

NO STATE FAIR
 Minnesota State Fair has canceled for only the sixth time in its history.

FURLOUGHED WORKERS
 Steele County has placed seven workers on furlough status.

COVID-19 BUSINESS
 Local business owners struggle through the pandemic.

BOOK DONATION
 Toys for Tots is donating books to area schools.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTER

Appreciation for church

Some special signs are held by Daisy Heimer, 10, Gracie Heimer, 8 and their mother Emily as part of a special get-together of Sunday School teachers and students last Wednesday outside First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie. Sunday School has been called off since mid-March because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Viracon outbreak rises to 81

BY RICK BUSSLER
 PUBLISHER

The fourth worst workplace outbreak of the coronavirus in Minnesota involves a Steele County glass manufacturer. Viracon of Owatonna has reported "at least 81 cases" of the virus as of May 22, according to Public Health Director Amy Caron. She has been working with the glass factory for the past two weeks in dealing with the cases.

The worst outbreak has been at JBS Meatpacking plant in Worthington where they have experienced 630 cases.

The outbreak at Viracon caused the company to shut down

for two days in early May to deep clean and disinfect the building, which spans 2 million square feet, Caron said. "They have been taking all the recommendations," she pointed out. "They have curbed the spread a bit."

Caron said there have been scattered cases with other larger businesses in Steele County over the past couple weeks. In all cases, the businesses have been cooperating with public health officials.

As of Friday, Steele County experienced 13 new cases, the highest single day since the pandemic began in mid-March. Steele County has now seen 135 cases and no deaths. Those inflicted with the virus

range from under 1 year old to 70s.

Caron is happy to report there are no widespread outbreaks in the long-term care facilities, which have been the greatest concern of public health officials throughout the pandemic. So far, there have been three cases in three different facilities. All three cases involve workers and not residents living in the facilities. In all the long-term care cases, they were "caught early and there was no spread," Caron said.

On Thursday, Minnesota healthcare workers provided a record 7,000 tests. Caron said with the widespread testing taking place, case counts will go up.

Gov. Tim Walz unveiled plans last week for bars and restaurants to open only under conditions where they can have limited outdoor seating.

President Donald Trump on Friday labeled churches and other houses of worship as "essential" and called on governors nationwide to let them reopen even though many areas, including Minnesota, remain under lockdown. The president threatened to "override" governors who defy him, but it was unclear what authority he has to do so.

Churches around the country have filed legal challenges

SEE VIRACON OUTBREAK, A10

"I didn't want to live this long. I am ready to go any day."

Eloise Milverstedt
 Celebrating 107th Birthday

A century and then some

Owatonna woman marks her 107th birthday

BY RICK BUSSLER
 PUBLISHER

The coronavirus pandemic isn't stopping Eloise Milverstedt from celebrating her birthday. And mind you, this isn't just any ordinary birthday.

Milverstedt turned 107 years old on Sunday, May 24. "I'm an old burger," she said, playing off the fact that she and her husband owned a small town cafe in Claremont for 13 years.

She was born in 1913. Though she is

not the oldest person in Minnesota, she is believed to be the eldest in Steele County. Erna Zahn of New Ulm celebrated her 112th birthday last month.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, Milverstedt has been confined to her independent apartment at Ecumen CountrySide in Owatonna where she has resided for the past 10 years. She could come out in the hallway if she put on a protective mask, but she



Eloise Milverstedt celebrated her 107th birthday Sunday in Owatonna.

SEE A CENTURY, A10

State Fair cancels, Steele likely next

BY RICK BUSSLER
 PUBLISHER

Minnesotans will have to wait for another year to enjoy Minnesota's "great get together."

On Friday, the Minnesota State Fair voted to cancel the 2020 fair due to the coronavirus pandemic. It is the sixth time in history that pre-dates the U.S. Civil War in which the fair has been called off. The last time was in 1946 because of the polio epidemic.

"Right now is the time of year when things need to really take off if we're going to have a fair, but we can see that we're out of runway and can't get off the ground," said Jerry Hammer, the fair's general manager.

The State Fair's decision did not come as a big surprise to many, including Dan Deml, president of the Steele County Fair, Minnesota's largest county fair. "It's inevitable, but incredibly unfortunate," he said. "It's unfortunate, but we saw it coming."

Deml said his board will meet this week to decide on the fate of the Steele County Fair. When this edition of the Times went to press, no date had been set. The fair has a regular scheduled board meeting on June 4, but Deml said a

special meeting would be called before then.

"That's too long to leave vendors hanging," Deml said of the June 4 meeting.

As of Friday, the Steele Fair was still on, but Deml gave indications that the fair would likely be canceled as well.

"With the State Fair going down, I have a hunch most (county fairs) will fall in the next couple weeks," Deml said. "I'm guessing this will fall apart quickly," he added.

In southeastern Minnesota, Freeborn County was the only fair that had canceled prior to the State Fair's announcement.

Deml said it would be "virtually impossible" to have a fair like Steele County's and enforce social distancing. "Maintaining six feet distance isn't reality," he said. He also added sanitizing would be next to impossible to accomplish in the fair venue.

"Canceling is a last resort," Deml said. "As time had gone on, it became obvious holding a county fair would be difficult to impossible."

The Times went to press the latest on the developing fair situation on its website at steeledodge.com

Cruising Main for 2020 graduates

BY RICK BUSSLER
 PUBLISHER

Huskies will be roaming the downtown streets of Owatonna in packs, but not in the traditional way you may think.

The Steele County Safe and Drug Free Coalition is sponsoring a Cruise Main for graduating Owatonna Huskies on Friday, June 5 from 7-10 p.m. Cruising will be allowed in vehicles until 10 p.m.

"Let's celebrate the Class of 2020 as they cruise into their bright futures," said Andi Arnold, organizer of the event and director of community engagement with the coalition. "I was

trying to think creatively and outside of the box."

Arnold, who grew up in Owatonna, knows all about Husky school pride. When the coronavirus pandemic derailed many graduation plans, she stepped up to organize a cruising event through the downtown area. Knowing that the downtown is making a comeback in Owatonna, she thought it would be the perfect place for a drug-free celebration.

One of the strategies of the coalition is supporting kids' activities that are "safe and positive," she said. "This is an excuse to get people

SEE CRUISING MAIN, A8



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AREA DEATHS

Serving
 Blooming Prairie
 and Steele County
 since 1893

OUR VIEW

Canceling fair is right choice

It comes with great sadness that the "great Minnesota get together" will not happen this year for the first time since 1946 when a polio epidemic hit the state. For millions of Minnesotans, it will be tough to imagine a summer without the Minnesota State Fair. Manager Jerry Hammer said it became increasingly clear the fair couldn't go on this year since the outbreak picked up steam in early March.

In making the announcement late last week, Hammer said it wasn't a difficult decision. "It's the only decision. It's the right thing to do," he said.

And he appears to be spot on. The COVID-19 crisis isn't expected to peak until July or August, according to public health officials. Already as of Friday, there have been almost 95,000 deaths in the U.S. with about 850 in Minnesota. While many will argue it's not as bad as what officials initially thought it would be, the danger is still real and social gatherings are just not an option at this time.

The Steele County Fair is expected to cancel this week. The economic impact of not having a fair will be devastating to Owatonna as well as the rest of the county. It's unfortunate, but part of the reality of living in a COVID-19 world.

Dan Deml, the fair's president, made one point clear last week even before the decision has been made. "It's virtually impossible to have a fair like ours and enforce social distancing," he said.

While we don't relish the thought of canceling the fair, it's the only appropriate thing to do. Lives are at stake and personal safety must be first and foremost on everybody's minds during a situation like we find ourselves in right now.

If anything, it will be a great time for fair officials to regroup and catch their breath for a year. By doing so, they will be able to come back better, smarter and stronger.

And in true Minnesotan fashion, there is no doubt in our minds that they will.



GUEST COLUMN

Honoring our nation's heroes

BY AMY KLOBUCHAR

It's been said that a nation that forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten. We tell the world who we are as a country by how we honor our fallen heroes on this sacred Memorial Day and every day.

This Memorial Day we honor the Minnesotans who have fought for our country going back to the ridges of Gettysburg where thousands of Americans gave what President Lincoln called, "the last full measure of devotion."

We honor the three Minnesota National Guard Soldiers who we lost in that tragic Black Hawk crash late last year. They made the ultimate sacrifice.

We honor all our service members, and we owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.

So how as a nation can we best do this? First, we must remain committed to bringing all of our fallen heroes back home and giving them a final resting place worthy of their sacrifice.

Like Sergeant Eugene Yost who was just 18 years old when he left his family's farm in Milaca and shipped out to fight in the Korean War. He went missing one day and he was declared dead.

But Eugene's niece made a promise that she would find him. And she did. Sixty-eight years later he came home and was laid to rest at Fort

Snelling with full military honors.

And he's not alone. Virginia, Minnesota resident Dante Sylvestre 'Tini' is identified. He was killed while serving as a radioman on the U.S.S. Oklahoma during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Dante returned home last year too, greeted by his family and the Duluth Honor Guard. And he is now buried next to his parents in Virginia, honoring his wish from when he first enlisted.

The families deserve the serenity of knowing their loved one is home and the fallen soldiers deserve to have their stories told and their memories upheld, even during this pandemic. The way we gather and share their stories during this time may have changed, but our respect for them is as strong as ever.

And during this time of great challenge, we see our men and women in uniform continue to protect us overseas while also fighting a new threat to our well-being here at home.

We have faced dark times before, and America has always risen to meet them. Out of the horrors of World War II, FDR signed into law the GI bill to honor the sacrifices of our heroic servicemen.

And out of the fear and anxiety of the Cold War, President Kennedy rallied our nation and we put a man on the moon. Ronald Reagan rose to the moment with

his famous words in Berlin "tear down that wall." And it happened.

That is the leadership that we must demand for these challenging times.

Across the country, we see servicemen on the frontlines, risking their lives for others - working in our hospitals, transporting critical supplies, and working every single day protecting their communities.

And one way to honor those who lost their lives serving our country is by caring for the warriors who follow them. This means that veterans who have disability claims get them processed.

This means that veterans have access to the education and other benefits they have earned.

And this means making sure we're protecting veterans from contracting the virus and ensuring those at risk get the healthcare they need.

On this Memorial Day we honor all of those whose spirit of duty never wavered - even during the most difficult of times.

To all who served, or are serving, or remembering a loved one lost, we thank you and we honor you, today and every day.

Amy Klobuchar serves Minnesota in the U.S. Senate.



Hot Pursuit

RICK BUSSLER

This past week I had the pleasure to interview a woman who turned 107 years old on Sunday.

My only regret with this story is that I didn't get to personally meet Elrose Milverstedt, who grew up in Dodge County and now lives in Owatonna. Knowing that social distancing requirements are in effect right now with long-term care facilities, we arranged for a phone interview.

Before the interview took place, Milverstedt had one simple request from me. She wanted to know if she was the oldest person living in Steele County. I checked with a few of my sources, including the Steele County Recorder's Office, but no one seems to have that information readily available. The History Center doesn't know either.

I was able to find that the oldest person in Minnesota reigns from New Ulm. Erna Zahn turned a

Celebrating Steele County's oldest resident

112 just last month. She is reportedly the 15th oldest person in the U.S. and the 56th oldest in the world. It appears Milverstedt has a little ways to go to move up on that ladder.

When I shared with Milverstedt that the oldest person in the state was 112, she acknowledged she had a few years to go yet. She quickly followed up by saying, "I don't think I will make it that long."



Elrose Milverstedt enjoys some flowers from one of her birthdays of past. She turned 107 on Sunday.

I will go out on a limb to say that Milverstedt is the oldest living resident in Steele County. If someone can prove me wrong, please let me know. I would like to know for obvious reasons as I know Milverstedt would like to have that knowledge as well.

YOUR VIEW

Enough of COVID-19, let us enjoy our freedoms

To-the-Editor: Apparently there are several things spreading faster than COVID-19. Fear and insanity are definitely two. There are other words that could be used when it comes to the handling of this alleged pandemic, feel free to choose.

It's obviously easy to understand how people blindly follow their alleged experts, medical and political, when we are bombarded 24/7 with the horrendous effects of the virus. You have to do your own research and form your own opinions if you truly want the rest of the story.

As one who has always been concerned with individual freedoms and the potential loss of them, I've done a bit of research. I've listened to and read the opinions and recommended actions of numerous respected virologists from around the world. There are hundreds, perhaps thousands that totally disagree with the actions being taken. You will not be subjected to their findings on mainline news sources. Ladies and gentlemen, it is near impossible to protect humans from the most various diseases. Viruses are probably one of the leading health problems that are difficult to contain. The little bastards hang around until most all are exposed. Then, if and when a vaccine is produced, they simply mutate and possibly come back

stronger. Many virologists contend that the quickest and safest way to contain a virus is to infect around 70% of the population to achieve herd immunity. The remaining people already have immune systems that handle it. I fully understand slowing the spread until medical people can handle extreme cases. Hospitals are near empty, doctors furloughed and medical staffing reduced hours and pay tells us that is accomplished. People with possible life threatening problems have been told to wait until we are safe.

As more information and stats become available we're finding the COVID-19 virus may be on the same level as other flu type viruses. Minnesota for instance will have had around 600 deaths when this is published, with a population of about 5.5 million. You do the math. Most of the deaths had extenuating health problems. According to reports, the average age of deaths contributed to the virus is in the mid-80s. Average life span in Minnesota for men; about 79, women about 82. Maybe the virus extends life. Seriously though, if you have existing health problems such as heart, lung, diabetes, immune system compromised, obesity or other serious problems by all means do what is needed to protect yourself. By the way many health experts will tell you

that wearing a mask for extended periods is harmful due to increased intake of CO2 and less oxygen intake.

The really insane part of present actions is the closing of businesses, restaurants, bars, sporting events, entertainment and even our beloved Fourth of July celebrations and fairs. Forget the possible economic consequences which could lead to worse worldwide depression ever. Let's look on the affect on human lives. We are social animals, we love to congregate, hug, shake hands and attend a variety of fun events. We like to read face expressions. We relish the freedom to do so completely unencumbered. In fact our constitution guarantees these freedoms. Between that and the economic freedoms we once had is the reason we were the country to come to. The fact that we're letting fear and politicians end those freedoms is dangerous and reprehensible.

The bottom line: if you're fearful for whatever reason, protect yourself anyway possible. You are responsible for your health. Let others freely decide. I do not wish sicknesses on any but know it's part of life. Myself and many friends are getting to the age where we wish to enjoy the time we have left, please allow that freedom.

David Nielson
Owatonna

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A state and national award winning weekly

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
2020-9 state awards
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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
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2012-2 state awards
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(Awards presented by the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Association)

Ellendale group awards big grants

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

It may be unsettling times right now, but a community organization in Ellendale is in the spirit of giving.

Over the past few weeks, the Community Foundation of Ellendale has given out two grants to help in some big ways.

The first grant was awarded to the City of Ellendale for \$15,000 for the kitchen renovation project at the community center. The city is also planning to kick in another \$12,000 to the project, according to Stephanie Kibler, who serves on the city council.

Other funds and donations have been raised over the past year for the project, which is expected to cost about \$45,000.

With the large donations, Kibler expects the kitchen project to begin as early as next month. She said an overhaul of the kitchen is long overdue as everything except for the appliances is original from the early 1970s.

Kibler said the deteriorating condition of the kitchen has actually deterred many groups and organizations from wanting to utilize the facility in recent years. "It's definitely in need," she said.

The CFE has also

awarded a grant of \$1,250 to the Ellendale Area Food Shelf. The Southern Minnesota Initiative Fund kicked in a 4-to-1 matching grant match totaling \$5,000.

Kibler said the food shelf has been experiencing a substantial increase in usage since the COVID-19 outbreak began in March. An additional 22 families have been utilizing the food shelf. The reasons for the increase are unemployed workers and families being sheltered at home while eating more, she said.

In April, the food shelf provided nearly 5,500 pounds of food. The total number of families

served was 95 throughout the month.

Kibler said the additional funds will allow the food shelf to purchase more food.

Donations to CFE come from donors within Ellendale or others who have ties to the community, Kibler said. Companies have also made donations in the past. Last year a single private donor matched up to \$10,000 in other donations, she added.

CFE strives to strengthen and enhance the Ellendale area today and for future generations. The group invests in people, programs and organizations that transform lives in the community.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRID

The Rev. Mike Walarius of First Lutheran Church, Blooming Prairie, his wife Tiffany and their son Josh encourage friends to Honk if they love First Lutheran Church. Sunday School teachers were on the church lawn, waving to a parade of students and their parents.

First Lutheran Sunday School kids, teachers re-connect

BY HOWARD LESTRID
STAFF WRITER

The coronavirus pandemic has sidelined many church activities, including Sunday School.

But that hasn't stopped Blooming Prairie's First Lutheran Church from re-connecting with its Sunday School students.

A parade of sorts was choreographed by Melissa Stoen, director of children's ministry at First Lutheran Church. It was originally planned to take place on Sunday following the 9 a.m. church service. Cold, dreary weather moved the parade to May 20 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Teachers gathered in the north parking lot and held a variety of signs. Some said, "Miss You" and others said, "Have a good summer."

"Let your light shine" was another message placed on a sign.

Fifteen vehicles, including a couple of convertibles, carried the Sunday School students past their teachers.

Stoen, wearing a mask, gave a special gift to each of the Sunday School students.

First Lutheran's Sunday School program targets 130 kids. Stoen said she will be directing an online

vacation Bible School starting with materials pickup on June 7.

The materials will include a shirt, activities for the week and Facebook Live with Pastors Heidi Helmgartner and Mike Walarius.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRID

Three Blooming Prairie High School seniors show their caring signs to First Lutheran Church Sunday School students. From left, are Sunday School teachers Julia Worke, Baylee Sorenson and Rianna Bishop.

People's Press cuts back publication

What once had been a daily newspaper for Steele County is now cutting back its publication schedule again.

The Owatonna People's Press announced last week that effective June 1 it will no longer publish a Friday edition, making it a four-day a week newspaper. The same will happen with the newspaper's sister publication, the Fairbault Daily News.

"The effects of COVID-19 on the local,

state and national economies and the newspaper industry is accelerating our plans to concentrate more of our resources on our digital products," Publisher Steve Fisher wrote. He said in addition to the significant revenue disruptions of the pandemic, newspapers were already experiencing advertising revenue challenges by the changes in consumer patterns. "The rise of online retailing

has also impacted us," he added.

In July 2013, the People's Press combined the Saturday edition with the Sunday edition to come out with one combined Weekend edition on Saturday. Up until that time, the newspaper had been published six days a week for many decades.

The People's Press has experienced steep readership declines in recent years. About 10 years ago, the circulation

was around 7,800. According to the most recent numbers provided by the Minnesota Newspaper Association, the People's Press has a circulation of 4,626.

On the other hand, readership of the Steele County Times, a weekly publication, has grown significantly during that same time period.

The People's Press is owned by Adams Publishing Group.

Father Sauer to leave Owatonna

The Diocese of Winona-Rochester has reassigned a long-time priest serving Steele County.



Father Sauer

Father John Sauer of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Owatonna will begin a new pastorate in Rochester on July 1.

Sauer came to Owatonna in 2008, and he served as pastor at both Sacred Heart and Holy Trinity Church at Litomysl. In June 2019, he left Litomysl as part of the Diocese's larger plan to meet the needs of Catholic congregations throughout southern Minnesota.

At the time, Sauer said he was going to miss Holy Trinity, but welcomed the idea of being able to just focus on one congregation. "It certainly is going to be different to be able to focus all my time and energy on one parish," he said last June. "It's kind of a blessing as

most of our priests have more than one parish."

The Diocese plan switched Litomysl from the Owatonna cluster

to a group including Blooming Prairie and Hayfield. Father John Wilmot now serves Litomysl as well as the other two congregations.

Changes within the Diocese in recent years have taken place due to changing economics and demographics.

Sacred Heart, which is a congregation of about 1,600 families, offers four Masses every weekend, including a Spanish service.

Sauer was ordained in 1985. Prior to coming to Steele County, he served in Winona and Austin.

The new pastor for Sacred Heart will be Father Swami Pothireddy, who is presently pastor at Sacred Heart in Adams.

Clerk replacement for Ellendale on hold

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Filling the vacant city clerk's position in Ellendale has been placed on hold for now.

The Ellendale City Council has decided to hold off on hiring a city clerk for at least six months. The target date at this time is to have a replacement by September.

"We want to get the office more organized before bringing someone on," said Stephanie Kibler, city council member.

The city clerk became vacant in late February when Tiffany Krueger accepted a new job with the University of Minnesota Extension. She had been on the job for less than a year.

The council has named Kim Zimprich as acting clerk until a new clerk can be hired. Zimprich has been with the city for several years as assistant city clerk. She is currently working about 30 hours per week. In her previ-

ous role, she had been only working 14 hours per week.

Steve Engle, who serves on the city council, has stepped up to assist Zimprich in a role as temporary assistant clerk. Engle is not being compensated for the position, according to Kibler. "He has taken it on as part of his council duties," she said.

The city posted the clerk's position within a week of Krueger leaving the job. Kibler said the city "did not get a significant number" of applicants in its initial search. She said the city will contact the applicants they did receive later this fall when the position is reposted.

In its initial posting, the city sought a candidate with five years of experience in accounting and bookkeeping, including payroll experience, and at least two years of experience using a business accounting program. The city also would like someone with previous supervisory experience.

Be like a beagle, not a shark!



Steele Talkin
STEPHANIE KIBLER

Beagles are notoriously gentle and friendly, as well as curious and loving. They tend to be "happy-go-lucky" and loyal with soulful expressions. As a breed, they were meant to work together in packs, and as a result they get along well with other dogs and humans.

During the difficult time we currently find ourselves in, there are moments when it is easy to become frustrated with the "new normal" and with those

in leadership roles who are making the tough decisions. We are seeing this in social media posts, protests, and in general conversations with each other. I have even witnessed it with customers interacting with front line workers. It is also easy to get frustrated with all of the media hype and positive "we are all in this together" advertising blitz.

And, we have every right to be frustrated. From kindergartners who miss their teachers to seniors missing out on rites of passage. From our family members in care facilities who we have not been able to sit face-to-face with to grandparents wanting nothing more than to hug a grandchild. Our small businesses are suffering, our desire for

SEE BE LIKE A BEAGLE, A8

Deciding What to Do in Retirement



Dear Savvy Senior: I just turned 62 and am financially prepared for retirement, but I'm less certain about how to spend my time after leaving work. Can you recommend some resources or tools that can help me with this?

—Feeling Lost

Dear Lost: This is a great question! Many people, when asked what they want to do when they retire, will say they want a mix of travel, play and meaningful work. Specifics, however, tend to be few and far between. But planning how to fill your time in retirement is just as important as the financial planning aspect. Here are some resources that can help.

Online Tools

A good starting point to figuring out what you want to do in retirement is at LifeReimagined.aarp.org. This is an AARP website (you don't have to be a member to use it) that can help you rediscover what truly matters to you and focus on what you really want to do. It offers a variety of free online exercises and programs that will hopefully spark some ideas and give you inspiration.

Encore.org is another good resource that helps people who are seeking work that matters in the second half of life. Click on "Resources" on the menu bar and download their free Encore Guide, and consider purchasing a copy of their "Encore Career Handbook" (available at Amazon.com or BN.com for \$10.50) by Marci Alboher, which is excellent.

Also check out the free E-book called "The Age for Change," which can help answer the question: "What now?" You can download this at ComingOfAge.org.

And, if you've never taken a personality test before, this too can be a good tool to help you figure out what type of activities or work you'd like to do. A good option for this is the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator assessment, which you can take online at MBTIcomplete.com for \$50.

Personalized Guidance

If you want personalized help, you can also get one-on-one guidance from a retirement or life planning coach. Some resources that can help you here include LifePlanningForYou.com, which has a free exercise called EVOKE that can help identify a path that might suit you best in later life, and provides a directory to registered life planners to help guide you.

Also see: RetirementOptions.com, which will connect you with a retirement coach who will give you an assessment to help reveal your attitudes and opinions about work, family life, relationships, leisure time and more. And the LifePlanningNetwork.org, which is a group of professionals and organizations that help people navigate the second half of life. You can also find life and retirement coaching at the International Coach Federation at CoachFederation.org.

Coaching sessions typically range from \$75 to \$300 or more, and usually require four to six sessions to get the most out of the process.

Other Resources

If you're primarily interested in volunteering, finding a retirement job or even starting a business when you retire, there are lots of resources that can help here too.

For volunteering, PointsOfLight.org, VolunteerMatch.org and SeniorCorps.gov can help you search for opportunities, or even create one on your own.

To look for job ideas, sites like RetirementJobs.com, Workforce50.com and RetiredBrains.com list thousands of jobs nationwide from companies that are actively seeking older workers. FlexJobs.com can help you find good work-at-home jobs. CoolWorks.com and BackDoorJobs.com are great for locating seasonal or summer jobs in great places. Or to search for freelance opportunities in a wide variety of areas, there's Elance.com and Guru.com.

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.

SEVEN COUNTY: workers placed on furlough status

FROM A3

county has also put a freeze on expenses related to training, travel and office supplies.

"We will be monitoring expenditures and revenue to see if we have to take more steps to offset the loss of revenues," said Goldberg. "We will be monitoring revenues month to month," he added.

One of the wild cards for the county is the federal stimulus money through the CARES Act. Goldberg said the state is currently "sitting on a big pot of money" to help out with COVID-19 emergencies. The state legislature hasn't decided how to spend that money. Goldberg is hoping some of that money will eventually trickle down to local governments like Steele County.

Goldberg also hopes the federal government will relax the eligibility for stimulus money. "We are lobbying for more relaxed criteria," he said.

10 Years Ago

June 1, 2010

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

This year's BPHS senior class had an awesome year as Blossoms. There were many high points throughout the year for the 55 graduating seniors. One of the greatest achievements was the Blossom football team making it to the state tournament at the Metrodome, the farthest any team has gone. Another highlight is currently unfolding as the softball team has captured the section title and headed for state play. It is important to note academic honors as well. Amanda Wanous was named 2010 valedictorian and Tim Boecker was named salutatorian. These two fine individuals are to be commended for their scholastic achievements. A simple message for the graduates - You have your diploma, hope you use it to your best advantage and make a name for yourself no matter what you choose to do in life.

After 31 years of teaching kindergarten in School District 756, Blooming Prairie will soon lose one of its most beloved teachers, Ann Clausen, Mrs. Clausen of Independence, Iowa started her career in 1972 in Dyersville, Iowa. She married Neil Clausen in 1974 and his job transfer brought them to Blooming Prairie. After teaching in Ellendale for three years, she came to the Blooming Prairie Elementary to teach kindergarten where she has been loved for the past three decades. "I love it! They are so open to learning and fun to teach," she said. "I can start them (in learning) and watch them at least through sixth grade." What will I miss most she answered, "Laughter, innocence and love. Love for each other and love of learning. Hugs, notes and pictures."

With three players in the top ten individuals, the Blossom boys won the sub-section golf meet.

Jordan Kessler and Soren Peterson shared the No. 4 individual score of 83 over 18 holes, Dylan Hatch finished sixth with 84 and C J Hein tied for eighth with an 88. The girls also earned a trip to the section by finishing second. BP's Erin Johnson took third individual with a 103, missing second by a tie-breaker.

20 Years Ago

May 30, 2000

ELSIE SUNGER, PUBLISHER

BPHS instructor Art Gust's accounting class put their lessons to good use when they

Construction crews installed and activated a new pedestrian signal system on Oak Avenue at its intersection with School Street. The signal, installed as part of the ongoing Steele County improvement project on Oak Avenue, will improve pedestrian safety at the intersection.

The new pedestrian signal system has a yellow pedestrian and bicycle warning signs, along with rapid rectangular flashing beacons. Before crossing the street, pedestrians should activate the beacons by pushing a button. The beacons then alert motorists of the presence of a pedestrian

or bicyclist crossing the street.

Per Minnesota statutes, the driver of a vehicle shall stop to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway. The driver must remain stopped until the pedestrian has passed the lane in which the vehicle is stopped.

Blooming Prairie Legionnaires and Veterans of Foreign Wars members, along with the auxiliary member of both organizations, are invited to again join in the traditional breakfast on Memorial Day, Saturday, May 30, in the Servicemen's Club room. Serving will start at 7:30. Following the breakfast all ex-servicemen and auxiliary members are asked to participate in the Memorial Day observance to be held at the Blooming Prairie cemetery.

75 Years Ago

May 31, 1945

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Times staff member, Pfc. Vyrle Krejci, serving our country has been assigned to Headquarters Company U.C. Comp Air Staff SHAEE. Krejci was in some of the heaviest engagements against the Germans and was confined to a hospital in England for about five months as a result due to an extremely bad case of trench feet.

National Baby Week helps to focus attention on our babies and the best ways of caring for and feeding these precious bundles. It is a good opportunity to review the principle changes in infant feeding practices in the past twenty years. Cod liver was started at two months, now it is begun in the first month. It was given only in the winter when there was little sunshine, but is now recommended all year round. Nor nearly as many babies received it in the past as now. Rickets was common especially in cities; now it is rare disease. Babies on breast milk or raw milk were not given orange juice until the seventh or eighth month; now all babies are started any time after the second or third week. As a result, there is now only an occasional case of scurvy.

A warm, sunny day was perfect staging for the Otto T. Lund post American Legionnaires first horse circus - the Western Horse Show at Victory Park on Decoration Day. Cash prizes totaling \$275.00 attracted owners of highly educated horses to enter their steeds and compete. They came from a wide area. Forty-two head of the best and most valuable saddle horses ever to be placed on exhibition in southern Minnesota took part in the highly entertaining afternoon's program. A crowd of conservatively estimated at over 2000 people taxed seating and parking space at Victory Park. Long before the parade started, the business district and streets were lined with interested spectators ready to view the unique and colorful equestrian performance.

Pedestrian signals activated on Oak Avenue

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Pedestrians are reminded, even with the beacon flashing, that they should be sure vehicles are stopping before moving into the path of the vehicles.

For updates on this or other Steele County Highway construction projects, visit: www.co.steele.mn.us/highway-construction.

USDA PROVIDES: assistance to farmers

FROM A3

mid-January 2020, and mid-April 2020 and provides support for specialty crops for product that had been shipped from the farm between the same time period but subsequently spoiled due to loss of marketing channels. The second funding source uses the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act to compensate producers for \$6.5 billion in losses due to on-going market disruptions.

Non-specialty crops eligible for CFAP payments include malting barley, canola, corn, upland cotton, millet, oats, soybeans, sorghum, sunflowers, durum wheat, and hard red spring wheat. Wool is also eligible. Producers will be paid based on inventory subject to price risk held as of Jan. 15. A payment

will be made based 50% of a producer's 2019 total production or the 2019 inventory as of Jan. 15, 2020, whichever is smaller, multiplied by the commodity's applicable payment rates.

Livestock

Livestock eligible for CFAP include cattle, lambs, yearlings and hogs. The total payment will be calculated using the sum of the producer's number of livestock sold between January 15 and April 15, 2020, multiplied by the payment rates per head, and the highest inventory number of livestock between April 16 and May 14, 2020, multiplied by the payment rate per head.

Dairy

For dairy, the total payment will be calculated based on a producer's certification of

milk production for the first quarter of calendar year 2020 multiplied by a national price decline during the same quarter. The second part of the payment is based on a national adjustment to each producer's production in the first quarter.

There is a payment limitation of \$250,000 per person or entity for all commodities combined. Applicants who are corporations, limited liability companies or limited partnerships may qualify for additional payment limits where members actively provide personal labor or personal management for the farming operation. Producers will also have to certify they meet the Adjusted Gross Income limitation of \$800,000 unless at least 75% or more of their income is derived from

farming, ranching or forestry-related activities. Producers must also be in compliance with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions.

Producers can apply for assistance beginning on May 26. Additional information and application forms can be found at farmers.gov/cfap. Producers of all eligible commodities will apply through their local FSA office. Documentation to support the producer's application and certification may be requested. FSA has streamlined the sign-up process to not require an acreage report at the time of application and a USDA farm number may not be immediately needed. Applications will be accepted through Aug. 28.

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.****Behind The Badge**
SHERIFF SCOTT ROSE

It was Dec. 3, winter setting in along the busy Mississippi River town. It was 12:15 a.m., and Winona Police Officer Mathew Hamilton, the town's night watch and special policeman, was walking his beat downtown. As he walked into the waiting room of the Winona and St. Peter Railroad depot, he found a man lying asleep on one of the seats. Hamilton woke the man and told him to get up and let others sit down. The man refused to move, and Hamilton got on his feet and called fellow Officer Miller to assist getting the man outside.

Officer Miller asked the man, who appeared intoxicated, where he wanted to go and he said, to Trempealeau. Miller told him that if he would behave himself he might get to go back and sit down. The man went back and commenced swearing and abusing

Hamilton. He then told Miller to take him off and lock him up.

Both officers went in and took hold of him, but the homeless man, who was large and powerful, resisted, and they called another man in the baggage room to help them. When they reached the door the man caught Hamilton by the throat choking him. Herman was behind and gave all three a shove and they all went out and fell on the platform outside.

Hamilton called to Miller to strike the man, but Miller hesitated. As the man continued to choke Hamilton, Miller eventually hit him to make him let loose. He let go, then, and Mr. Hamilton raised himself up and said: "I am gone, Miller. I can't do any more to help you" and stepped back. At that time Hamilton knew he was in trouble from the assault. Hamilton took Miller by the hand and said, "Miller, don't leave me. I'm dying. Get me home if you can."

Officer Miller and four or five other men came to assist carrying Hamilton to the omnibus. On the way to Hamilton's home he could not speak loud,

but he pulled Officer Miller down to him and told him in a feeble voice that he was going to die and as soon as they got to the house to send for his brother and sister.

They carried Officer Hamilton into the house from the bus and got him on the floor, and while fixing some pillows under him, he passed away from an apparent heart attack during the fight. He had been ill for a few weeks struggling with heart related issues.

This night he felt better and was his first night back on duty after being ill. Fellow officers said, when in good health, he was a powerful man and seldom met any customers he was not able to handle.

Officer Hamilton was 51 years old and survived by his wife and two children.

He was the first documented Line of Duty Death in southeast Minnesota. The year was 1874.

Fast-forward 146 years. The Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation of SE MN honored 31 fallen law enforcement heroes from 21 different agencies in SE Minnesota last week, including

Officer Mathew Hamilton. This list included four fallen heroes from Dodge County:

- Hayfield Marshal Ole Hovey - End of Watch 12/28/1905
- Claremont Police Chief Greg Lange - End of Watch 07/05/1988
- Hayfield Police Chief Doug Claassen - End of Watch 03/15/1999
- Dodge County Captain Loring Guenther - End of Watch 9/10/2013

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor's Executive Order, the Foundation pre-recorded the annual SE MN Law Enforcement Memorial Program for National Law Enforcement Week, honoring these great men. The video was released on May 18. The link to this memorial video is on the Foundation website at www.lawenforcementmemorial.org.

Remember, it's not how these men died that made them heroes, it's how they lived.

NEVER FORGOTTEN!
Your Sheriff,
Scott

Scott Rose is the Dodge County Sheriff. He is currently serving his second term.

CRIME BRIEF

Woman charged in domestic incident

A woman faces a felony charge in connection with a domestic incident involving a vehicle and her boyfriend.



Alicia Crawford

Alicia Crawford, 19, of Owatonna has been charged with second-degree assault, which is a felony, and two counts of misdemeanor domestic assault. The charges arise from an incident May 16 in the area of Cedar Avenue and Prospect Street.

Police received a report from a male victim that he had been assaulted by Crawford. The victim said an argument took place on the way back from a fishing trip.

As the victim

got out of the vehicle, Crawford allegedly began hitting him, knocked him to the ground and knocked his glasses off.

When the man retrieved his glasses, Crawford is accused of driving the car over a curb toward the victim. He jumped out of the way to avoid being hit and she left the scene.

A witness corroborated the vehicle incident, indicating Crawford drove at the victim at least two times, according to police. Tire tracks left in the grass and sidewalk also supported the incident.

Officers put Crawford in jail for the incident.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 11 - 17:

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Antonio Velma Gonzalez, 25, Owatonna, take fish without angling license, \$175.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Norma Armendariz, 50, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Eric M. Boelter, 31, Eagan, speeding, \$215; Anthony B. Boyd, 37, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; Tina J. Brase, 34, Owatonna, speeding, \$215; Joshua E. Brown, 19, Chanhassen, speeding, \$125; Payton F. Hinchley, 23, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Benjamin E. Jensen, 24, Urbandale, IA, speeding, \$115; Rose K. Johnson, 20, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$125; Rachel A. Norgaard, 32, St. Paul, speeding, \$135; Emmanuel D. Ralley, 40, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$125; Brady J. Schmah, 20, Vasaca, speeding, \$215; Nathan D. Schroeder, 21, Ellsworth, WI, speeding, \$125.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Casey J. Batterson, 25, Owatonna, failure to stop for school bus, stay of adjudication, \$75, diversion program and 2 years of supervised probation; Damian J. Hoptop-Rocha, 23, Margate, FL, controlled substance and disorderly conduct, \$131, 3 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, cognitive skill training, anger management, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Roger W. May, 44, Owatonna, DWI, \$224, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or

controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, Ignition Interlock program, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel, 224 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Autumn K. Olson, 18, Medford, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$275; Mercedes C. Rocha, 20, Brainerd, theft, \$110.46.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Alex A. Ahlman, 29, Vasaca, registration violation, stay of adjudication, \$300 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Douglas J. Bettlach, 55, Mt. Dora, FL, speeding, \$135; Pedro C. Brito, 42, Faribault, revoked license, \$275; John B. Cramer, 54, Medford, burning of rubber, \$275; Mary P. Cramer, 49, Medford, burning during a ban and burning of rubber, \$875; Gilberto E. Ortiz, 55, New Hope, speeding, \$115; Tate J. Peterson, 21, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Britt M. Schons, 44, Madison Lake, speeding, \$125.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County**OWATONNA POLICE**

May 15
Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 1:36 p.m.
May 16
Intoxication: Officers responded to an intoxicated subject in the 100 block of Main St. E. at 12:22 a.m.
Disturbance: Police responded to a disturbance in the 1800 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 7:28 a.m. They issued a citation.
Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting

citation in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 11:15 a.m.
Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance at Cedar Ave. S. and Prospect St. E. at 4:13 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

May 17
Assault: Police arrested a subject following an assault in the 500 block of Oak Ave. S. at 9:11 p.m.

May 18
Shoplifting: At 3:45 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 3900 block of Cabela Dr. NW.
Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 2200 block of 46th St. NW at 7:49 p.m.

May 19
Stolen Property: Police arrested a subject for being in possession of stolen property in the 2300 block of 43rd St. NW at 1:17 a.m.

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Grove Ave. S. and Phelps St. E. at 2:02 a.m.

DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest at Cedar Ave. N. and Front St. E. at 3:39 a.m.

Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in injuries at McKinley St. SW and Oak Ave. S. at 8:32 a.m.

Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 2400 block of Bridge St. W. at 10:33 a.m.

Theft: Police received a theft report from the 1700 block of Prairie Lane NE at 11:37 a.m.

May 20
Burglary: Police began an investigation of a burglary in the 200 block of Rose St. E. at 12:27 p.m.

Hit and Run: At 12:34 p.m., a hit and run accident occurred at 12th St. NE and Elm Ave. N.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

May 15
Child Protection: Deputies received a child protection report

from 5th St. and Park Ave. in Ellendale at 8:45 a.m.

May 16
Arrest: Deputies arrested a motorist during a traffic stop on Interstate 35 in Somerset Township at 1:12 a.m.

May 17
Domestic: Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 6900 block of Rose St. in Havana Township at 9:53 p.m.

May 18
Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 6800 block of Lemond Road in Lemond Township at 8:10 a.m.
Animal: At 6:53 p.m., an animal bite occurred in the 700 block of 3rd Ave. SE in Medford.

Arrest: Deputies arrested a motorist during a traffic stop on Interstate 35 in Somerset Township at 10:16 p.m.

May 19
Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 4:55 a.m.

DWI: Deputies arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 8500 block of Crane Creek Road in Meriden Township at 7:55 p.m.

May 20
Child Protection: Deputies received a child protection report from the 8100 block of Highway 30 E. in Blooming Prairie Township at 5:43 p.m.

Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 6300 block of 73rd St. SE in Aurora Township at 6:04 p.m.

ARRESTS Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE
Alicia Renaye Crawford, 19, arrested at 5:15 p.m. May 16, felony domestic assault/assault, held for court. Blas Obed Varela Jr., 21, arrested at 8:46 a.m. May 17, domestic assault/assault and probation

violation warrant arrest, held for court.

Jhovani Garcia Pina, 18, arrested at 10 p.m. May 17, felony assault, held for court.

Jamie Knutson, 42, arrested at 4 a.m. May 19, warrant arrest, held for court.

Jacob Skyles Farless, 28, arrested at 1:39 a.m. May 19, felony possession of a stolen motor vehicle, held for court.

Adam Jeremiah Holm, 22, arrested on May 19, false name, obstruction of legal process and possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, held for court.

Jason Daniel House, 39, arrested on May 19, DWI and cancelled license, held for court.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of May 10 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding: Cody A. Ambrose, 24, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. Ambrose was sentenced to \$1,080, 10 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, 100 hours of community

service and 5 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of May 10 - 17:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Brandon L. Schultz, 29, Rochester, parking violation, \$52; Tyler J. Trihus, 24, Hollandale, suspended license and license plate violation, \$310.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Trevor C. Knudson, 33, Fairmont, suspended license, \$280; Cody J. Owen, 18, Elgin, invalid license, \$180.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Ian J. Baerman-Kuiper, 20, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Carson J. Delange, 21, Rookwall, TX, speeding, \$120; Jeffery M. Greenslade, 49, West Concord, speeding, \$120; Juwaeun M. Guider, 21, Mazepa, seat belt, \$105; Zachary W. Holland, 27, Oronoco, speeding, \$130; Nevada R. Schroeder, 18, Granite Falls, speeding, \$140; Mohamed M. Yusuf, 22, Rochester, speeding, \$120.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Gregory A. Koester, 55, Waukon, IA, speeding, \$140.

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federatedinsurance.com
for COVID-19 resources.

Berne Pizza to go curbside all summer

Wood-fired pizza will be shovled to the curb for the entire summer in Dodge County.

Coordinator Angela Organ said the board of Berne Wood-Fired Pizza decided last week that it would offer curbside pizza for the entire run of the Wednesday night summer event. Previously, the board announced curbside would take place during the month of June and did not commit to July or August.

The event is hosted by Zwingli United Church of Christ at Berne.

The first Curbside-to-Go pizza night will be Wednesday, June 3 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Organizers will offer social distancing by handing over pizzas to people in their cars. Money will be dropped in a payment box so there is no handling of cash.

People will have the opportunity to enjoy the music performers from the comforts of their vehicles. Musicians are scheduled to perform weekly just as they have in previous years.

JUNE PIZZA AND CONCERT SCHEDULE AT BERNE:

June 3
Meat Lovers
Raj Coudret from Fred the Bear

June 10
Bacon Cheeseburger
Dino & Vito

June 17
Meat Lovers
Scott Jasmin

June 24
Bacon Cheeseburger
Nathan Davidson

KSMQ TV The Better Choice COVID-19 INFORMATION

www.ksmq.org
Clear, Concise, On Demand

KSMQ Regional Updates "On Air" Rochester/Olmsted County "9-10pm"



KSMQ THANKS THESE SPONSORS: Local and Regional Perspective. Find it here: www.ksmq.org

Sudoku Corner

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

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Answers

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

Area National Guard soldiers to be deployed

Nearly 700 soldiers from the Minnesota National Guard's Mankato-based 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry will deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in the Horn of Africa.

"Our battalion will serve as part of a Task Force to improve security posture at U.S. installations and forward operating bases in the AFRICOM region, while maintaining a rapidly deployable force prepared to respond to crisis," said Commander Lt. Col. Charles Rankin.

COVID-19 provided some challenges in final preparations for deployment. Rankin said the welfare of his soldiers, their families and their employers was at the center of every decision he made. The unit conducted final Soldier Readiness Processing in April utilizing social distancing measures like wearing masks and staggering soldiers testing. They will report to Camp Ripley the first week of June, train and depart for Fort Bliss, Texas at the end of the month.

"Our soldiers are ready to deploy, well-trained, fully-equipped and highly-motivated," said Rankin.

Soldiers in the battalion come from nearly 200 communities around Minnesota, and age in range from 18 to 52. For 76 soldiers this will be their second deployment, and for 52 soldiers it will be their third or fourth. More than one hundred soldiers are in the process of earning a degree or have an associate degree, while three have an advanced degree. More than 1200 soldiers have at least one dependent family member.

There are six major units in the 2-135 Infantry: Headquarters Company in Mankato and Owatonna, A Company in West St. Paul, B Company in Rochester, C Company in Winona, D Company in Albert Lea and 1135th Combat Support Company in Faribault. 2-135 Infantry will be joined by C Company 113th Cavalry Regiment in LeMars, Iowa and C Company 106th Cavalry Regiment in Aurora, Ill.

In lieu of deployment ceremonies at all unit Armories due to social distancing requirements, the battalion will have a private departure ceremony at Camp Ripley on June 19.



Gene Dornink of Hayfield, right, received endorsement for the District 27 Senate race last week by the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters.

Union endorses Dornink for state senate

A carpenter's union based in Rochester has endorsed a Hayfield area man running for state senate.

The North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters gave its endorsement to Gene Dornink as senator for District 27, which includes the City of Blooming Prairie, southern Dodge County and most of Mower and Freeborn counties. Dornink met with Adam Duinick, director of government affairs, and Dominic Andrist, senior manager for MN/ND/SD in Rochester to receive the endorsement.

As a union carpenter of 22 years, Dornink understands the importance the trades have in our communities and appreciates all the training and support the union has given to him and to other workers over the years.

union officials said.

"I am honored to receive the endorsement from the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters for this Senate race," Dornink said. "Over the years with my local union, I have gained incredible friends and we have supported each other through good and bad times. I have benefited from being a skilled trades worker and union member."

He will also educate young voters on the importance of skilled labor jobs and the trades as a vocation. "I am excited to continue working hard and meeting voters through this election cycle. I want to hear the concerns of those in our district and share how I will represent them in St. Paul," said Dornink, who currently is self-employed with his own carpentry business.

Blood donors needed to keep supply strong amid COVID-19 outbreak

In times of need, people come together to support one another. The American Red Cross is asking for healthy individuals to step up to help patients experiencing health crises by donating blood or platelets.

As COVID-19 continues to affect everyday life, people may not be thinking about blood donation. But blood and platelets are needed daily to help patients battling disease and facing the unexpected. Donating blood is an easy way to care for each other and ensure hospitals have the blood products patients rely on.

Healthy individuals who are feeling well are asked to make an appointment to donate this May by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the

drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff – have been implemented to safeguard donors, volunteers and employees.

The Red Cross is also looking for blood drive hosts to help ensure a stable blood supply. Learn more and sign up to sponsor a drive by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/HostADrive.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities May 27-31:

Dodge Kasson
May 28: 2 p.m.-7 p.m., Community Celebration Church, 27401 County Highway 34

Mower Austin
May 27: 12 p.m.-6 p.m., Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1600 W. Oakland Ave.

May 28: 12 p.m.-6 p.m., St. John's Lutheran, 1200 NW 13th Ave.

Rice Faribault
May 29: 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., American Legion Post 43, 112 5th St. NE

Steele Owatonna
May 27: 12 p.m.-6 p.m., Associated Church, Associated Church, 800 Havana Road

May 29: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Owatonna Hospital, 2250 26th St. NW

BIRTHDAYS

MAY 28
Jill Lindeman
Kristin Lueh
Koenig
Isaac Ilie
Jennifer Wondra

MAY 29
Brian Kerrigan
Dish Fan
Grayson Spindler
Ella Salinas

MAY 30
Gene Myer
Ragna Thompson

MAY 31
Judy Eplian
Brianna Wengen
Nathan Peterson
Grant Johnson

JUNE 1
Ber Hoveland
Virginia Lindquist
Julie Cochlin
Owen Gimbel
Ryder Smith

JUNE 2
Samantha Andrews

JUNE 3
Camden Heimerman
Kendra Long
Gabriel Hagen
Emma Trom
Madelyn Harvey
Isabella Kohn

JUNE 4
Paul Biondo
Brenda Salinas
Lance Ingvalson
Stephane Fruggeman
Pam Schwarz

JUNE 5
Lantry Houllion
Doug Johnson
Kara Trotman
Zach Froty
Nor Klemmensen

JUNE 6
Greg Snider
Maren Forystek
Bailee Klemmensen

JUNE 7
Lorella Ingvalson
Leigh Ventch
Veronica Brown

Monica Lea
Kevin Lock
Doris Lea
Tyler Bluedorn

JUNE 8
Ella Klemmensen

JUNE 9
Clarence Boyd
Cheryl Coughlin
Bob Nadelovsky
Karl Ann Lueh
Julie Peterson
Becky Braden
Dave Hoffman
Allen Vandal
Laura Dale

JUNE 10
Wyatt Heman
Billy Lindquist
Christian Gardner
Thomas Rogers
David Trolas
Morgan Snider

ANNIVERSARIES

MAY 28
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Krell

MAY 30
Michael & Kathleen Iversen

MAY 31
Keith & Carol Holman

JUNE 1
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Olson
Bill & Jennifer Walsh

JUNE 3
Jeff & Sue Zwiener
Andrew & Emily Savaria

JUNE 4
Mike & Alyssa Ressler

JUNE 5
Brian & Christine Wesel
Gloria & Vern Demis

JUNE 8
Cletus & Sharon Glynn

JUNE 9
Heidi & Brett Zimmerman

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

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FFA member achieves proficiency honor



Brianna Levisay

An Owatonna FFA member has been named a top proficiency award winner.

Brianna Levisay was one of 43 FFA members from across the state to receive the top FFA Agricultural awards during last week's virtual State FFA Convention. Her proficiency award came in the area of small animal production and care.

Students have each developed specialized skills through Supervised Agricultural Experiences working with their high school ag instructors.

The proficiency areas correspond to career pathways related to agriculture. Award winners were chosen from FFA members who advanced from regional competitions held across the state.

BE LIKE A BEAGLE: not a shark!

FROM A1

a haircut intensifying. There are days where it feels like it is more than one can stand.

Over the past 10 weeks, I have found myself searching for positive outcomes, in both my professional and my personal life. In early March, I began planning for what the next couple of months would look like for my staff. How would we continue to move the Museum forward? What would working at home look like for everyone? Is it feasible to everyone to work at home? Do we have the tools we need to work offsite? After a moment of panic, I developed I pulled up by boot straps and we created individual plans for each staff member with the goal of meeting the Museum needs and ensuring individual staff members had the tools they needed to get them through the next couple of months.

I am proud of all that we have accomplished. Together, we worked as a pack of beagles. We found new creative ways to accomplish our work and develop fun, interactive ways to re-open when the time comes. We have reached out to those in isolation who needed a pick me

up with postcards and flowers. I believe, we have become a stronger team, looking out for one another and our community.

Now that we are 10 weeks in and it appears Museums will not be opening in the near future, we have moved to the second phase. We are welcoming volunteers back into the building on a limited basis, sharing a meal occasionally, and continuing to work together. Like a beagle we will continue to be thoughtful and kind and respect those around us as we navigate through our COVID lives.

I will continue to remind myself each of us reacts to stress differently and will do my best to ensure I remain friendly, gentle and loving with all those around me.

Stephanie Kibler lives in Ellendale and serves on the city council. She is also the executive director of the Freeborn County Historical Museum in Albert Lea. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

CRUISING MAIN: for 2020 graduates

FROM A1

downtown and see that businesses are starting to open up again," Arnold explained.

As part of the celebration, Arnold is encouraging downtown businesses to decorate their store fronts showing Owatonna pride.



Andi Arnold

The coalition will be decorating Central Park and playing graduation music.

But, Arnold noted, there is one important requirement for the celebration. "We do want to keep within safety and don't want people to gather in clusters," she said. "We're encouraging young people to use common sense. It has to be safe."

Throughout the evening, Arnold expects people to sing, play music and honk their horns. "It's a fun way to see people," she said. "This is something unique that you can give a shout out," she added.

CRUISE MAIN

What: Celebrate Class of 2020
Where: Owatonna Downtown
When: Friday, June 5 from 7-10 p.m.
Who: Sponsored by Steele County Safe and Drug Free Coalition

New development coming to Medford

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

The City of Medford could soon see the rise of a new building as the city has officially signed an amendment to its developer's agreement with Todd Nelson.

Nelson intends to develop the plot of land often referred to by residents as "the old football field" in stages, beginning with a 16-unit apartment. During the regular city council meeting May 18, the city approved Nelson's final plat for the apartments, which will be situated in the vacant lot on 8th Avenue.

In order to address the storm water issue, Nelson plans to dig a storm water basin in the center of the property to serve as a water runoff receptacle as well as a pond for the residents. This will be excavated in the first phase of construction.

Prior to submitting the final plat to the Planning and Zoning board, the developer provided soil infiltration rate test results and the city engineer verified that the proposed design parameters are valid and that the pond should function as designed.

After the first phase, Nelson will look to continue to move forward with more development on the plot. Future phases will include the development of townhomes, single family lots, and apartments.

On May 20, Medford held a public hearing for the 2021 Mainstreet Improvements Project. Residents were able to submit comments via mail, email, or drop-off, and were

also able to give live comments via phone during the hearing. The project includes street improvements, widening, and a water main replacement.

Some on the council were hesitant to move forward on the project. "January is a ways away yet," council member Chad Langeslag said when speaking on the hypotheticals of the city moving forward.

"We have an election coming in November, and we may not have the same faces we have here now."

"My concern would be that if we spend more money and go forward with it even though we're all hesitating and then the next council, or mayor, or both decides it's not a priority right now," Langeslag said. "Then we're out all the engineering money."

The current pandemic and its possible future impact was a major reason some on the council felt hesitant. "We're not going to know the full impact of the situation for a year or 18 months to know exactly where things are," said council member Grace Bartlett, who suggested tabling the project.

Members of the council also remarked that should they opt to move forward on the project at this time, this might be a more financially solvent option than waiting on the project until a future date at which costs will be higher.

At the conclusion of the public hearing, the council motioned to table the project for up to six months as the city continues to investigate the project and react to the current circumstances. The motion passed with only one opposed.

BOOK NOOK

Update on the library reopening



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

number of people and the time spent here may be limited. But we are moving towards the goal of welcoming you back into the library.

Children and parents may be wondering what our Summer Reading Program will be like this year. I can safely say it won't be the same as other years! In conjunction with the Owatonna Public Library staff, we are doing all that we can to bring new ideas and incentives to encourage all of our readers. This will include reading challenges, earning badges, and surprises.

Finally, I want to recognize the graduating seniors of Blooming Prairie High School. Congratulations on your accomplishments. Although your experiences were different than any other class, please use the strengths you have developed as you go through your life. Special thoughts for Kisha Aquino, our senior student worker. Thank you for your influence here, and the best to all of you in the future!

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Recipe Corner

Almond Bars

Crust
1 C butter
2 C flour
1/2 C powdered sugar

Mix together and pat into greased 9 x 13 pan. Bake 20 minutes at 350 degrees.

Filling
8-oz cream cheese
2 eggs
1/2 C sugar
1 tsp almond flavoring

Mix together and pour over hot crust. Bake 15 to 20 minutes. Cool and frost.

Frosting
1-1/2 C powdered sugar
1/4 C butter
1-1/2 T milk
1 tsp almond flavoring

Use 2 C powdered sugar if you like thicker frosting. Toast slivered almonds and put on top of frosting.

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Pastor Scott Peterson
NEW BEGINNINGS
CHURCH
OWATONNA

2 Timothy 3:1 - This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

The Holy Spirit urgently alerts us in this verse that in the last of the last days, the times will be dangerous, risky, and hurtful. Yet we are not to be frightened. Rather, we're to ask of God boldly for our needs to be met, walk in Christ's authority, and bring hope, healing, and freedom to the people and places around us.

We are living in uncertain times, and

we need to know the signs we can expect to see just before Jesus comes, as well as how to sail through and survive these perilous times.

You would probably agree that it is alarming to turn on the evening news and see the outpouring of negative reports.

There is an epidemic of fear, crime and violence infiltrating our streets and our schools. And political disputes are abnormally extreme as tensions among world leaders threatening our well-being

across the globe. Natural disasters continue to rise, a worldwide virus pandemic that the bible describes as a form of pestilence along with widespread financial crises and civil unrest is currently in our midst.

The conditions during the end times before Christ returns will be a crisis that will be difficult for people to overcome. So, how should we respond to this knowledge? Should we stay in our homes, close the blinds, and hide? Absolutely not. Rather than run and

hide, we must refuse to allow fear to grip our hearts!

Instead of cowering in fear, we are called to follow Jesus' example. In Matthew 8, He used authority to cast out demons and set the entire region of the Gergesenes free from the fear that had paralyzed them for so long. Likewise, the Holy Spirit is beckoning us to step forward with the authority of Jesus Christ to bring deliverance, freedom, and peace to people and places where the devil has tried to bring chaos,

hazard, and hurt.

If you made a decision to follow Christ asking for His forgiveness and trusting in Him for your salvation then God wants to use you on the earth during these last of the last days. You are anointed and appointed for such a time as this to be His light in the darkness and to bring solutions to the problems that have beset humanity. God knows the end from the beginning, and if you will listen to Him, He will prepare and equip you for victory in everything that lies ahead.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN
www.rglutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696
Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

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

FIRST LUTHERAN - AFLC
503 Radd 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: 5:30-5 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday
Call to Prayer: 7 p.m. Tuesday
Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday
Wednesday School: 6:15-7 p.m.
followed by Youth Group: 7-9 p.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN - ELCA
424 First St. SW, Blooming Prairie
Senior Pastor: Rev. Heidi Heminger
Associate Pastor: Rev. Mike Walen
507-583-6621
firstlutheranp.com
Worship Service: 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN - LCMC
2500 7th Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Greg Schlucker
507-451-4125
goodshepherdowatonna.com
Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

MOLAND LUTHERAN - ELCA
7618 NE 84th Ave., Kenyon
Pastor Nancy Edwardsen
507-780-6661
Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN - ELCA
9651 SW 75th St., Ellendale
507-463-8366
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sun.

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

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN - ELCA
3045 Mower-Frederick Road, Austin
Rev. Suzanne Froelich, Interim Pastor

507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000
www.rglutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.
(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 Klavetter 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 Dokkel
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
ilowatonna.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Buegler
Associate Pastor: Rev. Amanda Floy
Deacon: Kris Oyggegard
Worship: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN - LCMC
108 Third Ave. SW, Medford
Pastor Mark Biggishauer
507-451-0447
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
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
507-451-4533
Father James Starzynick
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat.
Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 SW First St., New Richland
Father Antony Anokiyam
507-234-0244
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave. Owatonna
Father John Wilnot
507-583-2784
www.litomyslweb.com
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-12 Confirmation Second Sunday of month: Family Faith Formation Litomysl Finance Council: 2nd Thursday
2nd Thursday every other month

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

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

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
Pastor John Wilnot
507-583-2784
www.stcolumbanuschurch.com

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

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna
Father James Starzynick
Deacon Patrick Fagan
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation: 3:30 p.m. Sat.
Daily Mass:
8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri.
(Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday)
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Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
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CHRISTIAN

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

PENTECOSTAL

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

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST
43089 180th St., Medford
(Seven miles west of Medford on CR 23)
Pastors JJ & Stefanie Morgan
507-835-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
200 Sixth St. NW, Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirksema
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 Isard
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
Joyce Parker, Associate Pastor
507-451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship (Pathways): 9 a.m. Sunday

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY
130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna
Pastor Keith Hasdell
507-215-2249
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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 Petiet
507-455-4775
www.destinycc.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 Langren
507-451-5661
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday

PRAIRIE MENNONITE
15638 750th St., Blooming Prairie
Bishop Dennis Martin
507-583-7532
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Wed.

MORMON

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
404 31st St. NW, Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
507-433-9042
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

PRESBYTERIAN

ASSOCIATED CHURCH
Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ
800 Havana Road, Owatonna
507-451-1546
www.associatedchurch.org
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.
(Fellowship, Church School, and 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 PRESBYTERIAN
P.O. Box 66, Claremont
507-528-2320
Pastor Douglas Walters
10 a.m. Worship

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Brian Bowers
651-955-4032
Worship: 11 a.m. Sat.
Bible Stud: 9:30 a.m. Sat.

UCC

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
211 Main St. S., Medford
Rev. Richard Waters
507-451-4596
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Pastor Patrick Stitt
507-484-2421
www.vibrantlifegc.com
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST
104 First Ave. NE, Blooming Prairie
Pastor Matt Fennell
507-583-2673
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
& 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Bible Study: 11:30 a.m. Sun.

FIRST BAPTIST (Owatonna's oldest church)
123 E. Main St., Owatonna
Pastor Carla Nelson
507-272-9834
www.firstbaptistowatonna.com
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 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

VICTORY LIFE
105 2nd St NE
Geneva
Pastor Diane Butler
507-402-0960
Worship on Sundays
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Church Service: 9:30 a.m.
Children's Church: 9:45 a.m.

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County moves ahead with furloughs

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

During a special session on May 20, the Steele County Board of Commissioners continued to take steps adapting to the impact of the current pandemic, which includes placing employees on furlough.

The county board approved a memorandum agreeing to a targeted furlough program with AFSCME Council 65, Local 147-Courthouse Unit.

Some of the stipulations of the targeted furlough program include: the county and union agreeing to use targeted furloughs rather than applying the lay-off and recall provisions of the collective bargaining agreement, while voluntary furloughs would be offered where possible; appropriate, based on department needs, service levels, job classification, and job responsibilities; and employees placed on furlough will continue to be covered under the county benefits, along with continuing to receive the monthly county contribution towards those benefits.

The memorandum was put into place not to exceed 90 days. Seven individuals are currently targeted

for furloughs within this program. Should further action be needed after the 90-day period is up, the county will need to draft a new memorandum.

During the session, the board also considered the sale of a plot of land to the South Central Human Relations Center, which is looking to expand its building. SCHRC contacted the county about purchasing 150 feet of a 3.12-acre parcel that sits between their current building and the county administration building.

"There's a few things here that I'd like to see answers to," commissioner Greg Krueger said concerning whether or not the county will be able to develop the resulting land after the sale. "I certainly don't want to impede their progress, because they do great work over there."

After a discussion, the board made a motion and approved the county to move forward with an RFP on the site. Any potential sale will come further down the road as the county will listen to bids from SCHRC and determine whether or not they will officially sell the strip of land.

"It's just to keep the ball moving," commissioner

James Brady said of the decision to continue to move forward with the consideration. "I'd hate to stab it right now and kill it."

The board also discussed a possible plan for reopening county facilities to the public. "For now until the end of the month, we're looking at preparing our facilities to opening up to the public," Administrator Scott Goldberg said. He also remarked that each facility and building carry its own challenges to reopening to the public.

"We're planning to reopen June first at this point," he said. "Even with the opening, as we move forward, at least for the foreseeable future, we are going to have to continue to stay vigilant with many of the practices to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. We're still in the very early stages of this, in terms of numbers."

After reopening, the county will adhere to social distancing recommendations as well as following a myriad of other controls and measures, such as a mask policy.

While masks for county employees and the public will not be required, they will be recommended and provided.

A CENTURY: and then some FROM A1

refuses to do such a thing. "I don't want to wear a facemask," she says. "I hope it ends pretty soon, I'm so sick of being in my apartment."

Even though she's stuck in her apartment by choice, she still finds ways to exercise. "I go around my apartment seven times in the morning and seven times at night," Milverstedt said. "I figure I'm making up for walking in the hall."

In the most recent years, Milverstedt's ritual to celebrate her birthday has been going to the Hubbell House in Mantorville. She has been doing so since she turned 100. But, because of the virus, she won't be able to go there this year.

Reaching 107 isn't really something Milverstedt wanted to accomplish. "I didn't want to live this long," she confesses. "I am ready to go any day," she said.

Although she has exceeded the life expectancy of women by about 26 years, Milverstedt mind appears to be sharp. She is able to easily rattle off dates and occurrences from her childhood years of growing up in Kasson with relative ease. She was actually born in Albany, but her family moved to Kasson when she was a baby. She was the youngest of four girls. She said her dad always wanted a boy so he "made me his boy." She recalls her dad cutting her hair like a boy.

"I have a good mind," Milverstedt said. "I have a good memory, and I can remember way back."

She recalls the end of World War I in 1918 when "bullets were hitting the roof of the shack" they were staying in as her family was in the process of building a new house. "People were celebrating the end of the war and shooting off guns," Milverstedt said.

She vividly remembers her family digging the house with horse and shovel.

Her father, Fred Schutz, owned a barbershop in Kasson for many years. She graduated from Kasson High School in 1931. She got married in 1936 and had three children, including twins. Her children now live in Hastings, Medford and Rochester.

Milverstedt describes her health as "pretty good." She is on her second pacemaker after receiving the first one in 1973. "That's what is keeping me going all these years," she said.

A while back she experienced a choking spell because of a problem with her throat while in the hospital. Most of the food she eats now is "all chopped up so I don't choke on it," she said. "I eat baby food. That's what happens when you get old. Life isn't that good for me when it comes to eating."

She attributes her longevity to "clean living." Milverstedt never smoked in her life, limited herself to a few drinks and exercised regularly. "You have to keep moving otherwise you get all stiffened up," she said. "I'm pretty limber for 107," she added.

The birthday girl prides herself on the fact that she doesn't use a hearing aid. "I tried them, but I hated them," Milverstedt said.

During her lifetime, Milverstedt has seen 19 presidents in office. Asked who her favorite one was, she quickly snapped, "Not Trump. He's too wild." She said her daughter likes Donald Trump, but they refrain from talking about him because "we get in an argument."

Milverstedt recalls other epidemics in the past, including polio and measles. But, she is quick to add referring to the coronavirus, "They were nothing like this."

Over the years, Milverstedt has been a diehard Minnesota Twins fan. Her all-time favorite player is Joe Mauer. When she turned 100, the Twins sent her a care package of pins, Homer Hanky and other memorabilia. They are now hanging above her bed. "I don't know the players like I used to," she said.

Ecumen marked Milverstedt's milestone with a surprise parade featuring a police car and fire truck, outside the facility. They did not tell her about it before hand.

Asked about catching Minnesota's oldest person at 112, Milverstedt paused for a second. She replied, "I hope I don't live that long. I don't think I will make it that long."

VIRACON OUTBREAK: rises to 81 FROM A1

opposing virus closures. In Minnesota, Roman Catholic and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod said they would defy his ban and resume worship services.

Asked about the churches wanting to resume services, Public Health's Caron said, "It goes against staying out of big groups of people. I worry

we will expose the vulnerable population."

With businesses getting ready to reopen, Caron said it's important for them to advertise what safety measures they have in place. "They need to assure people they are taking all the safety precautions," she said. She added Minnesota needs to take a smarter approach than Wisconsin.

Caron admits she is beginning to sound like a broken record, but she says it's important to "be smart." She encourages people to stay in smaller groups, practice social distancing, wear cloth masks and if sick, stay at home. "We need to look beyond ourselves and look at the greater community," she said.

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NRHEG Class of 2020

STEELE COUNTY TIMES

GRADUATION SECTION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020 | B1

Sunday, May 31 • 8 p.m.
NRHEG High School- New Richland

- Drive-in style ceremony in school parking lot with FM transmission available
- Limited space to one vehicle per grad

- Fireworks show follows
- **Class speakers:** Maggie Maloney, John Hoelscher and Mia Williams.



Addison Deyle
Plans: Mankato State for professional flight



Agro Arthur Gushwa
Parents: John & Kristen Verne Gushwa
Plans: Attend Gustavus Adolphus College



Alexandra Lynn Combs
Parents: Lisa Combs & Gary Combs
Plans: Major in Theatre & Secondary Education at Gustavus Adolphus College



Andrew Blaine Reich
Parents: Ann Reich & Bob Cross and Matt Reich
Plans: DCTC for power lineman



Andrey Rosevold-Wisler
Plans: Riverland Community College for building trades



Annie Prigge
Plans: Winona State for nursing



Aracelis Del Carmen Sepulveda
Parents: Brant & Noris Hemingway
Plans: Major in Biology & Spanish at the University of Minnesota



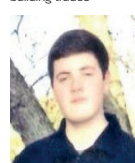
Blake Ihreke
Plans: University of St. Thomas for business



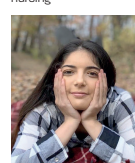
Cherysh Marks
Plans: Communication disorders or marine biology



Cierra Rose Schumacher
Parents: Andrea Schumacher & Carter Schumacher
Plans: Major in Sonography at Rochester Community & Technical College



Damon Eustice
Parents: Jennifer Christensen & Matthew Eustice
Plans: Work



Deborah Rocha
Parent: Sara Schumacher
Plans: Work



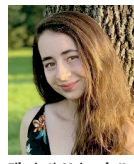
Derek Alan Lee
Parents: Mark & Kathleen Lee
Plans: Attend Riverland Community College



Diamond Rose Woollard
Parents: James & Kathy Peterson
Plans: Attend Minnesota State College Southeast - Winona



Dillon Kohnert
Parents: Troy & Nicole Kohnert
Plans: Work



Elizabeth Makenzie Karl
Parents: Tony & Melissa Karl
Plans: Major in Biology with a Plant Science Track at Minnesota State University, Mankato



Emmablu Hope Jameson
Parents: Kimberly Jameson & Guy Nelson
Plans: Major in Social Work at Winona State University



Ethan Lee Streng
Parents: Eric & Brenda Streng
Plans: Trades or agriculture



Evan Michael Fell
Parents: Mike & Natalie Fell
Plans: Attend Minnesota State University, Mankato



Grace Lorraine Kofstad
Parents: Isaac & Martha Kofstad
Plans: Major in Architecture at University of Colorado-Denver



Holly Ruth Stene
Parents: Paul & Laura Stene
Plans: Major in Broad Field Social Studies with a Teaching Licensure Track at Bethany Lutheran College



Hope Elaine VanWigen
Parents: Jon & Peggy vanWigen
Plans: Major in Graphic Design at the Cleveland Institute of Art



Hunter Knutson
Parents: Heidi Wangness & Ben Knutson
Plans: Undecided



Jacob Tasker
Parents: John & Susan Tasker
Plans: Undecided

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Jade Autumn Mely
Parents: James Mely & Serina Nelson
Plans: Work at Antique/Gun Shows



Jayna Emily Domeier
Parents: Mark & Michelle Domeier
Plans: Major in Music Education at Winona State University



Jenna Marie Nelson
Parents: Allan & Doreen Nelson
Plans: Attend Riverland Community College to become a Certified Nursing Assistant

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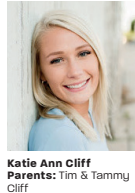
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Karter Koziolek
Parents: Thomas & Suzanne Koziolek
Plans: Work



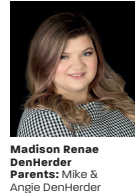
Katie Ann Cliff
Parents: Tim & Tammy Cliff
Plans: Majoring in Nursing at Minnesota State University, Mankato



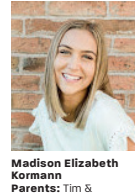
Lonnie Wilson
Parents: Richard & Becky Lassehn
Plans: Attend NIACC for H-VAC program



Mackenzie Rose Butler
Parents: Tim & Angela Butler
Plans: Attend Riverland Community College in their Medical Assistant program. She is also receiving her associates degree at the same time as her high school diploma



Madison Renae DenHerder
Parents: Mike & Angie DenHerder
Plans: Major in Business Marketing & Theatre at Northwestern College (Orange City, IA)



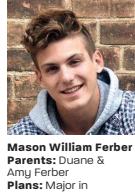
Madison Elizabeth Kormann
Parents: Tim & Lis Kormann
Plans: Major in Nursing at Minnesota State University, Mankato



Makenzie Rae Sundve
Plans: Winona College for psychology



Margueritte Maloney
Plans: U of M- Twin Cities for global studies, Spanish and political science



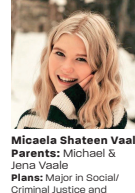
Mason William Ferber
Parents: Duane & Amy Ferber
Plans: Major in Electrical Engineering at Minnesota State University, Mankato



Mia Ann Farr
Parents: Kaylee & Joe Farr
Plans: Major in Nursing at Rochester Community & Technical College



Mia Williams
Plans: Winona State for psychology



Micaela Shateen Vaale
Parents: Michael & Jenna Vaale
Plans: Major in Social/Criminal Justice and Pre-Law with a minor in Worship Ministry, Running Cross Country & Track



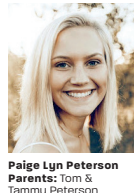
Mikayla Kay Adams
Parents: Michelle Zvorak & Ryan Adams
Plans: Attend college and focus on music



Naomi Grace Retallick
Parent: Bridget Retallick
Plans: Army



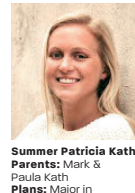
Paige Marie Knudson
Parents: Eric & LeAnn Knudson
Plans: Major in Computer Technology at Riverland Community College



Paige Lyn Peterson
Parents: Tom & Tammy Peterson
Plans: Major in Nursing at Rasmussen College - Mankato



Skylar Lembke
Plans: Riverland Community College for social work



Summer Patricia Kath
Parents: Mark & Paula Kath
Plans: Major in Marine Biology at Southwestern Oregon Community College



Sydney Shari Koziolek
Parents: Paul & Lynn Koziolek
Plans: Major in Agribusiness at South Central College



Tanner Oquist
Parents: Tracy & Rhonda Oquist
Plans: Work



Tiera Lynn Malakowsky
Parents: David & Amanda Malakowsky
Plans: Major in Agriculture Education at University of Minnesota-Crookston



Tristan Simon
Parents: Tim & Shelly Simon
Plans: NIACC for automotive



Andrew Cory Bailey
Parent: Stacy Bailey
Plans: Major in Business at South Central College



John Harrison Hoelscher
Parents: Matthew & Shauna Hoelscher



Destiny Ann Calderon-Medrano
Parents: Roque & Beth Medrano and Monica & Chad Schutrop
Plans: Attend Minnesota State College Southeast - Winona to work with kids



Angelie Ardis Jensen
Parent: Angelle Jensen



Madelyn Sabrina Broton-Anderson
Plans: North Dakota State for mechanical engineering



Aron Justice Rocha
Plans: Work

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Medford Class of 2020

STEELE COUNTY TIMES

GRADUATION SECTION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020 | B3

Friday, May 29 • 7 p.m.
Alternate date: Saturday, May 30 at 7 p.m.
Drive-in ceremony in school parking lot at
Medford High School.

Ceremony will be broadcast live on
owatonnaive.com and radio stations
106.3 FM and 1170 AM KFOW.

Senior parade through Medford follows
ceremony with police and fire escort.



Abigail Telljohn
PARENT(S): Karin and
Kristen
PLANS: Go to a technical
college in the arts field.



Alexander Paul
PARENT(S): Jesse Paul
and Windy Radke
PLANS: Work and get
grandpa's truck running.



Alorah Weise
PARENT(S): Jon and Holly
PLANS: Go to college.



Alyvia Johnson
PARENT(S): Julie
and Mark Johnson
PLANS: I will be
attending SMSU



Austin Aase
PARENT(S): Jolene
and Ben
PLANS:
Join the work force.



Boden Devoe
PARENT(S): John and Skye
PLANS: RCTC



Brendan Rahn
PARENT(S): Debbie, John
PLANS: Attend a four
year college.



Carson Sobrack
PARENT(S): Randy
and Holly Sobrack
PLANS: Attend Riverland
Community College.



Cayden Dean Benton
PARENT(S): Amanda
Benton, Gary Benton
PLANS: College



Conrad Jamey Blome
PARENT(S): Jamey and
Renee Blome
PLANS: Work at Down
& Out Seamless Rain
Gutters.



Dale Troester
PARENT(S): Cachina Rock
PLANS: Undecided



Devon Federly
PARENT(S): Josh and
Melissa Federly
PLANS: Work



Dylan Stenzel
PARENT(S): Dan and
Karen Stenzel
PLANS: Go to Riverland
Community College.



Emily Cloutier
PARENT(S): Chanin Cloutier
and Amy Cloutier
PLANS: Undecided



Emma Lorraine Kniefel
PARENT(S): Keith and
Amber Kniefel
PLANS: I will be attending
Gustavus Adolphus College
to continue my education
and basketball career.



Hailee Marie Homeier
PARENT(S): Brian
and Tasha Homeier
PLANS: Continuing
my education at
the STEP school.



Hannah Knutson
PARENT(S): Timothy Knutson,
Michelle Knutson
PLANS: Going to
college for nursing.



Hannah Mundt
PARENT(S): Aaron and
Michele Mundt
PLANS: Attend
the University of
Wisconsin- River Falls.



Isabel Reuvers
PARENT(S): Jay
Reuvers and Jackie
Gillis-Reuvers
PLANS: Attend Gustavus
and play softball while
majoring in secondary
education.



Jacey Dressen
PARENT(S): Brock
and Sara Dressen
PLANS:
Cosmetology school



Jade Michelle Arriaga
PARENT(S): Jennifer Villafan
PLANS: Joining the
Marines and going to
college for criminal justice.



Jeremiah Sutcliffe
PARENT(S): Douglas and Michele
PLANS: Attending
a community college
and work a lot.



Jerone Xavier Chavis
PARENT(S): Joe Chavis,
Carolyn Paine
PLANS: Join the
National Guard.



Jordan Edel
PARENT(S): Kevin and Denise Edel
PLANS: Attend the
University of Minnesota
Duluth for Mechanical
Engineering.

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Jordyn Hansen
PARENT(S): Jeff and Amy Hansen
PLANS: Undecided



Jordyn Olivia Stadler
PARENT(S): Melissa and Jeremy Stadler
PLANS: I plan on attending Great Falls College Montana State University.



Joshua Brian O'Daffer
PARENT(S): I plan on working for Rice County, get my CDL and when my body gets sick of the manual labor I want to move into driving truck for Kwik Trip.



Juan Gamez
PARENT(S): Isela Bermudez, Angel Bermudez
PLANS: I plan on attending community college.



Kaylin Hanson
PARENT(S): Arthur and Michele Hanson
PLANS: Join Work Force while completing my four year degree.



Kevin Robles
PARENT(S): Salvador Robles, Angelica Robles
PLANS: Go to college.



Kiley Nihart
PARENT(S): Corey and Katie Nihart
PLANS: Attend RCTC to continue my education in the nursing program and play volleyball.



Kylie Cumberland
PARENT(S): Jeremy and Lori Cumberland
PLANS: Enrolling in a community college.



Lanaya Wacek
PARENT(S): Krista and Josh Alexander
PLANS: Go to Saint Paul College.



Logan Keppers
PARENT(S): Renae Keppers
PLANS: Undecided



Logan Mathew Pleschout
PARENT(S): Heather and Shannon Lique
PLANS: Attend RCTC for law enforcement.



Mackenzie Paulson
PARENT(S): Brian Paulson and Janita Paulson
PLANS: Attend Mankato State University and pursue a degree in secondary English education.



Madison Klein
PLANS: I'm planning on attending MSU and majoring in biology with a minor in zoology. I will be staying in campus and I'm excited because it's far enough from home but not too far.



Madison Masso
PLANS: Next year I plan to take the year off and focus on finding things I enjoy. Get a job to save for college. In 2021 go to college. I'm trying to figure out what I want to do before hand.



MaKayla Smith
PARENT(S): Tam Spitzack and Troy Spitzack (aunt and uncle)
PLANS: I plan to attend Lake Superior College and transfer to the University of Wisconsin- Superior.



Michael Winslett
PARENT(S): Charles and Shirley Winslett
PLANS: Attend Missouri State University (Mizzou) and pursue a major in chemistry.



Morgan Diane Langeslag
PARENT(S): Heidi and Chad Langeslag
PLANS: Attend Augustana University and study speech pathology.



Natily Kay Buck
PARENT(S): Misty Ferguson (mother), Michael Buck (father)
PLANS: Graduating from the nursing program at Riverland Community College and then continuing my education.



Reilly List
PARENT(S): Dave and Jaine List
PLANS: Be in the pipe line welding business.



Rileyigh Turner
PARENT(S): John Erickson and Lori Turner
PLANS: Undecided



Riley Hill
PARENT(S): Mark and Cindy Hill
PLANS: Work towards a degree in radiology tech.



River Hope Disher
PARENT(S): Christine Disher, Tim Disher
PLANS: Possibly attend Riverland Community College and work.



Sawyer Shaffer
PARENT(S): Christine Shaffer-brown, Mike Brown
PLANS: Attend Central Lakes College for heavy equipment operation.



Sebastian Ryan Duncan
PARENT(S): Bryan Duncan and Sabrina Arends
PLANS: Work



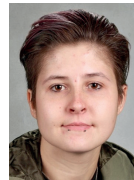
Shawn Johnson
PARENT(S): Michael and Michelle Johnson
PLANS: Undecided



Shelby Ganske
PARENT(S): Jason Ganske and Heather Ganske
PLANS: To go to the University of Minnesota Duluth and major in political science.



Sierra Larson
PARENT(S): David and Rose Larson
PLANS: Be in the Navy and attending Corpsman school.



Sviatlana Danilyuk
PARENT(S): Lyudmila and Sergey
PLANS: I'm going to work until I can move out.



Taylor Fette
PARENT(S): Rick and Tami Fette
PLANS: Either continuing college or starting work.



Veronica Elizabeth Gonzalez Robles
PARENT(S): Veronica Robles
PLANS: Join the Army.



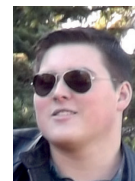
Victor Guerrero
PARENT(S): Crispin Guerrero, Susana Guerrero
PLANS: Work



William (Billy) Chester
PARENT(S): Kimberly and Gregory Chester
PLANS: Studying art education at UW-River Falls.



William VonRuden
PARENT(S): Dan and Beekie
PLANS: RCTC for a business major and continue wrestling.



Wyatt Brewer
PARENT(S): Jon Brewer, Angie Brewer
PLANS: Studying history and language, possibly pursuing a career in writing or music.



Yazmin Gonzalez
PARENT(S): Maria, Edgar
PLANS: Become an RN and get a bachelor's degree.



Yeslin Mena
PARENT(S): Erica and David
PLANS: Study at a university.



Zachary John Finholdt
PARENT(S): Eric and Angie Finholdt
PLANS: Attend Gustavus Adolphus.



Zachary Wetmore
PARENT(S): Jeff Wetmore and Peggy Wetmore
PLANS: Attend the University of Minnesota and study bio-chemistry.



NOT PICTURED
Alexis Amberg
PARENT(S): David and Tammy
PLANS: Undecided



NOT PICTURED
Andrew Esch
PARENT(S): Jon and Charlene
PLANS: Undecided

BP honor students will give addresses

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The 2020 commencement of Blooming Prairie High School seniors will be a one of a kind production and one they will never forget but remember with fondness.

The schools Valedictorian and two Salutatorians will address those in virtual attendance at the commencement ceremonies of Sunday, May 31.

Valedictorian is Julia Worke, daughter of John and Mary Worke. Co-Salutatorians are Adam Larson, son of Muriel and Robert Leverington, and Riana Bishop, daughter of Nicole and Benji Bishop.

This is the final year that Blooming Prairie High School will select a Valedictorian or a Salutatorian.

Mary Worke, senior high guidance counselor, said all three students' Grade Point Averages will go up once the year is done and finalized.

"They are all terrific students and role models for our community," said Worke. "All are very hard workers and not only excellent students, but help out in many ways at BPHS and BP," she added.

We sent a questionnaire for each of the three honor students. Their responses are printed in this account.

1) How old are you?
Julia Worke: I am 18 years old. My parents are John and Mary Worke. My brother is Matthew and my sister is Madison.

Adam Larson: I am 18 years old. My parents are Muriel and



RIAUNA BISHOP

Robert Leverington. I have one brother (Aaron Larson) and five step-siblings (Jaime, Chris, Josh, Stephanie, and Jacob Leverington).

Riana Bishop: I am 18 years old. My parents are Benji and Nicki Bishop. My brother is Carter Bishop.

2) What is your GPA? What does it mean to you to be an honor student?

Worke: My GPA is 4.5, but should go up once my final grades are in. I am honored because I know that I have worked hard to keep my grades where they are. I am glad that all my sacrifices have been worth it and I can be recognized for my hard work in the classroom.

Larson: My Cumulative GPA is 4.5. Being an honor student, to me, means being an active part of my community and someone people can turn to whenever they need help.

Bishop: My GPA is 4.5. It means a lot to me to be an honor student



ADAM LARSON

because I have put lots of time and effort into getting good grades and I take pride in the homework that I complete.

3) Please list your activities in school.
Worke: Volleyball, Basketball, Softball, FCCLA, Minnesota Honor Society, Student Council Representative, Speech, Football Statistician

Larson: Cross Country, Robotics, Track, Minnesota Honor Society.

Bishop: I am in Volleyball, Softball, FCCLA, and the musical. I am also a part of the Minnesota Honor Society.

4) How are you involved in community service?

Worke: I have been active in the church. I am a Sunday school Teacher, Vacation Bible School Teacher, and a Coffee Server. In 2018, I went to the ELCA youth gathering in Houston and helped rebuild an elementary school there. I have also gone to a homeless shelter and made meals for the homeless with



JULIA WORKE

my confirmation class. I have also Painted the Town Pink, Volunteered at BPRA camps, helped with concessions at school and fundraised for prom. I have also carried banners in the Fourth of July in the past.

Larson: I am a part of Emergency Services Mentoring (E.S.M.) which helps to provide anyone aged 14-20 the basics of being a police officer, EMT, firefighter, and S.W.A.T.

Bishop: I am a Sunday school teacher. I am a teacher helper at the Elementary. I have volunteered at Cancer Group events and Women of Today events, a youth board member at First Lutheran Church, and a Vacation Bible School teacher.

5) What are your plans following high school graduation?

Worke: I plan to attend Winona State University and major in Business Administration with a minor in Spanish.

Larson: Over the summer I want to get a full-time job alongside my

part-time one. I ship out for Basic and AIT in the fall and once I'm done with that I plan on attending either the U of M or West Point. I plan on majoring in computer science and minoring in philosophy.

Bishop: I will be attending Minnesota State University of Mankato and will be majoring in nursing.

6) How are you dealing with the coronavirus essentially taking your senior year away?

Worke: I am sad that our class cannot all celebrate together, but I understand that we need to social distance. I am also sad that spring sports cannot be played, but I am extremely grateful for my experience at BPHS. I've been busy with homework, working, cooking, biking, and watching Netflix/Hulu.

Larson: I have started to look into different philosophies that deal with how one should act when, to put it simply,

life gets tough. I have also been reading Terry Goodkind's The Sword of Truth series.

Bishop: I am very sad, but I have learned to go with the flow and accept the fact that I will not get that time and those memories back. I have been trying to stay in contact with friends and classmates throughout this time to feel still connected. Our softball team does team zooms every week, which is fun to be able to still feel part of a team and still create fun memories in the best way possible.

7) What advice do you have for your underclassmen?

Worke: Make sure to study for tests and don't be afraid to ask for help or give help.

Larson: I don't think I can stress enough how important it is to become involved in something during high school, whether that's only being in the yearly play or being in every sport. I truly believe that high school is fun and enjoyable when you put effort into enjoying it instead of taking the easy route and saying school is dumb and that life is horrible.

Bishop: The time spent in high school flies by. Go to sporting events, dances, and participate in any fun things such as homecoming and dress up days. You can never get that time back and the time flies by so make it count. Don't take anything for granted and live up each and every day of high school and make memories with your classmates and friends.

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Julia Worke
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Care centers working hard to protect most vulnerable residents

BY KAREN
M. JORGENSEN
COUNTY WRITER

As the COVID-19 virus continues to infect an increasing number of people in Minnesota, nursing homes and congregate living facilities are bearing the biggest burden when it comes to the most serious illnesses and deaths.

For the staff at Fairview Care Center and other congregate living facilities in the area, it means extra vigilance in protecting the most vulnerable.

"We're doing fine," said Jane Sheeran, director of the county-owned care center in Dodge Center. "We still

have the restrictions. That's a toughie, but we continue to listen to the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

No visitors are allowed into the care center, she said. That current restriction runs through the end of May and it will be re-evaluated at that time. There have been no cases of COVID-19 at the facility, she said, and that is due to the hard work of staff members, who are following strict protocols to keep the residents safe.

All staff members are screened and have their temperatures taken when they enter

the building, she said. There is a sanitizing wash for shoes and alcohol-based hand sanitizer before the staff begin their shifts. And they wear their personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times. Temperatures are taken again mid-shift, she said.

Currently, Sheeran said, the facility is "sitting good" with the supply of PPEs.

"We're taking care of the very, very vulnerable in here," Sheeran said. In deciding the best care for the residents, she said, the staff is relying on the most educated, informed and knowledgeable sources available.

While the strict rules are hard on everyone, she said, it is especially hard on the residents.

They miss seeing their families in person and it was particularly hard on Mother's Day. While there is no personal contact between residents and their families, they can see each other during window meetings where they talk to each other on the telephone with residents looking out the window of their room and the family looking in from the outside. Facetime and Skype are two other ways residents can keep in touch.

It has also changed the way the residents see their doctors, Sheeran said. Only very essential health care workers are allowed in the building. Instead the medical staff at Kasson Clinic meets with their patients using telemedicine with iPads. Mayo helped set up the system, Sheeran said.

One thing that hasn't changed, Sheeran said, is the necessity for residents to get outside. Although there are no longer outings, staff members do take residents outside on the grounds individually, making sure everyone is masked and keeping a safe distance.

"The staff have just been fabulous," Sheeran said. "They are definitely heroes."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

With Fairview Care Center allowing no visitors because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the staff has been working hard not only to keep the residents safe but also to provide activities for them. Recently, residents got outside, always keeping a safe distance from others, to enjoy ice cream.

The community has also been supportive, she said, among other things supplying cloth masks for residents. They have also donated money that has allowed the purchased of pre-packaged treats.

Sheeran added that she believes the stay-at-home order was successful and it has helped keep the infection rate down and allowing time to build up supplies at medical facilities.

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GUEST COLUMN

Find the poet in yourself

BY DON HEINZMAN

If ever we need to find a new method to deal with feelings, confusion and emotions, the time is now, due to a sudden, mysterious virus that threatens to change the way we live. Because we are living together for so long, perhaps some of you are open to a new way at

looking at yourself and having some fun at the same time.

Geri Chavis is a poetry therapist and psychologist from Edina, and retired after being a professor of English at St. Catherine's University for 41 years. She also is a board member and past president of the National Association of Poetry Therapy and an author of three books and is close to finishing a fourth one.

Chavis suggests trying a poetic process that results in your writing a poem and sharing it with other family members. This is not the traditional poetry you may have learned. It can be a combination of words that express feelings – poems that can be written, recited, dramatized and even sung.

"We are all poets and the best story tellers of our lives," said Chavis.

Here is a simple explanation of this poetic process that you can use in your own home with family members.

Chavis suggests the poem "Snowbound" by Natasha Lynne Vodges, (from Social Work 25,1,

1980 copyright National Association of Social Workers Press)

There is time to stop traveling... to get off other people's subways to halt airplanes from landing in your life. A time to refuel yourself.

A time to be snowbound within your own private space where the only number you dial is your own.

Natasha Lynne Vodges Chavis' comments:

I invite you to ponder and write addressing the following questions: Whose "subways" have you been recently traveling on? What "airplanes" have landed in your life at the present time? Reflect upon what it is like to be "snowbound" and what it is like to "dial" only your own number.

Now it is your turn to let your thoughts take over. Go to your private space where you can think, drill down into your life and let the words sink in and stimulate your mind.

SEE FIND THE POET, B7

FIND THE POET: in yourself FROM B6

Then write your own poem. It doesn't have to rhyme, but give it some structure maybe with some rhythm. Your poem doesn't have to be serious; it can be in any mood that moves you to write.

After everyone has finished composing their poem, the next step is to re-group and share the poems. This will be the fun part and you will be surprised at how creative you are, says Chavis.

She comments, "Sharing poems and creating your own poetic expressions can be very healing, comforting, and community building at this time of increased isolation, fear, anxiety, disappointment, grief, and uncertainty," she says.

"Reading poems aloud provides an even deeper engagement with their music and meaning. We experience the rhythm, pauses, and emphases in a physical way. And memorizing short, comforting poems helps them become a

part of us. We can summon them up, when we most need them."

Perhaps your original poem will be your best inspiration.

Another poem that Chavis recommends is: **Lost and Found**

Things I have lost: A few umbrellas, I no longer carry one.

A silver ring - three strands plaited, a pretty thing,

my very first. A poem sent to me by my friend.

Some memories. Now, I don't know which ones they were.

And found: On Spiddal beach, among the stones, a pendant,

No chain attached, a fairy charm.

Late at night, a bunch of carnations, fresh, lying in the middle of our street.

In Strandhill, on my loneliest day, a pebble with the imprint of a long-gone sea shell.

By Imelda Maguire (From *Shout If You Want Me to Sing*, Summer Palace Press, 2004)

"You may be a poet and don't know it."

"You may be a poet and don't know it."

During this time when we are experiencing such a wide array of losses, temporary and perhaps permanent, it is healing to balance our grief and disappointment with reflections on what we have gained.

Using the basic form of Maguire's poem, write your own two-stanza poem, beginning stanza one with the words,

"Things I have lost: and stanza two with the words, "and found:"

I suggest writing your own version of your "Lockdown," using the beginning of key lines as starting points and creating your own lists:

Yes, there is / But there is / Wake to ... / Listen ... / Open ...

Finally, as they say, "You may be a poet and don't know it."

Don Heinzman is a retired journalist who spent more than 50 years working in community newspapers in Minnesota. He has provided consulting for the Steele County Times in the past.

Hormel Institute scientist finds breakthrough for liver cancer

Dr. Ningling Kang, head of the Tumor Microenvironment and Metastasis lab at The Hormel Institute UMN, published a discovery describing how a particular protein, diaphanous homolog 1 (Diaph1), turns normal liver cells into cancer-promoting cells.

"Protein diaphanous homolog 1 (Diaph1) promotes myofibroblastic activation of hepatic stellate cells by regulating Rab5a activity and TGF β receptor endocytosis" was published in *The FASEB Journal*. Multiple researchers from Dr. Kang's lab at The Hormel Institute worked together to make this discovery.

"Hepatic stellate cells create a microenvironment that helps cancer cells to implant and grow in the liver," said Dr. Kang, who joined The Hormel Institute in 2013 coming from Mayo Clinic.

This discovery is important because it supports Diaph1 as a

potential target to block cancer/liver communications and liver metastasis - it helps us as we seek to find how to prevent and stop cancer from progressing."

Cancer that originates from the colon, pancreas, or breast can spread into the liver. This process is called metastasis. In the liver, cancer cells communicate with the cells that normally live in the liver, cells called hepatic stellate cells. The cancer cells can transform the hepatic stellate cells into metastasis-promoting myofibroblasts. These myofibroblasts make the liver a more welcoming place for metastatic cancer.

The newly published study by Dr. Kang and her lab reveals that a protein called diaphanous homolog 1 (Diaph1) promotes the transformation of hepatic stellate cells into myofibroblasts by regulating the function of TGF β receptor 2 and TGF β signaling of hepatic stellate cells.

For their next step, Dr. Kang and her lab will test if an inhibitor targeting Diaph1 is effective at preventing and suppressing liver metastasis of colorectal cancer in models, and hopefully, in cancer patients in the future. Metastatic cancers can be much more difficult to treat than cancers that have not spread to other parts of the body. This is why research like Dr. Kang's is so important, to find new ideas for how to treat metastatic cancers.

Another of Dr. Kang's papers, "p300 Acetyltransferase Is a Cytoplasm-to-Nucleus Shuttle for SMAD2/3 and TAZ Nuclear Transport in Transforming Growth Factor β -Stimulated Hepatic Stellate Cells," published in *Hepatology*, was just named the top downloaded paper of 2018-2019, making it one of the most widely read papers in the high impact journal.

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A regular school board meeting of the

tions, and donations as presented. Motion carried. (7 Aug/9 Nov)

C. Enrollment Data
Enrollment for the 2019-20 school year as of 9/1/19 is 5,222, or 153

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Hameister

Blooming Prairie,
Minnesota
5/27

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5/21/20

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Drive-By Caking For Grads

Each 2020 BPHS graduate to be caked

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

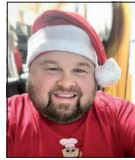
This 2020 high school graduation is unprecedented and will never be forgotten by the graduates.

Fifty Blooming Prairie High School seniors not only receive the diploma they earned, but they will also be caked by Jennifer Walsh of Jennifer Walsh Real Estate (powered by Keller Williams Premier Realty) on their graduation day.

The Class members of Blooming Prairie 2020 will be the stars of the show at virtual commencement ceremonies on Sunday, May 31. The commencement begins at 11 a.m. in the high school parking lot.

Graduates and their parents will be attending in their vehicles.

Walsh said she saw a Facebook Live video a few weeks ago that featured Bill Hanisch of the Hanisch Bakery and Coffee Shop of Red Wing. In the video, Hanisch said he was do-



BILL HANISCH



JENNIFER WALSH

nating small graduation cakes to all Red Wing High School seniors.

Walsh said she liked the idea and contacted Blooming Prairie High School to see how many graduates there were. The total is 50.

At the time, Hanisch was committed only to making cakes for only two other towns, Goodhue and Cannon Falls.

She learned that the cost would be \$15 per cake. She then reached out to Blooming Prairie's most renowned baker, Gregg Fristedt, to see if there was any possible way he could make the cakes.

Fristedt's bakery was destroyed in a fire on

Jan. 28. Fristedt said he did not have the equipment or the space to do such a project.

Walsh then got back to Hanisch and said, "Let's do it." Hanisch now has orders for over 800 cakes for 12 schools, Walsh said.

The two-layer cakes are seven inches in diameter. The cakes will read: Congratulations BPHS, 2020. Walsh said she ordered white, marble and chocolate cakes.

The beauty of this whole project, says Walsh, is that Hanisch will deliver the cakes to Blooming Prairie.

Walsh said she could have spent dollars on promotional advertising but said this gesture



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Bill Hanisch of the Hanisch Bakery and Coffee Shop of Red Wing came up with the idea to give all Red Wing seniors their own special cake on graduation day. Jennifer Walsh of Jennifer Walsh Real Estate of Blooming Prairie liked the idea and ordered 50 cakes for Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossom graduates of 2020.

ing but said this gesture was much "cooler" and represented more fun. "I love cakes and even ordered an extra one for me," Walsh laughs.

"I feel bad for the kids because they won't have a traditional celebration with a cake and I thought, let's have fun with it," Walsh

remarked.

When will the graduates receive their special cakes? Walsh said she plans to distribute them at her home on graduation day, prior to graduation and following. Commencement ceremonies begin at 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 31.

When seniors pick

up their cakes, they will have their photo taken by Tammy Wolf, who will donate the photos to the seniors.

Walsh invites anyone who wishes to attend the cake presentations at her home to bring lawn chairs, snacks and popcorn. Social distancing must be respected.

Merchants, residents asked to decorate for seniors

On May 31st at 11 a.m., Blooming Prairie High School will hold graduation for the Class of 2020. The ceremony will be a drive-in style event.

The ceremony will air on KAT Kountry 105 beginning at 11 a.m.

"We will have to limit who is on site to the graduates and their parents due to the

guidelines we have been given," says Superintendent Chris Staloch.

Following the ceremony, the graduates will parade throughout the community.

The goal is to make this as memorable of an event as possible knowing that Blooming Prairie seniors have missed out on many opportunities this spring, Staloch said.

The parade will go down Main Street, and school officials encourage everyone to decorate their homes or store fronts showing seniors support in any way.



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

Step forward, members of the Blooming Prairie High School Class of 2020. Be proud! The time has come for 50 Awesome Blossoms to put a cap on 13 years of education. Those 13 years represent a solid investment in the future for these

Their vision is indeed 2020

graduates.

Credit for making this accomplishment really goes to the seniors themselves and then to the parents, teachers and school district administration who provided the opportunity to succeed.

Succeed, these seniors have. Look at the more than \$40,000 in scholarships that these seniors earned.

The Class of 2020 in Blooming Prairie represents our future. They will be our leaders and they will raise families to carry on a tradition of Blossom success.

Not being a Blossom

myself, I have gotten to know what a real Blossom is by getting to know some of the seniors in the Class of 2020.

A real Blossom is:
B - Brave
L - Loved
O - Outstanding
S - Studious
S - Sincere
O - Organized
M - Magnificent

During my years of retirement spent in Blooming Prairie, I consider myself fortunate to have gotten to know some outstanding young men and women I have met because of my journalistic involve-

ment with the Blooming Prairie newspaper.

Blooming Prairie's students have been well crafted by some dedicated parents and school staff members.

Since I am an aging newspaper man who has gotten to know lots of high school students, I feel honored and lucky. I have worked side by side with some high school kids and have been most impressed by the products produced at Blooming Prairie's school.

I feel that Blossom pride in every student and staff member I have gotten to know in the



Blooming Prairie school system.

It was no fluke that the Blooming Prairie High School football team won a state championship. The players deserved the title of champion because of the way they worked so hard to earn it.

Seniors, congratulations on finishing another chapter in your

young life. Remember 2020 as a year you grew through adversity of battling a virus that knocked all of us for a loop.

Stand tall and rely on that Blossom pride to further build a life that will carry you through bigger challenges. You will succeed. Just believe in yourself. - Howard Lestrud.

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2020!

Congratulations
Riauna Bishop
Class of 2020 Graduate

We are so proud of you!
Love, Mom, Dad & Carter

Congratulations
Elizabeth Bramstedt
Class of 2020 Graduate

We are so proud of your accomplishment!
Daughter of
Kathy Madison and Rodney Bramstedt

Congratulations
Isaac Ille
Class of 2020 Graduate

We are so proud of you!!
Son of Steve and Holly Ille
Love, Mom, Dad, Ryan, Alex & Brody

Congratulations
Alex Olivo
Class of 2020 Graduate

Congrats, Alex... We are so Proud of you!
Love, Mom, Tom and Landon

Congratulations
Gracie Rudlong
Class of 2020 Graduate

Congrats, Gracie... We love you so much and are so incredibly proud of you!
Love, Mom, Dad, Hunter, Alex & Harrison

Congratulations
Marti Snider
Class of 2020 Graduate

We are so proud of you!
Love, Mom, Micah, Morgan and Samantha
Open House
July 31, 4-7 p.m.
335 4th St. SW | Blooming Prairie

Congratulations
Alex Baldwin
Class of 2020 Graduate

We are so proud of you!
Son of
Amy Baldwin
Love, Mom, Joe and Bria

Congratulations
Emily Krampitz
Class of 2020 Graduate

We are proud of you!
Daughter of
Craig & Robyn Krueberg and
Marty & Sidni Krampitz
Love, your family

Congratulations
Heather Pirkel
Class of 2020 Graduate

We are so proud of you!!
Daughter of
Tim & Lori Pirkel
Love, Mom, Dad & Rachel

Congratulations
Zach Weber
Class of 2020 Graduate

We are so proud of you!
Son of Ryan & Heather Weber
Love, Mom, Dad and Chloe

Congratulations
Julia Worke
Class of 2020 Graduate

We are so proud of you!
Nothing can dim the light that shines from within!
Love, Mom, Dad, Matthew & Madison