



Even before the mask requirement went into effect on Saturday, Deb Schmidt of Medford wore her mask as she went grocery shopping at Cash Wise Foods in Owatonna Thursday afternoon. All Minnesotans are now required to wear masks in indoor businesses and indoor public settings in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to keep the economy open. People in violation of the mask order can face a petty misdemeanor fine.

Masks now required to slow spread of COVID-19

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Minnesotans are under a statewide mask order in which they are now required to wear a face covering in indoor businesses and indoor public settings in an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19.

The governor's mask

order went into effect Saturday, July 25.

While the goal is voluntary compliance, any person who willfully violates the order is guilty of a petty misdemeanor of \$100. Businesses violating the order can be found guilty of a misdemeanor with a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or 90 days in jail. State

officials may also seek civil penalties from businesses not following the order.

"COVID-19 has impacted every corner of our state and every aspect of our lives," said Gov. Tim Walz. "But as Minnesotans always do during tough times, we come together and we take care of one another. And right now

there's no better way to demonstrate our Minnesota values than by wearing a mask."

Added Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, "Wearing a mask is one of the best ways we can slow the spread of COVID-19 and prevent Minnesotans from getting sick in the first place."

Individuals with a medical condition,

mental health condition or disability that makes it unreasonable for them to maintain a face covering are exempt from the order. Children who are 5 years old and under are also exempt. Those who are under 2 years old should never wear a face covering due to the risk of suffocation.

The Owatonna Chamber of Commerce

has received a shipment of 30,000 masks to be distributed to businesses throughout Steele County. Chamber director Brad Meier said the largest chamber in each county was made the distribution point for the masks, which came from the State of Minnesota.

SEE MASK UP, A3

She could be called the Dancing Queen of BP



Dancing is Sonya Kirkman's favorite pastime. She can be found on many boulevards near her apartment in Blooming Prairie. "It makes me feel better," Sonya says about her music.

*Ooh, you can dance, you can jive
Having the time of your life
Ooh, see that girl, watch that scene
Digging the dancing queen*

Lyrics from The Dancing Queen, performed by Abba

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Who is that middle-aged woman dancing on a public stage in Blooming Prairie?

Many people, residents and non-residents alike, may have wondered who that woman is, the woman who finds her stage to be the parking lot between Casey's and the Goette food stand.

This woman, identified as Sonya Kirkman, may also be seen dancing near the BP Post Office and even in a corn field west of town. "I left my foot prints in the field," she laughs.

Sonya, a mother of three children, loves to dance and says all music has its own heart beat.

Many people have wondered why this

woman has chosen to make dancing a public spectacle. "She's doing nothing wrong," says Police Chief Greg Skillestad in remarking about Sonya's traveling dancing show. "We've told her to stay away from dancing on streets," Skillestad said.

Sonya, a native American Indian of the Ojibwe tribe, says she likes to listen to all music. "I have mental health issues and dancing makes me feel better," remarked Sonya. She says she loves all music including rock 'n' roll but says heavy metal and heavy rap music makes her uncomfortable.

"I learned how to do the Charleston in three days," Sonya related. "You might see me in a jingle dress

SEE DANCING QUEEN, A10

Man killed in head-on crash of dump trucks near Owatonna

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A 35-year-old man was killed in a head-on crash between a pair of dump trucks in Steele County July 23.

The Steele County Coroner's Office has identified the victim as

Daniel Wayne Severson of Owatonna.

According to the Steele County Sheriff's Office, Severson was driving one of the dump trucks involved in the crash in the 3600 block of Lemond Road, which

SEE MAN KILLED, A4

Legendary athlete from Owatonna excelled at 3 sports

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A legendary Big Ten Conference player who started his athletic career in Owatonna and will go down as one of the most versatile athletes in the history of Minnesota has passed away.

Noel Jenke, 73, died in a Milwaukee hospital on July 23. He reportedly had health problems in recent years.

Jenke played football, baseball and hockey for the University of Minnesota during the 1960s. He earned first-time All-Big Ten honors in football and baseball in 1968 and 1969 respectively.

"We are saddened to learn of the passing of Noel Jenke, who was a three-sport athlete at Minnesota and was one of the best athletes ever

SEE LEGENDARY ATHLETE, A12

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AREA DEATHS

David Noble, 86, Blooming Prairie

Serving
Blooming Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW

Lawmakers get it right with police accountability

After the horrifying death of a Minneapolis man caught on video and riots in its aftermath, Minnesota lawmakers have passed the Minnesota Police Accountability Act.

For days and weeks Minnesotans have been screaming for reform after the death of George Floyd at the knee of a Minneapolis police officer currently locked up facing murder charges.

Gov. Tim Walz signed the act, which will become law Saturday. The hope is that the act will address systematic inequities in Minnesota's criminal justice system. It wasn't exactly everything that everyone wanted, but it was a good compromise.

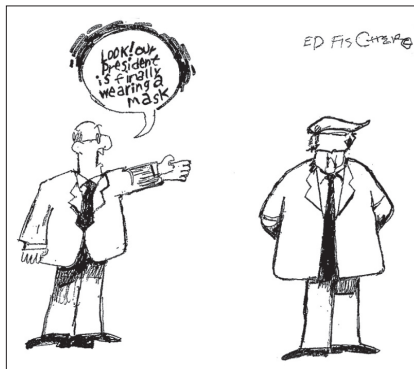
The new law includes bans warrior training and chokeholds, arbitration reform, requirements for the duty for officers to intercede, mental health and autism training, reforms to the Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board, the creation of a new advisory council with citizen voices and use of force reform.

Most importantly this is a good first step. This bill on police accountability is a step in the right direction on this issue. Some say the changes are long overdue in policing Minnesota's more than 10,000 officers sworn to protect and serve. But we can't stop there.

We need to continue the conversation on police accountability and how to make sure Black people, Indigenous people and people of color feel safe and valued in their communities.

Fortunately, we haven't experienced any major issues with police officers in our region like what has happened in Minneapolis and elsewhere. Officers who are doing their jobs the way they should be done do not have anything to worry about. The accountability bill will just help ensure that our good officers continue to do the right things for the right reasons.

Kudos to our Minnesota legislative leaders for pushing a compromise that will work for all the people in our great state.



YOUR VIEW

Thanks for a successful event

To-the-Editor: The Steele County Historical Society staff and board members thank the Owatonna community and R&K Electric for a successful event Sunday, July 19. Approximately 100 guests attended Jazz Jam on the Patio bringing young and old to listen to a wide-variety of jazz favorites. We were blessed to have pleasant temperatures, a nice summer breeze, with low humidity for this outdoor event. Thank you again to R&K Electric for sponsoring this fun-filled afternoon of music at SCHS! SCHS Staff and Board of Directors

Bennett may be too nice to be a state rep

To-the-Editor: I've been reading lately that Peggy Bennett is too nice to be an effective representative for 27A. Don't we want our representatives to be nice? Well, not always. I recently attended a meeting put on by Peggy in which she was trying to get support to have comprehensive sex ed taken out of the education bill. At the meeting she said she sometimes thinks of herself as "Mama Bear" when it comes to children and so she would like to have them protected from this new sex-ed that she thought just went to far. I looked up the bill and found four major themes. 1. Human anatomy and sexual development. 2. Consent, bodily autonomy and healthy relationships for all sexual orientations and gender identities. 3. Abstinence and other methods of preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. 4. The relationship between substance abuse and sexual behavior and health. All were to be taught at appropriate age levels. Knowledge is powerful, we do not need to be protected from it. We all feel like "Mama Bear" when it comes to children, that is why we become sickened when we hear

SEE BENNETT MAY BE, A10

Mask up, but I don't like it

I'll admit it. I'm not real crazy about wearing my protective mask, but if anything, it's probably all for selfish reasons.

I'm not one to start any sort of controversy over adapting to Minnesota's new mask order, which took effect on Saturday. Basically, if you're out in public, you need to mask up or else.

In fairness of transparency, this doesn't have anything to do with either political party. I do not identify with either the Republican or Democratic Party. Both parties have their good sides and not so good sides. I'll leave it at that.

I totally understand the science behind wearing a mask. Scientists say masks could help stop the coronavirus. Confusing government advice at the start



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

of the pandemic and cultural misgivings may have limited the acceptance by many to masking up. If we can slow down the spread of COVID-19, we should all over it.

My first experience of wearing a mask came about a month ago when I went to church. I must say I felt pretty lonely sitting in church with a mask and not really being able to communicate with others. The lack of hugs and hand-

shakes had me wondering what happened to my friendly church. Not being able to sing was also a shock to the system.

In the days since the order came down to mask up all the time, I have again been reminded why I don't like wearing it. When I pull up to a store, I find myself looking out the rearview mirror, checking my surroundings (it's that old cop instinct in me) and putting on the mask. I feel like I'm getting ready to rob a bank or something. I'm just waiting for the police to come down with guns blazing telling me to give it up.

Seriously, once I get into a store I'm fine as I see others doing exactly what we're being told to do: mask up! Then

SEE MASK UP, A6

Major League Baseball still has a heart beat

It's very strange for me and many other Minnesota Twins fans to watch our favorite Minnesota Twins baseball players performing on a stage without fans in the crowd.

The fans are in front of their TV sets but it's just not the same.

It is baseball, however, and I am glad we have it in any type of format. It still has a heart beat.

After watching the first three games, the Twins played against the White Sox in Chicago, it was evident that the players had some adrenalin flowing. Pitchers were still throwing the baseball in excess of 90 miles an hour and sluggers were still driving the ball deep into the bleachers.

Baseball without fans reminds me of the days when I was much younger, playing on an empty farm field, no fans to be seen.

I had my own Field of Dreams baseball field on my parents' 80-acre farm, two miles west of Corning, a small hamlet of 8 people at the intersection of Mower County and Freeborn County.

In my pre-teenage days, I was a very avid baseball fan. Thanks to my parents who subscribed to two daily newspapers (Austin Daily Herald and Albert Lea Tribune) I was able to connect with the outside world and follow the game I loved.

When it was World Series time in October, I waited patiently for



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

the Herald and Tribune to arrive. Both papers printed a play by play of the World Series games.

During the mid-1950s, the New York Yankees and Brooklyn Dodgers were usually facing one another in the World Series.

I would take the play by play synopsis outdoors on my "make-believe" baseball field. I played the parts of the World Series players and also made crowd noise by pretending that I was in the crowd, cheering wildly when the Yankees' Mickey Mantle (that was me) hit a home run off Dodger pitcher Don Newcombe (that was me, too).

These games were played over and over before no fans. The only fans may have been my mom and dad who peeked outside the kitchen window, wondering what their crazy little son was doing, swinging a bat over an area that was void of grass.

I managed to talk my brother Dave into playing baseball with me. We would use bats, balls and gloves to make the experience more life like.

Home plate only Field of Dreams was lo-

cated in front of a weeping willow tree. The playing field spanned southward toward a ditch that represented the seats in the outfield.

These pipe-dream experiences reminded me of a quote I saw from Harmon Killebrew, the Hall of Fame slugger who played most of his career with the Minnesota Twins.

Here's what Harmon said: "My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, 'You're tearing up the grass'; 'We're not raising grass,' dad would reply. 'We're raising boys.'"

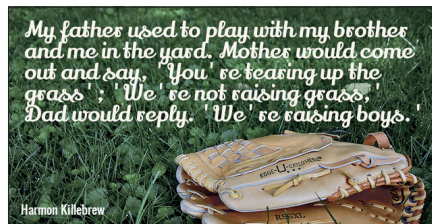
My brother Dave smacked a ball so hard one time that I had to run toward the ditch in hopes of catching the baseball. I tripped and fell. Guess what? I got up holding my right wrist in my left hand. It was broken.

This accident put me on the disabled list for about two weeks only. After getting cast off, my brother worked with me to play catch once again. It hurt to throw the ball but I was on my way to being taken off the disabled list.

Those days of strong imagination are in my memory bank forever. There were no fans to see my heroics but in my heart, I was a Major League Baseball player.

The only difference between the players of today playing before no fans and me with no fans is the paycheck.

Win! Twins! With or without fans.



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County Writer.....Karen M. Jorgensen
County Writer.....Chris Baldwin

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Out of state.....\$52

A state and national award winning weekly



MINNESOTA
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ASSOCIATION

2020-9 state awards
2019-7 state and
4 national awards
2018-6 state and
4 national awards
2017-2 state and
3 national awards
2016-8 state and
6 national awards
2015-7 state and
4 national awards
2014-3 state and
1 national award
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)

Jumpstart helps struggling businesses

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

So far, the Jumpstart Owatonna initiative has donated \$62,500 to area small businesses. The program was started as a way to support local businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic and has received donations from individuals, businesses, and organizations.

Old Town Bagels in Owatonna was named as one of the grant recipients during last week's round of awards. The local bagel shop and

restaurant has been a staple of downtown Owatonna for 15 years, the last five of which it has been owned and operated by Mark and Stacy Wilson.

"We've stayed open as carryout only and it was quite slow and we had limited staff in the beginning but gradually things improved," Mark Wilson said. "We have a small building so it's very difficult for spacing."

With the COVID-19 pandemic came a new set of circumstances to adapt to. "It's definitely been a challenge, es-

pecially when it comes to employee spacing, I would say," explained Wilson. "Most of the funding from the Jumpstart program will be spent on individual work spaces."

"Changing the layout is our biggest challenge and opportunity," he said. "Some of these changes we've made will also help us with our efficiency."

Being a Jumpstart recipient has added to Old Town Bagels' ability to weather the current situation. "We're very grateful that the community has donat-

ed to the chamber and that the chamber was able to support us with that," Wilson said.

"We certainly have been appreciative of the fact that people bought gift cards and ordered takeout right from the beginning," he said. "We feel very fortunate to have the community support we have."

One aspect of their business, which aided them from the start, was their online ordering services. "We definitely have a strong presence online which



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Caption: Old Town Bagels in Owatonna was named as one of five grant recipients in the fifth round of awards by the Jumpstart initiative, which has raised money to help local businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SEE JUMPSTART, A10

Hy-Vee to hand out free masks

In an effort to protect its customers and employees from COVID-19, Hy-Vee will distribute free masks to those entering its stores starting Monday, July 27. The company will hand out more than 3 million free masks in an effort to help support the CDC's recommendation to wear masks in public by launching a new initiative called "Mask It Up To Shut COVID Down. It's Your Choice."

Starting July 27, employees will be stationed at the front doors

of all stores to hand out masks to customers who are not wearing one prior to shopping. Customers will also see signage, employee attire, and other reminders around the store about the educational campaign.

Hy-Vee employees have been wearing masks since nearly the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Midwest grocer was recently named one of the top three supermarkets in America for its handling of the COVID-19 crisis.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Cheryl Peterson of Owatonna joins the rest of Minnesotans in wearing masks to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

MASK UP:

Masks now required to slow spread of COVID-19 FROM A1

Meier said the masks are the white and blue disposal type and come in boxes of 50. Right now, the chamber is giving each business one box. Within three hours of receiving the masks on Monday, the chamber had 45 area businesses come in to pick up a box, he said.

"The intent is so that businesses can have masks available at the front of their store for those who come in without a mask," Meier

said. He added they are also making them available for non-profit organizations.

Meier acknowledges that wearing a mask has become a hot button issue for many, but he encourages people and businesses to follow the order. "I hope that it helps and moves us through this quicker," he said. "We don't want to spread the virus any faster than it's currently moving. We want to keep our businesses open."



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The parking lot of Casey's General Store in Blooming Prairie was desolate on Thursday, July 23. The store closed its doors due to an employee testing positive for the coronavirus. The store was cleaned and reopened on Friday, July 24.

Casey's in BP closed after worker tests for COVID

Casey's General Store in Blooming Prairie was closed down at mid-day July 23 after a worker tested positive for COVID-19. The store opened again the next day on July 24.

A Blooming Prairie Casey's employee confirmed that the store was closed because an employee tested positive for the coronavirus.

Doors were locked and all gas pumps were covered on Thursday.

When contacted about the closing Thursday afternoon, Casey's corporate in Ankeny, Iowa had no knowledge of the closure.

Officials with Steele County Public Health were unavailable for comment as the director was apparently on vacation.

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!

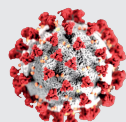
- In 200 or less words, send us details highlighting your hero and how they helped you survive COVID-19.
- Two easy ways to submit:
Email: hptimes@frontiernet.net
Mail: Steele County Times
o P.O. Box 247
o Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
- Please include: Name, Phone Number and Address and/or Email
- Submissions 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.....16,300,000
Deaths.....650,000
Recovered.....9,430,000

U.S.4,300,000
Deaths.....149,000
Recovered.....1,300,000

MN.....51,193
Deaths.....1,614
Recovered.....28,205

Steele.....309
Deaths.....1
Recovered.....182

Dodge118
Deaths0
Recovered.....65

AS OF JULY 27, 2020

BLOTTER
SPOTLIGHT**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.**

Truck burned to the ground



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER
Deputy Caleb Buck looks over the wreckage of a truck fire Thursday afternoon in Steele County. A semi-truck burned to the pavement on County Road 21 about one mile west of County 82 north of Beaver Lake by Ellendale. The truck was hauling tar, but firefighters from Ellendale were able to extinguish the blaze before it got to the trailer. It took several hours to clean up the mess. The driver was unharmed. The truck was owned by a company out of Wisconsin.

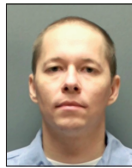
High-risk sex offender moves back into Owatonna

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Another high-risk sexual offender has moved into Owatonna. Richard Dean Paquin II, 39, moved to the 500 block of 23rd Street NE in Owatonna on July 22, according to police. He has been placed under intensive supervised release after being

released from the state prison in Lino Lakes. Typically, police and corrections officials hold a community notification meeting when sexual offenders are released. However, that won't be happening with Paquin's case, according to Christian Berg, police detective. "Due to concerns of COVID-19, there will be

no community notification meeting," he said. Paquin served a prison sentence for criminal sexual conduct. He engaged in sexual contact, including touching and penetration, with a known boy on multiple occasions. Police note that Paquin has served his sentence and is transitioning back into the community. The notification is not intended to increase fear but rather raise awareness. Police want to keep the public informed as a way to make everyone safer. Officials have identified Paquin as a



Richard Paquin II
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CRIME BRIEF

Police: Michels violates domestic order twice in same month



Matthew Michels

An Owatonna man appears to be having trouble following orders. Matthew Michels, 38, faces multiple charges, including violating a domestic abuse order, domestic assault, interfering with 911 call and fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance. This is the second time in less than a month that Michels has been arrested and charged with interfering with a 911 call and violating a domestic order. Both incidents involved the same victim. In the latest incident, Owatonna Police responded to a residence on Kim Lane July 17 for a domestic abuse order

violation. The victim told police she was awakened to Michels yelling at her. The victim told him to leave or she would call the police.

According to police, the victim tried calling 911, but Michels came up from behind and put his arms around her to prevent her from calling 911. The victim sustained scratches to her arm and side because of Michels' action.

Police stopped Michels on Lemond Road and saw him throwing an item on the ground. The discarded item was recovered and found to be a pipe with presumptive methamphetamine.

Level 3 offender, which is considered the most likely to reoffend. Paquin is currently the sixth Level 3 offender to reside in Steele County. Others include: Phillip Davis, William Edwards, Justin

Fischer, Kyle Hood and James Zylstra. All of them are registered as living in Owatonna. Anyone with questions about Paquin's release can contact Owatonna Police at 507-444-3800.

MAN KILLED: in head-on crash near Owatonna FROM A1

is located south of Hwy. 14 and west of I-35. The crash was reported at 2:55 p.m. Despite extensive lifesaving measures by first responders, Severson was pronounced dead at the scene, the sheriff's office said. The other driver was transported to the hospital. The name of the second

driver has not been released. Preliminary investigation suggests one dump truck was traveling northbound while the other dump truck was southbound when they collided head-on, the sheriff's office said. Sheriff Lon Thiele said the dump trucks were owned by separate

companies. The case remains under investigation by the Sheriff's Office as well as the State Patrol. Assisting law enforcement at the scene were Mayo Ambulance, Mayo Air Care, North Ambulance and Owatonna Fire Department. Thiele said no alcohol

is believed to be involved with the crash, though no other details are being released at this time. Severson was born in Detroit Lakes and loved his job as a truck driver for Grounds Masters in Owatonna for six years. According to his obituary, he loved to spend time with his daughter Mariah, ride

his motorcycle as well as his snowmobile. "Dan was a big brother to many and loved by all," his family wrote in his obituary. "He had a smile that lit up the room and laughter with no effort at all." An outdoor service will be held at Brick Meger Funeral Home in Owatonna on Friday at 11 a.m. Burial will follow at Union Cemetery in Bixby.



Daniel Severson

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of July 13 with Judge Joseph A. Buellet presiding: Nathan A. Bulow, 24, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony domestic assault by strangulation. Bulow was sentenced to 125, 90 days in county jail, maintain employment, 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. Zachariah M. Montgomery, 35, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony engaging in electronic communication relating or describing sexual conduct with child. He was sentenced to 125, 30 days in county jail, predatory offender registration, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, attend sex offender program, no contact with minors, no possession of pornography, submit to polygraph exam as directed, no access to internet without approval, 60 days of electronic home monitor and 3 years of supervised probation. Fidenaco A. Ortiz, 31, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony failure to appear. He was sentenced to 650, 17 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, obtain permission to leave the state and 3 years of supervised probation. Destiney A. Willage-Solano, 24, Ford du Lac, WI, previously appeared and was convicted of felony aid and abet theft. The defendant was sentenced to 93,113.01, 7 days in county jail, no possession of firearms and 3 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of July 13 - 19: **BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT** Ana R. Arlas Mojica, 31, Austin, revoked license, \$275; Ethan D. Ehlers, 16, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$100; Darrin R. Jensen, 64, Blooming Prairie, no insurance, \$275; Erik T. Johnson, 31, Princeton, canceled license, \$275 and 1 year of unsupervised probation.

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES Alexis M. Amborg, 18, Medford, take fish without angling license, \$175.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER Saugab Y. Ali, 24, Omaha, NE, speeding, \$125; Fredy Alvarez, 16, Faribault, speeding, \$115; Carolyn R. Benedict, 31, Pompano Beach, FL, speeding, \$115; Quincy A. Brostrom, 18, Centennial, CO, speeding, \$115; Mariano A. Carreon Balderas, 31, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Alexander Cervantes Samaniego, 22, San Antonio, TX, no license, \$175; Cody S. Clague, 22, Waseca, seat belt, \$100; Allen I. Esquivel, 20, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Joseph M. Glover, 38, Duncan, SD, speeding, \$115; Pedro Guzman, 51, Plainfield, IL, speeding, \$125; Matthew G. Harrington, 30, Omaha, NE, speeding, \$135; Ibrahim M. Imah, 18, Minneapolis, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$125 and 1 month of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Nancy L. Johnson, 58, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Ellen K. Raderick, 21, Faribault, speeding, \$115; Sukimo D. Knight, 35, St. Paul, speeding and seat belt, \$240; Abdiel Lopez, 26, Aurora, CO, speeding, \$115; Jessica J. Marshik, 34, Minneapolis, speeding, \$135; Ea D. Mue, 19, Kansas City, KS, speeding,

\$135; Matthew C. Russell, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Esteban Sanchez-Velazquez, 23, St. Paul, DWI, \$400, attend MADD Impact panel, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation; Michael J. Schocker, 23, Brooklyn Center, speeding, \$115; William P. Thiede, 30, Austin, TX, speeding, \$125; Angel M. Timan, 53, Markato, speeding, \$135; Rachel A. Vain, 26, Maplewood, speeding, \$125; Aimee N. Violette, 27, Minneapolis, speeding, \$115.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT Tufah A. Abdi, 30, Owatonna, permit violation, \$125; Diana S. Alcalá de Santiago, 19, Faribault, speeding, \$135; Tafaadwa E. Bhabho, 33, Rochester, speeding, \$125; Jeremiah J. Danielson, 33, Cameron, MO, check forgery, \$2,805.27, 12 days in county jail and 2 years of unsupervised probation; Hunter A. Friesen, 26, Rochester, speeding, \$115; Jhovani Garcia Pina, 19, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, \$125; Reinaldo Hernandez Hernandez, 51, Austin, speeding, \$125; Kyle A. Kotar, 27, Owatonna, theft, stay of adjudication, \$50, no trespassing at Fleet Farm and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Dennis A. Leppell, 41, Naperville, IL, speeding, \$135; Isiah J. Meisner, 20, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$175; Isaac Nunez Esquer, 20, Claremont, invalid license and no insurance, \$375; Fidenaco A. Ortiz, 31, Rochester, violation for order of protection, \$131, 49 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, domestic abuse evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Reinaldo C. Rodriguez, 52, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$125; Sergio R. Romero Garcia, 23, Faribault,

suspended license, \$275; Richard L. Skaran, 66, Spring Valley, following vehicle too closely, \$200; P. Wilson, 38, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Precious N. Yeung, 18, Owatonna, permit violation, \$125.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE **July 17** **Fraud:** Police received a fraud report from the 200 block of Main St. E. at 11:55 a.m. **July 22** **Suspicion:** Officers responded to suspicious activity at Highway Ave. S. and 6th St. SE at 1:43 a.m. They issued a citation at the scene.

OWATONNA POLICE **July 17** **Property:** At 8:13 a.m., stolen property was recovered in the 400 block of Park St. SE. **Shoplifting:** At 9:59 a.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE. **Domestic:** Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of Kim Lane SW at 12:07 p.m.

Restraint Order: At 2:10 p.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 1300 block of Linn Ave. SW. **Criminal Sexual Conduct:** Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 300 block of Diablo Dr. SE at 4:14 p.m. **Warrant:** Officer made for driving while intoxicated at Cedar Ave. N. and Vine St. E. at 12:48 a.m. **July 18** **Theft:** Police received a theft report from the 200 block of Rose St. W. at 10:08 p.m.

DWI: Police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at Cedar Ave. N. and Vine St. E. at 12:48 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 400 block of Academy St. E. at 9:42 a.m. and the 1500 block of Truman Ave. SE at 10:31 a.m. **Domestic:** Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of South St. E. at 7:23 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

July 20 **Burglary:** Police responded to a burglary in the 1600 block of White Oak Lane NE at 7:54 a.m. **Property:** At 8:03 p.m., stolen property was recovered in the 200 block of 20th St. NW. **DWI:** Officer made a DWI arrest at Oak Ave. N. and Pearl St. W. at 10:55 p.m.

July 21 **Shoplifting:** Shoplifting incidents occurred in the 800 block of Bridge St. W. at 11:18 a.m. and the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 5:12 p.m.

ARRESTS
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE Daniel Titus Hughes, 37, arrested at 1:20 p.m. July 21, domestic assault/assault, held for court. Phua Mai Huu Nguyen, 24, arrested at 1:01 a.m. July 22, felony possession of controlled substance and paraphernalia, held for court. Jeng Lee Williams, 57, arrested at 12:32 a.m. July 23, restraining order violation, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF Benjamin Jacob Hunt, 30, arrested at 2:03 p.m. July 21, warrant arrest, \$200,000 bail.

COURT NEWS Dodge County The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of July 12 with Judge Joseph F. Chase presiding: Kyle L. Burns, 25, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana.

Burns was sentenced to 1 day in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of July 12 - 19:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE Megan M. Baiken, 18, West Concord, speeding, \$130; Daniel Severino Guevara, 28, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Diezel A. Walmer, 16, Hayfield, speeding, \$140.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

James L. Brown, 58, Owatonna, speeding, stay of adjudication, 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Tracy M. Brown, 31, Kasson, suspended license, \$280; Jacob L. Leckness, 27, Kasson, DWI, \$505, alcohol assessment and 1 year of supervised probation; Michael J. Nelson, 56, Mantorville, seat belt, \$105; Katrina M. Peterson, 21, Rochester, possession of marijuana, \$350; Nathan A. Wandell, 22, Kasson, theft, \$380, 30 hours of community service and 1 year of probation.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER Joshua M. Allen, 41, Mantorville, speeding, \$120; Dawn M. Cornwell, 50, West Concord, speeding, \$120; Paul H. Finstuen, 77, Warrington, seat belt, \$105; Jared M. Krista, 26, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Lee C. Rose, 46, Camp, CA, speeding, \$130; Danielle M. Wright, 23, Winona, speeding, \$130.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT Norbert L. Andrade, 18, Dodge County, speeding and no insurance, \$340.

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STAY SAFE MN

On July 25, the state began requiring Minnesotans to MASK UP!

Face covering requirements:

- All Minnesotans are required to wear a face covering in all public indoor spaces and businesses unless alone
- Allowed: paper or disposable mask, cloth, neck gaiter, scarf, bandanna or religious face covering
- Mask must cover nose and mouth completely
- Exemptions: Children under 2 years, persons with medical or health conditions, anyone who has trouble breathing
- State expects voluntary compliance, but petty misdemeanor fines can be issued

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Stretching Tips to Help Seniors Gain Flexibility and Reduce Pain



Brought to you by: *Prairie Manor*
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583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,
 Can you offer some good stretching tips for seniors who are staying home during the pandemic? I've gotten so stiff and achy in recent years that I have a hard time doing basic activities like bending over to tie my shoes.
Stiff as a Board

Dear Stiff,
 Of all possible exercises, stretching tends to be the most neglected, yet nothing is more vital to keeping an aging body limber and injury free.

As we age, our muscles naturally lose their elasticity if you're not active, which can make common day-to-day activities like reaching down to tie your shoes or looking over your shoulder to back your car out of the driveway, difficult.

But the good news is, by incorporating some simple stretching exercises into your routine (at least three times a week) you can greatly improve your flexibility, as well as enhance your balance, posture and circulation, relieve pain and stress, and prevent injuries. In addition, stretching is also important as a warm-up and cool-down for more vigorous activities, and leg stretching is an excellent way to prevent nighttime leg cramps too.

SIMPLE STRETCHES

Stretching exercises should focus on the muscles in your neck, shoulders, arms, chest, back, hips, thighs, hamstrings and calves. If you've had hip or back surgery, you should talk to your doctor before doing lower-back flexibility exercises.

While stretching, it's very important to listen to your body. You want to stretch each muscle group to the point where the muscle feels tight. If it hurts, you've gone too far. Back off to the point where you don't feel any pain, then hold the stretch for 10 to 20 seconds. Relax, then repeat it three to five times, trying to stretch a little further, but don't bounce. Bouncing greatly increases your chance of injury.

It's also a good idea to warm up a little before you start stretching by walking in place and pumping your arms. And remember to breathe when you stretch. Also, keep in mind that muscles that have not been stretched in a while take time to regain their flexibility. So be patient and go slow.

If you don't have much experience with stretching, the National Institute on Aging offers a free guide that provides illustrated examples of flexibility exercises to help you get started. Go to order.nia.nih.gov, and type in "Exercise & Physical Activity: Your Everyday Guide from The National Institute on Aging" to view it online.

There are also senior fitness programs, like SilverSneakers (silversneakers.com) and Silver&Fit (silverandfit.com), that are currently offering online flexibility and balance videos that can guide you through a series of stretching exercises you can do at home during the pandemic.

There are also a wide variety of stretching exercise DVDs or videos you could purchase at sites like CollegeVideo.com or Amazon.com.

YOGA AND TAI CHI

Another great way to improve your flexibility is through gentle yoga or chair yoga. In chair yoga you replace the yoga mat with a chair where most poses can be duplicated. This is much easier on tight, inflexible muscles. Tai chi and qi gong are also great exercise options for improving balance and flexibility.

To get started, there are many DVDs and videos that offer instructions and routines for seniors you can do at home. The YMCA has also launched a new series of free, online health and fitness videos at YMCA360.org that includes gentle yoga, chair yoga and tai chi videos.

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

10 Years Ago

Aug. 3, 2010

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Last week three local law enforcement officers received a much well-deserved honor for their heroic actions in saving a woman from the June tornado. Bloomington Police Officers, Mark Lang and Jacob Peterson and Steele County Sheriff's Deputy Tony David were presented with life-saving medals by Sheriff Don Gunderson. The three officers went above and beyond in saving the life of Judith Kollar whose home was destroyed in the tornado and she was pinned under the debris. Kollar perhaps says it best, "I would have been dead no question without them," she said. "It makes me sad because there is no way I can repay them. I owe them my life."

The Litomysl community spirit it was felt everywhere in the air at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. A 140 families of the parish hosted their 39th annual Summer Festival, one of the largest summer parish festivals in southern Minnesota. The country-style festival drew thousands of people to the community's annual fund raiser that helps support the church and the pre-school through fifth grade school, St. Isidore.

For the last 51 years, rural Bloomington Prairie resident, Gene Francis has been helping local farmers improve the quality and quantity of their livestock. Because of this and other achievements, Francis will be inducted into the Steele County Livestock Hall of Fame on Aug. 17th at the Steele County Free Fair. Francis started Prairie Farm Management, Inc. in 1991 and for the last 19 years has been working with producers to better raise and sell livestock. This was after retiring as an instructor of Farm Management at the Bloomington Prairie High School from 1959-1991. Gene stated, "It's a real honor being part of the Steele County Livestock Hall of Fame."

20 Years Ago

Aug. 1, 2000

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jeffrey R Fisher has redeployed to Southeast Asia. Kuwait for a five-month deployment with a Patriot missile unit from Hanau, Germany. He is regularly assigned to Alpha Company, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery. Fisher is a Patriot control systems technician. He is the son of Marion Fisher of Bloomington Prairie and a 1985 graduate of BPHS.

Several Bloomington Prairie children brought their bikes and helmets to try their hand at bike safety at this week's clinic, sponsored by BP Center and University of Minnesota Extension Service. Students were tested several times as they rode their bikes around cones, a circle and worked on their balance skills during the short clinic. It was held in the First Lutheran parking lot. The first lesson of bike safety - always wear a helmet.

50 Years Ago

July 29, 1970

VICTOR, VERNON & VYRLE

KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Sp-4 Vern Dennis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dennis, was presented the "Driver of the Month" award at Tay Ninh, South Vietnam, recently by Command Sgt Major L E Somerfeldt. He also received a \$25 gift certificate for winning the honor.

The Bloomington Prairie Garden Club received a letter last week from Gorge Curtin, superintendent of the Public Utilities commending Mrs. John Haubenschild for her beautification work around the light plant. The letter thanked her for the many hours of work she spent planting, watering and weeding all the flowers. The Garden club should be commended too on what a fine job they do each year in helping

to make Bloomington Prairie a prettier place to live.

U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant Lawrence E. Holmes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Holmes is on duty at Tuy Hoa AB, Vietnam. Holmes, an aircraft equipment repairman, is assigned to the 31st Field Maintenance Squadron, a unit of the Pacific Air Force PACAF. Prior to his arrival in Southeast Asia, the sergeant was assigned to Nellis AFB, Nevada.

75 Years Ago

Aug. 2, 1945

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

The V.F.W. Auxiliary met last Thursday for the first time in the new club rooms. Mrs. Frank Iik, president, conducted the meeting. Balloting for membership was held on Helen Oswald, Mrs. Clifford Ingvalson and Mrs. Ruth Todal. They will be initiated into the Auxiliary on Aug. 8. Mrs. Iik was presented the past-president pin on behalf of the Auxiliary. They are selling assorted cards as a means to raise money for their treasury instead of other projects.

A.J. Hazen, who has been the foreman of The Times printing Department for the past year, has purchased the Gamble Store in Ellendale. He plans to take active charge of his new business on Sept. 1. He and his family will be moving to Ellendale the latter part of this month. Mr. Hazen was a very efficient employee on The Times whom we find impossible to replace during this war emergency. The Hazens are fine folks and the Ellendale business circles will like them. We wish them well in their new adventure.

Pfc. Raymond Kubicek, member of the 114th Infantry, 44th Division, arrived last Wednesday evening from New York where he landed Saturday morning from Europe. He will be spending a 35-day furlough with his wife and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kubicek, and friends and relatives.

DEED awards small business emergency loans

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) announced that 1,020 small businesses throughout Minnesota received a Small Business Emergency Loan, which is different than the more recently announced Small Business Relief Grants.

More than \$27 million in loans were made from \$30 million in special revenue funds allocated to the emergency loan program. The remaining \$2.8 million was distributed to lenders to assist with loan administration and technical assistance expenses.

DEED worked with lenders throughout Minnesota to implement the emergency loan program, which opened for applications in late March. Loans were issued to qualified businesses beginning in April and completed by June 30.

"Small Business Emergency Loans helped hundreds of businesses across Minnesota survive the initial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic," said DEED Commissioner Steve Grove. "DEED launched this program in record time to get emergency financial assistance out to businesses as quickly as possible. We could not have done this without the hard work and collaboration of our 22 lending partners throughout the state."

Loans were made by DEED's lender network for amounts between \$2,500 and \$35,000 to qualifying small businesses whose owners who lacked adequate cash flow to withstand temporary closures.

The 0% interest loans are up to 50% forgivable if the business maintains operations at substantially the same level as before the pandemic.

Because these loans are considered bridge financing, if other financing becomes available to small businesses that received a Minnesota Small Business Emergency Loan, such as federal funding, the emergency loan must be repaid.

The emergency loans went to help businesses temporarily closed under Executive Order 20-04, later clarified by Executive Order 20-06, which stopped onsite customer dining at restaurants and bars and closed salons, tattoo parlors and other personal care businesses.

Under Minnesota's phased Stay Safe plan, restaurants and bars have reopened for onsite customer dining and salons and other personal care businesses reopened for service.

The Minnesota Small Business Emergency Loan Program is part of a slate of emergency financing options for

small Minnesota businesses.

Other state options included the Small Business Loan Guarantee program and the Small Business Relief Grant program. State programs complement much larger federal government programs, including Small Business Administration assistance, and the Paycheck Protection Program. The loans were made throughout Minnesota with business in the seven-county metro receiving \$13.2 million in loans and businesses in Greater Minnesota receiving \$14.0 million. A demographic breakdown of ownership of businesses receiving loans will be available later this year.

A list of businesses who received a Minnesota Small Business Emergency Loan, as well as a breakdown of loans by region and lender, can be found on DEED's website.

MASK UP: but I don't like it FROM A2

I walk around wondering if anyone can recognize me or not. It's interesting how this whole COVID-19 has thrown everyone into a tizzy with more and more people lacking eye contact and just going about their routine like you don't even exist. I have been wearing a nice mask created by

one of the wonderful ladies at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Owatonna. I look pretty trendy, if I should say so myself. So I guess fashion isn't a problem.

As I meander my way around with mask in place, I feel like my oxygen supply has been cut off. It gets a little too comfy and tight - be-

hind the mask. It gets a little steamy back there. And who needs more steam when the humidity outside is in the 80% or higher range like it has been over the past week.

When social distancing cannot be achieved, a mask will reduce the number of droplets that can escape into the air. That alone will reduce the load level of COVID-19 being expelled if the person who is infected is wearing a mask.

Will it stop completely? Absolutely not. If there is one thing I have learned in recent years, there is nothing in this world that's 100%. Wearing a seat belt is not going to guarantee

we will survive a car crash, yet we like to skip every day because we realize our chances are far greater of surviving with it on.

With feelings of helplessness, it comes to the virus, this is a rare chance for us to have some control over the destiny of forging a change in the course of this disease and possibly save another person's life along the way.

While I don't like wearing a mask, I'm all about going in hot pursuit of doing what needs to be done to get through this battle of the coronavirus that has whipped us around like nothing has ever before.

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THE BOLD LOOK OF KOHLER

Trimming back the ditches



Gary Wencil of the Steele County Highway Department mows a ditch bank on County Road 46 outside of Blooming Prairie on a recent afternoon.

COVID-19 relief funds available to help farmers restructuring debt

Eligible farmers restructuring their debt can get half of the loan guarantee fees on USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) restructuring loans covered through a new Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) program, paid for through federal COVID-19 funding.

The Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$175,000 in COVID-19 relief this spring toward a grant program that covers 50% of loan guarantee fees for FSA loans to re-

structure farmers' debt. Loan fees are 1.5% of the loan value and average \$3,000-\$5,000 in total.

"This program is aimed at helping farmers most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic," Commissioner Thom Petersen said. "We want to help more farmers get successfully through the mediation process."

Farmers currently in mediation will receive first priority for the program funds. Applications will be accepted now through Dec. 1.

To be eligible, farmers must have closed on an FSA restructure loan between May 28 and Dec. 15, and be in mediation or have recently received a mediation notice. They must be residents of Minnesota who regularly participate in the labor or operation of their farm and have a net worth of \$800,000 or less.

For more information about how to apply and the application, visit the RFA's Farm Loan Guarantee Fee Grant Program web page.

MDA receives Farm to School grant from USDA

Efforts to continue supporting Farm to School Initiatives in Minnesota will get a boost from a nearly \$100,000 grant the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) will receive from the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service.

The MDA will match the two-year, \$95,881 federal grant to create a statewide Harvest of the Month program to support schools in accessing local food monthly in the cafeteria, classroom, and community.

"Schools need easy-to-use, targeted marketing and educational materials and better ways to connect with Minnesota producers interested in supplying schools," Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen said. "This grant will allow us to build on existing Farm to School efforts and expand them."

Harvest of the Month will develop and refine marketing materials and an education curriculum, increase engagement between schools and agricultural producers, and develop gatherings and events to build on exist-

ing networks in close collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Education and the Farm to School Leadership Team, a coalition of statewide public and nonprofit partners.

"Farm to School helps fuel our students' learning with local, Minnesota-grown food," said Education Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker. "We should use every effort to expand and support this important program that connects our students to our agriculture community."

Over half of Minnesota's school districts have participated in Farm to School activities, investing about \$12.3 million into local agricultural economies. Last year, 50 schools offered a Minnesota Thursday meal where all foods on the menu were locally produced. Five additional Farm to School projects in Minnesota also received USDA funding.

Minnesota's Farm to School efforts have made great strides in the past decade, thanks to the dedication of farmers, food service professionals, and partnerships, to increase healthy, local food ac-

cess. The MDA's contributions have included creation of the Minnesota Grown Wholesale Directory, a free, online and published resource for producers and wholesale buyers, and the AGRI Farm to School Grant Program, which will have awarded nearly \$3 million in total grants by the end of this funding cycle.

Paycheck Protection Program application deadline extended

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) deadline has been extended to Saturday, Aug. 8. Congress issued another update to the program over the July 4 holiday week, and I wanted to provide a reminder that the new deadline is approaching. If you have not yet applied for PPP, now is the time!

PPP loans are federal, potentially forgivable low-interest loans. In brief, the loan is for 2.5 times your average monthly payroll cost or equivalent self-employed earnings. Agricultural producers, farmers, and ranchers are eligible for PPP loans if the business has 500 or fewer employees, or the business fits within the revenue-based size standard, which is average annual receipts of \$1 million.

PPP loans are available through the Small Business Administration. Many small businesses, including farm entities, may be eligible. A business owner can apply for PPP through a participating lender. Many banks, credit unions, and the farm credit system are participating; you can check with your local lender or banker to apply.



On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

PPP loans fund 2.5 months' worth of a small business's payroll expenses and/or owner's compensation. If you do not have employees but have a positive net income on your 2019 Schedule F or C, you can apply through a lender for 2.5 months' worth of equivalent owner's compensation to help recoup 2020 losses.

If a borrower uses at least 60% of the loan on payroll or owner's compensation and any remaining funds on eligible business expenses, then the borrower can apply to have the loan forgiven after the conclusion of the loan's 24 week covered period. If the borrower exhausts their loan funds before the 24 weeks, they may be able to apply for loan forgiveness earlier. For more information about applying for loan forgiveness, visit: <https://blog-abm->

news.extension.umn.edu/2020/06/paycheck-protection-program-loan_23.html

As of June 30, the Small Business Administration – in coordination with participating lenders – had issued over 4.8 million PPP loans worth over \$520 billion dollars. While \$520 billion worth of loans issued is staggering, about \$130 billion in PPP loan funds remained unused at the end of June.

The large amount of unused allocation helped create the push for Congress to issue the deadline extension, allowing small businesses, including farmers, that haven't applied for PPP to access the remaining dollars by August 8, 2020. Learn more about the PPP by reading a compiled list of frequently asked questions at: <https://z.umn.edu/PPPfaq>.

Claire LaCanne is the agricultural extension educator for Steele and Rice counties. She may be reached at lacanne@umn.edu. Her column appears in this newspaper regularly.

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 Klemmensens Grain & Custom Farming.



The Klemmensen 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:



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MDA expands options for contacting Minnesota Farm & Rural Helpline

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is offering two new ways that farmers and others involved in agriculture can contact the Minnesota Farm & Rural Helpline: text and email.

"We want to make it as easy as possible for our farmers to get the help they need when they need it," said Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen. "COVID-19 has come on top of several years of high costs, low prices, and bad weather for farmers. We know chronic stress takes a toll on people and can really affect the way they cope with challenging situations."

The confidential service, available 24/7, connects Minnesota farmers and others in the agricultural community to counselors who can serve as a sounding

board, provide emotional support, link callers with a rural mental health specialist, or help them find information about financial and legal resources. Users are welcome to remain anonymous.

Contact options now include:

- Phone (toll free): 833-600-2670
- Text: FARM-STRESS to 898211
- Email: farmstress@state.mn.us

The MDA also encourages people who are worried about family or friends and aren't sure how to help to use this service.

The MDA's companion Coping with Farm and Rural Stress in Minnesota website at www.minnesotafarmstress.com received 4,600 visits in 2019 and has already seen more than 5,000 in the first six months of 2020.

Chateau remembers BP's Dave Noble, long-time racing competitor

BY MATTHEW GRAGE
RACING CORRESPONDENT

There was a bit of a somber moment at the beginning of the Chateau racing last Friday night as it was announced that one of the original members of the Chateau Speedway Hall of Fame, which was started last year, had passed away during the week.

Three-time track champion Dave Noble of Blooming Prairie passed away on Tuesday, July 21 at the age of 86.

Noble took championships at Lansing in 1963, 1967 and 1977. Records also show him with at least seven other championships at places like Kasson, Rochester, St. Charles, Elko, Independence, Iowa and Fountain City, Wis.

He started racing in 1954 and was on the track opening night at Chateau Speedway on June 30, 1956, although he didn't see his first checkered flag at the track until taking a semi-feature win that July. His first feature win at Lansing came on Sept. 29, 1957 and he strung over 40 feature wins until taking his final win on Aug. 9, 1986 in an IMCA Modified.

The 1986 win turned out to be a special one for him and his son Mark. There were two features run that night after rain had interrupted the previous week's feature, so it also had to be made up that week. Well Mark won the other feature that night marking which was the only time that father and son have both won features in the same night in the same class. No other record of that happening could be found. It has been



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dave and Mark Noble of Blooming Prairie were the feature winners at the Chateau Speedway on Aug. 9, 1986. The raceway remembered Dave Noble, a long-time racing competitor, Friday night. Dave died last week at 86.

done several times with father and sons competing in different classes winning features on the same night, but this was unusual with both drivers in the same class and there happening to be two features in the same night.

Friday night's main events were a group of some of the best features of the year. More than 100 cars filled the pits for racing action. There were some cautions along the way with the two biggest coming in the French's Repair USRA A Mod Main Event but there was still great racing and a fantastic finish.

Joel Alberts of Mantorville started on the pole looking for his second straight feature win and on the drop of the green, he jumped to the point while 12 of the 18 cars went spinning and sliding into a tangle. Fortunately, just two cars were lost in the incident. However, a couple more cars were lost two laps in when five cars

got twisted up in turn three and slid up into the wall. A debris caution a lap later had everyone thinking this was going to be one of those yellow filled events. However, on the next restart they straightened it all out and ran 23 clean laps to the checkers. Jason Cummings of New Richmond and Dustin Sorensen of Rochester came from rows three and four into the top five rather quickly along with Brad Waits of Rochester who started back in row five. By lap five they were the top four along with Alberts. Cummings closed it up on Alberts for a lap or two before falling back a few car lengths and having a side-by-side battle with Sorensen. The two battled all the way till five to go when Sorensen got the spot. The pair then moved up on Alberts and going to the outside in turn one with two to go Sorensen snatched the lead. Sorensen drove into victory lane for the first time this year while

Alberts held off Cummings for second.

Power 96 WISSOTA Pure Stocks ran one of two caution free main events. Troy Maas of Faribault, after missing out on a win late in the feature a week earlier, led flag to flag for his first of the season. The other caution free feature was run by the Brauer Roofing WISSOTA Super Stocks where Braden Brauer of Eyota picked up his first career win in the class. AJ Zvorak of Blooming Prairie led the first eight laps with several of those side-by-side with Brauer. Braden finally got the advantage on lap nine and scored the win.

Kruckeberg Services WISSOTA Hornets did run a clean 15-lap feature event but that was after a caution on the initial start. After that it was clean sailing. Josh Winsky of Rochester started on the pole and led the first four laps of the race until a wild three wide battle for the lead saw Justin Sche-

litzche of Cologne get scored as the leader on lap five. Nate Coopman of Mankato who was the third car in that three wide battle had started in row five and had moved into the top five in just two laps. He and Justin put on a good side by side battle for a few laps until Nate took over the top spot and drove into Victory Lane for the first time this year.

USRA B Mods were slowed by just two cautions as Garitt Wytaske of Austin scored his first feature win of the year. A caution on the first start of the race before a lap was completed and a debris caution a hand full of laps in is all that slowed them.

There were a pair of two lap shootouts in the other two features as late cautions grouped the fields for the final runs. Both times the leader was able to protect his spot and pocket the win. The first of those was in the Adams Graphix WISSOTA Street Stocks where Dustin Doughty of Oakdale rolled into town for one of his rare visits and came home with top honors.

Dan Wheeler of Savage picked up his first Chateau Speedway Feature win of the year in Action Builders WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds. Christopher Deno of Kasson held the early lead with Wheeler jumping up to second out of row two on the first lap.

Next week the track will wrap up the month of July with Zumbrota Ford Night. Steve Johnson, the dealer for the people, will be by and usually brings along one of his nice new cars to show off for everyone.

Golfers set to tee off at Owatonna City Open

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Golfing enthusiasts of all ages will have a chance to display their talents over the next two weekends during the Owatonna City Open.

On Saturday and Sunday, adults will be golfing at the Owatonna Country Club and Brooktree. Tee times begin at 7:30 a.m. both days.

The Junior City Open will take place on Aug. 6 and 7. Ages 4-12 will play at Havana Hills with tee times in late afternoon while ages 13-18 will play at Brooktree and OCC with tee times at 8:30 a.m. both days.

Owatonna Golf Booster Club sponsors the city open, which features prizes at all age levels. In the past, there has been a social banquet held after the golfing is over, but it has been canceled this year because of COVID-19.

For years the city open has been a prestigious tournament to win, but the number of golfers has dwindled over the past few years. Organizers are trying to revive interest in the open once again. "We want to continue to grow the event," said Mark Langlois, one of the organizers. "We want to make it an affordable and a great quality experience for all the players," he added.

"The goal is to celebrate golf in Owatonna and give residents an opportunity to play in their home city," Langlois said. The tournament is open to any resident of Steele County or anyone who works in the county. "We like to have people that are connected to Owatonna in some way," Langlois explained. "We are trying to get a fun experience for everyone," he said.

Langlois, who is the boy's golf coach at Owatonna High School, gets excited to see the juniors participating in the open. "I like to see them compete," he said, adding he hopes they will play for him in the future when they get into high school.

Chateau Racing Results:

POWER 96 WISSOTA HORNET

A Feature 1 (15 Laps): 1. 9-Nate Coopman-Mankato[10]; 2. 14-Justin Scheltzche-Cologne[6]; 3. 16M-Matt Wieman-Owatonna[8]; 4. 33-Daniel Knish-Kirkcun[12]; 5. 02-Bryce Lisowski-Faribault[14]; 6. 7X-Ridge Olsen-Bloomington[5]; 7. 97X-Josh Winsky-Rochester[11]; 8. 5-Nick Silman-Minnesota Lake[4]; 9. 20T-Troy Tuma-Owatonna[7]; 10. 3X-Brandon Blanchard-Spring Valley[3]; 11. 15-Bo Noble-Faribault[9]; 12. 169-Taylor White-Rochester[13]; 13. 6-Timothy Barnett-Owatonna[11]; 14. (DNF) 21-Brandon Downs-Austin[2]
Heat 1 (5 Laps): 1. 14-Justin Scheltzche[3]; 2. 3X-Brandon Blanchard[6]; 3. 7X-Ridge Olsen[4]; 4. 16M-Matt Wieman[1]; 5. 15-Bo Noble[5]; 6. 6-Timothy Barnett[7]; 7. (DQ) 02-Bryce Lisowski[2]
Heat 2 (5 Laps): 1. 20T-Troy Tuma[3]; 2. 5-Nick Silman[4]; 3. 97X-Josh Winsky[5]; 4. 21-Brandon Downs[1]; 5. 9-Nate Coopman[6]; 6. 33-Daniel Knish[2]; 7. (DNS) 169-Taylor White

ACTION BUILDERS WISSOTA MIDWEST MODS

A Feature 1 (20 Laps): 1. RED-Dan Wheeler-Savage[4]; 2. RED-Troy Underhill-Northfield[8]; 3. 28S-Spencer Stock-Racine[12]; 4. 00R-Greg Pfeiffer Jr-Austin[5]; 5. 162-Ryan Goergen-Stacyville IA[4]; 6. 4-Brayten Cienaros-Bloomington Prairie[11]; 7. 79-Jeremy Miesgen-New Richmond[3]; 8. 44Z-Anton Nelson-Hayfield[10]; 9. 33-Darryl Hanka-Wannamingo[15]; 10. 98D-Christopher Deno-Kasson[2]; 11. 79H-Luke Hainka-Wannamingo[9]; 12. 96-Noel Hoppe-New Richmond[13]; 13. (DNF) 5-Tyler McFarland-New Richmond[16]; 14. (DNF) 15-Cole Neilsen-Hastings[6]; 15. (DNF) 33-Tanna Mithun-New Richmond[7]; 16. (DNF) 28-David

Gustafson-Pine Island[13]
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 17-Trevi Underhill[3]; 2. 15-Cole Neilsen[4]; 3. 86-Noel Hoppe[1]; 4. 79-Jeremy Miesgen[6]; 5. 79H-Luke Hainka[2]; 6. 4-Brayten Cienaros[7]; 7. 28-David Gustafson[5]; 8. 33-Darryl Hanka[8]
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 53-Tanna Mithun[1]; 2. 98D-Christopher Deno[2]; 3. 00R-Greg Pfeiffer Jr[4]; 4. RED-Dan Wheeler[3]; 5. 44Z-Anton Nelson[6]; 6. 28S-Spencer Stock[8]; 7. 01Z-Ryan Goergen[7]; 8. 5-Tyler McFarland[5]

POWER 96 WISSOTA PURE STOCK

A Feature 1 (15 Laps): 1. 1-Troy Maas-Faribault[2]; 2. 7X-Andrew Eschens-Taopi[6]; 3. 26-Brad Krohnberg-Walter[6]; 4. 17-Michael Wick-Faribault[4]; 5. 31-Raey Hastings IV-Austin[1]; 6. 96-Kydra Neis-Chatfield[12]; 7. 1G-Michael Giff-Faribault[7]; 8. 33-Jim Briggs-Waseca[3]; 9. 41-Jordan Allen-New Richmond[11]; 10. 81-Broderick Diekmann-Waltham[13]; 11. 21-Noah Lund-Waseca[9]; 12. (DNF) 08-Kyle Kote-Owatonna[10]; 13. (DNF) 3-Jack Paulson-Faribault[5]
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 1-Troy Maas[4]; 2. 7X-Andrew Eschens[5]; 3. 31-Raey Hastings IV[3]; 4. 33-Jim Briggs[1]; 5. 21-Noah Lund[6]; 6. 41-Jordan Allen[7]; 7. 81-Broderick Diekmann[2]
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 3-Jack Paulson[2]; 2. 26-Brad Krohnberg[6]; 3. 17-Michael Wick[1]; 4. 1G-Michael Giff[4]; 5. 08-Kyle Kote[3]; 6. 96-Kydra Neis[5]

ADAMS GRAPHIX WISSOTA STREET STOCK

A Feature 1 (18 Laps): 1. 01-Dustin Doughty-Oakdale[8]; 2. 15-Zach Elward-Hayfield[7]; 3. 01-Kory Adams-Stacyville IA[12]; 4. 21-Jesse Stahl-Austin[5]; 5. 42-Cody Hyatt-Waseca[1]; 6. 32-Jason Newkirk-Austin[6]; 7. 99-Greg Lammer-Owatonna[3]; 8. KOL34-Kolton Brauer-Eyota[14]; 9. 39-Dan Klingus-Austin[2]; 10. 46-Stacy Krohnberg-Walter[4]; 11. 11S-Kyle

Sivesind-Stewartville[9]; 12. 14-Caden Neilsen-Hastings[13]; 13. (DNF) 2-Marcus Berndt-Austin[11]; 14. (DNF) 4-Chris Hotovec-Dodge Center[10]
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 21-Jesse Stahl[1]; 2. 32-Jason Newkirk[2]; 3. 01-Dustin Doughty[7]; 4. 42-Cody Hyatt[4]; 5. 11S-Kyle Sivesind[6]; 6. 2-Marcus Berndt[3]; 7. 14-Caden Neilsen[3]
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 46-Stacy Krohnberg[1]; 2. 39-Dan Klingus[4]; 3. 15-Zach Elward[5]; 4. 99-Greg Lammer[5]; 5. 4-Chris Hotovec[7]; 6. 01-Kory Adams[6]; 7. KOL34-Kolton Brauer[2]

USRA B-MODS

A Feature 1 (20 Laps): 1. 35JR-Garitt Wytaske-Austin[1]; 2. 33S-Dustin Steinbrink-Austin[3]; 3. 55H-Aaron Hoff-Mantorville[7]; 4. 99-Noah Grinstead-Austin[2]; 5. 30-Scott Denner-Elkader[9]; 6. 55-Brody Shaw-Brownsdale[10]; 7. 44-Matthew Brooks-Austin[6]; 8. 38-Michael Wytaske-Hartland[8]; 9. 72-Alex Schubbe-North Mankato[5]; 10. 54-Jett Sorensen-Rochester[16]; 11. 02K-Hunter Kennedy-St Ansgar IA[4]; 12. 45-Cole Longergan-Dexter[12]; 13. 81K-Caleb Kopp-Diamond[11]; 14. 17-Justin Murray-Owatonna[15]; 15. 00-Thomas Rolles-Carpenter IA[13]; 16. (DNF) 15J-Jeremy Schaufelbauer-New Hampton IA[14]
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 35JR-Garitt Wytaske[2]; 2. 30-Scott Denner[3]; 3. 55-Brody Shaw[1]; 4. 02K-Hunter Kennedy[6]; 5. 99-Noah Grinstead[8]; 6. 81K-Caleb Kopp[4]; 7. 00-Thomas Rolles[7]; 8. (DNF) 54-Jett Sorensen[5]
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 72-Alex Schubbe[1]; 2. 33S-Dustin Steinbrink[3]; 3. 55H-Aaron Hoff[7]; 4. 38-Michael Wytaske[4]; 5. 44-Matthew Brooks[6]; 6. 45-Cole Longergan[5]; 7. 15J-Jeremy Schaufelbauer[8]; 8. 17-Justin Murray[2]

FRENCH'S REPAIR USRA MODIFIEDS

A Feature 1 (25 Laps): 1. 19-Dustin Sorensen-Rochester[7]; 2. 4A-Joe Alberts-Mantorville[1]; 3. 71-Jason Cummings-New Richmond[5]; 4. 24W-Brad Waits-Rochester[10]; 5.

90-Ryan Wetzel-West Concord[11]; 6. 1A-Dwane Hanson-Lakefield[5]; 7. 51W-JT Wassmund-Pine Island[13]; 8. 96-Taton Hansen-Spicer[6]; 9. 23-Darwyn Karau-Kasson[9]; 10. 33-Ty Ludemann-Grand Meadow[15]; 11. 72-Doug Hillson-Bloomington Prairie[17]; 12. (DNF) 98M-Mitchel Maderly-Kasson[13]; 13. (DNF) 65D-Dustin Brown-Therton IA[2]; 14. (DNF) 77-Jacob Stark-Austin[14]; 15. (DNF) 21-Troy Gudmonson-Savage[16]; 16. (DNF) 85-Tony Schell-Oakdale[6]; 17. (DNF) 00-Mark Gartner-Mapleton[12]; 18. (DNF) 50-Devon Havik-Iowa Falls IA[4]
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 23-Darwyn Karau[1]; 2. 19-Dustin Sorensen[6]; 3. 71-Jason Cummings[3]; 4. 8S-Tony Schell[5]; 5. 96-Taton Hansen[4]; 6. 90-Ryan Wetzel[13]; 7. 51W-JT Wassmund[9]; 8. 33-Joe Ludemann[7]; 9. 72-Doug Hillson[2]
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 24W-Brad Waits[3]; 2. 1A-Dwane Hanson[11]; 3. 50-Devon Havik[4]; 4. 4A-Joe Alberts[6]; 5. 65D-Dustin Brown[2]; 6. 00-Mark Gartner[8]; 7. 77-Jacob Stark[5]; 8. 21-Troy Gudmonson[7]; 9. 98M-Mitchel Maderly[9]

BRAUER ROOFING WISSOTA SUPER STOCK

A Feature 1 (18 Laps): 1. 34JR-Braden Brauer-Eyota[5]; 2. 229-Anthony (AJ) Zvorak-Bloomington Prairie[2]; 3. 7E-Neil Eckhart-Rochester[4]; 4. 9-Dylan Kromschroeder-Cambridge[7]; 5. 22N-Dan Nissalke[4]; 6. 17R-Ryan Kostreba-Elk River[6]; 7. 55S-Ryan Schaeffer-Hutchinson[9]; 8. 22-Ryan Jacobson-Lakefield[3]; 9. 17-Harland Morehart-Rochester[11]; 10. (DNF) 35-Dennis Dunbar-Winona[10]
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 34JR-Braden Brauer[2]; 2. 9-Dylan Kromschroeder[3]; 3. 229-Anthony (AJ) Zvorak[1]; 4. 22N-Dan Nissalke[4]; 5. (DNF) 35-Dennis Dunbar[3]
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 17R-Ryan Kostreba[3]; 2. 7E-Neil Eckhart[5]; 3. 17-Harland Morehart[1]; 4. 22-Ryan Jacobson[4]; 5. 55S-Ryan Schaeffer[2]

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FREE CONSULTATIONS

Ambassadors keep busy with visits



Submitted Photos
Ambassadors from the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism made several visits to new businesses on July 16. Top: Begin Again: Health and Wellness, LLC; 516 N Cedar St., in Owatonna, to welcome Dawn Ritter as a new member. Ritter is a nurse practitioner for healing the underlying cause of illness, health and wellness exams, lifestyle medicine and whole food nutrition. Call for an appointment today at 507-676-7308. Middle: Honest 1 Auto Care; 1125 South Oak Ave in Owatonna, to welcome owner Troy Garris as a new member. Honest 1 Auto Care Owatonna is one of the only national eco-friendly auto repair facilities. As a locally owned and operated company, Honest 1 offers prompt service with no hidden costs or fees. Hours are M – F: 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Bottom: Irish Eyes Studio, 320 N Cedar, in Owatonna, to welcome Shawn McCarthy as a new member. Irish Eyes Studio is a family friendly tattoo and piercing shop serving Owatonna and Southern Minnesota with open hours of 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Federated Insurance named to Ward's top performers

Federated Mutual Insurance Company and Federated Life Insurance Company have been named to Ward's 50 lists of top performing companies for property-casualty and life health in 2020, respectively. Federated is one of only eight companies to earn a spot on both lists.

"We are proud to be part of the coveted Ward's 50 list of top performers," said Federated Insurance Chairman and CEO Jeff Fetters. "This recognition demonstrates our commitment to financial strength and helping our clients succeed. Perhaps now more than ever, the 38,000+ businesses across America who trust us to help protect their livelihoods need and deserve an insurance provider that is financially sound."

The Ward Group, part of Aon plc – a leading global professional services firm providing a broad range of risk, retirement, and health services – annually recognizes 50 companies that have excelled at balancing financial safety, consistency, and performance during the past five years. They conducted separate analyses on nearly 3,000 property-casualty companies and 700 life health companies within the insurance industry.

Frontier ordered to pay \$750K in restitution

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison announces that his office has entered into a settlement with Frontier Communications, a provider that covers much of southern Minnesota.

As part of the settlement, Frontier will pay restitution of \$750,000 and spend \$10 million to upgrade its broadband network.

The settlement with Frontier concludes the three major investigations and lawsuits that the Attorney General's office launched into deceptive, misleading, and fraudulent practices.

The Assurance of Discontinuance with Frontier Communications of America, Inc., Frontier Communications, Inc., Citizens Telecommunications of Minnesota, Inc., and Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC (collectively, "Frontier") resolves the Attorney General's investigation into possible deceptive and misleading practices related to Frontier's billing and sale of internet services. As part of the settlement, Frontier agrees to fully

disclose its prices for internet service to new customers before they take service, allow many current customers to cancel their current service without penalty, make significant investments to upgrade its network to provide better service, and pay restitution for past harm.

Frontier provides telephone and internet service to approximately 90,000 customers in Minnesota, many of whom live across southern Minnesota and have limited options for high-speed internet service. Minnesotans who are customers of Frontier may submit a claim for a dedicated claim form on the Attorney General's website, or by calling 800-657-3787.

"It's hard enough to afford your life these days. For so many folks, especially in Greater Minnesota, affording your life means being able to rely on the promises your telecom provider makes for the internet service you depend on. For too many Minnesotans, Frontier

broke its promises," Ellison said. "With this settlement with Frontier, and following the resolution of our lawsuits against CenturyLink and Comcast/Xfinity, now most Minnesotans can trust that they'll be getting what they paid for from their telecom providers, and that they're paying what they were promised and no more."

The Minnesota Attorney General's Office began its investigation in 2018 after receiving numerous complaints from Frontier's customers. Based on its investigation, the Attorney General's Office alleged that Frontier used a variety of deceptive and misleading practices to overcharge its customers, such as: billing customers more than they were quoted by Frontier's agents; failing to disclose fees and surcharges in its sales presentations and advertising materials; and billing customers for services that were not delivered. Attorney General Ellison's Office also alleged that Frontier sold Minneso-

tans expensive internet services with so-called "maximum speed" ratings that were not attainable, and that Frontier improperly advertised its service as "reliable," when in fact it did not provide enough bandwidth for customers to consistently receive their expected service.

Attorney General Ellison's settlement resolves these allegations by requiring Frontier to take the following steps:

1. Clearly disclose the important terms of its internet service to potential customers at the time it sells them internet service. This disclosure must include the exact "base price" for Frontier's service; estimated amounts of any taxes, fees, surcharges, and one-time fees; and any recurring charges. Frontier must also disclose the time period that the customer will be charged this amount, and any applicable cancellation charge.
2. Provide all new customers with a written Order Confirmation that identifies the customer's total expected

charges, and provide customers with the ability to cancel service without charge before installation.

3. Reform its sales and advertising practices to ensure customers are informed of the speed capability of internet service at their specific locations.

4. Notify existing customers who are not receiving internet service at the maximum speed they are paying for, and allow those customers to change to a lower-priced plan or discontinue service at no cost.

5. Ensure that every customer's maximum internet speed is at least 90% of the maximum speed advertised in the customer's service plans.

6. Invest at least \$10 million over four years to improve its broadband network. This amount is in addition to any money Frontier may receive from outside government grants, and its current commitments for improvements.

7. Pay restitution of \$750,000 that the Attor-

ney General's Office can distribute to Frontier's customers for past harm.

Before entering into this settlement, Frontier had filed for bankruptcy in New York.

In January of 2019, the Minnesota Department of Commerce filed a separate report with the Public Utilities Commission, which found that the telecommunications provider failed to provide adequate, reliable phone and internet service to Minnesota customers.

The Department of Commerce found that "[m]any of the issues reported by consumers show direct violations of Minnesota law and [Minnesota Public Utilities] Commission rules, and indicate broad, systemic problems with Frontier's service quality, recordkeeping and business operations."

The Attorney General's Office began its investigation of Frontier before the Department's report and the Attorney General's settlement does not impact the Department's or the PUC's investigation.

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David Noble, 86, Bloomington Prairie

David Allen Noble, age 86 of Bloomington Prairie, passed away Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at Timberdale Trace Assisted Living in Owatonna.

David was born Feb. 1, 1934 to Albert and Ludmilla (Kvasnicka) Noble. He graduated from Bloomington Prairie High School. He married Shirley Brudwick and together had four children. They later divorced. David worked for Jorde Insulation and Roofing, Lysne's, on the moving crew, the Ford Garage in Owatonna, Austin Park Motors and Dibble Pontiac and Buick in Austin as a mechanic. His passion was auto racing, which he did successfully for many years.

Survivors include his children, Mark (Becky) Noble, Diane (Steve) Schroeder, Linda (Bill) Stead; eight grandchildren, Adrian Noble, Beth (Robert) Salinas, Angela (Kyle) Krueger, Anthony (Kelly) Noble, Amber (Rob) Vrieze, Jennifer (Dens) Wyrum, Jeremy (Michelle) Kruecker, Heather (Will) Onkka; 14 great grandchildren; siblings, Jack (Darlene), Billy (Margaret), Tom (Ann), Ann (Jim) and Chuck (Ranae); sister-in-law, Kay Noble, and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Ludmilla Noble; daughter, Debra; brother, Bobby; and wife, Shirley.

A memorial mass will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Bloomington Prairie. Visitation will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10, at the Worlein Bloomington Prairie Funeral Home in Bloomington Prairie.

David's wishes were to have his body donated to the Mayo Clinic Bequest Program for Anatomical Research. Memorials are preferred to the St. Columbanus Parking Lot Fund or the Bloomington Prairie Servicemen's Club.

Worlein Funeral Home in Bloomington Prairie is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.



David Noble



Granddaughters Sophia Schiller and Alexandra Herget read for Ken Schiller's Quilt of Valor presentation. Schiller served in the U.S. Army.

2 vets earn Quilts of Valor

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
 STAFF WRITER

Heather and Tony Schiller of rural Bloomington Prairie recently hosted a special event involving Heather's father, Timothy Bass and her father-in-law, Kenneth Schiller.

U.S. Army veterans Tim Bass and Ken Schiller received Quilts of Valor from a local Bloomington Prairie quilting group. The quilting group, led by Chris Butler, has presented over 160 Quilts of Valor to area service men and women.

Marilyn Witzel of the Bloomington Prairie American Legion and VFW auxiliaries, presented the quilts to both recipients at Heather's home on July 3.

Chris Butler is the originator of the Quilts of Valor program in Bloomington Prairie. Since Veterans Day on Nov. 11, 2014, the local quilting group has made more than 160 Quilts of Valor and given them ceremonially to deserving members of the military.

Paying tribute to the creators of the beautiful quilts, Butler said, "These women have put their hearts, time and talents into these quilts." The Quilts of Valor Foundation was started nationally with a Blue Star mother, Catherine Roberts of Seaford, Delaware in 2003.

The first quilt the foundation made was for a young soldier from Minnesota who had lost a leg in Iraq in 2003.

"Words can't explain how proud I am to receive this honor," remarked Army veteran Tim Bass. "It's humbling," said Ken Schiller.

Sophia Schiller interviewed both recipients both the formal presentation of the quilts.

TIM BASS

Tim Bass attended elementary school at the Walnut Grove Elementary School in Des Moines, Iowa. He graduated from Claremont High School in Claremont in 1966.

Bass joined the U.S. Army on Sept. 20, 1967. He served two years after being drafted. He then attended basic training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He recalls basic training very

vividly, remembering the times he got up at 4 a.m. ran and shot different weapons.

Serving most of his time in Germany, Bass was an ALT tank commander and reached the rank of Sergeant E-5.

His favorite food served while he was in the Army was brats and sauerkraut, plus spicy potato salad.

Asked to share a story about a military experience, Bass responded: "Another gentleman and I checked out a jeep and went to Italy so the other man could buy a tapestry. It took a week for it to be made.

"On the way back the jeep ran out of fuel, and we weren't close to anywhere to get any so we added some cognac to the gas tank. We had to drive all over the country side, up and down hills, mountains, and towns.

"When we returned to the Base the commander wanted to know why the jeep was running so terribly, we felt bad for what happened but couldn't tell him. We never used the jeep again."

KEN SCHILLER

Ken Schiller attended elementary school at Litomysl Catholic School in rural Owatonna. He graduated from Bloomington Prairie High School in 1970. Schiller joined the U.S. Army in 1971 and served two years. He said he joined the Army to serve and get in before all of his friends got out.

He took basic training at Fort Lewis, Wash., and remembers days filled with lots of push-ups and yelling.

His primary job in the Army was serving as a recovery vehicle operator. He served in Budjig, Germany and attained the rank of Specialist 4.

His favorite food in the Army was breakfast, fast food, eggs, sausage, toast and bacon.

Recalling an experience in the Army, Schiller replied: "I spent a lot of time going into the Artillery Field and shooting big guns at little planes. I went into target practice and shot 50's and pom pom guns. I was in a turret with four 50-caliber machine guns at Fort Bliss, Texas when a gun exploded in another man's face."

BOOK NOOK

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Bloomington Prairie Branch Library is pleased to announce that 10 popular magazines are now available to download and read on any device 24/7.

For the first time, users with a library card can read digital magazines alongside ebooks and audiobooks by downloading Libby, the reading app from OverDrive. All you need is a current library card, so stop in or call the library at 507-583-7750 and we will get you ready to go.

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 Men's Health
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 Good Housekeeping
 The Economist
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Magazines have no wait lists or holds, do not count towards checkout limits, and provide readers the option to renew their selections. Patrons can also download magazines on Libby for offline use. This service is compatible with all major computers and devices, both Apple and Android. All titles will automatically expire at the end of the lending period and there are no late fees! A quick reminder that the library is now open for limited use, with visits of 15 minutes per day, Tuesday through Friday. At this time we are closed on Saturdays. Stay tuned - I'm sure there will be more changes in the future!

SHE COULD BE CALLED:

the Dancing Queen of BP FROM A1

and fancy shawl or in a grass skirt," she jokes.

She said the response to her dancing has sometimes been good "and some look at me like I am out of my mind." She declares, "I am not out of my mind; I am very sane."

Sonya says she enjoys dancing near Cenex and Casey's. She also will choose other sites in town to show off her love for dancing.

A resident of Villa 2 near Casey's, Sonya says her family is from the Grand Portage Reservation near Grand Marais. She says she was born in Moose Lake.

Sonya's great, great grandfather is the legendary John Beargrease. Established in 1900, the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon is the longest sled dog race in the lower 48 states.

John Beargrease is best remembered as the winter mail carrier between Two Harbors and Grand Marais during the last two decades of the nineteenth century.

Sonya has three children who she seldom sees. "I got into the drug scene," she admits.

"I am not very good at picking men because I think I can fix them," Sonya says.

Sonya's love of music helps her accent the positives. "There are two positives to every negative," she believes.

She has a son

"It makes me feel better."

Sonya Kirkman
 Dancing Queen of BP

Garrett, 18 in Dassel-Cokato; a daughter Lilli, 13 of Blaine and a son Ethan, 9 of Waterloo, Iowa.

Sonya says her love for dancing is parallel to fitness. "I received the President's National Fitness award when I was younger," she proudly says.

Sonya is not working at the present time, still recovering from a severe car crash in 2016. She suffered brain damage. She says her long-term memory is good but she at times has a problem with short-term memory.

As a kid, Sonya said she watched lots of Public Television. Her mother worked at a Dairy Queen and also worked in home health care in New Brighton.

Sonya also thought of going into nursing "I'm a natural care giver," she says.

Announcing that she just registered to vote, Sonya says she is proud of being able to go to the polls in November.

Look for Sonya on any Bloomington Prairie boulevard close to Villa 2 apartments. She likely will be wired to music and will be singing and dancing to her favorite tunes.

That's who that Dancing Queen is.

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 E-mail: drchad@drchad.org

Recipe Corner

Broccoli Cauliflower Salad

1 big bunch of broccoli, washed and cut
 3 big bunches of cauliflower, washed and cut
 1 small container cherry tomatoes, washed
 1/8 C Hormel bacon bits
 Mix all the above together in large bowl.

Top with the following:
 1/4 to 1/2 C sugar
 2 - 3 cups Miracle Whip (mix with sugar first and then add this mixture to the veggies)
 1/2 to 1 cup shredded cheese (sprinkle on top)
 Refrigerate for 2 to 3 hours before serving.

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JUMPSTART: helps struggling businesses FROM A3

was very useful to us," Wilson said. Currently customers are able to order online or via phone and swing by and pick up their food.

"Working with the costumers and the community and knowing that we run

a class-act establishment is what I like most about this job," Wilson explained.

"We're very thankful for all of the support that we've received."

Each week the Jumpstart initiative names new recipients. Their current goal is

to raise \$130,000 for local businesses. The fund combines business and community resources as well as expertise to support small business in three ways: grant dollars, in kind donations and expertise, and local spending.

For area businesses resources such as the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce and programs like the Jumpstart initiative have made a big impact on their ability to continue to operate successfully during these trying times.

Who is God? Where is God?



**Deacon
Kris Oppegard**
TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH
OWATONNA

Throughout my years of working in the church, there is one question that is asked of me most often: “Who is God?” Quite often, I am caught off guard with the question. I wonder why they are asking me. I am only human and, to be honest, I ask myself this same question, as well as the question, “Where is God?” For many, including me, answering these seemingly simple questions can be surprisingly complex especially during these uncertain times.

When confronted

with questions like these, I take time to pause and think. Then, I open the Bible. Scripture offers many insights to describe God’s character. God as Shepherd. God as Father. God as Light. God as Rock. Then, Exodus 3:14 says, “I AM WHO I AM.” In the form of a burning bush, when pressed by Moses for a name, God responds with “I AM WHO I AM.” As a child, I had the idea that God was seated on a throne, in Heaven, surrounded

by angels with harps, who floated around in the sky forever and always. And, that same God would also swoop down to take out all my enemies, as well as send ‘manna’ for people who were hungry. However, today, as an adult, living in a pandemic and unrest in the world, I want God to come down and immediately end the suffering. While I wait, I continue to question, “Who is God?” and “Where is God?” As I pray and press God for answers, I

am reminded of God’s simple, but powerful response to Moses, when he pressed God for an answer, “I AM WHO I AM.” I have never encountered a burning bush, yet I have seen God’s handiwork in the snow-capped mountains, the rolling corn fields, the quiet forest, and the very busy bees. From seeing those, I am reminded that God created everything in the world and God is here with us, as He always has been, forever and always.

God is with us because God is love and loves us beyond our comprehension. 1 John 4:16 says, “So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.” God answers us through the love that He unconditionally has for us. We are going to get through these uncertain days by resting in the assurance that God’s love for us, and our love for others, will change the world.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
629 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696
Worship: Sunday at 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 – ALC

503 Radcl Ct., Ellendale
Pastor Richard Sliper
507-684-2451

Men’s Bible Study: 8 a.m. Saturday
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
(Kids church: 9 a.m. and Confirmation: 10:15 a.m.)
Jesus and Me: 3:30-5 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday
Call to Prayer: 7 p.m. Tuesday
Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday
Wednesday School: 6:15-7 p.m.
followed by Youth Group: 7-9 p.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA

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

firstluthership.com
Worship Service: 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN – LCMC

8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope Pastor
Sandy Miller
507-451-3854

Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School, Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m. Sun.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMC

2560 7th Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Greg Schlicker
507-451-4125

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 Edvardson
507-789-6661

Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN – ELCA

9651 SW 75th St., Ellendale
507-485-8366

Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sun.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN – LCMC

1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
507-451-2720

Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sun.

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA

30456 Mower-Frederick Road, Austin
Leandra Anderson, Pastor
507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000

www.rglutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN – LCMC

4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
Pastor Alan Broadwell
507-528-2404

Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN – LCMC

28959 630th Ave., 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
Pastors Dave Klawiter and Jacie Richmond
507-451-7293

stjohnowatonna.org
Worship: 5 p.m.
Thursday & Saturday:
8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Summer Services:
8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Sunday

ST. MICHAEL’S LUTHERAN – ELCA

30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Pastor Dwight Dobell
507-567-2474

Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN – LCMC

202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Kruemker
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: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
9 a.m. outdoors only, weather permitting

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA

609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520

trinityowatonna.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Burger
Associate Pastor: Rev. Amanda Floy
Deacon: Kris Oppegard

Worship: 5 p.m. Saturday: 8:15 a.m.
9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sunday

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA

104 First St. SE., Hayfield
Pastor Paul Hauschild
507-477-2248

www.trinityhayfield.org
Worship: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMC

108 Third Ave. SW., Medford
Pastor Mark Bieghausser
507-451-0447

Worship: Sunday 9 a.m. in Sanctuary
Wednesday 6:30 p.m. outdoors with
side lawn, bring lawn chairs

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMC

57043 306th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Kruemker
507-567-2272

Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA

7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday
8 a.m. outdoors only, weather permitting

OUR SAVIOR’S LUTHERAN – ELCA

1909 St. Paul Road, Owatonna
Senior Pastor:
John Weisenburger
Associate Pastor: Lisa Carlson
507-451-4853

oursaviorsowatonna.com
Worship: 8:15 a.m. – Traditional,
9:30 a.m. – Sunday School/Adult
Education
10:45 a.m. – Contemporary

CATHOLIC

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507-451-6353

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307 SW First St., New Richland
Father Brian Mulligan
507-234-6244

Mass 5 p.m. Saturday

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL

9948 SE 24th Ave. Owatonna
Father John Wilmut
507-583-2784

www.litomysl.webs.com
Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m.
Litomysl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other month
Litomysl 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 Parochial Vicar
507-451-1588

www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday;
8:30 a.m. & 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
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. Sun-Sunday
Reconciliation: 9 a.m.
First Friday & Saturday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH

512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna

Father James Starasinick
Deacon Patrick Fagan
507-451-4845

Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.

Daily Mass:
8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri.
(Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday)

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Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
507-451-1032

Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.

PENTECOSTAL

FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL

230 Locust Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
507-363-2240

Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday;
6:30 p.m. Wednesday

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST

43089 180th St., Medford (Seven
miles west of Medford on CR 23)
Pastors JJ & Stefanie Morgan
507-835-8726

Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST

200 Sixth St. NW, Ellendale Pastor
Randy Cirkema
507-684-2731

www.ellendaleumc.org
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST

815 E. University, Owatonna
Rev. Lisa J. Vick
Pastor
507-451-4734

www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship (Pathways):
9 a.m. Sunday

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY

130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna
Pastor Keith Haskell
507-315-2219

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Bible Study: 9 a.m. Sun.

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LEGENDARY ATHLETE: from Owatonna excelled at 3 sports

to wear the Maroon and Gold," the Minnesota Gophers team said in a posting honoring Jenke.

Jenke excelled at three sports and became the first player in the Big Ten history to be drafted in three separate sports. He was a first-round pick by the Boston Red Sox in the 1969 MLB Draft, a 12th round pick by the Minnesota Vikings in the 1969 NFL Draft, and was later taken by the Minnesota Fighting Saints in the World Hockey Association's 1972 draft.

Jenke initially chose to go with baseball. The Red Sox gave him minor league assignments from 1969 to 1971, but he never played in the majors. He then tried his hand with the NFL, finding more playing time there. Over the next four years with the Vikings, Atlanta Falcons and Green Bay Packers, Jenke appeared in 25 games.

Following his athletic career, Jenke worked in sales.

Jenke, who graduated from Owatonna in 1965, was one of 10 charter inductees into the Hall of Fame at Owatonna High School in 1996.

"He was absolutely an amazing athlete at high school, collegiate and professional levels," said Jim Herzog, retired Owatonna principal, who got to know Jenke in his later years.

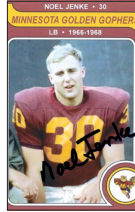
"There isn't anyone that is multi-talented like Noel Jenke. He is a rare breed."

Herzog said it was a privilege for him to talk to Jenke every time he came back to Owatonna. "He is just a first class gentleman,"

Herzog said. "He was humble for being so great. He was unselfish in his discussions," he added.

Following the Hall of Fame inductions, many people would gather at Torey's Restaurant. Herzog recalls how Jenke always purchased beverages for everyone, but didn't even have one for himself. "He was a kind and generous man," Herzog said.

Gopher great and baseball Hall of Famer Dave Winfield is cited for being drafted in three sports. Winfield never played football. Jenke played three sports, including hockey, which Owatonna at the time Jenke was in high school did not even offer as a sport.



Matt Kottke got to know Jenke during his childhood while growing up in Owatonna. "I was a young kid who enjoyed sports and looked up to him. I idolized him and followed him in his career," said Kottke, who still has a button of Noel Jenke Day when he played with the Gophers.

Kottke is convinced the only reason Jenke never made it past the Triple A team with the Red Sox is because of another great player named Carl Yastrzemski.



Noel Jenke grew up in Owatonna and was a legendary Minnesota Gophers football player in the late 1960s. He died last week at the age of 73.

ki, who later went on to be elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1989.

Kottke served on the committee for the Owatonna Hall of Fame when it was formed in 1996. "Noel Jenke was without a doubt the No. 1 selection when we had the inaugural class," Kottke said. "He was a very gifted and talented athlete," he added.

"Beyond his amazing athletic accomplishments, he was an individual that deeply loved Owatonna," Kottke said. "He had his fingers back in Owatonna all the time. He followed the community. Owatonna was always his home."

Kottke said Jenke typically came back to Owatonna each fall for the football season when he would take in a Huskies game as well as a Gophers game. Kottke added he was most recently in Owatonna last fall.

"He is a class act and will be sorely missed," Kottke said.

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Hometown Living

STEELE COUNTY TIMES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2020

B1



A new crime fighting duo

Sheriff's deputy Caleb Buck welcomes his new partner, Willow, to Steele County. The crime fighting duo will train together beginning in September for 10 weeks before hitting the roads to protect and serve residents in the county. This is the sheriff office's first K-9 team in about six years.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Buck focuses on making K-9 part of the family before training starts

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

It has been a bitter-sweet past week for Steele County sheriff's deputy Caleb Buck.

On Monday just days after he welcomed a new police dog to the

family, he was forced to put down one of his own dogs because of a kidney problem.

Buck's attention will now be focused on his newest addition to the family, Willow, a 2-year-old German Shepherd from Slovakia. Willow

joins Buck's 1-year-old poodle at home. Asked how they have acclimated to each other, Buck said, "After 10 minutes of sniffing and hair standing up, they got it figured out."

The new K-9 duo won't begin training

until September. In the meantime, Buck plans to focus on building a relationship with Willow. He plans to go on walks with the dog and spend time in the house. "There will be a lot of touch, praise and playing around," Buck

says. "I want to build the relationship with trust. I'm her friend on her side."

Buck said Willow will be treated just like another member of the family. "I've always liked dogs," he said, noting he has always had

an interest in becoming a K-9 handler. He has been a deputy with the sheriff's office for the past four years.

"The ability for a human and animal to work together with such

SEE A NEW CRIME, B2

Federated Challenge sets new record

It may not have taken place in person, but that didn't seem to dampen the giving spirits of folks toward the annual Federated Challenge.

The 2020 Federated Challenge raised a record \$3,087,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters, during its first-ever virtual gala on Sunday, July 26. Even during this unprecedented time in history, a record 61 prominent businesses and more than 500 attendees logged on to their computers and mobile devices to support youth mentoring in Minnesota and throughout America.

"We knew in our hearts that cancelling this year's event was not an option," said Federated Insurance Chairman and CEO Jeff Fetters. "And that decision be-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This year's Federated Challenge featured a virtual gala with, from left: Auctioneer Glen Fladeboe of Fladeboe Advancement Company, Co-Chairs Marty and Jeff Fetters, and Dave Lee of WCCO Radio. They proudly display a check for \$3,087,000 raised during the 2020 Federated Challenge.

came more significant this year than ever before, as many kids have been patiently waiting

to be matched with a Big Sunday's event set that in motion - opening the door to create strong

bonds and long-lasting friendships."

SEE CHALLENGE, B2

Reconnect with your pathway to Unique Finds



Steele Talkin'
JESS STROMLEY

The re-opening of Unique finds is going great!

Donations have been piling up, and we are excited to announce a huge sale going on through the rest of this month. All hanging clothes are 2 for \$1 and shoes are buy 1, get 1 free. We are allowing two shoppers in at a time, you are required to wear a face mask, follow social distancing guidelines and

to ensure that others have a chance to shop we have implemented a 20 minute shopping time. Everyone has been so kind and understanding. We are thankful for your cooperation with these changes. Just a reminder you do not have to be registered with us to shop, so come check out the newest thrift store in town!

Donations coming in have been astounding and we are so grateful, but we are concerned about space. Last month, we purchased a large intermodal storage container where we can quarantine donations and thought this would allow for more storage, but we need a chance to get caught up.

SEE RECONNECT, B2

Godfather's Pizza rolls out new restaurant

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

With a newly renovated restaurant, Godfather's Pizza in Owatonna is making something available that it has never been able to offer before.

Pizza lovers will now be able to utilize a drive-up window to pick up their pizzas without ever stepping foot inside. "It's a pick-up aisle on the side of the building to benefit our customers, especially in these (COVID-19) times, to pick up and go home," said owner Brad Price. The addition of a

drive-up window is all part of a major renovation of a building that Price purchased in March 2019 right next door to his existing restaurant. The building used to house Larry's Liquor.

Godfather's rolled out the new restaurant late Thursday afternoon after being closed for four days. Price says he particularly likes the openness of the new restaurant as several large windows were added to the d'cor.

"We are very excited about the new location," Price said. "We took an old building and turned

it into an asset for the community. It's much more efficient for our customers."

Some fixtures, mainly from the kitchen area, were moved over from the old restaurant. However, Price said that everything the customer sees is new. The dining room features all new chairs and tables.

While the new restaurant features more kitchen space, the dining area actually is smaller than the old place, Price said. He noted their business model has changed

SEE GODFATHER'S PIZZA, B2



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Godfather's Pizza owner Brad Price is ready for customers to check out his new restaurant in Owatonna. Godfather's took over a building next to the old restaurant on South Cedar Avenue. The newly renovated restaurant opened for business last Thursday.

Housing project begins in Medford

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

For years, the field roared with action of football players. But that has long since been silenced and replaced just in recent weeks with the rumbling of construction crews bringing a new residential development to Medford.

Real estate developer Todd Nelson of Faribault has begun constructing an \$11 million project on what's known as the old football field on Medford's south side.

"We're glad to see earth moving," said Lois Nelson,

Medford's mayor. "We appreciate Todd and what he is doing with this project. It's a win, win for us."

The multi-year Bluff View project features a 16-unit apartment with single garages and four plexes for those age 50 and older. The apartments should be finished by spring. In addition, there will also be nine single-family homes constructed.

Mayor Nelson hopes the project will provide some much needed relief to the city's strained housing stock. She said there is currently less than a half dozen lots available within the city.

Nelson hopes the new development will attract some current homeowners in other residences who live down south in the winter. "That would free up properties for first-time home buyers," she said. "We want to expand our housing stock in the community."

The new development will be expanded based on demand and as the city's waste water can handle it, Nelson said. She added nothing is planned for utility expansion within the city right now.

RAW Construction of Faribault is the general contractor for the project.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Crews are digging ground and laying pipe at the old football field in Medford. The 16 acres will be developed into a 16-unit apartment complex and four plexes for those age 50 and older. Single family homes will also be added in future years.

FEDERATED CHALLENGE: sets new record

FROM B1

One hundred percent of the money raised will be donated to Minnesota's three Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. These organizations are creating powerful one-to-one mentoring relationships between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles"). A portion of the donations are earmarked for the Federated Challenge Scholarship Program, which provides up to \$5,000 per year to qualified Littles or high school Bigs enrolled in a non-four-year program focusing on apprenticeship, certificate, trade school, technical, or community college. Since the program's inception, close to 100 students have benefited from the scholarship fund and are earning job-ready training degrees with little to no debt.

"Remarkable times call for remarkable people, and our generous Federated Challenge corporate sponsors and individual donors have answered that call," said Fetters. "We may have been apart, but we still came together to help Big Brothers Big Sisters matches ignite potential."

The virtual gala — hosted by Co-chairs

Jeff and Marty Fetters — featured WCCO veteran broadcaster Dave Lee. The event included special messages from members of the Minnesota Gophers athletic department, Minnesota United Football Club, and Minnesota Timberwolves. Guests also heard powerful mentoring success stories from Big Don MacPherson, Little Shakeel Nelson, and Little Isiah Handy.

"Collectively, the funds we raised during this event will directly support countless young people," added Fetters. "The Federated Challenge continues to be a first-class event, whether it's held in person or virtually. Most importantly, it continues to rally people around a cause that empowers youth and strengthens communities. Big Brothers Big Sisters' mission is one we proudly stand behind."

The Federated Challenge was founded in 2004 as a two-day fund-raising event hosted by Federated Insurance, a commercial insurance company headquartered in Owatonna. Now in its sixteenth year, this event has raised more than \$41 million for youth mentoring programs.

A NEW CRIME: fighting duo

FROM B1

precision is super cool," said Buck, who is a 2013 graduate of Owatonna High School.

Police work won't be new to Willow, who has trained and worked with another police department in Minnesota. That department wanted a different type of police dog, making

Willow available to Steele County. The dog came through Performance Dog Kennel in Buffalo, Minn.

Even though Willow has prior law enforcement experience, Buck will still train with her for 10 weeks. "It's not getting me to be trained to her," he said.

Buck describes Willow as a dual-purpose dog that will track people, evidence and drugs. She will be used to track lost children, adults and suspects. "She can track people, she just can't bite," he said. He added she will always be on a leash and not allowed to bite anyone.

The deputy said he is excited to start patrolling with his new partner. "I'm just anxious to start, but I want to wait (until she's trained)," Buck said. Buck and Willow will travel to Buffalo for 10 weeks of intense police training beginning Sept. 8.

GODFATHER'S PIZZA: rolls out new restaurant

FROM B1

in recent years where they are doing more take outs and deliveries than people eating in. "You have to do what the demands of your business are. Tailor your demand," he said.

Price donated 30 tables, 90 chairs and seven booths from the old restaurant to the Beer Garden at the Steele County Free Fair. He said he was planning to get rid of them when the fair expressed an interest

in having them. "I'm glad somebody can use them. It's better use than the landfill," he added.

Because of the current pandemic, Godfather's is not offering a buffet at this time. "It's to protect our customers and my help," Price said of not having a buffet.

Even though Price acknowledges customers are scared to come into his restaurant, pizza sales have remained

strong throughout the pandemic. "We are fortunate to have a product accessible by transportation," he said.

Price, who lives in Spirit Lake, Iowa, has owned the Owatonna Godfather's since 1986 when he purchased it out of bankruptcy. The buffet was added in 1990. He also owns nine other locations throughout southern Minnesota and northern Iowa.

Price said he follows the Godfather's way

with each of his stores with some local flavor thrown in. "We are a franchise, but we are tailored to our communities," he said, adding every community is a little different and have different needs.

Zach Ahrens is the manager of the Owatonna restaurant, which employs 25 people. The restaurant is open Sunday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

RECONNECT: with your pathway to Unique Finds

FROM B1

This week we will take a short break from accepting donations so we can sort and stock. We will start accepting donations again on Monday, Aug. 3 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Moving forward until further notice we will be accepting basic necessities such as summer clothing, bedding, bath towels and misc. household items on Monday's only from 9am-12pm. Thank you to everyone who held on to their

donations and continue to be a part of our mission. We could not do it without you.

Marketplace has seen an increase in numbers of households, which is typical this time of year. Every year, workers from the Rio Grande Valley of Texas gather their children and clothes and drive 1,500 miles to Minnesota, in its annual migration that spans generations. Most have spent all their savings

to get here and do not get their first paycheck right away. Depending on where they have found housing, some will just need a one-time boost, others who live at the camps or in hotel rooms will need more help to ensure they have access to healthy foods. We are in the process of coming up with a better way to serve our migrant workers.

Keep up to date with everything going on

here at Community Pathways by following our Facebook page or visiting our website, www.communitypathwaysSC.org.

Jess Stronley is the fund development and marketing coordinator for Community Pathways in Owatonna. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS
By Shannon Nordstrom and Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics, I have a 2004 Chevy Tahoe and the air conditioner does not always work correctly. The front is sometimes cold on one side and hot on the other and it goes back and forth working exactly opposite. The rear sometimes won't blow out the top vents and the temp often can not be adjusted. On occasion the a/c light blinks and no cold air comes out when that happens.

Shelby in Canby Minnesota
Wow, you have all sorts of issues going on there. You need to have the vehicle scanned and see what kind of codes are in the system. That will get a good start for a diagnostic path to determine what component or circuit has failed. The failure of vent position and temp changes can often be caused by a failure in a blend motor. The vehicle has several of them and one or more can fail over time. The blinking ac light means a code in the system and low refrigerant charge is a possible reason for the light. Once the system is diagnosed and the failed parts replaced, they should also check the system charge to make sure that it is able to properly cool. The system does more than just cool you off in the summer, it also helps dehumidify in the winter which helps keep the windows clear. While you are in there make sure to take a look at the cabin air filter condition too.

Take care, The Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics, I have a 2007 Hyundai in the shop this week for a repair to the engine timing belt and a sticking driver's side door and they told me that the car was no longer safe to drive. The frame which is part of the body on this car is rusted so bad for about two feet on the driver's side that the car is starting to sag and that is what was causing the door to stick. They called me when they discovered it and refused to make any repairs because it is not fixable. I had a transmission installed a month prior at another shop and the rear driveshaft replaced at yet another. Shouldn't they have seen the rust and warned me before I spent all that money?

Louis in Plentywood Montana
This is a bad situation. Yes, a car can have so much rust damage on the unibody frame that it is unsafe to drive again and the only repair would cost thousands of dollars and in some places they are not allowed due to the nature of the repair area. You may want to consult a body shop to be 100 percent sure but if the car is sagging and structurally unsound do not drive it. The shop replacing the driveshaft and the one who did the transmission should have seen the rust if it is that bad but we haven't seen the car so we cannot say for sure.

Take care, The Motor Medics

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MEET THE DAIRY PRINCESSES

Four young ladies are representing Steele County as dairy princesses this year. We would like you to meet them this week and learn a little more about what has led them to becoming ambassadors of the dairy industry.



Princess: Katelyn Rysavy – 18
Parents: Joe & Cheryl Rysavy
Home: Owatonna

Dairy promotion that you would like to do:

Any holiday parades/celebrations or appear and teach younger kids about the many dairy products and how they are good for our immune system.

Why you serve as dairy princess:

I am proud to be a dairy farmer's daughter. I want to promote dairy products as the most natural nutritious food which helps support our immune system.

What do you look forward to as dairy princess:

Promoting the dairy industry at schools, teaching the students, appear in parades and county/city celebrations and of course, at county fair.

High school/college activities:

Floor hockey, dance with Just for Kix, top soccer. I was captain of the adapted floor hockey team at Owatonna High School this year. I also participate in special Olympics bowling.

Describe your dairy farm:

I live on a dairy farm south of Owatonna. We crop farm approximately 800 acres, have 500 beef steers and 150 brood cows. We were milking 180 cows but recently sold them and now are freshening heifers to go to producing dairy.

Your responsibilities on the dairy farm:

Feeding and bedding the small calves on our farm, helping in the vegetable garden and flower gardens as well as lawn care.

Accomplishment you are most proud of:

The accomplishment that I'm most proud of is being who I am. You hear a lot of different stereotypes about people with Down Syndrome. About how they are unemployed or that people with Down Syndrome are always happy or how they cannot be active members of their community. All of these are myths. I am employed, and yes I am happy but I have many more emotions as well just like anyone else. I am an active member of the community. I go to school, participate in 4-H, dance, church and I am running to be dairy princess. People said I wouldn't and I did. They said I couldn't and I can. They say I won't and I will. So I say my biggest accomplishment is me.

Future goals:

I graduated from OHS in June. I will be continuing my education in the fall at STEP School (Secondary Transition Education Program) in Faribault. I am hoping to continue to work at Sister Salon & Day Spa with future plans to further my knowledge in cosmetology and massage therapy.

Princess: Samantha Fredin

Parents: Scott Fredin and Julie Evers
Home: Owatonna

Why you serve as dairy princess:

I want to make an impact in our community. I would like to make it certain that our community has correct knowledge and appreciates the dairy industry.

What do you look forward to as dairy princess:

Making the connections and friendships on my journey as a dairy princess is what I am most excited for. I also look forward to the conversations



The 2020 Steele County Dairy Princesses are, from left: Kylie Kruckeberg, Sam Fredin, Lilly Zollner and Katelyn Rysavy.

I have with community members on topics that are brought up. This experience is overall exciting and I cannot wait to start my journey.

High School/college activities:

- Varsity soccer (two year letterwinner and Big Nine Academic scholar)
- Varsity track and field
- Athletic training student assistant (three year letterwinner)
- Manager of gymnastics team (five year letterwinner)
- Symphony orchestra
- Sunday School teacher
- Religious education teacher
- Peer minister
- Younglife president, campaigners and Walk with Me
- Key Club (two year letterwinner)
- DECA (secretary)
- National Honor Society (Decorations and Lobby personnel head)



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Describe your dairy farm:

Stranshome Dairy is home to dairy cattle, beef cattle and pigs. The main focus is on dairy at the farm. There can be anywhere from 5-10 calves that I get to assist in feeding and taking care of. On the farm, the cattle are broken up by age into different barns. Along with this there is a Hoop Barn where the show cattle are housed to receive specific diets. The rest of the milking cattle are in a Tie Stall Barn.

Your responsibilities on the dairy farm:

I am the on call help. This means that whenever they need help feeding young stock I will be called.

Accomplishment you are most proud of:

My greatest accomplishment is the MSHSL ExCEL award I received at the state level. This was such an honor because a teacher recommended that I fill the application out to be reviewed by our schools committee. One male and female junior from each school was chosen to move to the next level. This level was being recognized on the state level for my leadership and service in our community. I was one of 37 recipients at the state level that was awarded with this award.

Future goals:

Looking five years down the road I see myself in Grad School pursuing my education in dairy science or I see myself starting my job and building a sturdy foundation wherever I end up. In 10 years, I see myself with a family and I will be in the same job and/or graduated from Grad School with a job and starting a family.

Princess: Kylie Kruckeberg

Parents: Keith and Karen Kruckeberg

Home: Owatonna

Why you serve as dairy princess:

I have a strong passion for the dairy industry and I love to promote it.

What do you look forward to as dairy princess:

I look forward to educating the public about the dairy industry.

High School/college activities:

I'm involved in 4-H and FFA as well as being a dairy ambassador for years.

Describe your dairy farm:

I work and lease from Clover Glen Farm, a smaller herd with about 60-70 Brown Swiss and Holstein milking cows.

Your responsibilities on the dairy farm:

I help with calf chores and milking from time to time.

Accomplishment you are most proud of:

Being very involved in my 4-H Club and holding multiple officer positions over the years.

Future goals:

My goal is to graduate from UW-River Falls with a degree in agribusiness and get an enjoyable and beneficial job in Minnesota or Wisconsin.



Princess: Lilly Zollner

Parents: Mark and Gail Zollner

Home: Owatonna

Why you serve as dairy princess:

I would like to be able to represent the dairy industry and be able to share a positive message with the public about how dairy farms work and why consuming dairy products is good for them and their families.

What do you look forward to as dairy princess:

I look forward to interacting with the public and truly teaching people about cows, dairy farms and dairy products. I am also looking forward to interacting with our junior ambassadors and dukes and duchesses when spreading positive messages about the dairy industry. I also enjoy being in the parades, handing out ribbons and helping out with things like cow camp, princess camp, and daycare visits.

High School/college activities:

In high school, I was involved in choir, orchestra, figure skating, Community theatre as well as county and state 4-H projects. In college I joined the block and bridle club at UW River Falls and competed in their showmanship competition and I have continued to figure skate and compete. I am also enjoying my last year of being a 4-H member while still at college.

Describe your dairy farm:

I work on Clover Glen Farms which is a dairy farm in Claremont, owned by Deb and Glenn Johnson. The herd is a mix of brown swiss and holstein cattle. They sell their milk to AMPL Glenn is on the Steele County ADA board and Deb was the state secretary for the Minnesota Brown swiss Association for many years. The operation has a free stall milking barn and parallel milking parlor with ten spots on each side and moveable milkers. The milking herd is usually between 60-70 cows.

There are many 4-H, open class families, and cow camp kids who lease heifers to show at the fair. That means there can be upwards of 20 kids showing from Clover Glen during the fair week. I started out in cow camp when I was in first grade and have been helping in some way or another on the farm since I was in fourth grade. I started working on the farm last year and have worked over my breaks and will work there this summer.

Your responsibilities on the dairy farm:

I mainly help do calf chores on the farm, which includes bringing water and milk to calves, feeding grain, pellets and hay, bedding hutches and bottle feeding and caring for new calves.

I also help with milking, vet checks, sorting heifers, fieldwork and other miscellaneous jobs that need to be done on the farm. I also help run cow camp in the summer, which involves teaching kids and helping them train, wash and clip their heifers. I also care for my own animals on the farm during the summer and during the fair week. I help with fair prep and state fair prep as well.

Accomplishment you are most proud of:

I've earned many medals and trophies from figure skating competitions that I've been to. I've also won many ribbons and awards in 4-H in both general and livestock projects. I won Grand Champion Brown swiss with my cow Hazel two summers back. I also am very proud of the fact that I became a Brown Swiss Ambassador a few years ago and was able to represent my favorite breed.

Future goals:

In five years I expect to have graduated from UW River Falls and be starting the second part of my vet tech program where I will attend two years at a technical school. I'm not quite sure what exactly I will be doing in 10 years, but I know I will be working with animals, what species I'm not sure of but I'm excited to see where the future takes me.



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COUNTY OF STEELEPROBATE COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL
DISTRICT
Probate Court Division
Court File No.
74-PR-20-1055In Re: Estate of
RODNEY L. NELSON
DeceasedORDER AND NOTICE
OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR ADJUDICATION OF INTEREST, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
IN UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 31st day of August, 2020, at 8:55 a.m., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at Owatonna, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship and for the appointment of Courtnee Boettcher, whose address is 1275 Havana Rd., Owatonna, MN 55060, as personal representative of the estate of the above named decedent in an unsupervised admin-

istration with no bond, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, a personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the administration, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereunto entitled as ordered by the Court and close the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.
Dated: 07-14-2020Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court
/s/ Danielle Herrlich
Deputy ClerkPATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, P.A.
Perry A. Berg, #135999
150 W. Park Square,
PO Box 506
Owatonna, MN 55060
Phone: 507-451-9000
7122, 7129Staloch: We want chance
to safely educate kidsBY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It's sort of a waiting game because everything changes so quickly, Blooming Prairie Superintendent Chris Staloch told the board at a regular monthly board meeting on July 20.

"We want to give our kids as many opportunities as possible," remarked Staloch. "We want to safely educate our kids," he said.

Staloch, the board, rest of the administration, all staff members, parents and students had yet to learn of Gov. Tim Walz's decision to pick one of three scenarios available in opening school.

The scenarios studied closely by the Minnesota Department of Education and by school districts throughout the state included:

- 1) In-person learning for all students.
- 2) Hybrid model with strict social distancing and capacity limits.
- 3) Distance Learning only.

The superintendent complimented his administrative staff members for the work they were doing in trying to return students to school. The administrative team included Staloch, high school principal John Worke, elementary school principal Jacob Schwarz, activities director Allison Mach and administrator Stacy Magnus.

A citizens committee has also been established to study the many aspects of returning students to the classroom.

As the decisions are made, Staloch promised that the citizen stakeholders will be more involved. "It's definitely a challenge we have not experienced before," he said.

Meetings have been held with cleaning suppliers, with the United Way, with day care providers, with transportation officials, with food service people and with staff and principals.

"It has been a non-stop effort," Staloch believes. High School principal John Worke said, "anxiety is high as to which direction we go with learning."

"We are getting ready for kids and ready for COVID," Worke added.

Speaking about athletics, activities director Mach said a word should be coming by Aug. 4. "We are prepared to start the fall seasons," she said. "I am confident we will have something," she added.

Board member Dean Meshke asked if there was a chance of fall and spring sports switching. "Nothing is off the table," replied Mach. "The assumption is that we have distance learning, it will mean we will not have athletics," Staloch stated.

"There is nothing set in stone," he continued. "We will keep working and keep communicating," Staloch said.

Blooming Prairie, Staloch says, is looking at what other districts are doing. "We are different," he believes.

"As leaders, we have to take our emotions out of this," said Staloch. "I do believe your administrative staff will do what's best for kids," said board Chairman Rodney Kreil.

Business actions of the board included: • Board approved the resignation of elementary music teacher Krista Reeder and approved the hiring of Heidi Brasher to replace her. David Lasahn was hired as new head wrestling coach.

• The board voted unanimously to hold regular meetings on the third Monday of the month with the exception of two times, Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021 (Martin Luther King Day) and Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021 (Presidents Day). Meetings begin at 7 p.m.

• The school board will continue to have work sessions on the Thursday prior to regular board meetings. Work sessions begin at 6 a.m.

• School board per diems will remain at \$50 for work sessions, \$50 for regular meetings, \$40 for committee meetings and \$80 for all-day meetings. Board clerk Pam Ha-

meister made motion to approve and board member Dean Meshke seconded.

• A public hearing on the property tax levy payable 2021 will be set for Dec. 21 at 5:35 p.m. in the media center.

• Board approved an adjustment in cheerleading from \$35 to \$85 per season; fine arts (includes speech, musical and one-act play), one-time fee of \$35. Robotics one-time fee is \$65. Maximum family fee is \$350.

• District audit will be done by Clifton Larson Allen at a fee of \$18,375. The amount includes a 5% increase, which is a new expense and tagged as a "technology fee."

• The district is obligated to publish the Family Education Rights & Privacy Act in the local newspaper for two consecutive weeks.

• Only one committee report from a school board member was given. Steve Ille said action was tabled on the Zumbro Education District's building plans. There are seven members: Blooming Prairie, Byron, Hayfield, Kasson-Manorville, Pine Island, Stewartville and Triton. There is a proposal to build a 61,000 square foot building on 3.16 acres of land in Kasson. Pine Island is the lone member opposed. In order for the project to advance, ZED members must approve.

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FOUR GENERATIONS OF DAIRY
The Schroeders

Editor's Note: Last week the Times inadvertently left out a family member of the Schroeders. The feature is run in its entirety again this week with the corrected information.

If there seems to be some extra pride radiating from the Wade and Mary Schroeder farm south of Owatonna, there likely is as the family's dairy farm has been in Mary's family for four generations.

The Schroeders are home to a small dairy and steer operation. They milk about 40 Holsteins and cross bred dairy cows. Wade and Mary also raise their own steers and replacement heifers.

Helping the Schroeders with their dairy operation are their children, Chloe, 20, and Anton, 15. Their oldest daughters, Sadie and Kendra, have since left the farm, but were very active when they were at home. All three of the Schroeder girls have been Steele County Dairy Princesses for at least a year, all at different times. "We had a lot of fun in the role supporting agriculture," Kendra says.

Mary operates the dairy on a day-to-day basis with Chloe and Anton's help. Wade operates the farm part of it and also works as a supervisor at a local manufacturing facility.

Both Mary and Wade grew up on dairy farms. After attending college, Mary came home and took over the family operation and has been milking on the current farm since 1985. Wade came along a few years later in 1990 when the couple was married. They took over the full operation of the farm in 2015.

"We both love working with animals," says Mary. "They all have personalities like people and you grow to love them like they are family... generation after generation of family," she said.

The Schroeders also love the fact that farming is a family affair "so we all get to work together each day as a family," she said.

Asked what they would like the public to know, Mary replied, "The cows on our farm are part of our farm family. We watch them grow from calves to cows and then one day they have their own calves. Every cow on our farm has a name and we can tell you what type of personality they have... their personalities are all unique."

Perhaps most importantly is the passion the Schroeders share with their farm operation.

"We truly love our cows," Mary says.



The Schroeder farm family operation includes, from left: Mary, Wade, Anton, 15, and Chloe, 20.

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ESCAPE FROM REALITY

Steve Braaten shoots his round at the Blooming Prairie Gun Club on Thursday night.

BP resurrects trap shooting league

STORY AND PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUD

It has been a best-kept secret for many years and now the word is out. The Blooming Prairie Gun Club is open for trap shooting and the response has been phenomenal, says adult trap league organizers Erik Vigeland, Kent Lea and Dan Prkl.

Take a drive out to the Blooming Prairie Golf Club some day. Follow the road east beyond the golf cart shed and keep going until your destination is reached just beyond the second green.

The setting for the gun club will take your breath away. "Look at all the cars; it looks like we're doing something right," said Vigeland.

Three shooting stations are arranged near three small lakes.

Trap shooting has not been an active sport at the Blooming Prairie Gun Club for some time. Vigeland, Mark Symes and Carl Peterson batted the idea of reopening the gun club for trap shooting.

"Mark is the gun club president and is a real go-getter," said Vigeland. Peterson is the coach of the Blooming Prairie High School trap shooting team.

With COVID-19 putting a stranglehold on the activities of many, joining a trap team at the BP Gun Club seemed to be an escape from reality.

Seeing an interest from shooters coming

from Blooming Prairie, Owatonna, Hayfield, Brownsdale, Austin, Albert Lea, Adams, Rose Creek and elsewhere, trap league organizers decided to start a league. The result: 14 adult teams.

During competition, shooters rotate from five spots on a station. The birds are sent skyward after a sound command is given. The trap station releases the birds by different angles, heights and speeds.

"We have no idea what direction the bird is coming from,"

The banter is lively amongst the shooters as they wait to take their spot on the shooting line.

"How did it go?" one shooter asks another. "It could be better," responds the shooter who completed his shooting for the night.

Talking about Bill Adams from Brownsdale, a fellow shooter said he knows how to hit them. "I think he cheats," joked another shooter.

Adams carries a 24 out of 25 average. That's pretty good, one would think. "It's not as good as perfect," said Adams. As five shooters gather on

to shoot a thousand free throws to improve your accuracy and in trap shooting, it's repetition that counts," Braaten said. Braaten is also a former sporting clay shooter.

Following trap league shooting, some people have a social drink, some guys go golfing and some guys go fishing, Braaten says. "For me, I go have a cold one...at the DQ," Braaten laughs.

After completing his round, Doug Ruiter of Dwayne Gross' team asked: "Are we doing this for money?" Team-

again because shooters are having a good time. "We see lots of smiles on the shooters' faces," Vigeland said.

Some teams have sponsors, for example, Farmers & Merchants State Bank, and others go by last names, for example, Team Glynn.

Youth shooters come out to the gun club on Wednesday nights. "We had 35 kids sign up this year and unfortunately, our season was shut down," Vigeland said.

"It's pretty awesome," commented shooter Mike Trom who says he shot a lot

in high school while in FFA. "It's good to see a lot of people out here," he added.

Historian Carl Peterson, a club member of 50 years, says the Blooming Prairie Gun Club has some glowing history, with a state shoot held here in 1962 and a central zone tournament in 1964.

Martin Lein was a state champion and the Zwienier brothers were also outstanding shooters, records indicate.

The club is open to the public on Thursday nights until the end of August.



All was perfect for the Blooming Prairie Adult Trap League on this Thursday night. Shooters are in their positions.

says experienced trap shooter Steve Braaten, clutching onto his Browning 425 12-gauge shotgun. "It's kind of like shooting pool," he volunteered.

Since he has been shooting trap for some time at other locations, Braaten talks about trap shooting in scientific terms.

a station, a scorekeeper monitors their success.

In addition to being shooters, Mark Symes and Ray Monson take their turns with others on scoring the shooters. "Banging birds is what it's all about," chimes Symes as he puts down shooters' scores.

Shooting trap is like basketball, "you have

mate Tom Blom quickly replied, "No." Ruiter responded, "Then what the heck." He had the best round for his team.

The action is hot and heavy at times. Shooters must complete eight rounds by the end of league in late August.

Vigeland said on a recent night, shooters fired 106 rounds. He said most gun club average 60 rounds a night. Shooting begins at 5 p.m. and often continues until 8:30 p.m.

"We have become a hot spot in southern Minnesota," Vigeland said. He says lots of older shooters remember the gun club in its "hey day." Shooters choose to come out to the club and relive memories, Vigeland said. "We are in the honeymoon stage right now," Vigeland added.

"Trap shooting is safe and socially distant," Vigeland continued. "A lot of people enjoy the sport for something to do," he believes. Trap shooting has become popular



Sharpshooter Dwayne Gross is on deck, waiting his turn to shoot during the Blooming Prairie Gun Club Adult Trap Shooting League on a recent Thursday night.



Experienced trap shooter Steve Braaten, his 12 gauge shotgun in tow is ready to take his turn on the shooting line at the Blooming Prairie Gun Club.