



Wednesday, November 4, 2020
www.SteeleCountyTimes.com
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

ZOMBIE ON THE LOOSE

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

A Zombie with a terrifying look snatches up some goodies at the Halloween Trunk or Treat program Saturday afternoon in the parking lot of the BP Servicemen's Club in Blooming Prairie. Behind the make-up and costume is Walter Christiansen, 10, of Blooming Prairie. "That's his natural look," his father said with a chuckle. See Hot Pursuit column on Page A2 and A3 for more about BP's Halloween festivities.

PRICELESS PHOTO

Photographer captures lasting image of father-son at wedding before dad's sudden death

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

What's a picture worth? To a Steele County family, it's the last memory they have of their father before a quick, fast-moving cancer took his life only a month after his son's wedding.

Logan Rogotzke got married to Bailey Duchene on Sept. 12 on some land along the river owned by her grandfather outside of Faribault. Photographer Skye Devoe of Medford captured a priceless image that will forever be etched in the minds of the couple.

Devoe took a photo of Logan with his father, Rocky Rogotzke of Owatonna, giving him a bear hug. Logan didn't have a clue the photo was taken until after the wedding. About a month later, the photo became the center of a memorial honoring the life of Rocky, who died after a



PHOTO COURTESY SKYE DEVOE

Photographer Skye Devoe of Medford captured this fun-loving photo of Logan and Rocky Rogotzke, a father and son on Logan's wedding day in September. A month later Rocky died after a sudden battle of cancer.

sudden, but heroic battle with lung cancer. "The pictures she took were purely out of her heart," said Bailey. "If she wasn't there, we wouldn't have gotten those pictures."

Added Logan, "It was awesome to see those photos. We have

good pictures that we can see forever."

Just as Devoe lifted her camera, Rocky threw his arm around Logan and pulled him into a headlock, joking around with him. "We all had a giggle," Devoe said. "I appreciated seeing the interaction

because it showed the humorous, playful nature of their relationship. They were so lucky to have that with each other."

Upon learning the couple was traveling back to Steele County

SEE PRICELESS PHOTO, A7

A new COVID record for Steele

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A new record for positive coronavirus cases has been set in Steele County over the past week while yet another death has been reported.

On Monday, Public Health Director Amy Caron reported 95 new COVID cases, which is the most the county has endured since the outbreak began in March. In addition, Caron reported a woman in her 80s living in a long-term care facility lost her battle to COVID. There have now been four deaths in Steele County, two within the past couple weeks.

"Two deaths within the past few weeks is a red flag for us," Caron acknowledged. "We're hoping that's not a trend. We certainly don't want to lose more of our residents," she said.

The numbers show a grim reality of how COVID-19 is grabbing on with a vengeance throughout the area. Prior to October, the county averaged 30-35 cases per week. During

October, cases rose to a weekly average of 60-65. And now the start of November has brought 95 cases. There have been 857 cases so far in Steele.

"We have tripled since the end of September," Caron said with a sense of frustration. She attributes some of the increase to the cold weather in which more people have been indoors.

Included in this week's record are a "couple of cluster outbreaks" at Owatonna businesses, Caron said. A cluster is considered three or more cases. She said Public Health is working with each of the businesses to control the spread.

Some of the businesses are taking all the precautions possible, including plexi-glass where needed, staggered lunch breaks and enforcing the mask rule. "They are taking good measures," Caron said.

Caron noted a frustration amongst businesses is that they can't control what people are doing outside of work.

SEE COVID RECORD, A3



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The main characters in this fall's musical, Shrek, at Blooming Prairie High School are, from left: Reese Millam as the Dragon, Halle Strunk as Donkey, Charlie Heimerman as Shrek and Isabelle Sunde as Ogre Fiona. The director of the musical is Tamzen Johnson.

Shrek comes to life at BP High School

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The first ever musical to win the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature is coming to life at Blooming Prairie High School and taking on a life of its own that has never been seen before at local performances going back a half century.

Shrek will take center stage next week, though audiences will be forced to adjust to a

new way of seeing it.

Because of COVID-19 regulations, there will only be two people per cast member allowed in attendance for each performance Nov. 13-15, according to Tamzen Johnson, director of the musical. Other people will have to gather by their computers or TV sets in the comforts of their homes to watch the musical live stream on Friday, Nov. 13.

Shrek features 27 cast members in grades

9-12. One third of the cast members are new to the stage while the rest have taken part in past musicals, Johnson said.

The main characters are Reese Millam as the Dragon, Halle Strunk as Donkey, Charlie Heimerman as Shrek, Isabelle Sunde as Ogre Fiona, Brad Simon as Lord Farquaad, Mason Simon as Gingy, Sam Pirkil as Thessalonius

SEE SHREK COMES, A7

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AREA DEATHS

Jim Brandenburg, 80, Owatonna
Rocky Rogotzke, 51, Owatonna

Serving
Blooming Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW

Arm yourself against the explosive growth of COVID

For many of the past several weeks the COVID-19 meter has been heading in the wrong direction.

Steele County cracked the 800 mark this past week by adding 95 new cases, the worst single week outbreak since the pandemic began in March. The previous high was 68 new cases for one week in mid-October. On top of the record number of new cases, another death has occurred in Steele County.

It hasn't looked any better on the state level. In Minnesota on Friday, health officials reported 3,165 new COVID cases, marking the second day in a row where case numbers broke daily records.

Health leaders warned last week that Minnesota is nearing the "explosive growth" in infections seen in nearby states as the Midwest has become the epicenter of the pandemic in the U.S.

Officials have been warning for weeks that we were headed for a second wave of the virus. And, unfortunately, they have proven to be right.

One of the frustrations health officials have noticed recently is COVID fatigue. People are, to put it quite bluntly, sick of hearing about the coronavirus and even more tired of taking proactive measures to head it off. But this is not the time to let our guard down.

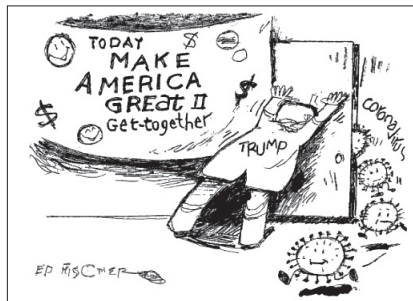
We need to be more vigilant than ever in how we are taking care of ourselves and how we handle ourselves around other people. The simple rules still apply and will have a lot of heartache. Wear your face mask and practice 6-foot social distancing. In addition, make sure you are washing your hands.

Most of the new cases are coming from "community spread" in which people unknowingly are passing the virus to others when they are out and about. This makes it extremely important to heed the public health warnings about masking up and keep distance from others.

Another line of defense right now is to get a flu shot. Health officials say it's smart for everyone to get a flu shot, especially this year with the pandemic raging through our communities.

Public Health Director Amy Caron says it could be next summer at the earliest before a vaccine comes out for COVID. With that in mind, we have a long way to go before then.

Fight the urge to succumb to COVID fatigue and do your part to stop the spread of the virus. It will likely help keep yourself healthy and safe as well as your friends, neighbors and other family members. We owe it to all of them.



YOUR VIEW

Autumnal Beauty

So!
Autumn has again arrived!
The hot, humid days of summer are gone.
We stand now in awe-struck wonder,
at nature's annual beauty pageant.
In the spectacular colors that surround us.
The Painter again displays His artistry
by His masterful use of pallet and brush.

Stand quiet and still for a moment or two,
beneath the clear blue sky.
Take in those wonderful golds, yellows,
crimson, greens, and browns, in hues
that delight the most discerning eye.

Gaze across plain, hill, and valley,
then appreciate that, which God and nature,
have provided for your edification.
Those magnificent deciduous shade trees of summer,
have been transformed into a tapestry of color,
soon to disappear.
They will stand almost denuded,
except for those few hardy leaves
which refuse to let go,
lest they be covered with the long winter's snow.

No, they will challenge the northerly winds of winter,
to remove them from their perch.
Watch them shiver in the breeze,
till the warming sun of spring
brings forth the transfusion of sap,
through the tree's arteries.
Then, once again, life returns,
to provide the shade for summer,
to our great delight.
Make plans now,
for your summer vacation.
Wear COVID masks, of course!

What a wondrous cycle!

Bud Peka
Owatonna

Peach brings Halloween joy

Let's face it, 2020 hasn't exactly brought a lot of joy to people for a variety of reasons. First it was a devastating fire followed by a deadly pandemic that has swept across America and wreaked havoc on Main Streets.

But you wouldn't have guessed any of those problems on Halloween night along Blooming Prairie's Main Street.

In a spot that used to bring smiles to folks of all ages as they enjoyed a donut or two (a maple frosted long John for me) and cup of coffee at the Bakery, which burned down in earlier this year, hundreds of children and their parents lined up at Pumpkins in the Prairie for some trunk or treating to grab some goodies as well as playful times in the pumpkin patch playing games.

Walking through the patch taking it all in with his bib overalls intact was Dan Peach, the mastermind behind Pumpkins in the Prairie. He came up with the idea after his family purchased the empty lot where the Bakery and Sportstitch once stood serving area families. His dad, Jeff Peach, owns B to Z Hardware located next to the empty lot.

"This brings families and kids together for a safe night," Dan Peach remarked as he watched kids enjoy the free activities. "It's also important to show off businesses and organizations in town and let everyone be a part of it," he added.

Within 45 minutes, more than 300 bags of treats were handed out, sending Peach scrambling for extra candy. Peach explained that the Pumpkins in the Prairie was kind of a last minute thing he



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

came up with. "I just created it on the fly," he said. "I thought it turned out pretty cool for last minute."

The Halloween-themed park actually crossed Peach's mind because he wanted something fun for families to do during COVID-19, which has basically shut down most everything this year.



The Pumpkins in the Prairie guys include Jeff Peach of Owatonna, left, and his son, Dan Peach of Blooming Prairie of B to Z Hardware.

He was lucky enough to secure some outdoor games from Twee's Family Farm in Byron that closed last year. There were also cut-outs where families could take photographs.

Asked what he enjoyed most about the first-time display, Peach said: "To see the joy in people. It's fun to see the kids have fun."

And fun they had. Every class from Blooming Prairie Elementary School came down to the

pumpkin patch at different times over the past month for a field trip. He estimates thousands of people went through the patch over the past two months. "We had more out of town people than people from in town," Peach said.

"This is going to be a new tradition every year," Peach promises. "You have to have fun," he stressed.

Don't think for a minute Peach, who also serves the community as a police officer, is only focused on decorating only for Halloween. He promises to turn the empty lot into a Christmas Wonderland by Dec. 5. He hopes to organize a tree-lighting ceremony with various trees decorated on the corner lot.



The Pumpkins in the Prairie guys include Jeff Peach of Owatonna, left, and his son, Dan Peach of Blooming Prairie of B to Z Hardware.

"We can't do Christmas at the police department (because of COVID-19) so we're going to do it downtown this year," Peach said. "We hope to keep the tradition for years to come."

In less than a month, Peach will be going in hot pursuit of not only serving residents as a police officer, but also bringing them the joy that has been robbed by a wicked virus.

GUEST COLUMN

Are we in danger of losing the Steele County Times?

BY REV. RUSSELL RUDOLF

Are we in danger of losing the Steele County Times?

To the best of my knowledge "no," however, after losing The Bakery and the Krejci Ford Garage, I had to raise the question. Having raised the question, I used Google to check the statistics. Google led me to an article by Douglas A. McIntyre, published on Jan. 6, 2020. In his article, he stated that over 2,000 newspapers have shut their doors since 2004.

McIntyre quoted Penny Abernathy (professor of Journalism and Digital Media Economics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). "It appears at this stage that we've lost approximately 2,100 papers, all but 70 of which are weeklies." It means that almost half of the counties in the United States have but one newspaper - a

weekly. And, a recent count indicates that 171 counties do not have a paper at all. If my reading is correct there are about 7,000 newspapers left in this nation.

To state there are 7,000 newspapers left in this nation presents an in accurate picture. Many of the old dailies no longer publish six print editions weekly. For instance, the Owatonna People's Press now prints a paper on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday with an electronic edition on Friday. I understand the Rochester Post-Bulletin prints but two printings per week. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, which opened her doors 233 years ago, printed issues seven times per week two years ago, then it cut her printing to five days per week... recently it made a decision to print but three copies per week. The rumor is that it will downsize and eliminate

the print issue in favor of the electronic or email editions.

Terry C. Wise penned a cartoon that has appeared in a number of newspapers. In this cartoon there are three people. There is a bartender wiping glasses. There is a man using an iPhone sitting at the bar. The man sitting at the bar states, "There are 27 versions of what happened online. How does anyone ever know the whole story?" The woman sitting beside him is holding a newspaper. She asks, "Would you like to borrow my local newspaper and get the straight story?"

This past week, on Oct. 15, the Steele County Times printed 16 pages describing the various political races and reciting the attributes of the various contestants. Those pages were invaluable to me. Why? Because they clarified a number

SEE ARE WE IN DANGER, A3

STEEL
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Times

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County Writer.....Chris Baldwin

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Thursdays.

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

A state and national award winning weekly

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION	
2020-5 state awards 2019-7 state awards 2018-6 state and 3 national awards 2017-2 state and 3 national awards 2016-8 state and 6 national awards	2015-7 state and 4 national awards 2014-3 state and 3 national awards 2013-7 state and 2 national awards 2012-2 state awards 2011-4 national awards
(Awards presented by the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Associations)	

Holiday Parade is off for Owatonna

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Lighting up the holidays with a downtown parade will have to wait at least another year in Owatonna. Last week, the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce decided to cancel this year's annual Lighted Holiday Parade in early December due to concerns over the coronavirus pandemic.

Chamber director Brad Meier said having a parade is not what people are looking for in this COVID environment. "It's disappointing to not be able to do it this year," he acknowledged.

"People have grown to love the parade. It's a slice of Americana." The parade attracted an estimated crowd of about 5,000 people last year. Approximately 70 units all outlined in bright holiday

lights and decorations usually take part in the parade, which has been going since the early 1990s.

The chamber is replacing the parade with a cruising event on Friday, Dec. 4 at dusk through downtown and Central Park. "We are encouraging businesses to light up their store fronts with lights and decorations," Meier said, noting the Owatonna Business Partnerships is assisting the chamber with the effort. "We want people to drive thru the downtown and see the lights," he added.

Central Park, Meier said, will be decorated with some new additional holiday lights this year.

Meier hopes the holiday parade, which has been touted as "one of the best in Minnesota" will return again next year.

COVID doesn't stop Halloween



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

While COVID forced the cancellation of many indoor Halloween activities, it didn't keep outdoor fun from happening. Zoey Olsen, 9, of Blooming Prairie enjoys a game of checkers at the Pumpkins in the Prairie on Blooming Prairie's Main Street Halloween afternoon in her Princess Pirate costume. Hundreds of kids came out in costume to get treats and have some fun with the outdoor activities.

Everyone urged to get tested for COVID

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Steele County Public Health is organizing a community-wide testing event for COVID-19 next week in Owatonna.

The free tests will be available Monday, Nov. 9 and Tuesday, Nov. 10 from 12 to 6

p.m. at the National Guard Armory, 2323 W. Bridge St., Owatonna. Members of the National Guard will conduct nasal swap tests as part of the effort.

Public Health Director Amy Caron says people can sign up for an appointment, which helps keep wait times short and gives people

plenty of space for social distancing.

Registration is taking place at www.primarybio.com/r/owatonna.

While registration is encouraged, it's not required. "Nobody will be turned away," Caron said. She added the event is open to anyone and they do not need

to be Steele County residents.

Public Health's goal is to test 1,200 people. "We encourage people to go in and get tested," said Caron. "We are looking to see how widespread our community spread of COVID is."

The goal of the testing event is to target people who are asym-

ptomatic, which are those who have COVID but do not display any symptoms.

"We are trying to curb the spread," Caron said, adding it's a nice benefit for Steele County to be chosen to host the testing event.

In addition to the community testing event, residents can

also take part in a pilot program featuring home saliva tests. Steele and Mower counties were chosen to be among 23 counties for the pilot program. The saliva tests are also available free of charge. Insurance information is needed so the state can bill insurance companies for the tests.

Medford awards Coronavirus relief funds

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

During last week's regular city council meeting, the City of Medford authorized the awarding of Coronavirus relief funds to local businesses.

The funds are part of CARES Act funding that the city prior received from the state. Medford's EDA board recommended the city award seven local businesses with funding totaling \$26,744.

"What we learned early is that we had to reach out to businesses in order to get them to apply," City Administrator Andy Welti said of the process. "We

ended up getting seven businesses that submitted and what we were finding is that some businesses had already applied for other funding out there."

According to Welti, some of the local businesses that did not apply indicated that such funding should be reserved for those that are experiencing greater losses. "We discussed the applications with the EDA and they approved all of them," he said of those that did apply.

The maximum amount that the city was allowed to reward was \$5,000 per business. "In speaking to other small communities and

communities around the area to get seven is really good," Welti told the council.

Checks went out to area business no later than Oct. 30. The funds were pulled from the \$86,737 that the city received in total available funding. What ever is not spent prior to Nov. 15 will be sent to the county and returned to the state.

At the time of the meeting the city had spent or awarded a total of \$80,400 from the pool of \$86,737. This included the purchase of first responder gear by the fire department and COVID-related expenses accrued by the city. After checking with

Minnesota Management and Budget, the city was okayed to transfer funds to the Medford School District. The district had requested some funding due to the necessity of purchasing new iPads and iPad cases for K-1 students to learn from home.

The city approved spending \$3,200 for an HVAC system at the Medford Municipal liquor store and transfer the remaining amount, estimated to be around \$13,000 to the school district to offset the expenses for the iPads. Any money left over will be returned to the county and state by Nov. 15.

A NEW COVID RECORD: for Steele

FROM A1

The age group of 20 to 50 year olds is contributing to most of the positive cases, according to Caron. "It seems to be our working population," she said.

Steele County is mirroring what's happening across the state. Over the past week, Minnesota set a new daily record of 3,165 COVID cases. Health officials are warning that Minnesota is nearing the "explosive growth" in infections seen in nearby states

as the Midwest has become the epicenter of the pandemic.

In Mower County, there were 66 new cases and two more deaths while Freeborn County saw 92 cases and one additional death.

Caron believes part of the problem is people not taking COVID seriously, and they are tired of having to adjust their lifestyles. "My strong message is that now is not the time to let your guard down," Caron said.

ARE WE IN DANGER: of losing the Steele County Times?

FROM A2

of issues and defined or clarified some characters for me. It helped me make up my mind on how I am going to vote.

In my entire life, and I'm in my late 80s, I have never seen such a detailed presentation on political candidates. This is not the only time the Steele County Times has presented such a report. It has provided us with many similar reports through the years...like the lovely story of the retiree and her lovely flowers.

We need to do everything within our ability or power to retain this weekly document.

Without a doubt it is the most important package of paper that appears in our mailboxes.

Have you ever really examined, carefully and in detail, all of the advertisements that appear weekly? Those

advertisements are like an encyclopedia of what keeps Blooming Prairie and the other surrounding communities living and vibrant.

If my knowledge is accurate a newspaper has three sources of income: 1. subscriptions, 2. the large placement ads and 3. classified ads. If we want a newspaper to exist, we need to support it by purchasing subscriptions and advertisements.

I also watch ABC News at 5 to 6 p.m., but it doesn't provide me with the local news I want and need to make decisions. I use my iPhone to check the weather, the stock market and the news app I've placed on it. I enjoy television and my iPhone, but neither provides the detailed NEWS provided by the Steele County Times. I

try to read as much as I can before bed time on Thursdays; however, I can't finish reading all of it. It is the second thing in my hand after getting up at 5:30 or 6 a.m. on Fridays. The first thing my hand is my coffee.

A newspaper is an invaluable educational tool. It helps one develop creativity, it nurtures an open and critical mind and it teaches one to distinguish truth from falsehoods. As we read it we are connected to remarkable people and events. As we read a newspaper we look at problems and learn to find solutions.

In a county like Steele, the quality of the Steele County Times, needs to be seen as the oxygen which keeps the county as well as the cities of Blooming Prairie, Ellendale, Medford

and Owatonna alive and vibrant.

Back to the basic question, "Are we in danger of losing the Steele County Times?" Let's never forget that it is a business and as a business it needs to make a profit. And, like every business it needs and depends upon customers for existence. It's up to us. If we want the Steele County Times to exist as a vibrant publication, we need to support by subscribing to it and by advertising in it.

Keep in mind this weekly document is what furthers our education and provides the information you and I need to develop wholesome conversations and to make fruitful opinions.

Ren. Russell Rudolf is retired and lives in Owatonna.

STEELE COUNTY **Times**

*Always local,
all the time.*



Wear a mask
in public spaces.



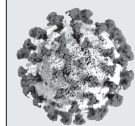
Get tested if you
have any symptoms.



Answer if your health
department calls.

MINNESOTA

STAY SAFE MN



World.....46,600,000
Deaths.....1,200,000
Recovered.....31,200,000
U.S.9,330,000
Deaths.....231,000
Recovered.....4,880,000

COVID-19 UPDATE

MN154,000
Deaths.....2,538
Recovered.....94,416

Steele.....857
Deaths.....4
Recovered.....683

Dodge.....446
Deaths.....0
Recovered.....349

Freeborn.....776
Deaths.....5
Recovered.....
Mower.....1,595
Deaths.....19
Recovered.....

AS OF NOV. 2, 2020

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

Behind the scenes of a presidential security detail



Behind The Badge
SHERIFF SCOTT ROSE

In September of 1952, Dodge County hosted a presidential candidate rally at a small wayside stop between Dodge Center and Kasson called Plowville, where they held the first National Soil Conservation District Field Day and Play Matches. The candidates there to speak were Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower and Democrat Adlai Stevenson, both running to replace the current two-term President Harry S. Truman.

Fast forward 68 years later to Oct. 29, 2020, Sheriff Scott Rose received a phone call from the United States Secret Service (USSS) Agent in charge of Minnesota. Our President Donald J. Trump was coming to Dodge County to do a rally at McNellis

Steel in Dodge Center. We gathered our administration in our conference room planning the security for this event with Minnesota's USSS agent and the USSS Special Agent for the President's Protective Division. They were both very respectful and polite showing great concern for our community, our staff, and the safety of everyone involved. They reiterated over and over again that this was our county, and that they couldn't do events like this without the partnerships with local law enforcement. The Minnesota USSS Agent gave us his cell phone number and said we could call anytime, day or night if we need anything.

We went from our office to McNellis Steel to brief with the USSS planning and security staff. Olmsted County Sheriff Kevin Torgerson offered his assistance and brought his command staff to these briefings along with Minnesota State Patrol Captain Christina Bogoevich, who grew up in Hayfield. Rochester Police Chief Jim

Franklin also reached out offering any support we needed. During this briefing, we all discussed concerns for the residents of Dodge Center and concerns about traffic and safety. At one point during our briefings, the USSS agents received an email instructing them to shut it down. There have been lots of rumors online about the National Guard shutting it down, 20 State Trooper cars arriving and shutting it down, etc. That didn't happen. It was an email. The Dodge County event had been cancelled.

I would be lying if I said we weren't disappointed. We all felt that this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to host our president here in Dodge County. An opportunity to highlight one of our biggest employers in the county; a great company who has always been a huge supporter of law enforcement and our community. I returned to my office to find many emails and phone messages from citizens from both sides of the aisle. Some upset about this

opportunity lost, others upset that we were helping with this event and not enforcing the Governor's Executive Order. I've said from the beginning of COVID-19 that enforcement of the Governor's order is the responsibility of the state, not local law enforcement. We aren't the state police. We aren't the mask police.

What a roller coaster of a day!

Takeaways from this experience:

- I'm humbled by the President's steadfast respect for local law enforcement, evident by the respectful and thoughtful staff from his Secret Service and their dedication to our community and the safety of our community.

- I'm humbled by the support we have from our state patrol and local law enforcement neighbors – to know that they will be here anytime we need their help.

- I'm humbled by our administrative staff here at DCSO who all came together at the last minute to help make sure we had the staff and support needed

CRIME BRIEF

Thieves target running vehicles

The recent unseasonably cool weather has brought a reminder that thieves target running vehicles.

Owatonna Police responded to the 400 block of 16th Street NE where a victim started their car to warm up, left it unattended for 15 minutes and only to return to find it gone.

Police say a byproduct of cold weather is that too often it creates an opportunity too tempting for thieves to resist.

The State Patrol



later recovered the stolen vehicle after it struck a cable median barrier on Interstate 35 by Dundas. The suspect left the wrecked vehicle behind.

Police have no suspects at this time in this case.

In Owatonna, motorists shall not allow a motor vehicle to idle in residential districts.

ed to plan and work this last minute event.

We are so blessed to be here in Dodge County!

Sixty-eight years ago, Plowville drew 125,000 people from all over the country who traveled here to support their candidate for president, all standing together in our little community of Dodge County. Republicans and Democrats standing together to listen to each of their

candidates vision for our nation – regardless of party, they all stood together as Americans.

I hope and pray that someday we can see this kind of unity again in our great country. Your Sheriff, Scott

Scott Rose is serving his second term as sheriff of Dodge County. His column appears in this newspaper regularly.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Oct. 19 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding: Courtney L. Berglund, 22, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. She was sentenced to \$131, 63 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, psychological evaluation, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms and 3 years of supervised probation.

Audrey E. Ezequiel, 18, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault – throw bodily fluids or feces onto officer and misdemeanor domestic assault. The defendant was sentenced to \$1125, 36 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, psychological evaluation, no possession of firearms, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, domestic abuse evaluation and 3 years of supervised probation.

Alex J. Olson, 32, previously appeared and was convicted of felony check forgery and felony burglary. Olson was sentenced to \$375, 44 days in county jail, chemical assessment, mental health evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, no possession of firearms, drug court and 3 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Oct. 19 – 25:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jaime E. Castillo, 39, Blooming Prairie, suspended license and speeding, \$355; Ryan J. Hering, 30, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$115; Carlos J. Miguel, 26, Austin, invalid license, \$175; Israel V. Rodriguez, 46, Austin, revoked license, \$275; Eh K. Tai, 21, Austin, permit violation, \$125.

MN DEPT. OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Tyler A. Wencil, 21, Owatonna, take migratory game bird with aid of bait, \$475.

MN STATE PATROL
ROCHESTER

Calliynne J. Bussert, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Mark S. Daneshvar, 41, Elk River, speeding, \$115; Alyssa M. Dwin, 18, Stewartville, speeding, \$115; Collin S. Ferguson, 22, Plymouth, speeding, \$125; Almo N. Gure, 20, Fairbault, speeding, \$135; Joseph A. Johnson, 35, Corvallis, IA, hands free violation, \$125; Dustin P. Knutson, 44, Owatonna, permit violation and failure to stop for traffic control signal, \$175; Irving Mixteco Vasquez, 39, Owatonna, DWI, \$400, 4 days in county jail, substance abuse subtle screening inventory, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation; Imaan M. Mohamed, 27, Owatonna, permit violation, \$125; Kendyl R. Peters, 19, Owatonna, stop sign, \$125; Zachary T. Rietveld, 16, Owatonna, speeding, \$275; Trevor M. Schroeder, 19, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Brady D. Soltz, 26, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Michael D. Stangler, 48, Owatonna, failure to stop for school bus, stay of adjudication, \$75; diversion program, 40 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation;

OWATONNA POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Rosalinda T. Banuelos, 21, Albert Lea, theft, \$145.07; Destine A. Cavazos, 19, Owatonna, permit violation, \$125; Makenna M. Dempsey,

16, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; Anthony S. Evans, 52, Owatonna, trespassing, \$100, no trespassing at Motel and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Anthony D. Francis, 29, Owatonna, speeding, \$155; Eric C. Hanson, 39, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$100; Jacob T. Harrison, 23, Waseca, DWI, \$1,075, 1 day in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend MADD impact panel, obtain permission to leave the state, 50 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Samantha L. Hrdlicka, 26, Kasson, failure to stop for school bus, \$175; Dustin A. Johnson, 32, Elmdale, seat belt, \$100; Shatoria D. Lane, 23, Owatonna, no child passenger restraint system, \$115; Dustin L. Laroque, 27, Owatonna, stop sign, \$125; Troy J. Lemke, 25, 20, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Ashley B. McNichols, 30, Owatonna, permit violation and failure to stop for traffic control signal, \$175; Irving Mixteco Vasquez, 39, Owatonna, DWI, \$400, 4 days in county jail, substance abuse subtle screening inventory, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation; Imaan M. Mohamed, 27, Owatonna, permit violation, \$125; Kendyl R. Peters, 19, Owatonna, stop sign, \$125; Zachary T. Rietveld, 16, Owatonna, speeding, \$275; Trevor M. Schroeder, 19, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Brady D. Soltz, 26, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Michael D. Stangler, 48, Owatonna, failure to stop for school bus, stay of adjudication, \$75; diversion program, 40 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation;

Ashley J. Sterner, 29, St. Paul, DWI, \$575, 90 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, 132 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; John E. Sticha, 59, Fairbault, revoked license, \$275; Blas O. Varela, 21, domestic assault, \$125, 180 days in county jail, no contact with victim, no possession of firearms, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Brian J. Wilkie, 41, Medford, seat belt, \$100; Antwaune L. Williams, 46, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$131 and 1 year of supervised probation; Joe Williams, 51, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Tasha M. Williams, 20, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$125; Alex L. Zaidvar Perdomo, 20, Inver Grove Heights, suspended license, \$275.

STEELE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Eduardo Aldava, 22, speeding, \$135; Chad S. Behne, 40, Dodge Center, speed, \$115; Holly A. Bremer, 28, Red Wing, speeding, \$115; James L. Brown, 59, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Destina M. Collins, 23, Waseca, speeding, \$215; Michelle L. Dempsey, 40, Medford, speeding, \$115; Travis J. Harder, 28, Owatonna, DWI, \$400, 1 day in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of supervised probation; Rebecca M. Hermanson-Hill, 51, Medford, speeding, \$115; Brennan C. Hoffman, 17, Waseca, speeding, \$275; Alex J. Olson, 32, Fairbault, possession of drugs,

stay of adjudication, \$75, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 2 years of supervised probation; Blaine A. Osmon, 23, Albert Lea, invalid license, \$175; Kseniya A. Pozdnyakova, 25, Shakopee, speeding, \$115; Abby R. Seifert, 26, Elysian, speeding, \$115; Roxanne Spangler, 48, Waseca, speeding, \$115; Zachary C. Vangen, 26, Hartland, DWI, \$150, 4 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Collin D. Volkman, 23, Waterville, speeding, \$115; Douglas W. Wenker, 48, Elysian, speeding, \$115.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Oct. 23
Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Front St. E. and Elm Ave. N. at 7:27 a.m.
Probation: At 11:48 a.m., a probation violation occurred in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N.
DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest at Hoffman Dr. NW and 32nd Ave. NW at 10:55 p.m.

Oct. 24
Warrants: Officers made warrant arrests in the 300 block of Main St. E. at 12:55 a.m. and the 200 block of Florence Ave. NW at 10:41 a.m.

Welfare: Officer conducted a welfare check in the 700 block of State Ave. NW at 11:53 a.m.

Shoplifting: At 1 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest in the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW at 11:16 p.m.

Oct. 25
Fight: Officers responded to a fight in the 100 block of Bridge St. W. at 12:26 a.m.

Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 500 block of Cherry St. NE at 2:40 p.m.

Oct. 26
Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 100 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 12:18 p.m.

Theft: At 5 p.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 400 block of 16th St. NE.

Oct. 27
Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 1500 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 9:37 a.m.

Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 1500 block of St. Paul Road NE at 4:06 p.m.

Theft: Officer issued a theft citation in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 6:05 p.m.

Oct. 28
Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Front St. E. and Elm Ave. N. at 7:27 a.m.

Probation: At 11:48 a.m., a probation violation occurred in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N.

DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest at Hoffman Dr. NW and 32nd Ave. NW at 10:55 p.m.

Oct. 29
Arrest: Police assisted another agency with arresting a subject at Lemond Road and 48th St. SW in Meriden Township at 2:45 a.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 3000 block of Elm Ave. N. at 10:25 a.m.

Drugs: Police arrested a subject for drug activity in the 100 block of 21st St. NW at 4:25 p.m.

Search: Police arrested a subject following a search warrant in the 200 block of University St. SE at 4:31 p.m.

SEE BLOTTER, A5

WARRANTS: The following individuals have active warrants in Steele County. The Sheriff provides this information as a public service

1. Jason Miller – drugs – \$10,000 bail
2. Wayne Miller – theft – \$2,000 bail
3. Jesse Moe – registration violation – no bail
4. Yassin Mohamed – check forgery – \$10,000 bail
5. Imaan Moloo – criminal sexual conduct – \$10,000 bail
6. Dayson Montano – DWI – \$1,000 bail
7. Michael Moore – violation of conditions of release – no bail
8. Omar Moreno Jr. – damage to property – \$5,000 bail
9. Darren Morrison – drugs – \$40,000 bail
10. Rajakumar Munnangi Jr. – drugs – \$250 bail
11. Quadeque Munoz – false name – \$3,000 bail
12. Deris Murillo-Benitez – DWI – \$12,000 bail
13. Hallee Nagelstad – speeding, careless driving – \$200 bail
14. Theodore Nelson – speeding – \$200 bail
15. Dai Nguyen – drugs – no bail
16. Michelle Nin – drugs – \$3,000 bail
17. Harley Norberg – revoked license, no insurance – \$500 bail
18. Ardashah – theft – \$20,000 bail
19. Robert Olden – disorderly conduct – \$250 bail
20. Axel Ortega – domestic assault – \$500 bail

Disclosing active warrants promotes public safety and aids in the identification and apprehension of wanted individuals

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How Seniors can Save Money on Prescription Eyeglasses



Dear Savvy Senior,
What tips can you recommend for finding affordable prescription eyeglasses? I used to have vision insurance through my work but lost it when I turned 65 and signed up for Medicare.

Need Spectacles

Dear Need,
Unfortunately, in 2020 it's still true that original Medicare does not cover vision services, which includes routine eye exams and prescription eyeglasses – unless you've just had cataract surgery. While there's no one solution to this common need, here are a few tips that can help you save.

Medicare Advantage
While original Medicare doesn't cover vision services, there are Medicare Advantage plans that do. Medicare Advantage plans, which are sold through private insurance companies, cover all the same medical and hospital services that original Medicare does, but many of them also provide vision as well as dental, hearing and prescription drugs too.

To locate Advantage plans in your area that provide vision coverage, go to [Medicare.gov/plan-compare](https://www.medicare.gov/plan-compare) or call 800-633-4227. But before enrolling in a plan, check the benefit details to ensure the plan's vision coverage includes routine eye exams, eyeglass frames and lenses.

If you are currently enrolled in original Medicare you can switch to a Medicare Advantage plan each year during the open enrollment period, which is between Oct. 15 and Dec. 7. Or, if you already have an Advantage plan that doesn't provide adequate vision coverage, you can swap to another plan between Jan. 1 and March 31.

If, however, you don't want to change your Medicare plan, you can still get coverage by purchasing a vision insurance policy – see *eHealthInsurance.com*. Vision policies typically start at around \$11 to \$13 per month for an individual, but before signing up make sure your savings potential is worth the cost of the monthly premiums and required copays.

Discount Stores
Purchasing eyeglasses from discount retailers is another way to save. Costco Optical is one of the best discount stores for good eyewear and low prices. Eyeglasses cost an average of around \$184, but to shop there you have to pay a \$60 annual membership fee. Some other good retail options for low prices include Sam's Club Optical and Walmart Vision Centers.

You also need to find out if you are eligible for any discounts. Some retailers provide discounts to membership groups like AARP and AAA. AARP members, for example, can get 30 percent off a pair of glasses (frames and lenses) at LensCrafters and Glasses.com, and you save an additional \$10 on a complete pair at Target Optical. AARP also offers \$55 comprehensive eye exams (dilation included) at participating eye doctors. See *AARPVisionDiscounts.com* for more information.

Buy Online
Buying eyeglasses online can also offer huge savings. Stores like *ZenniOptical.com*, and *EyeBuyDirect.com* sell prescription eyeglasses for as little as \$6 and \$7. These sites let you upload a photo of your face, so you can see what you'd look like in different frames.

Or, for a snappier choice of frames see *WarbyParker.com*, which offers single-vision glasses starting at \$95. They even offer a free program where you can request up to five pairs to try on at home for five days.

To purchase glasses online, you'll need a valid prescription from an eye doctor (typically no more than a year old), plus your pupillary distance number, which is the distance, measured in millimeters, between the centers of your pupils in each eye.

Low-Income Assistance
If your income is low, depending on where you live, there may be some local clinics that provide free or discounted eye exams and eyeglasses. Put in a call to your local Lions Club to see what's available in your area. See *Directory.LionsClubs.org* for contact information.

You may also be able to get free eyeglasses through New Eyes (*New-Eyes.org*, 973-376-4903), a nonprofit organization that provides free eyeglasses through a voucher program to people in financial need.

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

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History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago

Nov. 9, 2010

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

The Blooming Prairie Fire Department held its annual Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest recently. Grades 1-5 participated. The winners are: Kindergarten/1st grade, Tyler Archer; Grade 2/3, Jarrett Larson; Grade 4/5, McKenna Hein.

Thursday, Nov. 4th the Blooming Prairie Band program filled the evening with some sweet sounds. The evening started out with the Jazz Band. The next performance was presented by the Junior High Band and final act was the Senior High Band. The evening included lots of toe tapping and clapping from the crowd. They all came away happy.

20 Years Ago

Nov. 7, 2000

ELSIE SUNGER, PUBLISHER

Michael Farr, 18, of the Blooming Prairie FFA Chapter, is one of four national finalists who competed for the title of national winner in the Food Science and Technology-Entrepreneurship/Placement. Michael began working at a small meat processing plant his freshman year and has gained skills in marketing meat products, food safety standards and grading steaks and meat. He plans to pursue a degree in meat processing and hopes to have his own business. Michael is the son of Robert and Debbie Farr.

Med Frederick, president of the Owatonna Area Shrine Club, announced the club will be holding its Holiday Ball on Nov. 26. This is the 40th Anniversary

of the Shrine Club and special festivities are planned. Of the 61 signers of the Charter, six members are still living and five still reside in Owatonna. They are C H Hansen, Dale Hursh, Frank Hursh, R W Kaplan, Steve Lange and A J (Duffy) Hamren, who resides in Oregon.

50 Years Ago

Nov. 4, 1970

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE

KREJO, PUBLISHERS

Airman First Class David Blume, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Blume of Blooming Prairie, is on duty at Phan Rang, AB, Vietnam. Airman Blume, a supply specialist, is assigned to a unit of the Pacific Air Forces. He is a 1964 graduate Southern School of Agriculture and received his B.A. Degree in 1968 from Mankato State College. His wife is the former Judith Young.

Sixty-one entries were judged in the pumpkin raiser contest sponsored by Farmers and Merchants State Bank. Prizes were given to: David Krell, Blooming Prairie, 75lbs.; Jody Brudwick, Mankato, 74 lbs.; George Anderson, Blooming Prairie, 72 1/4 lbs.; Tom Vavra and Keith Johnson, Blooming Prairie, tied at 68 1/4 lbs. each.

75 Years Ago

Nov. 9, 1945

FRANK KREJO, PUBLISHER

The Blooming Prairie Bombers 4-H Club met at the Edwin Johnson home last Wednesday. New officers were elected – President, Calvin Paulson; Vice-president, DeForest Paulson; Secretary, Eileen Olson; Treasurer, Lloyd

Krell; Librarian, Jerry Krell; Reporter, Marlene Johnson. Pans were made for the Christmas program when the members entertain the Farm Bureau. Sgt. Homer Lund, Tech 4th Grade, honorably discharged from Camp McCoy, WI, was in the Army three years, two years overseas. He was a tank driver in the 2nd Armored Division and fought through five major campaigns. He has the Fourragere Decoration from Belgium. He is the nephew of Mrs. L A Lund.

Owatonna Picture News

31 Years Ago

Nov. 2, 1989

TOM SHEA, PUBLISHER

The Doo Si Do Club's 17th annual Pumpkin Festival Square Dance featured retired caller Tom Roper from Omaha, IL, as the caller for the afternoon's session. Ferris Chladok, event chairman, estimated about 250 couples participated in the week-end event at OHS.

Congratulations to the four Owatonna High School netters named to the 1989 Big Nine all-conference tennis team: Jerry Springer, Missy Skluzacek, Melissa Oberle and Heather Anderson were named. Seventeen players were selected to the team. The Indians and Mankato West each placed four. Only five of the nine teams had players selected to the squad. Congratulations.

Medical doctors dressed up as characters from the Wizard of Oz to spread Halloween cheer at Health Hospital of Owatonna on Tuesday. Dr. Ralph Wertwign dressed as the Lion, Dr. Carol Winter presented as Dorothy, Dr. Warren Shepard resembled Scarecrow.



Reflections

HOWARD LESTRUD

Yes, it's finally time to retire and time to take care of the health of one Mr. Howard Lestrud.

I have retired before from my newspaper career but was coaxed out of retirement by the current owner/publisher Rick Bussler of the Steele County Times.

Alan Van Ormer, had fallen on an icy day and suffered a concussion. He was going to take a medical leave. Rick asked if I could pinch hit for a month or two and write a story or two for each issue of the Times.

I said yes, and here it is six years later, and I am busier than ever. Somebody tagged me on the shoulder on Oct. 16 and said, "Howard,

you have to slow down."

That tag on the shoulder came from a stroke that took my speech away for just a short time. I was one very lucky person to have survived a stroke that could have taken my speech permanently and also caused physical paralysis.

Thanks to a loving wife and a quickly responding ambulance crew, I was whisked to the Emergency Room of the Owatonna Hospital. A number of tests were taken including an MRI and an MRA the next day on the recommendation of my neurologist.

After the tests were completed, my neurologist called me from his car and told me that I had suffered a stroke, not a TIA, which is a warning for a stroke, but a real stroke.

Since that time my doctor has placed me on some medications and ordered some exploratory tests.

Needless to say, I was scared after learning that news. I'm still scared but have complete faith in my medical providers.

I have decided to "hang up" and enter retirement again. I'm also fighting Parkinson's Disease, a diagnosis given me three years ago.

Will I write again? I hope so. Not to sound like a bragger, but I think, as a veteran of nearly 60 years in journalism, I think I have written some of my best pieces since I have been on staff of the Steele County Times.

I am very thankful to Rick Bussler for giving me this opportunity to write about small town news.

Blooming Prairie is a small town but one of the most active and caring small communities where I have lived. Judy and I have met some beautiful people during our six years here. These are people

we love to call our dear friends.

We are not leaving but finally retiring. This will finally give us time to kick back and enjoy the benefits of living in a small town.

What is really rewarding is that I grew up on a small dairy farm just seven miles southwest of Blooming Prairie. My wife Judy also spent much of her young life just 12 miles to the west in Ellendale.

Again, I say thank you to some fine people who have allowed me to write about them. They are all small-town heroes.

Next week, I will choose the top 10 stories I covered during my six years at the Steele County Times. I will also choose the top 10 columns I feel I have written.

This leads to a proper conclusion. Yes, I hope to continue to write a weekly column called Reflections.

BLOTTER: FROM A4

Restraining Order: At 8:43 p.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 400 block of 13th St. NE. Steele County Sheriff Oct. 23.

Warrants: Deputies made warrant arrests in the 5700 block of 14th Ave. NE in Medford Township at 8:24 p.m. and the 4100 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township at 9:17 p.m.

Oct. 25 Arrest: Deputies arrested a motorist during a traffic stop in the 6500 block of Highway 218 in Aurora Township at 12:56 a.m. **DWI:** Deputy made a DWI

arrest on Interstate 35 in Somerset Township at 4:09 a.m.

Oct. 27 Fraud: Deputy took a report of a fraud incident in the 200 block of 7th Ave. W. in Ellendale at 5:58 p.m. **Oct. 29 DWI:** Deputy made a DWI arrest in the 5000 block of Lemond Road in Meriden Township at 2:54 a.m.

were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Oct. 18 – 25:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Raymond L. Mickay, 37, Rochester, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$220 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Tina M. Rains, 49, Steward, IL, open bottle, careless driving and speeding, \$350, Antze L. Steadmen, 21, Rochester, revoked license, speeding and no insurance, \$540; Daniel T. Villegas, 33, Dodge Center, assault, \$380.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT
Lisa M. Allen, 30, Kasson, hands free violation and seat belt, \$155; Gattin D. Fitt, 20, Kasson, controlled substance crime, stay of adjudication, \$900; 1 day in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 90 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Nathan M.

Reller, 38, Kasson, hands free violation, \$150; Bryan A. Studnicka, 29, Rochester, seat belt, \$105; Maria M. Theelke Poppler, 43, Kasson, hands free violation, \$150; Amanda M. Zemke, 34, Hayfield, seat belt, \$105.

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Maxxon D. Lamoree, 19, Dodge Center, migratory birds violation, \$130.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER
Jose F. Gonzalez, 47, Hayfield, speeding, \$220; Ryan J. Gorman, 20, West Concord, speeding, \$120; Codie A. Janssen, 32, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Michael J. Lorentz, 31, Brownsville, speeding, \$120; Natalie O. Nordlund, 28, Milwaukee, WI, speeding, \$120; Isaac C. Parker, 41, Tea, SD, speeding, \$140; Megan R. Peterson, 20, Mora, hands free violation, \$130; Jessica R. Robinson, 47, Dodge Center, speeding, \$140; Cade M. Sheehan, 18, Rochester, speeding, \$140.

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BP School leaders: COVID learning is stressful

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie Elementary School Principal Jacob Schwarz and Blooming Prairie High School Principal John Worke updated the BP School Board on status of the schools to date.

"We continue to navigate in person," Schwarz said.

"We still want the students in front of us as long as possible," remarked Schwarz. The elementary students have been learning at in-school while the high school is on the hybrid plan (A-L Monday and Tuesday and M-Z on Thursday and Friday).

Schwarz said the staff is prepared for hybrid learning.

Schwarz thanked Dan Peach for inviting elementary students to the Pumpkins in the Prairie on Main Street. "It was a getaway for the kids," he said.

Worke said the high school just finished conferences. He said conferences were "down quite a bit" from 41% last year and 45% the previous year to 28% this year.

"Our major focus has been attendance," said Worke. He said percentages for grades are down. He also said teachers were stressed because of the present hybrid situation. He

praised the staff and families at home for their special help given students.

MEA last week "came at the right time," meaning a break was needed by students and staff.

A virtual choir was also started and performed this week.

Worke said the annual OSHA walk-through went fine with the facility reported in excellent compliance.

Allison Mach, activities director, said the cross country season has finished with Hosea Baker making first team boys all-Gopher Conference and junior Emily Miller earning honorable mention

Gopher Conference honors.

Mach outlined Homecoming Week activities with the coronation planned for Oct. 25.

The Homecoming court will visit the elementary school and Prairie Manor Care Center on Friday. The Homecoming parade is planned for 4:15 p.m. on Friday. The football game with Hayfield starts at 7 p.m.

"We're doing the best we can," Mach said in describing the reduction in activities because of the coronavirus. There will be no activities over the Christmas season.

"Things change all the time, even hour to

hour," said Mach.

Board member Dean Meshke, former Blooming Prairie teacher, asked if students are getting as much as possible for educational materials. He speculated that students will get less material. "I guess that to be the case," said Worke.

"We are trying to support the kids as best we can," said Superintendent Chris Staloch.

Board members Jon Sunde and Jenny Thurnau said they were subpoenaed to appear in Mower County Court due to a voting ballot matter.

Thurnau said apparently, the wrong ballots were sent to

Udolpho Township. Mower County ballots were sent rather than the required Freshborn County. The error has since been corrected. In other board action:

- Alexa LaMontagne was hired as a fall cheer coach.
- General Election is set for Tuesday, Nov. 3.
- There are three candidates for three positions: newcomer Melissa Stoen and incumbents Jonathan Sunde and Jenny Thurnau.
- The school board election results will be canvassed by the board on Friday, Nov. 13.
- The next school board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 16.

County eyes road improvements

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

The Steele County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing for the 2021-2025 Highway Capital Improvement Plan during last week's regular meeting.

State Aid of approximately \$3.2 million, sales tax revenue of approximately \$3 million, and wheelage tax of approximately \$700,000 will be the main sources of fund-

ing for planned construction on an annual basis.

Maintenance overlays are programmed at \$1.3 million annually and funded through a combination of CSAH maintenance, county levy, or sales tax, depending on the highway segments.

The DRAFT plan, which is available on the county's website, includes a five-year projection, but this year's edition was focused primarily on the com-

ing 2021 year. County Engineer Greg Ilkka gave a presentation to the county and public on the plan.

"The reason to have a public hearing is really the money," he said at the outset. "We want to revisit the program every year annually before adopting the resolution." The estimated sales tax funding for the 2020 and 2021 years is at \$3 million annually. The total funding annually for the improve-

ment plan is estimated at \$8,550,000.

"We like to keep our pavements in very good condition," Ilkka said concerning pavement updates included in the plan. "Our condition trend is upward." The county will have four pavement rehab projects for the 2021 year.

The county also has five operational and safety improvement projects for the 2021 year. These include a joint project with

Waseca county, a full roundabout construction on the intersection of CSAH 34 and CSAH 45 and signal upgrades and maintenance.

"There's lots of work that should be done on the signals," Ilkka told the board concerning the importance of maintaining signals throughout the county. "I think there's an opportunity to get better signal operations."

After allowing the public a chance to look

at the plan and give comments, the county board will be meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 10 to officially approve the 2021-2025 Highway Capital Improvement Plan.

During the meeting, the county auditor also gave an update on the election. At the time of Tuesday's meeting (Oct. 27), the county had received around 8,000 absentee ballot requests and had over 20,000 registered voters ready to cast their ballots on Nov. 3.

PRICELESS PHOTO: FROM A1

for Rocky's funeral. Devoe immediately thought of the hugging image. "Logan can someday show his future children this photo, and hopefully it will remind him of his father's good nature as he tells them about their grandfather," Devoe said. "Even though this wasn't the image I planned to capture, I am so glad I did," she added.

The photo, Bailey said, has been framed and will be prominently displayed in their Minot, N.D. home. Logan is stationed in Minot with the U.S. Air Force. They both graduated from Medford High School, Logan in 2018 and Bailey in 2019.

"It's definitely a picture I will be looking at a lot. I'm thankful that we got it," Logan said.

Both Logan and Bailey said they have never realized the importance of taking photos until now. "They were the last pictures taken of him when he was healthy," he said.

Logan said his father wasn't much for taking

photos. But, he said, this particular photo shows his father's true character. "He was a funny, happy going guy," Logan said. "It shows his spirit over the other ones," he added.

The entire Rogotzke family was shocked when they found out Rocky had cancer. He started out with a cough, and his doctor diagnosed him with pneumonia. He was put on some medication, but it didn't work. One night around Oct. 1 he couldn't breathe and his wife, Susi, called 911. He was taken to Owatonna hospital and flown to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester.

A few days after arriving at St. Mary's doctors found Rocky had masses in his lungs. "It was took bad to work on," Logan said. They initially thought chemotherapy would be an option, but things kept getting worse. The cancer had spread all over Rocky's body. He died at the hospital Oct. 13, two days after his 51st birthday.

"It's unfortunate and sad it happened," Logan related. "It sucks the way it had to happen."

But, Logan stresses, as religious as his family is, they are focused on the fact that things happen for a reason. "He would want us to grow from it," Logan said. "We are focused on moving forward and growing from what happened," he added.

Logan is thankful he got back home to get married when he died. He had been stationed in South Korea for a year. His mid-tour kept getting postponed several times because of COVID-19. The wedding was actually planned four times before it finally went off on Sept. 12.

"I'm thankful I was able to get back and see him before he passed," Logan said. "I'm glad we made memories before things got bad."

Rocky didn't feel good already just prior to the wedding. Fearing he had COVID, he wanted to stay home so that he wouldn't pass anything to other



PHOTO COURTESY SKYE DEVOE

Logan Rogotzke and Bailey Duchene were married on Sept. 12. Shown with the couple are Logan's parents, Susi and Rocky Rogotzke.

relatives. Thankfully, for Logan and Bailey, he ended up going to see them get married.

Up until his death, Rocky was employed at Daiken in Owatonna where he "had a tight bond" with the people he worked with," Logan said. "They were so saddened by what happened," he noted. Rocky also previously worked at Cybex and Hy-Vee in

Owatonna.

A small memorial service was held at Brick-Meyer Funeral Home in Owatonna on Oct. 21.

Logan, who works on nuclear weapons on the base, hopes he and his new bride can end up back in Steele County close to family after serving in the Air Force. "We are comfortable with the area

and have family there. That's what is most important to us," he said.

While the couple has gone through a whirlwind of emotions, Bailey said she has learned an important lesson over the past few months. "Love your family. Be close and cherish the time you do have together because you don't know when it will end," she said.

SHREK COMES: to life at BP High School FROM A1

and Dominick King as Captain of the Guard.

In the story, an ogre called Shrek finds his swamp overrun by fairy tale creatures who have been banished by the corrupt Lord Farquaad aspiring to be king. Shrek makes a deal with Farquaad to regain control of his swamp in return for rescuing Princess Fiona whom Farquaad intends to marry. With the help of Donkey, Shrek embarks on his quest but soon falls in love with the princess, who is hiding a secret that will change his life forever.

Johnson said the musical will feature a variety of fairy tale characters, including the Three Little Pigs, Big Bad Wolf, Gingerbread Man and Pinocchio.

"It's a fairy tale with a happy ending," Johnson

says. "We are pretty excited about it," she said.

The musical will display some unusual costumes. "We had to figure out how to dress people like an ogre and dragon," said Johnson, who has been involved with the high school musical for 30 years with 15 as director. They also had to get creative with the make up. Margo White is handling make up duties while Amy Trotman assists with costumes.

The greatest challenges with this year's performance have nothing to do with the characters, but rather in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic and how it shapes the overall performance. Besides not having normal size audiences, the musical will be forced

to adjust to not having an orchestra this year, again resulting because of the pandemic. Instead, Amelia Harthan will be playing on the keyboards.

Rehearsing has also come with its challenges this year. Prior to the cooler weather setting in, cast members rehearsed outdoors. Johnson noted all students have been masked and practice social distancing.

Within the past week, two boys haven't been able to practice because of coming down or being exposed with COVID-19. Johnson is utilizing Zoom to bring them into practice.

They are expected to be back in time for the performances next week. Johnson said the challenges facing the musical group have been "mindboggling"



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Cast members are gearing up for the fall musical, Shrek, at Blooming Prairie High School. Some of the cast includes, from left: Brad Simon as Lord Farquaad, Mason Simon as Gingy, Sam Pirkil as Thessalonius and Dominick King as Captain of the Guard. No live audience will be allowed except for family members this year because of the pandemic. However, the musical performance will be offered on live stream Friday, Nov. 13.

this year. "Every day you feel like you are sitting on a loaded powder keg," she said.

"The kids are good at whatever we throw

at them," Johnson said. "They have been thrown a lot of curveballs, and they are handling them well."

Despite the endless

challenges this year has produced, Johnson still enjoys directing the play. "I love it. It has always been a passion of mine," she said.

OBITUARIES

Obituaries Sponsor:
LEGACY MONUMENT SALES
Leon & Lori Bohlman 507-456-7864 or 507-456-3735
landlbo@gmail.com

Jim Brandenburg, 80, Owatonna

Jim Brandenburg of Owatonna passed away at 80 years old on Friday, Oct. 23, 2020, after a long illness at home with his family by his side.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years Jan and children Missy Herrian, Becky (Scott) Weig, Randy, Michael and Jessica Brandenburg. Also surviving are his grandchildren: Jason, Angela, Payton, Seth, Preston and Garrett; great-grandchildren: Jordan, Kirsten, Ian and Ashlyn and great-great-granddaughter Isabella.

He lost his baby grandson Ethan in 2003. He was preceded in death by all his sisters and brothers Clem (Irina), Fabian, Helen (Lloyd), Dorothy (Ken) and Nephew Steve.

James Charles Brandenburg was born on May 22, 1940 in Dulliver, Iowa, the youngest child of James Henry Brandenburg and Anna Pauline (Meyer) Brandenburg. He graduated from Armstrong Iowa High School and attended Estherville Iowa Junior College. He married the love of his life Jan Moore on July 30, 1960. They were married 60 happy years.

He had many occupations, but he is best known as manager of Colonial Manor Manufactured Home Community in Owatonna. He was a wonderful carpenter and the one friends and family called for advice and help with any problems. He was a real Jack of all Trades. He was a Cub Scout leader and Little League coach for his sons. He will be greatly missed by all.

There was a private gathering of his family and no service will be held. He donated his body to the University of Minnesota for research to help others. A huge thank you to all the many doctors, nurses and hospice caregivers.

Cards may be sent to the family at 54 Strand Dr., Owatonna, MN 55060.



Jim Brandenburg

Rocky Rogotzke, 51, Owatonna



Rocky Rogotzke

Rocky (Rodney) Rogotzke, age 51, of Owatonna, passed away Oct. 13, 2020 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester after a quick and heroic battle with cancer.

A memorial visitation was held on Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2020 at Brick-Meyer Funeral Home in Owatonna.

Rocky was born on Oct. 11, 1969, in Windom, to parents August and Carol (Miller) Rogotzke. He graduated from Storden-Jeffers High School, class of 1988. In 1992, he was united in marriage with Susi (Roselle).

Rocky spent most of his life working for Hy-Vee, and most recently, Daikin. He loved fishing and golfing, but most of all, he loved his family.

Rocky is survived by wife, Susi, son Brady (Jennifer), daughter Bailey (Isaac) Schmidt, son Logan (Bailey), and grandson, Kase, who he adored. He is also survived by his Mom, Carol, one brother, Tim (Christine), and six sisters, Rhonda (Bill) Stues, Cindy (Steve) Carter, Valerie Sohl, Tracie, Teresa (Brad) Hewitt, and Carrie (Todd) Natvig, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

DEATH NOTICE

Colleen Loken, 78, Owatonna

Colleen A. Loken, 78, of Owatonna died Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020 at Traditions 1 of Owatonna.

Funeral services will be Saturday, Nov. 14, Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna is handling the funeral arrangements.

A full obituary will be published in next week's edition.

Underwood Estate scholarships given to 3 seniors

A generous donation from the James Underwood Estate has started with three graduates of the Class of 2020 receiving scholarships.

The Underwood Estate gave \$52,244 to the Blooming Prairie Education Association.

The Underwood scholarship allows the Ed Foundation to give up to \$5,000 in a year to one person, or it can be split up.

Recipients this year were Marti Snider, Kisha Aquino and Courtney Espe.

Students were required to write an essay "If I could afford to go to school."

Applicants were asked to explain what they were going to do if they were given financial resources to help defray the cost of furthering their education. The students were further asked to explain what their dream job would be if they attended college (two year, four year, etc.).

The scholarship is to go to those in need and deserving high school graduates of Blooming Prairie, according to the trust.

GUEST COLUMN

Searching to find a happier life

BY DON HEINZMAN

All of us, regardless of our age, are searching for ways to have a happier life.

Robert Benedict has written a book entitled: "Happiness Doesn't Just Happen" with the subtitle "Three steps to happiness and Two steps to Joy."

It's based on his personal experiences and workshops he has given as a public speaker and trainer of his own company where he has taught negotiating seminars to the world's largest corporations. He also is a former Bloomington mayor and state legislator.

The core of the book is: 1. Knowing specifically what makes us happy and consciously building it into our lives.

2. Knowing specifically what makes us unhappy and dealing with it.

3. Building an ongoing attitude of happiness.

He begins by having us list "What makes us happy?"

(Let's stop here and for a minute for you to list one thing that makes you happy.)

For example, I am happy when as a husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather and uncle I can be with my wife and growing family - at a game, on holidays, special holidays, especially Christmas, and birthdays. We take our turns having them over at our apartment for celebrations like Easter and July 4th.

Benedict advises us to mark these special dates on our calendars and never let any other event take that date.

I think you get the idea. Start small, build that happiness into your lives, and then do the same with another happiness.

Benedict also deals with unhappiness, which he calls "weeds in your garden."

He has us list our unhappiness and says we have three actions we can apply to each one.

1. We can change the situation.

2. We can change our attitude about the situation

3. We can do nothing and hope things will work out by themselves.

He cites a personal example to which we all can relate: misplacing our car keys. After losing his keys several times, he realized he had to change, particularly

one day when he was supposed to rush someone to the hospital and couldn't find his keys.

First, he says, he had to admit he was disorganized by losing his keys. Second he had to consciously deal with the problem. He decided to install a hook in the laundry room where he enters the house from the garage.

He got rid of one "weed" because now he hangs his keys on that hook.

Benedict also recommends a to-do list for each day and finds happiness when he can cross off duties on his list, and realizes he has time left over.

His chapter on expanding your sense of humor is a winner because he says laughter relaxes the whole body, boosts your immune system and triggers the release of endorphins, the body's natural feel-good chemicals."

He also advises to hang out with positive people who have a good sense of humor.

"When we associate with people who are optimistic and have a good sense of humor it tends to bring out the best in us," he writes.

I like to meet at coffee with a group of retirees who make my day with their humorous stories when we even laugh at ourselves.

Benedict has a meditation on the difference between happiness that can be up and down and inner joy.

He compares joy to the deep underground aquifers from which cities constantly draw sparkling water through wells even when conditions are bone dry on the surface.

"Joy is like the deep aquifers unaffected by the circumstances we face. It is powerful, enduring, stabilizing and waiting for us to tap into it," he said.

Some of his advice is based on his faith and personal experiences, as he explains in chapter 13 how to find real joy in building a relationship with God.

There are other chapters too numerous to mention.

Don Heinzman is a retired community newspaper journalist who lives in the Twin Cities. He has provided editorial guidance for the Steele County Times in the past.

BOOK NOOK

Library provides diversity for all



NANCY
VAILANCOURT

The Blooming Prairie Branch Library strives to be a place people come to often for support, resources, and ideas. In a Public Libraries Online article titled "Community Centered," suggestions are given for how libraries can assist diverse populations. You may be thinking, "But Blooming Prairie doesn't have a diverse population."

You may be right that there are not significant numbers of those we label diverse. However, if there is only one person who is diverse, they may need assistance more since they are alone in their differences.

So how can the library help? We provide resources for non-English speakers. We have a small collection of Spanish language books, plus more multilingual (both English and Spanish) children's books. We can

always order more from other libraries as requested. We also try to choose materials that speak from different viewpoints, whether based on language, culture, or sexual orientation. Resources for those new to the community or to the United States can help those adapting to their new homes.

Libraries also gather resources to provide those with disabilities access to library collections. For those with vision problem, we offer Large Print, eBooks that can be viewed in a Large Print format, and audiobooks.

When those resources no longer are helpful, we assist the visually impaired with receiving audiobooks from the Minnesota Library for the Blind. To assist patrons who have hearing issues, many DVDs have closed captioning.

Finally for those who are not mobile, we provide deliveries within the city limits of Blooming Prairie, as well as curbside delivery from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Please spread the word about the services that the library can provide. We endeavor to serve all in our community.

Can you make it go away?

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Don't wait another minute, come see what chiropractic care can do for you.

www.drchad.org

BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 4 Wayne Gullickson John Bruns	Nov. 8 Brandy Thompson Chad Watkins
Nov. 5 Madison Lea Kyle Severson Chris Mans Brett Zimmerman Tim Bass Ansley Tollefson	Nov. 9 Marti Snider Linda Klemmensen
Nov. 6 Linda (Larry) Knutson David Hagen Ardis Krejci	Nov. 10 Matt Machin Savannah Farr Sarah Bumgarner Evelyn Trom Ken Trom Daniel Coleman Ryan Cremeans Julie Eischens Cory Sletten
Nov. 7 Claire Loverink Mark Hunzmann Ariana Kohl Maclyn Clayton	

ANNIVERSARIES

Nov. 4 Rod & Michelle Krell Carl "Jr." & Diane Swenson	Nov. 7 Gloria & Robert Salinas
Nov. 5 Kevin & Robyn Iversen	Nov. 8 Jerry & Marge Oxley
	Nov. 9 Ken & Kathy Ryks

This weekly feature sponsored by:
Dornink & Sons Carpentry
Gene Dornink
507.206.8449

Recipe Corner

Pepperoni Pizza Soup

- 2 cans (14 oz) Italian stewed tomatoes
- 2 cans (14 oz) beef broth
- 1 small onion
- 1 small green pepper
- 1/2 cup sliced mushrooms
- 1/2 cup slices pepperoni, halved
- 1-1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 1 package (9 oz) refrigerated cheese ravioli

Combine first 8 ingredients in crock pot. Cook on low 8 to 9 hours. Add fresh pasta and cook for 15 to 30 minutes until pasta is soft. Use grated mozzarella and black olives as garnish. A kid pleaser.

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We are united in community



Pastor Leandrea Anderson
RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN
AUSTIN

We are now in the days after the election. This time we found ourselves as a nation voting on the local, state, and national levels. While I am writing this, from days past, I do not know the outcome or how far along we are in the vote counting process. Honestly, that is okay with me.

What I do know is that this election cycle has left most of us worn down. We have been worn down by the endless barrage of commercials, phone calls, and mail pieces. We have been worn down by

hearing attacks not on policy, but on a person's character. I know, too, that we have become worn down by the sense of urgency that we feel rides on the election of 2020. It is another example of an event that we feel has a lot of weight to it, and maybe we feel like there is something major to gain or lose. There is a lot of strong emotional connection to favorite candidates. There is high opportunity for us to get in a tired and disgruntled argument with those whose opinion differs from our own.

For these reasons, it is the wise words from my grandma that I am drawn to: "At the end of it all, they are still your neighbors." This week all those political signs will come down. People will know the final results and we will move on to a season of Christmas commercials and toy drives for kids. Most importantly, after this week, we will remember that our neighbors are in fact our community. The ones who we share our space and our time with. The ones that we go to work, church, and school

with. We trust in these people because they are the ones who see our lives and who we are. Our neighbors are the people who know our personalities go beyond a sign for a presidential candidate that has been placed in our yard. It will not necessarily be an easy week as results become solidified. Maybe it will not be an easy few weeks ahead, but there are two things we know to be true. One, we know that we are united in community. This year has proved in more ways than one that when

pushed the community can stand strong together in staying home, in essential work, in keeping each other healthy, and in reaching out. That unity simply will not change because of who is in office. Two, we can trust in our neighbors and we can trust in God. These are the two people we are called to love in the Bible, and they are the two things we can trust will remain the same, even in the toughest of times. After all, we are all still neighbors and we would not have it any other way.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN
AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Interim Pastor:
Rev. Dale Svendsen
507-451-2819
office@auroralutheranchurch.org
Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN — ELCA
106 Third St. SE, Geneva
Pastor Kristen Verne
507-256-4288
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday

FIRST LUTHERAN — AFLC
503 Radel Ct., Ellendale
Pastor Richard Sliper
507-684-2451
Men's Bible Study:
8 a.m. Saturday
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
Kids church: 9 a.m. and
Confirmation: 10:15 a.m.
Jesus and Me: 3:30-5 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday
Call to Prayer:
7 p.m. Tuesday
Bible Study:
9:30 a.m. Wednesday
Wednesday School:
6:15-7 p.m. followed by
Youth Group: 7-9 p.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN — ELCA
434 First St. SW,
Bloomington
Senior Pastor:
Rev. Heidi Hemgartner
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Mike Waterius
507-583-8621
firstlutheranop.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 Schlicker
507-451-4125
goodshepherdowatonna.com
Indoor Worship: Sundays 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Online Worship: Sundays 9 a.m. or anytime on website

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

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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN — LCMC
1054 Truman Ave.,
Owatonna

Pastor Kirk Griebel
507-451-2720
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Education Hour:
10:15 a.m. Sun.

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN — ELCA
30456 Mower-Freeman
Road, Austin
Leandrea Anderson, Pastor
507-583-2038 or
507-437-3000
www.roglutheran.org

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., Sergeant
Pastor Colin 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 Klaviter and
Jacie Richmond
507-451-7293
stjohnowatonna.org
Worship: 5 p.m.

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. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN — ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Pastor Dwight Dobell
507-567-2474
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN — ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
507-451-2185
Sunday Worship Indoor:
10 a.m.

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN — ELCA
104 First St. SE, Hayfield
Pastor Paul Hauschild
507-477-2248
www.trinityhayfield.org

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN — LCMC
108 Third Ave. SW, Medford
Pastor Mark Sieghausen
507-451-0447
Worship: 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Education Hour: 9:15 a.m.

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

ZION LUTHERAN — ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
Sunday Worship Indoor:
8:30 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: 9:15 a.m. —
Traditional, 9:30 a.m. —
Sunday School/Adult
Education
10:45 a.m. — Contemporary

CATHOLIC
CHRIST THE KING
205 Second Ave. NW,
Medford
507-451-6353
Father James Starasnick
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 Brian Mulligan
507-234-6244
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9948 SE 24th Ave.
Owatonna
Father John Wilmot
507-583-2784
www.litomyslcatholic.com
Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m.
Litomysl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other
month

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

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave.,
Owatonna

Father John Sauer
Parochial Vicar
507-451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday:
8:30 a.m. & 10 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.

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC
114 E. Main St.,
Bloomington
Father John Wilmot
507-583-2784
www.stcolumbanuschurch.com
Mass: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Reconciliation: 9 a.m.
First Friday & Saturday
8:30 a.m.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna
Father James Starasnick
Deacon Patrick Fagan
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation:
3-3:30 p.m. Sat.
Daily Mass:
8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri.
(Communion Service 8 a.m.
Thursday)
Adoration Chapel available
Mon. — Fri. 1 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.
Key fob required after hours
or weekends

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 J. & Stefanie
Morgan
507-335-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
200 Sixth St. NW, Ellendale
Pastor Randy Chikara
507-684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST
815 E. University, Owatonna

Rev. Lisa J. Vick Pastor
507-451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship
(Pathways):
9 a.m. Sunday

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

DESTINY CHRISTIAN
2515 Harvest Lane NW,
Owatonna
Pastors Rich and Amy Pettet
507-456-4775
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.

MENNONITE
PRAIRIE MENNONITE
13638 70th St.,
Bloomington
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 507-451-1548
www.associatedchurch.org
office@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 68, Claremont
507-528-2320
Pastor Douglas Walters
10 a.m. Worship

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
2373 Seventh Ave. NE,
Owatonna
Pastor Brian Beavers
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
507-451-4586
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Pastor Patrick Britt
507-684-3421
www.vibrantlifeag.com
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

BAPTIST
FIRST BAPTIST
104 First Ave. NE,
Bloomington
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
507-451-8548
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
Prayer Service: 7:30 a.m.
Church Service: 9:30 a.m.
Children's Church: 9:45 a.m.

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All deliveries & pick-ups will take place between 5 - 5:30 pm on Nov. 11th



Annual FFA Fruit Sales
OCTOBER 30TH THROUGH NOVEMBER 13TH

This year we are offering many varieties of APPLES, PEARS, ORANGES, GRAPEFRUITS.

Other items that will be part of the fruit sales will be the ever popular BUTTER BRAIDS, HERRING, GOURMET POPCORN, CHOCOLATES AND NUTS.

STEVE'S MEATS WILL BE PROVIDING MEAT STICKS AND OTHER COMBO ASSORTMENTS.

The products will be arriving to the BP High School on December 10.

These products would make perfect Christmas Gifts!

If you have any questions, or would like an FFA member to stop by your home or place of employment, please feel free to contact Mr. Rinkenberger at the BPHS Ag Dept, at 583-4426 ext. 468



Shrek the Musical

Comes to stage at
Blooming Prairie High School
Enjoy the fall musical Shrek!

Once upon a time, in a far away swamp, there lived an ogre named Shrek whose precious solitude is suddenly shattered by an invasion of annoying fairy tale characters. They were all banished from their kingdom by the evil and Farquaad. Determined to save their home, not to mention his, Shrek cuts a deal with Farquaad and sets out to rescue Princess Fiona to be Farquaad's bride. Rescuing the Princess may be small compared to her deep, dark secret!

Don't miss the excitement from Blossom youth!
Show Times: Friday, Nov. 13 - 7 p.m.
Show Available Livestream at www.ShowTix4U.com
(Search under Blooming Prairie High School)

Saturday, Nov. 14- 7 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 15- 1 p.m.

Shrek is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorized performance materials are supplied by MII at www.mtishows.com.

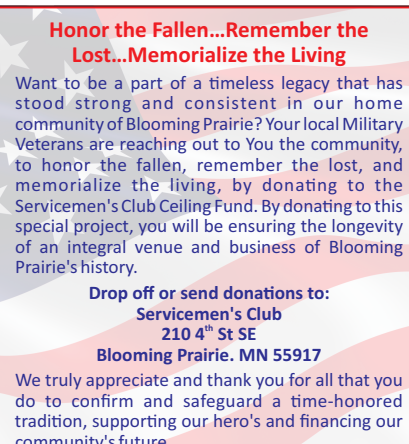


Honor the Fallen...Remember the Lost...Memorialize the Living

Want to be a part of a timeless legacy that has stood strong and consistent in our home community of Blooming Prairie? Your local Military Veterans are reaching out to You the community, to honor the fallen, remember the lost, and memorialize the living, by donating to the Servicemen's Club Ceiling Fund. By donating to this special project, you will be ensuring the longevity of an integral venue and business of Blooming Prairie's history.

Drop off or send donations to:
Servicemen's Club
210 4th St SE
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

We truly appreciate and thank you for all that you do to confirm and safeguard a time-honored tradition, supporting our hero's and financing our community's future.



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A part of history on auction block

BY HOWARD LESTRUO
STAFF WRITER

A part of history has been put on the auction block from Oct. 28 to Nov. 4. It's the Summit Store, later converted to home, and the Summit Creamery, converted into a shop and storage area. Many personal items including tools, some household items and five vehicles. These two buildings are located about five miles northwest of Blooming Prairie. The address is 2450 SE 118th St., 2449 SE 118th St., Blooming Prairie.



The Summit Creamery was part of the Summit Store in the early 1900s and beyond. The creamery was closed in 1956 and eventually served as a storehouse for feed, fertilizer and seed for the Summit Store.

The Summit Store and Creamery were last owned by Jarrod Paul. He resided in the home until he passed away this past summer. Paul purchased the Summit Store and Creamery in 1997. He made many changes. First, the old wooden store was torn down. Paul had new windows and steel siding installed on the two-story store. He also had a new steel roof installed on the creamery. The store was on the main floor or first floor of the two-story building. Paul was in the process of renovating

the space into a second apartment/living quarters. The second floor is the apartment/living quarters. This building has a basement. The creamery building is one level with an upstairs attic storage area. The real estate part of the online sale closes at 1 p.m. Nov. 4 and the other items close at 7 p.m. "You name it, it's there," says Brock Skov, agent for the Steffes Group, Inc. Skov said that there's a business story to be told by these Summit Store and Creamery buildings. SEE A PART OF HISTORY, B6

Hands-on education



Students participate in a myriad of real-world experiences and learn about local business and industry during last year's Made in Owatonna event. The event is held each year through the SteeleCoWorks program and is a great way to educate students on career opportunities.

Area students explore various careers

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Since 2017 SteeleCoWorks has provided young people across the county with opportunities to explore a vast array of local careers. What began as a way to introduce students into the local workforce has now blossomed into a program for all students looking to learn a bit more about certain careers. "There was a survey done prior to them bringing me on and there was a large percentage of students who wanted to go into the workforce," Workforce Entry Coordinator

Anisha Zak explained. "My role was to connect these students to real job opportunities." The program offers students tours of local businesses, job shadowing, internships, Made in Owatonna events, and even part-time work. While some students who participate are looking to go off to college, others find themselves with a good job upon graduating. "That is my favorite thing, hearing those testimonials from former students is so powerful to the students I'm currently working with," Zak said of those who have found a successful career within the program.

OHS Principal Kory Kath is also proud of seeing his former students take on important roles in local businesses. "We have students who stay with the company and who move up, and that's really cool to see," he said. "We are trying to be a feeder program for our community," Kath explained of how the program benefits not only students, but the entire community. "What we want to do is lead our students on a pathway to working in Owatonna and Steele County." Both Kath and Zak are grateful for the support that local business-

SEE EDUCATION, B6

Seykora named Firefighter of Year in Owatonna

Members of the Owatonna Fire Department have selected Ryan Seykora as the Firefighter of the Year. The honor, along with a banquet, typically comes through the Exchange Club of Owatonna. However, this year with COVID-19, a banquet is not possible, and Seykora was selected by his peers. A presentation will be made at a later date, and Seykora will be honored next October at the 2021 Firefighter Banquet. The Exchange Club says all firefighters are important, and though it only honors one each year, they are all to be



Ryan Seykora has been selected as the top firefighter in Owatonna.

honored for the services they provide to the community. Seykora has proudly served the community of Owatonna through the OFD since 2014. SEE SEYKORA, B2

Teens need adults in their lives



Steele Talkin' TRACY IGNASZEWSKI

Do you remember high school? The struggles of growing up... changes... challenges... opportunities... decisions? Do you remember the people you turned to for support and guidance? It might have been a close friend - but more

likely, it was a parent or another adult. So often we get the impression that contact with adults is the last thing on earth that teenagers want. Well folks, that is not necessarily true, most teenagers want and need adults in their lives. Search Institute research supports this finding, noting that young people most often turn to adults when facing major life choices. As young people mature, more and more significant sources of support, guidance, and molding.

SEE TEENS NEED, B3

Medford sacks cancer to help one of its own

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Calab Svenby began looking pale and just didn't look right about a year ago. It was alarming enough that his bosses at Nagel Sod in Medford said something to him. And it's a good thing they did. After going to the doctor, Svenby, who just turned 30 a few weeks ago, was diagnosed with Stage IV colorectal cancer, the second-most common cause of cancer death in the U.S. Since then, Svenby has undergone surgery and chemotherapy at

"He has shown how to put your nose down and plow your way to the end and push through it."

Ty Svenby
Brother Battling Cancer

hospitals in Faribault, Northfield and Minneapolis. He has been in and out of the hospital for much of the year. Calab's older brother, Ty, is around him quite a bit, but didn't notice what Calab's bosses saw. They were both stunned when they found out Calab had cancer. "At 29 years old,

it's not the first thing that comes to mind," said Ty, who is an assistant football coach for the Medford Tigers. The Tiger Touchdown Club is hosting a Sack the Cancer fundraiser Friday night at the Medford football game for Calab. All

SEE MEDFORD SACKS, B6



Ty Svenby, left, and his brother, Calab Svenby, enjoy hunting together. During this particular hunting trip, they pulled in a turkey. Calab has been fighting colorectal cancer for the past year. There will be a Sack the Cancer fundraiser to help him Friday night at the Medford football game.

Treats for the little tykes



STAFF PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSELER
Hundreds of kids took advantage of the outdoor trunk or treat on Halloween at the BP Servicemen's Club. Left: Owen Lance, 2, of Blooming Prairie maneuvers around in an Allis-Chalmers tractor costume to grab some candy. "He loves tractors," his father commented. Right: Tammy Bordeaux representing the BP Women of Today showcases her trunk with some scary decorations during the festivities.



BP Council approves Special Assessment Policy

BY HOWARD LESTRUUD
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie Council at a regular meeting on Oct. 12 at the City Government Center unanimously approved a Special Assessment Policy for the City of Blooming Prairie.

City Engineer Brett Grabau of Stantec explained the recommended adoption of an assessment policy before it was voted upon by the full council. Council member Tara Gimbel offered a motion to approve the assessment policy and

member Mary Kittelson seconded.

City Administrator Andrew Langholz offered a memo on the recommendation to establish a Special Assessment Policy for the City of Blooming Prairie.

Langholz explained that the city has continuing infrastructure improvements that need to be funded moving forward. Langholz said the city council in the past has bonded for a project and would make payments toward the bond by issuing a city-wide tax levy.

This process worked, but now the city is close

to its debt limit, Langholz further explained. What this means, Langholz said, is that critical infrastructure improvements will need to be delayed until the debt is retired.

Because of that, engineers Stantec, bonding agents Northland Securities and Langholz recommend that the city council establish a Special Assessment Policy.

This policy will allow the city to assess a portion of the cost of improvements to property owners that are directly benefiting from the project.

Grabau fielded questions on the proposal and provided an example from another municipality, Harmony, MN, to provide a better picture of how special assessments would impact property owners.

This policy provides general guidelines for addressing assessments in the city, and in enacting this policy, the council acknowledges that special cases for variations may be required based on the particular facts present in any given situation.

Grabau presented a handout that detailed costs of improvements.

He listed sanitary sewer improvement, water main improvement, services improvement and street improvement. Totals are: sanitary sewer, total project costs \$72,668.25; no special assessments, city borne costs \$72,668.25; water main, total project costs \$349,190.10; no special assessments, city borne costs \$349,190.10; services, total project costs \$144,085.65; \$110,340.77 in assessed costs, city borne costs \$33,744.88; street improvement, total project costs \$81,181,869.42, \$368,967 in assessed costs

and city borne costs \$81,250.75.

The breakdown for these four types of improvement shows: total project costs at \$1,747,813.42, assessments at \$479,308.44 and city borne costs at \$1,268,504.98.

Grabau also presented assessment figures on street recon, street overlay, water service and sewer service. Assessment totals are as follows: street recon, \$292,413.14; street overlay, \$76,554.53; water service, \$71,335.70; sewer service, \$39,005.06. The total assessments amounts to \$479,308.44.

A homecoming unlike any other

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS EDITOR

This year almost nothing has gone according to plan and that continued last week when Blooming Prairie Public Schools had to

cancel its homecoming parade and postpone its football game against Hayfield.

The game was canceled last minute when a player came down with COVID-19. Thankfully, the

Blooming Prairie volleyball team was able to play its Thursday night game versus Hayfield, but with limited fans allowed at indoor events it didn't have the same celebratory atmosphere as past Homecomings.

The Awesome Blossoms will try to recoup some of its lost homecoming celebration by trying to reschedule its football against Hayfield, but no date, time or location has been set yet.

Without the football game or parade, it may not have felt like homecoming week, but hopefully Blooming Prairie students, teachers, staff and community members can make the most of

this postponed celebration.

After all, homecoming celebrates coming home and enjoying the camaraderie of your community and that isn't restricted to just one fall week.

SEYKORA: named Firefighter of Year FROM B1

Currently, he is a fire equipment operator, a role he has been fortunate to serve in for the last 2 ½ years.

Through the fire department, Seykora has been able to establish many great relationships and experience many different challenges. He enjoys promoting the mission of the fire department to the community and helping develop the next generation of great firefighters.

The youngest of five children, Seykora was born in 1983 to Bob and Bev Seykora. Bev was a proud member of the Owatonna Exchange Club and both of Ryan's parents believed in making this community a better place.

When Ryan is not at the fire department, he spends his time working for his parents business, Rocon Inc., along with serving as a co-host of the Morning Mix morning show on 100.9 KOWZ.

He is married to Julia Seykora and the two of them have a 7-year-old, Maddox.

Oak Avenue closed for road work

Oak Avenue, also known as County Highway 45, from Bridge Street to Broadway Street has been closed starting Tuesday, Nov. 3.

A detour will be posted using Main

Street, Elm Avenue and Rose Street.

A utility contractor will be replacing a water service. The work is expected to last about a week.

All dates are subject to change due

to weather or other factors.

Steele County advises motorists to drive with caution and slow down through work zones for their safety and for the safety of the construction crews.

ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS
By Shannon Nordstrom and Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics,
I recently heard about a car that set the land speed record on a closed public road. They said it was the worlds fastest stock production car and that it runs on e85 only. I thought ethanol was a weak fuel. How can it work to make a car go that fast and can I put e85 in my Cadillac CTSV to make it go faster?
David in Monticello Indiana

David, There are many things about ethanol that people just do not understand. Ethanol is a lower BTU fuel than gasoline, but it does not mean it has to be less powerful when used under the right conditions. Its all about octane. When an engine has more octane it can be run at a higher compression or supercharged or turbocharged to give it an overall higher compression ratio which equates to more power. This new production car is not going to be everyone's daily driver, but manufacturers could easily make many cars to take advantage of the higher octane at minimal cost compared to other alternatives. If manufacturers had octane even at 95 across the board which would be much easier to provide at the pump than e85 we could see cars with incredible fuel mileage and power the likes we have not yet seen. If we don't see an increase soon the alternative for manufacturers is all electric vehicles to meet emissions. As for the Caddy fuel, stick to the premium.
Take care, The Motor Medics
11/05

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On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

More and more farmers are experimenting with using cover crops on their cropping operations. According to the United States Department of Agriculture's 2017 Census of Agriculture, 9% of farms in Rice County and 5% of farms in Steele County use cover crops.

There are a lot of factors to consider when you decide to plant a cover crop. As with a

cash crop, you need to determine what species and variety to plant, when to plant, and what seeding rate to use. Recommendations for these practices depend on a farmer's cropping system and goals. You may be using a cover crop to increase your soil organic matter, to grow as forage for livestock, or something else. It's important to consider your system and your goals while selecting a cover crop. And of course, recommendations continue to change with increased grower experience and peer reviewed research.

The Midwest Cover Crop Council's Cover Crop Decision Tool

utilizes research-based information and grower experience to guide farmers planning to plant a cover crop. Over the last year, a group of Minnesota cover crop experts reviewed and updated the tool, which can be accessed at: mccc.msui.edu/covercroptool/. The selector tool is helpful because the cover crop options it provides are tailored to your location, cash crop, and your specific goals. You start by entering the state and county where you farm, which brings in local weather data to determine the risk of a killing frost during the common window for planting cover crops in later-summer/early-fall.

Then, you can select up to three goals you wish to accomplish by using a cover crop. These goals may include things like fighting erosion, providing residue, or fighting weeds. You also select your cash crop and planting and harvest dates. This helps you decide which cover crops will fit into your existing operations. This tool is full of possibilities, and I encourage you to play around with it if you are considering adding cover crops to your system.

In addition to this selector tool, UMN Extension Educators have put together "Cover Crop Recipes" for farmers. There are recipes specific to each

Midwestern state, and Minnesota's current recipes include options for post corn, going to soybean as well as post soybean, going to corn. You can find the cover crop recipes at: mccc.msui.edu/getting-started/cover-crop-recipes/. Another way you can learn more about using cover crops is by attending UMN Extension's Soil Management Summit online on Dec. 15 and 16. The Soil Management Summit emphasizes proven farmer experience and applied science. You will learn how heavier, colder soils aren't necessarily the challenge they're made out to be. Hear from long-time cover crop, no-

till and reduced tillage and farmers as they share their experiences, so you can be spared the same hard-learned lessons. Learn more about the Soil Management Summit at summit.umn.edu/. If you are considering adding cover crops to your farm, there are lots of resources available to help you make management decisions. Visit extension.umn.edu/soil-and-water/cover-crops for more information.

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

SMIF picks cities for rural program

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) of Owatonna recently accepted four communities to its Rural Entrepreneurial Venture (REV) program. Each of these communities will participate in the program, which supports long-term economic growth in towns of 5,000 or less in SMIF's 20-county region, for a period of three years from 2021-2023.

The REV model is based on the e2 Entrepreneurial Ecosystems framework from Net-Work Kansas, which provides guidance to communities for accelerating entrepreneurial activity. The framework has been utilized by communities across the country and provides a roadmap for sustainable

entrepreneur-focused development. The inaugural REV cohort, which participated from 2018-2020, supported the communities of Blue Earth, Lake City, Le Sueur, Spring Grove and a collaborative effort between Lanesboro and Spring Valley. A variety of approaches to economic growth have been implemented in these communities, including business succession programs and youth retention initiatives.

After a competitive application process, the following communities were selected for the 2021-2023 REV cohort:

- Montgomery (Le Sueur County)
- Springfield (Brown County)
- Wells (Faribault County)

• Mapleton, in collaboration with the additional Maple River School District communities of Amboy, Good Thunder and Minnesota Lake (Blue Earth/Faribault Counties).

Each group will develop a core leadership team made up of a variety of community stakeholders. The teams will meet regularly with coaches from SMIF, Region Nine Development Commission and University of Minnesota Extension. A variety of exercises and tools will be provided to the teams, including a mapping exercise to document the impacts of the program over time and a database for conducting an inventory of the existing entrepreneurs in each town.

"We are excited to work with these communities over the next three years as they explore different approaches to supporting entrepreneurs and economic growth through this program," said Pam Bishop, Vice President of Economic Development at SMIF. "We know from our experience with the first cohort that the REV program will have a lasting impact on how these small towns approach economic development."

For more information about the REV program, contact Pam Bishop at pamb@smifoundation.org or 507-214-7013. Read more about the long-lasting impact REV has made on small towns in the region in SMIF's 2020 Impact Report.

Soil Summit moves online in December

Like many annual events, this year's Soil Management Summit (SMS), formerly known as the Conservation Tillage Conference or CTC, has had to make the transition from in-person to online.

The SMS planning committee wants to ensure the health and wellbeing of participants, vendors, and everyone else involved in the summit's production while maintaining the high standard of programmatic content the event has provided over the years. As the COVID-19 situation has evolved, the committee made the decision that this event will be offered online only.

The Soil Management Summit (SMS) emphasizes proven farmer experience and applied science. Straight from the fields, learn how heavier, colder soils aren't necessarily the challenge they're made out to be. Hear from long-time no-till, reduced tillage and cover crop farmers as they share their experiences, so you can be spared the same hard-learned lessons.

Some of this year's topics include tillage erosion, soil organic matter and water dynamics, and the conference staple – a panel of farmers

sharing their own personal experiences with soil management. Kicking off the event is J. Gordon Arbuckle, a professor of sociology from Iowa State University whose research helps stakeholders maintain or enhance long-term agricultural productivity while also improving social and environmental outcomes of agriculture. His keynote talk on December 15 will explore the sociology of soil management.

While this year's format may be a little different, organizers hope people embrace the change and join online Dec. 15 and 16. "We'll still deliver a high-value learning and networking experience for our attendees while emphasizing proven farmer experience and applied science," said committee chair Jodi DeJong Hughes.

Mark your calendars to join your fellow soil enthusiasts for two days of interactive online presentations, panels, and discussions. Advanced Crop Advisors can earn up to five continuing education units (CEUs). Additionally, 20 registration scholarships will be available for interested attendees.

For more information and to register, visit summit.umn.edu/.

MnDOT offers funding to develop Safe Routes to School

Minnesota schools and communities wanting to develop safer places for students to walk and bicycle can apply for three different grant opportunities this fall through the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School program.

Communities and schools can apply for planning assistance grants to help assess current conditions and create plans to improve walking and bicycling through programs and infrastructure. SRTS "Boost" grants support existing SRTS work, like adding bicycles to schools to improve physical education curriculum or addressing

a community-specific need to help more students walk and bicycle to school safely. The application deadline for these grants is Nov. 25.

Infrastructure grants can fund projects that create safer streets for students to walk and bicycle. Anyone interested in this funding must submit a letter of intent by Oct. 31.

"This year we've learned a lot can change in a student's life, but walking and bicycling are still ways for kids to just be kids and they deserve to be able to do those activities safely," said Dave Cowan, SRTS coordinator. "We recognize the challenges schools and communi-

ties are facing and this funding can help make safety improvements for the long term."

After a SRTS plan is developed, schools and communities can use that plan to apply for funds to advance infrastructure such as sidewalks, crosswalks and signage or non-infrastructure solutions such as community engagement, educational programming and encouragement events.

The planning process works to engage stakeholders, analyze existing data and set a prioritized list of strategies to make it safer and easier for youth to walk and bicycle to school.

"Safe Routes to School plans, programs and infrastructure improvements can help communities get students to walk and bicycle to school again," said Cowan. "This helps students build physical activity into their day, arriving at school refreshed and ready to learn."

Since 2006, MnDOT has worked with hundreds of schools and communities around the state to fund plans, bike fleets and infrastructure improvements to advance safe routes to school efforts across the state.

To learn more about the grants or programs, visit the SRTS website.

TEENS NEED: adults in their lives FROM B1

These relationships with adults have many positive benefits for teenagers. Youth who have access to and conversations with caring adults are less likely to engage in at-risk behaviors. So what can concerned adults do to help?

The first and most important thing is to respect young people. Most teenagers think adults have a negative view of them – and too often, we do. We need to show

our respect. Showing respect involves changes in attitudes and behaviors. Adults need to take teenagers seriously by becoming more understanding and accepting. Involve these young people in your life. When there are decisions and plans to be made have them help.

Young people also need support and advice. As adults, we cannot make decisions for young people – but there are things we

can do to show support to them. First, make yourself available, let kids know that they will have your time and attention whenever they want it. Second, take teens' concerns seriously – their fears, joys, and problems are very real to them. Finally, learn to accept kids even when you don't like what they do.

And remember, whether it is with your kid, or with other youth, building

a strong one-to-one relationship is one of the most positive things we can do as adults. We do have a major role to play in the lives of youth so let's get involved!

Tracy Ignaszewski is the 4-H youth development coordinator for Steele County. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.



New Richland • Harland • Ellendale • Geneva
PANTHER OF THE WEEK



PEYTON FRYE

This week's Panther of the Week is Peyton Frye. Her parents are Karla and Jon Wenzel and they reside in New Richland. She is in Mr. Beynon's third grade class.

Peyton has a knack for making people smile and putting them in a good mood. She asks tons of questions, loves sharing stories, and shows great respect to all. She pushes herself to be the best person she can be and is a good helper to her classmates.

Peyton loves reading, looking for kittens and doing back bends. Her favorite food is grilled cheese and tomato soup. **Keep up the great work Peyton!**



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Huskie girls fall short in section final

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS EDITOR

For the first time since 2005, the Owatonna girls soccer team made it to the section championship game by beating Northfield in an overtime thriller 3-2, but its shot at winning the section came up just short by losing 1-4 to Lakeville South on Saturday, Oct. 24.

After winning such a tough, physical game in the section semifinal, Owatonna Head Coach Nate Gendron said the Huskies would have to play that much better in order to beat the Lakeville South Cougars.

"South is always physical and they play a strong long ball. We need to deny that long ball and not allow them to turn," he said.

While the Huskies mostly held the Cougars' offense in check in the first half, Lakeville South was able to get one long ball past Owatonna's defense to take a 1-0 lead in the first half.

"It really wasn't savable besides having a better mark to deny it," he said.

However, besides trailing by one goal at halftime, Gendron liked the way his team played in the first half.

"We were thrilled with how we played in the first half, we were able to pass to feet and limit their chances," he said.

Unfortunately, the Huskies couldn't replicate their first-half success in the second half.

"We were playing catch up. That meant players were panicked at times and couldn't finish," he said.

Meanwhile, the Cougars' offense grew more confident in the second half and ended up scoring three more goals.

"It was just a snowball effect. They scored two, and then it was

[all] downhill," Gendron said.

The Huskies were able to avoid being shut out when they got a goal from one of the Big 9's best players, Ezra Oien.

After losing 1-4, he said the team's mood after the game was bittersweet.

"We were upset with the loss but happy with the result of making it to the championship," he said.

Even though they didn't win the championship match, Gendron said Ezra Oien, Taylor Schlauder and Abby Vetsch all had strong games against Lakeville South.

In order to advance to the section final, the Owatonna first had to defeat Northfield in the section semifinal.

Gendron said his defense and midfielders played a critical role in leading the Huskies past the Raiders.

"Our defense denied a lot of free kick opportunities and our middle players dictated play which was essential," he said.



Junior midfielder Emelia Marks sends a cross into the box. The Huskies actually trailed 0-1 at halftime, but they scored twice in the second half to advance to the section semifinals against Northfield.



Senior midfielder Sydney Hunst brings the ball up near the penalty area while keeping it away from a John Marshall midfielder during the first half of the Huskies' 2-1 win over the Rockets in the section quarterfinals.

However, in the first half, that wasn't always the case as Northfield scored two first-half goals.

"They had a goal scorer who had 20 goals on the season.

They pressed really high and used their speed to capitalize. It just became a little overwhelming for our defense," he said.

Owatonna got back in the game when Oien scored in the first half. "We had a beautiful corner kick from Emelia Marks who gave it to Ezra Oien. Ezra was right in front of the net and was able to tap it in," Gendron said.

Despite trailing 1-2 at halftime, he said the Huskies didn't change much about their playing style in the second half.

"We told the girls we had to keep possession of the ball, win 50-50 balls and increase communication. That was it," he said.

That advice seemed to pay off as Owatonna played better in the second half.

"We typically play better in the second half. Why, I have no idea but in the second half we dominated play and transitioned effectively," Gendron said.

Thanks to their improved play, the Huskies eventually tied the game, 2-2, when Oien scored her second goal of the game.

"We did a great job controlling the ball and we were able to crash their net and didn't give their defense a chance to clear the ball," he said.

However, in order to force overtime, Owatonna had to hold Northfield scoreless in the second half and Gendron said his defense did that by marking the Raiders' star goal scorer Ava Stanchina tighter.

Meanwhile, the Huskies' offense continued to play aggressively in the second half and overtime.

"They wanted the win. We switched a players and had positions rotated a bit to think more offensively," he said.

In overtime, Owatonna senior Anna Herzog scored the game-winning goal to keep the Huskies' season alive.

Gendron said Herzog and Oien both played really well throughout the game.

While those two were two of the main reasons Owatonna was successful against Northfield, he explained that the Huskies' nine seniors have been integral to their team's success throughout the season.

"They are the foundation of this team. Holding everything together and keeping it a family mentality," he said.

Two of the seniors will continue to play soccer in college. Emma Dahmert will play Division II at SW State University in Marshall, and Anna Herzog will play at UW-Stout.

Despite losing a good portion of his varsity roster, Gendron believes the future is bright for the Huskies. "We have a strong core returning from varsity and also players moving up in the system. We'll be a team that pushes for top rankings."

Blossoms blanked by Vikings in net action

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS EDITOR

The Blooming Prairie volleyball team got off to a rough start, didn't play much better in the second set and while they were more competitive in the third set, it wasn't enough to prevent Hayfield from sweeping them 25-10, 25-12 and 25-17 on Thursday, Oct. 29.

The Vikings took control of the first set from the get-go by winning the first seven points.

Blooming Prairie Head Coach Jennifer Wayne explained that her team's defense struggled with finding the right response to Hayfield's offense.

"They were tipping and we seemed to have a little bit of hard time reading when they were going to tip. Also, their first server was pretty good and we struggled with serve receive right away," she said.

Ever when the Awesome Blossoms won the serve back, they weren't able to keep it long and Hayfield stretched its lead to 15-2.

Blooming Prairie played better in the second half of the first set, but the Vikings ended up winning that set 25-10.

Wayne said one reason her team didn't fare well in the first set is because, "We're still trying to move players around to figure out what our best rotation is."

Before the second set, she encouraged the Awesome Blossoms to pick up the pace, especially since this was their Homecoming game and they already knew the football team wouldn't be playing later that week.

"This is our shot. We have to lay it all out on the all line," she told her team.

Nevertheless, the second set wasn't much

better for Blooming Prairie as Hayfield once again got off to an early lead, 6-1, extended its lead to double digits and ended up winning 25-12.

The third set, however, was a different story as the Awesome Blossoms grabbed its first lead of the night, 2-1.

The Vikings responded with a 12-3 run to take a 13-5 lead, but Blooming Prairie rallied and got within four points, 12-16. Unfortunately, that's as close as the Awesome Blossoms would get as the Vikings won the decisive third set 25-17.

Despite being swept, Wayne was happy with the improved play she saw from her team in the third set.

"We definitely had more energy. We acted like we wanted to win that one more by sprawling out for the ball a little bit more. We were also able to do a little better blocking in the third set," she said.



Blooming Please senior Micalyn Trihus (15) hits the ball past two Hayfield blockers. The Awesome Blossoms celebrated their seven seniors, including Trihus, after the game. The six other seniors are: Captain Maggie Bruns, Allison Krohnberg, Halle Strunk, Maren Forystek, Megan Oswald and Anna Kittleson.

"I've seen bright spots, but we can't keep losing games 10-25 or 12-25. We need to be quicker to the ball, we're struggling a bit in the back row and our hitters are having a bit of trouble getting kills."

Maggie Bruns led the way for the Awesome Blossoms with 38 set attempts.

"She's been playing pretty steady for us all year," Wayne said. After losing to the Vikings, the Awesome Blossoms weren't in a celebratory mood, but

they did celebrate their seven seniors with a program after the game.

The seniors are experiencing a very unusual season with limited fans and fewer games than normal, but Wayne said they're grateful just to have a season.

"They're hanging in there. They're thankful that we're being able to play each week and I think they're realizing that now with the boys unable to play football this past week," she said.

With about half the regular season left, she noted that the Awesome Blossoms will have to play a more well-rounded game to get ready for the playoffs.

"We need to work together and put everything together at once and I just don't think we've been able to do that every game," she said.

The Awesome Blossoms (2-4) will get another shot to put everything together when they host Medford at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 5.



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Medford seniors Josiah Hedensten (17) and Brayden Beede (55) carry the paddle in celebration along with other team members following their victory over Faribault Bethlehem Academy 33-11 Friday night.



Josiah Hedensten (17) leaps in the air for the ball as Faribault defenders look on. Medford's victory over BA improved the team's record to 3-1. Medford hosts Randolph Friday night in a game that will feature Sack the Cancer fundraiser.



Jack Paulson attempts to get around a Faribault BA defender in Friday's game. Paulson scored a 52-yard rushing touchdown to help the Tigers beat BA.

Second-half surge leads Tigers to the paddle

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS EDITOR

The Medford football team achieved 327 yards of offense while Tigers' defense held the Bethlehem Academy Cardinals to just 104 yards of offense during its 33-11 win on Friday, Oct. 30.

The Cardinals actually scored the first touchdown of the game,

but the Tigers responded when Jack Paulson scored a 52-yard rushing touchdown to trim Medford's deficit to just one point, 7-8, in the second quarter.

Leading by just seven points, 14-8, Medford increased its lead to 21-8 when Paulson scored a 23-yard rushing touchdown.

SEE SECOND-HALF, B7

Three Huskies achieve state qualifying times at Section IAA Cross Country

Owatonna boys team earns third place

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS EDITOR

After winning the Big 9 Conference meet, Owatonna boys cross country coach David Chatelaine knew the Huskies would face some tougher competition in the section meet.

"We talked about the intense competition and about using the same strategy as we did for the Big 9 meet - tuck in behind Century and the Lakeville teams and try to pull away during the last mile," he said.

That advice paid off as the Huskies achieved their best section finish they've had since 2013 when they also placed third.

"Looking at the athletes graduating from the two teams who finished ahead of us, things look real good for next year," he said.

One of Owatonna's top performing runners coming back next year is Preston Meier who ran a season-best time of 16:39 to earn fourth place overall.

Chatelaine said Meier has become such a strong runner due to all the extra work he's put in during the summer and outside of practice.

"Preston ran over 500 miles during the summer to prepare for the season. He works hard in practice everyday and does extra running on Sundays on his own," he said. "He's probably our team MVP."

He was also complimentary of a quartet of other Owatonna runners.

"Three runners on our team, Connor Ginskey, Jack Meiners and Trevor Hiatt, have formed a strong pack and their close finishes as our number three, four and five runners have made a big difference for our team this year. Our number two runner Brayden

Williams has worked on finishing closer to Preston in the races. This is also a strong point for our team," he said.

While all five of those runners, including Meier, will be coming back next year, one runner who will graduate this spring is Evan Buck who's been a member of the team for the past five years.

"Evan has worked hard to get to the level he is at. He has been a great captain for us this year and has done an excellent job leading the team," Chatelaine said.

He added that Buck is still thinking about whether to run in college.

Despite losing Buck's leadership, he thinks next fall could be a special season for the Owatonna boys cross country team.

"Our team will be mature next year with several experienced seniors. We also have several underclassmen who are talented. Next year should be an exciting one for us. Hopefully it will be a normal season," he said.

GIRLS TAKE FOURTH

Like the boys team, the Owatonna girls cross country team had momentum on the side after winning the Big 9 Conference meet, but Head Coach Daniel Leer knew it would be difficult for the Huskies to duplicate their Big 9 success against stiffer competition, specifically Farmington and Lakeville South.

"We knew the top two teams of the section were going to be two of the elite teams in the state. At this point of the season we have to sharpen our focus and get mentally prepared. The girls have been training hard for these big meets since June," he said.

That training was critical as Owatonna not only had to face the talented Farmington and Lakeville South teams, but also Rochester Century who performed better than they did at the Big 9 Conference meet.

"Century came back and got us this week after we beat them at the Big 9 meet, but they're a really good team," he said.

Even though Century had a better section finish, Leer was pleased with the Huskies effort at the section meet and throughout the season.

"I'm very happy with our girls and how they competed all year," he said.

One runner who was especially proud of was senior Zinash Valen.

"I thought Zinash's race was huge for her. After struggling a bit at the Big 9 she had one of her best races at Sections," he said.

In addition to Valen, Carsyn Brady and Jaci Burtis also had strong races. In fact, all three of them improved their times by 25

seconds or more since their meet on Saturday, Sept. 26.

The improvements by Brady and Valen were enough for them to finish 16th and 17th, respectively, at the Section IAA cross country meet. Both would have qualified for the state meet - it was Brady's second state qualifying time and Valen's first state qualifying time.

"It was awesome to see Zinash make it in her senior year. Unfortunately, this was the year of no state meet [due to COVID-19]," Leer said.

He explained that Brady and Valen's success can be attributed to their commitment to running year-round.

"With cross country, it's about the time you put in in the offseason that makes the season successful and these girls have been very dedicated to their summer running," he said.

He added that Valen in particular made significant improvements this year.

"Zinash really came into her own this year. She's always had the talent and the work ethic, but more than any other year, this year she stepped up and really competed," he said.

Leer said he doesn't know if Valen, a six-year cross country member, will pursue cross country at the collegiate level.

However, besides Valen, everyone else on the Owatonna girls cross country team returns next year. With so many experienced runners coming back next year, he's optimistic about the team's future.

"I think anytime you can find success with underclassmen on the team, it benefits the future," Leer said. "Nothing is set in stone though. The girls know they will have to continue their hard work to hold onto their spots."



Owatonna junior Preston Meier celebrates after coming in fourth place in the Section IAA Cross Country Meet. His time of 16:39.08 would have qualified him for the second straight trip to the State Meet.



On the girls' side, both Carsyn Brady, right, and Zinash Valen would have qualified for the State Meet. Brady finished with a time of 19:55.69 while Valen finished in 20:11.03. They earned 16th and 17th place, respectively.

Huskies lose heart-breaker to Monticello

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS EDITOR

After beating their last two opponents by a combined 62-0, the Owatonna football team was just hoping to get out of town with a win against the Monticello Magic when they lined up for a last-second field goal, but the attempt was botched and the Huskies lost 6-7 on Friday, Oct. 30.

Even though they were playing an unfamiliar foe, Owatonna Head Coach Jeff Williams said his team was grateful to be playing anyone after their previously scheduled game was canceled due to Covid-19 concerns.

"We appreciated Monticello's willingness to play us on short notice. Our kids were excited to have the opportunity to play," he said.

The Huskies' excitement was evident as both their offense and defense got off to fast starts.

Owatonna scored the first points of the game when Brayden Truelson found

Connor Budach in the end zone for a 15-yard touchdown. The extra point attempt was blocked so the Huskies led 6-0 at the end of the first quarter.

Meanwhile, Owatonna's defense was still flailing, holding Monticello to 24 yards of offense and just two first downs in the first half.

"I thought our defense played well and kept us in the game. We got a couple of turnovers and some import-

ant stops to end drives. Our tackling was pretty solid for the most part," Williams said.

However, in the second half, the roles reversed as the Huskies' offense struggled to keep the chains moving.

"We failed to get into any sort of rhythm offensively. Monticello's stunting and angling caused us some difficulties up front and they did a nice job of mixing coverages to stifle our passing game. They were well coached and aggressive," he said.

Meanwhile, Monticello's offense executed better after halftime, culminating in a 15-yard rushing touchdown. After making the extra point attempt the Magic led 7-6 midway through the third quarter.

Late in the fourth quarter, the Huskies found a way to string a few first downs together and got in good position to kick a would-be game-winning field goal, but the snap was botched so Owatonna suffered its first regular season loss since 2017.

"Special teams is an area we must continue to improve. We made too many mistakes and the game turned on these miscues," Williams said.

He added that the Huskies will have to correct those mistakes in order to beat Mankato West who they host at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 6. "We have a lot of work to do if we expect to contend with an outstanding team like Mankato West."

GAME SUMMARY

Monticello 7, Huskies 6

Owatonna	0	0	0	0-6
Monticello	0	0	0	0-7

PASSING	Comp-Att	Yds.	TD	Int.
Brayden Truelson	13-29	112	1	3

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Truelson	10	43	4.3	0
Tanner Hall	29	54	3.7	0

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Payton Beyer	6	57	9.5	
Tyrel Creger	2	21	10.5	
Caleb Vereide	3	11	3.7	
Connor Budach	1	13	13	1

TACKLES	Solo	Assist	Total
Zach Stranksy	3	8	11
Connor Budach	7	0	7
G. Achterkirch	5	2	7
Lane Wagner	4	1	5
Cole Earles	2	3	5
Gavin Rein	4	1	5

Roasting a visit with Straight River



Ambassadors from the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism visit with Straight River Coffee, LLC at 435 26th St. NE in Owatonna to welcome them as a new member. Scott and Pam Haglund are the owners. Straight River Coffee provides roasted coffee, brewing equipment and coffee-related education. Wholesale and fundraising opportunities are available to businesses and organizations.

A PART OF HISTORY: on auction block FROM B1

mit buildings, whatever the story is.

Steffes Group and its contributing divisions are primarily engaged in the liquidation and management of Ag related assets.

Since 1960, Steffes have been busy selling everything from the latest combines and tractors to tillable farm acreage to hay and livestock. Although its primary focus is Ag related, Steffes also regularly sells and is readily able to market an array of assets like construction equipment, large estates, and an assortment of business holdings.

The company was founded in 1960 by Robert (Bob) Steffes, who primarily performed farm and livestock auctions. In 1984, the business incorporated and moved all company operations to Fargo.

From that time forward the company has experienced a continued growth pattern and an expansion of its service offerings. Steffes now has locations in North Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa.

If you go west on Steele County Road 26 for about three miles, you will see the creamery and former store on



The old Summit Store was converted into a home by Jarrod Paul. He bought the store and creamery buildings in 1997. He passed away this past summer. His estate sale begins online on Oct. 28 and continues until Nov. 4.

your left. An old truck, 1938 Thames vehicle, was parked out front with a dummy in it.

Referencing an article in the Owatonna People's Press by Todd Hale, one will learn that the Summit Store opened in 1907 and was originally run by Louis and Frank Schisler.

In the early days, the store was part of a small business hub in Summit which included the Summit Creamery, Anton Kubicek's blacksmith shop, the school building (Dis-

trict 95), a creamery building and a post office which was originally located in a farm house a half mile north of the store.

The creamery was closed in 1956 and eventually served as a storehouse for feed, fertilizer and seed for the Summit Store.

The Summit Store was a family business for nearly three quarters of a century.

Personal items for sale include tools, vehicles and some household items. The vehicles in-

clude a 1969 Dodge Dart, a 1999 Dodge RAM 1500, 1970 Dodge D-500 truck and a 1938 Thames (hot rod project).

Agent Skov, who resides in Kasson, said he has had many inquiries about the sale.

Call 507-272-4818 and set up a free account, urges Skov.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
Thanks to Renee Massingham, daughter of Jarrod Paul, and to Brock Skov of the Steffes Group for making background material available.

HANDS-ON EDUCATION: Area students explore various careers FROM B1

es have provided, as well as the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce. "The local businesses are amazing," Kath said. "They truly want to have an impact on our students and on our schools. It's absolutely an investment in each other."

The real-world experiences available to students through the program are invaluable, and can lead to successful careers in any industry down the line. "What it does is try to connect the experience they have in the classroom with actual industry," Kath said. "Some students leave to go off to technical schools or college, but we would love for them to come back and work in the community."

So far, the program has served more than 250 students and shows no signs of slowing down as more and more local businesses are taking part. "The more opportunities I have to offer the students the more it broadens their horizons," Zak said. "We are such a great hub of so many wonderful businesses here."

"Anisha's amazing, she does a great job of connecting with students and understanding their skills and passion," Kath said of Zak's role. "She really puts the students first." In its three years and counting, the SteeleCoWorks has, like Zak, continued to put the students first.



MEDFORD SACKS: cancer to help one of its own FROM B1

donations will be given to Calab to help him with medical expenses. Calab will be a special guest at the game along with his wife Val, daughter Cici and parents, Scott and Jackie Svenby, also of Medford.

The family is happy the football group is stepping up to help Calab during this great time of need. "We haven't been too crazy about spreading the word," Ty admits. But, he added, he is glad they are doing something.

"I can't imagine the financial strain," Ty said. "It's a tough

time for a person to go through the amount of medical bills," he added. Ty said this is about the third time the Tiger Touchdown Club, which is a fairly new organization, has helped a family battling cancer. "It goes to show what small communities are like," Ty said. "People care about everybody's well being in town. It shows how tight-knit small town life is all about."

The battle hasn't only been tough physically on Calab, but also mentally on him and the rest of his family, especially almost

2-year-old Cici. "He has had a tough time in parenthood," Ty said of his brother. It has been especially difficult for Cici, who will soon turn 2 years old. "They are connected at the hip," Ty says. "She was restless when he was in the hospital."

Earlier this year, Calab underwent daily radiation treatments. And once COVID-19 hit, he had to be dropped off at the hospital as nobody could go with him inside.

While attending Medford High School, Calab participated in

football, wrestling and baseball. He graduated in 2009. Ty credits Calab's tenacity with football in helping to pull him through this crisis. "There have been times he could have quit, but football has helped," Ty said. "He has shown how to put your nose down and plow your way to the end and push through it."

Chemotherapy, Ty said, has wiped Calab out during this battle. Calab has missed a lot of work. "His body can't take much more than just resting," Ty said.

PUBLIC RECORD

STEELE COUNTY BIRTHS DECEMBER 2019

Odin Michael Getzke, Parents: Melissa and John, Dec. 1.
Leo Derek Busho, Parents: Stacey and Steven, Dec. 3.
Romina Corazon Rodriguez, Parents: Nicole Vargas and Abraam Rodriguez, Dec. 3.
Ocella Carolina Westphal, Parents: Aileen Gutierrez and Dylan Westphal, Dec. 3.
Evianna Michelle McKelly, Parents: Brittney Mead and Tavean McKelly, Dec. 5.
Alexander Jacob Judge, Parents: Alyssa and Aaron, Dec. 7.
Darby Grace Borge, Parents: Jennifer and Paul, Dec. 8.
William Thomas Souba, Parents: Brooke Camerer and Andrew Souba, Dec. 9.
Brycen Leon Froehlich, Parents: Tabitha and Dakota, Dec. 10.
Zachary James Kusick, Parents: Jessica and Mitchell, Dec. 11.
Thieu Michael Ajak, Parents: Rachel Thuch and Michael Dau, Dec. 11.
Gregg Cecil Finch, Parents: Joy and Gregg, Dec. 11.
Jemma Rose Haslip, Parents: Aja and James, Dec. 11.
Lydia Amelio Silver, Parents: Cheyenne Doshier, Dec. 13.
Anna Marie Carroll, Parents: Stephanie and Travis, Dec. 13.
Octavio Louise Andersen, Parents: Kayla and Dyan, Dec. 13.
Eleanor Jean Oeltjenbruns, Parents: Alissa and Tyler, Dec. 15.
Iris Wunder Beaver, Parents: Schynga and Nicholas, Dec. 16.
Willow Lee Anderson, Parents: Taryn and Justin, Dec. 17.
Jasper Cash Salinas, Parents: Veronica Spittgerber and Christopher Salinas, Dec. 17.
Jaxon Paul Wilson, Parents: Danielle and Michael, Dec. 18.
Justin Michael Aure, Parent: Jacqueline Farwell, Dec. 19.
Rayna Louise Diaz, Parents: Hannah and Stephen, Dec. 19.
Akash Manokar, Parents: Anushka Manohar and Manokar Chinnadurai, Dec. 20.
Yuliams Gael Cruz-Cruz, Parents: Geydi and Pedro, Dec. 20.
Dustin Matthew Shuck, Parents: Mikayla and Dustin, Dec. 26.
Temperance Ann Shuck, Parents: Mikayla and Dustin, Dec. 26.
Cooper Daniel Kruger, Parents: Kelly and Kurt, Dec. 27.
Vance Robert Wetmore, Parents: Christina and Jeffrey, Dec. 28.
Abdullah Khalil Yusuf, Parents: Fatumo Mursali and Khalil Mursali, Dec. 28.
Maisie Linda Dobberstein, Parents: Melissa and Jeffrey, Dec. 31.

STEELE COUNTY DEATHS DEATH 2019

Norma Lou Hafstad, 66, Ellendale, Dec. 2.
Ruth Irene Hermann, 96, Owatonna, Dec. 4.
Mary Eleanor Nelson, 64, Owatonna, Dec. 4.
Lavern Glen Enzenauer, 84, Owatonna, Dec. 4.
Vivian Maria Sardu, 71, Owatonna, Dec. 8.
Garret Lee Briggs, 46, Ellendale, Dec. 9.
Ralph James Rogness, 82, Owatonna, Dec. 9.
Oscar George Dalle, 80, Owatonna, Dec. 11.
Wilma May Chappuis, 88, Owatonna, Dec. 12.
Anita Jean Swedberg, 86, Owatonna, Dec. 13.
Lowell George Schultz, 82, Owatonna, Dec. 15.
Gary Emil Kriesel, 78, Owatonna, Dec. 16.
Roland Charles Moore, 77, Owatonna, Dec. 17.
Gary L. Barnick, 59, Owatonna, Dec. 21.
Lerald E. Farrow, 91, Blooming Prairie, Dec. 24.
Kathleen Kath, 88, Owatonna, Dec. 25.
Melford Andrew Freshman, 89, Medford, Dec. 27.
Giles Max Christenson, 74, Medford, Dec. 28.
Steven Ray Karsten, 68, Owatonna, Dec. 31.

STEELE COUNTY MARRIAGES DECEMBER 2019

Evangelina Pauline Saucedo and Brady Dean Walchauer, Dec. 3.
Jack Callahan Schwabbe and Hanna Lilly Young, Dec. 7.
Michael Dwayne Atkins and Louise Madeline Pete, Dec. 14.
Allison Kathy Stern and Andrew Nicholas Cavazos, Dec. 16.
Garrett O'Neill Elias and Kristen Marie King, Dec. 27.
Marvin Renell Walker and Risharia Tyesha Adams, Dec. 31.

STEELE COUNTY DIVORCES DECEMBER 2019

Sara Kaul Wallace and Patrick Robert Wallace, Dec. 6.
Jessica Lois Rodenkirchen and Rainer Jackson Rodenkirchen, Dec. 10.
Andrea Lynn Gaffke and Dustin James Gaffke, Dec. 17.
Ileys Omar Osman and Ismail Ahmed Mohamed, Dec. 23.
Kara Lee Spindler and Ryan Charles Spindler, Dec. 23.
Alison Louise Sellers and Taryn Renee Sellers, Dec. 24.
Isaac Thomas Jr. and Rosemary Watkins, Dec. 26.

SACK THE CANCER FUNDRAISER

When: Friday, Nov. 6
Where: Medford Football Game
What: Donations to benefit Calab Svenby, who is battling colorectal cancer

He added Nagel's has been really good to him by allowing him to stay away from the strenuous work of landscaping and sodding by driving truck and mowing lawns.

The Svenbys don't have any idea what caused Calab's cancer, but a grandfather on his dad's side had a similar-type cancer, which makes them think it may be heredity related.

Calab has one goal in mind, according to Ty. Calab wants to be done with chemotherapy by the time he and Ty go on a Wisconsin hunting trip around Thanksgiving time.

"He can see the light at the end of the tunnel," Ty says. There is no doubt Calab is ready to sack cancer with the help of the community surrounding him.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

- NOV. 7**
5 p.m. – Quilts of Valor Dinner, Servicemen's Club
- NOV. 9**
7 p.m. – City Council Meeting
- NOV. 10**
2:30 p.m. – BPPU Meeting
4:30 p.m. – Fire Commission Meeting
5 p.m. – EDA Meeting
- NOV. 11**
Noon – Veteran's Day Dinner, Servicemen's Club
- NOV. 17**
5 p.m. – Ambulance Commission Meeting
- NOV. 18**
Noon – Chamber Meeting, Council Chambers
4 p.m. – Police Advisory Committee Meeting
- NOV. 19**
7 p.m. – BP Cancer Group Turkey Bingo, Pizza Cellar

ELLEDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

- NOV. 6**
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
- NOV. 9**
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
7 p.m. – Berlin Township Meeting, Community Building
- NOV. 11**
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
- NOV. 12**
7:30 p.m. – Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

- NOV. 9**
4:30 p.m. – Owatonna Park Board Meeting, City Hall
7 p.m. – Steele County Board of Adjustments Meeting, County Admin Building
- NOV. 10**
9:30 a.m. – Garden Time, Owatonna Library
10:30 a.m. – Storytime Online with Daria, Facebook Live
5 p.m. – Steele County Board Meeting, County Admin Building
- NOV. 11**
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
- NOV. 12**
10:30 a.m. – Storytime Online with Daria, Facebook Live
5 p.m. – Airport Commission Meeting, Airport Lounge

AAUW is set to spice things up

"Do You Know What's In Your Spice Cake?" What are the botanical and geographic origins of cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, allspice, vanilla, sugar, etc.? How are the plant parts harvested and processed? How do some of these ingredients relate to historical events? Members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Owatonna invite interested guests and potential members to find out by attending their November meeting via Zoom on Monday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m.

This new location allows ample space for social distancing; masks will be required except while eating. Monday, Nov. 9 is the deadline for dinner reservation at \$20 per person. Dinner menu choices include entree of either wild rice stuffed chicken, or smoked pork chop, accompanied with salad, potato, vegetable, and light dessert. Guests must specify choice of entree when registering. The program will include the annual report, introduction of the new Executive Director Kellen Hinrichsen, volunteer awards, and election of five SCHS board members. If you have any further questions, please contact SCHS at 507-451-1420.

Presidential wannabees



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Vict President Joe Biden and President Donald Trump are still growing up. In reality the little presidential candidates are Ida Hansen, 4, left, and Piper Hansen, 2. They went trick-or-treating on Halloween as the presidential candidates. The girls are children of Matt and Lisa Hansen of Savage and grandparents of Darrell and Cindi Hansen of Blooming Prairie. Matt is a graduate of Blooming Prairie High School.

Annual meeting of Historical Society planned for Nov. 12

The Steele County Historical Society announces its annual meeting to be held at 5 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 12, in the upper room of Torey's Restaurant, Owatonna.

This new location allows ample space for social distancing; masks will be required except while eating. Monday, Nov. 9 is the deadline for dinner reservation at \$20 per person. Dinner menu choices include entree of either wild rice stuffed chicken, or smoked pork chop, accompanied with salad, potato, vegetable, and light dessert. Guests must specify choice of entree when registering. The program will include the annual report, introduction of the new Executive Director Kellen Hinrichsen, volunteer awards, and election of five SCHS board members. If you have any further questions, please contact SCHS at 507-451-1420.

SECOND-HALF: surge leads Tigers to the paddle FROM B5

In the fourth quarter, the Tigers added a 35-yard field goal to extend its lead to 30-8.

The two teams exchanged field goals in the final quarter to give Medford a 33-11 win.

Offensively, Paulson led the Tigers with 173 rushing yards and three touchdowns. Josiah Hedensten added 65 rushing yards and one touchdown. Quarterback Justin Ristau ran for 45 yards and threw for 42 yards, all of which were gained

by receiver Kael Hermsmanstorf.

Defensively, Hedensten accumulated an impressive 19 total tackles and forced one fumble. Paulson tallied total tackles and recovered one fumble. Gavin Hermes added four total tackles, one sack and forced one fumble while Tyler Buck recovered one fumble.

Medford (3-1) will celebrate Senior Night and Tackle Cancer night when they host Randolph (3-1) at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 6.



Area Veteran's Day Observances

Sunday, Nov. 8
Owatonna VFW Club
135 Oakdale St.
5 p.m. Social Hour
6 p.m. Dinner (Call ahead for reservations)

After Meal Veterans Patriotic Program
** Masks required and social distancing enforced**

Steele County Courthouse
11 a.m. Flag Raising Ceremony

Owatonna Legion
137 W. Broadway St.
11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free meal for veterans and their families

Elks Club-Owatonna
126 E. Vine St.
5 p.m. Free Dinner for veterans (call ahead for reservations and free will donation for family members)

6 p.m. Program

Wednesday, Nov. 11
Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club
9:30 a.m. Coffee and Cookies
10:50 a.m. Line up for ceremony with fourth graders
11 a.m. Flag Raising Ceremony (trifle sale, pledge and Taps)
11:30 a.m. Free Meal for veterans in Liberty Room

KJLY Christian Radio to host Share-a-thon

KJLY Christian Radio serving southern Minnesota will be celebrating its 37th year of on-air broadcasting during its annual "Share-a-thon" Nov. 10-12.

Featuring this year's theme of "For Such a Time," the Share-a-thon fundraiser will feature interviews with local listeners, special guests, music and a number of events. Share-a-thon will also provide listeners and friends the opportunity to share a tax-deductible donation with the listener-supported ministry of KJLY.

KJLY is part of the nonprofit and listener-supported "Kinship Christian Radio" ministry which has grown from a single radio station formed in

1983 to now serve most of southern Minnesota and northern Iowa through its eight full power stations and 14 translator repeater stations.

KJLY's goal is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ through its 24-hour daily presentation of Christian Bible teaching programs, music, news and information.

KJLY can be heard in the Steele County area at 98.9FM.

In addition to the Share-a-thon broadcast, the three day on-air celebration will feature a number of free events.

For more information regarding Share-a-thon or the events, visit KinshipRadio.org or call KJLY at 800-810-5559.

Holiday tea party set for Dunnell House

The Steele County Historical Society is taking reservations for the Children's Victorian Tea, which will be held on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 10:30 a.m. to Noon or 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Dunnell House.

Tables will be placed throughout the Dunnell House for this fun, pre-holiday event. Children will listen to the story "Twas the Night Before Christmas, eat dainty sandwiches and desserts, as well

as receive a take-home holiday craft. Holiday piano music will be played during your meal. Come dressed in your holiday best for this special day!

Reservations can be made by calling 507-451-1420. The cost of the event is \$20 per adult/child combination and \$10 for additional persons in your group. Face coverings will be required, social distancing will prevail, and hand sanitizer will be available at the door.

Sudoku Corner

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

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Answers

Z	9	6	8	1	7	9	1	8
7	8	8	1	6	9	2	2	9
1	9	2	9	8	2	8	6	7
6	8	2	8	7	1	9	9	2
9	2	7	6	9	8	1	8	2
8	1	9	2	9	2	7	8	6
9	6	1	9	2	8	2	7	8
2	2	9	7	8	6	8	9	1
8	7	8	2	1	9	6	2	9



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STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

SAMANTHA UPHAM'S BABYSITTING/NANNY services I'm a 15-year-old honors student entering my sophomore year at Kasson High School. I have babysitting experience and have been through a class specific for caring for young children. I am best suited to care for toddlers through young teens. Available 7 days a week and can be very flexible with times. I will ensure a summer full of fun! (ref-

erences upon request) 507-358-3415 10/28/20

TWO BROTHERS looking to mow lawns. \$20 depending on lawn size. Please contact Hayden or Russell at 507-923-3277. 11/01/20

CALEB'S PET SITTING, Cats and Dogs, please call me at 507-634-7907. 10/28/20

BRIANNA'S LAWN CARE SERVICES. Mowing, trimming, complete yard cleanup. Weekly or on call. Satisfaction guaranteed. FREE estimates. Call 507-421-7945. 11/01/20

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GARAGE SALE

NEW HUNTING ACCESSORIES FOR SALE! Pistol cleaning kit, \$13.99; AR barrel cooler, \$49.99; wildlife attractor caller \$19.99; Buck antler mounting kits, \$14.99; PLUS, all new with tags clothing and sports jerseys 50% off. Plus, lots

of new items great gifts for Christmas! Dano's Consignment Store, 32 E. Main St., Dodge Center. Open M-F 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. 11/01/20

FOR RENT

FOR RENT: 1 bedroom/bath country home with garage near Blooming Prairie. Just Remodeled. Please respond to: P O Box 903, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917. 10/27/20

BLOOMING PRAIRIE RENTALS 1 bd smoke free apt for 62+ or disabled persons. Rent based on income & all utilities included. 507-438-7935 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity 11/04/21

FOR RENT: Large Apartment on Main Street, Kasson. Call 507-319-6762. 10/28/20

FOR SALE

AGED HORSE MANURE for the garden connoisseur. Courtesy of Lady Maggie. Call Madeline to place your spring order. \$4 for 5-gallon bucket or \$9 for a 13-gallon bag. Customers must provide bucket or bags. Call 507-634-6293. 11/01/20

BARGAIN FINDERS

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KING SIZE MATTRESS and box spring with frame. Old, but clean and comfy. \$5. Call 634-7788. 10/28/20

SHOWER BENCH with back and adjustable height seat. \$10. Call 634-7788. 10/28/20

BLACK AND DECKER cordless hedge trimmer. Only used twice. \$25. Call 634-7788. 10/28/20

REMINGTON ELECTRIC chain saw. \$20. Call 634-7788. 10/28/20

SKILLSAW with two extra blades. \$10. Call 634-7788. 10/28/20

SHOP VAC with accessories. \$10. Call 634-7788. 10/28/20

SHEET MIRROR approximately 40-inches by 48-feet. \$5. Call 634-7788. 10/28/20

CHRISTMAS TREE 7.5 feet slim with 3,588 tips and 550 lights. Only used twice. \$25. Call 634-7788. 10/28/20

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED cook to work afternoons/evenings and weekends. Experience helpful. Must be a team player. Apply at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club or call 507-319-2070 for more information. 10/21/20

HELP WANTED: Dairy farm looking for milkers. F/T, P/T, evening shifts. Every other weekend required. Call Heather at 507-481-4292. 10/28/20

BARTENDER needed at the American Legion in Dodge Center. Call 507-258-7241. 10/27/20

COINS

NEED CASH? I give free appraisals of your older coins from 1954 and older. I am also looking to buy older coins such as silver dollars, halves, quarters, dimes, wheat and Indianhead cents. Please call Ron from Hayfield at 507-477-2427 or 507-259-6460. 10/15/20

MOBILE HOME FOR SALE

FOR SALE: 2020 16' x 80', 3-bedroom, 2 bath mobile home. Located at Colonial Manor, Owatonna. \$109,000. Call 507-838-5459. 10/27/20

HUNTERS

INTERESTED IN TEACHING my GSP dog to hunt? Fast learner, 6-years-old, agile and fast. Has been trained in basic commands. She can do overnights, if bonding goes well. Call 507-635-3410. 10/28/20



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11/07/21



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11/07/21

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OWATONNA PROUD

B10 | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020

OWATONNA SCHOOLS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Red Ribbon Week: Annual drug prevention celebration

BY NANCY WILLIAMS

Even during these uncertain times, we look for ways to promote a healthy lifestyle for our youth. Substance use and abuse has been on the rise during our global pandemic. Our schools and community celebrated Red Ribbon Week during the month of October. This is an annual national drug prevention celebration. The D.E.A. estimates

that over 80 million people nationwide celebrate this event. Adults can support our youth to make a pledge to live a drug-free life. During Red Ribbon Week (Oct. 26-30) OHS SHOC (Students Helping Others Choose) was active along with local Noon Kiwanis and the Steele County Safe and Drug Free Coalition. A variety of activities were hosted for our youth. Our schools

had red decorations adorning hallways, pledge banners and OMS/OHS prevention lunch booths. There was a fourth grade drug prevention poster contest. These posters were displayed in local storefronts as well as in the schools. The Red Ribbon Week Kickoff drive-through event was held at the Owatonna Fairgrounds Foundation Building. Students

wore their halloween costumes and drove through with their parents. SHOC students handed out bags of halloween treats and prizes to all the kids. The coalition shared literature with parents about how to help keep their kids healthy and drug free. Support our youth and encourage each of them to make a pledge to live a healthy, drug-free lifestyle!



Nancy Williams is a social worker and SHOC advisor at Owatonna High School.

Board recognizes a teacher who inspires excellence

Each month at its regular meeting, the School Board of Owatonna Public Schools recognizes individual students and/or staff members who exemplify the district's mission of inspiring excellence - every learner, every day. On Oct. 26, Shaun Robbins, Owatonna Middle School industrial tech teacher, was recognized for his volunteer work for Shields of Steele. Robbins was



Shaun Robbins has been recognized for his volunteer work with Shields of Steele.

one of the first people to volunteer for Shields of Steele to help create face shields during the pandemic. He delivered 30 shields a night throughout the spring, and he continued to volunteer throughout the summer. We are #OwatonnaProud of our staff and students for living our mission of inspiring excellence and helping to provide a safe and caring community!

Flu Vaccination Clinic by Homeland Health Specialists

Did you know 1 in 5 Americans get the flu each year? Don't let the flu stop you! Stop by the ISD 761 Roosevelt Community School-sponsored flu vaccination clinic. Minimum age is 6 months & up.



Saturday, Nov. 7, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Roosevelt Community School, 122 McKinley St. East, Owatonna
Homeland Health accepts the following insurance plans: America's PPO, HealthPartners, PreferredOne, Aetna, Medica, PrimeWest, United Health Care, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Medicare, South Country Health Alliance. If you don't have an insurance plan from one of the companies listed, vaccinations may be purchased the day of the clinic. Cost if uninsured (over 18 years): injection \$35, or FluMist (if available) \$40. Homeland Health is a MN Vaccines for Children Provider and will offer flu vaccine to uninsured children 6 months to 18 years of age. Homeland Health is Medicare certified and provides vaccinations to Medicare patients. They will bill Medicare or your health plan. Your flu shot is a covered benefit by your Medi-care Part B or Advantage Health Plan. Bring your Medicare and Supplemental Insurance Card to the clinic.



Creativity flows at Wilson

Submitted photo
Creative minds are flowing out of Wilson Elementary School in Owatonna. Wilson first graders recently had a blast exploring their Tinker Tubs. Students stretched their engineering brains and developed all sorts of new creations.

New club for girls starts at high school

Owatonna High School is starting a new club! Girls United started in Hopkins as a seventh grader was feeling gender inequality from statements her peers were making. This led to weekly meetings to help find ways to empower girls. The mission statement of Girls United is "to organize participant-led weekly meetings, to discuss pressing social issues, and host

community events that support and inspire young women. Girls United MN is a group led by girls for girls (and our allies), that discusses and takes action on relevant social topics, gains knowledge from professionals, and inspires younger generations." Girls United meets virtually on select Wednesday mornings. You can follow on Instagram @ohs.girlsunitedmn.

It's time to converse with the superintendent

The community is invited to join Superintendent Jeff Elstad for a virtual "coffee and conversation" on Friday, Nov. 13 at 8:30 a.m. Hear an update on what's been happening within the school district and bring any questions you have. RSVP by emailing shoffman@isd761.org by the end of the day on Wednesday, Nov. 11 to receive the virtual meeting details. We hope you are able to participate!

OHS Girls Cross Country claim the Big 9

BY NICHOLAS WILLIAMS
OHS MAGNET

The Owatonna Girls Cross Country team finished its season on Oct. 15. As the season wrapped up, they hoped to finish strong with a great performance at sections. The Huskies were the second seed going into the Big 9 Conference meet behind Rochester Century. Despite being the second seed, the huskies finished first in the Big 9. The Big 9 meet was held on Thursday, Oct. 8 at The Owatonna Brooktree Golf Course. This was a promising season for the Huskies. Head coach Dan Leer said, "The season has been going very well, we have been pretty consistent all year long, and we've had a year of just running dual meets and tris because of COVID." The girls are very upset about not having a state tournament this year, but the team still wanted to have a great performance at sections and make Owatonna proud.



Carsyn Brady finished 16th in the section meet and would have qualified for the state tournament.

Captain Madi Bruessel said, "I feel like our team has worked hard all season and is ready to go into sections with a good mindset." They did just that by finishing fourth at sections.

The section cross country meet was held in Owatonna at the Brooktree Golf Course on Thursday, Oct. 15, beginning at 4 p.m. Both Carsyn Brady and Zinash Valen would have qualified for state if it was being held this year.

Owatonna Students of the Week

Owatonna Elementary



Hazel Hansen
Second Grade
Parents: Michael and Emily Hansen
Hazel is an amazing Washington Way leader in the classroom. Not only does she demonstrate a great work ethic, she also strives to help others. Way to go, Hazel! Keep up the great work! We are very proud of you!

Owatonna Middle School



Jaden Meyer
Seventh Grade
Parents: Sarah Palacios and Joseph Meyer
Jaden is a respectful student who is willing to put in the necessary work to learn to play an instrument. He has an inquisitive mind, and he seeks out ways to keep it active and learning. He's kind to others and is always upbeat and pleasant. Keep up the great work, Jaden!

Owatonna High School



Fardouza Farah
Junior
Parents: Mahamud Farah and Fatima Jama
Fardouza transferred here last year and jumped right into Mock Trial and Speech Team. She is a great student who seeks out ways to better our school community, and she helps others whenever she can. You are a great addition to our school community, Fardouza! Keep up the great work!

RE-ELECT RICK GNEMI
Steele County District 3 Commissioner
RickGnemiforCommissioner.com
Prepared and Paid for by Rick Gnemi for County Commissioner



Let's keep your tax dollars working for you, not the other way around!