



Grant Schuur, 9, of the Blooming Prairie Youth Club shows off his Chalk Your Walk artwork, a monkey with a COVID-19 mask. "I like your monkey," a young girl told Grant. The Youth Club sponsored the event in late August. See Page A10 for more details about this artistic activity for community members.

County offers help for hurting businesses, nonprofits

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Federal CARES money has become available to help struggling businesses and nonprofits who have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Steele County Board of Commission-

ers has approved a business and non-profit grant relief program. Of the nearly \$4.5 million Steele County has received in federal funds, about \$1.1 million of the funding will be used to provide relief to local businesses and nonprofits in the county, according to

Scott Golberg, county administrator. "The program will provide assistance to those entities that were economically impacted by the pandemic and incurred eligible expenses under the federal guidelines," Golberg said. Grants of up to \$10,000 will

be available to small businesses in the unincorporated area of Steele County and to all nonprofits throughout the county. Golberg recognizes \$10,000 may not be enough to help struggling businesses

SEE COUNTY OFFERS, A3

"She didn't know anybody for the last two years. It's horrible."

Barry Thompson
Mary's Angels



Mary's Angels will be out in force this weekend during the annual Alzheimer's Walk. They include: front row, from left: Ashley, granddaughter; Hanna, Carter and Caeden, all great grandchildren. Back row: Dakota, great grandchild; Jamie, granddaughter; Chloe, great grandchild; Delores, sister; Dana, son-in-law; Vickie, daughter; Sakada, great grandchild; Karen, daughter and Barry, son-in-law. Numerous other family members are not pictured but help out with the Alzheimer's benefit.

Mary's Angels

Family pulls together to honor woman who endured Alzheimer's

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Mary Behne has a lot of angels honoring a life that ended on a horrible note eight years ago.

About 40 members of Behne's family refer to themselves as "Mary's Angels." The entire group of angels has been chosen as the Owatonna Alzheimer's Walk honorary family for 2020.

The walk takes place this Sunday, though there is no formal walk as there has been in the past because of COVID-19. Instead, people are being encouraged to walk on their own to

bring about a world without Alzheimer's and dementia.

As of late last week, Owatonna had 40 teams and about 200 people registered

SEE MARY'S ANGELS, A5



Jackie Froman takes the oath of office for the Ellendale City Council on Aug. 27. The council appointed her to take the vacant seat created by the resignation of Steve Engle. Administering the oath is Kim Zimprich, city clerk.

Ellendale Council appoints Froman for vacant seat

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A new council member is serving Ellendale residents. Jackie Froman took the oath of office on Aug. 27 after the

Ellendale City Council appointed her to take the vacant seat created by the resignation of Steve Engle. Engle has joined city staff as deputy clerk.

SEE ELLENDALE COUNCIL, A8

Green ALS Benefit reset for Sept. 26

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The deadly coronavirus, COVID-19, forced cancellation of a benefit planned for Cindy Green of Ellendale on Saturday, March 21. Green was diagnosed almost two years ago with ALS (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) or otherwise known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. Gehrig was a baseball star with the New York Yankees when he was stricken with ALS.

The March 21 benefit date was about the time that COVID-19 was beginning to make its mark on many community events.

Friends and family

of Cindy Green have set a new date for the fundraiser. The benefit is planned from 3-7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26 at the Geneva Community Center.

A silent auction and bake sale are planned. The meal will feature sloppy Joe's, potato salad, cole slaw, chips and a beverage.

Proceeds from the benefit will help offset medical and living expenses for Cindy and her husband Frank. Anyone interested in donating to the cause, or helping with the event is asked to contact Allie Larson

SEE GREEN ALS BENEFIT, A10

\$1.00 | Volume 129, No. 7



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AREA DEATHS

Karen Johnson, 78, Austin

Serving
Blooming Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW

Help end a growing epidemic

As much attention has been focused this year on COVID-19, and rightfully so, there is another epidemic facing America.

Alzheimer's disease is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States with one in three seniors dying from Alzheimer's or dementia. More than 5 million people are living with the disease. Almost two-thirds of Americans with the disease are women.

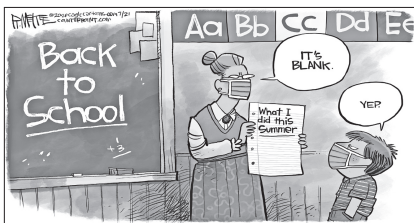
In 2019, more than 16 million caregivers of people living with Alzheimer's or other dementias provided an estimated 18.6 billion hours of unpaid care. Fifty percent of primary care physicians believe the medical profession is not ready for the growing number of people with Alzheimer's.

Sadly, there is no cure for Alzheimer's. The Alzheimer's Association is working to advance the care, support and research across the world to not only make a difference in the lives of those facing Alzheimer's, but also to try and find a cure.

The stories of what families endure from a loved one battling Alzheimer's are excruciatingly painful. We have shared the struggles of one area family elsewhere in this edition. The disease robs the person that they had been and sometimes they end up living for years of not knowing who they are or who anybody else is. There is little to no quality of life left for some patients.

Each year the Alzheimer's Association brings Walk to End Alzheimer's to more than 600 communities throughout the U.S. This weekend the walk will take place in Owatonna. While it won't be the same in-person event like it has been in the past because of the pandemic, people are still encouraged to walk and raise money for Alzheimer's. Money is needed to fight the disease.

We hope you will consider sharing some of your passion and energy for putting an end to this horrible disease. Together we can make a difference in someone else's life and the lives of their family members who are in the fight right with them.



GUEST COLUMN

Risk and fear paralyzing life

BY JOHN PETERSBURG

Last weekend my wife Susan and I celebrated our 12th wedding anniversary by having dinner at Torey's in Owatonna. We spent some time talking to Torey about sales. He shared that it was nice to be open, but business was light as people were still afraid to come out. In the days that followed I reflected on how fear can sometimes paralyze us and keep us from enjoying life.

Today we are living in a unique time with the State of Emergency still in place and a lot of uncertainty about the COVID pandemic. However, we ought not al-

low fear to rob us of our freedoms and rights to happiness. I define fear as being afraid of something that is unlikely to happen and if it did happen, it will not be as bad as I had imagined. Of course, COVID poses a certain amount of risk, but then so does virtually all activities we currently participate in, from driving a car to the common flu. When we live in fear of the "what ifs," we then risk eliminating a "what could be." When we are confronted with something that creates fear, it is important for us to take time to learn the basis for that fear and the actual risks involved.

So what are our risks today? According to the Minnesota Department of Health, in 2017 cancer took 9,759 Minnesotans, heart disease took 8,428, death from a fall 1,200, and the common flu 435. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety statistics indicate in 2018, 27,877 people were injured and 381 people were killed in auto accidents. Now as to COVID, the latest figures indicate that in the first eight months of 2020 a total of 75,189 have been infected and 1,816 have died from COVID. Over the last

SEE RISK AND FEAR, A8

YOUR VIEW

We need stronger building standards

To the Editor:

As a veteran and schoolteacher, I have dedicated my life to serving and protecting. That's why I am speaking up now to support stronger building standards - so Minnesota communities can withstand a future with increasingly severe weather and flooding.

Flooding has now become the costliest and the most frequent natural disaster we face. Sadly, too often it is folks in rural communities and People of Color who experience the worst of these devastating floods - because their communities have not

seen the same level of resources or planning to keep them safe.

That's why we need Congress to require tougher building standards that meet future flood risk, especially where public tax dollars are being spent. This would ensure that buildings are elevated, roads built out of the floodway, storm sewers that can handle larger rainfalls, and critical infrastructure like hospitals, schools and fire stations protected from future flooding.

Research shows that stronger building standards are fiscally smart, that for every dollar spent on resilience it saves society

\$5-\$7. It would also create more jobs, boost economic recovery following a disaster, and strengthen communities who may be struggling. It's no wonder recent Pew polling found 85% of Americans back stronger building standards.

Congress should act now. Minnesota Reps. Emmer, Phillips and Craig all serve on key U.S. House committees and thankfully have shown support for legislation to address severe weather and flooding. Their bipartisan leadership on building standards would be applauded. Alec Timmerman St. Paul

Making digital enhancements to be more reader friendly

Some changes have taken place over the past few weeks with our digital presence in an effort to make things more reader friendly.

After several years of having a joint website with our sister publication, the Dodge County Independent, we have decided to give each newspaper its own website once again. Readers can now find out current information and stories at www.SteeleCountyTimes.com. For those who want to access Dodge County news, go to www.DodgeCountyIndependent.com.

For those who read the entire newspaper online through our E-Edition, the access for E-subscribers has not changed. Just follow the same format as you always have.

The reason for the change is that the capacity of our website often made it difficult to get information from both counties onto the same website. We are regularly overflowing with information from both areas, which is a good thing. But then comes the challenge of having a spot to put it all.



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

Without totally revamping the entire website or building a new one, which can be pretty costly, we decided to stick with the same company we have been utilizing for several years and offer separate websites.

We also wanted to give each newspaper its own identity. We were able to use the name of each newspaper in the web address so it should be easy for readers to find news from either county.

Our goal as it has always been is to serve readers with breaking news and a sampling of other stories from our newspaper each week. We don't put everything on the website unless you subscribe to our E-edition.

We are still in transition with separating the websites so just

bear with us for a few weeks while we get the kinks worked out. As with any project, there are some obstacles that have come up along the way, but we are working through them.

I also want to make sure our readers are aware of our e-blast service, which sends notices to your email when there are breaking news stories or other important information people want to get out in a quick manner. Just contact our office and provide us with your email and we will get you on the list. This is a great way for you to stay up on current situations going on in the area. You don't have to wait until the print edition comes out, which sometimes can be up to seven days from the time an event happens.

As always, if you have any comments or suggestions on how we can improve our service, please let us know. We are here to serve you in the best possible manner at the most affordable cost that we can.

It's time for you to go in hot pursuit of checking out our old website with a new name.

He was a pioneer in the transplant area



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

When he walked the halls of the University of Minnesota Hospital, people would step aside and greet this giant of a man.

Wearing his white physician's coat, Dr. John Najarian would return the greeting with a wide smile. "How are you today?" he would say in a professional, guttural voice as he mingled with transplant patients.

Dr. Najarian, a pioneer in organ transplants at the University of Minnesota, died of natural causes on Monday, Aug. 31 at age 92.

Our daughter Tammi was a pediatric patient at the University of Minnesota Hospital, being treated for a liver disease called Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis (PSC).

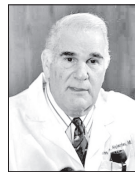
That was our link to Dr. Najarian since he spent much of his time in the pediatric unit of the University of Minnesota Hospital. My parents were also close friends of a University nurse who worked closely with Dr. Najarian. She called him her hero.

Tammi was diagnosed at age 14 with her liver disease and told she would likely be a candidate for a liver transplant in the next few years. She went

down that path and finally had her first transplant at age 22.

Through Tammi, we were somewhat connected with Dr. Najarian. He was not one of her main doctors but he did stop by her bedside on occasion.

Dr. Najarian was concerned for all of his patients and also for other patients awaiting a transplant, whether it be for a liver or a kidney. Dr. Najarian was indeed a leader in performing transplants.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dr. John Najarian was one of the most highly respected transplant surgeons in the nation.

He was the head of surgery at the University of Minnesota from 1967 to 1993. Dr. Najarian died on Aug. 31, 2020 at age 92.

As Tammi awaited in the transplant section of the hospital, we all became quiet when we heard the voice of Dr. Najarian. He was making his rounds and checking on his patients and others.

Najarian spearheaded experimental lifesaving transplants for adults and children.

He was well known for his research in immunology, helping create a rejection drug called ALG.

Dr. Najarian always had his patients' best interests in mind, even when he helped create the drug called ALG. That led to some controversy as he was indicted on a charge of distributing ALG before it was federally approved.

Najarian was later cleared of doing wrong with the ALG drug. He did lose his position as head of surgery at the University, however.

No longer the head of surgery, Najarian continued his life saving efforts at the U.

Najarian was born in Oakland, Calif. to American immigrants. He studied medicine at the University of California, Berkeley, where he was also an offensive tackle for the college's football team. He played in the 1949 Rose Bowl.

Joining the University of Minnesota, Najarian served as chairman of the department of surgery from 1967 to 1993.

Wikipedia says Najarian was the author of nearly a thousand articles in the medical literature.

He was a founding member of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons and served as its fourth president. His trans-

SEE HE WAS A PIONEER, A8

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

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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	
2020-3 state awards 2019-3 state awards 2018-6 state and 1 national awards 2017-2 state and 3 national awards 2016-3 state and 6 national awards	2015-7 state and 4 national awards 2014-3 state and 3 national awards 2013-7 state and 2 national awards 2012-2 state awards 2011-4 national awards
(Awards presented by the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Association)	

4-Hers show virtually at state level

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Showing at the Minnesota State Fair was out of the question for hundreds of 4-Hers across the state this year because of COVID-19. But they still had the opportunity to show, though it looked very differently than it has in the past.

Hannah Parrish of the Owatonna Victory Boosters quickly found

that out. She won a trip with her performing arts speech, which she recorded on video and submitted to the state for virtual judging. She entered a four-minute humorous interpretation speech called, "Seriously Cinderella is so annoying."

Unlike the judging she has done in the past, there was no in-person conference with the judge and other 4-Hers. Despite

no conference judging, Parrish earned a blue ribbon for her efforts.

Not being able to go to the State Fair this year was "pretty sad," Parrish confessed. This year would have been her third trip to the State Fair. "I get so much inspiration from seeing all the other projects," she said. And, she quickly added, "I love the fair food."

Parrish got a taste of in-person judging at

the Steele County 4-H Show, even though that was also very different. Along with there being no county fair, 4-Hers were allowed into the exhibit area one at a time with their face masks in place. The 4-H members also had to follow social distancing guidelines and sanitize their hands, chairs and the table after showing. "They did a very good job making sure everyone was safe," she said.

Besides taking part in performing arts, Parrish also showed her 5-year-old Border Collie dog, Colbie, on the county level. During the summer, she usually practices obedience at least once a day. She attended obedience training once a week.

With both shows behind her, it's not hard for Parrish to pick her favorite way of showing. "I still prefer to do it in person," she said. "It's another chance to get up with your friends."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hannah Parrish enjoys her pet Colbie. She showed the Border Collie in the 4-H dog show last month.

Parrish, who has been in 4-H for five years, plans to continue with the program. "It's very fun, virtual or not," she says. Next year she hopes to explore the photography project.

Asked about her favorite experience in 4-H, Parrish said, "I

just really enjoy the county fair. All the new people you get to meet."

She credits her parents, Dianna and Chad, with getting her into 4-H. "I have enjoyed it ever since," she said. Parrish is in eighth grade at Owatonna Middle School.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

With the county fair being canceled, this is how 4-H projects were judged this year in Steele County. Hannah Parrish of Owatonna, far left, engages in a conference with a judge over one of her projects.

COUNTY OFFERS: help for hurting businesses, nonprofits FROM A1

and nonprofits. "But it's some support," he said. "This is on top of other funding they have received," he added.

The grant application period will run until Oct. 2. The county will award grant funds and notify businesses during the week of Oct. 12. The funds will then be dispersed within three business days.

In addition to the county grants available, Steele County is

also partnering with the cities of Medford, Ellendale, Blooming Prairie and Owatonna to supplement their individual business grant programs with county CARES funding, Golberg said. To date, the county has earmarked \$500,000 for cities in the county, including \$430,000 for Owatonna, \$34,000 for Blooming Prairie, \$23,000 for Medford and \$13,000 for Ellendale.

However, Golberg said those figures are fluid at best and could change. "We just took a stab at the figures because we had to get going," he explained. He noted the county is on a short time-span to use the funds.

Golberg admitted he does not think the county can spend all of the \$4.5 million it has received in CARES funds. The \$500,000 that has been ear-

marked for the individual cities will come out of the \$4.5 million. Depending on need and demand in the coming weeks, more money could be shifted to help businesses on top of the \$500,000 already going to the cities, he said.

The county, Golberg said, is still trying to determine how to spend the remaining \$4 million. He said there are internal expenses the county has incurred

from COVID-19, but he does not have a total of what has been spent.

"We are trying to get it out to the communities," said Golberg of the CARES money. He added he wants the funds to stay in the county provided they are for eligible expenses without having to send them back to the federal government.

Golberg said he has no idea what to expect from the business grant

program. "We want to let everyone know that we have it," he said. "We hate to find someone in October who missed it."

For Steele County grant applications and program guidelines, visit the county's website at www.co.steele.mn.us or call 507-444-7400. Businesses looking to get assistance should contact their respective city government entities.

Minnesota applies for lost wages assistance

Gov. Tim Walz announced that the State of Minnesota applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) program.

When implemented, LWA will provide a temporary additional \$300 a week benefit to Minnesotans receiving unemployment benefits.

To be eligible, an applicant must have a weekly unemployment benefit amount of at least \$100 and must be unem-

ployed due to COVID-19.

"When the additional federal \$600 weekly benefit ended in late July, hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans who remain out of work were affected," said Walz.

"Without additional federal benefits, families are struggling to pay for basic necessities. We must use every resource at our disposal to help Minnesotans through this pandemic."

"The Lost Wages Assistance program provides much-needed

emergency help, but it is not part of a comprehensive package to help workers and businesses struggling as the pandemic continues," said Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan.

Lt. Gov. Flanagan continued: "We hope that our federal partners will be able to come together to provide the well-planned and thorough relief Minnesotans and other Americans need."

"DEED has already completed all the necessary work to ensure we

can make payments as soon as we get funding transferred from the federal government," said DEED Commissioner Steve Groves. "We know Minnesotans are anxious to receive these supplemental payments, and we are doing all we can to make that happen as quickly as possible," Groves added.

Once FEMA approves the state's application, the U.S. Department of the Treasury will transfer funding to Minnesota. The Unemployment

Insurance program will begin to pay benefits when the funding is received. LWA benefits are retroactive to the week ending August 1, 2020. The first three weeks for which the state will make LWA payments to eligible applicants are July 26-Aug. 1, Aug. 2-8 and Aug. 9-15.

The date of initial LWA benefit payments is dependent on the transfer of funds from the U.S. Treasury. If the state receives approval quickly, it could start is-

suing the first payments to applicants at the end of the week of Aug. 30 or the beginning of the week of Sept. 6.

Those currently receiving unemployment benefits do not need to reapply or do anything other than complete their weekly benefits request to receive the additional \$300 a week.

DEED Unemployment Insurance will review all payment requests made for the

SEE MINNESOTA APPLIES, A8

Hy-Vee celebrates National Family Meals Month

Hy-Vee, Inc. celebrates National Family Meals Month this September with resources, solutions and giveaways that will bring families together for mealtime in unique ways in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Created by the Food Marketing Institute (FMI), National Family Meals Month is an industry-inspired movement to raise consumer awareness of the health and societal benefits of sharing frequent family meals. Research shows that children who share regular family meals typically display better grades, improved nutrition, stronger family relationships and higher self-esteem, and they are less likely to use drugs and alcohol.

While it's often difficult for families to find time to sit down and enjoy a meal together due to busy schedules, this year has proven unique due to COVID-19. Now,

more families are cooking and eating meals at home, and Hy-Vee is committed to bringing them together around the dinner table by making mealtime even easier.

Throughout the month, Hy-Vee is providing tools to help families have at least one more meal together each week. Hy-Vee's support of National Family Meals Month includes the following (additional announcements will be made throughout the month of September as well):

A fun sweepstakes will be held that will give families the chance to participate in a 90-second shopping spree to win free groceries plus the opportunity to earn an additional \$1,000. The shopping spree events will be held in select markets in celebration of Hy-Vee's 90th anniversary and

National Family Meals Month. All events will take place before store hours where employees and participants will wear masks and maintain social distancing to keep everyone safe. Information on how to enter will be shared on Hy-Vee's Facebook page and website.

Contactless drive-thru giveaways offering free Hy-Vee Mealtime dinners will be held in select markets. Approximately 500 meal kits that serve 4-6 people will be given away at each event to help bring families around the dinner table as well as help those who might be financially burdened due to COVID-19.

Kids can eat free with each purchase of an adult entrée every day in September at all Hy-Vee food service departments, as well as Wahlburgers at Hy-Vee and Hy-Vee Market

Grille locations. Get one free kids meal with each purchase of a select adult entrée. Valid for dine-in & carry out or delivery from hy-vee.com/mealtime. Delivery where available. Valid for children ages 12 and younger.

Daily recipes, weekly meal ideas and grab-and-go dinner options will be offered on Hy-Vee's social media platforms to make mealtime easier. The Hy-Vee KidsFit social media platforms will share videos and resources to encourage kids and parents to stay active and make healthy choices together.

A digital Family Cooking Guide containing themed recipes will help support various dietary needs and lifestyles. This resource is available on hy-vee.com/familymeals.

Live cooking demonstrations with Hy-Vee dietitians will

take place each Sunday at 5 p.m. (CT) on the Hy-Vee Facebook page. Viewers can participate in the Q&A session and enter for the chance to win prizes.

Free, virtual family friendly health and wellness classes led by Hy-Vee dietitians will help educate children and adults on how to manage healthy lifestyles.

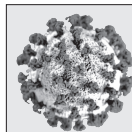
Wear a mask in public spaces.

Get tested if you have any symptoms.

Answer if your health department calls.

mn MINNESOTA

STAY SAFE MN



COVID-19 UPDATE

World.....26,400,000
Deaths.....870,000
Recovered.....17,600,000

U.S.6,170,000
Deaths.....187,000
Recovered.....2,310,000

MN.....78,175
Deaths.....1,865
Recovered.....28,205

Steele.....449
Deaths.....2
Recovered.....348

Dodge158
Deaths0
Recovered.....126

AS OF SEPT. 4, 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.

Nexus Family Healing selected as operations partner for new crisis center

The Southeast Regional Crisis Center (SERCC) Executive Team — with representation from Olmsted and Goodhue counties, Mayo Clinic, Olmsted Medical Center, the southeast chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and local health care plans — recently cast a unanimous vote to select Nexus Family Healing as the operations partner for the Southeast Regional Crisis Center.

The Crisis Center will serve all of southeast Minnesota, including Steele, Dodge, Waseca and Mower counties. It is expected to open in 2021.

Nexus Family Healing has a long history of responding to the most severe mental and behavioral health needs of communities throughout Minnesota, allowing strong relationships with referring agencies, school systems, community partners, and others to innovatively meet the needs of the clients it serves.

Nexus Family Healing is nationally



This is a rendering of what the new Southeast Regional Crisis Center will look like. It's currently under construction in Rochester and will serve all of southeast Minnesota, including Steele, Dodge, Waseca and Mower counties.

recognized as a progressive leader in youth and family healing and as experts in the field of behavioral health. Nexus Family Healing is accredited by the Council of Accreditation (COA) and Joint Commission (JC) — both independent accrediting organizations — which affirm that all facilities in the Nexus Family Healing network meet the highest standards of care, training, privacy, health, and safety.

In its proposal to be the SERCC operations partner, Nexus Family Healing presented a true partnership with regional partners to provide the right kind of care for individuals

experiencing mental health crises. The selection team noted that was critical and illustrated that Nexus will operate the SERCC with the collaborative spirit regional partners see necessary to ensuring quality service.

Nexus Family Healing's proposal also outlined an extensive history of providing services in diverse areas of mental health. They showed enthusiasm and a willingness to look creatively at serving communities across southeast Minnesota.

"We are excited at the prospect of working with our new operational partner, Nexus Family Healing, and

greatly looking forward to the excellent care and services they will provide to the people of our region," said Mayo Clinic Psychiatrist and Chair of the SERCC Executive Team Bruce Sutor, MD. "This is another important milestone in the innovative collaboration bringing Minnesota State Senator Dave Senjem's vision of the Southeast Regional Crisis Center to life."

"We are proud to be chosen for this critical community initiative," said Nexus Family Healing Vice President of Strategy and Service Development Margaret Vimont. "The innovation and dedication the community partners

CRIME BRIEF

Fleeing cyclist found hiding behind a tree

A fleeing motorcyclist tried to hide from police in Owatonna, but it didn't work and he was arrested.



Marquise Rolbiecki

The Steele County Attorney's Office has charged Marquise Rolbiecki, 26, of Beck with fleeing police in a motor vehicle, which is a felony.

During the early morning hours of Aug. 30, an officer attempted to stop a motorcycle for a lane violation. As the officer tried to make the stop, the cyclist turned into an apartment complex on 22nd Street NW, drove through tall grass and took off at

a high rate of speed.

The officer lost sight of the motorcycle near North Cedar Avenue and 24th Street NW.

Police began searching the area on foot and found Rolbiecki behind an evergreen tree near a pond. Rolbiecki matched the description of the fleeing cyclist and had the key to the motorcycle in his pocket, police said.

Police also found the motorcycle in a nearby swampy area. In an interview with police, Rolbiecki indicated he fled because he was "scared and panicked."

have shown in getting to this point has been inspiring and impressive. We are pleased to contribute our commitment to provide effective mental health interventions when and where people need them most."

Groundbreaking for the SERCC began in June 2020. Staff from Nexus Family Healing are expected to be onboarded in the winter and spring of 2020 and the SERCC is expected to open in the Spring of 2021.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Aug. 24 — 30:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Luz C. Hernandez Zarate, 21, Austin, invalid license, \$175; Matthew T. Holland, 35, Ellendale, hands free violation, \$125; Alana M. Iaquinto, 17, Farmington, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$115 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Bradley D. Jurgensen, 28, Mason City, IA, revoked license, \$275; Elizabeth J. Quinn, 72, Golden Valley, speeding, \$135; Ronald F. Wiborg, 76, Rosemount, speeding, \$215.

MN STATE PATROL

Augusta H. Boyer, 18, Waseca, speeding, \$215; Sheri A. Carr, 28, Waseca, seat belt, \$100; Michael C. Davis, 59, New Hope, speeding, \$135; Luis E. Duarte, 28, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; William R. Floyd, 36, Chicago, IL, speeding, \$125; Triston J. Garbe, 23, Maplewood, speeding, \$115; Andrea D. Guzman Garcia, 23, Savage, speeding, \$115; Eh K. Htoo, 20, St. Paul, permit violation and speeding, \$165; Dylan S. Hulbert, 28, Waseca, seat belt, \$100; Derek J. Landmark, 37, Coon Rapids, speeding, \$115; Miranda J. Lynch, 23, Washougal, WA, seat belt, \$100; Malcolm D. McPeak, 17, Eden Prairie, speeding, \$135; Ajaan O. Moalim, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Haley N. Nordstrom, 20, Rochester, speeding, \$115; Amanda L. Paulley, 26, Cannon Falls, speeding, \$135; Autumn L. Petersen, 20, Aztec, NM, speeding, \$115; Bo Reh, 16, Johnston, IA, speeding, \$215; Sergio R. Rejnoso, 48, Apple Valley, speeding, \$135; Benet W. Ruhlend, 18, Dodge Center, speeding, \$115; Niklas M. Schaaf, 22, Blaine, speeding, \$275; Stephen E. Seidl, 59, Faribault, speeding, \$115; Michael K. Slavik, 42, Hastings, speeding, \$115.

OWATONNA POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Dalton J. Beiser, 15, Faribault, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Luis Casiano, 21, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175; Emily A. Dolezal, 31, Lester Prairie, stalking and restraining order violation, \$131, 30 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, psychological evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Daniel A. Garcia, 21, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175; Jason D. Hall, 35, Elk River, revoked license, \$275; Tyler M. Harris, 18, Owatonna, stop sign, \$125; Khadija A. Hussein, 41, Owatonna, permit violation, \$125; Mercedes T. Kubat, 24, Ellendale, failure to yield, \$125; Jose Martinez-Rodriguez, 35, Dumas, TX, speeding and no insurance, \$335; Michael T. Rissler, 51, Owatonna, stop sign, \$125; Edward E. Singletary, 57, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, \$131, 3 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, obtain permission to leave the state and 3 years of supervised probation; Katrina S. Swenson, 36, Owatonna, expired tabs and improper information on license, \$125.

STEELE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Zachary M. Ahrens, 18, Owatonna, criminal vehicular operation, \$381, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, maintain employment, chemical dependency evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Casey T. Balasky, 25, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Samuel C. Carlson, 26, Eden Prairie, revoked license and careless driving, \$375; May J. Coe, 18, Ellendale, speeding, \$115; Mark D. Graif, 66, Owatonna, burning of rubber, \$275; Grant M. Gregoire, 33, Owatonna, DWI and possession of marijuana, \$150, 90 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend MADD impact panel,

psychological evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation; Jeannie L. Joslyn, 27, Hartland, speeding, \$215; Harold J. Lambert, 33, St. Louis Park, possession of marijuana and DWI, stay of adjudication, \$75, 25 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, obtain permission to leave the state and 3 years of supervised probation; Samantha J. Lippert, 24, Faribault, DWI, \$400, 2 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 2 years of supervised probation; Juan B. Luna Navarro, 34, Medford, speeding, \$115; Asha A. Muhamud, 29, Faribault, permit violation, \$125; Sat L. Moo, 19, St. Paul, seat belt, \$100; Absalom Mukibi, 29, North St. Paul, speeding, \$125; Andrew J. Pirkl, 17, Hope, speeding, \$115; Kelly N. Raskovich, 31, Bloomington, speeding, \$135; Adjan N. Schrom, 19, Oceanide, CA, speeding, \$115; Eric T. Smith, 35, St. Paul, restraining order violation, \$125, 32 days in county jail, community service for indeterminate and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Ely H. Strunk, 21, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$115; Cory W. Wageman, 25, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$115; Cory J. Wageman, 20, Blooming Prairie, stop sign, \$125; Jesse R. Wiesner, 22, Rochester, speeding, \$125.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele CountyBLOOMING PRAIRIE
POLICE

Aug. 28 **Suspicion:** Police responded to suspicious activity in the 500 block of Highway Ave. S. at 1:20 a.m. and the 400 block of Highway Ave. S. at 3:34 p.m.

Aug. 29 **Crash:** At 6:09 p.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred in the 300 block of Highway Ave. S.

Aug. 31

Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Highway Ave. S. and 3rd St. SE at 1:17 p.m. They issued a citation to one of the drivers.

OWATONNA POLICE

Aug. 28 **Fraud:** Officers took fraud reports in the 2200 block of 46th St. NW at 5:04 a.m. and the 2700 block of 3rd Ave. NE at 11:04 a.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of McKinley St. SW at 10:18 a.m.

Theft: At 10:51 a.m., identity theft report was reported in the 500 block of 14th St. NE.

Shoplifting: At 12:52 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 2000 block of Cabela Dr. NW at 4:37 p.m.

Trespassing: Officers responded to a subject trespassing in the 2000 block of Cabela Dr. NW at 4:37 p.m.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 200 block of 18th St. SW at 7:04 p.m.

Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity at 24th Ave. SW and Bridge St. W. at 9:10 p.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 1800 block of Hartle Ave. SE at 9:28 p.m.

Aug. 29 **Disturbance:** Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1900 block of Hartle Ave. SE at 5:53 a.m.

Theft: At 9:25 a.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 700 block of South St. E.

Harassment: At 9:45 a.m., a harassment incident occurred in the 300 block of 16th St. NE.

Shoplifting: A shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 1:35 p.m.

Fight: Officers responded to a fight in the 100 block of Bridge St. W. at 10:55 p.m.

Aug. 30 **Pursuit:** Police pursued a subject at 22nd St. NW and Cedar Ave. N. at 4:38 a.m.

Threats: Police responded to a subject making threats in the 100 block of 18th St. SE at 3:26 p.m.

**STEELE COUNTY
SHERIFF**

Aug. 28 **Theft:** Deputies took theft reports in the \$100 block of 168th St. SW in Berlin Township at 10:04 a.m. and the 12800 block

of 52nd Ave. SW in Berlin Township at 11:24 a.m.

Littering: Littering incidents occurred in the 5000 block of 8th St. SW in Meriden Township at 10:55 a.m. and at 26th St. NW and 52nd Ave. NW in Deerfield Township at 1:56 p.m.

Crash: At 3:47 p.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred in the 1800 block of 38th Ave. SW in Owatonna Township.

Aug. 29 **Theft:** Deputies received a theft report from the 4500 block of County Road 45 N. in Clinton Falls Township at 12:17 a.m.

Littering: At 7:58 a.m., a littering incident occurred in the 6000 block of 42nd Ave. NW in Deerfield Township.

Off Road: A vehicle went off the road at 37th Ave. SW and 81st St. SW in Somerset Township at 8:03 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 8600 block of 37th Ave. SW in Somerset Township at 3:02 p.m.

Aug. 30 **Suspicion:** Deputies responded to suspicious activity in the 2600 block of 69th St. NE in Madford Township at 8:26 a.m.

Property: At 1:35 p.m., stolen property was recovered in the 2300 block of Hill Dr. in Owatonna Township.

ARRESTS

Steele County

**STEELE COUNTY
SHERIFF**

Nicole Marie Whipple, 32, arrested at 6:15 p.m. Sept. 1, warrant arrest, \$10,000 bail.

Jamoni Raekwon Blackstone, 24, arrested at 12:52 a.m. Sept. 3, felony extradition hearing, body only.

COURT NEWS

Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Aug. 23 — 30:

DODGE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Kathleen M. Cain, 52, Dodge Center, DWI,

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Should Seniors Consider a Reverse Mortgage Now?



Dear Savvy Senior,
What can you tell me about reverse mortgages? The coronavirus damage to my retirement account has me considering it but want to make sure I know what I'm getting into.
Cash-Strapped Senior

Dear Cash-Strapped,
Massive job losses, a volatile stock market and low interest rates caused by the coronavirus pandemic has caused many cash-strapped retirees to consider a reverse mortgage. But there's a lot to consider to be sure it's a good option for you now.

Let's start with the basics.
A reverse mortgage is a unique type of loan that allows older homeowners to borrow money against the equity in their house (or condo) that doesn't have to be repaid until the homeowner dies, sells the house or moves out for at least 12 months. At that point, you or your heirs will have to pay back the loan plus accrued interest and fees, but you will never owe more than the value of your home.

It's also important to understand that with a reverse mortgage, you, not the bank, own the house, so you're still required to pay your property taxes and homeowners insurance. Not paying them can result in foreclosure.
To be eligible, you must be 62 years of age or older, own your own home (or owe only a small balance) and currently be living there.

You will also need to undergo a financial assessment to determine whether you can afford to continue paying your property taxes and insurance. Depending on your financial situation, you may be required to put part of your loan into an escrow account to pay future bills. If the financial assessment finds that you cannot pay your insurance and taxes and have enough cash left to live on, you'll be denied.

Loan Details

Around 95 percent of all reverse mortgages offered are Home Equity Conversion Mortgages (HECM), which are FHA insured and offered through private mortgage lenders and banks. HECM's also have home value limits that vary by county but cannot exceed \$765,600.

How much you can actually get through a reverse mortgage depends on your age (the older you are the more you can get), your home's value and the prevailing interest rates. Generally, most people can borrow somewhere between 50 and 60 percent of the home's value. To estimate how much you can borrow, use the reverse mortgage calculator at ReverseMortgage.org.

To receive your money, you can opt for a lump sum, a line of credit, regular monthly checks or a combination of these.

But beware the reverse mortgages aren't cheap. HECM loans require a 2 percent upfront mortgage insurance payment, plus an additional 0.5 percent annual charge, on top of origination costs and lenders' fees. Any amount you borrow, including these fees and insurance, accrues interest, which means your debt grows over time.

To learn more, read the National Council on Aging's online booklet "Use Your Home to Stay at Home" at NCOA.org/home-equity.

Also note that because reverse mortgages are complex loans, all borrowers are required to get counseling through a HUD approved independent counseling agency before taking one out. Most agencies charge between \$125 and \$250. To locate one near you, visit Go.usa.gov/u2H, or call 800-569-4287.

Other Options

If you have a short-term need for cash, there are other options you should look into. For example, many low-income seniors don't realize they qualify for the earned income tax credit, a refundable tax break that can put cash in your pocket. You also could use BenefitsCheckUp.org to search for financial assistance programs you may be eligible for.

Another possibility is a regular home equity loan or line of credit. This type of borrowing requires you to make payments, and lenders can freeze or lower limits on lines of credit, but the borrowing costs are much lower.

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. 14, 2010

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

The athletes of the week are Kendra Boecker – for the second meet in a row she led the cross country with the best time. Luc Zeller was perfect 4 for 4 passing and 101 yards in the Blossoms romp of Randolph.

Blooming Prairie first grader, Remington Peterson racing Go-carts is amazing. In his first-year racing in the area, he has taken home many trophies and the respect of his peers. He is the son of Noah and Heather Peterson. They run every weekend all summer. His favorite thing about racing is being able to spend time with friends. In total, Peterson has won six third-place trophies, three second-place and his first first-place on September 1 in Waseca.

20 Years Ago

Sept. 14, 2000

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Even though the football Blossoms were outplayed by CFW last Friday, they were able to come up with big plays and turn what seemed like a certain loss into a win with a fumble recovery and Kyle Verley's 97-yard run for the go-ahead touchdown. The volleyball team showed some signs of life in their last outing as well and game experience is beginning to help them play much better. Also, in cross country, Anthony Nelson came away with a win at Hayfield last week.

Zachary Hanson, son of John and Lois Durley of Blooming Prairie and Daniel Hanson of Rochester, received his master's Degree in English Literature at

Mankato State University. He is currently teaching composition and English literature at Mankato.

50 Years Ago

Sept. 13, 1970

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE

KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Mr. and Mrs. Odin E. Toquam will be honored at an "open house" Sunday, September 27, on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary, at First Lutheran Church, Blooming Prairie. Friends and relatives are invited to call from 2 to 4 pm. The "open house" is being sponsored by the honored couple's children.
Capt. Michael McFarlin and family arrived from Virginia at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice McFarlin, last week. They will be visiting until October 17th after which Capt. McFarlin will be leaving for Vietnam.

Blooming Prairie FFA exhibitors brought home several high honors from the Minnesota State Fair, Howard Bode, advisor reported. Among the awards received was the champion swine herdsman trophy. The coveted award is presented to the chapter with the best display of hogs, the conduct and attitude and the overall appearance of the exhibits.

75 Years Ago

Sept. 13, 1945

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

The American Legion Auxiliary met on Sept 6 for the installation of officers was held with Mrs. Albert Hunter, past-president, acting as installing officer. The officers installed were: Mrs. Ray Herron, President; Mrs.

Oscar Bakke, Vice-President; Mrs. Howard Bishop – Secretary; Mrs. N. A. Olson – Chaplain; Mrs. Alice Herron – Historian; M. E. W. Ditleyson – Sergeant-at-arms.

Myron Anderson, high school athletic coach announced the following football schedule for the coming season. The opening game is here with Leroy on Sept. 21. Following with New Richmond, Ellendale, Hayfield, Adams, and Austin. Dodge Center cancelled due to the fact that the school has no athletic instructor.

Pvt. Newton Thurston, who arrived Sept. 1 from Europe where he had been stationed for the past 11 months, spending furlough with his wife and children, Gene and Gail. At the end of his furlough he will report to Camp McCoy for reassignment.

Owatonna Photo News –

31 Years Ago

Sept. 7, 1989

TOM SHEA, PUBLISHER

Enrollment in the Owatonna Public Schools has increased nearly 5% over last year, said Elmer Reseland, Public Relations Director. Schools opened for another year on Tuesday. The biggest increase came at the junior high level where a 7% increase in students was noted over last year.

A number of local residents brought home purple ribbons from the Minnesota State Fair; here are a number of them: Shelly Busho, Karl Harris (Tom), Kay Arthur, Therese Dissen, Tim Brekke, Amy Maixner, Athena Gasner, Brian Sreen, Carmen Fetterly, Richie Kuocera, Dawn Stransky, Reid Stransky, Brian Broulik, Randy Krohnberg, Jeanette Fetterly, Deann Hermel, Kelly Katzung and Tracy Maas.

MnDOT Adopt a Highway program celebrates 30 years

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is thanking thousands of Adopt a Highway volunteers across the state – and encouraging others to sign up to clean a section of roadway – in celebration of the program's 30th anniversary.

More than 3,800 volunteer groups, ranging from four to 25 people, spent an estimated 272,000 hours cleaning roadway ditches in 2019, picking up 40,000 bags of trash across Minnesota. This translates into an estimated \$7 million in realized benefit for the

state. Of the current roster of volunteers, 475 groups have been in the program all 30 years including Saint Mary's University of Minnesota in Winona.

"The Adopt a Highway program is proof that Minnesotans care about their state. Volunteers picking up litter along our roadways also allows our MnDOT crews to focus on other work, like repairing guardrail, mowing and keeping highways safe," said Ann McLellan, statewide Adopt a Highway manager. "It is a win-win situation

for all involved."

Volunteers are asked to commit to the program for at least two years and pick up litter on both sides of the roadway a minimum of twice a year. The average length of an adopted roadway is two miles.

MnDOT provides volunteers with safety training, including new COVID-19 guidelines, as well as trash bags and safety vests. The agency also picks up the filled bags of litter, and posts signs along the adopted segments of roads with the names of the volunteer groups.

"We still have more than 630 segments available for adoption. Most of those areas are in Greater Minnesota, but we also have many open sections in the Twin Cities as well," said McLellan.

The Adopt a Highway program began in 1990 after then-Governor Rudy Perpich visited Texas to speak with Lady Bird Johnson about the state's anti-litter campaign called "Don't Mess with Texas." For more information about MnDOT's program, visit www.mndot.gov/adopt/.

MARY'S ANGELS FROM A

to walk. Everyone is encouraged to walk in their own neighborhoods this year.

Behne, who lived in Hayfield, died in 2012 after battling Alzheimer's for about six years. It was devastating to her family.

"It got really bad around 2010," said Barry Thompson of Owatonna, Behne's son-in-law. "She didn't know anybody for the last two years. It's horrible."

Thompson recalls Behne getting so frustrated with herself because she couldn't remember things. It's not uncommon for Alzheimer's patients to remember things from 40 years ago and have no recollection of anything currently. "She would say, 'why isn't this thing working,' pointing to her head and meaning her brain," he said. Behne's husband took care of her for

about three years before he couldn't handle it any longer. They lived on a farm outside of Hayfield. She often would go outside and wander around without knowing where she was. The family had to take the car keys away so she couldn't drive any more. "She was not happy at all when that happened," Thompson said. "She did not understand what she was going through."

After her husband couldn't care for her, Behne ended up in a memory care unit for Alzheimer's patients. At one point, she didn't even know her husband. Thompson said she referred to her husband "as her dad." In the end, she showed no emotion and was unable to communicate with anyone. Thompson said it was especially difficult for the family to see Behne over the last

year of her life. "All she did is sat in a wheelchair. She could not eat. We could not hold a conversation with her," he said. To make matters worse, he added, sometimes she would take all of her clothes off in front of people.

Behne's family didn't know anything about Alzheimer's when she had been diagnosed. "People thought it was part of being old age," Thompson said. "Until you have a family member go through it, you don't understand how bad it can be."

Mary's Angels have turned Behne's legacy into one about helping Alzheimer's patients. The family has been involved in the walk for eight years and they have been holding a benefit in Behne's honor for the past five years. Last month the family had a large benefit in Hayfield that raised more than \$5,000.

In addition to the benefit, Mary's Angels also hold wine tasting fundraisers throughout the year and they are at the Owatonna Farmer's Market every Saturday. They also have placed chain existers for people to make donations in Owatonna, Hayfield, Dodge Center and Mankato. In all, they have raised about \$14,000.

Asked what fuels his passion to continue doing benefits, Thompson replied: "Watching my wife's mom go through this. It's really difficult to watch. It's hard to watch what they used to be and what they are now."

Currently, there is no cure for Alzheimer's. Thompson said he continues raising money in hopes of finding a cure because he doesn't want his children or grandchildren to go through what Behne or other Alzheimer's patients endure.

Thompson's best advice for families who have a loved one with Alzheimer's is to be patient with them, something his own family struggled with. "Some family members had more patience while others argued with her," he said. "Everybody has to be on the same page."

Dealing with Alzheimer's will create tremendous stress on the family, Thompson said. He encourages family members to talk with each other through the ordeal.

Through the efforts of Mary's Angels, Thompson hopes his family is becoming a part of the solution and finding a cure for Alzheimer's or at least slowing it down.

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THE BOLD LOCK OF KOHLER

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The UTVs operated by CFS Co-op.

Matetek developed his love for recreational vehicles after growing up in a family of eight kids on a farm northeast of Owatonna. "My older brothers were always working on something. I followed in their foot steps," said Matetek, who graduated from Owatonna in 2002.

Instead of going to college, Matetek worked for his brother, David, at Claremont Services. "Almost all of us have worked there at one time or another," Matetek commented.

Matetek began working on powersports in 2005 and has worked at a few sports centers and automotive places around Owatonna since that time.

Matejcek moved to his current location on South Cedar Avenue in June 2019. He has about 4,000 square feet for a showroom and shop plus another 2,000 square feet for storage.

He has built his business on a couple of key cornerstones. Matejcek pointed out that most service places and dealerships charge higher rates than what he offers. "I tend to be more competitive and people trust me," he said.

Noting his sales have doubled since last July, the growth of his business has allowed him to hire a full-time

A black and white photograph of two men standing next to a white M2 Powerports truck. The man on the left is wearing a dark polo shirt and light shorts, leaning against the truck. The man on the right is wearing a dark t-shirt and light shorts, standing with his hands on his hips. The truck has 'M2 POWERPORTS' and 'BERKELEY' written on it. The background shows a building with a sign that says 'M2 POWERPORTS' and a sign that says 'BERKELEY' on the side of the truck.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSL

Joshua Matejcek, left, has been operating M2 Powesports in Owatonna since June 2019. Shown with Matejcek is his employee, Matt Gardener, who recently graduated from high school.

employee. In September 2019, Matejcek found Matt Gardener through Owatonna High School's mentorship program. "He graduated this year and I hired him full time," Matejcek said. "He has a genuine interest in this, and I'm trying to teach him everything I can."

Matejcek admits he had a "little bit of a scare" when COVID-19 first happened. But things have turned out well for his business in recent months. "They realized they were stuck at home and not spending money on that vacation so they decided to spend money on their accessories," he said, adding many people are also purchasing new machines.

A frustration Matejcek has experienced with COVID is how it has disrupted his parts supply chain. Right now it can take anywhere from 3-5 days to get parts where it took only one day prior to the pandemic.

This fall Matejcek plans to begin offering E-Mountain bikes, which he describes as high-end bikes costing as much as \$7,000. "I really hope that takes off," he said.

His long-range goal is to become certified to do comprehensive multi-point inspections. They would become a resource for doing inspections for people wanting to buy used machines, Matejcek said.

Besides working on UTVs and other powersports vehicles, Matejcek enjoys riding them in his free time. He especially likes going up to northern Minnesota as well as the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where he has gone on a two-day adventure with a group of 65 others. "It's neat country with the view and water falls," he said of UPM. "You get to see some of those places you don't see every day," he added. Matejcek has already started his two chil-

dren, ages 7 and 9, riding with him. "They have been doing it since they were in a car seat," he said.

He loves riding because "every ride is different where there is always some sort of adventure to be found." While riding in UPM, Matejcek came across a black bear standing in front of him on a trail. "For me, that's how I relax by going out and exploring," he commented.

Matejcek says he enjoys being self-employed. "It's certainly nice to work for yourself," he said. "I like to see the (end) result and control it."

He is focused on providing good customer service. Matejcek has no problem working extra hard and staying late to help customers. "People are looking for loyalty because they have been burned online," he stressed. He added sometimes people are willing to pay more to buy local and get someone to help them.

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Crystal Valley purchases Shell Rock Ag

Crystal Valley, a leading farm supply and grain marketing cooperative in the Upper Midwest, announced that it has acquired Shell Rock

Ag Inc., located in Hayward. Shell Rock Ag, Inc. has provided area growers with agronomic products and services since 2004.

This purchase fits into Crystal Valley's strategy of continued growth in southern Minnesota. With this acquisition, Crystal Valley will have a local presence in Hayward and its surrounding areas. Along with the Hayward purchase, Crystal Valley will lease the Glenville location, which will provide anhydrous ammonia fertilizer for area producers.

"We are excited to welcome the Shell Rock Ag team and bring added value to the business they have built. We are committed to providing Shell Rock Ag customers with the exceptional service Crystal Valley is known for," said Jeff Hendricks, Crystal Valley's Vice President of Agronomy.

"We recognize that growers of the future are going to need resources and technology that we don't currently have. We felt that Crystal Valley was the company best able to provide the high level of service our customers would need to be successful," commented Terry Nelson, owner of Shell Rock Ag, Inc.

Crystal Valley also operates a grain facility in Steele County located in Hope.

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STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS

Minimizer's new home is progressing nicely

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Construction of a new building to be the home in Owatonna of Minimizer's corporate offices and manufacturing plant is "right on schedule," Minimizer officials report.

Minimizer currently operates under three separate addresses and seven different buildings in Blooming Prairie. The buildings are owned by Craig Kruckeberg, former chief visionary of Minimizer.

Minimizer was founded by Dick Kruckeberg over three decades ago.

"The building is progressing nicely and on schedule at its new location at 2701 18th St. SW in Owatonna," says James Richards, Minimizer vice president.

The new Minimizer structure is an 85,000 square foot Engineered Steel building being General Contracted by Benike Construction. The entire Minimizer operations and corporate employees will be moving to the new location.

Richards said contractors were able to get some of the earth work done last fall but Mother Nature interfered and made the project pause over the winter.



This is what the new Minimizer plant looks like as construction progresses at its new location in Owatonna. Minimizer hopes to move its entire operation from Blooming Prairie to Owatonna by February of 2021.

"We were able to start in earnest in mid-April with footing and foundation work," remarked Richards.

As of Sept. 1, all of the steel "skeleton" of the building is up. The roof is two-thirds complete and the majority of the exterior concrete is complete. The interior concrete flooring has also been started.

The plan is to have

all the main exterior work complete and the building fully enclosed by winter. The interior will then be finished over the winter with an anticipated building completion expected by February of 2021.

The advantages of moving to a one-building facility include increased process efficiency with all employees under one roof.

This will leave room for growth in the building and expansion possibilities on the property.

Minimizer currently has nearly 100 employees and all will be moving to the new location in Owatonna.

Minimizer will continue to manufacture and market the products it currently produces. It offers a wide product lineup including truck

essentials such as fenders, lights, slick plates, tool boxes, mud flaps, truck seats, mattresses and floor mats.

"Although leaving Blooming Prairie, the 'hometown' of Minimizer, is bittersweet, the move to a larger unified facility is necessary to fulfill the growth initiatives we have set for ourselves as we are literally out of space in

the Blooming Prairie facilities," Richards stated.

"We will now have the opportunity to have all of our employees in one building and continue to improve our culture," said Richards. "The new facility also affords us the ability to improve our manufacturing processes, product flow, and overall efficiencies," Richards concluded.

Filling the hole



Workers fill a hole with sand to make room for a new on-site fuel station at Cashwise Foods in Owatonna. The station is being constructed in front of the current store. Shoppers will soon not only be able to purchase groceries and liquor at Cashwise, but also fuel. Construction should be completed later this fall.

Premier Manufacturing hires new COO

Premier Manufacturing's reputation as the gold standard for trailer coupling components has helped the Oregon-based company land its new Chief Operating Officer.

Matt Weinmann joins Premier with more than 30 years of experience across numerous manufacturing environments.

"I found the opportunity to join a truly customer-focused company known for their best-in-class products very appealing," Weinmann said.

Weinmann has served in a variety of roles over the years, and comes from Testing Machines Inc, where he was president and

VP of Global Operations. Premier Manufacturing was acquired by Minimizer Holdings, LLC of Blooming Prairie in January. The two companies are working to leverage each other's strengths with a go-to-market strategy that satisfies fleets, OEMs and distributors, and Weinmann's experience will help facilitate this expansion.

"My experiences with business integrations and M&A activity will enable me to help drive and contribute to the integration between Premier and Minimizer



Matt Weinmann

to collectively accelerate our one company growth strategy," Weinmann said.

"Our goal is to be the dominant go-to supplier in the commercial vehicle industry for all of our branded portfolio of products," Minimizer CEO Christopher Thorpe said. "Matt will help us get there in transitioning the deep manufacturing knowledge from current president Paul Grycko, as he moves to his consulting and board position."

For more information about Premier Manufacturing, visit www.premier-mfg.com.

South Country names new medical director

A new medical director has been chosen for South Country Health Alliance serving low income families and disabled residents.

Dr. Timothy Miller has joined the alliance based in Owatonna.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Timothy Miller to our South Country team," said South Country CEO Leota Lind. "He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience but even more importantly shares our team's passion and commitment to serving our members. We are fortunate to have the time to allow our current Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Brad Johnson, to work with Dr. Miller, to continue the ongoing work and future initiatives for us."

Dr. Miller joined the South Country team on July 6, with the intent to fully transition into the medical director role by October. Miller, a doctor of internal medicine, has over three decades of clinic and

hospital experience, and senior leadership experience with the Aspen and Allina Health Systems.

South Country began the search for a new medical director after Dr. Johnson announced his intent to retire by the end of 2020. Affectionately known as "Dr. Brad" by South Country staff, Johnson joined South Country in 2014 and has provided strong executive leadership from his extensive health care experience.

"Dr. Miller's clinical knowledge, vast experience and passion for optimal patient care provides an excellent fit with the mission and vision of South Country," said Dr. Johnson. "I feel fortunate to be able to turn to Dr. Miller and I am confident South Country has strong medical leadership for the future."

"Brad and I have worked together for many years, and Brad's been an important mentor to me in my leadership roles. I've had a lot of experience as a provider, but this



Dr. Timothy Miller

is my first involvement inside a health plan," said Dr. Miller. "What strikes me is the extraordinary connection South Country has with the counties and your members. It is so completely unique to me from anything I've experienced on the provider side. The culture of your organization is different from anything I've worked with before - it really does add value to every member's life. It is my privilege to join you in that work."

South Country serves Steele and Dodge counties along with seven others. It provides a joint effort to support accessible, quality health care through partnerships with community services and local health care providers for Minnesota Health Care Program enrollees.

For more information about SCHA, call 1-866-722-7770 or visit www.mnscha.org.

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OBITUARIES

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landibo@gmail.com

Karen Johnson, 78, Austin

Karen Marie Johnson, age 78 of Austin, passed away Thursday, Sept. 3, 2020 at Samaritan Bethany Home on Eighth in Rochester.

Karen was born Dec. 23, 1941 in Minneapolis. She was raised by her parents Harold and Lillian (Hornung) Olsen. Karen graduated from Albert Lea High School before attending post-secondary classes in business.

Karen married Dale Johnson on May 21, 1960 at the First Methodist Church in Albert Lea. Karen and Dale farmed their entire married life. Karen also worked in bookkeeping and did some cashier work for a local grocery store. Most recently she was working at Fleet Farm in customer service.

Karen was a member of Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church. She enjoyed spending her time watching her children exhibit registered Holstein and watching her son Joey showing his Belgian Draft Horses. She collected Dairy Cattle Memorabilia and American Postoria Glassware. Karen will be dearly missed by all that knew and loved her. Survivors include her son, Robert (Kathie) Johnson of Sioux City, Iowa, daughter-in-law, Brenda Johnson of Blooming Prairie; twin sister, Kathy Palmer of Rochester; step-granddaughter, Kendall (Taylor) Hansen of St. Ansgar, Iowa; step-grandson, Kyle (Priscilla) Diggs of Austin; four step-great-grandchildren, Jolene and Blair, Kyle and Avery; nephews, Jimmy (Roxanne) Palmer and Brian Palmer.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harold and Lillian Olsen; her son, Joel "Joey" Johnson; brother-in-law, Erwin Palmer.

A private funeral service will be held on Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church with Rev. Leandra Anderson officiating. Visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2020 at Worlein Funeral Home in Austin. Interment will follow the service in Red Oak Grove Cemetery.

Memorials in Karen's memory can be directed to the family or to recipient of donor's choice. Worlein Funeral Home of Austin is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.



Karen Johnson



RE/MAX Venture has earned the Miracle Office distinction for their support of the Children's Miracle Network. RE/MAX includes back row, from left: Matt Gillard, Joe Falteysek, Matthew Kern, Janita Paulson and Grady Strand; front row: Mary Reese, Melinda Seykora, Rachel Springer-Gasner and Deb Gillard. Not pictured: Cole Orlovski.

RE/MAX Venture earns Miracle Office distinction

Just eight months into the year, RE/MAX Venture of Owatonna has earned the distinction of CMN Miracle Office for 2020.

Through the Miracle Home and Miracle Property programs, RE/MAX Associates make a donation to Children's Miracle Network Hospitals after each residential and commercial transaction. RE/MAX Venture donations benefit Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare in Minnesota.

"The Miracle Home program is a simple yet impactful way to help raise awareness and funds for CMN Hospitals and Clinics in Minnesota," said Matt Gillard, broker and owner of RE/MAX Venture. "We are proud to have 100% agent participation, with several agents reaching Miracle Agent status and RE/MAX Venture achieving Miracle Office distinction in 2018, 2019 and now 2020."

Gillard added, "Sixty-two children enter a CMN Hospital for treatment every minute. As business leaders who believe in making

a difference and giving back, it's vital that we show our support for local kids and their families."

RE/MAX Miracle Agents, Offices and Teams have made a significant impact on the lives of sick and injured children treated at CMN Hospitals across the U.S. and Canada by raising more than \$165 million for 170 member hospitals. RE/MAX Miracle Affiliates are dedicated supporters who pledge to make a donation after each closed property sale. Over the years, their support of CMN Hospitals has helped provide life-saving treatments, advanced medical equipment and valuable research and education. The local hospitals determine the best way to allocate those funds based on local need.

RE/MAX Venture homes on remax.com are flagged as Miracle Homes with a CMN Hospitals yellow & red balloon icon.

For more information about the Miracle Home program or RE/MAX Venture, please visit www.remax.com or call (507) 413-8100.

BOOK NOOK

Consider the library in the new school year



NANCY VAILANCOURT

School is in session, whatever that means for your family this year! Be sure to consider how the Blooming Prairie Branch Library can help with your educational needs at this time. Whether your student is going to school each day of the week, going in person two days with three days online learning, fulltime online learning, or homeschooling, we have resources that can help you and your student.

First, if you have specific items that are needed for classes, give us a call at 507-583-7750 or email info@bpl.org. We can find the books you need and set them aside for

you. If we don't own them, we will try to request them from other libraries. You can also look for your own books and reserve them via the card catalog at www.owatonna.info. Either way, we will call you when the items are ready to pick up.

Second, your library card is your ticket to online treasures! September is National Library Card sign-up month. If you don't yet have a library card (gasp!), we can fix that in a matter of minutes. Some of the online resources include: Learning Express, Mango Languages, Hoopla, encyclopedias, Consumer Reports, eBooks, eAudiobooks, and much more. Over the next months, I will be highlighting those databases. If you have questions, be sure to call, email or drop in to the library between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Let the library help you have a great school year, no matter your own situation!

ELLENDALE COUNCIL: FROM A1

Council member Stephanie Kibler said the council interviewed two applicants for the open position. Besides Froman, Derek Bartsch was considered for the vacancy. "Both did a great job in the interviews," Kibler commented.

In choosing Froman, Kibler said the council was impressed with her volunteer service in the community. Froman has served on the Council with his term expiring in December. "All of us were impressed with her enthusiasm and energy she brought," said Kibler.

Froman has lived in Ellendale for about four years. She currently is employed at Bio-Plastics Solutions in Ellendale. Her boyfriend, Logan Busho, serves as the Ellendale fire chief.

She will appear on the ballot in November when voters will be asked to elect two council members. Derek Bartsch and Duane Goebel will join Froman on the ballot. Goebel currently serves on the council with his term expiring in December.

Matthew Bartsch will be the lone candidate for mayor as the current mayor Russ Goette did not file for re-election.

HE WAS A PIONEER: FROM A2

plant surgery fellowship program trained many prominent transplant surgeons.

He did pioneering work in kidney transplantations in children during the 1970s, developing the anti-rejection drug anti-lymphocyte globulin, in pediatric liver transplantation and in xenotransplantation of porcine islets for Type 1 diabetes.

One of Najarian's most famous medical operations was a liver transplant, which occurred at the University of Minnesota in 1982, and had infant Jaime Fiske as his patient.

Dr. Najarian was no doubt a mentor to Tammi's liver transplant doctors. Tammi was diagnosed with her liver disease by

Dr. Debbie Freese and Dr. Harvey Sharp. Dr. William Payne later became her surgeon.

Our family was so grateful to the University of Minnesota Hospital and to Dr. Najarian's leadership in providing hope for people who needed organ transplants. Tammi was one of those patients who was given another chance at living because of the efforts of doctors like Dr. Najarian.

Tammi didn't make it, dying in surgery for a second liver transplant on Aug. 29, 1995. She was 22.

Our prayers go out to the family of Dr. Najarian. We are thankful for having seen this pioneer walk the halls of the University of Minnesota Hospital.

RISK AND FEAR: FROM A2

few months, the projected annual death rate has fallen to just a little more than the death rate for falls. The CDC recently reported that only 6% of reported COVID deaths were strictly related to COVID, the remaining 94% had underlying contributing conditions.

What this tells me is that I am six times more likely to die of cancer or heart disease than I am of COVID and just as likely to die of a fall. For my age group, I have the same chance of dying in a car accident as from COVID. So why is there more fear of COVID than from these other risks? Could it be the newness of COVID? Maybe fear is just as contagious as COVID.

Let's be clear, COVID does pose a great threat to certain sectors of our population, particularly the elderly, and we should be doing all we can to protect our most vulnerable from contracting the coronavirus.

That said, what I know of my fellow Minnesotans is that we are a hearty and resilient people. Not prone to jumping to conclusions or running from the unexpected. We are used to taking care of ourselves and are accountable for our actions. I have faith that we will get through this together. It will take supporting each other, hope in the future and an unending trust in God to turn this current struggle around. I will be choosing not to cover in fear of the unknown. Instead I will take precautions when needed and I will continue to shop at local businesses and support our local industries. I am hoping everyone will join me.

John Petersburg is a state representative for District 24A, which covers Steele and Waseca counties. Petersburg, who lives in Waseca, is running for re-election this fall.

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



MINNESOTA APPLIES: FROM A3

week of July 26 going forward and automatically pay those applicants who are eligible for LWA.

FEMA is authorized to spend up to \$44 billion from the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) for the LWA program. The program will end no later than Dec. 27, 2020. However, the program may end earlier if any of the following occur:

FEMA expends the \$44 billion from the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) account.

The total balance of the DRF account decreases to \$25 billion. Legislation is enacted by Congress providing supplemental federal unemployment compensation or similar compensation.

DEED anticipates the program will last

between five to eight weeks. Applicants can visit <https://www.uimn.org/lwa> for more information. Minnesota leaders carefully reviewed information from FEMA and the U.S. Department of Labor to help ensure that the state would not face unforeseen costs related to the program. The federal deadline to apply for LWA is Sept. 10.

DEED is the state's principal economic development agency, promoting business recruitment, expansion and retention, workforce development, international trade and community development.

For more information about the agency and its services visit the DEED website or follow DEED on Twitter.

ELLENDALE Cafe

offers:

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HOURS

Tuesday & Wednesday - 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thursday-Saturday - 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sunday - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thank you for your support during this difficult time.

Ellendale Cafe

203 5th Ave W. • Ellendale • 507-688-3621

Catch us on Facebook!

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE August 1968



Fort Campbell, Kentucky

Larry J. Wenzel and Dennis P. Fisher.
Larry went to Vietnam and Germany while Dennis went to Korea and Vietnam.

Loving one another for who they are



**Pastor
Andrea
Anderson**

RED OAK GROVE
LUTHERAN
AUSTIN

There is a cat that comes to church every Sunday. Loudly and lovingly it approaches the crowd. You hear this cat long before you see it, but you know what is in store. Meowing all the way to church, this cat arrives with forceful head bumps and demands for your attention. This calico kitty is full of absolute love for the people that it witnesses. This cat does not stop with undivided love towards every member of the congregation. It is also a source of laughter and joy in the middle of some tough times. Even last week at our outdoor worship, it made a dramatic entrance by jumping

on the keyboard making us all laugh in the middle of a sermon.

Often, we would see this cat as a nuisance and frustrating. It can be annoying that the cat is interrupting the service or drawing attention away from the message of the day. It is a disruption from a service that is already forcibly different these days. Sometimes it could feel like another thing that is out of place. I know some Sundays it feels like that cat can talk louder than most people. Yet, there is a charm about the disruption from a cat on a Sunday morning because

there are reminders that this cat can carry.

This cat reminds us that it is okay to laugh and to alleviate some of the heaviness that surrounds us much of the time right now. It reminds us that being present is sometimes exactly what we need from one another. It also reminds us of the joy of love. We know from the Biblical texts that love is the most important commandment that we are called to. We share a love of God and a love of our neighbors. Loving our neighbors is not always easy, but it is necessary to our communities.

Yes, we have a cat that

comes to outside church every Sunday. It is a loving and friendly cat. A cat that loves all people no matter who they are. A cat that serves as a reminder to the Christian community and beyond of the call to loving one another for who they are. The cat reminds us of that need for connection with one another whether it be virtually, socially distanced, or through writing a letter. There is a place for marvel over the church cat from the young and the old. I am reminded in these moments that we come together in love to share love, and occasionally, to pet an extremely adorable cat.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

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

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

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

FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA
434 First St. SW, Blooming Prairie
Senior Pastor: Rev. Heidi Heimgartner
Associate Pastor: Rev. Mike Valerius
507-583-6421
firstlutheranbap.com
Worship Service: 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMC
2500 7th Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Greg Schlicker
507-451-4123
goodshepherdowatonna.com
Indoor Worship:
Sundays 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Online Worship: Sundays 9 a.m.
or anytime on website

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

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

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

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA
30456 Mower-Frederick Road, Austin
Leandra Anderson, Pastor
507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000

www.rogulutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

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

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

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

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

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
507-451-2165
Worship: 9 a.m. outdoors only,
weather permitting

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

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMC
108 Third Ave. SW, Medford
Pastor Mark Biebigasser
507-451-0447
Worship: Sunday 9 a.m. in Sanctuary
Wednesday 6:30 p.m. outdoor south
side lawn, bring lawn chairs

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMC
57043 306th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Kruemark
507-567-2272

Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA
7128 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday
8 a.m. outdoors only, weather
permitting

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

CATHOLIC

CHRIST THE KING
205 Second Ave. NW, Medford
507-451-4353
Father James Starastnick
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Mass: 5:30 p.m. Mon. & Fri.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 SW First St., New Richland
Father Brian Mulligan
507-234-6244
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9948 SE 24th Ave. Owatonna
Father John Wilmut
507-583-2784
www.litomyslsees.com
Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m.
Litomysl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other month
Litomysl Summer Festival has been
cancelled for 2020

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

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

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

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna

Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Father James Starastnick
Deacon Patrick Fagan
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat.
Daily Mass:
8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri.
(Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday)
Adoration Chapel available
Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Key lock required after hours or
weekends

CHRISTIAN

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

PENTECOSTAL

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

METHODIST

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

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

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST
815 E. University, Owatonna
Rev. Lisa J. Vick
Pastor
507-451-4734
www.owatonnamc.org
Traditional Worship (Pathways):
9 a.m. Sunday

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY
130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna
Pastor Keith Hasdell
507-215-2349
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun.
Reformers Unanimous Meetings:
7 p.m. Friday

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

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

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

ELEVATION NORTH
2002 Austin Road, Owatonna
Pastor Doug Jones
507-563-3099
www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com
Worship (English): 10 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Worship (Spanish): 2 p.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Spanish Evangelism & Prayer:
7 p.m. Friday

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

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

MENNONITE

PRAIRIE MENNONITE
13638 75th St., Blooming Prairie
Bishop Dennis Martin
507-583-7532
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Wed.

MORMON

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

PRESBYTERIAN

ASSOCIATED CHURCH
Presbyterian Church (USA) and
United Church of Christ
800 Havana Road,
Owatonna 507-451-1546
www.associatedchurch.org
office@associatedchurch.org
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.
(Fellowship, Church School, and
Adult Discussions follow)
Wednesday Activities: Sept. - May
(see website for schedule)

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

P.O. Box 66, Claremont
507-528-2320
Pastor Douglas Walters
10 a.m. Worship

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Brian Beavers
651-455-1033
Worship: 11 a.m. Sat.
Bible Stud: 9:30 a.m. Sat.

UCC

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

BAPTIST

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

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

BETHEL BAPTIST
1611 Hennick Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Michael Simmerman
507-451-8548
www.bethelowatonna.com
Worship: 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
VICTORY LIFE
105 2nd St. NE, Geneva
Pastor Diane Butler
507-402-0960
Worship on Sundays
Prayer Service: 7:30 a.m.
Church Service: 9:30 a.m.
Children's Church: 9:45 a.m.

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Chalk Your Walk

Folks echo creativity in first ever chalk contest

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The first and hopefully annual Chalk Your Walk event, sponsored by the Blooming Prairie Youth Club and Nanner Kruckeberg, was a grand success. The Chalk Your Walk event ran from Aug. 27-30 and drew 30 entrants.

Object of the event was to place a design on their residential sidewalk, city sidewalk or business sidewalk. Driveways were also accepted as chalk targets.

First place winner receiving \$100 in BP bucks was Abby Aldrich. She drew some Disney characters including Mickey Mouse and a Frozen character named Olaf. She also drew Spongebob and a montage of the moon, stars, the sun and clouds. A flamingo was also on her artwork.

Second place winner was Alicia Ptacek. She won \$50 in BP bucks. She drew a colorful design on a long driveway. The message was "Be Kind" and "Be Happy."

Third place winner



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Abby Aldrich won \$100 in BP bucks for placing first in the first annual Chalk Your Walk event sponsored by Nanner Kruckeberg and the Blooming Prairie Youth Club.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Seven-year-old Mila Meres created a variety of drawings with her sidewalk chalk. She was part of a Blooming Prairie Youth Club chalk walk team.

was Kay Zellmer and she won \$25 in BP bucks. She drew a large heart with flowers on the

top left. The message was "Love one another" and "You are my Sunshine." Blooming Prairie Youth Club members were out in force Friday, Aug. 28 leaving a chalk imprint on sidewalks through town.

This was a free event to all in the community and "a great way to spread positivity around town," says BP Youth Club staffer Alicia Ptacek. Youth Club members and their advisors came up with their own theme for a sidewalk drawing. Some drew Disney characters, others drew a monkey and even a cow, both wearing a COVID-19 mask and another artist drew a hopscotch pattern.

Serenity Zirngible, 9, said art makes her happy. She did a drawing entitled Eat Healthy. She had a pig in the middle and it was surrounded by bananas, apples, strawberries, oranges, carrots, watermelon, lemons and grapes.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Alicia Ptacek, far right, poses with her Blooming Prairie Youth Club team that placed sidewalk chalk art on the sidewalk near the BP Dairy Queen and Eagle Insurance.

GREEN ALS BENEFIT: FROM A1

at 507-456-3234 or Jean Worrell at 507-383-0633. For monetary donations, contact the Commerce Bank, P.O. Box 148, Geneva, MN 56035.

The disease has caused numerous complications in Green's life. Many things people take for granted, such as eating, drinking, walking and even breathing have become difficult for Cindy, says benefit organizer Allie Larson.

Green now uses portable oxygen and has not been able to work any longer because of the disease. She has lost most of her speech and her dexterity. She uses a phone speech assist application to communicate and also uses a "boogie board" on which to place messages.

ALS is a rapidly progressing neurological (nervous system) disease. It belongs to a group of disorders known as motor neuron diseases.

Life has also changed for Cindy's husband Frank, their son Mason and their daughter Kessie. Mason lives at home with his parents and is a second assistant manager at Casey's in Ellendale. Kessie lives in St. Cloud. She has cystic fibrosis.

Green doctors at the ALS Clinic in Rochester. The clinic is part of the Mayo Health System. "They're wonderful people," says Frank.

Green worked as an expeditor for Viracore of Owatonna and logged 28 years with the glass manufacturer before she was forced to quit. "It's been a roller coaster ride for us," admits Frank, who says he is an arm's length away from Cindy during the day. He is employed at Geneva Meats.

"She's a wonderful woman," Frank says with emotion in his voice. "Time is precious," he says. "She rules," he emphasizes.

Frank and Cindy have been avid campers in the recent past. They also love to fish.

The Greens are very appreciative of the support received from their



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Cindy Green of Ellendale has that infectious smile. She is fighting ALS disease, a rapidly progressing neurological (nervous system) disease.

church, United Methodist Church of Ellendale, and from many friends and family members. Friends built a ramp for her and helped move a bedroom downstairs, Frank said.

The Greens have been made aware of the many items donated for auctions at the benefit.

Here's some of the items: afghans, quilts, bean bag game (Tony Holmes), two-night stay at Chase on the Lake in Walk-

er, five auto details (by Frank), wine, signed Harrison Smith Minnesota Vikings mini helmet, generator, two \$50 gift certificates for Dragon's Lair Tattoo Parlor and many other items.

In March Frank planned to make 50 dozen cookies for the benefit, chocolate chip, sea salt caramel and white chocolate raisin. He hopes to follow this commitment on Sept. 26. Cindy became famous for her chocolate covered cherries, says Frank.

ALS attacks nerve cells, called motor neurons, that control voluntary muscles (the muscles we are able to control). This leads to progressive weakness and disability.

When these cells die, voluntary muscle control and movement are lost. People with ALS eventually lose their strength, ability to move their arms, legs, and body, and the ability to breathe on their own. In most cases, their minds remain sharp and alert.

While ALS is a rare disease, it is one of the most common neuromuscular conditions. Sometimes ALS is inherited, but in most cases, there is no known cause. ALS is not contagious.

The ALS Association reports that:

- 6,000 people per year are diagnosed with ALS in the U.S.
- 20,000 people in the U.S. may currently have ALS
- 5% to 10% of ALS cases are inherited
- 90% to 95% of ALS cases have no clearly associated risk factors and their family members are not at increased risk for developing it.

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Owatonna councilor elected president of Hwy. 14 Partnership

Owatonna City Councilor Kevin Raney has been elected to serve as president of the U.S. Highway 14 Partnership at the organization's annual meeting Aug. 26, which was held virtually over Zoom.

As president, Raney will direct the Partnership's efforts to advocate for funding to complete the expansion of U.S. Highway 14 to four lanes between Rochester and New Ulm as well as additional safety measures on dangerous portions of the highway.

Raney was elected to lead the Partnership by

fellow city, county and business leaders who live or work along U.S. Highway 14. Members of the Partnership also elected Fred Froehlich, mayor of Nicollet, to serve as vice president.

Raney previously served as Vice President of the organization, and replaces outgoing president Mankato City Councilor Karen Foreman, who led the organization for three years. Foreman will continue to serve on the Partnership's Board of Directors as past president.

"Kevin will be a fantastic leader for our

organization," Foreman said. "He has been actively involved in the Partnership for several years and his efforts as vice president have been instrumental to many of our recent accomplishments. I'm confident that he is the right person to help ensure that our existing projects remain on track and new safety concerns get the attention they deserve."

The U.S. Highway 14 Partnership has achieved incredible success in recent years. The group successfully advocated for state



Kevin Raney

funding to complete the expansion of Highway 14 from two to four lanes between Owatonna and Dodge Center, a project which is currently under construction and expected to be completed next year.

It also worked closely with lawmakers and the Minnesota Department of Transportation to pass legislation to enable a funding plan that will combine state and federal resources to finally fund the completion of Highway 14 between New Ulm and Nicollet.

Raney is looking forward to leading the Partnership through the 2021 legislative session. In addition to ensuring that existing construction projects are funded and completed,

the organization is also focused on emerging safety issues along the corridor such as improving dangerous intersections near Byron and Eagle Lake.

"We have never been closer to achieving our goal of traveling on a four-lane highway all the way from Rochester to New Ulm," Raney said. "I'm excited by our recent progress, but the job's not done yet. We need to keep fighting to make sure Highway 14 is safe for all of the businesses and families who depend on it every day."

Circle of Hope



The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group has launched its Field of Flags once again along Hwy. 218 near Main Street. The group is honoring fighters, survivors and the fallen of cancer. See Page B10 for more details on the group's effort.

Little Theatre casts Hall of Famers

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

In August the Little Theatre of Owatonna named 12 local residents to its Hall of Fame. These new members included directors, actors, and backstage personnel who have helped to contribute to the theatre over the years.

Gail Zollner, who has worked on 17 productions, was among the list of inductees. "I started helping when my daughter was in a play," Zollner recalls. "Sometimes I helped with makeup, hair, costumes, or props or painting."

It wasn't long before Zollner found herself on stage, sometimes accompanied by her daughter or her husband Mark. "For me it's a family thing, and LTO is such a really fun place to sing and dance and meet people," Zollner said.

All three Zollners were cast in past productions including "A Christmas Carol" and Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing." She will be joining her husband onstage again in the upcoming production of "Cat's Cradle."

"Cat's Cradle was left in place and that's going to be the fall production," she explained. "I was glad when I heard that there was a part open for me. It's going to be a lot of fun to be out and on stage with people."



Gail Zollner of Owatonna has been inducted to the Hall of Fame for Little Theatre of Owatonna. She has performed in past plays, "Murder Inn and 'The Producers'."

"LTO is a great place for the community."

Gail Zollner
LTO Hall of Famer

Although being involved in each production is a fun experience, there is still a lot of work these volunteers put in to ensure that the finished product is perfect. "There's about six weeks of practice with four nights each week," Zollner said.

"It's great when you practice it enough and get close enough and then there's dress rehearsals with families

there and it's basically like a mini crowd," she said. "Half the fun of being in a play is practicing on stage and all of the fun is being with the people."

Each play involves a group of passionate people who help to put it on. "They're completely a team effort and there's teamwork before, during, and after the lights go up," Zollner explained. "For instance, for Sweeney

Todd someone had to make all the pies."

"Opening night is full of lots of energy and nervousness and fun," she said. "On The Producers I had six costumes and I had less than a minute sometimes to get into a new outfit before the next scene."

Zollner has acted in a range of genres, from musicals to comedies to murder mysteries. However, she tends to gravitate towards roles meant for character actors. "My kids tell me all of my characters have little oddities," she said with a laugh.

"There's so many ways to participate," she said of all the different roles available both on and off stage. "LTO is a great place for the community."

On her being named to the Hall of Fame, Zollner was predictable humble. "I was really surprised," she said. "I thought that it was very cool. It's an honor."

The fall production of "Cat's Cradle" will open the second week of October with safety regulations in place. The play will run until October 18.

This year's other Hall of Fame inductees are Brenda Hager, Todd Hale, Jeffrey Jackson, Naomi Jirele, Deb Seath, Jerry Shore, Kevin Steinbauer, Dianne Suarez, Glenice Swenson, Drew Whitehead and Bill Wood. There are currently 94 members of the Hall of Fame.

Fair Board recaps food fest, talks reelection

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

A total of six fair board directors are up for reelection this year. Directors Mark Ditlevson, Glen Meier, Rick Ellingson, Jim Abbe, Brent Svenby, and treasurer Tim Arlt will all be nominated as incumbents this year.

The Steele County Agricultural Society will hold official elections during its annual meeting on Nov. 5 and vote on the candidates up for reelection. Bruce Busho, Sandy Jirele, and Gene Fisher comprise the nominating committee.

During this month's regular meeting, the board recapped the August events, including Food Fest, which was held last month on the grounds as a mini-fair of sorts. "What an awesome event and what awesome participation with all 17 of our directors helping," manager Scott Kozelka said of the festival.

Some of the vendors gave donations to the fair after the success of the event. "With the donations that we've received so far along with the entry fees we're right around \$11,500 in the positive after the bills have been paid," Kozelka told the board.

According to Kozelka, many vendors have already reached out and offered their gratitude for the board and staff for hosting and organizing the event in such a short time. Kozelka thanked all of the directors and all those who donated time and products to make the event a success.

Fitting with the theme of wrapping last month's events up, the board also discussed the 4-H showcase held last month on the grounds. "You have no idea on the faces of the kids that were able to come up here to show just how much it meant to them," livestock director Sandy

SEE FAIR BOARD, B2

Ellendale offers COVID assistance



Steele Talkin'
STEPHANIE KIBLER

The Ellendale City Council recognizes the hardship our business and nonprofit community has faced since the onset of COVID-19. The city has received money through the CARES Act and Steele County and has determined it would be best used in supporting Ellendale businesses and nonprofits. The grants will be awarded through the Ellendale Economic Development Authority (EDA).

The Ellendale EDA CARES Act Small Business and Nonprofit Relief Program was created to provide economic support to small businesses and not-for-profits to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures.

Funds totaling \$50,000, including \$13,000 from Steele County, has been allocated to this program. 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. Funds may NOT be used for the same expenses for which your business received any other source of federal funds. Any expenses paid with SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) or EIDL Advance, State of Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Small Business Relief Grant, Steele County Small Business Relief Program, or other grant or forgivable loan are ineligible for these funds.

Eligible Expenses Include: commercial rent or mortgage payments; utility payments; inventory costs; paying other direct business-related bills; costs incurred to purchase supplies including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); technological improvements to online platforms essential to operations during COVID-19; professional services acquired to create preparedness plans; outdoor business operations (incl. the cost of constructing outdoor facilities either temporary or permanent to allow service to customers).

SEE ELLENDALE OFFERS, B2

Moderate rainfall helps growth of local crops

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Moderate rainfall in the last few weeks has helped mature soybean and corn crops in the area, which includes Steele, Dodge, Mower and Freeborn counties. The last most significant rainfall came early Monday morning, Aug. 31. Farmers reported about 1.4 inches of rain. A little over an inch of rain also was recorded

on Thursday, Aug. 27. "We were getting a little bit dry and those small rainfalls definitely helped advance the growth of our crops," remarked a local farmer. At this time of crop maturation, lack of rain reportedly would affect the beans more than the corn. "It could be a very good corn crop this year," said an optimistic local farmer. Farmers in the

four-county area of Steele, Dodge, Mower and Freeborn said they are much more fortunate than farmers in the Cedar Rapids, Iowa area. On the eastern edge, damage was reported to be "pretty ugly." Corn was severely damaged by strong winds and rain. Many farm buildings were also wrecked in Iowa. Back to Minnesota, it is reported that the beans are beginning

to turn. Corn is also starting to dent. Soybean harvest usually begins before the corn harvest, thus it may start in mid-September. The corn harvest usually begins in early October but some farmers believe corn could be ready by mid-September, the same time as the beans. The United States Department of Agriculture Crop Report says corn has reached the dough



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
It could be a "good corn crop" this fall, report area farmers from Steele, Dodge, Mower and Freeborn counties. Here's a fast maturing corn field. The soybeans are also maturing rapidly.

stage or beyond on 97% of the acres, remaining well ahead of last year and nine days ahead of the 5-year average. Corn acreage was 63% at or beyond the dent stage, 16 days

SEE MODERATE RAINFALL, B8

ELLENDALE OFFERS: FROM B1

ers with proper social distancing; Outdoor seating and seating areas established because of COVID-19 (incl. the cost of conversion of an area, parking lot, or open area, adjacent to a dining facility to accommodate additional outdoor seating; signage and markings relating to the operation of the business in accordance with the COVID-19 guidelines (e.g. "masks required" signage, social distancing signage/markers, etc.); checkout counter modifications such as the installation of screens and buffers to allow for proper social distancing practices; HVAC improvements/air

purification systems/etc. purchased to prevent the spread of COVID-19; other necessary, non-payroll expenses.

More information and the application form can be found online at www.ellendalemn.com/covid-19.

Stephanie Kibler serves on the Ellendale City Council as well as executive director of the Freeborn County Historical Museum in Albert Lea. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

FAIR BOARD: FROM B1

Jirele said. "Especially those that are graduating out of 4-H, this was their last year and it meant a lot for them to be able to come up."

"It was a totally different atmosphere this year having only one species come up each day, it was much more relaxed," she continued. "The families took their time and had a picnic lunch by their trailers. It was a different atmosphere but it was very much appreciated."

While the board and the University of Minnesota Extension office had a short time to make each event a reality, both went off without a hitch and ended up being successful mini-replacements for this year's fair.

"People said how fortunate we were to be in Steele County and have the Extension staff that we do that took on this challenge and the fair board that supported it the way they did," President Dan Deml said of the effort that went into both events.

Some of the ongoing work on the grounds was also touched upon, including the electrical overhaul. Phase one of the overhaul has already begun. "The new panels are up, all of the old hardware and all of the old boards and breakers and plug-ins have all been taken off," Kozelka said, after suggesting that phase one might be finished within the next two weeks.

"The next two weeks you'll see a big difference," he said. The project's main purpose is updating the electrical system on the grounds, in particular the aim is to move the above-ground wiring below ground in order to avoid safety issues.

Although this year's fair was sorely missed by all within the county, the board in conjunction with 4-H and Extension worked their hardest to ensure that some much-needed fun was still had as the month of August rolled by.

ROBOTS JOIN THIS FARM FAMILY THE BALZERS

Robotic milkers have been a key part of the Rick Balzer dairy operation in northeast Steele County for several years. The Balzers were the first farm in the county to introduce robots to do the milking.

The Balzers milk 140 cows on their Merton Township farm, which has been in the family since 1949. Joining Rick on the farm are his wife, Cathy, and his son Scott and his wife Kayle. The Balzers also have three other sons, Brandon, Ross and Reid as well as seven grandchildren. "When God blessed me with four sons, he knew I would need help," said Rick.

For Rick, farming got into his blood at a young age after growing up on the farm with his father. "I wanted to see his legacy continue," Rick says. "I enjoy producing good food for consumers and my animals."

In addition to the milking operation, the Balzers raise their bull calves to sell as steers. They also grow corn, oats, soybeans and alfalfa.

The greatest joy Rick gets out of farming is seeing all of the improvements he has been able to make on the farm. He has also enjoyed raising his sons on the farm. "And now the grandkids love to come to the farm for a visit," he said.

Rick wants the public to know that they take pride in raising quality food. "We also take good care of our animals and land," he said.

Farming, Rick admits, has been extremely difficult in recent years. "Farming is hard these days," he said. "Low commodity prices are the biggest problem. We have to have a certain dollar amount to be able to cover our expenses and it's been tough the last four years."

The weather makes farming challenging, according to Rick. He pointed out in recent years, planting was late, haying was difficult and harvest was a never-ending series of getting stuck. "So far 2020 has been a better weather year. Crop prices could be better, but a lot of it is due to COVID-19."



The Balzer farm family includes, from left: Eva (Reid's wife), Rick, Penny (in front of Cathy), Cathy, Elisa (in front of Scott), Scott and his wife, Kayle, Bailey (Brandon's wife), Claire and Brandon.

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ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS
By Shannan Nordstrom and Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics, I own a 2004 Ford F250 Powerstroke Diesel Truck that is a four-wheel drive. I have been having brake issues for several years. It seems that each time I repair the brake system a new issue arises within a few months. I have had all the brake pads and rotors replaced three times in 100k miles and the rear calipers replaced and then a few months later the front stuck and I had to replace those and the pads and rotors on the front again due to the sticking brakes. Now the rear is sticking and has worn the rear pads and rotors which were new not too long ago and they say I need calipers there too. The hydro booster is also leaking. Are these trucks prone to brake issues?

Conner in Kansas City Missouri
The trucks are not what we would call, prone to issues with brakes. Depending on what loads they pull they can wear brakes, but it sounds like something deeper is wrong. When a brake system is repaired it is important to check all the system and make sure worn parts and parts prone to fail due to overheating when a caliper sticks are replaced. The brake hoses specifically are a must to change when a hose is collapsed inside it will cause repeat failures. Make sure the mechanic working on the truck has checked all these items.

Take care, The Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics, I have a 2016 GMC Sierra Diesel 3500 truck. I bought it from a car lot with only 50k miles and it has no major issues other than the exhaust is missing. It has had the EGR and DPF system deleted and I am being told it must be put back on due to emissions rules. The truck runs great without it but if it must be on there so be it. My question is what should it cost to replace the EGR system and exhaust? was quoted over 8k dollars to do the job by two different shops. Is a used part an option?

Darin in Alpena Michigan
You have a dilemma for sure. If you purchased that truck from a dealer in a state that requires those parts to be on the truck then the first step could possibly be talking to them about making the repairs if they are not allowed to sell a vehicle without operating emissions controls. The next step if you have no recourse there is to get the best deal possible for repairs. These parts are expensive and used parts are very hard to come by as many trucks that have been deleted are now having to be repaired in order to be allowed to drive on public highways. Private owners of the extra parts know they are worth a premium and most used auto parts suppliers are not allowed to sell the parts.

Take care, The Motor Medics



Bruce Freerksen
(507)273-9110
bruce@schaefferslube.com
West Concord, MN



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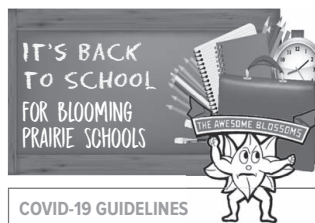
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COVID-19 GUIDELINES

Students Exhibiting Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19

The following guidelines may be implemented **when a student becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms**. Depending on the exact circumstances of a student's illness, modifications may be implemented on a case by case basis.

1. If the student **has not been tested** for COVID-19, they may be asked to stay home from school for 10 days from the onset of symptoms and may return to school once they are fever-free (without the use of fever reducing drugs) and symptom free for 24 hours. Families are encouraged to contact their medical provider to determine the need for testing.
2. If a student **tests negative** for COVID-19, they may be asked to stay home from school until they are fever-free (without the use of fever reducing drugs) for 24 hours and any other symptoms improve significantly.
3. If the student **tests positive** for COVID-19, they will be asked to follow the guidance of the Minnesota Department of Health and stay home for at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms. The student may return to school if it has been 10 days from the onset of symptoms, if their symptoms have subsided, and they have been fever-free (without the use of fever reducing drugs) for 72 hours.

Students Who Have Potentially Been Exposed to COVID-19

The following guidelines may be implemented when a student has potentially come into contact with someone who has or could have COVID-19. Depending on the student's circumstance, modifications may be implemented on a case by case basis. For the purposes of this section, the Minnesota Department of Health defines "close contact" as being less than 6 feet from someone for 15 minutes or more, typically sharing living arrangements with and/or having a close relationship with.

1. If a student has had "close contact" with a known positive COVID-19 case and/or has been notified by the Minnesota Department of Health to quarantine, the student will be asked to stay home from school for at least 14 days from the last contact with the positive case. If the student exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 within the 14-day period, the student should continue to stay home from school and follow the guidelines listed above.
2. If the student has had "close contact" with a suspected positive COVID-19 case awaiting test results, the student may be asked to stay home from school and the family should monitor their health status until the results return. If the results of the "close contact" return as a positive result, the student will be asked to continue to stay home from school and follow the above guidelines. If the result of the "close contact" returns a negative result and the student is feeling well, the student may return to school.
3. If the student has had "close contact" with a suspected positive COVID-19 case who is not being tested, the student may be asked to stay home from school for 14 days from the last contact with the suspected positive case.
4. **If the student has had contact or "close contact" with someone who has had contact or "close contact" with a known or suspected positive COVID-19 case**, the student may continue to go to school but the student must practice social distancing, good hygiene, and continue to monitor their health status often.
5. **If the student has had contact (but not "close contact") with a known or suspected positive COVID-19 case**, the student may continue to go to school but the student must practice social distancing, good hygiene, and continue to monitor their health status often.

NUMBERS TO KNOW

Superintendent's Office Hours

School Days: 8:15 a.m.-4:45 p.m., or appointments by request
The superintendent's office is located at the high school

PHONE NUMBERS

Please follow the directory options given when you dial one of the following:

- High School Office/Superintendent's Office..... 507-583-4426
- High School Fax..... 507-583-7952
- Elementary School..... 507-583-6615

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

On days when it is impossible for the school buses to operate or the weather conditions deteriorate during the school day, a notice will be broadcast over the following radio and TV stations:

- KATE/CPI (AM 1450 & FM 94.9) Albert Lea
- KAUS (FM 100) Austin
- KDHL (AM 920) Fairbault
- KOWZ (FM 100.9) Blooming Prairie
- KRFO/KAT COUNTRY (FM 105 & AM 1390) Owatonna

Masks/Face Coverings Required

Per Governor's Executive Order 20-81, face coverings are generally required for all students (ages 5 and above), staff, and other persons present in any school building, or riding on school transportation vehicles. A mask or face covering can include a paper or disposable mask, cloth mask, neck gaiter, scarf, bandanna, or a religious face covering. A face covering must cover the mouth and nose completely. In addition:

- Students arriving without a mask will be provided with one.
- Students refusing to wear a mask will go to the office; building principals will contact parents.
- Students will be asked to Distance Learn if refusing to wear a mask.
- Those seeking a medical exemption from wearing a mask must provide a doctor's note.

Blooming Prairie Public Schools, with the support of the state of Minnesota, will provide a mask for every student and staff member in our buildings.

The district will provide 2 face masks to staff members. In addition, face shields are available upon request.

Masks/Face coverings are required for all staff and students when:

- Entering and exiting the building
- In the hall or within 6 feet of someone
- In common spaces, bathroom, office, classrooms (moving about)
- Masks/Face coverings may be temporarily removed when:
- Eating and drinking
- Engaging in indoor physical activity (e.g., during recess, after school sports, or when exercising in the gym) where the level of exertion makes wearing a face covering difficult.
- In classes or activities held outdoors if maintaining 6 feet social distancing.
- Engaged in indoor practices or performances involving singing, acting, public speaking, or playing musical instruments where a mask/face covering cannot be used while playing that instrument. Performers should maintain 6 feet or greater of physical distance from others while participating in the activity to the extent possible and should replace face coverings as soon as the activity is completed.

*Masks must meet school policy for dress code.

2020-21 Blooming Prairie School Calendar

September

Tuesday, Sept. 8 – First Day of School

October

Friday, Oct. 9 – Teacher In-service - No School

Monday, Oct. 12 – Parent/Teacher Conferences at High School - 4-8 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 14 – Teacher In-service - No School

Thursday and Friday, Oct. 15 & 16 – MEA - No School

November

Friday, Nov. 6 – End of First Quarter; Teacher In-service (students dismissed at 12:45 p.m.)

Monday, Nov. 9 – start of second quarter

Wednesday, Nov. 25 – Teacher In-service - No School

Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26 & 27 – Thanksgiving Break - No School

December

Wednesday, Dec. 23 – Teacher In-service (students dismissed at 12:45 p.m.)

Thursday, Dec. 24 – Sunday, Jan. 3 - Christmas Holiday Break- No School

January 2021

Monday, Jan. 4 – Classes Resume

Monday, Jan. 18 – Teacher In-service - No School

Friday, Jan. 22 – End of Second Quarter; Teacher In-service (students dismissed at 12:45 p.m.)

Monday, Jan. 25 – Start of Third Quarter

February

Friday, Feb. 12 – Teacher In-service - No School

Monday, Feb. 15 – President's Day - No School

March

Wednesday, March 31 – End of Third Quarter; Teacher In-service (students dismissed at 12:45 p.m.)

April

Thursday, April 1 – Teacher In-service - No School

Friday, April 2 – Monday, April 5 - Easter Break

Tuesday, April 6 – Start of Fourth Quarter

May

Friday, May 28 – Graduation Practice/Last Day of School for Seniors - 12:15 p.m.

Monday, May 31 – Memorial Day - No School

June

Friday, June 4 – End of Fourth Quarter; Teacher In-service (students dismissed at 12:45 p.m.)

Monday, June 7 – Teacher In-service

Blooming Prairie Schools faculty and staff

Blooming Prairie Elementary

Jacob Schwarz - Principal
Laura Beckel - ECSE
Stephanie Adelman - ECSE
Laura Banister - Preschool
Amy Osterander - Kindergarten
Lisa Bruns - Kindergarten
Stacey Busho - Kindergarten
Rhea Carlson - Kindergarten
Emily Voss - Kindergarten
Karlee Ruen - First Grade
Natalie Sorensen - First Grade
Heather Schiller - First Grade
Diane Pfeiffer - Second Grade
Kim Lea - Second Grade
Alexis Shaw - Second Grade
Sara Burkhardt - Second Grade
Erik LaRock - Third Grade
Becky Johnson - Third Grade
Ali Schmidt - Third Grade
Jenna Volgarino - Fourth Grade
Katelyn Miller - Fourth Grade
Haley Haslelet - Fourth Grade
Kayla Harvey - Fifth Grade
Justin Kiehne - Fifth Grade
Denise Hadrath - Fifth Grade
Paul Peterson - Sixth Grade
Matt Kittelson - Sixth Grade
Steve Swenson - Physical Education
Mackenzie Cornett - Special Ed

Christy Harms - Special Ed
Lauren Nelson - ELL
Ross Reishus - Band
Kari Bottin - Music
Heidi Brasher - Music
Tara Gimbel - Rdy. Specialist
Byron Rhodes - Speech
Andrew Hardecopf - Int.
Angie Carlson - Title
Brenda Berg - Library
Kasey Schewe - Library
Amanda Rennie - Nurse

Paras:

Jennifer Johnson, Lisa Kelly, Muriel Leverington, Charlene Loverink, Lisa Oldenkamp, Tina Quail and Amy Simon
Rob White - Para/Custodian
Mike Alvey - Custodian
Todd Nelson - Custodian
Lonna Helling - Elementary Office
Julie Naatz - Elementary Office
Erik Mogensen - School Psychologist
Kristen Romeo - Social Worker

Blooming Prairie High School

Chris Staloch - Superintendent
John Worke - Principal
Alison Mach - Activities Director/Assistant Principal
Chad Gimbel - Accounting/
Business
William Rinkenberger - Agriculture

Nathan Piller - Art
Lauren Nelson - ELL
Catherine Befort - English
Kurt Foster - English/Library
Gina Hendrickson - English
Elenore Jones - English
Jan Flemming - Family and Consumer Science
John Bruns - Math
Briana Goskeen - Math
Lisa Poe - Math
Sara Reinke - Math/Spanish/
Social Science
Ross Reishus - Band
Kari Bottin - Music
Brittany Hoban - Physical Ed/
Health
David Lassahn - Physical Ed/
Health
Jennifer DeWolf - Science
Sarah Oelkers - Science
David Pfeiffer - Science
Cory Hendrickson - Social Science
Ryan Slack - Social Science
Michelle Southworth - Social Science
Jennifer Thomas - Spanish
Ranell Kittelson - Special Ed
Darren Pauly - Special Ed
Ann Stephenson - Special Ed
Stacy Magnus - Sped. Coord.
Mary Worke - Counselor
Erik Mogensen - School Psychologist
Kristin Romeo - Social Worker

Amanda Rennie - Nurse
Lee Peterson - Custodian
John Shoden - Custodian
Rob White - Custodian
Karen Inwards - Para
Anna McIntosh - Para
Kelsey Vanderhorst - Para
Erik Vigeland - Technology
Jan Anderson - 205
Barb Kaplan - High School Office
Tammy Wurst - High School Office

Office

Nancy Clark - District Office
Kari Forystek - District Office

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misgen
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OWATONNA PROUD

B4 | WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

OWATONNA SCHOOLS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Here's how the new school year will look for Owatonna

Grades 6-12 Schedule				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group 1 School In person	Group 1 School In person	Group 1 & 2 Distance Learning & Academic Support Opportunity for students, staff and parents to connect and provide individual and small group support.	Group 2 School In person	Group 2 School In person
Group 2 Distance Learning	Group 2 Distance Learning		Group 1 Distance Learning	Group 1 Distance Learning

In addition to local COVID-19 data, the models that each grade level will use to start the school year take into account the ability to keep students in smaller groups to limit the risk of spread, the value of in-person

learning and the challenges of younger children being home unsupervised. All families were given the option of enrolling in full-time distance learning for the entire semester, which about 20% of our families chose.

Based on Steele County's COVID case rate in mid-August, the schedules above will be used for school start. You can learn more about the district's Safe Learning Plan at www.isd761.org.

Grades E-5 Schedule				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
School In Person	School In Person	School In Person	School In Person	School In Person

Creative space utilization to maximize in person attendance

"The first day of school is just around the corner and I find myself filled with all sorts of excitement. I am excited for laughter to once again fill our classrooms and to watch new friendships form. BIG air hugs to the kindergarten class of 2021. We are excited to meet you!"

Jen Koziolek
McKinley Kindergarten Teacher

Elstad: No barriers Nutrition Services can't overcome

Each month at its regular meeting, the School Board of Owatonna Public Schools recognizes individual students and/or staff members who exemplify the district's mission of inspiring excellence – every learner, every day.

At the Aug. 24 meeting, the Owatonna Public Schools' Nutrition Services department was featured during the Mission Moment Spotlight. In response to the

COVID-19 pandemic last spring, this department pulled together to provide thousands of free meals to children in our community, ages 1-18. Over the summer, they continued to provide free meals and served more than 55,000 meals to kids through "grab and go" stations around the district. That's more than triple the number of meals that were served in the summer of 2019.

Superintendent Jeff Elstad commented about Director of Nutrition Services Sarah Brooks and her response in providing healthy meals to students during a pandemic, saying that "there isn't a barrier she can't overcome." The Nutrition Services department exemplifies Owatonna's mission of inspiring excellence in its commitment to providing a safe and caring community.



Nutrition Services staff packed thousands of meals last spring and sent them to 14 different pick-up locations throughout our community, providing free meals to children ages 1-18.



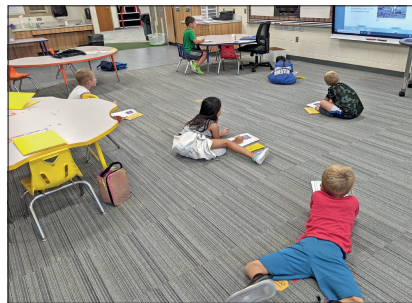
Thank you for your support

Our number one commitment is to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment – for our staff and for our students. We've spent the summer learning from last spring, reviewing state guidance and developing plans for how best to serve our students this fall. We know that things could change at any time, but we are ready with a school start plan, along with options if conditions change.

We are all in this together. It is clear that our local collective effort to contain the spread of COVID-19 will determine whether or not students can attend and remain in school in-person. Thank you for your continued support as a community.

We are #OwatonnaProud!

What summer school looked like



Despite the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting the lives of many, students were able to be together in person for summer school, following a hybrid model of smaller classes that alternated being on-site for two days and virtually for two days. Social distancing was practiced as evidenced by the students in this photo.

Virtual coffee session planned with Elstad

The community is invited to join Superintendent Jeff Elstad for a virtual "coffee and conversation" on Friday, Sept. 11 at 8 a.m. Elstad will provide an update on what's been happening within the school district and answer any questions you have.

RSVP to Sarah Hoffman at shoffman@isd761.org to receive the virtual meeting details. We hope you are able to participate!

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Blossom boys win triangular

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Led by Hosea Baker's third-place finish and by four other finishers in the top 10, the Blooming Prairie High School boys cross country team won a triangular meet Tuesday, Sept. 1.

Baker ran the course in 20:19.5. Other Blossoms in the top 10 were: Luke Larkoski, fourth in 21:25.0; Jesse Cardenas, sixth in 21:28.2; Tyler Forystek, seventh in 21:38.2 and Alex Miller, eighth in 21:38.7.

Pacelli's Jaden Lewis won the boys race in 19:30.1.

Team scores for the boys varsity were: Blooming Prairie, first, 28 points; NRHEG, second, 42 points and Pacelli, third, 59 points.

Other placings for the boys were: Stephan Fennell, 11th; Boone Carlson, 14; Joe Pirkil, 19th; Dylan Johnson, 18th; Alex Riley, 24th; Sam Michaud, 25th and Tommy Donnelly, 26.

Junior Bobbie Bruns was the top finisher for the Awesome Blossom girls runners. She finished sixth in



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The gun has sounded and the Blooming Prairie girls country team is off and running. Bobbie Bruns, a junior, was the Awesome Blossoms' first finishing runner.

25:36.9. Senior Megan Oswald was next for the Blossoms, finishing eighth in 26:27.6. Emily Miller was ninth for the Blossoms in 26:35.3 and Chloe McCarthy was 10th in 26:46.2.

The Blossom girls finished second with 48 points to 30 for Austin Pacelli. NRHEG was

third with 50 points. Two Pacelli girls finished 1-2 in the girls varsity meet. Lexi Lewis was first in 22:45.7 and Kirsten Koopal was second in 22:53.3.

Other finishers for the Blossom girls were: Maggie Bruns, 15th; Emily Anderson, 17th; Ashleigh Albers, 18th;

Haven Carlson, 19th; Rose Michaud, 21st; Lauren Schammel, 22nd; Melanie Winzenburg, 23rd and Anna Pauly, 24th.

In the junior high girls meet, Blooming Prairie's Lila Quail was second in 10:23.7. Rachel Winzenburg was sixth in 13:23.6, Shanna

Halverson finished ninth in 14:50.8, Lily Schammel was 10th in 15:14.4, Anna Haberman was 11th in 15:16.7 and Olivia Gonzales was 12th in 20:08.0.

In the junior high boys meet, BP's Jacob Pauly was second in 8:57.7. Jaxon Harberts finished fourth in 9:54.6,

Jack Bruns was sixth in 10:56.5, Tyler Anderson was seventh in 11:42.2 and Ben Riley was ninth in 13:10.3.

Blooming Prairie's next meets include: Sept. 10 - BP, WEM/JWP and RAACHE at Prairie Ridge CC, 4:30 p.m.; Sept. 15 - BP, USC, Pacelli at BP CC, 4:30 p.m.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Junior Bobbie Bruns of the Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossom runners stretches before participating in a varsity cross country meet Tuesday, Sept. 1.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Gracelyn Anderson, 11, and Nora Anderson, 7, hold up a cheer for their favorite runners, Lily Schammel and Lauren Schammel. They cheered on their favorites at a cross country meet in Blooming Prairie on Tuesday, Sept. 1.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Here 'comes Hosea Baker of the Blooming Prairie High School cross country team. He finished third in a triangular meet on Tuesday, Sept. 1 in Blooming Prairie.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

New Richland Hartland Ellendale Geneva (NRHEG) girls team runners are all smiles before the gun sounds to start their varsity meet. Shown from left are: Hallie Schultz, Sidney Schultz, Tori Vaale, Olivia Koffstad and Annabelle Petsinger.

NRHEG's Nydegger finishes second

Daniel Nydegger of New Richland Hartland Ellendale Geneva (NRHEG) finished second in a triangular cross country meet at Blooming Prairie on Sept. 1.

Nydegger came in with a time of 19:35.0. George Roessler of NRHEG was fifth in

21:26.6. Tyler Malakowski of NRHEG was ninth in 21:36.7 and he was followed by teammate Conner Nelson who was 10th in 22:51.3.

The Panthers finished second to Blooming Prairie with 42 points.

In the girls varsity

race, NRHEG was third with 50 points behind Blooming Prairie, 48 and Pacelli, 30.

Tori Vaale was third for the Panthers in 23:52.7. Teammate Sidney Schultz was fifth in 24:56.3. Annabelle Petsinger was seventh in 26:06.03.

Smiles on Victory Lane



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Matt Wieman of Owatonna shares a big smile on Victory Lane at the Chateau Speedway in Lansing Aug. 28 when he took home a trophy from the Hornet class. Wieman is one of three racers in the Hornet class that have started all eight races this year. He has seven top 10 finishes for the year, including two heat wins and two feature wins. It was a muddy mess at the Chateau after 2 inches of rain fell the previous night. The track personnel did a good job of getting the track in shape for racing.



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Racing of the miniature kind



Sisters Josephina Olsen, left and Chevelle Olsen race against one another at the Blooming Prairie Remote Control Track.

Remote car racing appeals to little kids to seniors

STORY AND PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Just imagine real live race cars, only in miniature, zooming around a race track in Blooming Prairie.

Remote car racing has become very popular for those age 6 to 75, little kids and senior citizens, says Nathan Schumacher, manager of the RC 2 track located on property owned by James O'Connor.

The track is located just east of Arkema on 124 Mill Ave. S.

On this particular Sunday, Schumacher said about 40 racers of all ages braved the hot sun to race their remote control cars. The track measures about 850 feet long and 50 feet wide. The track features lots of sharp turns, curves and jumps.

It is not unusual to see a car vault high into the air and land on all four tires. Race track volunteers are spotters on various

track locations. If a car spins out, the volunteer rights the car and it is again on its way. Schumacher said it has been very rewarding for him to see racers of all ages enjoying a sunny day at the track.

The Blooming Prairie City Council on May 11 approved a six-month conditional use permit for a remote control car track. After six months in November, the permit will be reviewed by council before it is extended.

A petition in opposition was received from 44 residents. Concern was expressed about the extra noise and traffic. On a 4-1 vote, council member Brad Clark being the lone dissenting vote.

City administrator Andrew Langholz said, typically, the use permits are issued for a year. This one is for six months. It expires in November.



This remote control car is owned by Joe Bain and it placed first in a race at the Blooming Prairie RC Track on Sunday, Aug. 23.

"After that time, we should have a good idea how it is going," said council member Bill Newman. He said if the venture doesn't work out, it's only for six months. Langholz said he is not aware of any negative comments about the track. Track manager Schumacher said he believes the experiment is working well. He said racing hopefully will continue until the snow flies in October.

Remote control racing runs in the family. Nathan Schumacher manages the weekend events and races too. His wife Amanda is timekeeper and race starter. Son Justin, 9, races and works in the pits with his father.

Sisters Chevelle Olsen, 12, and Josephina Olsen, 10 race against each other. The Olsens are from Austin.

John Meer, son Joe and a nephew Bradley Mayer are from Albert Lea and come to Blooming Prairie to race and

compete. Why do remote control racers compete? Bradley says curtly, "for the fun of it."

Awards are given in each category.

Schumacher said he has talked to Blooming Prairie Cancer Group volunteers and expressed his desire to have a special race to benefit the BP Cancer Group. No firm date has been selected.

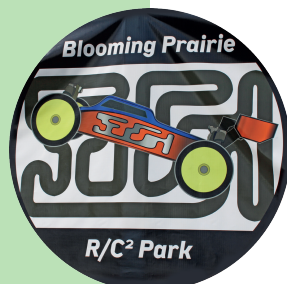
"We want to give back to the community," remarked Schumacher.

The race track features banners from local businesses: Lembe Masonry, Express Power Washers, KIK Marketing, Wurst Oil (Tim Wurst), Krueberg Services, BP Nutrition, Jacts Construction, Miner Outdoors, O'Connor Feed & Chemical, Salinas Repair, Extreme Powder Coating.

There's a remote control track located in Clarks Grove and that's where some of the Blooming Prairie racers formerly raced.



Justin Schumacher, 9, of Blooming Prairie has two remote cars that he races at the Blooming Prairie track.



This is what the Blooming Prairie Remote Control logo looks like. The track opened in June and will stay open until October. The track's Conditional Use Permit expires in November.

NOTICE

NOTICE OF
SHERIFF'S SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on May 8, 2020, the District Court of Steele County, Minnesota, First Judicial District, made and entered a Judgment in an action entitled "Troy Co. Concrete & Masonry, Inc. v. Richard Hadler, Mar-go McKay, Richie's Truck-ing, Inc. Michael J. Grimm, and Wickman Enterprises LLC dba Generation Build-ing Center" being Court File No. 74-CV-20-513, adjudging that Plaintiff Troy Co. Concrete & Masonry, Inc., is entitled to a Mechanic's Lien upon the premises hereinafter described in the amount of **\$25,217.20**; and, Defendant Wickman Enterprises LLC dba Generation Build-ing Center is entitled to a Mechanic's Lien upon the premises hereafter described in the amount of **\$24,929.05** and directing said premises to be sold by me as Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota, to satisfy said Mechanic's Liens; and a certified transcript of said Judgment has been duly delivered to me with directions to proceed with the sale of said premises as therein provided.

NOW, THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to said Judgment and the statutes in such case made and provided in the premises so described in said Judgment and situated in Steele County, Minnesota, viz: **Legal Description:** THE EAST ONE-HALF OF LOT 8 AND ALL OF LOT 9, BLOCK 1, ALL IN ALEXANDER ADDITION TO THE CITY OF OWATONNA, MINNESOTA, AS PER THE RECORDED-ON FILE AND OF RECORD IN THE REGISTRAR'S TITLES IN SAID STEELE COUNTY, MINNESOTA.

Property Address:
342 McIndoe St.,
Owatonna, MN 55060

PIN: 17-139-0109
Registered Property, Cert.
No. 19810
will be sold at public auction, to the highest bidder, on September 30, 2020, at 10:00 am at the Steele County Sheriff's Office, Civil Process Division, 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna, MN 55060.

Dated: July 27, 2020
Lon S. Thiele
Sheriff of Steele County, MN

By: Anthony David
Deputy

THIS INSTRUMENT WAS DRAFTED BY:
THE LAW OFFICE OF DAVID S. HOLMAN, LTD.
201 W. Travelers Trail,
Suite 144
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 895-1224

8/576

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Court File No.: 74-PR-20-830

In Re: Estate of
Dorothy B. Meyering,
Decedent

NOTICE OF AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE 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 purport-

ing 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

Dated: August 18, 2020
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. Koberoski
Koberoski Law, LLC
Atty ID 0262717
10 W. Main St
Madelia, MN 56062
Telephone: (507) 642-2112
Facsimile: (507) 642-2114
e-mail: margaret@koberoskilaw.com

99, 9/16

Paint the track pink for cancer awareness

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Nate Schumacher, manager of the Blooming Prairie Remote Control Race Track, is making plans to paint the track pink for cancer awareness.

The RC track began racing in June. Races are held usually every Saturday.

Schumacher said proceeds for the upcoming races on

Saturday, Sept. 19 will be directed to the benefit of the BP Cancer Group. "You can't throw a stone in Blooming Prairie and not find someone affected by cancer," said Schumacher.

In addition to the regular races on Sept. 19, there will be exhibition races and raffles and drawings will be featured.

Schumacher said if anyone chooses to

donate, they may send a donation to the BP RC Track, may contact Schumacher, or make donations through Facebook, Venmo or The Square.

For every \$25 paid to race, one foot of the first section of race track will be painted. He said if 80 feet were painted, it would equate to \$2,000. "We would like to paint the whole track," Schumacher said.

Genevieve Peterson served during World War II

Genevieve Peterson, a Prairie Manor Care Center resident in Blooming Prairie, is a World War II veteran of the United States Army.

She served her 104th birthday on Aug. 1. Peterson was a nurse, stationed at the Fort Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Denver.

It was stated in a Sept. 2, 2020 issue of The Times that Merle McNutt is the only World War II veteran residing in Blooming Prairie.

To be correct, it should read: Merle McNutt, 101, is the only male World War II veteran residing in Blooming Prairie. He is a Heather Haus resident.

Peterson is the only female World War II veteran residing in Blooming Prairie. She is a Prairie Manor resident and formerly a resident of the Heather Haus.

Proudly supporting our WWII Vets and all veterans!



Genevieve Peterson, 104, of Blooming Prairie served in World War II as a nurse stationed in Denver. She is believed to be one of only two WWII vets still living in the Blooming Prairie area.

Thanks to both McNutt and Peterson for their service to our country.

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ahead of last year and five days ahead of average. There were scattered reports of corn starting to mature.

Corn harvested for silage reached 15% complete, 19 days ahead of last year and one week ahead of normal. Corn condition dropped to 79% good to excellent, its lowest rating so far this year compared to the previous low of 81% during the third week of May.

Soybeans are 25% turning color, 10 days

ahead of last year and three days above average. Scattered accounts of soybeans dropping leaves were reported.

Soybean condition dropped to 80% good to excellent, tying the lowest rating this year. Sweet corn harvesters in the area have had a difficult time to catch up with the product maturity.

Reassessing crop predictions, a family farmer said, again with optimism, "It could be a big crop this year."

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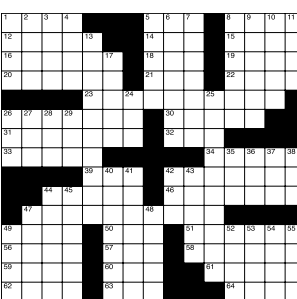
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CLUES ACROSS

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

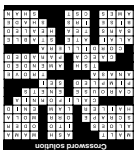
WEEKLY CROSSWORD



CLUES DOWN

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

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



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STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

SAMANTHA UPHAM'S BABYSITTING/NANNY services I'm a 15-year-old honors student entering my sophomore year at Kasson High School. I have babysitting experience and have been through a class specific for caring for young children. I am best suited to care for toddlers through young teens. Available 7 days a week and can be very flexible with times. I will ensure a summer full of fun! (references upon request) 507-358-3415 9/17/20

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NOTICE

MANTORVILLE RESIDENTS! Stay aware of your city business by attending the council meetings virtually. Call City Hall every Monday of the meetings for the Zoom code. Mantorville City Hall's number is 507-635-5170. 9/10/20

GARAGE SALE

KASSON GARAGE SALE: 800 Westfield Court NW (by St. Johns). September 10, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., September 11, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and September 12, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Books including war, Civil and WWII, western and children's. Costume jewelry, salt and pepper shakers, vintage toys and hot wheels, Christmas decorations, craft items, bottles and buttons, African Violets, too many things to mention. 9/10/20

BYRON GARAGE SALE: 120 2nd ST NW (Behind Kwik Trip). September 17, 18, and 19

from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. tread mill (used very little), golf clubs, bull nose brush guard, porcelain dolls, pictures, glassware, men and women's clothing (coats), and miscellaneous items. Everything must go. 9/10/20

FOR SALE FARM EQUIPMENT

2 post electric hoist. 12,000 lb. 9 years old, only used 6 or 7 times. **\$1,300**

1927 oil pull 2540E. Overhauled in 2006 and painted. It runs great. **\$2,500**

1937 F20. Good rubber, ran well 3 years ago, stored inside. **\$775**

W30 painted, in good shape. 1935. Good tires. **\$1,850**

MM Twin City KTA. Good rubber and good engine. **\$2,800**

1917 Rob Bell Wooden threshing machine. Ran 4 yrs ago, good shape. **\$4,900 FIRM**

Case Model C Standard Good tires, runs well. **\$2,850**

Case Model C row crop. New rear tires. Good engine. **\$2,850**

IH corn blinder. Very nice, stored inside. **\$525**

F-20, runs well, but needs head gasket. Has electric starter. Good tires. **\$900**

Oliver 77 gas, very good tires & paint. Runs well. **\$3,100**

WR9. Painted, good rubber, clean. No dirts. **\$2,250**

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9/9/20

Rolling Hills Transit

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- CDL License with passenger endorsement required, or we will train for it.
- Must pass the mandatory preemployment drug screen prior to employment.
- Assures highest possible safety standards are followed while transporting passengers.
- Must be team player and have a positive attitude.

More information and application available at www.semacac.org or contact BARB THOMPSON at barb.thompson@semacac.org or 507-864-8202. Applications must be postmarked by Sept. 11, 2020 E.O.E.

9/10/20

Rolling Hills Transit

Fleet & Facilities Maintenance Coordinator

Semcac's Rolling Hills Transit is looking for a Full time Fleet & Facilities Maintenance Coordinator for our SE Minnesota service area, based in Kasson, MN.

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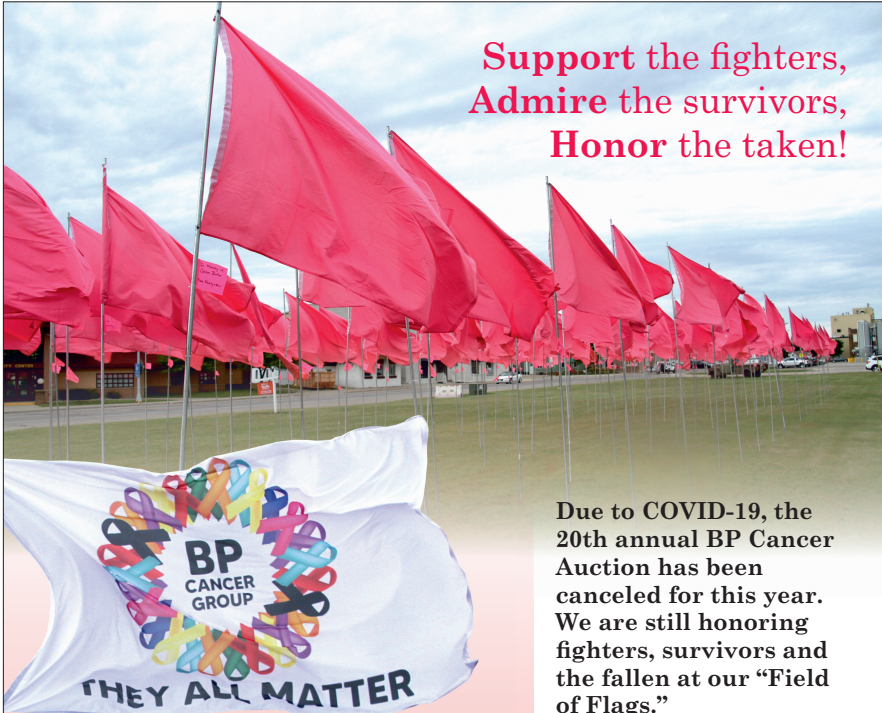
Applications must be postmarked by September 19, 2020

9/10/20

VENDORS WANTED

Looking for a variety of vendors to combine merchandise for sale on Oct. 3rd 2020 next to the newspaper, DCI (Dodge County Independent) on West Main St., Kasson.

If interested please contact us at ButlerVid@gmail.com or call 507-634-7503 and ask for Paula.



**Support the fighters,
Admire the survivors,
Honor the taken!**

Due to COVID-19, the 20th annual BP Cancer Auction has been canceled for this year. We are still honoring fighters, survivors and the fallen at our "Field of Flags."

If you would like to still support the fight against cancer, please consider a donation today!

A message from the Cancer Group:

We were not comfortable asking people and businesses for donations when so many people are/were out of work, and so many businesses have suffered. That being said, if you would like to make a donation to the BP Cancer Group we would greatly appreciate it. Checks can be made to the BP Cancer Group. Another way you can donate is by purchasing tickets for the Steve Prihoda Memorial Raffle. It is an ALL CASH raffle made possible by Steve's friends and family. These tickets can be purchased from Cancer Group members, or many of the Prihoda family. Also at BP Service & Repair (formerly Krejci Ford). The winners will be drawn at Turkey BINGO, Nov. 19.

Donations may be sent to:
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