

Racial tensions spill into Owatonna



Peaceful protestors gather outside the Law Enforcement Center in Owatonna Saturday afternoon to draw attention to racism in the community. About 50 protestors attended the open dialogue with city leaders, including the police chief and mayor. In the background, police leaders hung a banner declaring, "We renounce racism—end it now."

Protests seek to end racism

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

What a difference a week makes. After a somewhat contentious protest in Owatonna on Sunday, May 30 in response to on-going racial tensions over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, the same group came back on Saturday afternoon shifting from a demonstration mode to open dialogue with city leaders. The local effort shedding light on racism in our communities

SEE RACIAL TENSIONS, A3



Lifesaving awards were recently presented by Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad (second from left) to Officer Dan Peach, left and to Sgt. Mark Lang for their efforts in saving the lives of Nathan Jefferson (left middle) and Gaylord Tollefson (right middle).

They have one thing in common

BY HOWARD LESTRUO
STAFF WRITER

They didn't know one another and had never met. Two Blooming Prairie residents do have one thing in common, however. Both were brought back to life because of the efforts of some local First Responders.

Those First Responders were honored for their life saving efforts by the presentation of special lifesaving awards. Both of these gentlemen are thankful for the professional work done by local First Responders and had a chance to meet one another for the first time.

Nathan Jefferson, 43, is still being rehabilitated after having a severe heart attack last Sept. 8. "He was dead," said Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad after he spent about 10 minutes giving CPR to Jefferson. He was assisted by Officer Dan Peach. "I have a broken rib to prove that I was de-

fibrillated," remarked a thankful Gaylord Tollefson, 83. Tollefson collapsed at his Blooming Prairie home on May 18. He and friend Marion Mast were trimming Tollefson's bushes when Tollefson dropped to the ground. Both men relate they don't remember

SEE THEY HAVE ONE, A6

Former state rep to go against Petersburg

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A former state representative is making a run to head back to where his political career began nearly 40 years ago. Tom Shea of Owatonna has filed for District 24A House of

Representatives as a DFLer, a seat currently held by Rep. John Petersburg, R-Waseca. Petersburg has also filed for re-election. The two will square off in November's general election for the seat that

SEE FORMER STATE REP, A8

Ex-commissioners stage a comeback

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Two former Steele County commissioners who lost their spots on the county board in a heated 2016 election are staging a comeback in this year's election. On June 2, the final day of candidate filings, James "Corky" Elbeling and Mark Schultz, both of Owatonna filed to

get their old seats back on the Steele County Board. They will go up against the two incumbents that beat them in 2016—Jim Abbe (District 4) and Rick Gnemi (District 3). In 2016, a third commissioner, Nina Huntington, lost her seat on the board. However, she

SEE FORMER, A7

County offices open to public again

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Steele County is focused on reopening its county facilities safely after being shut down for the past couple months from the coronavirus pandemic. The county went into unrestricted access beginning June 1 meaning residents are able to access county services like they had prior to the crisis with a few safety changes, according to Scott Goldberg, county administrator. He said

the county has added a hand sanitizer station, along with access to cloth masks, for the public to utilize upon entering the administration center located on Florence Avenue. "The county recommends the public wear masks when entering the building for appointments and service," Goldberg said. "If visitors do not have a mask, social distancing shall be practiced and business will be conducted at a barrier station," he added.

Goldberg said the county is also utilizing signage to educate the public on controls to prevent the spread of disease during county business. Some of the signage includes service by appointment only signs, distancing stickers clearly marking 6-foot distancing, symptoms of COVID-19 have been posted and cover your cough and sneeze signage as reminders to both employees and visitors.

SEE COUNTY OFFICES, A10



The Steele County Administration Center in Owatonna has reopened to the public after being shut down in mid-March due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Rebecca Kubicki, who works in the county administrator's office, shows a station at the entry way of the center that has been developed for citizens to utilize hand sanitizer and masks upon entering to do county business.

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AREA DEATHS

Ernest Betlach, 96,
Blooming Prairie
Nathan Magnuson, 88,
Blooming Prairie

Serving
Blooming Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW



PHOTO BY LISA KUBISTA

The Blooming Prairie Veterans Honor Guard performed military rites at the burial of World War II veteran Ernie Betlach on Wednesday, June 3 at the BP City Cemetery.

Ernie Betlach was a proud veteran

As of this year, there were two living military veterans in Blooming Prairie. Now, there is only one. Merle McNutt, 101, is the lone World War II survivor who lives in Blooming Prairie.

Ernie D. Betlach passed away peacefully on Friday, May 29, 2020. He served three years in the U.S. Navy and was very proud of his service.

Betlach loved his community of Blooming Prairie as a businessman, veteran and resident. His community also loved him dearly.

Many tributes were directed to Betlach in the days following his death. A private funeral service was held on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie.

Military rites were then given to Betlach on June 3 at his resting place in the Blooming Prairie City Cemetery.

Family and friends assembled at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3, at the BP Servicemen's Club to continue the loving tribute. Vehicles lined up and were led through town by a BP Police escort and by daughter Kathy in Betlach's blue pickup truck.

The parade followed a route by his home, across from the First Baptist Church, and then by his church, St. Columbanus Catholic Church. The parade continued past the site of his Mobil station, into the BP Cemetery and back to the Servicemen's Club.

Betlach followed a ritual at 4 p.m. every Wednesday by stopping at the BP Servicemen's Club for a beverage. He also would buy a couple of pull tabs. He was seated on the same bar stool during his visits.

It is very sad to see our World War II veterans pass before us. Sixteen million Americans served in the armed forces during World War II. According to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, less than 400,000 U.S. World War II veterans are still alive today.

As the World War II veterans' ages increase, their death rate has continued to increase.

Betlach was old enough to be drafted into American military service in 1943 and he said he didn't have much choice of whether to serve or not.

"I was given the choice of which branch I wanted to serve and I chose the United States Navy because my brother Frank joined the Navy just months before," Betlach related.

Betlach, a former businessman in Blooming Prairie for many years at the Pure Oil station, was often called a "walking encyclopedia" because of his unending ability to recall history.

During an interview with the Times, Betlach said he was sitting in his living room, only about 20 yards from where he was born.

Betlach, known to many as Ernie and to some as "Tinker," was 18 1/2 when he was drafted from Steele County. Most of his classmates, a year younger or a year older, were also drafted. Betlach reported for the draft in April of 1943 at the Fort Snelling Army in St. Paul.

He recalls being asked whether he wanted to serve in the Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard or the Army. That's when he picked the Navy because of his brother's service. Ironically, the two brothers (Frank and Ernie) looked up a few years later in the South Pacific. They hadn't seen one another for two years.

Ernie was a Specialist 3rd Class. He served at Guadalcanal Island and the Solomon Islands.

Betlach's unit was then instrumental in building an emergency airstrip on the Solomon Islands. He was serving on a Landing Ship Tank and responsible for taking diesel fuel and gas to shore.

"We rolled the barrels of fuel into the water toward shore and then started getting shelled," Ernie remembers. "We ran to shore and got into our foxholes. When you can hear the shells, they say you are OK," Ernie told The Times writer.

His service continued in the Philippines.

When Ernie returned to Blooming Prairie in 1946, he, his father and brother Frank ran a service station at the corner of Highway 218 and Highway 30. The station was full service.

Betlach and his childhood sweetheart, Mary Ann, were married in 1949. She survives with four children, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He is also survived by many other relatives and friends.

Ernie Betlach was always giving back to his church and to his community. He treasured his residential location because he was connected closely to a Catholic church, a playground, a bank, a pizza place, his work and to a grocery store.

Our World War II veterans are diminishing but their contributions to protecting our freedoms will never be forgotten.

Rest In Peace Bernie Betlach.



ERNE BETLACH

Shaggy beyond belief and itching for a haircut

For the past several weeks, well okay maybe months already, I have felt like a shaggy dog.

There have been days where I have felt like hiding and not showing my face any where. It seems my hair is growing out of control and there is no one around to take care of my problem.

For those who know me, I typically sport a fairly short hair style. But ever since the coronavirus hit, all bets were off for keeping a trim look. I have been itching for a haircut.

I normally go about every six weeks. I was already pushing it in early March when I exceeded my normal growth period by a couple weeks. And then it hit. COVID-19 swept in and the governor banned hair stylists and barbers from doing anything more.

I've lost count, but I think I'm past five months now without a haircut. That is a record for me. I have never allowed that to happen in my lifetime. You know it's bad when your daughter asks if she should put a pony tail in your hair.

"No pony tail need-



Hot Pursuit

RICK BUSSLER

ed," I quipped. "I've got this under control." I assured her. In her normal teenage way, she kind of rolled her eyes and said, "Okay."

But in reality I have had nothing under control when it comes to my hair. It is out of control. Shaggy beyond belief out of control.

My oldest daughter also offered to cut my hair a few times. But again I'm thinking what do you know about cutting hair. You went to college for marketing, not hair styling.

Every once in a while I peer into the mirror to take a quick look. And I quickly find myself shuttering in disgust and wonder what I just saw in the mirror. Overgrown hair flopping all over my head.

The only thing that has saved me over the

past three months is knowing that most other people are in the same boat as I am.

I refused the temptation of shearing off my hair or buzzing it completely off for fear of messing things up more. But really how could that even be possible?

Instead I have been cleverly tucking my hair behind the ears. A cap also does the trick now and then, though I'm not a huge fan of caps.

I guess if there is one thing I take refuge in over this hair crisis, it's the fact that I have hair to worry about in the first place. I could be bald, by no choice of my own. Some people aren't as lucky and would love to have hair dangling all over their heads.

As of this writing, my hair dilemmas continue. I actually tried last week several times, but of course, everyone was booked for hours on end. I guess I'll just have to wait a little while longer. After all, what's another couple weeks?

In the meantime, I think I'll go in hot pursuit of secluding myself from society. No offense to anyone. It's just a hairy ordeal I have to get over.

YOUR VIEW

How many times?

How Many Times, yes, how many times, must a person die, how many times must families suffer and cry, all of the community brothers and sisters weep, yet again, another one of us has been put to sleep, none of us, no matter our color, can keep a dry eye, fact is, it even puts tears in the eyes of this old guy, a cruel and thoughtless act by a man of the law, the victim down, the cops kneel on his neck and jaw, the victim's plea, "I can't breathe," was forsaken, the kneeling continued, until this life was taken.

Was this officer a complete non compos mentis fool, How could a veteran police officer be so

extremely cruel, let swift justice of the law send this rogue cop to jail, he could be the victim, when jail house justice will prevail.

Let us bow our heads in solemn prayer,

once more,

for this has now lead us into a violent street war. Let us pray for the victim, his family and friends,

also, that officer, who someday, must make amends.

But let mus not forget who protects us when we dial 911,

we might need protection from someone with a gun,

we must continue to honor and respect our police, for trying, in these challenging times, to keep the peace.

Let there be peace on earth,

Amen

Bud Peka

Owatonna

Bennett needs to reconsider conversion therapy

To-the-Editor:

I am writing to urge Peggy Bennett to reconsider her stance on conversion therapy (the practice of trying to convince gay minors and vulnerable adults that they aren't gay, how insulting).

She voted against adding a ban on this hateful and harmful and debunked practice to last year's bill. I have not asked her but I assume she voted against adding it on the basis of freedom of religion, what about the freedom to be who you are?

The majority of the population now accepts gay people, helped along by the fact that 8 out of 10 people have someone very close to them who is gay. I attended one of Peggy's

meetings where she stated that she has gay friends. I urge her to ask her friends what they think of her stance, I'm quite sure she'll get an earful. A large part of the reason we need people to accept gay people, rather than just say they do, is to try to put an end to the bullying that gay youth endure. I would think as a former teacher she would see the benefit of this.

I urge her to educate herself on this topic. I would highly recommend some background reading to her, although it's aimed at children I believe she should start with the book "It's Perfectly Normal."

Susan Runden

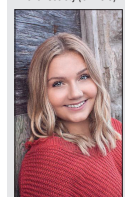
Hayward

CORRECTION

In last week's publication, we published a photo page of the Blossom Honor Grads from the Class of 2020. On the page, one of the graduates was inadvertently mislabeled. Marti Snider's name was missing under her photo with the Distinguished Honor Students (3.8 GPA for higher) and MN Honor Society (GPA 3.5).

The Times apologizes for the error. Congratulations to Marti and the rest of the honor graduates!

Distinguished Honor Student (3.8 GPA or higher) and MN Honor Society (GPA 3.5)



Marti Snider

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MINNESOTA
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AWARD

2020 - 9 state awards
2019 - 7 state awards
2018 - 6 state and 4 national awards
2017 - 2 state and 3 national awards
2016 - 8 state and 6 national awards

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

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



Owatonna Mayor Thomas Kuntz, far right, talks with peaceful protesters holding signs Saturday outside the Law Enforcement Center. And the mayor's message? "We all do the best we can to make sure all lives matter," he said.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

RACIAL TENSIONS: spill into Owatonna FROM A1

emerged from Percy Mayer, a sophomore in Owatonna. Mayer said the local protest was sparked after discussions with a girlfriend, who is black, about what would happen if one of them would be murdered. The conversation came up after the death of Floyd, a black man who died at the knee of a Minneapolis police officer on May 25. Floyd's death has gained worldwide attention and led to rioting and protesting across the country.

On May 30, a 10-hour long protest ended with members of the Owatonna Police Department kneeling with a group of young demonstrators in honor of Floyd. As the week went on, Mayer began hearing from the community that the actions of police felt disingenuous. Mayer felt a second protest was needed to call for reform of police systems and government.

Mayer met during the week with police officials, who stressed they are against racism and do not side with racist or white supremacists. Police officials even went as far as hanging a large banner outside the Law Enforcement Center declaring, "We renounce racism—end it now." The banner carried both emblems of Owatonna Police and the Steele County Sheriff's Office.

"I have faith in the Owatonna Police Department that they are working to change the system," Mayer said Saturday afternoon. "The racism in this town is bad."

Police Chief Keith Hiller doesn't disagree with Mayer that there is racism in Owatonna as well as in Minnesota and throughout the world. Hiller said the department has taken racism serious for many years.

"We are way ahead of Minneapolis," Hiller



Police Chief Keith Hiller makes the rounds speaking to protesters Saturday afternoon in Owatonna. This particular protester asked that the police authority be revoked because "you know what you do is wrong."

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

said pointing to the on-going issues within the Minneapolis Police Department. For example, Hiller said, Owatonna does not allow chokeholds as a use of force. There is also extensive training in regards to prejudice and de-escalation techniques. "We train more in those areas than in use of force," he said.

Hiller said the overall goal of his office is to avoid physical encounters with suspects if at all possible. "We are imperfectly perfect here," he says. "We try to de-escalate situations."

Posting the renouncing racism banner was a way to show citizens that the local department does not condone what happened to Floyd at the hands and knees of a white police officer, Hiller said. "We need to take actionable steps to make sure people's voices are heard," he said. "We constantly treat people with dignity and respect," he added.

Hiller welcomes the dialogue that has been brought forth by the Black Lives Matter protests over the past week. "It's a launching event that will continue to carry is forward with progress," he said. He added it's important to have conversations with all people otherwise there will be no growth.

Mayor Thomas Kuntz also attended Saturday's protest and

mingled with various groups. There were about 50 people in attendance. "The best way to solve problems is through communication," he said.

Kuntz said Owatonna is a great community and he wants to work hard to keep it that way. "We don't need Owatonna to be labeled a St. Paul or Minneapolis," he said. "We all do the best we can to make sure all lives matter."



A couple sits on the curb holding a Black Lives Matter poster at Saturday's protest in Owatonna.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER



Officer Valerie Satre converses with Percy Mayer, 16, who organized the protests in Owatonna last week.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER



Police officers from Owatonna talk to one of the protesters wearing a shirt asking, "Brothers and sisters, kneel with me."

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

YOUR VIEW



Working together to combat racism

To-the-Editor:
It is with sadness and heavy hearts that we write this letter after the tragic killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis two weeks ago. His death and the subsequent acts of violence are sure to elicit many varied emotions from all of us. Tragedies of this nature reach far beyond the specific location of their occurrence and deeply impact all of us in countless ways. And, sadly, they serve as stark reminders that we still have much work to do to address systemic racism and the resulting inequities and disparities that exist in our country.

We all are struggling to understand why Mr. Floyd's unjustified killing occurred. It weighs heavily on us as community leaders, and undoubtedly weighs heavily on our residents. We know that some of our families are experiencing repeated, ongoing trauma as a result of these events, and from similar incidents across the country.

As leaders in Owatonna and Steele County, we stand in strong support of all of our citizens and are deeply committed to doing the work of providing social justice in our community. We value everyone

and believe that our differences make us stronger and more resilient. Let us stand in solidarity against any and all acts of racism, disrespect and inequitable treatment of persons of color.

Incidents of racism affect our entire community whether they occur locally, in our state, nation or globally. We deeply value our diverse community where students and families of many ethnicities and faiths come together as one. We all grow together and help each other to be our best through learning from everyone's valuable life experiences and cultural traditions.

Let our love for one another and our solidarity define us. Together, let's continue to work for a more humane, safer, and civil society. Working together, we can ensure we have a safe and welcoming community in which we all can truly be #OwatonnaProud.

Kris Busse,
City Administrator
Jeff Elstad, Owatonna Superintendent
Scott Gohberg, Steele County Administrator
Keith Hiller, Owatonna Chief of Police
Thomas Kuntz, Mayor of Owatonna
Lon Thiele, Steele County Sheriff

GUEST COLUMN

Elected leaders mishandled civil unrest

BY JOHN PETERSBURG

The events of this past week have been extremely emotional for most of us. The video showing the stark reality of the death of George Floyd at the hands of a police officer was very disturbing and appalling. No one should be afraid of abusive behavior from anyone, especially from those that are sworn to protect us. The power and authority given to our law enforcement personnel is an awesome responsibility and one that cannot be used indiscriminately.

I was shocked and outraged in seeing the video of Mr. Floyd's arrest and the forcible detainment that caused his death. I understand there can be a bad actor in every profession, but our law enforcement staff has to be held to a much higher standard in order for trust to be maintained. When that trust is broken with actions like last week, a community will understandably be expecting quick justice and accountability.

We all expect that. It is also understandable that when abuse of power is used resulting in a death, there will be protests and calls for justice. People will

want their voices to be heard. It is very unfortunate that last week's peaceful protests turned violent and destructive. It was also unfortunate that our elected leaders mishandled the response to that violence.

Minnesotans, whether lawfully protesting or living within the community, deserve to feel safe. State leaders must use every tool available to protect lives, businesses, and neighborhoods and restore order and safety to our communities.

To address all these issues, when we begin next year's legislative session, I plan on working with others to provide legislative leadership with passage of a bill that will address the failures of the system that resulted in the events of last week. Unfortunately that won't bring back Mr. Floyd or change the resulting events.

I am hoping we, as a state, can begin the healing and begin moving to a more inclusive community.

John Petersburg is state representative for District 24A, which covers Steele and Waseca counties. He is running for re-election this fall. He lives in Waseca.

Court to reopen at least one public service counter

Following the Judicial Council determination in late May that the Minnesota Judicial Branch is in a new transitional phase, the Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Lorie S. Gildea has issued an order regarding additional in-person access to courthouses and resources.

The order requires each district court in every county, and the state-level appellate courts, to open at least one public service counter on or no later than June 15.

Courts must comply with the Judicial Council-approved Minnesota Judicial Branch COVID-19 Preparedness Plan ahead of their reopening dates. The Preparedness Plan addresses exposure control measures and specific recommendations courts will follow in order to reopen for in-person courthouse activities.

Litigants, attorneys, media, and members of the public who will be visiting courthouses should visit the new reopening webpage before visiting a courthouse. The new webpage lists cleaning, face covering, and social distancing procedures that will be followed by court staff. It also has information for jurors, and details for people who have questions about their local courthouse procedures.

Some counties may initially offer scheduling for courthouse access. Counties will detail local conditions and requirements for their local COVID-19 webpages, which can be found by visiting the new reopening webpage. The order also requires courts to provide access to public access terminals (courthouse terminals) on the same schedule. When counters and terminals are reopened, they will maintain the hours of 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

This order does not change the continued use of remote hearing technology or the previously announced requirements to implement the Transitional Case Strategies for Civil, Criminal, Juvenile, and Probate case types. Self-Help Center services will continue to be conducted by phone and email only. The Minnesota State Law Library will reopen to the public on June 15, by appointment only.

Snippin' away once again



It is back in business again for hair salons across Minnesota, including the Cutting Edge of Blooming Prairie. Stylist and owner Barb Kralling snips and styles the hair of one of her regulars, Jeanette Clark, 83, of Blooming Prairie. Both of them practiced safety by wearing personal protective masks. Kralling says everybody is excited to get a haircut. Gov. Tim Walz issued an order that hair styling salons could open up on June 1. "I am booked to the Fourth of July," Kralling said.

Coronavirus relief funds help domestic victims

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar announced that organizations in Minnesota will receive \$689,744 in Family Violence Prevention Services Funds for temporary housing, counseling, and other supportive services to victims of family, domestic, and dating violence in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act also includes \$1,500,000 for the National Domestic Violence Hotline, and \$500,000 for the StrongHearts Native Helpline located in Eagan, Minnesota.

"As many Americans are staying home in the midst of this pandemic, reports of domestic violence have increased. We must do everything we can to support victims and survivors during this crisis, and this funding will help provide critical services to meet urgent needs across our state," Klobuchar said. "I will continue to work to make sure that victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence have access to the shelter and support services they need during this difficult and uncertain time."

Klobuchar has been a leader in securing support for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault during the coronavirus pandemic.

In April, Klobuchar and Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Bob Casey (D-PA) led a bipartisan group of 38 colleagues requesting that any future legislation to address COVID-19 includes support for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The senators expressed concern that service providers are reporting that abusers are using COVID-19 to isolate their victims, withhold financial resources, and refuse medical aid; rape crisis centers are seeing increased need for services; and many local law enforcement agencies are receiving an increased number of domestic violence-related calls.

In March, Klobuchar, Murkowski, and Casey led their colleagues in a letter, expressing concern for the wellbeing of families who face an increased risk of domestic violence during the outbreak of the novel coronavirus and urged the Administration to ensure service providers have the flexibility and resources to help victims of domestic violence.

Klobuchar also led a letter in April with Marjie Hirono (D-HI) and Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) joined by a group of 12 colleagues urging the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to ensure that immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other serious crimes can continue to access programs during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic through which they can obtain legal status independent of abusers and perpetrators.

Klobuchar also joined Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) in a group of 22 Democratic senators in sending a letter to Senate leaders, asking that future legislation to address the coronavirus pandemic also include resources to meet domestic and sexual violence victims' urgent housing needs, which have been exacerbated by stay-at-home orders, social distancing, and the ongoing economic upheaval caused by COVID-19.

Managing agricultural PPE needs when supplies are short

Personal protective equipment, or PPE, is necessary to protect farmers and other agricultural workers from pesticides, grain dust, mold, and other hazards. The COVID-19 global pandemic, however, has stressed the supplies of PPE since the emergency needs of our medical care providers and first responders must be met.

The following are some considerations if you are a farmer, applicator, or other agricultural professional facing a shortage of PPE.

What level of PPE do you need?

For pesticide applications, a long-sleeve shirt, long pants, shoes and socks are typically the minimum required PPE when mixing, loading, and applying a product. Protective eye-wear including goggles or a face shield, chemical-resistant gloves, additional clothing such as a chemical resistant apron or coveralls, and/or a respirator may also be listed on the label.

Always check the pesticide label for specific PPE requirements — the label lists what is required to lawfully use a particular product and restrictions exist for personal health and safety. Note, the label will list the **minimum** level of PPE required, you can always wear a higher level of protection.

Respirators: What are my options?

Respirators are one of the PPE items most likely to be in short supply at this time.

They can be required for numerous agricultural activities, including when working with grain, livestock, hay, manure pits, silos, and certain pesticides. The following resources summarize the types of respirators needed for various activities:

- Agriculture Respirator Selection Guide: <http://umash.umn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/respirator-options-guide-8x11-june-2017.pdf>.
- Respirator Worksheet: <http://umash.umn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Website-August-2018-Respirator-Worksheet.pdf>

With current demand being extremely high for N95 masks, masks that provide a higher filtering capacity (e.g. N99 or N100) may be easier to find, even if they might be more expensive. A half-mask respirator with a cartridge or a full-face respirator are options to consider as well and they may be easier to find since they are less likely to be used in the medical field. These can last a long time, but may be more uncomfortable, more costly, and require more parts than a mask.

Check for availability through your local farm supply store or online options such as (but not limited to) Cemplers, Grainger, PK Safety, Northern Safety & Industrial and Amazon. Ensure all respiratory protection is marked NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) approved with the filtering capacity it provides.

Respirator fit testing

When a tight fit is required when wearing a respirator, a fit test is needed to ensure you are getting the proper protection.

For more information on fit testing and sites that offer this

service to farmers in MN, see **Respirator fit testing resources in Minnesota:** <https://blog-crop-news.extension.umn.edu/2018/05/where-can-i-get-fit-tested-to-wear.html>.

What if I can't find the level of PPE that I need?

If you can't find the level of PPE that's required for your planned activity, consider selecting an alternative product or method. Is there a less toxic product you can use, for example, that requires a lower level of PPE? Product label databases such as CDMS.net, agrarian.com, or greenbook.net can help you search pesticide labels for PPE requirements. Another possible option is to hire someone who has the proper PPE to do the needed task.

Do not skip on PPE if you cannot find what is needed for a particular activity — your health and safety depends on it.

For more information: National Pesticide Safety Education Center Respirator Decision Tree: npssec.us/wp-content/uploads/200420-2-Respirator-Infographic.pdf.

UMASH Respirator Q & A Toolkit - Can't find your Respirator: umash.umn.edu/respirator-q-and-a/.

Four steps to choosing the right respirator and wearing it safely: extension.umn.edu/pesticide-safety-and-certification/four-steps-choosing-right-respirator-and-wearing-it-safely.

Laundrying Pesticide Contaminated Work Clothes: www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/crops/laundrying-pesticide-contaminated-work-clothes/ps1778.pdf.

Be aware of fake COVID-19 tests

Better Business Bureau serving Minnesota and North Dakota is warning consumers of fake COVID-19 antibody tests being marketed by scammers.

With studies showing that up to 50% of people with COVID-19 don't show any symptoms, many people are seeking antibody tests to determine if their body has already fought off the virus.

While antibody tests are available through healthcare providers, the ones being marketed by scammers are not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and will not provide accurate results.

You receive a robocall or are directed to a website that looks like a clinic or medical supply company offering COVID-19 antibody tests. Some even promise results in 10 minutes. To get a test, you need to complete a form with personal information or enter your credit card details.

In some cases, the test involves an at-home testing kit that consumers never receive. Other times, the tests are allegedly offered through a clinic. But in all cases, the person or website selling the test is short on details. They aren't willing or able to provide any information about how the test works, where it is sourced, and what laboratory processes it — all of which are major red flags.

How to Avoid Fake Coronavirus Tests

Reach out to your healthcare provider. They can help you figure out if the test will be covered by insurance and where to find a legitimate clinic. If you don't have a primary care physician, check out the official website of your local health department for more information on testing availability.

Do research before buying. Scammers put pressure on people to buy or commit without giving them time to do further research. Before you agree to anything, search on BBB.org and Google to see they are BBB Accredited, have good reviews, and if there are complaints or scam reports associated with their business name.

Understand your options. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has a detailed guide to testing for COVID-19. Understand the different tests available and what you need.

To learn more about scams related to the coronavirus and how to protect yourself, see BBB.org/Coronavirus. To read up on some general tips for avoiding scams, visit BBB.org/AvoidScams.

If you've been the victim of a coronavirus related scam, please report it on the BBB.org/ScamTracker. Your report can help others to stay alert and avoid similar scams.

COVID-19 UPDATE

World.....	6,800,000	U.S.	2,000,000	MN.....	28,224	Steele.....	173	Dodge	55
Deaths	397,000	Deaths	113,000	Deaths	1,208	Deaths	0	Deaths	0
Recovered.....	2,600,000	Recovered.....	530,000	Recovered.....	19,441	Recovered.....	81	Recovered.....	30

AS OF JUNE 8, 2020

How to Make the Most of Your Telehealth Appointment



Dear Savvy Senior,
I manage a large doctor's clinic that treats hundreds of seniors each month. We are moving to more telehealth visits to help keep our patients safe at home during the coronavirus pandemic, but this new way of seeing a doctor is befuddling to many of our older patients. Can you write a column educating parents on how to prepare for a telehealth appointment?

Regular Reader

Dear Reader,

I'd be happy to help! To help keep patients safe and at home during the coronavirus crisis more and more doctors and other health care providers are turning to telehealth (a.k.a. telemedicine) appointments, which are remote e-visits using a digital communication device like a smartphone, tablet or computer.

Although telehealth has been around for a few years now, recent updates to regulations and a surge in demand has made it the easiest way to get many different types of medical care. Most telehealth appointments today tend to be primary care or follow-up visits that can assess symptoms or check on people who have had a medical procedure. Telehealth also works well for some specialties like dermatology or mental health care (counseling/therapy) services.

So, what can patients expect from a telehealth visit, and how should they prepare?

The first step is to call your doctor's office to find out whether telemedicine visits are available and whether you will need to set up an account or install special software on your computer, phone or tablet.

Until recently, doctors were required to conduct telehealth visits through platforms such as Doxy, Thera-Link or MyChart that were compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, or HIPAA. But some of those requirements have been relaxed in the current crisis, so many providers are using popular apps such as FaceTime, Skype and Zoom to conduct visits.

Once you know what technology you will be using, get familiar with it. You don't want to spend the first 10 minutes of your visit trying to figure out how to unmute the audio.

For older patients that aren't familiar or comfortable with technology, ask a relative or friend with a smartphone, tablet or laptop to assist you.

Take the time to clarify the purpose of the telehealth visit before it begins. Prioritize a written list of three or four issues you want to discuss with your doctor and make a list of the medicines you're taking, along with the dosages.

Also, have relevant medical devices or logs on hand, such as a nightlight or smartphone flashlight for viewing a sore throat, a blood-pressure cuff and thermometer (or recent readings), blood-sugar logs if you're diabetic or a food log if you have gastrointestinal problems.

If you've received medical care at different places, such as an urgent care facility or another doctor's office, have your latest medical records with you during the telemedicine visit.

Wear loose clothing that will allow you to show your medical provider what is concerning you.

The length of the appointment may depend on the problem. A routine visit could be very quick, while others, such as a physical-therapy appointment, may last as long as a session at a clinic. Waiting rooms are sometimes replaced by virtual waiting rooms.

Before the visit ends, make sure you know the follow-up plan. Do you need to schedule an in-office visit, fill a prescription or get a referral to a specialist?

Right now, Medicare and Medicaid are covering the cost of telehealth visits (see [medicare.gov/coverage/telehealth](https://www.medicare.gov/coverage/telehealth) for details), and most private insurers are following suit.

If, however, you don't have a primary care physician or need urgent care, you can get help through virtual health care service like Doctor on Demand ([doctorondemand.com](https://www.doctorondemand.com)) or TeleDoc ([teladoc.com](https://www.teladoc.com)). These services currently do not accept original Medicare, but they may be covered by private insurers including some Medicare Advantage plans – be sure you check.

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

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History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago

May 11, 2010

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

The north side of the elementary school received a nice sprucing up courtesy of the fifth graders. When the landscaping project began in 2007 the fifth graders began at the front of the elementary building. Each year a new addition has been added. This spring the students cleaned the beds and added new mulch to the hostas, which were planted last year. The students worked very hard on a very warm day after school. The students were excited about adding their own special touch to the school grounds. The coordinators, Brenda Sorenson and Rannae Berg are planning a fundraiser to complete more projects in 2011.

Casey's has taken Blooming Prairie by storm it seems with its newly renovated convenience store. The only thing left untouched has been the exterior walls. Casey's General Store will celebrate its grand opening this weekend. They took over the former Budget Mart last fall and have been busy converting the store to meet their standards. When they rolled into town last fall, the store retained most of the employees, including previous manager, Kay Helkenn. The store is open from 4 am to 11 pm. Casey's hope customers will be pleased with efforts in making a first-class store. We hope to give them a quality product at a fair price and great service.

During the annual Memorial Day program at the Servicemen's Club, the Voice of Democracy and Patriotic Arts announced this year's winners. The theme this year was "Does America Still Have Heroes?" Marissa Andrews won first place and the first runner-up was announced second. Bremeth also took honors in the Patriotic Arts contest at the local and District level winning first place in each division. Antonio Patina placed second in each division.

20 Years Ago

May 9, 2000

ELSIE SUNGER, PUBLISHER

St. Isadore's School of Litomysl graduated three eighth grade students. The celebration began with mass at 7:30pm and followed with a program and lunch. The class wills and prophecies were

read. Mrs. Tammy Barnes, 6-7-8 grade teach gave out awards.

Valedictorian is Amanda Anderson and salutatorian is Zach Nichols. The graduates are Sara Bergland, Amanda Anderson and Zach Nicols.

After so many close calls over her career, it was a real tribute to Lisa Meshke to win the State Class A Golf Championship. Her determination and ability to handle pressure as well as her golf skills to win the title. Probably the best measure of her skill was her ability to come back from 2 strokes down with just 9 holes to play and then compile 2 birdies and 6 pars over the last 8 holes. To do this in her final appearance at the state meet made it all memorable. Congratulations to Lisa and good luck in your future college career.

The first golfing tournament of the year took place on Saturday with the 5 man racehorse affair at the local country club.

In pretty good golfing weather, the team of Tim Boeyer, Rich Schwartz, Harlan Hansen, Ed Wurst and Bud Ebeling defeated eight other teams to win first place. Both ladies and men have several tourneys coming up and it will all culminate with the club individual tournament later this summer.

50 Years Ago

May 6, 1970

VICTOR, VERNON & VYVLE

KREJO, PUBLISHERS

The Governor's Safety Patrol Award was presented to Supt. M McFarlin by members of the Blooming Prairie Elementary School's safety patrol. The award was given to the patrol by Lt Governor James Goetz at a luncheon held in Minneapolis. The award was one of 17 given to over 1000 participating schools.

Participating in the presentation were Candy Strohschein, Diane Krell, Karen Schneider and Diane Hillson. The American Legion sponsors the safety patrol in Blooming Prairie. Kermit Peterson retired as Chief of the Blooming Prairie Fire Department at the annual meeting this week. He has served as chief for the past six years. Mr. Peterson has been a past capable and qualified Fire Chief and throughout the past six years has devoted many hours to the position with little compensation. He has been a member of the department for 20 years and plans to continue to be active. The Times joins everyone in the community

in saluting Mr. Peterson for a job well done.

Seven delegates from Steele County will attend the 4-H Junior Leadership Conference in June at the State Fairgrounds in St. Paul. The delegates are Mary Kasper of Ellendale; Sue Klemmensen of Blooming Prairie; Sandra Kniefel of Owatonna; Jane Mussen of Claremont; Kathy Knutson, George Ruel and Douglas Smith all of Owatonna. Delegates are chosen who have been enrolled in junior leadership, are 15 years of age or older, have a personal commitment to gain the most from the conference and want to share their learning with others. More than 600 4-Hers will participate in the conference.

75 Years Ago

May 10, 1945

FRANK KREJO, PUBLISHER

Cozy Inn closed for a week on account of meat shortage. In order to conserve hard-to-get precious meat points the Cozy Inn closed on Saturday last week and will not reopen until Monday. During the interval, Louie has been giving the place a thorough rejuvenation by washing walls and making the place spark and span.

Mrs. Irene Wakefield received a telegram from the War Department bearing the following news: "Secretary of the War desires me to express his deep regret that your husband, Pfc. Keith Wakefield, was slightly wounded on Mindanao May 20th." Pfc. Wakefield is an infantryman and was inducted into service March 3, 1944. Mrs. Wakefield received a letter from her husband Wednesday informing her he had been awarded the Purple Heart.

The community fire fighting equipment made a run to the storm home of Herman Luth near Lansing, Saturday night during the rain and electrical storm. Lightning struck the barn while Mr. Luth was milking, killing the animal on which he was milking. The lightning stopped Luth's watch at 6:45, left him dazed for a short time, but miraculously he escaped death or serious injury. According to Fire Chief Hollowell, the bolt split the roof of the barn in two as though it had been done in one powerful stroke of a huge ax. Three cows dropped following the lightning strike but only the one was killed. The fire department succeeded in keeping the fire from spreading to other nearby buildings.

GUEST COLUMN

Celebrate the grand old flag

BY JAN MITTELSTADT
TIPPETT

June 14 is Flag Day. It is a grand old flag, a high-flying flag and June 14 is its birthday... the 243rd year. It was on June 14, 1777 that the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act resolving that the flag of the United States be made of "13 stripes, alternating red and white with a union of 13 stars, white in a blue field to represent a new Constellation."

A new day dawned out of the American Revolution. It was for a brand-new idea – democracy. This experiment has become an ideal for the world – government, for and by the people. Our flag, over all these years and over all the battlefields and all its places it has flown, represented the ideas and values set forth in the Declaration of Independence, includ-

ing the quest for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

As time passed, there it still did. The flag is an outward sign of our patriotism. Woodrow Wilson established

Flag Day in 1916 by proclamation and Harry Truman signed it into law in 1949. (Both men were Elks, by the way). Without their signatures, this important and patriotic observance may have been shuffled aside and forgotten.

Patriotism, unfortunately, enjoys periods of greater popularity and is not consistent. That's a shame. After the tragedy of Sept. 11, the American flag was flown widely in communities and in neighborhoods, on houses large and small, even days that weren't national holidays. Flag manufacturers couldn't keep up with the demand.

We were united in our

desire to show our support, as well as our love of country.

As time passed, there were fewer and fewer flags flying. The number of flags increased again when our troops were deployed. War and tragedy bring forward a desire to show our patriotism, to fly the flag, to speak the pledge. And within a couple of weeks that diminishes and neighborhoods where there may have been 10 out of 12 houses flying the flag soon revert back to the six of 12 and then three of 12 and then, sadly, may just one of 12. Whether it is popular or not – it is a grand old flag, a high-flying flag.

More importantly, the flag represents the freedoms we enjoy as Americans, the freedoms outlined in the Constitution and its Amendments – the freedom of religion, speech, the press, to peaceably assemble, to vote, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances, to name just the big six.

We do enjoy great freedoms. We can and do practice religion, even non-religion, of every stripe and belief. We can say what we are thinking. We can write letters and distribute photocopies of our

opinions. We can carry signs that announce what we think. We can advance any opinion on any subject including opinions that others find repugnant. We can even stand at the gate of the White House and shout what we think of the President of the United States – whether that opinion is good, bad or indifferent.

All of these freedoms apply to all Americans and that's where the rub is – that's where we start to lose the belief in even-handed freedoms. It's the whole audience... the left, the right and the moderate; the churchgoers and the atheists; the straights and the gays; the Ku Klux Klan or the militant blacks; the poor and the rich. Whether or not you like or agree with someone has to say, there is still that right to say it or to assemble to protest or support it.

There are too many (and I think that even one or two is too many) people who think that if you don't think and act and believe just as they believe that you have no right to speak or to write or even to live. Lack of respect for others and their right to have, hold and express

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THE BOLD LOOK OF KOHLER

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.**

First Responders, citizen given awards for saving 2 lives in BP

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

There's a cliché that we all likely have heard: "I owe my life to you."

Two Blooming Prairie men can put some true belief in that cliché. Because of the actions of three Blooming Prairie police officers, an ambulance service EMT and a citizen, Nathan Jefferson, 42, and Gaylord Tollefson, 83, are still alive.

Jefferson and Tollefson both had their hearts stop beating. Jefferson on Sept. 8, 2019 and Tollefson on May 18, 2020.

Both Jefferson and Tollefson were at their residences when a 911 call was made.

Police Chief Greg Skillestad recently presented Blooming Prairie Police Lifesaving awards to Officer Dan Peach and to police Sgt. Mark Lang, EMT Wacek and citizen Marion Mast.

Skillestad was also on both calls. He also



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Lifesaving awards were recently presented by Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad, far right to a citizen and to two First Responders who saved the life of BP resident Gaylord Tollefson (center) on May 18, 2020. Awards were given to citizen Marion Mast, far left; to ambulance crew member Wacek, second from left and to Sgt. Mark Lang, second from right.

earned a life saving award but humbly refused to accept one. "I can't give myself an award," he said.

Peach and Skillestad responded to the emergency call at Jefferson's residence near Arkema. They both performed CPR on Jefferson.

Sgt. Lang was gassing up his squad car at Cenex in Blooming Prairie when he received an emergency call from the Tollefson residence. He motored

quickly to the Tollefson house and took over life saving efforts started by Tollefson's friend, Marion Mast. Skillestad arrived soon after Lang. Ambulance crew EMT Wacek was also soon on the scene.

Jefferson was in bed when police arrived. Tollefson collapsed near his house while helping Mast trim some of Tollefson's bushes.

Certificates issued to Officer Peach, Sgt. Lang and Wacek contain the

same language: "In recognition of your actions in providing life saving efforts to a Blooming Prairie resident. Thanks to your efforts and the efforts of your fellow emergency responders, your teamwork made the difference that day and prevented a life being cut short."

Mast's certificate reads: "You are hereby recognized for your heroic and quick thinking in calling 911 and performing CPR for your fellow citizen who was suffering from a medical emergency on May 18, 2020 at 3:47 p.m. The timely 911 call enabled First Responders to arrive on the scene to continue life saving measures. Due to your calm under pressure and quick thinking, your actions made a difference and saved the life of your fellow citizen you call your friend."

Skillestad and Lang signed them at the certificates. Skillestad signed the certificate for Lang.

CRIME BRIEF

Police: Same circus, different clowns

For police in Owatonna, a couple incidents involving porch pirate thieves produced what they call the same circus with different clowns.

In mid-May, a watchful neighbor called police to report a porch pirate incident that took place in the 700 block of Hemlock Avenue. The witness reported a vehicle stopped when an occupant got out and took a FedEx package from a home.

The witness reported a vehicle stopped when an occupant got out and took a FedEx package from a home. The witness reported a vehicle stopped when an occupant got out and took a FedEx package from a home.

Officers went to the home of the registered owner of the vehicle. The owner initially denied any involvement. Once the officers pressed on, the female suspect admitted to her involvement stating that she was with her juvenile son who



told her to pull over. He took the package from the house and she allowed him to do it.

Police charged both the mom and her 16-year-old son with theft.

A few days later police received a similar call in the same area of town involving a similar vehicle. Officers located the vehicle and found it was the same one used in the earlier incident. However, this time it was operated by a 34-year-old man that lives at the same household as the mother and child.

Police are requesting felony mail theft charges against the man.

"Had the police chief not been there, I would have been a goner."

Gaylord Tollefson Heart Attack Survivor

said, "I'm the guy that hit you five times with a defibrillator."

"He had no pulse," remarked Officer Peach upon helping to save Jefferson's life.

Jefferson said it has been a long road to recovery "but it's getting there," he added. Jefferson said he is waiting for the car race tracks to open up. He works the pits at Lansing and at Deer Creek.

"I'm glad it happened the way it happened," Tollefson smiled. "It's nice to be home," he affirmed.

Wife Marilyn said everyone was so kind and working hard to save her husband's life. "I was so scared," she confessed. "A guy gets a break once in awhile and that was a good break," said Tollefson, reflecting on his near-death experience.

THEY HAVE ONE: thing in common FROM AL

much of what happened when they lost consciousness.

Jefferson and Tollefson both had helicopter rides by Mayo One. Jefferson was rushed by ground ambulance to Owatonna and then flown by Mayo One helicopter to a Rochester hospital.

Mayo One landed on the grass near the Blooming Prairie Ambulance Garage. A BP ambulance crew brought Tollefson to the ambulance garage where he was stabilized and then airlifted to Rochester.

Sgt. Mark Lang was the first on the scene at Tollefson's house, soon followed by Police Chief Greg Skillestad. The two officers took over CPR after Mast had performed it.

Not remembering much of his collapse, Tollefson said, "I really know only what I have been told."

Tollefson said he had a weird feeling and passed out into the bushes. "I've had that feeling about four other times," he said. Tollefson said doctors changed the rhythm of his pacemaker

er while he recovered in St. Mary's Hospital.

Tollefson said he woke up "a little bit" but does not remember the flight to Rochester. "Had the police chief not been there, I would have been a goner," Tollefson said.

Isreal Wacek of the Blooming Prairie Ambulance Service arrived on the scene and helped with life saving techniques. The ambulance then took Tollefson to the ambulance garage where Mayo One arrived shortly after. Tollefson's wife Marilyn said she was told that her

husband talked all the way to Rochester. Shrugging his shoulders, Tollefson reiterated he did not remember the helicopter ride.

Tollefson was only in the hospital for five days. Jefferson was hospitalized for six weeks. "I had to learn everything over again because I had suffered a brain injury," said Jefferson.

Jefferson is a Viracon employee but has not returned to work since his heart attack.

"I ran into Chief Skillestad at Vandal's Country Market and he

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 25 with Judge Joseph A. Buettel presiding: Franklin P. Powell, 45, Fairbault, previously appeared and was convicted of felony domestic assault. He was sentenced to 3125 and 21 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 25 - 31:

MN STATE PATROL
ROCHESTER

Luke A. Brandt, 18, Clear Lake, IA, speeding, \$115; Seth T. Donkers, 22, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$100; Devin C. Givitt, 22, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$115; Montquize A. McCoig, 52, Maple Grove, speeding, \$135; Zachary R. Myrvold, 19, Waconia, speeding, \$135; Michael E. Nottingham, 52, Movesqua, IL, seat belt, \$100; Kelsey A. Osden, 20, Ames, IA, speeding, \$125; Samira A. Osman, 32, Fairbault, revoked license, \$275; Hector M. Pina Enriquez, 23, Waseca, speeding, \$125; Bradley R. Rothau, 52, Blomac, ND, speeding, \$135; Franklin A. Schrock, 21, Lakeville, speeding, \$125; Abigail R. Trulson, 25, Nashville, TN, speeding, \$215.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT
Aberlardo Aragon, 24, Owatonna, domestic

assault, stay of adjudication, diversion program and 2 years of supervised probation; Joshua M. Born, 34, Medford, invalid license, \$175; Joanna Hidalgo, 28, Owatonna, DWI, \$400, chemical assessment, attend MADD impact panel and 2 years of supervised probation; Sydney F. Towle, 20, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105.

STEELE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Aaron M. Becker, 31, Mantorville, speeding, \$115; Hunter B. Dean Cunningham, 20, Prole, IA, speeding, \$115; Susan E. Harman, 45, Northfield, speeding, \$125; Drew M. Hohenstein, 17, Iron, speeding, \$125; Caleb Z. Hopkins, 22, Lincoln, NE, speeding, \$135; Samantha K. Klurow, 34, Emmons, speeding, \$115; Carmen Lemon, 56, Fairbault, invalid license, \$175; Alex T. Reus-Lehrer, 25, Elmdale, speeding, \$125; Ellie N. Schumacher, 19, Prior Lake, speeding, \$215; Antonio O. Singleton, 18, Fairbault, speeding, \$215; Jaden M. Taylor, 17, Waseca, speeding, \$215.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele CountyBLOOMING PRAIRIE
POLICE

June 3
DWI: Police made a DWI arrest in the 200 block of 2nd St. NW at 9:03 p.m.

OWATONNA POLICE
May 30
Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious

activity in the 1600 block of Lin Ave. SW at 6:47 p.m.
Juvenile: Police received a juvenile complaint from the 400 block of Academy St. E. at 7:18 p.m.

May 31
Suspicion: At 12:14 a.m., police responded to suspicious activity in the 500 block of Bridge St. W. They took a subject into custody.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 1200 block of Kohlmier Dr. SW at 7:44 a.m. and the 1000 block of Van Buren Ave. SE at 9:17 a.m.

Restraining Order: At 11:07 a.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 200 block of Rice St. E.
Disturbance: Officers responded to disturbances at Riverside Ave. NW and Glendale St. NW at 11:33 a.m. and the 600 block of Elm Ave. S. at 10:54 p.m.

DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest at Pearl St. E. and Grove Ave. N. at 9:52 p.m.
June 1
Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 2:33 a.m.

Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 1000 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 5:21 p.m.
Shoplifting: At 4:11 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Disturbance: Police responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of 16th St. NE at 10:39 p.m.

June 2
Forgery: Police responded to a report of counterfeit money in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 10:02 a.m.

June 3
Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 1700 block of Hemlock Ave. NE at 9:01 a.m.

Child Protection: Police received a child protection call from the 500 block of Oak Ave. S. at 10:59 a.m.

Suspicion: Officers responded to suspicious activity in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 4:21 p.m. They issued a citation.

Shoplifting: At 4:44 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW.

Harassment: Police responded to a harassment incident in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 7:51 p.m.
Disturbance: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 8:09 p.m.

June 4
Welfare: Police conducted a welfare check in the 1500 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 9:26 a.m.

Shoplifting: At 9:16 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

Assault: Officers responded to an assault in the 200 block of Rice St. E. at 6:34 p.m.

Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Bridge St. W. at 9:27 p.m.

Pursuit: Police pursued a subject at Interstate 35 and Bridge St. W. at 10:27 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF
May 29
Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 2800 block of

24th Ave. NE in Owatonna at 11:31 a.m.

Crash: Paramedics and deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries on Interstate 35 in Summit Township at 8:11 p.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township at 9:23 p.m.

May 30
DWI: Deputies arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated on Interstate 35 in Summit Township at 10:31 a.m.

ARRESTS
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Robert Martinez, 36, arrested at 12:15 a.m. May 31, felony assault and threats of violence, held for court.

Leo Rivera Gaxiola, 40, arrested at 10:05 p.m. May 31, DWI and cancelled license, held for court.

Matthew Allen Techau, 40, arrested at 2:57 a.m. June 1, felony drugs and warrants arrest, held for court.

Richard Allen Miller, 43, arrested June 2, Dancio violation warrant arrest, body only.

Jeremy E. Caldwell, 47, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony aiding an offender to avoid arrest - harbor/conceal. He was sentenced to \$130, 38 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, mental health evaluation, no contact with victim and 3 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of May 24 - 31:

DODGE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Brittany N. Edgar, 28, Kasson, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, \$50, 24 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, mental health evaluation, therapy and 5 years of supervised probation; Trey M. Theobald, 20, Kasson, possession of marijuana, \$130.

MN STATE PATROL
ROCHESTER

Rodney D. Bjornson, 54, Halfway, seat belt, \$105; Jean N. Egebe, 38, Rochester, speeding, \$260; Madison N. Fetter, 23, Rochester, speeding, \$120; Ashley M. Larson, 35, Sergeant, revoked license, \$200.

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Quilt of Valor given to William Holden

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

More than 160 Quilts of Valor have been given out by the Blooming Prairie Quilts of Valor program since 2014. More quilts were scheduled to be given out on Memorial Weekend but because of the coronavirus, the official presentation of more quilts has been delayed. One was delivered early last week because of health issues of the recipient. U.S. Navy veteran William Holden, 77,

accepted the quilt from Shirley Nelson of the VFW Auxiliary. Nelson pieced the quilt and Bev Wacke did the quilting. Holden, a member of American Legion Post 52 in Blooming Prairie, served two deployments in the U.S. Navy from 1962 to 1966. He served as a sonar technician on the USS John A. Bole. His duty was on the South China seas and Vietnam. Prior to beginning active duty in 1962, Holden was a member of the Naval Reserves in La Crosse.

Bill and wife Karen moved to Blooming Prairie from Shell Lake, Wis. in September of 2017. "It was a very pleasant surprise," said Karen when Shirley Nelson brought the Quilt of Valor to the Holdens' doorstep. Chris Butler is the originator of the Quilts of Valor program in Blooming 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.



William Holden, a member of the Blooming Prairie American Legion Post 52, proudly displays a Quilt of Valor given to him recently by the local Blooming Prairie Quilts of Valor group. Shirley Nelson pieced the colorful quilt and Bev Wacke did the quilting.



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

This high school commencement in 2020 for 50 Blooming Prairie High School graduates wasn't about to be tainted by the life-changing effects of the coronavirus. Because of social distancing and because of the cancellation of many school activities, Blooming Prairie and other schools throughout the nation saw their commencements become something different.

Most of the commencement ceremonies, including the one in Blooming Prairie, became virtual.

Rather than have a traditional graduation indoors or outdoors on a football field, schools were forced to go virtual.

Blooming Prairie administration, staff and students put together a dynamic commencement that will be long remembered by the 50 graduates.

A pre-commencement ceremony was held on Saturday, May 30 amidst perfect weather conditions. At this pre-commencement ceremony, seniors walked across a makeshift stage to accept their diplomas. Parents were then able to pose for photos with their graduate.

The presentation of diplomas was originally going to be part of commencement on Sunday. Because this would lengthen the ceremony, two ceremonies and a parade were planned.

The second ceremony was the actual commencement pre-recorded on Kat Kountry 104.9. Five seniors presented speeches and Superintendent Chris Staloch also presented the Class of 2020.

On the pre-recording, Principal John Worke read the graduate name and counselor Mary Worke gave a biography of each graduate.

All graduates and their parents sat in their vehicles in the

Class of 2020 graduates are indeed special



Kelly LaMotte of Blossom Belle Boutique and Michael and Katy Clayton of BP Nutrition paid tribute to Blooming Prairie High School seniors by giving them a glass of lemonade. These senior buds are: Top row, from left: Emily Krampitz, Riauna Bishop, Morgan Anderson and Maya Lembke; second row: Baylee Sorensen, Gracie Rudolph, Marti Snider and Kassidy Borgen.

main high school parking lot and listened to the pre-recorded program. Most of the vehicles were decorated in creative swipes of artistic imagination.

As the program was ending, sirens were heard in the distance and got louder as they came closer. The local ambulance crew and Blooming Prairie fire trucks were coming to lead the graduates in a parade they will never forget.

"I bet many of these kids had never been in a parade," said one BP parent. "The parade was something that made the graduates feel very special," the parent continued.

The parade route was similar to the Fourth of July parade route but with an exception. The graduates of 2020 paraded down EVERY street in town, sirens continuing to blare.

This parade and virtual commencement were indeed unique. It was a polished production carefully choreographed by Staloch and the Workes.

The program was video taped by Caleb Osterander of Minimizor. Jamie Klemmensen also provided coverage with the assistance of a drone overhead.

Becky Severtson took photos of

the graduates and their parents on the pre-commencement day. Tammy Wolf took photos of the graduates on Sunday as they picked up graduation cakes given to them by reaktor Jennifer Walsh.

Mrs. Worke was exceptional in providing this newspaper with information on the upcoming commencement of 2020. This newspaper with the full texts of all six speeches featured on the program.

The weather was also very cooperative on Sunday, graduation day.

Many were so impressed with the commencement days and parade that they said they should be repeated in upcoming years.

"Since our senior year was marred by COVID-19, we seniors should be grateful that our commencement was made special by making it far different than the traditional one.

Class of 2020, you are Blooming Prairie strong. Good luck graduating seniors and THANK YOU Blooming Prairie School District leaders and staff for making this graduation a very SPECIAL one.

FORMER: commissioners stage a comeback

did not file for re-election and her opponent, Greg Krueger, will run unopposed in this year's election. Huntington no longer lives in the area.

The 2016 District 3 race between Schultz and Gnemi was fairly close. It was a different story, however, in the District 4 contest as Abbe defeated Ebeling by a landslide, 70-30%.

The trio of upsets in the 2016 election caused a clean sweep in which the entire county board was changed within a two-year period. In 2014, two incumbents were also ousted from office.

The number one reason for running this time, Ebeling said, is because he feels "it's healthy to have a choice at election time." He said he had been monitoring the filings and noticed nobody had filed against Abbe.

Ebeling, 62, says he feels he is qualified, experienced and perhaps most importantly, retired with time now to commit to county business. He retired from the City of Owatonna as parks and recreation director in April 2018. He said he had been in the county for two years a "good break" from everything and he is ready to go again.

Some people had asked him to run for city office in Owatonna, but he did not want to go against an incumbent. Ebeling said. He added the county is where his heart really is at. "I truly like the county level. It's my gig."

Ebeling wants nothing more than a cordial and positive race against Abbe. Ebeling said he feels the 2016 race was cordial, but the "real mudslinging and negativity came from individuals in the community that didn't like me."

The former commissioner served for eight

years, including two stints as chairman, before being voted out of office in 2016. Ebeling called 2016 "a bad year for all incumbents." He said he got drug into other issues with state and national races. "It's time to try again and see what the people want," he said. He added, "I'm not going to do a negative race or mudslinging, which seems to be the trend." Abbe, who currently serves as board chairman, welcomes competition for his seat. "No one should go unopposed," Abbe said. He added Steele County has a tradition where someone usually steps up to run against an incumbent.

The commissioner says he is "super thankful" for the opportunity to serve county residents over the past four years. But Abbe feels his work is not complete yet and wants to continue serving as commissioner.

One of the greatest challenges facing the county right now is the financial crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. "The pandemic has put a pinch on the county financially," Abbe said. Steele County is currently facing a \$1 million shortfall in 2020.

"We need to figure out how to pare back our expenses," he said, noting board members are trying to find creative ways to accomplish that. He added that it is "not an appetite on my end to levy for more."

Abbe is proud of what the current board has done with the county's public works facility.

He pointed out that the board constructed the facility "a few million dollars less than what had originally been proposed."

Gnemi points to the "positive and necessary fiscal changes" for the county over the past three years as the reason why he wants to continue as commissioner. "I would like to continue working with the board to assist in safeguarding the taxpayers' dollars and be a part of the ongoing functioning of our county departments who work hard and consistently to operate efficiently and transparently," he said.

Like Abbe, Gnemi also is proud of the board's accomplishment with the county highway building. "We were able to efficiently bring the newly built county highway department building budget back to a manageable fiscal range and to see the fruits of that labor which went into constructing a very efficient and functional building at a significant savings to our taxpayers," Gnemi said.

Another accomplishment Gnemi points to is controlling spending. "We have been able to bring the county spending back to a manageable level of approximately 4% versus the double digit spending we experienced with previous boards in the past," he said.

Gnemi calls the current board "a very cohesive county commissioner board." He went on to say the board has a unified focus in safeguarding Steele County taxpayer dollars in the most cost-efficient and responsible way possible while also insuring departments function at optimum levels and providing the best service possible.

Gnemi's opponent, Mark Schultz, did not return calls from the Times for comment.

What are the plans of BPHS graduates of 2020?

The Class of 2020 is now history at Blooming Prairie High School. What do the graduates plan on doing in the future?

Let's take a look at some statistics compiled by Blooming Prairie High School guidance counselor Mary Worke.

This year's class has 50 graduates.

- 74% of the class plan to go on to further post high school education
- 16% will seek direct employment
- 6% will join the military
- 2% will start farming
- 2% other

Of the graduates going

on to further education:

- 73% will attend a 4-year college or university
- 27% will attend a community or technical school

Education (6) and Nursing (5) are the most popular occupational and educational fields of the BPHS graduates.

CELEBRATE: the grand old flag

different opinions is distinctly un-American, as well as unattractive, unacceptable and unpatriotic. Sometimes our freedoms mean that we must stand up and support the right to speak, even when we hate what the speaker is saying. That's what our flag stands for.

It is a grand old flag, a high-flying flag...the emblem of the land I

love, the home of the free and the brave. The land we love could be the hills and the valleys, the plains and the prairies, the mountains, the lakes and the streams. To each one of us, there is something different that fairly shouts "This is America." It might be Main Street in Anytown, with the green grass, the canopy of trees, the

colorful flowers and the flashes of red, white and blue. It might be the waving golden wheat of the heartland or the tall corn or the sunflowers that seem to turn their faces to smile at you. It could be the ocean with the tide coming in and going out; or the stream that bubbles as it goes over the rocks and boulders. It could be a small cottage or a big house.

It could be a farm or a ranch or a factory site. It is a grand old flag, a high-flying flag where every heart beats true 'neath the red, white and blue. The hearts might be beating in a soldier in dress whites or camouflage or an office worker, a homemaker, a factory worker, a farmer, a teacher, a doctor or a nurse or a pastor. It could be a

journalist, a volunteer, a banker, or a baker. It is a grand old flag, a high-flying flag...an emblem of a great body of people of all colors, whose ancestors hailed from all regions and could be in dress whites or camouflage or in the world. We are ordinary and extraordinary, all with the usual human blessings and faults but our collective and in-

dividual efforts during each and every one of the last 243 years has forged a great nation. Happy birthday to the red, white and blue.

Jan Tippett is a retired newspaper editor and publisher. She returned to her hometown of Owatonna five years ago after 30 years away. Her e-mail address is jtippett@midco.net.

OBITUARIES

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**Ernest Betlach, 96,
Blooming Prairie**



Ernest Betlach

Ernest D. Betlach, age 96 of Blooming Prairie, passed away peacefully Friday evening, May 29, 2020, at Owatonna Hospital in Owatonna. Ernie was born Jan. 12, 1924 in Blooming Prairie to Edward J. and Anna (Nymon) Betlach. He grew up in Blooming Prairie and graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1942. Ernie, along with his brother, Frank, proudly served his country by joining the U.S. Navy in 1943. Ernie was a Specialist 3rd Class whose first tour in WWII was at Guadalcanal and the Solomon Islands. Ernie and his crew assisted in building air strips throughout the South Pacific, serving on the SS Young America. He was honorably discharged in 1946.

Following the Navy, Ernie returned home and married Mary Ann Prokopiec at Holy Trinity Church in Litomysl. At that time, he and his brother, Frank, took over ownership of their father's gas station. Ernie and Mary Ann had four children. After retiring from his own Mobil Oil business, Ernie enjoyed working at Jim's Standard for a number of years.

Ernie, along with several other Blooming Prairie families, committed to be Vikings season ticketholders before they were franchised. He loved tailgating at Met Stadium, which often included taking the kids along so they could experience the game with other BP families. He loved playing cards and was adept at it. Ernie could shoot the moon and leave you in the dust. He still read the Star Tribune, cover to cover daily. Polka music was an important part of his life—he loved it and listened to it daily. Ernie was a fan of the Minnesota Twins, Timberwolves, Lynx and NASCAR. We lovingly called him Tinker, Jellybean and Bucko.

Ernie was an active member in the Blooming Prairie V.F.W. Post 678, and American Legion Post 52. In honor of his service, Ernie was selected by the Captain of the Minnesota National Guard to raise the flag on Sept. 1, 2010, at the Minnesota Twins' new home, Target Field. He was a lifelong member of St. Columbanus Catholic Church, served on the St. Columbanus Cemetery Board, and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. Ernie was a beloved member of his community and will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Survivors include his loving wife of 71 years, Mary Ann Betlach of Blooming Prairie; two sons, Donald (Linda Malecha) of Owatonna, and Bradley (Peter Carlson) of Minneapolis; two daughters, Kathryn (Joseph T.) Sturm of Madison Lake, and Debra (David) Cerny of Madelia; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

Ernie was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Edward R. and Frank A. Betlach. A private memorial service for immediate family was held on Wednesday, June 3, 2020, at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie. Interment was in St. Columbanus Catholic Cemetery with military rites performed by the American Legion and V.F.W. honor guard. A public celebration of Ernie's life will be held at a later date.

Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home of Blooming Prairie is assisting the family with arrangements. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be directed to St. Columbanus Catholic Church or the Blooming Prairie Serviceman's Club. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

COLLEGE NEWS

**Hyland named to
Spring Dean's List**

Jake Hyland of Blooming Prairie is one of 2,600 students who was named to Bradley's Dean's List for the Spring 2020 semester. Hyland is a major in interactive media game design.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must achieve a minimum 3.5 grade point average for the semester on a 4.0 scale.

Bradley University is a top-ranked, private university in Peoria, Illinois, offering 5,400 undergraduate and graduate students the resources of a larger university and the personal attention of a smaller university. More than 185 academic programs are offered in business, communications, education, engineering, fine arts, health sciences, liberal arts and sciences, and technology.

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**Nathan Magnuson, 88,
Blooming Prairie**



Nathan Magnuson

Nathan "Nate" Sylvester Magnuson, age 88 of Blooming Prairie, passed away Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie.

Nathan was born Feb. 4, 1932 on the family farm in Newry Township, Freeborn County. He was the son of Selmer and Gertrude (Paulson) Magnuson. Nathan attended country school at the Magnuson School and graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1950.

On June 14, 1953, Nate was united in marriage to Verna Mae Jolson at the Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church in rural Austin. Nathan loved farming, working the land, and raising cattle his entire life.

He loved to dance, play cards, tell jokes, and collect antique tractors. He cherished all the friendships he had during his lifetime. Nathan will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Survivors include his wife, Verna Magnuson of 66 years; brothers, Kenneth Magnuson of Ronald (Mary) Magnuson; sister-in-law, Judy Magnuson; nieces and nephews; close friend and co-worker, Lawrence Goodnature.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Selmer and Gertrude Magnuson; brother, Richard Magnuson; and sister-in-law, Lois Magnuson.

Due to COVID-19, a memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorials preferred to donor's choice. Services are prearranged and performed with Worlein Funeral Home in Blooming Prairie. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

STEELE COUNTY Times

*Always local,
all the time.*

Recipe Corner

Zucchini Bars

Beat together
2 cups sugar
1 cup oil
4 eggs

Add
2 cups flour
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups grated zucchini with peeling left on.

Grease and flour jelly roll pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.

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BOOK NOOK

**Summer
reading kicks
off at library**



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

The Summer Reading Program officially begins at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library on Monday, June 15. That is the first day you can sign up for our online reading program! You can sign up your entire family, children, teens, and adults, to earn online badges as you keep track of how many minutes you read. At the end of the summer children with three badges will receive three free books. Teens and adults will be entered into grand prize drawings for baskets of prizes.

In addition to the reading badges kids will receive, we have some other activity challenges for them to complete. Some examples are: read a book with a blue cover, write your own story and read it out loud to

someone, or listen to an audio book. After you complete 5 of the 10 challenges, you get another badge and can move on to the next set of challenges.

For those who do not have internet access, you will be able to sign up by calling the library at 507-583-7750. After that, give us a call once a week or so, and tell us how many minutes you have read and which activities you have completed. To take part in the activity challenges we will have paper copies available to pick up in the entryway at the library.

Some of those challenges involve scavenger hunts, Take & Make bags to pick up at the library, and StoryWalks. Check next week's newspaper or like us on Facebook for more information on these. Online Story times will be held on Facebook Live every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

This year's Summer Reading Program will look a lot different than the ones I have taken part in over the past 26 years. But the goal is the same: encourage and challenge kids to keep reading all summer long!

**FORMER STATE REP: to
go against Petersburg** FROM A1



Tom Shea



John Petersburg

encompasses Steele and Waseca counties.

Shea, 69, served in the Minnesota Legislature from 1981 to 1984. He has also served nearly 20 years on the Steele County Board as a commissioner and another four years as Steele County administrator. He retired as administrator in 2015.

Shea waited until the final hour to file for the seat on June 2. "At the time I submitted my name to the Steele County Auditor, it was apparent that there would be no other candidates for this office other than the incumbent Rep. John Petersburg," Shea said.

Shea says Petersburg and he share similar positions on some issues the next Legislature will confront, but they have profound differences on others. "In particular strict adherence to party leadership and speaking truth to power of those leaders who fail in core principles of decency, decorum, respect for all and accountability," Shea said.

"A foundational principle of our democracy is the ability to choose their elected representatives," said Shea. "With my filing for office, our district will be represented in the next legislature by your choice, rather than default," he added.

Petersburg admits Shea's filing caught him somewhat off guard. "At 4 p.m. when I checked, I was unopposed," Petersburg said, noting Shea

filed just before the filing deadline at 5 p.m. However, the four-term legislator noted this is not the first time an opponent has shown up on the last day of filing.

Petersburg had planned to run a minimal campaign thinking he would be unopposed, but now will be forced to "switch my tactics," he said campaigning is a tough job and may be even tougher this year with the COVID-19 crisis.

Asked about going against Shea, Petersburg responded, "It will be an interesting campaign. I think he has pretty good name recognition around town."

But Petersburg plans to rely heavily on his track record over the past few years. He was a strong supporter of the U.S. Highway 14 expansion project and helped punch it through the legislature to get funding for the final leg between Owatonna and Dodge Center. "We worked hard on that one," he said.

Petersburg has also worked on the ag-to-school credit in order to make it easier for school districts to pass referendums. Specifically, he said, it helped Owatonna pass its new high school last year.

Petersburg was elected to the legislature in 2012 when he defeated Craig Brenden in a close race 52 to 47%. Petersburg has cruised to much easier victories in 2014, 2016 and 2018. In the last election, he defeated Joe Heegard 60 to 39%.

The Lord's Prayer in a time of despair



Rev. Dr. Cindy Halvorson
TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH
OWATONNA

I sat in the comfort of my own home but I wasn't comfortable. My heart felt heavy. My breath was mostly shallow, except for the deep sighs that continued to escape from my body. I ached, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and physically. My mind was swirling at the recent events. A black man killed by excessive force by a white police officer.

A city on fire. Chaos prevailed. My mind circled around again. A black man killed. Businesses looted. Bedlam ruled the streets. The spin continued. My psyche was weary from weeks of quarantining due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Adding these events was too much. Typically I bounced back rather quickly but the long slow drain of energy and positivity left me depleted. I stared out the window not noticing the vibrant, springtime green of late May. My mind spun in a downward spiral. This was the time of day I usually read a bit and prayed. This was the space where I centered myself before starting most of my days. But today, I couldn't focus. I tried to pray, but my mind

and my heart could not produce words. I turned to the Lord's Prayer and recited the phrases. I completed the prayer, yet my heart needed more. With a forceful exhale, I slowed my breath and my prayer. I repeated the phrases again, this time as a means of personal conversation with the Divine. *Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Sigh! I know you are in heaven and on earth. You are present everywhere. But I can't see you now. Where are you?* *Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done On earth as it is in heaven.* Sigh! I'm tired of sighing. The world has gone mad. So much violence. So much injus-

tice. So much division. So much grief. *Give us this day our daily bread.* I'm grateful to have my daily needs met. Truthfully, I have much more! Oh, Benevolent Spirit, meet the needs of those who are lacking. In what ways can I help? *And forgive us our trespasses* As we forgive those who trespass against us. I try to be forgiving and compassionate ... but this is too much. I'm trying to have a forgiving spirit but ... actually, that's not true. I don't want to try to forgive right now. I'm mad and I feel helpless, so very helpless. Hanging onto my anger is the only thing that seems justifiable right now. Forgiveness will have to wait.

And lead us not into temptation What is my temptation? Is it refusing to forgive? Actually, I'm tempted to no longer believe there is any goodness in people. People are acting so ... bad. I'm tired of trying to look for the good. Maybe I need to decide to be suspicious and cynical. At least I would be spared devastating disappointment when people behave in ways that destroy life and livelihood. *But deliver us from evil.* I want to pray to be delivered from evil out there, the evil I see in injustice, the evil present in others. Yet, I need to be delivered from my own evil, my lack of patience with those who see the world differently than I do, my proclivity

to judge, my inability to trust that You, God, can somehow bring beauty out of ashes. Deliver Me from evil. Deliver us all from evil. *For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.* Through the ages, the Lord's Prayer provided a way to express the deepest concerns for those who had suffered injustice, for those who had grieved, for those who felt feeble when they looked at the conditions of their world. At that moment I joined all who had prayed these words through the years. And with another deep sigh, I prayed: *Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.*

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 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 Kristen Venne
507-256-4288
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

FIRST LUTHERAN - AFLC
303 Kadel 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 p.m. 5 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday
Call to Prayer: 7 p.m. Tuesday
Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday
Bible Study: 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
firstlutheran.org
Worship Service: 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN - LCMC
8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope
Pastor Sandy Miller
507-451-3854
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School, Adult Ed:
10:15 a.m. Sun.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN - LCMC
2500 7th Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Greg Schlicker
507-451-4125
goodshepherdowatonna.com
Worship: 9 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 Edwardson
507-789-6661
Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN - LCMC
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Grubel
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
Rev. Suzanne Frodlich,
Interim Pastor

507-583-2038 or 507-437-3300
www.rglutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School
(Sept. - May): 10:15 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN - LCMC
4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
Pastor Ann 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 Daling
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 Jackie
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 Doherty
507-567-2474
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN - LCMC
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-562-2272
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN - ELCA
2781 SW 52nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor Rev. Dean Smith
507-451-2165
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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lctowatonna.org
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Associate Pastor:
Rev. Amanda Pley
Deacon: Kris Oppgaard
Worship: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School:
8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN - ELCA
104 First St. SE., Hayfield
Pastor Paul 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 Buehghauser
507-451-0447
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m.

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

ZION LUTHERAN - ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor Rev. Dean Smith
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat.
Daily Mass:
8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri.
(Communion Service
8 a.m. Thursday)
Adoration Chapel available
Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Key lock required after
hours or weekends

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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

CHRIST THE KING
205 Second Ave. NW, Medford
507-451-6333
Father James Starasinski
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat.
Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 SW First St., New Richmond
Pastor Anthony Anokiyam
507-234-6244
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LOTOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
Father John Wilnot
507-583-2784
www.lotomysl.org
Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m.
with Children's Church Sacrament
of Reconciliation Wednesdays at
6:30 p.m. Faith Formation classes
for K-8th Confirmation
Second Sunday of month:
Family Faith Formation
Lotomysl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday
Lotomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other month

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
120 NE Second St., Hayfield
Father John Wilnot
507-477-2256
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday
Reconciliation: 3:45 p.m. Saturday
8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

SACRED HEART PARISH
815 E. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
Father John Sauer
Parochial Vicar:
Pastor Paul Hauschild
507-451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday;
8:30 a.m., 8:00 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
Pastor John Wilnot
507-583-2784
www.stcolumbanuschurch.com

Mass: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Reconciliation: 9 a.m.
First Friday & Saturday
7 p.m. Friday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S. Elm., Owatonna
Father James Starasinski
Deacon Patrick Fagan
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat.
Daily Mass:
8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri.
(Communion Service
8 a.m. Thursday)
Adoration Chapel available
Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Key lock required after
hours or weekends

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

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

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

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
43088 180th St., Medford
(Seven miles west of
Medford on CR 23)
Pastors J & Stefanie Morgan
507-453-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sun.

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
200 Sixth St. NW, Ellendale
Pastor Scott Isak
507-684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. Sun.

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST
815 E. University, Owatonna
Rev. Scott Isak
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
Joyce Parker, Associate Pastor
507-451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship (Pathways):
9 a.m. Sunday

NON-DENOMINATIONAL
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130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna
Pastor Keith Haskell
507-215-2249
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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Fairy good as sisters create garden

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"It was Shelby's idea" to make a Fairy Garden, said her three sisters.

Shelby Kasperek, 8, and her three sisters, Emily Kasperek, 6; Haley McIntosh, 9 and Carly McIntosh, 14, have teamed together to create a beautiful mini Fairy Garden.

"It was really fun to do," says a proud Shelby. The Fairy Garden is positioned on a special stand created for it.

"Once the other girls saw what Shelby was doing, they wanted in," remarked dad Andy Kasperek. Mom is Anna McIntosh and grandparents are Susie and Gary Thorson. The two families reside next to the Pine Springs Pool.

A Fairy Garden is a miniature garden complete with structures and actual living plants. It is designed to give your green thumb a place to tend year-round and to lure fairies and with them, good luck, to your home.

It's a tiny space created and tended with love. The design and components are limited only by the creator's imagination.

The Fairy Garden features a fisherman (Andy) by a pond, a girl reading a book in a gazebo, a fairy wearing a rain jacket, a fairy on a dog, a girl watering carrots, a girl holding a bird and a girl singing songs. "I'm

that musical girl," says Emily.

A beautiful white arch leads viewers to some colorful flowers which have some honey bees as guests.

Pretty rocks lead viewers to a pond. "I had a jar of rocks and put them in the garden," says Shelby.

"The girls came up with the ideas and I just asked them where they wanted the items placed," said Andy, a proud dad.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Lots of love went into the building of this Fairy Garden. The architects were Shelby and Emily Kasperek and Carly and Haley McIntosh. Supporting their efforts are parents Andy Kasperek, Anna McIntosh and grandparents Susie and Gary Thorson.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

It was an act of sisterly love that resulted in the construction of this Fairy Garden. Shown from left at their Blooming Prairie home are: Emily Kasperek, Haley McIntosh, Carly McIntosh and Shelby Kasperek.

COUNTY OFFICES: open to public again FROM A1

No visitors, Golberg said, will be allowed in employee work areas. All visitors must remain at the customer side of the counter or in designated appointed areas, he said.

The custodial staff has been instructed to disinfect high-touch areas, including door knobs and handles, light switches and restroom fixtures, twice a day at about 9 a.m. and 12 noon, Golberg said.

The county has banned out of town business travel for employees until further notice. Interviews are being conducted via conference call or video conference. Golberg said employees are being asked to conduct meetings with remote technology whenever possible.

Golberg noted all the procedures put in place by the county are set forth from guidelines

provided by the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

During the first week of fully reopening, Golberg said things have been going pretty well across the county facilities. "We will continue to learn and improve as we gain experience in delivering services through this pandemic emergency," he said.

A BLOSSOM THANK YOU



Blooming Prairie Schools and Administration would like to thank the entire Blooming Prairie community and all others involved that helped in making the weekend of May 30 & 31 Graduation festivities very memorable for our Class of 2020 and their families.

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Vote by mail coming to 2 precincts in Steele County

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

For the first time ever, voters in two precincts in Steele County will be utilizing all mail ballots in this year's elections.

County Auditor Laura Ihrke, who serves as the county's chief election judge, said residents in the City of Ellendale and Berlin Township will vote by

mail ballots this year, which means they will not be showing up at the polls for the primary election on Aug. 11 or Election Day on Nov. 3.

"This is the first time in Steele County that we will have mail ballots," Ihrke said. She noted voting in the rest of the county's precincts will remain normal in person on Election Day or through absentee voting.

For the primary election, registered voters in Ellendale and Berlin Township will receive their ballots between June 26 and July 28, according to Ihrke. The ballots will then have to be mailed back to the auditor's office.

In Minnesota, mail ballots are available to residents who live in small towns and townships with fewer than

400 voters. Ihrke notified nine precincts in Steele County that qualify for voting by mail.

"With COVID-19, we thought we would see if anyone is interested (in voting by mail)," Ihrke said. She noted Ellendale and Berlin Township were the only two that opted for mail ballots. "It will be nice to see how it works for those two entities," she said.

Ihrke said anyone who does not receive a ballot in the mail in either precinct will still be able to vote.

She relates the concept of mail voting to absentee voting, though the two are different in that absentee voting is available to anyone in any precinct.

The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has sug-

gested that states move toward mail voting to reduce contact among voters, poll workers and the sharing of pens and other equipment.

Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon wanted to have all Minnesotans vote by mail this year because of the health pandemic. However, GOP lawmakers wanted nothing to do with the idea.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Graduating senior Whitni Minton of Owatonna pops out of the sun roof of her vehicle in Friday night's Cruise Main for 2020 graduates in Owatonna. She joined other in cruising through downtown Owatonna for about three hours. The Steele County Safe and Drug Free Coalition sponsored the event.

Cruisin in honor of grads

Coalition takes to the streets to recognize Class of 2020

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

When Whitni Minton heard about the chance to revive a past tradition that had stopped many years ago, she immediately fell in love with the idea and worked to make it happen for this year's graduating seniors in Owatonna.

The tradition of cruising Main Street in downtown Owatonna became especially appealing this year after COVID-19 raged and kept seniors from enjoying their last few months together in school. On Friday night, seniors took part in Cruise Main sponsored by the Steele County Safe and Drug Free Coalition of which Min-



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Cindy Trapp of Owatonna flashes a sign she made to graduates as they cruise past Central Park and through the downtown streets of Owatonna Friday night. Her message simply was, "You survived COVID-19 and persevered."

SEE CRUISIN IN HONOR, B6

Ganfield named interim director at Steele History Center

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

As the search continues for a new leader, the Steele County History Center in Owatonna is now operating with an acting director.

Within the past month, the Board of Directors of the Steele County Historical Society named Jerry Ganfield of Owatonna as interim director. It's a role Ganfield is familiar with as he also served as interim director a few years ago prior to James Lund-

gren coming on board in 2018. Lundgren left the society late last year to accept a position in Missouri.

Ganfield will be responsible for the day-to-day duties, scheduling events, sponsorships and working with the firm that handles payroll, according to Ryan Gillespie, president of the society. "He does it all well," she said. She added Ganfield is treasurer of the society and is a "very devoted volunteer."

SEE GANFIELD NAMED, B6

Suicide attempts and self-injuring behavior



Steele Talkin'
MARK SKRIEN

Question: My 15-year-old daughter recently cut her arm with a razor blade and told me about it one week later. Was it a suicide attempt?

Answer: Mental health professionals are frequently asked to assess and intervene when questions arise about suicide. Interventions involve difficult decisions and are emotionally taxing for all the people involved. Variables to examine and assess include previous attempts,

specificity of the plan, seriousness of the plan, depression, stress, substance abuse, isolation, self-injury, and others. The idea of inflicting pain by self-injuring needs to be separated from an attempted suicide.

Sometimes people injure themselves by cutting with a sharp instrument such as a knife or razor blade, burning the skin with a cigarette, or inserting pins in the body. While it may appear that the self-injuring behavior is an attempt to complete suicide, it is more often an attempt to relieve unpleasant feelings rather than to end one's life.

There is a difference between a suicide attempt and self-injuring behavior. The expressed intent of a suicide at-

SEE SUICIDE ATTEMPTS, B6

Dairy princesses crowned for Steele County

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

In a year where most activities have been anything but normal, the recognition for Steele County's dairy princesses can be added to that list.

It didn't come with all the hoopla that normally happens, but the Steele County Dairy Association crowned its dairy princesses at the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna May 31. The association typically holds a banquet in March, but it was canceled this year because of the COVID-19 crisis.

This year's princesses are Kylie Kruckeberg, Sam Fredin, Lilly Zollner and Katelyn Rysavy, all of Owatonna.

na. They will be helping the local dairy association with dairy promotions in the coming months.

Rysavy grew up on a dairy farm while the other three live in the city and have become involved in dairy operations through a non-traditional way. They developed their interest in dairy by attending Cow Camp while in grade school.

In addition to being named a local dairy princess, Zollner recently competed in the Princess Kay of the Milky Way competition for the top statewide honor. Though she didn't get selected as one of the 10 finalists, she plans to try again next year. "If you don't get into the top

10, you can run again until you are 21," she explained.

With the coronavirus pandemic going on, the Princess Kay contest went virtual this year where contestants were judged on-line instead of in-person in St. Cloud. There were three parts to the competition, including personal interview and speech.

Princess Kay candidates are judged on their general knowledge of the dairy industry, communication skills and enthusiasm for promoting dairy. Midwest Dairy sponsors the program, which is funded by dairy farmers through their promotion checkoff.

SEE DAIRY PRINCESSES, B6



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The 2020 Steele County American Dairy Association's princesses are, from left: Kylie Kruckeberg, Sam Fredin, Lilly Zollner and Katelyn Rysavy. They were crowned during a ceremony at the fairgrounds on May 31.

Summers projects now a priority for Steele County Fair

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic came a myriad of cancellations and postponements, perhaps none more disheartening for locals than the cancellation of this year's Steele County Free Fair, the largest county fair in Minnesota.

Now that the board has officially ruled that this year's celebration will be a no-go, a host of summer projects highlight its current agenda.

These include continued work on the north end of the track to ensure that there is plenty of grass coverage by the time next year's fair rolls around, painting work on the grounds, and some electrical work.

"I tried to come up with the least expensive stuff that we could do," Director Josh Prokepec told the board at this month's regular meeting. "Obviously painting is an easy one. I think we need to pick a dollar amount and try to use it."

All those on the board were eager to take advantage of the current situation. "It's a prime opportunity to get some stuff done without anyone bothering us," Prokepec said. "Without a timeline we can knock out whatever we want, and obviously that doesn't happen ever."

"The big thing would be the north end of the racetrack, it would be huge to get that done right and get grass on there by the end of the summer so it's full by next spring," he said. There are also plans to get some matching aesthetics that will look nice with the

new bathroom that was put in the Beer Garden last year.

Prokepec explained his reasoning for updating the interior of the Beer Garden. "It's become quite a bit of an attraction for weddings, and the one thing they complain about is the color, so if we could get something neutral, that would look nice," he said. "I think we have to take advantage of this," he said to the board after pitching some summer projects to move forward on. "The fair's not going to stop happening, it's going to happen next year, and we have this uninterrupted time to take advantage of."

The board was in agreement that small-scale summer projects were a perfect way of seizing the opportunity such a bad situation has resulted in. After a small discussion, board members approved up to \$10,000 towards summer projects.

As the ripple of cancellations has come to affect county fairs all across the country, Manager Scott Kozelka reported that all of their vendors and partners have been understanding and easy to work with in order to plan for next year, and smooth over returns for this year.

While the cancellation of the fair has been a sad note during a year filled with them, the board is adamant about continuing to improve its product as they ready for next year's celebration. The days are ticking down already, and everyone across Steele County will be more than ready to get out and have fun in 2021.

Blooming Prairie 2020 banquet one to remember

BY ERIN O'BRIEN
BP FFA REPORTER

This year's 2020 Blooming Prairie FFA banquet will surely be one to remember for years to come as this was the first virtual FFA banquet.

Even though the banquet wasn't the usual shaking of hands, hugs and handing out awards, it was still a great banquet with many laughs and some tears.

In the banquet, we recognized this year's graduating seniors and all they did for FFA. This year's graduating seniors were Courtney Espe and Kaiden Finley. Our honorary degrees went out to Kevin and Kathi Finley along with Lisa Espe. This year's star Greenhand was Haven Carlson.

All together this year we had 33 Career Development Events Certificates or CDE's. General Livestock: Boone Carlson, Cole Christianson, Haven Carlson, Lexi Steckleberg, Chris Nantz, Grady Steckleberg, Bo Zwiener, Sean O'Brien, Brandon Ripka.

Dairy Judging (1st in Region): Maggie Bruns; 2nd Individual, Jack

Bruns; 4th Individual, Erin O'Brien, Madison Thurnau.

Dairy Handlers: Lexi Ripka, Allison Krohnberg, Megan Oswald.

Small Engines: Kaiden Kinley
Public Speaking: Lexi Ripka
Small Animal (7th in Region):

Courtney Espe; 10th Individual, Clare Rennie, Cyprus Schleicher, Ethan Marzolf, Paul Sunde, Jonathan Grant, Will Sunde, Brandon Ripka.

Ag Mechanics: Kaiden Finley
Horse Judging: Graci Svoboda
Olivia Anderson

Caitlyn Stangle
Ella Smith
Farm Bureau: Lexi Ripka; 2nd in Region.

Talent: Courtney Espe
Crops: Brandon Ripka

Every year we hand out Senior Certificates, another way we say thank you for being in FFA and for all you did while in FFA.

Kaiden Finley has been in FFA for six years. Courtney Espe has been in FFA for two years. Thank you, seniors. You will truly be missed in FFA.

Certificate of Application is the FFA's way of saying 'thank you' to the people and companies that made this year possible.

Thank you to our top producer, Justin Krell. Thank you, Rodney Krell, Jim O'Connor, Janice Pederson, Steele Co American Dairy Association, Central Farm Service, Brad and Crystal Ripka, Cate Carlson, Kevin and Kathi Finley, Pat O'Connor, Bruce and Tammy Wolf, Katelyn Nantz. Without all of you this year wouldn't have been possible.

Throughout FFA, members are awarded different degrees. These degrees show hard work and determination.

Discovery Degree: Logan Marzolf
Brandon Ripka
Jaylee Schleicher

Greenhand Degree: Haven Carlson
Ethan Marzolf

Clare Rennie
Alex Riley
Cyprus Schleicher

Lexi Steckleberg
Madeline Stoen
Paul Sunde

Elliot Swenson
Madison Thurnau
Chapter Degree: Ethan Grant
Colin Jordison
Casey Lynn
Chris Nantz

Lexi Ripka

FFA is known for our blue jackets. The FFA jacket unifies members in a long-standing tradition and reminds them that they are part of something larger than themselves. To earn an FFA jacket members must recite our FFA creed. Jackets this year were awarded to Paul Sunde, Lexi Ripka and Clare Rennie.

The True Grit Award is an award given to an FFA member that has put in countless hours and effort for the FFA. This member has shown hard work and determination. Our True Grit Award winner this year is Kaiden Finley.

Our annual Fruit Sales project is always a big hit in Blooming Prairie. The ag shop is packed wall to wall with boxes of fruit, meats, cheeses and the occasional pickled herring. The highest fruit sales winner this year was Lexi and Brandon Ripka with \$3,497.50. Thank you Ripka family!

We will be conducting the BP FFA Officer Interviews at a later date this summer, with the announcing of the new team at the Ice Cream Social in the beginning of September.

Owatonna Foundation scholarship deadline nears

The Owatonna Foundation is pleased to announce a scholarship opportunity for women. Funded by June A. and Melanie Nelson, the scholarship is for women who wish to return to school and further their education in a non-traditional career.

A strong supporter of Owatonna, and with a passion for women's education, Nelson stated, "My late mother and I were thrilled to be able to fund this scholarship program that supports two \$1,500 annual scholarships for women pursuing a non-traditional career path. It is so important

to be an advocate for women's education, supporting them in any way possible to ensure their future success, whether financially, by mentoring, or other support. We look forward to the Foundation's well established scholarship program we will be able to help empower women with a better education."

Scholarship criteria and applications are available on the Foundation's website at: www.owatonnafoundation.org/apply-for-a-scholarship or from Foundation Scholarship Coordinator, Jill Holmes. Please note that the scholarship criteria

for the Nelson Scholarship have changed and previous recipients may now apply for a second time. If you have questions, please contact Jill Holmes at 507-455-3058. The deadline for applications is June 25. Please note that due to the COVID 19 pandemic applications are only available on line at this time.

The Owatonna Foundation, now in its 62nd year of serving the Owatonna community, provides capital grants in Owatonna and its environs in four areas: community, arts, recreation, and education. The Foundation also provides

\$30,000 annually for both traditional and non-traditional scholarships for 2-year colleges and technical schools.

The Foundation was established in 1957 with the goal of improving the quality of life for present and future generations of Owatonna residents. Since then, the Owatonna Foundation has committed more than \$12 million dollars in grants and scholarships to local organizations and students. For more information about the Owatonna Foundation please visit: www.owatonnafoundation.org, or call 507-455-2995.

ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS
By Shannon Nordstrom and Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics, I keep smelling something in my car, but I cannot put an exact thing to the smell. I have had others ride with me and they can not smell it but when I drive, I smell it every time. I do not see anything leaking on the ground and when I have gone to the shop, they do not tell me it is leaking anywhere. How do I identify the smell?

Scott in Kalamazoo Michigan

That is a big question. Smells in cars can come from just about anywhere. A good start is to identify what it is not. You need to find out if the smell is coming from either inside of the vehicle or from under the hood or even under the car. We once had a customer that had a really bad smell that we identified as a skunk that he ran over several months earlier and the smell was just stuck to the bottom of the car and eventually went away. A good place to start would be a check at a shop with a specific look for the smell. They will look for any leaks under the hood and especially ones that could contact the exhaust system or hot engine components. Even one drop of fluid on the hot exhaust can give a very large smell. Coolant leaks also are very smelly. A very small leak in a heater core, even a drop can carry inside the car.

Take care, The Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics, I have a 1997 Chevy S-10 Truck with very faded headlights. They have become so bad that I can use my high beam lights and leave them on, and no one even flashes their lights at me anymore. If I do not use the high beams, I cannot even drive the truck at night anymore. I have looked around and I see this on many other cars. What can I do to get better light?

Bonnie in Palm Desert California

This is a very common issue on vehicles today. Vehicles used replaceable sealed beam lamps for many years that were glass and they never faded. Occasionally they would be hit with a rock and break the glass and it was only a simple matter of replacing the bulb to get back to the full factory illumination. The next thing we saw was replaceable bulb units and many were made of glass but they had a drawback, they would also break when struck with a rock but they were much more expensive than the old bulbs so the manufacturers went to the plastic housings. Unfortunately, the plastic lenses all fade over time. To bring them back to their glory you can either replace them with new if that is in your budget, or you can use a headlamp restoration kit. These kits can be found at most auto parts stores and can be used by most do-it-yourselfers or your favorite shop can help.

Take care, The Motor Medics

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SENIOR HIGH CHOIR

Back, from left: Sierra Larson, Anna Pauly, Katie Quandt, Brittany Johnson and Haven Carlson; third row: Abigail Hefling, Melanie Winzenburg, Madison Lea, Garrett Weckwerth, Dominik King, Samuel Skillestad, Anna Suchanek and Abigail Thoreson; second row: Micah Donnelly, Christopher Burke, Jesse Cardenas, Jacob Weinberger, Zander Peterson, Ethan Ehlers, Aidan Holmes, Cade Christianson; first row: Grace Krejci, Jenna Johnson, Bailey Brown, Hope Johnson, Anna Thostenson, Adrianna Bermea and Lily Bakken.



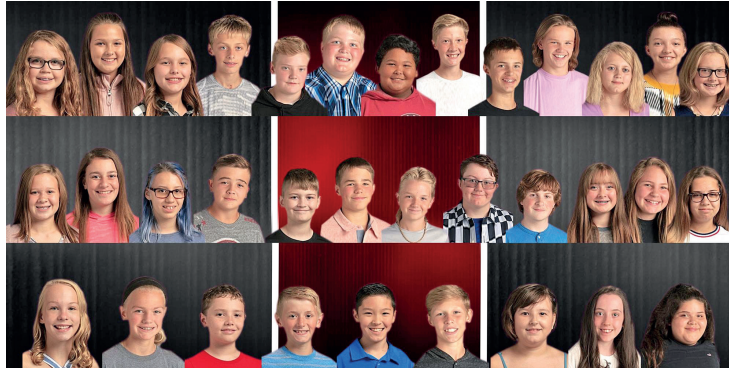
JUNIOR HIGH BAND

First row, from left: Naomi Lebak, Cameron Blume, Alexis White, Gage Mullenbach, Elise Arnold, Nash Fawver and Jaxon Harberts; second row: Claire Foster, Caitlyn Stangl, Molly Robins, Luke Heimgartner, Lilly Wacek and Ella Smith; third row: Dylan Anderson, Grant Magnuson, Hailey Schumacher, Anna Kuglin, Jaylee Schleicher, Shanna Halvorson and Shawnee Snyder; fourth row: Aidan Slowinski, Carter Bishop, Maxmar Ogren, Sophie Thomas, Ethan Beauseigneur and Alex Lea; fifth row: Gabe Hein, Cooper Cooke, Director Ross Reishus, Derek Kubicek and Zach Hein. Not pictured: Elizabeth Dohrmann.



SENIOR HIGH BAND

First row, from left: Hailey Freese, Olivia Anderson, Natasha Gonzales, Madison Thurnau, Asha Lighthizer, Grace Magnuson and Natalie Scheper; second row: Emily Kubicek, Clare Rennie, Abby Smith, Alexis Steckleberg, Dakota Mueller, Marquette Millam, Chloe McCarthy and Rachel Thompson; third row: Dawson Sorensen, Bradley Simen, Samuel Michaud, Elizabeth Bramstedt, Caleb Wacek, Emily Anderson and Samuel Fennell; fourth row: Yembi Espinoza, Stirling Hart, Samuel Pirk, Ethan Marzolf, Tyler Iverson and Samuel Smith; fifth row: Viridiana Villarreal, Parker Kubicek, Director Ross Reishus and Tyrone Suhl. Not pictured: Colton Krell.



7TH GRADE CHOIR

Top row, from left: Abby Jordison, Catelyn Bartless, Nicole Penkava, Will Sunde, Cooper Garness, Grady Steckelberg, Jayden Van, Alex Lea, Jacob Pauly, Cole Wangen, Madison Madsen, Addison Lyman and Audrey Fort; middle row: Sophia Schiller, Mia Johnson, Zoey Alwes, Sande Hamersma, Hunter Ranvek, Bo Zwiener, Alec Wangen, Kohan Miller, Sean O'Brien, Mairead Holmes, Milayna Davis and Ariana Paulson; bottom row: Maveida Warner, Brianna Depitch, Carter Bauer, Jack Bruns, Elijah Skillestad, Brady Kittelson, Cleopatra Carlson, Lauren Brown, and Mallory Pena.



JAZZ BAND

Front row, from left: Samuel Fennell, Elizabeth Bramstedt, Natalie Scheper, Samuel Smith and Ella Smith; second row: Samuel Michaud, Dakota Mueller and Caleb Wacek.



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STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS

Outdoor dining available at Kernel Restaurant

Owner excited to open up indoor dining once again

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

One of the hardest hit businesses throughout the coronavirus pandemic has been the restaurant industry. The Kernel Restaurant in Owatonna has been battling the government shut down since mid-March.

Kernel owner Brad Olson says his sales plummeted 80-95% from March to the end of May, which makes up three of his six busiest months of the year. "You are really just trying to survive," said Olson, who has solely owned the Kernel since 2010.

When the shut down initially happened, Olson admitted he was in a state of shock. He said he took a week off just to collect his thoughts

and figure out what to do next. "You're not prepared for something like this," he said.

The only source of revenue over the past three months has been limited curbside service. Olson said more people started to take advantage of curbside toward the end of the complete shut down.

Beginning June 1, the Kernel began offering outdoor dining with about 12 tables. Olson said his restaurant really wasn't set up to handle outdoor dining, "but we're doing what we have to do to get business in."

Even though the Kernel will be allowed to bring back indoor dining up to 50% starting this week, Olson plans to keep the outdoor option for diners. "We are going to see how much demand there is

for it (outdoor dining)," he said. "We are going to do everything we can do to get business in the door," he added.

Asked about being allowed 50% capacity, Olson said, "It's definitely a step in the right direction. I hope it will get increased in another three weeks. I'm really hoping they will phase us in more than 50%."

He is holding out hope that things will return to normal around fall.

Olson and his staff have taken many precautions inside the restaurant to make sure it's safe for customers. A new menu has been added so that it's easy to wash off with sanitizer. Olson has installed many hand sanitizers throughout the restaurant for employees as well as guests. Workers have gone through extra training on social distancing as well as wearing personal protective equipment like cloth masks.

The entire dining area has gone through "a lot of cleaning and sanitizing," Olson said. The area has been reduced by two rows of tables. A counter by the kitchen has been removed to comply with social distancing requirements. The Kernel previously was able to seat 140 guests and now with the 50% rule, it will be about 70.

"We are not 100% where we want to be, but it's a step in the right direction," Olson said.

"Though business has been shuttered for several months, Olson isn't worried about



With cloth masks in place, waitresses at the Kernel Restaurant in Owatonna serve food to a group of six people Saturday afternoon. The Kernel began outdoor seating on June 1 in the initial phase of reopening allowed by Gov. Tim Walz. The second phase will allow 50% indoor capacity starting this week.

"We are not 100% where we want to be, but it's a step in the right direction."

Brad Olson
Kernel Restaurant Owner

people coming back. He pointed out that the Kernel is a small restaurant different from the big box stores and chains. "It's part of your lifestyle," he says.

Olson can't wait to return to the large family gatherings his restaurant hosts on a regular basis. "People come for family get togethers once a month with 20 to 30 people from different

walks of life," he said. "I have enjoyed being part of Owatonna and Steele County," he added.

Prior to the pandemic, the Kernel employed about 45 people. With the curbside offering, the employee level was down to five. Olson took advantage of the federal government's Paycheck Protection Program to keep his business afloat. He was relieved to learn

just this past week that the timeframe to use funds has been extended from eight weeks to 24 weeks.

"The payroll protection was a good idea," Olson said. "We're doing our best to weather this storm."

He hopes to increase his staffing to around 12 in the coming weeks and eventually get back to 100%.

Just in case people have forgotten over the past few months, the Kernel has great home cooking at affordable prices. And, Olson quickly points out, "We have really good homemade pies."



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

The Kernel Restaurant in Owatonna opened an outdoor patio on June 1 after being forced to shut down when the COVID-19 pandemic began in mid-March. Beginning today (Wednesday) restaurants will be able to open up with 50% capacity inside. In addition to serving in the restaurant, Kernel owner Brad Olson plans to keep the outdoor seating as a way to serve more people.

Jumpstarting business becomes focus in Owatonna

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The new program established in light of the COVID-19 crisis has raised \$50,000 so far to help struggling small businesses.

Brad Meier, director of the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce, said Jumpstart Owatonna has set a goal of raising \$125,000. "It's a big number," he acknowledges. But, he added, "We will

do the best we can do with it."

Athletic associations in Owatonna as well as individuals have contributed to Jumpstart. Donations may be made online at www.owatonna.org/jump-start-owatonna.

Jumpstart will award grants of \$500 to \$1,000 to qualifying Owatonna businesses. The grants can be used for cleaning supplies, equipment

repair, supplies, marketing or personal protective equipment.

The requirements are for for-profit small business with 20 or less employees and have demonstrated financial impact from COVID-19.

Meier credits Tom Peterson of Climate by Design International with getting Jumpstart off the ground. Meier said Peterson wanted to know how to extend help to small businesses that were forced to close since the coronavirus epidemic began in mid-March.

Besides cash donations, Jumpstart is also accepting in-kind donations of materials that can be given out to businesses. For example, Meier said, Gandy Company and Viracoon have donated

25 counter glass tops, which Meier referred to as "sneeze guards."

Other companies are also volunteering their services like marketing to help business owners get back on their feet.

"It's kind of a mix of in-kind resources and dollars itself," Meier said, adding cash will be needed the most by businesses.

Once grants are awarded, Meier would like to check back with the businesses in about six months to see where they are at with their operations.

The goal, Meier said, is to keep every business operating through this crisis. "Small businesses are a crucial component to the economic backbone of our community," he said.

Minimizer releases Kenworth medium-duty floor mats

Minimizer's floor mat expansion into medium-duty trucks continues with the release of Kenworth-specific floor mats.

There are eight new floor mat kits, which fit the T270, T300, T370, T600, T800, and W900. For years and specifications, Minimizer suggests using the Floor Mat Selector on its website.

"Our line of custom molded floor mats has been very popular with the heavy-duty trucking industry," Minimizer Director of Marketing Steve Hansen said. "The product is simple to use, keeps trucks clean, and saves fleets money, so for most customers, it's a no-brainer."

The announcement comes just a few months after the Test & Tortured brand debuted its Peterbilt medium-duty floor mats in January.

"We've received fantastic feedback since the Peterbilt release, and the expect-

ation is this one will be a home run, too," Hansen said. "People put a lot of time and energy into keeping their trucks looking sharp, and in-cab sanitizing is an increasingly important topic for fleets."

Minimizer custom-molded floor mats utilize a tray system, which makes cleaning easy by preventing liquids, spills, and other materials from escaping the mat. The product is designed to be removed, cleaned, and reinserted with ease, so the process takes minutes, not hours.

"We've had fleets claim six-figure savings by putting our floor mats in their trucks," Hansen said.

"Whether you own or lease your trucks, this product makes sense because it saves time and money," he added.

For more information and to find the correct part number for a specific truck, visit www.minimizer.com.

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STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS

Unemployment Rate jumps to 8.1% in April

Minnesota's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 8.1% in April, according to numbers released last week by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).

The number of unemployed Minnesotans increased by 160,627 to a total of 249,453 from March to April.

Seasonally adjusted payroll employment decreased by 359,800 jobs in April, or 12.2%, with the private sector down 334,700 jobs, or 13.3%, during the month.

"DEED is dedicated to helping Minnesotans who have lost their job or had their hours reduced over the past two months," said DEED Commissioner Steve Grove.

"We were one of the first states in the nation to fully implement all three elements of the CARES Act to quickly get benefits out the door to as many people as possible. While the COVID-19 pandemic has challenged our state in many ways, we continue to work closely with our state agency partners and health, business and labor leaders to reopen Minnesota businesses, safely return more people to work, and stem the tide of COVID-19 on our economy."

The employment numbers released today show the first full month of COVID-19 impact from mid-March when measures were first taken to slow the spread of COVID-19 through mid-April.

In addition to monthly employment data, DEED analysts use other data to track employment. This includes daily data on the number of new and reactivated Unemployment Insurance applications.

The latest daily Unemployment Insurance report showed 695,156 new applications and reactivated accounts from March 16 through May 20.

The number of people applying for Unemployment Insurance (UI) and the share of the labor force represented by those applying for UI is not the same as the official number of people who are unemployed or the monthly unemployment rate.

The monthly unemployment rate is based heavily on a household survey called the Current Population Survey (CPS) conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics that asks about 900 households monthly in Minnesota about their work and job-seeking status.

The period tracked through this survey ends in mid-month, so reflects the employment situation through the first part of April.

Unemployment Insurance applicant data does not match unemployment data for several reasons. One key reason is that workers can apply for and receive unemployment benefits if their hours have been cut but they are still working.

Such workers would not be counted as un-

employed in the official unemployment rate. In the official rate, if a person works even one hour a week they are counted as employed, not unemployed.

Minnesota's Labor Market Information (LMI) Office maintains a variety of data tools to provide updated and accurate information to agency and state leadership, as well as to local governments, development agencies, social service providers and employers to help leaders make decisions during these difficult times.

Among the regularly updated public data tools on the DEED website are the UI Data Tools which have daily, weekly and monthly data broken out by applicant demographics, geography and occupation.

Minnesota's labor force numbers fell by 31,594 individuals in April. As a result, Minnesota's labor force participation rate declined to 68.8% in April from 69.1% in March, and 70.2% in February.

Minnesota's unemployment rate rose from 2.9% (revised down from 3.1%) in March to 8.1% in April. The national unemployment rate rose from 4.4% in March to 14.7% in April.

Minnesota lost 387,894 payroll jobs, down 13.1% over the year, while the Private sector lost 361,673 jobs, down 14.3%.

All supersectors lost jobs in April over the year with the exception of Mining, which added 101 jobs.

By far the largest relative declines were in Leisure & Hospitality, down 148,593 jobs or -55.5% followed by Other Services, down 32,245 jobs or -28.3% over the year.

Job losses in these two supersectors alone accounted for 47% of all over the year job losses in April.

Over the year, employment fell in all Minnesota MSAs in April. It is interesting to note that the three regions with the largest employment declines experienced them for different reasons.

The Duluth-Superior MSA had a higher than state average concentration of employment in Leisure & Hospitality which was hit hardest during the pandemic. Likewise, at just over 45%, the Rochester MSA has the largest share of employment in Education and Health Services of any MSA in the state, and saw a nearly 10% decline in that domain over the year.

As the largest metro area in the state, the Twin Cities has over two-thirds of the state's total employment, and slightly more than two-thirds of the state's jobs in the hard hit Leisure & Hospitality, Other Services, and Information industries, as well as a higher concentration of employment in non-critical Retail Trade subsectors that were directly impacted.

Retail Trade dropped 12.1% year-over-year in the Twin Cities, compared to -7.7% in Duluth and -5.9% in Rochester.

Al-Corn hits 1 billion gallons of ethanol

KAREN M. JORGENSEN
EDITOR@KMTL.COM

It has been a rough couple of years for ethanol plants nationwide, and the Al-Corn Clean Fuel plant in Claremont has not been spared the pain. But on June 4 the plant hit a happy milestone as it produced its one-billionth gallon of ethanol.

A group of Claremont area farmers got the idea for Al-Corn in 1994 and ground was broken for the plant in 1995.

Over the years the plant saw several expansions with the most recent one completed in 2017, which brought the facility to a 125-million-gallon production capacity, which allowed them to purchase an additional 25-27 million bushels of corn per year.

The ethanol industry had already been suffering from oil price wars and trade disputes when the COVID-19 pandemic struck earlier this year. As the pandemic closed businesses and other activities, people drove considerably less and thus the need for ethanol dropped dramatically.

As the demand for ethanol for fuel dropped because of the pandemic ethanol industries, as well as the Midwest saw their markets collapse and either cut production or closed completely.

While the amount of ethanol Al-Corn produced for fuel dropped, company officials made the decision to add a new product to their business.

"I want to keep everybody working," Al-Corn CEO Randy Doyle said at the time, "and to keep grinding corn."

So the company looked for another market for their ethanol. They knew the demand for hand sanitizer was growing and they knew hand sanitizer requires ethanol. The solution, provide the product another industry needed.

The ethanol used in hand sanitizer is not exactly the same as that used in fuel, Doyle said. The company set up a separate line to make the sanitizer ethanol where the product is distilled differently, Doyle said. "The purity (for hand sanitizer) is a little higher," he said.

The ethanol used in vehicles does not need to have all the impurities removed, he said, but that used in hand sanitizers must be as pure as possible.

With the new product available, Doyle said, they still had to find buyers and they found them in area craft distilleries that had also switched to making hand sanitizer.

As the stay-at-home orders have been lifted and people are driving more, the demand for ethanol has increased and plants that had been shuttered have been reopening and those like Al-Corn that kept producing but at a lower rate have stepped up their production allowing Al-Corn to hit the one-billion gallon milestone.

Hy-Vee KidsFit launches Find Your Smile campaign

Hy-Vee, Inc.'s popular KidsFit At Home daily programming is transitioning to the Find Your Smile campaign to help families continue health and wellness fun all summer. "Find Your Smile" is perfect for children of all ages and their families as they explore the eight dimensions of wellness: physical, emotional, social, intellectual, career, spiritual, environmental and financial.

The Find Your Smile challenge workbooks were mailed to all current Hy-Vee KidsFit Club members, and can also be found in your local Hy-Vee store. You can also still join the KidsFit Club to receive your free workbook

in the mail at <https://hy-veekidsfit.com/sign-up/>.

Once you've received your challenge workbook, simply submit your entry for each of the eight dimensions of wellness challenges following the rules inside the workbook for the chance to win Hy-Vee One Step products for yourself and trees to be planted in your community provided by the Arbor Day Foundation. Three winners will be selected based on effort, creativity, aesthetic and execution. Entries must be submitted by Aug. 31.

For more information, visit <https://hy-veekidsfit.com/find-your-smile/find-your-smile/>.

Scientist makes key gene discovery at Hormel Institute

Using CryoEM technology, Dr. Bin Liu and his team at The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota discovered how bacteria use gene transcription to produce the flagellum that allow them to move and swim.

To know how bacteria control movement is critically important because this swimming ability is a way disease-causing bacteria can gain a foothold and become more difficult to eliminate. Researchers believe this study may provide a new drug intervention site for antibiotics.

"We are excited about this research because it gives us new information about transcription initiation in bacteria, information that will help us fight back against disease," said Dr. Liu.

Liu is head of the Transcription and Gene Regulation lab at The Hormel Institute and members of his lab, including a postdoc and former SUITE intern, assisted in this research. Dr. Liu's article, "Structural basis of bacterial σ^{54} -mediated transcription reveals roles of the RNA polymerase β' -binding domain" was published in *The EMBO Journal*, EMBO's flagship journal with an international reputation for quality and originality.

Transcription is the first part of the process of how cells use DNA to make functional things. Liu studies transcription in disease-causing bacteria, in which an important part is to understand how and why that

process begins - transcription initiation.

In bacteria, different sigma factors dictate the transcription of specific groups of genes. For the research published in his current article, Liu and his team looked at the transcription initiation for a specific sigma factor that controls the production of flagellum, tiny microscopic threads extending from bacteria that allow them to move and swim. This specific sigma factor, σ^{54} , is indispensable for bacteria that move to compete with other microorganisms and survive in adverse conditions like poor nutrition.

Using CryoEM technology, Liu and his team captured images that show a specific part of the cell, bacte-

rial RNA polymerase (RNAP) β' -zinc-binding domain (ZBD), performing a novel role in transcription initiation that was not previously known. Combined with additional lab results, the researchers revealed that ZBD-relocation is a general regulatory mechanism employed by a broader set of sigma factors/promoters.

"It is critically important to understand how this particular factor recognizes specific promoters and dictates the gene transcription," said Dr. Liu.

"Our study provides detailed mechanistic insights into how σ^{54} controls transcription initiation of the bacteria motility genes, and will benefit the bacterial transcription research field."

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A walking tree?



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Did I see what I thought I saw. Yes, it was a tall Evergreen tree taking a walk toward a Johnson Tree Service truck. Ten trees were removed from the yard of Greg and Gloria Snider on a recent Friday. The stumps were also removed.

DAIRY PRINCESSES: crowned for Steele County

FROM B1

"I think it's quite an honor to be a dairy princess," Zollner said. "It's fun to interact with the public about the dairy industry."

Zollner, 18, is a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls where she is majoring in vet technology. While she did not grow up on a dairy farm, Zollner took part in a Cow Camp in second grade on the Glenn Johnson farm in eastern Steele County. She became increasingly involved in dairy by helping out on the Johnson farm as well

as through joining the Pratt Commandoes 4-H Club.

Ever since Cow Camp, Zollner has been hooked on animals, especially dairy cows. "I love being around the cows," Zollner says. "They are so precious. I just love being out with the animals and being able to provide for them." Zollner said when she is out in the public, it hits her how many people don't know a lot about dairy. "I want to be able to share my passion with these people and help them understand how the

dairy industry works," she said.

She admitted being a "little disappointed" about not being chosen as a Princess Kay finalist, but she used the opportunity as a learning experience. "I know what to improve on for next year," Zollner said. "I will be back."

Among the Princess Kay finalists chosen this year are Valerie Sauder representing Dodge County and Brenna Connelly representing Olmsted County.

The reigning Princess Kay is Amy Kylo of Byron.

SUICIDE ATTEMPTS: and self-injuring behavior

FROM B1

tempt is to die, escape, or seek a permanent solution. The self-injuring behavior intention is to gain a sense of control or to change some aspect of life and begin anew. The person making a suicide attempt usually uses a means that is potentially lethal or causes serious bodily injury. A person who wants to self-injure usually chooses a non-lethal means with little potential for physical damage.

A person making a suicide attempt experiences emotional pain such as chronic depression and anxiety. A self-injuring individual experiences feelings of discomfort, but the pain is intermittent, rather than persistent.

For a person seeking to end their life, suicide may appear to be the only way out of a difficult life situation. A person who has self-injuring tendencies knows that self-in-

juring is a temporary solution, and can see other choices.

A person with serious depressive symptoms will feel hopeless and helpless to do much about life experiences. Suicide appears to be the only way out. A person who self-injures usually has periods of optimism and a sense of being in charge in some situations. For the individual who is self-injuring, disgust with their body image is common and their body becomes the target. For someone contemplating suicide, the body image can be an issue, but is not usually the focus of attention.

Teenagers are more likely to show self-injuring behaviors than adults. Self-injuring is a way of wanting something in their life to change, or to relieve unpleasant feelings. A "fresh start" after a difficult life situation is

desired. Suicidal and self-injuring situations are to be taken seriously. Professional assistance and intervention should be sought to determine the degree of emotional pain the person is experiencing, and to determine the need for further intervention.

The answer to your question is that she is more likely to be self-injuring rather than suicidal, but she may benefit by seeking professional help.

Mark Skrien is a licensed psychologist, licensed marriage and family therapist and former clinical director at South Central Human Relations Center in Owatonna. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

CRUISIN IN HONOR: of grads

FROM B1

ton has been a member of for the past few years. "I hope we feel like we are connected again," Minton said of the cruise event. "Hopefully, we are getting that sense of peace and things going back to normal again."

Seniors came in all types of vehicles—cars, trucks, collector cars, classics and 4-wheelers—decked out with balloons, signs and other memorabilia recognizing the Class of 2020.

Minton said the cruise provided her fellow classmates with an opportunity to do something fun in a safe environment. "Seniors didn't really get their last hurrah," she said, noting this helped fulfill that need.

Cindy Trapp of Owatonna didn't have any grandchildren in this year's graduating class, but she showed up at the cruise with a sign in hand any way. Her sign read, "You survived COVID-19 and Persevered." She stood along Central Park and waved her sign as seniors cruised on past.

"I'm a sucker for graduation because I'm an educator," said Trapp, who retired after teaching for 40 years in Fairbault. "I'm proud of them. They have risen to the occasion," she said. "Maybe they will be the people to straighten out the country," she added.

Organizer Andi Arnold, who serves as director of commu-

nity engagement for the coalition, fondly remembers the cruise nights of growing up in Owatonna. She recalls the cruises went on every Friday night before cell phones and texting came along. The tradition ended in 2002 in part because of 9/11 and skyrocketing gas prices, she said.

Another key reason the cruise nights ended, Arnold said, was because people "were more into their technology."

This year with the coronavirus pandemic keeping seniors away from each other, Arnold thought it would be a good idea to revive the tradition. "With the need for social distancing, it's a neat way to



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Brad Woods, left, of Sunset Memorials, and Tom Peterson, right, Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial chairman, pose beside a 4 by 5 foot Korean War mural that was installed last week at the Veterans Memorial.

BP Veterans Memorial adds murals

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial continues to grow in size and stature.

This September will mark the sixth year since a campaign was initiated to collect funds to build a veterans memorial, which would honor men and women veterans living and dead.

Three murals paying tribute to soldiers who served in three major wars are being installed on the memorial, which was dedicated on Nov. 11, 2019. The murals were commissioned by Owatonna Granite and installed by Sunset Memorials of St. Cloud.

The murals, costing \$21,000, feature laser etchings on pure granite. The murals have been manufactured by Monumental Sales of St. Cloud.

The murals, measuring 4 foot by 5 foot, will be surrounded by 96 pavers on a wall. The murals are made of black granite and will depict veterans in WORLD WAR II (raising of the flag at Iwo Jima), KOREAN CONFLICT (soldiers



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

These American soldiers hoist the American flag at Iwo Jima to signify victory in World War II. This mural has been installed on a wall of the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial.

forging ahead on the battle field) and the VIETNAM WAR (reflections on Vietnam War in Washington, D.C.).

Twenty-seven new pavers were also installed on a wall last week. Brad Woods of Owatonna Granite installed the murals and pavers.

Tom Peterson, chairman of the BP Veterans Memorial Committee, says 472 wall pavers have now been installed.

Eventually, more tributes to those Americans who served in wars or conflicts will be made in special

displays at the Veterans Memorial. Peterson said World War I, the Civil War and conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq will become part of the Veterans Memorial.

"These walls tell a story," Peterson said, with pride.

Another campaign will be to blacktop the parking area around the Memorial. Peterson said the goal for this project was to raise \$40,000.

"We ask for continued support in helping the Veterans Memorial committee make this campaign successful," Peterson remarked.

GANFIELD NAMED: interim director at History Center

FROM B1

Gillespie says the search for a new director is on-going. "We were in the middle of the process when everything shut down (due to COVID-19)," she said.

She hopes a permanent director can be found within the next six months. "We do not want to settle with just anyone," Gillespie said. "If we can find the right person, we will move ahead as quickly as possible," she added.

The society is continuing to accept appli-

cations for the director position, Gillespie said.

Gainfield is a strong volunteer in the Owatonna area with various organizations. He was a high school teacher in Iowa prior to spending many years in sales with Gandy Company in Owatonna.

The History Center has been shut down throughout the entire coronavirus pandemic. Gillespie said it has produced challenging times for the society as the center has lost a signifi-

cant number of rentals, especially at graduation time. "That was a great source of revenue for us," she said.

The center is still shut down for letting people tour the exhibits. Gillespie said the center is following guidance from the Minnesota Historical Society. "It's a fluid situation," she said. "A high number of our typical guests are in the high risk group (for contracting the virus). We are trying to protect their health and safety."

"With the need for social distancing, it's a neat way to see people in a safe way."

Andi Arnold
Cruise Organizer

problems later in life.

Minton has dealt with alcohol issues within her family as her father struggled with addiction. "It was difficult to see someone you love and care about turn into a different person," she said. She added he couldn't control his addiction, but has since gone down the right path and been clean for a couple years.

As the title holder of Miss Minnesota as Ms. Great Lakes, Minton

has taken on the platform of SHOC, students helping others choose. She has been active in helping educate younger people about the dangers of alcohol and drugs.

And Minton hopes to keep her fellow seniors away from going down the path of addiction. "There is so much more to do than give in to substances," she says. "We are just with each other and having a good time."

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

JUNE 11
7:30 p.m. –
Ellendale City Council
Meeting, Community
Building

JUNE 12
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,
Community Building

JUNE 15
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,

Community Building

JUNE 17
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,
Community Building

JUNE 19
1 – 7 p.m. – Red
Cross Blood Drive,
United Methodist
Church

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

JUNE 11
10:30 a.m. –
Storytime Online with
Daria, Facebook Live

JUNE 13
7 a.m. – Farmers
Market, Central Park

JUNE 16
10:30 a.m. –

Storytime Online with
Daria, Facebook Live

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

7 p.m. – Steele
County Board
of Appeal and
Equalization Meeting,
County Admin Building

Blood drive coming to Ellendale

Donors will have an opportunity to donate their blood at a drive in Ellendale next week.

It will take place on Friday, June 19 at the United Methodist Church at 200 6th St. N. in Ellendale. The American Red Cross

drive will happen from 1-7 p.m.

While everyone is urged to donate blood, organizer Allie Larson says an appointment must be made prior to coming. Those wishing to donate should contact Larson at 507-456-3234.

BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 12
Suzie Pechacek
Jacob Vogt
Robert Salinas
Addison Doocy
Tiffany Thompson

JUNE 13
Jordan Paulson
Shelley Prihoda
Julie Strand
Tim Andrews

JUNE 14
Buddy Thompson
Katie Ingvalson
Aden Doocy
Alex Hennan

JUNE 15
Tommy Meyer
Hailey Hensrud
Karen Fouarge

JUNE 16
Chuck Herdina
Michael Hines
Daniel Hanson

JUNE 17
Colin Campbell
Doug Minor
Nancy
Vallancourt
Logan Konz
Cierra Coughlin

ANNIVERSARIES

JUNE 12
Suzie Pechacek
Jacob Vogt
Robert Salinas
Addison Doocy
Tiffany Thompson

JUNE 13
Jordan Paulson
Shelley Prihoda
Julie Strand
Tim Andrews

JUNE 14
Buddy Thompson
Katie Ingvalson
Aden Doocy
Alex Hennan

JUNE 15
Tommy Meyer
Hailey Hensrud
Karen Fouarge

JUNE 16
Chuck Herdina
Michael Hines
Daniel Hanson

JUNE 17
Colin Campbell
Doug Minor
Nancy Vallancourt
Logan Konz
Cierra Coughlin

This weekly feature sponsored by:
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Sudoku Corner

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

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Answers

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

BP Ed Foundation auctions cancelled

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It's gotten to be a similar refrain: "CANCELLED."

That refrain has now been used by the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation. Because of the coronavirus, the auctions scheduled for March 28 were postponed.

As cancellations continued to multiply, organizers of the BP Ed Foundation were hopeful that the auctions could be held in April. An April date did not work, so plans included a June date with the auction at Victory Field to comply with social distance standards.

COVID-19 cases continued to grow in Minnesota, thus it was necessary for the BP Ed committee to evaluate the situation and make the decision Monday, June 1 to cancel the 2020 auctions.

The decision to cancel was made with the plan to host a Facebook auction of classroom projects, 2019 state football champion items and some items too large to store due to space issues. The auction will be held the evening of June 19 and run until noon June 28.

Here's the official announcement:

"Unfortunately, the decision has been made to cancel our auction for 2020.

"We held off, hoping we could still make it happen, hoping that there would be enough release of restrictions to go forward, but it is just not happening fast enough. A decision had to be made.

"Thank you to all of you who have inquired and showed concern as to what we would do. Thank you to all who have donated to our 2020 auction, for the most part, your items, cash etc. will be held over to 2021. Save the date of March 27, 2021. We hope that 2021 will be our best year



FILE PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
This is what the lineup looks like at a Blooming prairie Education Foundation auction lineup. The auction has been cancelled for this year and will be held March 27, 2021.

yet and that we reach that one million dollar mark! Together we can do it!

"That being said, even though the full auction is cancelled, there will be a few things that we will move forward on.

"1. Raffle Tickets – if you purchased a \$10 raffle ticket please note that winners for those cash prizes will still be drawn on 6/27/20 at noon. We will still be selling tickets up until 6/24 for anyone who has not had a chance to purchase one.

The drawing will be held live on Facebook and you do not have to be present to win.

"2. In going through the wonderful items that have already been donated, we decided that some of them are "time relative" and holding them over until next year would not be the right thing to do for those parents, supporters, alumni who might want to bid on them.

"So, we have decided to host an auction on Facebook of the classroom projects, 2019 State Champion Football items and some items that are too large to store due to space issues.

"This auction will be held from the evening

of June 19th and run until noon on June 28th. All items will be posted by photo/video on our Facebook page. Bidders will simply post their bids in the comment section of the post.

"More information on this will come in the future. Please be patient as we work through the details.

"3. If you purchased a Pick of the Auction ticket, the \$50 one. That will be honored at our auction in March 2021. We will hold your ticket and money over until then.

"Presently, we have not sold all 100 of these tickets, so any sold will be held over and then in 2021 we will sell the remaining tickets.

"We will still only sell a total of 100 and the winner will be able to select from our 2021 auction list next year.

"We hope this isn't too confusing to any of you. If you have questions, please reach out to a BPEF board member. Again, we can not thank our community, teachers, alumni, students and any other supporters enough for everything you have done in the past and continue to do so that our Foundation can give the students of ISD 756

the best opportunities.

"The recent months have been a difficult time but we need to come back better than ever in 2021! We will do our best because it is FOR THE KIDS!"

The BP Education Foundation is a non-profit organization created by a group of fiscally conservative community members. Mission of the Foundation is "to enhance the educational opportunities for the students of ISD 756."

Funding for the Foundation is possible through the generous contributions of community members, alumni, business and other charitable organizations.

The Foundation uses its resources to fill voids in programs by adding to the education experiences of the students of ISD 756.

Proceeds from the auctions will be used to fund allocations requested from the BP School District and from teachers. The allocation requests are made twice a year. About 50 are allotted each year.

The funds are used to support technology advances, field trips, robotics team at high school, lego project at the elementary school, etc.

Little Theatre postpones summer youth theater camp

Little Theatre of Owatonna has announced the postponement of this year's Bright Star Theatre Summer Camp.

The camp, designed for youth ages 9-12, was scheduled for July 13-17. It would have been the second year for the summer camp.

The LTO board made the decision to reschedule the camp for next year because of the current restrictions and limitations to gatherings related to the COVID-19 pandemic. As it takes 30-plus

people, including the students, to hold the camp, the current restrictions make holding the camp no longer a possibility this year, the board said.

"The safety and health of the students, volunteers and instructors is our main priority," said Victoria Bartkowiak, executive secretary of LTO. "Due to the Stay Safe MN guidelines of having entertainment facilities closed until phase III, which would allow a potential phased opening with capacity

restrictions and social distancing requirements, LTO felt it best to postpone at this time. We look forward to having a full camp in the future."

LTO has rescheduled the children's summer camp with the North Carolina-based Bright Star Touring Theatre for June 2021. Dates and registration information will be put on the LTO website (www.littletheatreofowatonna.org) as the dates get closer.

Students in the camp develop, write

and "star" in their own sketch comedy show over five days.

"Just like the pros!" said Bartkowiak. "Acting, directing, writing and a ton of fun games and activities combine to make a week your 'Bright Star' will never forget. Students will learn valuable drama instruction while focusing on the Four C's: Collaboration, Creativity, Communication and Critical Thinking."

Last year's camp had 23 students, two instructors and five volunteers.

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- Customers may enter into the bar only to use the restrooms or purchase a beverage or pizza. Please follow signage when you enter / exit the bar to "return to the patio area."
- State of Minnesota strongly encourages customers to wear a mask and practice social distancing while in public.

OFF-SALE HOURS:
Monday – Friday 10am-10pm
Saturday 9am-10pm
Sunday closed

Future events will depend on the State of Minnesota COVID-19 guidelines.

CANCELLED: 808 ride and the July 3rd street dance, Bingo until further notice.

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"On Q" "Q-Town"

ON COVID-19

HEALTH UPDATES LOCAL AND REGIONAL RESPECTIVE
Find it here: **www.ksmq.org**

NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Date: May 13, 2020
YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

1. Default has occurred in the conditions of that certain Mortgage and Security Agreement and Fixture Financing Statement dated June 26, 2007, executed by Owatonna Hospitality LLC, a Minnesota limited liability company, to Minnwest Bank, M.V., a Minnesota banking corporation, now known as Minnwest Bank, and filed for record on July 12, 2007, as Document No. A000350967, in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota, and as thereafter modified.
2. The original principal amount secured by the Mortgage was \$3,000,000.00.
3. No action or proceeding at law is now pending to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part thereof.
4. The holder of the Mortgage has complied with all conditions precedent to acceleration of the debt secured by the Mortgage and foreclosure of the Mortgage, and all notice and other requirements of applicable statutes.
5. At the date of this notice the amount due on the Mortgage, and taxes, if any, paid by the holder of the Mortgage is the following sum: \$2,936,327.41.
6. Pursuant to the power of sale in the Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, on the land described as follows: Lot 2, Block 1, Three Corners Addition No. 2, Steele County, Minnesota.
7. The time allowed by law for redemption by the Mortgagor, or the Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns, is twelve (12) months after the date of sale.
8. Mortgagee: By Scott T. Larison Attorney for Mortgagee Lathrop GPM LLP 1010 West St. Germain, Suite 500 St. Cloud, MN 56301 (320) 252-4414

together with all fixtures, equipment, machinery, and personal property of any kind which is located at or necessary to the use of the foregoing real estate; all of which real estate and personal property will be sold by the Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota, at public auction on July 15, 2020, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. at the Steele County Sheriff's Office, 204 Pearl Street, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060.

5/20T6

PUBLIC RECORD

STEELE COUNTY BIRTHS SEPTEMBER 2019

Harper Jo Williams, Parents: Kayla and Dallas, Sept. 1.
Coralie Rose Dahlstrom, Parents: Lindsey and David, Sept. 3.
Lennox Jae Johnson, Parents: Alexandra and Casey, Sept. 4.
Paislee Ann Jacobs, Parents: Nicolette and Nicholas, Sept. 4.
Ruth Bailey Slowinski, Parents: Bailey and Benjamin, Sept. 4.
Margo Marie Gendron, Parents: Lauren and Nathaniel, Sept. 5.
Daisy Maureen Pfeiffer, Parents: Grace and Randall, Sept. 5.
Oaklyn Sue Heim, Parents: Kelsey Hafstad and Aaron Heim, Sept. 5.
Aiden Archer Arnett, Parents: Alyssa and Allen, Sept. 7.
Valerie Darlene Juare, Parents: Katie and Erik, Sept. 8.
Violet Marie Zak, Parents: Adrienne and Patrick, Sept. 8.
Ryder James Rami, Parents: Amber and Matthew, Sept. 9.
Haydee Yarel Garcia Rojas, Parents: Maria Rojas Martinez and Delfino Garcia Pina, Sept. 12.
Callan Michael Ingvalson, Parents: Allison and Justen, Sept. 13.
Jesus Bautista, Parents: Larizza and Jesus, Sept. 14.
Natalia Rose Geiger, Parents: Kathrine and Mitchell, Sept. 18.
Miles Allen Terres, Parents: Erin and Matthew, Sept. 19.
Anwar Abdurizak Ahmed, Parents: Fatumo Bundit and Abdurizak Abdi, Sept. 19.
Alma Lori Slowinski, Parents: Stacy and Nicholas, Sept. 19.
Reina Jenae Palacio, Parent: Rajhaun Miles, Sept. 22.
Gianna Rose Steffen, Parents: Clare and Bradley, Sept. 22.
Weston Jay Tschida, Parents: Alexis Saufferer and Jacob Tschida, Sept. 23.

Mubashir Jimale Mahdi, Parents: Bahja Ibrahim and Jimale Abdi, Sept. 24.
Emilia Lena Hedson, Parents: Loleen Luhda and Leason Hedson, Sept. 24.
Hailey Raga Kruger, Parents: Amanda and Harlan, Sept. 25.
Shae Jo Tarpenning, Parents: Kimberly and Daren, Sept. 25.
Cora Marie Adams, Parents: Katelin and Joel, Sept. 26.
Ali Ahmed Abdinur, Parents: Falhaddo Ali and Ahmed Abdinur, Sept. 26.
Zayd Sakrige Mohamed, Parents: Nasseho Jama and Sakrige Mohamed, Sept. 27.
Jackson Bernard Whitney, Parents: Valerie and Timothy, Sept. 27.
Edison Pastor Gutierrez, Parents: Erica and Edgar, Sept. 30.

STEELE COUNTY DEATHS SEPTEMBER 2019

Sandra Mae Gilderhus, 78, Owatonna, Sept. 1.
Laverl Mildred Hansen, 90, Owatonna, Sept. 1.
Robert Michael Hendrickson, 62, Owatonna, Sept. 2.
Roy Frank Ebenhoh, 84, Owatonna, Sept. 3.
Yolanda Kae Leader, 53, Owatonna, Sept. 3.
Norma Jean Long, 85, Blooming Prairie, Sept. 3.
Paul George Slowinski, 89, Owatonna, Sept. 5.
Deloris Elma Caron, 90, Owatonna, Sept. 5.
Pedro Vela Diaz, 67, Owatonna, Sept. 6.
Darlene Agnes Phillips, 80, Owatonna, Sept. 8.
Glen Roger Quaintance, 68, Owatonna, Sept. 8.
Ronald Albert Hrdichka, 83, Owatonna, Sept. 12.
Rodney Ray Earlywine, 55, Owatonna, Sept. 14.
Raymond Charles Nichols, 95, Owatonna, Sept. 15.
Jeanette Marie Pirkil, 81, Owatonna, Sept. 17.
Gladys Wavrin, 93, Owatonna, Sept. 17.
Deloris Jean Velzke, 75, Owatonna, Sept. 18.
Margaret L. Lovan, 94, Owatonna, Sept. 20.
Dorothy Gertrude Carroll, 97, Owatonna, Sept. 20.

Frances Elizabeth Johnston, 86, Owatonna, Sept. 21.
Ann Elizabeth Wilson, 60, Owatonna, Sept. 21.
Ardell Ramah Lindquist, 91, Blooming Prairie, Sept. 22.
John Austin Lent, 85, Owatonna, Sept. 24.
Beverly Jean Seykora, 72, Owatonna, Sept. 24.
Max Thomas Stoeckel, 20, Owatonna, Sept. 25.
Francis Charles Kourofsky, 91, Owatonna, Sept. 28.
Winnie Mae Dokken, 77, Owatonna, Sept. 29.
Charlene Ethel Full, 94, Owatonna, Sept. 30.

STEELE COUNTY MARRIAGES SEPTEMBER 2019

Jason Mark Howland and Aubree Rose Horan, Sept. 1.
Matthew Michael Seykora and Genea Lynn Seaton-Rissell, Sept. 1.
James Peter Zylstra and Anna Jane Nicholson, Sept. 1.
Mohammad Safath Zaman and Ashley Lynn Peterson, Sept. 5.
Skylar Alexander Guggisberg and Korie Jolynn Weighrt, Sept. 6.
Hannah Elizabeth Montgomery and Jeffrey Allen Reiter, Sept. 6.
Amanda Michelle Lound and Luis Enrique Duarte, Sept. 7.
Cody James Neverman and Katelyn Rebecca Marie Hanf, Sept. 7.
Samantha Jo Alida Mekner and Dylan Bradley Prokopec, Sept. 7.
Bradley Joseph Anderson and Tiffany Ann Pearl Friedrich Stryker, Sept. 13.
Blake Michael Jenkins and Mary-Rose Leah Suchanek, Sept. 13.
Neshon Wadley and Antwan Dewayne Smith, Sept. 14.
Cody David Johnson and Brianna Faye Marble, Sept. 14.
Randolph Wayne Levine and Melinda Rae Barnes, Sept. 14.
Randall Jay Larson II and Nichole Lynn Hill, Sept. 14.
Matthew Wade Wimer and Katelyn Dawn Sylvara, Sept. 14.

Jorge de Jesus Jimenez and Cynthia Ann Knorr, Sept. 14.
Robert Marlin Sikel and Amber Rose Ayers, Sept. 14.
Christopher Lucas Berg and Justine Nicole Harper, Sept. 14.
Bradley Alan Karge and Jessica Kay Juhnke, Sept. 21.
Jon Charles Medgaarden and Peggy Ann Lynch, Sept. 21.
Justin Ray Manderfeld and Samantha Fay Hofer, Sept. 21.
Roland Daniel James and Laura Reve Pumper, Sept. 26.
Riley Milton Flynn and Aubreana Anne Vannet, Sept. 27.
Jonathan Duane Gasner and Rachel Pilar Springer, Sept. 28.
Joseph Edward Ginter and Amanda Marie White, Sept. 28.
Joshua James Hammill and Ashley Mae Thostenson, Sept. 28.
Matthew Marvin Fisher and Rachael Beth Howlader, Sept. 28.
Sirena Marie Brekke and Dylan James Stoehr, Sept. 28.
Joshua Brandon Buck and Caycee Lee Gilbertson, Sept. 28.
Brandon Louis Church and Emily Alyson Nagel, Sept. 28.
Phillip David Schillaci and Mercedes Ann Smith, Sept. 28.
Shelby Joy Smith and Daniel Albert Froehling, Sept. 29.

STEELE COUNTY DIVORCES SEPTEMBER 2019

Melanie Theresa Davidson and Samuel Lyle Davidson, Sept. 10.
Ann Snelders and Alex Snelders, Sept. 24.
Gary D. Crawford Sr. and Dorcas A. Crawford, Sept. 27.
Rita Marie Christensen and Ronald I. Christensen, Sept. 27.
Ashly Mae Bliss and William Allen Bliss, Sept. 30.
Jessica Marie Williams and James Rashi Williams, Sept. 30.

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CLUES DOWN

1. Bone in the lower back
2. Goddes of wisdom
3. Conchlike horn
4. A way to grasp
5. Apex
6. British soldier
7. Manganese
8. Indicates position
9. Decompressions in scuba diving (abbr.)
10. Soon
13. Blood type
14. Clever reply
15. One who travels by luxurious boat
20. Once more
21. Rural delivery
22. Mexican dish
23. Nigerian City
27. Is not (Span.)
28. Italy's longest river
30. Grand ... vintage
31. Monetary unit
32. The man
33. Basics
34. Poster
35. Small remains
36. Goldmine substance
37. A narrow opening
38. Artificial intelligence
40. Algerian coastal city
41. Canned fish
42. Milligram
44. Curd's partner
45. Single-celled animals
46. Movie theater
47. Necessitate
48. A state of not being used
50. Small field of issue
51. Gallium
52. Trauma center
54. Commands to go faster
55. New England's football team
57. Pianoforte
61. Unit of loudness
62. Atomic number 13

CLUES ACROSS

1. Elaborate silk garment
5. Fleet
11. Egyptian deity
12. Hundredth anniversary
16. Chew the fat
17. Doctor of Medicine
18. Large, edible game fish
19. Revitalization
24. Personal computer
25. Unfettered
26. Chummy persons
27. Japanese classical theater
28. Part of a ship
29. Rate of movement
30. How much
31. Image taken with a camera
33. Sharp mountain ridge
34. Czech capital
38. One who treats poorly
39. By right
40. Relating to odors
41. As soon as possible
43. Launch (Olympic swimmer)
45. Scored perfectly
49. Financial ratio (abbr.)
50. Unpleasant emotion
51. Sign of the zodiac
53. Promotional material
54. Your parents' parents
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KASSON Garage Sale 800 Westfield Court NW, Kasson. Thursday, June 11 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday, June 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, June 13 from 9 a.m. to noon. Lots of WWII and WWII war books. Western books, bird house, many metal statues, African Violet, brass bed frame, a lot of antique toys, dishes, jewelry, and a lot more. Please wear a mask.

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Huskies
Class of
2020:

A drive-in graduation

PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER



With the backdrop of a sea of vehicles, Hamdia Idow, left, and Elsie Sande sit back and listen to fellow classmate, Joseph Brueggemeier, give his student speech at Sunday's graduation. All three were chosen as student speakers this year.



Families decorated their vehicles in Sunday's drive-in graduation. Here, Alex Vereide's family made a big poster of Alex for the back of their van.



Some families wrote on their car windows expressing congratulations to their graduating senior.



After finishing his student speech, Joseph Brueggemeier shares a fist bump with Kory Kath, high school principal, during Sunday's graduation ceremonies in the parking lot of Federated Insurance. Graduation was broadcast on local radio with graduates and parents listening inside their vehicles. Owatonna graduated 337 seniors. As the senior names were read off, car horns from different parts of the parking lot tooted in honor of the seniors.



Abigail Schroeder was all smiles as her name was announced as a graduate of Owatonna High School. Relatives sat in the back seat cheering on and waving a bell to honor their graduate. Schroeder was also recognized as one of 45 honor graduates in this year's class.



Seniors cruise through downtown Owatonna Friday as part of a special Cruise Night in their honor.



It was a drive-in ceremony for the Class of 2020 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Vehicles face a stage where the ceremony was conducted for graduates. Federated Insurance allowed the school district to use its parking lot on Cedar Avenue for this year's ceremony.



OHS assistant principal Philip Wiken announces names of the graduating class at Sunday's ceremony. Hollie Jeska, the school's other assistant principal, also assisted with reading the names of graduates.

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