

VOTE CORKY EBELING
Steele County Commissioner
EXPERIENCE • COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT • VISION
Dedicated to be your FULL-TIME commissioner!

Prepared and paid for by Corky Ebeling Owatonna, Minnesota.



They are the dinosaur brothers. Wyatt, Colton and Alex Hemann are dressed in their dinosaur outfits in preparation for Halloween next week. Their front lawn has been turned into a special BOO! parade. The brothers are the sons of Misty and Paul Hemann of Blooming Prairie.

James Underwood estate given to BP Ed Foundation

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

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Mo., indicating that they were handling the Estate of James A. Underwood.

Olson was told that the late Mr. Underwood had left instructions in his estate documents

that the remainder of his estate was to be given to the Blooming Prairie School District for the purpose of scholarships for the “needy and deserving” high school graduates for

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The law office was informed that the BP Education Foundation handled the financial aspect of many schol-

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The Ed Foundation helps manage the distribution of donated monies because the BPEF is a registered 501(c)(3).

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Absentee voting exceeds record for Steele County

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

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able on Election Day because of COVID-19.

Ihrke expects overall voter turnout to be high because it's a presidential election. In 2016, Steele County's turnout was almost 83% while 2012 was 80%. Asked if she expects it to be even higher this year, Ihrke replied: “It could be. There has been a lot of publicity. Usually in presidential years it brings out a lot of

people to vote, which is a good thing.”

Ihrke reminds voters that her office is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for absentee voting. In addition, the auditor's office will accept absentee voters on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For those who received a ballot in the mail, they can fill it out

SEE **ABSENTEE, A8**

Crown Cork & Seal pays \$60K for violations in Owatonna

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Crown Cork's air permit limits its emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs, a class of commonly regulated air pollutants) to 100 tons a year, but the company disclosed that it exceeded that

limit, in its required reporting to the MPCA in March. In 2019, the facility exceeded its emissions limits by 2.9 tons in October, 1.7 tons in November, and 1 ton in December.

Increased demand for one of the facility's products caused the exceedances. The company's permit requires it to estimate the effect that increased output may have on emissions, and take steps to avoid exceeding the facility's permit limits. Failing to meet those

requirements violates state and federal laws. In addition to the civil penalty, the company had to take corrective actions to prevent future excess emissions.

MPCA rules and regulations are designed to protect human health and the environment by limiting pollution emissions and discharges from facilities. When companies do not fully comply with regulatory requirements, the resulting pollution can be harmful to

people and the environment.

When calculating penalties, the MPCA takes into account how seriously the violations affected the environment, whether they were first-time or repeat violations, and how promptly the violations were reported to authorities. The agency also attempts to recover the economic benefit the company gained by failing to comply with environmental laws in a timely manner.

Respectful, Accountable Leadership

VOTE Tom Shea 24a State Representative

Prepared and paid for by Elect Tom Shea 24a Committee, P.O. Box 187, Owatonna, MN 55060

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SEE ABSENTEE, A8

BP releases redacted chief's eval

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Bloomington Prairie city officials have released documents requested by the Steele County Times in regards to discipline against the city's police chief.

On Thursday, Oct. 15, City Attorney Jason Iacovino released a redacted document pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13.43. The document

provided the final disposition of disciplinary action against Police Chief Greg Skillestad and the specific reasons for the action and data documenting the basis of the action.

The release appears to be a reversal in course of action previously outlined by the city. In a meeting with the Times on Oct. 1, Iacovino and City Admin-

SEE BP RELEASES, A3

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County approves SRO in Medford Schools

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The effort to put a school resource officer in Medford Schools is one step closer to reality.

Last week the Steele County Board unanimously voted to approve a SRO for the Steele County Sheriff's Office. The position would be funded through a

\$125,000 Community Oriented Policing Services or COPS grant.

"This is great news for the safety of our children and staff in the schools," said Sheriff Len Thiele, noting this is the first time his office has received a COPS grant.

The last hurdle for the SRO position lies

SEE COUNTY APPROVES, A8

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OUR VIEW

It's your responsibility to get informed

This year is being called one of the most important elections in modern day history. U.S. citizens will be deciding who shall occupy the White House for the next four years—President Donald Trump or his opponent Joe Biden.

For many Americans, the stakes are high when it comes to this year's election. Seven in 10 Americans say the 2020 election is the most important in their lifetime.

With the country in the middle of the worst pandemic in at least a century and the economy tanking all across communities throughout America, the presidential election of 2020 has become perhaps more important than any other.

But the presidential election isn't the only race facing voters. There are also important state, county and local races that voters will decide who to keep in office or replace them with new blood.

This week the Steele County Times offers a special Voter's section of key races facing our region. This is an opportunity for citizens to get educated about the people running for office.

As we all know this year has been anything but normal. And that includes the election cycle. Candidates have not been able to campaign in normal ways. Campaign events, in-person meetings and door-to-door campaigning have for the most part been shuttered because of COVID-19.

We take the responsibility of educating voters very seriously. Our team of writers has tried to pose important questions to the candidates so that you know where they stand on certain issues. After all, an informed decision is the best course of operating.

We're not going to tell you who to vote for, but we want to give you a good basis of information so that you can make an informed decision about who to check on the ballot.

Your vote matters, and it's your responsibility to get informed about the candidates and issues facing our state, county, townships and local communities.



YOUR VIEW

We have choices to make

To the Editor:
It may seem we are in "unprecedented circumstances" that spell the end of democracy, but we've been here before. We have choices to make that will determine how we end up.

When I get up in the morning, I look in the mirror and look for those frowny, anger, and worry lines on my face. I take a moment, smooth them out and relax, smile, and then get a cup of coffee and plan how I will get through another day. It is a struggle.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if senators and representatives worked for the entire community not their cronies and the party? But then do we hold them accountable? Or do we just complain? Who holds influence over our officials? We do, if we believe in one person, one vote, and voting is made easy. Instead we are experiencing voter suppression for the sake of retaining power.

Money has become

a metric of power. How much money was taken in? How much was spent? Who is ahead at the bank? Since businesses make money and money leads to political power, business will inevitably use their power to influence government.

That allows the 1% to control the 99% since they have the vast majority of the dollar votes.

What about ideas? Twitter has never had a complete idea expressed on it since its inception. Media is now controlled by a handful of corporations that either emit propaganda or sensational reporting in a 24-hour news cycle. I feel helpless I continue hosing myself down with this gibberish. The solution is simple. Let us just turn off the noise, cut off social media and just talk with each other. You may be less inclined to think before spouting nonsense if you look me in the eye and become

the civil citizen that I think you can be.

We would have different outcomes if everyone participated in running their community 24/7, not just turning out to vote for a few minutes and then breathing a sigh of relief and waiting for the next marathon election.

This experiment in democracy that started down the path of one man one vote (literally), and evolved to include women and people of color over the couple hundred years is in jeopardy. We can choose a path that leads away from benefiting a few, very wealthy cronies at the top and move toward our goal of liberty and justice for all.

Roger Steinkamp
Faribault

Steinkamp is the DFL candidate for District 24 of the Minnesota Senate. He is running against Republican incumbent Senator John Jasinski, also of Faribault.

GUEST COLUMN

A brief history lesson

BY GARY SIGLER

Our Federal Government is made up of three branches. They are the legislative branch, the executive branch and the judicial branch. Let's take a look at each.

1. **Legislative:** This branch is in charge of "making our laws." It is made up of the congress plus other governmental agencies. Congress has two parts, those being the House of Representatives and the Senate.

2. **Executive:** This branch is in charge of "making sure our laws are obeyed." The President is the head of this branch and he or she gets help from the Vice President and department heads, also known as the Cabinet members. The president commands the military and leads our country.

3. **Judicial:** This branch is in charge of deciding the true meaning of our laws and how they apply to "real life" situations and whether a law breaks the rules of the Constitution, the Constitution being the highest law of our land.

Having now laid the groundwork to an important election coming up on Nov. 3, 2020, I believe my point is made quite clear. We are not just voting for the president of the United States. We are, just as importantly, voting for our legislators, the repre-

sentatives and senators for our respective areas. In your opinion, do we need a change? How have your elected officials been doing for you in the recent past? Many other things make up our ballots as well, issues more relevant to your county or communities.

I don't know about you, but my opinion is that our whole system has been compromised. We have seen it before, but never have we seen it this bad. Our Democratic party has been so partisan that they cannot seem to do what is "best for the people," but only what seems to be best for their party and their respective leaders. Our Republican party has been so partisan that they can't seem to do what is "best for the people" either, but only what seems to be best for their party and their respective leaders. What does that tell you?

Where did "working together across party lines" go? Where did "common sense" go? Through all of this, there has been one steady and stabilizing force, that being the leadership of President Donald J. Trump. He is one of the few who is doing what he said he would do. He is one of the few who seems to be working on behalf of the majority of the citizens of the United States of America. (Ru-

ral America counts too folks.) Many people who I have talked to say "I do not like Trump" and I can respect that. I may have said the very same thing myself. We're talking personalities though, not leadership qualities. Having said that, I have tried to look beyond the personality issue. I see the good that has been and is being done. I appreciate and respect the direction our country has been taken. The "other side" has not really put forth much of a platform except for, "we have to get Trump out." Why is that? What are they hiding? What is the real issue?

We, the American people, have a very difficult job ahead of us. We have a president, senators and representatives to vote for. We have tough decisions to make. However, we must get out and VOTE to make anything happen. We do have the power to make changes happen! That is why we have this important responsibility. Therefore, please do not hesitate to do your civic duty. Please get out and vote between now and Nov. 3. You are in charge! Thank you!

Be strong! Stay safe! Remain free!

Gary Sigler has lived and worked in Steele County for more than 45 years.

YOUR VIEW

Skillestad carries weight of false accusations

To the Editor:
Five days a week Greg (Skillestad, Blooming Prairie police chief) wears his plated vest and fastens his utility belt, which holds the tools and resources necessary to keep himself and our community safe. The vest and belt are heavy pieces of equipment, but now he no longer shoulders just their weight alone.

He also now bears the weight of being accused as an "incompetent chief" of Blooming Prairie, which is noted in his evaluation given by City Administrator Andrew Langholz. The evaluation and appeal are public information and have been filed with the State of Minnesota. The evaluation ratings put him at 1.4. A rating of 0 is considered as deficient; 1 rating is below normal expectations and 2 meets normal expectations. In the evaluation from Andrew Langholz, Greg received ratings of 0-2. In his appeal to the State, Greg is asking for a hearing before a neutral hearing officer to decide whether the factual accusations made in his evaluation are true or false and complete or incomplete.

Previously, and numerous times with smiles, Greg has stated he loves his job and the Blooming Prairie community. I would smile back and reply this is a rarity in this world and a blessing that he feels

that way. We all know too well that burnout in any profession is often the inevitable.

Not only as his wife, but as a citizen of Blooming Prairie, I have many unanswered questions and concerns. Greg's predecessor, Chief Paul Wayne, served our city for 18 years with Greg serving the past six years. As chief, Greg has not taken anything away that was in place under Chief Wayne. He has only added to and enhanced the services provided by the BPPD. In his six years of city employment, there have not been any issues documented prior to the evaluation given by the current city administrator. This evaluation is the first piece of performance documentation he has received, which includes a reprimand stating that if he is unable to meet normal expectations additional disciplinary actions may be taken up to and including termination.

Greg has worked closely with the local high school and elementary school administration, pastors, his officers and residents of our community, yet none were contacted for feedback prior to the evaluation. Keep in mind, the city council has not raised questions prior to this evaluation, thus assuming Greg has been doing more than an "incompetent" job as chief. With the evaluation being eight pages in

length and Greg's 11-page appeal, it is documented that the closed meeting held on Sept. 14, lasted approximately 30 minutes. This leads me to believe that there was a distinct lack of discussion and questions during this short amount of time to review all the information provided to them beforehand.

Greg stands up for what is right, believes in accountability and holds his personal integrity to the highest degree. The definition of integrity is "the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles" and is the reason he has chosen to move forward in contesting this evaluation. He has provided lifesaving CPR to four individuals during his law enforcement career and continually does his best to be of assistance when called upon.

With such polarized views on law enforcement in our society, this has taken a toll on our family and we are disappointed that a lack of communication has gotten us to this point we are at today. As our family continues to pray for peace and healing, let it be known Greg will continue to don his vest, belt, and the weight of these false accusations while serving and providing safety to our community. We thank you for your support.

Allyson Skillestad
Blooming Prairie

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ETHICS: The Steele County Times editorial staff strives to present the news in a fair and accurate manner. Please bring any grievances against the Steele County Times to the attention of the Managing Editor.

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Office Assistant.....Sherrie Pechan
Staff Writer.....Howard Lestrud
County Writer.....Karen M. Jorgensen
County Writer.....Chris Baldwin

DEADLINES
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2020—9 state awards	2015—7 state and 4 national awards
2019—7 state awards	2014—3 state and 1 national award
2018—6 state and 1 national award	2013—7 state and 2 national awards
2017—2 state and 6 national awards	2012—2 state awards
	2011—4 state awards

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

Public Health's Caron warns no relief in sight

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Public Health Director Amy Caron generally goes about her job with an optimistic attitude, but there is little optimism right now in her outlook of COVID-19. "There is no relief in sight," Caron said Monday afternoon. "This is the worst it has been since this all started."

Part of the problem Caron sees right now is that people are experiencing COVID fatigue with the virus. Many folks are tired of it as it drags into eight months. "I'm tired of it, too, but now is not the time to let our guard down," she stressed. "The virus doesn't care how we feel," she added.

COVID continues to strike with a vengeance in Steele County as 63 new cases have popped up over the past week. There were 17 new cases over the weekend, bringing the county's total to 720 positive with two deaths and four hospitalizations, according to Caron.

About 582 people are out of isolation from the virus, she said.

"The last two weeks have been rough for Steele County," said Caron. She said they have found people being asymptomatic with new cases as well as some household spread. There have also been a few cluster cases throughout the county.

In Dodge County, things settled down a bit over the past couple weeks with 25 new cases. So far, Dodge has experienced 363 positive

cases with one person being hospitalized and no deaths. Approximately 289 people have recovered.

It was a particularly bad week in Mower County where five new deaths were reported, bringing the county's death total to 12 along with 1,489 positive cases. Minnesota has called in the National Guard to assist in Austin after Sacred Heart Care Center confirmed 17 cases of COVID-19 on the premises, including 10 residents and seven

staffers. Five staff members with the National Guard were brought in to help provide care.

Steele's Caron is particularly interested to see what happens in area schools after MEA Break last week. She said they are curious to see if the number of cases goes up or down within the schools. Caron said, "The big question is: Is it being spread in the schools? It's tough to know where they are picking up the virus."

Caron's attention is

starting to focus on the upcoming holidays. "I worry about the holidays," she said.

At this time, Caron recommends no family gatherings of 10 or more. And even then she stresses family members need to stay apart from each other.

As for holiday meals, Caron suggests families stay away from buffet style serving. "You should have one person doing the serving instead of multiple people coming into contact with the food," she said.

Business recognition continues despite COVID



Even though COVID-19 has changed the way of life for most people, the ambassadors from the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism continue with their visits by wearing protective masks. Recently, the ambassadors made a trip to Cash Wise Foods in Owatonna where they congratulated the business on its recent expansion with the new Cash Wise Express gas station. Keith Ramm is the store manager.

Coronavirus Food Assistance program hits second round



On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

If you're a farmer or rancher whose operation has been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, consider applying for the second round of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 2). The deadline to apply for CFAP 2 is December 11, 2020.

CFAP 2 will provide producers with financial assistance that gives them the ability to absorb some of the increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligible commodities for CFAP 2 include:

- row crops (such as alfalfa, corn, soybeans, oats, wheat, and more)
- specialty livestock (such as ducks, geese, turkey, rabbits, llamas, and more)
- livestock (such as beef cattle, hogs and pigs, lambs and sheep)
- specialty livestock (such as ducks, geese, turkey, rabbits, llamas, and more)
- dairy (cow milk and goat milk)
- floriculture and nursery crops (cut flowers, cut greenery, Christmas trees, and more)
- wool
- aquaculture

• broilers and eggs
• tobacco

There are many eligible items and some additional guidelines within each of these categories, so be sure to do some digging if you have any questions. For more information on CFAP eligible commodities, visit farmers.gov/cfap.

To complete the CFAP 2 application, producers will need to reference their sales, inventory, and other records. However, since CFAP 2 is a self-certification program, this documentation will not need to be submitted with the application. But, because applications are subject to County Committee review and spot check, some producers will be required to provide documentation. For this reason, producers should hold on to the records and documentation they use to complete the application. Information on additional documents is provided at farmers.gov/cfap/apply.

If you'd like assis-

tance with or have questions about your application, please call the FSA office at your local USDA Service Center. A call center is also available for producers who would like additional one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 application process. Please call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance.

If you have remaining questions about the first round of CFAP, the application period for which ran from May 25 - September 11, visit farmers.gov/cfap1. If you'd like more information about CFAP 2, visit farmers.gov/cfap2, plus UMN Extension has a podcast explaining CFAP 2, available at z.umn.edu/CFAP2podcast. You can also contact at laacanne@umn.edu or 507-330-0447.

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

BP RELEASES: redacted chief's eval FROM A1

istrator Andrew Langholz said they would not be releasing anything about Skillestad. After that meeting, the Times made another written request and asked for assistance from Mark Anfinson, an attorney representing the Times and an expert on First Amendment and data practices law in Minnesota.

The Times eventually received several documents, including that the chief's performance

review, pertaining to the discipline from Skillestad's attorney. Much of the content from those documents was printed in the Oct. 14 edition.

Last week, the city provided the performance review with the number of items blacked out. Most of the information redacted included other names of employees and citizens as well as medical information that would be considered private

data. The Times had not published any of the redacted information.

"The city initially declined to release the evaluation until it had the opportunity to check into exactly what information could be released," said Iacovino. "City officials made every effort to ensure it was not violating personnel data laws by releasing private data and this information that would be considered private up for further liability."

Bloomington Prairie gave Skillestad 120 days to improve his performance, which it has called insubordinate, incompetent and not suitable to be chief. The improvement period was scheduled to end last Saturday. It's unknown what the next step will be for the city.

Meanwhile, Skillestad is appealing his evaluation, discipline and improvement plan to the Minnesota Department of Administration.

Senator Sparks battles COVID-19

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Minnesota Senator Dan Sparks, DFL-Austin, is one of the latest victims of COVID-19.

Sparks reported on Monday that after experiencing flu-like symptoms, he tested positive for COVID-19 on Oct. 8.

"The week of Oct. 5, I began to feel unwell and experience flu-like symptoms leading to my decision to voluntarily quarantine," Sparks said. "After consulting with my doctor, I was tested for COVID-19 on Oct. 8."

Sparks began a two-week quarantine per CDC guidelines. He has not attended any in-person events



Dan Sparks

during this period. "Although I cannot attend in person, I have continued to participate remotely in legislative business and work on the issues that face our district," he said.

In early October, Sparks reported that his wife had come down with COVID-19.

"I want to thank everyone for their well wishes and ask that Minnesotans continue to take COVID-19 seriously," Sparks said.

Sparks represents District 27, which includes Mower and Freeborn counties as well as the City of Blooming Prairie and southern Dodge County and the City of Hayfield.

YOUR VIEW

Teachers teach

To the Editor:
"Teachers Teach." If I heard that once, I heard it a 100 times, and never more so than in the days leading up to the bond vote this past year for the new high school. There were many citizens who passionately expressed the significance of that statement (Teachers Teach), and in doing so acknowledged the importance of our educators and support personnel, and the programs they manage, which spreads the gamut from technical/agricultural/industrial teachings, to math, language and the sciences, as well as the arts, music, and drama programs we hold dear.

While I'd like to believe I've always appreciated the individuals that hold these positions and the important work they do, the events of the past several years have strengthened my belief in that. Teacher DO teach, and in many instances, they help teach our students a lot more than what they were hired to do.

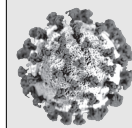
This coming November, we have the opportunity to validate our support for these teachers and their programs by passing both of the School District levy questions, which will serve to reaffirm our commitment to renew and reinvest in the people and programs in our District. This is our chance to help teachers teach.

If voters do not approve the two ballot questions, the district will face a total of at least \$8.5 million in budget cuts from 2020-21 through 2022-23, resulting in class size increases through teacher layoffs, cuts to school and district support services, and cuts to academics, activities, athletic and music programs. Our District's current Levy, which was passed in 2013, is set to expire at the end of this school year, so our time to act is now.

The first levy question on this year's ballot provides critical funding for classrooms, instruction and other operating costs and is a straight renewal of our District's existing operating levy. The passing of the second levy question would enable the district to maintain quality programming and activities, appropriate class sizes and career-technical education programs, while also providing financial stability for the next decade. Approval of question two would result in essentially a phased-in tax increase that wouldn't be implemented until 2022 and 2025. It's important to note that Question 2 is contingent and can only pass if voters approve Question 1.

Please join me on Nov. 3rd by voting YES & YES thus helping to continue to allow our Teachers to Teach.

Matt Kotke
Owatonna



World.....40,200,000
Deaths.....1,120,000
Recovered.....27,500,000

U.S.....8,200,000
Deaths.....220,000
Recovered.....4,880,000

COVID-19 UPDATE

MN.....123,000
Deaths.....2,287
Recovered.....94,416

Steele.....720
Deaths.....2
Recovered.....582

Dodge.....363
Deaths.....0
Recovered.....298

Freeborn.....631
Deaths.....4
Recovered.....

Mower.....1,489
Deaths.....12
Recovered.....

AS OF OCT. 19, 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.

Traffic stop leads to felony drug charges

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A man faces felony drug charges for allegedly possessing methamphetamine and ecstasy pills following a traffic stop in Owatonna.

The Steele County Attorney's Office has charged Brian Joseph Maestre-Reavis, 33, of Owatonna with two counts of fifth-degree possession of controlled substance after officers allegedly found drugs in his vehicle.

According to the criminal complaint filed against Maestre-Reavis:

Owatonna Police stopped Maestre-Reavis for equipment violations on Oct. 7 at about 1:11 a.m. on Oakdale Street SW. The vehicle did not stop for police right away

as the officer noticed the driver making furtive movements to the passenger side and the passenger kept looking back at the patrol vehicle.

Upon making contact with Maestre-Reavis, the officer noticed he was talking very fast, stuttering his words, shaking and seemed to be nervous. Police knew that he had an active felony warrant out for his arrest.

As Maestre-Reavis stepped out of the vehicle, the officer noticed he reached around near the center console. Police know him and his passenger from previous encounters as being known drug users.

Based on the furtive



Nicole Buck

movements from Maestre-Reavis, the length of time it took the vehicle to stop, statements from the passenger and information about the vehicle, police requested K-9 Vegas to search the vehicle. Vegas made a positive alert on the vehicle.

In searching the vehicle, police found a small plastic bag containing a white crystal substance between the passenger seat and the middle console on the floor. The substance later tested positive for methamphetamine. Officers also found 57 white pills marked with a G and consistent with Ecstasy in a purse located in the front seat. During an interview

with police, Maestre-Reavis admitted to doing a "hot rail" of meth around 2:30 p.m. the previous day. He also admitted to doing heroine within the past couple days.

Police executed a search warrant for a blood draw on Maestre-Reavis at Owatonna hospital.

Maestre-Reavis has a prior conviction in February 2019 for fifth-degree controlled substance.

In addition to the felony charges, Maestre-Reavis also faces fourth-degree operating a motor vehicle under the influence of controlled substance, which is a misdemeanor.

The maximum sentences on the felony charges are five years in prison and \$10,000 fine.

CRIME BRIEF

Sober driver arrested for drunken driving

A woman purporting to be the sober cabble for some other people found that she maybe wasn't so sober after all.



Nicole Buck

Nicole Buck, 25, of Ellendale has been charged with two counts of second-degree DWI.

Police in Owatonna stopped a vehicle during the early morning hours of Oct. 11 for a lane violation near West Park Square and Main Street. When the officer spoke to the driver, she indicated she was "sober cabbie." She told

the officer she had two beers and felt fine to drive.

The officer noted signs of intoxication and found she wasn't

so good with sobriety tests. Police arrested Buck.

Buck provided a breath test, which revealed her alcohol level was at .18, more than twice the legal limit.

After the arrest, Buck told police she drank four Budweiser beers and three shots within a 90-minute period.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Oct. 5 with Judge Joseph A. Buellet presiding: Jesse C. Guy, 41, Fairbault, previously appeared and was convicted of felony receiving stolen property. Guy was sentenced to \$261.01 and 18 months in St. Cloud State Prison. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Oct. 5 — 11:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Philip Denning, 29, Austin, no insurance, invalid license and speeding, \$415; Zachery T. Douglass, 25, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Jessica A. Haberman, 44, Blooming Prairie, expired tabs, \$105; Jacob D. Lighthizer, 46, Hollandale, rear lights violation, \$115.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Robert J. Abts, 26, Long Prairie, speeding, \$115; Joshua S. Almendinger, 39, Owatonna, revoked license, \$381 and 30 days in county jail; Morgan E. Anderson, 19, Edina, speeding, \$135; Damien P. Auffert, 43, Parnell, MO, speeding, \$115; Toshi A. Bell Wooten, 49, Brooklyn Park, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$115 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Robert W. Black, 73, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Carl H. Deitz, 24, Chicago, IL, speeding, \$115; De'Janai L. Holt, 25, Hopkins, speeding and revoked license, \$205; Megan E. Jensen, 28, Minneapolis, speeding, \$115; Hunter M. Johnson, 19, Shoreview, speeding, \$115; Emma M. Joy Duball, 18, Osage, IA, speeding, \$115; Abigail L. Krage, 35, Mankato, expired registration, \$105; Jon J. McNamee, 27, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Oswaldo Morales Jr., 39, Owatonna, speeding, \$215; Danielle L. Nitz, 25, Woodbury, speeding, \$135; Deaja A. O'Neal, 23, Forest City, IA, speeding, \$125; Sheyenne A. Rodriguez,

20, Owatonna, speeding, \$215; Brian C. Skalsky, 59, Rochester, speeding, \$115; Frank E. Springer, 65, Owatonna, vehicle width violation, \$175; Victoria L. Tamba, 22, Waterloo, IA, speeding, \$275; Josefa F. Vaa, 41, Otsego, speeding, \$115; Lynnette L. Young, 34, Cloquet, hands free violation, \$125; Sawi Yut, 29, Clark's Grove, cancelled license, \$131, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Zachery L. Bongers, 29, St. Cloud, DWI, \$150 and 90 days in county jail; Montiah D. Chatman, 26, Shakopee, invalid license, expired tabs and no insurance, \$315; Marcus L. Crosby, 18, Owatonna, careless driving, \$175; Tony L. Espinoza Alluv, 41, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Joel M. Fernandez, Owatonna, revoked license and high beams violation, \$315; Kimberly A. Garza, 39, La Jolla, TX, suspended license, \$275; Alex J. Guerrero, 21, Owatonna, domestic assault, stay of adjudication, diversion program and 2 years of supervised probation; Josue Gutierrez, 25, Owatonna, revoked license, \$125 and 11 days in county jail; Curtis A. Hortop, 42, Owatonna, failure to obey traffic control device, \$125; Emily A. Jenkins, 31, Owatonna, DWI, \$400, 3 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend MADD impact panel and 2 years of supervised probation; David B. Lemis, 32, Owatonna, DWI, \$400, 3 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, ignition interlock program and 2 years of supervised probation; Gilberto B. Luna, 23, Owatonna, damage to property, \$291 and 10 days in county jail; Margarito Mijang Rivas, 42, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175; Trameale T. Pitchford, 19, St. Paul, no contact order violation, \$125 and 65 days in county jail; Elizabeth D. Randall, 46, Owatonna, failure to stop

traffic control signal, \$125; Jessica L. Savoie, 34, Owatonna, failure to stop for school bus, \$175 and 3 months of unsupervised probation; Frank J. Silva, 31, Fairbault, speeding, \$125; Jose E. Sosa Venegas, 21, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Jeremy J. Vanderlugt, 37, Renville, possession of marijuana, \$50; Jonathan C. Walsh, 27, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; Daniel J. Wright, 25, Owatonna, theft, \$421 and 1 year of unsupervised probation.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jason M. Amundson, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Caden J. Beauvais, 17, Ellendale, speeding, \$275; Michael J. Hartle, 67, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Khryssa N. Hodapp, 20, New Richmond, speeding, \$115; Stephanie Jimenez-Ruiz, 29, Medford, cancelled license, stay of adjudication, \$50 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Justin R. Kremmin, 32, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$575, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no possession of firearms, domestic abuse evaluation and 18 months of supervised probation; Robert P. Lyman, 40, North Mankato, failure to drive in single lane, \$125; Chandra L. Pelt, 16, Medford, speeding, \$115; Jared J. Peterson, 25, Kansas City, MO, speeding, \$115; Heli J. Sell, 32, Waseca, speeding, \$115; Jose E. Sosa Venegas, 21, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Jessica L. Whippis, 41, Le Center, speeding, \$115; Daniel J. Zuhdirol, 33, Mankato, speeding, \$115.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

Oct. 9 **Suspicion:** Officers responded to suspicious activity in the 400 block of 1st St. SW at 8:59 p.m. They issued a citation.

Oct. 11 **Disturbance:** Police responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of 3rd St. NE at 10:53 p.m.

Oct. 15 **DWI:** Officer issued a DWI citation at Highway Ave. N. and 3rd St. NE at 3:14 a.m.

OWATONNA POLICE

Oct. 9 **Domestic:** Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 700 block of Academy St. E. at 7:44 a.m.

Arrest: Officers arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Cedar Ave. S. and Highway 14 E. in Owatonna Township at 8:36 a.m.

Arrest: Police responded to a motorist assist at Oak Ave. N. and Vine St. W. at 11:56 a.m. They took a

subject into custody. **Domestic:** Officers arrested a subject following a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of 21st St. NW at 5:03 p.m.

Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 1000 block of Anderson Place SW at 6:05 p.m.

Assault: Police responded to an assault in the 100 block of 24th St. NE at 10:09 p.m. They issued a citation.

DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest at Oak Ave. S. and Southview St. SW at 10:52 p.m.

Oct. 10 **DWI:** Police made DWI arrests at Walnut Ave. N. and Bridge St. W. at 12 a.m. and at Oak Ave. S. and McKinley St. SW at 11:15 p.m.

Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Riverview Court in Medford at 11:02 a.m.

Oct. 11 **Domestic:** Officers responded to a domestic in the 2200 block of 46th St. NW at 1:14 a.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Thefts: Officers received theft reports from the 2000 block of 8th Ave. NE at 7:24 a.m. and the 400 block of 20th St. NE at 1:05 p.m.

Thefts: Motor vehicles were reported stolen from the 1700 block of Greenwood Place NE at 7:27 a.m. and the 600 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 12:17 p.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 100 block of School St. E. at 5:48 p.m.

Oct. 12 **Shoplifting:** At 9:11 a.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 200 block of Beech Ave. NE at 10:23 a.m.

Oct. 13 **Property:** At 4:20 a.m., stolen property was recovered in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N.

Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Cedar Ave. S. and 18th St. SE at 11:49 a.m.

Thefts: Police received theft reports from the 500 block of North St. W. at 4:50 p.m. and at Fremont St. E. and Mineral Springs Road NE at 8:06 p.m.

Theft: Officer issued a theft citation in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 8:54 p.m.

Oct. 14 **Drugs:** Police responded to drug activity in the 500 block of Elm Ave. S. at 10:49 a.m.

Thefts: Police took theft reports in the 2700 block of 18th St. SW at 11:23 a.m. and 1:54 p.m.

Warrants: Police made warrant arrests in the 900 block of Hart Ave. SE at 12:51 p.m. and the 2300 block of 43rd St. NW at 8:39 p.m.

Crash: Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at Hoffman Dr. NW

and Interstate 35 at 2:20 p.m. They issued a citation to one of the drivers.

DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest at Cedar Ave. N. and 21st St. NW at 9:59 p.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 1200 block of Smith Ave. SE at 11:28 p.m.

Oct. 18 **Restraining Order:** At 9:25 a.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 200 block of 22nd St. NW.

Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 400 block of North St. W. at 2:36 p.m.

Thefts: Police received theft reports from the 1200 block of Frontage Rd. E. at 3:14 p.m. and the 400 block of Greenhaven Lane NE at 6:59 p.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 900 block of Willowbrook St. NE at 4:25 p.m.

Arrest: Police assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 100 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 7:28 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Oct. 9 **Suspicion:** Deputies responded to suspicious activity in the 14100 block of 72nd Ave. SW in Berlin Township at 9:55 a.m.

DWI: Deputy made a DWI arrest at County Road 45 N. and 21st Ave. NW in Clinton Falls Township at 9:15 p.m.

Threats: Deputies responded to a subject making threats in disorder in the 100 block of Sunrise Dr. in Medford at 9:22 p.m.

Oct. 10 **Criminal Sexual Conduct:** Deputies began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct on Austin Road in Owatonna Township at 1:34 p.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 1300 block of 96th Ave. SW in Meriden Township at 5:08 p.m.

Shoplifting: At 7:41 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 6700 block of Frontage Rd. W. in Medford.

Oct. 11 **DWI:** Deputy made a DWI arrest at Highway 50 E. and 29th Ave. SE in Summit Township at 12:12 a.m.

Crash: Paramedics and deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Frontage Rd. W. and 26th St. NW in Clinton Falls Township at 7:56 p.m.

ARRESTS Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Rosalio Martinez Jr., 41, arrested at 2:21 p.m. Oct. 14, apprehension and detention arrest, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Colby James Reich, 35, arrested at 3:20 p.m. Oct. 13, felony criminal sexual conduct, held for court.

Chad Glen Griffen, 39, arrested at 3:15 p.m. Oct. 14, warrant arrest, held for court.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Oct. 4 — 11:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Shane J. Anderson, 29, Hastings, speeding, \$120; Payton A. Curtis, 23, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Heather M. Hagg, 36, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Patrick C. Htranek, 65, Dodge Center, speeding, \$130; Benjamin G. Kinney, 20, Mantorville, minor consumption, \$180; Emilia K. Perkins, 25, Waseca, damage to property, \$119.75 and 90 days in county jail; Allen M. Schmitt, 62, New Ulm, speeding, \$140; Carmen N. Sutherland, 49, Clearmont, DWI, \$505, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Sam I. Thompson, 23, Fairbault, damage to property, 90 days in county jail.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Nafiso A. Farah, 22, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Stephanie A. Harania, 56, Rochester, speeding, \$220; Sydney M. Horn, 16, Kasson, hands free violation, \$130; Melissa S. Miller, 43, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Andrew G. O'Neill, 46, Kasson, disorderly conduct, \$380, 1 day in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of supervised probation; Adam L. Rainey, 37, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Sam I. Thompson, 23, Fairbault, theft of motor fuel, 90 days in county jail; Kyle W. Willkomm, 42, Northfield, seat belt, \$105; Donna L. Wilson, 68, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$105; Paige A. Winter, 19, Owatonna, careless driving, \$180.

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Kane J. Aljets, 28, Kasson, right of way violation, \$130; Devin T. Hansen, 24, Elgin, take fish without a license, \$180.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Molly J. Kleist, 19, Marion, IA, speeding, \$120; Karl D. Skasko, 22, Hayfield, speeding and no insurance, \$340; Jennifer L. Webber-Brown, 33, Owatonna, hands free violation, stay of adjudication, \$50 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Joshua A. Welke, 35, Rochester, hands free violation, \$130.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Norbert L. Andrade, 18, Dodge Center, speeding, \$140.

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Prepared and paid for by Elect Tom Shea 24a Committee
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It's Our Business to Protect Yours

How to Find an Online Therapist



Dear Savvy Senior,
What is the best way to find online therapy services for my anxiety and depression? I just turned 63 and have become increasingly hopeless since the COVID pandemic hit and cost me my job. I need to get some professional help, but I'm also high risk for illness and very concerned about leaving the house.

Need Help

Dear Need,
I'm sorry to hear about your job loss and the difficulties you're going through right now, but you're not alone. Because of the coronavirus pandemic and resulting economic downturn, fear, anxiety and depression is being reported by 45 percent of Americans, according to a Kaiser Family Foundation tracking poll.

To help you through this difficult time there are a variety of therapists, psychologists, and other mental health providers you can turn to. And because of the pandemic, most of them are now offering counsel to their clients online through teletherapy services. This will allow you to interact virtually with a therapist from the comfort of your home using only a smartphone, tablet or computer.

How to Find a Therapist

A good first step to locating a therapist is to ask your primary care provider or family and friends for a referral. You can also look on your insurer's website for a list of therapists covered under your plan. But be aware that some insurers have limited, or even no coverage for mental health, and many mental healthcare providers do not participate in insurance plans. (Medicare does cover mental health services.)

Other resources to help you find a good therapist include online finder tools at the American Psychological Association (locator.apa.org) and the American Psychiatric Association (finder.psychiatry.org).

If you want some help, there are also online platforms that can help match you with a licensed mental health provider. For example, Talkspace (talkspace.com) and BetterHelp (betterhelp.com), are virtual services you can access through your phone or computer, that contracts with thousands of licensed and credentialed therapists.

The process starts with a few questions to assess your goals, your condition, and your preferences, and then matches you with some top therapists in your state.

If you don't have insurance coverage or can't afford therapy, you can call or text 211 (or go to 211.org) anytime for a referral to a provider who offers support at no cost or on a sliding scale, based on your budget.

You can also call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 24/7 and ask for a referral to a local resource or provider or ask to be transferred to their "warm line" for nonemergency calls, where you can talk anonymously to a trained professional at no cost.

Another possible option is Federally Qualified Health Centers, which are community-based health centers, some of which may offer teletherapy services at no cost. To search for centers in your area visit FindAHealthCenter.hrsa.gov.

There's also this website called Open Path Collective (openpathcollective.org), where therapists offer low-cost online sessions for between \$30 and \$60.

Interview Your Therapist

Before you start sessions with a therapist, it's important to make sure he or she meets your needs. If you're not comfortable with the person, you're unlikely to benefit from the therapy. So, schedule a call or a video chat to get a feel for each other, and to ask about the therapist's training, years in practice, specialties, therapy techniques and fee. Ideally the therapist you choose will be a good personality fit for you and will be within your budget and/or covered by your insurance.

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

Oct. 26, 2010

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

The 2010 Blooming Prairie Citizens of the Year are Nick and Amanda Schiefert. They are well-known in the community for being involved. They own the local Dairy Queen together and for more than a decade they have employed many Blooming Prairie residents. Becky Noble of the Blooming Chamber of Commerce was happy to announce their honor. "Nick and Amanda were chosen because of all the community services they have done for Blooming Prairie," said Becky.

After four weeks of league bowling the leaders are: Monday League: 1. BP Auto Body; 2. Floor Tech; 3. BP Cue Company; 4. Krejci Ford. High Individual: Jim Awles - 255. High Series: Jim Awles - 610. Tuesday League: 1. Sompt; 2. Koters; 3. Bunkies; 4. Joe's Auto; 5. Rain Gun Guard; 6. Joe's Diesel. High Individual: Heath Lemble - 228. High Series: Heath Lemble - 657.

20 Years Ago

Oct. 24, 2000

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Anthony Nelson became the first BHS boy to win the conference cross country individual title when he ran a 17:34 time in the Golden Valley Meet at Lake Crystal on Tuesday. The Blossoms finished third in the boy's division. Congratulations to Nelson on a great job this season.

Behind the scenes of any successful stage production is always a group of dedicated student workers who are integral parts of the show. The crews of the BHS musical "Annie Get Your Gun" are no exception. The two dozen students all have their roles

to play. David Rumpza and Eric Wagner's crew are in charge of building the sets and see that the scene changes are accomplished quickly and smoothly. Lighting will be handled by Lindsey Krejci, Jeff Butler, Emily Butler and Jasmine Butler. Sound effects by Joshua Bau and Eric Hoberstad. Costumes committee is headed by Holly Trom and Kristin Lueh. Make-up heads are Heather Clark and Sarah Johnson. Stacy Humphrey will be taking care of advertising and public relations.

50 Years Ago

Oct. 28, 1970

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE

KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Seven members of BHS FFA Chapter attended the National Convention in Kansas City. They traveled by charter bus. They toured a number of including Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing and Harry S. Truman Library. They attended the American Royal Livestock Show and were surprised at the number of animals that were there. Members attending were Gary Schultz, Mike O'Connor, Linn Thoen, Jon Goodwin, Dennis Heinerman, Gary Jirele, Donn Olsen and the local advisor, Howard Bode.

The Merry Lane 4-H Club met on Oct. 13th at the Community Building where officers were elected for the coming year. Officers elected were president, Sandra Jennings; vice-president/secretary, Jerry Wencil; treasurer, Randy Klemmensen; reporter, Dell Valek.

75 Years Ago

Oct. 25, 1945

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

It will be the Rye Jewelry Store again at the old stand

when Roly gets his stock arranged. Roly holds a certificate as a master mechanic from the Horological Institute. He had valuable training under his father and more the two and a half years as mechanic with the Instrument Department at Northwest Airlines. The opening of the store will be announced at a later date. We are happy to have Roly back in the community.

A very enjoyable meeting of the Farm Bureau members held last Thursday evening. A luncheon was served and election of officers was held. The results were as follows: Milford Johnson, president; Ernie Pechacek, vice president; Ben Bishman, secretary-treasurer; home and com. chairman, Mrs. H. J. Jensen.

Owatonna Photo News -

31 Years Ago

Oct. 19, 1989

TOM SHEA, PUBLISHER

The Chamber Ambassadors visited Jim Kenney's KSW Roofing and Heating, Inc. to recognize their new 11,000 square foot facility in the industrial park. KSW also has a facility on Mosher Avenue, which houses its roofing division. Kenney and the 20 staff members are hosting an open house today.

Sports news: The Owatonna Indians ran their record to a perfect 7 - 0, 6-0 in conference play Friday with a 39-0 homecoming win over Faribault Falcons. Kyle Paulson broke a tackle on route to a 97 yard rushing night, including two touchdowns.

The Owatonna High School swimming team defeated Mankato East 90-74 in action here on Tuesday. Nikkie Miller captured the diving competition with 79.55 points.

Minnesota sports legend passes away at 100



Reflections

HOWARD LESTRUD

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Sid Hartman, longtime columnist for the Minneapolis Star and Tribune, died Sunday, Oct. 18 at age 100. He was a close personal friend of many including Times columnist Howard Lestrud. Howard reflects on Sid's life in this column written last spring. For those of us who can claim to be sports journalists Sid Hartman's close, personal friend, it should be no surprise that he has reached the magic NUMBER 100.)

He might not know it but I can claim Sir Sidney as my close, personal friend.

Some people call him Sid the Squid and others call him names that cannot be repeated in a family newspaper.

I have known Sid for more than 50 years. When I was sports editor of the Albert Lea Tribune from 1967-69, I was part of Hartman's Prep Parade panel. The panel was a collection of sports editors throughout the state. Hartman weekly sought nominations of top high school athletes for the week.

I always submitted athletes from the Albert Lea and surrounding

area. When an athlete made Sid Hartman's Prep Parade, it was a time for celebration. It was like being chosen All Conference.

When I moved on to Winona and to Forest Lake in similar capacities as a sports editor, I remained on Sid's Prep Parade Panel.

I can honestly say that Sid always accepted my nominations which made a lot of athletes and their families very proud. I was also proud to be saluting some athletes that I knew well.

My association with Sid continued as I would see him at Twins and Vikings games and tried to convince him to be a guest at our Forest Lake Area Chamber of Commerce's monthly meeting. He put me off for a long time and finally agreed to come to Forest Lake.

Our chamber meeting in Forest Lake drew the largest crowd ever seen at a chamber meeting. More than 150 persons attended the meeting. This, of course, was when girls athletics were still not recognized.

Sid was asked point-blank what he thought of girls in sports. He didn't think male and female athletes should be mentioned in the same context.

Sid was somewhat a bully, but a friendly one, when he traveled the circles of other journal-

ists and radio personalities. Yes, he was a radio personality himself. I remember listening to his Sports Hero show on a regular basis.

With his trusty tape recorder in hand, Sid interviewed the likes of Muhammad Ali, Fran Tarkenton, Hall of Fame baseball stars Hank Aaron and Harmon Killebrew, Baltimore Orioles pitcher Jim Palmer, race car driver A.J. Foyt, basketball star Michael Jordan, Bud Grant and of course, Bobby Knight.



SID HARTMAN

I remember hearing the story about Sid trying to interview New York Jets quarterback Joe Namath. Broadway Joe excused himself and said he had to go shower. Sid followed him right into the shower. Sid fully clothed. That is a true story.

Sid was somewhat pushy and would interrupt others trying to get a scoop.

I remember talking to Minnesota Twins President Dave St. Peter on the baseball diamond at Target Field in 2010, the inaugural season of Target Field.

As I was interviewing St. Peter, Sid came sauntering by and said, "Hey Dave, what do you think...?" St. Peter interrupted him and said, "Sid, you are rude, can't you see I am being interviewed by some-

one else? You wouldn't like it if he did that to you." Wow! Sid was put in his place.

But really, Sid Hartman has been an institution and a real "homer" when covering University of Minnesota sports, the Minnesota Twins, the Minnesota Vikings and the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Hartman grew up in north Minneapolis and dropped out of high school when he started delivering papers for the Minneapolis Tribune. Hartman received no formal writing training.

Hartman penned his first column for the Minneapolis Daily Times on Sept. 11, 1945, and continues to report, now for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. His last column appeared in Sunday's Star Tribune just hours before his death.

As a 27-year-old in 1947, Hartman became the acting general manager of the Minneapolis Lakers. Hartman helped build what would become the first dynasty in the NBA.

It's kind of sad that people have honored Hartman.

A statue of Hartman was unveiled in 2010 outside Target Center in downtown Minneapolis. The Minnesota Vikings honored Hartman by naming the media entrance at U.S. Bank Stadium after and with photos adorning the media entrance. The press box at TCF Bank Stadium has also been named the Sid Hartman Press Box.

Thanks Sid for promoting high school, college and professional sports.

Also, Sid, thanks for being my close, personal friend, even though you don't know it.

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OF KOHLER



BLOSSOMS PRIDE

Homecoming



The 2020 Blooming Prairie High School Homecoming queen candidates are, front from left: Micalyn Trihus, Maggie Bruns, Megan Oswald, Jessica Ressler and Abby Braaten with Halle Strunk as MC. The king candidates are, back: Mitchell Fiebiger, Charlie Heimerman, Jacob Naatz, Cole Christianson and Luke Larkoski with Boone Carlson and Christopher Naatz as MCs.

SUNDAY, OCT. 25

- Coronation at 3:00 p.m. on the football field. Open to families of candidates, and juniors and senior students only.
 - o Free admission
- Powder Puff at 4:30 p.m. - Junior and senior students and their families
- Senior window decorating - 6:30 p.m. - Seniors and parent volunteers

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28

- Senior Class Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. in the high school commons.
- 8:10 a.m. - Candidates and MC's will visit the elementary school after breakfast.

THURSDAY, OCT. 29

- Homecoming Volleyball game vs Hayfield at 7:15 p.m., only players families can attend.
- Live Stream of game on NFHS Network

FRIDAY, OCT. 30

- Parade - Line-up at 4 p.m. at the high school, parade starts at 4:15 p.m.
- Football Game - BP vs. Hayfield - 7 p.m. Tickets for players families and students. Game will be live streamed on NFHS Network.

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Marvin Thompson, 95, Blooming Prairie



Marvin Thompson

Marvin Homer Thompson, age 95 of Blooming Prairie, passed away Sunday, Oct. 11, 2020 at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie.

Marvin was born Aug. 10, 1925 in Freeborn County, to C. Henry and Clara (Easton) Thompson. He attended Austin High School. On May 24, 1952, Marvin married Norma Loew at St. Columbanus Church in Blooming Prairie, they had 44 years of wonderful married life.

From 1925 to 1983 he lived in rural Austin and then moved to Blooming Prairie. He worked as a farmer from 1941 to 1980. Marvin was a member of St. Columbanus and Blooming Prairie Senior Center. He enjoyed playing cards and bowling. Marvin will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Survivors include his sons, John (Sharon) Thompson of Apple Valley, Marvin Jr. (Heidi) of Blooming Prairie, David (Linda) Thompson of Austin, Leslie (Helen) Thompson of Elkmont, Ala., Larry (Jody) Thompson of Mesquite, Nev., and Todd (Shelley) Thompson of Austin; daughter, Linda (Steve) Hersch of Salida, Colo.; 23 grandchildren; and 41 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Norma Jean Thompson; grandchild, Noah Thompson; great-grandchild, Calleigh Thompson; parents, C. Henry and Clara Thompson; brother, Harmon Thompson; sisters, Coral Swank, Eleanor Kukowski, Pearl Counts, and Muriel Watson.

A graveside service was held at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020 at St. Mary's Cemetery, in Newry. Visitation took place on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020 at Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home in Blooming Prairie.

In lieu of flowers, memorial preferred to Blooming Prairie Senior Center, or Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. Worlein Funeral Home in Blooming Prairie is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

ABSENTEE: voting exceeds record for Steele County

and return through the mail or bring to the auditor's office. Ihrke stressed that the ballot must be postmarked by Election Day, Nov. 3. Her office has up to seven days to process the mailed in ballots.

Ihrke noted that people who receive an absentee ballot ahead of the election cannot bring it to the polls on Election Day. It either has to be mailed or brought to the auditor's office, she said. Voters have until 3 p.m. on Election Day to hand deliver the ab-

sentee ballot to the auditor's office, which is located at 830 Florence Ave. in Owatonna.

Voters are reminded to wear face masks and practice social distancing at the polls this year to keep safe from COVID-19. Ihrke cautions voters to not rely solely on social media for election information. She said her office is the best source for getting the correct information. If anyone has questions, they are encouraged to call the auditor's office at 507-444-7410.

COUNTY APPROVES: SRO in Medford Schools

with the Medford School Board, which was scheduled to meet Monday night after this edition went to press. If the board approves the position, the sheriff's office would have a SRO ready to go next fall for the start of the 2021-22 school year.

The COPS grant would cover 75% of a licensed deputy's position for three

years, up to \$125,000, according to Thiele. The remaining 25% would be paid by the school district and county.

Thiele's goal is to expand the SRO program into the NRHEG School District for the elementary school in Ellendale.

Both Medford and Ellendale contract with the sheriff's office for police service.

JAMES UNDERWOOD: estate given to BP Ed Foundation

FROM A1

This took about a year. Finally, in March of 2020, the estate was finalized and funds were dispersed. The amount given from the estate to the BPEF for the scholarships was \$52,244.

Underwood did not leave any specific instructions for the use of the money other than what was stated above. Therefore, it was decided that Chris Staloch, present superintendent and others in the school district, would be put in charge of setting up criteria for the scholarships to be given out from the funds.

Scholarships were actually given out this past spring. Recipients were: INSERT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Who exactly was James Underwood and what was his connection to Blooming Prairie High School that would prompt him to give such a generous gift to BPHS students? Julie Noble, past president of BP Ed Foundation did some research into Underwood's wishes.

It appears that James was the son of James A. Underwood, Sr. and Theodora "Teddy" Hanson Underwood.

Both James Sr. and Teddy were born in the local area. "I know for sure Teddy lived in the Red Oak Grove area," remarked Noble.

She and James Sr. had a child, Gary, who was born in Austin. She worked at Hormel. But at some point, they must have moved to Montevideo as that is where James, Jr. was born and grew up.

James Jr. was born in 1942 and graduated from Montevideo High School in 1960. He attended Lincoln Uni-

versity and received an engineering degree.

At some point, the entire family located in California, Mo., where they owned T & J Distributors. James Sr., Gary and Teddy all passed away before James, who died in 2017. Gary and James were not ever married. James must have felt a connection to the area where his parents were born and had relatives in the Blooming Prairie area, which is why he gave the remainder of his estate for scholarships to our BP students.

There are still relatives of James Underwood in the BP area.

The above information shows some of the connections to BP that Noble has found.

Teddy was a sister to Norma Ryan (deceased) who is the grandmother of Kelli O'Connor, wife of Jim O'Connor. Teddy was the sister to Harold Hanson who is the father of Margie Hanson.

James Underwood Sr. was the first cousin to Dale Underwood of Blooming Prairie. Dale said his cousin was always supportive of supporting his community.

Noble said the BP Ed Foundation is always looking for monies that can be channeled toward educational purposes. "The BP Ed Foundation is a great place to leave estate money," said Noble.



BOOK NOOK

Meeting the changing needs



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

Through good times, bad times, and head-scratching times like 2020, the Blooming Prairie Branch Library has attempted to meet the changing needs for our community. A recent article entitled Community Center posted on Public Libraries Online addresses ways that libraries are relevant and important. Over the next few weeks, we will address those ways and how our local library fits into the larger picture.

This week's column will look at ways a library builds community strength. While not every point in the article applies to smaller towns like Blooming Prairie, here are some points that do apply:

- People frequent libraries, which bring them out to other businesses also. We definitely noticed a downturn in numbers after the bakery fire, so this works both ways. However, being located near the downtown works well for both the library and businesses.

- Libraries are partners in sustainability - you can

"recycle" your books by donating them to the Friends of the Library for future book sales. We also provide a space for the recycling of cell phones, ink cartridges, and magazines.

Libraries provide historical records and artifacts. One of the shutdown projects we undertook was to organize and consolidate files of local history materials. Within the last week a college student came in to access these files for a research project.

- In libraries, community-building connections are happening all the time. Even now with limited hours, individuals meet and discuss their favorite reads and many other topics.

- Libraries serve as catalysts for addressing problems by providing physical and online resources that focus on social issues.

- Libraries, which champion, promote, and reflect important democratic values, are a part of encouraging informed political involvement. Libraries also help citizens learn how to become advocates for themselves and their communities.

- Libraries provide important business resources, especially for small local businesses. These include business directories, free online databases, and individual research assistance.

Whatever your needs, consider how the library can help you!

BIRTHDAYS

Oct. 21 Rena Anderson Ryan Hansen Lisa Meshke Herman Lemke	Oct. 25 Rebecca Johnson LuAnn Becker Jennifer Peterson Timothy Wolf Sue Schmeling Bob Braaten
Oct. 22 Max Sorensen Jaydon Brown Michael Iversen Caleb Bussler	Oct. 26 Gary Weise Diane Krejci Glenda Janning Derrick LaMotte
Oct. 23 Rick Kittelson Lisa Hacking Levi Ryks Vern Dahl Edward Erickson	Oct. 27 Gloria Snider Courtney Hackensmith
Oct. 24 Lindsey Schiefert Rae Jean Hansen	

ANNIVERSARIES

Oct. 22 Kevin & Amanda Tocko	Oct. 28 Frank & Diane Vorlicek
Oct. 26 Ron & Glenda Janning	Oct. 29 Muriel & Ragna Thompson

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COLLEGE NEWS

Area students graduate from St. Olaf

A pair of area students has graduated from St. Olaf College in Northfield.

Michelle Honsey of Medford and Zach Granowski of Owatonna were members of the Class of 2020 at St. Olaf. Honsey majored in dance and economics while Granowski majored in biology.

Elect Shea 24a Minnesota House

Prepared and paid for by Elect Tom Shea 24a Committee
P.O. Box 187 • Owatonna, MN 55060

Recipe Corner

Wild Rice and Roasted Asparagus

Canola cooking spray
1 pound fresh asparagus, discard ends; cut into 1-inch pieces, leave tops whole
1 large shallot, peeled, sliced and separated into 1/2 rings
1/4 teaspoon each: salt, ground black pepper, and roasted garlic powder
3 slices bacon, cooked and chopped
1 tablespoon canola oil
1/2 fresh lemon
1 tablespoon butter
1/2 tablespoon fresh thyme
1-1/2 cups cooked wild rice (warm)

Preheat oven to 425-degrees. Spray edged baking sheet. In large bowl, toss next 7 ingredients. Spread mixture on baking sheet; set lemon cut side down on top of mixture. Roast 10-12 minutes until asparagus is tender, turning halfway through. Melt butter and stir in thyme; set aside. In large bowl, combine wild rice and asparagus mixture. Squeeze 1 teaspoon juice from roasted lemon into butter; drizzle over rice mixture. Toss. Makes 4 servings.

Minnesota Cultivated Wild Rice Council
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STEELE COUNTY Times

One way to measure success



Pastor Paul Hauschild
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
HAYFIELD

There are many ways to measure success. One way is how your young child describes you to a friend. Two little boys were discussing their lives one day, including the various behavioral patterns of the parents. One boy finally asked, "Does your daddy sit in the den a lot after he comes home from work?"

"No," his friend replied, "he grows all over the place at our house!"
Ouch! We dads can maybe do better. Moms, too. Three little girls were playing house one day, taking turns playing various roles, when one of them said to another, "Now you be the daddy." The little girl pouted for a minute and then said, "I don't

want to be the daddy. I want to talk, and besides, what would I use for a remote control?"
Double ouch! I don't mean to pick on dads, but I'm a dad, and it wouldn't be fair to pick on moms! I think that parents are role models to their children whether we realize it or not. If we want our kids to handle problems with faith and balance,

we need to show it. If we want our kids to speak kindly about others, we need to, as well. If we want our kids to have the chance to know God and start building their faith, we need to show them by our church involvement.
We adults can get so bent out of shape by only measuring our success by how much money we have, the

job we get, the kind a car we drive, or by our looks. That leads to incessant worry and unfulfillment. Rather, let's realize that true success is measured by our faith, kindness, love, and our responses to people and situations. How do your children describe you to friend? That is a guiding question for all of us.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN
AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Interim Pastor:
Rev. Dale Svendsen
507-451-2619
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 Silper
507-684-2451
Men's Bible Study:
8 a.m. Saturday
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
(Kids church - 9 a.m. and
Confirmation - 10:15 a.m.)
Jesus and Me: 3:30-5 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday
Call to Prayer:
7 p.m. Tuesday
Bible Study:
9:30 a.m. Wednesday
Wednesday School:
6:15-7 p.m. followed by
Youth Group - 7-9 p.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN - ELCA
434 First St. SW,
Blooming Prairie
Senior Pastor:
Rev. Heidi Heimgartner
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Mike Waterloo
507-583-6621
firstlutheranbp.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.

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 Nancy Ave., Kenyon
Pastor Nancy Edwardson
507-789-6661
Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

PONTOPIDAN 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-Freedom
Road, Austin
Leandra Anderson, Pastor
507-583-2058 or
507-437-3000
www.rgllutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

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

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN-ELCA
1301 Lincoln Ave. Owatonna
Pastors Dave Klawitter and
Jacie Richmond
507-451-7293
stjohnowatonna.org
Worship: 5 p.m.
Thursday & Saturday:
8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Summer Services:
8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Sunday

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN - ELCA
30450 57th Ave., Waltham
Pastor Dwight DoBell
507-567-2474
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.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. PAUL'S LUTHERAN - ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor Rev. Dean Smith
507-451-2165
Sunday Worship Indoor:
10 a.m.

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

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

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN - LCMC
108 Third Ave. SW, Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
507-451-0447
Worship: 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Education Hour: 9 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:
6:30 a.m.

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN - ELCA
1909 St. Paul Road,
Owatonna
Senior Pastor:
John Weisenburger
Associate Pastor: Lisa Carlson
507-451-4653
oursaviorsowatonna.com
Worship: 8:15 a.m.-
Traditional, 9:30 a.m.-
Sunday School/Adult
Education
10:45 a.m.- Contemporary

CATHOLIC
CHRIST THE KING
205 Second Ave. NW,
Medford
507-451-6353
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
9946 SE 24th Ave
Owatonna
Father John Wilmut
507-583-2784
www.litomyslwebs.com
Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m.
Litomysl Finance Council:
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Litomysl Pastoral Council:
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month
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has been cancelled for 2020

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

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave.,
Owatonna

Father John Sauer
Parochial Vicar
507-451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday:
8:30 a.m., 8:10 a.m. Sun.
Spanish Mass:
11:45 a.m. Sun.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat.
Adoration: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Thurs.

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC
114 E. Main St.,
Blooming Prairie
Father John Wilmut
507-583-2784
www.stolumbanuschurch.com
Mass: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Reconciliation: 9 a.m.
First Friday & Saturday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna
Father James 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 9 a.m.
Thursday)
Adoration Chapel available
Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. - 5:30 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 JJ & Stefanie
Morgan
507-835-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ELLEDALE UNITED METHODIST
200 Sixth St. NW, Ellendale
Pastor Randy Ciksena
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):
8 a.m. Sunday

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

DESTINY CHRISTIAN
2515 Harvest Lane NW,
Owatonna
Pastors Rich and Amy Pettet
507-456-4775
www.destinyccc.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.elevationorth.
blogspot.com
Worship (English):
10 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

PRESBYTERIAN
ASSOCIATED CHURCH
Presbyterian Church (USA)
and United Church of Christ
800 Havana Road,
Owatonna 507-451-1546
www.associatedchurch.org
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 66, 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
507-451-4596
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Pastor Patrick Stitt
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,
Blooming Prairie
Pastor Matt Fennell
507-583-2673
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
5:30 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.

Monuments
LEGACY MONUMENT SALES
Leon's Cell 507-456-7864
Lori's Cell 507-456-3735
landlife@gmail.com
Call for a catalog to view in the comfort of your home. We are here to help you create your monument by email or phone.
LEON & LORI BOHLMAN

LERBERG'S FITNESS CENTER & CAR WASH
118 5th Ave.
Ellendale
507-684-2471

CLAREMONT SERVICE CENTER
Service Center:
507-528-2233
After Hours Towing:
507-456-4158
111 Front Street
P.O. Box 283
Claremont, MN

REAL LIFE COFFEEHOUSE
Vibrant Living For
Individuals 55 & Older
at a Reasonable Price
Call Jon Amett @
455-3735 for a tour
238 22nd St. SE - Owatonna

VALLEYVIEW OF OWATONNA
1213 W. Frontage Rd. Owatonna, MN
valleyviewofowatonna.com

Nardals FAMILY MARKET
Locally Owned & Operated
237 Hwy. Ave. S.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-6671

FLOOR TECH
322 East Main St.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2276

FARMERS INSURANCE
Mike Bishman
121 W. Broadway St.
Owatonna
507-451-0193

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BP Council corrects errors on chief matter

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie City Council, acting on a recommendation from City Administrator Andrew Langholz, at a regular meeting

Oct. 12 voted to correct a procedural error in handling an employee discipline matter. The council held a closed session on Sept. 14 on what it related to as a personnel matter. The council did not

cite statute for closing the meeting, nor did it refer to the employee by name. At the Oct. 12 meeting, the council addressed a memo from Langholz. He said the purpose of the memo

was to address and correct a procedural error that occurred at the Sept. 14 meeting. "We try to be as transparent as we can" in respect to following the Open Meeting Law, said Langholz.

The closed session was to discuss an appeal to a performance evaluation, a written reprimand and a performance improvement plan given to Police Chief Gregory Skiles-tad.

Langholz said a closed session for this reason is permitted according to MN Stat 13D.05, subs. 3(a). Langholz said "Unfortunately, the proper verbiage

SEE BP COUNCIL, A17

DECISION 2020: SCHOOL RACES

3 vie for spots on BP School Board

With three openings and three candidates filing, it is likely that the incumbents and one newcomer will be elected to the board on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Filing for re-election are board members Jon Sunde and Jenny Thurnau. Melissa Stoen is the other candidate.

Current board member Steve Ille did not file for re-election. The candidates provide answers to various questions posed by the Times.

• Why are you seeking election or re-election to the BP School Board?

Melissa Stoen: I was born and raised in Blooming Prairie. After living in other communities, I have realized that BP is truly someplace special. I genuinely care about our educators, parents, students, and community members and would feel honored to represent our outstanding school district.

Jon Sunde: I wish to serve on the Blooming Prairie School Board because I bring a unique perspective to



Jenny Thurnau



Jon Sunde



Melissa Stoen

the board. I also have great pride in the Blooming Prairie Schools and enjoy serving my community in this way.

Jenny Thurnau: Serving on the board has been my ability to give back to the community, but more to make sure that our students have the best education and are ready for the next step in their future after high school.

• Why do you feel you are qualified?

Stoen: I am a lifelong "Awesome Blossom" and have two elementary aged children in the Blooming Prairie School District. I volunteer at the school regularly and truly enjoy

being involved in leadership and decision making. My current position as Director of Children's Ministry at First Lutheran Church has also helped me make a connection with many district students and parents through this role.

Sunde: I am a Blooming Prairie graduate who appreciates my own educational experience and cares about our local school. I am the parent of six children, three who have graduated and the other three attend Blooming Prairie, and have seen the influence of outstanding educators/coaches and a great school district in their lives. I also have a diverse

background in construction, electrical plus manufacturing and am a strong advocate for vocational training.

Thurnau: I have gained a great deal of knowledge about our school system, and our needs as a school district over my last three terms served on the Blooming Prairie School Board.

• What are the major issues/challenges currently facing the current BP School Board?

Stoen: Currently our school district is facing many challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is also the issue of space at our schools due to increasing enrollment.

Sunde: A current challenge that I see would be to continue keeping Blooming Prairie a great school district. I plan to build on its strengths while looking for creative ways to bring needed improvements. In addition, I see the current need to prepare students for not only a traditional 4 year college, but

SEE 3 VIE FOR SPOTS, A18

Flu shots are a must this year



Steele Talkin'
KAREN FOUNTAINE

Have you and your family received your influenza (flu) vaccinations this year? Remember that influenza vaccinations are the most effective way for you to protect yourself and your family from becoming ill with the influenza. With the rise in COVID-19 cases it is especially important to prevent other illnesses to keep our hospitals from becoming overloaded.

Steele County Public Health has influenza vaccinations available at our office located at 635 Florence Ave. in Owatonna. Please call to make an appointment.

The influenza vaccinations are available for persons with private insurance and with Medicare coverage. We also have influenza vaccinations from the Minnesota Department of Health for both children and adults who do not have medical insurance or have an insurance plan that does not include influenza vaccinations. No one will be turned away because of inability to pay for an influenza vaccination. Please bring all insurance cards with you. A flyer is posted on the Steele County homepage at <http://www.co.steele.mn.us/> under the title *What's New*. The flyer can be used to reference the preceding information.

Flu vaccination is recommended for everyone aged 6 months or older who do not have a contraindication to the vaccine. The Center for Disease Control emphasizes that vaccinations are especially important for people who are at higher risk for flu complications, such as children under 4 years of age, pregnant women, adults 50 years and older, and people with underlying medical conditions such as asthma, COPD, diabetes, and heart disease. These groups of people are at an increased risk for hospitalization if they become ill with the influenza. It is also important for persons who care for or live with these persons to receive influenza vaccinations. Because these targeted risk groups make up at least 85% of the US population it is very likely that you or a family member fall into one of these groups.

Influenza vaccinations are the principal means of preventing influenza and its complications. However, here are some additional steps that you can take to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses like influenza:

1. Cover your nose and mouth with your sleeve or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
2. Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If you are not near water, use an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
3. Try not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs often spread this way.
4. Antiviral drugs, such as Tamiflu are a treatment option for certain people who become ill with the influenza. Check with your doctor promptly if you have a high risk condition and you have influenza like symptoms.
5. If you get influenza, stay home from work or school for at least 24 hours after the fever has ended. Protect yourself and those you love. Get an influenza vaccination this year.

Questions-Call Steele County Public Health at 507-444-7650.

Karen Fountaine is the emergency preparedness coordinator and influenza vaccination coordinator for Steele County Public Health in Owatonna. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

Medford School offers full slate of candidates

Editor's Note: Betsy Chambers and Jon Sutherland, both incumbents of the board, chose not to respond.

JOHN ANHORN
INCUMBENT

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE: Owner of Anhorn's Gas & Tire in Medford.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT: Keeping the correct direction we are going with our school.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST

CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB: I feel I bring a lot of knowledge to the discussion. I have been in leadership in numerous groups around our town and bring a lot of experience.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE: Doing what is best for the kids, both current and future. It is all about the kids.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE: Keep a responsible and value based approach to our spending and opportunities.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLE-

MENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

FICE: Working with my fellow board members and administration to get the best results.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC: A lot of different experiences have prepared me. I have served my community in many capacities. Being a member of the Medford Fire Dept 25 years. Past Grand Knight of the Medford/Deerfield Knights of Columbus, and the group that did the new signs

on the edges of Medford are a few examples of the leadership I have shown over the years.

JACKIE BERG
INCUMBENT

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE: Married to Cary for 25 years, with three children. Sale Manager at Wenger Corporation.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

Outside of the COVID pandemic, government

SEE BETSY CHAMBERS, A17

It's a crowded field for voters in NRHEG

Editor's Note: Karen Flatness, the district's clerk, and Loren Schoenrock chose not to respond.

TERRI ENGEL

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE: I began my teaching career in the Ellendale-Geneva School District and was part of the consolidation period when we became NRHEG. During my 34 years in education, I was employed as the K-4 Vocal Music Teacher for 13 years and as an Elementary Classroom Teacher for approximately

17 years. I obtained two Bachelor of Arts degrees in Elementary Education and K-12 Vocal Music. Later in my career, I completed a master's degree in Educational Leadership through Saint Mary's University and spent my last four years working closely with administrators and staff focusing on student achievement, teacher development and updating curriculum.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT

CHANGE WITH IT: I believe it's important to take the time to learn how to be an effective school board member and to build on what previous boards have accomplished. My number one responsibility is to make sure that students are successful academically, socially and emotionally. To do this, we must focus on attracting and retaining high quality teachers. Our students' success depends on this.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE: Because of living in this community all of my life.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE: I have lived in New Richland for 17 years. I currently live on my husband's family farm. We have four children, two who are current students and two who are graduates of NRHEG. I work in Owatonna at an insurance office as an agent.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT: One issue facing the school board is keeping current teachers

and marketing and finance and make the necessary adjustments needed to improve so that we can truly be the school district of choice.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC: I believe my master's degree in Educational Leadership, as well as my background in education is what has most prepared me to run for office and serve the public.

JENNIFER JOHNSON

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE: I have lived in New Richland for 17 years. I currently live on my husband's family farm. We have four children, two who are current students and two who are graduates of NRHEG. I work in Owatonna at an insurance office as an agent.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT: One issue facing the school board is keeping current teachers

and obtaining new ones. It is important to know what wants and needs they have and try to achieve them. We and our students need awesome teachers. Teachers who are happy, want to stay and are top notch.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB: I believe I can help focus on the achievements of the students and ensure they leave successful. I believe I can help the district achieve the financial goals and stay on budget. I believe I am approachable and can listen to concerns of the community, teachers and students.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE: I care about the children of our community and the education.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE: I want to help stay on budget, have students graduate with success and keep our education staff happy.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE: I will listen to students, staff and community and bring anything to the board to try to achieve their needs and wants.

SEE KAREN FLATNESS, A11

KAREN FLATNESS: and Loren Schoenrock FROM A10

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC: I think my history of serving on our church council board along with currently being on the Wasasca County Fair Board. I would also like to think my past running for Mrs. Wasasca County has helped me be able to speak in public and represent others.

NANCY LAGESON

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE: I am a retired police officer and spent many years of my career in public school settings as a juvenile detective and School Resource Officer. After my 15-year policing career, I was the Director of the MN School Safety Center at the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Our family permanently relocated to Steele County in 2012, and I served as the Wasasca County Emergency Management Director from 2014-2016. I hold a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Saint Mary's University, an Associate of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Minnesota State Community College and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communication from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT: I am not a "single issue" candidate. I am a strong advocate of public education and have been involved at the city, county and state levels. I will bring decades of professional public service to this position. I am also a strong candidate based on my current involvement with local schools. For the past several years, I have volunteered at the NRHEG Elementary School where I learned firsthand about how our school system operates. It's been an honor to tutor and mentor students, and I am continually impressed by the dedication and unselfish sacrifice the teachers and staff make throughout the school.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB: The obvious challenge today is ensuring quality education to all students in this time of COVID-19. Every single family in our community has felt the impact of navigating this issue, whether or not they currently have children in the school system. Our School Board must collaborate with local health agencies to ensure safety, timely communication, and a positive learning environment for our students. Beyond this current crisis, it is important that the board continue to be objective, available and sensitive to the needs of the students and the school community. An open mind and a sensible balance of all matters and decisions are crucial to obtain the most successful outcome for all, but most specifically the students.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE: Independent school districts in Minnesota do not have the same geographical boundaries as city, county and state jurisdictions - the NRHEG student body is comprised of students from at least four cities and three counties. It is vitally important that all students, staff and parents be represented district-wide. Schools and the counties and cities in which they are located need to be represented by the governing board. Public safety and public health departments from all of these counties need to have input as part of the discussion in the decision-making process. In my previous work in Emergency Management, I have experienced great success in witnessing the coordinated efforts by these county agencies and the

dedicated individuals who understand the necessity of working together. I would like to see a continuation of these shared working relationships.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE: My goals are to be an objective advocate for students to ensure they receive the highest quality education possible. This means putting educational quality first, even as we cope with COVID-19 and economic recession. A second and related goal is to increase collaboration between the Board and students, families, educators, administrators, staff and community members, so that we can work together to share knowledge and resources.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC: I have worked as a public servant for three decades: at the local level as a school police officer; at the county level as an Emergency Management Director; and at the state level as the Director of a School Safety Center Initiative. It is a privilege and honor to serve my community to collaborate in the process, and to ensure students are safe, healthy and supported by their schools. There is a great reward in knowing that you are doing the right thing when serving the community objectively and honestly.

JOANN HAGEN MALONEY
INCUMBENT

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE: Incumbent NRHEG School Board member; past New Richland Care Center Advisory Board member; past member of Planning Commission for the City of Crystal, Minnesota; attorney (retired).

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT: Providing the best education possible given financial constraints and simultaneously addressing

the numerous concerns raised by the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB: I believe that now more than ever, it is important to retain experienced board members who are willing to be strong advocates for the students and staff but who also listen to the concerns of the parents and community at large.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE: I care deeply about the success of the NRHEG School District and want to serve this District during these challenging times.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE: I am hopeful that the current operating referendum will pass which will provide the means to maintain current programs and services. Our schools board has worked hard at financial stewardship, but additional funds are required due to minimal increases in State aid, unfunded mandates and increasing costs.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE: Our Board works well as a team in representing the community and partners with administration to implement our strategic plan.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC: I am an experienced school board member whose family has four generations of graduates from our district. Yet, I also bring a different perspective since I spent over 30 years living in the Twin Cities.

DAN SCHMIDT

INCUMBENT

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

Wife Tina, daughter Taylor (14), son Brendan (12). I have lived in the district essentially my entire life. For 19 years, I helped run a family business in the transportation industry, the last three of which have been sole owner. I am on my 5th year of serving as treasurer of the NRHEG Basketball Boosters, 3rd year as treasurer of the Quad Cities Baseball Association and 4th year as President of the New Richland Area Lions Club.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT: I would say the top priority in our district is our ongoing budget concerns and upcoming operating referendum. We need to continue looking at ways to keep the revenue up in a time where expenses continue to rise, and our enrollment/revenue has not been able to keep pace. We also must explore any cuts that may be needed, while trying to maintain our full offering of courses and programs to all our students. Along with that, like all districts, we are dealing with the ramifications of COVID and trying to balance the need to get the students back in the classroom with that of the safety of our students and staff.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB: I have multiple years of experience being involved in various boards, as well as 20+ years of experience in business. I am currently in my 4th year of being on the NRHEG School Board and have been the Vice Chair for the last year. I am extremely approachable and can often be found at any extracurricular activities.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE: I have a strong desire to give back to the district that I grew up in and helped provide me the base for my life's experiences. With having kids in the district, now is a good time to get involved. I want to help make NRHEG thrive and be the district of choice for years to come.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE: Continue working toward a balanced budget. Continued work in improving student achievement, providing students with the tools necessary for academic success, and being prepared for life in the real world.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC: My past board experience, whether it be school board,

or being involved in or leading various boards and programs. I also have 15+ years of experience coaching youth sports on up to the high school level.

TAMI TUFT-LACANNE
PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

As a stakeholder in the district for over 13 years, I have experienced several aspects of the district and have seen changes that have affected the district in both positive and negative aspects. I have 20+ years of experience in Finance, Leadership and Negotiation.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT: Staff moral as well as accountability within the district. I feel it is imperative to ensure accountability among not only our administration, but our staff and students. Setting expectations and following through on those expectations will be a great start to putting the district back on track to be the choice of districts within our area.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE

JOB: I am not afraid to ask questions or challenge ideas. I have the experience of being a stakeholder from several angles such as a parent, taxpayer and a community member.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE: The goal is to give the stakeholders a voice. Represent to the best of my ability what the students, staff, parents and taxpayers want/need out of the district.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE: Representation of all communities and stakeholders by making myself available to hear what is wanted/needed to improve the communication between the district and stakeholders from every community within the district.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC: Prior volunteerism and the willingness and ability to give my time and energy for the greater good.

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WE ARE BLESSED BECAUSE OF YOU...

During this Clergy Appreciation Month, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to our area pastors for their spiritual guidance in this broken world that we are all trying to make sense of every day!



Pastor Brent Carlson
Christ Community - Owatonna



Pastor Matt Fennell
First Baptist - Blooming Prairie



Rev. Heidi Heimgartner
First Lutheran - Blooming Prairie



Rev. Mike Walerius
First Lutheran - Blooming Prairie



Pastor Sandy Miller
First Lutheran - Hope



Pastor Scott Peterson
New Beginnings - Owatonna



Rev. Lisa Carlson
Our Savior - Owatonna



Pastor Michael Simmerman
Bethel Church - Owatonna



Rev. Ron Huber
Our Savior - Owatonna



Rev. John Weisenburger
Our Savior - Owatonna



Rev. Leandra Anderson
Red Oak Grove - Austin



Father Swaminatha Pothireddy
Sacred Heart - Owatonna



Father John Wilmet
St. Columbanus - Blooming Prairie
Holy Trinity - Lilymoor
Sacred Heart - Hayfield



Rev. Todd Buegler
Trinity Lutheran - Owatonna



Rev. Amanda Floy
Trinity Lutheran - Owatonna



Rev. Cindy Halvorson
Trinity Lutheran - Owatonna



Deacon Kris Oppegard
Trinity Lutheran - Owatonna



Rev. Paul Hauschild
Trinity Lutheran - Hayfield



Pastor Randy Cirksema
United Methodist - Ellendale



Pastor Lisa Vick
United Methodist - Owatonna

Messages of Appreciation for our Clergy

From Danielle Hein at First Lutheran Church-Blooming Prairie:

"We are so lucky to have our Pastors here at FLC! Pastor Heidi Heimgartner and Pastor Mike Walerius are so appreciated by our congregation! They are so supportive in many ways and truly care about each and every one of our members, students, and staff here. We cannot say enough words of appreciation to them both! We are so grateful for the way they lead and guide our church. As pastors, they not only practice their faith but share it with the entire community. We truly appreciate and thank God for both of you. Thank you for working so hard on a mission greater than yourselves and being true leaders of this congregation."

From Jan Mittelstadt Tippett of Owatonna:

"A member of the clergy has one of the hardest – if not the hardest – jobs there is. It's 24 hours a day, seven days a week; helping and supporting people many times at their most needy; celebrating and leading the happy events and worship services; teaching, listening, counseling; being held to standards varying by the individual; answering questions of all sorts and kinds; and studying, writing and preaching on the great texts of the Bible and the difficult questions of life. Being the shepherd of the flocks that range in age, commitment, understanding and expectations is not easy or simple. I have had the privilege of worshiping with, learning from, laughing with, enjoying the company of, being comforted by, and debating with male and female, young, not so young and experienced pastors. Love wins and their work shows it. I offer my thanks and appreciation."

From Amy Baker at Trinity Lutheran Church-Owatonna:

"The staff and congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church, Owatonna, would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to Pastor Todd Buegler, Pastor Amanda Floy, Deacon Kris Oppegard and Pastor Cindy Halvorson. Thank you for the many ways you bring the message of God's word alive through your dedication to our church and community and your desire to be an example of Jesus' love to others. You have shown inspiring leadership throughout this time of pandemic and unrest. You are a blessing to our congregation and Christ shines through you!"

From Jean Krause at United Methodist Church-Owatonna:

What a challenging time for all pastors during this pandemic time.

Owatonna United Methodist Church has been fortunate to welcome Pastor Lisa Vick to our parish. She has had parish experiences in several area churches, and we at OUMC feel blessed to have her serve at our church. She is a welcoming person and has a sincere and calming manner, which is felt when she ministers to people in crisis. She embraced the taping of church services aired in local and other media sources so the congregation didn't lose touch with the church. Pastor Lisa is so new to us that she hasn't had an opportunity to meet with most of the membership face-to-face, yet she has made countless efforts to make contacts with those that need a more personal touch...masked and distanced, of course. We have found Pastor Lisa to be creative and has given good, 'down to earth' messages, sprinkled with humor. She includes personal experiences growing up on a farm near Montevideo with her siblings. OUMC appreciates Pastor Lisa Vick, and applaud her ministry in our community.

From Debra Gnemi of Owatonna:

Folks in faith-based ministry are vital to assist people with not only their spiritual welfare but also provide hands on, up close and personal care in the physical needs of people. The clergy meet people where they are at in their lives to provide hope and comfort in life's most darkest hours but also rejoice with people in life's blessings such as childbirth and marriage. People in ministry have a unique calling from God to walk alongside folks on their individual walks. I am personally thankful for the ministers who have been part of my life and personally cared for and offered guidance to me.

From Nancy Deetz at Our Savior's Lutheran of Owatonna:

The pastors at Our Savior's Lutheran in Owatonna, Pastors John, Lisa and Ron have been creative in finding ways to continue to serve and provide spiritual care during the pandemic. They are committed servants to humanity who are always available to talk, listen and assist. The members are grateful for them and all of their work and serving in our community.

I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.
Jeremiah 3:15



St. Columbanus Catholic Church
114 E. Main Street • Blooming Prairie
www.stcolumbanuschurch.com
columbanusbp@gmail.com

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP!
Sundays
9:30am - LIVE on Facebook
facebook.com/tlcowatonna
10:45am - Indoor, In-Person Worship
Visit tlcowatonna.org/worshipschedule
for Covid-19 guidelines and adjustments
Watch the video of our full service on Spectrum
(channel 181) and Jaguar TV (channel 900)
(Tues 4:30pm; Wed 6pm; Sun 11am)
and at owatonalive.com

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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VIDEO: FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTLUTHERANBP
AUDIO: KOWZ 100.9 FM
First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie
JOIN US VIRTUALLY!
Pastors Heidi Heimgartner, Mike Walerius & Dick Hegel
pray for the health of our community.
May each one live in God's peace.
Still the welcome place

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

OCT. 27

10:30 a.m. - Storytime Online, Facebook Live

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

OCT. 23

10 a.m. - SEMCAC,
Community Building

Community Building

OCT. 28

10 a.m. - SEMCAC,
Community Building

OCT. 26

10 a.m. - SEMCAC,

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

OCT. 23

7 p.m. - Cat's
Cradle, Little Theatre
of Owatonna

OCT. 27

9:30 a.m. - Garden
Time, Owatonna
Library

OCT. 24

7 a.m. - Farmers
Market, Central Park
9 a.m. - Halloween
SPooktacular, Mineral
Springs Park
7 p.m. - Cat's
Cradle, Little Theatre
of Owatonna10:30 a.m. -
Storytime Online with
Darla, Facebook Live
4 p.m. - OPU
Meeting, Virtual
5 p.m. - Steele
County Board
Meeting, County
Admin Building
5:30 p.m. -
Owatonna Planning
Commission Meeting,
City Hall

OCT. 25

7 p.m. - Cat's
Cradle, Little Theatre
of Owatonna

OCT. 29

10:30 a.m. -
Storytime Online with
Darla, Facebook Live

OCT. 26

4 p.m. - Owatonna
HRA Meeting, Virtual
7 p.m. - Medford
City Council Meeting,
City Hall

STEELE COUNTY Times

*Always local,
all the time.*

**Elect
Shea 24a**

Minnesota House

Prepared and paid for by Elect Tom Shea 24a Committee
P.O. Box 187 • Owatonna, MN 55060

Sudoku Corner

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

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Make new friends.

Answers

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

Passing the 100-year mark



Jeanette Wartham hands her mother Merle Gostomczik a balloon as she celebrates her 101st birthday in Medford a couple weeks ago. This photo ran in last week's Times, but unfortunately the wrong caption was placed with it. We apologize for the error and certainly extend our birthday wishes to Merle.

Annual meeting set for Ag Society

The annual meeting of the Steele County Agricultural Society has been changed this year due to COVID-19. The meeting will take place at St. John Social Hall, 1801 Lincoln Ave.,

Owatonna on Thursday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. COVID protocol will be followed at this meeting. The purpose of the annual meeting is to elect directors. Also on the agenda will be

reorganizing, giving of annual reports, long range plans and transacting such business as may properly come before the meeting. The president of the SCAS is Dan Deml.

JOHN JASINSKI

MINNESOTA SENATE DISTRICT 24

I would like to thank the citizens of Senate District 24 for your continued support and encouragement. I will do my best to continue to earn your trust - **I WORK FOR YOU!**

- Senator John Jasinski



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HIGHS TUESDAY

46 Mankato, 46 Owatonna, 49 Wadena, 51 Winona, 46 Rochester, 47 Preston, 46 Albert Lea, 47 Austin, 49 Decorah, 54 Franklin, 49 Argona, 49 Mason City

Weekday Weather Forecast

7am • Noon • 6pm • 9pm

KSMQ TV
The Better Choice

No lutefisk funds, public asked to help

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

O Lutefisk!
There are a lot of Scandinavians who will be saddened this pre-Christmas season because there will be no lutefisk dinner at the First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie.

The lutefisk dinner has been a major fundraiser for First Lutheran Church Women. The Church Women have distributed proceeds of \$12,500 from the 2019 dinner to local, regional and worldwide ministries.

With the dinner being cancelled because of the coronavirus, the Church Women have no proceeds to offer to benevolence.

The Church Women are asking for a donation of the cost of one dinner ticket, \$18.

This giving opportunity is available now through Thanksgiving 2020.

All of these gifts will then be forwarded by the FLCW to organizations in honor of all the lutefisk patrons, past and present.

Visit firstlutheranbp.com and click the button which says "Lutefisk Benevolence." Or, use the mail or on-site envelope drop-off, making sure gifts are marked as Lutefisk Benevolence.

Trunk or treat coming to BP

A trunk or treat activity is planned for this Halloween season in Blooming Prairie. It will take place on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 4-6 p.m. at Pumpkins in the Prairie on BP's Main Street.

All area businesses and organizations are invited to participate in the event. The trunks of vehicles should be decorated while people pass out candy and have a great Halloween. If you don't have a trunk, sidewalk space will be available for a table set-up.

All games, activities and photo ops will be available for the kids and their families to enjoy as the festivities go on.

Costumes are not necessary but strongly encouraged.

This event is free for everyone to enjoy.

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Socializing at the Bar
Bar Bingo: Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
Must be 21 to play

Seating available inside the bar and under the tent on the patio.

BAR HOURS
Monday - Friday • 10 a.m. to close
Saturday • 9 a.m. to close

OFFSALE HOURS
Monday - Friday • 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Saturday • 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. Sunday • Closed

Thank you for your patronage.



OWATONNA PROUD

A14 | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020

OWATONNA SCHOOLS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



Emilea Marks shoots the ball for the Owatonna Girls Soccer team.

Building momentum for girls soccer

BY CONNOR BUDACH
OHS MAGNET WRITER

As the regular season is wrapping up, the Owatonna Girls Soccer team is in third place in its conference with a record of 7-2-1. The Huskies started sections last week.

The Huskies unfortunately have had a shortened season due to COVID-19. They also have had to follow some regulations along the way. Senior captain Emma Dahmert said, "The ultimate goal is to make it to the section finals, that is as far as

we can go." The Huskies are working well as a team this season, when one person goes down the next steps up. Head coach Nate Gendron said, "Our team has definitely had some ups and downs, but we now have momentum and hope to carry that into the postseason. The Huskies are also extremely talented as they have some sophomores on the varsity team who are really making an impact and surprising the coaching staff, along with some juniors who at

the beginning of the season had to fight for the last remaining spots available on the roster. With 18 people on the varsity roster it proves just how much depth they have. They have two sophomores, eight juniors, and eight seniors. The Huskies have only lost to two teams, those being Mankato East and Rochester Century. The Huskies won their last three games. Huskies hosted Rochester John Marshall for the section game Oct. 15 at Lincoln Soccer Complex.



Drew Randall is about to kick the ball for the Owatonna Boys' Soccer team.

Enjoying every game for boys soccer

BY CAEL ROBB
OHS MAGNET WRITER

A great season is coming close to an end as the boys soccer team has played their hearts out so far this season.

With an older and more experienced team, the Huskies captains Kaden Nelson, Lane Versteeg, Nolan Burmeister and Zach Kubick have led their team to a record of 6-3-1. The Huskies wins were against Mankato East, Red Wing, Rochester Century, Rochester John Marshall, Faribault and Winona. The Huskies'

only losses came from Northfield, Mankato West and Austin. The Huskies are an older team with 14 seniors, four juniors, four sophomores and two freshmen. The team has had many key players on offense and defense. Head Coach Bob Waypa said, "It's a total team effort, and a lot of this team has seen everything and they're now passing that information and knowledge on to the other young guys." The Huskies are hoping for the two or three seed

going into sections and are currently ranked fifth in the Big 9. The Huskies want to end the regular season on a high note and go into sections strong. Due to COVID-19 there will be no state tournament so these section games will be some players' last. Versteeg said, "Going into this season it was to enjoy the opportunity to play." With the regular season over the Huskies didn't know who they'd face but they had home-field advantage in their first section game, which was on Oct. 15.

Funding request is in voter's hands

The Nov. 3 election has many important races at stake, including President, national and local leaders. The ballot also includes two Owatonna Public Schools levy requests that will determine what resources the school district has for its academic programs, teachers and other student services for the next several years.

• Question 1 requests a straight renewal of the district's existing operating levy which is about to expire. Operating levies provide critical funding for staff, classroom supplies and other school operating costs.

• Question 2 requests a phased-in increase to the district's operating levy in 2022 and 2025. If approved, funds would

enable the district to maintain quality programming and activities, appropriate class sizes and career-technical education opportunities. By phasing in the levy over time, the tax impact is also phased in - with no tax increase until 2022. The average homeowner would see a \$10 per month tax increase in 2022 and again in 2025.

It's important to note that Question 2 is contingent on Question 1 - which means that Question 2 for an operating levy increase can only pass if voters first approve Question 1 to renew the existing levy. In other words, if Question 2 gets more than 50% yes votes, but Question 1 does not, neither question will pass.

Learn more at www.isd761.org/levy

Distance music practice



Talented new fifth grade band students are busy learning their instruments during a recent practice. Note how they are socially distanced and wearing protective masks in an effort to keep everyone safe in school.

Mix it up!



SUBMITTED PHOTO
This little kindergartener at Lincoln Elementary School is enjoying magic painting. The point of the activity is to teach them what happens when colors are mixed together.

Owatonna Students of the Week

Owatonna Elementary

Grayson Feist Kindergarten
Parents: Jesse and Kristin Feist
Grayson Feist has been a great leader in our kindergarten class from the start of the school year! He is always looking for ways to be helpful to his classmates and is very kind and respectful to everyone. He is very hard working and always does his best!

Braylynn Amundson First Grade
Parents: Tanya Amundson and William Swain
Braylynn works extremely hard and has grown so

much since Kindergarten. She does her best everyday and doesn't give up if it doesn't come easily. Keep up the great work, Braylynn, and thank you for being an awesome student!

Owatonna Middle School

Erin Baker Eighth Grade
Parents: Rodney and Amy Baker
Erin is a fantastic musician and great leader in Orchestra. She has a strong work ethic and brings positive energy and enthusiasm to class every day. You are awesome, Erin! Thank you for all that you contribute!

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Steele County District 3 Commissioner
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Let's keep your tax dollars working for you, not the other way around!

State's top team keeps rolling by beating stubborn Medford

STAFF PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

ONE is an all-important number.

It stands for No. 1 football team in the State of Minnesota. After two wins in an abbreviated football season this fall, the Class 1A football champions of 2019, the Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossoms, are holding that position of acclaim.

Coach Chad Gimbel's Blossoms used a passing game again to topple the up and coming Tigers of Medford. The Tigers refused to give up, scoring eight points in the last 1:33 of the game to pull within 26-15.

The arm of junior quarterback Drew Kittelson was again golden as he threw four touchdown passes in the victory.

Kittelson now has thrown nine touchdown passes in two games. He threw for five scores in the Awesome Blossoms' 37-22 win over Rushford-Peterson.

Wide receiver Mitchell Fiebiger was the target for two of those touchdown passes, one to start off the game and another at 8:27 of the second quarter.

The other touchdown passes went to Brad Simon and the final touchdown scored by Cole Christianson.

Both came in the final quarter.



Tyler Buck (13) of Medford attempts to prevent BP's Cole Christianson (17) from catching the ball in action Friday night. The Blossoms went on to win a tough game 26-15.

The Blossoms scored the first touchdown of the game, a 32-yard strike from Kittelson to Fiebiger. The extra point by Collin Jordison was good.

The Tigers roared back with some fireworks of their own. Jack Paulson scored on a 78-yard run. The point after touchdown was good and the score was knotted early in the first quarter.

Medford threatened to go ahead late in the

first quarter on a 40-yard run by Paulson. A holding penalty on the Tigers erased Paulson's apparent touchdown.

The Awesome Blossoms went ahead at 8:27 of the second quarter on a Kittelson pass to Fiebiger. The PAT by

Carson Brenneke was good for a 14-7 Blossoms' advantage.

Neither team could muster a scoring drive



Medford Junior Jack Paulson extends out his arms to catch a ball near the goal line as BP's Luke Larkowski tumbles to the ground. The state champion Blossoms defeated a stubborn Medford team 26-15 Friday night.

GAME SUMMARY

Blossoms 26, Medford 15
Blooming Prairie 7 7 0 12-26
Medford 7 0 0 8-15



Blossoms Colin Jordison leaps into the air outside the reach of Medford's Ernesto Lazaro in Friday's contest in Medford.



It was celebration time in the end zone as Blooming Prairie's Cole Christianson (17) scored a touchdown. Joining in the celebration were Drew Kittelson (4) and Luke Larkowski (60) with David Kartes (63) looking on. Walking away from the action is Medford's Brayden Beede (55).

Medford knocks off Blossoms in volleyball

Coach Jennifer Wayne's Awesome Blossom volleyballers fell in three games to Medford on the Tigers' home floor Tuesday night, Oct. 13. Medford won 25-15, 25-13 and 25-19.

Some statistics for the Blossoms:

- Maren Forystek (senior, libero): 10 digs
- Micalyn Trihus (senior, outside hitter): 6 digs, 5 kills, 2 ace blocks, 3 ace serves
- Maggie Bruns (senior, setter): 3 digs, 11 assists
- Sierra Larson (sophomore, middle hitter): 2

- digs, 5 kills, 3 ace blocks, 1 ace serve
- Megan Oswald (senior, middle hitter): 4 kills, 2 ace blocks

Next action for the Blossoms will be Tuesday, Oct. 20 against Fairbault BA at BP at 7:15 p.m.



This year's Blossoms volleyball team includes seven seniors, from left: Halle Strunk, Megan Oswald, Anna Kittelson, Maggie Bruns, Allison Krohnberg, Micalyn Trihus, and Maren Forystek.



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Thanks to his blockers, Owatonna running back Tanner Hall finds a big crease in the John Marshall defense. He led the team with 119 rushing yards and the Huskies as a whole ran for 325 yards and five touchdowns.

Huskies blast the Rockets

Rushing attack, stifling defense lead to shutout over JM

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS EDITOR

After accounting for 242 passing yards and three touchdowns in the season opener, Owatonna quarterback Brayden Truelson needed to throw the ball just 11 times as the Huskies' rushing attack and linemen, both offensive and defensive, dominated throughout their 40-0 rout of Rochester John Marshall on Saturday, Oct. 17.

Following a 35-28 shootout against Rochester Mayo, establishing the run was a priority for Huskies' Head Coach Jeff Williams.

"The weather is not going to get any warmer from here on out. We have always prided ourselves on finding ways to win games in late October and early November. A lot of that has to do with the ability to establish a strong running attack. We want to make sure that arrow remains in our quiver," he said.

Owatonna's commitment to the run paid off late in the first quarter when Truelson plunged into the end zone from one yard out. He scored another rushing touchdown in the second quarter, this time from five yards out, to give the Huskies a 14-0 lead.

Meanwhile, Owatonna's defense stuffed John Marshall's rushing offense, holding the Rockets to just nine yards on 14 attempts. That meant they had to pass in order to find any sort of success



Running back Dylan Maas runs through the arm tackle of a John Marshall defender. He had the best game of his young high school career, running for 53 yards and two touchdowns on just eight carries.

against the Huskies, which gave Owatonna's defensive backs an opportunity to intercept the ball. The Huskies' first interception came in the second quarter when junior cornerback Tanner Stendel made a one-handed catch across the middle, then on the Rockets' next offensive possession Owatonna defensive back Zach Stransky made an over-the-shoulder pick to keep John Marshall scoreless.

Unfortunately, due to some penalties, the Huskies couldn't score any points off that turnover. "We made some mistakes down the stretch in the first half and that stifled our momentum somewhat," Williams said.

However, he liked the way Owatonna responded in the second half.

"I was pleased with how we came out in the opening drive of the third quarter and finished a strong drive with a touchdown," he said.

That touchdown came when Truelson found Payton Beyer in the corner of the end zone for an eight-yard score. The extra-point attempt failed so the Huskies led 20-0 midway through the third quarter.

That score didn't last long as Dylan Maas scored on a 16-yard run. The two-point conversion failed so Owatonna led 26-0 at the end of the third quarter.

In the fourth quarter, the Huskies put the game away with the two more touchdowns; the first a 20-yard run by Maas and the second a two-yard run by Connor Grems.

Even though Owatonna scored four touchdowns in the second half, Coach Williams said his defense deserves just as much credit for the Huskies' dominant performance.

"We simply made fewer mistakes offensively and the defense did a tremendous job of turning the ball back

over to the offense. JM did not muster a first down in the second half so it was three-and-out or a turnover consistently. That made it difficult for JM to mount a comeback," he said.

With the win the Huskies moved to 2-0 on the season, but they can't rest on their laurels as they host Rochester Century and star running back Isaiah Huber, who has already committed to play collegiate football at future Division I program Augustana University, at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 23.

Williams said Huber will present a tough challenge for his defense.

"Isaiah Huber is the fastest player in the Big SE. He is capable of turning a two-yard gain into a 70-yard touchdown every time the ball is in his hands. Obviously, we have to pursue the ball and have a lot of people around it at all times. If he pops one, we need people in pursuit," he said.

If Owatonna can contain Huber and force Century to throw, the Huskies will have a great chance to move to 3-0 on Friday.

GAME SUMMARY

Huskies 40, Rockets 0					
Owatonna	7	0	19	7	40
Rochester JM	0	0	0	0	0
PASSING					
Brayden Truelson	7	89	1	0	
RUSHING					
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	
Truelson	3	4	1.3	2	
Matt Seykora	4	36	9.0	0	
Nick Williams	8	42	5.3	0	
Connor Grems	7	63	9.0	1	
Tanner Hall	18	118	6.6	0	
Dylan Maas	8	53	6.6	2	
RECEIVING					
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	
Payton Beyer	3	53	17.7	1	
Connor Durbach	2	18	9.0	0	
TACKLES					
	Solo	Assist	Total		
G.Achterkirch	3	3	6		
Matt Seykora	2	4	6		
Zach Stransky	4	0	4		
Payton Beyer	3	0	3		
Cole Earles	1	2	3		

Baker earns All Conference in cross country

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie sophomore Hosea Baker earned first-team All Gopher Conference by finishing fifth overall in the Gopher Conference Cross Country Meet Saturday, Oct. 10.

Baker ran the 5000-meter course in 18:55.

The conference meet was held at the River Bend Nature Center in Faribault.

Senior Emily Miller placed 13th in her race to earn Honorable Mention All Conference. She ran the 5000-meter course in 25:10.

The Blooming Prairie boys finished sixth in a field of seven teams. Scores were: Medford, 31; Maple River, 50; NRHEG, 107; WEM/JWP, 110; Hayfield, 118; Blooming Prairie, 119 and USC, 154.

The Blooming Prairie girls finished fifth in a field of seven teams. Girls varsity scores were: WEM/JWP, 37; Maple River, 42; NRHEG, 78; USC, 89; Blooming Prairie, 102; Hayfield, incomplete and Medford, incomplete.

Following Baker were: Alex Miller, 24th in 20:46; Jesse Cardenas, 29th in 21:01; Ty Forystek, 30th in 21:09; Dylan Johnson, 36th in 21:49; Luke Larkoski, 39th in 21:53; Ethan Grant, 46th in 22:43; Boone Carlson, 47th in 22:44; Joe Pirkil, 48th in 22:53; Jaxon Harberts, 52nd in 23:36; Samuel Michaud, 68th in 29:42; Alex Riley, 69th in 31:29 and Tommy Donnelly, 70th in 33:54.



Following Miller in the girls varsity were: Chloe McCarthy, 20th in 26:14; Megan Oswald, 27th in 27:28; Bobbie Bruns, 28th in 27:50; Abby Smith, 29th in 27:51; Ashleigh Alves, 31st in 28:29; Haven Carlson, 32nd in 28:33; Asha Lighthizer, 38th in 30:01; Melanie Winzenburg, 43rd in 31:17; Lauren Schammel, 45th in 31:22; Anna Pauly, 49th in 32:17 and Rose Michaud, 49th in 32:32.

In the boys junior high/junior varsity race, the times were: Jacob Pauly, first in 10:36; Jack Bruns, 10th in 11:23; Tyler Anderson, 12th in 13:28 and Ben Riley, 13th in 13:55.

Girls junior high/junior varsity race results were: Lila Quail, first in 11:33; Rachel Winzenburg, eighth in 14:18; Anna Halverson, ninth in 14:19; Lily Schammel, 10th in 15:28; Shanna Halverson, 12th in 16:26 and Olivia Gonzales, 12th in 38:10.

Awesome Blossom boys competed in the Section 1A meet on Thursday and the girls ran in the Section 1A meet on Friday. The meets were held in Rochester.

Bruns leads Blossoms in Section 1A meet

The Awesome Blossom girls finished 17th among 23 teams in the Section 1A Cross Country Meet at the Northern Hills Golf Course in Rochester.

Junior Bobbie Bruns was the top runner for the Blossoms. She finished in 24:53.3.

Next for the Blossoms were: Emily Miller, 25:05.6; Megan Oswald, 25:56.4; Chloe McCarthy, 25:58.1; Abby Smith, 26:34.9; Haven Carlson, 27:58.9 and Ashleigh Alves, 28:14.2.

Cotter won the meet, Plainview placed second, Chatfield was third, Stewartville finished fourth and Lake City was fifth.

"It was a cold and windy day on a



Bobbie Bruns was the highest Blooming Prairie finisher in the Section 1A Cross Country meet last week.

very tough course," remarked BP Coach John Bruns. "Our girls ran very well," he added.

Blossom boys 18th in cross country sections

The Blooming Prairie boys cross country team finished 18th among 22 teams.

Sophomore Hosea Baker was the top runner for BP in 19:39.2.

Other Blossom finishers were: Jesse Cardenas, 20:15.6; Alex Miller, 20:19.8; Tyler Forystek, 20:37.8; Dylan Johnson, 22:08.8; Boone Carlson, 22:12.0 and

Ethan Grant, 22:26.9. Top five team finishers at the Northern Hills Country Club in Rochester were: Lake City, Lewistown/Rushford-Peterson, Rochester Lourdes, Plainview/Elgin-Millville and Pine Island.

"It was really a good effort by Cardenas, Miller and Forystek running their best times of the year."

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PANTHER OF THE WEEK

TUCKER FLATNESS

learning days. He gets up early to work on his school work at home without being told. In class, he's respectful and participates in class with his teacher and peers. He strives to learn and be the best student he can be.

Tucker loves red pandas, playing and watching football, playing with his puppies, and playing video games. Tucker's favorite food is fruit. *Keep up the great work Tucker!*

Tucker Flatness is this week's Panther of the Week. He is the son of Brandon and Karen Flatness and they reside in Hartland. Tucker is in Mr. Beynon's third grade class.

Tucker has shown great work ethic and tremendous responsibility, especially on his distant learning days. He gets up early to work on his school work at home without being told. In class, he's respectful and participates in class with his teacher and peers. He strives to learn and be the best student he can be.

Tucker loves red pandas, playing and watching football, playing with his puppies, and playing video games. Tucker's favorite food is fruit. *Keep up the great work Tucker!*

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BETSY CHAMBERS: FROM A10

funding for education is the biggest obstacle facing schools. It does not only affect Medford, but all public institutions. State and federal funds have not kept up with both state and federal mandates. Continuous efforts are needed with local legislators as well as working closely with our Superintendent to advocate for the resources/funds to adequately execute the needs to enable all students to be prepared for their future after High School.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB? It takes time to understand the workings of the schools, the administration, staff, governmental policies and funding formulas. These past eight years have laid the foundation and will allow me to seamlessly continue my service.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE? First and foremost, it is a genuine interest and passion to maintain and enhance a

healthy and vibrant school of choice that is the benchmark of a strong community. As a successful alumnus myself, I, my husband ('81 Alumnus) and my three children (Class of 2014, 2018 and 2021) have been provided many positive experiences and opportunities within Medford School, and I want to make sure these are passed on for generations to come.



Jackie Berg

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE? With the unprecedented pandemic, on top of our one time spend down of the general fund for our security building addition, it will continue to be a priority/focus on rebuilding the general fund while maintaining a safe and healthy environment for both our students and staff. It is the job of the school board and its members to keep Medford in a stable financial position. Working closely with our Superintendent to make sure he has the support and the

tools to achieve his goals and to maintain a high performing quality staff delivering top notch education to our students.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE?

Strong leadership and transparency of the facts. We currently have this and need to maintain it. The transparency in our board is led by a very strong Superintendent and his entire staff that is providing the facts in which we base our decisions off of. This in turn makes for a very healthy and productive board. It is my duty to work closely with him and members of the board, understanding the needs of the staff and students and finding ways to help them achieve their goals. Medford is very fortunate Superintendent Ristau at the helm and his commitment to excellence.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC? My past eight years of service on the board and having my children be very active and educated within the school.

BP COUNCIL: FROM A10

was not provided on the agenda or when the open meeting was convened to hold a closed session. It was simply stated that the session was closed for personnel discussion."

Once the closed session was completed, a regular city council meeting reconvened with two motions, one to rescind the discipline failed after discussion and a second passed with four affirmative votes (Mayor Curt Esplan and members Bill Newman, Tara Gimbel and Brad Clark) and one abstention from council member Mary Kittelson.

The second motion was made by Mayor Esplan to uphold the performance evaluation, the performance improvement plan and the written reprimand. Again, the employee's name was missing from the motion and should have been provided at that time, said Langholz.

The council by a 4-0 vote, one abstention, at its Oct. 12 meeting then adopted the

same motion it passed at the Sept. 14 meeting.

Skilledstaff's appeal was thus denied. City Attorney Jason Iacovino during his City Attorney's Report late in the meeting offered comments about a request by the Steele County Times for release of public data on the Skilledstaff matter.

Iacovino said the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act thus provides "reasonable time" to act on the newspaper's request.

Iacovino said the decision is up to Langholz since he is the custodian of the records. Langholz was on vacation during the time the request was active. "We are responding to the request and it is not our intent to be tight lipped about it," Iacovino said.

Langholz said he planned to make a decision on the request before the end of the week. "We have other things to do, too," remarked Mayor Esplan.

PET TIP OF THE WEEK

What if my bird starts acting strangely?

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Auctioneer's Note: After 47+ years of owning and operating Krejci Ford, the Krejcis have decided to hold a public auction on their shop tools and equipment. Mark your calendars and hope to see you auction day. *Tracy Holland*

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ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS
By Shannon Nordstrom and Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics,
I have owned my 2013 Prius since new. I asked the dealership where I purchased it to perform all recommended services as needed for the car when they are due. Over the years some fluids were changed, and others were not even though it now has over 150k miles on it. I was into an independent repair shop for an oil change last week and they not only told me but showed me that the car needed front brakes and that the hybrid coolant was low and it tested as bad even though it looked very clean. Since I was at the dealership, shouldn't they have done all these things and noticed that my brakes were so worn?

Matthew in Luverne Minnesota
You are at a spot that many people are in. Cars all have some sort of recommended time and mileage chart to dictate approximate times that certain services should be done; however, they are not set in stone. Therefore, it is important to not only have a shop to make your repairs, but also to have a working relationship with the service department and the same person if at all possible. The reason for this is that every car is driven differently and therefore the needs of service will be different. We also find that what is recommended in the factory book is not always the best times for service. Develop that relationship and communicate what is best for you.

Take care, The Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics,
I have a 2015 Dodge Grand Caravan with 60k miles, and I am in the middle of moving to Larchwood Iowa. I was reading in the paper about cars and cold and the ad said get ready for winter. I am from this area originally but have never owned a car here and I am only used to the warm winter climate of Florida. Do I need to have my vehicle gone through to make sure that it will run in the winters here? I am afraid that I may be left without a car.

Megan in Juniper Florida
This is a common question we get on our national radio show. The Under The Hood Show and it is a valid question. If you have never owned a car in a very cold winter climate then it can be intimidating when it comes time to make that switch. While the cold weather does put a stress on some things, it is not nearly as bad as you could imagine. A vehicle should always be well maintained to prevent breakdowns year-round not just in the winter. A vehicle that is taken care of should perform in any climate it was designed for. Your van being from Florida was also made to work when it is only zero degrees outside. Make sure a local shop performs standard maintenance checks like battery, wipers, tires, and coolant and repairs or upgrades as needed for proper running.

Take care, The Motor Medics

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GUEST COLUMN

It doesn't have to be this way

BY TOM SHEA

Today, elective public service and politics are polarized and dominated by toxic rhetoric. It doesn't have to be this way. My top priority if elected is the same as my motivation for filing for office in the first place: to help restore confidence and respect for public office and the dignity of developing good public policy.

Today public opinion of elective office is at an all-time low. This condition is corrosive and extremely detrimental to a healthy democracy. When legislative deliberation is dominated by hyper-partisan name calling and voting in lockstep with party leaders whose motivation may be to score political points or retaining power, it's understandable that public confidence erodes.

We should aspire to hold our governmental institutions in high regard, to be supportive of our collective need for the structure and

the order they provide. Those who choose to serve should embrace their obligation of being held to high standards and the responsibility to be a positive element of a respectful community. However, it's not just the responsibility of those who choose to run for office. We all need to do our part. To sustain and preserve the democracy we have inherited, we all need to take personal ownership of the conduct of our governmental institutions and the leaders we elect. After all, "the government" is *ALL OF US* and a reflection of who we are.

Regardless your choice in the coming election, please be guided by the principles of character, competency and policy, in that order. **Character:** does the candidate have strong core values, are they honest and of good moral standing? **Competency:** do they possess the human talent to listen, discern, problem solve and the ability to forge a consensus

to enact public policy? And finally, **policy:** does the candidate reflect or share your positions on the issues of the day?

I believe one of the reasons we are in the toxic political environment we find ourselves today is that we have these three considerations backwards. I have heard it over and over again, "I don't approve of (fill in the blank) personal behavior or conduct, but I agree with their policy." But if they aren't of good character and prone to lie, how can you be sure that your values are truly being advocated by the candidate or are they just telling you what you want to hear to get your support? And if they don't have the ability to listen, won't engage with people who don't share the same position and demean those who disagree with them, how will they possibly be able to forge a consensus to enact sustainable policy? Character and competency are prerequisites for genuine public service. Living up to the prin-

ciples and responsibilities of self-government, that is the American experiment, is not an easy task. That is where true leadership comes into play. My guiding principle in this campaign is, and will be if elected to the next Legislature, to be that of a "courageous truth teller."

My pledge to the voters in District 24a is that I will be true to my core values of honesty, accountability, respect, fairness, compassion and moral courage. I will not patronize you with quick fix, feel good solutions. I will not allow my service to be dictated by blind party loyalty and I will speak truth to power when leaders promote policy designed to retain power rather than what is in the best interests of the broad Minnesota community.

Tom Shea of Owatonna is a candidate for Minnesota State Representative 24A running against incumbent John Petersburg of Waseca.

Little Theatre sets cast for holiday show

Little Theatre of Owatonna has announced the cast for its holiday production of "A Tuna Christmas." Rated PG13.

It's Christmas in the third-smallest town in Texas. Radio station OKKK news personalities Thurston Wheelis and Arles Struvie report on various Yuletide activities, including the hot competition in the annual lawn-display contest. In other news, voracious Joe Bob Lipsey's production of A Christmas Carol is jeopardized by unpaid electric bills. Many colorful Tuna denizens join in the holiday fun!

Bev Cashman is the director and Kathy Purdie the technical director.

The cast includes Terry Duncan as Arles and more, Ron Hager as Thurston and more, Hank Bell as Jody/Stanley, Kathy Durand as Bertha and more, and Gail Thompson as Dixie and more.

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. December 4-5 and, 11-12 with matinee performances at 2 p.m. on Dec. 6 and 13.

Online tickets will be available at www.LittleTheatreOwatonna.org for the public on Nov. 21.

Our Remote Box Office at Tri M Graphics will be open Nov. 21. The LTO Box Office opens

Nov. 30. Adult ticket price is \$17; student ticket price is \$14. "A Tuna Christmas"

is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

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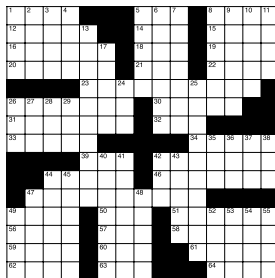
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Make ale
5. Residue
8. Female parent
12. Succulent plants
14. O's judge
15. Cash river
16. Embarrassing predicament
18. NHL legend Bobby
19. Sunfish
20. One who claims
21. On the ... running away
22. Oklahoma's "Wheat Capital"
23. The Golden State
26. Merryman
30. Silverian nomads
31. Pock-marked
32. Balen whale
33. Leaf-footed bug genus
34. Treasure
39. Tanzanian shilling
42. Changed
44. Intestinal pouches
46. Walked in a celebratory way
47. South American mountain chain
48. Jai ... sport
50. Consumed
51. Firm
56. Pubs
57. Leafy drink
58. Cured
59. Northern wind of France
60. Tax collector
61. Respite from the sun
62. American spy Aldrich
63. Central Standard Time
64. Myanmar ethnic group

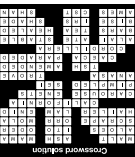
WEEKLY CROSSWORD



CLUES DOWN

1. Crush
2. Razorbill genus
3. "Full House" actress
4. Loughlin
5. Garlic mayonnaise
6. Attacks repeatedly
7. Secretion
8. Special instance
9. A handsome youth loved by Aphrodite
10. Tree genus in the mahogany family
11. Israeli city
12. Formed a theory
17. Remove
24. Type of light
25. Repeat
26. Certified public accountant

27. River in eastern France
28. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
29. Special ... military group
35. Ribonucleic acid
36. Not even
37. Power transmission belt
38. Doctor of Education
40. Type of nerve
41. Types of tops
42. Large primate
43. Flooded, low-lying land
44. Gritty
45. Gets up
47. Stake
48. Not the most
49. Swedish rock group
52. Expresses pleasure
53. Expression of boredom
54. Queen of Sparta
55. Where Adam and Eve were placed at the Creation



3 VIE FOR SPOTS: FROM A10

also a vocational education as well as directly to the work force. Blooming Prairie Schools, like the rest of the world, is facing the challenge of implementing the ever-changing COVID-19 guidelines. Thankfully, the administration is well informed and student-focused in their planning. The School Board has a history of teamwork and creative problem solving. Even though everyone brings their own insight and opinion to the board, once a decision is finalized, the members traditionally support it.

Thurnau: I believe my intent currently - Right now we are facing a big growth in our elementary school. Our administration and teaching staff are using every possible space in the building. With possible more growth on the way, our district will have to address ways to accommodate that growth for keeping our students in the best learning setting. Along with other schools in the state of Minnesota, we are all facing the shortage of substitute teachers for short and long term positions and finding great qualified teachers for our district. At our district we have been lucky to have great longevity with our teaching staff for less turn around but with our growing population we need to fill positions that come up. The state of Minnesota has allowed for us to get substitutes with anyone that has a four-year college degree and the school can help with applying for that licensure.

How to you rate the district's staffs (administrative, teaching, support, custodial, etc.)?
Stoen: Excellent
Sunde: The staff is stacked with talent and a genuine concern for the students. The administration is top-notch and

sets a high standard for themselves, which in turn, inspires the staff to excel in their roles. As in any organization, however, there are areas where improvements can be made and new ideas implemented.

Thurnau: I am thinking you want how would I rate the district staff? The staff continually looks at ways they can better our students' learning environment and to make sure that they are learning in a safe well rounded environment. They always have what is best for everyone who attends our school.

What is the financial condition of School District 756?

Stoen: Unknown.
Sunde: The school district is presently fiscally sound and operating within its budget limits. An upcoming financial concern is the need for additional classrooms as enrollment is increasing. A balance will need to be found between the incoming revenue of increased enrollment and the practical cost of sufficient space.

Thurnau: School District 756 financials have been stable with our ever growing student population and with our referendum that helps us fund for technology and smaller classrooms. Our Superintendent and District Clerk do a great job in planning for the following year and preparing for the budget for each school year with all the variables that could take place. Funding for schools all rely on what the state legislature decides before they close up that session. Along with Federal that provides us funding for our Title 1 and Special Education. **Any additional comments?**
Stoen: I am fully vested in the success of Blooming Prairie Schools.

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STEELE COUNTY TIMES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020

B1

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020

SECTION B

STEELE COUNTY TIMES



ELECTION SPOTLIGHT:
MEET THE CANDIDATES • LOCAL ISSUES ON THE BALLOT

Justice with ties to Steele County seeks re-election to Supreme Court

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A veteran public servant seeking a full term on the Minnesota Supreme Court has ties to Steele County.

Associate Justice Paul Thissen has childhood memories of spending time on a farm settled by his grandfather three miles west of Blooming Prairie. The farm is still in the Thissen family while the land is rented out. "It feels like second home," Thissen said of the BP area farm.

Thissen, 53, was born and raised in Bloomington. His father, Frank, grew up on the farm outside of Blooming Prairie and worked for St. Paul Public Schools as a teacher, counselor and administrator. His mother, Barb, worked for many years as a special education teacher for the Richfield and Bloomington schools. Both have since died with his mother passing away earlier this summer.

Gov. Mark Dayton appointed Thissen to the high court in 2018 after a 16-year legislative career that ended in his leadership role as Speaker of the House. He is the

only current member on the court with direct lawmaking experience.

Thissen is being challenged for the high court by Michelle MacDonald, 58, a private law attorney making her fourth attempt for a seat on the court. She has a history of legal issues and controversy, including charges of professional misconduct that led to her law license being suspended by the Supreme Court two years ago.

The current justice wants to make sure the state's courts work for everyone.

Instead of campaigning at parades and the Minnesota State Fair, which Thissen described

know about his race. Thissen has focused on Zoom, Facebook Live and digital advertising. He said he was looking forward to getting out to meet Minnesotans.

Thissen said he offers many key attributes on the Supreme Court. First and foremost, he said, he offers a listening ear to take in all perspectives on an issue. He also follows the law and tries to bring justice while being compassionate.

The justice has a broad range of legal expertise. Thissen has served as a public defender and spent 25 years in private practice arguing complex cases. He also points to his 16

"It has been the best job I have ever had and want to continue doing... I like public service and doing issues that matter to Minnesotans."

Justice Paul Thissen
MN Supreme Court

as being "the perfect place," and all being shuttered because of COVID-19, he has been forced to come up with other alternate ways of letting Minnesota voters

years of experience in the Minnesota Legislature, including two years as Speaker of the House. "It brings me some unique insight on how the Legislature thinks,"



Associate Justice Paul Thissen is seeking re-election to the Minnesota Supreme Court. His family has ties to the Blooming Prairie area.

he said. Thissen says his breath of experience is the greatest quality he has to offer as one of seven justices on the state's high court. "The range

of issues I covered in my professional career, sheer breath of legal experience and the time I spent as a legislator talking to Minnesotans about our values," he said.

"I've learned through that work that Minnesotans value fairness, accountability, individual dignity and the chance to have their voices heard," said Thissen. He added he is working hard to promote and defend those values as a justice.

He points out that 80% of the Supreme Court's decisions are unanimous. "We try to speak with one voice," Thissen said.

Thissen wants people to understand why the courts are important to their lives. "It's fundamental things in their lives—to keep their job and families staying together," he said. "That's why these elections matter," he added.

"It has been the best job I have ever had and want to continue doing," Thissen said of the Supreme Court. "I like public service and doing issues that matter to Minnesotans. In courts, you get a chance to think through and make the right decisions."

Thissen reminds voters to turn over the ballot to vote for the judges.

For more information about Thissen, check out his website at PaulThissen.com.

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!

Steinkamp challenges Jasinski in senate race

JOHN JASINSKI
REPUBLICAN- INCUMBENT

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE: I have been involved in business and public service for the past 27 years. I spent four years in the United States Navy where I was an Air Intercept Controller in the Persian Gulf from 1986 to 1990. I then received a Bachelor of Science degree from Mankato State in Business Finance with a concentration in Real Estate. I have been working in real estate since 1991. In parallel with my career, I have served on multiple local boards and commissions, as well as, elected to the Faribault City Council and served as Faribault's Mayor for eight years. In the past four years, I have served in the Minnesota Senate on the following committees: Local Government, State Government and Elections, Capital Investment Committee, E-12 Education Finance/Policy Committee and served as Vice Chair of the Senate Transportation Finance / Policy Committee. In 2019, I was elected as Assistant Majority Leader and Majority Whip for the Senate Republican Caucus.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENT/ENTIRETY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT: There are so many small businesses in District 24 that are struggling due to the Governor's

one-size fits all mandates. We need to help our small businesses with small business grants, loans and tax breaks like the 179 exemption to help them get back on their feet after this tough year. Within this past year, our communities have become very polarized on the political front. We need to strive to come together and heal after the difficult year. Getting our children back to school safely will be important to close the achievement gap that is only widening with the recent COVID restrictions.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB: I have a wide range of business background in real estate and construction service in combination with 27 years of community involvement in southern Minnesota. I have worked hard in the Minnesota Senate to establish strong relationships to get things done. I was told it would be almost impossible to get Highway 14 fully funded, but I would not take "NO" for an answer. We have waited over 40 years to get that project done, and I was focused to get it done. I also believe that being involved in the Senate Leadership will have a huge benefit to our district. Lastly, I believe our district is better represented by a Republican. I have watched over the past four years as the Democratic Party has deserted the needs of residents of District 24 and focused on the Twin Cities.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE: I was always raised to give back to my community and try and improve things. I have been complimented over the years as having a commonsense approach to getting things done. I don't consider myself as a politician, but more as a problem solver. I enjoy using my relationship skills to bring people together and reach compromise. That input was what made me progress from a planning commission member, to a councilmember, to a Mayor and now to a Senator. I continue to receive more and more positive comments about my positive style when representing the people of District 24. It gives me the motivation to continue to work hard for the people and try to improve the quality of life in Minnesota.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE: I want to continue to work with my fellow Republican senators, as well as, across the aisle to get things done for all of Minnesota. Having relationships with residents, businesses and other legislators is extremely important in working to reach compromise in government. I will always strive to make Minnesota a better place, to live, learn, work and retire.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE: I have a good reputation of working across party lines to work together to reach compromise and solve issues that the everyday Minnesotan deals with. I continue to listen to residents and learn what is most important to them. I have seen many have stronger personal opinions than taking

input from residents in the district. I strive to make sure I continue to listen to residents and try to reach a consensus with people who may not have the same views. Many of the issues we, as legislators, deal with should be non-partisan. I will always defend what I hear are core values of residents, and then just work to reach a compromise that everyone can live with. The biggest thing I hear in Senate District 24 is people just want things to get done. I strive for that.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC: I think a very diverse community involvement and work background has helped me understand many of the needs across the state. I also believe I was raised to understand the importance of strong relationship skills and to have compassion for everyone. Listening to people is important, and I continuously try to hear the needs of the people and not preach what I believe. Living in this area my entire life helps me have a good knowledge of the needs of the area.

HOW DO YOU FEEL THE GOVERNOR HAS HANDLED THE COVID-19 RESPONSE FOR MINNESOTA? WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO CHANGE MINNESOTA'S WAY OF HANDLING THE PANDEMIC? I thought the Governor made good choices when responding to the first 30 days of the pandemic. Many of them were difficult choices, but we as the legislature worked with him to voice our individual district

concerns. I was not in favor of the extension of his emergency powers past the first 30 days, and I have since voted to remove it four times. I believe the Governor has abused his emergency powers to promote his party and make unilateral decisions without the input from the Legislature or the opposite party. Several of the mandates he made were done with a "one size" fits all approach. Our state is vastly different depending on where you live, and I believe local control would have been a better way to handle the situation. Owatonna is not Minneapolis, and the cases or deaths from COVID-19 are proof of that. The mandates the Governor has done has devastated rural Minnesota and small businesses within our communities. Many will suffer for years and even more may never recover. Because of that, our states budget went from a \$1.6 billion surplus to what we believe will be a \$6.6 billion deficit. The Governor should have made strong recommendations instead of mandates similar to the South Dakota Governor. The COVID death rates per capita were very similar, however South Dakota did not have the devastating economic impact as did Minnesota.

MANY HAVE IDENTIFIED A BREAKDOWN IN STATE LEADERSHIP WITH THE HANDLING OF THE RIOTS IN THE TWIN CITIES AFTER THE GEORGE FLOYD KILLING. HOW COULD MINNESOTA'S RESPONSE HAVE BEEN HANDLED DIFFERENTLY AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO MAKE CHANGES TO SYSTEMATIC RACISM?

I believe there was lack of leadership in both Minneapolis, St. Paul and Minnesota in general. Minneapolis Police have been asking for more police officers for years, and the Minneapolis City Council has denied the request. What happened to George Floyd was definitely wrong, and the responsible officer(s) should be prosecuted to the fullest extent. The leaders in charge allowed the protests and rioting to escalate, and I have heard that from reliable officers. The Governor could not be found and was definitely not pro-active in calling in the National Guard when he should have. He should have known better being the leader of the state and having years of experience with the National Guard. By delaying the response and allowing the riots to escalate, the violence has exploded across our nation. The Governor and leaders of Minneapolis and St. Paul should have promoted law and order and not allowed the civil disobedience to the extent they did. They should have called in the National Guard much earlier and restored law and order. Racism is difficult to legislate. We need to continue to improve as human beings to raise our children and teach residents to respect to all persons.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN THE COMING YEARS TO RESTORE MINNESOTA'S ECONOMY AND HELP SMALL BUSINESSES, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL MINNESOTA? This year is a budget year and will need to work hard to balance the budget. Every state program and department will be looked at to see where our tax money is being spent wisely or inefficiently. Working to get



JOHN JASINSKI

MINNESOTA SENATE DISTRICT 24

GREATER MINNESOTA, I WORK FOR YOU. YOU HAVE A VOICE IN ST. PAUL



121 BILLS
58% WITH BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

LEADERSHIP POSITION
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

IN MY FIRST 4 YEARS IN OFFICE

- Stopped the \$0.20 gas tax.
- Approved first middle-class income tax cut in 20 years
- Helped fix MNLRAS debacle.
- Funding for Tink Larson field.
- Stopped extreme anti-gun restrictions.
- Reduced the Social Security tax on seniors.
- Fully funded Highway 14.
- Exposed waste, fraud, and abuse at DHS.
- Funded Roberts Lake clean up after tornado.
- Have 100% Pro-Life rating.
- Improved veterans' benefits.
- Secured funding for nursing homes.
- Initiated AIR Grants program for greater Minnesota airports.

PROVEN AND PERSISTENT

JASINSKIFORSENATE.COM

our small businesses back on their feet and recover from the reduced revenue and increased expenses will be very important. Prior to COVID-19, we had one of the strongest economies we have ever seen, and we will need to help all businesses recover from these negative effects. Small business grants, loans and tax relief will be important. We will also need to work to not increase taxes to further harm our businesses. I have personally watched the exodus of Minnesota residents to other states with lower taxes and less restrictions. We need to keep residents and our tax base here in Minnesota.

ROGER STEINKAMP DFL

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

I grew up with conservative values of hard work, integrity, honesty, frugality, humility, compassion, and a willingness to serve people on a farm near Renville.

I had the good fortune to benefit from a series of opportunities that presented themselves. I prepared to become an agricultural teacher at the University of Minnesota and taught for 10 years. During that time, I also earned two more degrees (MA and PhD in education).

At one point, Lucie (my wife) and I launched a business making specialty sheep milk products. For 10 years, we developed an entire value chain from farm to customer. You may have tasted our sheep milk ice cream and frozen yogurt at the State Fair.

Another big part of my career was spent in foreign assistance. I've worked for more than 25 years in various countries including Montenegro, Macedonia, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal,

Lebanon, Djibouti and Sri Lanka. In most cases, I would spend years in the country integrating the best of our ideas with their ideas to help them fulfill their dreams in education, youth work and dairy.

We are now retired in Faribault where I am active on the City Environmental Commission and substitute in schools.

You can read more detail at RogerSenate.com.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

The top issue we are confronting are the consequences of COVID-19.

The virus is an equal opportunity agent cutting through cultural, social, religious and economic barriers. It exposes the weaknesses in our economy and society. We can rebuild our society and economy for the better rather than attempting to return to the norms that created the crisis.

This is a crosscutting issue. We need to extend Health Care to everyone. Countries with universal health care have fared better than us. Education is being reshaped in the new COVID environment.

It will demand more assistance to support the schools and those on the front lines of education. Infrastructure, such as broadband, must be addressed. Systemic injustices in affordable housing, the workplace, childcare, policing, taxation and the environment affect the climate of society, the economy and the planet. All urgently need to be

addressed. It will take all of us to solve the problem, not partisan bickering. I call it hybrid solutions. Everyone is at the table working to solve problems, not create them.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB?

My whole life has been dedicated to service, whether teaching, running a business or assisting other people realize their dreams.

Our country is sick with crony democracy. I have the will and courage to research the problems and find solutions without being strapped to tradition, ideology, parties or money. We do what is right for the community not special interests, including my own.



Roger Steinkamp

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

Of course, my parents played a critical role along with the church and schooling I received. That is the foundation of integrity, honesty and a passion to do what is right and honorable. Beyond that, the privilege of being part of many societies, cultures and peoples has broadened my horizons to appreciate and respect each individual for who they are and empathize with the injustice and suffering that takes place. We would need a pot of tea to relate all the experiences and insights that people have shared. That sets the stage for my candidacy.

When I retired about two years ago, I wondered how I could use this knowledge and experience for the common good. I did not have to look far to see the injustices I had been struggling with most of my life happening in my

community before my eyes. We can find the solutions when people in the community come together, get informed and act.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE?

First, relieve the suffering that the COVID-19 virus has exposed. We are on the path but are still discovering where it leads. Masking, distancing and tracing are short-term fixes we need until we figure it out. Like in any disaster, we need to help those most severely impacted.

Secondly, get the crooks out of the swamp and money out of the electoral system. I'd rather focus on finding solutions to the problems and then act on them, transparently and honestly.

Finally, we need a vision of

- Health care for all
- Sustainable agriculture that produces healthy food and keeps farmers on the land.

- Helping small business bridge the gap or restructure to deal with the new environment we find ourselves in

- Dealing with injustices in housing, employment (unemployment), childcare, education, health care, paid time off and many more. We need to pay prevailing wages and a living wage to put money into the economy.

- Give education the moral and financial support where teachers are stressed out. We need to support the frontline people, not be the Monday morning quarterback.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

I have solved some complex problems in very challenging situations.

But the solution is straightforward.

1. Identify and define the problem.

2. Find and listen to the best people you can find to develop the vision and roadmap.

3. Act with passion and keep your eyes on the prize. Don't be distracted by political games.

4. Focus on the goal. There are many roads to get there. That leaves some flexibility to attain the goal. And, for goodness sakes, get off the path that leads to the cliff.

As I have told every staff member I've had when the going gets tough, "Impossible is not a word in my dictionary." There are no partisans when everyone has a shovel and digs.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC?

Starting as a child, I think I was four or five years old and knew I was here to serve others. Integrity, honesty and serving others were ingrained in me by my family. Later it was the leadership taught through the FFA and various creeds that I had to learn. I have found the tenets of those creeds have deep roots.

I have been blessed by many opportunities that have presented themselves, and learned from every culture, religion, friend and foe. These insights help me empathize with people who are going through a rough time or equally, celebrating life. I have worked for the US government and appreciate the dedication of public servants and the workers who perform the tasks that make it all work.

The same is true of my fellow teachers and school administrators. Surviving 10 years in business helps me appreciate the rough

and tumble ways of the marketplace.

I have learned to focus what's important. I act with integrity, honesty and passion in the interest of everyone in the community.

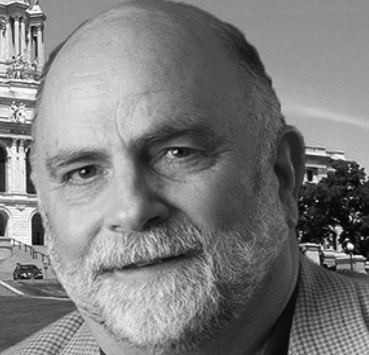
HOW DO YOU FEEL THE GOVERNOR HAS HANDLED THE COVID-19 RESPONSE FOR MINNESOTA? WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO CHANGE MINNESOTA'S WAY OF HANDLING THE PANDEMIC?

Gov. Walz has been an exceptional leader in this crisis. One phrase stands out, "I take responsibility..." He owned his decisions from the beginning and made the tough calls to flatten the curve. He stayed the course despite a steady stream of propaganda hosing down the media daily with no one taking responsibility for the snipes or offering an alternate plan that would keep us safe.

Just look at what has worked around the world and in the past to control pandemics. The epidemiologists told and showed us the way. We knew then, and know now, that masks, distance, and contact tracing are the three legs of the stool that control the spread of viruses. Vaccines are a longer-term solution and take time. Those countries that are following that trajectory have had success in controlling the virus. Those that did not...well...we are the worst in the world. So, let us get with the program. The situation will evolve, and we need competent leaders to lead us through this, not deceptive and sacrifice us on the altar of ideology.

MANY HAVE IDENTIFIED A BREAKDOWN IN STATE LEADERSHIP WITH

SEE DISTRICT 24, B5



Roger!

Steinkamp

MINNESOTA SENATE DISTRICT 24

YOUR VOICE IN THE SENATE

TU VOZ EN EL SENADO

CODKAAGA XUKUNKA

"What has the MN SENATE accomplished with Senator Jasinski's leadership as Assistant Majority Leader?"

Four special sessions and no bonding bill passed.

Blocking bills or focusing on nonsense rather than real solutions.

Dodging responsibility and no plan.

Spreading propaganda rather than fact.

We NEED a change! WE can find solutions that:

Provide healthcare, paid time off, child care, drivers licenses and affordable housing.

Provide stop-gap measures to help businesses, farmers & workers survive the pandemic.

Rebuild our economy and society in a just way.

Fund education to make it equitable and affordable for everyone.

Restore decency, transparency, integrity and honesty in government.

It's time for a change RogerSenate.com



Prepared and paid for by the Roger Steinkamp MN Senate Committee.
PO Box 1177, Faribault, MN. 55021



Dornink takes another run at Sparks

GENE DORNINK
REPUBLICAN

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

Gene's childhood on a family dairy farm embodies the spirit and character of south-central Minnesotans. His career as a Union carpenter and later as a small business owner, exemplifies the qualities of hard work and stick-to-it-iveness found in every corner of this southern Minnesota district. Far from being a career politician, Gene epitomizes the average, hard-working citizen who has worked diligently alongside his wife of over 35 years to raise his family and build a successful business right here in Southeast Minnesota.

Involvement in the community includes EMT for Dodge Center ambulance, Mentor for Adult and Teen Challenge in Rochester, Youth baseball coach, volunteer for hurricane relief in Texas 2010, worked on residential homes of people in need.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

Obviously COVID-19 has decimated our economy and our governor has unnecessarily treated all of Minnesota like Minneapolis, closing our local businesses down with very few cases of

COVID-19 in our part of Minnesota. So in return our state is facing a massive budget deficit that could reach \$6 billion. That's why this election is so important, we need someone who is ready to roll up their sleeves and dig into the waste, fraud and abuse in state government. We need someone



Gene Dornink

one to decide between needs and wants. First, we will need to admit the state is facing a massive deficit. It will take years to get out of this, and we need someone to make quick decisions and not take six months to decide what to do. We all know what my opponent's team will do. During the last time they controlled the senate, they raised taxes during a budget surplus. We need to stop spending money on foolish programs that have very little effect so the truly needy are protected. We should look at trimming government and protecting our businesses and citizens already hurt by the governor's executive orders and impacts of COVID-19.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB:

Having lived and worked throughout the district, I understand how our economy works and what folks need to thrive. We need someone in St. Paul to stand up and speak up for us. Our current Senator doesn't do that. Only having spoken three times in the past four years on the Senate floor, our Senator's voice is currently the far-left metro Democrat's voice. I know that if elected, I will work hard to get the voice

of the district spoken in St. Paul.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

Our country was founded by citizens stepping out of their vocations for a brief season to serve their nation, state and municipalities. I am running for the same reason: to serve the people of District 27 by representing their values and speaking up for them at the State Capitol. For too long, Southern Minnesota has not been adequately represented in the Senate. For the past two decades, I've watched our values take a back seat to the metro crowd. Down here, we value life! We value hard work! We value faith and family! I want to turn this ship around and restore those values of our society. As a farm kid, carpenter and small businessman from Southern Minnesota, I know I can bring my experience to the table and be an effective servant-leader in the Senate.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:

My primary goal is to ensure the safety and protection of the people of this district by supporting our law enforcement community. I am proud to be endorsed by our law enforcement officers. Also, I intend to work hard to build a strong local economy and favorable small business climate for both our urban and rural areas. Recovering from the state shutdown will be a priority for me so I will work hard to work on supporting our local economy and improving the business climate.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

I think that early on in the pandemic the Governor worked well with the legislature and approved many important provisions that tried to address the uncertainty. Since then, I wish that the Walz administration would listen to local officials and not treat us with a one size fits all model. We are not certain what benchmarks need to be met to reopen. The mask mandate has not slowed down the spread. With winter coming, restaurants will lose their temporary patios and are certainly facing financial shortcomings. We need a voice in St. Paul that will fight for our community and speak up for us. Governor Walz needs to work with the legislature and not adopt the current one size fits all model that he is currently using.

MANY HAVE IDENTIFIED A BREAKDOWN IN STATE LEADERSHIP WITH THE HANDLING OF THE RIOTS IN THE TWIN CITIES AFTER THE GEORGE FLOYD KILLING. HOW COULD MINNESOTA'S RESPONSE HAVE BEEN HANDLED DIFFERENTLY AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO MAKE CHANGES TO SYSTEMATIC RACISM?

I think the Governor really froze in the moment and from what we are learning now Mayor Frey asked for help far sooner than Walz told us. He should have called the National Guard and helped secure the streets and not let those folks' properties burn after the unfortunate and tragic death of George Floyd. Two wrongs do not make a right. Permissive governance will not alter the course of the future but will instead reinforce lawlessness. Prejudices and biases are heart issues that need to be rooted out early in a person's life. Encouraging strong families and committed parents is the best way to bind a community together.

GIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

Working with both parties and working hard. Listening carefully to all points of view before making a decision has always been a strong point for me. Often when folks go to St. Paul, they forget why they are there. I have a family and community that will keep me focused on getting the job done for our community. I will be that Senator that people know, talk to and will have a positive interaction with me even if we disagree. That's how you build respect for each other.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

Owning a small business and raising a family of 12 kids. Patience and hard work are my life. I think those attributes come from growing up on a farm, and they both undoubtedly helped prepare me for a legislative session. Having personally gone through financial hardships after the financial crisis, I understand what families go through. We need someone with that experience so the most vulnerable have a true ally at the legislature.

HOW DO YOU FEEL THE GOVERNOR HAS HANDLED THE COVID-19 RESPONSE FOR MINNESOTA?

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO CHANGE MINNESOTA'S WAY OF HANDLING THE PANDEMIC?

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er. Stronger communities need to include a stronger educational system. The areas of the Twin Cities that have seen the most violence have horrible graduation rates. The system is broken, and we need new ideas that the system does not continue to fail.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN THE COMING YEARS TO RESTORE MINNESOTA'S ECONOMY AND HELP SMALL BUSINESS, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL MINNESOTA?

We need St. Paul to stop treating Minnesota with one size fits all gloves. Cutting section 179 taxes will undoubtedly help our local farmers and Ag economy, as they look to rebuild after COVID-19. That's where I would start. Next my opponent continues to ignore the fact that our businesses are at a competitive disadvantage compared to surrounding states. We need to loosen regulations and let our economy thrive because we can't attract businesses to come to our areas with over regulation and taxes. Also, I would create incentives for our current businesses to expand. That may be the only way to grow with our current environment.

DAN SPARKS DPL - INCUMBENT

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

I was raised in Austin and graduated from Austin High School in 1986. I grew up in a union household and my dad worked at the Hormel plant for 42 years. I also grew up working on a three-generation family farm, which I still do every spring and fall to this day. For college, I attended St. Cloud State University and the University of Minnesota.

I've worked road construction and also worked on the production line at the Hormel plant for six years, where I was a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 9. Later, I worked in real estate and banking. Currently, I'm an insurance agent at AdvisorNet Financial in Austin.

I'm a longtime member of the Austin Area Chamber of Commerce and the Austin Noon Lions. I served on the Austin YMCA Board of Directors and have been involved in little league baseball and youth hockey.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

I think there are several top issues facing Minnesota at this point in time. We're still battling issues caused by the coronavirus, and the state is looking at a large deficit in the next budget cycle. We won't overcome this deficit by pointing the finger or playing political games. Republicans and Democrats will have to come together, work through their disagreements and make tough decisions. In my time as a State Senator, Minnesota has experienced even larger budget deficits, and the approach I just described was how we guided the state through those challenges. I'm committed to working with lawmakers of both parties to solve this deficit.

We're also experiencing

ing challenges to public safety in Minnesota. I'm a proud supporter of our police and first responders, and I'm fully committed to securing the funding and resources they need to protect our communities. They have a difficult job, and we need to help them carry out this important work and see they're being properly supported.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB:

o overcome the challenges facing our state and our communities, it's going to require strong, independent leadership. Minnesota needs elected officials with the proven ability to work together and deliver results. We won't tackle our problems by pointing fingers or playing political games. It's going to take both Republicans and Democrats rolling up their sleeves, working together and finding agreement for the good of Minnesotans. My record shows I've always been a consensus builder who works to bring people together, as well as the independent voice our communities need. If re-elected, that's exactly the kind of leader I'll continue to be.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

My appreciation for our communities is what has most influenced me to run for office. I grew up here and graduated from our public schools. After returning from college, I chose to stay, become a homeowner and raise my family here. I love living here, and it's made me the person I am today. Our communities are special places, and as your State Senator, I've always strived to ensure they remain that way and will continue to do so if re-elected.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:

I'd like for Minnesota to overcome the health, economic and budgetary issues we're facing from the coronavirus. We've already done a lot on this front, but we know that the job still isn't finished. I believe it's also critical to continue bringing state investment to the district for local infrastructure and transportation projects, as well as broadband expansion.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

As I touched on before, I've demonstrated my ability to get things done in office by working with both Republicans and Democrats. The challenges we're up against right now can only be solved if we all work together. It's going to require us to have honest discussions, sort out our disagreements and find compromise. It's certainly not easy, but I know firsthand what it takes to break through political gridlock and build consensus across the aisle. Along similar lines, I've never had any issue voting against my party when it's in the best interest of my constituents. Citizens in our communities don't want a State Senator who only votes with his party. They want a strong, independent voice that will stand up for what is right for our communities no matter what. My track record shows that's the kind of leader I am, and I'll continue to be that kind of leader if re-elected.

WHAT IS SOME-

IT'S TIME FOR A CITIZEN, NOT A CAREER POLITICIAN!

- ✓ **PRO AG & BUSINESS**
- ✓ **PRO 2ND AMENDMENT**
- ✓ **PRO LABOR**
- ✓ **POLICE ENDORSED**
- ✓ **UNION ENDORSED**
- ✓ **SUPPORTS TERM LIMITS**

DORNINK

FOR SENATE

2020



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P.O. Box 342, Hayfield, MN 55940

THING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

I believe that my personal and professional background, as well as, my experience as a leader for our communities at the State Capitol has prepared me well to continue serving the public. Having professional experience in labor, business and agriculture, I've worked with folks from all kinds of backgrounds in a variety of settings. I understand how to listen to different perspectives, work together when not everyone sees eye-to-eye and find solutions.

HOW DO YOU FEEL THE GOVERNOR HAS HANDLED THE COVID-19 RESPONSE FOR MINNESOTA? WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO CHANGE MINNESOTA'S WAY OF HANDLING THE PANDEMIC?

Overall, I believe the governor has done a good job addressing the coronavirus pandemic. Minnesota has performed well and kept our numbers down compared to states that didn't put public health precautions in place. Looking back, there are things that could have been handled differently in my opinion, such as the forced closures of small and local businesses while big box stores were allowed to remain open. A more recent example is the many constituents who contacted me with concerns about spectators not being allowed at indoor high school sporting events, and I agreed with them. But in both these examples, we've been able to successfully work through these issues and make progress in the right direction. COVID-19 has also been a clear reminder of the critical role of our nurses, doctors and health care profes-

sionals. I'm thankful for their unwavering commitment to caring for the sick and supporting our health care system when it's under stress. I'm proud to support our health care professionals in these critical times and I'm committed to making sure they are equipped for success.

MANY HAVE IDENTIFIED A BREAKDOWN IN STATE LEADERSHIP WITH THE HANDLING OF THE RIOTS IN THE TWIN CITIES AFTER THE GEORGE FLOYD KILLING. HOW COULD MINNESOTA'S RESPONSE HAVE BEEN HANDLED DIFFERENTLY AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO MAKE CHANGES TO SYSTEMATIC RACISM?

Looking back, the National Guard should have been called in early as a preventative measure. I do think the damage that ultimately resulted from

the riots is an issue for the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul to figure out. To that end, I'm opposed to any tax dollars from our communities going toward rebuilding what was destroyed up there. Our local law enforcement truly does outstanding work to serve and protect our communities. I see trust in our communities between citizens and law enforcement. I'm thankful for the time and effort that has been put in locally to foster these important relationships. To me, it's one of the things that make our communities great places to live. The legislature and the governor approved a police reform bill in July with overwhelming support from both Republicans and Democrats, as well as the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association, which speaks to the contents of the bill and the work that went into it. By bringing

together stakeholders from both the public and law enforcement, I'm optimistic that we can continue working together to ensure the needs and concerns of citizens and law enforcement alike are being met.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN THE COMING YEARS TO RESTORE MINNESOTA'S ECONOMY AND HELP SMALL BUSINESSES, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL MINNESOTA?

The legislature has taken steps to help boost our small businesses and economy, but we know there's still work to be done. With strong support from both parties, the legislature approved \$60 million in emergency small business grants and loans. While this unfortunately wasn't enough to fully meet the existing demand, it has still helped many small businesses across the state. I also supported leg-

islation to push back tax deadlines and temporarily ease some of the fiscal restraints facing businesses. I'm committed to continuing to support our small businesses, and to that end I'm proud to be endorsed by the National Federation of Independent Businesses. I'm disappointed that at the time of writing this, the legislature still hasn't passed a bonding bill this year. A bonding bill passed in the spring would have created many good-paying jobs statewide and put people back to work. Unfortunately, some lawmakers have decided to play political games and hold up this legislation that would be a huge boost to Minnesota's economy. I have been and continue to be a strong supporter of a bonding bill this year, and bonding will almost certainly continue to play a role in restoring Minnesota's economy in the coming years.

MN SENATE- DISTRICT 24: FROM B3

THE HANDLING OF THE RIOTS IN THE TWIN CITIES AFTER THE GEORGE FLOYD KILLING. HOW COULD MINNESOTA'S RESPONSE HAVE BEEN HANDLED DIFFERENTLY AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO MAKE CHANGES TO SYSTEMATIC RACISM?

Fear mongering and propaganda have been used to confuse the issues. We need to understand the context. George Floyd's death was the spark that ignited the pent-up anger and frustration with systemic racism. Hindsight is 2020. I believe the governor and mayors have assumed responsibility for their actions. They have owned up to decisions that could have been made better. However, their attempts to

de-escalate the situation produced results. The images of protesters peacefully submitting to arrest bear witness to it.

There is evidence that other groups have added fuel to fire. "Umbrella man" (now identified as a white nationalist with a record of inciting violence) was smashing windows and inviting people to loot stores. In another vein, police brutality has a history in the US. Police are being equipped and trained as the military. The military is trained to use deadly force. If people are trained and equipped to resort to deadly force, we should not be surprised when it happens. Most European countries have a different vision for the role of police officers and incarceration that works much better

than meeting violence with violence.

Minneapolis burned, not Faribault, Owatonna or Waseca. We have our own problems and can solve them. Minneapolis can do the same. The common denominator is empowering citizens with decision making in policing their communities. That is what the Minneapolis community is asking. But the propaganda being perpetuated conflates defunding with redefining policing. Funds will most likely be reallocated as the role of the police officer is redefined. We need to rethink what we want police officers to do and what is better left to other professionals. Let us take stock of the situation. No one is "defunding" the police to get rid of them.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN THE COMING YEARS TO RESTORE MINNESOTA'S ECONOMY AND HELP SMALL BUSINESSES, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL MINNESOTA?

Constantly focusing on short term fixes and self-interest leaves us bouncing from crisis to crisis. That is no way to build a nation. Communities and the state have developed long range plans based on the best information available.

Population aging, workforce changes, and growing diversity are three major demographic trends that will shape and transform Minnesota in the coming decades. Rural Minnesota is struggling as the population ages with consequent shifts in needs for long-term

care, training a workforce vacated by retirees and integration of diverse communities that are growing. Nostalgia for a time and place that never really existed is not a solution.

The current pandemic is forcing us to rethink every system. It is like standing in the ruins of Dresden after it was burned to the ground. Where do you start? At the base is infrastructure that will support education, transportation, agriculture, and business needs. We failed the stress test of COVID. The agencies and plans that had been put in place to predict and control pandemics were dismantled and the chaotic response in the onslaught of the virus is evident with tragic results of 300,000 deaths and mounting.

We can rebuild a better system. Businesses have started the transition and funds to support them need appropriation. Low income people who have lost jobs and were struggling before COVID will need continued support to find housing and feed their families. We need a long-range plan that includes policies and laws that lead to paid time off, childcare, a living wage, prevailing wages, affordable quality education, affordable housing, clean energy, access to broadband networks, and on and on. We will not be able to do everything at once, but we can't be distracted by mantras of the impossibility of doing anything. Fortunately, many countries have figured it out. We can learn and do it.



**In challenging times,
Dan Sparks is the bipartisan
leader we need.**

VOTE DAN SPARKS
for Minnesota State Senate District 27

Authorized and paid for by Dan Sparks for Minnesota State Senate.

Durand battles Voss for at large seat

MATT DURAND

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

For the past 15 years, I have made Owatonna my home, providing fertile ground to plant roots and raise a family. It has afforded my children a strong school system helping them learn and develop into great people. Over the years, I have volunteered alongside passionate fellow citizens to help advance grassroots initiatives that seek to strengthen our community. And as the former Storm Water Manager for the City of Owatonna, I've had the privilege of professionally serving alongside hardworking, caring individuals that are making a difference in Owatonna.

I work as a Community Planning Specialist for CEDA (Community & Economic Development Associates) and serve rural Minnesota communities assisting in planning practices for long term success. Prior to joining CEDA, I worked as a college professor at the Dunwoody College of Technology and Minnesota State University, Mankato University teaching construction project management. I've been involved in the construction industry as a project manager for twenty years, working on both residential and commercial construction projects. I have a B.S. in Construction Management and a Masters of Education in Educational Leadership from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

Community Engagement — as our society continues to grow and embrace technology; how we connect to each other is changing. A city is nothing without its citizens, and it's critical that we engage them to ensure that we have trust, understanding and collaboration.

We need to be proactive and initiate communication and dialogue with the community to maximize resident engagement. This will ensure institutional and organizational leaders

have a clear understanding of and a commitment to engaging with the community in a meaningful and effective way.

We need to explore frequent and diverse opportunities for public education and engagement. Provide a variety of creative, convenient and cost-effective ways for the public to access educational information, become involved, and have real opportunities to engage and provide feedback. Provide a consistent and coordinated approach to community engagement for participating entities to guide the selection of the most appropriate method and level of engagement.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB:

I can offer a critical thinking mindset to community issues and understand how they affect everyone, short term and long term. As a leader, I will do the research, facilitate candid conversations, ask questions, share through vulnerable discussions, and speak up for the community.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

Growing up in Steele County and being raised in Medford, I've learned the importance of community — one that works together, listens and respects one another's contributions. I've had the opportunity to grow in this community and have benefited from the leadership of others before me. I'm running for City Council because I want to give back to the community and help make a positive impact in the lives of Owatonna residents. I'm excited for the opportunity to bring passion and energy to the issues the City will face and help make this a great community for individuals and families.

Throughout my professional career, I've collaborated with city, county, and state levels of government and have seen first-hand how important strong leadership can be when making decisions. I've been able to help facilitate progress and feel that those skills have prepared me for the tasks ahead and will prove valuable serving Owatonna as a councilperson.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:

I'm dedicated to providing the leadership needed

for Owatonna to continue to be a great place for businesses and families to grow. Core to my calling and conduct, I seek to approach progress across the following areas:

- Emphasize transparency & trust
- Improve communication & engagement
- Collaborate across boundaries & advance sector partnerships
- Innovate & strengthen community assets

WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

Encourage the open exchange of ideas. Invite conversations with the public, encourage idea sharing and find common ground. Strengthen community connectedness by creating opportunities for the community to get involved and provide feedback regarding matters that are important to them.

Increase community awareness, interest and participation in projects and initiatives taking place in our community. Ensure community feedback is heard, respected and taken into account in decision-making processes.

Enhance community trust. Enhance the relationship and level of trust across the community, as well as ensure community members are informed about and involved in community decisions, and information received through community engagement efforts is reported back to the community.

Provide Transparency. Ensure that community business is conducted in an open and transparent manner.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

I've embraced servant leadership in my life and have volunteered in many church, civic, and community events including United Way of Steele County, Owatonna Forward, Blandin Community Leadership, Cannon River Watershed Partnership and Knights of Columbus. I feel that these experiences contributing and leading with others have prepared me to serve my community.

I've always tried to look at both sides of any decisions and weigh the pros and cons. I try and keep an open mind and look at the situation and information presented

with respect and perspective. If I'm not satisfied with the information, I'll ask questions to better understand the situation and the decisions made to get to this point. Once I've listened to the points of view, I try and make the best decision based on the data presented. Then it's all about action. I've always believed that action leads to results. I really enjoy moving issues forward towards a solution. Then follow up with department heads, employees, and those impacted by those decisions.

DOUG VOSS
INCUMBENT COUNCIL MEMBER

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

Personal: Born and raised in Owatonna. Graduated from Owatonna High School in 1983; Graduated from Bethel University in 1987 — Business & Marketing degree

Work: Construction/ Carpentry during college years; Owner of Fame Awards & Specialties — Owatonna — 1988-Present

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB:

I feel that I am the best candidate for the job because I have put in the effort to learn and understand how to be effective at the local government level. Building relationships with the staff and other council members is imperative to being effective for the citizens, and I have worked hard and accomplished that over the past four years. By being a life-time citizen of Owatonna and also owning a small business for the past 32 years in Owatonna, I have a vast knowledge of the people and businesses in this city.

I have been very active in the Chamber of Commerce (32 years), Business Networkers (10 years), Rotary (4 years) and my Church for over 40 years. Any citizen can contact me at any time and expect to get help with whatever issue they are having.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

Having invested a huge amount of time and effort over the past four years, I now feel that I am positioned to be an even more effective council member and a council leader in a number of areas. The knowledge of city govern-

ment and the relationships I have built with staff and council position me to have much more influence in the next few years.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:

My goals for the next 4 years include:

- 1 — Continuing to effectively help manage the city budget (3 years in a row of under levy budgets resulting in reduced city tax rates) while still providing an outstanding workforce with the tools they need to accomplish our goals. Efficient, Effective & Economical Government.

- 2 — Continue Economic Development in the area — my role as vice-chair of the Economic Development Authority puts me in a great position to continue to help bring business to town. And more importantly to me — to help support the many great businesses we already have, both large and small. These businesses create the "fabric" of Owatonna that make it a great place to grow up and raise a family.

- 3 — Continue to help pursue housing for our citizens. This would include

all aspects of housing from low income/affordable housing to Senior and over 55 housing. It is a pretty complicated and involved process to get these projects going, and we have been very successful in this area over the past four years. We have a number of projects in process and on the drawing board. These projects require perseverance and many years of effort for each project.

- 4 — Continue to work and collaborate with Steele County in an efficient and effective manner on the transportation needs in the Owatonna area. We have nurtured a really good relationship with the Commissioners over the past four years, and it has really helped to get some great projects done over the last few years. There will be numerous infrastructure needs coming up in conjunction with the new High School, and this very positive relationship will really help to accomplish the needs that arise from that project.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

The best way to make sure things get done is to stay in close contact with staff and council. This includes weekly (and often times daily) calls with our City Administrator, Department heads and our Council President and Vice President. It would also include continuing my involvement on the committees I work on — Economic Development Authority and the Owatonna Business Development Center board. Along with the board assignments, I continue to stay in close contact with our development coordinator to stay current with any developments that are in process and to help in any way possible to help gain positive outcomes.

WHAT IS SOME-

THING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

The answer overall is to say I have 55 years to be prepared for this position. Every part of your life helps to create the person you are. You have to make decisions in your life as to what you think are things worth investing your time in. My priorities will always continue to be my Faith, Family and my Business. And I now have the time and interest in helping the Owatonna Community become the greatest place in America for the next generation to invest in.

FAVORITE PART OF BEING A COUNCIL MEMBER:

I really enjoy helping to bridge the gap between the citizens and the local government. I get calls weekly from citizens that need help to alleviate a problem that they have: sometimes in the community and sometimes with the City government itself. It is a very satisfying feeling to be able to help these folks get answers and to help alleviate the problems they have in our great city.

KEVIN RANEY
INCUMBENT COUNCIL MEMBER

RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN WARD 4

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

I have lived in Owatonna since 1981. Married to Monica, two children, Jake and Michaela, and twin granddaughters, Mya and Madi.

I worked in the retail grocery business and Monica is a project manager for Viracorn.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

I believe that a community the size of Owatonna has many issues that are important to our citizens. Providing a safe community to work and live in. Continue working with our many great employers to be able to provide them with a strong qualified workforce. Continue to work on our streetscape plan. Continue to work on our park plan. Continue to work with the schools, utilities and County to provide the best services that are affordable to our constituents.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB:

I have represented Owatonna and the Fourth Ward for the past eight years. The council has worked extremely hard on flood mitigation, bringing new businesses to our community, keeping our levies below tax capacities. Owatonna is fortunate to have strong department heads along with a great workforce. I also serve on the EDA Board as Chairperson

SEE COUNCIL, B10

Durand

for

City Council

Matt Durand - Owatonna Member at Large

Website: www.durand4council.com - Email: connect@durand4council.com

Authorized and paid for by Matt Durand for City Council.

RE-ELECT
Lois M. Nelson
MEDFORD MAYOR ORGANIZED • HONEST • ENERGETIC • CARING • CITY'S #1 CHEERLEADER

The mayor will host a "Conversation" in the small pavilion at Straight River Park on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 1-2:30 p.m.

Prepared and Paid for by Lois M. Nelson for Mayor-Medford, MN



Former mayor makes comeback against Nelson

LOIS NELSON INCUMBENT

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

I have worked in several sales/management positions prior to my 23-year career with Riverland Community College. I was a nine-year non-traditional student with husband, Dave, and three children working fulltime and going to college at Minnesota State, Mankato. I graduated with a double major in management and marketing in 1988. I started teaching at the then Austin Vocational Technical Institute in its sales/marketing program. This evolved into working with regional businesses and organizations within the Training & Development Team as a trainer or consultant. I retired in 2011, and today, enjoy nine grandkids, serving on several boards — Riverland's Foundation, Koda Living Community and SMART (Southeastern MN Association of Regional Trails). I am also a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas National Directors Club and the Steele Co. Master Gardeners. One of the few mayors who is also a master gardener!

These past eight years, I have whole-heartedly served as Medford Mayor and on several committees locally, regionally and in the city, the MN League of Municipalities Policy Committee.



Lois Nelson

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

Balance our major capital projects — Reclamation of Main St./Co Rd 45 with replacement of 70-year-old water main; expansion of wastewater treatment plant and public works building whether a new structure for just that department or a municipal building of city hall, community center and fire hall with regular maintenance of streets, utilities and facilities.

Capital plan with our financial plan has to be reviewed on all the boards mentioned earlier at the executive level and the majority as President or Vice Chair. I have an established network of individuals with vast experiences to help me and this community with today's and future challenges.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB:
Experience! I have served on all the boards mentioned earlier at the executive level and the majority as President or Vice Chair. I have an established network of individuals with vast experiences to help me and this community with today's and future challenges.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:
Certainly love of this community and encouragement by both

residents and business owners/managers. We have worked to do in the next few years to live to our 2030 mid-term "GROW WITH US!" I have a 40-year history of living and working in this area with a history of service with a number of organizations and non-profits. Respecting the past, working today to secure Medford's future as a healthy, growing community is my objective.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:
Continuing with the priorities of —

1) Managing growth in both residential and commercial areas for increased tax base; 2) Exploring expanded recreational opportunities for our residents with neighborhood parks and expanded trails; 3) Continuing to work within the established budget, capital and finance plans; 4) Encouraging and mentoring others for leadership roles within the community; and 5) Continuing communication throughout this area using a variety of media.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

The new census demographic information used in updating our comprehensive plan (updated in early 2015) with resident and business input to guide us through the next decade. Work with staff, council members and other regional and state officials in identifying grant or bond-

ing funds to assist with the financial costs of infrastructure projects. Listen to area residents and business owners about their concerns and suggestions for making Medford a community we are all proud to call home!

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

I was a 4-H kid until graduating from high school. Those years introduced me to public speaking, organizing projects, parliamentary procedure and teamwork. The experience of working and enjoying social activities with a wide-variety of age groups, backgrounds and skills was my foundation for leadership roles throughout my adult life. A wonderful foundation!

DANNY THOMAS

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

Occupation: Retired from Jenni-O Turkey Store with 37 years in management
Education: Graduate of Medford High School
Prior government experience: Medford Zoning Board (4 years), City Council (4 years), Mayor (4 years)

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION



Danny Thomas

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB:

I have 37 years in management supervising employees and head of major company projects like building maintenance. My past experience as Mayor for four years and working with the community after 9/11. My ability to bring members of the community together to help with input of future projects with their knowledge of work-

ing with similar projects.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

Residents have approached me to run for mayor after our concerns about the Main St. projects seemed not to be heard. I was previously Mayor when 9/11 happened, I led us through those tough times as a community and we can get through these current hard times together as a community.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:

I would like the citizens of Medford to have input in the community projects so we can have our town be an affordable place to live and enjoy.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

Keep the budget on track while working with the City Council to keep living increases under the cost of living increases. Review all city staffing expenditures and future projects that are needed for our city.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

My ability to communicate and listen to citizens on their concerns and make them feel like they have been heard. I have the ability to lead the community in a TEAM atmosphere by working together.

5 compete for 2 seats on Medford council

MATT DEMPSEY INCUMBENT

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

I was born and raised in Medford. My wife, Michelle, works in MRI/Radiology at Mayo. We have three children, Noah, 18, Kortney, 8, and Emma, 6, who are all at Medford Schools. I worked in construction with buildings and heavy equipment operator at a dirt company for 15 to 20 years. I have experience in building, dirt work, sewer, water and building streets. Currently, I'm a farmer at Rod Anderson & Sons where I work with crop farming. I've served on Medford City Council for the past four years. I love Medford. If ever move, I will move to the county of Medford.



Matt Dempsey

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

Main Street Medford getting done — I'm towards getting it down and would like a new water main and asphalt service that is cost efficient for the people. If we don't, we'll have issues in the winter with it freezing.

I'd also like to see a new waste water treatment facility get put in as the current one is outdated and under capacity for Medford to grow. We need to do our own plant as the rates keep going up with Fairbairn and Owatonna and they will just continue to raise rates. We need to have our own. We need to find a person to run the plant and build our own to stay independent.

Lastly, I'd like to venture back to looking at a new Fire Hall, which was put off because of Main Street and COVID. We need to take the next step by getting the fire department together and see what we can do to create an affordable building.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB:
I've been on the Council for the past four years, and I know direction it's going. I consider myself an ordinary person and not a politician. I don't live, breathe and sleep politics. I don't want my taxes or water bills going up like everyone else does.

I'm also a realist — I like to see how the people think. I shut down street projects because people in the neighborhood didn't want it. I try to agree with the public and like to stay on the public side at all times. I'm not to try and make everyone happy. I listen to everyone, and I wish more people would talk to me about stuff — I'm more than glad to listen. Call me up and we can get coffee and talk about it.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:
I like having input in the city as well as bring my skillset to the table. I'm pretty familiar with sewer and water with street work and what it all applies to and what it takes. My boss tells me I'm crazy for how much I work now, but I enjoy having input in the city and see how the town is running.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:
There is a countless list of things I want to do with Main Street, wastewater treatment facility and Fire Hall being the top priorities. Being on Council, it's not as easy as getting it done as you have to worry about how we're going to pay for it. Right now, no one wants to spend any money, which I understand as no one wants higher water bills.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:
All of the issues have been brought to the table, however the question is if you keep them rolling. As a council member, you can bring them to the meeting. If you're adamant to get it done, bring it up and keep bringing it up.

I'd like to get more people involved and have the group of city people who are interested come to the meetings. I wish we had more room for a bigger meeting to have the public join with COVID. Virtual meetings don't come as across as well as sitting face to face, but I encourage everyone to voice their concerns.

I like to have a well-rounded and diverse group who can deal with everything in town and reach out to the people in town for their input based on their backgrounds as well. It makes the town run better if everyone is on board and willing to have their input. I'd definitely listen to you and take your advice.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

My work background helps — I know streets, sewer and water and that seems to be a big topic in the city. I also consider myself a people person — I like to talk to me about stuff. Being a farmer it's hard to get out and there are lots of new people who I'd meet, however, you can always call or text me.

CHAD MERRITT

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

I have lived in Medford for the past 17 years along with my wife Amy and son Brock. I like to spend time with my family and enjoy riding motorcycles and fishing. Currently, I am a mechanical project manager with Harty Mechanical in Austin.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

Government needs to think like running a business. Need to plan, but also realize you cannot do too much at once. Everything needs to be looked at when it comes to spending taxpayers' money.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB:

I have served on the council in the past and believe I have good common sense when it comes to projects around the city.

2. Need to look at protecting our local businesses. They were all affected by the Central Avenue project and just when things were back to normal, we got hit with COVID-19, which has hurt them a bit and now there is talk about another major road project. I believe this is not the time to move forward with any major construction until we know exactly how the COVID-19 will play out.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:
After serving on the council in the past, I did not realize that I would miss it as much as I do.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:

I would focus on needs, not wants for the city. Currently, our fire department has a small facility that they are working from and need some room. I am not saying we need to jump out and build a new fire hall, but I would certainly entertain looking at something other than doing another large road/water project. I would like to also put a plan together for the maintaining our current infrastructure. Sometimes I feel cities go after new projects and forget about maintaining what is currently in place.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

Other than just having a monthly council meeting, there needs to be more.

You need to talk about all things that go on. We have a lot to offer, but we also need to realize that this is a small town and a lot of our residents like it that way. I know people always want to talk about growth, but you really need to sit down and look at that. Bottom line is growth cost money. So there needs to be balance.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

I would say my job helps me to perform this work. When I am estimating projects or running projects, you look at cutting cost, but also providing something that is a great product in the end.

MANDY MUELLER

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

I have a B.S. in Education, working with Early Learners in Preschool, Special Education and Kindergarten. I have lived in Medford for over 10 years.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU



Mandy Mueller

WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

My top priority and main reason for running for Medford City Council is to help bring transparency with open communication back within the council and community. I feel currently there is a break in the communication chain within the council and from the community to the council.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB:

I feel my education and teaching background has prepared me to be able to work with the community in a variety of settings and be an active listener. I am open to listen to all ideas and will also advocate for the community needs and be the voice on the council.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

With the current unsettled situations going on in the world and the unstable economy, I feel the council needs to get back to the basics and really look at "needs" vs. "wants" for the city. Yes, there are major projects within the city that need attention, but we need to prioritize projects based on available funding and look for outside grants and funding to limit taxes and the financial burden on citizens as much as possible.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:

I would like to see open communication between the council and the community. Whether I agree or disagree with a given topic, I feel, I need to step back and look at what is best for the community as a whole.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

I would listen to ideas and bring those back to the council to help ensure the community has a voice and input in projects. I would be open minded and have open communication within the council. I would do my best to make sure I have necessary information to make an informed decision.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

SEE MEDFORD, B10

4 vie for 2 positions on BP council

Bloomington Prairie City Council members Mary Kittelson and Tara Gimbel did not file for re-election, which leaves this year's election wide open to four candidates vying to become members of the council.

Filing for the two open positions are: Marcy Sundine, Greg Johnson, Joe Motl and Trevor Kruckeberg.

The candidates answered these questions from The Times.

• **Who are you? Married? Children? Grandchildren?**

Marcy Sundine: I, Marcy Sundine, am married to Shawn Sundine and we have two growing boys, Henry (5) and Harrison (3).

Joe Motl: I am Joseph Dale Motl. The son of Jeanne Motl and Dale and Annette Motl all of Bloomington Prairie.

I was born and raised in Bloomington Prairie on a dairy farm five miles north of town. I have a beautiful girlfriend of seven years "Katie Jenks." I have three children: Brett, 20; Trista, 15 and Garrett, 14 with my first wife Debra Watkins of Bloomington. Katie and I have a 5-year-old son Brayton together. Also have a dog named chopper.

Greg Johnson: I am Greg Johnson, married

to Kathy Johnson. Children Kristie and Jamie. Grandchildren: Tyler, Kaitlyn, Harper and Mack.

Trevor Kruckeberg: I am Trevor Kruckeberg. I have grown up here in Bloomington Prairie and intend to stay here. I am married to Katie Kruckeberg, also a



Marcy Sundine

Bloomington Prairie native, and we are raising our two children here in town. What we love about this community is the vast amount of opportunities there are to help our kids grow, learn, and have fun!

• **Why are you seeking election and why are you qualified to be a city council member in Bloomington Prairie? What is your job/vocation?**

Sundine: I am a proud citizen of Bloomington Prairie and feel so fortunate to be a part of the community. I am ready to serve the city of Bloomington Prairie.

Motl: I am seeking election for city council cause I feel that there's so much more we can do for our community and the great people that choose to call Bloomington Prairie home. I feel I am qualified to be the commander

of the Squadron 52 Sons Of The American Legion here in Bloomington Prairie.



Joe Motl

This is a small business owner of Motl Brothers Trucking that I operate here in Bloomington Prairie. I haul many things from rock and sand for concrete companies and salt for county and state roads.

Johnson: This community has given my wife Kathy and me a great place to live and work. I want to give back to this great community. People trust me to make the right decisions for this community of the B to Z Hardware Store.

Kruckeberg: I was raised here in town and own/operate a business, Kruckeberg Services, here in BP. We service not only BP, but also the surrounding areas.

• **What are the issues in this election?**

Sundine: No response.

Motl: The big issues in this election are how can we get and keep small and large businesses in our community. We have taken a big loss this year to our bakery and Sportstitch that everyone loved. Subway has closed its doors and the best car dealership

around, Krejci Ford, has closed their doors for good. I feel the city leaders need to be more supportive of all of our businesses in this community. We have a lot of small businesses for our town size. And now we are also set to lose Minimizers to Owatonna.

Johnson: No response.

Kruckeberg: I believe there needs to be change made regarding the social



Greg Johnson

and economic infrastructure of the town. These have been hard times, and we are a community that is proud of our local businesses, and unfortunately,

we are seeing many of them struggle through the COVID-19 pandemic. My goal is to bring changes that will help get these businesses to see through this and be able to serve the community into the future.

• **What are your goals and objectives if elected to council?**

Sundine: Keep Bloomington Prairie a great place to live, visit and work!

Motl: My goals are to bring and keep all sizes of businesses here in our great community. I also would like to create an apartment building for more people to move to Bloom-

ington Prairie. Housing market in Bloomington is great. Houses sell fast. But I would like something for the people that are not able to afford a house that can still call Bloomington Prairie home.

Johnson: Too much this community a great place to live and work and to help this community grow in

the right way.

Kruckeberg: To bring more housing and help businesses grow and thrive here

in BP.

• **Are you in favor of funding a police department in BP?**

Sundine: I am in favor of funding the local BP Police Department and keeping our city safe.

Motl: Yes I am heavily in favor of funding our police department to the fullest extent. I would rather see our department get everything they need to make their job the safest it can be, versus ever hearing anything bad happen to our police force. They are all members of our community as well.

Our police department is loved by so many in our community and losing them would be a

terrible thing. The response time of a county sheriff would not set well with many who have an emergency. The



Trevor Kruckeberg

Steele County Sheriff's department does a great job but they also cover a large area and a 911 call time would take extra minutes that someone may not have. I do believe that

our police department could do so much more in our community if city leaders would allow them to.

Johnson: I am in favor of having a police department. I think they engage very well with the community.

Kruckeberg: I believe strongly in funding the fine police department here.

• **Other comments?**

Motl: I love this community and we have something here that a lot of other cities and towns would die to have. We have a full main street with great businesses of people that everyone knows by face and first names.

We have one of the best school districts around with awesome sports teams that win championships. And I would love to be the next city council member to keep this going in our small town.

BP race features mayor and challenger

It's Mayor Curt Esplan vs. candidate Tom Blome. First-term Mayor

Esplan has filed for re-election and will be challenged by longtime Bloomington Prairie

resident Tom Blome. The election is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 3.

To help our voters to become more familiar with the candidates, the Steele County Times has submitted a host of questions and received these following responses.

• **Who are you? Married? Children? Grandchildren?**

Tom Blome: My family moved from Iowa to a farm near Waltham, when I was in the fifth grade; I attended schools in Bloomington Prairie until graduation. I am a longtime Bloomington Prairie resident for 39 years and my wife was born and raised in BP. We lived in Wisconsin for a few years and as soon as we could retire our only wish was to move back to the great Bloomington Prairie community we loved. Doreen and I have been married for 52 years; we have two married children, six grandsons, and one great granddaughter.

Curt Esplan: Curtis Esplan, a lifelong Bloomington Prairie resident, married to my wife, Cindy, for 32 years. Together we raised five sons and are blessed with nine grandchildren.

• **Why are you seeking election and why are you qualified to be mayor of Bloomington Prairie? What was your job/vocation?**

Blome: Since retirement I have been active in my church, engaged in many projects for the B. P. Servicemen's Club and helping people throughout the community with various projects and repairs. I am ready to make a commitment to serve the people of Bloomington Prairie in the role of Mayor. My qualifications include dedicated proven leadership, experience where it counts — in

management, dependability, honesty, fairness, and a desire to serve. My career has consisted of 33 years at the Owatonna Tool Company/Power Team and served 25 of those years as the national service manager. I



Curt Esplan

then worked 13 years as Enerpac Global Service Manager based in Wisconsin. My expertise was in hydraulic and mechanical service

equipment. My strength throughout my career was managing various departments and co-workers in a fair and open-minded way.

Esplan: I'm seeking re-election to try and keep Bloomington Prairie a thriving city. I retired from Amesbury Truth after 30 years as a production manager. I served for four years in the U.S. Air Force. I have years of experience with budget management and cost reduction. I am always willing to listen to people's concerns.

• **What are the issues in this election?**

Blome: There are Bloomington Prairie resident concerns regarding the reduction or elimination of our necessary medical and essential services for this community.

Esplan: The main issue, currently, is how do we support the small businesses in Bloomington Prairie with the current COVID pandemic? Then there is always the issue of maintaining a balanced budget while improving the infrastructure of the city while keeping tax increases to a minimum.

• **What are your goals and objectives if elected mayor?**

Blome: I would

bring the Bloomington Prairie community together with an honest and open government; support all of our local first responders; Fire, Ambulance, and Police Departments; assist in balancing city budget and securing financial surpluses for community services; provide a strong presence and accountability for all decisions and votes; give back to my community in a caring manner to serve all residents.

Esplan: My goals are to maintain a balanced budget and make as many improvements as possible while keeping tax increases to a minimum.

One of my first term accomplishments was implementing an annual review system for all city employees. This is to show the employees their strengths and weaknesses. It is meant for them to become a stronger employee for the city.

Another accomplishment would be the purchasing of equipment for the city maintenance so they can repair and maintain our streets more efficiently.

• **Are you in favor of funding a police department in BP?**

Blome: In order to keep our community safe with timely emergency responses, I favor proper funding to keep and support all of our local first responders now and in the future.

Esplan: I am 100% in favor of funding the Bloomington Prairie Police Department. That is why the Police Department is being put in the 10-year capital improvement plan. This will ensure they will have the equipment they need to successfully do their job in the future.

VOTE

Tom BLOME for Bloomington MAYOR

Mayoral Goals

- Bring the Bloomington Prairie Community together with an honest and open government
- Support all our first responders: Fire, Ambulance, and Police Departments
- Assist in balancing city budget and securing financial surplus for community services
- Provide a strong presence and accountability for all decisions and votes
- Give back to my community in a caring manner to serve you

Employment History

- 33 years at Owatonna Tool Company/Power Team, and served 25 of those years as the National Service Manager.
- Enerpac Global Service Manager for 13 years
- Retired in 2013

Attributes

- Dedicated proven leadership
- Experience where it counts - in management, dependability, honesty, fairness, desire to serve
- Seasoned leader as a Service Manager worldwide

Personal History

- Grew up on a farm near Waltham, Minnesota
- BPHS graduate
- Resident of Bloomington Prairie for 39 years
- Married 52 years - one son, one daughter, 6 grandsons, 1 great granddaughter

Ready and willing to manage and serve Bloomington Prairie!

I am asking for your vote as Mayor on Tuesday, November 3rd. Thank you!

Contact E-mail: blomeformayor@yahoo.com

Election features 3 seats on Owatonna board

Deborah Bandel: No response

DOM KORBEL

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

I am a 23-year resident of Owatonna with two children who have been a part of the Owatonna school system. My son is a 2019 OHS graduate and my daughter will be a member of the 2021 graduating class. Professionally, I have been in executive leadership roles for over 15 years and understand the thoughtfulness and care needed to help guide an organization of this size and budget. Volunteerism also matters a great deal to me. My resume includes time with numerous volunteer groups



Dom Korbel

here in Owatonna including United Way, Steele County Food Shelf, and I am currently the Board Chair for Let's Smile. The combination of my professional background along with my passion for volunteerism leads me to believe the school board would be a perfect opportunity for me to make a difference in the community.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

This is an interesting question, and my instinct was to just jump in with my opinion, but then I paused. Instead, I decided to ask my daughter (who is a Senior at OHS) what she thought her and her friends would say is the biggest challenge facing the Owatonna Schools. She without hesitation said we can't stop talking about the racial stress and inequities in our community. She continued and said we have definitely made progress and you can see it at school, but there is still so much work to do and we can't lose our focus. As a board member, I will work to address this by being certain the issues of race and equality continue to be part of our strategic plans in the district. I also promise to listen to students like my daughter to be certain I focus on issues that matter to our kids.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB:

I believe I am a great fit as a school board member for three primary reasons. First, I have personally helped lead organizations ranging in size from 15—800 people, as well as, held responsibility for managing

budgets between \$1M and \$12M. Very few candidates will be able to say they have experience leading organizations the size of a school district and yet I have been doing so for over 10 years. Second, one of my core values is humility and in spite of my past experiences, I am fully aware that I have a lot to learn if I am elected and will embrace my role as a student for as long as I need to in my role. Finally, I have a passion for community service and would be honored to serve the community of Owatonna in what I believe is the most noble way possible as a school board member.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

My greatest role model is my Dad. He showed me the importance of giving back to your community through service. He was in fact a school board member for over 23 years in Faribault. I had the pleasure of seeing someone make a difference in the lives of his local school board and how personally rewarding it was for him. I gained insight into the magnitude of the decisions a school board member is asked to make. I also saw the challenges that come with these decisions knowing there is zero chance you will make everyone happy. So why do I want to serve on the board? On a very personal level, I want to follow in my father's footsteps and leave my mark on the community I love just as he did on the one, he loved.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:

Two things stand out to me with regards to what I would hope to see the board accomplish while I am in office. The first is to build a much higher level of trust in the community with regards to fiscal responsibility. As I have prepared to run for this position, I have spent a great deal of time reviewing the financial side of the district's data and have been very pleased to see the level of care taken with the finances. However, I believe there is still a very large contingent of people in our community who do not feel this is true and ultimately lack trust in this area. My goal would be during my time that we are able to reduce the number of people who feel that the district can't be trusted when it comes to the finances. A second goal if elected would be to create even more ongoing partnerships with our local employers and stakeholders to help prepare our students

for the future. The financial support provided by local businesses to help secure the necessary funding for the new high school is such unique model. It benefits the entire community not just our students and is something we should continue explore in new exciting ways.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

As a leader, I have come to believe that you make decisions based on data, but you create change through relationships. With that in mind, my number one goal when it comes to working with my fellow board members to get things done is to genuinely get to know them and understand their point of view. Regardless of what I hear from the members of the community or how badly I want to accomplish something, I am just one of seven votes and opinions in the room. If we intend to make a difference individually, it requires a commitment to creating mutually respectful relationships in order to make a difference collectively. I am a humble leader who has great respect for the experience of the other members that I can learn from, but I am also unafraid to challenge my peers when necessary. My hope is that my balance of humility and confidence will be a key to working well with my fellow board members to be certain our list of accomplishments is long and meaningful.

WHAT IS SOME THING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

Over the course of my time in leadership, the single greatest lesson I have learned that has helped prepare me for office is I will never be able to please everyone, that's a reality. My goal when making decisions if elected will be to gather all of the necessary feedback from the community, leverage my past experiences for perspective and check to be sure the direction we are heading aligns with our high-level strategies. If I can check all of three of those boxes for decisions (big and small), then I can feel confident in my opinions even when faced with criticism from those who strongly disagree with me. I believe the role as a school board member requires courage, conviction in decision making and some pretty thick skin which are all things I have learned to help prepare me for this opportunity.

TIM JENSEN

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

System Architect at Federated Insurance

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

The number one thing for our schools is that they are on a sound financial footing. The administration and staff run things very efficiently here, but without local levy funding dollars the state does not provide us with an adequate amount of money to operate the way this community expects. Beyond the levy question on the ballot this year, I'd like to encourage our local legislators to find better ways to help school funding keep up with inflation and cover the costs of currently underfunded mandates like special education.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB:

I've served one term on the Owatonna School Board. In those four years, I've had the opportunity to serve on both the policy and finance committees, learn the way the board functions, and better understand the Owatonna Public Schools and how they operate. Before my board service, I had the opportunity to serve on non-profit boards and committees.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

I'm a child, brother and parent of professional educators. I grew up in this community and benefitted from the Owatonna Public Schools — the teachers and the boards and administrators of the past. I want Owatonna's school system to be envied by surrounding communities. I believe the community takes pride in our schools and is willing to stand behind them to keep them the high-quality institutions that they are. After my first term, I've learned that I value being able to provide input on our district's direction.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:

Beyond making sure the finances of the district will support our ongoing commitment to quality

education, we can improve our racial and ethnic equality efforts. The district is making great strides in educating staff and administration, and even the school board, on how we can be better at making sure all students and staff receive equitable treatment, but it's a journey that we will likely never finish. We need to continue that work. We are also building a new high school and that school will serve generations to come, considering the longevity of our current building. Doing our best in planning that facility and the use of the existing school property will also be an important goal for the next term. With the new building, comes the opportunity to fully develop the career pathways initiative, giving students the chance to explore their interests and potential jobs within the high school curriculum.



Timothy Jensen

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

I would continue what we have been doing, working with the Superintendent and administration to continue the path that we are on. I believe that the district has been very successful in recognizing the needs of the community, providing the quality education we expect and planning for the future in the best way we are able. I respect all of the members of the board and administration and believe that we have improved the district for students and staff, and that this is a path that will serve us well for the future.

WHAT IS SOME THING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

As an adult I never envisioned running for office, but one of the things that I learned when I was president of the student council in sixth grade at Washington School was that listening was more important than talking. I guess that has stuck with me so I'd say that was my best preparation.

ABDULAH OSMAN

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:
I am a resident of Owatonna, and I am a licensed substitute teacher when I have taught all grades from K-12. I am also co-founder of New Dawn Education Group a non-profit organization based in Owatonna. I am a native of Somalia who migrated 37 years ago. I hold a Ph.D. in political science and have over twenty years of teaching, research and consultancy. I taught in many universities both in the US and abroad including Penn State University and taught at Minnesota State University-Mankato, University of Georgia and the National University of Rwanda. I have done consultancy in Somalia, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ethiopia, South Africa, United States and Croatia.

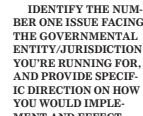
IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

With the COVID-19 rampant, the biggest issues facing the school board are two: funding and distance teaching. 1. The pandemic created an economic downturn that impacted the school system's funding for many educational programs. I would engage the community, especially the businesses and private foundations, and do fund-raising. 2. With distance learning, there are issues of equity including the internet, computers and most important socio-economic factors. Many households have parents who do not have the computer necessary knowledge to help the students, especially the young. I would create multi-lingual technological support for poor and immigrant families and help them deal with online courses.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB:

I have over 20 years of experience in education and student support. I am a college professor, a licensed substitute teacher in Minnesota, a Fulbright scholar and an immigrant. I have lived, learned and worked in many countries and bring a wealth of life experience along with multi-cultural and linguistic expertise into the board. I hold a Ph.D. in Political Science, a master's in public administration, and

SEE BOARD, B10



Abdullahi Osman

operating levy increase request on the community side.

What happens if not approved?

If both questions fail, the district will face millions in additional budget cuts over the next three years, resulting in:

- class size increases through teacher and staff layoffs
- cuts to school and district support services
- cuts to academics, activities, athletic and music programs

How is this different from 2019?

Last year, Owatonna residents approved bond funds to build a new Owatonna High School. By law, bond funds can only be used to maintain, repair or build buildings — they cannot support school operating costs. The requests on this Nov 3rd ballot are for operating levies, which are a legally separate funding stream that provides critical funding for classrooms, instructional materials and other operating costs.

What does the contingent mean?
It means that Question 2 for an operating levy increase can only pass if voters first approve Question 1 to renew the existing levy. In other words, if Question 2 gets more than 50% yes votes but Question 1 does not, neither question will pass. To receive the additional funding, both question 1 and question 2 will need to be approved by more than 50% of voters.

For more information, including the ability to view a sample ballot and short levy video, visit www.isd761.org/levy.

Owatonna Schools make pitch to voters for funding requests

Owatonna Public Schools has two school funding questions on the Nov. 3 ballot.

Question 1 requests a straight renewal of the district's existing operating levy which is about to expire. Operating levies provide critical funding for staff, classroom supplies and other school operating costs.

Question 2 requests a phased-in increase to the district's operating levy in 2022 and 2025. By phasing in the levy over time, the tax impact is also phased in — with no tax increase until 2022. If approved,

funds would enable the district to maintain quality programming and activities, appropriate class sizes and career-technical education opportunities. Question 2 is contingent on Question 1 and can only pass if Question 1 is first approved by voters.

Why increased funding?

The decision to request support from district voters was based on a thorough review of district long-term financial projections and discussions about inadequate state funding and unfunded mandates that are putting pressure on an already stretched budget. For example:

- State funding is not keeping pace with inflation or increasing educational costs, resulting in a \$3 million gap.
- Required academic and support pro-

grams cost the district nearly \$7 million more than it receives each year from the state and federal governments.

How has budget been managed?

District leaders and the School Board are very conscious of the challenging economic times many are facing due to COVID-19. To balance the district's financial needs with the community's ability to offer support, the Board's unanimous decision was for a "shared approach" that combines \$5.25 million in budget cuts over the next three years on the district side with an



operating levy increase request on the community side.

What happens if not approved?

If both questions fail, the district will face millions in additional budget cuts over the next three years, resulting in:

- class size increases through teacher and staff layoffs
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Elect

Shea 24a

TomShea24a.com

Prepared and paid for by Elect Tom Shea 24a Committee
P.O. Box 187 • Owatonna, MN 55060

OWATONNA SCHOOL BOARD: FROM B9

I authored several scholarly books and articles.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

As an educator and immigrant, I believe that our community is diversifying, therefore we need to focus on the development of the whole child, helping all students experience success and become productive citizens. In the climate of increased globalization, I think it is important for our community to focus on providing a complete educational experience that is relevant to the ever-changing world around us and celebrates the learning accomplishments of each child.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:

My top priority if I am elected, will be *quality of*

teaching utilizing good instructions that regardless of students' racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic backgrounds. High-quality teaching is engaging, relevant, multicultural and learning styles. It promotes student learning and encourages students towards the district's educational objectives.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

I have the breadth of skills and knowledge to oversee large projects to ensure consistency, transparency and fiscal responsibility. With my passion, vision and experience in turning ideas into reality, I will fight for every student to have a quality, consistent,

strengths-focused and equitable education that prepares them for a successful future.

THING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

I moved to the Owatonna area six years ago, and I saw a need for a different perspective on the board. I am an active member of the community where I participated in the school district and immigrant community issues. Also, I am a college professor, a licensed substitute teacher in Minnesota, a Fulbright scholar, and an immigrant. I have lived, learned and worked in seven countries and three continents, and bring a wealth of life experience along with multi-cultural and linguistic expertise.

I hold a Ph.D. in Political Science, a master's in public administration, and I authored several scholarly books and articles.

ERIC SCHUSTER INCUMBENT

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

LPN Nurse since 2007.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

COVID-19 by following the recommendations with masking and cleaning/sanitizing around us.

the recommendations with masking and cleaning/sanitizing around us.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB:

I was initially elected in 2012 and still currently serving on the Owatonna School Board including as Clerk for the past three years.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

Born and raised in Steele County. Myself along with all three of my three attended Owatonna Public Schools. Continuing to serve the community through the Owatonna School Board.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:

Volunteered as Park and Rec Coach with grades 3-6 Boys Football and Girls Basketball. Transitioned to Refereeing grades 3-8 Football.

PLISH IN OFFICE:

Completion of the new High School. Working with the community in decision making with the "100" old high school. Consolidate where able with other buildings.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

Working with the other Board Members and Superintendent.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

Volunteered as Park and Rec Coach with grades 3-6 Boys Football and Girls Basketball. Transitioned to Refereeing grades 3-8 Football.

MEDFORD CITY COUNCIL: FROM B7

that we have some amazing business folks, great citizens and caring officials that can collectively work together to accomplish the task at hand and not burden those most affected due to their location within our city. Wholistic approaches are needed as there is so much more impact than just what appears to be on the surface of any issue facing elected officials.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB:

I think that I am the best candidate for the job because I bring a wealth of knowledge and financial acumen to a position that could use valuable reasoning. The

issues Medford is facing require some fiscal conservatism and perspective. I feel that I bring both of those elements to a much-needed panel of decision makers. I look forward to working together with everyone to ensure that Medford progresses and continues to strengthen its community.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

I have always loved politics. I feel that running for office is where a person can truly work for the people! I ran for city council last election and did not win; so, this time I wanted to put effort and enthusiasm into this election. I want to see

Medford prosper as a city and community. I want to see Tiger Pride resonate with all those within our city and know that those officials our community has elected will work for them and have their best interest at heart.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:

I would like to see a resolution to our Main Street project as well as a plan forward on our wastewater system. I'd like to think that if I serve on our council that I will leave the position better than I found it and work for those that are next in line to benefit from our work as elected representatives. As a banker/lender by trade, I hope to continue fiscal responsibility within the city and ensure that our budgets stay balanced as we continue to prosper and grow!

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

I think compromising is a key to moving issues forward, you will never get 100 percent buy in by every single person in our community, but I do think that we must find common ground and work together. Key components to working together require listening, conversation and understanding. Taking a step back and looking at an issue from another person's perspective and lens will help you understand where they are coming from and why they are passionate about certain issues. Collaboration is such a key to success in every avenue of life. If we can collaborate and work together much good becomes of those we serve!

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

Managing the largest bank in Minnesota, I was in

charge of 48+ direct reports, I oversaw the largest transaction volume daily, and managed the largest budget and branch operating ledger. These are all things that truly prepared me to run for office but above all these things listed it is working with people that has most prepared me. When managing large groups of individuals, you must get to know them and work with them to accomplish goals. You must know what drives them and what's important to them. These are all things that help me prepare to serve the community of Medford as a city council member.

NICK SORENSEN

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

My wife and I moved to town in 2010 and since then have had two beautiful daughters who are enrolled in Medford Elementary. We have been active in the community as my wife has served on the Medford Civic Club and as a local Girl Scout Leader, and this will be my second year serving on the Medford Park Board. My wife is an LPN working on a Resident Nursing Degree. I have been an Electronic Technician for the past 15 years working on a bachelor's degree in Information Technology Management with minors in Automotive Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering and Cyber Security.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

There seems to be a breakdown in communication between the residents

of Medford and the City Council. I have been monitoring the council meetings and minutes over the past several years and what the residents request and what the Council enacts and implements do not coincide. There have been million-dollar projects and proposals that seem to align with the goals of only a few and are costing the residents of Medford their hard-earned tax dollars in the process. This needs to change and with the correct leadership and council members who work together and align to the needs of the community this can be corrected, in my opinion.

Also, not everyone has time or can access the City Council minutes and agendas. A community electronic information board centrally located or in several locations that provide information on upcoming city projects and events could provide a bridge between the residents and the council.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB:

I am a focused and driven individual that truly cares and wants what's best for Medford. I feel that my work experience has provided me with the kind of skills that can be adapted for this type of role as a City Council Member.

Working in Manufacturing in a support position I deal with not just maintaining and programming equipment, but also relaying information, updating documents, maintaining good working relationships with suppliers, peers, customers, etc. I can look at a situation or problem, break it down and determine the proper course of action and work with a team to correct it expeditiously and in the most cost-effective way possible.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

Completed the new High School. Working with the community in decision making with the "100" old high school. Consolidate where able with other buildings.

I would have to say my family. My wife grew up in Medford, my father attended school here, my in-laws live here and my children will grow up here. Medford is a wonderful community filled with kind and caring people that I have found while living here. Running for office would give me a chance to give back to a community that I have found to care very much about.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:

I would like to work toward a common goal of repairing Main Street and the underlying utilities that aligns to the residents of that street and the city in the most cost effective way without heavily burdening them financially. Our wastewater treatment facility is also on the docket for upgrades or to tie into a near by city as proposed by our current council. This is a project that cannot be tied up in bureaucracy, there needs to be a clear path, goals and a projected date of completion. I would also like to see more parks added to the city, so that children and parents are not trekking across town to Strait River Park but can go to smaller sub-division parks.

Communicate and problem solve with colleagues. Maintain working relationships with council members. Interact and respond to the residents of Medford.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

There are actually several core values instilled by my parents, leadership skills and training in Boy Scouts and most recently serving on the Park Board.

Elect
Shea 24a
TomShea24a.com

Prepared and paid for by Elect Tom Shea 24a Committee
P.O. Box 187 • Owatonna, MN 55060

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 756 BLOOMING PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the general election has been called and will be held in an Independent School District No. 756, Blooming Prairie, State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November 2020, for the purpose of electing three school board members for four year terms. The ballots shall provide as follows:

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: 

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER VOTE FOR UP TO THREE

- ☐ MELISSA STOEN
☐ JONATHAN SUNDE
☐ JENNIFER THURNAU
☐ _____
☐ _____
☐ _____

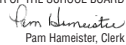
The precincts and polling places for this general election are those polling places and precincts or parts of precincts located within the boundaries of the school district and which have been established by the cities or towns located in whole or in part within the school district. These polling places shall be the same as for the state general election.

Any eligible voter residing in the school district may vote at said election at the polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides. The polls for said election will open at 7:00 o'clock a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. on the date of said election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day.

Dated: October 9, 2020

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD


Pam Hamelster, Clerk

10/14/22

OWATONNA CITY COUNCIL: FROM B6

and am the President of the Highway 14 coalition.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

My father Troy was very active within the city I grew up in and taught me a lot about city government. Wayne Starman has always encouraged and pushed me. I am very fortunate to have had those two great influencers in my life.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:

Make Owatonna better tomorrow than it is today. Make sure every voice is heard and respected.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING

GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

The City Council along with Mayor Kuntz work so well with a team attitude. It is an honor to work with them along with staff. Each councilmember brings different strengths, which provides great in-depth knowledge so that the decisions we make are very much thought out.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

Working in the retail sector and dealing with people from varied backgrounds. Serving on the Park Board for 12 years prior to serving as a councilmember.

GREG SCHULTZ

INCUMBENT COUNCIL MEMBER
RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN WARD 2

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

A lifelong resident of Owatonna, graduating from Owatonna High School in 1975. I continued my education at Mankato State University, graduating in 1978 with Bachelor of Science degrees in Finance and Marketing. Following 10 years in the banking industry I took over the family business, Schultz Homes, Inc., a general contracting and land development company. In 2008, my son Grant and I

purchased Costas' Candies, operated by Grant and his wife Julie. I have been married

to Shirley for 40 years and have three children, Grant and Julie, son Charlie and daughter Erica of Owatonna, and daughter Erica of Chicago. And of course, five beautiful grandchildren.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

SEE COUNCIL, B12

Former legislator challenges incumbent

JOHN PETERSBURG
REPUBLICAN - INCUMBENT

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

Farming (15 years); Retired Church Administrator (21 years); Claremont/Triton School Board Member (Nine years); Minnesota House of Representatives (Four Terms)

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

Balancing a \$5 billion budget deficit, high unemployment, business closures and the achievement gap will certainly be major challenges. However, they will be almost impossible to resolve without an exit strategy from our current lock down and economical restrictions currently in place. For me, the most important issue will be how we transition from the current state of emergency to a time of more managed normalcy. Whereas the impact of the virus itself is important, it is also necessary to take into consideration the effects of the strategies used to combat it. If we think we can manage the virus as if it were isolated in a bubble, then we become blind to actual costs and unintended consequences. Time-lines and parameters need to be set when we begin to ramp down the lockdown. They need to be based on current and past historical data; and not projected or theoretical speculation.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB?

I believe I understand and reflect the views and pulse of the majority living in this district. I can represent them well because I share their concerns. In addition, I have the skills necessary to form consensus and build bridges while listening to all concerns.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

My desire to serve my community and to give back for all the blessings I have received. 23 years ago, I felt called to serve Trinity Lutheran Church as its administrator, and during that time, I learned the skills to balance difficult budgets and create consensus. People keep telling me I am doing a good job and how they need me in St. Paul.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:

The same goal that I hope all Minnesotans want: to begin the process of re-uniting Minnesota rather than splitting us through divisive rhetoric. We need to learn how to celebrate the blessings that we have, be compassionate of those around us that are in need and create peaceful dialog when faced with challenging problems. Our state policies need to reflect that.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

Developing and passing legislation requires hard work building consensus, working with both sides of the aisle and willingness to look at all possible options. It requires allowing interested parties to have an opportunity to voice their concerns and support of bills. Then, negotiate the necessary terms to get it passed. I

believe I have this skill, and it is how I view my responsibility in representing this district.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

In a previous question, I talked about my time with Trinity. In addition, I was a member of the Claremont/Triton school board for NINE years.

During my school board years, I was elected to the Minnesota School Boards Association, which allowed me to visit our congressmen in Washington DC and legislators in St. Paul. The past eight years in the Minnesota House has also kept me current on today's issues, along with the connections and rapport with colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

HOW DO YOU FEEL THE GOVERNOR HAS HANDLED THE COVID-19 RESPONSE FOR MINNESOTA? WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO CHANGE MINNESOTA'S WAY OF HANDLING THE PANDEMIC?

The volatility and uncertainty in the early stages of the pandemic certainly required the Governor calling a State of Emergency, and it was supported by the legislature and the citizens of Minnesota. Even today, we need to be very concerned for our vulnerable in long term facilities who are having the highest fatalities. Decisions need to be made to protect them more effectively. However, the Governor stated the emergency was needed until we got a handle on the availability of hospital beds, PPE equipment and the number of deaths has been lowered. We are certainly at that point now. With 5.5 million Minnesotans being affected by these decisions, it is time for more than one person being involved in making those decisions. The legislature was elected by their constituents to represent them in making laws and regulations that impact their lives. It is time for the legislature to be able to do its job and provide input from their districts.

MANY HAVE IDENTIFIED A BREAKDOWN IN STATE LEADERSHIP WITH THE HANDLING OF THE RIOTS IN THE TWIN CITIES AFTER THE GEORGE FLOYD KILLING. HOW COULD MINNESOTA'S RESPONSE HAVE BEEN HANDLED DIFFERENTLY AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO MAKE CHANGES TO SYSTEMATIC RACISM?

The results and fallout after the riots surely indicate that it was not handled properly. Freedom of speech and the ability to peacefully protest is what separates our country from many others. We need to protect those freedoms, however, when a protest turns into a lawless, rioting mob, it needs to be handled firmly and quickly. Embodying a rioting mob by allowing it to escalate will not protect the public or preserve the sanctity of the protest. Whenever the law is broken, there should be an expectation that the perpetrator will be detained or arrested, and that public and private property is protected. When so many people are hurting and saddened by recent events, it only takes a few antagonists to turn a peaceful protest into a lawless mob. It is important to remember that the results of the rioting were not from the police failing to fulfill their duties, but rather

failure in the decisions by the leadership and those in charge of directing law enforcement. To be clear, everyone, including myself, should be doing whatever we can to learn how to treat everyone with respect and compassion and not condone racism.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN THE COMING YEARS TO RESTORE MINNESOTA'S ECONOMY AND HELP SMALL BUSINESSES, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL MINNESOTA?

Small business, specially the service sector, has taken a big hit during our state-wide shut down. This is specifically true in rural Minnesota. Because the State economy and small business are so closely tied to each other, what impacts small business will be reflected in the economy. Small businesses generally run with a small margin of profit, and they cannot survive based upon 25-50% capacity or the restrictions on employee participation.

We will need to get the workforce back to full employment and services back to some sort of normalcy. Until that happens, small businesses and the economy will continue to struggle. In the meantime, we need to do whatever we can to promote stability and expansion of current businesses while also attracting new start-ups. Policies and regulations need to be passed that will help mitigate and offset the consequences of the negative impact they have been dealt. They will need to have time to recover.

TOM SHEA

DFL

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

Tom Shea, a 70-year lifelong resident of Owatonna, attended St. Mary's Elementary and graduated from Marian High School in 1968. He attended the University of Minnesota, later transferring to Mankato State to pursue a degree in education.

Tom and Stephanie have been married 41 years and have been blessed with three children. Tom and Stephanie continue to reside in the home they built in 1985 in Owatonna.

Tom and Stephanie both retired in 2015. Tom from his position as Administrator at Steele County and Stephanie from Riverland Community College where she was a counselor.

Business Experience: General manager Shea Distributing Co., Inc. Family beer distribution business; Owner, publisher and editor, Owatonna Photo News, Weekly community newspaper; Commercial lending, marketing Premier Bank; Small Business Management Instructor, Riverland Community College; Independent Business Development Consultant; Program Officer and Business Development Coordinator, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation.

Public Service Career: Tom was elected to Minnesota House of Representatives in 1980 and re-elected 1982. His four years in the Legislature included service on the Transportation, Education and Local and Urban Affairs Committees and was appointed Vice-Chair of the Agriculture Committee. Tom was recognized for his leadership in bridging partisan differences and in promoting issues important to greater Minnesota.

Locally, Tom served on the Owatonna Charter Commission, and the Steele County Board of Commissioners for the 5th District — first elected in 1991 and served seven

terms including four years as Board Chair.

Tom also served as Steele County Board representative on various joint powers boards, task forces and local, regional, state and national committees. The final duties of his Steele County career was as the Steele County Administrator from 2012 to 2015.

Tom embraced his leadership roles as State Representative and County Commissioner, taking on multiple leadership tasks and responsibilities. He led task force groups with divergent interests and was able to establish consensus on politically charged issues, in turn streamlining delivery of services and reducing costs for local taxpayers. Chairing building committees allowed Tom



Tom Shea

to navigate such issues with the community. These building committees designed and oversaw construction of projects such as the Steele County Administration Center, Steele Courthouse renovation, Steele County Law Enforcement Center, Park Place Senior Assisted Living Facility, Steele County Detention Center, and KODA Skilled Nursing facility.

Tom has been recognized for his inclusive style as Commissioner, encouraging public input and participation in policy deliberations.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE

RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

The number one issue is the political polarization and toxic rhetoric that dominates political deliberations on both the state and national scene today. We will need to address this breakdown of fundamental governing principals if we are to have any expectation of enacting sustainable solutions. It doesn't have to be this way. I am committed to addressing this condition, and I believe I have the ability to forge consensus where deep divisions exist, and of speaking truth to power when partisan leadership is motivated by power rather than doing what's in the best interest of our state.

Secondly, the most difficult issue will likely be the budget. The Minnesota Constitution requires a balanced budget for each 2-year

biennium. Close to 80% of the current \$48.6 billion budget is comprised of education and health care funding. Current projection indicates a potentially \$8 billion deficit over the next four years or about 10 percent of current expenditures. And that's NOT factoring the current biennium's projected deficit of \$2.4 billion.

Not knowing the circumstances with COVID and where the economic recovery will be in eight months from now, it's hard to be specific how the final budget challenges will be solved. That being said, will taxes and fees be in the final solution? Likely. Dramatic cuts? Most certainly. Draining the

rainy-day fund is assured. Shifts and transfers for the short term is possible. Infusion of Federal dollars? Potentially. Most likely some mix of all of the above.

The foundation of my deliberations and votes will be the long-term outcomes, prioritizing the health, safety and prosperity of our state.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB?

Who is the best candidate will be the citizens' judgment. I hope they will be guided by the principles of character, competency and policy, in that order.

Character: does the candidate have strong core values, are they honest and of good moral standing? **Competency:** do they possess the human talent to listen, discern, problem solve and the ability to forge a consensus to enact public policy? And finally, **policy:** does the candidate reflect or share your positions on the issues of the day?

I believe one of the reasons we are in the toxic political environment we find ourselves in today is that we have these three considerations backwards. I have heard it over and over again, "I don't approve of (fill in the blank) personal behavior or conduct, but I agree with their policy." But if they aren't of good character and prone to lie, how can you be sure that your values are truly being advocated by the candidate, or are they just telling you what you want to hear to get your support? And if they don't have the ability to listen, won't engage with people who don't share the same position and demean those

SEE DISTRICT 24A, B12



RE-ELECT JOHN PETERSBURG



- **Highway 14** - Secured funding that finishes the four lanes between Owatonna and Dodge Center.
- **Supporting Law Enforcement** - Strongly opposes radical efforts to defund police departments.



Endorsed by: MPPOA, MCCL, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Leadership PAC, NFIB NRA & Farm Bureau

I ask for your Vote: Early in Person, Early by Mail, & on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3rd.

**JohnPetersburg.com • 507-461-4377
JPfor24A@live.com**

Prepared and paid for by Petersburg Campaign Committee

MN HOUSE- DISTRICT 24A: FROM B11

who disagree with them, how will they possibly be able to forge a consensus to enact sustainable policy? Character and competency are prerequisites for genuine public service.

My guiding principle will be to speak truth to power and follow my core values, rather than just following the party line. The voters of District 24a have a choice and will decide if I take my mission to champion *Respectful, Accountable Leadership* to the next legislature.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

On top of my deep concern of the toxic political climate we're in, when I filed for the office, it was apparent that there would be no other candidates for District 24a, other than incumbent Rep. John Petersburg. While he and I share similar positions on some issues the next Legislature will confront, we have profound differences on others. In particular, his strict adherence to party leadership, failing to speak truth to power to those leaders who fail in the core values of decency, decorum, respect for all and accountability.

A foundational principle of our democracy is the ability of the people to choose their elected representatives. Voters deserve to be represented in the next legislature by choice, rather than by default. My candidacy has provided voters that choice.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:

My top priority if elected is to help restore confidence and respect for public office and doing the work of developing good public policy.

Today, public opinion of elective office is at an all-time low. This condition is corrosive and extremely detrimental to a healthy democracy. When legislative deliberation is dominated by hyper-partisan name calling and voting in lockstep with party leaders whose motivation may be to score political points or retaining power, it's understandable that public confidence erodes.

Those who choose to serve should embrace their obligation of being held to high standards and the responsibility to be a positive element of a respectful community.

Living up to the principles and responsibilities of self-government, that is the American experiment, is not an easy task. That is where true leadership comes in, and I'm ready to lead.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

I will bring an attitude of respect and cooperation for all members of the Legislature and Administration. I will reach out to any member who is willing to work together on a particular issue, regardless of party affiliation or their position on that issue. I will listen, I will seek areas of common ground, I will explore opportunities for consensus and resolution. I will maintain close contact with our district's local governments. I will conduct regular meet and greet sessions for the general population to hear their perspective, concerns or requests for my intervention as their State Representative. I will communicate on a regular

basis through online newsletters and publications. I will always be available by e-mail, telephone or text for constituents.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

My background as a State Legislator, County Commissioner, business owner, mentor, husband, father, and community volunteer has provided me the experience and skills to serve in the Minnesota State House. I have a track record of articulating my views in a forthright, respectful and clear manner. My past service documents my ability to forge consensus where deep divisions exist, and of speaking truth to power when partisan leadership is motivated by power rather than judicious solutions.

HOW DO YOU FEEL THE GOVERNOR HAS HANDLED THE COVID-19 RESPONSE FOR MINNESOTA? WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO CHANGE MINNESOTA'S WAY OF HANDLING THE PANDEMIC?

My grade for Gov. Walz and his team is an A-minus. The proof is in the pudding. Compare Minnesota today with neighboring states where it appears politics has ruled the day, rather than science and the guidance of professional doctors and public health officials. "We're surrounded right now by houses on fire in Wisconsin, Iowa and the Dakotas," is how Michael Osterholm, University of Minnesota Center for Infectious Disease Research

and Policy described the pandemic outbreak in our region.

Gov. Walz is the first to acknowledge they haven't gotten everything right in response to the pandemic. In particular, the inequity of the original closing order where big box stores were allowed to be open for business but smaller, locally owned businesses selling the same products were not allowed to do business.

Leadership requires making hard decisions, often times unpopular. Gov. Walz and his team should be given credit for their strong leadership of balancing protecting the health and prosperity of our State. They deserve our thanks and the support of the Legislature as well as the citizens of the State.

Any decisions I will make in this regard as a State Representative will be guided by science and the recommendations of doctors and public health officials.

MANY HAVE IDENTIFIED A BREAKDOWN IN STATE LEADERSHIP WITH THE HANDLING OF THE RIOTS IN THE TWIN CITIES AFTER THE GEORGE FLOYD KILLING. HOW COULD MINNESOTA'S RESPONSE HAVE BEEN HANDLED DIFFERENTLY AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO MAKE CHANGES TO SYSTEMATIC RACISM?

All Minnesotans should expect, and deserve to live in, safe and secure communities. In the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd, there was clearly a breakdown of this basic right. Our front-line public safety professionals all need and

deserve our support and gratitude for their dedicated effort to preserve the peace and safety of our communities.

The foundation of a safe and secure community are the people themselves. It is the obligation of each citizen to maintain order, to act within the law, respect the social contract that requires personal responsibility and to hold their community to that same standard. It is also essential that law enforcement has the confidence of the citizens they serve. That confidence can only be achieved if rogue officers are held accountable for their inappropriate or unlawful actions.

I will support additional reforms to establish mental health units in departments that provide officers support in dealing with non-criminal crisis calls, diverting troubled individuals away from jails and emergency rooms to more appropriate support centers.

With regard to systemic racism, we must first recognize and acknowledge that it is real, and it is a problem. Without that simple admission, a solution is not possible. I have been blessed and privileged to be born into a family and community where I have not faced the disparities and institutional barriers that women and people of color have dealt with for generations. We can no longer ignore that systemic, institutional racism does exist, and we should resolve to come together to heal our nation, establish strong communities that remove those barriers and provide genuine opportunities for all to prosper and thrive.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE

DONE IN THE COMING YEARS TO RESTORE MINNESOTA'S ECONOMY AND HELP SMALL BUSINESSES, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL MINNESOTA?

Entrepreneurs and small businesses have always been the foundation of a strong economy and the engine for economic growth, particularly in rural Minnesota. My priorities will be to craft tax, economic development and regulatory policy that encourage business and industry to create livable wage jobs and opportunities for individuals to create wealth and prosper.

Another essential component of economic growth which I will promote, and support is the public investment in infrastructure.

While rules and regulations are necessary, I believe self-regulation will always provide the best outcomes. To achieve a sustainable regulatory system, government needs to work with farmers, industry, professionals and business to develop and administer those rules and regulations. The culture of regulation authorities should be to work with those they oversee, train and guide, provide best practices, look for examples where those being regulated are doing a good job, not just supervise with the heavy hand of enforcement. To be sure, when rules and regulations are not adhered to or ignored, the offenders must be held accountable and if intentional, sanctions need to be imposed. But as Grama Shea would say, "you can catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar."

OWATONNA CITY COUNCIL: FROM B10

With a growing community like Owatonna we have many issues that command our attention, but number one is always the budget. Providing the necessary services required by the citizens at a fair price is a challenging task. The next several years will require careful planning because of so many financial uncertainties created by the recent pandemic. My job on the Council is to set proper short term and long-range plans to achieve a balanced budget and provide for the needs of the community.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB:

Because of my years

of experience. Having been on the City Council since 2011 and serving as President the past four years has allowed me to learn many valuable insights into local government. Owning and operating several businesses over the past years allows me to bring a knowledgeable perspective into how budgets are created and followed. One of my better abilities as a Council member is working with people. City government is a service oriented organization that must respond to the citizens needs and that requires good communication skills. What I bring most to this leadership position is passion. Passion

for our community and our citizens. Passion for a better tomorrow in Owatonna.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

My grandchildren. Owatonna has been good to my family for many years and I want to see that success continue for my grandchildren and all the citizens. We have many long-time residents and many new faces in Owatonna, and I want them all to prosper in our community. That can be achieved by all of us working together and building a better Owatonna. Years from now I want my grandchildren to say Owatonna was a

great place to grow up in and be a great place for them to raise their families years from now.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:

Taking proper care of our infrastructure. Maintaining our streets, parks, buildings, sanitary and storm sewers is of great importance. Not always glamorous, but necessary. Work at promoting equity within our community as we all want a great place to work, play and raise our families. Continuing to promote economic development in Owatonna, continued expansion of our industrial and commercial bases will

provide for a better community.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

As I have learned in my construction business, nothing gets done without a plan. In the past few years, I have pushed for and achieved short- and long-range planning goals for the City. Bringing the public and private sectors together to collaborate on any number of issues is the start to putting plans together to achieve a common goal. Putting plans together that meet one's goals can be challenging, but the

rewards are worth the challenge.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

I learned from a young age that serving the community in some way is a proper and expected way to be a contributing member of society. Whether it is at home, school, church or work it is just something one does. Specifically, serving on many private and public boards and commissions at local, state, and national levels has over many years prepared me for office.

It Doesn't Have To Be This Way . . .

Elect *Respectful, Accountable Leadership*

Vote Tom Shea 24a State Representative

Learn More About Tom Shea, His Background, His Campaign and Positions, Visit **TomShea24a.com**

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Martinez takes on veteran legislator in 27A

PEGGY BENNETT
REPUBLICAN—INCUMBENT

PERSONAL BACKGROUND WORK EXPERIENCE:

I retired in 2015 after 33 wonderful years as an elementary school teacher and am the current State Representative for District 27A. I have a number of "fun-kids"... my new Shih Tzu puppy, Hawken, and my friendly Ragdoll cats; a close circle of good friends and family; and over 750 former first grade students whom I call my "kids," many with whom I still stay in contact!

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

Though there are many important issues affecting our area, such as health care and economic vitality, I believe the looming \$5 billion+ deficit has risen to the top of importance. It is going to be a huge hit on our state budget and has the potential to hurt many people.

I will work to see the legislature protect the core responsibilities of state government from cuts — important core government functions like education, public safety, and caring for the vulnerable, such as people in nursing homes.

We need to bring common sense to our state budget. There are so many government programs that don't work and provide little benefit to our state. It's time for us to eliminate these ineffective programs once and for all and continue to fund the programs that actually help people. People want to pay for things that work. Let's get rid of the things that don't work.

I had a bill this last session that would address this issue. My "evidence-based government" bill would bring accountability to government spending by requiring goals to be set and data on program effectiveness to be collected. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 legislative shutdown interfered with many bills that were in process this last session. Though it was on its way to being included in final legislation, my bill got caught up in the shutdown. I believe working on spending reform like this next year is critical.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB:

I think the experience I have developed in the legislature is a huge asset

and is going to be especially necessary next year as we tackle the \$5 billion+ deficit Minnesota is facing due to the state's COVID shutdowns. My experience in helping put together three budgets cycles for our state is going to be a necessary background in order to deal with this deficit,



Peggy Bennett

along with the good working relationships with legislative colleagues on both sides of the aisle that I have developed. During my 33 years as a teacher, I learned that listening is a critical life skill

and it is an especially important skill to have as a state legislator. I have developed good listening skills during my years of teaching and I love people. One of my favorite parts of my job as State Representative is to get out and around to events and visit with people. I believe people are the most important part of government and that the best ideas come from those who are living and working right here at home. That's why I get out into our communities year around to hear from people.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

My over 750 "kids" (my former first grade students, many with whom I still stay in touch.) I want them to have the same opportunities and freedoms that I have had. They are why I ran for office in the first place.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:

My first goal is to listen to the needs and desires of the people of my district and bring their voices to St. Paul. Secondly, I have a passion for government reform. I have offered bills for reforming government, and I will not give up on this — things like making sure government is accountable for spending your tax money wisely and omnibus bill reform — those big, bloated bills full of all kinds of smaller bills. We need reforms like this in order for government to work for people like it should!

Lastly, education reform. Education is an important key and answer to many of our state's critical issues... family economic viability, workforce, unemployment, poverty, inner city turmoil and unrest — not to mention success and hope for the future.

Our current education system is stuck and not working for a good segment of our children. Minnesota has one of the highest achievement gaps in the nation. This is not a teacher problem — we have thousands of high-quality teachers in our state — it is a system problem. I believe innovation is the

answer; thinking outside the box and finding ways to educationally renege a significant segment of Minnesota families. I have already introduced bills, and have more planned, to address this issue.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

Developing mutually respectful relationships with my colleagues across the aisle, as well as, with those of my own party has been of great importance to me and I believe is vital to getting things done.

Almost all of the bills I've chief authored have been bipartisan bills, and I have co-authored a number of bills with some of my Democrat colleagues as well. I am also willing to walk away in respectful disagreement — agreeing to disagree — when needed and can leave mutually respected relationships intact while doing so.

All of this is becoming more and more important amidst the divisive political environment of today. We need to tone it down and I listen to each other — really listen — and I have a track record of doing that. I detest the name calling and mudslinging we so often see. I do not and will not take part in that. How can we expect government leaders to be able to work together when they behave like this?

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

My experience as a long-time teacher has given me incredibly important skills for this job. I have learned to work with and get along with many different types of people during my teaching career — parents, colleagues, and the general public, and to treat with respect those with whom I disagree. I have also learned how important listening is in communicating and working with people. Lastly, I have gained a lot of patience by working with first graders for many years — and that patience has come in very handy in the legislature!

HOW DO YOU FEEL THE GOVERNOR HAS HANDLED THE COVID-19 RESPONSE FOR MINNESOTA? WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO CHANGE MINNESOTA'S WAY OF HANDLING THE PANDEMIC?

I applaud the Governor for the strategies he implemented in the first 30 days of the Coronavirus. At that time, we didn't have enough information about this virus. The governor acted quickly and did what needed to be done. However, after Easter, I disagree with

the Governor's handling of the virus.

By Easter, we had much more data available to us. We could see that various areas of our state were being affected differently by the virus. It was evident then that rural Minnesota should have been treated differently than the more heavily populated metro areas, providing for a more targeted approach. This has proven to be a correct evaluation after examining the results that Wisconsin, Iowa, and the Dakotas have.

Each of those states has fared much better (all have significantly lower death rates than Minnesota) without universal one-size-fits-all mandates.

I feel bad for the people who were hard hit in nursing homes (our state should never have released COVID-19 positive patients into nursing homes) and for the many people who had serious non-COVID health conditions who could not get treatment because of the hospital closure mandates.

I believe we would have had better results for our state had the voices of all three branches of government been involved in the decision making instead of the governor making the sole decisions.

MANY HAVE IDENTIFIED A BREAKDOWN IN STATE LEADERSHIP WITH THE HANDLING OF THE RIOTS IN THE TWIN CITIES AFTER THE GEORGE FLOYD KILLING. HOW COULD MINNESOTA'S RESPONSE HAVE BEEN HANDLED DIFFERENTLY AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO MAKE CHANGES TO SYSTEMATIC RACISM?

Decisive leadership was needed during the riots and it was glaringly absent. The National Guard should have been allowed

to intervene much earlier. The Guard was ready for action the day before most of the damage happened and yet was ordered at that time to stand down by our Governor. And so, our city burned.

The breakdown in leadership has also occurred through failed leadership from years and years of unsuccessful Democrat policy in the inner cities. The same thing continues to be done over and over, and so the same problems continue.

I was taught as a teacher to "drill down" in the data to identify and address the underlying causes of a problem. We need to start doing that as a government and work to solve the underlying issues of a broken system that are causing poverty, educational achievement gaps, frustration, and loss of hope in our inner cities. The people living there deserve these efforts. If we don't fix this broken system history will continue to repeat itself.

As I mentioned, education is one of those keys to fixing many of these problems, and I believe educational innovation is the answer. I have already introduced bills, and have more planned, to address this issue.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN THE COMING YEARS TO RESTORE MINNESOTA'S ECONOMY AND HELP SMALL BUSINESSES, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL MINNESOTA?

Unfortunately, liberal policy seems to ignore the fact that our businesses are at a competitive disadvantage compared to the surrounding states where the regulatory environment is much less burdensome.

We need to smartly identify which Minnesota regulations are unnecessarily burdensome and loosen them to let the economy thrive. It is essential to initiate regulatory reform and create incentives to create an environment where our businesses can thrive and grow.

One example of reform that I have fought for and was recently passed by the MN legislature is Section 179 tax conformity. Minnesota's lack of conformity for Section 179 has been incredibly harmful for our small businesses and farmers, causing some to potentially go out of business. I am thankful that this was finally passed and am hopeful that, by the time this questioning goes to print, the Senate will have passed it as well and the governor will have signed it into law.

THOMAS K MARTINEZ
DFL

PERSONAL BACKGROUND WORK EXPERIENCE:

I was born in Freeborn County. This is where my wife and I choose to raise our four children. I am a Biokidd student at the University of Minnesota-Mankato. I work at an Assisted Living Facility, volunteer as the Freeborn County DFL Inclusion Officer, sing tenor for First Lutheran Choir and am a licensed foster parent.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW

SEE DISTRICT 27A, B16



Thomas K. Martinez

Keep PEGGY BENNETT working hard for YOU!

"As we face a projected \$5-6 billion deficit, I will work to bring common sense to our state budget. There are so many government programs that don't work and provide little benefit to our state. It's time for us to eliminate these ineffective programs once and for all and continue to fund the programs that actually help people."

Even though COVID-19 dominated most of the 2020 legislative session, I was proud to be part of important legislation for our area:

- ➡ I voted against efforts to dismantle and defund our police.
- ➡ I voted for tax relief for our farmers and small business owners.
- ➡ I voted against Democrat-led efforts to cut funding to our local nursing homes.

Please visit my website, www.Bennett4House.com, to learn more about my work for all District 27A families.



I am asking for your vote so I can return to St. Paul and continue working for you next year!

Peggy

VOTE
PEGGY BENNETT
November 3rd!
She is a strong voice for our area!

www.Bennett4House.com

PEGGY BENNETT
HOUSE 27A

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Schultz makes a comeback against Gnemi in District 3

RICK GNEMI
INCUMBENT

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE: Real Estate Appraiser since 1977. Own and operate Gnemi Appraisal Service, Owatonna. Appraise real estate properties in Steele, Waseca, Dodge, Rice, Freeborn, Mower and Le Sueur Counties.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AN EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT: Affordable housing is an absolute priority. I will continue to focus my attention on our county budget to keep our taxes working as hard as possible for all of us and not the other way around. In this way, housing costs will be more reasonable for our citizens. As a real estate appraiser, I have the pulse of the market in the forefront of my daily activities, and this gives me an up close and personal advantage to sense the economic health in Steele County.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB: I believe I am the best candidate to represent voters and better their everyday life because I have

real life experience owning and running my own real estate appraisal business. I understand finances and budgets very well and believe in working hard so that our county budget is reasonable, sensible and affordable for our citizens.

We were successful as a county board to reduce the double-digit increases in the budget, and I want to continue that work.



Rick Gnemi

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE: Having been a part of Work Force for the past four years has given me insight into the challenges facing employers and employees in S.E. Minnesota. I would advocate bringing Work Force back to Steele County to assist individuals to get the proper training to perform skilled labor jobs which many employers in Steele County are seeking and continue to have this need unmet. By bringing more skilled labor back into Steele County, this will ultimately grow the local economy.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE: Our county detention center needed an updated, more efficient heating system which has been accomplished. However, the CDC still needs an assessment completed regarding the security system. A revised budget and procurement strategy has been presented to the board to fund this project. A Detention Center Best Practice Study is in progress to analyze historical trends, data and programming to understand the best use of the facility for effective jail operations, ensuring incorporation of results of current space, and proposed security improvements.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE: If budget cuts were to occur during my term, the most essential county services I would advocate to preserve are our county sheriff's department and county detention center; county roads and highway system; an affordable health and human services department; veterans services; drug court services; court administration department; and our public health nursing department, especially during this pandemic.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC: I have real life experience owning and running my own real estate appraisal business. I understand finances and budgets very well and believe in working hard so that our county budget is reasonable, sensible & affordable for our citizens.

DONE TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES IN OUR COUNTY RECOVER

FROM THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC? Keeping our businesses open and safe is paramount to our economic recovery from the pandemic. Availability of funds for our small businesses will continue to be our focus in Steele County to ensure our business partners can continue operating and keeping their employees gainfully employed.

MARK DAVID SCHULTZ

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

Married to Dawn Resler-Schultz, a daughter named Amelia.

A graduate of Winona State University and the Blandin Community Leadership Program.

Government experience includes 10 years serving on the Steele County Board of Commissioners and 3 years serving on the city of Owatonna Planning and Zoning Commission.

Employment of 35 years with U.S.P.S. (retired). Currently developing a property in Owatonna with the help of business partners and over 400 cooperative members. We are opening Foremost Brewing Cooperative in a few weeks and are committed to the economic development and revitalization of downtown Owatonna.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AN EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

To provide the necessary infrastructure and essential services to the citizens of Steele County, keeping the county property tax levy as low as possible and maintaining a balanced budget which is crucial to the efficient and effective operation of the county.

The direction I would take:

- Task department heads to streamline operating budgets and utilize any federal and state revenue to efficiently fulfill the requirements
- Maintain a current capital improvement plan to allocate one-time expenditures for equipment purchases, building improvements, and other capital improvements that will help eliminate inefficiencies

Evaluate the current fees to ensure they are helping to offset the costs of services

- Promote public, private, and nonprofit partnerships to help eliminate any duplication of services
- I would constantly search for improvements that would eliminate county inefficiencies.



Mark Schultz

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB:

I strongly believe public service is working in the best interest of constituents and our county as a whole. My service will reflect this belief. I have 10 years of experience serving on the Steele County Board of Commissioners, which is 2 1/2 times the experience of my opponent.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

County employees have asked me to run for office to improve the workplace environment at the Steele County Administration Building.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:

Maintain a balanced budget while keeping the county property tax low, having the county employees be treated with dignity and respect so they can be more engaged, productive, and feel valued. This will help with the efficiency of the workforce.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

MENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

- Prioritize plans that need to be carried out in the short-term while also having long range vision
- Set realistic goals that can be accomplished
- Set up timelines and evaluate progress
- Be transparent and include public input on decision making
- Give clear direction to staff to efficiently accomplish planned goals

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

My prior service as a Steele County Commissioner and a member of the Owatonna Planning and Zoning Commission position me well to be further engaged in public service. Other experience on boards and committees at the state and local level include: The Association of Minnesota Counties Public Safety Policy Committee, SEMCAC Executive Board, Community Services Policy Committee, South Central Humans Relation Center Board, Children's Mental Health Collaborative and the Rice-Steele 911 Dispatch Joint Powers Board.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES IN OUR COUNTY RECOVER FROM THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC?

Steele County recently received \$1.1 million in funding from the federal CARES Act that became law in March. This funding was available to provide a grant relief program for local businesses and nonprofits. The grant application ran from September 4th through October 2nd.

Small businesses in our county would benefit from Congress passing a second CARES Act to provide Steele County with continued grant relief to help our small businesses recover from the negative impacts brought on by the pandemic.

RE-ELECT JIM ABBE

STEELE COUNTY COMMISSIONER - DISTRICT 4

I WORK FOR YOU,
THE CITIZENS OF
STEELE COUNTY.

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Jim Abbe for Steele County
Commissioner - District 4

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I HUMBLY ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



FOCUSED, NOT FINISHED

I pledge to continue to work on your behalf, be a good steward of your hard earned tax dollars, and continue to conduct myself in a way that will make you proud to say I'm your County Commissioner!

Prepared and Paid for by Jim Abbe for District 4, 413 Pebble Beach Dr. Owatonna, MN 55060



Krueger runs unopposed in District 5

GREG KRUEGER
INCUMBENT RUNNING UNOPPOSED

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE:

Owned and operated St. Clair's for Men, an independent men's clothing store from 1982-2015. Married to my wife Bonnie for 44 years. Two sons, Blake, 35, and Brent, 33; daughter-in-law, Cassey, and grandsons, Lucas and Logan. Member of Trinity Lutheran Church since 1980, serving on Church Council for 11 years. Rotary member since 1985, member of Blooming Prairie and Owatonna Chambers of Commerce.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AN EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

Providing mandated and needed services while always being mindful of the budget. Elected officials need to remember it is not their money; it is entrusted to them by the taxpayers, and they expect it to be used wisely.

WHY DO YOU FEEL

YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB:

I think my business background and budget management background have been a real asset. I have a passion for leaving things better than when I found them.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

After closing St. Clair's because of health reasons, a group of citizens approached me to run because they wanted a business background voice on the County Board.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:

My first goal is to get Steele County through this pandemic with as little effect on human life as possible. Second, making Steele County the best county to live, work, play and raise a family in Minnesota. The current County Board has made a lot of progress in four years, but there are many more accomplishments that can and will be made.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

Teamwork: we have a County Board that works well with department heads and County employees to build an atmosphere where everyone's opinions are important. The new attitude of teamwork is infectious in Steele County. All of our employees are valued and important.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

Watching my Mom and Dad struggle to achieve their goals. The only thing they knew was hard work and to be thankful for what God provided. Also, a belief that we should all strive to leave whatever we get involved in better than we found it.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES IN OUR COUNTY RECOVER FROM THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC?

Number one is to re-invest a loyalty factor for shopping local, supporting local and lifting up local. These are the people that support our schools, our churches and non-profits by their donations and by paying their taxes. They deserve our support. A small part of their recovery is the CARES Act funding, but they really need all of us to make an effort to help them survive.

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

Ebeling attempts to get back seat from Abbe

JIM ABBE
INCUMBENT

PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE: I come from the fourth generation of Abbes to live in Steele County. I was born and raised on a small farm in Aurora Township, moved to Owatonna District 4 in 1985, raised a family and have lived there ever since.

I'm a proud dad to two lovely adult daughters and husband of 35 years to my beautiful wife, Lori. I'm involved in various community organizations and serve on/work with several different boards. For the past 25 years, my career has been working as a property director in the multifamily housing business. Prior to that, I worked as a concrete mason as a foreman on a crew where I learned the value of hard work and that nothing is given for free. I have been proud to say I'm your County Commissioner for the past four years and look forward to serving you again for the next four years.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT: Budget constraints as it relates to many areas of our county continue to be the biggest issue facing county government today. We are tasked with the challenge of balancing the costs of mandated and unmandated programs, maintaining our roads and bridges, dealing with the long-lasting ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic, and continuing to provide the quality customer service the citizens of Steele County are entitled to, all while working to keep the annual tax levy manageable. State aid and subsidies to Steele County will surely be less than received in prior years, as a result, we will need to look for creative ways to make up for the shortfall. I will continue to find efficiencies within their various departments for cost savings, so the taxpayers don't have to take on the full burden.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE: My family continues to be my biggest influence in everything I do. I want to continue the momentum of what we have accomplished the past four years.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE: My goal, pledge to the citizens of Steele County is to continue to be a good steward of

your hard earned tax dollars, always listen to what it is you want, continue to work hard on your behalf, and most importantly conduct myself in a way that makes you proud to say I'm your County Commissioner!

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE: It's not about strategizing, but more about working as a team. We have a great team in our county who understand the importance of what we do. Our team members understand they work on behalf of the citizens of Steele County and understand the importance of being fiscally aware of how they are spending your tax dollars.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES IN OUR COUNTY RECOVER FROM THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC? By the time this goes to print, my hope is that every small business that has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic has already take advantage of the Coronavirus Relief Funds program that is available to you. If you haven't done so, please visit the Steele County webpage at www.co.steele.mn.us for details and availability. In addition to the relief funds that may be available, it's going to take our communities to rally together and support our small businesses to get them back on their feet. All of our small businesses need our support, shop local when you can!

JAMES "CORKY" EBELING
PERSONAL BACKGROUND/WORK EXPERIENCE: Lifelong resident of Steele County with four generations of family roots. Married for 42 years with two grown children and two grandchildren. City of Owatonna employee for over 40 years, now retired. Steele County Commissioner for eight years. Steele County Free Fair for 18 years.

FOUNDER OF CORKY'S EARLY BIRD SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT FOR 42 YEARS AND RUNNING. Numerous local, state and federal organizations, boards and commissions.

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FACING THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY/JURISDICTION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR, AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON HOW YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT: Maintaining the county's infrastructure and services to include COVID-19 relief and safety for businesses and citizens while keeping taxes acceptable. Establish a plan that involves staff, the public and other government entities while building relationships and partnerships with other local government bodies and other counties. Also work with State and Federal officials to explore all options and resources that may be available.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB: I have always had a passion for civic involvement. My local community involvement experience, leadership, commitment and vision for Steele County is unparalleled. I am retired now and promise to dedicate myself to being a full time commissioner. My commitment is to build leadership skills, exchange ideas, pursue and implement cost-effective solutions with a collective voice.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE: In a democracy, citizens need to have a choice and vote for the candidate that they feel will do the best job for them. I am currently retired and can commit to being a full time commissioner for the citizens of Steele County. This includes working with State and Federal officials as 75-80% of what the county does is mandated or regulated by the State and Federal government. Communication is the key to success, and it's important to be proactive with legislators to explain county issues before, not after the fact. By committing to do this full time, I have the time to advocate for policy, law and regulation changes that are beneficial for the citizens of Steele County.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE: To make Steele County the place of choice to live, work and grow in Southern Minnesota. To build leadership skills, exchange ideas and pursue and implement cost effective solutions with a collective voice. Develop and follow an updated Capital

Improvement Program that is designed to create, support, maintain and finance Steele County's present and future infrastructure needs. The plan will be designed to ensure that improvements will be made when and where they are needed and that the county will have the funds to pay for and maintain them without depleting the reserves. It will be prioritized based on an analysis of our current existing infrastructure inventory, forecast for future service demand and availability of funding.

Create a path for a more proactive Criminal Justice System that strengthens individuals and family relations to keep them from returning to crime or jail and to raise a family with values.

Implement a plan for the County Economic Development Authority that does not duplicate what's in place but to enhance

it. Examples are housing issues, business retention and expansion, attraction of new business and employee education.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

Maintain an effective communication system with all sectors of the community, as well as, an internal organization two-way communication between the various County departments and the community, policies, systems and facilities to deliver the highest public service in a cost effective and accountable manner. Provide access to current technology to achieve greater productivity, transparency and communication.

It is also important to provide county employees with a great place to work by providing a safe work environment, opportunities for growth and development, training and a workplace where everyone can thrive and feel

proud that they work for a county that preserves the culture of cooperation and collaboration.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC: My local community commitment, leadership and civic involvement! I have learned a lot as a city employee, county commissioner and many local organizations, commissions and boards that I served on. This included working with local, state and federal organizations. All of this will be used to make Steele County the place to raise a family, work and thrive.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES IN OUR COUNTY RECOVER FROM THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC? Do what's fiscally possible locally, work with state and federal agencies to provide all business with opportunities that become available through grants and programs.



Jim Abbe



Corky Ebeling

Steele County District 4 Commissioner

- EXPERIENCE
- COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
- VISION

I served this community for many years. I care about the quality of life for everyone in Steele County. I have the vision, leadership experience and the knowledge. I want to be your FULL-TIME commissioner, and I care about the citizens of Steele County.

- ★ Served as Steele County Commissioner for 8 years
- ★ Former U of M Extension Member
- ★ Married 42 years & two adult children
- ★ Four generations of family roots in Steele County
- ★ Retired from City of Owatonna after 40+ years
- ★ Board member of the Steele County Free Fair for 18 years
- ★ Founder of Corky's Early Bird Softball Tournament (42 years & running)
- ★ Numerous local, state & federal organizations, boards & commissions

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT AND VOTE FOR CORKY EBELING ON NOV. 3!

Prepared and paid for by Corky Ebeling for Commissioner - Owatonna, MN 55060

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Prepared and paid for by Elect Tom Shea 24a Committee
P.O. Box 187 • Owatonna, MN 55060

ELECT SCHULTZ
County Commissioner

Prepared and authorized by Mark Schultz for Commissioner

MN HOUSE- DISTRICT 27A: FROM B13

YOU WOULD IMPLEMENT AND EFFECT CHANGE WITH IT:

Our district is simply not growing or thriving the way it should be. Under Rep. Bennett's leadership, we have seen major losses in retail, manufacturing and healthcare services, while seeing little rural development.

I believe access to quality and affordable healthcare services is our region's most significant problem right now. We are seeing a consolidation of healthcare services in cities like Rochester, while rural communities are increasingly finding themselves without their hospital services and clinics and the well-paying jobs they provide. Just recently, Mayo Clinic announced the closing of its Blooming Prairie clinic, leaving yet another community in this district without local access to healthcare.

Presently, southern Minnesota residents are paying the highest health insurance rates in the state and are having to drive further to receive the care they need during a pandemic. These problems are a costly burden on seniors and families in our communities. In order to provide families the most affordable and accessible healthcare, I support a MNCare buy-in option. As a legislator, I would also support the patients in District 27A in their fight to restore a competitive healthcare market, including the Albert Lea Healthcare Coalition/MercyOne clinic initiative.

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB:

When I say I'm going to be a pro-family legislator, people should know I understand their daily challenges, because I'm living it, right here, with you. I grew up on a modest income, from a Mexican-American

family, in rural Minnesota. I have four young children, three biological and one adopted, work at an assisted living facility, and previously spent five years as a Sanitation Worker driving for Thompson Sanitation through some truly brutal winters. I know what hard work is.

Our district is growing more diverse, and I feel qualified to represent our changing communities, including seniors, people of color and LGBTQ youth. I know what it is like to feel different, and this gives me a broader perspective of what it means to be a Representative. I want young and diverse people to know that they too can aim high and enter the political arena to fight for what they believe in, and that they will be respected and supported in 27A.

WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

I am running for office because all of America, including District 27A, is facing huge problems right now: a pandemic, a lack of access to affordable health care, a struggling economy, families juggling distance learning and childcare, threats to air and water quality, a changing climate, and civil unrest due to systemic inequalities.

The problems we are facing are huge, and there is no time for politicians who engage in obstructionism, or timidly fall in line behind party leaders. We need bold leaders with a clear vision of what they can provide to their constituents and I believe I am that candidate.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN OFFICE:

As a husband and father of four, I would work to make sure our schools and community college are adequately funded and ready to train the next generation of skilled workers, healthcare is affordable and accessible

to rural residents, and that our beautiful area receives its fair share of state support and funding to keep our ecosystem thriving. My opponent has not brought home our fair share of state funding, and her failure to vote for the bonding bill or money for food pantries this year is astonishing. Her votes mean that our roads will continue to flood, our lakes will continue to turn green and struggling families are less likely to get the support and relief they need.

WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO MAKE SURE SOMETHING GETS DONE WHILE IN OFFICE:

I will work across the aisle when it would benefit all the people of this district. I will seek out and consult with experts in any and all fields and apply their findings to the best possible solution. I will be data-driven and not be swayed by petty politics. I will hold town halls and listening sessions, either in person or through online meetings, and stay in frequent contact with all of the people of District 27A.

There are plenty of areas where both parties' interests overlap. I would want to work in a bipartisan manner to support biofuels so that Minnesota corn farmers can expand the markets they need to sell their products. Livestock farmers were hit hard during the pandemic, and I would gladly work across the aisle to enact policies or offer financial support for our Minnesota livestock farmers. Agriculture is the mainstay of our district, and when our farmers do better, we all do better. I simply want to provide my home district with quality representation for all.

WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST THAT HAS MOST

PREPARED YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND SERVE THE PUBLIC:

I have always been interested in politics. I think we all want our lives to mean something, to make a difference. Political service is one important way to help change things for regular people like me. I prepared for office by being involved in my local party at a young age. My time as our Freeborn County DFL inclusion officer has taught me how to engage with a diverse community to make our combined voices heard.

I was lucky to be elected twice as a state delegate, and I formed meaningful relationships and learned about our political system from Minnesota's most passionate activists. I taught myself campaign finance law and did my own treasurer work in my first attempt for this seat. When Terry Giersvik won the party endorsement in 2018, I learned to put personal feelings aside, and now I am pleased to consider him a friend and fortunate to have his support. I think that public service helps a person to learn, grow, and to work with others to accomplish great things.

HOW DO YOU FEEL THE GOVERNOR HAS HANDLED THE COVID-19 RESPONSE FOR MINNESOTA? WHAT STRATEGIES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT TO CHANGE MINNESOTA'S WAY OF HANDLING THE PANDEMIC?

Gov. Walz's goal has been to keep Minnesotans safe, and he has done a very good job under the circumstances. He has followed guidelines put forward by the CDC and Minnesota's health experts, such as those at Mayo Clinic.

Everyone is frustrated with the economic constraints that are in place, but people should blame the

virus, not the people working to keep us safe. Also, the Governor has given schools the guidelines and flexibility to function safely and to react to any changes in COVID numbers by school and county. He has recently met with a group of small business people to attempt to have the same flexibility there.

Over 2,100 Minnesotans have died in just over six months; we must accept that COVID is far more deadly and far more taxing on our healthcare resources than the seasonal flu. I am proud of the citizens of this district who have socially distanced, worn masks, washed hands and followed CDC guidelines. The data indicates that if we all abide by these fairly simple measures, our behavior will accelerate the recovery and allow us to safely operate our businesses and keep our schools open until we get an effective vaccine.

MANY HAVE IDENTIFIED A BREAKDOWN IN STATE LEADERSHIP WITH THE HANDLING OF THE RIOTS IN THE TWIN CITIES AFTER THE GEORGE FLOYD KILLING. HOW COULD MINNESOTA'S RESPONSE HAVE BEEN HANDLED DIFFERENTLY AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO MAKE CHANGES TO SYSTEMATIC RACISM?

George Floyd's death was not an isolated incident, and no one deserves to die the way he did. Many citizens are fed up with systemic inequalities and the perceived lack of political will to fix them.

One solution to address police brutality and injustice is to hold the officers in question accountable, which will hopefully happen in this case. I also want to draw a distinction between peaceful protesters and journalists on one hand, and those who

commit acts of rioting, burning and looting on the other. Peaceful assembly and the press are protected by the US Constitution. People who commit violence, arson, vandalism and theft should be prosecuted, and numerous people have been indicted for these acts so far. I support both the rule of law and equal justice and accountability for all.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN THE COMING YEARS TO RESTORE MINNESOTA'S ECONOMY AND HELP SMALL BUSINESSES, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL MINNESOTA?

Minnesota's economy will need some time to recover from the pandemic. I would work to make sure District 27A is given its fair share of funding by voting for a bonding bill with local projects and working for increases in Local Government Aid (LGA). I would work to ensure that childcare centers and home childcare workers are supported so that workers have the childcare they need to go to work, earn money and fill our state's workforce shortage. I would work to address housing shortages so that larger businesses will want to locate here and workers at small businesses have decent, affordable housing.

When working rural families do well, rural businesses do well, and our state does better as a whole. The best way to reduce the growing income gap is to support an increase in the minimum wage, support efforts to provide access to healthcare like the MNCare buy-in option, and support union membership so that people can collectively bargain for better compensation and working conditions. Economically stable families build strong, thriving communities and want to be your pro-family legislator.

RE-ELECT RICK GNEMI

Steele County District 3 Commissioner

I wish to continue serving as your Steele County Commissioner:

I believe our county commissioner board over the past 3+ years has accomplished a great deal of positive and necessary fiscal changes for you the Steele County taxpayer. I would like to continue working with the board to assist in safeguarding your taxpayer dollars. It is important as a commissioner to be engaged with the ongoing function of our county departments who work hard to operate efficiently and transparently.

Over the past 3+ years, we've accomplished:

- ★ Returned the newly built County Highway Department building budget back to a manageable fiscal range resulting in the construction of a very efficient and functional building at a significant savings to our taxpayers.
- ★ Brought the county spending back to a manageable level of approximately 4% vs. the double digit spending we experienced with previous boards in the past.
- ★ We have a cohesive county commissioner board focused in safeguarding Steele County taxpayers dollars in the most cost-efficient and responsible way possible while also insuring our departments function at optimum levels, providing the best service we can to the people of Steele County.
- ★ Transparent, vital and efficient communication between the county board, the county administrator, the various departments and department heads.

When re-elected I will focus my energy on:

- Work Force in Steele County
- Completion of Highway 14
- Drug and Veteran's Courts
- Senior Care and Protection
- Listening to You, the Citizens of Steele County

As your elected commissioner my goal and focus is to ensure that the people of Steele County are represented fairly with transparency. I will protect and carefully monitor your hard-earned tax dollars. I will also listen to your concerns and will work to find viable and workable solutions.



I will work for each Steele Countian to ensure that their tax dollars work for them, not the other way around...

I value each one of you and ask for your vote on November 3rd.

I would love to hear from you:
Home telephone: 507-451-3813
Steele County phone: 507-444-7427
Email: rgnemi@rickgnemiforcommissioner.com
RickGnemiForCommissioner.com

Prepared and Paid for by Rick Gnemi for County Commissioner