 02K-Toby Kennedy-St Ansgar IA[19]; 19. (DNF) 93R-Kullen Kath-Owatonna[20]; 20. (DNF) 55-Brody Shaw-Brownsdale[12]; 21. (DNS) 20-Mark Motl-Owatonna; 22. (DNS) 72-Alex Schubbe-North Markato

Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 99-Noah Grinstead[1]; 2. 55H-Aaron Hoff[4]; 3. 91K-Caleb Korpi[2]; 4. 454-Patrick Kelley[5]; 5. 4W-Tucker Williams[6]; 6. 40-Larry Scott[8]; 7. 02K-Toby Kennedy[3]; 8. (DNF) 72-Alex Schubbe[7]

Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 55-Brody Shaw[2]; 2. 44-Matthew Brooks[6]; 3. 3A-Taylor Ausrud[5]; 4. 83R-Kullen Kath[4]; 5. 14-Steven O'Brien[7]; 6. 0D-Thomas Rolfe[3]; 7. (DNF) 35JR-Garitt Wytaski[1]

Heat 3 (8 Laps): 1. 33S-Dustin Steinbrink[4]; 2. 21-Taylor Ovrebo[6]; 3. 38-Michael Wytaski[5]; 4. 7W-Drew Williams[7]; 5. 45-Cole Longergan[5]; 6. 17-Justin Murray[2]; 7. 20-Mark Motl[1]

French's Repair USRA Modifieds

A Feature 1 (25 Laps): 1. 90-Ryan Wetzstein-West Concord[1]; 2. 71-Jason Cummins-New Richland[2]; 3. 4A-Joel Alberts-Mantorville[4]; 4. 29H-Joe Horgdal-Kasson[8]; 5. 23-Darwyn Karau-Kasson[7]; 6. 15-Scotty Anderson-Mason City IA[14]; 7. 77-Tom Brink-Winona[3]; 8. 1A-Dwaine Hanson-Lakeville[13]; 9. 65D-Dustin Brown-Thornton IA[12]; 10. 31-Bill Stettner-Inver Grove Heights[15]; 11. 21R-Tony Ranes-Lake Mills IA[18]; 12. (DNF) 00-Mark Gartner-Mapleton[16]; 13. (DNF) 99-Josh Angst-Winona[9]; 14. (DNF) 83-Kyle Kath-Claremont[11]; 15. (DNF) 33-Joe Ludemann-Grand Meadow[10]; 16. (DNF) 51W-JT Wasmund-Pine Island[6]; 17. (DNF) 77S-Jacob Stark-Austin[5]; 18. (DNF) 72-Doug Hillson-Blooming Prairie[17]

Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 51W-JT Wasmund[2]; 2. 4A-Joel Alberts[3]; 3. 77-Tom Brink[1]; 4. 77S-Jacob Stark[4]; 5. (DNF) 72-Doug Hillson[3]; 6. (DNF) 21R-Tony Ranes[6]

Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 33-Joe Ludemann[1]; 2. 99-Josh Angst[5]; 3. 83-Kyle Kath[4]; 4. 90-Ryan Wetzstein[6]; 5. 1A-Dwaine Hanson[5]; 6. 31-Bill Stettner[2]

Heat 3 (8 Laps): 1. 71-Jason Cummins[1]; 2. 65D-Dustin Brown[2]; 3. 23-Darwyn Karau[4]; 4. 29H-Joe Horgdal[6]; 5. 15-Scotty Anderson[3]; 6. 00-Mark Gartner[5]

UMSS Non-Winged Traditional Sprints

A Feature 1 (20 Laps): 1. 97-Cam Schafer-St Paul[4]; 2. 69-Jon Lewerer-Andover[6]; 3. 22-Mike Mueller-Oak Grove[1]; 4. 18-Ryan Bowers-Northfield[10]; 5. 45-Brian VanMeveren-Woodbury[2]; 6. 6-Jake Kouba-Minneapolis[5]; 7. 3K-Jeremy Kerzman-Grey Eagle[8]; 8. 99-Bryan Roach-Welch[12]; 9. 2K-Jimmy Kouba-Burns[9]; 10. 2C-Brad Cunningham-St Paul Park[7]; 11. 159-Keith Weber-Austin[13]; 12. (DNF) 12-Johnny Parsons III-Owatonna[3]; 13. (DNF) 49-Eric Serabian-Ocala FL[14]; 14. (DNF) 2V-Chris Vogel-Cottage Grove[11]; 15. (DNF) 78-Scott Brandt-Andover[13]

Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 45-Brian VanMeveren[2]; 2. 69-Jon Lewerer[4]; 3. 12-Johnny Parsons III[6]; 4. 97-Cam Schafer[7]; 5. 2V-Chris Vogel[1]; 6. 99-Bryan Roach[3]; 7. 49-Eric Serabian[5]; 8. 159-Keith Weber[9]

Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 6-Jake Kouba[1]; 2. 22-Mike Mueller[2]; 3. 2C-Brad Cunningham[4]; 4. 3K-Jeremy Kerzman[3]; 5. 2K-Jimmy Kouba[6]; 6. 16-Ryan Bowers[7]; 7. 78-Scott Brandt[5]

2020 Owatonna Adult City Open Results

Aug. 1-2
Brooktree and Owatonna Country Club
Championship Flight
1st-Tanner Grimmits
2nd-Chad Hacker
3rd-Wesley Dickhaus
4th-Andrew Wall
5th-Steve Busho and John Swenson

Mens 1st Flight
1st-Barry Bentley
2nd-Bob Olson
3rd-Erik Johnson
4th-Eric Pearson
5th-Perry Kytola and Jason McCaslin

Mens 2nd Flight
1st-Paul Swenson
2nd-Broderick Dalland
3rd-Steve Phelps
4th-Garrett Olson
5th-Mark Lysne and David Fox

Mens 3rd Flight
1st-Dylan McGaheeran
2nd-Kevin Malo
3rd-Merlin Kath
4th-Aaron Olson and Neal Steffenson

Mens 4th Flight
1st-Willie Grubish
2nd-Derek Meyer
3rd-Landon Olesiak
4th-Patrick Segler
5th-Steve Graff

Senior Flight- Gross Score
1st-Matt Tveite
2nd-Chris Norbury
3rd-Richard Busho
4th-Fredrick Almer
5th-Tom Shea and Greg Thomas

Senior Flight- Net Score
1st-Matt Tveite
2nd-Dayne Diersen

2nd-Mark Oiberding
3rd-Kurtis Bear
4th-Fredrick Almer
5th-Chris Norbury
Womens Flight- Gross Score
1st-Sue Erickson
2nd-Karin Steffenson
3rd-Pat Blaha
4th-Sara Shea
5th-Tyler Diersen
Womens Flight- Net Score
1st-Sue Erickson
2nd-Karin Steffenson
3rd-Steph Shea and Tyler Diersen
5th-Pat Blaha

2020 Owatonna Junior City Open Results

Aug. 6-7
Havana Hills
Junior Boys 4-6
1st-Carson Skala
2nd-Miles Goetz
3rd-James Brittain
4th-Logan Gaulrapp
5th-Phillip Hall

Junior Girls 4-6
1st-Ava Hager
Junior Boys 7-9
1st-Jaxn Hacker
2nd-Will Vincelli
3rd-Max Langlois
4th-Weston Grimmits
5th-Elijah Vincelli

Junior Girls 7-9
1st-Danica Hager
2nd-Mya Anderson
3rd-Emma Crawford
4th-Lyla Olson
5th-Quinn Wayne

Junior Boys 10-12
1st-Colby Johnson
2nd-Dayne Diersen



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSLER

Elijah Vincelli of Owatonna takes a chip shot at the Owatonna Junior City Open Thursday afternoon. He finished fifth in the Junior Boys 7-9 division.

3rd-Brady Johnson
4th-Owen Wayne and Drew Reinke
Junior Girls 10-12
1st-Carmen Hirele
2nd-Alexie Olson
3rd-Anna Hagenson

Aug. 6-7
Brooktree and Owatonna Country Club
Junior Boys 13-18
1st-Jordan Wilson
2nd-Ian Bundy
3rd-Sam Snitker
4th-Matthew Larson
5th-Sam Pfeiffer

Junior Girls 13-18
1st-Katie Ihreke
2nd-Halle Strunk
3rd-Cassie Maine

Summer net action



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Action has been fast and furious in the Blooming Prairie Adult Volleyball League. Here, a server attempts to score another point for her team.

ENJOYING A FAMILY OPERATION THE KLEMMSENS

After working in construction for several years, Randy Klemmensen took advantage of getting his own farm operation in 1986 and now 34 years later he enjoys working together with his son Brad.

Randy began his farming career in 1979 with his father Richard and brother Rick on a farm northwest of Blooming Prairie. In 1986, Randy and his wife, Linda, moved to a farm south of Blooming Prairie to raise hogs and later added crop farming. The Klemmensens continued with the hogs for 24 years.

The Klemmensens currently produce corn and soybeans. Besides raising crops, they also operate a dry fertilizer business and do custom farming for other area farmers.

For Brad, he did not initially start out with the family farm. He first went to Riverland Community College for carpentry and then worked for area farmers for five years before joining the family operation in 2013. Brad, who has been farming together with his father for the past seven years, purchased the acreage along with his wife, Miranda, in 2018. Brad and Miranda welcomed a new addition, Camden, to the family in February.

Randy and Brad say the greatest joy they get out of farming is "planting a crop and watching it grow." They also enjoy working together side-by-side as a family.

"We plant all of our own acres but are happy to help other farmers with planting," said Randy. He added that he services a 30-mile radius of Blooming Prairie with custom fertilizer sales and application.

Something the family would like the public to know is that all the repairs are done on the farm by Randy and Brad. They attempt to use all of the latest technology available to farmers.

The Klemmensens are proud members of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce as Klemmensen Grain & Custom Farming.



The Klemmensens farm family operation includes, from left: Linda and Randy Klemmensen, Dick Klemmensen, Brad (holding Camden, 5 months) and Miranda Klemmensen.

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



FARMERS & MERCHANTS
STATE BANK

"WHERE YOUR DEPOSIT
BECOMES AN INVESTMENT
IN YOUR COMMUNITY"

583-6688

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE



NOTICE

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on May 6, 2020, the District Court of Steele County, Minnesota, First Judicial District, made and entered a Judgment in an action entitled "Troy Co. Concrete & Masonry, Inc. v. Richard Hadler, Mar-go McKay, Richie's Trucking, Inc. Michael J. Grimm, and Wickman Enterprises LLC dba Generation Building Center" being Court File No. 74-CV-20-513, adjudging that Plaintiff Troy Co. Concrete & Masonry, Inc., is entitled to a Mechanic's Lien upon the premises hereinafter described in the amount of **\$25,217.20**; and Defendant Wickman Enterprises LLC dba Generation Building Center is entitled to a Mechanic's Lien upon the premises hereafter described in the amount of **\$24,929.05** and directing said premises to be sold by me as Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota, to satisfy said Mechanic's Liens; and a certified transcript of said Judgment has been duly delivered to me with directions to proceed with the sale of said premises as therein provided.

NOW, THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to said Judgment and the statutes in such case made and provided in the premises so described in said Judgment and situated in Steele County, Minnesota, viz:

Legal Description: THE EAST ONE-HALF OF LOT 8 AND ALL OF LOT 9, BLOCK 1, ALL IN ALXANDER ADDITION TO THE CITY OF OWATONNA, MINNESOTA, AS PER THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF ON FILE AND OF RECORD IN THE REGISTRAR OF TITLES IN SAID STEELE COUNTY, MINNESOTA.

Property Address:
 342 McIndoe St.,
 Owatonna, MN 55060
PN: 17-139-0109
Registered Property, Cert.
 No. 19810
 will be sold at public auction, to the highest bidder, on September 30, 2020, at 10:00 am at the Steele County Sheriff's Office, Civil Process Division, 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna, MN 55060.

Dated: July 27, 2020

Lon S. Thiele
 Sheriff of Steele
 County, MN

By: Anthony David
 Deputy

THIS INSTRUMENT
 WAS DRAFTED BY:
**THE LAW OFFICE OF
 DAVID S. HOLMAN,
 LTD.**
 201 W. Travelers Trail,
 Suite 144
 Burnsville, MN 55337
 (952) 895-1224

8/5/26

NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
 June 11, 2020

A regular school board work session was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2020 in the High School Media Center.
MEMBERS PRESENT:
 Steve Ille, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Dean Meshke, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde
MEMBERS ABSENT:
 None
ALSO PRESENT:
 Superintendent of Schools; Member of the BPTA
DISCUSSION ITEMS:
 General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the June 15, 2020 regular school board meeting.

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

8/12

NOTICE

State of Minnesota
 County Steele

District Court
 Judicial District: Third
 Court File Number:
 74-FA-20-1262
Case Type:
 Domestic Abuse

In the Matter of:
 Tanya Ackerman
 Petitioner
 vs.
 Cliff Caron
 Respondent

Notice of Issuance of Emergency (Ex Parte) Order for vs. Protection by Publication (Minn. Stat. § 518.01, subd. 8)

To Respondent named above:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an Ex Parte Order for Protection has been issued in the above matter. You may request a hearing if you contact the court administrator's office within 12 days of the date of publication of this notice. You may obtain a copy of the Ex Parte Order for Protection and the form to request a hearing from the court administrator's office at the following address:

Steele County
 Courthouse
 111 East Main Street
 Owatonna, MN 55060

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

Dated: August 7, 2020
 /s/ Kim Wotschall
 Court Administrator / Deputy

8/12

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE
DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Court File No.:
 74-PR-20-1104

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND INFORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In Re: Estate of
 Carol L. Liming,
 Aka Carol Lee Liming.

Decedent
 Notice is given that an Application for Informal Probate of Will and Informal Appointment of Personal Representative was filed with the Registrar, along with a Will dated February 6, 2000. The Registrar accepted the application and appointed Carrie Jo Laue, whose address is 19393 575th Street, Dodge Center, MN 55927, to serve as the personal representative of the decedent's estate.

Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Any objection to the appointment of the personal representative must be filed with the Court, and any properly filed objection will be heard by the Court after notice is provided to interested persons of the date of hearing on the objection.

Unless objections are filed, and unless the Court orders otherwise, the personal representative has the full power to administer the estate, including, after thirty (30) days from the issuance of letters testamentary, the power to sell, encumber, lease, or distribute any interest in real estate owned by the decedent.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: July 29, 2020
 /s/ Deanna Verdict
 Deputy Probate Registrar

Dated: July 29, 2020
 /s/ Robin Hoesley
 Court Administrator

Melanie J. Leth, #0311911
 Weber, Leth & Woessner, PLC
 P.O. Box 130
 Dodge Center, MN 55927
ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

8/12, 19

Coffee and Conversation with the superintendent

Owatonna residents are invited to join Superintendent Jeff Elstad for a virtual "coffee and conversation" on Friday, Aug. 14 at 8 a.m. During the session,

Elstad will provide an update on what's been happening within the school district, and citizens can bring any questions they may have. To RSVP, contact

Sarah Hoffman at shoffman@isd761.org to receive the virtual meeting details. School officials hope you will be able to take part.

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA June 15, 2020

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center on June 15, 2020 at 7:15 p.m. (Open Forum at 7:00 p.m.).

OPEN FORUM – No comments.

I. CALL TO ORDER –CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL – CLERK

Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Dean Meshke, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde

ALSO PRESENT:

Superintendent of Schools, Elementary School Principal, High School Principal, Associate Principal, Member of the BPTA, Member of the Press

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Steve Ille

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve the agenda with additional information regarding the principals' contract and noncertified salaries. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Principal reports given by Mr. Schwarz, Mr. Worke, and Ms. Mach.

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

A. Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Resignation, Donations

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the school board minutes, bills, treasurer's report, resignation, and donations as presented. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

B. Employment

None at this time.

C. Reassignments

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the teaching reassignments of Emily Henslin and Denise Hadrath. Emily from first grade to kindergarten and Denise from second grade to fifth grade. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

D. Principals' Contract 2020-2022

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve the principals' contract for 2020-2022. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

E. Custodial Contract 2020-2022

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the custodial contract for 2020-2022. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

F. Noncertified Salaries 2020-2022

Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve salary adjustments for paras and clerical staff for 2020-2022. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve salary adjustments for district office staff for 2020-2022. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

G. Resolution Establishing Dates for Filing Affidavits of Candidacy

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Kelly Braaten to approve a resolution for filing affidavits of candidacy. Three members are up for re-election (Jenny Thurnau, Jonathan Sunde, and Steve Ille). Filing dates are from July 28th through August 11th. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

H. Policy and Procedures for Speech Telepractice Services

No action taken as new information will be received for the July meeting.

I. Summer Sports

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve guidance for summer sports along with a waiver and release of liability. The information follows the recommendations set forth by the MDH and the National Federation of State High School Associations. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

J. ZED Resolution

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve a resolution ratifying concurrence with a proposed project through the issuance of certificates of participation, series 2020A, for Zumbrota Education District which was modified to allocate payments amongst six member districts. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

A. Committee Reports

A committee report update was given for the following committees: Ag/Industrial Trades, Negotiations, and ZED.

B. Enrollment Data

Enrollment for the 2019-20 school year as of May 29, 2020 is 426 at the elementary school (Grades K-5) and 369 at the high school (grades 7-12) (358 attending BPS and the equivalency of 11 attending PSEO). The PSEO number consists of 4 seniors and 5 juniors with attendance being full-time plus 4 juniors with attendance being part-time.

C. Dates to Note

The Board noted dates of importance.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

1. Thanks expressed to the leadership team, superintendent, and school board during this time of COVID-19.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Pam Hameister to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 6:00 a.m. in the High School Media Center.

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Meeting will be Monday, July 20, 2020, at 7:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center (Open Forum begins at 7:00 p.m.).

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Hameister
 Clerk of the School Board
 Independent School District #756
 Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

8/12



NRHEG Substitute Custodian

Interested candidates should submit letter of interest, resume, transcripts/credentials, references, and application, which can be found at <http://nrheg.k12.mn.us/pages/NRHEG> to:

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Friday, August 14, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. 709 5th Ave. N.W., Kasson. Everything priced low to sell all! Lots of toddler toys, MANY name brand boys' clothes sizes 3 months to 3T. Cute stuff most under \$3. Children's books, furniture, home decor, clothes (men's and women's), purses (2 Coach) DVD movies and much more. Cash only, please Tables outside to maintain social distancing. ^{8/13/20}

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SAMANTHA UPHAM'S BABYSITTING/NANNY

services I'm a 15-year-old honors student entering my sophomore year at Kasson High School. I have babysitting experience and have been through a class specific for caring for young children. I am best suited to care for toddlers through young teens. Available 7 days a week and can be very flexible with times. I will ensure a summer full of fun! (references upon request) 507-358-3415 ^{8/13/20}

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ESTATE SALE

ESTATE SALE: 1408 28th St. SW, Austin, MN. Thursday, August 13, 8PM-6PM; Friday, August 14, 10AM-6PM; Saturday, August 15, 10AM-3PM. Furniture, china, sterling, victorian glassware. Pictures on Facebook. ADS Auctioneering. ^{8/13/20}

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Church on the lawn



Pastor Mike Walerius led worship services outdoors at First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie as parishioners brought their lawn chairs and masks. Senior Pastor Heidi Heimgartner delivered the sermon.

Golfing becomes family affair for Halls

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Golfing has become a multi-generational affair for the Hall family of Owatonna.

Jeff Hall hit the links on Thursday afternoon helping his sons Harvin, 9, and Phillip, 6, with their golfing game at the Owatonna Junior City Open at Havana Hills. Harvin and Phillip's grandfather, Mark Hall, who is also an avid golfer, kept a close eye as they competed in the junior competition.

Phillip ended up finishing in fifth place in the junior boys 4-6 division. About 40 kids between the ages of 4 and 12 participated in the two-day open.

"I've been pretty much golfing my whole life," said Jeff. "I was walking with my dad

at 2 years old at Brooktree. That's the story at least."

While Jeff insists he's not pushing anything on his sons, he hopes to pass on his love for golfing to his sons, who have been competing in the junior open for three years. "I'm looking forward to doing this as a family in the future," he said. He added he has many great memories of golfing with his father and brother.

Jeff has found many benefits to golfing over the years. "Golf teaches so many great lessons," Jeff said. "It builds life-long friendships, sportsmanship and getting fresh air," he added.

Now retired, Mark Hall can be found nearly every day on the golf course at Brooktree. As he watched his grandsons golf in the junior

open, Mark said, "This is what this town needs to get people excited about golfing again."

It's important to get children hooked on golf at a young age, Mark said. "This is a game they can play for life," he said. "This is how to develop a program at a young age to get them hooked and interested," he added.

Mark didn't start playing golf until he was in high school. "A couple of buddies said let's play golf. I said, 'Are you crazy,'" Mark said. "I went out there and I was hooked just like that," he said as he snapped his fingers. "You either love it or you don't."

Mark Langlois, one of the organizers, said the junior open is a great chance to develop interest in golfing for young

kids. "We want to give them the opportunity to compete," he said. "It's awesome to see all the families out here. They are memories and experiences we want them to have forever."

Langlois said golfing has had its struggles with participation in recent years. They would like to see more girls become active in the sport.

Jeff Hall said they are grateful to have the Owatonna Golf Booster Club partner with Havana Hills for the junior open.

Jeff, who golfs regu-



Phillip Hall takes precautions by wearing his Vikings mask during the golf open at Havana Hills in Owatonna.

larly at the Owatonna Country Club, hopes his boys continue the

golfing tradition that he and his father have developed over the years.



Jeff Hall and his sons, Harvin, 9, left, and Phillip, 6, enjoy golfing in the Owatonna Junior City Open at Havana Hills Thursday afternoon. Jeff has been golfing most of his life as he picked up the passion from his father, Mark Hall.

DESIGN BP'S NEW WATER TOWER LOGO

Blooming Prairie Public Utilities would like to take this opportunity to announce to any local Blossom that would be interested in submitting a design of their own creation to represent the community and become the new logo on the upcoming new water tower. There is no prize offering, but the winner will have the rewarding satisfaction of having their vision of our community being enjoyed by both residents and visitors alike for decades to come.



Anyone interested is invited to submit any questions or designs to Jerry Mausbach at (507) 583-6683 or jerry@bppu.net.

The deadline for submission is October 16, 2020.



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