





OUR VIEW

The champions of ordinary men and women

As we celebrate National Newspaper Week this week, the effort by newspapers across the country is to let readers know that newspapers protect their First Amendment rights. We are raising awareness about our five First Amendment freedoms as outlined in the U.S. Constitution. This year's theme is "Think First-Know Your 5 Freedoms." With just 45 words, the founders guaranteed five fundamental American rights. As Americans, we are guaranteed:

- The right to freely practice religion
- The right to exercise the freedom of speech
- The right of a free press
- The right to peaceably assemble in protest
- The right to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Those five basic freedoms may seem so basic that we sometimes may take them for granted.

Newspapers have a long and important legacy protecting the public's right to know. Newspapers have always mattered. The work newspapers do in communities has always been important.

Thomas Jefferson once wrote if he were to have to choose between "a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

Democracy is best served when the newspaper provides checks and balances as the Fourth Estate of government. Despite what some of our current political leaders want you to believe, newspapers are not the enemy of government, but rather they are the champions of ordinary men and women.

Newspapers hold government accountable because at our very core we believe that government belongs to the governed and not to the governing. If the press does not stand up for the public, protect the rights of free speech and the rights of access to government, then no one will.

In addition to being a government watchdog, this newspaper is a community forum for others to exchange ideas and opinions. We cover community events and publish important public notices.

Community newspapers, such as the Times, are vital to uncovering the successes, failures, triumphs, misgivings and shortcoming of people within the community. Newspapers are here to celebrate right along with the community, but they also serve an important role to expose the truth whether it's good or maybe not so flattering.

Journalism is important to our communities. We hope everyone will agree and pass the word about the importance of the local newspaper during this National Newspaper Week.

Freedom of the press, of speech, of religion, of assembly and to petition the government are woven, like stars into a flag, into the fabric of the First Amendment. The First Amendment binds all American freedoms.



GUEST COLUMN

Determining changes to Minnesota's vehicle registration system

BY JOHN PETERSBURG

While much was made last session of Minnesota's failed vehicle licensing system MNLARS – and rightfully so because this state wasted millions of dollars on this incompetent and inefficient program – another under-the-radar change was also made that will address registration costs for drivers.

The Vehicle Registration Task Force was established to study various methods of vehicle registration and the corresponding fee structures. The committee is comprised of myself and other lawmakers, deputy registrars, the transportation commissioner and other interested stakeholders, and we held our first meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 24.

Basically the task force will review various styles of registration fees and processes for obtaining license tabs and registrations in Minnesota.

Specifically, we must study how each of the following methods could be implemented in Minnesota in a revenue neutral manner: flat rate, weight-based, value-based, and age-based; a two-year vehicle registration period and any other changes related to timing of vehicle registration periods; the financial

effects of these changes must consider and include, at a minimum, costs for vehicle owners and deputy registrars; and whether the changes will require customization to the vehicle title and registration system and the potential cost of that customization.

Once the task force has finished its work, it must submit a report to the Legislature by mid-January.

Considering my continued interest in improving transportation in our state and that I had carried the bill in the past, I was pleased to have been named to this task force. I look forward to reviewing our current laws and figuring out the best way to move forward, and that includes streamlining the process for registered vehicles and making any changes to vehicle registration fee structures. I'll be sure to report back when our work is complete.

As always, I welcome your feedback. Please contact me anytime by phone at 651-296-5368 or by email at rep.john.petersburg@housemn.

**John Petersburg is a state representative for District 24A, which includes Steele and Waseca counties. He lives in Waseca.**

YOUR VIEW

Appreciates ELCA coverage

To-the-Editor:  
This is to compliment Karen Jorgensen on the really fine job she did of reporting the installation of our new synodical bishop: Bishop Regina Hassanally.

Her article and her really great picture that included Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the entire national church body,

the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,) along with newly elected Bishop Regina Hassanally and our retiring Bishop Steve Delzer made the front page of your Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2019 issue. EXCELLENT!

**Pastor Dave Klawiter**  
St. John Lutheran- Owatonna

4-H great program for youth

Fall is a busy time for many recognition weeks of various groups and organizations. There is Clergy Appreciation Month, Newspaper Week, Fire Prevention Week, Manufacturer's Week, Education Week and the list goes on.

But there is one that is especially meaningful to me and many youth around the country. It's National 4-H Week, which began Sunday and runs through Saturday.

Empowering young people to reach their full potential. That's exactly what the 4-H program does for millions of kids around the country. It is a positive youth development organization that has had a profound impact on my life.

As I look back on my years of growing up, there is one thing that defined my childhood and who I am today. It was my involvement in the 4-H program. As far as I'm concerned, 4-H is one of the greatest programs available for youth.

For those who may not be aware, the name 4-H represents four personal development areas of focus for the organization: head, heart, hands and health. The organization has more than 6.5 million members in the United States ranging in ages 5-19. Today, 4-H and related programs exist in over 80 countries around the world.

Like many organizations, 4-H is always looking for new members to join the program. Fall begins the new year for 4-H and what



Hot Pursuit  
RICK BUSSLER

a better time than now to make a commitment to joining the organization.

I wouldn't be surprised if you're thinking your child doesn't need another activity to get involved in. Life is already too hectic. But let me assure you 4-H is probably one of the best investments of time you could ever make into your child's life. And there is concrete research to back that up.

The 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development, a longitudinal study conducted by the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development at Tufts University, shows youth engaged with 4-H are:

- Nearly two times more likely to get better grades in school;
- Nearly two times more likely to go to college;
- 41% less likely to engage in risky behaviors;
- 25% more likely to positively contribute to their families and communities.

I was involved in 4-H for more than 10 years showing hogs, taking pictures, grow-

ing a garden, making foods, demonstrating in front of crowds and much more. I found that 4-H fostered an innovative, "learn by doing" approach.

It becomes more and more clear to me the older I get what 4-H has done in my life. I attribute much of my professional and community success to the leadership skills I gained through the 4-H program.

As an example, I believe 4-H gave me the confidence I needed to seek out a job at my hometown newspaper by myself as a 13-year-old and later become the assistant editor by the time I graduated from high school. Not many teenagers can make a claim like that.

There is a common myth out there that 4-H is only for farm kids. That's the furthest from the truth. While the program centered around the farm in its earliest years, 4-H today actually focuses more on activities off the farm. Like life in general, 4-H has been forced to adapt to changing times.

The program is more about building life skills than competing at the fairs. It builds good character in kids. I always love interviewing 4-Hers because they are generally so much more confident than other teenagers.

I strongly encourage all youth to consider making 4-H a part of their lives. Take it from a former 4-H'er, going in hot pursuit of joining 4-H is a choice you won't ever regret.

YOUR VIEW

Owatonna proud 1919... and 2019

To-the-Editor:  
*"That the school buildings are needed is acknowledged with the common consent of the most informed residents. And yet there are many who claim that the tax rate of the city is too high already and that improvements should wait until a later day."*

Sound familiar...This is actually a quote taken from an Owatonna resident back in 1919 from the newspaper. Thank goodness our forefathers had the belief that even though times were tough and it is never a good time to raise taxes...they did. The 1921 building was a result of foresight and sacrifice from those that had little (far less than we have today) but knew the importance of providing their children and grandchildren with quality schools and a quality education.

Reality is that our children will be competing with students from all over the world for their future careers. Do we want to provide them with the best opportunity to succeed? If you say yes then the current facility is not be able to do that. Not all students go

to college. The trades are in such great need for our young people. We need a high school that can provide them with modern equipment and technology to prepare them for those excellent careers in the trades.

Another consideration before you cast your ballot is the fact that our current teacher faculty will eventually move on or retire. The decaying facility we have today will not attract the high caliber teacher that we have been so lucky to have. If that happens, we will have an even bigger problem to deal with.

Owatonna is a prideful community. A nearly 100-year-old high school that we house our children, our teachers and our future is not a part of that. Other communities, many smaller than ours, have voted yes to addressing their out dated high schools. The time is now to provide a long-term solution just like our forefathers did.

**Bob Rinaldi**  
Owatonna

GUEST COLUMN

Approaches to the child care shortage

BY TIM PENNY

In 2016 Minnesotans were alerted to a serious lack of child care by the Center for Rural Policy and Development. Since then, there have been many efforts to work toward solutions. At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), we have been supporting the communities in our 20-county region through various programs and trainings.

In SMIF's region alone, we have a potential need of 8,616 child care slots, according to a 2018 study by First Children's Finance. Family-based child care is a challenging, labor-intensive field that requires licensure and ongoing training and long hours. It demands child development and business skills, and despite the strain on family budgets to pay for their child's care, the compensation for frontline child care workers is typically low and offers few if any benefits. We have heard from people in our region that some businesses cannot operate fully because of the lack of available workers, many of whom cite the shortage of child care as a reason. Other southern Minnesota communities have lost potential businesses

moving to their town for the same reason. This can especially hurt our smaller towns as people move to larger population centers to find accessible care.

One of the areas where we have been able to work toward addressing the shortage is through our new Communities Addressing the Child Care Shortage Program. Albert Lea, Austin, Eagle Lake, Watonwan County and Wells were selected through a competitive application process and have been working to develop actionable plans to address local child care needs. While the assumption is often that building a new child care center will solve the problem, the reality tends to be very different. In Watonwan County, the group working with SMIF has multiple projects underway including renovations to an existing center that will add 35 new child care slots in St. James, the addition of four new infant slots in Madelia and a county-wide effort to create a revolving loan program to support appropriate credentialing for licensure for child care providers.

SEE APPROACHES, A10







Members of the Blooming Prairie High School volleyball team visited with residents of the Prairie Manor Care Center on a recent Friday afternoon.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD



Reflections

HOWARD LESTRUD

Kids often get a bad rap. When something negative occurs, kids often catch the blame unjustly.

Kids love to help those in need. Just ask them.

It was very inspirational the past two weeks to see Blooming High School students show random acts of kindness to their elders. These Blooming Prairie kids are special in that they really care about their roots.

During Homecoming Week, the royal court and Awesome Blossom cheerleaders paid a visit to the residents of the Prairie Manor Care Center. King Gabe Hagen, Queen Viridiana Villarreal and their court visited with the residents. The court served as a backdrop for some “Go Blossom” yells echoed by some peppy cheerleaders.

What a beautiful gesture it was to have these young

# Kids love to help, just ask them

students show they care about these nursing home residents.

Earlier in the week, the Awesome Blossom varsity football team helped out a cheerleader of sorts for many years, LeMar Nelson. LeMar has been writing Blooming Prairie sports stories for the last 27 years.

Health issues have slowed LeMar down, and he has been caringly moved closer to his family in Minneapolis.

The move by LeMar has made him put his home up for sale and deplete his ownings in his house near the high school. Some of his furniture needed to be moved from the basement to the garage for an upcoming garage sale.

The football team (27 players) responded by moving LeMar’s heavy furniture to a new location in 11 minutes.

What a gesture! Just last week, Sandra

Christianson of F & M State Bank was concerned about moving some heavy flower pots inside before a frost arrived.

She was outside and noticed some cross country runners passing by. She asked the runners’ coach, John Bruns, if his team could help. “Give us 15 minutes,” he told her. Within fewer than 15 minutes, Coach Bruns and two of his female runners moved the flower pots out of the cold.

Again, what a gesture! There’s another example coming. Varsity volleyball coach Ranell Kittelson brought her team members to Prairie Manor to “hang out” with some residents.

Ten residents gathered in a semi circle to visit with the volleyball players who formed a circle of their own. Residents asked the juniors and seniors when they were graduating and what were their plans after high school.

A gentleman told the students about his teaching days and encouraged the players to go onto college. A woman resident talked about her involvement in 4-H. “How many of you have baled hay?” she asked. Many hands went up.

“Listen to our teachers and stay in school,” another resident urged the students. “Go for your dreams,” another said.

“It’s great to learn from other generations about hard work, relationships and dedication,” said Coach Kittelson.

“What did you guys do for a job?” asked senior Riauna Bishop. “I was in sales,” a woman responded.

“It’s always a pleasure to have a visit by these young kids,” said former teacher Eugene Wollschlager.

These are just some of the acts of kindness we see exhibited by our Blooming Prairie kids. Well played, Blossoms.

## STEELE JAIL: named in lawsuit FROM A1

doctors and the Minnesota Department of Corrections named in the suit.

Larkins was locked up at the Steele County Detention Center as well as state prisons in Faribault and Rush City from 2014 to 2017. The cancer was diagnosed in March of 2017.

“I’m unable to comment on certain areas of the complaint, but the SCSO/SCDC is labeled because he was housed at our jail at one time,” said Sheriff Thiele. “The inmate didn’t die here, the inmate died at a different jail,” he added.

Thiele went on to say, “This is how it is... in a blanket suit, everyone associated with a facility, amazingly gets their name on the suit if they

were there or not. Positions of authority are first and then so on and so on.”

Some attorneys, Thiele said, feel the more the names on a suit, the more the money they can make because it cost counties just to defend. “We will wait and see how this plays out. Stay tuned,” he said.

Attorney Joe Flynn is representing Steele County in the lawsuit. He said the county denies any wrongdoing. “We met expected standards of care in regards to Mr. Larkins,” he said.

Larkins’ daughter, Breyana, brought forward the lawsuit. She is being represented by attorney Oliver Nelson III.

## FIGHTING: a debilitating disease FROM A1

Sixty persons representing those with Parkinson’s disease and their families attended this special gathering, which provided attendees with very valuable information in their journey fighting this debilitating disease.

Anushka Mohideen, American Parkinson Disease Association Minnesota Information and Referral Coordinator, greeted a room full of people eager to learn more about Parkinson’s disease.

surgery “do better than those without.” Less medications are then necessary, he said. He was asked how long the surgery lasts. “It works very well up to five years,” Dr. Nelson answered.

Dr. Nelson emphasized that DBS does not halt the progression of Parkinson’s disease. It can have complications, he cautioned. Patients sometimes face infections and hemorrhages.

The DBS surgery is done at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in

### “Combine medical management with exercise.”

Jennifer Tuccitto  
Physical/Occupational Therapist

Knowing that Owatonna has a very active Parkinson’s support group, Mohideen said she chose to have Owatonna host this special event, which is designed to provide resource materials for all.

Mohideen said there are 65 Parkinson’s support groups in Minnesota.

Parkinson’s disease is the fastest-growing neurodegenerative disorder in the U.S., with approximately 60,000 Americans diagnosed each year, according to the Parkinson’s Foundation.

Those in attendance listened to a brain surgeon, Dr. Kyle Nelson of Coon Rapids, talk about Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS).

Jennifer Tuccitto, physical/occupational therapist of Stillwater, spoke about the urgency to adopt an intense exercise program when fighting Parkinson’s disease.

Dr. Jeremy K. Cutsforth-Gregory, a neurologist of Rochester, provided information on autonomic dysfunction and Parkinson’s.

Final presenter for the information-packed day came first-hand from a Roseville man who was diagnosed with Parkinson’s 23 years ago. He asked for a show of hands of those having been diagnosed for more than 23 years. No hands were raised.

Gehrke, who has undergone DBS and has utilized various therapy regimens, said “every day is a gift.” He urged Parkinson’s patients to be thankful and appreciative of every day of their lives.

The morning was filled with many questions, in addition to general medical reference information.

In speaking about DBS, Dr. Nelson said candidates for surgery are those patients who are seeing their medication wear down over the years.

Dr. Nelson said DBS definitely works and those who have had the

Minneapolis. Deep Brain Stimulation surgery is a patient centered program, Dr. Nelson stated. “This surgery can be life changing,” he said.

The DBS surgery is scary, but safe, very effective and life altering, Dr. Nelson said. He has been doing these surgeries for 11 years.

Therapist Tuccitto said she believes therapy is being proactive rather than reactive. Exercise is essential in fighting Parkinson’s disease, she said.

Exercise must be sustained “and must be intense,” Tuccitto remarked.

Tuccitto talked about skilled exercise vs. aerobic exercise. Both are important, she said. Aerobic exercise gives the patient strengthening, balance and flexibility.

“Combine medical management with exercise,” Tuccitto challenged.

She provided some information about the BIG and LOUD for Life program. LSVT LOUD is a research proven effective treatment for individuals with Parkinson’s disease (PD) and other neurological conditions.

Boxing, Tai Chi and dance are other therapies that can help Parkinson’s patients, Tuccitto said. She also touched on Nordic walking and tandem biking.

“Exercise is medicine,” Tuccitto said. “Bump up your intensity of exercise and focus on movement,” she suggested.

Dr. Cutsforth-Gregory spoke about non-motor symptoms of Parkinson’s disease. He spoke in detail about monitoring blood pressure and other vital signs.

The four-hour session ended with Dave Ihle, a board member of the American Parkinson Disease Association Minnesota chapter, making a plea for financial help and saying that 280 grants have resulted in \$125,000 being given to help Parkinson’s patients.

Owatonna is a community that has benefited from these grants.

# Horses prove to be family affair for Pittmans

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN  
COUNTY WRITER

Draft horses are a way of life at Roger and Erin Pittman’s farm near Claremont and have been for decades. For nearly 30 years, the Pittman family has had the animals, first Clydesdales and then Percherons.

The family, including Roger and Erin, and their children Mark and Emma and their spouses, is actively involved in the care of the horses as well driving them in competitions and also in giving wagon rides at various events around the area.

The competition for this summer ended recently when the eight-horse hitch finished 10th out of 25 entrants at the Minnesota State Fair.

Their life with the horses began, Erin Pittman said, when Roger went to an auction “and came home with a Clydesdale.” That was in 1991 and it just continued from then on as they acquired more horses.

As their children grew they started riding horses and driving the horses from the time they were about five, she said.

When Mark was 6 years old, she said, he drove a team of Percherons at the Steele County Free Fair and won first place. From then on the family concentrated on Percherons.

They take their horses to eight or nine shows a summer, Pittman said.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Roger and Mark Pittman team up to saddle up one of their Percherons just prior to the draft horse show at the recent Minnesota State Fair in Falcon Heights. The Pittmans finished in 10th place with an eight-horse hitch in the competition.

In the competitions, the horses can be hitched in one, two, three, four, six and eight configurations. The team is judged on its performance as it goes around the ring in a circle and then reverses itself and goes in a circle again. The hitches also demonstrate their ability to back up and to keep going at a trot and not break into a walk.

There is also more to the competition than just the activity in the ring.

The preparation starts about two hours before the team even enters the ring. The horses are all vacuumed and braided and their

hooves are polished. The harnesses and wagons are also cleaned so the entire hitch is looking its best.

In fact, she said, in addition to the six family members there are another 10 to 15 friends who are available to help.

The family transports the horses and wagon to the competition in a semi.

The summer includes visits to Brookings, S.D., and several competitions in Minnesota, including the Steele County Free Fair and the Minnesota State Fair. They hope to go to the Iowa State Fair next year, she said.

The activities do not end with the State Fair, however. Recently, the horses gave wagon rides at West Hills in Owatonna. They also participate in the yearly-lighted parade in Owatonna Thanksgiving weekend carrying Santa Claus. In addition, they do weddings and other events each year.

Despite the time the family spends with their horses, “It’s just a hobby farm,” Pittman said, and all the family members have other jobs.

The farm, she said, is 80 acres, and in addition to the horses, they raise hay and oats on half of it.

## SHERIFF: to bring back K-9 FROM A1

sheriff’s office, Owatonna and Blooming Prairie police departments have had K-9 units in the past. Owatonna just recently started a K-9 again.

Thiele said the State Patrol has been utilized in the rare cases where a K-9 was needed in Steele County.

With Interstate 35 running through the middle of

Steele County, Thiele said K-9 is an important tool for law enforcement to utilize. He called I-35 “a pipeline for drug traffic.” He added, “Locating narcotics is valuable to an agency.”

But Thiele warned that having a K-9 does not give everything a magic fix. “The dog has to be in the right place at the right

time,” he said. “If you have a good handler that should work to the community’s benefit.”

It won’t be until early next year before the K-9 program gets up and running. Once a K-9 is purchased, training will take place for 12 weeks. Thiele said it will likely be spring before the K-9 hits

the streets.

Anyone wanted additional information about the K-9 program can contact Deputy Buck at 507-444-3841 or caleb.buck@co.steele.mn.us. Checks may be sent to the Sheriff’s Office, 204 E. Pearl St., Owatonna, MN 55060 with K-9 fund noted in the memo.



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.

CRIME BRIEF

Man nabbed for child solicitation

Owatonna Police have nabbed a 49-year-old man for child solicitation.

Michael Riecke of Waseca has been charged with engaging in electronic communication relating or describing sexual conduct with a child an soliciting a child through electronic communications to engage in sexual conduct. Both are felonies.

As a member of the Human Trafficking Investigators Task Force, Owatonna Police conducts proactive operations to deter sexual exploitation of children. Over the past week, the detective bureau with the local police department ran an operation to identify adults targeting juveniles for sexual purposes via covert online chats.

During the sting, a detective acted as a 15-year-

old girl and was allegedly contacted by Riecke. As the chat progressed, sexual references were made and a sexually explicit self video was sent by Riecke to the detective and a plan was made for him too meet the undercover agent at Fleet Farm in Owatonna, according to police.

Officers saw Riecke drive into the lot at the prescribed meeting time and a text was received by Riecke to the undercover detective that he was at the location, police said. A team of waiting detectives swooped in and placed Riecke under arrest.

In an interview with police, Riecke admitted he was at the location to meet a 15-year-old girl and that he was just trying to hook up.



Michael Riecke

Residents invited to coffee with local cops

Do you want to meet your neighborhood friendly police officers? Residents will have the chance to do just that on Wednesday, Oct. 16 at two different times. Officers from Owatonna Police will be available for “Coffee With a Cop” from 8-10 a.m. and again at 5-7 p.m. at Target, 301 Park Dr.,

Owatonna. The event will be hosted by Starbucks. “There is no agenda,” said Chief Keith Hiller. “Come and visit with your local police officers to discuss community issues and learn more about each other.” Starbucks will be offering complimentary coffee, water, juice and tea.

COURT NEWS  
Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Sept. 23 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding: Adam H. Pattishall, 19, St. Peter, previously appeared and was convicted of felony motor vehicle theft. He was sentenced to \$131 and 27 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Sept. 23 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding: Tracy L. Rathai, 56, Waseca, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. Rathai was sentenced to \$2,106, 30 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Sept. 23 – 29:

**BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Scott M. Hofius, 49, Blooming Prairie, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Angelica F. Tarrence, 20, Wykoff, possession of paraphernalia, stay of adjudication, \$131 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction.

**MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER**

Nurlan Asangozhoev, 33, East Dundee, IL, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$75 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Erika E. Bergstad, 25, Brownsdale, revoked license, \$281; Suszi B. Bewaji, 48, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Cole G. Broadhead, 23, Arlington, TX, speeding and no license, \$231; Wyatt W. Butters, 20, White Bear Township, speeding, \$141; Gregray Davis, 26, Rock Island, IL, speeding, \$121; Maren M. Delaitsch, 65, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Talon L. Edgar, 21, Kasson, speeding, \$131; Scott A. Ewert, 37, Janesville, vehicle within violation, \$181; Delaney A. Fitzgerald, 18, Verona, WI, speeding, \$121; Karrie N. Garnica, 43, Fort Dodge, IA, speeding, \$131; Ritlu Gaxiola, 37, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Christopher J. Gray, 34, McDonough, GA, speeding, \$131; Robert C. Hood, 74, Lakeville, seat belt, \$106; Nicholas L. Karst, 38, Owatonna, revoked license and seat belt, \$306; Paul D. Kirkeby, 31, Minneapolis, speeding, \$121; Ezekiel G. Linman, 22, St. Louis Park, speeding, \$141; Justin R. Malewicki, 21, Apple Valley, speeding, \$121; Pedro N. Manzanarez, 52, Worthington, speeding, \$121; Jacqueline R. Monita, 44, St. Paul, revoked license, \$281; Richard A. Pieper, 57, Jordan, speeding, \$121; Johan O. Ponciano Conde, 23, Faribault, speeding, \$131; Colby J. Reich, 34, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Kallie D. Robbins, 31, Fairmont, cancelled license, \$281; Dante L. Robertson, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Jason P. Sarazine, 40, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Joseph M. Smith, 21, West St. Paul, speeding, \$381; Cory J. Wagaman, 19, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$106; Shukri A. Warsame, 25, Jackson, hands free violation, revoked license and no insurance, \$531; Scott M. Wolff, 43, Owatonna, unsecure load, \$141; Fabyan M. Vglecias-Castillo, 21, Elgin, IL, speeding, \$121.

Bromley honored as top correctional officer

BY RICK BUSSLER  
PUBLISHER

She may be only two years on the job at the Steele County Detention Center in Owatonna, but Michelle Bromley has already proven herself to her peers as an outstanding correctional officer.

The staff of 28 correctional officers and four supervisors has chosen Bromley as Correctional Officer of the Year for Steele County. It's the second year that the award has been given out.

Jail administrator Anthony Buttera says Bromley's strong work ethic and her communication skills are two of the main reasons she has been signaled out as the top jail employee. “She has the customer-related skills that need to be involved with inmates so you can stop problems,” Buttera said. “We're big on verbal skills to diffuse problems before they even start. It keeps everybody safer-inmates and staff.”

Bromley, who grew up in Owatonna, always had an interest in law enforcement, but did not initially pursue police work because she started a family. She later decided to pursue it again, but this time switched from law enforcement to the corrections field. She has an on-line degree in organizational management and communications from Concordia in St. Paul.

She looks at the main focus of her job as being to keep inmates in a safe environment.

When inmates come into the jail, Bromley said, they often have a negative view of law enforcement. “We treat them with dignity and try to change their view,” she said. Respect is the biggest factor Bromley looks for from any inmate coming into the facility. “You give me respect, and I'll give it back. We'll be fine,” she said.

Inmates are usually very open and share their life stories with correctional staff, Bromley said. Because of that, she often finds herself giving out advice to inmates in hopes of them making better choices moving forward. “I give them the best advice that I can,” she said.

As a correctional officer, Bromley works 12-hour shifts during which

time she is responsible for 10-35 inmates depending on their risk assessments. The officers are in the jail pods the entire time with the inmates. She said 95% of the jail population is manageable, but staff has to always be on guard for the 5% who are not.

“It's a tough job dealing with people that are high, drunk and unpredictable,” said Buttera. But, he added, “we run a very safe facility.”

It's not unusual for Bromley to be playing cards with inmates throughout the day.

She does that as a way to gain support and cooperation from inmates. Buttera credits Bromley's ability to interact with inmates and give them respect for being the top correctional officer.

Bromley says patience, respect and being open minded are key attributes to being a good correctional officer. “Respect the situation and communicate in a positive way,” she said. She added her goal is to help people become better citizens once they leave jail.

“I love my job,” Bromley said. She realizes everyone is human, and inmates just run into a few bumps in their life. “We try to help them through it,” she added.

As part of receiving the top honor, Bromley was given the opportunity to attend the Jail Administrators Conference in Brainerd in early September. She said she picked up valuable information from a variety of speakers to bring back to Steele County.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Michelle Bromley of Owatonna has been chosen as the Correctional Officer of the Year for the Steele County Detention Center. She has been with the county for two years.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Theodore J. Barrett, 53, Seffner, FL, seat belt, \$106; Ariana L. Boelter, 37, Waseca, hands free violation, \$131; Carol A. Borchert, 75, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$131; Kimberly S. Britt, 45, Owatonna, window tint violation, \$131; Mayra L. Caballero Torres, 55, Claremont, invalid license, \$181; Ebin J. Cain, 18, Rochester, theft, \$131; Edmundo R. Del Angel, 29, Medford, invalid license, \$181; Tyndall L. Evans, 26, Maple View, violation of order for protection, \$181, 10 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, 32 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Mohamed A. Fakrudin, 22, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Mark T. Fielding, 48, Owatonna, cancelled license, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 1 year of supervised probation; Brandon C. Froid, 33, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Amber A. Garcia, 30, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$131; Britteny L. Gillis, 21, Medford, invalid license, \$100; Darron T. Jackson, 38, Owatonna, invalid license, \$181; Joseph A. Knutson, 38, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Eduardo Lozano, 34, Spring, TX, stop sign and invalid license, \$231; Shawn P. McDowell, 41, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Abdul Q. Mohamud, 25, Maple Grove, expired tabs, \$111; Richard A. Morgan, 28, Albert Lea, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Allan W. Nelson, 50, New Richland, seat belt, \$106; Harley L. Norberg, 63, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Hamid S. Nur, 19, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; Lois M. Smith, 89, Faribault, failure to yield, \$131; Joye A. Stallman, 36, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Kimberly J. Stiles, 52, Claremont, no insurance, \$281; Cody L. Thompson, 34, hands free violation, \$131; Ruon Y. Tut, 25, Mankato, assault peace officer and domestic assault, \$181, 50 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend AA, chemical dependency evaluation, no possession of firearms, domestic abuse evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Crystale A. Veal, 30, Lake Mills, IA, no insurance and invalid license, \$381; Tessa A. Watkins, 25, Waterville, speeding, \$131.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Farhan M. Abdi, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Jeremy M. Avelsgard, 31, Arden Hills, criminal vehicular operation, \$1,081, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, obtain permission to leave the state, 30 days of alcohol electronic monitoring, psychological evaluation and 3 years of supervised probation; Brenda J. Dorr, 54, Faribault, expired registration, \$111; Isaac K. Erickson, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Paulette R. Foley, 33, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$131; Corbin A. Gedicke, 20, Faribault, speeding, \$221; Stanley F. Ivy, 44, Faribault, cancelled license, \$81 and 180 days in county jail; Joseph M. Kramer, 22, Waterville, speeding, \$221; Brett M.

Kubiatowicz, 19, Geneva, speeding, \$121; Levert Lewis Jr., 57, Shreveport, LA, speeding, \$121; Nicholas J. Mews, 29, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, 30 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, Ignition Interlock program and 2 years of supervised probation; Bradley A. Piton, 30, Owatonna, cancelled license, stay of adjudication, \$50, Ignition Interlock program and 2 years of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Sasha L. Puga, 30, McAllen, TX, permit offense, \$181; Ricardo Ruiz Nava, 41, Austin, speeding, \$131; Silvia M. Trevino, 37, Waseca, DWI, \$381, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Bryan S. Valencia, 25, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Jesus Vazquez Zavala, 26, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$181; Yeng Yang, 27, St. Paul, revoked license, \$281.

POLICE BLOTTER  
Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

Oct. 2

**Theft:** Officer took a theft report in the 100 block of Highway Ave. S. at 5:43 p.m.

OWATONNA POLICE

Sept. 27

**Restraining Order:** At 12:07 a.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 100 block of Bridge St. W.

**Warrants:** Police made warrant arrests in the 2300 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 9:46 a.m. and 11:28 am. and the 100 block of Bridge St. W. at 12:31 p.m.

**Criminal Sexual Conduct:** Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the city at 2:07 p.m.

**Weapons:** Officers responded to a weapons-related incident in the 100 block of Rice St. E. at 6:26 p.m.

**Shoplifting:** At 8:52 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S.

**Sept. 28**

**Shoplifting:** Police arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 1:54 p.m.

**Sept. 29**

**Shoplifting:** Officer made a shoplifting arrest in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 12:22 p.m.

**Sept. 30**

**Criminal Sexual Conduct:** Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct on 26<sup>th</sup> St. NW at 8:20 a.m.

**Warrants:** Police made warrant arrests in the 200 block of Rice St. E. at 12:38 p.m. and the 1800 block of Hemlock Ave. NE at 12:58 p.m.

**Fight:** Officers responded to a fight in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 4:41 p.m.

**Domestic:** At 6:57 p.m., a domestic disturbance occurred in the 300 block of South St. E.

**Oct. 1**

**Assaults:** Police responded to an assault in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 12:19 a.m.

**Arrest:** Officer arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Olympic Hills Place NE and Greenhaven Lane NE at 10:48 a.m.

**Fight:** Police responded to a fight in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 1:03 p.m.

**Criminal Sexual Conduct:** Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct on Cedar Ave. N. at 3:04 p.m.

**Oct. 2**

**Hit and Run:** At 9:59 a.m.,

SEE BLOTTER, A5

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

1. Larry Thompson – obstruction - \$3,000 bail

2. Timothy Tillman – assault - \$20,000 bail

3. Corey Tollefson – violation of order for protection – no bail

4. Richard Tople – DWI – no bail

5. Enrique Torres – theft - \$300 bail

6. Julio Touchet Campos – criminal sexual conduct - \$250,000 bail

7. Jaime Tovar – DWI – no bail

8. Gustavo Trevino – DWI, revoked license - \$750 bail

9. Santos Trevino – suspended license, no insurance - \$1,000 bail

10. Kile Trevithick – DWI - \$1,000 bail

11. Arnut Tungsununt – drugs - \$10,000 bail

12. Nyatiem Tut – false name - \$500 bail

13. Peter Uhlig – DWI – \$3,000 bail

14. Marco Valdez – DWI, child endangerment - \$6,000 bail

15. Jeremy Vanderlugt – failure to appear - \$1,000 bail

16. Andres Vargas – criminal vehicular operation – no bail

17. Reinaldo Vasques – DWI - \$1,000 bail

18. Jose Vazquez – DWI - \$1,000 bail

19. Eric Veith – theft, shoplifting - \$500 bail

20. Jose Villa Jr. – interference with 911 - \$6,000 bail





# Look what's coming to BP

Only days after announcing he was moving his Twin Cities company, Stinar Corp., to Blooming Prairie, owner Craig Kruckeberg showed off what the manufacturer produces. Top: Craig and Robyn Kruckeberg of Kruckeberg Industries try out a stairway built by Stinar Corp., an aircraft support company. This stairway is similar to the one that the President of the United States uses when he flies Air Force One. Left: This scissor lift is used to transfer food items onto airplanes. It is a creation of Stinar Corp., now owned by Kruckeberg Industries of Blooming Prairie. Bottom: This aerial photo of industrial buildings east on Highway 30 in Blooming Prairie shows what the industrial campus looked like years ago. It now will house Stinar Corp.



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## BLOTTER: FROM A4

a hit and run accident occurred in the 400 block of 16<sup>th</sup> St. NE.  
**Theft:** Officer took a theft report in the 1300 block of State Ave. NW at 3:21 p.m.  
**Suspicion:** Police responded to suspicious activity in the 1900 block of Cedar Valley Dr. NW at 6:13 p.m.  
Steele County Sheriff

**Sept. 27**  
**Arrest:** Deputies arrested a motorist during a traffic stop in the 400 block of 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. W. in Ellendale at 2:30 p.m.  
**Crash:** At 4:34 p.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred at 39<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW and Highway 14 W. in Owatonna Township.

**Sept. 29**  
**Welfare:** Deputy conducted a welfare check on Interstate 35 in Owatonna at 10:25 p.m.  
**Sept. 30**  
**Warrant:** Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 8:58 a.m.  
**Restraining Order:** At 2:07 p.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 6200 block of Kenyon Road in Merton Township.

**Oct. 1**  
**Restraining Order:** Deputies responded to a restraining order violation in the 4100 block of 66<sup>th</sup> St. NW in Medford Township at 12:27 p.m.  
**Warrant:** Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 8:29 p.m.

**Oct. 2**  
**Fraud:** Deputy took a report of a fraud incident in the 3400 block of Rose St. in Havana Township at 2:51 p.m.

ARRESTS  
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE  
Vincent Ray Garr, 36, arrested at 9:46 a.m. Oct. 1, felony credit card fraud and identity theft, held for court.  
Robert Martin Miller, 52, arrested at 11 a.m. Oct. 1, cancelled license, held for court.

**STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF**  
Anthony Thomas Lonsdale, 44, arrested at 11 a.m. Oct. 1, felony probation violation warrant arrest, body only.  
David Mark Perez, 56, arrested at 8:30 p.m. Oct. 1, probation violation warrant arrest, body only.  
Joseph Scott Almindinger, 38, arrested at 2:30 p.m. Oct. 2, felony order for protection violation, held for court.

COURT NEWS  
Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Sept. 22 – 29:

**DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
Chad R. Cardiff, 49, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Martin J. Matthews Jr., 33, Aberdeen, MD, suspended license, \$280; Juan I. Nunez Esquer, 21, Dodge Center, invalid license, \$180; Kaiden T. Rieck, 17, Claremont, speeding, \$280; Kent M. Severson, 49, Byron, expired registration, \$110.

**KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
Lawren C. Castner, 54, Mantorville, seat belt, \$105; Peter L. Dieroks, 65, Byron, seat belt, \$105; Jimmy L. Gaxiola, 20, Owatonna, revoked license, \$280; Jasmine K. Gustine, 18, Austin, seat belt, \$105; Ashley J. Johnson, 31, Dodge Center, hands free violation, \$130; Paul N. Johnson, 62, Rochester, seat belt, \$105; Joseph A. Matson, 20, Rochester, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, \$900, 2 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, 90 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Zachary J. Meyer, 17, Mantorville, speeding, \$140; Cody L. Milburn, 22, Stewartville, speeding,

\$140; Hoda M. Nuh, 28, Rochester, permit violation and passing parked authorized vehicle, \$180; Diego Perez, 22, Kasson, revoked license, \$280.

**MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER**  
Niti R. Aggarwal, 38, Mankato, speeding, \$130; Benjamin P. Bohn, 21, Wanamingo, speeding, \$130; Rabecca M. Bredesen, 23, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Jerald S. Carr, 50, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Virginia J. Greening, 41, Waltham, speeding, \$120; Fatumo A. Hudle, 32, Rochester, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$70 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Michael R. Lush, 49, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$105; Michael R. McCormick, 20, Waseca, speeding, \$120; Brenda Y. Pinales, 43, Kasson, cancelled license, \$280; Sheldon L. Torkelson, 51, Kasson, seat belt, \$105.

**WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
James M. Matson, 38, West Concord, no insurance, \$280; Tiffany H. Wilker, 36, Byron, speeding, \$130.

OWATONNA FIRE

**Sept. 27**  
**Trash Fire:** At 12:27 p.m., a dumpster or outside trash receptacle caught on fire in the 100 block of School St. W.

**Sept. 28**  
**Medical:** Fire rescue assisted with a medical emergency in the 600 block of El Dorado St. SE at 1:10 a.m.

**Sept. 29**  
**Spill:** Firefighters responded to a gas spill in the 400 block of 18<sup>th</sup> St. SE at 2:20 p.m.

**Oct. 2**  
**Crash:** Motor vehicle accidents occurred on Lemond Road SW at 6 p.m. and the 500 block of Elm Ave. S. at 7:28 p.m.

**Oct. 3**  
**Crash:** At 5:29 p.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred at 44<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE and County Road 180.

3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL SPEAK EASY  
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STEELE-DODGE

BUSINESS

# Cedar Travel becomes Travel Leaders of Owatonna

BY HOWARD LESTRUD  
STAFF WRITER

Things have changed dramatically at Cedar Travel of Owatonna. The popular travel agency, which has had a home in Owatonna for the past 30 years, is now known as Travel Leaders of Owatonna. Travel Leaders is a global travel agency with a new owner in Owatonna, Sara Butruff. She purchased the agency from Laurie Johnson, who started the Cedar Travel agency in 1989. The location remains the same at 111 N. Cedar Ave. The phone number also remains the same at 507-455-1170. Digs at the old location have changed, however. Butruff engineered a major makeover at the agency. “The new look is fantastic,”

mentioned a visitor. Johnson, a resident of Blooming Prairie, started the travel agency “down two blocks from its current location,” she related. She worked at two other agencies, beginning in 1982. Butruff has been in the business for 26 years. Her early travel experience was with Galaxy Travel in Apple Valley, beginning in 1999. Travel Leaders of Apple Valley serves the Apple Valley, Lakeville and Farmington areas. A grand re-opening was held last Thursday with snacks and travel discussions being offered. Johnson displayed some of the agency’s awards earned over the 30 years she has been involved with Cedar Travel. Educational seminars, Butruff said, will be offered on river cruises, African safaris, Disney trips, etc.



Over the years, Cedar Travel of Owatonna captured many impressive awards. Former owner Laurie Johnson of Blooming Prairie is shown with some of the recognition. Cedar Travel has become Travel Leaders of Owatonna.



Cedar Travel of Owatonna is no more. It has now become Travel Leaders of Owatonna. Staff members, from left to right are: Cassy Buck, Jon Terrill, Colleen Hollister, Laurie Johnson (former owner) and Sara Butruff (new owners.)

“I love river cruising and expedition cruising,” she said. She explained that this type of cruising “immerses” the traveler into the destination. The travel business has changed immensely over the years that the two have been involved, they agreed. Technology has changed the business, giving the vacationer more options from which to choose. Both report that travel changed considerably following 9/11 and in 2008, a downturn of the economy. Travelers can become as involved as they wish, Butruff remarked. She said social media (Facebook and Instagram) has enabled travelers the

“I’ve had some really memorable travel experiences that never will be forgotten.”

**Laurie Johnson**  
Former Owner Cedar Travel

opportunity to become more directly involved in planning their trips. Many customers desire to embark on some complex trips including Bucket List items. “We try to specialize and many of our agents may have been to a place where you want to go,” says Butruff. Some key vacation locations include the Caribbean, Australia/New Zealand, Hawaii, Europe/river

cruising and Disney. Butruff said Travel Leaders will utilize the newspaper, radio and television to promote its business. “I love print,” she confessed. “I love having a cup of coffee or a glass of wine while I read the newspaper,” she added. “I’ve had some really memorable travel experiences that never will be forgotten,” remarked Johnson. “She (Laurie) built the

business and its clientele,” Butruff says thankfully. The Owatonna staff numbers six: Butruff, Johnson, Cassy Buck, Jon Terrill, Laurie Zeller and Colleen Hollister. Butruff and Johnson will be rotating from Apple Valley and Owatonna. Zeller is manager of the Apple Valley office and Disney specialist for Travel Leaders. Store hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Butruff also manages a Travel Leader store in Lewisburg, Pa., a town similar in size to Blooming Prairie. “I love small towns,” Butruff says. Added Johnson, “Amen.”

## Applebee’s unveils new pasta and grill combos

With so many craveable options for grilled entrees and delicious pastas, Applebee’s is eliminating the problem of having to pick just one with NEW Pasta and Grill Combos, starting at just \$9.99 for a limited time. Guests select their choice of one grilled entrée, such as a Crispy Shrimp with a Grilled Shrimp Skewer, and one pasta, including the NEW Smoky Mozzarella Ravioli, for a custom dynamic duo fit to satisfy all their cravings. For even more abundant value, each Pasta and Grill Combo comes with a side of steamed broccoli and garlic mashed potatoes, topped off with crispy onions and a signature breadstick. You read that right, all of your favorites on one plate at an unbeatable price. “At Applebee’s, our menu offers a variety of options, but sometimes all of those options make it hard to pick just one dish,” said Joel Yashinsky, chief marketing officer at Applebee’s. “With our new Pasta and Grill Combos, we’re making the choice easy by offering some of our most

popular entrees and sides all in one sitting ... and starting at a great price of only \$9.99. It can’t be beat!” Applebee’s is satisfying every stomach, offering four grilled proteins and three delicious pastas for 12 possible combinations. The Pasta and Grill Combos lineup includes:

- Grilled Chicken Breast with a Buttery Blend of Garlic and Parsley
- 6 oz. USDA Select Top Sirloin (with option to upgrade to an 8 oz. USDA Select Top Sirloin)
- Blackened Cajun Salmon
- Crispy Shrimp & Grilled Shrimp Skewer with a Buttery Blend of Garlic and Parsley
- Smoky Mozzarella Ravioli with Tomato Cream Sauce
- Fettuccine Alfredo with Broccoli in a Rich Alfredo Sauce
- Stuffed Rigatoni with Tomato Meat Sauce

For more information on this and other Applebee’s specials, view the online menu and stop by your neighborhood Applebee’s restaurant.

## U-Haul rental expands to Waseca area

U-Haul Company of Minnesota is pleased to announce that Waseca County Rental Center has signed on as a U-Haul neighborhood dealer to serve the Waseca community. Waseca County Rental Center at 2100 Brown Ave. Suite 140 will offer U-Haul trucks, trailers, towing equipment, moving supplies and in-store pick-up for boxes. U-Haul Truck Share 24/7 is revolutionizing the moving industry through its more convenient, more secure way to pick up and return a truck. Since 2017, U-Haul Live Verify? technology has allowed customers to conduct transactions entirely on their smartphones at any hour – day or night. There are no membership fees. Create an online account at uhaul.com to start skipping the lines and stop worrying about store hours. Normal business hours are 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Reserve U-Haul products at this dealer location by calling (507) 201-4370 or visiting <https://www.uhaul.com/Locations/Truck-Rentals-near-Waseca-MN-56093/039774/> today.

Waseca County Rental Center partners Keith and Amanda Haskell are proud to team with the industry leader in do-it-yourself moving and self-storage to better meet the demands of Waseca County. U-Haul and Waseca County Rental Center are striving to benefit the environment through sustainability initiatives. Truck sharing is a core U-Haul sustainability business practice that allows individuals to access a fleet of trucks that is larger than what they could access on an individual basis. Every U-Haul truck

placed in a community helps keep 19 personally owned large-capacity vehicles, pickups, SUVs and vans off the road. Fewer vehicles means less traffic congestion, less pollution, less fuel burned and cleaner air. Waseca County Rental Center is a great place to become U-Haul Famous. Take your picture in front of a U-Haul product, send it in and your face could land on the side of a U-Haul truck. Upload your photo through Instagram using #uhaul-famous, or go to [www.uhaulfamous.com](http://www.uhaulfamous.com) to submit photos and learn more.

## BP Chamber launches new website

The Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce is excited to unveil its new chamber website. Beginning on Oct. 4, the

new website went live at [www.bloomingprairiechamber.com](http://www.bloomingprairiechamber.com). The chamber made an effort to connect with all area businesses

to allow them to submit information and logos pertaining to their specialties. “There are so many exciting things coming for

Chamber members with the launch of the website so stay tuned,” said Becky Noble, director of the Chamber.

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STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS



# West Concord business offers natural, organic products for body, home

**BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN**  
COUNTY WRITER

For Abbi La Rock, the idea of cleanliness and an eco-friendly lifestyle go hand-in-hand.

The West Concord woman is the owner of Abigailia's Clean Thumb, a business she has run out of her West Concord home for the past several years offering natural, organic soaps and body lotions as well as cleaning supplies and services.

There are two aspects to her business, she explained.

She makes handmade soaps and body lotions but also does residential and commercial housecleaning, again using natural and organic products.

"I was in the medical field for 11 or 12 years," she said. While it was a wonderful experience, she came to feel it was "not for me" and began thinking of other options.

La Rock said she already had an interest in, and knowledge of, using natural products, liked making things and felt this type of business would be a good fit for her.

"I'm always learning."

**Abbi La Rock**  
Abigalia's Clean Thumb Owner

Many of the natural, organic ingredients she uses in her products come from her own West Concord garden, she said. She has also begun to get involved in foraging for herbs, she said.

The Wisconsin native said she is used to having her own "treasure trove" of herbs growing wild on her property and infusing them into soaps.

"My whole thing is not to waste anything," she said explaining how she canned the produce from her garden and carried that a step further in using these things in new ways such as a tomato or a strawberry soap.

"I'm always learning," she said.

Last year, she said, she had lots of beets and figured out a way to boil them down and made beet soap.

Making the soaps can be a time-consuming project, she said. They may take several hours to make but then they have to sit for several weeks before they can be used.

She carries the same natural, organic philosophy into her cleaning business.

Many cleaning products can be toxic, she said. In addition, the products she uses work just as well and in many ways better than the store-bought variety and they also smell better, she said.

All of her products are safe for people, pets and the environment. For people like her husband who have sensitive skin, her products are a better choice than many commercial brands, she said.

The second aspect of her business is doing housecleaning and here her goal is also to use safe, organic products.

This business is also going well, she said. She has had a high school student working with her to make the soaps and she would now like to find someone to help with the housecleaning side of the business.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

**Abbi La Rock has found a business venture where she customizes all your cleaning needs. She has been operating Abigalia's Clean Thumb in West Concord for the past several years. She recently had a business display at Marigold Days in Mantorville.**

To sell her body soaps and lotions she has had her products on display at several summer festivals in the area, most recently Marigold Days in Mantorville, and also has a Facebook page

Her motto is Green Cleaning for the Home and Body. She offers customizable housekeeping services for the home and office as well as organic beauty and cleaning supplies.

You can contact Abbi at 507-272-5142.

## Hy-Vee suspends sale of pharmacy products

Hy-Vee, Inc. has temporarily suspended the sale of all over-the-counter Zantac brand and Topcare brand ranitidine products.

This action is being taken out of an abundance of caution due to a recent industry-wide product alert from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that ranitidine products may contain a low level of nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), a probable human carcinogen.

The FDA is continuing to evaluate whether low levels of NDMA in ranitidine pose a risk to patients. The levels that the FDA is finding in ranitidine from preliminary tests "barely exceed amounts found in common foods."

The FDA issued an official recall on Topcare 75mg ranitidine products, but no other Zantac brand products and Topcare brand ranitidine products have been recalled. Customers who purchased these products can return them to Hy-Vee for a full refund.

Ranitidine is an H2 Blocker that is taken to provide heartburn relief. Hy-Vee stores and Hy-Vee pharmacy locations will continue to sell other over-the-counter H2 Blockers, including Pepcid, Tagamet and their respective generic equivalents, famotidine and cimetidine.

Customers who have questions are encouraged to speak with their health care provider or their Hy-Vee pharmacist.

## DEED awards \$3.6M from Job Creation Fund, creates 400 new jobs

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) has announced \$3.6 million in awards from the Job Creation Fund for business expansions in five Minnesota communities.

The awards are expected to generate more than 400 jobs over the next three years.

Awards were made to Blattner Energy in Avon, \$175,000; Fox Valley Metrology in Stacy, \$180,000; Puris Proteins in Lac qui Parle, \$1,860,000; PeopleNet in Minnetonka, \$600,000 and RMS Company in Coon Rapids, \$800,000.

"I congratulate these five businesses on their awards," said DEED Commissioner Steve Grove. "These awards will create hundreds of new jobs and will help Minnesota remain a competitive place for businesses to grow."

The Job Creation Fund is a pay-for-performance program that provides funding to businesses after they meet certain criteria, including minimum requirements for job creation and private investments.

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

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

## LUTEFISK DINNER SET: for BP FROM A1

Menu for this year's dinner will include: lutefisk and lefse, Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, buttered corn, cranberry salad, Norwegian pastries, coffee and milk.

Tickets cost \$18 for adults, \$6 for those ages 5-12 and those under five are free. Advance tickets can be bought at the First Lutheran Church office during regular hours, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fridays.

First serving will be at 11 a.m. and continue until 1 p.m. Advance sale will reserve serving times at 5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

All proceeds from the dinner go to benevolence.

How many pounds of lutefisk were consumed last year? Yep, there was some left over but not much. All but 14 pounds of the 1,250 pounds ordered from Olson's Fish Market of the Twin Cities was eaten.

Let's take a look at the rest of the consumables in 2018: 8,000 meatballs from 224 pounds of hamburger and pork; 1,500 krumkake; 1,500 rosettes; 84 pounds of cranberry salad; 800 pounds of potatoes; 216 pounds of butter and 1,120 rounds (each cut into fourths) of lefse.

The lefse came from the Norsemen of Rushford.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

**First Lutheran Church member Marv Camerer was one of the many volunteers who made last year's lutefisk dinner a grand success. Marv will be on potato peeling duty once again this year in preparation for the Oct. 15 event.**



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

**Why is this First Lutheran Church volunteer smiling? It's because she is serving some of that lutefisk delicacy that is treasured by many. This year's dinner is on Tuesday, Oct. 15.**

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FOOTBALL CONTEST  
ENTRY FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

1 \_\_\_\_\_

9 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

10 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

11 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

12 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_

13 \_\_\_\_\_

6 \_\_\_\_\_

14 \_\_\_\_\_

7 \_\_\_\_\_

15 \_\_\_\_\_

8 \_\_\_\_\_

16 \_\_\_\_\_

\*Tie-Breaker Score \_\_\_\_\_\*

6. Blooming Prairie vs. Medford\*

Football Contest Rules

- Contest period: Sept. 11-Nov. 27
- How to win: Pick the team you think will win each game listed in the below advertisements. Write the team's name in the blank with corresponding number. Cut out and send or drop off at Steele County Times, P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 or Dodge County Independent, 121 W. Main St., Kasson, MN 55944. You may enter in person, mail or e-mail to [bptimes@frontiernet.net](mailto:bptimes@frontiernet.net) or [dcj@kmtel.com](mailto:dcj@kmtel.com). Must be returned by 5 p.m. on Tuesday prior to games. (Note: the selected games are for the following week, not the current week.)
- Tie-Breaker: You must enter a score in the Tie-Breaker game or you will be disqualified.
- Prizes: We will award a gift card to local restaurant or grocery store to the person correctly predicting the most winners from the games listed. There will be a grand prize awarded to the person who picks the most correct games throughout the entire 12 weeks. All decisions by judges are final.
- Eligibility: Open to anyone age 14 or older, excluding staff of newspapers.



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2. Triton vs. Caledonia



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3. Byron at Winona

4. Hayfield vs. Rsuhford-Peterson





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5. Owatonna at Rochester John Marshall

6. Blooming Prairie vs. Medford\*

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7. NRHEG at Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop

8. Minnesota (CFB) at Rutgers



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11. Michigan at Penn State

12. Iowa State at Texas Tech



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13. Minnesota (NFL) at Detroit

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15. New Orleans at Chicago

16. Philadelphia at Dallas



# How Seniors Can Get Help with Credit Card and Mortgage Debt



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Dear Savvy Senior,  
My husband and I, who are both 66 years old, have fallen behind on our mortgage payments and have accumulated quite a bit of credit card debt over the past few years. Where can we get help?  
Drowning in Debt

Dear Drowning,  
Unfortunately, credit card and mortgage debt have become a growing problem for many older Americans who often face medical-related expenses on top of their mortgage and other growing costs. Here are some tips and services that can help.

CREDIT CARD COUNSELING

To help you get a handle on your credit card debt, a good place to turn is an accredited credit counseling agency. These are nonprofit agencies that offer free financial information and advice on how to handle financial problems.

Depending on the significance of your credit card debt, they can help you sort out your finances and set you up in a debt management plan (DMP), which allows a counselor to negotiate with your creditors to lower your interest rates and eliminate any late fees and other penalties.

The agency will then act as a consolidator, grouping your debts together into one payment that you would make, and distributes those funds to your creditors. Typically, the first counseling session is free, but a DMP comes with monthly fees of roughly \$20 to \$75 a month, depending on the state.

To locate a credible agency in your area, use the National Foundation for Credit Counseling website at *NFCC.org* (800-388-2227), or the or the Financial Counseling Association of America *FAA.org* (800-450-1794).

But make sure that you don't use a debt settlement company that claims to settle all your debt or cut it in half for a fee without counseling. Most of these companies use deceptive practices and will only leave you more in debt than you already are.

MORTGAGE COUNSELING

If you have fallen behind on your mortgage payments, or if you have already received a letter or phone call about missed payments, you should contact your lender immediately to explain your situation and see if you can work out a payment plan. Be prepared to provide your financial information, such as your monthly income and expenses.

You can also get help from a foreclosure prevention counselor. These are HUD-approved, trained counselors that will work with you, examine your financial situation, and offer guidance on how best to avoid default or foreclosure. They can also represent you in negotiations with your lender if you need them to.

To find a government-approved housing counseling agency in your area, use the National Foundation for Credit Counseling or Financial Counseling Association of America websites or phone numbers previously listed. Or, for a larger selection of housing counseling options see the Department of Housing and Urban Development website at *HUD.gov* – clicking on “Resources” at the top of the page, then on “Foreclosure Avoidance Counseling,” or call 800-569-4287.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

You also need to make sure you're not missing out on any financial assistance programs. The National Council on Aging's website (*BenefitsCheckUp.org*) contains a database of more than 2,500 federal, state and local programs that can help seniors with prescription drug costs, health care, food, utilities, and other basic needs. The site will help you locate programs that you may be eligible for and will show you how to apply.

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



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# History from the News Archives

## 10 Years Ago Oct. 13, 2009

DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

It was a magical night on Oct. 5 as the 2009 Blooming Prairie High School Homecoming King and Queen were crowned. This year's royalty is King Pat Trotman and Queen Jenna Paulson. The new king is the third Trotman to be crowned king. In previous years, Trotman's brothers, Lee and Allen, stood on the stage and were crowned kings. "I feel like I have bragging rights," said an excited mother Amy Trotman.

After many call meetings and interviews, Pastor Charlie Leonard has been called as the new pastor at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie. He takes over for Pastor Korbel who was filling in after Pastor Hegal retired. Pastor Charlie came from Salem Lutheran Church in Montevideo and is very excited to be in Blooming Prairie.

Oct. 16 marks a historic day for Owatonna and health care in Steele County. After four years of designing, building, testing and training, the doors will open to all of patients in need of care at the new Owatonna Hospital. The beautiful 136,000 square foot Owatonna Hospital will continue where the old hospital left off, providing quality care to people of all ages and with a world-class building and technology to match the quality of care.

Zumbro Education District (ZED) will celebrate 20 years of service to its member districts at an Open House on Oct. 29. The Open House will be located at the education district's new facility in Byron. Triton and Blooming Prairie school districts joined during the 1992-93 school year.

## 20 Years Ago Oct. 12, 1999

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Jim O'Connor believes a town that loses its elevator is as good as gone. That's why he spearheaded an effort

to buy the Farmer's Co-op Elevator culminating in the purchase of the 94-year-old Blooming Prairie institution for \$240,000. "I believe it was too vital a business in this community to let it close," O'Connor said. The elevator had been struggling financially for at least four years. Jim Trotman continues to manage the facility after 20 years.

Ryan Ashton and Janelle Iacovino were named Homecoming King and Queen at the Oct. 4 coronation at Blooming Prairie High School.

Don't forget the annual lutefisk dinner at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie on Tuesday, Oct. 19. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for children. The menu includes lutefisk and lefse, Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, buttered corn, cranberry salad, potato buns, Norwegian pastries, coffee and milk.

## 50 Years Ago Oct. 8, 1969

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

The Blooming Prairie Super-Valu Store operated by Northwest Super Markets, Inc. for the past 19 years has been sold to Leonard and George Jensen, Phil E. Cleary, president of the corporation, announced last week. The new owners received possession of the store on Oct. 1. The Jensens reside in the Twin Cities and are a well-known father and son team in the super market business. Northwest purchased the Blooming Prairie store in 1950 from the Erickson brothers.

Frank Zeiner, well-known Bixby businessman and life-long resident of Steele County, was killed instantly at about 6:45 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5 when he was struck by a car driven by Kathryn Hagen of Mankato. The accident occurred as Mr. Zeiner was crossing Highway 218 at the north edge of Bixby.

The Town Council on Oct. 7 adopted a budget for 1970 of \$98,900. The newly adopted budget calls for a reduction of \$11,100 from the 1968 budget and should result in an approximate decrease of 14 mills in the

village tax levy for 1970. The council's action should be welcome news for BP taxpayers as a tax cut is unheard of at this time of inflationary trend and the city fathers are to be commended for approving a budget which is down from the previous year.

Dr. A.B. Magnusson announced in a statement to the Times last Thursday that he will not be a candidate for re-election as mayor of the Village of Blooming Prairie. The announcement came as a surprise to many supporters who had hoped that he would seek re-election to a new 2-year term at this year's election.

A thief was apprehended at the Raymond Boysen farm. David Norgaard, 22, of Austin was apprehended at the farm Sept. 28 and charged with theft. Tools, tires and other items were found in his car. Norgaard pleaded guilty in Dodge County Court and was fined \$200.

## 75 Years Ago Oct. 12, 1944

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Albert Glock, farmer four miles west of Claremont, was severely injured last Wednesday when his team ran away and he was thrown from a manure spreader which passed over him. He was taken to City hospital in Owatonna by ambulance where doctors discovered several ribs were broken and it was feared that a lung was punctured.

Wm. McIntire closed a deal Saturday afternoon whereby he disposed of the Rex Theatre—equipment, building and everything else connected with the movie business in Blooming Prairie. The purchasers were Mr. and Mrs. A.G. Peterson of Kasson, owners and operators of the State Theatre in Kasson.

Rodney Harvey, 29, Brownsdale farmer died at St. Olaf's Hospital in Austin Monday night as a result of a collision that afternoon at the intersection of two county roads about two miles east of Lansing. Fred Gommels of Hayfield was seriously injured in the crash. Gommels is well-known to many Blooming Prairie residents.

# Technology making breast cancer screenings better at Mayo

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and while breast cancer is still the most common cancer among women, technology is making the screening process easier than ever.

New this year, patients have the opportunity to self-schedule their mammogram appointments through Patient Online Services, Mayo Clinic's patient portal. After the patient's care team sends an email with a go-ahead to schedule the screening, the patient can log in and choose the date, time and location that works best.

In addition, patients who visit Mayo Clinic Health System have greater access to enhanced technology for breast cancer screenings. Breast tomosynthesis (3D mammography machines) enables physicians to see cancers earlier, especially in women with denser breast tissue. The technology also has shown to reduce the recall rate, meaning patients are less likely to be called back for a second screening. "More than 1 in 8 women

will develop breast cancer in their lifetime, and survivability improves when cancers are found early," says Michael Wolf, M.D., Mayo Clinic Health System radiologist.

When used for breast cancer screening, 3D mammogram machines create 3D and 2D mammogram images. Studies show that combining 3D mammograms with standard mammograms reduces the need for additional imaging and slightly increases the number of cancers detected during screening.

Breast cancer prevention is also important. Some risk factors, such as family history, can't be changed. However, these lifestyle changes can lower your risk:

- **Limit alcohol.** The more alcohol you drink, the greater your risk of developing breast cancer. The general recommendation – based on research on the effect of alcohol on breast cancer risk – is to limit yourself to less than one drink per day, as even small amounts increase risk.

- **Don't smoke.** Accumulating evidence suggests a link between smoking and breast cancer risk, particularly in premenopausal women. In addition, not smoking is one of the best things you can do for your overall health.

- **Control your weight.** Being overweight or obese increases the risk of breast cancer. This is especially true if obesity occurs later in life, particularly after menopause.

- **Be physically active.** Physical activity can help you maintain a healthy weight, which, in turn, helps prevent breast cancer. For most healthy adults, the Department of Health and Human Services recommends at least 150 minutes a week of moderate aerobic activity or 75 minutes of vigorous aerobic activity weekly, plus strength training at least twice a week.

- **Breastfeed.** Breast-feeding might play a role in breast cancer prevention. The longer you breastfeed, the greater the

protective effect.

- **Limit dose and duration of hormone therapy.** Combination hormone therapy for more than three to five years increases the risk of breast cancer. If you're taking hormone therapy for menopausal symptoms, ask your health care provider about other options. You might be able to manage your symptoms with nonhormonal therapies and medications. If you decide that the benefits of short-term hormone therapy outweigh the risks, use the lowest dose that works for you and continue to have your provider monitor the length of time you take hormones.

- **Be vigilant about breast cancer detection.** If you notice any changes in your breasts, such as a new lump or skin changes, consult your provider. Also, ask when to begin mammograms and other screenings based on your personal history.

Visit [mayoclinichealthsystem.org](http://mayoclinichealthsystem.org) for more information.

## JIVIN': at homecoming FROM A1

team, was picked king. The new royalty teamed up for several festivities during the week, including coronation, dress-up days and the homecoming parade throughout the downtown area in which thousands of people attended.

"I was shocked," Dallenbach said of becoming homecoming queen. "I'm really honored, and I'm grateful."

But it wasn't becoming queen that made Homecom-

ing extra special for Dallenbach. It was the fact that she got to be a queen candidate while her twin brother, Jaden, was a king candidate. "It's another fun experience we get to do together," she said. "It was very exciting for both of us," she added.

Dallenbach took to the field during halftime to perform a dance featuring "a mix of different songs" with the queen candidates. "We made up a dance for the student section," she said.

In fourth grade, Dallenbach was diagnosed with scoliosis, a sideways curvature of the spine that occurs most often during the growth spurt just before puberty. "It progressed and got worse. When I got severe, I needed a spinal fusion," she explained. The goal of the fusion is to make her spine straight again.

Even though she was dancing for a few minutes Friday, Dallenbach still isn't able to take part in dance competition. "The hardest thing is mentally. I feel ready, but my body isn't ready. That's the hardest," she said, noting it generally takes a year to fully recover.

In addition to dance, the homecoming queen is involved in student council, National Honor Society, DECA and Big Brothers Big Sisters. Dallenbach says student council is her favorite activity. "I really enjoy planning events and seeing the turn out of them," she said.

Last year, Dallenbach helped plan all the homecoming events as chairperson of the homecoming committee. She recalls the curveball Mother Nature threw at them on the night before the parade and big game when a small tornado ripped through the downtown area. "We had to redo everything," she said.

Dallenbach joined Owatonna Schools in sixth grade. Though she initially found it difficult to make friends, she has since found the community "very welcoming." She previously attended Triton School in Dodge Center where her mother, Jill, is an art teacher.

Becoming homecoming queen at Owatonna, Dallenbach said, is the last thing she ever expected to happen to her.

She hasn't decided on her career plans yet, but she hopes to do something in the medical field, possibly with physical therapy.

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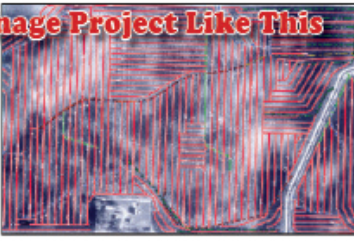
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# BP alumni mark 61 years



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
The Blooming Prairie Class of 1958 had its 61st class reunion on Sept. 21 at the Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie. Those attending were, back row, from left: Allan Sorenson and Alan Winter, who came from Arizona to attend; middle row: Carolyn Ruzek Harms, Elaine Angell Schmeling, Sharon Ramsey Lea, and Carol Erickson Benson; front row: Barb Smith Peterson, Doris Engler Rasmussen, Jane Morton Hoshal, Betty Tollefson Ronningen, and Judy Dixon Wencil.

## APPROACHES: to the child care shortage FROM A2

Another way we are addressing the shortage is through providing quality training opportunities for child care providers. It is critically important to make sure current providers decide to stay in the field. Our Quality Child Care Program trainings are held each spring and fall in communities around the region. With four sessions planned this fall, providers are given the opportunity to earn training credit, learn new strategies to implement in their own programs and connect with other providers in their area to

widen their understanding of best practices in child care. One of our upcoming sessions will be delivered to a learning community of Somali providers in Olmsted County in partnership with Families First of Minnesota in Rochester. Visit [smifoundation.org/qccp](http://smifoundation.org/qccp) for more information on these trainings or to register. Another excellent opportunity for provider training is coming up on Oct. 26 at SMIF's Early Childhood Care Conference. This annual event draws nearly 500 early childhood professionals from the region to Owatonna to get the tools

they need to provide quality care. Registration for this event is open through Oct. 16. Visit [smifoundation.org/eccc](http://smifoundation.org/eccc) or contact Rona Holcomb at [ronah@smifoundation.org](mailto:ronah@smifoundation.org) or 507-214-7017 to register. We know that change does not happen overnight, but we have seen positive results even in the past few years since this challenge came to the forefront. SMIF recently worked with the Minnesota Department of Human Services to award 14 grants to child care centers and family child care for "shovel ready" start-up and expansion projects,

resulting in an increase of 548 slots in the region. This, along with the programs mentioned above, gives us hope that significant change will happen in the not-too-distant future. As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at [timp@smifoundation.org](mailto:timp@smifoundation.org) or 507-455-3215. *Tim Penny is the president and CEO of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. He represented Minnesota's First Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1982-1994.*

# Uncover the mysteries at the library

The month of October seems to be a month of mystery. Not only is it getting darker earlier at night, but we have the culminating event of Halloween at the end of the month. To celebrate this spooky time of year the Blooming Prairie Branch Library will be hosting two events, both on Thursday, Oct. 17.



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

Since the kids will be out of school that day for the Education Minnesota (MEA) break, we will be having a special movie showing at 1 p.m. Our licensing agreement won't let us print the name of it, but the word "Secret" is in the title. This movie was just released on DVD last month. Send the kids and enjoy 85 minutes of quiet time for yourself. At 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 17 come to hear Secrets of Steele County featuring local ghost stories. For several years, I have been able to lead a community education class in Owatonna called the Secrets of Owatonna. I have been told amazing stories and will have a PowerPoint presentation to show some haunted places in Steele County. Come and share your own stories – this will be one night when we won't have to cite our sources. Finally Halloween will be on a Thursday this year. Since the library is open until 8 p.m. that evening, we want to invite your trick or treaters to stop in at the library for a treat. Have a great October!

### SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

## BP Elementary

Oct. 10- French bread pizza, fish sandwich with cheese, roasted cauliflower, birthday cake  
Oct. 11- No School  
Oct. 14- Roasted hot dog, homemade chili with cornbread, seasoned ranch wedges, rice krispie treat  
Oct. 15- Ravioli with meat sauce, French bread, chicken bacon ranch melt, Italian pasta salad  
Oct 16-18- NO SCHOOL

## BP High School

Oct. 10- Pork roast, mashed potatoes, apple sauce, cornbread, corn dog, pizza, 7 layer salad, Golden Grahams cereal bar  
Oct. 11- NO SCHOOL  
Oct. 14- Meatballs and gravy, mashed potatoes, whole grain dinner roll, cheeseburger on bun, turkey BLT salad, chicken Caesar salad, pasta bar  
Oct. 15- Chili dog, seasoned ranch wedges, mini Rice Krispie treat, crispy chicken sandwich, pizza, turkey BLT salad, chicken Caesar salad, chicken bites with sweet and sour sauce  
Oct. 16-18- NO SCHOOL

# Who's Your Hero? Red Cross accepts nominations for 2020 heroes

The American Red Cross Minnesota Region is now accepting nominations for its 12th annual Heroes Breakfast, where selected nominees will be honored for their selfless acts that embody the spirit of the Red Cross. Nominate a hero today. "Since 2008, we have honored more than 100 commendable people who exemplify the Red Cross mission," explained CEO of the Minnesota Region of the Red Cross, Phil Hansen. "Now we're asking community members to nominate their heroes so we can recognize their incredible impact." All nominees must be Minnesota residents and the heroic event must have taken place during the past year. Heroes will be honored in six categories: **Community Hero:** Presented to an individual who displays leadership and commitment to his or her community by making a positive and significant impact. **Give Life Hero:** Presented to an individual whose commitment to blood and platelet donation plays a significant

role in ensuring the health of patients in our local communities and throughout the country. **Good Samaritan Hero:** Presented to an individual who displays courage and compassion upon encountering an unusual, significant or unexpected incident. **First Responder Hero:** Presented to an individual or group of the public service community, such as EMS, firefighter or law enforcement) who went above and beyond the call of duty. **Military Hero:** Presented to an active, reserve or retired member of the U.S. Armed Forces of ROTC or civilian that has made a significant impact on the military community. **Youth Good Samaritan Hero (under 21):** Presented to an outstanding young person who displays courage and compassion upon encountering an unusual, significant or unexpected incident. The 12th annual Heroes Breakfast will be held on May 29, at the Radisson Blu – Mall of America.

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### Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### BIRTHDAYS

**OCT. 8**  
ADAM TROTMAN  
BRANDON HAUBENSCHILD  
ETHAN JENZEN

**OCT. 9**  
MARK COUGHLIN

**OCT. 10**  
VICTOR PETERSON  
ELISA WRIGHT  
JAMIE KLEMMENSEN  
BRAD BRUGGEMAN  
KRISTIN BISHOP  
STEVE VAITH

**OCT. 11**  
SAMANTHA NELSON  
PATRICK JONES  
JACK WEEKS

**OCT. 12**  
IAN PAULSON  
TRAVIS DOOCY  
ALEXA MINER  
AARON ANDERSON  
LESLIE SHAWBACK JR.  
SCOTT BASNESS

**OCT. 13**  
REBECCA ROGERS

ISREAL WACEK  
PAULA RESSLER  
CHAD FORYSTEK  
CODY BURKHART  
LLOYD MANS  
ROSAMONDE KOENIG

**OCT. 14**  
TAYLOR FARR

#### ANNIVERSARIES

**OCT. 8**  
CARL & KATHI PETERSON

**OCT. 10**  
MARK & JOAN McDONALD  
SHELIA & GARY WIESE

**OCT. 11**  
SCOTT MUSEL & CATHY JANNING

**OCT. 12**  
MAYNARD & JUDY JOHNSON

**OCT. 14**  
MARY & JOEL BURR

**OCT. 15**  
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TOM & MARTHA WALTERS  
CURT & CINDY ESPLAN  
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### BOOK NOOK

## Uncover the mysteries at the library

The month of October seems to be a month of mystery. Not only is it getting darker earlier at night, but we have the culminating event of Halloween at the end of the month. To celebrate this spooky time of year the Blooming Prairie Branch Library will be hosting two events, both on Thursday, Oct. 17.

Since the kids will be out of school that day for the Education Minnesota (MEA) break, we will be having a special movie showing at 1 p.m. Our licensing agreement won't let us print the name of it, but the word "Secret" is in the title. This movie was just released on DVD last month. Send the kids and enjoy 85 minutes of quiet time for yourself.

At 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 17 come to hear Secrets of Steele County featuring local ghost stories. For several years, I have been able to lead a community education class in Owatonna called the Secrets of Owatonna. I have been told amazing stories and will have a PowerPoint presentation to show some haunted places in Steele County. Come and share your own stories – this will be one night when we won't have to cite our sources.

Finally Halloween will be on a Thursday this year. Since the library is open until 8 p.m. that evening, we want to invite your trick or treaters to stop in at the library for a treat. Have a great October!

NANCY VAILLANCOURT

### Number Search Corner

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### Recipe Corner

## BUTTERSCOTCH LAYER DESSERT

FIRST LAYER:  
1 c. flour  
1/2 c. margarine  
1/2 c. chopped nuts

Mix and pat in a 9x13-inch pan. Bake 15 minutes at 350°. Cool.

SECOND LAYER:  
1 c. powdered sugar  
1 c. Cool Whip  
8 oz. softened cream cheese

Spread on the first layer.

THIRD LAYER:  
2 sm. pkg. instant butterscotch pudding  
3 c. milk  
1 tsp. vanilla

Mix together. Spread over cream cheese layer. Chill.

FOURTH LAYER:  
Cool Whip, as desired

Also decorative sprinkles of chopped nuts or colored sugar crystals.

Note: Other flavors of pudding such as pistachio or chocolate can be substituted instead of butterscotch.

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15th Presidents Award Winner  
Blooming Prairie, 583-2046



# It's a marathon for students at St. Mary's

Students at St. Mary's School in Owatonna are running a marathon. It's not what you might think as in running, but rather a marathon to raise funds for their school.

On Friday, Oct. 4, St. Mary's participated in the Minnesota Marathon for Nonpublic Education in co-operation with the Minnesota Knights of Columbus. By the end of the day, St. Mary's surpassed its goal of \$30,000 and in fact brought in more than \$40,000.

"It gives students, faculty members, family members and friends an

opportunity to show their school pride while generating important financial support for our school programs," said Jen Swanson, principal at St. Mary's.

For this year's marathon, all classes participated in a community service activity of some sorts. Those activities included: pre-school- banners for police, fire and post office and cleaning up around school; K-1<sup>st</sup> grade- delivering banners and treat bags to police, fire and post office; 2<sup>nd</sup> grade- visiting Koda Assisted Living facility; 3<sup>rd</sup> grade- cleaning

the fairgrounds; 4-5 grades- cleaning Manthey, Morehouse and Brown parks; 6-7 grades- cleaning Darts, Mineral Springs and JC parks and 8<sup>th</sup> grade- storm sewer stenciling program.

The actual cost to educate a student at St. Mary's is about \$7,083, but the school charges far less than that. Parish subsidies and fundraising are needed to help offset this difference," Swanson pointed out. "We participate in fundraisers like the Marathon to help keep our tuition more affordable."

All the money raised goes directly to programs

and offerings at St. Mary's. The additional \$10,000 raised above the \$30,000 goal will be put to a Challenge grant goal of \$25,000. Between the marathon and the challenge, St. Mary's hopes to raise \$55,000.

St. Mary's is offering an online donation option this year. Individuals can choose to donate through a secure website at [www.stmarys-owatonna.org](http://www.stmarys-owatonna.org) (giving, donate now).

"It is incredible to see how family members and community members support our students, and therefore our school," Swenson said.



EMILIO ROSAS, left, and STEPHEN SENNOTT, sixth graders at St. Mary's School in Owatonna, clean up at one of the parks in Owatonna on Friday as part of Minnesota Marathon for Nonpublic Education. The school raised \$40,000 during the marathon.

## AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**LUTHERAN**

**AURORA LUTHERAN**  
6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna  
Pastor Stephanie Wood  
507-676-5696  
Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m.  
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

**COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA**  
106 Third St. SE., Geneva  
Pastor Kristen 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 Walerius  
507-583-6621  
[firstlutheranbp.com](http://firstlutheranbp.com)  
Worship Service- 9 a.m.  
Sunday School- 10 a.m.

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

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS**  
2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna  
Pastor Greg Schlicker  
Pastor Mark Neumann  
507-451-4125  
[goodshepherdowatonna.com](http://goodshepherdowatonna.com)  
Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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

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

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN – LCMS**  
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-Freeborn Road, Austin  
Pastor Lindsay Brennan  
507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000  
[www.roglutheran.org](http://www.roglutheran.org)  
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.  
Sunday School (Sept. – May): 10:15 a.m.

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS**  
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 – LCMS**  
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 Klawiter and Jacie Richmond  
507-451-7293  
[stjohnowatonna.org](http://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 DoBell  
507-567-2474  
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

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

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA**  
2781 SW 92<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Meriden  
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith  
507-451-2165  
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday  
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA**  
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna  
507-451-4520  
[tlcowatonna.org](http://tlcowatonna.org)  
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Buegler  
Associate Pastor: Rev. Amanda Floy  
Deacon: Kris Oppegard  
Worship: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sunday  
Sunday School: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA**  
104 First St. SE., Hayfield  
Pastor Paul Hauschild  
507-477-2248  
[www.trinityhayfield.org](http://www.trinityhayfield.org)  
Worship: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun.  
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS**  
108 Third Ave. SW., Medford  
Pastor Mark Biebighauser  
507-451-0447  
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday  
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m.  
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m.

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

**ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA**  
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale  
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith  
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

**CATHOLIC**

**CHRIST THE KING**  
205 Second Ave. NW, Medford  
507-451-6353  
Father James Starasinich  
Deacon Patrick Fagan  
Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat.  
Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.

**CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS**  
307 SW First St., New Richland  
Father Raul Silva  
Fr. Adam McMillan,  
Parochial Vicar  
507-465-8217  
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday

**HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL**  
9946 SE 24th Ave. Owatonna  
Father Peter Schuster,  
Parochial Administrator  
507-583-2784  
[www.litomysl.webs.com](http://www.litomysl.webs.com)  
Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m. with Children's Church 8 a.m. Sunday  
Sacrament of Reconciliation Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.  
Faith Formation classes for K thru Confirmation  
Second Sunday of month: Family Faith Formation  
Litomysl Finance Council: 2nd Thursday  
Litomysl Pastoral Council: 2nd Thursday every other month

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC**  
150 NE Second St., Hayfield  
507-477-2256  
Mass: 8 a.m. Sun. & 8:30 a.m. Thursday  
Reconciliation: 7:30 a.m. Sun.

**SACRED HEART PARISH**  
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna  
Father John Sauer  
Fr. Jose Morales, Parochial Vicar  
507-451-1588  
[www.sacredheartowatonna.org](http://www.sacredheartowatonna.org)  
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Sun.  
Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun.  
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.  
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat.  
Adoration: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Thurs.

**ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC**  
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie  
507-583-2784  
[www.stcolumbanuschurch.com](http://www.stcolumbanuschurch.com)  
Mass: 10 a.m. Sun. & 8:30 a.m. Friday  
Reconciliation: 9 a.m. First Friday & Saturday

**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH**  
512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna  
Father James Starasinick  
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.  
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**CHRISTIAN**

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

**PENTECOSTAL**

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

**METHODIST**

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

**ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST**  
200 Sixth St. NW., Ellendale  
Pastor Randy Cirksema  
507-684-2731  
[www.ellendaleumc.org](http://www.ellendaleumc.org)  
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.  
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

**OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST**  
815 E. University, Owatonna  
Loren Olson, Pastor  
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor  
Joyce Parker, Associate Pastor  
507-451-4734  
[www.owatonnaumc.org](http://www.owatonnaumc.org)  
Traditional Worship (Pathways): 9 a.m. Sunday

**NON-DENOMINATIONAL**

**BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY**  
130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna  
Pastor Keith Haskell  
507-215-2249  
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.  
Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun.  
Reformers Unanimous Meetings: 7 p.m. Friday

**CEDAR CREEK**  
30 E. Main St., Hayfield  
Pastor Aaron de Neui  
507-477-2255  
[www.cedarcreekchurch.org](http://www.cedarcreekchurch.org)  
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

**DESTINY CHRISTIAN**  
2515 Harvest Lane NW Owatonna  
Pastors Joe & Vicki Braucht  
[www.destinycc.org](http://www.destinycc.org)  
Worship: 6 p.m. Sat.

**ELEVATION NORTH**  
2002 Austin Road, Owatonna  
Pastor Doug Jones  
507-363-3099  
[www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com](http://www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com)  
Worship (English): 10 a.m. Sun.  
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.  
Worship (Spanish): 2 p.m. Sun.  
Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday  
Spanish Evangelism & Prayer: 7 p.m. Friday

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

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

**MENNONITE**

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

**MORMON**

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

**PRESBYTERIAN**

**ASSOCIATED CHURCH**  
Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ  
800 Havana Road, Owatonna  
507-451-1546  
[www.associatedchurch.org](http://www.associatedchurch.org)  
[office@associatedchurch.org](mailto: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  
507-340-7143  
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sat.  
Bible Study: 11 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**

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702 Third St. S., Ellendale  
Pastor Patrick Stitt  
507-684-3421  
[www.vibrantlifeag.com](http://www.vibrantlifeag.com)  
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.  
Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

**BAPTIST**

**FIRST BAPTIST**  
104 First Ave. NE, Blooming Prairie  
Pastor Matt Fennell  
507-583-2673  
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. & 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 Cindy 507-451-2803  
[www.firstbaptistowatonna.com](http://www.firstbaptistowatonna.com)  
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.  
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

**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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## Open House focuses on Emerald ash borer

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN  
COUNTY WRITER

With Steele County joining the ever-growing list of Minnesota counties quarantined because of Emerald ash borer, residents packed the county board room to learn what they could do to fight the infestation of the beetles. Medford officials were notified after Labor Day

that the invasive species had been identified in the city. As a result, the entire county was placed under quarantine meaning, among other things, that hardwood firewood cannot be transported from the county to a non-quarantined county. There are three kinds of ash trees in Minnesota that can be infected by the Emerald ash borer, said Jennifer Burington of the

Minnesota Department of Agriculture. White, green and black ash trees can all be infected while the Mountain Ash is a separate genus and therefore not infected by the insect. One will likely not see the adult beetles very often, Burington said. The infestation generally starts in the mid-to-upper canopy and then works its way down. The first year a tree is infested there will be no

symptoms as the larvae will be under the bark higher up in the tree. By the second year, there may be an increase in the number of woodpeckers at the tree as the larvae are a good source of food for the birds. By the third year, there will be an increasing number of larvae under the bark, more woodpecker activity and the bark may begin to split.

SEE OPEN HOUSE, B7



STAFF PHOTO BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN

Jennifer Burington and Danielle DeVito of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture were on hand last week to answer questions from Steele County residents concerned about their ash trees being infected with Emerald ash borer.

## Singing Teapots



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The Singing Teapots of Rochester were special guests at the Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church Guest Day last Wednesday, Oct. 2.

## Group entertains at Red Oak Grove

BY HOWARD LESTRUD  
STAFF WRITER

Wow! That's the only reaction that can be uttered after listening to the Singing Teapots. Have you ever heard a teapot sing? It's possible that you may have seen some singing teapots in a Walt Disney movie. The Singing Teapots of Rochester were special invitees at a Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church Guest Day on Wednesday, Oct. 2. Red Oak Grove hosts a Guest Day every year.

Members of the group used different shaped teapots to make their infectious music. The special day was attended by 75 women from area churches. Churches represented included: Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church, Austin; First Lutheran Church, Blooming Prairie; Cornerstone Lutheran Church, Austin; Faith Evangelical Free Church, Austin; Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Austin; First United Methodist

SEE SINGING TEAPOTS, B7



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Karla Iacovino of First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie shows her expertise on the singing teapot. The Singing Teapots, a Rochester group, performed at the Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church Guest Day last Wednesday, Oct. 2.

## School may be going, but 4-H hasn't stopped



Steele Talkin'  
MISSY KOCH

Many people think that once school is back in session, 4-H fair events are done. That's not the case for three of our larger project areas here in Minnesota 4-H! This past month we have had youth that are still working hard to showcase their projects at the state level – shooting sports, horse, and dog members keep up the tasks of regular practicing as they work for top honors. Starting off the September events is the 4-H State Shooting Sports and Wildlife Invitational on Sept. 7-8. In this annual competition, about 800 young people from across Minnesota compete in archery, muzzle loader, shotgun, air rifle, .22 Rifle, air pistol, silhouette fun shoot and a skill-a-thon. It culminates the year-long shooting and wildlife project. This year Steele County had three youth participate in archery, air rifle, and the skill-a-thon. Congratulations to Ashlynn Schwering for placing first in the Intermediate Skillathon. This year, seven Steele County 4-H youth participated in the Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show held Sept. 13-16. Youth totaling 634 from across the state participated in the annual event at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Four-H's demonstrate their skills and knowledge

of horse training and achievement, western and English performance classes, showmanship and the game classes. There are even options for youth who are interested in horses, but don't have access to one in their community with leasing a horse or even a horseless horse project. The following youth were members of the Steele County delegation: Ava Wolfe, Grace, Wolfe, Gabby Trenda, Addison Poe, Brynn Hable, Isabella Steffen, and Alexa Sommers. All youth earned a placing in the top 10 during the show. Representing Steele County at the 4-H State Dog Show Sept. 21-22, were 15 Steele County youth. The 4-H's demonstrate their skills and knowledge in obedience, showmanship, agility and rally classes. The following youth were members of the Steele County delegation: Beth Ann Hanson, Alexis Ripka, Miley Ripka, Abby Hefling, Cody Shaw, Bailey Purrier, Brooke Purrier, Hannah Parrish, Madison Styndl, Morgan Styndl, Kaylee Butler, Mackenzie Suchanck, Rachel Miller, Emma Gillis, and Kayla Crawford. Earning Championship placings were Miley Ripka, Abby Hefling, Bailey Purrier, Rachel Miller, and Kayla Crawford. Extension 4-H is a youth development program of the University of Minnesota Extension. Available for youth grades Kindergarten to one year after high school. The 4-H's participate in hands-on learning experiences in STEM, citizenship & leadership, animal science, creative arts and much more.

SEE SCHOOL MAY BE GOING, B7

## Brew and BBQ help family cope with loss

BY RICK BUSSLER  
PUBLISHER

After losing her husband following a long and courageous battle with pancreatic cancer, Amy Villarreal is passionate about keeping his memory alive in a positive way. Villarreal's family is hosting the fourth annual Chubb's Brew-BQ, a brew and BBQ tasting and competition, Saturday at the Beer Garden on the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna. Proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit the Crisis Resource Center of Steele County. "All the proceeds will go to Crisis Resource Center," Villarreal said. "I'm really excited about it because it was near and dear to him. They do such important



work in the community," she said. The Brew-BQ was designed to "keep his giving spirit going," Villarreal said. "He was outgoing, kind and a compassionate person. He tried to pitch in wherever he could. It was vast and varied how he tried to help," she said. Juan Villarreal passed away on Oct. 15, 2015 after battling cancer for nearly three years. Originally from Albert Lea, Juan

### CHUBB'S BREW-BQ

Saturday, Oct. 12  
4-10 p.m.  
Beer Garden- Steele County Fairgrounds

Tickets: \$25 (Advanced- \$20)  
Fundraiser to help Crisis Resource Center of Steele County

moved to Owatonna for a career with Federated Insurance where he worked for 17 years followed by Hometown Credit Union. He was also involved in various community organizations, including Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Crisis Resource Center.

SEE BREW AND BBQ, B7

## Grubish named Firefighter of the Year

BY CHRIS BALDWIN  
STAFF WRITER

Willie Grubish has served as a firefighter in Owatonna for just over four years. It all started when his brother-in-law suggested that he apply. "I loved it and just kept doing it," Grubish said. On Oct. 10, the Owatonna Fire Department will officially recognize Grubish as this year's Firefighter of the Year, a distinction that comes as a surprise to the young firefighter. "I was very surprised," he said. "I think it's a huge honor. It's pretty awesome because in order to win the award you have to get voted on by your peers, so the fact that everyone else in the station nominated

me means a lot," Grubish explained. "In our line of work, you depend on each other." It is this team collaboration which makes the job so enjoyable for Grubish. "I work with a great group of people, they're not really just your coworkers, they're more like a family," he said. "We get put in situations where our lives depend on each other." "The camaradery of the people I work with is awesome," Grubish said when asked what his favorite part of the job is. "But also, being able to help people. We interact with people on the worst day of their lives, so to be able to interact with them, and comfort them, and help them through it is great."



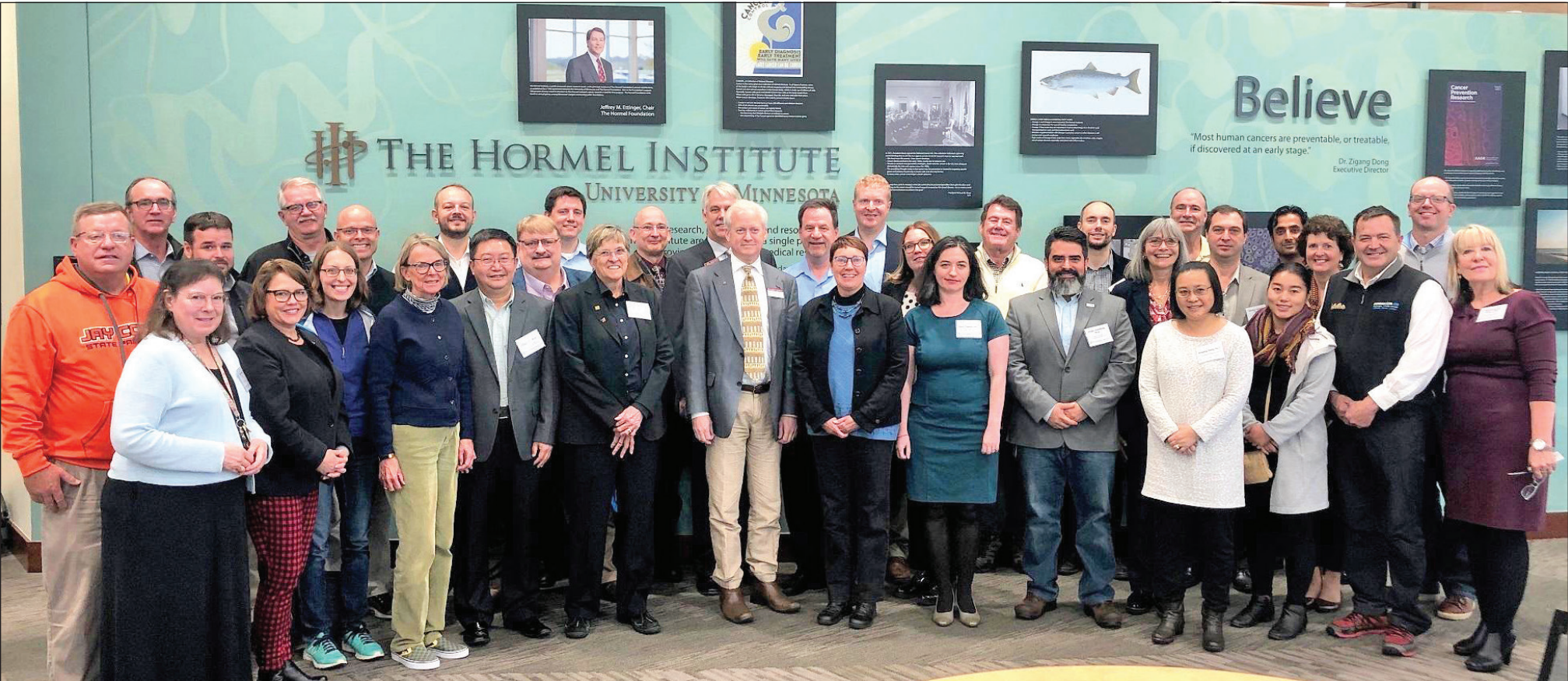
The 2019 Firefighter of the Year is Willie Grubish, who was voted on by his peers and was named as the Owatonna Fire Department's Firefighter of the Year.

Although Grubish finds much to love about his job, it is still not without its challenges. "The

SEE FIREFIGHTER, B7



# Learning about cancer research



The Minnesota House Higher Education and Agriculture Committees along with University of Minnesota Regent Mary Davenport, Vice President Chris Cramer and Dean Brian Buhr visited The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota to meet with faculty, tour the facility and learn about the innovative cancer research taking place in Austin on Oct. 2. They were able to see inside a lab, learn about the world's most powerful cryo-electron microscope and hear from the faculty on how their research is accelerating answers to cancer. Thanks to Rep. Jeanne Poppe for bringing the group to The Hormel Institute to further advocacy for cancer research in southern Minnesota.

## Large projects push fair into the red for now

BY CHRIS BALDWIN  
STAFF WRITER

With autumn in full swing, the Steele County Fair Board is looking back at this year's celebration while keeping an eye on the horizon.

As numbers from this year's fair roll in, the Fair Board continues to review the 2019 year while also beginning to set the stage for next year's festivities.

The fair is reporting a \$118,294.42 increase in income from this time last year. However, due to several large projects during the offseason as well as other expenses, the net income is posting a negative of \$92,086.58.

This negative trend was expected by the board at this juncture due to the offseason projects from last year, including the replacement of two older barns with a new, single unit. The racetrack was also trimmed at the north end, giving way for more vendor and attraction room.

The new barn cost a total of \$364,582.64 to date, while the work on the track totaled \$92,912.38. Additional income is likely to still come in, helping to balance the numbers some.

"We basically burned through all the reserve money we had and cash flowed that barn and the track costs on our own re-

serve dollars," Treasurer Tim Arlt explained. "We didn't borrow anything, and we didn't ask anybody anything for it. I thought for sure we'd be going to the county and asking for a loan."

While this means that the fair doesn't have a lot of money in the bank at the moment, it also shows its ability to be self-sustaining due to continued financial success year in and year out. "Once we get some more income in, I think that by the first of the year, we will be back close to where we typically are," Arlt said.

Due to being sales tax exempt during this year's fair, the fair saved an additional \$27,522.43. "It's all new to the State of Minnesota, so if anything gets tweaked, they could ask for more," Manager Scott Kozelka noted. "But we did it by the books."

Despite being tax exempt during the fair, the board still had to pay liquor tax as well as any offseason taxes. "It was a good deal, but we had to pay taxes on advanced ticket sales," Arlt said. "Anything that was collected prior to or after the fair we had to pay taxes on."

Once the treasurer's report was finished, President Dan Deml offered his thanks to Arlt for all his hard work. "I give Tim a lot of credit, because

if it had not been for his financial wizardry and his financial projections, we wouldn't have had the greenlight to go ahead with the new barn," Deml said. "So, a lot of the credit in making the numbers work was Tim and it wouldn't have happened without him."

The board is already considering plans for next year's celebration, including requests and suggestions from Sheriff Lon Thiele and early suggestions on attractions. The Sheriff's Office is hoping to bring on a new K-9 unit for next year's fair. "It's going to be an asset to the fair, and another added safety measure," Kozelka said.

"I've already had people stepping up to the plate for the Dog Show," Kozelka said of returning attractions. He also mentioned that they would like to bring the cannonball back for next year. As the offseason gets rolling, the fair board will continue to march forward and plan for next year's festivities.

Five directors will be up for election at this year's annual meeting to be held on Nov. 7 at the Steele County History Center. Bruce Busho, Gene Fisher, James Linder, Wayne Steele, and Josh Prokopec will all be up for election during the annual meeting.

## Toys for Tots applications now available

It is not too early to start thinking about the holiday season and those in need in the county. Beginning Oct. 1, applications for the 2019 Steele County Toys for Tots are available at various Steele County locations.

Applications for the Steele County Toys for Tots Program are available at the following locations:

- Blooming Prairie Public Library
- Ellendale: Lerberg's Foods and Ellendale Food Shelf
- First National Bank of Hope
- 1st State Bank of Red Wing – Medford Location
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern MN
- Churches in Steele County
- Minnesota Prairie Alliance
- Owatonna Public Library
- Salvation Army
- Steele County Food Shelf & Clothesline
- Steele County Public Health
- Steele County Employment Services



The 2019 Toys for Tots Application is also available for download online on the Steele County Toys for Tots website at <https://owatonna-mn.toysfortots.org>. However, applications must be printed, filled out and mailed to Steele County Toys for Tots, P.O. Box 199, Owatonna, MN 55060 or dropped off at the Steele County Food Shelf & Clothesline or placed in the drop box at Minnesota Prairie County Alliance. Emailed applications will not be accepted.

The application deadline to qualify for a Family to Family food card and toys is Nov. 13. Applications received after Nov. 13 will only qualify for toys. Parents/Guardians will select toys for children

ages 0-15 on Dec. 16-18, at Trinity Lutheran Church of Owatonna.

Toys for Tots of Steele County has been in existence for 37 years. It operates within the national U.S. Marine Corp Reserve Toys for Tots program, which began in 1947. Its objective is to collect and distribute NEW and UN-WRAPPED toys to Steele County needy children at Christmas. Cash and gift cards received are used to purchase toys as per directives from our national organization.

For more information about Steele County Toys for Tots visit their website <http://owatonna-mn.toysfortots.org> or go to the Steele County Toys for Tots Facebook page for updates.



On The Farm  
CLAIRE LACANNE

## Handling wet grain requires caution

After extended rains and recent low temperatures, this year's harvest is likely going to involve high-moisture grain that will require drying and careful storage. This moisture and mold that may result from this may lead to corn or soybeans crusting or clogging in the grain bin. It may be necessary to dry your grain this year. Additionally, you should be mindful of storing this year's harvest and keep in mind how likely it is that the grain crusts; knowing this potential could keep you safe later. When you're tempted to facilitate grain movement in your bin, bear in mind that breaking through a crust, intentionally or accidentally, might leave you engulfed by grain.

Storing wet grain can lead to molds and clogs. Corn should be dried to 13 to 14% for long-term storage. The wetter the corn, the shorter the time this grain can safely be stored and the more quickly it deteriorates. Corn at 13% moisture has a maximum allowable storage time of

around 150 months. Corn at 18% can be safely stored for a maximum of 6 months. And for corn 28%, this time frame of safe storage drops to a mere 30 days. Keep these moisture levels in mind while you decide if you should use a grain dryer this year. The answer for many of us in the area will be yes.

When grain is clogged or crusted, you may be tempted to get in the bin to break up the grain. Within a minute of becoming entrapped, a person can become engulfed by grain and eventually suffocate. This happens because once you are trapped in the grain, every time you exhale to breathe, grain flows into the space created by your chest movement. The grain that continually fills up any empty space your exhale leaves, puts pressure on your chest and ultimately reduces the room you have to fill your lungs with air, making inhalation more and more difficult.

Take time to stay safe in grain bins. Whenever possible, use inspection holes and grain bin level markers rather than

entering the bin. If you absolutely have to enter the bin, have a safety plan. Most importantly, always have someone outside to help monitor your safety. Additionally, you should wear a body harness, never enter a bin while the auger is running, and keep safety tools handy. I can't stress enough that you should have at least one other person with you if you plan to enter the bin. Really, take the extra bit of time to make sure to tell someone you'll be entering and have a person outside to assist in case something goes awry.

Consider drying your high-moisture grain and stay safe out there. For more information on storing and handling grain safely, check out <https://z.umn.edu/storinggrain>. For more information on options for drying your grain, visit <https://z.umn.edu/dryinggrain>.

*Claire LaCanne is the agricultural extension educator with the University of Minnesota for Steele and Rice counties. Her column appears in this newspaper regularly.*

Sponsored by:

**NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale**

This week's Panther of the Week is Lauren Wakefield. Lauren is the daughter of Kyle and Emily Wakefield and they reside in New Richland. She is in Mr. Beynon's third grade class.

Lauren is the sweetest girl you'll ever meet. She is a top reader and a great leader by example. She is always willing to help her teacher and her peers. Lauren is very respectful and hard worker; she's always pushing herself to be better. Lauren loves math and playing outside with her younger sister.

She loves pepperoni pizza, she loves the Puppy Place book series, and she loves watching movies.

Keep up the great work Lauren!

**Lauren Wakefield**



BLOOMING PRAIRIE

- OCT. 10**  
4 p.m. – Police  
Commission Meeting

**OCT. 14**  
7 p.m. – City Council  
Meeting

**OCT. 15**  
10:30 a.m. – Storytime,  
BP Library  
2:30 p.m. – Public  
Utilities Meeting
- 4:30 p.m. – Fire  
Commission Meeting  
5 p.m. – Ambulance  
Commission Meeting  
Lutefisk Dinner, First  
Lutheran Church

**OCT. 16**  
10:30 a.m. – Storytime,  
BP Library

**OCT. 28**  
6:30 p.m. – Fire Relief  
Association Meeting

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

- OCT. 11**  
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,  
Community Building

**OCT. 14**  
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,  
Community Building  
7 p.m. – Berlin Township  
Meeting, Community  
Building
- OCT. 15**  
6:30 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do,  
Ellendale Elementary Gym

**OCT. 16**  
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,  
Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

- OCT. 10**  
Noon – Friends of the  
Arts Annual Fall Luncheon,  
Arts Center  
2 p.m. – Movies at the  
Library, Owatonna Library  
5 p.m. – Airport  
Commission Meeting,  
Airport Lounge  
6:30 p.m. – Family  
Storytime, Owatonna  
Library  
6:30 p.m. – Owatonna  
Foundation Benefit Tasting,  
Holiday Inn

**OCT. 11**  
8 a.m. – LIVE2LEAD,  
Owatonna Country Club

**OCT. 12**  
7 a.m. – Farmers Market,  
Central Park  
4 p.m. – Chubb's Brew-  
BBQ, Fairgrounds Beer  
Garden
- OCT. 14**  
2 p.m. – Africa Afternoon  
Learning Event, Travel  
Leaders Owatonna

**OCT. 15**  
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
– Preschool Storytime,  
Owatonna Library  
3:30 p.m. – 4 Seasonz  
Market, North Cedar Ave.  
4 p.m. – North Market,  
Grace Baptist  
4:30 p.m. – Library Board  
Meeting, Owatonna Library  
7 p.m. – Owatonna City  
Council Meeting, City Admin  
Building

**OCT. 16**  
8 a.m. – Coffee with a  
Cop, Target  
4 p.m. – Owatonna  
EDA Meeting, City Admin  
Building



Let's  
celebrate  
the harvest

It was time to celebrate the harvest Saturday night at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. Top: Harold Bartsch picks a prune filled biscuit, served by Joyce Johns at the Harvestster's Evening celebration. Ninety-four Czech music lovers attended the event. Right: Ron and Diane Nelson of Blooming Prairie enjoy the music of the Dan Stursa Band with its Czech music selections. The Nelsons were two of the 94 people who attended this special evening.



Chance to go down and under

- Have you ever wanted to learn how to go down and under to scuba dive?

If so, the Owatonna Diving Club is offering free discover scuba classes this fall.
- The class will be held on Nov. 6. There will also be regular classes on Nov. 13.

For more information, check out Owatonnacom-munityEd.org or call 507-444-7900.

Preventing suicide  
in ag communities  
training available

Farmers and others who work in agriculture are used to helping neighbors, clients, family and friends do chores or make repairs, but they may not know how to help someone having thoughts of suicide.

A free, half-day safe-TALK training sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will be offered in six locations around the state this fall to help people build the skills they need to offer that help.

The safeTALK training teaches participants how to recognize someone having thoughts of suicide, how to engage them, and how to make sure they get help. This evidence-based training is effective for people as young as 15 years old. Farmers, lenders, mediators, agency staff, clergy, educators, veterinarians, health care and social service providers, agricultural advisors, and business people are all invited to attend.

"The impact of suicide goes beyond the individual person or even the immediate family, and affects entire communities," said MDH Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm. "It's important for us to raise awareness about suicide and for us to share the fact that suicide is preventable, mental illness is treatable, and recovery is possible."

"Unfortunately, farming communities experience more than their share of

suicide," said MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen. "We want people to know what they can do to help when they see warning signs."

The trainings run 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and take place on the following dates:

Oct. 11: Moorhead, (Minnesota State Community and Technical College – Moorhead)  
Nov. 20: Faribault (South Central College)  
Nov. 21: Austin (Riverland Community College)  
Dec. 3: Marshall (MERIT Center)  
Dec. 4: Waite Park (Quarry Center)

The training is free but pre-registration is required, as enrollment at each session is limited to 30 participants. Register today at [www.safetalk-agriculture.eventbrite.com](http://www.safetalk-agriculture.eventbrite.com).

This workshop is supported by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number 2018-38640-28416 through the North Central Region SARE program under project number ENC18-170.

Individuals with a disability who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event please contact Stephen Moser at 651-201-6012 or through the Minnesota Relay Service at 711 at least one week prior to the session you want to attend.

Gail Gates  
photography  
coming to Arts  
Center

The Owatonna Arts Center opened an exhibition of Gail Gates Photography in the gallery this past Sunday. The exhibition will run through Sunday, Oct. 27.

Gail Gates has been interested in photography since childhood, re-emerging in midlife. Landscapes, nature, architecture and portraiture are her favorite subjects. Presently creating impressionistic photos with the iPhone apps. She said, "Taking familiar images and coaxing an emotion to emerge is fun, and the goal, of all I do. I'm not a formally trained artist. But I see, feel and nurture the curiosity that is intrinsic to my being. And that unapologetically, becomes my art."

Mayo offers Women's  
Morning of Well-Being

Daughter, partner, friend – whatever the role, women frequently put others' needs before their own. Take time for yourself at Mayo Clinic Health System's Women's Morning of Well-Being.

The program will be held Saturday, Oct. 26 at Owatonna Country Club, 1991 Lemond Road. Mayo Clinic experts will provide energizing and inspiring information for women of all ages on healthy eating, resiliency and taking care of ourselves as we take care of others.

This year's keynote speaker is Margaret Dow, M.D., an obstetrics and gynecology provider at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Dr. Dow will present Caring for the Caregiver, giving women the tools to establish realistic steps to take care of themselves, while taking care of others.

Additional presenters include Caitlin Terpstra, a registered dietitian at Mayo Clinic Health System, who will discuss healthy diet tailored for women throughout the ages. Ashley Musch, a well-being specialist at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, will provide tips for building resiliency.

This free program is held from 8:30 to Noon and attendees receive a complimentary breakfast. Registration and breakfast will start at 8:30 a.m., doors will open at 8 a.m. Due to limited seating, pre-registration is required. Call 507-668-2300 to register or learn more online at [mayoclinichealthsystem.org/classes-and-events](http://mayoclinichealthsystem.org/classes-and-events).

AL Theatre to open  
55<sup>th</sup> season with  
musical comedy

Albert Lea Community Theatre (ACT) will open its 55<sup>th</sup> season with "Church Basement Ladies 2: A Second Helping" at the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center, Oct. 17-26.

You'll laugh until your side dish hurts with the hilarious antics and down-to-earth charm! The year is 1969, and the world is changing. As folks protest the Vietnam War and women are demanding equal pay for equal work, in their small rural Minnesota community, the ladies of the Lutheran church basement kitchen are dealing with changes of their own. The show takes you from serving the high school students at the Luther League banquet to a church-sponsored Missionary Night and the rise and fall of a Vikings' Super Bowl Sunday. From the elderly matriarch of the kitchen to the young mom-to-be, these women find strength in each other as they deal with the joys and upheavals from below the "House of God."

Cast members are Lynn Berven, Elizabeth Harty, Lisa Sturtz, Kristi White and Sue Wiersma. The musical comedy is inspired by the books of Janet Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson, including the bestseller *Growing Up Lutheran*. The show is written by Greta Grosch with music and lyrics by Dennis Curley and Drew Jansen.

"Church Basement Ladies 2: A Second Helping," directed by Rory Mattson with music direction by Barb Lang, will be performed at the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center in downtown Albert Lea on Oct. 17-20, 23-26. Shows start at 7:30 p.m., with the Sunday, Oct. 20, matinee, at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Tickets may be purchased over the phone by calling 1-877-730-3144 (toll-free), online at [actonbroadway.com](http://actonbroadway.com) or at the box office, which opens weekdays at 9 a.m. Tickets are also available at the Albert Lea Convention & Visitors Bureau. ACT season tickets can be purchased until Oct. 26.

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**J & H LIQUOR**

**SUMMER EVENTS**

**Bar Bingo**  
Monday @ 6:30 p.m.

**Bloomin' Grapevine Wine**  
Tues. 7-8:30 p.m.  
Oct. 1  
Nov. 7: Holiday Dazzle Wine Tasting  
Nov. - April: Available Later  
May 5: Wine Tasting "Gala"

**Holiday Dazzle Wine Tasting**  
Thurs. Nov. 7 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Held at the BP Servicemens Club  
Tickets: \$15 Advance/ \$20 Door  
Purchase Ticket by Oct. 12, enter name into a prize basket drawing. Tickets available at the Chamber office \$ J&H.

All event details available at J&H Liquor  
340 E. Main St. • Blooming Prairie  
**583-7557**

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**Bob Remker**



# Hometown Sports

## BP remains perfect at 6-0

**BY LEMAR NELSON**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Awesome Blossom football team put another victory in its pocket Friday, Oct. 4, with a lopsided 61-6 win over an out-manned Kenyon-Wanamingo contingent. The Blossoms, who moved up to No. 2 in the state rankings this week, won their sixth straight game by a wide margin, similar to the other wins with the Goodhue victory the one exception. Like so many of the other wins, this game was over by halftime, after BP took a 26-0 lead after one quarter and

went into the break with 40 points on the board. BP opened the scoring on a Kaden Thomas pass to Karson Vigeland, and Matthew Pryor ran the ball 3 of 4 downs on the next drive, the last time for 6 yards and a touchdown. The next score came when Gabe Hagen recovered a Knight fumble and rambled into the end zone for the touchdown. Carson Brenneke sailed his first two conversion tries wide but connected this time easily. The last touchdown of the quarter came on a Thomas to Hagen toss into the corner of the end zone. The Blossoms

counted 14 points in the second quarter for a 40-0 margin at the half. The second half found the winners creating a methodical game plan and scoring two more touchdowns along the way. Thomas passed to Mitch Fiebiger for one of the scores; Brenneke made both conversion kicks, and KW did count a touchdown to round out the evening. Quarterback Thomas had another sparkling effort going 12 for 14 passing and piling up 276 yards and 3 touchdowns. Hagen snared 5 passes for 81 yards and a touchdown, and Fiebiger also caught a touchdown on 3 catches for 73 yards.

Pryor carried the ball 15 times and amassed 127 yards. The BP defense limited Kenyon-Wanamingo to 138 yards for the entire game. Dylan Nirk led the defensive corps with 10 tackles. After the win last week, the Blossoms next travel to Faribault for a district contest against Bethlehem Academy (2-4). Blooming Prairie will close out its regular season against Medford on Wednesday, Oct. 16.

**GAME SUMMARY**

|                                 |    |    |    |      |
|---------------------------------|----|----|----|------|
| Blossoms 61, Kenyon-Wanamingo 6 |    |    |    |      |
| BP                              | 26 | 14 | 14 | 7-61 |
| K-W                             | 0  | 6  | 0  | 0-6  |

# Dramatic rally keeps Huskies unbeaten

It went down to the final minute before the top-ranked Owatonna Huskies football team regained the lead to keep its unbeaten record alive during a dramatic comeback victory Friday against Mankato West. With 1:09 left in the game and trailing 17-20, the Huskies punched through another touchdown and extra point kick to go on top 24-20 over the Scarlets. It was a nerve wracking and tense game for Owatonna as it trailed throughout most of the second half. It proved to be the stiffest competition yet for the Huskies this season. The game-winning drive started at the West 47-yard line. Quarterback Brayden Truelson connected with Payton Beyer on a 27-yard pass to get into the red zone. Tanner Hall ran in from 10 yards out with 1:09 to play. Sam Henson hit the point-after, giving the Huskies a 24-20 lead. The win extends the Huskies (6-0) winning streak to 25 games over the past three seasons. It also launches Coach Jeff Williams into a tie with former Indians coach Jerry Peterson for the most victories in Owatonna High School history at 179. Hall led the Huskies with two touchdowns

while Matt Williams added one touchdown. Sam Henson connected on a field goal and a pair of extra point kicks. Truelson led Owatonna's passing attack by connecting on 9 of 17 attempts for 166 yards. The Huskies' rushing attack came from the speed of Hall, who had 33 carries for 168 yards. Sol Havelka added 6 carries for 22 yards while Truelson had 3 carries for 16 yards. Beyer led in receiving with 73 yards. Williams had 60 yards and Isaac Opegard had 41 yards. On defense, Isaac Gefre had 10 tackles, including 7 solos. Keenan Young added 6 tackles while Carson DeKam and Matt Seykora added 4 each. Carter Debus blocked an extra point attempt by Mankato West in the fourth quarter. Owatonna clinched the outright Big Southeast Red Division title for the fourth time in the last five seasons. The defending state champions will host Mankato East during Parent's Night Friday. Owatonna will close out the regular season at Rochester John Marshall on Wednesday, Oct. 16.



Matt Williams (1) makes his way through a sea of blue trying to keep Mankato West from getting him. Williams scored one of Owatonna's three touchdowns in the game. A Mankato West defensive player tries to pull down Tanner Hall (27) during Friday's game which saw Owatonna stage a late fourth quarter rally to pull out the game by four points. Hall piled up a 168 yards while scoring two of the Huskies' touchdowns.



Huskies' Keenan Young (14) takes off down the field with Mankato West defenders falling and chasing after him during the Homecoming football game. Young had six tackles on the evening.



In the final seconds of the game, Brayden Truelson (10) and Solomon Havelka (6) wave their arms in attempt to drum up more noise and cheering from Owatonna's fans. It was a packed house for the Huskies who remain unbeaten at 6-0.

| GAME SUMMARY                |      |     |     |    |    | RECEIVING     |  |  |  | No. Yds. Avg. TD  |    |      |   |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|-----|----|----|---------------|--|--|--|-------------------|----|------|---|
| Huskies 24, Mankato West 20 |      |     |     |    |    | Payton Beyer  |  |  |  | 2                 | 73 | 36.5 | 0 |
| Owatonna                    | 7    | 3   | 0   | 14 | 24 | Matt Williams |  |  |  | 7                 | 60 | 8.6  | 1 |
| Mankato West                | 6    | 0   | 8   | 6  | 20 | DEFENSE       |  |  |  | Tackles Sacks Int |    |      |   |
| PASSING                     |      |     |     |    |    | Isaac Gefre   |  |  |  | 10                | 0  | 0    |   |
| Comp.-Att Yds. TD Int       |      |     |     |    |    | Keenan Young  |  |  |  | 6                 | 0  | 0    |   |
| Sol Havelka                 | 1-2  | 8   | 0   | 0  |    | Carson DeKam  |  |  |  | 4                 | 0  | 0    |   |
| Brayden Truelson            | 9-17 | 166 | 1   | 1  |    | Matt Seykora  |  |  |  | 4                 | 1  | 0    |   |
| RUSHING                     |      |     |     |    |    | Isaac Opegard |  |  |  | 3                 | 0  | 0    |   |
| No. Yds. Avg. TD            |      |     |     |    |    | Payton Beyer  |  |  |  | 3                 | 0  | 0    |   |
| Tanner Hall                 | 33   | 168 | 5.1 | 2  |    | Hunter Menden |  |  |  | 3                 | 0  | 0    |   |
| Sol Havelka                 | 6    | 22  | 3.7 | 0  |    |               |  |  |  |                   |    |      |   |
| Brayden Truelson            | 3    | 16  | 5.3 | 0  |    |               |  |  |  |                   |    |      |   |



A Mankato West defensive player tries to pull down Tanner Hall (27) during Friday's game which saw Owatonna stage a late fourth quarter rally to pull out the game by four points. Hall piled up a 168 yards while scoring two of the Huskies' touchdowns.



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Junior Nick Staloch (22) takes off with the ball in Friday's game with several of his teammates blocking the opponents. Maple River crushed NRHEG 40-7, dropping the Panthers to 2-4 on the season.

# Maple River crushes NRHEG 40-7

The Panthers' up and down season continued with a loss on Friday, Oct. 4 to Maple River 40-7. NRHEG held a close 7-6 lead over Maple River in the first quarter, but after that it was all Maple River for the rest of the game. Maple River held the Panthers scoreless through the final three quarters and racked up 34 more points. Offensively, there wasn't much happening on the field for NRHEG. Quarterback Blake Ihrke completed 8 of 22 passes for only 36 yards. He also threw four interceptions in the game. The rushing attack was also held at bay. Nick Staloch had 32 yards in seven carries and Ihrke had 25 yards in 12 carries. Lonnie Wilson and Kordell Schlaak led NRHEG's receiving with 15 yards each. The loss dropped NRHEG's record to 2-4 on the season. The Panthers host Lake Crystal-Welcome Memorial Friday night. NRHEG closes out the regular season next Wednesday, Oct. 16 at Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop.



It was high-flying action as NRHEG's Lonnie Wilson (3) leaps into the air to catch a ball in Friday night's game against Maple River. The Eagles proved to be too powerful for NRHEG as they pounded the Panthers 40-7.

| GAME SUMMARY                   |      |    |    |       |                            |     |    |     |   |
|--------------------------------|------|----|----|-------|----------------------------|-----|----|-----|---|
| Panthers 7, Maple River 40     |      |    |    |       |                            |     |    |     |   |
| NRHEG                          | 7    | 0  | 0  | 0-7   |                            |     |    |     |   |
| Maple River                    | 6    | 8  | 14 | 12-40 |                            |     |    |     |   |
| PASSING Comp.-Att Yds. TD Int. |      |    |    |       |                            |     |    |     |   |
| Blake Ihrke                    | 8-22 | 36 | 0  | 4     |                            |     |    |     |   |
|                                |      |    |    |       | Kordell Schlaak            | 1-1 | 12 | 0   | 0 |
|                                |      |    |    |       | RECEIVING No. Yds. Avg. TD |     |    |     |   |
|                                |      |    |    |       | RUSHING No. Yds. Avg. TD   |     |    |     |   |
|                                |      |    |    |       | Nick Staloch               | 7   | 32 | 4.6 | 0 |
|                                |      |    |    |       | Blake Ihrke                | 12  | 25 | 2.1 | 0 |
|                                |      |    |    |       | Charlie Nissen             | 3   | 24 | 8   | 0 |
|                                |      |    |    |       | Tyrone Wilson              | 2   | 14 | 7   | 0 |
|                                |      |    |    |       | DEFENSE Tackles Sacks Int. |     |    |     |   |
|                                |      |    |    |       | Lonnie Wilson              | 0   | 0  | 1   |   |

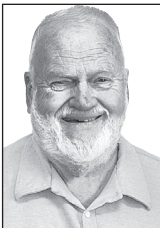


Several Panther defenders move in on a Maple River ball carrier (1) in Friday night's game. NRHEG's Max Seltun (71) tries to wrap his arms around the ball handler in an effort to bring him down. Joining in on the action for the Panthers are Hunter Knutson (75), Branden Howie-son (72) and Lonnie Wilson (9).

| FOOTBALL STANDINGS            |            |         |                        |     |                         |            |         |                          |  |
|-------------------------------|------------|---------|------------------------|-----|-------------------------|------------|---------|--------------------------|--|
| A Section 1 Conference        |            |         |                        |     | AA Section 2 Conference |            |         |                          |  |
|                               | Conference | Overall |                        |     |                         | Conference | Overall |                          |  |
| Bloomington                   | 5-0        | 6-0     | Blue Earth             | 2-0 | 5-1                     |            |         | 6- BOLD                  |  |
| Randolph                      | 2-1        | 5-1     | Medford                | 1-0 | 3-3                     |            |         | 7- United South Central  |  |
| Rushford-Peterson             | 1-1        | 2-1     | Maple River            | 2-1 | 4-2                     |            |         |                          |  |
| Goodhue                       | 2-2        | 4-2     | St. Clair-Loyola       | 1-1 | 3-3                     |            |         | Class 2A                 |  |
| Fillmore Central              | 1-1        | 1-4     | LeSueur-Henderson      | 1-2 | 1-4                     |            |         | 1- Concordia Academy     |  |
| Hayfield                      | 1-2        | 4-2     | NRHEG                  | 1-3 | 2-4                     |            |         | 2- Lewiston-Altura       |  |
| Wabasha-Kellogg               | 0-5        | 0-5     | J-W-P                  | 0-1 | 4-3                     |            |         | 3- Caledonia             |  |
|                               |            |         | Norwood-YA             | 0-1 | 0-5                     |            |         | 4- North Community       |  |
| Big Southeast- Red Conference |            |         |                        |     | Football State Rankings |            |         |                          |  |
|                               | Conference | Overall |                        |     |                         |            |         | 5- Barnsville            |  |
| Owatonna                      | 4-0        | 6-0     | Class A                |     |                         |            |         | 6- Paynesville           |  |
| Century                       | 3-1        | 4-1     | 1- Underwood           |     |                         |            |         | 27- Medford              |  |
| Mayo                          | 2-1        | 4-2     | 2- Carlton/Wrenshall   |     |                         |            |         |                          |  |
| John Marshall                 | 1-2        | 2-4     | 3- Springfield-Comfrey |     |                         |            |         | Class 5A                 |  |
| Austin                        | 0-1        | 2-4     | 4- Minneota            |     |                         |            |         | 1- St. Thomas Academy    |  |
| Northfield/Arcadia            | 0-3        | 0-6     | 5- Bloomington         |     |                         |            |         | 2- Robbinsdale Armstrong |  |
|                               |            |         |                        |     |                         |            |         | 3- Owatonna              |  |
|                               |            |         |                        |     |                         |            |         | 4- Tartan                |  |
|                               |            |         |                        |     |                         |            |         | 5- Bemidji               |  |

# Another winning week

It has become a standard procedure for the Awesome Blossom football as they squashed another opponent last week with the dismantling of Kenyon-Wanamingo. The victory marked No. 5 without a loss and also moved them up to No. 2 in the state rankings. The 61 points rolled up on the Knights was pretty representative of the season.



## Outside the Lines

LEMAR NELSON

There is not much doubt for any fan that follows high school football at all to admit that Coach Chad Gimbel and his staff have developed another powerhouse football team. I am sure that stiffer competition is still ahead, but so far nothing has come even close to providing much of a roadblock to their prolific barrage of scores. What has impressed me the most about this season is the balance the team displays. The offense and defense seem to mesh together nicely, and both facets of the team complement each other in the best way. What a year it has been so far! And there is more to come, I am sure. It was good that the volleyball team got a pair of wins last week. The revenge victory against NRHEG felt especially good after the loss to the Panthers the week before. The fact that both matches went all five sets is pretty indicative that the two squads are very evenly matched in talent and attitude. It is good friendly, but intense competition between archrivals. The cross-country teams had a chance to run in two competitions over the last two week, and some good times were poster, although there is no champion runner on the squad. Some keep improving times each meet, and that is really the object of the sport. Well done, runners.

## A RIGHT MOVE

Many readers of this column are aware that there have been some big changes in its publication. But now it has all been made official. For a couple of years my three daughters have been exhorting me to move closer to them, as I was getting less and less able to function easily on my own because of physical problems. Several falls in my home finally convinced me that they were right, and I needed to change my living conditions. After all, except on two occasions when I was laid up with injuries, almost 20 years have elapsed since I began this column. That is almost a thousand exercises in whatever creative experiences I have been privileged to share. Anyway to make things clear, I have sold my house in Blooming Prairie and now reside in an apartment in Richfield, within a few miles of all three of my daughters. They are feeling much more comfortable with these conditions, and I have already adjusted to the change. I sincerely regretted the move after 60 years in town, but I understand the need for the change. I am indebted to Publisher Rick Bussler, that he is allowing me to continue writing my column, although not in the community any more. I also try to keep up with the local sports game reports, although I would be the first to admit that it is not an ideal situation when attendance at those events is not possible. Finally, I want to thank the faithful readers of my efforts. I enjoy congratulating former students and other individuals who have made local news for one reason or another. It is my main satisfaction in this endeavor. I hope I can count on your readership going forward.

A DELICACY? Next Tuesday heralds that special day that all real Scandinavians anticipate and look forward to each fall. That is lutefisk day at First Lutheran Church, and people gather from all areas of Minnesota and even into Iowa. I remember growing up and my grandmother encouraging me at every Christmas gathering to try some lutefisk. I would take a couple spoons of lutefisk and then drown them in butter and white gravy. I never did acquire a taste for that delicacy, although I could easily gorge myself on the meatballs and gravy and all the rest of the traditional foods familiar and relished by all Scandinavians. Enjoy, as a friend of mine does while spooning a ladle full of lutefisk to his plate.

UPCOMING Besides Halloween, the other noted event in October is the Village Affair, which this year will be held on Saturday, Oct. 26. Approximately 75 vendors will be displaying all manner of handicraft, and the event draws crowds of people from all over the area. I will talk more about this occasion in the next week or two, but I know that many attend to get a good start on purchasing Christmas presents. Put this date on your calendar now and make plans to attend. As I mentioned last week, October is the prime harvest month, and farmers are busy bringing in the crops. Despite the many days of inclement weather the year provided, harvest goes on, and we're wishing the best for them. Enjoy these last days of fall, and we'll talk again.



# BP netters edge NRHEG

**BY LEMAR NELSON**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Awesome Blossom volleyball team edged NRHEG in five games on the home court Thursday, Oct. 3. The victory avenged a loss to the Panthers just the week before on the NRHEG court and was a good indication that the teams are quite evenly matched in terms of strength and ability.

In this match, the Blossoms lost game one 15-25, but then took games two and three by identical 25-16 scores. The Panthers regrouped to win the fourth set 25-18, but BP dug down

to win the decider game 15-7. The match proved once again the similar talent and attitude of the two teams.

As Coach Onika Peterson remarked, "It is always a tough match with the Blossoms, as the teams are that evenly matched. I was proud of my girls that they were able to salvage game four and send the match to a fifth game."

For BP in the match, Julia Worke and Micalyn Trihus pounded out 20 and 19 kills, and Worke also had 16 digs and 4 blocks. Heather PirkI and Maggie Bruns had 37 assists between them, and Maren

Forystek had a whopping 27 digs. Megan Oswald added 6 kills and 3 blocks.

Sophie Stork led the Panthers with 20 kills and, 22 digs, and 2 ace serves, and Kendall Johnson contributed 13 kills and 24 digs. Grace Tufte provided 42 assists and 6 digs. The match was about as even as one could be.

**BP WINS IN 4**

Led by senior Julia Worke's 16 kills and 20 digs, the Awesome Blossom volleyball team rebounded from a first game loss to defeat Southland in four games. The match on the home court Monday, Sept

30, found the Blossoms losing game one 15-25, but then winning 25-23, 25-13, and 28-26 in overtime.

Besides Worke's big night, Oswald contributed 6 kills, PirkI piled up 21 assists and 11 digs, and Bruns added 10 assists and 10 digs. Allison Krohnberg contributed 3 blocks and 4 digs, Anna Kittelson 3 kills and 5 digs, and Halle Strunk 2 blocks and 4 assists. Maya Lembke had 2 kills and 11 digs, and Forystek rounded out the Blossom scoring with 9 digs.

The non-conference victory upped the BP overall record to 9-11, counting tourney wins.

# BP CC teams take 5<sup>th</sup>

**BY LEMAR NELSON**  
SPORTS EDITOR

On a tough and wet course at the Chatfield Invitational meet Tuesday, Oct.1, both of the BP cross-country teams finished fifth in the meet.

As coach John Bruns remarked, "Despite a soggy tough course with a lot of hills, we had some good times posted. Isaac Ille and Hosea Baker led the boys, and eighth grader Ty Forystek won the junior high division with a 12:30 time over the 3200 meter course."

For the boys, Ille timed a 20:1.9 and Baker ran the course in 20:13.0. Alex Miller had a 21:45.6 and Ethan Grant timed a 21:45.6. Cody Niirk rounded out the top five boys with 22:26.0.

Abby Smith led the girls with a 24:40.0 time. Emily Anderson timed a 27:14. 8, and Asia Lightizer had a 27:35.4. Abby Braaten and Rose Michaud rounded out the top five girls with times of 29:42.6 and 31:03.5.



# Tigers court action

PHOTOS COURTESY  
SKYES THE LIMIT

**The Medford Tigers volleyball team defeated Cannon Falls Saturday in two matches, 25-13 and 25-16. The Tigers carry an 11-6 record into the final stages of the season.**

**Top: Izzy Reuvers (6) bends to the floor to return the ball back during a recent game.**

**Right: Clara Kniefel (4) goes up over the net to spike the ball back. Medford lost a pair of recent games to Stewartville 1-3 on Sept. 30 and WEM 0-3 on Sept. 26.**



# A friendly rivalry blossoms

**BY ALEX NUEHRING**  
STAFF WRITER

While a game of volleyball between two schools may not seem like a big deal to most high schools, it is for the students at Zumbro Education District (ZED) Area Learning Center (ALC) as they took on the students of the Rochester ALC on Friday, Oct. 4.

Blooming Prairie is a part of the ZED.

Andrew Petersilie, ZED ALC school counselor for the past 14 years, said the tradition started about 10 years ago with flag football.

"My wife, Rochester ALC Health and Physical Education Teacher Amy Petersilie, and I were talking and then we got our school principals involved because a lot of the kids at the ALC don't always have the opportunity to play varsity sports so we thought it would be fun," he said.

They played just flag football for years, but its popularity grew, and they ended up incorporating dodgeball in the winter, basketball during March Madness, and now volleyball in the fall.

"Our hope is to do all four this year; sometimes with scheduling it doesn't necessarily work out," he said.

Amy Stites, new ZED ALC principal, was pleased the volleyball game was held this year, especially



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

**Seventh-grader Liam Woollard serves the ball for ZED. Games between the two ALC's started about 10 years ago, but this is just the second year of volleyball.**

considering the obstacles in their way.

"This one was particularly hard because I wasn't here right away. I started just a few weeks ago," she said. "We knew we wanted to do this, but the beginning of the year is so busy that we got the date set, but we didn't necessarily get our teams assembled and we didn't get the practices set up. I'm really pleased that we were able to pull it together."

Having this game also provides the students with a school activity beyond regular classes.

"I think the kids just like the opportunity because school should be so much more than just coming and learning. That's important obviously, but many of our kids have had history of lack of educational success so we want to give them all of the same things that they would have in a normal high school. Extracurric-

ulars are really important and it helps kids buy into the whole experience and build a positive culture," she said.

Petersilie mentioned that the games also gives students a reason to maintain good grades.

"For some kids, it's a great motivator because they live for the sports so that helps them keep their grades up and be here because they want to be a

SEE A FRIENDLY RIVALRY, B7



Here are the results from the second night of the second annual Chateau Speedway Autumn Extravaganza at Lansing on Sept. 28 (the first night's results were printed in last week's edition):

## KEVKO Outlaw Mini Mods

### A Feature 1 (12 Laps):

1. 15-Nathan Kilwine-Glenville, [3]; 2. 10-Justin Besch-International Falls, [1]; 3. 14-Micheal Bryant-Mason City IA, [10]; 4. 25B-Bobby Daniels-Des Moines IA, [6]; 5. 71-Matt Prehn-Mason City IA, [5]; 6. 17-Anthony Kramer-Owatonna, [7]; 7. 81-Jerry Larson-Grand Rapids, [8]; 8. 1R-Bobby Ruehlow-Mason City IA, [2]; 9. 28-Logan Brown-Clear Lake IA, [9]; 10. 2C-Cole Bennerotte-Byron, [4]; 11. 48J-Justin Johnson-Baudette, [11]; 12. 17X-Tanner Prehn-Mason City IA, [13]; 13. 22-Nick Hauge-Mason City IA, [12]; 14. 25L-Lucas Daniels-Des Moines IA, [15]; 15. X-Dustin Haggard-Humboldt IA, [14]; 16. 58-Devin Medes-Rochester, [17]; 17. (DNF) 18J-Tyler Jonson-International Falls, [16]; (DNS) 4AL-Dane Olson-Lit-tlefork, ; (DNS) 25C-Chase Daniels-Carlisle IA,

**Heat 1 (6 Laps):** 1. 15-Nathan Kilwine, [1]; 2. 71-Matt Prehn, [5]; 3. 17-Anthony Kramer, [6]; 4. 14-Micheal Bryant, [4]; 5. (DNF) 25L-Lucas Daniels, [2]; 6. (DNF) 58-Devin Medes, [7]; 7. (DNF) 25C-Chase Daniels, [3]

**Heat 2 (6 Laps):** 1. 10-Justin Besch, [2]; 2. 81-Jerry Larson, [4]; 3. 1R-Bobby Ruehlow, [6]; 4. 48J-Justin Johnson, [3]; 5. (DNF) 18J-Tyler Jonson, [5]; (DNS) 4AL-Dane Olson,

**Heat 3 (6 Laps):** 1. 25B-Bob-by Daniels, [4]; 2. 2C-Cole Bennerotte, [1]; 3. 28-Logan Brown, [5]; 4. 22-Nick Hauge, [3]; 5. 17X-Tanner Prehn, [2]; 6. X-Dustin Haggard, [6]

## WISSOTA Midwest Modified

### A Feature 1 (20 Laps):

1. 83K-Kylie Kath-Claremont, [3]; 2. 98D-Christopher Deno-Kasson, [2]; 3. L1-Shane How-ell-Buffalo, [8]; 4. 10-Cole Sear-ing-Huron SD, [9]; 5. 23-Mitch Weiss-Osceola, [11]; 6. G12-Ry-an Goergen-Stacyville IA, [4]; 7. 97X-Don Schaefer-Eyota, [7]; 8. 83-William Steinberg-Kasson, [1]; 9. 12-Matt Dickey-Shakop-ee, [5]; 10. 0K-Matt Kelley-Columbus, [10]; 11. 88-Jacob Toepper-Hugo, [15]; 12. 97-Cory Asmussen-Waseca, [13]; 13. 39-Adam Martinson-Blaine, [6]; 14. 53-Tianna Mithun-New Richland, [16]; 15. 63-Patrick Kelley-Columbus, [17]; 16. 23B-Britt Olson Jr-Waseca, [18]; 17. 14-Cole Kroneman-Zum-brota, [12]; 18. 24-Liz Toep-per-Hugo, [14]; 19. 21-Mike Dickey-Bloomington, [22]; 20. 26-Brad Minske-Northfield, [19]; 21. 79H-Luke Hainka-Wanna-mingo, [20]; 22. (DNF) 36-Brand-on Allen-Chatfield, [24]; 23. (DNF) 33-Darryl Hainka-Wan-namingo, [21]; (DNS) 4-Brayten Cisneros-Bloomington, [1]

**Heat 1 (8 Laps):** 1. 83K-Kylie Kath, [6]; 2. 10-Cole Sear-ing, [8]; 3. G12-Ryan Goergen, [7]; 4. 0K-Matt Kelley, [1]; 5. 97-Cory Asmussen, [4]; 6. 53-Tianna Mithun, [5]; 7. 26-Brad Minske, [2]; 8. 33-Darryl Hainka, [3]

**Heat 2 (8 Laps):** 1. 97X-Don Schaefer, [1]; 2. 12-Matt Dickey, [2]; 3. 39-Adam Martinson, [3]; 4. 23-Mitch Weiss, [8]; 5. 24-Liz Toepper, [4]; 6. 63-Patrick Kel-ley, [5]; 7. 79H-Luke Hainka, [6]; 8. 21-Mike Dickey, [7]

**Heat 3 (8 Laps):** 1. 98D-Christopher Deno, [1]; 2. 83-William Steinberg, [3]; 3. L1-Shane Howell, [7]; 4. 14-Cole Kroneman, [4]; 5. 88-Jacob Toepper, [5]; 6. 23B-Britt Olson Jr, [2]; 7. (DNF) 4-Brayten Cis-neros, [6]; 8. (DNF) 36-Brandon Allen, [8]

## Power 96 WISSOTA Pure Stock

### A Feature 1 (15 Laps):

1. 26-Brady Krohnberg-Walters, [6]; 2. 31-Jack Maas-Faribault, [3]; 3. 17-Michael Wick-Faribault, [10]; 4. 7X-Andrew Eischens-Taopi, [2]; 5. 1-Troy Maas-Faribault, [7]; 6. 0-Brian Adams-Montgomery, [1]; 7. 1C-Ronald Churchill-Faribault, [12]; 8. 96-Kyndra Neis-Chat-field, [5]; 9. 79T-Taylor Pear-son-Burnsville, [4]; 10. 11-Mi-chael Gift-Faribault, [15]; 11. (DNF) 6C-Nick Carvelli-Maple-wood, [9]; 12. (DNF) 17X-Trent Churchill-Faribault, [13]; 13. (DNF) 21-Noah Lund-Wase-ca, [11]; 14. (DNF) 3G-Josh Sousa-Alden, [8]; 15. (DNF) 13-Shawn Morris-Kilkenny, [14]

**Heat 1 (6 Laps):** 1. 1-Troy Maas, [2]; 2. 31-Jack Maas, [1]; 3. 0-Brian Adams, [3]; 4. 96-Kyndra Neis, [6]; 5. 6C-Nick Carvelli, [5]; 6. 21-Noah Lund, [8]; 7. 17X-Trent Churchill, [7]; 8. 11-Michael Gift, [4]

**Heat 2 (6 Laps):** 1. 26-Brady Krohnberg, [1]; 2. 7X-Andrew Eischens, [7]; 3. 3G-Josh Sou-sa, [3]; 4. 79T-Taylor Pearson, [2]; 5. 17-Michael Wick, [5]; 6. 1C-Ronald Churchill, [4]; 7. 13-Shawn Morris, [6]

## Y Waste WISSOTA Hornets

### A Feature 1 (15 Laps):

1. 16M-Matt Wieman-Owa-tonna, [9]; 2. 59-Andy Knut-son-Rochester, [6]; 3. 43-Derek Groskreutz-Madison Lake, [5]; 4. 2-Brian Adams-Montgomery, [4]; 5. 88-Matt Tighe-Austin, [8]; 6. 112-Mike Ryan-Rochester, [3]; 7. 89-Timothy Gores-Gar-den City, [11]; 8. 169-Taylor White-Rochester, [12]; 9. 6-Tim-othy Barnett-Owatonna, [10]; 10. 59F-Zachary Furbur-Anndale, [7]; 11. 4-Josh Winsky-Roch-ester, [13]; 12. (DNF) 159-Bob Knutson-Rochester, [1]; (DQ) 23-Bruce Tourville-Star Prairie WI, [2]

**Heat 1 (5 Laps):** 1. 59-Andy Knutson, [2]; 2. 43-Derek Groskreutz, [3]; 3. 112-Mike Ryan, [5]; 4. 2-Brian Adams, [6]; 5. 16M-Matt Wieman, [7]; 6. 89-Timothy Gores, [4]; 7. 169-Taylor White, [1]

**Heat 2 (5 Laps):** 1. 159-Bob Knutson, [1]; 2. 88-Matt Tighe, [5]; 3. 59F-Zachary Furbur, [2]; 4. 23-Bruce Tourville, [6]; 5. 6-Timothy Barnett, [3]; 6. (DNF) 4-Josh Winsky, [4]

## Adams Graphix WISSOTA Street Stocks

### A Feature 1 (18 Laps):

1. 15-Zach Elward-Hayfield, [7]; 2. 34JR-Braden Brauer-Eyota, [2]; 3. 19-Keith Tourville-Janesville, [1]; 4. 46-Stacy Krohnberg-Wal-ters, [4]; 5. 57X-Anthony (AJ) Zvorak-Bloomington, [6]; 6. 22-Ryan Jacobsen-LeRoy, [8]; 7. 21-Jesse Stahl-Austin, [3]; 8. 32-Jason Newkirk-Austin, [11]; 9. 4-Chris Hotovec-Dodge Center, [10]; 10. 47-Brent Holland-Glenville, [13]; 11. 42-Cody Hyatt-Waseca, [12]; 12. 39J-Dan Klingfus-Austin, [9]; 13. (DNF) 20-Andrew Hanson-Iron River WI, [5]; 14. (DNF) 29-Jon-athon Kluger-Albert Lea, [14]

**Heat 1 (8 Laps):** 1. 22-Ryan Jacobsen, [2]; 2. 21-Jesse Stahl, [4]; 3. 46-Stacy Krohn-berg, [3]; 4. 15-Zach Elward, [7]; 5. 39J-Dan Klingfus, [1]; 6. 32-Jason Newkirk, [5]; 7. 47-Brent Holland, [6]

**Heat 2 (8 Laps):** 1. 19-Keith Tourville, [1]; 2. 20-Andrew Hanson, [7]; 3. 57X-Anthony (AJ) Zvorak, [2]; 4. 34JR-Braden Brauer, [3]; 5. 4-Chris Hotovec, [4]; 6. 42-Cody Hyatt, [5]; (DNS) 29-jonathon kluger,

## Action Builders USRA B Mods

### A Feature 1 (20 Laps):

1. 55H-Aaron Hoff-Mantorville, [4]; 2. 99-Noah Grinstead-Austin, [3]; 3. 83K-Kobie Kath-Owa-tonna, [9]; 4. 55-Brody Shaw-Brownsdale, [2]; 5. 0-Ja-mie Anderson-Mason City IA, [1]; 6. 81K-Caleb Korpi-Clare-mont, [6]; 7. 15-Todd Schaufen-buel-New Hampton IA, [10]; 8. 73-Kenny Boge-Orchard IA, [8]; 9. 44-Matthew Brooks-Aus-tiin, [7]; 10. (DNF) 21-Cody Hyatt-Waseca, [12]; 11. (DNF) 31-Bill Stettner-Inver Grove Heights, [5]; 12. (DNF) 54-Jett Sorensen-Rochester, [11]

**Heat 1 (8 Laps):** 1. 73-Kenny Boge, [2]; 2. 81K-Caleb Korpi, [1]; 3. 83K-Kobie Kath, [5]; 4. 0-Jamie Anderson, [6]; 5. 55-Brody Shaw, [4]; 6. 54-Jett Sorensen, [3]

**Heat 2 (8 Laps):** 1. 99-Noah Grinstead, [2]; 2. 15-Todd Schaufenbuel, [3]; 3. 55H-Aaron Hoff, [6]; 4. 44-Matthew Brooks, [5]; 5. 31-Bill Stettner, [4]; 6. (DNF) 21-Cody Hyatt, [1]

## French's Repair USRA A Modifieds

### A Feature 1 (25 Laps):

1. 4A-Joel Alberts-Mantorville, [1]; 2. 71-Jason Cummins-New Richland, [3]; 3. 111JR-Keith Tourville-Janesville, [9]; 4. 24W-Brad Waits-Rochester, [10]; 5. 15W-Alex William-son-Rushford, [6]; 6. 00-Mark Gartner-Mapleton, [2]; 7. 29H-Joe Horgdal-Kasson, [13]; 8. 23-Darwin Karau-Kasson, [4]; 9. 98-Kevin Stoa-Albert Lea, [11]; 10. 15-Scotty An-derson-Mason City IA, [8]; 11. 96-Taton Hansen-Spicer, [12]; 12. 77-Jacob Stark-Austin, [5]; 13. 9-Ben Kraus-Britt IA, [7]; 14. 72-Doug Hillson-Bloomington, [14]; 15. 1A-Dwaine Hanson-Lakefield, [16]; 16. 21-Troy Gudmonson-Savage, [15]; 17. (DNF) 24-Charlie Stein-berg-Kasson, [17]

**Heat 1 (8 Laps):** 1. 24W-Brad Waits, [2]; 2. 9-Ben Kraus, [3]; 3. 23-Darwin Karau, [4]; 4. 111JR-Keith Tourville, [6]; 5. 15W-Alex Williamson, [9]; 6. 98-Kevin Stoa, [5]; 7. 29H-Joe Horgdal, [8]; 8. 21-Troy Gudmonson, [7]; 9. (DNF) 24-Charlie Steinberg, [1]

**Heat 2 (8 Laps):** 1. 4A-Joel Alberts, [2]; 2. 00-Mark Gartner, [1]; 3. 15-Scotty Anderson, [3]; 4. 71-Jason Cummins, [5]; 5. 77-Jacob Stark, [4]; 6. 96-Taton Hansen, [6]; 7. 72-Doug Hillson, [7]; 8. 1A-Dwaine Hanson, [8]



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**CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS** Back L to R: Gabriel Rysavy, Baylee Sorensen, Jessica Waldron, Journey Utpadel, Jacob Pfeifer. Front L to R: Katlyn Schubert, Sophia Schiller, Conor Rennie, Lowell Schultz, Noah Kubicek, Ashlynn Schwering. Not pictured Henry Miller, Grace-lynn Anderson, Isabel Miller, and Micah Gentz



**RABBITS** Back L to R: Lexie Ignaszewski, Sierra Larson, Carter Oltmans, Lynn Larson, William Behne. Front L to R: Jayden Wencil, Miles Aase, Trey Hiatt. Not Pictured Hailey Stromley



**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE** Back L to R: Sierra Larson, Ashlynn Schwering. Front L to R: Josie Hoffmaster, Samuel Bartness, Brooktyn Dolan. Not Pictured: Isabel Miller, and Candace Chavie.



**DAIRY** Back L to R: Kelton Erler, Kullen Kath, Anthony Manderfeld. Middle L to R: Maggie Bruns, Arica Kath, Af-ton Nelson, Anton Schroeder, Samantha Fredin, Jerome Stransky. Front L to R: Neila Nelson, Jayden Jirele, Jack Bruns, Kylie Kruckberg, Allison Krohnberg, Courtney Kath.



**HOME & LEISURE ARTS** Front L to R: Charlea Underwood, Nicole Behne, Katlyn Schubert, Anna Simmons, Rachel Winzenberg, Derek Klecker. Front L to R: Jayden Wencil, Kiya Erler, Alexandra Herget, Kaitlyn Resler, Isabella Nelson, Brianna O'Connor. Not Pictured: Henry Miller, Kathryn Walsh, Isabel Miller, Elizabeth Karl, and Taylor Brady



**POULTRY** Back L to R: Jessica Waldron, Evan Melby, McKenna Melby, Brenna Clarey accepting for Collin Clarey, Jack Bruns, Neela Wencil, Josie Lorenz. Front L to R: Brooktyn Dolan, Alia Kubicek, Kayden Melby, Miles Aase, Shan Hansen, Gavin Seykora, Kendra Melby.

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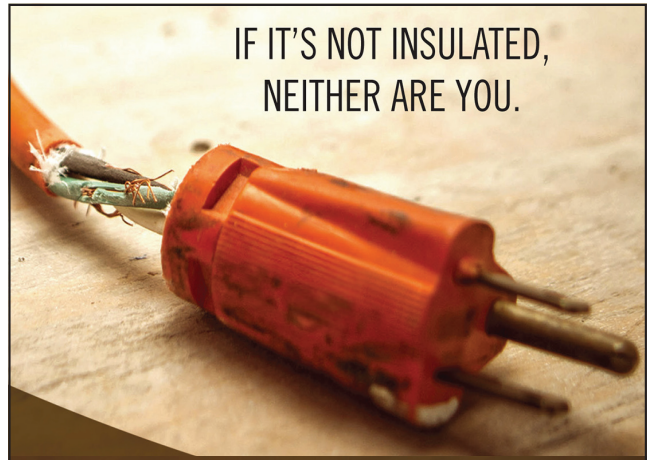
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4-H 2019

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**BEEF** Back L to R: Ava Kylo, Jacob Klecker, Bo Wiener, Alivia Kubista, Ethan Arett. Front: Gavin Lewison, Emma Gillis, Alexandra Herget. Not Pictures Joshua Katzung



**ANIMAL SCIENCE** Back L to R: Jessica Waldron, Sierra Larson, Cody Shaw. Front L to R: Isabella Schultz, Lowell Schultz



**HORSE** Back L to R: Gabriella Trender, Aubree Coulter, Grace Wolfe, Ava Wolfe. Front L to R: Haley McIntosh, Carly McIntosh. Not Picture: Allison Bruggeman, Abigail Suchanek, Alexa Sommers.



**AG. SCIENCE** Kerry Keller, Carter Ratcliff, Carson Ahrens, Lacey Haberman. Not Pictures Tim Wolf, Isabel Miller, Parker Erickson, Jules Brady, Hunter Jensen, Taylor Brady



**SHEEP** Back L to R: Kaden Nelson, Charlea Underwood, Halle Underwood, Alexis Ripka, Casey Chambers, Lynn Larson. Front L to R: Kalli Nelson Khloe Nelson, Ian Hunt, Jayden Wencil, Reid Wildgrube, Brenna Sommer.



**MECHANICAL SCIENCE** L to R: Ethan Schubert and Derek Klecker

4-H PROJECTS:

- Aerospace

Bicycle

Cats

Child Development

Citizenship

Clothing

Computer

Consumer Education

Crafts & Fine Arts

Dogs

Electric

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Entomology

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- Swine- ML

Club 1-6 Species

- 1st- HH
- 2nd- MGG
- 3rd- PC

Club 7+ Species

- 1st- ML
- 2nd-SRS
- 3rd- MM



**DOG** Back L to R: Kayla Crawford, Abby Helfing, Madilyn Styndl, Morgan Styndl, Beth Ann Hanson. Front L to R: Mackenzie Suchanek, Rachel Miller, Miley Ripka, Hannah Parrish, Emma Gillis. Not Pictured: Jasmin Willette, Bailey Purrier



**SOCIAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** Back L to R: Abigail Munns, Brenna Sommer, Jack Walburn, William Behne. Front L to R: Carter Ratcliff and Khloe Nelson



**GOAT** Back L to R: Beth Ann Hanson, Tory Buck, Katherine Trender, Carson Ahrens, Zach Finholdt, Ben Finholdt. Front L to R: Kaitlyn Resler, Miley Ahrens, and Ericka Jaster

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District Revenues and Expenditures  
Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 and FY 2020

ED-00110-42

General Information: Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.10, requires that every school board shall publish the subject data of this report.

|                             |                                 |                                          |                                               |                                    |                                          |                                               |                                       |      |  |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------|--|
| District Name:              |                                 | Blooming Prairie Public Schools          |                                               |                                    |                                          | District Number:                              |                                       | 0756 |  |
| Fund                        | FY 2019 Beginning Fund Balances | FY 2019 Actual Revenues and Transfers In | FY 2019 Actual Expenditures and Transfers Out | June 30, 2019 Actual Fund Balances | FY 2020 Budget Revenues and Transfers In | FY 2020 Budget Expenditures and Transfers Out | June 30, 2020 Projected Fund Balances |      |  |
| General Fund/Restricted     | \$ 374,330                      | \$ 1,001,051                             | \$ 1,057,759                                  | \$ 317,622                         | \$ 957,375                               | \$ 945,655                                    | \$ 329,342                            |      |  |
| General Fund/Other          | \$ 1,110,425                    | \$ 7,411,099                             | \$ 7,366,983                                  | \$ 1,154,541                       | \$ 7,957,738                             | \$ 8,169,705                                  | \$ 942,574                            |      |  |
| Food Service Fund           | \$ 54,058                       | \$ 432,219                               | \$ 425,758                                    | \$ 60,519                          | \$ 439,077                               | \$ 423,486                                    | \$ 76,110                             |      |  |
| Community Service Fund      | \$ 127,733                      | \$ 207,074                               | \$ 202,411                                    | \$ 132,396                         | \$ 202,940                               | \$ 226,865                                    | \$ 108,471                            |      |  |
| Building Construction Fund  | \$ -                            | \$ -                                     | \$ -                                          | \$ -                               | \$ -                                     | \$ -                                          | \$ -                                  |      |  |
| Debt Service Fund           | \$ 442,178                      | \$ 1,209,046                             | \$ 1,219,980                                  | \$ 431,244                         | \$ 1,219,215                             | \$ 1,220,180                                  | \$ 430,279                            |      |  |
| Trust Fund                  | \$ 5,524                        | \$ 66                                    | \$ 324                                        | \$ 5,266                           | \$ 25                                    | \$ 300                                        | \$ 4,991                              |      |  |
| Internal Service Fund       | \$ -                            | \$ -                                     | \$ -                                          | \$ -                               | \$ -                                     | \$ -                                          | \$ -                                  |      |  |
| * OPEB Revocable Trust Fund | \$ -                            | \$ -                                     | \$ -                                          | \$ -                               | \$ -                                     | \$ -                                          | \$ -                                  |      |  |
| OPEB Irrevocable Trust Fund | \$ -                            | \$ -                                     | \$ -                                          | \$ -                               | \$ -                                     | \$ -                                          | \$ -                                  |      |  |
| OPEB Debt Service Fund      | \$ -                            | \$ -                                     | \$ -                                          | \$ -                               | \$ -                                     | \$ -                                          | \$ -                                  |      |  |
| Total - All Funds           | \$ 2,114,248                    | \$ 10,260,555                            | \$ 10,273,215                                 | \$ 2,101,588                       | \$ 10,776,370                            | \$ 10,986,191                                 | \$ 1,891,767                          |      |  |

|                               |               |                                                                                      |  |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Long-Term Debt                |               | Current Statutory Operating Debt per Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.81             |  |
| Outstanding July 1, 2018      | \$ 10,480,000 | Amount of General Fund Deficit, if any, in excess of 2.5% of expenditures 06/30/2019 |  |
| Plus: New Issues              | \$ -          |                                                                                      |  |
| Less: Redeemed Issues         | \$ 990,000    | Cost per student - Average Daily Membership (ADM) 06/30/2019                         |  |
| Outstanding June 30, 2019     | \$ 9,490,000  |                                                                                      |  |
| Short-Term Debt               |               | Total Operating Expenditures                                                         |  |
| Certificates of Indebtedness  | \$ -          | FY 2019 Total ADM Served + Tuitioned Out ADM + Adjusted Extended ADM                 |  |
| Other Short-Term Indebtedness | \$ -          | FY 2019 Operating Cost per ADM                                                       |  |

The complete budget may be inspected upon request to the superintendent.

Comments:

Financial information for 2018-10 has been audited. The fiscal year 2020 preliminary budget was approved on June 17, 2019 and will be revised during the school year. The district website is located at [www.blossoms.k12.mn.us](http://www.blossoms.k12.mn.us).



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West Concord  
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Rural areas of Dodge County

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STEELE COUNTY Times

DODGE COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Laborers/Operators/Foreman

We are hiring right now, for Laborers, Operators and Foreman for crews in Iowa, Minnesota and North Dakota to work in the field for Ag Drainage, Water Management and Utilities.

If you want to work outside and are open to travel, we have high paying jobs with full benefits, Medical, Dental, 401k, and the opportunity to advance and grow your career. Entry level jobs start at \$18/hr. and more depending on experience.

Ellingson Companies is a full-service Construction Company specializing in agricultural drainage technologies and trenchless solutions in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and throughout the United States. Check us out on YouTube, Twitter and Facebook!

Most Importantly Contact us and apply on our website at [Ellingsoncompanies.com](http://Ellingsoncompanies.com)

Precision Farming Specialist

Minnesota Ag Group, Inc., an employee owned farm equipment dealer in Kasson, MN has an immediate opening for a full-time Precision Farming Specialist.

The successful candidate will possess the following qualifications:

- Install new precision farming products
- Calibrate new and existing precision farming systems
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Support sales staff with selling new precision farming equipment
- Work in the field demonstrating AFS systems.
- Must be willing to travel and have clean driving record.

We offer competitive pay with excellent benefits and an opportunity for advancement.



If you would like to be considered for this position please send your resume by **Monday, October 14** to Craig Poppe at Minnesota Ag Group, Inc., 601 8th Street SE, Kasson, MN 55944 or email to [craig.poppe@mnagggroup.com](mailto:craig.poppe@mnagggroup.com)



# GO HUSKIES!

## Owatonna Homecoming 2019

STAFF PHOTOS BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN AND RICK BUSSLER



Parade watchers turned out to cheer on the OHS football team.



Julia Dallenbach and Carson DeKam were chosen as the Homecoming Queen and King.



The Owatonna Marching Band took to the field during halftime at Friday night's football game. Players enjoyed a little extra movement with their music.



Queen Julia Dallenbach leads the Homecoming royalty with a special dance during the halftime show Friday.



A Huskies trumpet player blasts out a tune during the half-time show.



The Big 9 champion soccer team also took part in the parade.



The OHS Cheer Squad performed one of their routines to the delight of the crowd on Cedar Avenue.



It was a sea of blue along Cedar Avenue during Friday's Homecoming Parade. Spectators both young and old alike dressed in their Huskies attire lined Cedar Avenue to enjoy the parade.



The Homecoming queen candidates, along with photo enlargements on sticks of their king candidate escort, rode in golf carts during halftime at the football game. Here, Camryn Bartz holds the stick photo of Carter DeBus as she rides in front of a packed home crowd.