



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
The beginning of the new school year has been like none other. Wearing protective masks, Blooming Prairie Elementary School Patrol students Avery Hoffman, left, and Madyan Slowinski take their positions outside the school on the first day of school Tuesday, Sept. 8.

A first day like none other

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Mixed with a little bit of chaos, the first day of school in Blooming Prairie on Tuesday, Sept. 8 went quite well,

according to school administrators.

Students and staffs at the Blooming Prairie High School and at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School came with new attire

this year. They were all wearing masks. There were many smiles behind the masks, said BP Elementary School Principal Jacob Schwarz. "It was great to have the students back in our

building," remarked Blooming Prairie High School Principal John Worke.

"It was a typical first day with some chaos but it will get better every day," said Worke.

On the first day of school, there were lots of administrative/organizational pieces to iron out, Worke pointed out. "Add the safety guidelines and it seems overwhelming at times," he added.

It was an "Awesome Day" on Tuesday, meaning students with the last names A-L, being in the classroom at BPHS. Students with last

SEE A FIRST DAY, A10

Extra protection



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER
Bryce McCarty, safety inspector with Owatonna Bus Company, sprays sanitizing solution with a disinfecting gas-powered unit into one of the buses. It's a new routine that takes place whenever a bus comes back from transporting students in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Buses are sanitized after transporting kids

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Safety inspectors moving around with gas-powered units strapped to their backs have become a common sight at Owatonna Bus Company with the

new school year.

Armed with a unit resembling a leaf blower, the inspectors pop open the emergency rear doors on the buses and shoot a blast of sanitizing solution into the bus. It's a procedure that takes

less than 10 seconds, but provides extra protection that carries on for hours to keep students safe from the COVID-19 virus.

This same routine is repeated after each route is completed at all the company's

locations in Owatonna, Medford, Blooming Prairie, Albert Lea and Hayfield.

It's the same solution as used by the medical profession in healthcare facilities,

SEE COUNTY OFFERS, A3

Trump Shop pops up in Owatonna

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

It may not be associated with the president's campaign, but everything in the store is Trump merchandise. The Trump Shop has popped up in Owatonna along with several other stores in rural Minnesota and neighboring states.

The shops are owned by L&O Concessions of Florida selling merchandise mostly made overseas.

The shelves inside the Trump Shop are stuffed with just about any item a Trump-lover could ever envision. There are hats, T-shirts, yard signs, mugs, coins, shot glasses, flags, bumper

stickers and Trumpy bears. Nearly all the merchandise carries some sort of message touting President Donald Trump as being the person who is keeping America great. Some of the messages are straight-forward support while others are attacks and even some are filled with expletives.

Steve Adams is managing the Owatonna shop, which opened Aug. 8 and will remain open until Nov. 12. The store is located in the old Godfather's Pizza on South Cedar Avenue. It is open every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"It's been good, consistent," says Ad-

SEE TRUMP SHOP, A10



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
It was Krejci Ford for 47 years. The franchise was resigned on Aug. 28, 2020 and the business transferred to the name, BP Service and Repair. That business has now been closed, effective Friday, Sept. 11.

Krejci family closes doors on BP Service & Repair

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Less than a month old, BP Service and Repair is no more. The Krejci family business closed its doors last Friday, Sept. 11.

The BP Service and Repair moniker took the place of the Krejci Ford sign, which sailed over the dealership for more than 40 years. On Aug. 28, the owners of Krejci Ford resigned the Ford franchise. This meant that a Ford dealership would no longer be located in Blooming Prairie. Ford was part of the Krejci family for 47 years.

After resigning the franchise, the Krejci family planned on operating a service and repair business at 206 Highway Ave. N.

Cheri Krejci, office manager, said a deci-

sion to quit the service and repair business was made after losing one of its three Ford certified technicians.

"We just couldn't do justice to the business after losing a Ford certified technician," said Krejci.

Brothers Rick, Bruce and Roger Krejci purchased the Ford dealership 30 years ago. Rick has been part of the Ford lineup for 44 years. The Krejci family names, first engraved in a Ford dealership, dates back 47 years to Vyrl Krejci. Blooming Prairie has been home of a Ford dealership for more than 100 years.

Jeff Moe, a service tech with Krejci Ford for 30 years, accepted a similar position with a Ford dealership in Albert Lea.

SEE KREJCI FAMILY, A8

\$1.00 | Volume 129, No. 8



507-583-4431 | bptimes@frontier.net

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AREA DEATHS

Carl Wagaman, 76, Albert Lea

Serving
Blooming Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW

A potential lifeline for area businesses, nonprofits

This year has been especially difficult for small businesses as well as nonprofit organizations throughout the country. And Steele County is no different as COVID-19 has derailed the plans of many nonprofit activities and the ability of businesses to bring in their normal revenue.

A lifeline may be available to help those struggling from the pandemic. Federal CARES money has arrived to the area. In Steele County, \$1.1 million has been allocated for relief grant programs.

The funds are being dispersed through each city government entity—Bloomington, Ellendale, Medford and Owatonna—as well as Steele County. For businesses located with the city limits of those communities, they need to go through the local government. For small businesses in the unincorporated parts of the county and all nonprofits, Steele County is handling the program.

County administrator Scott Golberg is making a big push to make sure Steele County uses all the relief money it has been given. He doesn't want to send the money back to the federal government provided it's being used for eligible expenses.

This may not be everything a business or nonprofit needs to replace all the revenue and income they have lost over the past six months. But more than \$1 million through local grants is definitely going to have an impact on helping many businesses and nonprofits that are facing the chokehold of COVID-19.

We encourage all small businesses and nonprofits to explore what is being offered and get in on the grants, which are offering up to \$10,000. There is no catch—it's a grant that will not have to be paid back. This is the federal government working through the CARES Act to protect America's economy.

Local governments are now helping to mitigate the losses that small businesses have incurred as a direct result of the emergency public health declarations and stay-at-home orders.

More information about the program is available at www.co.steele.mn.us or by contacting the county administration office.

For some, the CARES grant could be the difference between staying open or having to close the doors. We hope small business can survive because after all, it's the backbone of America.



GUEST COLUMN

Racing at Chateau is getting out of hand

BY CARL WIEMAN

Friday night (Sept. 4) was not a good night in the Hornet Class. There were a few drivers that thought that this last points race of the season should be a demo derby and see how many cars they can wreck.

My son, Matt Wieman, got caught up in one of the wrecks, and was not able to finish the race, because of damage to his car along with bent rim and flat tire.

To tell you how bad the night was, out of the 16 cars entered for the Hornet Class, only eight finished the race, and those also had heavy damage.

The Flag Man did not do his job for this race. We have seen this the past three years that we have been going to Chateau. He lets the Hornet Class have a free for all demo derby on the last points race night, and it is getting worse every year.

He should have thrown the Yellow flag several times, and also used his Black Flag and wave it at some of these aggressive drivers. That is what he did earlier in the season when one of the

Modified drivers got to aggressive and was taking out cars. That time he actually told the driver to leave the track and not come back for the night.

We have a video of the whole race to show how those drivers had a lack of concern for their fellow driver's safety and their cars.

Some of those Modified cars that got wrecked that night still have not come back to Chateau, and I don't blame them. It all goes back to what the track personnel did not do to make them want to come back.

But, with the Hornets, he just lets them do as they please and it got worse as the night went on. These are low budget drivers and cannot afford to repair the cars every week.

When the race was over, we went to the pit area and there were several other drivers that came over and were talking about how bad the night was for that class. And some of these drivers were from other classes. They could not believe what they saw and said they were glad they are not in the Hornet class. A few cars had to be

loaded with a wrecker onto their trailer with so much damage.

The track owners need to change this if they want the Hornet Class to continue. From what we heard in the pits, those damaged cars will not repair their cars for the last two weeks of the season. They said they will decide if they repair them for next year, and may be go to another track next year, or worse yet, sell their cars.

Some of these same drivers have been to Arlington, and Fountain City, Wis., and they say is not allowed at those tracks.

If these drivers do not come back the next two weeks to Chateau, the track will be the real loser. Each car has an entry fee and transponder fee, total of I believe \$45. Crew passes for the pits is \$25 each, and most drivers have 4-5 people, as well as several friends and family that pay to watch in the stands at \$10 each. And, most buy food and drinks at the concession stand.

That can be easily over \$200 per car per week, that the track

SEE RACING AT CHATEAU, A8



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

It seemed like my teenage daughter was a little extra apprehensive and jittery about going back to school. It

initially caught me off guard because she's not normally that way. And then it hit me. COVID-19.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

With face mask in place, Cailyn Bussler heads off to her first day of school.

First day jitters worse than normal

Need I say any more? When I pushed her for explanation, she quickly pointed out, "I haven't been to school in six months."

Certainly, going back to school is like none other this fall for students everywhere as they venture into schools that had been shut down suddenly in March from the coronavirus. Undoubtedly, lots of cleaning and disinfecting has taken place since that time.

As parents of any teenager can attest, I really wasn't needed for much on the first day or any day for that matter. Mostly for moral support, I think.

I watched my daughter whip up her own lunch. "Lunch?" I asked. "Well, yes on the

SEE FIRST DAY, A5



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

The United States' National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed across the nation on the third Friday of September each year. It will be observed this year on Friday, Sept. 18.

Many Americans take the time to remember those who were prisoners of war (POW) and those who are missing in action (MIA), as well as their families.

Many Americans across the United States pause to remember the sacrifices and service of those who were prisoners of war (POW), as well as those who are missing in action (MIA), and their families.

All military installations by the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag, which symbolizes the nation's remembrance of those who were imprisoned while serving in conflicts and those who remain missing.

Veteran rallies take place in many states on National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

United States flags and POW/MIA flags are flown on this day and joint prayers are made for POWs and those missing in action.

Bloomington American Legion Post 52 and its Auxiliary each year pay homage to this special day.

On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, of each year, the local Legion post and VFW Auxiliary Post 878 salute the POW/MIA mantra with a special ceremony.

YOUR VIEW

Lois Riess coverage was excellent

To-the-Editor:
I want to tell you how much I appreciated all the coverage you had in the Aug. 19 edition of the Steele County Times about Lois Riess. We only get the Times but I do

look at the Owatonna People's Press online sometimes. I saw very little coverage of her plea deal in the OPP. I thought the coverage was excellent, stories well written, and very informative for the

public. I want to commend everyone involved in all the articles in the 8-19 edition.

Thank you!

Shelley Johnson
Owatonna

Veteran appreciates WWII section

To-the-Editor:
As a veteran of WWII, I offer my appreciation to you and Mr. Lestrud for your nicely done "WWII Tribute" Section in your wonderful newspaper (Sept. 2 edition). I am sure it

was much appreciated by all vets.

It almost seems that the countdown has begun toward the "Last Man Standing," as the numbers of survivors are dwindling constantly.

We enjoy the paper, which covers so many stories of local interest, and is so well written. Keep up the good work.

Anthony J. "Bud" Peka
Owatonna

STEELE COUNTY Times

Founded in 1893
Bussler Publishing, Inc.
www.steelecountytimes.com
Email: bptimes@frontiernet.net

USPS 058-340
Published weekly on Wednesdays
Postmaster: Send address changes to:

Steele County Times
P.O. Box 247
Bloomington, MN 55917
Phone: 507-583-4431

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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DEADLINES
News: Noon Fridays.
Web: 11 p.m. (Daily)
Advertising: 4 p.m. Thursdays.

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

A state and national award winning weekly

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

2020—9 state awards 2019—7 state awards 2018—6 state and 3 national awards 2017—2 state and 6 national awards	2015—7 state and 4 national awards 2014—3 state and 1 national award 2013—7 state and 2 national awards 2012—2 state awards 2011—4 national awards
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(Awards presented by the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Association)

COVID levels off in Steele for now

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The coronavirus appears to be leveling off in Steele County after some significant jumps in August.

Public Health Director Amy Caron reported Monday that there are 497 confirmed cases with two deaths and no hospitalizations. There have been 48 new cases over the past 10 days. Of the confirmed cases, 382 have recovered.

"We had a good weekend," Caron said.

In Dodge County, there have been 182 confirmed cases with no deaths and no one is currently hospitalized. Of the Dodge cases, 139 have recovered.

On the local level, there have been a few scattered positive cases in area schools, Caron

noted. "They have put some really good plans together and are very quick to react when there is a positive case," she said of the schools.

The age range for coming down with the virus is 20-40 year olds, according to Caron. "We're not seeing a lot of older people," she said.

Breaking down the numbers, Caron said some of the cases are attributed to college-aged students who have gone back to college.

Because their home address likely remains Steele County, they are being counted in Steele County even if they get the virus while away at college, she noted. "College kids are going back to college and outbreaks occur there," she said.

Some college kids are staying in isolation

at college, but others are coming back home, which Caron says is understandable for parents to do. When that happens, other family members are most likely going to catch COVID-19. "It's pretty tough to live with a positive case and not be positive yourself," said Caron.

Caron encourages residents to watch for drive-thru flu shot clinics, which will be coming up in the next month. As of Monday, Caron was still trying to finalize the dates for the clinics, which will take place in every city in the county.

"Now is the time to get a flu shot," Caron stresses. "We're worried about people getting influenza and COVID at the same time," she said.

Mayo Clinic adjusts hours of COVID-19 test sites

Mayo Clinic Health System has adjusted the hours of its drive-through COVID-19 testing sites beginning Sept. 12, in Owatonna, Albert Lea, Austin and Red Wing. This change will help focus support during the hours where there is the most demand from patients.

The new hours of operation at these four testing sites will be:

Monday through Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mayo Clinic Health System's drive-through COVID-19 testing sites provide a private, safe test environment for patients who meet screening criteria when first contacting their health care provider. The testing locations

will continue to provide this service through the upcoming winter months and for the foreseeable future.

"The drive-through test sites have been incredibly helpful to us as we tried to flatten the curve initially and now maintain our low rates of COVID positivity," says Deepi Goyal, M.D., chair of clinical practice for Mayo Clinic Health System, Southeast Minnesota. "We're the only test provider in many of our region's communities, and our patients and community members can continue to rely on us to keep these facilities going until they are no longer needed. If there is a surge in our region and more hours are needed for testing, we will adjust accordingly."

Patients experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should take the following steps:

First, call the COVID-19 Nurse Line at 507-293-9525 to learn about getting tested or contact their local health care provider.

If they meet testing criteria, they will be directed to one of our local testing sites.

At the drive-through test location, Mayo Clinic Health System staff will collect the specimens using appropriate precautions. Patients will be advised of next steps.

If patients have life-threatening COVID-19 symptoms, such as trouble breathing, chest pain or pressure, confusion, or blue lips or face, call 911.

Shields of Steele offers t-shirts

The Shields of Steele has embarked on a t-shirt fundraising campaign.

Volunteers joined together at the start of the pandemic in March by making shields to help protect the medical community, first responders, small businesses, schools and assisted living facilities throughout Steele County. They have made more than 3,500 shields to help protect people from getting the coronavirus.

T-shirts of various sizes are being offered ranging from \$15 to \$19. The shirts, which have been designed by Tanya Henson at the Hat Chic in Owatonna, are charcoal grey with the group's shield featured on the front. The back refers to the 2020 "Crushing Corona Tour."

Available sizes in-



clude: small, medium, large or X-large for \$15, 2XL for \$17, 3XL for \$18 and 4XL for \$19.

Shirts may be ordered by sending payment to Owatonna Area Business Development Center, 1065 24th

Ave. SW, Owatonna, MN 55960. Shields of Steele is an initiative of the Owatonna Area Business Development Center, a 501(c)3 dedicated to growing local businesses.

Ellendale makes COVID relief available

The Ellendale EDA CARES Act Small Business Relief Program was created by the Economic Development Authority (EDA) and has been approved by City Council. The program is designed to provide economic support to small businesses and not-for-profits to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures.

The program funding includes \$50,000 received by the City through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act recently passed by Congress as well as \$13,000 from Steele County.

Businesses and not-for-profits that have a

physical location within the City of Ellendale City limits are eligible to receive up to \$5,500 in funding from the Ellendale EDA CARES Act Small Business relief program. The business or not-for-profit must have been in operation since March 1, 2020 and employ between 1-50 employees (including ownership).

Scott Groth, Ellendale EDA chair and city council member said, "It is important to the City and the EDA that we are providing as much support and resources as possible to assist the businesses and nonprofits in our community." Groth continues, "We sincerely hope we can help as many as possi-

ble and encourage all of our businesses and nonprofits to apply."

Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis until 5 p.m. on Oct. 20, or until funds are depleted (whichever occurs first).

All grant awards are intended to provide emergency relief for costs associated with critical business expenses that are incurred as a direct result of the current health emergency. To learn more about the program or to submit the online application, visit the www.ellendale-em.com. Applications are also available at Ellendale City Hall, 106 Sixth Ave. W.

EXTRA PROTECTION: FROM A1

according to Steve Hale, general manager of Owatonna Bus Company. "This is a solution that is tried and proven," he said.

"This is a big comfort to a lot of parents who are entrusting their children with us," said Hale. "We are creating a germ-free environment."

Spraying the buses down with sanitizer isn't the only precaution taking place this year with the buses. All bus drivers, Hale said, are either wearing plastic shields or masks behind the wheel. Students riding on the bus are also required to wear masks. Hale likens it to a similar situation as to what's happening with dining in restaurants.

Buses are only being populated at 50% capacity this year. Hale said he had initial concerns about how the bus company could accomplish that without adding additional buses and drivers. He said it would have been too late in the year to get more buses and it has become increasingly difficult to find drivers.

But, Hale said, they have managed to come

up with a system where no more buses or drivers were needed. "It's a tricky deal, but we have pulled it off," he said. "At first it seemed undoable, but then logic came into it and we came up with a plan," he added.

In Owatonna, for example, the transportation times have been staggered with K-5 grades dismissed 25 minutes early and 6-12 grades at their normal time. This puts the buses out slightly longer than in the past but with less people on board. There are 55-60 buses transporting students each day in Owatonna.

"It was pretty ingenious," Hale said of the staggered busing plan. "It has been very favorable."

Hale credits owner Bill Regan's strong religious faith in pulling the company through this challenging time.

Another safety precaution being taken is the utilization of spray bottles and rags to wipe down doorways, steering wheels, seat backs and dashes. "Drivers are encouraged to go through every day to



keep them clean for the next route," said Hale, who has been with the company since the late 1970s. "I've never seen so many clean dash boards in all my years."

No food or drink is allowed on the buses this year.

The company lost only one driver to retirement, and all bus routes have been filled with regular drivers for the year. However, Hale would like to have a couple designated sub drivers added yet.

There were no major problems during the first week. And Hale hopes that trend will continue for the rest of the school year.

"We're doing what's required as well as what we need to do to keep safe," Hale said.


**Wear a mask
in public spaces.**


**Get tested if you
have any symptoms.**


**Answer if your health
department calls.**

mm MINNESOTA

STAY SAFE MN

COVID-19 UPDATE

World.....29,100,000
Deaths.....926,000
Recovered.....19,700,000

U.S.6,550,000
Deaths.....194,000
Recovered.....2,310,000

MN.....84,363
Deaths.....1,971
Recovered.....28,205

Steele.....497
Deaths.....2
Recovered.....382

Dodge182
Deaths0
Recovered.....139

AS OF SEPT. 14, 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.**

Political sign thefts occurring around the area

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

With the political season in full swing, signs are beginning to appear on lawns and yards all across the area. And, in some cases, they are disappearing as fast as they are put up.

Phil Heim, secretary for the DFL Party in Steele County, said many political signs are being stolen. "To me it's upsetting," Heim says. "It shows a complete lack of respect."

Heim said he doesn't care which political party people want to associate with. The bottom line, he said, is that no matter which sign someone displays, it should not be taken.

Captain Eric Rethemeyer of Owatonna Police said his depart-



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Signs are dotting the landscape all over for various political candidates. At least a dozen signs have been reported stolen to Owatonna Police within the past two months. Police remind citizens that it's theft to take any political sign.

ment has received about a dozen complaints of political signs being taken through the middle of last week. He noted there has been an equal amount for President Trump and his

challenger Joe Biden. Police have also taken a theft report of a sign for Senator Tina Smith.

According to Rethemeyer, the reports began coming in on July 20. He said there are no

suspects at this time. "The activity seems to be taking place during the overnight hours," said Rethemeyer. "To prevent sign(s) from being taken, the owner may consider taking their sign(s) in during the night or consider posting them in a well-lit area."

Taking a political sign is considered theft. Rethemeyer said the level of theft is determined by the value of the sign(s) taken. "If a single person was found responsible for the theft of many signs, the value of the signs taken within a 6-month period can be aggregated together to enhance the level of the theft," he said.

For political activists like Heim, sign theft is troubling. "It should not be tolerated or accepted," Heim said.

CRIME BRIEF

Hit and run crash leads to felony DWI

A hit and run crash led police to arresting the driver on a felony DWI charge.

Owatonna Police responded to 20 Clark Dr. for a report of a hit and run on Sept. 4. Officers learned from a witness that a man driving a red Chevrolet Aveo had run into the back of a parked pickup and fled the scene.

A short time later officers found the heavily damaged vehicle that ran from the scene parked at a Verizon store and the driver inside. They also found the driver showing signs of DWI intoxication and had



Donald Johnson

failed field sobriety tests. Police arrested Donald Johnson, 47, of Owatonna in connection with the hit and run. He has been charged with first-degree felony DWI, driving after cancellation-inimical to public safety and leaving the scene of a motor vehicle crash.

Just two weeks prior to this latest incident, police arrested Johnson after he allegedly drove a vehicle into a house while intoxicated. At that time, he provided a breath test of .10 and was charged with two counts of second-degree DWI, gross misdemeanors.

I-35 rollover claims life of Fridley woman in Steele County

A Twin Cities woman has died in a rollover crash in Steele County. The State Patrol has identified the victim as Amanda Michelle

Hartman, 39, of Fridley. She was driving a 1994 Ford Aerostar. The crash happened Sept. 8 at about 6:39 a.m. on Interstate 35 at mile-

post 41 in Owatonna. According to the patrol, Hartman was northbound on I-35 when she lost control, went into the ditch, struck a retain-

ing wall and rolled. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

Hartman was traveling alone in the vehicle. No other vehicles were

involved in the crash. The patrol said Hartman was wearing her seat belt and the airbag deployed. The report stated "unknown" as

for whether alcohol had been involved. Owatonna Police, Owatonna Fire and Mayo Ambulance assisted the patrol at the scene.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Aug. 31 - Sept. 6:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Stephen Lamers, 48, Austin, speeding, \$125; Poe Meh, 25, St. Joseph, MO, speeding, \$215; Hector L. Morales, 18, Austin, minor consumption, \$175; Brian Najera, 31, St. Paul, speeding, \$135.

MN STATE PATROL
ROCHESTER

Nitin Aravindakshan, 35, Hopkins, speeding, \$125; Cody J. Ball, 21, Albert Lea, speeding, \$115; Christopher E. Bellify, 49, Shevlin, speeding, \$115; Anthony M. Esposito, 18, Plymouth, speeding, \$215; Michael J. Hogan, 55, New Brighton, move over law violation, \$125; Ismael Ibarra, 27, Paul, speeding, \$115; Brandon A. Jeno, 25, Northfield, speeding, \$135; Alvin A. Kolkind, 55, Ramsey, speeding, \$215; William S. Leafblad, 28, Spring Grove, speeding, \$115; Marvin L. Loetz-Morrill, 46, Mason City, IA, hands free violation, \$125; Phong T. Lu, 27, Houston, TX, speeding, \$115; Karl L. Mitchell, 43, Brainerd, speeding, \$115; Ty A. Nicholson, 20, Haslet, TX, speeding, \$215; Omar A. Osman, 27, Woodbury, speeding, \$125; William D. Paredes, 27, Minneapolis, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Carlyn B. Pederson, 41, Grimes, IA, speeding, \$115; David M. Peters, 58, Brandon, SD, speeding, \$135; Nicholas L. Stoops, 32, Big Lake, speeding, \$215; Tyler C. Trix, 25, Richfield, speeding, \$215; Donald R. Worden, 37, St. Cloud, speeding, \$115; Madeline M. Young, 34, Owatonna, speeding, \$125.

OWATONNA POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Miguel A. Beltran, 41, Waseca, invalid license, \$175; Tanner P. Ely, 29, Waseca, seat belt, \$100;

Jennifer A. Esquivel, 21, Owatonna, permit offense by another, \$175; Joel M. Fernandez, 31, Owatonna, DWI, \$400, chemical assessment, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Kevin M. Fisher, 54, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; David A. Garcia Cortez, 23, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175; Miguel A. Jaramillo, 18, Owatonna, failure to stop for traffic control signal, \$125; Vance T. Matejcek, 20, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; Jamie L. Robinson, 35, Owatonna, counterfeit currency, \$225 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Jerod A. Wigham, 39, Owatonna, DWI, \$400, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend MADD impact panels, ignition interlock program and 2 years of supervised probation.

STEELE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Marcus E. Abfallter, 26, Apple Valley, speeding, \$215; Zachary R. Allen, 20, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Matthew R. Bauske, 23, Fargo, ND, stop sign, \$125; Carson J. Delange, 21, Owatonna, DWI, \$375, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Matthew D. Harris, 43, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Rebecca L. Hoffman, 41, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$115; Matthew J. Hotchkiss, 52, Elmore, speeding, \$125; Paul R. Johnson, 17, Zumbrota, speeding, \$125; Raymond J. Monsor, 67, Austin, speeding, \$135; Gustavo Pacheco Montes, 33, Iowa City, IA, speeding, \$125; Konisha P. Ratzliff, 21, Minneapolis, damage to property, \$131 and 90 days in county jail; Shelby A. Reinke, 29, North Mankato, DWI, \$125, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele CountyBLOOMING PRAIRIE
POLICE

Sept. 5 Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 500 block of Center Ave. N. at 11:59 p.m.

Sept. 8 Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 300 block of 1st St. SE at 12:19 p.m.

OWATONNA POLICE

Sept. 4 Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 2200 block of 28th St. NW at 6:56 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 1400 block of Austin Road SE at 8:37 a.m. and the 2300 block of Majeiko Lane NE at 10:42 a.m.

Hit and Run: At 9:24 a.m., police arrested a subject following a hit and run accident in the 200 block of Clark Dr. NW.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 10:50 a.m.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 800 block of Willowbrook Dr. NE at 1:41 p.m.

Animal: At 6:12 p.m., an animal bite occurred in the 200 block of Vine St. E.

Arrest: Police arrested a subject during a traffic stop in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 9:41 p.m.

DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest in the 500 block of Bridge St. W. at 1:19 a.m.

Burglary: Police began a burglary investigation in the 200 block of Oak Ave. S. at 3:42 a.m.

Theft: At 8:35 a.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 1700 block of Elm Ave. N.

Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 2200 block of 28th St. NW at 9:59 p.m.

Sept. 6 Probation: Police arrested a subject for a probation violation in the 700 block of Academy St. E. at 11:49 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 400 block of Dart Ave. NE at 10:24 p.m.

Sept. 7 DWI: Police arrested a juvenile for driving while

intoxicated in the 900 block of Main St. E. at 12:05 a.m.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 700 block of Lee St. NE at 1:23 a.m.

Arrest: Police arrested a subject in the 1200 block of St. Paul Road NE at 3:54 p.m.

DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest in the 1200 block of Oak Ave. S. at 9:51 p.m.

Sept. 8 Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 100 block of 21st St. NW at 1:33 a.m. They issued a citation.

DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest at Elm Ave. N. and Rose St. E. at 2:55 a.m.

Crash: At 6:28 a.m., officers responded to a fatal accident in the 1000 block of Lemond Road SW.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 100 block of Park Square W. at 7:44 a.m.

Shoplifting: Police arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 2100 block of Ridge St. W. at 10:32 a.m.

Sept. 9 Theft: At 11:15 a.m., identity theft was reported in the 200 block of 21st St. NW.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 600 block of Grove Ave. S. at 8:08 p.m.

Sept. 10 Motorist Assist: At 12:17 a.m., police responded to a motorist assist at Park Square W. and Main St. W. They arrested a subject.

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Hoffman Dr. NW and 21st Ave. NW at 5:15 a.m.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 2200 block of 7th Ave. NE at 7:50 a.m.

STEELE COUNTY
SHERIFF

Sept. 4 DWI: Deputy made a DWI arrest in the 100 block of Cedar Ave. N. in Owatonna at 1:08 a.m.

Sept. 5 Crash: Deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage in the 2700 block of Austin Road in Owatonna Township at 7:09 a.m. They issued a citation to one of the drivers.

Sept. 6 Crash: At 9:29 a.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred in the 2300 block of Havana Road in Owatonna Township.

Sept. 7 Crash: Paramedics and deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 1000 block of 92nd Ave. SW in Meriden Township at 2:09 p.m.

Sept. 10 Crash: At 8:08 a.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred at 8th St. SW and 62nd Ave. NW in Meriden Township.

Thefts: Deputies received their reports from the 6700 block of 48th St. SW in Lemond Township at 7:02 p.m. and 11 p.m.

DWI: Deputy issued a citation for DWI in the 300 block of 2nd Ave. SE in Medford at 8:23 p.m.

He was sentenced to \$1,080, 44 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, mental health evaluation, cognitive skill training, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Aug. 30 - Sept. 6:

DODGE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jodi K. Fitzgerald, 60, Sargeant, speeding, \$120; Michael A. Fitzherbert, 22, Bayport, tampering with motor vehicle, 90 days in county jail; Dustin J. Helms, 25, West Concord, speeding, \$140; Michael G. Kiofi, 20, Winona, speeding, \$140; Jason G. Miller, 49, Owatonna, possession of paraphernalia, \$180; David A. Zystra, 38, Blooming Prairie, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$180 and 6 months of unsupervised probation.

KASSON POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Matthew J. Donovan, 17, Kasson, speeding, \$130; Damon M. Flintner, 19, Dodge Center, invalid license, \$180; Randy G. James, 60, Hayfield, hands free violation, \$130; Danielle M. Jenkins, 41, Chicago, IL, hands free violation, \$130; Chentel L. Johnson, 32, Chicago, IL, speeding, \$140; Roger W. Kuhlman, 55, Kasson, hands free violation, \$130; Scott R. Ohm, 46, Rochester, hands free violation, \$130; Cara E. Patnode, 40, West Concord, theft, \$130; Tabitha L. Skogen, 34, Kasson, hands free violation, \$130.

MN DEPT. OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Eric D. Alberts, 40, Pine Island, ATV violation, \$120.

MN STATE PATROL
ROCHESTER

Levi G. Henson, 39, Byron, speeding, \$120; Daniel W. Jacott, 49, Owatonna, hands free violation, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised probation.



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Is There an Age Limit for Organ Donation?



Dear Savvy Senior,
I never thought about becoming an organ donor until my brother died of kidney failure last year. But at age 78, I would like to know if I'm too old to be a donor, or if they would even use my organs if I were to die from COVID-19. What can you tell me?

Potential Donor

Dear Potential,

There's no cutoff age for being an organ donor. Anyone, regardless of age or medical history, can sign up. In fact, there are many people well up into their 80's that donate. The decision to use your organs is based on health of the organ, not age. So, don't disqualify yourself prematurely. Let the doctors decide at your time of death whether your organs and tissues are suitable for transplantation.

Regarding the COVID-19 part of your question, as of right now, the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) does not recommend transplantation of organs from donors known to have the virus. So, if you were to contract the coronavirus and die, your organs would probably not be used, however, this may change as treatments are developed.

Here's what else you should know about becoming a donor.

Donating Facts

In the United States alone, more than 112,000 people are on the waiting list for organ transplants. But because the demand is so much greater than the supply, those on the list routinely wait three to seven years for an organ, and more than 7,000 of them die each year.

Organs that can be donated include the kidneys, liver, lungs, heart, pancreas and intestines. Tissue is also needed to replace bone, tendons and ligaments. Corneas are needed to restore sight. Skin grafts help burn patients heal and often mean the difference between life and death. And heart valves repair cardiac defects and damage.

By donating your organs after you die, you can save or improve as many as 50 lives. The United Network for Organ Sharing maintains the OPTN, a national computer registry that matches donors to waiting recipients.

Some other things you should know about being an organ donor are that it does not in any way compromise the medical care you would receive in a hospital if you are sick or injured, nor does it interfere with having an open-casket funeral if you want that option. And, most major religions in the United States support organ donation and consider it as the final act of love and generosity toward others.

How to Donate

If you would like to become a donor, there are several steps you should take to ensure your wishes are carried out, including:

Registering: Add your name to your state or regional organ and tissue donor registry. You can do this online at either OrganDonor.gov or DonateLife.net. If you don't have Internet access, call Donatelife America at 804-377-3580 and they can sign you up over the phone.

Identify yourself: Designate your decision to become an organ donor on your driver's license, which you can do when you go in to renew it. If, however, you don't drive anymore or if your renewal isn't due for a while, consider getting a state ID card - this also lets you indicate you want to be a donor. You can get an ID card for a few dollars at your nearby driver's license office.

Tell your family: Even if you are a registered donor, in many states, family members have the ultimate say whether your organs may be donated after you die. So, clarify your wishes to family. Also tell your doctors and indicate your wishes in your advance directives. These are legal documents that spell out your wishes regarding your end-of-life medical treatment when you can no longer make decisions for yourself. If you don't have an advance directive, go to MyDirectives.com where you can create one for free.

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

Sept. 21, 2010

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Not everyone gets the chance to raise the American Flag at the Minnesota Twins game. That once in a lifetime chance was given to WWII veteran Ernest Betlach. His daughter, Kathy Sturm, submitted his biography and his story from WWII to the Captain of the Minnesota National Guard. The application was reviewed and he was chosen to raise the flag at the game on Wednesday, Sept. 1 at Target Field.

Where does one begin reporting a game that saw 16 touchdowns scored, six lead changes, long runs and missed conversions and the winning points coming on an extra point fumbled snap. Waseca defeated the Blossoms 55-53 in overtime on Friday, in what had to be the wildest game witnessed by fans.

20 Years Ago

Sept. 21, 2000

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Shaking off a disappointing first games loss, the Blossom Volleyball team fought back to earn their first win of the season over JWP on home court. JWP took game 1 15-5, but the girls fought back to win games 2 and 3 - 15-9; 15-11. The Bulldogs tied the match with 15-10 fourth game but the Blossoms weren't to be denied as the won the deciding game easily 15-5.

Had Kelly Kittleson known what was ahead of her with the preparations and headaches that would ensue, she might have thought twice. But she continues the quest to get her hardy seven dancers to the Outback Bowl

over Christmas vacation. The seven dancers who worked hard both in preparation and earning money to get to the Bowl game are Shelly Underwood, Amanda Campbell, Emily Kinny, Stacy Sekora, Melissa Johnson, Elizabeth Newman and Leah Vaith.

50 Years Ago

Sept. 23, 1970

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE
KREJO, PUBLISHERS

David Noble, Blooming Prairie's "top" modified stock car driver, won the Season's Championship Race on Sunday at Tri-Oval Speedway in Fountain City, Wis. He also won the point championship at Tri-Oval, winning over \$800 and a large trophy for his efforts.

Kevin Weaver has returned to the Super-Value Store in Blooming Prairie as manager of the firm, replacing Bob Plantikow. Weaver has had 18 years' experience in the grocery business. Prior to moving to Blooming Prairie in 1968 he owned and operated the grocery store in Mazeppa. He was in charge of the meat department here for a time. Ken stated he was pleased to return to the Super-Value store as manager.

75 Years Ago

Sept. 23, 1945

FRANK KREJO, PUBLISHER

Lt. Colonel E.C. Habberstad piloted a big bomber Saturday from Mountain Home, ID to Rochester where he was met by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E.O. Habberstad. Eddie, as he is called by his host of friends here, visited in his hometown until Monday when his parents conveyed him back to his ship in Rochester. Habberstad

circled his boyhood hometown before he landed in Rochester and a fly over farewell as he flew back to Idaho.

A group of 40 leading businessmen and civic leaders interested in the improvement of the community and post-war program signed the petition for a Kiwanis club here. After the adoption of the standard by-laws of the club, the club presented a slate of officers who were unanimously elected: President, Edward M. Betlach; Vice-president, Norman A. Peterson; Treasurer, Gilbert R. Johnson; Secretary, Donald Schultz.

Owatonna Photo News

31 Years Ago

Sept. 14, 1989

TOM SHEA, PUBLISHER

Don Vogt, Rt. 3 Owatonna, has been named the 1989 Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the Year by the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Vogt is recognized for his outstanding efforts in soil and water conservation on his farm. He farms 240 acres in Merton Township and has been a cooperater with Soil and Water Conservation since 1975. He will be recognized at the Soil and Water Conservation convention in Rochester later this year.

The Owatonna girls swimming team won for the second time in as many meets, defeating Mankato West 89-83 on Tuesday. The 200 medley relay won second and Betsy Burkhalter help the team by placing third in the diving competition. The Owatonna Indians Volleyball team held off New Prague winning 4 out of the 5 games. Lisa Mosher came away with eight ace hits, three tips and two blocks.

Mayo researchers define type of Alzheimer's that affects people in their younger years

Mayo Clinic researchers have defined a form of Alzheimer's disease that strikes younger people as early as their 40s, presents with atypical symptoms, and affects a different part of the brain not usually associated with Alzheimer's.

In their study, the researchers describe a progressive dysexecutive syndrome which they say affects a person's ability to multi-task, organize and plan to a greater degree than the episodic memory deficits seen in typical Alzheimer's disease. Although this form of Alzheimer's is not new, it has not been defined or studied to a significant degree, contributing to misdiagnosis and delays in diagnosis. The paper was published in *Brain Communications*.

"This strikes young individuals during their working years. They may lose their jobs and not qualify

for disability benefits because the reason for their declining job performance is not identified as Alzheimer's disease," says David Jones, M.D., a Mayo Clinic neurologist and lead author of the study. "Proper treatment and counseling are often delayed because of poor recognition by patients and providers."

For the study, researchers defined the clinical, imaging, pathologic and genetic characteristics of a previously undescribed clinical presentation of Alzheimer's disease that predominantly affects executive thinking abilities. The researchers report the characteristics of 55 patients with a newly defined form of Alzheimer's disease with unusual/atypical symptoms. The mean age of onset was 58.8 years and the mean age of diagnosis 57.2 years, highlighting the younger age of onset and the poor recognition of this

syndrome leading to diagnostic delays.

"Losing a job due to problems organizing, planning and executing tasks at work can be the first clue. A patient can often maintain daily activities, like driving a car, but will not do well in detailed cognitive testing due to executive functions needed to perform on these tests," says Ryan Townley, M.D., a neurologist at Mayo Clinic at the time of this study, now at Kansas University Alzheimer's Disease Center, and the first author of the manuscript. "There's a mismatch with the cognitive abilities, and people think the patient is anxious or depressed and not trying."

Researchers found that individuals can have normal hippocampal formations. Atrophy of this structure, accompanied by memory loss, has traditionally been thought to be the defining characteristic

of Alzheimer's. Patients with progressive dysexecutive syndrome due to Alzheimer's disease instead show parietal lobe atrophy thought to drive the executive dysfunction. Due to their young age of onset, patients with progressive dysexecutive syndrome are less likely to exhibit co-pathology seen with other age-related disorders. This fact, along with a recently defined LATE disease (a non-Alzheimer's condition on targeting memory and the hippocampus), suggests significant change is needed in the way researchers recognize and study Alzheimer's.

"This is a condition that specifically targets executive brain function," Dr. Jones says. "Therefore, this has the potential to inform us about the biological mechanism required for executive brain functions and the mechanisms that cause Alzheimer's disease."

FIRST DAY: jitters worse than normal

FROM A2

first day I have to bring lunch because I need to get a spot to sit right away," she retorted back. I didn't realize lunch seats were in such short supply.

"Just go with the flow," I reminded myself as I smiled at my daughter.

She, of course, was also equipped with her face mask. A couple of them, no less. After all my years of being

in school and getting two other children off to school, face masks were never part of the back-to-school supply list. Oh, how times have changed.

Through my daughter, I was quickly reminded how everything is a little on edge and jittery about the direction life is taking us these days. I am convinced we can overcome this.

This school year, like almost every other function and activity in our lives, is definitely one like none other. It's all new territory for everyone. There is no playbook to quickly page through and figure out how to stumble through life during a pandemic.

It has been a trying time for most everybody. I especially admire educators who are faced with both distance learning and in-person instruction. It can't be easy and I appreciate what they are doing to keep our youth educated.

I am also impressed with Bill Regan and his crew at all the area bus companies—Owatonna, Medford, Blooming Prairie and Hayfield—

with how they are keeping kids safe on buses this year. Bill has a top-notch operator that's difficult to beat. And, yes at 87 years old, Bill is still keeping a pulse on what's going on with his buses.

My hope for this school year is that everyone stays healthy and that we can continue with school as close to normal as possible given the circumstances we're in. It's definitely going to be a challenging year, but as we have found out over the past six months, it's nothing we can't overcome.

We all need to go in hot pursuit of doing our best to overcome the worst adversity society has seen in more than a century.

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Email: pat@ci.owatonna.mn.us

Office & Cancellation Line: 507-444-4321
Fax: 507-444-4379
Facebook: Owatonna Parks and Recreation
River Springs Water Park: 507-774-1319

Sports & Fitness Center: 507-444-4299
Boys & Girls Social Center: 507-444-4309
Breakwater Clubhouse: 507-444-2867
Park Headquarters: 507-774-7084

Our Mission

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



Walking in nature has many benefits including improving your immunity and memory, reducing anxiety, making you happy and much more! Participate in our Park Passport program this fall, walk the Owatonna trails and experience the benefits of walking in nature.

Thank you Park Board Members!

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

Park Passport

The Park Passport program is an initiative of Owatonna Parks and Recreation to promote healthy lifestyle choices. The program encourages families and individuals to explore our parks and trails and exercise by walking the mapped trails. The four-week program is FREE and all access to the parks is FREE!

- Get your passport. Available on the Owatonna Park & Rec website.
- Visit the parks listed and find the hidden password. Parks will have a small sign mounted to a post along the trail. The signs are approximately 2'-4' from the ground. Each sign has a word on the back. All signs will be up from September 23 to October 21.
- Reveal the phrase! Write the hidden password for each park/trail in the appropriate box to reveal the message. Turn in your completed passport by October 26.
- Enjoy your time in the parks! The ten Passport Parks and Trails are Mineral Springs Park, Leo Rudolph Nature Reserve, Darts Park, Buxton Trail, North Straight River Parkway, Kaplan's Woods Trail, 18th Street Trail, Manthey Park, Muckle Trail and Kaplan's Woods Parkway. A completed passport equals 11 miles of trail walking.

Bike & Brew

Bike, walk or jog for We All Play and earn beer certificates!

- Sign up to participate on the Owatonna Park & Rec website (only \$10)
- Ride bike wherever you'd like from September 14 through October 4
- Submit weekly mileage and pictures - a weekly log will be emailed to you
- Receive 2 beer certificates for Mineral Springs Brewery (mailed right to you)
- Extra prizes for top mileage & best pictures
- Don't ride bike? You can walk or jog and still participate!

Thank you to Mineral Springs Brewery for sponsoring the activity! All proceeds will benefit We All Play for the inclusive playground and Miracle Field. For more information regarding We All Play and/or if you'd like to make an extra donation, please visit their website: <http://www.weallplayowatonna.com/>

NFL Pick'em

Owatonna Parks and Recreation will be hosting NFL Pick'em. The object of the game is simple: pick the winner of each NFL game every week. Weekly points will be recorded and totaled at the end of each regular season game. Make your picks online, on the Owatonna Park & Rec website. Prizes of \$50 chamber bucks or a free pavilion rental will be awarded to the top 2 people.

Park Clean Up Kits

Help us keep Owatonna's parks beautiful!

- Sign up online on the Park & Rec website.
- Pick-up your bucket of cleaning supplies at the park shop.
- Clean-up a park or trail using our pickers & garbage bags.
- Leave the trash near a garbage can & drop-off the bucket at the park shop!



Cancellations and Closings Updates

The following are our most current closings and cancellations. To stay updated on our closings and cancellations, and for program cancellations and/or postponements, visit the Cancellations & Closings page on our website (<http://www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/291/Cancellations-Closings>) and like us on Facebook.

- Brooktree Golf Course - open. Visit their website for COVID-19 protocols.
- City Parks - open. Playgrounds, tennis and pickleball courts are open. Practice physical distancing.
- City Trails - open. Practice physical distancing.
- Dog Park - open. Practice physical distancing.
- Archery Park - open. Practice physical distancing.
- Parks & Recreation Offices - open.
- West Hills Social Commons - closed until further notice.
- West Hills Tennis & Fitness Center - closed until further notice.

Stay Connected

We offer a variety of ways for you to stay updated and connected.

- Follow us on Facebook on the following pages:
 - Owatonna Parks and Recreation
 - West Hills Social Commons
 - River Springs Water Park
 - West Hills Tennis and Fitness Center
 - Owatonna Dog Park
- Visit our website: www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation

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Rick Gnemi
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It was a family affair as brothers Alex, Wyatt and Colton Hemann were accompanied to the first day of school (Sept. 8) at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School by their mom, Misty.

'They are smiling behind their masks'

Teachers share thoughts on coming back to class amid COVID

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

What's new in the classroom?

Let's find out by reading what our Blooming Prairie Elementary School teachers have to say about returning to the classroom after being away from students for more than six months.

Most of the teachers, kindergarten through sixth grade, are ecstatic and joyful about being able to be in the classroom with their students.

Let's read what they said about that first day last week, on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Teachers Share Thoughts

Emily Voss, Kindergarten: Even though this year brings a lot of changes and new routines for Kindergarten students, it is such a joy to be back in the classroom.

Typically when students walk in the room their smile lights up the classroom. Now, I didn't get to see their smiling faces but I know they are smiling behind their mask.

In the morning, we utilize the video conferencing tool Zoom to connect with our distance learners and create a classroom community. Each student is so excited to be at school and has been working extremely hard to follow the new routines. Some of the new routines we are teaching in the classroom consist of using hand sanitizer when entering and leaving the classroom, scheduled bathroom and mask breaks, and working in groups of three.

This year brings many challenges with COVID but working with awesome students,

staff, parents, and community members has helped the transition back to school be successful.

Heather Schiller, First Grade: I am very thankful to start the year with my students in our classroom. I am excited to get to know each child in person, see their excitement for learning and school, and hopefully ease any anxiety or fear they may have about school.

Having the opportunity to be back in the classroom with my students has been WONDERFUL!

Diane Pfeiffer, Second Grade: I am so glad to be back in the classroom with students in person to teach. It is so much easier to answer questions, assist students, and assign work when everyone is together.

The students were happy to be back at school. I had several tell me they would sleep at school if they could. Teachers also enjoyed being back at school in person with students. The laughter and chatter once missing in the hallways is now joyous music to your ears.

I had to take out some flexible seating and rearrange how the room looked to prepare for students, but totally worth it when those little bodies with smiling faces under masks came into the room. This has been one of the most memorable starts to the year with all the COVID-19 guidelines in my 30 years of teaching. I am looking forward to the day we can walk into school with our masks staying at home and our smiles shining brightly on our faces.

Alli Schmidt, Third Grade: It is a really different start to

the year, but it has been amazing. The students are great and adjusting well.

We keep reminding ourselves that this year might look a little different, but everything we do is to make sure we keep everyone safe and healthy. The students are so excited to be back in the classroom with their peers and teachers, and we're so glad to have them back!

Kayleena Miller, Fourth Grade: In my 16 years of teaching, I have never been so excited to see students walking down the hall and into my classroom.

As my students found their desks, there was a huge smile displayed behind my mask while my eyes twinkled with happiness.

Kayla Harvey, Fifth Grade: There has been a feeling of excitement this week being back in the school building among familiar faces.

Students who are distance learning are connecting with teachers and peers again as well, and there has been a lot of smiles.

I asked my fifth grade students how they would describe the first week of school and the general consensus was, "Awesome!"

Matt Kittelson, Sixth Grade: For the first time in quite a while there was a resemblance of normalcy in life as it relates to school.

Even with all the masks, the changes with distancing, and some hiccups as everyone got used to new routines, there was a familiar energy that filled the building.

It was a very welcome sight to see all of them fill up the hallways and classrooms again.



A first day like none other

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Blooming Prairie Elementary School third graders Isabella Torrealba, left, and Bella Chapman are masked as they reported for the first day of school on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Steve Hansen is cover boy for trucking magazine

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Steve Hansen, marketing manager for Minimizer of Blooming Prairie, didn't make the cover of the Rollin' Stone, but he did make the cover of a popular trucking industry publication, Fleet Equipment.

The song about making the cover of a Rock'n Roll magazine entitled the Rolling Stone was made famous in the early 1970s and has no doubt been going through Hansen's head after seeing his handsome face on a magazine cover.

Not too many business people from a small town, like Blooming Prairie, end up on a magazine cover.

"Dad, are you famous?" asked Steve's youngest daughter, Harper, 8. "I told her it's just part of my job and I'm not famous quite yet," Hansen laughingly relates. He said Harper remembers him being on the news last year discussing a new Minim�izer building site in Owatonna.

"To Harper, seeing me on TV and then on the cover of a magazine was a pretty big deal," Hansen explains.

Hansen's magazine cover photo even made its rounds on Facebook. "Who is that

hottie on that trucking magazine photo?" asked Rachel Hansen, Steve's wife.

Fleet Equipment is one of the top magazines in the trucking industry with in-depth features related to trucks, tractors and trailers. The magazine features an industry executive on the cover each month.

For the August cover, Fleet Equipment asked Hansen to be recognized as part of an editorial story on Minim�izer's growth and branding.

Hansen says he is humbled to be placed on a business magazine cover.

From a business standpoint, the coverage "is great" for Minim�izer to be recognized in the magazine with a cover story that allows the editor to provide more detail as it relates to the company's growth over the years and the recent acquisition of Premier Manufacturing, says Hansen.

He says editorial content like this is no charge and has a high impact with the ability to tell a more in-depth story instead of a paid advertisement that is designed to be short and concise.

The magazine contains many full-page,



Steve Hansen, marketing manager for Minim�izer of Blooming Prairie, holds the August issue of Fleet Equipment featuring none other than Steve Hansen.

color ads pertaining to the trucking industry. Hansen has logged 17 1/2 years with Minim�izer. He started in sales. As the company grew, he transitioned to a sales management role and then to be a national account manager position.

In 2015, Hansen took over the marketing department to develop a team capable of managing Minim�izer's marketing efforts internally rather than relying on agencies.

Hansen says it is "extremely advantageous to leverage 12-plus

years in sales with a role in marketing that cohesive ties marketing efforts into sales strategy.

Hansen has a bachelor's degree in marketing from Minnesota State University and he soon will be completing his MBA (Master of Business Administration) later this year.

He actually worked for Minim�izer in high school in 1995. At that time, Minim�izer had five employees. After college, Hansen moved to Edina and worked for different sales agencies before deciding to return to his hometown where he resumed employment in 2003 with Minim�izer. The company had 11 employees at that time.

Today, Minim�izer has 90 employees and with the acquisition of Premier Manufacturing of Portland, Ore., that total grows closer to 150.

Hansen's marketing team manages marketing efforts for both Minim�izer and Premier Manufacturing.

Minim�izer, Hansen said, is excited about its new facility in

"It's just part of my job."

Steve Hansen
Minim�izer Marketing

Owatonna. He says it is bittersweet, leaving Blooming Prairie but he says, no doubt the growth of Minim�izer will still have an impact on the Blooming Prairie community with many employees choosing to live in Blooming Prairie and commuting. This includes Hansen.

When the current Blooming Prairie based manufacturing and office space is used by new tenants, it will create even more opportunity for the community, believes Hansen.

Overall, the move could very well be a net win for Blooming Prairie with current employees continuing to live in Blooming Prairie. Minim�izer's growth potential could bring more residents and new businesses using Minim�izer's current buildings to create new employment opportunities.

Hansen says having Minim�izer's operations under one roof, plus expanding its space will have a major impact on productivity and communication.

Durability, dependability drive Minim�izer's growth

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story on Minim�izer is printed with the permission of Fleet Equipment. Steve Hansen, marketing director for Minim�izer, was pictured on the cover of the August issue and featured inside with a cover story.

BY FLEET EQUIPMENT

If there was ever a time that called for durability, that time is now. Fleets need the gift and fortitude to face market uncertainty, continually pursue personnel safety and do what needs to be done in new ways or new applications. And, the same goes for their equipment.

It's a sentiment understood by Steve Hansen, director of marketing with Minim�izer.

He started with the company when he was just old enough to ride his bike to work and has since grown into his current role to help expand Minim�izer from a one-man, direct sales business shipping its unique brand of "tested and tortured" truck feeders across the country.

Today, Minim�izer has a nearly 100-person team with an international distribution base offering a wide product lineup that includes on-the-truck essentials such as lights, slick plates, tool boxes, and mud flaps, as well as in-cab comforts like truck seats, mattresses and floor mats.

"It's been quite a ride," Steve said with a laugh, recalling those early days of answering phones, taking credit card numbers and helping to ship the orders himself.

Today, Minim�izer is building a 100,000-sq.-ft. facility in Owatonna, Minn. and in January, finalized the acquisition of Premier Manufacturing Co., which designs, manufactures and distributes tractor-trailer components including couplings and

pintle hitches, drawbar eyes and lunette eyes, hinge assemblies, front-end assemblies, dolly jacks and accessories. Steve attributes Minim�izer's continued success to two fundamentals.

"We took a lot of time to build a brand and a distribution network, which are two things that are really difficult to do. Then, strategically, we asked ourselves, 'What can we do to further this growth?' So, we started launching new products with floor mats, toolboxes, seats and others while keeping the tested and tortured mantra aimed at providing high quality solutions for truck drivers and fleets. That strategy drove the Premier Manufacturing acquisition too."

It's the details that drive Minim�izer's product development. "They see just old enough to ride his bike to work and has since grown into his current role to help expand Minim�izer from a one-man, direct sales business shipping its unique brand of 'tested and tortured' truck feeders across the country."

"Fleets and drivers hate dealing with issues," he said. "The last thing that they want is to be on the side of the road with issues, so the 'Tested and Tortured' mantra comes from that."

Developing products that stand up to that marketing moniker starts with talking with fleets and drivers to discover their pain points. Of course, that comes with its own challenges.

"It's so funny — everyone thinks their roads are the worst. You talk to a guy in Texas and he'll say the roads in Texas are the worst in the United States. People will say the same in Ohio, and Pennsylvania and Minnesota. So we get tanks to run over our feeders and freeze them with liquid nitrogen and try to smash them. It's pretty wild."

Spoiler alert — the feeders don't even crack.

When expanding into new product segments, Steve explained the same

grassroots strategy, but put a different spin on the "tested and tortured" tagline when it came to developing driver seats. Minim�izer knew the drivers were the ones who were tested and tortured during long hauls on endless stretches of highway. So again, they did their research.

"When we were looking at that market, we went to one of the big truck shows, and we had a booth that didn't have the Minim�izer name in it. We purchased popular seats and had them in our booth. We had a stack of \$5 bills and we told the drivers walking by, 'Here's the deal, if you sit in these seats and tell me what you like and tell me what you don't like, I'll give you five bucks. 'Truck drivers aren't shy people. They would come in and they'd say, 'I like this. I hate this.' We spec'd this seat from their feedback."

The acquisition of Premier Manufacturing represents one of the largest expansions of Minim�izer's product diversifying it into tractor-trailer connection components. Premier products will continue to be sold under the well known Premier brand, and will remain in its Tualatin, Ore. location; the company's sales, operations and management will work closely with Minim�izer to develop an overall strategy for company growth and expansion for both Premier and the Minim�izer brand of products.

Steve explained the acquisition appeals. "They're really good at what we're not, and we're really good at what they're not," he said. "They can help us where they're very strong with big fleets. They've got a strong sales force. They're really wrong in Mexico. At the same time, Premier had relatively zero marketing, no digital footprint and hardly any website traffic. They've



been around for 90 years, but if you Google's pintle hitch, they didn't come up — not on page one, not on page two. We knew we could help them grow business and they could help us grow our business. And so, it was a good fit.

The product line's attention to the details also dovetails with Minim�izer's market approach. Steve pointed to Premier's new SAFE-T-LATCH that addresses tractor-trailer disconnects.

"Fleets have issues with trailer disconnects where the driver doesn't connect the pintle hitch," he explained. "The drawbar eye goes in and they just forget to close it. It seems crazy, but I guess if you have that many people connecting trailers every single day, you're bound to have them. In fact some of the large LTL fleets were reporting that they get one a day. Now that could just be in the trailer yard where the trailers are contained, but it still does damage. They might pull out air lines. They might damage some smaller stuff. Obviously, on the road, that's a serious disconnection with scary safety consequences. This new latch is connected to the emergency brake so when they get in the truck and they release the brakes, if the hitch isn't closed, it closes."

Like all current generation trucking safety equipment, it's not a set-it-and-forget-it solution. It's still the driver's responsibility to make sure the connection is secure.

"It meant to be fail safe," Steve said. "It's always the person making the connection's responsibility to make sure it's properly closed but in the event that doesn't happen, this is a fail safe that's there to help."

DON'T EVER FORGET: our American POW/MIA soldiers

FROM A2

the day. Remembrance ceremonies and other events to observe the day are also held in places such as the Pentagon, war memorials and museums.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is not a federal public holiday in the United States but it is a national observance.

There are 1,741 American personnel listed by the Defense Department's POW/MIA Office as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, as of April 2009.

The number of United States personnel accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 841. About 90 percent of the 1,741 people still missing were lost in Vietnam or areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's control, according to the National League of Families website (cited in the United States Army website).

The National League of Families' POW/MIA flag symbolizes the United States' resolve to never forget POWs or those who served their country in conflicts and are still missing.

Newt Heisley designed the flag. The flag's design features a silhouette of a young man, which is based on Mr. Heisley's son, who was medically discharged from the military.

As Heisley looked at his returning son's gaunt features, he imagined what life was for those behind barbed wire fences on foreign shores. He then sketched the profile of his son as the new flag's design was created in his mind.

The flag features a white disk bearing in black silhouette a man's bust, a watch tower with a guard on patrol, and a strand of barbed wire. White letters "POW" and "MIA," with a white five-pointed star in between, are typed above the disk. Below the disk is a black and white wreath above the motto "You Are Not Forgotten" written in white, capital letters.

The flag can also be displayed on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

The flag can be displayed at the Capitol, the White House, the Korean War Veterans Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, national cemeteries, various government buildings, and major military installations.

OBITUARIES

Obituaries Sponsor:
LEGACY MONUMENT SALES
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landbo@gmail.com

Carl Wagaman, 78, Albert Lea



Carl Wagaman

Carl John Wagaman, age 78, of Albert Lea, formerly of Blooming Prairie passed away Saturday, Sept. 5, 2020. It is with great sorrow that the family announce his peaceful passing at Thorne Crest Senior Living Community in Albert Lea.

Carl was born in Dexter, Iowa to Charles and Hazel (Bley) Wagaman on Nov. 21, 1941. He was raised in Dexter and graduated from Elkton High School in 1959. In 1962, Carl enlisted in the United States Air Force. While enlisted he had two deployments to Vietnam before being honorably discharged in 1968.

On Aug. 28, 1965, Carl married the love of his life, Sandra Clark, in Owatonna. The couple lived in Dexter and Brownsdale before settling in Blooming Prairie in 1970 and they spent 51 years happily married. When Carl moved to Blooming Prairie, he began his 30-year career with Continental Telephone Company later changing its name to GTE and Frontier. Carl was a hard worker and his clients loved him and missed him when he retired.

He had a passion for restoring old cars, trucks and tractors for many years. Carl enjoyed taking his cars to car shows, had his tractors in parades, and won many awards for his cars. He attended many auctions where he would find little treasures. He loved having conversations with many people, telling stories, and talking about Vietnam. Carl and Sandra made many memories camping with their children. He enjoyed horseback riding with his youngest daughter and traveling. He loved having pets and had a very special bond with his most recent dog, Gracie.

He was a member of the Blooming Prairie VFW and a member of the Moose Lodge in Albert Lea. Carl will be lovingly remembered forever by family and friends for his kind heart and outgoing personality.

Survivors include his children, Steve (Mary) Wagaman of Medford, Scott (Angie) Wagaman of Blooming Prairie, Sherrie (Jassen) Hoffmann of Albert Lea, and Shauna Christiansen of Blooming Prairie; grandchildren, Jon (Katie) Wagaman, Marissa Wagaman, Cody Wagaman, Cory Wagaman, Ariel (Nolan) Hodapp, Alexandra Christiansen, Jaden Hoffmann, Jarren Hoffmann, Kallen Hoffmann, Walter Christiansen, and Emmitt Christiansen; and great-grandchildren, Lennox Hodapp, with one on the way; siblings, Gene (Maia) Wagaman of Goshen, Indiana, Bruce (Donna) Wagaman of Ellendale, Elaine (Kenn) Vermilyea of Blooming Prairie; sister-in-law, Sharon (Jim) Andrews of Owatonna; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Carl is preceded in death by his wife, Sandra Wagaman; and parents, Charles and Hazel Wagaman.

Funeral services were held on Monday, Sept. 14, 2020 at Worlein Funeral Home Chapel in Austin. Interment was in Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Preston.

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

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

BP Elementary

Sept. 17: Popcorn chicken, whole grain dinner roll, turkey munchable, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn
Sept. 18: Cheesy Italian flatbread, turkey deli sub, roasted broccoli, red peppers
Sept. 21: Cheesy Italian flatbread, turkey deli sub, roasted cauliflower, romaine lettuce
Sept. 22: Pasta with meat sauce, rip stick breadstick, crispy chicken wrap, lettuce, green beans
Sept. 23: Pasta with meat sauce, rip stick breadstick, crispy chicken wrap, steamed carrots, cucumber slices

BP High School

Sept. 17: Biscuits & gravy, steamed carrots, cucumber slices, crispy chicken sandwich, sausage pizza
Sept. 18: Cheesy Italian flatbread, broccoli florets, red peppers, BBQ rib sandwich, taco bar
Sept. 21: Grilled cheese sandwich, tomato soup, roasted cauliflower, lettuce, BBQ pulled pork sandwich, orange chicken
Sept. 22: Pasta with meat sauce, rip stick breadstick, green beans, romaine lettuce, cheeseburger on bun, breakfast pizza
Sept. 23: NO SCHOOL

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KREJCI FAMILY: closes doors on BP Service FROM A1

Krejci Ford Service Manager Doug Hillson, 30-year employee at Krejci and tech Tim Hansen, 29-year veteran at Krejci remained with the service and repair business. Both will explore other options.

"It's time," remarked Rick Krejci, indicating that he will retire. He turns 65 in February. "I'm ready," he added.

Cheri Krejci, 63, said she hopes to find other employment in the Blooming Prairie vicinity. Cheri has been the store office manager for 34 years.

Prairie Cancer Group and the BP Education Foundation. Cheri has also been active at First Lutheran Church.

KIK Graphics just finished work on a BP Service and Repair sign. It hangs over the Krejci building.

The Krejci family thanks all of its loyal customers for over 30 years. "We've made some great friends," Cheri said.

Krejci Ford was highly respected in the auto business. Krejci Ford won 15 President's Awards during the time



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The Ford symbol remains near Highway 218. It will be removed since the franchise has been resigned by the Krejci family.

"Ending our business affiliation in BP is kind of sad but again the right decision."

Cheri Krejci BP Service and Repair

"It was a very sad day on Friday," said an emotional Cheri Krejci. "It was a family decision and under the circumstances, it was the right decision," she said.

The Krejci building, which includes two lots, has been placed on sale. "We hope it will sell quickly," Cheri said. The building north of the office, parts department and service bays has already been sold.

An auction sale is likely to be planned for the sale of tools and other equipment, Rick Krejci said.

Business has gone in spurts since the dealership was resigned.

"It was a bittersweet moment, the closing of the doors on Friday," but everything happens for a reason," Cheri said.

Cheri said she and Rick can now hang out with their young grandson Nolan.

"We raised our kids here and love Blooming Prairie," Cheri says. She plans to stay active with the Blooming

the dealership existed in Blooming Prairie.

The Krejci Ford emblem was attached to thousands of vehicles over the years. It was not unusual to see a Krejci sticker on a vehicle in any part of the continental United States.

The Krejci family was a successful business family and a family that was trusted 100 percent plus.

Krejci Ford built an image of quality of its products and in servicing its vehicles, Krejci Ford promised satisfaction to repair and service of all vehicles.

Sales associate Mark Symes was well known to many, always providing the excellent personal customer service customers appreciated.

Members of the Krejci family have been strong, local citizens to their community.

"Ending our business affiliation in Blooming Prairie is kind of sad but again the right decision," said Cheri Krejci.

BOOK NOOK

Library to offer book sale



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

Several of our die-hard readers at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library have told us that during the COVID-19 shutdown, they were frantic to find things to read. Many of them stated that they scoured their closets for books to read. Others used online library resources like Libby and Hoopla to find eBooks. Many read the same book twice!

Well, if that experience showed you that you need more books in your home, mark your calendars to come to the Friends of the Library Book Sale this week. Tables of books will be set up in the City Council Chambers. We have thousands of items of all types - children's, adult

fiction, non-fiction for all ages, DVDs, and even jigsaw puzzles. We do not price the items; we just ask you to give how much you would like or are able to give. The sale will be held from 12-4 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 18 and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 19.

Of course, this year there are restrictions for the book sale. Please wear a mask while in the building. Maintain social distance of at least six feet. Hand sanitizer will be available. Only 15 people will be allowed in the room at one time. We will not be providing change, so please bring smaller bills or your checkbook.

All proceeds from the sale will go to the Friends of the Library. This group provides volunteers for library events and snacks for programs. They also provide funds for some of the "extras" that the library needs, such as furniture and special programs. Come fill up your bookshelves before winter and support the library at the same time. Thank you!

Scholarship available for aspiring artists

The 2020-2021 school year will be different because of the pandemic, but it's not stopping the Owatonna Art Center's commitment to young people.

The Arts Center will once again be offering the Silvan Durben Scholarship as a way to encourage and support young artists in their educational artistic pursuits.

Individuals who are graduate from a high school in Steele County, are majoring in the arts and have post second work in an accredited program are eligible for the \$1,000 scholarship.

For further information and to apply go to www.owartcenter.org/silvan-durben-scholarship or contact the Arts Center at 507-451-0533. Application deadline is Nov. 20.

RACING AT CHATEAU: is getting out of hand FROM A2

will be out if the driver does not come back. Multiply that by the 8 damaged cars last night that did not finish the race, and maybe a few others and it will be a very big amount.

They will also lose spectators as they paid to see races, not a demo derby and the track will lose spectators also with this kind of lack of control. It is already bad enough that most of the crowd start leaving the stands as the Hornets start to race. Those that stayed to watch the Hornets, we saw many that got up before the race was over and heard some near us say that they did not come to watch that kind of racing.

I come from SCCA Sports Car racing, where I have crewed for many different class-

es of cars as well as worked as a race official at Pro Races across the nation and Canada for over 35 years, and it is not tolerated there or even in NASCAR, where they had been known to say many years ago, "Have at it Boys." That is no longer allowed, if you want to stay in racing.

Racing is a dangerous sport and it cannot be tolerated.

Carl Wieman of Owatonna has been an avid racing driver and spectator for many years. He has raced in many forms from snowmobiles to cars in drag racing as well as SOLO Autocross and some oval track races. His son, Matt, has been racing at the Chateau for most of this season.



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3 PM TO 7 PM
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FREE WILL DONATION FOR FOOD TO GO
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For Monetary donations:
Cindy Green Als Account
P.O. Box 149 - Geneva, MN 56035

NOTICE

City Hydrant Flushing September 16-18

All city fire hydrants in Blooming Prairie will be flushed Wednesday-Friday, September 16-18, beginning at 7:30 a.m. and continuing until 4 p.m., weather permitting. Flushing of hydrants can cause some rust to come out of pipes in areas; particularly where the water system is not looped.

Thank you for
your cooperation.

Blooming Prairie
Public Utilities





Rev. Amanda Floy
TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH
OWATONNA

Anyone that has spent time with children knows that they are always watching. They are always paying attention, and their little minds are always working. You may think that they are blissfully watching their cartoons, or absorbed in their own imaginations as they play. But then,

out of the blue, they will say something or they will do something that stope you in your tracks. Just as you are about to ask them where they learned that word, or that behavior, you realize that there is a very good chance that they learned from watching you. This can be both true for the good stuff, and for the stuff that you are worried will happen at a dinner party in front of your boss.

Habits, language (both spoken and unspoken), speech patterns, cultural norms, traditions, expectations, these things do not go unnoticed by our children. Children are constantly gleaming from

the world around them, absorbing every little detail like a sponge. I am a new parent, and I have this growing awareness that my 6-month-old little boy is watching me even now. What will he learn from watching me? Will he pick up my gift of organizing, or my occasional tendency towards procrastination with writing projects? Will he communicate his feelings loudly like his Mom, or quietly like his Father - Only time will tell.

It is my Christian faith which points me to Jesus as my source and guide to what love and integrity look like, and I pray that my life models

this Christlike posture. After-all, it is one thing to tell our kids to be kind, and to share. It is another thing entirely when they see us doing these very things. I think we all know that the old adage of, "Do as I say, Not as I do," is not an effective teaching strategy. Passing on the gift of integrity is a full-time vocation, not a part-time job.

As I read the headlines, and watch current events unfolding, it is easy to become overwhelmed, and even discouraged by the examples of leadership available today. Yet it reminds us that we all must recognize our personal responsibility.

Children look to their parents and other leaders as they try to make sense of the world they are discovering. They pick up cues constantly about who they are, their place in the world, how they should think about other people, how they should behave, what's acceptable and how they should understand their own responsibilities. So perhaps this article is nothing more than my sincere prayer for my own parenting, other parents, and those in leadership in my community, and throughout our nation.

Dear Jesus, make us more kind. Please, make us more kind! In the ways that we treat

people, make us more loving. In the ways that we welcome people, make us more accepting. In the ways that we respond to stress, and our rising anxieties make us more patient. In our conversations, make us better listeners. In our intentions, make us more generous. When we disagree, make us more open and respectful to learn where people are coming from. When we get stuck in our self-righteousness, make us more humble. Please, make us more kind. Amen

I know that I have to do my best to be the kind of person that I want my little one to be, we all do, because our children are watching.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN		FIRST PRESBYTERIAN	
AURORA LUTHERAN 6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna Interim Pastor: Rev. Dale Svendsen 507-431-2819 office@auroralutheranchurch.org Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m. Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.		CHURCH OF CHRIST P.O. Box 66, Claremont 507-238-2520 Pastor Douglas Walters 10 a.m. Worship	
COMMUNITY LUTHERAN - ELCA		SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST	
ELCA 106 Third St. SE, Geneva Pastor Kristen Venne 507-256-4288 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.		SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST 2173 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna Pastor Brian Beavers 651-955-4032 Worship: 11 a.m. Sat. Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Sat.	
FIRST LUTHERAN - AFLC		UCC	
AFLC 303 Kadel Ct., Ellendale Pastor Richard Slijper 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.		CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 211 Main St. S., Medford Rev. Richard Waters 507-451-4596 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.	
FIRST LUTHERAN - ELCA		ASSEMBLY OF GOD	
ELCA 434 First St. SW, Blooming Prairie Senior Pastor: Rev. Heidi Heimertinger Associate Pastor: Rev. Mike Walenius 507-583-6621 firstlutheranpb.com Worship Service: 9 a.m. Sunday School: 10 a.m.		VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD 703 Third St. S., Ellendale Pastor Patrick Skitt 507-684-3421 www.vibrantlifeag.com Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun.	
FIRST LUTHERAN - LCMS		BAPTIST	
LCMS 8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope Pastor Sandy Miller 507-451-3854 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: Adult Ed. 10:15 a.m. Sun.		FIRST BAPTIST 104 First Ave. NE, Blooming Prairie Pastor Matt Fennell 507-583-2673 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. & 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Sunday School: 9 a.m. Bible Study: 11:30 a.m. Sun.	
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN - LCMS		FIRST BAPTIST (Owatonna's oldest church)	
LCMS 2500 7th Ave. NE, Owatonna Pastor Greg Schlicher 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		SAINTS 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.	
MOLAND LUTHERAN - ELCA		BETHLE BAPTIST	
ELCA 7618 NE 84th Ave., Kenyon Pastor Nancy Edwardsen 507-789-6661 Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.		OWATONNA 1611 Hennick Ave. Owatonna Pastor Michael Simmerman 507-451-8548 www.bethleowatonna.com Worship: 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday	
PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN - ELCA		ASSEMBLY OF GOD	
ELCA 9651 SW 75th St., Ellendale 507-465-8366 Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sun.		VICTORY LIFE 105 2nd St NE Geneva Pastor Diane Butler 507-402-9960 Worship on Sundays Prayer Service: 7:30 a.m. Church Service: 9:30 a.m. Children's Church: 9:45 a.m.	
REDEEMER LUTHERAN - LCMS		VICTORY LIFE	
LCMS 1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna Pastor Kirk Grubel 507-451-2720 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sun.		RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN - ELCA 30456 Monow Froeborn Road, Austin Leandra Anderson, Pastor 507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000	
RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN - ELCA		MONUMENTS LEGACY MONUMENT SALES	
ELCA 30456 Monow Froeborn Road, Austin Leandra Anderson, Pastor 507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000		LEGACY MONUMENT SALES Leon's Cell 507-456-7864 Lori's Cell 507-456-3735 landlbe@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.	
LEBERG'S FITNESS CENTER & CAR WASH		CLAREMONT SERVICE CENTER	
LEBERG'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 1111 Main Street P.O. Box 282 Claremont, MN	
FLOOR TECH		REAL LIFE COFFEE	
FLOOR TECH 322 East Main St. Bloomington Prairie 507-583-2276		REAL LIFE COFFEE Vibrant Living For Individuals 55 & Older at a Reasonable Price Call Jon Arnett @ 507-451-6722 valleyview@owatonna.com	
FARMERS INSURANCE		VALLEYVIEW OF OWATONNA	
FARMERS INSURANCE Mike Bishman 121 W. Broadway St. Owatonna 507-451-0193		VALLEYVIEW OF OWATONNA 1213 W. Frontage Rd. Owatonna, MN 507-451-6722 valleyview@owatonna.com	

TRUMP SHOP: pops up in Owatonna FROM A1

ams. "There are happy Trumpeters. Adults like kids in a candy store."

Customers, Adams said, love to see all the merchandise in the store. "It makes them have faith (in Trump)," he said. "A lot of people are on the positive side of Trump," he claims. He is surprised at the number of young Trump supporters. "I think there is a lot more support for Trump than people realize," he added.

Adams admitted there are also some Joe

Biden supporters out there. "But not many," he quickly added.

One of the more popular items in the store has been a yard sign declaring, "Hillary for Prison." Another message features a handgun and says, "Trump 45... because the 44 didn't work for 8 years."

Shipments are being received every 2-3 days, according to Adams. "At least once a week there is something different here," he said.

Adams has noticed customers coming in from a 50-60 mile radius of Owatonna with some even from the Twin Cities area.

Some people come into the store wanting to talk politics. But Adams said he tries to stay clear of the political rhetoric. "I don't really discuss anything with the customers," he said. "We're trying to be as professional as we can."

Besides Owatonna, Trump Shops have sprouted up in Roches-

ter, Winona, Lino Lakes, Wadena and Hutchinson. At least a couple stores have drawn pushback from political opponents of the president. The shop in Waconia closed in June after a brick was thrown through the window.

Adams travels around the country selling merchandise through various venues, most often sports. "I love Owatonna," he said. "The people are nice here. People around here are welcoming."



STEVE ADAMS IS MANAGING THE TRUMP SHOP LOCATED IN THE OLD GODFATHER'S PIZZA ON SOUTH CEDAR AVENUE IN OWATONNA. SHOPPERS CAN FIND TRUMP HATS, T-SHIRTS, MUGS, FLAGS, BUTTONS AND MUCH MORE. THE SHOP IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE PRESIDENT OR HIS CAMPAIGN.

A FIRST DAY: like none other FROM A1

names M-Z were in the classroom on Thursday and Friday. Thursdays and Fridays are called "Blossom Days."

Wednesday was a cleaning day at the high school. Junior high and senior high students distance learned on Wednesday as part of the Hybrid model.

"I think everyone was excited to get started, however, in the situation we are in, there is also a lot of anxiety and stress," Worke commented.

Worke reported high school enrollment at 385. At the elementary level, the first day was successful on many fronts, said Principal Schwarz.

"We are grateful to have the students back in our building and we feel confident that we can provide a setting where students are safe and learning can happen," said Schwarz.

"We are thankful for our parents and their

trust in the education we provide and their flexibility to do some things different than in the past in terms of dropoffs, not visiting etc."

"It is new for us all but together we can make it the best we can. All students in grades 1-6 were in the building and kindergarten started with half of their class at a time this week to help with the transition to full days."

Schwarz said the students he visited with were happy and excited to be back in school. Even the ones who may be don't want to admit it are happy to be back in some capacity, Schwarz continued.

"Our staff is incredible. Teaching staff and other district employees were thrilled to see their students and get back to do what they do best. With anything COVID, there is the fear of the unknowns but we have amazing problem solvers

who have solved so many questions already and we will continue to do that."

Enrollment at the elementary school was listed at 425.

First days of school are always challenging, said Superintendent Chris Staloch, agreeing with the assessment made by his two school principals.

The first day of school in Blooming Prairie on Tuesday, Sept. 8 was like no other with social distancing, masks, etc., said Staloch. "Our students and staff did a great job of adjusting to these things and I am proud of how they handled themselves," Staloch emphasized.

At the BP Elementary School, students pre-K through grade six were in the classroom. Approximately 30 elementary students chose to distance learn.

Students in grades 7-12 are part of the

Hybrid model, which means that half of the students come on Mondays and Tuesdays and the other half comes on Thursdays and Fridays. On Wednesdays all high school students are distance learning.

Approximately 35 students chose to distance learn at the high school.

"Our students and staff are very resilient," Staloch believes. "They do a great job of handling the challenges in front of them," he added.

Talking with students and staff, Staloch said he learned that they were excited to return to school.

"Our hope is that we can continue to build on our first day and continue to improve the education that we provide our students," Staloch stated.

"We hadn't had students in our classrooms for six months, so seeing them here on the first day of school was a fantastic sight," Staloch concluded.

PET TIP OF THE WEEK



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A hand... and a mouthful

A feisty little squirrel takes time to enjoy a snack that is almost as big as he is. With no one watching, or so he thought, the squirrel snuck off with an ear of corn from a local farmer's field in Blooming Prairie.

Absentee voting begins Friday for General Election

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

With less than seven weeks until the general election, absentee voting begins this week.

On Friday, voters will be able to begin casting their ballots by absentee voting if they choose not to head to the polls on Nov. 3, according to Laura Ihrke, Steele County auditor and the county's chief election judge. Absentee voting

will continue until 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 2.

Voters can go in person or request absentee ballots from the county auditor's office at the Steele County Administration Building at 630 Florence Ave., Owatonna. In addition to regular business hours of Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., the county auditor's office will be open for absentee voting on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All absentee ballots must be brought into the county auditor's office or mailed. If someone is bringing a ballot for another person, they must sign in the auditor's office. There is no drop box outside the government office for absentee ballots, Ihrke noted.

Like the primary election in August, voters in two Steele County precincts will be voting by mail this year. Registered voters

in Berlin Township and the City of Ellendale will be receiving ballots in the mail. Mail-in ballots have to be postmarked by Election Day, Nov. 3, Ihrke said.

All other voters in the county either have to show up at the polls on Election Day or cast ballots through absentee voting, Ihrke said. Ihrke expects her office will be busy with

SEE ABSENTEE VOTING, B3

Old Walmart turns into storage units

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Kevin Hauerwas has turned Owatonna's old Walmart store into the area's largest indoor storage facility.

Steele County Self Storage now features 200 storage units of varying sizes from 5 by 5 foot to 10 by 20 foot. Hauerwas offers month-to-month rentals.

Hauerwas spent about six months renovating the building, which previously housed Retrofit Companies since 2008. He had to fix all the drywalling and make the front doors operational. He has invested about \$200,000 into the renovation.

SEE OLD WALMART, B7



Kevin Hauerwas has been operating Steele County Self Storage in Owatonna since January. He has turned the old Walmart building into 200 storage units of varying sizes.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Adulting is hard



Steele Talkin'
ANDREEA MARSHALL

When I sat down to write this article, I thought, "Hmmm, what is on my mind?" the thought that popped into my head today was... adulting is hard. The struggle is real. I found this description that pretty much summed it up. Adulting (noun): The practice of behaving in a way characteristic of a responsible adult, especially the accomplishment of mundane but necessary tasks. Or in other words, the practice of looking both ways before crossing the street and then getting hit by an airplane.

Adulting in 2020 has been especially hard, encompassing a pandemic, global warming, civil unrest, and massive unemployment. The struggle is real!

I have five children ranging in age from 19-30 all at varying stages of learning to be an adult. The good part is they remind me that because I have been adulting a long time, I have mostly figured out the "how" to be an adult part, just not the "easy" part of being an

adult. Whereas, when I was a younger version of myself, there was a significant learning curve to adulting. I now realize I've acquired some adult wisdom albeit, through the school of hard knocks. I know my young adult children are feeling overwhelmed trying to figure out this adulting thing during these unprecedented times, so I will attempt to put on my big girl pants and be the adultier adult for the younger generations' sake.

Why is adulting in 2020 so challenging? Because in addition to the regular tasks of being an adult, such as parenting, working, paying bills, marriage or other adult partnerships, maintaining a household, staying healthy, and figuring out all the paperwork involved in life (taxes, insurance, leases/mortgages)- you get the picture- we are doing all this under very different circumstances. Helping children with their homework does not look the same as it did in 2019. Working remotely is different. Staying physically distanced or donning a mask all day is definitely not our norm. Worrying that if you go grocery shopping you may catch and transmit a deadly virus. Throw social media and a politically and racially divided culture

SEE ADULTING, B7

Former teacher donates building to school

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Melanie Nelson didn't have to think twice about whom she should donate her building in Owatonna to after it became vacant. She wanted it to go where her career began 43 years ago.

For about 12 years in the late 1970s and 1980s Nelson devoted her teaching career to two Steele County schools, most of which was the Owatonna School District where she was

a family and consumer sciences teacher in what was then Owatonna Junior High. She also taught a short time in the Medford district.

After teaching, she became an entrepreneur by opening a business called Learning ZoneXpress in Owatonna. The company became a leading source of award-winning teaching tools. Its mission was to help improve the health and vitality of children by providing relevant, creative and affordable

learning tools about healthy behaviors and nutrition.

Nelson eventually sold the business in 2018 when it was moved to the Twin Cities.

As Nelson contemplated what to do with the building, she said it became apparent that the best option was for the Owatonna School District.

On Sept. 3, she turned the keys of the building over to Superintendent Jeff Elstad. Owatonna

SEE FORMER TEACHER, B3



Melanie Nelson, left, turns over the key to the Learning Zone Xpress building to Owatonna Schools Superintendent Jeff Elstad. Nelson donated the building to the school district earlier this month.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

New chamber members welcomed



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Ambassadors from the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce are on the move again throughout the community welcoming new members. Left: They recently visited with Firehouse Liquor at 120 NW 25th St. in Owatonna to welcome new owner Erik Laubach. Firehouse Liquor has expanded its craft beer, wine and premium spirit selection. Right: Ambassadors also went to the Gene Drake Agency at 111 W. Vine St. in Owatonna. Gene Drake is the owner. The agency specializes in Medicare Supplements and Advantage plans, along with short-term and travel health insurance and life insurance.

Have a green thumb? Consider joining master gardeners

Do you have an active interest in gardening? Do you have a desire to share your gardening interest with others? Are you willing to learn about gardening and other horticultural topics? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you have the qualities we look for in the Extension Master Gardener program.

In 2019, 2,408 certified Extension Master Gardeners volunteered across Minnesota contributing over 140,000 volunteer hours and reached over 155,000 residents. These volunteers are extremely dedicated and put in time and effort towards continuing education. If you believe that you have the skills and passion it takes to be an Extension Master Gardener, applications are being accepted through Oct. 1.

The process of becoming an Extension Master Gardener begins with a Core Course, which is being offered totally on-line this year. The core course takes approximately 50 hours to complete and the cost is \$320. Financial

assistance is available on a case-by-case basis. Talk to your local program coordinator if this is a barrier to the program. They are happy to work with you to find a solution that works for everyone.

Extension Master Gardeners work hard to give back to their communities each year. As a first-year Extension Master Gardener, you will put in 50 hours of volunteer time. Each year after that the required time is just 25 hours. Many volunteers far exceed this number, because they are excited and passionate about the program. Your local program coordinator and fellow volunteers will help you discover volunteer opportunities in your county.

If you are interested in becoming an Extension Master Gardener or learning about the program, please contact your local program coordinator. All applications must be submitted before Oct. 1. For more information, please contact Lorrie Ruger at 507-444-7687 or email brow3298@umn.edu.



Owatonna Proud
JEFF ELSTAD

Welcome to school year 2020-21 - a school start unlike any other. We are so excited to see our students again! For most of us, these past several months have felt like a strange dream in response to the coronavirus. Time is hard to track. Work days have become weekends. The list of things to decide in order to start school safely has been longer than any imaginable "to do" list. But we've done it.

Thanks to the hard work of our staff and the partnership with our families, we have opened our school buildings for fall 2020. Our elementary students are back in our buildings five days a week, while our middle and high school students are in our schools two days a week, and "distance learning" from home three days a week. Our ability to maintain this schedule is completely reliant on our community's willingness to do what it takes to minimize the

Excited to see students back again

spread of the coronavirus. Please do your part by following the health guidance of social distancing, wearing a mask and frequently washing hands.

I recently read an opinion piece in the Star Tribune called, "Public Schools Always Rise to the Challenge" (Star Tribune commentary, Sept. 1, 2020). It reminds me of what I've just witnessed taking place in our community, through the sheer will and commitment of our staff. Let me paraphrase some of its relevant points related to the history of public schools and why they are such a critical foundation for strong communities.

First, it helps to remember that public education was a concept in the United States before we were even a country. The first public school was founded in 1635 in Boston. Years later, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson disagreed on much - but both agreed that publicly funded education for all children was a cornerstone of our democracy. In the 1800's, Horace Mann furthered the forma-

tion of public schools by focusing on the "common good" public schools provided.

Over time, public schools have been asked to go beyond mere academic teaching. Schools provide meals, social and mental health support, and special education services for students who struggle to learn in a traditional setting. Public schools address poverty, racial inequities, language barriers and more for each and every student who arrives. Schools are one of the only places that children of various backgrounds - economic, racial, cultural and religious - come together every day. What a glorious opportunity schools provide for learning, sharing and growing together with people who bring different perspectives and experiences.

Preparing for this new school year has not been easy. We recognize that there will be trials along the way, and we humbly ask for your patience, support and partnership as we work to provide the safest and most effective learning environments for our

students and our staff.

I am proud to serve students and our community in ways intended by the framers of our Constitution. I am proud to serve alongside dedicated staff who are ready to do whatever it takes to make this unusual school year the best it can be. And I am proud to partner with families and community members in providing the space and grace to do the best we can, acknowledge our mistakes and get better every single day.

It is my hope that we can continue to share the belief that public education is needed and continue the community support that surrounds this system. Working together, we can overcome this COVID-19 crisis. And with strong public schools, anything is possible.

Please join me on Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 6:30 p.m. for a State of the District message with a question and answer session to follow. The event will be live streamed on this site: www.lsd761.org/stateofdistrict. I look forward to this opportunity to share our message with you.



ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS
By Shannan Nordstrom and Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics, I have a 1995 Eagle Vision and I'm having multiple electrical issues. The wipers sometimes turn on and wipe once or more times by themselves and the turn signals only work occasionally. In addition to those items my instrument cluster gauges sometimes go to zero while I am driving, and they will not come back until I hit a bump. One more additional issue that seems to happen whenever it feels like it is the transmission not shifting. If I shut the car off, then restart it then it may work again. These items have all occurred by themselves but can happen all at once too. Could it be just one thing causing this?

Lennard in Dumas Texas
You have many issues here that may be related but there is no guarantee of that. A shop will need to diagnose them one at a time to find the causes and age of the car and its condition will possibly be a factor as you could exceed a reasonable cost due to the extent of repairs. The wipers and gauges have been known to fail due to issues with the body control modules which we have seen many times over the years but other things like poor grounds to the body and faulty wiper motors, switches and instrument cluster can also be at fault. The transmission repairs could get extensive as shutting the key off resets the system and covers up some issues. Take care, The Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics, I have a 2004 GMC Yukon XL the extended one and the brakes are leaking. I have 290k miles on the vehicle, but it looks good and has little rust on the body and I have replaced the engine and transmission within 100k miles with remanufactured parts. In addition, I have had all the brakes replaced including pads and rotors and all hoses and callipers about 50k miles ago. The leak is coming from my rear brake line right at the ABS control unit due to rust. I went to a repair shop near me and they told me to junk the vehicle because it would cost \$2500 to replace all of the lines and the truck was not worth that much.

Rick from Bottineau North Dakota
First off, who are they to tell you what your vehicle is worth? A shop is a great reference for giving an opinion as for safety and to tell you costs but you have the final say. It sounds like you have spent a good deal on it and if it is in good shape otherwise, shop around for a better deal. There are complete brake line kits available for that vehicle for less than \$200.00 and an experienced shop can replace them in about 8 hours so even at \$100.00 per hour that's only about half price. Sometimes it pays for a second opinion but NEVER compromise safety in the name of saving money. Take care, The Motor Medics



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FFA seeks sponsors for blue jacket program

With school in full swing, thousands of young people are joining FFA in Minnesota. To support the development of these young people, future leaders for agriculture and their local communities, the Minnesota FFA Foundation is again offering the Blue Jackets Bright Futures program, which provides official FFA jackets to members who have completed an application indicating their desire to be involved with FFA programs.

This is the thirteenth year the Minnesota FFA Foundation has offered the program.

"The Blue Jackets Bright Future program is a valuable program providing students with an FFA jacket to support their FFA involvement. A personalized FFA jacket provides recipients with a sense of pride while giving them ownership of their FFA experiences," said Lavyne Rada, Minnesota FFA Association program manager and regional supervisor. "FFA plays an important role in developing agricultural and leadership skills in students while preparing them for their future careers."

"The jacket is a symbol of tradition and pride for those who have worn the official FFA jacket. Many past members have sponsored jackets, but it's not uncommon for individuals and companies to sponsor jackets because they appreciate what the organization does to develop young leaders," said Val Aarsvold, Minnesota FFA Foundation executive director.

To support the Blue Jacket Bright Future program, you can find more details and the donation brochure on the MN FFA Foundation's website: www.mnffa-foundation.org/blue-jackets-bright-futures. For more information or questions on how you can support FFA members through the Minnesota FFA Foundation's Blue Jacket Bright Futures program, contact Amanda Sommers at 507-461-2214 or visit our website at www.mnffa-foundation.org.

The Minnesota FFA Foundation partners with individuals and businesses to provide resources that promote and enhance premier leadership, personal growth and career success for Minnesota youth in Agricultural Education.



On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

If you are noticing ugly, dead patches in your lawn, you might have an active population of white grubs. White grubs are capable of causing serious damage to turfgrass. Their feeding injures plant roots, causing the turf to wilt and die. Symptoms of grub damage include:

- Patchy areas of wilting, discolored or stressed turf that does not respond to irrigation

- Large irregular patches of dead turf that can be rolled back like a loose carpet

- Raccoons, skunks and crows tearing up the lawn (looking for grubs to eat)

White grubs are the immature phase, or larvae, of beetles in the scarab family. In Minnesota, white grubs are typically the larvae of May/June beetles and Japanese beetles.

Like all beetles,

Fall turfgrass problems? Grubs may be the culprit

white grubs undergo complete metamorphosis. Adult beetles lay their eggs in the ground, where the eggs hatch and the beetle larvae live.

The insects progress through the egg, several immature (larval) stages, and a non-feeding intermediate (pupa) stage to the adult stage. The bodies of white grubs grow considerably throughout their life cycle and they move within the soil profile. White grubs can't tolerate freezing temperatures; when temperatures cool in the fall, larvae move lower in the soil,

below the normal frost line, to survive winter. When the weather warms, they move up to feed on roots.

Different species of white grubs look similar to one another but can be distinguished by the arrangement of hairs and bristles on the underside of their abdomen at the tip, called a raster pattern. Raster patterns can be challenging to see and

recognize; an expert should identify any pest grubs.

Management will differ based on what species of white grub is present in your yard, because they have different timing for their life cycles, thus different timing for management. May/June beetles have a three year life cycle. The best time to treat them is during their second year, although damage to turf is usually not noticed then. Japanese beetles have a one year (annual) life cycle.

The best time to treat for white grubs is early in their life cycle when the larvae are small, or prior to eggs being laid in the soil; unfortunately their presence often goes undetected at that time. Treatment for white grubs in late summer is problematic. By September, white grubs are fully-grown and are harder to kill. Additionally, if your white grub issue is May/June beetles, it is most

effective to treat them early during their second summer.

From Mid-August through October, give your lawn its best chance by repairing damage through seeding or sodding and keeping your grass well-watered to encourage root growth.

Knowing what type of grub is present in your yard as well as the life-stage of the grubs are useful bits of information as you assess your management options.

For more information, please contact me at clacanne@umn.edu or 507-330-0447.

Claire Lacanne is the agricultural educator with the University of Minnesota Extension for Steele and Rice counties. This column also had input from Robin Trotter, Extension educator, Douglas County and Jeffrey Hahn, U of M Extension entomologist. *LaCanne's column appears in this newspaper regularly.*

FORMER TEACHER: FROM B1

Schools plan to use the building for staff development, curriculum materials, off and shipping and receiving.

"I built my life on goodness," Nelson said in making the donation. "I have always been generous all around."

The building offers approximately 30,000 square feet with generous space for a warehouse and a loading dock. Nelson put on a new addition in 2008 when it was all retrofitted and sprinklers were added throughout the facility. She pointed out the school district has never had a loading dock before. "It's a great building," she said.

Nelson put an architect friend of hers, Randy Fielding of Minneapolis, in touch with Elstad to help retrofit the building to meet the school district's needs. Fielding's company is an award-winning international education design firm. Fielding touts himself as designing school facilities "for today and tomorrow with one primary goal in mind—

to improve learning." Fielding is an interdisciplinary designer.

"Randy will be creating a design space for teachers to thrive so students will thrive," said Nelson. "He is really an innovator. It will be interesting to see how he retrofits the building."

Nelson, who grew up in Austin, lives in Oregon. But she is quick to point out, "Owatonna will always be my home." She said, "Owatonna has been a shining light of entrepreneurship" throughout her life.

Once the district retrofits the building, Nelson expects it will provide space for teacher in-service trainings. In the past, school auditoriums have been utilized. But, Nelson said, "It doesn't lend itself to dialogue and learning."

She is excited to see how the building will develop. "There is really good karma and energy in that building," Nelson said. Superintendent Elstad said, "We are thankful for this very generous donation."

ABSENTEE VOTING: FROM B1

absentee voting in the coming weeks, especially with this year being a presidential election. During the last presidential election in 2016, voter turnout in the county was almost 83%, she said. There are 22,106 registered voters in Steele County.

For those who are not registered, they can pre-register before Election Day by Tuesday, Oct. 13. If done so, their name will be added to the precinct roster and voting will go quicker for them on Election Day. People who are not registered can still vote on Election Day, but it generally takes longer, Ihrike said.

Ihrike reminds voters that the final results will not be in until one week after the election because of the pandemic. In recent weeks,

Ihrike's office has been fielding calls from voters inquiring about mailings regarding the election that are being

sent out. Ihrike stressed her office is not sending out any mailings, but rather they are coming from political parties encouraging people to vote by mail.

Ihrike has also received some concerns regarding the U.S. Postal Service. She said her office has not had any issues with USPS.

The primary election went smoothly for all precincts throughout the county, Ihrike said. "It gave precincts an opportunity to see how social distancing works," she said. "They are all confident they have it set up good," she added.

Personal protective supplies, Ihrike said, will be provided at the polls. The supplies include hand sanitizers and face masks if voters forget to bring their own.

"It really worked out well during the primary," Ihrike said. "That's our hope for the general."

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for 2021 Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Grant.

Counties, municipalities, tribal governments, and weed management entities (including weed management areas) may apply for grants to mitigate noxious weeds

around the state. Grants for fiscal year 2021 will be funded up to \$5,000. The awards are intended to support local projects.

Since 2018, the MDA Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Grant has awarded over \$1 million to fund a variety of activities such as purchasing equipment and supplies, con-

ducting mapping and outreach activities, and hiring private applicators to manage noxious weeds. Ninety-nine projects were awarded averaging \$9,000.

Review the request for proposals (RFP) and find the application on the MDA website. Applications are due no later than 4 p.m. on Oct. 15. Questions can be directed to Emilie Justen, MDA noxious weed law coordinator, at emilie.justen@state.mn.us.

The grant program is funded by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

STARTING YOUNG WITH 4-H THE MELBYS

This week's farm family is a little different in which we are focusing on four siblings who share a love of showing poultry raised on their grandparents' farm.

Four members of the Melby family of rural Ellendale recently showed their poultry in the Minnesota 4-H Showcase, which replaced the Minnesota State Fair this year. They included: McKenna, 18; Evan, 16 and Kayden and Kendra, 13.

At the 4-H Showcase, Evan received champion senior showman and reserve champion with his market turkey. McKenna earned champion with her market geese. Kayden won second place with his chickens and fourth overall while Kendra placed fifth overall with chickens. All of them earned trips to the state after showing at the Steele County 4-H competition in August.

It was especially disappointing this year for Kayden and Kendra because they would have earned their first 4-H trip to the State Fair. They are eagerly waiting for next year to go to state.

The Melby children are continuing a 4-H tradition that started with their mother, Trish. The Melbys are members of the Ellendale Hustlers 4-H Club.

Trish says 4-H has been a positive experience for her kids. "Every year they learn something different," she said. She noted 4-H also teaches them responsibility. "They enjoy it," she added.

McKenna, Evan, Kayden and Kendra also help with chores on the farm of their grandparents, Dan and Kathy Hansen. They live across from each other about five miles west of Hope.

Kayden and Kendra attend Owatonna Middle School while McKenna and Evan attend Owatonna High School.

They are the children of Eric and Trish Melby.



McKenna Melby with her goose.



Evan Melby with his turkey.



Kayden Melby with his duck.



Kendra Melby with her duck.

This week's farm family is brought to you by:



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OWATONNA PROUD

B4 | WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

OWATONNA SCHOOLS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Learning in a pandemic world



Submitted photo
This is from the first week of classes for the new school year at McKinley Elementary School in Owatonna. Things may look different this year with social distancing and masks, but educators are still here for students as always.

Free meals for all children ages 1-18 years old

Owatonna Public Schools Nutrition Services will be offering meals at NO COST to ALL CHILDREN ages 1-18 regardless of income. Free meals will be available starting Monday, Sept. 14, through Dec. 31, or until USDA funding is exhausted. These meals will be offered to all students in our schools as well as students who are participating in distance learning.

In-Person Learning: Students will receive breakfast and lunch meals using the same process that was started at the beginning of the school year but they will receive these meals at no cost starting Sept. 14.

Hybrid Learning for Secondary Students: Students will have the opportunity to take free meal bundles home on their last in-person learning day to be eaten on their distance learning days. Meals are available at the end of the school day. Students in Group 1 typically pick up to-go meals on Tuesday and students in Group 2 pick up to-go meals on Friday.

Distance Learning: Meal bundles are still available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the following locations:

McKinley Elementary – 1050 22nd Street NE – Main Entrance / Door #1
Owatonna Middle School – 500 15th Street NE – Main Entrance / Door #1
Owatonna High School – 333 E School St. – Door #16

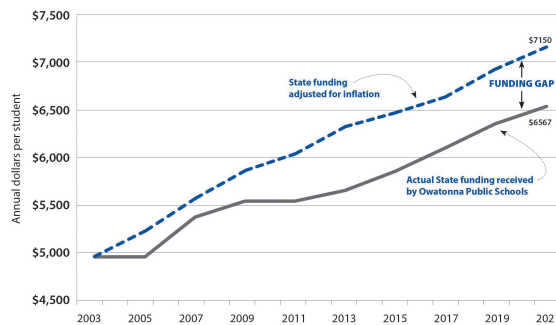
Meal bundles contain multiple days worth of meals. Families can go to any of the three locations to pick up meals for all children ages 1-18 years old. To assist us with meal planning, please complete a weekly form available on our website to sign up for distance learning meal bundles.

Meals for Non-Enrolled Children: Any child in the Owatonna community and surrounding area age 1-18 years old can pick up meals at no cost starting Tuesday, September 15th. Meal pick up is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the following locations:

McKinley Elementary – 1050 22nd St. NE – Main Entrance / Door #1
Owatonna Middle School – 500 15th St. NE – Main Entrance / Door #1
Owatonna High School – 333 E School St. – Door #16
Meal bundles contain multiple days worth of meals. Families can go to any of the three locations to pick up meals for all children ages 1-18 years old. To assist us with meal planning, families should complete a weekly form available to sign up for meal bundles. The form is available on our website: www.isd761.org.
For more information Visit: www.isd761.org
Email: nutritionservices@isd761.org
Call: 507-444-8616

Educate yourself about the upcoming Levy

State Basic General Education Funding per Student



If state funding had kept up with inflation since 2003, Owatonna Public Schools would receive nearly \$3 million more in state funding each year.

On Nov. 3, Owatonna School District residents will be asked to vote on two school funding requests to maintain quality academic programs and support services for students.

Q1 – Renew. Requests a straight renewal of the district's existing operating levy, which is about to expire. Operating

levies provide critical funding for classrooms, instruction and other operating costs.

Q2 – Reinvest. Requests a phased-in increase to the district's operating levy in 2022 and 2025. By phasing in the increase over time, it also phases in the tax impact with no tax increase until 2022. The additional revenue pro-

vided if question two is approved would enable the district to maintain quality programming and activities, appropriate class sizes and career-technical education programs, while providing financial stability for the next several years. Q2 is contingent and can only pass if voters first approve Q1.

A shared approach

The School Board unanimously approved a shared approach that combines budget cuts on the district side... and a request to voters to increase the operating levy on the community side. This balance acknowledges the community impact of COVID-19 by reducing the levy request through budget

cuts and using a phased-in levy to only ask for what is needed, when it's needed.

Why now?

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.

Finance facts

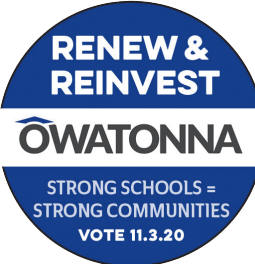
State funding is not keeping pace with inflation or increasing educational costs, resulting in a \$3 million gap. Required academic and support programs cost the district nearly

\$7 million more than it receives each year from the state and federal governments.

To balance the budget, the district already cut \$500,000 in 2019-20 and \$2 million in 2020-21.

If the operating levy is not renewed in November 2020, the district will lose \$2.5 million per year, requiring additional cuts to programs and services.

If voters renew the levy, the state will match every three local dollars with one state dollar through state equalization aid. This additional money will only come to Owatonna Public Schools if voters renew the levy and reinvest in the schools.



LEARN MORE ABOUT LEVY

- Visit isd761.org/levy
- Email levy@isd761.org
- Call 507-444-8650

School Calendar Update

Please note an important update to the school calendar.

Oct. 2 was previously listed as an early release day for Homecoming. There will not be a Home-

coming parade on Oct. 2 and students will remain in school for the regular school day. Schools will announce other Homecoming events in the near future.

State of the District set for next week

Get a first-hand update from Superintendent Jeff Elstad on current initiatives in the district:

- Back-to-school during a pandemic
- New high school

Levy 2020 and more. The updates will be part of the State of the District, which will be live-streamed so you can watch from the comfort of your home. There will be a short question and

answer time towards the end of the address. The live-stream link and contact info for submitting your questions will be posted on our website (www.isd761.org/stateofdistrict) at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 23.



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

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

SEPT. 22

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

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

SEPT. 18

10 a.m. - SEMCAC, Community Building

SEPT. 21

10 a.m. - SEMCAC, Community Building

SEPT. 23

10 a.m. - SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

SEPT. 19

7 a.m. - Farmers Market, Central Park
9 a.m. - 2020 Recycling Collection Event, Retrofit Companies
9 a.m. - Watershed Wide Clean-Up, Morehouse Park
2 p.m. - Cornerstone Owatonna Car Show, Cornerstone Evangelical Free

SEPT. 21

7 p.m. - Medford Zoning Board Meeting, City Admin Building

SEPT. 24

9 a.m. - Bank Blood Drive, Community Building
10:30 a.m. - City Council Meeting, Community Building

SEPT. 22

9:30 a.m. - Garden Time, Owatonna Library
10:30 a.m. - Storytime Online with Daria, Facebook Live
4 p.m. - OPU Commission Meeting, OPU
4 p.m. - Owatonna Planning Commission Meeting, City Admin Building
5 p.m. - Steele County Board Meeting, County Admin Building

SEPT. 24

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

BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 17
Emma Eplan
Brilla Muel
Vicki Wack
Jeff Zwiener
Alex Wangen
Frank Williamson
Wendy ScheweSept. 18
Cord Koenig
Racgan Nelson
Sept. 19
Lee Murren
Karen Njos
Lachelle WondraSept. 20
Tyler Bass
Heather Piskl
Gary Luth
Kristen RobbinsSept. 21
Dean Naatz
Payton Fritsch
Sam Brewington
Mark Larkoski
Jackie Smith
Cathy Shawback
Krista YoungSept. 22
Katie Ingvalson
Grace Fredrickson
Sara GravesSept. 23
Carl Swenson, Jr.
Brooks Zimmerman
Ellen Arell
Terri Zwiener
Megan Rank
Kathi Peterson

ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 17
John and Elisa WrightSept. 18
Nik and Andrea Miller
Lennie and Mandy Lemke
Mike and Sandy Jones
Mike and Andrea Farr
Steve and Pat Ingvalson
Cameron and Megan RankSept. 19
Mark Dillevoen and Renee Worke
Elaime and Ken Vermilyea
Veronica and Muel Thompson Jr.
Jon and Sarah Eplan
Rebecca and Brian Bruton-AndersonSept. 20
Dennis and Carol Heimerman
Mike and Jennifer Swenson
Bob and Joanne Nahlowsky
John and Angie CarlsonSept. 22
Sam and Barb BrewingtonThis weekly feature sponsored by:
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Sudoku Corner

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

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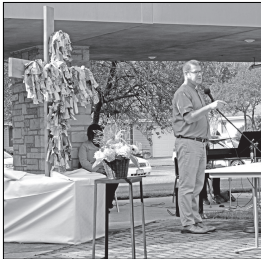
- Newly Remodeled
- County Assistance Accepted
- Pet Friendly



Answers

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

Another outdoor service



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRIMO

Pastor Mike Walerius of First Lutheran Church, Blooming Prairie, delivers a sermon at an outdoor service on Sunday, Sept. 6. Several local churches have been doing outdoor services during the pandemic.

AAUW Owatonna to meet next week

Members of the American Association of University Women Owatonna invite interested guests and potential members to attend their meeting on Monday, Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Non-members interested in attending, please contact us at aaauw@owatonna.org.

The featured speaker for the meeting will be Dr. Sabine Engel, director of International Partnerships at the University of Minnesota Institute

on the Environment. Dr. Engel will share how she has brought communities together to minimize climate impact, insights gained in the process, and offer her suggestions on how we can become a "Climate Smart Community." AAUW members expect to gain inspiration that can translate into community action. For an introduction to her work check out the video link: www.tpt.org/climate-smart-cities-working-together/.

Recipe Corner

Danish Pastry Apple Bars

2-1/2 cups flour
1 cup shortening
1 teaspoon salt
1 beaten egg yolk
Milk with egg yolk to make 2/3 cup
1 egg white
1 cup sugar
1 cup crushed corn flakes
8 to 10 medium apples
1 teaspoon cinnamon

Mix flour, shortening, salt, milk and egg mixture for pie crust. Roll half of dough for a cake pan size and put in pan. Sprinkle with corn flakes on crust. Add apples, sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon. Roll remainder of dough and put on apples. Brush with beaten egg whites. Bake at 400 degrees for 1 hour. While warm, spread with 1 cup powdered sugar, 1 tablespoon water and 1/2 teaspoon vanilla.

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It's Crazy Days for a Cure on Saturday

Crazy Days for a Cure Under the Big Tent will be celebrated from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Blooming Prairie.

The event will benefit the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group. The Big Tent, which will be located next to the Cue Company, is sponsored by Craig and Robyn

Kruckeberg.

Local crafters plan to have their creations on sale. Sidewalk specials are also planned.

A luncheon will benefit the BP Cancer Group (eat in or take out). Bloody Marys and Mimosas will be available. For luncheon take out or orders, call 507-583-7675.

A sell out for Gun Bingo to benefit BP Cancer Group

The Second Annual Blooming Prairie Gun Bingo will be held on Friday, Sept. 18 under the Big Tent near the Cue Company.

The sold out fundraiser will benefit the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group. The Big Tent is sponsored by Craig and Robyn Kruckeberg.

Event organizer Connie Trom says the fundraiser starts at 7 p.m. with the doors opening at 5:30 p.m.

All recommendations from the Minnesota State Department of Health will be followed.

"We want to make it a safe event," said Trom. Face masks will be required.

Ten games of Bingo will be played with the last game of the night a BLACKOUT. Kelly LaMotte will be the Bingo caller.

Last year's event raised over \$17,000.

To sponsor a gun in honor or memory of a

loved one, contact Connie Trom at 507-456-8431, or Denise Krell at 507-438-3882, or Craig Anderson at 507-438-5499. More information can also be obtained by e-mailing Tromda@yahoo.com.

All winners must pass a background check and pick up their winning guns directly from the Cordes Gun Shop in Lansing and B & L Gun and Rental, Dodge Center. They receive gift certificates.

Brady Kramer of Hayfield was the first winner of Gun Bingo last year.

Last year, lots of door prizes were donated by Brian Johnson and Dennelle Johnson, in memory of their son Dylan (644 in Demolition Derby circles). They will again donate door prizes.

Dylan's aunt Denise Krell helped distribute the prizes to the lucky winners and will do that again this year.

Historical Society hosts car cruise for Gus' Station

The Steele County Historical Society will hold Gus' Station Car Cruise and Fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 19 at 9 a.m. in the west parking lot of the Steele County History Center in Owatonna.

The cost to register to cruise is \$10. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with the cruise starting at 9 a.m. Each cruiser will be given a kit at registration with a map and commemorative dash plaque. Maps will have driving directions for cruisers to drive by care communities located in Blooming Prairie, Ellendale, Owatonna, and Medford.

All dollars generated from this event will be directed to the Service Bay proposed next to

Gus' Station in the Village of Yesteryear. This building is proposed to house the Alexander truck, Melkner 1919 Dodge and other Owatonna Tool Company artifacts relating to the automotive industry. The addition will provide storage as well as a work area.

Gus' Station was built in 1931 and dispensed gas in Ellendale until 1980, except during WWII ration years. This station was a favorite destination for area children to buy candy after school. The efforts to preserve this building were completed by the Ellendale Historic League in August 2014. The station showcases its historic renovation along with items sold in the early days. It is the most recent building added to the Village of Yesteryear.

Festival of Sukkot coming next month

Torah keepers are invited to attend Yahuah's annual Sacred Festival of Sukkot (tabernacles) Oct. 3-10. For location, time and questions, call 218-766-8176.

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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.

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Saturday • 9 a.m. to close

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

Thank you for your patronage.



Bloomington Assistant Football Coach David Lassahn demonstrates the perfect handoff with the help of a prospective player. Fall practice began on Monday, Sept. 14. The fall practices continue through Oct. 3. The spring football season will run from March 15 to May 15.



Assistant Awesome Blossom Coach Matt Kittelson watches junior quarterback Drew Kittelson during a fall practice on Monday, Sept. 14. Drew, a junior, just happens to be the son of Coach Matt. Coach Matt and Drew were part of the Class 1A state champion Awesome Blossoms.

Practice begins for defending state champs

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It's nothing unusual for Bloomington High School football teams to have a target on their back because of their repeated successes.

The Awesome Blossoms will be defending their first-ever Section 1A state championship.

Head Coach Chad Gimbel is entering his 24th year as head coach of the Bloomington Prairie football team. He is also entering his 27th year as a business education teacher in Bloomington.

Practice began for the 2020 Blossom football team on Monday, Sept. 14 and will continue until Oct. 3. Because of COVID-19, the Minnesota State High School League moved the fall sports seasons of volleyball and football to next

spring from March 15 to May 15.

Shoulder pads and helmets were issued to the prospective Blossom football players last week.

Coach Gimbel said he expected about 40 kids out for football in grades 9-12.

This year's practices are far different than Coach Gimbel and his assistants have been familiar with over the years. "We have to practice in pods of no more than 25 and we must limit contact as much as possible."

Players must bring their own water bottles and must be screened for contact tracing.

The Blossoms graduated 11 seniors from last year's state championship team.

In spite of losing that many seniors, the Awesome Blossoms have lots of experience

returning because all of their wins last year represented significant margins, thus younger players were able to see varsity action.

Returning this year are seniors Luke Larkoski and Charlie Helmerman on the offensive line. Senior Mitchell Fiebigler and juniors Bradley Simon and Colin Jordison are part of the receiving corps.

Jordison is the team's kickoff specialist. Junior Carson Brennecke kicks extra points.

Larkoski and Fiebigler will anchor middle linebacker positions. Cole Christianson, a senior is returning as an outside linebacker. Simon will play on Defense also, holding down a free safety spot.

The Blossoms lost their starting quarterback in Kaden

Thomas. Junior Drew Kittelson played quarterback as a sophomore last year. Tyler Archer will likely be in the backfield with Kittelson.

"It's way early and we have a lot to figure out," remarked Coach Gimbel.

"I think the kids are excited about beginning practice and they seek some type of normalcy," observed Gimbel. "They are chomping at the bit to get back into the weight room," he said.

Gimbel said he was very impressed with the attitudes of his students when returning to school on Tuesday, Sept. 8 for the first time in six months.

"Everybody is learning on the fly and the kids were very respectful and intuitive that first week," said Gimbel. "They

were happy to be back in school and they were very engaged," he added.

Coach Gimbel will have his same team of coaches available again this year. Matt Kittelson is defensive coordinator and Nate Piller and Andrew Hardecoff handle the Junior Varsity duties. On the junior high level, coaching is handled by Justin Kiehene, David Lassahn and Carl Steckelberg. Volunteer coaches Elliott Herdina and Josh Johnson routinely attend practices.

The Bloomington Prairie Quarterback Club will again be a supportive arm for the Awesome Blossom football team. The QB Club helps raise funds to purchase football equipment.

Gimbel said the pandemic has caused lots of uncertainty. "Our

No. 1 concern is keeping these kids safe," Gimbel emphasized.

During the three-week practice time this fall, Gimbel said he hopes to get the offense and defense installed. "When spring comes around, there will be an urgency," he says. He said field conditions will also be an unknown.

There has been a drive by some parents and others to push for football yet this fall. Gimbel said he is busy teaching and coaching and will not get involved in this movement. He said he will leave these decisions to the school leadership.

"We will soon see what type of learning takes place during these 12 days of practice," says Gimbel. "It will give us a lot to think about," he smiled.

Experience returns to BP volleyball squad

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"It's sort of a juggling act but we will make it work," says first-year Bloomington Prairie High School head volleyball coach Jennifer Wayne.

High school girls volleyball has been moved to the spring by the Minnesota State High School League because of COVID-19.

Minnesota high school volleyball teams were able to begin practice on Monday this week and continue three weeks until Oct. 3. The spring season begins on March 15 and ends May 15.

Awsome Blossom volleyball is not new to Coach Wayne. She has been an assistant for the past eight years. She succeeds Russell Kittelson.

Junior high practice started Monday of this week at the BP Elementary School. Varsity practice started Wednesday and will continue on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Experience returns to the Blossoms this year after losing four seniors in Julia Worke, Mya Lembke, Riauna Bishop and Heather Pirkl.

"The experience returning includes seven seniors: Allison Krohnberg, Maren Forystek,

Maggie Bruns, Haley Strunk, Michelyn Trihus, Anna Kittelson and Megan Oswald.

Some promising juniors who saw lots of playing time last year include Bobbie Bruns, Josie Hoffman, Alivia Schneider, Melanie Winzenberg, Lauren Schammel and Emily Miller. Coach Wayne said she has some tall 10th graders trying out for the team and she looks forward to seeing them in action.

Wayne said her team members participated in some scrimmages in August but she hasn't had an opportunity to talk to her players since that time. "I do think our girls are looking forward to playing some volleyball," she said.

The Blossoms finished at 3-4 in the Gopher Conference last year and at 13-13 overall. Four teams will be added to the conference next year.

Cory Hendrickson returns as Junior Varsity coach and Alli Schmidt will be the ninth grade coach.

Coaching will be different this year as the players must be split up in groups, no larger than 25.

"Our numbers and safety protocol change often," remarked Wayne.

Ray Munson takes first in BP Adult Trap League

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

An Adult Trap Shooting League at the Bloomington Prairie Gun Club resurfaced this summer after being idle for many years. The club is located abutting the Bloomington Prairie Country Club.

Fourteen teams with five shooters on a team competed this past summer, with shooting mainly on Thursday nights. Shooters had to complete eight rounds (25 birds in a round) during the summer.

Ray Munson of Adams, placed first with an actual score of 192 (out of 200). He carried an average of 24.

Gus Maxfield, Austin, was second with a score of 191. Others who finished in the top 10 actual scores were: Kent Lea and Bill Adams, third, each with 188; Josh Hanzlicek, fifth, 185; Tom Miller, sixth, 184; Joe Walerak and Carl Peterson, seventh, each with 183; Mike Walerak, ninth, 181 and Kurt Foster, 10th, 180.

Shooters also competed with a handicap score. Gus Maxfield ranked first with a handicap score of 195. Dave Dahl was next in second place with a

handicap score of 193. Kent Lea, Bill Adams and Cam Marquardt tied for third, each with scores of 192.

Tied for the seventh top handicap score of 191 were: Tom Blome, Butch Anderson, Jake Schwarz and Victor Peterson. Scoring 190 and tied for 11th handicap score were: Erik Vigeland, Josh Hanzlicek, Kurt Foster and Daryl Anderson.

Trap league organizers Erik Vigeland, Kent Lea and Dan Pirkl said they heard "lots of positive feedback" from shooters competing this past summer.

"There are some things we are going to tweak for next year, but for the most part, things went very well," said Vigeland.

Vigeland said he thought people "were so tired of being cooped up last spring" and trap shooting provided them with a very safe sport during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"You only touch your own equipment and you are outside and naturally six feet apart," remarked Vigeland. "This sport gave shooters an opportunity to do something fun," he added.

The renewal of the trap league, Vigeland said, gave

shooters a chance to share and relive a lot of memories from the BP Gun Club in the past.

Shooters in the trap league came from Bloomington, Prairie, Owatonna, Hayfield, Brownsdale, Austin, Albert Lea, Adams, Rose Creek and elsewhere.

During competition, shooters rotate from five spots on a station. The birds are sent skyward after a sound command is given. The trap station releases the birds by different angles, heights and speeds.

Vigeland said on a recent night, shooters fired 105 rounds. He said most gun club average 60 rounds a night. Shooting begins at 5 p.m. and often continues until 8:30 p.m.

"We have become a hot spot in southern Minnesota," Vigeland said. He is also the coach of the Bloomington Prairie High School trap shooting team. Youths were welcome to shoot trap on Wednesday nights.

Gun club historian Carl Peterson, a club member of 50 years, says the Bloomington Prairie Gun Club has some glowing history, with a state shoot held here in 1962 and a central zone tournament in 1964.



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A little trim job



Custodians Lee Peterson and Rob White do some tree trimming to get the Blooming Prairie High School ready for school when it resumes on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Dodge County Public Health to hold drive-thru flu clinics

Flu season will be here soon. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that now more than ever, everyone 6 months of age and older get a yearly flu vaccination.

This year's flu season could impact our communities in unexpected ways due to the COVID-19 pandemic and put additional stress on our already strained healthcare resources. Influenza (the flu) is a contagious respiratory illness, spread mainly by droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. Flu season can be unpredictable, severe and dangerous for some. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. Getting vaccinated helps protect you from the flu, and also protects others in the community. Older adults, young children,

people with certain health conditions and infants under 6 months who can't be vaccinated yet are at high risk for serious flu complications. Help them stay protected by getting your flu shot as soon as possible this season.

To help protect our communities, Dodge County Public Health will provide the 2020-2021 (Quadrivalent) flu vaccine to help protect against four influenza strains that research indicates will be most common during the season. The four strains include Influenza A (H1N1) virus, Influenza A (H3N2) virus, and two additional Influenza B viruses. If you are age 65 years or older, we will once again be offering the high dose flu vaccine. New this season, we will also be offering a vaccine (FluBlok) targeted for people age 50-64 which provides increased

protection over the standard Quadrivalent vaccine option.

Dodge County Drive-Thru Clinics:

• Tuesday, Sept. 29- Kasson Fire Hall, 101 East Main St., Kasson 10:00-11:30 a.m.

• Tuesday, Sept. 29- Mantorville Fire Hall, 21 5th St. East, Mantorville 1:30-3 p.m.

• Wednesday, Sept. 30- Hayfield City Maintenance Building (Old Fire Hall) 110 Center Ave. South, Hayfield 10-11 a.m.

• Wednesday, Sept. 30- Dodge Center Fire Hall, 130 East Hwy St., Dodge Center 1-2 p.m.

"Any unanticipated changes to Drive-Through Clinics (dates, times, locations) will be posted on the Dodge County Public Health website. Check here for the most up-to-date information: <https://www.co.dodge.mn.us/depart->

SEE DODGE COUNTY, B10



Steele County CARES RELIEF GRANT PROGRAMS

Steele County is here to help!

Steele County received funding through the CARES Act and has allocated \$1.1 million for relief grant programs for all nonprofits and businesses in the unincorporated and incorporated city areas.

For all unincorporated small businesses and all nonprofits in Steele County Grants available up to \$10,000

Applications will be accepted until Oct. 2, 2020.

Applications and program guidelines are available at www.co.steele.mn.us



Applications are available by contacting
CRFApplications@co.steele.mn.us
or call Scott Golberg 507-444-7400.

For businesses located within the city limits of Medford, Ellendale, Blooming Prairie and Owatonna, please contact the local city government for their program and application deadlines.

ADULTING: is hard FROM B1

into the mix and I think we can all agree that YES indeed, 2020 has taken adulting to a whole other level!

As a self-proclaimed whiner, I could go on and on about the struggle of adulting. But as a health educator, I am also wondering what the lessons are from this part of our life's journey? There are MANY life lessons at play here. What has 2020 taught you about yourself? What changes have you had to make? How have you managed "adulting" during the past year?

I've learned some big lessons about adulting. Most importantly, it's essential to have someone to lean on, confide in, and be vulnerable with. I don't think I would be managing my adult responsibilities if I didn't have a few close friends to lean on for support and understanding. They help me deal with my emotional ups and downs and keep me from taking out my emotions on other people. We jokingly say that

we are saving lives, because without our time for rants we may have killed someone.

I have also learned to have a sense of humor and lightheartedness about life. I try to look at even the most challenging days through the eyes of a comedian. Taking on these struggles with an attitude of seriousness too often can lead to depression and anxiety. Yes, the problems are serious and often feel out of our control. What we can do, however, is to try our best to view it from a humorous lens, which can often dull the sharpness of the pain we may be experiencing.

Another take away from 2020 is to find what works for you. What brings you joy? Stress relief? Relaxation? Find a few things that you can count on to give you the attitude adjustment you need to keep on adulting. For me, I enjoy being in nature, especially being on or near water and feeling the sun on my face, moving my body

through any type of activity, playing with my dog, and even cleaning my house.

(How's that for embracing adulthood?) So, if you find yourself overwhelmed by the responsibilities of adulting in 2020. You are not alone. Give yourself some grace, slow things down and take a break to do something fun, laugh at what you can, and seek help from others when necessary. Steele County Public Health has a hub of services and resources to help you with all your adulting needs. Please visit our website https://www.co.steele.mn.us/divisions/community_services/public_health/index.php or give us a call at 507-444-7650. We are happy to help!

Andrea Marshall is a health educator with Steele County Public Health. *Steele Talkin'* is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

OLD WALMART: turns into storage units FROM B1

He has created an outside of the building. "We wanted to give it a new look," he said.

Providing storage isn't a new concept for Hauerwas. He has been in the storage business for the past 15 years. He also operates storage facilities in Shakopee, Waconia and Lino Lakes.

Hauerwas said he got into the storage business against the advice of his father. "My father didn't think there was money in this. I just met people in the storage industry and know how well they were doing. I saw a need for it," he said, adding he proved his father wrong.

He is especially proud of the Owatonna location, which offers indoor climate controlled facility with a large private parking lot. "We understand this is your household in there," Hauerwas said. With the climate kept at 70 degrees, no electronics or other equipment will freeze up. And, he added, "You don't have to stand outside in the weather elements."

The building is

also under 24/7 video surveillance system monitoring for the protection of customers.

"I like to offer clean, orderly storage at a fair price," said Hauerwas, who retired from being a police officer in Wisconsin in 1998 after 20 years. "If things are always kept neat and clean and people are vigilant about their surroundings, it creates a better experience for them."

He noted 60% of his clients are women. "I want women to come down to their storage and not be afraid," he said.

The facility usually attracts people who are selling their houses and realize "they have way too much stuff," Hauerwas said. Businesses also utilize storage to keep records.

Steele Storage has the basics for moving available to customers, including U Haul moving boxes.

Hauerwas admits he went through a period in life where he disliked dealing with people after being in law enforcement. "I saw the ugliness of the world," he said. After

"detoxing" himself from people for a while, he grew into being a people person. "Now I like meeting folks and getting to know them. I like helping people."

He now prides himself on offering good customer service. Hauerwas makes every attempt to call people back right away and "just being there for them." He expressed frustration with customer service that has been lost in recent years. "People aren't used to being treated nice," he said.

Hauerwas has even been known to help people unload their trucks when they come in for storage. "We are doers," he said. His philosophy with customers is "being nicer and being helpful." He added, "They end up smiling and coming back to us."

With the extensive business growth happening around Owatonna, Hauerwas said it was an easy decision to start a facility in Steele County. "We figured it was good timing," he said. "I have a lot invested, but over time it will pay for itself," he added.



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Friday, Sept. 18**

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Otto T. Lund Post 52**

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELEDISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Court File No.: 74-PR-
20-830In Re: Estate of
Dorothy B. Meyerling,

Decedent

NOTICE OF AND OR-
DER FOR HEARING ON
PETITION FOR FOR-
MAL PROBATE OF WILL
AND APPOINTMENT
OF PERSONAL REPRE-
SENTATIVE AND NO-
TICE TO CREDITORS

Due to Supreme Court Order ADM20-8001, It is Ordered and Notice is given that on October 12, 2020, at 10:30 a.m. the above matter will come before this Court, located at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, MN 55060, for administrative review, on a petition for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the decedent's Will dated September 25, 2014 and for the appointment of Janell R. Salcedo, whose address is 8 Augusta Place, Owatonna, MN 55060 as personal representative of the decedent's estate in an unsupervised administration. With the Honorable Joseph A. Buell via Zoom hearing in Courtroom B. Any objections to the petition must be mailed, emailed or filed on the Court's electronic filing system, together with the filing fee, prior to the above date. If the Petition is proper and no objections are filed, the personal representative will be appointed with the full power to administer the decedent's estate, including the power to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses; sell real and personal property; and do all necessary acts for the decedent's estate.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

BY THE COURT

Joseph A. Buell
Judge of District Court

Dated: August 18, 2020

Robin Hoesley
Court Administrator/s/ Tammy L. Merchlewitz
Deputy

Court File No. 74-PR-20-830

Margaret K. Koberski
Koberski Law, LLC
Atty ID 0262717
10 W. Main St
Madelia, MN 56062
Telephone:
(507) 642-2112
Facsimile: (507) 642-2114
e-mail: margaret@ko-
berskiaw.com

9/9, 9/16

PUBLIC RECORD

Steele County Births
October 2019

Jackson James Harlan Garbers, Parents: Lauren and Samule, Oct. 3.
Zubair Yussuf Abdi, Parents: Ubah Yussuf and Yussuf Hassan, Oct. 6.
Riley Ann Prins, Parents: Josephine and Matthew, Oct. 7.
Alexander Robert Groat, Parents: Rachel and Joseph, Oct. 8.
Alivia Hope Wanous, Parents: Vanessa and Kent, Oct. 10.
Mollie Kay Farrier, Parent: Angela, Oct. 14.
Ander Caspian Wimer, Parents: Megan and Steven, Oct. 17.
Walker Adrian Ihlenfeld, Parents: Mariah and Wade, Oct. 18.
Jadriel Jesus Marquez, Parents: Anselma and Jesus, Oct. 18.
Ava Leigh Wagner, Parents: Kristina and Daniel, Oct. 19.
Lindsey Renae Kennedy, Parents: Brittany and Gregg, Oct. 21.
Lucas George Green, Parents: Courtney Rahn and Tyler Green, Oct. 21.
Huey Alan Noble, Parents: Mackenzie and Brandon, Oct. 22.
Lyndoln James Fleming, Parents: Briana and Oliver, Oct. 22.
Ellie Elizabeth Wadich, Parents: Bridget and Zachary, Oct. 23.
Zayla Maria Thomas, Parents: Amanda and David, Oct. 23.
Tenley Gladys Yule, Parents: Samantha and Allen, Oct. 24.
Leo Joshua Zirbes, Parent: Brittany Gade, Oct. 24.
Lena Claire Demmer, Parents: Katherine Godfrey and Dustin Demmer, Oct. 24.
Norah Christine Hawley, Parents: Sarah and Ronald, Oct. 26.
Arian Azazel Arenas, Parents: Cindy and Arian, Oct. 28.
Alayna Lee Wagner, Parents: Laura and Alex, Oct. 28.
Bree Everleigh Maderly, Parents: Brittany and Marshall, Oct. 29.
Reagan Kate Riffe, Parents: Kathrine and Jacob, Oct. 29.
Kilian James Mindrum, Parents: Desiree and Zachary Haessig, Oct. 30.
Asher James McNamee, Parents: Nicole and Shannon, Oct. 31.
Emersyn Marie Twaddle, Parents: Katie and Marcus, Oct. 31.

Steele County Deaths
October 2019

Dean Elwood Lee, 73, Owatonna, Oct. 1.
Geraldine Joyce Meixner, 88, Owatonna, Oct. 2.
Gary Lloyd Boettcher, 63, Owatonna, Oct. 4.
Virginia Ann Meier, 88, Owatonna, Oct. 5.
Ellen Louise Kuefner, 71, Owatonna, Oct. 5.
Kathryn Marie Jorgenson, 70, Owatonna, Oct. 6.
Evelyn Carolyn Trulson, 101, Owatonna, Oct. 7.
Jeanne Diane Lee, 83, Blooming Prairie, Oct. 9.
Elmer George Eaker, 94, Owatonna, Oct. 11.
Dora Garza Rubesch, 79, Owatonna, Oct. 11.
Gary Evan Steffen, 84, Owatonna, Oct. 12.
Betty Jean Johnson, 87, Owatonna, Oct. 13.
Lowell Irving Trom, 80, Blooming Prairie, Oct. 14.
Dianne Sue Hanenberger, 73, Blooming Prairie, Oct. 15.
Clyde Edward Grant, 94, Owatonna, Oct. 16.
Anthony Michael Rainone, 61, Medford, Oct. 17.

Joan Roberta Lorman, 81, Owatonna, Oct. 18.
Dessie Mae Gasner, 88, Owatonna, Oct. 20.
Clarice Lee Lindberg, 72, Owatonna, Oct. 20.
Lois Ann Taphorn, 77, Blooming Prairie, Oct. 22.
Fred Marlin Bosacker, 87, Owatonna, Oct. 23.
Patricia Ann Rhoda, 77, Owatonna, Oct. 23.
David Lewis Evered, 83, Owatonna, Oct. 27.
Evelyn M. Lee, 79, New Richland, Oct. 28.
Esther Ann Hansen, 92, Blooming Prairie, Oct. 29.
Curtis Everett Schultz, 69, Owatonna, Oct. 29.
Ramona Jean Strohschein, 86, Owatonna, Oct. 30.

Steele County Marriages
October 2019

Callan Cate Peffrath and Michael William Jamison, Oct. 4.
Matthew James Thon and Ashley Morgan Steinberg, Oct. 4.
Cameron Scott Peterson and Paula Giovanna De la Rosa, Oct. 5.
Dean Alexander Macintosh and Vanessa Ann Brage, Oct. 5.
Torrey Joe Hunt and Allie Elizabeth Kellen, Oct. 5.
Daniel Jackson Burns and Sarah Danielle Daily, Oct. 9.
Kelli Marie Rogers and Corey Michael Stroup, Oct. 9.
Jeremy Wayne Seha and Amanda Marie Wanous, Oct. 10.
Tim Mario Hoedel and Abbey Elizabeth Nelson, Oct. 10.
Cayden Josiah Elmore and Courtney Mae Simon, Oct. 12.
Adam Jay Weber and Melissa Joy Machin, Oct. 12.
Nicholas Michael Rappe and Emily Rose Gebur, Oct. 12.
Mathias Jerome Heinrichs and Rachel Lynn Olson, Oct. 12.
Katie Ellen Jones and Christopher Jordan Pederson, Oct. 12.
Joel James Johnson and Shayne Rhea Mackie, Oct. 12.
Judy Kay Branstad and Kenneth Charles Dube, Oct. 12.
Ian James Baerman-Kuiper and Christine Marie Gonzalez, Oct. 14.
Duane Robert Speikers and Lisa Ann Greger, Oct. 16.
Gustavo Armando Perez Carreon and Yeseli Aglin Aspeitia Melchor, Oct. 18.
Jacob David Perkins and Alexandra Michelle Savat, Oct. 19.
Derek Patrick Bennett and Aliza Carrie Mainard, Oct. 19.
Rachel Ann Sparling and Joseph Warren Melles, Oct. 19.
Dustin Matthew Shuck and Mikayla Ann Grandall, Oct. 20.
Alan Francis Picha and Dawn Marie Leblanc, Oct. 26.

Steele County Divorces
October 2019

Heidi Judith Bien and Jody Paul Bien, Oct. 4.
Kari Ann Schwartz and William David Schwartz, Oct. 17.
David James Long and Stephanie Kay Loring, Oct. 21.
Michael David Rhoades and Erika Renee Eberhoh, Oct. 22.
Lora Jean Roos and Jason David Roos, Oct. 28.
Brandy Marie Duntz and Thomas Shayne Forthun, Oct. 29.
Linn Rae Roeker and Jason Paul Roeker, Oct. 29.
Andrew Joseph Forsberg and Tina Marie Forsberg, Oct. 30.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 55917
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

6:00 p.m., Thursday, September 17, 2020
*Regular School Board Work Session
High School Media Center7:00 p.m., Monday, September 21, 2020
*Open Public Forum - High School Media Center7:15 p.m., Monday, September 21, 2020
*Regular School Board Meeting
High School Media Center

Any person may raise a question to the School Board. The Board will not act on any item presented to them, which is not on the agenda, until the following Board meeting. Also, the Board would like persons to limit themselves to five minutes, with a maximum of 15 minutes per topic. These limitations are needed for us to run a timely and orderly Board meeting. Persons are requested to identify themselves prior to speaking.

- I. CALL TO ORDER - CHAIRPERSON
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL - CLERK
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS
- VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED
 - A. Consent Agenda
 - Minutes
 - Bills
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Resignation
 - Donations
 - B. Employment
 - C. Volunteer Coaches
 - D. District Audit
 - E. Title IX Policy
 - F. Proposed Levy Limitation and Certification 2020 Payable 2021
 - G. Property and Casualty/Workers' Compensation Insurance
- VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
 - A. 2020-21 Updates
 - B. Coaches/Extra-Curricular
 - C. Committee Reports
 - D. Enrollment Data
 - E. Dates to Note
- VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

9/16

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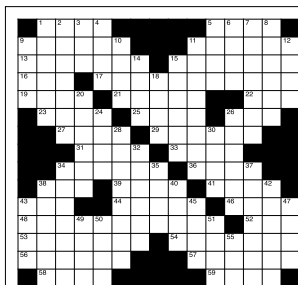
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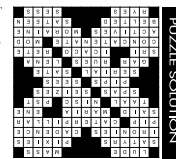


CLUES ACROSS

1. Methuquale pill (slang)
5. Religious service
9. Woodland gods (Greek myth.)
11. "Where Is My Mind?" rockers
13. Deliberately contrary states of affairs
15. Inflection of the voice
16. "Great Expectations" character
17. Becomes a butterfly
19. Spiky
21. Tennis player Sharapova
22. Midway between northeast and east
23. Afrikaans
25. No instruction set computing
26. Pacific Standard Time
27. Religious places
29. Confiscates
31. Gladys Knight's fellow performers
33. Winesses
34. Taking place in a series
36. Satisfy
38. Freshwater fish of N. America
39. Laments
41. "Gint" creator Dunham
43. Indian title of respect
44. Cacao plant
46. Network of nerve cells
48. Link together in a chain

CLUES DOWN

1. Rope used to lasso
2. Idyllic places
3. Field force unit
4. Guitar great Chaptin
5. Slang for type of skirt
6. Figure skating jump
7. Innocent
8. Mathematical ratio
9. Slowly drinks
10. Line where edges meet
11. Offices of the pope
12. Dry or withered
14. "the Man" Musical
15. Difficult situations
18. Greek goddess of discord
20. Marked by smartness in dress and manners
24. Habitat
26. Annoy constantly
28. Fall of life
30. Great energy
32. BBQ and soy are two
34. Virtuous
35. Not funny
37. Fees
38. Merchandise
40. Dishonest scheme
42. Repeats
43. Protective crust
45. Native American people
47. Any place of bliss or delight
49. Bring up
50. Birds
51. Geological times
55. Consumed



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FOR SALE: ARONIA Berries, a super food and rich source of plant antioxidants used to make juices, purées, jams, jellies, syrups, teas, and

wines. Call to give them a try. 507-451-9445. 9/27/20

LUND JON BOAT Caom paint, 12-foot. Will fit in full-size pickup box. New oars. Rated for 10 HP motor. \$700. ATV LOADING RAMPS 1500-pound capacity. All aluminum. \$125. 507-635-5853 9/17/20

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KASSON FOR RENT: Two-bedroom apartment for rent. Call 507-421-3085 9/17/20

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

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KASSON GARAGE SALE: 402 6th Ave. NW. Thursday, Sept. 17, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 18, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 19, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. YUP! Another big moving garage sale. Too much to list! Masks appreciated. 9/17/20



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WR0. Painted, good rubber, clean. No dents.....**\$2,250**

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