

COVID-19 PLATEAUS
Confirmed cases in Steele and Dodge have leveled off.

RESTAURANTS BACK
Dining indoors is back to 50% after being shut down.

AVOID SPREAD
Health experts urge to keep each other safe and healthy.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE
Stress of virus isn't helping the drug epidemic.

Fair out, but 4-H goes on

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The COVID-19 pandemic may have stopped many activities, including county and state fairs, from taking place this year, but the Steele County 4-H program is finding alternate ways to continue showing.

Plans are in place to have face-to-face real live judging to replace the shows that typically happen during the county fair, says Tracy Ignaszewski, 4-H program coordinator for Steele County. "It will look a lot different," she said.

Early on when the coronavirus basically shut everything down, the 4-H program looked at doing virtual shows. However, with restrictions loosening up in recent weeks, Ignaszewski said 4-H has now shifted gears and plans to do live shows even though the fair has been canceled. "We were prepared to go with the virtual option," she said. "It's nice to not use it," she added.

Despite all the uncertainty with COVID-19, Ignaszewski said she was confident from the beginning that 4-H would do something in place of the fair. "This will happen," she said.

Part of the motivation to do something was because many 4-H members were purchasing their animals and making decisions about showing at about the same time the virus hit in mid-March. "We needed to do something right from the get-go," Ignaszewski said.

Details are still being worked out on how the shows will take place, but Ignaszewski said they will take place at the fairgrounds. The 4-Hers will show up with their animals and be judged like they normally are during the fair. Champions and reserves will be awarded as well as a State Fair line-up created for the various projects.

Ignaszewski said it will be trailer to trailer type of showing. Once 4-H members arrive with their animals, they will take them off the trailers, show them in front

SEE FAIR OUT, A10



Melanie Gross, left, of Federated Insurance's community relations department, delivered 50 face shields and 50 ear protectors to the Prairie Manor Care Center. Accepting the personal protective equipment from Shields of Steele was Jillian Wigham, certified nursing assistant (CNA).

Shields of Steele

Helping to protect area medical staffs

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

A community effort led by employees of Federated Insurance continues its fight against the coronavirus.

As of early May, volunteers had manufactured 700 face shields.

Another 200 were made during May to bring the total to 900. Over the last three months, the volunteer group from Federated has donated nearly 2,000 shields, 500 fabric masks and over 5,000 ear savers.

Michael Beckman, systems developer at Federated in Owatonna, followed up on an e-mail from Federated's community relations department asking employees to reach out and partner with other organizations to provide safety shields first responders and medical staffs in Steele County.

Federated is working with other businesses in town to supply needed

personal protective equipment. These businesses include FoamCraft, Poly Plastics and Cindy's Tailoring and Dry Cleaning.

Melanie Gross of Federated's community relations department, last weekend delivered 50 face shields and 50 ear protectors to the Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie.

The program now has a name, thanks to Allina Hospital employees. Allina employees were asked to suggest a name for the group that is coordinating the manufacture and distribution of pieces of personal protective equipment.

Over 15 names were suggested and the group of 30-plus volunteers voted on a name.

Shields of Steele was the winning name, proposed by Donna Kleeberger, a social worker at the hospital. She won a gift card from Applebee's.

Donations are always welcome, and can be sent to the Owatonna Area Business Development

Center (memo line - Shields of Steele), says Melanie Gross of the IS Department.

Thus far, protective shields have been provided to:

- Allina Hospital, Owatonna
- Steele County Public Health
- South Central Human Relations Center
- City of Owatonna - First Responders
- City of Blooming Prairie - First Responders

Federated volunteers working on this project are reaching out to other towns in Steele County and will work on supplying them with shields and ear savers. Beckman said volunteers also plan to work on supplying shields to assisted living facilities.

Beckman said the Federated community relations department was first alerted to the community's needs by Allina Hospital in Owatonna.

SEE SHIELDS OF STEELE, A2

Drive-in Dairy Days coming to fairgrounds

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Just when you thought you may be out of luck getting a dairy malt this summer, the Steele County American Dairy Association has come up with a way to satisfy your craving for the popular treat.

The association is sponsoring Drive-in Dairy Days at the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna on Saturday and Sunday, June 27 and 28 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The idea for Dairy Days originated by the association's board of directors after they had to cancel their annual Breakfast on the Farm, which usually takes place in early June, according to Gail Zollner of the Dairy Association. The breakfast event typically attracts more than 1,200 people.

"This will be something to celebrate Dairy Month without parades and Breakfast on the Farm," Zollner said. "We need to put a little summer in summer," she added.

The county's four dairy princesses will be on hand to assist with serving malts, Zollner said.

But malts won't be the only snack available. There will also be 8 to 10 other food vendors from the Steele County Free Fair available with fair food. Since the county fair has been canceled this year due to the COVID-19 crisis, this may be the only opportunity to enjoy fair foods.

SEE DRIVE-IN, A3

DRIVE-IN DAIRY DAYS

What: Malts and other fair foods

When: Saturday and Sunday, June 27-28 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Where: Steele County Fairgrounds - Owatonna

Other: No restrooms available

COVID-19 closure spurs a new twist

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Not all is lost with the coronavirus at least when it comes to food stands trying to wet people's appetites with their specialties.

With fairs and community celebrations and festivals being forced to shut down because of the COVID-19 outbreak, many food vendors have been left without places to sell their treats and goodies. But for the owners of

Classic Concessions of Blooming Prairie, which has featured grilled pork chops for 33 years, they have found a new opportunity.

Dean Goette and his family have established a makeshift pork chop stand in the parking lot of Farmers First Ag located along Hwy. 218 next to Casey's. They opened for business last Thursday and plan to be there every day throughout most of the summer.

In addition to pork chops, the stand will

feature brat patties and hamburgers along with some side dishes. They are also thinking of adding walking tacos and pulled pork sandwiches.

For years, the Goettes have used buns from the Bakery in Blooming Prairie. However, this year will be different because the Bakery is no longer in business after a devastating fire in January. "We are disappointed that we don't have the

SEE COVID-19 CLOSURE, A10



Dean Goette of Blooming Prairie grills pork chops at a makeshift stand his family is operating along Hwy. 218 next to Casey's for the summer. They decided to do the stand after COVID-19 forced the closure of fairs and community celebrations for the summer. "When the two big flags are up, we're open," he says.

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AREA DEATHS

John Knudtson, 21, BP
Wilmer Grunklee, 87, Owatonna
Justin Neubauer, 32, Hastings
Alice Hall, 101, Worthington

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OUR VIEW

Has COVID-19 been overplayed?

After months of outrageous claims and counter claims, Minnesotans, those of us in Steele County especially, continue to seek true insights into COVID-19. As of early this week, the number of people in Steele County contracting COVID-19 was stagnant at 175. No one here has died from contracting this world pandemic.

The iron grip on the executive shelter-in-place order issued by Gov. Tim Walz has been somewhat loosened to the point where residents of the county have been able to have their hair cut, gray roots covered and have limited access to their favorite eatery.

Still there are reports from major news outlets that "more than 1,000 Minnesotans living in long-term care facilities have died" as a result of contracting the virus. Well, how many of those persons living in long-term care facilities were among the most vulnerable - persons 80-100? Would they have died of natural causes if the virus hadn't taken them?

One former New York Times reporter asked the obvious question: how many of those living in rest homes or assisted living facilities would have died regardless.

To date, 82% of the COVID-19 related deaths in Minnesota involved people 70 or older - despite the majority of known infections being diagnosed in people 49 and younger, according to MDH.

Early on there were forecasts of doom and gloom from people like Daily Beast editor Molly Jong-Fast who suggested that 7% of all Americans would die as a result of contracting the virus - that's 23 million people!

New York Times reporter Trip Gabriel suggested that the U.S. would need 1 million ventilators. Only a fraction of ventilators was needed.

Alex Berenson, a former New York Times reporter states: "New York governor Andrew Cuomo had said the state might need 140,000 hospital beds and up to 40,000 ventilators. In the end, New York never had more than 4,000 coronavirus patients on ventilators - making Cuomo's facts and data and numbers and projections off by about tenfold."

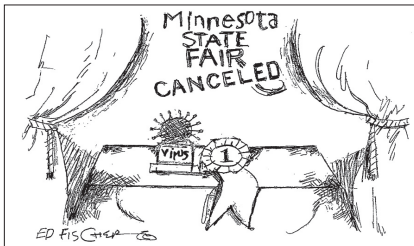
An enormous hospital ship was moved to New York along with field hospitals set up in Central Park and the Javits Center was transformed into an ICU. None was needed.

So, one might conclude, as Berenson has: "...even if the worst-case estimates for overall mortality are correct - if 600,000 people die of coronavirus by the time everyone is exposed to it, but two-thirds of them would have died anyway from other illnesses, the 'excess' mortality from coronavirus by the time everyone is exposed to it - people who would not have died during that period - would be 200,000 people."

That would represent an increased death rate just over 3% for the entire nation.

Those 200,000 deaths equals about the same number of people who die from alcohol abuse over a two-year period, or from overdoses over three years.

Has COVID-19 been overplayed by the media, governmental officials and fear mongering? Weigh the facts and decide.



GUEST COLUMN

Fair canceling is a punch in the gut

BY TODD HALE

Weeks ago, I personally was convinced that the Steele County Free Fair would be unable to be held this year due to the COVID-19 virus. Fair board members waited until the last minute to make the decision to cancel and when the State Fair canceled, that was the last nail in the coffin.

After being a part of the fair as the publicity and advertising director for close to 30 years, the cancellation of the fair was truly a "punch in the gut" for me. I can tell you, from working in the fair for one of the highlighted sources of advertising revenue for the year. As of this writing no plan has been

fying vendors, those planning to display the Four Seasons, the carnival, the grandstand and beer garden entertainers and the entertainers from the outdoor stages will take weeks.

Wayne Steele, who took my place as outdoor entertainment director, said that he is contacting every entertainers he booked for this year, but also hopefully confirmed their appearance for next year.

The financial figures will affect many, including the fair itself. Newspaper and broadcast media relied on the fair for one of the highlighted sources of advertising revenue for the year.

As of this writing no plan has been

announced for 4-H and livestock exhibitors who normally would be vying for an appearance at the State Fair.

It's a tragic scene for our community who anticipated fair week for family gatherings, class reunions and daily live entertainment. All in all, the cancellation of the fair brings to a close what appears to be a rather boring summer with limited public activities. We'll all survive, but summer and early fall won't be what we all looked forward to.

Todd Hale of Owatonna is the former publicity director for the fair. This portion originally appeared in his weekend column in the Owatonna People's Press.

What's your COVID-19 Hero story?

We've all been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic in some way or another over the past three months.

As crazy as things have been during the crisis and under all the problems and issues that have resulted from the outbreak, there are countless stories of people that have made a difference and done some good deeds for others. We want to know about those stories.

There are many heroes in our midst, some who have done some obviously miraculous things, but many others who could be considered unassuming and done things that perhaps we normally wouldn't consider such a big deal.

We are looking for your personal story of how a hero in our communities has touched your life during COVID-19. We want to know about the courageous workers risking their own lives to save ours. But we also want to know about our heroes who have done some more normal things. Maybe it's a next-door neighbor who has gone to extra lengths to make sure you are safe, a church member who has delivered groceries to you or stranger that provided a ride for you to a necessary appointment of



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

some sorts.

The problem is only you can help identify those heroes. You are the crucial link to helping us uncover and showcase the heroes who have helped make a positive difference in your life.

If there is one thing that has happened throughout this pandemic, it's how people have turned to help their friends, neighbors and even strangers. We have seen some pretty amazing things happen in a short period of time.

We are asking you to jot down some thoughts in 200 words or less highlighting details about your hero and how they helped you survive COVID-19. You can either email them to us with your contact information at bptimes@frontiernet.net or mail to P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917. Please send them to us by Friday, July 10.

In honor of our

COVID-19 heroes, we plan to publish a special section later this summer or early fall. We want to include your submissions in this edition. We are even awarding prizes for the best submissions as determined by a group of judges.

The coronavirus has certainly been an unprecedented time in our history. We want to make sure to capture this history so that people 100 years from now can look back and see how united we were in battling the virus and helping each other out.

It's time for all of us to unmask the heroes behind the COVID-19 crisis.

I can't tell you how many times people come into our newspaper office to search for important items that have happened over the past 125 years. The coronavirus will be one of those items that future generations will be checking into down the road.

It would be nice to give those people a collection of our best so they know how we overcame a major life-changing event.

As we maneuver through this pandemic, it's time to salute our COVID-19 heroes. All it takes is you going in hot pursuit of helping us identify those heroes.

YOUR VIEW

Do the right thing and keep each other safe

To-the-Editor:

As a long time reader/subscriber of the Times, I would like to add my humble opinion in regards to the COVID-19 virus and the world we live in. I am a firm believer in my right to do most anything within reason if I am not hurting anyone else.

If I choose to smoke, even though I am fully aware of the dangers, that is my right. After all it is my health. If I choose to live a life style of idleness, eating perceived unhealthy foods, ignore warnings from my doctor about the dangers of diabetes, that is my right. After all it is my health and not any one else's.

In regards to the virus, if I choose not to wear a mask in public

or not practice social distancing, that is my right. After all, if I should fall ill, it is my health and I shall take responsibility for it.

But wait. Is it true in regards to the virus that I might unknowingly pass it on to my family if I do not take simple precautions? Might I infect my coworkers who then unknowingly bring it home to their loved ones? Is it true that I may expose a stranger I pass on the street or stand next to in the grocery store?

Unfortunately, it is true. My actions, or inactions, can have consequences for those around me, intended or otherwise. I may be inadvertently causing a severe illness, job loss and the economic

pain that goes with it. On a more global scale, virus hot spots like we have seen in Owatonna, Worthington, and many other places do in fact have a trickle down effect to cities and communities through the eventual loss of tax income.

I think that my rights have been trumped by the rights of the many that have a valid expectation for their workplace, their public space, their homes to be as safe as possible. We are in this battle with the virus whether we choose to or not. Is it really that hard to do the right thing and keep each other safe?

Stay healthy and stay safe! Blossom country!

Russ Plunkett
Woodbury

SHIELDS OF STEELE:

Helping to protect area medical staffs FROM A1

"Once we took care of the medical community's needs," Beckman said it made sense to continue forward with our First Responders, and our most vulnerable community members in assisted living

facilities said Beckman. "After we met these needs, we want to focus on the essential businesses, and hope to provide help for businesses that require close contact in order to function," Beckman explained.

"Our work is far from over," Beckman said.

The manufacturing setup has been made possible by contacts of Beckman who have provided the use of 30 3D printers.

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MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

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 Association)

Public Health: Cases have plateaued

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

After weeks of rising cases throughout Steele County, the number of coronavirus cases is plateauing, Public Health Director Amy Caron said Monday.

Caron reported that there were no new cases over the weekend and only two in the past week. Of Steele County's 175 confirmed cases, 141 are reportedly out of isolation. There have been no deaths associated to COVID-19 in Steele and nobody is currently hospitalized as of Monday.

In Dodge County, there are 58 confirmed cases with no deaths and no one hospitalized.

"We think things are leveling off in both counties," said Caron. She noted

testing at Mayo Clinic in Owatonna has also leveled off with an average of about 40 people per day currently getting tested. Mayo had been doing as many as 100 tests per day.

However, Caron said the real test will come in a couple weeks after restrictions have been loosened up and many places are re-opening again after being shut down for several months.

One of the more noteworthy cases in the past week involves Father Jim Stasasich of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Owatonna and Christ the King in Medford. He

has been canceled for the past two weeks at both churches.

SEE PUBLIC HEALTH, A5

Things to consider when planning a summer trip during a pandemic

The coronavirus has disrupted life, from a simple trip to the grocery store to planning a family vacation this summer.

The Centers for Disease Control is recommending families stay within the U.S. for their travels or even just stay close to home.

If your family is still making plans for a vacation, consider these CDC recommendations:

- Never travel if you're sick or have been exposed to COVID-19; the same goes for anyone within your group.
- Always take a face mask with for public places.
- Pack your own food, water, plenty of medicine and hand sanitizer, in case the restaurant, gas station or convenience store can't serve you due to occupancy limits, or there aren't supplies available to you.
- Beaches and parks are fun outdoor places to go; keep a safe six foot distance from other people.
- When going to a pool, take off the mask only when going into the water.
- If renting a car, RV, or camper, carefully wipe down all surfaces, and continue to wash hands and avoid touching your face.

Before leaving on the trip:

- Check with state regulations for quarantine requirements. Some states are still requiring visitors to isolate

for 14 days when visiting the state or coming back from going out of town.

- Avoid posting on social media about where you're going or when you're leaving. Save the fun pictures for when you get back.

If planning to travel by air, carefully review cancellation policies, consider travel insurance, and make sure to clearly understand the restrictions; when booking the tickets, as the departure date gets closer, check to see how full the flight is getting to determine if you're comfortable being less than six feet from someone.

Sign up for updates to any changes in policies at the location where you intend to travel. Many states are slowly re-opening for business but that may change between the time the trip is booked and the time of departure.

- Leave an emergency contact number for a close family member or friend.
- Avoid online scams when booking a trip.
- Be prepared for delays that may occur when you are planning to travel because of the coronavirus.

Learn more about how to plan appropriately on BBB.org/coronavirus.

Report suspicious websites or deals that seem to be too good to be true on BBB.org/scamtracker.

Open at last



After closing down restaurants and bars for nearly three months due to the COVID-19 crisis, Gov. Tim Walz has allowed them to be open to at least 50% capacity, effective June 10. The Pizza Cellar of Blooming Prairie was one of the restaurants opening. Here, waitress Riauna Bishop takes an order from Lori Jordison, left, and Michelle Miller.

HEALTH COLUMN

As we move to Stay Safe MN, let's keep each other safe and healthy

Last week, Gov. Tim Walz made another step in returning our community to regular operations. We will likely see some differences based on what we have learned about COVID-19 and what we still do not know. It will be important that we all continue to follow basic practices to keep ourselves, our families and our communities safe and what we each have the power to do to avoid spreading this deadly disease.

As health and human services professionals, we have been watching and learning about COVID-19 since reports first emerged in late 2019 and early 2020. We have worked diligently together and with other partners to prepare our community for the impacts of this disease. And while we have flattened the curve so that our supplies were not depleted and our facilities were not overwhelmed, we have not seen the last of COVID-19. In fact, as has been reported by the Minnesota Department of Health and in the media, the rate of infection is increasing in our community. Now that we are moving to resume some activities of normal life, it is important to be mindful that COVID-19 is still in our community and it is up to everyone to keep us all safe and healthy.

We applaud the many places of business, organizations and individuals who have

adapted to this new reality and adopted new practices. Hand washing, maintaining appropriate distance from others and wearing a mask when you are in public are proven ways to reduce the spread. Even under ideal circumstances, this highly infectious disease will move from one person to another. That is why it is important that if you do experience any of the symptoms, you should call your health care provider and ask for a COVID-19 diagnostic test. Even if the test is negative, if you do not feel well, stay home and limit your interactions with others until you feel better.

When patients are diagnosed with COVID-19, they are required to self-isolate until the infection is cleared, often for at least two weeks. Self-isolation is not always easy and our public health departments are able to help with essential services where needed. Fortunately, the majority of people who do become infected with COVID-19 are able to recover at home and do not need to go to the hospital.

We look forward to life resuming in ways we can all enjoy. The most important thing to understand is that we all do better when we all do our part. Thank you for being considerate and practicing these simple ways to keep our community healthy and strong.

Please practice the following in order to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities:

- Wear a mask in public: I wear a mask to protect you. You wear a mask to protect me.
- Keep your physical distance: Six feet or about two arms' lengths apart from other people.
- Wash your hands with soap: simple and effective.
- Stay home if you do not feel well.
- Get a test if you have COVID symptoms. Call your local healthcare provider to schedule a test.
- Self-isolate if you have been around someone who is sick or tested positive.
- If you can't go to work, talk to your employer.
- If you have been instructed to stay in isolation or quarantine due to COVID, and you need help with essential services to help you be able to stay at home, call your local public health department.

There are many resources for employers, workers, and communities, including resources in different languages, to provide you with additional education and information about COVID-19:

- Steele County Public Health: [www.co.steele.mn.us/divisions/community_services/public_health/coronavirus-\(covid-19\).php](http://www.co.steele.mn.us/divisions/community_services/public_health/coronavirus-(covid-19).php)
- Rice County Public Health: www.co.rice.mn.us/492/Coronavirus-disease-COVID-19-Curent-Sit

co.rice.mn.us/492/Coronavirus-disease-COVID-19-Curent-Sit

• Rice County Public Health Facebook - www.facebook.com/RiceCountyPublicHealth/

• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - www.cdc.gov/

• Minnesota Department of Health? www.health.state.mn.us/

• Mayo Clinic Health System COVID-19 website? www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org/covid19

• Mayo Clinic Health System Hometown Health blog? www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org/hometown-health

• Mayo Clinic News Network - www.news-network.mayoclinic.org/category/covid-19/

• Allina Health resource page - www.allinahealth.org/coronavirus-covid-19

Stay safe MN. Stay safe right here in our communities.

Amy Caron, Dodge Steele CHS Administrator, Dodge and Steele Counties Public Health Director

Deb Purfeerst, Rice County Public Health Director

David Albrecht, President, District One and Owatonna Hospitals
Brian Bunkers, M.D., CEO, Mayo Clinic Health System Owatonna and Faribault

DRIVE-IN: Dairy Days coming to fairgrounds FROM A1

Fair manager Scott Kozelka said the food vendors will be allowed to set up in front of the grandstand. He has confirmed food stands from Torrey's Restaurant, Godfather's Pizza, Tom Thumb donuts and

Milo Dahlin's Kettle Corn. Some of the others that will be featured are corn dogs, cheese curds, Konna ice and a Mexican stand, he said.

"I've been trying to find people that have local ties," said Kozelka.

Zollner added they wanted to limit it to 10 vendors so "that way we're not creating an event that will be too big."

She pointed out that people will simply be able to drive up and grab some fair food. With

social distancing restrictions, there will be no picnic tables or restrooms available, she said.

"I hope it brings some people to enjoy dairy products, fair food and have some summer fun," Zollner said.

COVID-19 UPDATE

World.....	7,690,000	U.S.	2,140,000	MN.....	29,795	Steele.....	175	Dodge	59
Deaths	428,000	Deaths	117,000	Deaths	1,305	Deaths	0	Deaths	0
Recovered.....	2,600,000	Recovered.....	655,000	Recovered.....	19,441	Recovered.....	141	Recovered.....	47

AS OF JUNE 15, 2020

GUEST COLUMN

Will the COVID-19 Era of addiction treatment last?

BY MARCEL GEMME

In early March, we all knew that COVID-19 could become a problem for us. But within a couple of weeks, we learned just how big of a problem it could be, as it began impacting our lives in ways we never could've imagined. Entire industries started scrambling to figure out how to respond, and if they could continue providing services.

Many, like the substance abuse treatment industry, had no direction or instructions and had to figure it out on their own. But since then, many changes have occurred as agencies have looked for ways to adapt and continue to help people. The question that many have is if these changes will last after the pandemic is gone.

At first, many patients in rehab just left. Concerned for their safety living in close quarters with many other people, a lot of them went home despite not completing treatment. People also stopped looking for treatment, and enrollment slowed way down for most facilities. This led to financial difficulties for many centers that had to lay off staff or even close.

Yet reports keep coming in about overdose numbers spiking since COVID-19 hit America, as well as people relapsing who were previously doing well in recovery. The stress of the virus and isolation isn't helping America's drug epidemic. Not only are more people using drugs, but less are seeking treatment.

Some treatment facilities have adapted by moving to telehealth. Telehealth is the use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support long-distance clinical health care, patient, health-related education, and public health. The reason this hasn't been done already is it's been resisted by insurance companies and regulatory agencies.

The concern is that it may not be sufficient to treat addiction, neglecting essential practices like drug testing or getting the person out of the drug environment. But since COVID-19 has

tied so many people's hands, telehealth is being permitted and billed for by treatment providers. Even those with Medicaid are covered for telehealth services for substance abuse treatment right now. It's unprecedented.

Another historic move was made when it comes to Medication-Assisted Treatment. This practice consists of giving people medications like Suboxone and Methadone to treat opioid addiction. Because the drugs are tightly controlled, patients often must travel to a clinic each day to get their dose. COVID-19 did away with that quickly, prompting changes in regulation and allowing people to take home up to 28 days worth of the medication.

Giving the potential for abuse and potential overdose, this decision may end up being dangerous. Though there is an understandable desire to curb the spread of COVID-19, it's important to examine the cost. In an effort to save an individual from COVID-19 we are putting them in a situation that is potentially more hazardous to their health.

These changes weren't approved with years of work and lobbying within the addiction treatment field. COVID-19 accomplished this feat in a few weeks, which is scary if you stop and think about it. This pandemic has claimed nowhere near the number of lives that America's drug epidemic has, raging on over the last two decades.

Maybe we're just numb to addiction or hypersensitive to the coronavirus. Either way, many are just happy the advancements happened, no matter how. And they don't believe they'll be forced to revert to old practices after the pandemic is gone. Time will tell if the changes made were improvements or liabilities in the never-ending fight to save lives.

Marcel Gemme has been helping people struggling with substance abuse for more than 20 years. His goal is to spread awareness on substance abuse on a national level in both the U.S. and Canada.

USDA helps kids eat free meals

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue has announced a nationwide extension of another key flexibility for USDA's child nutrition programs.

This waiver allows local partners, who have been working overtime serving meals to kids during the health crisis, the ability to continue serving free meals to all children – regardless of where they live – for the remainder of the summer. This action is part of USDA's ongoing commitment to making it as easy as possible for local program operators to get food to children impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As our nation reopens and people return to work, it remains critical our children continue to receive safe, healthy, and nutritious food. We are extending one of the significant

flexibilities provided in March during the coronavirus national emergency to schools, summer sites, and other folks who operate our programs so they can best adapt to the situation on-the-ground and serve our children well," said Secretary Perdue. "This nationwide flexibility ensures America's kids will continue to be fed this summer."

Since the start of the national public health crisis, FNS has used a whole of America approach to ensure those in need have access to one or more of the 15 nutrition assistance programs under USDA's Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) umbrella. To date, FNS has approved over 2,600 flexibilities and will continue to work with states and other partners as the nation turns its focus to reopening in a safe way.



Pastor Joyce Parker waves as a parade of vehicles line up outside the United Methodist Church in Owatonna June 10. She is retiring from the church. The celebration also marked the retirement of Pastor Linda Boorman and the departure of interim Pastor Scott Jakel. A new pastor will be installed later this month.

Drive-by goodbyes to 3 pastors at United Methodist

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Change is in the air at United Methodist Church of Owatonna.

On June 10, parishioners lined up in their vehicles outside of the church to offer a drive-by thank you to three pastors who will no longer be serving the church. Pastors Joyce Parker and Linda Boorman are retiring from the church while interim Pastor Scott Jakel is leaving to make room for a new pastor who

will be installed later this month.

Because of the COVID-19 crisis, people were required to stay in their cars and they could honk their horns or shout out the window with greetings of "thank you" and "good bye" to the departing pastors.

The Owatonna church has been combined with Dodge Center for about the past four years. The two will now become separate again.

Pastor Loren Olson retired last Novem-

ber after serving the congregation for the past 10 years. Jakel has been serving as interim pastor since that time.

Although Boorman is looking forward to retirement, she says she will miss the congregation. "I want you to know that I will think fondly of you all, and I will be praying for your future under the leadership of a new pastor," Boorman wrote to the congregation.

In leaving the church, Parker said,

"Our churches are taking on a triple whammy of a wind this June when it comes to change: I am leaving, Scott is leaving and Linda is leaving. That's a lot of change. But we must remember the verse from Romans 8:28: 'And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are calling according to his purpose for them.'"

Pastor Lisa Vick will be taking over the Owatonna parish.

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



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

Share your hero and you could win a prize!

- In 200 or less words, send us details highlighting your hero and how they helped you survive COVID-19.
- Two easy ways to submit:
Email: hptimes@frontiernet.net
Mail: Steele County Times
o P.O. Box 247
o Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
- Please include: Name, Phone Number and Address and/or Email
- Submissions will be published in a special Hero section later this summer.
- **PRIZES** will be awarded to the best submissions as selected by our judges.
o Gift Cards to area stores and restaurants
o Subscriptions to the Times
- **HURRY!** Send your submissions by Friday, July 10

What's your **COVID-19 HERO** story?

We're waiting to hear from you today!

STEELE COUNTY Times

What to Know About Advance Care Planning in the Age of Coronavirus



Dear Savvy Senior,
All this horrible coronavirus carnage got me thinking about my own end-of-life decisions if I were to get sick. Can you recommend some good resources that can help me create a living will or advance directive, or other pertinent documents? I've put it off long enough.
Almost 70

Dear Almost,
Creating a living will (also known as an advance directive) is one of those things most people plan to do, but rarely get around to actually doing. Only about one-third of Americans currently have one. But the cold hard reality of the novel coronavirus may be changing that. Here's what you should know along with some resources to help you create an advance directive.

ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

To adequately spell out your wishes regarding your end-of-life medical treatment are two key documents: A "living will" which tells your doctor what kind of care you want to receive if you become incapacitated, and a "health care power of attorney" (or health care proxy), which names a person you authorize to make medical decisions on your behalf if you become unable to.

These two documents are known as an "advance directive," and will only be utilized if you are too ill to make medical decisions yourself. You can also change or update it whenever you please.

It isn't necessary to hire a lawyer to prepare an advance directive. There are free or low-cost resources available today to help you create one, and it takes only a few minutes from start to finish.

One that I highly recommend that's completely free to use is My Directives (MyDirectives.com). This is an online tool and mobile app that will help you create, store and share a detailed, customized digital advance directive. Their easy-to-use platform combines eight thoughtful questions to guide you through the process. If you're not computer savvy, ask a family member or trusted friend to help you.

The advantage of having a digital advance directive versus a paper document is being able to access it quickly and easily via smartphone, which is crucial in emergency situations when they're most often needed.

If, however, you'd rather have a paper document, one of the best do-it-yourself options is the Five Wishes advance directive (they offer online forms too). Created by Aging with Dignity, a nonprofit advocacy organization, Five Wishes costs \$5, and is available in many languages. To learn more or to receive a copy, visit FiveWishes.org or call 850-681-2010.

Another tool you should know about that will complement your advance directive is the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment, or POLST (sometimes called Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment or MOLST). A POLST form translates your end-of-life wishes into medical orders to be honored by your doctors. To learn more about your state's program or set one up, see POLST.org.

Readers should also know that if you've already prepared an advanced directive paper document, a POLST form or the VA advance directive form 10-0137, you can upload, store and share these documents too at MyDirectives.com.

And finally, to ensure your final wishes are followed, make sure to tell your family members, health care proxy and doctors. If you make a digital advance directive or have uploaded your existing forms, you can easily share them electronically to everyone involved. Or, if you make a paper advance directive that isn't uploaded, you should provide everyone copies to help prevent stress and arguments later.

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

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History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago

June 22, 2010

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Multiple tornadoes touched down throughout the region Thursday night, leaving one dead, many injured and lives scarred forever by the devastation that wiped away houses, farm places and at least one business. The quick action of the Bloomington Prairie Police Sgt. Mark Lang and Officer Jake Peterson saved the life of rural Bloomington Prairie, Judith Koller. She was trapped under debris after the tornado ripped through her home. Koller is recovering in Rochester after suffering broken legs and other injuries.

Steele County "Breakfast on the Farm" was another huge success this year. The event was held at the Aaron and Brooke Schroll farm, northwest of Owatonna. The estimated attendance was a bit over 1,100 people. Aaron Schroll is the fifth generation to operate the family farm. Aaron bought the farm from his grandparents, Jerry and Bernice in 2008. They are currently working on getting their Organic Certification. They also have over 200 head of cattle and are milking 76. The event offered horse and buggy rides, jump house, crown making station and pictures taken of children with calves.

Gardeners, Tom and Martha Walters have beautiful gardens, with plants tucked in various places around their home. As many around Bloomington Prairie know, Tom is the "Tom" in Frank and Tom's greenhouse. They have been gardening in one form or another all of their lives. They even gardened when they lived in an apartment in St. Paul. Tom starts planning right after Christmas and really gets going when the seed catalogs arrive. He even maps out the beds in his basement. They approach gardening pretty organically, using compost of grass mulch and their kitchen scraps. As the summer progresses new things are added to their gardens.

20 Years Ago

June 20, 2000

ELSIE SUNLIGER, PUBLISHER

The Bloomington Prairie Legion team played in the Mountain Lake Tournament this weekend and came home as champions.

The six-team tournament consisted of Mountain Lake, Welcome, Mankato Loyola, Glenville and LeSueur-Henderson. In getting to their championship game they were victors over Mankato Loyola and lost to Mountain Lake (2-1). Their championship game was won over Welcome (6-4).

The following students from Bloomington Prairie have been named to the Dean's List at South Dakota State University. College of Engineering, Anthony Brandt, and James Kollar; College of Agriculture and Biological Science, Karen Peterson.

Steele County Red Cross Chapter of America are pleased to announce winners of the Jack Hale Youth Initiative Scholarship. It is a pleasure to recognize the outstanding young people for their academic achievements and commitment to volunteering and talent to their communities. The following recipients are Jessica Wonderlich, Bloomington Prairie; Melissa Wayne, Ellendale; Mona Kaiser, Medford; Dara Krause, Hope; Jonathan Schack, Katie Taylor, Laura Nichols and Kelli Gardner, all of Owatonna.

50 Years Ago

June 17, 1970

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE

KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Graduates of the University of Minnesota, are: Sam Harris - Economics and Business Administration and Mary Becker - Bachelor Of Arts. Graduates of Austin Junior College are: Daniel Grant and Clinton Becker, both will be furthering their education at the University of Minnesota in the fall; Gene Simon continuing on to Mankato State University for secondary education. Sally Harms graduated from the University of Tulsa with degree in Elementary education. James Merritt, an experienced law enforcement officer, has assumed the duties of Chief of Police in Bloomington Prairie. He filled the position after the resignation of J.K. Jorgenson. Mr. Merritt has been with the Minneapolis Police Department, Rockford and Springfield. He comes to Bloomington Prairie highly recommended. Merritt is married and has four children.

Awards were presented at the Bloomington Prairie Jaycees inaugural banquet on June 3. Sixty-two persons attended. Awards presented

were: Jaycees of the month: Warren Iverson-June; Marvin Ingvaldsen-July; Darrell Bauder-August; Dr. T.E. Neely-September; Otto Jensen-October; Paul Johnson-November; Bob Noble-December; Howard Bode-January; Verle Conner-April; and Paul Stollard-May. Presidential Awards: Jim Sren, Joe Wurst and Tom Walters. Exhausted Rooster Award: Paul Sender. Key awards: Ken Behken-outstanding board member; Howard Bode-outstanding new member; and Bernice Brand, Jaycee of the Year.

75 Years Ago

June 6, 1945

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Receiving fatal wounds April 30th, Pfc. Clarence Wanous died on Luzon on May 10. Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence of Owatonna, were notified by the War Department on Sunday. Wanous was 20 years old. He had been in the service for two years and participated in the first Luzon landings and has been in much of the action there since that time. Besides his parents, he is survived by one sister who had received a letter written but five days before he died.

Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Seykora will celebrate the Golden Anniversary on June 25. High Mass will be at 8 o'clock. An open house will be at their farm on June 24 in Summit Township from two to five.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Knutson will observe their Silver Anniversary on June 24th at their country home near Bloomington Prairie. Their open house will be five to seven in the evening.

Pfc. Nordahlk Braaten arrived home on a "surprise" 70-day furlough Tuesday morning and will spend it with his parents Mr. and Mrs. H.J. Braaten in Corning. Braaten was in a German prison camp for 24 days and experienced some of the horrors under Nazi rule. There were about 1,000 American soldiers in the camp. A surprise attack by Czech soldiers disarmed the prison guards and word was sent to the US and British soldiers of the whereabouts of the camp. "It was the most welcome sight he had seen when American tanks came to liberate them." His parents were not expecting him and their joy was unbounded when he walked in.

PUBLIC HEALTH:

Cases have plateaued

FROM A3

weeks as a precautionary measure. Both parish offices will remain closed until Friday.

Those Starasinech has interacted with are being told only to be tested if they experience symptoms. In a letter to the congregations, he encouraged parishioners to not travel to a new parish for Mass in order to help prevent the spread.

Caron said the area's long-term care facilities remain stable with only a few isolated cases. "We are really happy with that," she said.

Of the state's 1,298 COVID-19 deaths, 1,030 have taken place in long-term or assisted care facilities, according to Caron.

Many of the long-term facilities in Steele and Dodge counties, Caron said, are working with Mayo Clinic in Rochester to have a team come in and test everyone. She said the advantage of testing everyone is to "get on top of it faster and contain any kind of spread."

Even though cases have plateaued, Caron doesn't want people to

think that the threat has gone away. She has noticed with some of the restrictions loosening, people are engaging in a more relaxed attitude about the virus and think there is no danger any longer.

Caron warns that people still need to be vigilant about maintaining social distancing, wearing cloth masks in public and washing their hands. "We're not trying to create fear out there, but we want people to be smart and safe," she says. "It's not a huge ask (of people) to protect themselves and others."

Some states have reported a resurgence in COVID-19 cases over the past week. Caron believes that is coming from states opening up too fast all at once and not doing it in increments. She hopes Minnesota's slower approach will help avoid resurgences.

Public health officials are still anticipating a peak in the next month or so as well as a second wave of the virus in late fall or early winter.

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CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be on either wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 20 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain a Lifeline discount can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-888-833-9522 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.



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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.

Truck driver sentenced in fog-related highway death

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A semi truck driver that caused a head-on crash killing an Owatonna woman in February 2019 has received an 8-month sentence.

Steele County District Court Judge Karen Duncan sentenced Hasim Lencha Siddiq, 30, of Blaine to 240-days, which will be staggered over the next few years. Duncan ordered Siddiq to serve four periods of 60 days each in the Steele County Detention Center through 2023. He

will begin the sentence in September.

The judge also placed Siddiq on probation for up to five years.

As part of the ruling, Siddiq can file a motion to have the final 180 days in jail waived if he shows he is complying with probation.

Duncan also ordered that Siddiq present information about his case to illustrate the dangers of driving in uncertain conditions and distracted driving in an education venue.

He previously pleaded guilty to felony

criminal vehicular homicide and criminal vehicular operation charges. A manslaughter charge was dismissed.

Siddiq was operating a semi-tractor trailer on Feb. 2, 2019 on U.S. Highway 14 on the two-lane stretch between Dodge Center and Owatonna. In the rural stretch near the Steele and Dodge county line, Siddiq attempted to pass another vehicle in heavy fog. The conditions were wet at the time of the crash.

The truck collided with a car killing the

passenger, Allison Christine Anderson, 67, of Owatonna. Her husband, Todd Anderson, 58, was driving the vehicle and was seriously injured.

Reconstruction experts concluded that the primary factor in the crash was Siddiq's unsafe passing during heavy fog conditions.

This particular crash was the third fatality along Hwy. 14 in a seven-month stretch beginning in July 2018. A fourth fatal crash took place last November killing a New Richland couple.

CRIME BRIEF

High squealing attracts officer's attention


Foster Borger

Some high squealing action attracted the attention of a police officer during the early morning hours of June 7.

Police arrested Foster Borger, 21, of Owatonna for two counts of gross-misdemeanor DWI.

According to police, Borger was operating a minivan when he went squealing out of the parking lot of Kwik Trip on S. Oak Avenue at a high-rate of speed.

Borger did this in front of a fully-marked squad car, police said. When the officer stopped the vehicle, Borger displayed

signs of intoxication and failed the standard field sobriety tests, police said. Borger submitted to a breath test, which revealed an alcohol level of .19, or nearly 2 1/2 times the legal limit to drive.

Sex offender to move into Owatonna

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A high-risk sexual offender is being released into an Owatonna neighborhood next week.

Kyle Mitchell Hood, 27, will be moving into the 200 block of East Rose Street, according to notification to Christian Berg, police

detective. Hood is expected to make the move on Monday.

Whenever Level 3 of offenders are released into the community, police departments hold community notification meetings. However, be-


Kyle Hood

cause of the current COVID-19 restrictions, police will not be having a meeting at this time, Berg said.

Hood has a history of engaging in sexual contact, including penetration, with

known female teenagers. He used force and restraint to gain compliance with his victims.

The attacks originated in Medford in 2013. At the time, Hood was charged with felony criminal sexual conduct for separate incidents. He was sentenced in November 2014. The cases were

investigated by the Steele County Sheriff's Office.

Hood is currently locked up in the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Lino Lakes.

Police note that Hood has served his sentence and is transitioning back into the community. The notification is not intended to increase fear but

rather raise awareness.

Owatonna Police may not direct where Hood resides, works or goes to school.

After his release, Hood will be on supervised probation.

Level 3 offenders are considered the most dangerous and most likely to reoffend.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 1 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding: Hashim I. Siddiq, 30, Blaine, previously appeared and was convicted of felony criminal vehicular homicide and felony criminal vehicular operation. Siddiq was sentenced to \$131, 240 days in county jail, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms, no contact with victim and 5 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 1 - 7:

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Ryan P. Gunther, 40, Medford, ATV violation, \$125.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER
Laura M. Axtell, 50, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$215; Thomas W. Butler, 72, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$135; Jose O. Campos, 27, Albert Lea, speeding, \$215; Guilherme W. Cordovila, 28, Mankato, no license, \$175; Shannon E. Green, 37, Chaska, speeding, \$115; Mari O. Husemann, 17, Owatonna, speeding, \$215; James D. McBroome, 44, Savage, speeding, \$215; Lue Moua, 35, Denison, IA, speeding, \$115; Natalie D. Nauft, 17, Crystal, speeding, \$375; Blake R. O'Neill, 24, Fairbault, hands free violation, \$125; Nicholas D. Pruska, 20, Fairbault, seat belt, \$100; Elizabeth L. Ramirez, 16, Kenyon, speeding, \$125; Lauren E. Reinhold, 49, Lawrence, KS, speeding, \$125; Thomas A. Rudnick, 57, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$115; Jacob C. Sweetman, 23, Farmington, speeding, \$125.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT
Jonathan J. Bonilla Guardado, 29, Owatonna, failure to stop for traffic control signal, \$125; Kimberly S. Britt, 46, Owatonna, DWI, \$1,075, 4 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments,

obtain permission to leave the state, attend support groups and 3 years of supervised probation; Dagwon R. Brown, 21, Owatonna, speeding, revoked license and no insurance, \$515; Luke R. De la Cruz, 21, Hollandale, speeding and careless driving, \$375; Jason D. House, 33, Owatonna, DWI, \$1,100, 14 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 3 years of supervised probation; Alec M. Jarvis, 16, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Kimberly K. Johnson, 56, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$375, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms, complete domestic violence inventory, do not enter liquor establishments, indeterminate amount of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Trey S. Plocher, 21, Brandon, failure to stop for school bus, stay of adjudication, \$200 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Andrew T. Polzin, 33, Medford, DWI, \$375, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel, no alcohol or controlled substance use and indeterminate amount of unsupervised probation; Brittany M. Saekett, 16, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Jeremiah D. Vanriper, 38, Albert Lea, issue dishonored check, \$229.17, 13 days in county jail and indeterminate amount of unsupervised probation; Jackson K. Weatherly, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$115.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Angelina F. Aldrich, 55, Janesville, speeding, \$115; Douglas M. Hohenstein, 56, Rose, seat belt, \$100; James M. Jeffries-Sherwood, 28, Eagle Lake, speeding, \$115; Alyssa L. Johnson, 19, Sleepy Eye, speeding, \$135; Elizabeth K. Lindgren, 65, Owatonna, speeding, \$275; George E. Metzner, 66, Stewartville, speeding, \$115; Douglas R. Mitchell, 34, Chaska, speeding, \$115; Daniel S. Morrison, 55,

Torrington, CT, speeding, \$135; Leonte C. Ray, 27, Albert Lea, speeding, \$115; Joshua M. Rehams, 34, Auto, speeding, \$115; Skyler S. Standke, 26, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Amy L. Thompson, 45, Waseca, speeding, \$115.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

June 6
Crash: At 12:10 p.m., police responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at 4th St. SE and Highway Ave. S. They issued a citation to one of the drivers.

OWATONNA POLICE
June 5
Assault: Officers responded to an assault in the 300 block of Grove Ave. S. at 11:48 a.m.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 7:40 p.m.

June 6
Welfare: Police issued a citation during a welfare check in the 300 block of Main St. E. at 3:56 a.m.

Harassment: At 5:44 a.m., a harassment incident occurred in the 600 block of Bridge St. W.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 200 block of Vine St. E. at 8:03 p.m.

Fraud: Police arrested a subject after responding to a fraud incident in the 1700 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 9:18 a.m.

Burglary: Officers began a burglary investigation in the 400 block of 16th St. NE at 10:45 a.m.

Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of McIndoe St. SE at 8:45 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

Disturbance: At 9:05 p.m., a disturbance occurred in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW.

Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1100 block of School St. E. at 9:20 p.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 11:21 p.m.

June 7
DWI: Police made DWI arrests at Cedar Ave. S. and Hobart St. SE at 1:16 a.m. and at Oak Ave. S. and

McKinley St. SW at 2:57 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 100 block of Rice St. E. at 4:19 a.m.

Arrest: Officer assisted another agency with arresting a subject at Division St. E. and 9th Ave. SE in Fairbault at 7:27 p.m.

June 9
Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at 16th St. NE and St. Paul Place NE at 9:18 a.m.

Burglary: Officers responded to a burglary in the 300 block of Grove Ave. S. at 8:44 a.m.

Threats: Police responded to a subject making threats in the 200 block of Florence Ave. NW at 12:25 p.m.

Warrants: Police made warrant arrests in the 200 block of University St. SE at 4:31 p.m. and the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 9:42 p.m.

June 9
Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 100 block of Bridge St. W. at 5 p.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 2100 block of La Casa Lane SE at 8:53 p.m.

Restraining Order: At 9:50 p.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 2100 block of La Casa Lane SE.

June 10
Theft: Police arrested a subject for theft in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 7:35 a.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: At 2:15 p.m., criminal sexual conduct was reported in the 300 block of Main St. E.

Mental Health: Officers assisted with a mental health incident in the 200 block of Oakwood Lane NE at 8:48 p.m.

June 11
DWI: Police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at Hoffman Dr. NW and Rose St. W. at 1:14 a.m.

Shoplifting: Shoplifting incidents occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 9:30 a.m., the 400 block of North St. W. at 4:08 p.m. and the 100 block of 18th St. SE at 9:40 p.m.

Mental Health: Officers responded to a mental health incident in the 700 block of Paris Place SE at 10:20 a.m.

Crash: Paramedics and police responded to a

motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 11:45 a.m.

ARRESTS
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE
Amanda Kay Bryan, 32, arrested at 9:07 a.m. June 10, felony theft, held for court.
Nicholas Lawrence Dube, 27, arrested at 10:58 P.M. June 10, felony possession of firearm as a felon and possession of stolen property, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF
Chaz Anthony Strobach, 21, arrested at 3:34 p.m. June 9, warrant arrest, \$10,000 bail.

MN STATE PATROL
Ryan John Patzer, 23, arrested at 4:50 p.m. June 10, felony possession of stolen property and DWI, held for court.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following cases were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of May 31 with Judge and L. Williamson presiding: Joseph A. Atkinson, 31, Kasson, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. He was sentenced to \$130, 103 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, mental health evaluation, cognitive skill training and 5 years of supervised probation. Arnulfo C. Robles Jr., 49, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony DWI. The defendant was sentenced to \$1,050, 96 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, mental health evaluation, cognitive skill training, written letter of apology, 100 hours of community service and 7 years of supervised probation. The following case was heard in Dodge County

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Robert P. Crandall, 31, Dodge Center, no insurance, \$280; Jill C. Roussopoulos, 47, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT
Chad R. Curry, 50, Chatfield, failure to yield to pedestrian, \$180; Nicole A. Olson, 37, Rochester, hands free violation, \$130; Richard M. Schutte Jr., 36, Zumbrota, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, \$280 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Taylor J. Tierney, 21, Byron, DWI, \$1,005, 2 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 2 years of supervised probation.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER
Timothy E. Fugleberg, 35, Byron, suspended license, \$200; Hugo Hernandez Cruz, 31, Rochester, speeding and no license, \$240; Thomas A. Isaacson, 27, Owatonna, speeding, \$140; Qui P. Nguyen, 48, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Ryan J. Williams, 30, Mantorville, seat belt, stay of adjudication, \$75 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication.

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 for COVID-19 resources.

Pastor prepares his farewells to the community

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

For 12 years Father John Sauer has shared his faith with members of the community, coming together for regular mass and prayers at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Owatonna. "I came here at the end of May in 2008," Father Sauer recalls. "Prior to that I was in Winona."

After college, Sauer got his first job in Winona as a Director of Music at a local church. It was while serving as a music director that he understood that his true calling was to be a pastor and bring the Word of God to others. "I had thought about it in both grade school and high school," he explained. "My parents and family were very active in the church so we were always around the church and it

seemed like I was being called to it. I think he got me to the place he needed me to be."

With years of working as a pastor or assistant pastor, Sauer has made many memories along the way. "I really enjoy leading people in prayer and it's where I feel fulfilled," he said of his favorite part of being a priest.

"It's nice to think back on the ways that people have come together during the various challenges we've had," he said fondly. "I think people in Owatonna and the members of Sacred Heart really love their priest and that's a fun thing."

He singled out his 25th anniversary as a priest in 2010 as a particularly memorable gathering. "The parish really went out of its way and so for me that was a very fond memory," Sauer said.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Father John Sauer of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Owatonna is leaving in a few weeks after serving as a local pastor for 12 years. Until last year, he had also served as pastor at Holy Trinity Church at Litomysl.

From here he will be going to Rochester in July and serving a pastor to two churches there, but he will always hold a special place for Owatonna in his heart. "I really treasured my time in the community, and

I've really come to love Owatonna," he explained.

"I thank all of the people who I've met for their faith, their generosity, and their ability to come together," he said. "My hope is that I might be able to come

back when I retire and serve parishes in an unofficial way."

Sauer also had reflections concerning how the recent pandemic has affected many individuals' faith. "As Catholics we have an obligation to come to mass, and I think a lot of people realize now that we cannot come together on weekends that they really miss it," he said. "I think people are seeing where we sometimes take our faith for granted in the good times and that in the challenging times, we certainly need it," Sauer said. After suspending public mass in March, churches were able to open to limited gatherings in May. "It's a challenge week by week, but it's working really well so far."

Having lived and worked in the community for over a decade,

Sauer said he has had plenty of people come up to him to give him their farewells. "A number of people have reached out," he said. "The situation we're in makes a farewell celebration a bit more challenging but we might do something outdoors to come together in some way so I can say goodbye."

For the time being, all those who shared their faith with him and joined him in prayer, will look forward to having one last gathering with the person who they looked to in good times and bad.

During his tenure in Owatonna, Sauer also served as pastor at Holy Trinity Church at Litomysl up until last year when the Diocese reconfigured the church clusters. At that time, Sauer devoted his time solely to Sacred Heart.

2 new officers added to BPPD



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Prior Lake native Brooke Baker became a permanent part-time police officer with the Bloomington Police Department on Wednesday, June 10. She logged her police training at Bemidji State University and at the Alexandria Vocational Technical Institute.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

There are two new police officers on the force of the Bloomington Police Department.

The BP City Council recently approved the hiring of two part-time officers, Brooke Baker and Brad Busho.

Baker was an Owatonna police officer just under a year, working in security at the Owatonna Police Department. Baker was an Owatonna police officer just under a year, working in security at the Owatonna Police Department.

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STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

A former firefighter with the Owatonna Fire Department, Brad Busho has turned in that uniform for a police uniform. The Bloomington Prairie City Council recently approved Busho's hiring as a permanent part-time officer.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

the Owatonna Fire Department. He then worked five years at the Steele County Detention Center.

He was a supervisor (corporal). He has also worked two years as a police officer in New Richland.

Enjoying community interaction, Busho said he is impressed with the support shown the police department by the community and that's one reason he applied to be an officer with the department.

"The Pizza Cellar is here and that's one of our family's favorite," says Busho. "You can't go wrong there," he smiles.

The Busho family has often attended the Bloomington Prairie Fourth of July parade regularly. Busho walked the parade route in full fire gear as an Owatonna firefighter.

The Fourth of July celebration has been cancelled for this year. The fireworks will be held the evening of July 4. Busho said he will be working in uniform that night.

Busho says he personally will continue to do the job he is hired to do and in doing so, he says, "I will show respect to others."

Busho was a part-time firefighter for 10 years with

BP audit shows good news

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The City of Bloomington is in good health, according to an annual audit completed by Abdo, Eick & Meyers, LLP of Mankato.

Audit firm representative Erin Enstad provided a virtual presentation to Mayor Curt Esplan and to council members Mary Kittelson, Bill Newman, Tara Gimbel and Brad Clark. City administrator Andrew Langholz and city clerk Terry Zwerner also followed the formal presentation.

"Our fund balances are in good health and revenues and expenditures came in the way we expected," said Langholz.

In comparing Bloomington with other Minnesota cities of comparable size, Enstad said Bloomington's tax is "a little higher" but its taxes per capita are on the low edge.

Cash in the General Fund increased by \$75,148, compared to the previous year where the General Fund decreased by \$1,512. The lion's share of the increase is due to the township contracts for the fire department that is designated for fire truck purchases which totals \$68,082.50.

The sanitary sewer fund reflected an increase in its cash account of \$24,519. Major projects are expected for the coming years. This then means that rates will need to continue to be addressed.

The storm sewer fund reflected a \$205 increase in its cash account. The ambulance funds select a \$39,937 increase in its cash account.

The cemetery fund saw an increase in cash of \$1,255. The audit report was officially adopted on a motion by Bill Newman and second by Mary Kittelson. Newman, Kittelson, Gimbel and Clark cast "aye" votes.

A COVID-19 update was given to the council by Langholz. Some operational adjustments are guided by federal and state mandates. City hall, the BP Library and the administration office remain closed to the public. Curbside delivery of books is still provided by the BP Library.

Bars and restaurants were allowed to reopen

outdoors as of June 1. Outdoor permits for temporary hours and increase in size must be obtained by bars and restaurants, Langholz said. Tables were provided by the city to the Pizza Cellar and to the BP Servicemen's Club.

The dial was moved on June 10 by Gov. Tim Walz allowing bars and restaurants to open inside up to 50%.

Youth baseball and softball sponsored by the Bloomington Recreation Association allows teams in grades 5-6 to train by adhering to guidelines provided by the Minnesota Department of Health. No games are allowed.

Summer recreation programming for Bloomington Prairie High School began on June 15, outdoors only. The 2020 Summer Volleyball League is delaying play until the governor announces guidelines that will allow teams to play competitively.

In other action the council:

- Authorized the hiring of Bradley Busho as a permanent part-time police officer. Four candidates were selected for interviews during the first round. Two were then chosen to move forward to the second round. Once the second round interviews were complete, the final recommendation was to hire Busho. Brooke Baker has also been hired as a part-time officer.

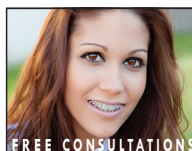
- Approved \$17,000 expense to repair the pool platform at the Pine Springs Pool. The pool will not open this season.

- Authorized city hall building repairs near the police department. Gutters will be added around the city hall.

- Heard a report from the city administrator about S & S Motors being a safety hazard. The business has been warned to fix the structure, or tear it down.

- Was updated about fireworks which will still be sponsored on July 4. Insurance has to be obtained. Up to 250 persons will be allowed to gather, observing social distancing.

The next meeting of the BP City Council will be at 7 p.m. Monday, July 13.



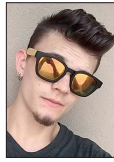
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**John Knudtson, 21,
Blooming Prairie**



John Knudtson

John Dean Knudtson, age 21 of Blooming Prairie, passed away unexpectedly, Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at his home in New Prague.

John was born Dec. 4, 1998, in Brainerd, to Joseph and Wendy (Miller) Knudtson. He enjoyed skateboarding, hanging out with friends, playing Magic card games, and video games, especially Call of Duty and Black Ops. John was an avid weapons expert and enjoyed being outdoors. He loved his Jeep, the movie Deadpool, art, and was a very talented drawer. John was very independent and proud; he would rarely ask for help. He could talk to anybody and was a big flirt. His favorite phrase when he would do something silly was, "Don't judge me."

John will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Survivors include his parents, Joseph and Wendy Knudtson of Blooming Prairie; sister, Skyla Knudtson of Blooming Prairie; grandparents, Ben and Carol Miller.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Reynold and Mavis Knudtson.

A private family service will be held at the Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home Chapel in Blooming Prairie. A small gathering of no more than 40 people will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, June 18, 2020, at Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home in Blooming Prairie. Due to the COVID-19 protocol, we are requiring that everyone attending please wear a mask.

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

**Justin Neubauer, 32,
Hastings**

Justin Paul Neubauer, 32, of Hastings, died Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester from injuries received in a motorcycle accident.

He was born Sept. 24, 1987, in Owatonna, the son of David and Donna (Dohmen) Neubauer. He grew up on a farm near Claremont. He was a 2006 graduate of Triton High School. He continued his education at Universal Technical Institute in Illinois and Arizona graduating with a degree in Diesel Mechanics. He later received training as a Nuclear Valve Technician. During high school, Justin worked for Cash Wise and Northland Farm Systems in Owatonna. After college, he worked at Peterbilt in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Dahn Construction in Rosemont and Crane Nuclear and BHI throughout the country.

Justin enjoyed mechanical work, riding his motorcycle, motor sports and helping on the farm when time allowed.

He is survived by his parents, David and Donna Neubauer of Claremont; brothers, Nathan (Megan) Neubauer of Maple Grove and Steven Neubauer (Danielle Schwartz) of Hastings; grandmother, Delores Neubauer of Owatonna; grandfather, Eugene Dohmen of Hampton; niece and goddaughter, Reese Neubauer of Maple Grove; special friend, Micha Paucot and her daughter, Lauren (Matt) Jackson and their son, Neo of Hastings and numerous uncles, aunts, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by grandmother, Ann Dohmen; grandfather, Marvin Neubauer and cousin, Randy Neubauer.

A Public Visitation was at Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna on Monday, June 15.

A Private Family Funeral Service will be held at St. John Lutheran Church in Havana Township with The Rev. Alan Broadwell officiating. Interment will be in the St. John Lutheran Church Cemetery, Havana Township.

The public is invited to live stream the funeral service using the following link: <https://www.wearlivetoday.com/celebration-of-life>

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**Wilmer Grunklee, 87,
Owatonna**



Wilmer Grunklee

Wilmer Albert Grunklee, 87, of Owatonna, died Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at his home surrounded by his loving family.

He was born Sept. 21, 1932 in Steele County, the son of Albert and Paulene (Hargfeld) Grunklee. Wilmer attended country church school. He married Marjorie Naylor on April 28, 1956, at First Presbyterian Church in Claremont.

They made their home on the Grunklee family farm in Aurora Township where they farmed and raised six children. In 1991, they moved to Owatonna. Wilmer continued to farm with his son and worked at Truth Hardware for 13 years.

He was very passionate about farming and loved his exotic chickens. Wilmer enjoyed gardening, bird watching, fishing, dancing especially polka and the waltz. Wilmer lit up for his family especially his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchild. His family will always remember his gentle and loving soul. Wilmer was an active member of St. John Lutheran Church where he served on several boards.

He is survived by children, Sandy Born (Gary Mahagnoul) of Medford, Karen Grunklee-Bakke (Matt Curran) of Broken Arrow, Okla., Kathy (Tom) Brage of Owatonna, Barb (Dale) Roeker of Owatonna, Kevin (Anna) Grunklee of Claremont, and Cheri Grunklee of Apple Valley; grandchildren, Jason (Jaime) Born, Jeff (Cassie) Born, Josh (Kendra) Born, Eric Bakke, Leif Bakke, Nathan (Molly) Brage, Jarrod Grunklee, Dustin Dodge, Krista Nordby, Kaylee (Joe) Farr, Vanessa (Dean) Macintosh, Allyson Grunklee, Gracie Grunklee, and Katelyn Grunklee; 16 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild; brother, Orvin (Alberta) Grunklee of Owatonna; and sister-in-law, Shirley (Loren) Vrieze of Rochester.

He was preceded in death by his wife Marjorie who died on January 31, 2017.

Funeral services were held June 13, 2020 at St. John Lutheran Church with The Rev. Alan Broadwell officiating. The church encouraged those attending to wear a facemask and practice social distancing. Interment was in the St. John Lutheran Church Cemetery, Havana Township. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to St. John Lutheran Church, Havana Township or the American Cancer Society.

**Alice Hall, 101,
Worthington**



Alice Hall

Alice Rosalie Hall, age 101, passed away on Sunday, June 7, 2020, at the Sunset Hospice Cottage in Worthington.

Private family burial will be held at Bernadotte Lutheran Cemetery near Lafayette.

Min. Public services will be held at a later date. Benson Funeral Home in Worthington is in charge of the arrangements.

Graduation Announcement

Congratulations Kyle Rossow
on graduating from Riverland Community College in Austin

Kyle Graduated with High Distinction from the Criminal Justice Program at Riverland on Friday, May 27, 2020. He is also a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

He has been accepted to Concordia University in St. Paul, where he will further his education and continue to pursue his career in Criminal Justice. He is currently employed with the Mower County Sheriff's Department.

Kyle is the son of Bryan and Sue Rossow of Austin and the grandson of Margie Ik and the late Richard Ik of Blooming Prairie and the late Walter and Margaret Rossow of Austin.

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BOOK NOOK

Hunts, bags and walks highlight library's summer



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

Sign up for Imagine Your Story Summer Reading Program continues. You can sign up any time this summer. Remember, it is for children ages 0-13, teens ages 14-17, and adults 18 and over. Sign up by going to www.owatonna.beanstack.org or calling the library at 507-583-7750.

In addition to keeping track of the amount of time read, children can also find extra activities on Beanstack. For each challenge, you must complete 5 of 10 activities in order to receive a badge. Some of those activities need a bit more explanation:

Scavenger hunts: Each month during the summer there will be a printed scavenger hunt available in the west entryway of the library. Pick one up and go see what you can find. June's scavenger hunt is based on your 5 senses. Find what is described, mark it off on your sheet or take a photo of it, and log online or call the library when you have found them all.

Take & Make bags: Every Tuesday after 10 a.m. there

will be individual bags for kids to pick up in the library entryway. Inside you will find our Facebook Live story theme of the week along with crafts to make and other surprises. The live story times will air at 10:30 a.m. every Tuesday, but can be seen anytime that is more convenient for you.

StoryWalks: The StoryWalk Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk is a registered service mark owned by Ferguson. The idea is simple – a picture book is displayed page by page for families to read as they walk together. It is exercise for your body and your mind at the same time! If you have been downtown lately, you may have noticed some brightly colored pictures in the store windows. The story this month is Over in the Meadow by Jane Cabrera. It begins in the windows of HomeSellers on the corner of Main and Highway 218. Staying on that side of Main Street, you will find more pages to read.

Cross Main Street at the Pizza Cellar and keep reading until you get to T&T Motor-sports. Congratulations! You can mark off that activity. Take a photo and send it to our Facebook page or to bpbl@selco.info!

Summer reading on Main



STAFF PHOTO BY SHERIE PECHAN

Youngsters have taken to the streets of Blooming Prairie for a group of kids from Elizabeth John's Day Care stopped by the Times office on Main Street on Friday to read the story in the window.

Recipe Corner

Over-the-Top Blueberry Bread Pudding

3 eggs
3 cup heavy whipping cream
1 cup half and half
2 cups sugar
3 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries
1 package (10-12 oz) white baking chips
6 large croissants cut into 1" cubes

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In large bowl, combine eggs, cream, half and half, sugar and vanilla. Stir in blueberries and baking chips. Stir in bread cubes; let stand 15 minutes or until bread is softened. Transfer to a greased 13 x 9-inch baking dish. Bake, uncovered, 50 to 60 minutes or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

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HAVE A RECIPE TO SHARE?
Email to bpbtimes@frontiernet.net
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Compassionate Shepherd



Rev. Mike Walerius
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Have you ever been lost or felt alone? Have you ever been scared that no one actually hears what you are saying? Well, if you have, and most of us have felt this way before, the Gospel reading from this past Sunday is just for you.

In the Gospel of Matthew 9:36 the author writes, "When [Jesus]

saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Jesus saw the crowds, and all the commotion they were making, and he recognized what he was seeing. It seems Jesus understood that these people in the crowd were lost, hurting, and they felt unheard. Jesus acknowledged their pain and realized they needed a Compassionate Shepherd to guide them.

With so much unrest, confusion, and uncertainty in our world right now, life can feel overwhelming and out of control at times. Right now, in these uncertain times, we are that crowd that Jesus saw. Right now,

we are the ones who are harassed and helpless. Right now, we are the crowd in need of compassion.

With all of the uncertainty of the Coronavirus, and all of the societal changes that are happening as a result of the pandemic, many of us are still figuring out how to live in this new time. We have experienced illness and death, job loss and pay cuts over the past four months that changes our lives forever. All of these unexpected changes can add extra stress to our daily lives which can be difficult to process.

And in the midst of this pandemic, there has been an explosion of emotion throughout the country and world

about racial inequalities. There have been protests and sit-ins, there have been riots and looting, there have been fires and destruction. The violence we have witnessed has been directed at both the police officers and the protesters. We hear about the need for reform to our system, but we also hear about the wonderful police officers who keep us safe on a daily basis.

There is so much going on that it can be overwhelming and disorienting as we try and sort it all out. In the midst of all of this confusion, where do we turn for guidance? Who should we listen to in times of struggle and fear?

"When [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

Matthew tells us that we have a God who has compassion for us when we are struggling. The God we worship knows what we are going through and wants to be the Compassionate Shepherd who guide us. Jesus has compassion for all who are feeling lost, lonely, scared, confused, and angry. Jesus came as the Compassionate Shepherd for a broken world in need of God's love.

That same Jesus who has compassion for the crowd also directed his Disciples to have that

same empathy for the people they meet. Jesus equipped the disciples to do the work he was doing. And Jesus equips us to be that same compassionate voice for all who are hurting today. When we witness people in need, no matter who they are, we are called to have compassion and love for them. We too can be the Compassionate Shepherd for our world in need.

So, in this time of unrest, know that we have a God who is with us, who knows what we are going through, and who has compassion for us. Jesus came as the Shepherd to lead his lost people, so cast your stress and fear on Jesus and experience his compassion.

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 Kristin 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. Sunday
Tuesday & Thursday
Call to Prayer: 7 p.m. Tuesday
Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday
Summer Services: 6:15-7 p.m.
followed by Youth Group: 7-9 p.m.

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

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 Edmondson
507-789-6661
Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

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

507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000
www.rglutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School
(Sept. - May): 10:15 a.m.

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

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN - ELCA
1301 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Pastors Dave Klawiter and 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. Sun.

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN - ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor Rev. Dean Smith
507-451-2165
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN - ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520
lctowatonna.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Bueger
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Amanda Ploy
Deacon: Kris Oppgaard
Worship: 5 p.m. Saturday: 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sunday

TRINITY LUTHERAN - ELCA
104 First St. SE., Hayfield
Pastor Paul Hauschild
507-477-2348
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 Buehler
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
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN - ELCA
1909 St. Paul Road, Owatonna
Senior Pastor:
John Weisenburger
Associate Pastor: Lisa Carlson
507-451-4853
oursaviorsowatonna.com
Worship: 8:15 a.m. Traditional,
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School/Adult
Education
10:45 a.m. - Contemporary

CATHOLIC

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
Father Anthony Anokiyin
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 Liturgical Finance Council: 2nd Thursday

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

SACRED HEART PARISH
815 E. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
Father John Sauer
Parochial Vicar
507-451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday:
8:30 a.m. & 10:30 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., Bloomington
Pastor John Wilnot
507-583-2784
www.stcolumbanuschurch.com

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

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
513 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. Thursdays)
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540 SE 18th St., Owatonna
Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
507-451-1032
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.

PENTECOSTAL

FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL
230 Locust Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
507-563-2240
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
507-835-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
200 Sixth St. NW, Ellendale
Pastor Scott Isak
507-684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST
815 E. University, Owatonna
Rev. Scott Isak
Linda Boorman, 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 Huskell
507-477-2631
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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Bible Study: 9 a.m. Sun.
Reformers Unanimous Meetings:
7 p.m. Friday

CEDAR CREEK
30 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
507-477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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

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

NEW BEGINNINGS
332 14th St. NE, Owatonna
Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson
507-413-0209
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

SIMPLE CHURCH
4515 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna
(Country Goods building across
the freeway from Cabela's)
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5661
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday

MENNONITE

PRAIRIE MENNONITE
13638 750th St., Blooming Prairie
Bishop Dennis Martin
507-583-7532
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Prayer Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Wed.

MORMON

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
404 31st St. NW, Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
507-451-9042
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

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office@associatedchurch.org
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Adult Discussions follow)
Wednesday Activities: Sept. - May
(see website for schedule)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
109 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Kirk Johnston
507-477-2631
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

FIRST BAPTIST
104 First Ave. NE,
Bloomington
Pastor Matt Fennell
507-583-5673
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
& 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Bible Study: 11:30 a.m. Sun.

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www.firstbaptistowatonna.com
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

BETHEL BAPTIST
1611 Hemlock Ave.,
Owatonna
Pastor Michael Simmerman
507-451-4548
www.bethelowatonna.com
Worship: 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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Pastor Diane Butler
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Farmer's Market still goes on



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Dale and Corinne Swanson of Blooming Prairie are regulars selling their wares at the Owatonna Farmers Market every Saturday morning. The Swansons set up as early as 5 a.m.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Randy and Angie Laskewitz of Blooming Prairie have jars and jars of canned goods for sale at the Owatonna Farmers Market. They sell jams, salsa, soups, spaghetti sauce and pickled asparagus.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
This gentleman maybe has one of the most unique displays at the Owatonna Farmers Market on Saturdays. He sells what he calls metal art. The metal art is made from old tools.

COVID-19 CLOSURE: spurs a new twist FROM A10

Bakery," Goette said, adding he is thankful to Gregg Fristedt for all the years they were able to utilize his products. The Goettes are now using Hy-Vee products.

"It's a family affair," Goette said as he grilled up another pork chop with his daughter and grandchildren helping in the background serving guests. Goette has six grandchildren and expects at least three of them will help during the summer. One of them is Anna Kittelson, who will be a senior at Blooming Prairie.

Goette said, "It's all Anna's idea." She shrugged her shoulders in doubt. "Better be or we will have to rewrite the contract. No free rides," he replied.

Some of the funds will go for Kittelson's college fund. In the past, she has been a life guard, but that



opportunity has been taken away from her this year because of COVID-19.

With all events being canceled for this year, Goette said, "This could turn out to be a better option." He was quite optimistic after the first day of operations last week.

One of his first customers was a truck driver, who pulled his big rig over and grabbed some lunch. The driver gave Goette a \$50 bill and told him to serve

the next 3-4 police officers. "It just gives me shivers," Goette said of the nice gesture. Goette said he will do even better and serve all police officers and troopers for the entire summer free of charge as appreciation for their service. "We're all American," he said.

The Goettes started selling pork chops at Blooming Prairie's Fourth of July celebration in 1988. Since then, they have expanded to several area county

fairs with the largest one being the Steele County Fair. "The Steele fair has always been the best for us," he said.

Another situation influenced the Goettes to try the pork stand this summer. The Subway restaurant located just a block away closed its doors earlier this year leaving a void for people wanting to get a quick meal.

This is not the first time the Goettes have operated a food stand outside of the fairs and festivals. In 1996 and 1997, they also had a food stand near Subway.

The stand can handle large orders, but the Goettes prefer if you call ahead with a large order. Orders can be placed at 507-327-8438. They will be open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

"When the two big flags are up, we're open," Goette said.

FAIR OUT: but 4-H goes on FROM A1

of a judge and then trailer them again to go back home. No animals will be staying at the fairgrounds. The judging areas will be cleaned and disinfected between each group, she said.

"This will not be open to the public," Ignaszewski said. She added the showing arenas will be limited to 30-40 people at one time. The 4-H Livestock Auction will also take place, though the exact format remains to be seen. The auction is a vital part of revenue for the 4-H program as it brings in around \$50,000 each year. One of the other key revenue sources, the 4-H Eat Stand, will be shuttered because there will be no fair.

Ignaszewski said 4-H was lucky to get its annual pasta dinner in just prior to the pandemic hitting in March. The dinner brought in about \$14,000 for 4-H. The State 4-H program is also exploring face-to-face competition to replace what would take place during the State Fair, according to Ignaszewski. It's unknown at this time where the state shows will take place.

"We're still on. We are still providing learning opportunities for kids."

Tracy Ignaszewski
4-H Program Coordinator

Even though COVID-19 has changed many things, Ignaszewski wants people to understand that the 4-H program may look different, but it is still functioning. "We're still on," she says. "We are still providing learning opportunities for kids."

The 4-H program has been connecting with children through Zoom conference calls over the past few months for a variety of programs. As an example, 53 4-Hers have been taking part in Supper Club in which they prepare meals virtually and then eat the meals with their families. Ignaszewski pointed out the program is effective in teaching 4-Hers cooking skills. The program continues through July when 4-H will then switch to a grilling competition where members will grill different kinds of meats.

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Chase involving stolen water truck ends near Hope

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

It may have had the appearance of a parade, but it was no celebration June 17 on Interstate 35 in Steele County.

Multiple law enforcement agencies joined in with a procession of flashing lights heading south on I-35 in an effort

to catch a stolen water tanker truck that hit several vehicles and refused to stop for police around 1:30 p.m.

By the time the pursuit hit the Owatonna city limits, it was a slow speed pursuit as the truck had run over tire deflation



Ryan Patzer

devices along the way. Police created a buffer zone around the tanker as it continued southbound before it eventually struck a cable median barrier near the Hope exit where it finally came to a stop. Officers arrested

Ryan Patzer, 29, of Center City without incident. He has been charged with fleeing in a motor vehicle, DWI, motor vehicle theft and receiving stolen property. According to police, the water truck was stolen in Pine County, north of the Twin Cities. Police became aware of the truck when it collided



COURTESY OWATONNA POLICE

Police vehicles box in the red tanker truck during a slow speed pursuit on Interstate 35 last Wednesday. The 40-mile chase ended near Hope.

ed with three vehicles in the Twin Cities. Officers picked up on the stolen truck near the Scott and Rice County line. The chase went about 40 miles before ending in

Steele County. Agencies involved in the chase included State Patrol, Faribault and Owatonna police departments and Rice, Scott and Steele sheriff's offices.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Here's three happy ones, two humans and one dog. Brendan Earl, left, helped rescue David Christopherson's Beagle last week in Clarks Grove. Austin the Beagle is held by his owner Christopherson.

REUNITED

Lost beagle returns home following rescue

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Snoopy the Beagle is one of the most revered dogs in America.

He has come across our Comics pages with regularity. David Christopherson of Clarks Grove likely would take issue with the claim that Snoopy is the most beloved Beagle in America. He would put his Beagle named Austin in that place.

Christopherson, foods director at Bancroft Estates care center in Albert Lea, has a Beagle of his own, one that he would claim any day over Snoopy. His dog, just under 2 years old, went on an unannounced leave of absence one day last week.

This Beagle's story has a happy ending, being found a day and a half later due to the efforts of neighboring friends.

He was on a retractable leash at his owner's home on a Sunday night

when Christopherson dropped the handle of the leash, startling Austin and causing him to run away with the retractable handle being dragged behind. He was running scared, Christopherson said.

"I have never seen an animal run that fast," he said.

Observing what had happened, neighbor Brendan Earl, 13, took after Austin on a dead run, without realiz-

SEE REUNITED, B6

Something for everyone with 4-H



Steele Talkin'
MISSY KOCH

Summer is here! With school out many youth have begun to explore our 4-H summer programming and let me tell you 4-H has something for everyone this summer! Last month I shared with you what projects are coming out during our "stay at home order." The list has grown to include even more from agronomy to foods, to STEM, to biking, and more.

We know that being connected virtually is not for everyone, don't worry not all our summer programs will have youth or families tied to learning on your tablets. Over 50 youth will be receiving a backpack full of resources to be an "Outdoor Explorer" this summer. Families will be able to take their backpacks with them on their own family vacations, while camping in the backyard or even while spending a weekend with grandparents. Check out the program Ready, Set, Bike with 4-H where youth received pedometers and are getting out on their bikes to report how many miles they have ridden each week. Currently 20 youth are riding bikes and sending in their miles. We are looking to reach our goal of collaboratively riding bikes around the state of Minnesota - 86,943 miles!

SEE SOMETHING, B2



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Bill and Joanne Newman of Blooming Prairie received a Patriotic citizen Award from the Blooming Prairie VFW Post 878 Auxiliary on Flag Day, June 14. Presenting the award were Geri Berg, Americanism program chair and Joyce Johns, Auxiliary president.

Blooming Prairie is full of super patriots. Just look around and find lots of American flags flying throughout town.

Many of the flags fly the year round and others are flown on special days like Memorial Day, Flag Day and on Veterans Day.

Blooming Prairie's VFW Auxiliary Post 878

started a commendable tradition eight years ago by honoring individuals and businesses for their patriotic gesture of flying the flag the year round.

The Auxiliary alternates presentation of the Patriotic Citizen Award to businesses and individuals.

On Flag Day this year, June 14, 2020, the



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

Auxiliary's president Joyce Johns and Americanism program chair Geri Berg presented a Patriotic Citizen Award to Joanne and Bill Newman, 254 SW 3rd St.

The Newmans were emotionally touched by the presentation done on Flag Day. Flags were flying in earned in Blooming Prairie this Flag day to some strong gusts of wind.

A special recognition certificate was presented to Joanne and Bill by Berg and Johns.

Mrs. Newman said her family and that of her husband Bill, have a long time of family

involvement in the military. "The flag is very important to us," said Joanne.

Joanne's father, Joseph Rysavy, was a World War II veteran, serving the U.S. Marines. Bill's father, John Newman served in the Korean War and earned a Silver Star.

Joanne also has two brothers and a nephew who served in the military. Brother Wayne Rysavy was in the U.S. Army and served in Vietnam as did brother John Rysavy who served in the U.S. Navy and was deployed to Vietnam.

Nephew Joe Rysavy served in the Navy.

The Newmans join these other individuals and business people in earning special recognition for flying the American flag.

Newmans honored with Patriotic Citizen Award

Here's a list of past flag honorees:

- 2012: U.S. Bank of Blooming Prairie
- 2013: Pastor Dick and Norma Hegal
- 2014: Farmers & Merchants State Bank
- 2015: Merle McNutt and Heather Haus
- 2016: Minimizer
- 2017: None
- 2018: Shawn and Marcy Sundine
- 2019: Joe Haberman's Repair Service
- 2020: Bill & Joanne Newman

Flag Day is celebrated every June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777 by resolution of the Second Continental Congress.

The Flag Resolution, passed on June 14, 1777, stated: "Resolved, That the flag of the 13 United

States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

This design was created by Francis Hopkinson, a Continental Congressman from New Jersey and a consultant to the design of the Great Seal of the United States.

Hoist that American flag high into the sky to pay tributes to the many men and women who have served their country.

I am so proud of this small community of Blooming Prairie showing patriotism around the clock. I am also proud of our VFW Auxiliary that takes time to recognize businesses and individuals for their flag flying dedication.

Board readies to sell land near government center

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

At last week's regular session, the Steele County Commissioners were given a pre-recorded presentation by the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. President and CEO of SMIF Tim Penny explained that there have been important steps taken to help the region during the current pandemic. "In Steele County, in just the last couple years we have offered over \$660,000 of financial support for a variety of programs and activities," he said.

This includes an emergency small business loan program as well as deferrals for existing loan clients. "We are offering our prosperity initiative program designed to help emerging new immigrant and minority entrepreneurs in a variety of ways," Penny explained. "I want to thank Steele County as well as Blooming Prairie EDA and the City of Owatonna for their ongoing financial support," Penny said after listing off additional examples of some of the work SMIF does within Steele County.

SMIF serves a total of 20 counties throughout south central and southeastern Minnesota. Since 1986, it has provided more than \$114 million in grants, loans and programming within the region. During the meeting, the board also discussed the possible sale of a parcel of land to the South Central Human Relations Center. "We'll see where it takes us and go from there," Commissioner James Brady said as he motioned to move forward with the current RFP. "I think it will be very, very cost effective to move forward with this and it will probably help our budget immensely," Commissioner Greg Krueger, who had expressed a bit of trepidation in the past over a potential deal, said. "I think it's worth pursuing."

While passing a resolution declaring the end of a state of peacetime emergency, the board also talked about the past week's protests in Owatonna. "I thought the dialogue was very open and I thought it went well," Board Chair Jim Abbe said. "We have some very good leaders in our community and our law enforcement does a fantastic job." "We're very well-served by our local departments here," County Attorney Dan McIntosh said. "We want to make sure our systems work for everyone in our community," McIntosh lauded the effort by local law enforcement during the protests in Owatonna.

The next County Board meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. on June 23.

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Splashing through the streets



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTER/D

Some streets in Blooming Prairie, including this one on 2nd Street SW, were flooded for a short time after heavy rains last week. Here, two youngsters and an adult make their way through the cool waters.

Outhouse spared



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTER/D

There aren't many outhouses around the country. Even though a huge tree did not survive heavy winds recently, this outhouse in Newry Township did survive.

New attorney joins Owatonna firm

The Owatonna Law Firm of Walbran & Furness is pleased to announce that Marissa R. Wunderlich has joined the firm as an associate attorney.

Wunderlich graduated from the Mitchell Hamline School of Law in January and was admitted to practice law by the Supreme Court of Minnesota on May 8. In law school, she was a member of the Rosalie Wahl Moot Court Team and earned first

place. She was selected as a Marshall Brennan Fellow, a program where she taught constitutional law to high school students. She also interned at the Rice County District Court and at Walbran & Furness.

Wunderlich was homeschooled and at age 16 began taking college classes at South Central College. While there she completed an internship at the Rice County Attorney's

Office and graduated with a Legal Administrative Assistant Associate Degree prior to graduating high school.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree from Bemidji State University, *cum laude*, majoring in criminal justice.

Wunderlich resides in rural Rice County where her family has farmed over a century. She is an accomplished violinist and board



Marissa Wunderlich

member of the Cannon City Community Church.

Wunderlich joins attorneys David Furness and Mark Walbran in general practice. Walbran & Furness was founded in 1936 by John P. Walbran and Mary P. Walbran.

SOMETHING: for everyone with 4-H FROM B1

Getting your hands dirty this summer will be no problem with 4-H, with the 52 agronomy project kits that went out to youth this spring. Youth have been working on projects related to plant science, crop science, soil science, flower gardening, and new for 2020 hydroponics. If you happen to see youth digging a hole for their underwear, don't worry, that is part of the soil science project to learn more about soil health. Youth will return to that spot again in about 2 months to discover how much of their underwear remains, with

the goal that nothing but the elastic band is left. 4-Her's will also be doing experiments of growing corn in buckets, exploring root systems in root viewers, working with native flowers, and trying to grow their own lettuce in water.

With our ways of learning adapting this summer to providing virtual ways to connect with youth, there are still opportunities to see your 4-H friends through camps this summer! Next week our Steele County 4-Hers will head to camp, right in their own homes. Each day camp counsel-

ors will be greeting you with the salute to the sun, providing activities throughout the day, and ending the evening with a traditional 4-H campfire.

For our youth who are Kindergarten through second grade, they will be building their summer memories into a 4-H time capsule. Each week, Cloverbuds will get to explore animals, science, bugs, reptiles, and summer sillies with their friends on Tuesday mornings. Youth who love horses will have the opportunity to horse around this summer by attending

our virtual Horseless Summer Camp. Horse crazy campers will be able to come together four times in June and July to learn the basics of horse care, tour horse barns, and learn about horses through crafts and games.

Wait, there is one more I need to tell you about! If you are a family that enjoys summer grill outs, be sure to sign up for the 4-H Grilling Club. Our youth have already been meeting weekly this spring perfecting their culinary skills with the Supper Club, they are now going to

take meal prep outside. During the months of July and August, 4-Hers will be meeting virtually and learning tips while grilling their family meal for just one evening. YUMMY!

Summer is when 4-Hers can take hands on learning to the next level and try new projects. We are excited to have grown our 4-H possibilities to youth in a variety of learning environments from hands on to virtual. These are just a few highlights of programming happening right here in Steele County 4-H this summer. The opportunities

to be a part of much more are available for youth of all ages, Kindergarten to one year past high school. Let us know what you are exploring, and we will help you connect with the right project! For more information, contact us at the Steele County Extension Office at 507-444-7885.

Missy Koch is the 4-H program coordinator for Steele County. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS By Shannon Nordstrom and Russ Evans	Schaeffer's SPECIALIZED LUBRICANTS Bruce Freerksen (507)273-9110 bruce@schaefferslube.com West Concord, MN	LAD Recycling, Inc. Scrap Iron & Metals WE BUY ALL METALS! 507-527-2408 • LADRecycling.com 65070 STATE HWY 66, West Concord, MN
Dear Motor Medics, My 2008 Ford Explorer has a humming noise coming from the rear of the vehicle but also a little from the front. I took it to the shop to find the cause and they said it is the rear wheel bearings that have failed. The cost for the replacement was almost \$1K. I had wheel bearings replaced on the front of my other Explorer which is a year older just a year ago and it was less than half the price. Cost aside, I still have the noise from both front and rear, but it is much less noticeable. Could the bearings have been installed wrong? Casey in Reno Nevada There could be more than one thing going on here. Let's start with the cost. Rear wheel bearings often are a pressed-in type in the rear and require much more labor to replace so that can double the cost. As for the noise still being there after the repair but much less pronounced, you likely have two issues. It could be that one of the bearings in the rear is defective, but it could also be that one of the fronts are also out or possibly a tire issue. Cupped tires will mimic the sound of failed wheel bearings. Look for tire cupping and consult with your local shop and see what their opinion is. When dealing with noise it is important to look at all the factors that could cause them. <i>Take care, The Motor Medics.</i>	Kappys COLLISION CENTER PHOTOGRAPHY SPECIALISTS Now using PPG Waterborne Paint STAY HAPPY www.kappysuto.com kappysuto@gmail.com SEE KAPPY Charles Al Kappas 507-451-8989	ALL Insurance AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS INSURANCE Jacob Simons President 507-361-7556 jacob@allinsb.com 2518 Superior Dr NW Suite 101A Rochester, MN 55901
Stevens 24 hour towing Free Written Estimates All Work Guaranteed Complete Paint & Bodywork Auto Glass Repairs Vinyl Roof & Seat Repairs Stevens's Collision Center 701-715-2222 • 24 hours 507-533-5442 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm	Boe Auto Center 115 Highway 56 N. West Concord 507-527-2241 www.boeautocenter.com	Hoff's Auto Repair 704 7th St Circle Se • 634-4633
DARRICKS PREFERRED AUTO Darrick Schewe, Owner 583-9994 Located in Napa Auto Parts Building	LET THESE SPONSORS KNOW YOU APPRECIATE THESE COLUMNS! FOR ENTERTAINMENT ONLY. ALWAYS CONSULT YOUR LOCAL SHOP AND FOLLOW ALL SAFETY PROCEDURES BEFORE REPAIRS. Come visit the Motor Medic@online at underthehoodshow.com	

761 Foundation awards nearly \$140K in scholarships



Emma Loveless



Madison Ziegler



Brandon Steiger

The 761 Foundation recently awarded scholarships totaling nearly \$140,000 to 20 Owatonna High School (OHS) graduates.

Since its inception more than 25 years ago, the 761 Foundation has awarded nearly \$1.4 million in scholarships to OHS graduates.

In announcing this year's scholarship recipients, 761 Foundation Chair Bruce Paulson said, "Given the uncertainty these graduates have faced these past few months, I'm thrilled the 761 Foundation is able to continue its tradition of awarding scholarships for post-secondary education."

"This is an investment in their future, which ultimately will benefit our community as a whole."

Three 2020 graduates received multi-year scholarships, ranging from \$4,000 per year for four years to \$10,000 per year for four years.

• Madison Ziegler was awarded the Charles & Norma Buxton Scholarship of \$5,000 per year for four years.

• Brandon Steiger was awarded an Edward Stepanek Scholarship of \$10,000 per year for four years and an Edward Stepanek Scholarship of \$10,000

per year for four years.

One-year scholarships, ranging from \$500 to \$3,500 were also awarded.

• Jerez Autridge received the Ron Baker Memorial Scholarship of \$3,500;

• Miles Kuhn received a Mann Math Scholarship of \$1,250 and a Lee Foundation Scholarship of \$1,000.

• Emma Loveless received a Mann Math Scholarship of \$1,250 and the Class of '58 Scholarship of \$1,200.

• Ethan Rohman received a Mann Math Scholarship of \$1,250

• Khadija Hilwile received the Bruce Larson Memorial Scholarship of \$1,200.

• Viviana Cantu Sanchez received a United Hispanic Scholarship of \$1,000.

• Kyle Kruckeberg received an Owatonna FFA Scholarship of \$1,000.

• Cole Larson received the Becky Hofmann Morris Memorial Scholarship of \$1,000.

• Brianna Levisay an Owatonna FFA Scholarship of \$1,000.

• Ashwin Manokar received a Lee Foundation Scholarship of \$1,000.

• Oscar Sanchez received a United Hispanic Scholarship of \$1,000.

• Austin Mundt

received the Kenneth Wilcox Scholarship of \$600.

• Chloe Schmidt received the Brenda Wilcox Scholarship of \$600.

• Aisha Farah received a Random Acts of Kindness Scholarship of \$500.

• Abigail Leemkuil received a Random Acts of Kindness Scholarship of \$500.

• Madison Ziegler received a Random Acts of Kindness Scholarship of \$500.

• Michelle Benson received a Roepke Continuing Education Scholarship of \$500.

• Elliott Rysavy received a Roepke Continuing Education Scholarship of \$500.

• Sarah Ulman received a Roepke Continuing Education Scholarship of \$500.

The 761 Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization that provides a way for individuals, community groups and businesses to make contributions.

Its goal has been, and still is, to provide resources for programs not funded by tax dollars and to provide for post-secondary scholarships. All donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.

More information about the Foundation and its grants and programs may be found at 761foundation.com or by calling 507-444-8610.

How is your garden growing?



Mastering Gardening
LORRIE RUGG

As we progress through late spring into summer, we are starting to crank up the heat. With the timely rains that we got this spring and now the heat, I am amazed at how big some of my flowers have gotten and how the tomatoes seem to double in size overnight.

Granted my tomato and pepper plants were pretty small when I finally got them in the ground, but they sure are catching up. With all the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19, one thing that has kept me grounded is my yard and gardens. We can count on those flowers blooming, trees leafing out, and vegetable plants growing to bear fruit.

The joys of gardening! As we move through the month of June, what should you be doing in your yard and gardens? I will share some timely things that will keep us busy in those gardens this month.

Take a walk around your yard and take a good look at everything. Is there a space for another pot of annuals to

dress a spot up? Do your annuals need dead-heading and trim? Have you given them any fertilizer yet? During these warm days make sure that you keep them well watered. Do not be fooled by wilting plants. Drooping leaves can indicate drought stress.

It is also a way some plants conserve moisture, especially through the heat of the day. Wait until it cools down in the evening and look at them again to see if they have bounced back.

Now is the time to mulch. We all have favorite kinds of mulch that we like to use, whether it is cocoa beans, shredded hardwood, pine straw or shredded leaves, now is the time to put it down. A layer of 1 to 2 inches will help with moisture control, keep a more even soil temperature and help with weed control.

You can begin to stake those tall bearded Iris, dahlias and glads. Delphiniums and other perennials might need staking to keep them looking their best. I like to keep my spent perennials trimmed up because sometimes they will reward you with a second flush of flowers in the early fall. Not all perennials will do that, but it is worth it if they do.

Is your foliage from spring flowering bulbs looking not so nice? My

daffodil and tulip foliage is starting to look pretty sad, so I gathered each clump up in my hands and tied them together with some fine string. I tried to braid them, but it didn't turn out, so I settled for tying them up.

It looks neater than just letting them flop until I can remove them. You don't want to do that too early, let the foliage dry up naturally. This is the time the bulbs are getting recharged for next spring.

In the vegetable garden you should start to thin those rows of seeded vegetables. It is not an easy process to do, but you will be rewarded with more productive plants. You can begin to pick your leaf lettuce when it reaches 4 to 6 inches, to encourage new growth. The same goes for spinach, but let that get to 6 to 8 inches in height. Start staking those tomatoes soon after planting. Stop picking rhubarb after 8 to 10 weeks of harvesting. You can harvest green onions when they are 6 inches tall. Watch the rainfall, if we don't get about an inch a week, you will have to water. I mulch between the rows in my vegetable garden to help with moisture control.

I am thinking about adding a few new shrubs to my landscape, which

SEE HOW IS YOUR, B4

PARKS and RECREATION

540 West Hills Circle, Owatonna • Office Phone: 507-444-4321 • www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksandrecreation

Parks and Recreation Contact Information

Office & Cancellation Line	507-444-4321	River Springs Water Park	507-774-7370
Fax	507-444-4299	Park Maintenance	507-774-7086
West Hills Social Commons	507-444-4280	Tennis & Fitness Center	507-444-4290
Brooktree Clubhouse	507-444-2467	Facebook	Owatonna Parks and Recreation

Our Mission

The city of Owatonna Parks and Recreation Department provides a diverse system of green spaces, trails, facilities, programs and services to enhance the quality of life for the community.

Close to half of those who participate in recreation several times a week say they are "completely satisfied with the quality of their lives," compared to just one quarter of non-participants. Improve your quality of life by participating in our activities and using our parks and trails.

THANK YOU PARK BOARD MEMBERS!

Greg Posch, Angie Malo, Greg Louis, Nicholas Elsner, Jonathan Thiel, David Christiansen, and Andi Arnold

Youth Summer Registration

Registration now open for:

- Swimming Lessons
- Track
- Girls U12 & U14 Lacrosse
- Summer Camps

Programs will follow MCH and CDC guidelines. Parents will be sent information about safety protocols prior to program beginning.

Registration Information

Registration is online or by phone until the Park & Rec Office is open. Scholarship forms are available electronically, on our website and must be completed before registering—registration must be done over the phone for scholarships. If you need to pay with cash or check please call to register.

Summer Programs

Summer Camps

Summer FUN Owatonna Parks & Recreation is committed to encourage learning and still give kids a chance to be kids! Campers will make new friends, experience new things, learn new skills and enjoy what we hope is the best week of their summer. Camps are offered starting June 15th through August 13th and are available for ages 5 to 10. Check our website for more information.

Summer Track & Field

A program for boys and girls who have completed 2nd through 8th grade. Track promotes physical fitness, develops self-esteem through individual success and provides low-key, fun, competitive meets. All participants receive a t-shirt. Program Supervisor: Tessa Kosloski

- Cost: \$35.00
- Location: OHS Track
- Program Dates: June 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25 (rain dates June 29, 30)
- Times: 10:00am - 12:00pm
- Days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Lacrosse

Skills-level skills training sessions that focus on learning and building the skills needed to play lacrosse, including passing, catching, ground balls, defense, offense, and transition. Coaching and equipment are provided by the Owatonna Lacrosse Association; however, players are required to furnish their own mouth guards and appropriate clothing. No player will be allowed to participate if they are missing their mouth guard.

Boys: Grades 1 & 2 - UPDATED 2020 Dates

- Cost: \$50 (includes rental helmet and stick)
- Location: Owatonna Christian School
- Practice Dates: (Monday and Wednesday) June 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, July 13, 15, 20, 22
- Time: 5:00pm-6:15pm

Girls: Grades 1 - 4 - UPDATED 2020 Dates

- Cost: \$25 (includes use of stick and poggles during the session)
- Location: Rosevelt Field
- Practice Dates: (Monday and Wednesday) June 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, July 13, 15, 20, 22
- Time: 5:00pm-6:15pm

Girls: Grades U12 & U14

- Cost: \$25
- Location: Rosevelt Field
- Practice Dates: (Monday and Wednesday) June 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, July 13, 15, 20, 22
- Time: 4:45pm-6:00pm

5 Day Private Swimming Lessons

Private swim lessons with a certified Water Safety Instructor. Each class meets 5 times with each class lasting 112 hour at River Springs Water Park. Cost is \$105 for one student and \$160.00 for two students (scholarships are not available for private lessons). Class limit of no more than 2 students per class. If there are 2 students in a class, the students must be within one level of each other. You may not sign up for two classes for the same person until a week after the first registration day. IF THE STUDENT IS LEVELS PARENT CHILD THROUGH LEVEL 3 THERE MUST BE A PARENT IN THE WATER WITH THE STUDENT.

1 Day Single Session Private Swimming Lessons

Private swim lessons with a certified Water Safety Instructor. Each class meets 1 time for 30 minutes at River Springs Water Park. Cost is \$15.00 for 1 student. You may not sign up for more than 3 classes for the same participant until a week after registration opens. IF THE STUDENT IS LEVELS PARENT CHILD THROUGH LEVEL 3 THERE MUST BE A PARENT IN THE WATER WITH THE STUDENT.

Drive-In Movie - June 19 & 20, River Springs Water Park Parking Lot

Drive in and watch the movie Abominable! Movie will begin at sunset, around 9:20pm. Pre-registration is required, spots are limited. Register on the Park & Rec website - click on Register Now, movie is under Events. Movie is free but we will be taking donations for Community Pathways.

Please note the following when attending the movie:

- Must stay in vehicles
- No concessions (bring your own snacks)
- Restrooms available
- Choose only one date to attend

Thank you to our sponsors: Kitchner Siding & Window, RAK Electric, KOWZ and Kath Moving

Lake Kohlmier

2020 Rental/Concession Hours

June 4 - September 7:

- Thursday-Friday 1:00pm-7:00pm
- Saturday-Sunday 12:00pm-7:00pm

Phone: 507-774-7372

Address: 1550 Mosher Drive, Owatonna, MN 55060

June 4th through September 7th the Lake Kohlmier beach will be open Thursday through Sunday for aquatic and trail equipment rentals and concessions. Rentals are \$5 per hour and rental options include: kayak, canoe, paddle board, paddle boat, hydro bike, tandem bike, electric assist trike and trail-a-bike. Lake Kohlmier will be stocked with adult, child and infant sized lifejackets which are included and required with each aquatic rental. If you have your own Coast Guard Approved Life Jacket it is recommended that you bring your own during the 2020 season. The beach is open daily and ropes are placed to indicate swim areas. There are no lifeguards on duty - individuals will swim according to beach rules and at their own risk. Please visit the Lake Kohlmier page on our website for more information.

Parks & Recreation Month

July is National Parks and Recreation Month and we'll be celebrating with a variety of activities, events and prizes! The following are some of the fun activities you can look forward to:

- Adventure Race - complete a variety of challenges for a chance to win prizes.
- Movie in the Park - a family-friendly movie will be shown on July 24th, location and movie are to be determined. Check our website or Facebook page for updates.
- Cardboard Boat Regatta - Saturday, July 25. Design and build a person-powered cardboard boat capable of racing a 25-meter pool.
- Clue Game - check out the Owatonna trails for clues in our clue game, see if you can solve the mystery for a chance to win a prize.
- Virtual Escape Room - see if you're clever enough to escape and you'll have another chance to win a prize.

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Hours: Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. | Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Managing wild parsnip



On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

Managing wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) can be challenging due to the potential for exposure to the plant's sap, which can cause severe skin reactions. Another factor that makes management challenging is the plant's life cycle. Wild parsnip is considered a biennial (though it may behave like a perennial), meaning that it has two main life stages. It is first present as a basal rosette, which stays close to the ground, and then grows tall with yellow flowers. These distinct life stages can make identification difficult, but timely management is important to help prevent the spread of wild parsnip. Due to its thick taproot, large seed head, and rapid growth, wild parsnip is a successful invasive weed. It thrives in parking lot edges, woods, and ditches. It causes a range of impacts to the environment and is on the Minnesota Depart-

ment of Agriculture's control noxious weed list, which means that you must prevent the spread of this plant. In addition to affecting the environment, wild parsnip imposes a human health concern because its sap can cause severe chemical burns skin when exposed to sunlight.

Other plants are often confused with wild parsnip, but a few traits help set it apart from Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*). Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*), and plants which are similar in appearance. Wild parsnip has yellow flowers in an umbel (think umbrella-shaped), which is similar to several of its relatives, but it is taller, with larger flowers and a stouter stem than Queen Anne's lace. Additionally, wild parsnip's leaves are deeply forked, while Golden Alexander's leaves are smooth with fine serrations. Some other helpful identifying features include wild parsnip's height and seasonality. Wild parsnip it can reach four to six feet tall. Plus, the rosettes are one of the first plants to green up in the spring and stay green later in the fall than many native plants.

Our timeframe for managing wild parsnip is narrowing. Wild parsnip often flowers in June, and it is advised to control wild

parsnip before it goes to seed. Mechanical control can be effective, and while you can hand pull the plants, it can be difficult due to the burn-inducing sap. You can also provide mechanical control by using a sharp spade to cut the tap root 1-2 inches below the soil surface. Mowing down to the base of the flowering stem also works. Because of the concerns with getting sap on your skin, be sure to wear protective clothing whenever handling wild parsnip.

Herbicide control can be done using glyphosate or selective broadleaf herbicides. Spot application of herbicides can be done after a prescribed burn, when wild parsnip is one of the first plants to green up following a burn.

It will take several years of committed management to significantly decrease wild parsnip populations and reduce your weed seed bank. Restoring treated sites with new native plants can assist in keeping wild parsnip at bay and may help keep new populations from developing, along with diligent scouting.

Claire LaCanne is the agricultural extension educator for Steele and Rice counties. Her column appears in this newspaper regularly.

Virtual field day will explore no-till and rye production

Martin Larsen will host a virtual field day in partnership with Practical Farmers of Iowa and Land Stewardship Project exploring no-till oat and rye production on Wednesday, June 24, from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

The event is free to attend and will take place on Facebook Live. To join in, visit practicalfarmers.org/field-days and click the link found on the page for this event.

You do not need to have a Facebook account to participate – but those without an account will not be able to comment or ask questions. The field day is sponsored by Bio Till.

Martin is a fifth-generation farmer using no-till and cover cropping practices to grow conventional corn, soybeans, oats and rye near Byron. It was his cover crop that got him into growing rye for his own cover crop seed. He then decided to further diversify his farm with an oat crop.

During the field day, Martin will showcase both rye and

oats in the field. He will also share lessons he's learned about producing both crops, from no-till planting in soybean residue to harvesting and cleaning the product.

Topics covered will include:

- growing oats and rye
- cover crop seed production
- no-till and extended rotations

Martin also works for the Olmsted County Soil and Water Conservation District, where he has done research on cover crops and nitrate reduction in local waterways, and he serves as president of the Minnesota Caving Club.

This event is part of Practical Farmers' 2020 field day season, which includes more than 60 virtual events hosted by farmers located across the state, and beyond, on topics spanning the agricultural spectrum.

New this year, we have planned several event series that will let participants check in with certain farmer hosts throughout the

season to learn about different facets of farm management. All of these events are free and offered a la carte; guests are welcome to attend all events in the series or pick the ones they're most interested in.

Practical Farmers' 2020 field days are supported by sustaining sponsors Albert Lea Seed; BarnDoor, Inc.; Grain Millers Inc.; Iowa Sustainable Ag Research and Education; Niman Ranch; Scoular; Sunderman Farm Management Co.; Trees Forever; USDA-NRCS; and Welter Seed and Honey Company, as well as several major sponsors, including: Bio Till; Center for Rural Affairs; Conservation Districts of Iowa; Farm Power Implements; Gandy Company; Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance; Iowa Farm Bureau Federation; Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health; KWS Cereals; La Crosse Seed; Man@Machine; Organic Valley – CROPP Cooperative – Organic Prairie; Pipeline Foods; and Prairie Creek Seed.

Deadline approaches to file for ag risk coverage

Agricultural producers who have not yet enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for 2020 must do so by June 30.

Although program elections for the 2020 crop year remain the same as elections made for 2019, all producers need to contact their local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to

sign a 2020 enrollment contract.

"The Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs are critical safety-net programs for farmers, helping producers weather market distortions resulting from natural disasters, trade disruptions and, this year, a pandemic," said FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce. "Contact your FSA county

office today to complete enrollment before June 30. This can be done in concert with filing your acreage report and applying for other FSA programs."

To date, more than 1.4 million ARC and PLC contracts have been signed for the 2020 crop year. This represents 89 percent of expected enrollment. FSA will send reminder postcards to producers

who, according to agency records, have not yet submitted signed contracts for ARC or PLC for the 2020 crop year.

Producers who do not complete enrollment by close of business local time on Tuesday, June 30 will not be enrolled in ARC or PLC for the 2020 crop year and will be ineligible to receive a payment should one trigger for an eligible crop. ARC and PLC con-

tracts can be mailed or emailed to producers for signature depending on producer preference.

Signed contracts can be mailed or emailed back to FSA or, arrangements can be made in advance with FSA to drop off signed contracts at the FSA county office – call ahead for local drop off and other options available for submitting signed contracts electronically.

Producers are eligible to enroll on farms with base acres for the following commodities: barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium- and short-grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

HOW IS YOUR: garden growing?

FROM B3

you certainly can do in June. The important thing to remember is to keep your new plantings watered well. They will go into a bit of transplant shock so the watering is key for their survival.

I can do a whole article on lawn care, so I won't go into much detail about your lawn. The best thing to do is just walk around and observe. Is your grass growing green and thick? Are there any dead areas or are there reasons for the dead spots, due to pets, salt from the roads, vole damage? I always have a few areas in my yard that I overseed in the spring because I don't think they look thick enough. Are your trees getting bigger and are they providing more shade for your grass? You might have to attack that area a little differently than you have in the past with a grass

seed for shady areas.

These are a few suggestions to help keep your yard and gardens on track through the growing season. The best advice I can give is to be observant when walking around in your yard. Look at it from a different perspective to help find problem areas before they become huge problems?

The Master Gardeners are here to help you with questions or issues. I am still working remotely from home until June 30, but you can call the Extension Office at 507-444-7887 and leave a message and I will get back to you. Happy Gardening!

Lorrie Rugg of Owatonna is the coordinator of the Steele County Master Gardening program. Her column appears in this newspaper regularly.

VIRTUAL FIELD DAY

FEATURING NO-TILL AND RYE PRODUCTION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24
1:30-2:30 P.M.

- Topics: growing oats and rye, cover crop seed production, no-till and extended rotations and small-grain cost-share opportunities
- Hosted by Martin Larsen of Byron
- FREE on Facebook Live
- To join, visit practicalfarmers.org/field-days

CARETAKERS OF THE LAND

THE O'CONNORS

Though the Jim O'Connor family began farming in its present location outside of Blooming Prairie in Steele County in 1983, the family's roots in the area go much deeper. The O'Connor family originally came to Dodge County in 1858. Today, O'Connor Family Farms raise corn and soybeans as well as custom raise hogs.

Jim O'Connor says he went into farming because he grew up on a farm watching and learning from his grandfather and father. He always knew that this was the occupation for him and the tradition has went on to their children and hopefully their grandchildren.

The greatest joy Jim gets out of farming is the "satisfaction of producing food, fiber and fuel (ethanol)." He also enjoys the feeling of accomplishment in growing, nurturing and harvesting, which he considers "your reward for a job well done."

"We are constantly improving or looking for ways to improve," Jim says.

Jim wants the public to understand that his family is a caretaker of the land and anything they do affects future generations. "We share the same earth, breathe the same air and drink the same water," Jim said.



Jim and Kelli O'Connor (seated) shown with their children and grandchildren: Katie and Sam Wendt, Bennett (6) and Matthew (2); Kristina; Patrick and Krystal O'Connor; Megan and Jake Katcher and Monica and Trey Anderson, Olivia (15), Tyler (13), Grace (12) and Nora (7).



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WAY TO GO BLOSSOM BRAIN POWER!

Distance learning didn't stop these students from achieving the honor roll for fourth quarter at Blooming Prairie High School:



A Honor Roll

Grade 7

Mia Johnson
Naomi Lebak

Grade 8

Dylan Anderson
Addison Doocy
Annaka Forsberg
Tyler Forystek
Shanna Halverson
Luke Heimgartner
Macy Lembke
Grant Magnuson
Maxmar Ogren
Jamie Reinke
Benjamin Riley
Jaylee Schleicher
Mason Simon
Ava Smith
Kolby Vigeland
Rachel Winzenburg

Grade 9

Abigail Hefling
Ava Krejci
Sierra Larson
Chloe McCarthy
Samuel Pirkel
Anna Reese
Madelaine Stoen

Grade 10

Bobbie Bruns
Josie Hoffman
Larisa Judy
David Kartes
Parker Kubicek
Asha Lighthizer
Emily Miller
Lauren Schammel
Bradley Simon
Isabelle Sunde
Carson Wacek
Melanie Winzenburg

Grade 11

Maggie Bruns
Maren Forystek
Brianna Hensrud
Emily Kubicek
Luke Larkoski
Megan Oswald
Rachael Riley
Micalyn Trihus

Grade 12

Kisha Aquino
Zachary Archer
Riauna Bishop

Gabriel Hagen
Gemini Johnson
Adam Larson
Maya Lembke
Hazel Michaud
Matthew Pryor
Luke Rennie
Grace Robins
Marti Snider
Parker Vaith
Jayde Wacek
Zachary Weber
Jillian Wigham
Julia Worke

A- Honor Roll

Grade 7

Catelyn Bartlett
Isabel Dickel
Audrey Fort
Callie Iverson
Scott Johnson
Abby Jordison
Brady Kittelson
Alex Lea
Madiyynn Madsen
Sean O'Brien
Sophia Schiller
Ella Smith
Grady Steckelberg
Will Sunde
Bo Zwiener

Grade 8

Claire Foster
Anna Haberman
Derek Kubicek
Layla Lembke
Khara Peters
Molly Robins
Lily Schammel
Hailey Schumacher
Aidan Slowinski
Shawntee Snyder

Grade 9

Olivia Anderson
Lilyanna Bakken
Morgan Camery
Haven Carlson
Annika Green
Brittany Johnson
Jenna Johnson
Madison Lea
Ethan Marzolf
Samuel Michaud
Tyler Miller
Dakota Mueller
Anna Pauly
Clare Rennie

Joie Ruhter
Lucas Schammel
Anika Sunde

Grade 10

Carson Brennecke
Tyler Iverson
Colin Jordison
Marquette Millam
Xavier Rennie
Alivia Schneider

Grade 11

Adrianna Bermea
Cole Graves
Charlie Heimerman
Brian Jimenez
Dylan Johnson
Shyane Jorgenson
Anna Kittelson
Allison Krohnberg
Grace Magnuson
Rose Michaud
Christopher Naatz
Joseph Pirkel
Jessica Ressler
Halle Strunk
Rachel Thompson
Taylor Wurst

Grade 12

Kassidy Borgen
Devontae Freese
Jarrett Larson
Heather Pirkel
Karson Vigeland
Viridiana Villarreal

B+ Honor Roll

Grade 7

Carter Bauer
Carter Bishop
Cooper Cooke
Braden Farr
Jonathan Grant
Jacob Pauly
Caitlyn Stangl

Grade 8

Elizabeth Dohrmann
Lily Graves
Kadynce Hansen
Gabriel Hein
Elizabeth Miner
Karson Strand
Sophie Thomas

Grade 9

Hosea Baker
Jesse Cardenas

Heidi Judy
Alexander Riley
Susan Smith
Alexis Steckelberg
Leah Thorson
Madison Thurnau

Grade 10

Emily Anderson
Drew Kittelson
Piper Lund
Gustaof Ogren
Garrett Weckwerth

Grade 11

Abby Braaten
Mitchell Fiebiger
Alexander Miller
Jacob Naatz
Wyatt Voss

Grade 12

Isaac Ille
Hope Johnson
Emily Krampitz
Jacob Mchenry
Gracie Rudlong
Melanie Suchanek
Kaden Thomas

B Honor Roll

Grade 7

Jack Bruns
Nash Fawver
Anna Kuglin
Kohan Miller
Gage Mullenbach
Elijah Skillestad
Maveda Warner

Grade 8

Kaiden Chicos
Hannah Freese
Sienna Fyksen
Jaxon Harberts
Kylee Loth

Grade 9

Cade Christianson
Micah Donnelly
Cyprus Schleicher
Samuel Smith

Grade 10

Garret Farr
Payton Fristedt

Grade 12

Anna Thostenson

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Pet expert: Discard retractable leashes

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The rescue story with a happy ending happened because of the involvement of many friends and organizations.

Austin, a 2-year-old Beagle owned by David Christopherson of Clarks Grove, bolted from home on Sunday night, June 7.

He was on a retractable leash with a handle. The handle was dropped, causing Austin to leave his happy home suddenly because he was afraid, having something (leash handle) following him.

That night and the next day, Christopherson, friends and neighbors hunted for the missing Beagle.

Brendan Earl, 13, was determined to find the missing dog and succeeded on Monday, June 8.

Austin was adopted by Christopherson thanks to Diane Snater of Kennels of Austin. "She brought Austin into my life, and I can't thank her enough," said Christopherson.

Christopherson and Snater are both graduates of Austin High School.

In appreciation of Brendan's help, Christopherson is donating \$100 to Almost Home Foster Kennels in Brendan's name.

Here's a list of the organizations and individuals who assisted Christopherson in the search for Austin by posting social media, or by being involved in the physical search for Austin:

- Lostmydoggie.com
- Save This Life - the microchip company that made up the flyers



Austin the Beagle is not related to that famous Beagle dog, Snoopy but they do have some things in common. Both are adventurous and both love their owners.

- Freeborn County Humane Society
- Austin, MN Lost and Found Pet Page
- SE MN's Lost and Found Pet Page
- Almost Home Foster Kennels MN License 132328
- Lost and Found Furbabies of MN
- Lost Dogs of MN
- Britt Zimmel of the Retrievers of MN
- Kim Ferguson: Networker
- Kelly Osmon
- Melissa Bassett-Carroll
- Lost and Found Pets of MN
- Brianna Hansen
- Mitch Jensen
- Mike and Tam VanRyswyk
- Todd and Heather Earl
- And of course,

Brendan Earl With professionalism, Almost Home Foster Kennels owner Diane Snater, offered the following advice in light of Austin's disappearance:

"Please, if we can take anything away from this; please throw away all retractable leashes.

"The handle, when it was dropped, scared Austin, resulting in his 'bolting.' With the constant noise of the handle 'chasing' him as he ran, he felt that he couldn't stop.

"When he was found, he had managed to lose the retractable leash. We are grateful for this as Austin was discovered in a wooded area near interstate 35."

REUNITED: Lost beagle returns home following rescue

FROM B1



David Christopherson's grandson Lincoln is happy to see his friend Austin the Beagle once again. Austin left home, scared by a leash malfunction. With many people helping via Facebook and physically, Austin was found safe.

ing that he had no shoes on his feet and was in his stocking feet. Christopherson also began the pursuit of Austin.

Austin, a rescue dog, was adopted by Christopherson with the help of Diane Snater of Almost Home Rescue and Care Kennels near Austin. Austin the Beagle came from Louisiana and had heartworm.

Earl, who had been at his grandparents' home next to Christopherson's residence, and his brother Payton tried to catch up to Austin but lost him across a farm field and into a wooded area.

Christopherson was in pursuit with the boys. Austin was lost in the minds of his owner and friends, and, of course, in his own mind he didn't care where he was.

Christopherson's friend Diane, within minutes after Austin ran away, placed a "missing dog" plea on Facebook. "We had it all over Facebook," said

Christopherson.

Owner Christopherson spent the night on his porch, hoping that Austin would return during the night. He put out two baskets of laundry, thinking that the scene might draw him home. He did not return that night.

"David felt just terrible," said Todd Earl, father of Brendan and Payton and chief deputy for the Freeborn County Sheriff's Office.

Christopherson was fearful that Austin had been kidnapped, or became tangled in the woods because of his leash. Posters were made, appealing for help to find Austin.

The next day, the search resumed in earnest. "We walked corn fields and fence lines along Interstate 35W, hoping to find Austin. "He could have been anywhere," Christopherson reasoned.

Brendan went on a bike ride, still trying to find the missing dog.

A HALF-CENTURY: of busing

FROM B10

College of St. Thomas where he earned a business degree. He went into the Air Force for about a year and a half. During this time, he also married his high school sweetheart, Sally Miller. They have been married for 62 years.

Regan was discharged in 1958 and went back home to LeRoy where he took a job at the local Ford garage for nine years. With a growing family, Regan knew something had to change. "I was making a living, but that was about it," he said.

He supplemented his full-time job with a small bus operation of a few buses in LeRoy. "I knew if I had 10 or 12

buses, I could make a living," Regan said.

One time when Regan was coming back from the Twin Cities he happened to notice a school bus coming into Owatonna. He followed the school bus as it pulled into the garage on Cherry Street.

Regan said he met the owner, Stan Mason, who basically gave him the look of "Why are you bothering me?" Regan told him if he ever wanted to sell the company to give him a call.

About a year later Mason called Regan ready to sell the buses because his brother, Leonard, had a stroke.

In 1968, Regan

purchased Mason Bus Lines. At the time, the company featured 14 school buses, two charter buses and two spare buses. They only served Owatonna. Regan also inherited the hearse service for the local funeral homes for 12 years.

Regan shakes his head in disbelief as he recalls his early beginnings. "Here I am as green as green. I couldn't find Roosevelt School, that's how green I was," he said.

Within five years, the bus operation grew to 28. In 1975, Regan built a new garage at the current location on the west side of Owatonna under the water tower.

He has kept the old garage until last month when it was sold to the City of Owatonna to make room for affordable housing.

The new garage was built for 40 buses. "We'll never need any more than that," Regan recalls thinking back then. The garage has been expanded once to 50 buses, but there is no more room left for additional space. The company now utilizes 72 buses just in Owatonna.

FAMILY AND FAITH

Regan credits strong family support for the company's success over the years. Mostly, Regan said, it has been

his wife. "She put up with me being gone so much," he said. He has driven motorcoaches across the entire U.S.

Significant growth has come within the past 35 years after Regan turned 50. "Most of the growth has happened then about the time most people are retired," he said, adding he never envisioned the kind of growth he has experienced.

Regan attributes faith as being the cornerstone of his life. He remembers his mother, Agnes (whom the company is named after) having some very tough years. Regan's father was killed in a hunting accident five

weeks before he was born. "She had great faith and passed it on to her kids," he said of his mother. "My strongest foundation in my life is my Catholic faith."

Transporting children around on school buses doesn't come without concerns on a regular basis. "You always worry," Regan says. "My first prayer in the morning is keep my buses safe and on time," he said.

The bus owner has been fortunate over the years as he has never experienced any major catastrophes with the buses. "In 52 years, we've had two tip overs, but no one has been hurt," he said. He credits the design of the buses with keeping children and others safe. "Kids just don't get hurt in school buses," he added.

Retirement? Not likely with Regan as he has no plans to quit. Fishing and golfing are out of the question. "I'm an awful fisherman and a terrible golfer," Regan said. One of his passions was downhill skiing, but he gave that up at 79.

Added Regan, "I enjoy my buses."

He has even dodged a bout with bladder cancer over the past nine years. "They keep treating it and keep me alive," Regan said. He has been treated at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

As for his key to success, Regan didn't take long to answer. "Just work. Be cautious of your responsibility and take care of them," he said.



Long-time bus owner Bill Regan checks out a couple of his newer buses at the bus garage in Owatonna. He has been operating the bus company since 1968 and since then has added St. Louis Park, Albert Lea, Mason City, Medford, Blooming Prairie and Hayfield.

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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 \$6,000,000.00.

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. Street Address: 2365 Northwest 43rd Street, Owatonna, MN 55060 PIN 17-509-0102

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.

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. Mortgagee: By Scott T. Larison Attorney for Mortgagee Lathrop GPM LLP 1010 West St. Germain, Suite 500 St. Cloud, MN 56301 (320) 252-4414

5/2076

NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA

April 20, 2020

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center via teleconference on April 20, 2020 at 7:15 p.m. (Open Forum at 7:00 p.m.).

OPEN FORUM - No comments.

I. CALL TO ORDER - CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL - CLERK

Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sund, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hammeister, Dean Meshke

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools, Member of the BPTA

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hammeister to approve the agenda with the addition of the April payroll amount and final budget revision for fiscal year '20.

Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay. Motion carried.

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Mr. Staloch presented the principal's reports regarding the status of distance learning.

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

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

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Jon Sund to approve school board minutes, bills, treasurer's report, resignation, and donations as presented. Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay. Motion carried.

B. Employment

Motion by Pam Hammeister and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the employment of Jennifer Wayne as the head volleyball coach starting with the 2020-21 school year. Placement on step 5 of the prevailing Extracurricular Schedule due to previous experience with the district. Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay. Motion carried.

C. Volunteer Coaches

None to be noted.

D. Resolution for MSHSL Membership

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Steve Ille to approve a resolution for MSHSL membership. Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay. Motion carried.

E. Title I Resolution

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Jon Sund to approve a Title I resolution for the 2020-21 school year. Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay. Motion carried.

F. Student Insurance Program

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve voluntary participation in the Stu-

dent Insurance Program for the 2020-21 school year. Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay. Motion carried.

G. Safety Grant

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hammeister to approve the "security glazing" bid from Waseca Glass. Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay. Motion carried.

Another bid for was received for the glazing from Ford Metro, Inc. Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the "security hardware" from Floyd Total Security. Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay. Motion carried.

H. Telephone Service

Motion by Pam Hammeister and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve bundling telephone service with our internet service from Jaguar. Commu-

municated (effective date of June 15, 2020). Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay. Motion carried.

I. Budget Revision FY 20

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Jon Sund to approve a final FY 20 budget. Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay. Motion carried.

J. Technology Lease

Motion by Jon Sund and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve purchase of a new four year technology lease. Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay. Motion carried.

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

A. Distance Learning

Superintendent Staloch presented an update.

B. Food Service Bids

The MN Department of Education has approved additional extensions for up to two years; therefore, we will not be bidding our food service management contract for the upcoming year.

C. Committee Reports

A ZED committee report update was given.

D. Enrollment Data

The Board noted data for the 2019-20 school year as of April 15, 2020 is 427 at the elementary school (Grades K-5) and 369 at the high school (grades 7-12) (358 attending BPHS and the equivalency of 11 attending PSEO). The PSEO number consists of 4 seniors and 5 juniors with attendance being full-time plus 4 juniors with attendance being part-time.

E. Dates to Note

The Board noted dates of importance.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

1. Sound system exploration.

2. A waiver or full payment with responsibilities will be addressed to spring coaches.

3. A thank you was acknowledged by the family of Arlene Hellick.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jon Sund and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay) Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2020, at 6:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the High School via Teleconference.

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Meeting will be Monday, May 18, 2020, at 7:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center (Open Forum begins at 7:00 p.m.) via teleconference.

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

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

NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA

April 16, 2020

A regular school board work session was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2020, in the Board Room at the High

School via teleconference. MEMBERS PRESENT: Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sund, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hammeister, Dean Meshke

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools; Member of the BPTA

DISCUSSION ITEMS: General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the April 20, 2020, regular school board meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Hammeister Clerk of the School Board

Independent School District #756 Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

State of Minnesota Steele County District Court Judicial District Third Court File Number: 74-JV-20-441 Case Type: Juvenile

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of Kimberly Lorriane Reno Parent

Anthony Chris Reno Parent

Summons and Notice Child in Need of Protection or Services

Matter

NOTICE TO: Wade Michael Stanley, above named parent(s) or le-

gal custodi-an(s).

1. A Child In Need of Protection or Services Petition has been filed in the Office of the Clerk of Juvenile Court located at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, on July 29th, 2020 at 9:00 AM or as soon after as the Matter can be heard.

3. YOU ARE ORDERED to appear before the Juvenile Court at the scheduled time and date.

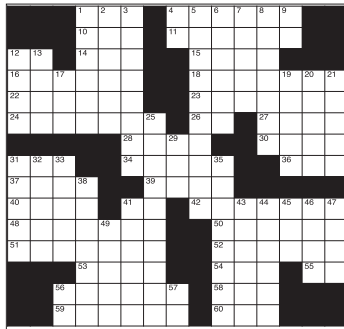
4. You have a right to be represented by counsel. If you fail to appear at the hearing, the Court may still conduct the hearing and grant appropriate relief, including taking permanent custody of the child(ren) named in the Petition.

WITNESS, the Honorable Joseph A. Buettel Judge of District Court BY: Robin Hoesley Court Administrator 6/17

City of Bloomington, Minnesota Summary Financial Report Revenues and Expenditures for General Operations Governmental Funds For the Years Ended December 31, 2019 and 2018

	Total		Percent Increase (Decrease)
	2019	2018	
Revenues			
Taxes	\$ 685,094	\$ 680,427	0.69 %
Special assessments	32,525	80,767	(59.73)
Licenses and permits	9,383	10,649	(11.89)
Intergovernmental	929,925	815,772	13.99
Charges for services	111,001	116,323	(4.58)
Fines and forfeits	11,881	8,832	34.52
Investment earnings	42,568	44,130	(3.54)
Miscellaneous	212,664	58,015	266.57
Total Revenues	\$ 2,035,039	\$ 1,814,915	12.13 %
Per Capita	1,022	909	12.41 %
Expenditures			
Current			
General government	\$ 309,730	\$ 344,044	(9.97) %
Public safety	539,456	518,852	3.95
Streets and highways	293,054	240,781	21.71
Economic development	5,236	11,405	(54.09)
Sanitation	10,396	2,613	297.86
Culture and recreation	227,752	234,121	(2.72)
Miscellaneous	9,850	5,900	66.95
Capital outlay			
General government	3,847	1,422	170.53
Public safety	144,414	14,565	891.51
Streets and highways	757,787	145,813	419.70
Culture and recreation	9,620	19,701	(51.17)
Economic Development	-	-	100.00
Miscellaneous	1,410	1,062	32.77
Debt service			
Principal	135,000	140,973	(4.24)
Interest and other charges	64,050	90,734	(29.41)
Bond insurance cost	23,680	-	100.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,535,282	\$ 1,772,086	43.07 %
Per Capita	1,273	887	43.43 %
Total Long-term Indebtedness	\$ 2,615,000	\$ 2,000,000	30.75 %
Per Capita	1,313	1,002	31.08
General Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 1,643,607	\$ 1,568,459	4.79 %
Per Capita	825	785	5.05

6/17



CLUES ACROSS

- Plural of be
- Devs
- Nothing
- Relating to apex
- They protect and serve
- Swindle
- Show's partner
- Lift
- Raise up
- Do something to an excessive degree
- Occupies
- Power-driven aircraft
- Indicates position
- Matchstick games
- This and ___
- No longer here
- Health insurance
- Spore-producing receptacle on fern frond
- Monetary unit
- Sweet potatoes
- Tropical Asian plant
- Gully or not gully
- Carbon dioxide
- Auto to arouse interest feeling
- Eat's jurisdiction
- Onlined
- Heartbeat
- Albania capital
- Fashion accessory
- Interaction value analysis on fern frond
- More promising
- ___ mudeen, lemons healing
- Neuroticism disorder
- Midway between east and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- Eranges
- Capital of Saudi Arabia
- Uses in an unfair way
- Custom
- Written works
- Breakfast item
- Food in shovels
- A way of fracturing
- Unit of measurement
- Sailboat
- Indian goddess
- For each
- Farwell
- Ethnic group of Sierra Leone
- German industrial city
- Measures intensity of light
- Small, faint constellation
- Protein substantially
- Malayian inhabitant
- Ancient units of measurement
- An unspecified period
- Frame house with up to three stories
- Lasite is one
- Martini have them
- Rat
- Famed journalist Tubell
- Opening
- Round Dutch cheese
- Archaic form of do
- One more
- Registered nurse

PUZZLE SOLUTION



STEELE COUNTY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) TO PURCHASE COUNTY-OWNED REAL PROPERTY

Steele County is seeking proposals to purchase County-owned real property located in the West Hills area of Owatonna. The property consists of approximately 89 acres and is located on the north side of Florence Avenue between the Steele County Administration Center and South Central Human Relations Center.

Responses to this RFP will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on June 29, 2020 by the Steele County Board of County Commissioners, at the office of the Steele County Auditor, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060.

The Steele County Board of Commissioners shall review all proposals submitted in conformity with this solicitation at the next Board meeting following the submittal deadline.

Submit requirements are detailed in the RFP packet, which can be obtained on the Steele County website at www.co.steele.mn.us

and from Scott Golberg, Steele County Administrator 630 Florence Avenue Owatonna, Minnesota, 55060 sgolberg@co.steele.mn.us // 507-444-7431.

A response to this solicitation does not create any rights on the part of the responding party and the Steele County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all solicitation responses.

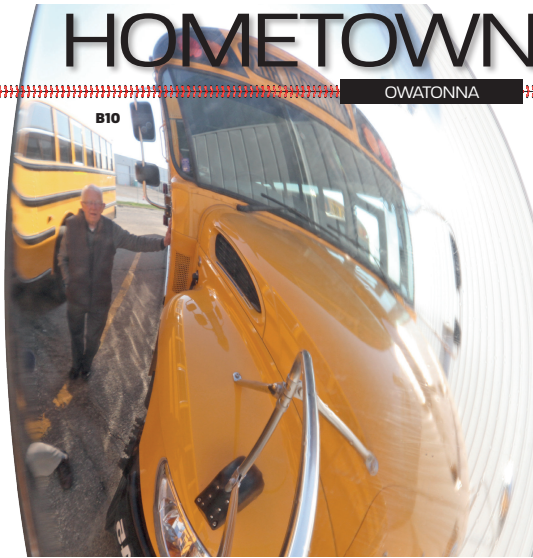
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KELLER WILLIAMS PREMIER REALTY



A HALF-CENTURY OF BUSING



Regan brushes off retirement to keep buses rolling

STORY AND PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER

Retirement is something that isn't in Bill Regan's vocabulary. But school buses are something that is in a big way.

At 87 years old, Regan still shows up at work every day keeping tabs on a bus company that he has transformed from a small business to a large, sprawling operation spanning multiple school districts in several counties and covering portions of two states.

Regan is the owner of Agnes Corporation, the holding company of school bus operations in Owatonna (1968), St. Louis Park (1984), Albert Lea (1991), Mason City (1999), Medford (2004), Blooming Prairie (2011) and Hayfield (2015). Agnes also operates Cavalier Coaches, Inc., a charter bus service serving customers throughout southern Minnesota and northern Iowa with terminals in Owatonna, Albert Lea and Mason City.

"I don't come in at 530 any more," Regan says with a slight pause, "now I come in at 7:30." He said he has a lot of "important jobs" like picking up the mail and walking around and talking to his employees. There are about 80 employees working out of the Owatonna bus garage.

The company is in good hands with Regan's daughter, Katy Kruetter, serving as chief executive officer. Regan admits he couldn't operate the company as well as it is without his daughter. She actually went to college to be a nurse, but came back home and has turned into "a great bus operator," he said.

Kruetter credits her father with instilling a high standard of morals. "He is very honest when it comes to serving others," she said. She added she has always admired how he gets the job done and handles people.

In addition to Kruetter, three of Regan's eight children are

"My first prayer in the morning is keep my buses safe and on time."

Bill Regan
Owatonna Bus Owner

involved with the operation: Ann and Jo in St. Louis Park and John in Mason City. "The other four just give advice," Regan said with a laugh.

John Regan joined the family operation in 2009 after serving in the Air Force for many years. He is based in Mason City. He said his father has been good about turning over the operation to them. "He stays out of the day-to-day operations," John said. But, he added, his father has an overarching interest in what happens.

John said his father has never been a shrewd businessman. "He has a huge heart," John says. "He'll never screw anybody over in his life. He's fair and honest."

Buses are also rubbing off with the

next generation as one of his grandsons, Dave Hanson, is involved in the St. Louis Park operation. Hanson got his start by driving bus about two years ago in Medford. "I'll take the credit," Regan says of influencing his grandson to get into the bus business. "Maybe he will be the salvation for this thing."

The eldest Regan admits to one particular area in which he keeps a pretty tight pulse on. "I do watch the balances in the checkbook pretty carefully," he says. "I have to see what's going on."

Kruetter affirms her father's desire to keep a close eye on the finances. "He wouldn't let anyone touch the books unless it's family," she said.

With driving a school bus in his blood for so many years, it comes as no surprise that Regan had a hard time giving up a bus route seven years ago. "I was the No. 1 spare. I knew every route," he said.

But, when he turned 80, Regan felt the desire to set an example by giving up driving a bus. However, there is no mandatory retirement age in Minnesota for bus drivers. "I'm not sure I could find the switches any more," he says with a chuckle.

HUMBLE START

It all started with some humble beginnings when Regan came to Owatonna to take over an operation of 14 school buses. He previously ran a fleet of four buses in LeRoy where Regan grew up. Now 52 years later, the family runs more than 200 buses in addition to 14 motor coaches.

After graduating from high school in 1950, Regan attended the

SEE A HALF-CENTURY, B6



Despite the stop arm on the bus, there is no stopping Bill Regan, 87, with his love for a company he has developed over the past 52 years. Regan's buses serve many school districts across southern Minnesota and northern Iowa.